

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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**RIFCO'S SUMMER TWILIGHT SESSION TO SHOWCASE THE NEW "FORESTRY FOR RI BIRDS" PROGRAM AT THE RIFCO WOODLOT IN FOSTER**

The RI Forest Conservator's Organization is conducting its annual Summer Twilight Woods Walk at RIFCO's Merriman Demonstration Woodlot on Howard Hill Road, at the end of Briggs Road, in Foster, RI, on Thursday, July 25, 2019, from 6 to 8 pm. The evening will include a woods walk through various areas of the woodlot, and will feature speakers that will highlight the Forestry for RI Birds Program. The walk will be led by forester Marc Tremblay, and will include Forest & Ag Tech Kate Sayles, with bird habitat specialists from the Audubon Society of RI invited to participate.

The Forestry for RI Birds Program is a project of the RI Woodland Partnership, with funding from the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service's Conservation Innovation Grant program. RIFCO is hosting the northern RI demonstration site for this program and will be conducting a forest thinning and habitat clearing project to illustrate some of the options that woodland owners can employ to attract key bird species to their properties. A list of a dozen bird species has been developed that are keystone species, and when the nesting sites and foods that they rely on are provided for these species they will also draw in and retain a multitude of other bird species.

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The Forestry for RI Birds Program is patterned after similar efforts in other states, where bird habitat assessments are incorporated into the Forest Stewardship Plans of private woodland owners. The Program includes workshops for the foresters who prepare these plans and the subsequent forest thinning operations, with the goal of providing diverse bird habitat conditions along with improved forest productivity.

The RIFCO Summer Twilight Walk is free of charge, and there is no need to register. Refreshments will be provided, and directions to the site are available at [www.rifco.org](http://www.rifco.org), or by calling RIFCO at (401) 568-3421.

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. RIFCO is also a co-sponsor of the RI Tree Farm Program, and an affiliate of the National Woodland Owner's Association.

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