

Ohio Woodland Stewards Program Boosts Forestry Skills

COLUMBUS, Ohio — More than 330,000 Ohioans — roughly the same as the population of Cincinnati — own forestland.

But not all of them know what's best for that land.

Teaching them is the mission of the Ohio Woodland Stewards Program, a joint effort of the Ohio Divi-

sion of Forestry and Ohio State University Extension.

"Our goal is to help woodland owners across the state deal with the ins and outs of owning, caring for and managing forestland here in Ohio," said Kathy Smith, program coordinator and an OSU Extension forestry associate.

In the past 12 months, specialists with the program have presented a series of 13 classes, all of them aimed at boosting people's forestry skills.

In all, 500 people participated, Smith said — 500 Ohioans who now know more about good forest management and are eager to put what they know into practice.

According to the forestry division, more than 30 percent of Ohio is forested, and 94 percent of that portion, or about 2.5 million acres, is privately owned. So helping Ohio woodland owners helps a lot of Ohio woodland — and its trees, timber, water and wildlife.

The program produces a newslet-

ter, "Ohio Woodlands, Watersheds and Wildlife," and a Website (<http://woodlandstewards.osu.edu/>).

The newsletter, the 2003 class schedule and dozens of Extension forestry publications are available at the Website or from the program office, (614) 688-3421.



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