

The role of an MFO

I've copied below an email note sent by an MFO Volunteer to a woodland owner who requested a visit. This seems to nicely capture what the volunteer can offer and set reasonable expectations for the woodland owner who requested the visit. Feel free to share other examples of introductions from an MFO, or ways to describe the interactions of volunteers and woodland owners.

Hi [woodland owner],

I hope this message finds you well and enjoying the change of seasons. I am a volunteer with the Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Forest Owner program and am reaching out to introduce myself and possibly set up a visit to your property.

As you may know, the MFO program exists to provide forest owners with information and resources relevant to their own objectives for their property. Volunteers such as myself are not professional foresters or loggers. We are peers – fellow forest owners with our own distinct experiences and lessons learned. I can offer the perspective of a nearby property owner thinking deeply about managing the woods, appreciating nature, and promoting biodiversity and resilience on a property. I can also help connect you with the many resources that may help with your specific goals, which I understand are potentially focused on preparing for a timber sale.

As a next step, I would suggest we connect by telephone. We can speak a bit further about your vision and scheduling a visit. Please let me know when generally works for a call. I look forward to it.

Regards,

[MFO volunteer]

[village/city], NY