



## 2023 Master Forest Owner Volunteer Candidate Training

### Virtual Training March 21 – May 2 (plus a one-day field sessions in early June)

Thank you for your interest in serving other woodland owners as a Master Forest Owner volunteer. Your commitment to serve as a volunteer is admirable. Following is the agenda for the training. The training is 7 weeks long, with online weekly assignments and online weekly discussions. You will need to plan for about 4 hours per week to complete the assignments of video and reading. The weekly discussions will last an hour. Regional one-day field sessions will be scheduled in early June in at least a couple locations in NY. If you have not completed the MFO Volunteer application, you can do so [here](#).

There are four components to the training. Details are in the following agenda. Direct links to resources are provided at <https://canvas.cornell.edu/courses/40112>

1. Program sessions describe details of the program.
2. Self-study sessions are paired with 5 topical areas. These topics are important to provide you a broad foundation in woodland management. Please complete the “assigned content” before the online session. The assigned content should take about 3 hours. As you complete visits with other woodland owners, feel free to share links to these resources.
3. Topical discussions You will need to prepare for the discussions by completing the self-study, making a list of any questions you have from the self-study, making a list of the experiences you have had with that topic, and being ready to participate in a discussion about situations you might have as a volunteer that relate to that topic.
4. There will be regional one-day field sessions to teach skills that aren’t taught well through Zoom. You will ideally participate in at least one of these field sessions. Dates and locations TBA based on the locations of the participants.

### Schedule Summary

Date	Activity
March 21	Welcome, overview, introductions (program session 1)
March 28	Understanding the woods around you (topical session 1, Tom Cross)
April 4	What to expect as a volunteer (program session 2)
April 11	Wildlife and their habitats (topical session 2, Shane Stevens)
April 18	Vegetation management (topical session 3, Kristopher Williamson)
April 25	Working your woods with silviculture (topical session 4, Brett Chedzoy)



May 2	Agroforestry (topical session 5, Lexie Davis)
TBD	Day-long field sessions

After the training, if you have not previously had an MFO volunteer visit your property, please request a visit from the link at [www.CornellMFO.info](http://www.CornellMFO.info). This will also help you understand the type of information provided via a landowner seeking a visit. The purpose is for you to experience “a visit.” Your Regional Director will alert you to visit requests which will allow you to shadow an existing MFO volunteer.

We appreciate your support and effort as future volunteers, and additional support from Cornell’s College of Agriculture and Life Science, Cornell Cooperative Extension, USDA-NIFA, and the Wentorf Foundation.



## Schedule

Time	Activity	Preparation for Topical Sessions
<b>Program Session</b> <b>Tuesday March 21, 2023</b> , Week 1  Welcome and introduction to the hybrid training  6:30 – 7:30 PM via Zoom	Welcome and introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NY Master Forest Owner Volunteer Program. – Peter Smallidge, MFO Director, Extension Forester</li> <li>Dept. of Natural Resources, CUCE. – Paul Curtis, Dept. Extension Leader, Wildlife Damage Specialist</li> <li>Life as an MFO Volunteer – Greg Clarke, MFO Dutchess/Chemung County</li> <li>Regional breakout rooms for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Director introductions</li> <li>Review of agenda, getting started with the training</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Archive of the week 1, 2022 online session <a href="https://youtu.be/4MH5QVsx5b0">https://youtu.be/4MH5QVsx5b0</a>
<b>Topical Session</b> <b>Tuesday March 28, 2023</b> week 2, 6:30 – 7:30 PM via Zoom	<b>Discussion #1</b> – Understanding the woods around you (lead by Tom Cross)  <i>Participants describe their experience and exposure to the topic, ask questions about the webinars or related resources, review example scenarios, and learn where they can find additional information (list of fact sheets, websites, etc. provided as additional handout)</i>	<b><u>Understanding The Woods Around You</u></b> <b><u>Assigned Content</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Forest ecology</a> (Bennett)</li> <li><a href="#">Looking beyond the leaves - tree identification</a> (McGill)</li> <li><a href="#">Using Google earth and web soil survey</a> (Smallidge)</li> <li>Forest Resilience <a href="#">Webinar</a> (Ferrare and Sargis)</li> </ul> <b><u>Suggested Content</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forest Resilience Score Card <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Score card</a> and <a href="#">description</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>Bulletin – <a href="#">Understanding Forest Ecosystems</a></li> <li>Bulletin – <a href="#">Know Your Trees</a></li> <li>Fact sheet – <a href="#">Features of trees for identification</a></li> <li>Fact sheet – <a href="#">How to Use Soils for Woodland Management</a></li> <li>Fact sheet – <a href="#">Strategies to improve your woodland</a></li> </ul>



<b>Program Session</b> <b>Tuesday April 4, 2023</b> Week 3 6:30 – 7:30 PM via Zoom	<b>What to expect as a volunteer</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marketing yourself and making visits (20 minutes) – Ed Neuhauser, MFO volunteer</li> <li>Materials to bring on your visits – Pre/Post/During (20 minutes) – Kris Williams, MFO Regional Director</li> <li>Zoom breakout by region – Volunteer expectations and reporting</li> </ul>	<b>Note</b> – The breakout sessions by region may take some extra time. If possible, please try to schedule your evening to allow you to participate beyond 7:30pm.
<b>Topical Session</b> <b>Tuesday April 11, 2023</b> Week 4  6:30 – 7:30 PM via Zoom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Discussion #2 – Wildlife and Their Habitats</b> (lead by Shane Stevens) –  <i>Participants describe their experience and exposure to the topic, ask questions about the webinars or related resources, review example scenarios, and learn where they can find additional information (list of fact sheets, websites, etc. provided as additional handout)</i></li> </ul>	<b><u>Wildlife and Their Habitats</u></b> <b><u>Assigned Content</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Your woodland as wildlife habitat</a> (Sullivan)</li> <li><a href="#">You build it and they will come</a> (Goff)</li> <li>Fact sheet – <a href="#">manage woodland to improve wildlife habitat</a> (pdf)</li> </ul> <b><u>Suggested Content</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Woodland and forest birds</a> (Treyger)</li> <li><a href="#">Managing Forests for Birds</a> (pdf)</li> <li>Management practices for enhancing wildlife habitat (download pdf <a href="#">from this link</a>)</li> <li></li> </ul>
<b>Topical Session</b> <b>Tuesday April 18, 2022</b> Week 5  6:30 – 7:30 PM via Zoom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Discussion #3 – Vegetation Management</b> (lead by Kris Williams)  <i>Participants describe their experience and exposure to the topic, ask questions about the webinars or related resources, review example scenarios, and learn where they can find additional information (list of fact sheets, websites, etc. provided as additional handout)</i></li> </ul>	<b><u>Vegetation Management</u></b> <b><u>Assigned Content</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Integrated vegetation management</a> (Smallidge)</li> <li><a href="#">Identifying and controlling invasive plants on forest land</a> (Jackson)</li> </ul> <b><u>Suggested Content</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bulletin – <a href="#">Using Forest Herbicides</a> (PSU) (pdf) [page 1 – 10, plus more as desired]</li> <li><a href="#">Forest vegetation management using herbicides</a> (Jackson)</li> <li>Fact sheet – <a href="#">Integrated vegetation management</a> (pdf)</li> <li>Fact sheet - <a href="#">Forest Vegetation Matrix</a> (pdf)</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fact sheet - <a href="#">Treatment of autumn olive and other interfering shrubs</a></li> </ul>
<b>Topical Session</b> <b>Tuesday April 25, 2023</b>  Week 6  6:30 – 7:30 PM via Zoom	<b>Discussion #4 – Silviculture: <i>Working Your Woods</i></b> (lead by Brett Chedzoy)  <i>Weekly discussions will vary slightly by topic, but generally review key points of the assigned content, hear from participants about their experiences on the subject, identify likely related scenarios volunteers will experience on visits, and resources to share with landowners.</i>	<b><u>Silviculture: Working Your Woods</u></b> <b><u>Assigned Content</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Forest management as gardening</a> (pdf)</li> <li><a href="#">Introduction to silviculture</a> (McGill)</li> </ul> <b><u>Suggested Content</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Slash walls protect seedlings</a> (video, 6 min)</li> <li><a href="#">Tree selection and woodlot thinning</a> (Smallidge)</li> <li><a href="#">Managing forests for an uncertain future</a> (D’Amato)</li> <li><a href="#">Thinning to improve tree growth and vigor</a> (Smallidge)</li> <li>Fact sheet - <a href="#">Silviculture and invasive insects</a> (pdf)</li> </ul> Fact sheet – <a href="#">Assessing the success of hardwood regeneration</a> (pdf)
<b>Topical Session</b> <b>Tuesday May 2, 2023</b>  Week 7  6:30 – 7:30 PM via Zoom	<b>Discussion #5 – Agroforestry</b> (lead by Lexie Davis)  <i>Participants describe their experience and exposure to the topic, ask questions about the webinars or related resources, review example scenarios, and learn where they can find additional information (list of fact sheets, websites, etc. provided as additional handout)</i>	<b><u>Agroforestry - Money from your woods</u></b> <b><u>Assigned Content</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Go to <a href="#">Cornell Small Farms Agroforestry</a> page and read or view 1 article or video on each of three topics : (1) ginseng, (2) mushrooms, and (3) maple.</li> </ul> <b><u>Suggested Content</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Agroforestry principles</a> (USDA NRCS Rich Straight)</li> <li>Maple syrup production (Wightman/Wild) (see also the <a href="#">Beginner Maple Notebook</a>)</li> <li><a href="#">Sawtimber economics</a> (Smallidge, ntres3250 lecture)</li> <li><a href="#">Silvopasture</a> (Chedzoy)</li> <li>Fact sheet – <a href="#">Sugarbush site assessment</a> (see chapter 2 of sugarbush management)</li> <li>Fact sheet – <a href="#">Getting started with maple syrup production</a></li> <li>Fact sheet – <a href="#">Guidelines for silvopasture</a></li> <li>Fact sheet - <a href="#">Silvopasture site assessment</a></li> <li>Fact sheet – <a href="#">Logs to lumber</a></li> </ul> Fact sheet – <a href="#">Tree and log scales</a>



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Field days (locations and dates TBD)	<b><u>Tree measurements, silvicultural principles and (hopefully) active logging visit</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introductions</li><li>• Review of tree identification principles</li><li>• Tree judging, tree selection and crop tree management</li><li>• Logging BMPs (if possible)</li><li>• Wildlife Habitat Assessment</li></ul>
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