



# NATIONAL FORESTS IN NORTH • CAROLINA

USDA FOREST SERVICE, 160A ZILICOA STREET, ASHEVILLE, NC 28801

## NEWS • RELEASE

Contact: Alice Cohen-Goldstein  
828-877-3350, x 203

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### **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Short Course for Private Land Owners Offered**

Pisgah National Forest, NC...Landowners interested in learning more about managing their land in western North Carolina are invited to participate in a unique educational event scheduled for summer 2006. A team of specialists from federal and state agencies, universities, and the private sector are coordinating efforts to offer the Woodland Owner Short Course through the Biltmore Forest School. The course is based out of the Cradle of Forestry in Pisgah Forest, NC with workshops visiting sites around the area.

The course will feature experts on land management of private lands. Sessions include both hands-on opportunities in the field and instruction in the classroom. Participants will learn how to set goals and objectives for managing their land. Topics include native landscaping, basic land management tools, available resources, managing for wildlife and fire, woodscaping, recreational uses of your property, and land stewardship.

48 hours over 6 sessions will be provided with opportunities to engage with natural resource and land management experts. The last session (August 25, 2006) is graduation day for those attending at least 3 of the first 5 sessions. Graduates will receive a certificate of completion from the Biltmore Forest School.

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Workshop Schedule:

**Introduction to Native Landscaping and Homes in the Forest (June 9)**- An introduction to site inventory, analysis, and planning as well as choosing native species to plant. Care of urban trees and information on invasive plants and insects. Stormwater best management practices and erosion control measures. Plus an overview of the entire series of workshops to come.

**Discover Your Land (June 23)**- The role of your land in the big picture of Southern Appalachian ecosystems, an introduction to available resources, and how to set goals for your property. Learn to use basic tools such as plant ID, maps and compasses to manage your land.

**Wildlife and Fire in Your Backyard (July 14)**- An introduction to some native wildlife and how to manage your land, including riparian zones, for wildlife species. Reducing the risk of wildfire loss by becoming “Firewise” in your backyard.

**Woodscaping (July 28)**- An introduction to managing your forest with silvicultural techniques- thinning, release, and sustainable forestry. Learn to use basic forestry tools in the field to measure tree height and the basal area of a stand.

**Playing on Your Land (August 11)**- Improving the recreational value and use of your land, including trail building and construction, pond planning, and pasture management. Liability issues regarding land ownership.

**Stewardship of Your Land (August 25)**- For those who have attended three or more workshops in the series. Explore management practices in the field and apply your new knowledge and skills. Finalize your goals and objectives. A special graduation ceremony and dinner will follow.

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### **Registration**

The cost is \$25.00 per person per workshop, with spouse or other family member at \$15.00 per workshop. Registration includes lunch, snacks and workshop-related equipment or other materials at each session. Reserve your spot for the whole course by registering early and receive extra giveaways at the first workshop. For more information and registration materials, visit [www.cradleofforestry.org](http://www.cradleofforestry.org) or [www.carolinamountain.org](http://www.carolinamountain.org) or call Alice Cohen-Goldstein at the Pisgah Ranger Station at 828-877-3350 ex. 203.

The course is sponsored by: Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy; North Carolina Division of Forest Resource; NCSU Cooperative Extension Service; USDA Forest Service Cradle of Forestry in America; NC Arboretum; North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission; NCSU Upper French Broad Watershed Training Center; and the USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station.

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