

THE FOREST CONSERVATIONIST



A Publication of the Rhode Island Forest Conservator's Organization, Inc.

Volume 30, Number 2

Spring, 2020

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

Event Has Been
Cancelled!
Summer Walk
will be scheduled.

RIFCO Spring Program
Merriman Demonstration
Woodlot Howard Hill Road,
Foster, RI

The 2020 RIFCO Spring Program is scheduled for May 9th at our Demonstration Woodlot in Foster. The topic for the program is the review of the recent timber and wildlife improvement and harvesting project that is being conducted, and our guest speaker/tour guide is Kate Sayles on the Forestry for RI Birds Program.

Holding this program will of course depend on the status in early May of the guidelines being issued by the State of RI for social distancing and events with more than 5 people. At this printing the Program is tentative, and RIFCO will issue an update with its e-news on May 1.

The Forestry for RI Birds Program is a project of the RI Woodland Partnership and the RI RC& D Council, 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 its forest thinning and habitat clearing project will 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.

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.

For an update on the status of our Program, keep an eye out for our e-news in early May. Not getting the e-news?? Sign up now at www.rifco.org.

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