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RIFCO is an affiliate of the National Woodland Owner's Association

RIFCO'S SUMMER TWILIGHT WALK AUGUST 5, 2021 6:30 PM TO HIGHLIGHT PINE NEEDLE DISEASES AND WILDLIFE HABITAT

RIFCO is conducting its annual Summer Twilight Woods Walk at the Arcadia Management Area in Exeter, RI on Thursday, August 5, 2021, at 6:30 pm. The evening will feature a review of the RI DEM's recent harvesting activities at the former Pratt Farm off of Summit Road, including some habitat activities and thinning of pine stands to limit the impacts of some pine needle-cast diseases. Our guests will include Dr. Jim Brown, formerly of the University of RI, and Will Walker of the RI DEM's Division of Forest Environment.

There are a number of native insects and diseases that feed on or attack pine trees, and recently there has been an increase in the decline and mortality of pines from several fungal pathogens. They cause browning of needles,

with entire branches, saplings, and even mature trees becoming defoliated and dying.

We'll review the known extents of this condition, what has been leading up to the increase of its presence and the death of individual trees and decline of entire forests of pine. The experience of Dr. Jim Brown and other foresters who have been working with the pine resource should shed some light on how we can better manage our White pine forests to limit the impacts from these naturally-occurring diseases.

The Pratt Farm, which is located about one mile south of Route 165 (Ten Rod Road) on Summit Road, is jointly managed by the RI DEM's Division of Forest Environment and the Division of Fish and Wildlife. A recent (2020) harvest in the pine stands there included some selective harvesting and a pine overstory removal project. There are open fields that are stocked with game birds, and a good road for us to walk through. Both thinned and un-thinned pine stands are present to help us visualize how our own pine stands could be managed to help minimize disease problems.

The RIFCO Summer Twilight Walk is free of charge, and there is no pre-registration necessary. More information is available by contacting RIFCO at info@rifco.org, or by calling us at (401) 568-3410.

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