



Martin and Washington County Hold Joint Landowner Meeting

On January 8, 2019, a forestry assistance meeting for Martin and Washington County landowners was held at the Jamesville Fire Department. The first meeting of its kind for the area had a great turn out, with forty people attending. Mark Megalos and Colby Lambert with North Carolina State Extension Forestry discussed "Using Your Woodlands to Achieve Your Financial Goals." A focus of the discussion was to encourage forest landowners to use government resources and cost share programs to help meet their objectives. Chris Turner, biologist with the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, shared wildlife management strategies for private landowners. A personal favorite of his, Chris highlighted rabbit habitat or "rabbitat" and simple and money-wise management measures to manage for small game species on both large and small tracts. Jim Slye, Forest Health Specialist with N.C. Forest Service, gave a presentation on current forest health issues and what the landowner should look for and who to call to insure good health of their woodlands. He also gave updates on emerging pests issues that have not yet made significant appearances in North Carolina but are slowly moving in our direction, including the gypsy moth, spotted lanternfly and laurel wilt. Parkers Barbecue catered the barbeque lunch through a sponsorship from the N.C. Forest Stewardship Program. During lunch, Forest Stewardship Coordinator, Les Hunter discussed how the Program benefits forest landowners who participate in the Program and focused on recognizing Outstanding Woodland Stewards (OWLS). James West, NCFS Nursery Program Head fielded questions from the audience concerning the health of forest seedlings and planting concerns. The success and interest in the 2019 gathering will hopefully lead to similar opportunities in the future for local forest landowners.



Forest Stewardship Coordinator Les Hunter gives an update to forest landowners. – Photo by Jamie Dunbar