

RHODE ISLAND COVERTS PROJECT GRADUATES **1ST FOREST LANDOWNERS COOPERATORS CLASS**

April 20, 2008—The Rhode Island Coverts Project announced the graduation of its inaugural Rhode Island Coverts Cooperator Class at URI's W. Alton Jones Whispering Pine Conference Center.



A “coverts” (pronounced kuh-vert) is an old English word that refers to a thicket that provides sheltering cover for wildlife. The RI Coverts project is a training and outreach program in woodland and wildlife management. This year, nineteen (19) woodland owners from across the state were selected to participate in the two and one-half day workshop that focused on forest ecology and stewardship, wildlife management and land conservation. The training consisted of both indoor and field sessions, and materials to take home. As part of the project, Cooperators will return to

their communities and share what they've learned with others and work to build a statewide Cooperator network.

The Rhode Island Coverts Project is an initiative of the Rhode Island Resource Conservation and Development Area Council (RIRC&D) through a Conservation Innovation Grant provide by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Harriet Powell, RIRC&D President says that, “Ultimately, we hope that more woodland owners will participate in the project and serve to promote the sustainability of Rhode Island forests.”

The RI Coverts Project is supported by the Rhode Island Resource Conservation & Development Area (RIRC&D), the University of Rhode Island - Department of Natural Resources Science (URI), the RI Chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society (RGS), the RI Department of Environmental Management Division's of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), and Forest Environment (DFE), USDA-NRCS, and the RI Forest Conservators Organization (RIFCO).

Anyone interested in participating in the program, or who would like more information, should contact Paul Boisvert, RI Coverts project Coordinator, at the RI RC&D Area Council, 60 Quaker Lane, Suite 45, Warwick, RI 02886. Telephone: 401-568-1610 or email sneforest@sneforest.necoxmail.com.

