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For Immediate Release

Woodland Tour to Focus on Wildlife Habitat Benefits of a Timber Harvest & the Habitat for Heat Program

WALLINGFORD-

Join foresters Kathy Beland and Frank Hudson, and landowners Dan and Pat Stone on this *Walk in the Woods: Wildlife Benefits of a Timber Harvest* tour on Saturday, February 24th from 9am to 12pm. Participants will see an active timber harvest that will benefit woodland bird and wildlife habitat on the Stone's 132 acre certified Tree Farm. Learn about their participation in the *Woods, Wildlife and Warblers* Program. The Stones' property has been conserved with the Vermont Land Trust. Additionally, some of the trees harvested will be part of the *Habitat for Heat* Program, which will be sent to the Vermont Wood Pellet Company in nearby Clarendon where the wood will be transformed into pellets that will heat a local assisted-living facility.

The *Habitat for Heat* Program goals are to incentivize landowners to actively manage their woods while creating new habitat for birds and wildlife, through providing a sustainable supply of nearby market material to forest product companies keeping the revenue stream localized, thus encouraging strong rural communities and a clean Vermont energy economy.

This program is *free* and open to the public and is intended to provide information and inspiration for other woodland owners to enhance bird and wildlife habitat while accomplishing other goals they may have for their land.

Registration is required as space is limited. RSVP online at www.vtwoodsandwildlife.org/events, email info@vtwoodsandwildlife.org or call Silvia at 802-747-7900. This event has been assigned three (3.0) Category 1 CFE credits through the Society of American Foresters. The Stone Tree Farm is at 311 Mooney Road in Wallingford, Vermont. Dress for the conditions with appropriate footwear, and be prepared to walk on uneven terrain to access the harvest site. In the event of severe weather, the event will be cancelled.

Woods, Wildlife and Warblers is a program for southern Vermont landowners, providing them with the knowledge, tools, and resources that will allow them to better care for their woods and the wildlife that call them home. This program is possible through a partnership between Audubon Vermont, the Vermont Tree Farm Committee, Vermont Woodlands Association, and the American Forest Foundation, with assistance from Vermont Coverts, Vermont's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, and Vermont's Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation.