

Another Commitment to Restoration

The **Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC)**, **Bridgestone America Holdings, Inc.** and **Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Forest Service** recently teamed up to initiate The Woodlawn Wildlife Area's participation in MDNR's [Forest Stewardship Program](#). The Forest Stewardship Program is designed to encourage landowners to "practice forest stewardship and leave the land and its resources in [a] better condition for future generations." WHC and Bridgestone believe that the purpose of this program fits nicely with the vision of a perpetually protected and restored natural area at *New Beginnings*.



MDNR Forester Tom Frederick surveys a large black birch at New Beginnings.

MDNR Forester Tom Frederick collaborated with WHC biologist staff to produce a forest stewardship plan for The Woodlawn Wildlife Area. The MDNR plan works in union with WHC's habitat management strategy, which is to restore and maintain a native, natural state. MDNR identifies fish and wildlife habitat improvements as the plan's primary goal with outdoor recreational and educational activities as additional objectives. As with all forest stewardship plans, the *New Beginnings* one is crafted for a 15-year period and will require steady monitoring and maintenance. As a part of the MDNR plan, development on the site is restricted. This will allow the area a better opportunity to naturally restore itself.

Community groups, local schools, residents, and other volunteers, with the guidance of WHC biologist staff, will be critical for the success of this ongoing venture. Nest box care, invasives species control, erosion repair, trail maintenance, and tree reforestation will continue to be major projects in and around the former landfill. Community workdays, public education workshops, and other group and individual events regularly occur at The Woodlawn Wildlife Area.

But Tom doesn't foresee any real problems for *New Beginnings* as the area strives to achieve its goals. In fact, Tom informed WHC that the site is home to one of the largest black birch trees in Cecil County (see photo above). Now that's a pretty good sign.