

# THE FOREST CONSERVATIONIST



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

## RIFCO SPRING PROGRAM LEVEL BEST FARM, RICHMOND, RI MAY 7, 2022 9 AM—NOON

RIFCO'S annual Spring Program will be held on May 7th this year at Ken Mitchell's farm and woodlot in Richmond, RI. We'll gather at the end of Homestead Lane, pictured at the right, before going for a hike through his woods and habitat fields.

Homestead Lane is located in the Wood River Junction area of town, just east of the Wood River, and runs north off of Route 91.

Ken's management of the property dates back to the 1970's, and has included active forest stand improvement thinnings, pine timber harvests, and the maintenance of an extensive forest access road system. There are a couple of habitat fields that provide lots of milkweed for monarch butterfly habitat.



The guided walk will be led by foresters from RIFCO and the RI Tree Farm Program. The walk will include the viewing of cleared fire roads and habitat fields, along with mixed pine and hardwood areas that have had selective thinnings in the past.

We will focus on the evolution of forest management plans over the years, beginning with those that state foresters provided in the early days to the more advanced types of Forest Stewardship Plans and Conservation Activity Plans now funded by the USDA-NRCS. The walk will also include tree identification, deer-browse impacts, forest ecology and other woodlot management topics.

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