

Oak in the Driftless Workshop

September 29th, 2018

UW-Baraboo/Sauk County

For more information or to register visit: oakinthedriftlessworkshop.eventbrite.com

Morning Learning Sessions and Afternoon Field Tours

Oaks are the cornerstone of woodlands across western Wisconsin. This landowner workshop will cover a wide range of topics all centered on the idea that oaks, today and in the future are a shared resource important to people and wildlife. During the morning sessions, experts will discuss many issues around oak. In the afternoon, choose from one of four field tours of woodland properties actively managing for Oak.

Morning Learning Sessions



Introduction to Wisconsin Oak Ecology: Nate Fayram, Southwest Field Ecologist, WI DNR*. Oaks are a shared resource important to people and wildlife in the Driftless, but what makes oak so special? Explore with Nate all the many benefits of oak and determine if you have oak woodlands on your land.



What do Oaks Need to Grow? Brad Hutnik, Forest Community Ecologist, WI DNR. In order to grow, oaks require certain conditions. Learn why oaks are vanishing across western Wisconsin and how you can help oaks survive and thrive in your woodlands.



Tree Planting - Tools and Techniques: Paul Kloppenburg, Sauk County Forester, WI DNR. Planting is one way to encourage oak on your land. Join Paul as he takes you through the tree planting process from planning, preparing your site, planting tools and techniques and protecting your new seedlings.



To Harvest or Not to Harvest? John Nielsen, Private Forester/Landowner, Nielsen and Nielsen Forestry LLC. Learn about the mechanics of selling timber and getting it harvested, including decisions on what to cut, timing, process, who to hire, and financial planning.

*WI DNR = Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

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The Wildlife in Your Woods: Nancy Frost, Sauk County Wildlife Biologist, WI DNR. From frogs to deer, learn what species of wildlife can be found in oak woodlands, and how you can find them in your woods.



Improving Habitat for Wildlife: Yoyi Steele, Former Important Bird Area WI Program Coordinator and Mike Mossman, Retired WI DNR Forest Community Ecologist. Learn about the critical connection between wildlife and habitat and how you can improve your woods to attract more.



Managing Your Land for Deer and Turkeys: Rick Horton, Regional Wildlife Biologist, National Wild Turkey Federation. Learn why oak woodlands are important for deer and turkey. Rick will share tips to increase acorn production, regenerate oak trees, and other ways to attract and hold deer and turkey on your land.



Deer Impacts on Oak: Don Waller, Professor of Botany and Environmental Studies, UW-Madison. An overabundance of deer in an area can have negative impacts on the plants and trees especially oak. Learn how Don is conducting research to monitor the impacts of deer and how they can help inform deer management decisions on your land.



An Introduction to Woodland Invasives: Kelly Kearns, Terrestrial Invasive Plant Coordinator, WI DNR. Not sure what invasives might be lurking in your woods? Learn how to identify common invasive trees, shrubs, and vines and how they impact the health of your woods.

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Winning the Race for Resources - Reducing Competition for Oak: Brandon Bleuer, Forester, Southwest Badger RC&D. Whether its buckthorn or honeysuckle, or maple or ironwood, both non-native and native shrubs and trees can outcompete oak for resources. Learn how these competitive conditions develop and how you can help oaks get a leg up on the competition.



Planning for Success: Dr. Mark Renz, Associate Professor and Extension Weed Specialist, UW-Madison. Ready to tackle that invasives problem, but not sure where to start? Planning is the key to success. Learn how to develop a plan to tackle invasives on your property and be successful.



Peers, Programs and Professionals - Assistance for Woodland Owners: Jen Simoni, My Wisconsin Woods. Taking care of your woods is hard. Knowing what to do, where to start, and who to contact is even harder. Jen will introduce you to resources, landowner organizations, financial programs, and professionals so you don't have to go it alone!



Focus on Financial Programs: Kristin Lambert, Private Forestry Specialist, WI DNR and Chris Miller, Sauk County District Conservationist, NRCS*. Have a management plan and looking to take the next step? Learn about the state and federal programs that help cover the costs of a variety of management activities and how you can apply for financial assistance.



Making a Plan for Your Woods: Dylan Bell, Columbia and Dodge County Forester, WI DNR. What is a management plan and why should I get one? Join Dylan as he takes you through how developing a management plan for your woods can help meet your woodland goals and the steps required to get one written.

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What Are My Trees Worth? Toby Witkowski, Resource Manager, Meister Log & Lumber Company. Trees have many values; however, the monetary value of a tree is determined by four factors. Learn what factors affect the value of your trees.



Prescribed Fire - Is it Right for Your Land? Ann Calhoun, Baraboo Hills Project Coordinator, The Nature Conservancy and Brad Hutnik, Forest Community Ecologist, WI DNR. Learn how fire can be used as tool to meet your woodland goals and decide if, when, where & how to utilize it on your land.



Afternoon Field Tours

Choose to attend one of four field tours of woodland properties actively managing for Oak.

Field Tour A: Riverland Conservancy

- Focus is on invasives species control
- Other topics: implementing a plan, brush management and financial programs

Field Tour B: Private Woodland

- Focus is on tree planting
- Other topics: prairie plantings, harvesting, and financial programs

Field Tour C: Private Woodland

- Focus is on patch-cutting, a method where small openings are created to encourage oaks
- Other topics: invasive species, tree planting and financial programs

Field Tour D: Private Woodland

- Focus is a shelterwood harvest, a two-step method of tree harvesting that encourages oaks
- Other topics: conservation easement, and financial programs

Workshop sponsored by:

