

# Delmarva Woodland Stewards



ELEMENTS OF GOOD FOREST STEWARDSHIP

For Immediate Release

July 14, 2023

## **Volunteer Training Program Offered for Woodland Stewardship**

*Learn Management for Wildlife, Water Quality, Forestry, and Prescribed Fire*

QUEENSTOWN – Woodland owners who would like to learn more about using stewardship practices like prescribed fire and forest management to improve wildlife habitat and water quality are invited to apply to become Delmarva Woodland Stewards.

The educational program will cover the following topics:

- Forest management including thinning, harvesting and planting;
- Wildlife management practices to support a variety of species;
- Ecological benefits and implementation of prescribed fire;
- Woodland management options for improving water quality; and
- Strategies for sharing what you've learned with your community and others

This training program will consist of 6 weekly virtual meetings from 6:30pm-8:00pm starting Tuesday, September 19th, and ending Tuesday, October 24th, 2023. The program includes a Saturday field visit on October 21st, 2023, to working woodlands to see the management practices that were discussed in classes.

The program, partially funded by the USDA Forest Service, will be coordinated by natural resource professionals from the University of Maryland Extension, University of Delaware Cooperative Extension, the Maryland and Delaware Forest Services, Virginia Department of Forestry, and the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources.

The registration fee of \$75 includes printed instructional materials, welcome reception, food, and a hotel stay in Chincoteague, VA. Volunteers will also need to complete a \$15 background check, which is required for University of Maryland Extension volunteers. Upon completion of this training, participants are expected to commit to 40 hours towards sharing their new knowledge with others in their community over the next year through outreach and communication activities of their choosing.

The application deadline is August 15, 2023. Selections for the program will be made by September 1st, 2023. The application can be filled out at [go.umd.edu/delmarva](https://go.umd.edu/delmarva).

This program is based on the Maryland Woodland Stewards program, which, since 1990, has trained 473 Maryland residents owning more than 70,000 acres to practice sound forest management that can make wildlife healthier, more diverse, and more abundant. These stewards have in turn taught thousands of other woodland owners these skills and concepts.

For any questions or more information, contact Taylor Robinson at [taylormr@umd.edu](mailto:taylormr@umd.edu).