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**Forest Management for Wildlife Symposium:**

**Ruffed Grouse, American Woodcock, Young Forests, & More**

**Cacapon Resort State Park**

[**818 Cacapon Lodge Dr, Berkeley Springs, WV 25411**](https://maps.app.goo.gl/FKX9z6VKgw63VDvZ6)

**Thursday, July 11, 2024, 8:30 am - 1:00 pm**

**(possible field trip after)**

[**Register here**](https://umd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJIqdOypqjsqGdE7nhHWtD4gBnfeWam38HHB#/registration) **or by scanning QR Code**

**Why forest management?**

Forests are the #1 land cover in Maryland and much of the mid-Atlantic, but many of our forests lack a healthy understory and the structural and age diversity that can help support a wide variety of wildlife. Sustainable forest management practices can significantly enhance habitat and provide habitat for a diverse array of wildlife species.

**Objective**

This symposium will provide landowners and land managers insights about how to implement forest management practices that can benefit a diversity of wildlife, including ruffed grouse, American woodcock, rabbits, wild turkey, golden-winged warblers, white-tailed deer, pollinators, and more.

Specialists in wildlife, forestry, and financial incentive programs will present practical and sustainable tips for forest management, timber harvests, and financial incentives available to benefit wildlife on your property.

**Live Workshopping**

We plan to dedicate the final 45 minutes of the symposium for our speakers and specialists to rotate around the room to meet landowners and provide ideas and suggestions for forest management on printed maps of interested participant’s properties.

If you own forestland and are interested in receiving live suggestions about your property as part of the workshop, please let us know in the registration page and we will reach out about printing a poster-size map of your property that can be workshopped live and in-person during the final session at the symposium.

**Logistics**

This symposium will be held live at Cacapon Resort State Park in Berkeley Springs, WV, on Thursday, July 11, 2024, from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm (possible field trip after lunch).

Lunch will be available to all, but we would welcome a $20 (or more) donation (cash or check only) to defray costs of venue and catering.

The event will be streamed live on Zoom and recorded for future viewing (you will receive a confirmation email with a Zoom link even if you choose to attend in-person).

**Cost**

Free of charge; $20 donations (or more, cash or check only) are welcome to defray costs.

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| 8:30 - 9:00 am  | **Coffee, continental breakfast, and conversation** |
| 9:00 - 9:10 am | **Introduction & Welcome**Luke Macaulay, University of Maryland ExtensionSheldon Owen, University of West Virginia Extension |
| **Wildlife** |
| 9:10 - 9:40 am  | **Game Species & Forest Management.** Reina Tyl, Pennsylvania Game Commission. Bob Long, Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Emily Boyd, Pennsylvania Game Commission. |
| 9:40 - 10:10 am | **Non-Game Wildlife & Forest Management**. Richard Bailey, State Ornithologist, West Virginia Department of Natural Resources. |
| 10:10 - 10:30 am  | **Break, Q&A, & Networking** |
| **Forest Management** |
| 10:30- 10:50 am | **Forest Management Approaches: Dynamic Forest Blocks.** Ben Larson, Ruffed Grouse Society.  |
| 10:50 - 11:15 am | **Creating a forest management plan for your property: Practical tips and Implementation.** Maryland Forest Service, West Virginia Forest Service, Pennsylvania Forestry. |
| **Technical and Financial Assistance** |
|  | **Setting Objectives.** Luke Macaulay, Ph.D. University of Maryland. |
| 11:15 -11:20 am | **Woodland Stewardship Network**Craig Highfield, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay |
| 11:20 - 11:25 | **Funding for habitat improvement: Edge feathering, Thinning, Timber Stand Improvements, Harvests.** USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service |
| 11:25 - 12:10pm | **Workshopping Property Maps:** Speakers and specialists will rotate around tables in the room to provide ideas for management and financial incentive programs on poster-size paper maps of landowner’s property.  This will occur at a roundtable so everyone can watch, learn, and contribute to forest management planning on a property. |
| 12:10 - 1:00 pm | **Lunch, Q&A, & Networking** |
| 1:00-3:30 pm | **Potential Field trip demonstrating various forest management practices.** |

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