

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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FOR IMMEDIATE, STATEWIDE RELEASE

REVISITING THE FASANO TREE FARM: MY HOW THE WOODS HAVE CHANGED! TREE FARM FALL TOUR IN RICHMOND, RI

The Rhode Island Tree Farm Program is conducting its annual Fall Tour at the Fasano Tree Farm in Richmond, RI on Saturday, October 17, 2020. The tour will begin at 9 AM, and the event should last until noon. The Fasano woodlot is located at 61 Tefft Hill Road, in the Dawley Park area of town, off Route 3. Signs will be posted at intersections.

This year's topic will focus on the various insect and disease issues that are faced by American beech, including the newly arrived Beech Leaf Disease. The proliferation of American beech in the forests of southern Rhode Island presents challenges for those who are managing their woodlots, but beech also has some important wildlife values. What sort of insects and diseases attack beech, and how can property owners manage the beech as a firewood resource?

There have been some changes that have taken place in the woods since our last visit to the Fasano Tree Farm since it experienced some serious oak mortality over the past few years from the Gypsy moth defoliations. Our tour will be led by RI DEM forester Fern Graves, who was recently credited for finding the Beech Leaf Disease site in Hopkinton. Other tour leaders will be present to highlight how the diversity now established in the woods, through both planned and un-planned changes in the forest canopy conditions, have altered the wildlife habitat values, including that of bird populations.

The tour is being sponsored by the RI Tree Farm Program. Our hosts Ron and Mary Fasano have been active with the RI Tree Farm Program for many years, and Ron is the current Chair of the RI Tree Farm Committee. 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, but registration will be required in order to limit attendance for social distancing requirements. The event will be held rain or shine. Proper footwear and appropriate dress for the weather is required. Attendees should bring their masks, and proper social distancing will be in place. For more information and to register, contact us at (401)568-3410, or visit 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. 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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