

The Woods in Your Backyard - Part 2: Taking Action to Create and Enhance Natural Areas on Your Property



*A program for landowners and homeowners
in the Hudson River Estuary watershed*



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension

offered by the NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Program and Cornell Cooperative Extension

Although we often think about vast forests as the conservation ideal, even patchworks of smaller “backyards” can be important natural assets. The vast majority of land owners in New York State have less than 20 acres. With good stewardship planning, this land—wooded or not—can have even greater value.

By enhancing or creating natural areas and woods on your property, you can enjoy recreation, scenery, wildlife, and good water quality. By looking at how your property connects with other natural areas or potential natural areas, there’s ample opportunity to make an even bigger impact! Owners of even just a few acres can make a positive difference in their environment through planning and implementing simple stewardship practices learned during *The Woods In Your Backyard* webinar series.

Here’s what Hudson Valley participants said about *The Woods in Your Backyard – Part 1*:

“I think the series gave a different perspective of looking at the woods as part of a larger system, and it made me realize that I need to become a better caretaker in that regard... Hearing about how others have handled this was also inspiring.”

“Although I have known more or less what I wanted to do on my property (make a trail to the Creek, identify invasives, plant blueberries), this webinar provided the discipline to needed to get motivated.with the Master Forest Owner visiting, scanning my property for invasives moved to the top of my priority list. Also, after taking this webinar, I've decided the staghorn sumac I have needs to stay and not be chain-sawed.”

“The collaborative effort when I attended [the webinar] in person (at the CCE office) was particularly helpful. I gained even more information and guidance from other participants and staff present. It provided good breaks from the pure lecture format.”

The Woods in Your Backyard – Part 2 is ideal for landowners and homeowners who have completed the first webinar series and are ready to take the next steps, or for those individuals who already have a basic awareness of forest and wildlife ecology, riparian buffer management, and invasive species issues. However, beginners wishing to join the course are also welcome and will be provided with the recorded webinars from our first series.

The Woods in Your Backyard – Part 2 will focus on stewardship opportunities, including:

- Hands-on approaches for creating, improving and restoring forest and wildlife habitat
- Management actions for improving stream and water resources
- Practical techniques for controlling invasive species on your land.

Simple stewardship practices learned at the workshop will bring you many personal benefits:

- More time outdoors: A great way to get away from the computer and television - If you have a family, consider getting everyone involved!
- Increased privacy & sanctuary: Your own serene landscape to observe and enjoy
- More abundant wildlife: Your land can provide habitat for wildlife
- Increased exercise: Land techniques you apply will have you working more around the yard or woods, at your own pace
- Improved water quality in your neighborhood
- Enhanced property value.

Format:

The Woods in Your Backyard will include a series of three evening webinars plus a half-day field trip. You may participate in the webinars from the comfort of your own home, or participate on-site at a local Cornell Cooperative Extension office in either:

Dutchess County, Millbrook, NY, <http://www.ccedutchess.org/>
Ulster County, Kingston, NY, <http://www.cceulster.org/>

Note: A high-speed internet connection such as LAN, DSL, satellite, or cable is needed to view the webinars. Phone modems cannot effectively transmit data. If you choose to listen from home, you can listen to the webinar audio either through your computer, or your telephone.

Dates/Times: Webinars - Wednesday evenings (**October 1, October 8, and October 15**) from 7:00 to 8:30 pm

Field trip - Saturday, **October 18, 2014**. Mid-Hudson location (to be determined); will include visit to private properties to see on-the-ground stewardship practices and learn from landowners.

Cost: \$20 (includes full-color, 139-page manual *The Woods in Your Backyard: Learning to Create and Enhance Natural Areas Around Your Home*, three webinars, and field trip)

\$10 for participants who completed *The Woods in Your Backyard - Part 1* and already have a manual.

Registration: Please register online at <http://www2.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/pwt/bio/index.html> by **September 22, 2014** to allow time for delivery of the manual. Late registrations will not be accepted.

Sponsored by: Hudson River Estuary Program

Cornell Cooperative Extension Biodiversity Program Work Team

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