The Woods in Your Backyard:
Learning to Create and Enhance Natural Areas Around Your Home

Small properties, such as yours, are a big deal. The vast majority of land owners in New York State have less than 20 acres. This land, wooded or not, is a vital resource for all.

By enhancing or creating natural areas and woodland on your lot, you can enjoy recreation, aesthetics, 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.

What will you learn?

- The value of natural areas to homeowners, neighborhoods, and watersheds
- Why you should manage your land
- How to map your land, assess what you love about it, and decide what you hope to get out of it
- How your land relates to the land around you
- How to identify land management units on your property
- Basics of tree identification, forest ecology, and wildlife habitat management
- How to assess your property's forest and water resources, wildlife habitat, and aesthetic appeal, and ways to improve each

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 the local Cornell Cooperative Extension office in either:

Greene County, Acra, NY, http://www.ccecolumbiagreene.org/
Albany County, Voorheesville, NY, http://www.ccealbany.com/

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 will need a telephone to listen to the webinar audio.

Dates/Times: Webinars - Wednesday evenings (**March 26, April 2, and April 9**) from 7:00 to 8:30 pm
Field trip - Saturday, **April 12, 2014**. Location to be determined (Greene County)

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)

Registration: Please register online at dnr.cornell.edu/ext/pwt/bio by **March 14, 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
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Green and Columbia Counties
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Albany County
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rensselaer County