

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE, STATEWIDE RELEASE

GYPHY MOTH IMPACTS ON OUR OAK RESOURCE: THE 2017 TREE FARM FALL  
TOUR IN SCITUATE, RI

The Rhode Island Tree Farm Program is conducting its annual Fall Tour in the woodlands of the Scituate Reservoir off Tunk Hill Road in Scituate, RI on Saturday, October 14, 2017. The tour will begin at 9 AM, with the gates open by 8:30 AM, and the event should last until noon. Field Hill Road is located .3 miles west of Old Plainfield Pike. Signs will be posted at intersections.

This year's topic will focus on the impacts of the past few years of drought and defoliations on our oak resource. Our guests will include Dr. Jim Brown, retired URI professor, amongst other local foresters and a sawmiller whose experience includes the post-gypsy moth defoliations era of the 1980's.

What lessons were learned at that time about the extent of oak mortality and the value of the dead trees for use as sawtimber? How did the understory of the forest respond to all this additional sunlight? What are the differences between the 1980's and the current environmental conditions? What role does the high deer population and the presence of non-native invasive plants play in the future of our forests here in RI??

Learn the answers to these questions, and more, on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October!

The tour is being sponsored by the RI Tree Farm Program. It will be led by foresters from the Tree Farm Program and will include information on programs available through the USDA-NRCS and the state's Farm, Forest, Open Space Program.

The event is free and open to the public, and registration is not required. The event will be held rain or shine. Proper footwear and appropriate dress for the weather is required. For more information, contact RIFCO at (401)568-3421, or visit [www.ritreefarm.org](http://www.ritreefarm.org), where directions to the site will be posted.

The RI Tree Farm Program is a voluntary recognition program, part of the American Tree Farm System, promoting the sustainable management of our forests for wood, water, wildlife, and recreation since 1941. This is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the national program. The RI Tree Farm Program sponsors annual tours to highlight the work that certified Tree Farmers do to protect and manage Rhode Island's woodlands. The Rhode Island program is co-sponsored by the RI Forest Conservator's Organization (RIFCO), the RI DEM's Division of Forest Environment, and Providence Water.

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