

Looking Forward-Recovering From Oak Loss On Rhode Island's Private Woodlands
Draft Agenda

Guy L. Lefebvre Community Center
1277 Main Street
Coventry, RI

March 16, 2019, 9:00 am-12:00 pm

8:30-9:00 AM: Registration, coffee and light refreshments sponsored by the Rhode Island Tree Farm Committee

9:00-Welcoming remarks *Dick Went, President, RIFCO*

9:05-Current State of Rhode Island's Forests *Paul Ricard, Forest Health Program Coordinator, RI Department of Environmental Management Division of Forest Environment*

9:50-Break

9:55-Gypsy Moth and Oak Forests – Past, Present, and Future *Dr. Jeff Ward, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station*

The widespread, multi-year gypsy moth defoliations of the past several years have led to levels of oak mortality not seen since the 1960s. It appears that mortality of red, black, and scarlet oak is much higher than was observed fifty years ago, perhaps in part because the trees are also older. This talk will compare the recent outbreak with those of the past, examine the ecological effects of losing many of our oaks, and discuss forest management options to minimize the impacts on forest health and productivity.

10:40-Break, coffee and light refreshments sponsored by the Rhode Island Tree Farm Committee

10:45-RIDEM Forest Stewardship Program Resources *Nancy Stairs, Coop. Forestry Program Supervisor, RI Department of Environmental Management Division of Forest Environment*

11:00-USDA Farm Service Agency Resources *W. Michael Sullivan, SED, State Executive Director, Rhode Island State Farm Service Agency*

11:10-USDA NRCS and Conservation District opportunities, addressing and adapting existing contracts and/or forest management plans *Chris Modisette, USDA NRCS State Resource Conservationist*

11:35-Question panel featuring the morning's presenters

12:00 or Conclusion of Question Period: Adjourn

