

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE, STATEWIDE RELEASE

**Wee-Hoose Farm Recognized as Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year**

The RI Tree Farm Program recently presented Stephanie and Lincoln Chafee, owners of Wee-Hoose Farm in Exeter, with the program's annual Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year Award at the RIFCO/Tree Farm Annual Dinner on November 11, 2017 at the Varnum Armory in East Greenwich.

Mrs. Chafee accepted the award on behalf of her father Murray Danforth, Wild Harmony Farm manager Ben Coerper, and the foresters who have worked with her family for many years to implement the management plans and maintained her Tree Farm Program status since the 1970's, including Hans T. Bergey. "Without the help and guidance and hard work by all these fine folks our farm and woodlot wouldn't be what it is today" said Stephanie as she accepted the award.

Wee-Hoose Farm has been actively managed as a farm and woodland under the Tree Farm Program's guidelines since the 1970's, with some recently undertaken projects to improve forest health conditions in a variety of locations on the property. The presence of Wild Harmony Farm, with some horse-logging and maple syrup production included with their livestock operations, has boosted the property's productivity. They've hosted workshops on a variety of topics with RIFCO and the Young Farmer's Network, as well as a Climate Change Adaptation workshop for local foresters.

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The National Tree Farm Program is operated by the American Forest Foundation, and includes the Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year Award in each state to recognize those Tree Farmers who do an exemplary job of managing their woodlands and increasing the visibility of the program. Each state TFOY winner is submitted for a regional competition, and from those a national TFOY is chosen each year.

For more information on the Tree Farm Program, go to [www.ritreefarm.org](http://www.ritreefarm.org), or contact the RI Tree Farm Committee, Ron Fasano, Chair, c/o RIFCO, PO Box 53, No. Scituate, RI 02857, or 568-3421.

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