

NY Master Forest Owner Program



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Cornell Cooperative Extension | **Columbia and Greene Counties**

Agroforestry Resource Center | **Siuslaw Model Forest**

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Greg Clarke

Master Forest Owner Volunteer

NY Forest Owners Association Member

Society of American Foresters Member

American Tree Farm Member

Sponsors: USDA Renewable Resources Extension Program, New York Forest Owners Association, Robert H. Wentorf Foundation, Inc., National Institute Food and Agriculture, Cornell Cooperative Extension, & private donators

What is the MFO Program?

The Master Forest Owner program began in 1991 to provide private woodland owners of New York State with the information and encouragement necessary to manage their forest holdings wisely.

Over 140 experienced and highly motivated volunteer MFOs are available statewide, ready to assist neighbor woodland owners with the information needed to start managing their forests, through a **FREE** visit to the property.





All MFOs are graduates of a training program covering

- Sawtimber
- Wildlife Management
- Invasive Species
- Agroforestry
- Forest Ecology & more



“The power of the program is that it comes to you. Everyone tends to procrastinate, and to have someone come to me and schedule a visit was what it took to get moving on my woodlot plan. Thanks for the program!”

– Landowner visited by a Master Forest Owner Volunteer

Why is the MFO Program important?

- ~61% of NYS land area is ~19 million acres of forest land
 - ~74% of NY forests are owned by private landowners.
- Education and outreach
- These private forest lands provide many public benefits including clean air and water, carbon storage, forest products, jobs, scenic beauty, and outdoor recreation opportunities.



Our Goal

To provide woodland owners information to make informed decisions and become engaged with their forest.

We Offer

- FREE Woods walks at your site with a volunteer MFO
- Suggestions on caring for your woods
- Discussions on forest topics
- Information on invasives & forest pests
- Help identifying areas of concern
- Land use suggestions
- Free Resources from CCE & Partners



What is a MFO Woods Walk ?

A walk through your forest to discuss priorities and help develop woodland goals



- Attracting wildlife
- Forest Health
- Timber
- Forest Pests
- Riparian Areas
- Trails & Access
- Forest Regeneration
- Agroforestry & harvesting non-timber products
 - Mushrooms, ginseng, fruits, nuts, maple sap, etc..



Join us outside for a woods walk!