

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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RIFCO SPRING PROGRAM WILL FEATURE TOPICS FROM WOODLAND OWNER WORKSHOPS

The RI Forest Conservator's Organization (RIFCO) will conduct its Annual Spring Program at the Merriman Demonstration Woodlot on Howard Hill Road, at the end of Briggs Road, Foster, RI on Saturday, May 14th from 9 a.m. to noon. The Spring Program is free and open to all interested people, and will feature a woods walk that will review some of the topics that were explored during the winter Woodland Owner Workshop series.

Those topics include tree identification and insect defoliators, boundary delineation, forest stand improvement and management topics, and chain saw use and safety. We'll mark some trees in a sample plot for stand improvement thinning, and we'll do some felling to demonstrate proper chain saw use and felling techniques. We'll also take a walk through the 2005 clearcut to see how it's progressing, and we'll review the new Forest Stewardship Plan for the woodlot, where recommendations include actions within the clearing and White ash management in the face of the Emerald ash borer.

We're also hoping to make a special announcement about RIFCO's Demonstration Woodlot program, and there will be a special recognition of the American Tree Farm System's 75th Anniversary.

The RIFCO Spring Program is free and open to the public. The program is offered independent of the winter workshop series; there is no pre-requisite for participating. The Merriman Demonstration Woodlot is located at the end of Briggs Road, off of Route 102, just north of Plainfield Pike. Signs will be posted at various points along the way and at the entrance to the woodlot. Directions to the site are available by calling RIFCO at (401) 568-3421, or one can go to www.rifco.org for more information.

The RI Forest Conservator's Organization is a statewide, non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and wise use of Rhode Island's forest resources.

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