

Cornell University

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Please accept this invitation to apply to become a "Master Forest Owner" volunteer in New York's Master Forest Owner Program. You were nominated by one of NY's forestry-related organizations or agencies, or a current Master Forest Owner (MFO), to receive this invitation due to your experience, dedication and accomplishments as an owner and manager of forest land.

This is the 19th year of the Master Forest Owner Program. Response to the program has been overwhelmingly positive from all involved and we hope to carry on the fine work accomplished to date. Funding is provided by the NY Forest Owners Association, The Robert H. Wentorf Foundation, U.S.D.A. Forest Service, The Renewable Resources Extension Act, and Cornell Cooperative Extension with assistance provided by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. Cornell Cooperative Extension administers the program through the Department of Natural Resources on the Cornell Campus.

Based on the proven success of the Master Gardener Program in NY State and similar Master Woodland Owner programs in other states, this program's goal is to have a trained, volunteer corps of "Master Forest Owners" pass along their experience and motivation to neighbor forest owners. The primary knowledge that MFO's, relay to their neighbors, are the values, not the techniques of sound forest management. The MFOs' role is to encourage interested landowners to consider the benefits of forest management and help them find the information and services needed to develop a management plan. Thus, through the efforts of exemplary forest-owning volunteers such as yourself, hundreds of forest owners will be better able to make informed management decisions that reflect their ownership objectives and stewardship values. Improved, purposeful forest management will enhance local economies by increasing the value of forest lands for wood products and recreation, and ultimately lead to improved forest owner satisfaction and commitment.

ALL new Master Forest Owners will have the following obligations:

BEFORE YOU APPLY:

- 1) Request a forest visit from a current MFO volunteer. A list of volunteers is enclosed. It is critical that you gain an appreciation of the role and services that MFO volunteers provide. If you do not own forest land, the please arrange a visit to a local volunteer's forest. Please include the specifics of that visit with your application. If you have previously participated in a visit, please give me the specifics of that visit.
- 2) Meet with the Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Educator in your county to discuss how you may be able to help your County CCE Association meet some of its educational goals. When you call to arrange that meeting, ask for the Educator involved with Natural Resources programs, or the Agricultural Program Leader.

AFTER YOU ARE ACCEPTED:

- 1) Participate in the training workshop; Wednesday evening through Sunday noon (see below details). The format and topics will be similar to the enclosed sample agenda. Instructors and speakers will come from a variety of educational and forestry-related institutions, agencies, and companies. There is a \$50 fee per accepted applicant to defray costs.

Arnot Teaching and Research Forest, VanEtten, NY, September 9 – 13, 2009

REGISTER BY: August 19, 2009

Please refer to the enclosed flyer or our website for more information on training.

www.cornellmfo.info

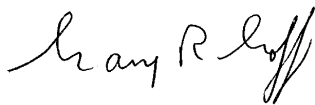
- 2) Contact and meet, over the period from the conclusion of your training through December 2009, at least 5 neighboring forest owners, one-to-one in their forests, to promote wise forest management and stewardship. Typically the meeting consists of about a half-day, on-site visit and perhaps a follow-up phone call. MFOs are free to make more contacts or devote more time per contact if so motivated! Call on individuals you know that would benefit from your assistance, and/or meet with referrals provided by agencies or organizations such as CCE County Associations, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Regional Offices, or the NY Forest Owners Association.
- 3) Keep a detailed record of your time, efforts and evaluation of your accomplishments for program summary and review. MFOs are provided forms for this purpose. A wide variety of informational resources will be provided at the workshop and periodically through the year.

PLEASE NOTE!

- 1) It is critical that you make a realistic assessment of the time and effort you can devote to this program. A lot of professional and volunteer time is invested in the training and we all want to see the program succeed. To get a "first-hand" evaluation of what it means to be an MFO, you may wish to contact a volunteer near you (refer to enclosed list).
- 2) Also, if you have any on-going professional involvement in the forest industry, please do not apply. Any activities, that, could be perceived as a "conflict of interest" is unacceptable in a volunteer program. You may however, as a professional forester or industry person, be involved in many ways as a source of assistance to the volunteers.
- 3) Please let me know if you definitely do not wish to be considered as an MFO candidate in future years. I need to purge our candidate list, for your benefit as well as mine!

I appreciate your consideration of this offer and will gladly answer any questions you may have. Please call me at work (607) 255-2824, home (607) 564-3308, fax (607) 255-2815 or e-mail me at <grg3@cornell.edu>.

Sincerely yours,



Gary R. Goff
Extension Associate, NY MFO Program Director

encls.: MFO Application, MFO Flyer, MFO Listing, Sample agenda