

NEWS RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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FOR IMMEDIATE, STATEWIDE RELEASE

Forest Conservation Easements are the Topic of Workshop

The RI Forest Conservator's Organization (RIFCO), along with co-sponsors the RI Tree Farm Program and the RI Land Trust Council, are presenting an evening workshop on the subject of Conservation Easements for woodlot owners and farmers on Thursday, November 16th, from 6 PM until 8 PM, at the West Greenwich Community Center behind the Louttit Library on Victory Highway (Route 102) in West Greenwich, RI.

Featured speakers include Joanne Riccitelli, formerly the Land Protection Director for the South Kingstown Land Trust and now a consultant for the RI Forest Health Works Project, who will address the basics of Conservation Easements. That includes the value and benefits of conservation easements for land conservation, as well as the ability of property owners to continue working the family farm or woodlot, and pass the land on down to future generations, while protecting the land from future development.

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The availability of funding for the purchase of conservation easements of forest land through the RI Forest Health Works Project will be explained by Kate Sayles of the RI Land Trust Council and Marina Capraro of the Northern RI Conservation District. There will also be a panel of landowners who will share their experience with this process, including West Greenwich Town Manager Kevin Breene.

“Our rural economy and way of life, even in an urbanized state like Rhode Island, can be enhanced by conserving productive lands” said Bill Fortune, president of RIFCO. “This workshop can give families the tools they need to keep the land productive and still retain ownership, while helping to stem the loss of that land to development.”

Registration for the workshop is requested. For more information and to register for the workshop, visit the RIFCO website at www.rifco.org, or contact them via email at info@rifco.org, or by phone at (401) 568-3410.

RIFCO is a private, non-profit forest landowner’s association dedicated to the wise use and protection of Rhode Island’s forest resources.

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