

Minnesota Master Woodland Owner Program 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



82

Participants

4

Cohorts in 2017

3,722

Acres in program

THE MASTER WOODLAND OWNER PROGRAM

The Master Woodland Owner (MWO) program, offered through the University of Minnesota Extension provides quality education for private woodland owners across Minnesota. The hybrid online and in-person program consists of online educational courses as well as in-person field tours and workshops.

The MWO program began in 2016 and consists of over 40 hours of educational programming for woodland owners. The curriculum covers a range of woodland stewardship topics.



After completing the educational program, landowners are able to:

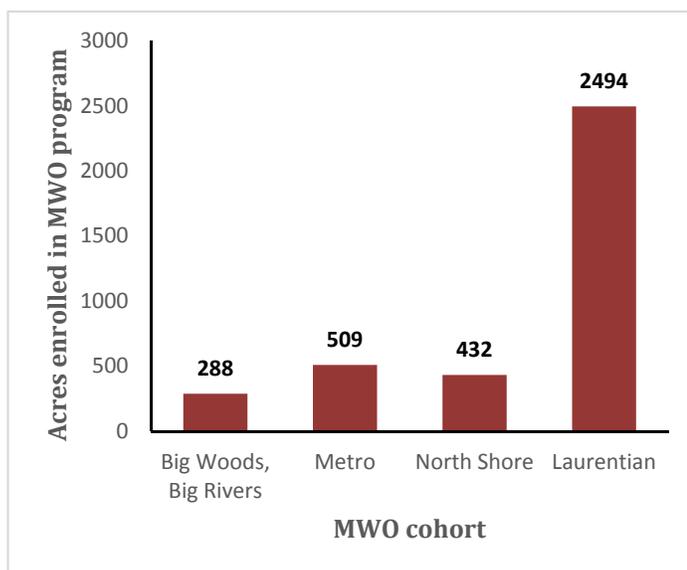
- Describe and explain different options and ways to manage their woodland
- Identify common trees and invasive plants
- Describe how a forester might delineate forest stands and conduct a woodland inventory
- Be able to describe to others how to find and talk with natural resource professionals
- Select tree species suited for planting on their land and know how and where to plant them
- Develop and refine goals for their woodland and be able to interpret and apply what they have learned to develop a forestry project plan for their property
- Discuss property tax incentives, federal income tax treatment of timber sales and estate planning with family and financial/tax advisors

Timeline of Master Woodland Owner cohorts, regional locations, and number of participants since the program began in 2016:

| 2016 | | | | 2017 | | | | 2018 |
|--|--------|------|--------|---|--------|------|--------|--------|
| Spring | Summer | Fall | Winter | Spring | Summer | Fall | Winter | Spring |
| BIG WOODS, BIG RIVERS (Rochester, MN; 9 participants) | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | METRO (St. Paul, MN; 17 participants) | | | | |
| | | | | NORTH SHORE (Two Harbors, MN; 25 participants) | | | | |
| | | | | LAURENTIAN (Virginia, MN; 31 participants) | | | | |

MASTER WOODLAND OWNER PARTICIPANTS IN 2017

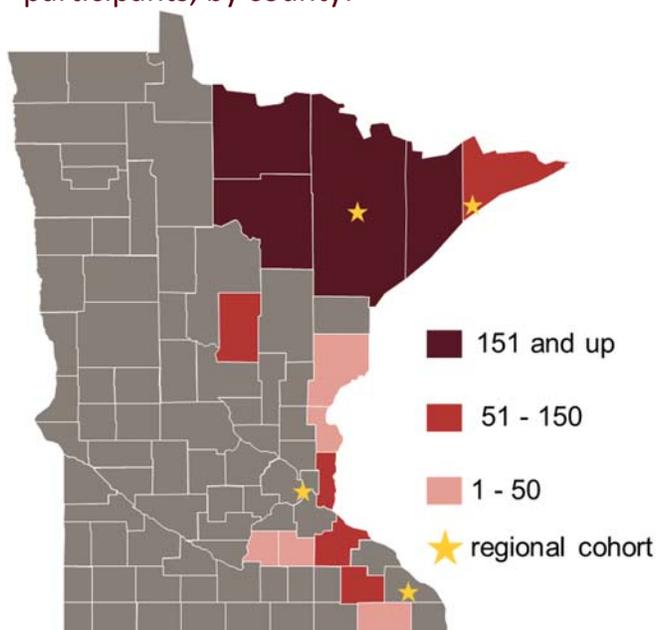
- 82 total participants in program
- Participants are 47% female and 53% male
- 3,722 acres managed by MWO participants in program
- Median size of woodland owner property in program: 40 acres
- Range of woodland owner property size in program: 1 to 620 acres
- Number of couples that have participated in program: 16



MASTER WOODLAND OWNER COURSE OFFERINGS IN 2017

- 11 in-person workshops in 2017
- Eight virtual meet-ups through the web
- 33 online course modules delivered
- Greatest number of acres by county: St. Louis (1,188), Lake (800), Itasca (405), and Koochiching (403)

Total acres managed by MWO participants, by county:



Where do Master Woodland Owners go from here? Select comments from course evaluations:

“We have formulated a more aggressive buckthorn management plan and are better able to identify other invasives.” –Metro landowner

“I plan to improve my forest trails and work on clearing an area I have planned for pollinator plantings.” –Metro landowner

“As a beginner landowner, the instructors and participants have affirmed the viability but also the risks involved. As a result I have altered my plans, and correctly so - I have avoided making very naïve and uneducated decisions.” – Big Woods, Big Rivers landowner

PLANS FOR 2018

The University of Minnesota Extension is planning a number of new initiatives with the MWO program in 2018:

- Offer two new cohorts in the Central Lakes (Brainerd) and Kettle River (Sandstone) regions,
- Incorporate a volunteer component to the MWO program, and
- Continue to seek additional funds for offering new MWO cohorts and increase staff capacity.

FUNDING

The Minnesota Master Woodland Owner program has been supported with grants and contracts through the Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA), USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry (Landscape Scale Restoration program) and MN State Wood Innovation Team (Wood Education and Resource Center), the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Forest Stewardship program, and Sugarloaf: The North Shore Stewardship Association. Through 2017, these funds have totaled over \$167,000 which the Extension Forestry team uses to deliver educational programs, support salary, and improve program offerings.

For more information, visit
mwop.umn.edu

