

# NY Master Forest Owner Program



***Yours for the asking!***  
***A free, no-obligation visit***  
***from a volunteer neighbor.***

## **Got Trees? Got Woods?**

Did you just buy woodland property, or maybe you just retired and are now ready to work in your woods? You are probably like most other woodland owners and have a variety of interests, from privacy and enjoyment to wildlife and timber. These are common ownership objectives, and all are probably possible on your property. Many owners aren't sure how to get started, and almost 90% say they would benefit from assistance. Free assistance and information is available from people just like you; people who are part of a network of trained woodland owner volunteers. These owners are trained by Cornell Cooperative Extension as Master Forest Owners (MFO), and they volunteer to help other woodland owners learn about their woodlands.

### **How will you benefit?**

MFO volunteers offer free, customized assistance to woodland owners so they can obtain more satisfaction from their woods. The assistance is educational and information, it is non-technical, and it connects you to a network of professionals. At your request, an MFO will

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arrange for a visit with you at your woodlot. The MFO can help you identify your goals for the property, and prepare you to meet with others who can help. MFOs are experienced, knowledgeable, and familiar with academic and agency technical resources. Visit [www.CornellMFO.info](http://www.CornellMFO.info) to request a free visit; a Regional Director receives your request and will find a volunteer close to you with interests that best align with your interests.

### **Trained woodland owner volunteers...really?**

More than half of the woodland in NYS are privately owned by people just like you. Woodlands are essential for people, communities and society. Woodland owners want to be active with trail building, boundary line maintenance, firewood cutting, wildlife habitat improvement, timber harvesting and more. However, less than 10% of owners have a written plan to describe their resource, identify their opportunities, and set priorities for their effort. Deliberate actions are necessary to optimize your benefits from your woods.

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For more information on the program contact:

Brett Chedzoy, CCE of Schuyler County  
323 Owego St Unit #5  
Montour Falls, New York 14865  
[bjc226@cornell.edu](mailto:bjc226@cornell.edu), 607-535-7161

– or –

MFO Central Office - Cornell University  
214 Fernow Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853  
607-255-2115; [cce-nat-res@cornell.edu](mailto:cce-nat-res@cornell.edu)

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