

*Forestry Workshop with Dave Jacke and Mark Krawczyk*  
*Sponsored by the MA Woodlands Coop*

**COPPICE FORESTRY & FOREST GARDENS:  
FROM ROMAN TIMES TO OUR TIMES**

Public Lecture, Friday, October 9, 7 – 9pm at the Williamsburg Grange in Williamsburg, MA  
\$6 - \$12 donation

Two Day Workshop (includes Friday Lecture), October 10 & 11, 9 – 5pm, Chester, MA  
Sliding Scale \$160 - \$200 (Coop members \$140)

Some might think that Roman and Medieval European cultures have little to teach that is relevant to our times. However, in early October the Massachusetts Woodlands Coop will offer woodland owners and interested others the opportunity to learn about ancient techniques of sustainable woodland management that may, in fact, be critical to healthy economies in 21<sup>st</sup> century New England, and beyond. In a Friday evening public lecture and a two-day workshop, agroforestry researchers and practitioners Dave Jacke and Mark Krawczyk will present their work with “coppice” forestry and ecological agroforestry systems design. All are encouraged to attend to learn forest management techniques that will work well in the forests of New England.



Most deciduous woody plants re-grow from the stump if cut to the ground. “Coppicing” involves repeatedly cutting woody plants to harvest the stump sprouts, and then letting them regrow for future harvest. Coppice wood provides materials for a huge range of uses, such as fencing, baskets, furniture, fuel, and building construction, depending on which species one cuts and the frequency of harvest. The coppiced tree, or *stool*, can be cut in an ongoing cycle that can last for centuries—British researchers have documented stools that have been coppiced continuously for over one thousand years! Since pre-Roman times, coppicing has been practiced heavily in Europe, and was among the primary management techniques used to develop England’s renowned hedgerows. Indeed, coppice forestry formed the foundation of the Medieval European economy. Strong evidence indicates that Native Americans practiced similar methods across the North American continent, as well.

Coppicing has many potential benefits here and now, too. New England forests naturally contain many tree species with excellent coppicing potential, such as alder, hazel, ash, hickory, locust, birch, beech, oak, and maple. Providing rapidly regenerating, sustainably harvested fiber for fuel and local cottage industries is especially significant today, but is only the first benefit. Well-designed agroforestry systems also create a variety of rich habitats that enhance ecosystem diversity while multiplying the kinds of yields the system provides. These include edible and medicinal plants and mushrooms, dyes, and animal forage, as well as “ecosystem services” such as soil improvement, pest control, watershed management, carbon sequestration and so on.

The Friday evening public talk and weekend workshop, both entitled, *Coppice Forestry & Forest Gardens: from Roman Times to Our Times*, will explore all of these issues and introduce practical information and skills you will need to pursue these ideas and techniques further.



Pre-eminent in their field, Dave Jacke, author of the award winning two-volume book, *Edible Forest Gardens*, and Mark Krawczyk, permaculture designer, traditional woodworker, natural builder, and community organizer, will illustrate the historical significance of coppicing, illuminate the potentials of coppicing today, and detail design and management considerations to prepare landowners to begin their own coppice at home. The public is invited to the two-hour evening lecture, which is offered as part of the weekend workshop, so that everyone can learn about this groundbreaking, yet ancient, land management technique. The workshop will be held at the home of a member of the MA Woodlands Coop to provide hands-on experience, the public lecture will be held at the Williamsburg Grange.

To register or for more information contact the Massachusetts Woodlands Coop, (413) 397-8800 or [suzanne@masswoodlands.coop](mailto:suzanne@masswoodlands.coop).

To learn more about us:

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