

RIFCO'S WOODLAND OWNER'S WORKSHOP 2012 SERIES
MOVES TO WEST GREENWICH, INCLUDES NEW TOPICS

Scituate, RI – The RI Forest Conservator's Organization (RIFCO) continues its popular four-morning series of workshops on woodland management topics this winter at the West Greenwich Community Center, located behind the Louttit Library at 274 Victory Highway, on Saturday mornings from January 28, 2012 to February 18, 2012. The sessions include information on various land management topics, including soils and mapping, wildlife habitat, invasive plant and insect identification and control methods, forest ecology and, new to the program, a panel of woodland owners speaking about their experiences with alternative forest products, such as mushrooms, ginseng, turning, and other small business opportunities available to woodlot owners. A field session in the spring will be offered to bring the information out into the woods, including the correct ways of going about the process of conducting timber harvesting, as well as the safe use of chain saws in your woods.

The topics will be presented by local scientists and professionals in the field, including foresters, biologists, a surveyor, a soil scientist, and state forestry officials. According to Bill Fortune, the new president of RIFCO, "the workshops will help you realize more profit and enjoyment from your woodlands. We hope this learning experience will encourage future conservation of Rhode Island's forest resource."

Pre-registration for the workshops is requested, along with a fee of \$15 each, or \$50 for all 4 workshops. RIFCO members get a \$5.00 per session discount. The spring outdoor workshop will be available free of charge, even if you haven't attended any of the indoor sessions. For more information and a registration form, please visit the RIFCO website at www.rifco.org, or call RIFCO at (401) 568-3421.

RIFCO is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of Rhode Island's woodlands. RIFCO offers education on forestry topics, along with advocacy on forestry and land-ownership issues. RIFCO is a co-sponsor of the RI Tree Farm Program. You can visit RIFCO's website for more information on the organization.