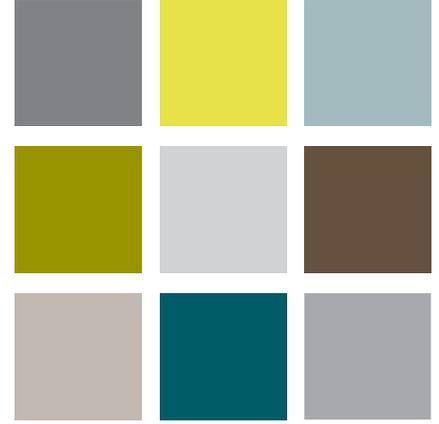


Ohio Woodland Stewards Program

Impact Statement



SUMMARY

The Ohio Woodland Stewards Program offers educational programs and educational materials geared towards the nearly 340,000 private woodland owners across the state. Since approximately one-third of the state is in forest cover, the need for well-informed woodland managers is crucial as they have the potential to impact a significant portion of Ohio's landscape and economy.

SITUATION

In Ohio, a third of the state is in forest cover and over 86% of the forested acreage is privately owned. Woodland owners may derive income from their acreages from both timber and non-timber products, along with hunting leases and recreational enterprises. While many landowners purchase property with grand plans, the devil is in the details and they are constantly looking for ways to learn what is possible and not possible on their property and how to accomplish what is possible while maintaining a healthy productive forest. These private woodland owners are the major source of material that feeds a forest products industry that currently contributes \$22.4 billion to Ohio's economy and employs nearly 119,000 individuals.

RESPONSE

SENR Extension professionals along with their Extension colleagues in the field, and other CFAES departments (AEDE) work in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Divisions of Forestry and Soil and Water Conservation and the Ohio Forestry Association to create programming that helps these woodland owners develop the skills needed to be good stewards of their woodland acres while yielding their desired income opportunities. This group also works to put together publications that help support these programming efforts and to meet the needs of both woodland owners and those working with woodland owners (service foresters,



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Ohio Woodland Stewards Program Impact Statement

county soil and water conservation district offices etc.). With the increased amount of pressure on Ohio's forests of invasive species (plants, insects and diseases) the outreach the team does to educate landowners and land managers how to deal with these invaders becomes more and more critical.

IMPACT

Through the efforts of the team, the program has averaged 500 attendees each year (2002 – 2013) with more than 68% of those being new to Extension programming. Those woodland owners cover about 185,000 acres of woodland scattered all over the state. They leave the programs with improved skills in how to properly sell their timber, identify their trees, set realistic objectives and goals and deal with invasive plants that have the potential to impact the future health and productivity of their woodland acreages. In 2013 the team finished launching a new early detection smart phone app for invasive species. The [Great Lakes Early Detection Network \(GLEDN\)](#) covers plants, insects, diseases, aquatic issues and wildlife issues. It is free to download and over 3000 individuals have done so. As the word gets out, individuals across the state are helping to track invasive species by utilizing the app.

Contact Information

Kathy Smith

Program Director

379B Kottman Hall
2021 Coffey Rd
Columbus, OH 43210

614.688.3136

smith.81@osu.edu

senr.osu.edu

woodlandstewards.osu.edu