

## NEWS RELEASE

### WANTED: Forest Owner Volunteers

Or

### Help Spread the Forest Stewardship Message

**September 25-28, 2019**

Woodlot owners need other woodlot owners. Cornell Cooperative Extension is looking for a few good forest owner volunteers to meet and work with their neighbors. The NY Master Forest Owner (MFO) Program is entering its 28<sup>th</sup> year and is looking to fill up its new volunteer training workshop. Volunteers who complete the 4-day workshop will join the corps of over 200 certified volunteers across the state. The training will be held this year September 25-29, 2019 at Cornell University's Arnot Teaching and Research Forest, VanEtten, NY (south of Ithaca in Schuyler County). Applications are due by Sept. 13, 2018. The fee is \$125 per person (\$200 per couple) which helps defray lodging, publications, food, and equipment costs of the 4-day training. Volunteers can commute daily, or accommodations on-site are included in the fee.

The workshop combines classroom and outdoor field experiences on a wide variety of subjects including; tree identification, finding boundaries, forest ecology, wildlife and sawtimber management, communication techniques, and a visit to a nearby sawmill. The goal of the MFO Volunteer Program is to provide private woodlot owners with the information and encouragement necessary to manage their woodlots to enhance ownership satisfaction. MFOs do not perform management activities nor give professional advice. Rather, they meet with woodlot owners to listen to their concerns, questions and goals, and offer advice as to sources of assistance based on their training and personal experience to help the woodlot owner accomplish their goals.

Information and an application are available at: [www.cornellmfo.info](http://www.cornellmfo.info). If you are unable to access the internet, an information packet and application form can be mailed to you. Please send your name and address to: Diana Bryant, 214 Fernow Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853, or phone: 607-255-2115.

**Sponsors:** New York Forest Owners Association, The Robert H. Wentorf, Jr. Foundation, USDA-NIFA Renewable Resources Extension Program, Cornell Cooperative Extension