

**“MARYLAND’S FORESTS  
GREAT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE ECONOMY”**

**Regional Informational Meetings co-hosted by MFA & Maryland Tree Farm Program**

Date: Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup> 2021

Location: Blackwater Wildlife Refuge Environmental Education Building  
2145 Key Wallace Drive, Cambridge, MD

**MASKS ARE REQUIRED!**

Objective: To share information, build understanding, and strengthen relationships with members and local leadership to foster collaboration and strategic thinking about the future of forestry in Maryland

**AGENDA**

11:30	Sign-in begins. Grab a lunch box from Emily’s Produce as you arrive.
12:00	Welcome messages and updates from Tree Farm Program – Kenneth Jolly, DNR Acting State Forester and MFA President, Joe Hinson and Executive Director, Beth Hill
12:15	Introductions around the room. Please state your name, organization, or interest in forestry.
12:20	Maryland Forestry Overview- Dan Rider, DNR Forest Stewardship & Utilization Program Manager- Hear about the latest Forest Action Plan and Implan Data. Learn how rebuilding forest markets will help address forest health and contribute to Maryland’s economy.
12:45	Maryland Forestry Economic Adjustment Strategy- Phil Gottwals, ACDS- Phil and his team have spent over a year working on a plan that will serve as a roadmap for recovery for the forest products industry. Learn about the strategies, initiatives, and actions identified in the plan.
1:45	Break
1:55	Making Wood Energy Projects a Reality- Katherine Magruder, Maryland Clean Energy Center- Learn about the size and scale of wood energy projects that are envisioned in Maryland to help create markets for underutilized, low value wood. CHP projects will produce green energy, improve forest health, and create green jobs.
2:15	Delmarva Woodland Stewards- Anne Hairston-Strang, PhD., Associate Director Maryland Forest Service. This grant-funded program provides direct training and outreach to landowners and volunteers that want to learn more about implementing forest and wildlife practices. Anne will speak about the different parts of the program and how we can all benefit from the common ground we have in sustainable forest management.
2:45	Forestry Initiatives on the Refuge- Matt Whitbeck, Supervisory Wildlife Biologist Chesapeake Wildlife Marshlands NWR Complex. Learn about the issues facing the forests on Blackwater Refuge.
3:00	Adjourn- Optional tour to follow.
3:00-4:00	Optional walking tour of Blackwater Refuge Woods Trail led by Rick Abend, Friends of Blackwater and Matt Whitbeck.