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### Mission

Helping People Care for  
Natural Resources  
to Improve the  
Quality of Life in  
Rhode Island

### This Issue:

Rhody Warm	1
Forestry & Wood	1
Forest Stewardship	2
Rural Fire Protection	2
Ethno-Botany	2
Building Capacity	2
Forestry Centennial	3
Stream Continuity	3
New Grants	3
President's Message	4

### RC&D Council

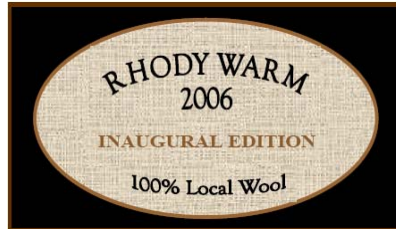
#### Meetings

First Wednesday of  
January, March, May,  
July, September and  
December

#### Location:

USDA-NRCS  
60 Quaker Lane  
Warwick, RI

## Rhody Warm Creates Market for Local Wool



What's grey and white and warm all over? Wool blankets made from locally grown, natural wool!

The RI RC&D Council, DEM – Division of Agriculture, and the Rhode Island Sheep Cooperative worked together to create a market for wool blankets made with Rhode Island wool. Taking local wool that was rapidly becoming a waste product, twenty (20) local sheep farmers organized and created a beautiful blanket that brought more income to farmers while at the same time promoted the sustainability of local agriculture and agricultural products. Over 1400 pounds of raw wool was collected and turned into 325 beautiful blankets.



The Beginning



Rhody Warm Wool Collection

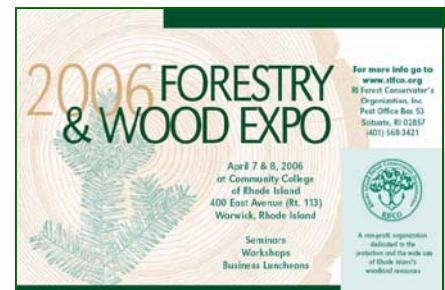


Finished Blanket Pattern

## 1st Annual Forestry & Wood Expo

RC&D was a principal sponsor for the first **Forestry and Wood Expo** held on April 7-8, 2006. It was a two day event with the first day dedicated to school-to-career awareness for 160 students from seven urban and rural school districts. Governor Donald Carcieri was luncheon keynote speaker and Lt. Governor Charles Fogarty hosted

a business leaders small business seminar. The second day featured workshops, a variety of vendors, and demonstrations for the public. Over 400 people attended the two day event that featured over 24 exhibitors. This event coincided with and paid tribute to the State of Rhode Island's Forestry Centennial which celebrated 100 years of RI's Forestry Service.



Governor Carcieri



Wood Mizer Sawmill Demo



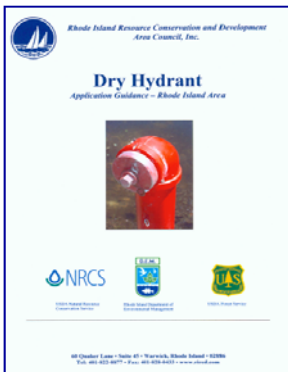
School to Career Workshop

## Promoting Forest Stewardship

RC&D provides administrative support for the Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP) in partnership with the DEM-Division of Forest Environment. In 2006, twenty (25) landowners owning a total of 2,221 acres received \$20,218 of cost-share assistance for the preparation of forest stewardship plans through this partnership. Since 2003 the program has placed 5,343 acres of forestland into sustainable forest management plan involving 70 forest landowners who received \$50,324 of cost-share assistance.



*Sustainably Managed Eastern White Pine*



*Dry-hydrant Guidance Manuals were Produced*

## RI Rural Community Fire Protection Program

RC&D partnered with the DEM- Division of Forest Environment to provide rural communities with fire protection assistance. In 2006 RC&D designed, produced, and distributed 200 Dry Hydrant Guidance Manuals to local fire departments, held four workshops across the state on the program and received 19 applications for dry hydrants from six rural fire departments. When installed these hydrants will improve fire protection for an estimated 13,000 residents of these communities.



*Noted Ethno-Botanist Calvin Weatherwax with children from the RI Indian Council*

## Ethno-Botany Workshops

RC&D coordinated two (2) *ethno-botany workshops* in conjunction with the Southern Rhode Island Conservation District (SRICD) and USDA-NRCS. Over 80 people attended the training conducted by noted ethno-botanist Calvin Weatherwax and herbalist Pauline Matt.



*Ethno-botany Field Trip*

## RC&D Supports RI Envirothon

RC&D was a primary sponsor of the 2006 RI Envirothon, a competition that tests high school students on environmental knowledge in forestry, wildlife, soils, aquatics and a special current issue.



## Building Capacity and Increasing Public Awareness of RC&D

The RC&D Council increased public awareness of its roles and activities by participating in 63 workshops and events with partners across the state.





## Improving Native Brook Trout Habitat

With assistance from Trout Unlimited-Narragansett Chapter (TU) and the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association (WPWA), the USDA-NRCS and RC&D are coordinating an effort to create river and stream crossing standards and a **volunteer inventory program** for culverts and other crossing structures. The objective is to more effectively identify and address barriers to fish movement and river and stream continuity. To date, volunteers have spent over 900 volunteer hours and surveyed over two hundred ninety (290) crossings in the Upper and Lower Wood River Watersheds. As the result of this work, three applications for stream restoration projects have been submitted to the USDA-NRCS Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP).



Potential Barriers to Fish Passage  
Upper Wood River Watershed



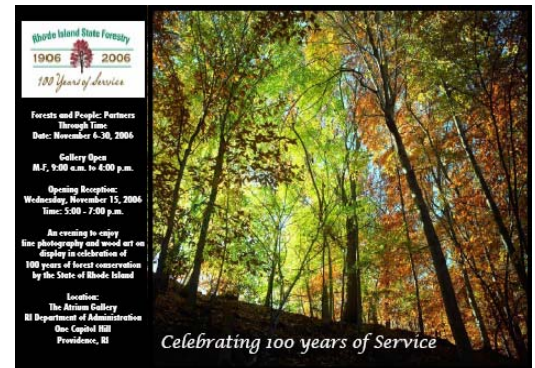
Native Brook Trout



A barrier to fish passage

## Celebrating 100 Years of Forestry in Rhode Island

The RC&D Council partnered with the DEM-Division of Forest Environment to design a commemorative poster and organize two events celebrating *100 Years of Forestry in Rhode Island*. The goal of these celebrations was to increase public awareness of the "working" forest in Rhode Island and the role that forests play in producing the goods and services used by society. Both events featured *Forests and People: Partners Through Time*, a collection of color photos by Salvatore Mancini documenting the forests of Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Massachusetts.



## RC&D Receives Two Rural Development Grants



Two USDA Rural Development grants were awarded RI RC&D Council. The grants will provide management assistance with the research and business plan development for the Rhody Warm Blanket Project and Forestry Special Projects Assistance to the Narragansett Indian Tribe for the re-establishment of native and culturally important tree species such as Black ash and American chestnut.

## USDA Conservation Innovation Grant to Promote Wildlife

RC&D received a Conservation Innovation Grant from the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service. The project is intended reach out to individual woodland owners and teach them how sound management practices can make wildlife healthier, more diverse, and more abundant. Its goals are to teach forest owners how good forest stewardship can earn the woodland owner a long-term financial return and improve the health and productivity of both the forest and the wildlife that live in it. Improvement of habitat for species such as Ruffed Grouse and American Woodcock will be emphasized.



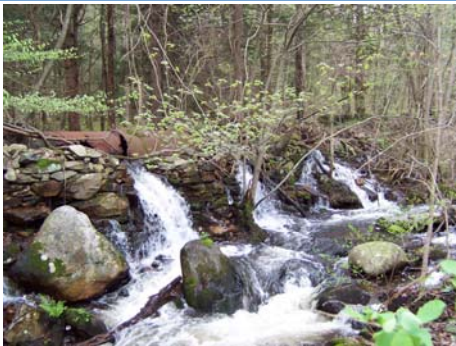
# RI Resource Conservation & Development Area Council, Inc.

60 Quaker Lane, Suite 45  
Warwick, RI 02886

USDA-NRCS Assistance Provided by:  
Chris Modisette, RC&D Coordinator  
Phone: 401.822.8877  
Fax: 401.828.0433  
Email: [chris.modisette@ri.usda.gov](mailto:chris.modisette@ri.usda.gov)



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[www.rircd.org](http://www.rircd.org)



*Westconnaug Stream, Clayville, RI*

## 2006 RI RC&D Council

<b>Harriet Powell</b> , President	<b>Kelly Fox</b> , Southern RI Conservation District
<b>Raymond Robinson</b> , Vice President	<b>Thomas Sandham</b> , Eastern RI Conservation District
<b>Beverly Migliore</b> , Secretary	<b>David Alves</b> , Coastal Resources Management Council
<b>Myrna George</b> , Treasurer	<b>Paul Gonsalves</b> , RI Statewide Planning
<b>Catherine Sparks</b> , Acting State Forester, DEM	<b>Ted Comerford</b> , Eastern RI Conservation District
<b>Kenneth Ayers</b> , Chief-DEM Div. of Agriculture	<b>Jeffrey Gofton</b> , RI Rural Development Council
<b>Paul Dolan</b> , Northern RI Conservation District	<b>Gerard Bertrand</b> , Council Associate
<b>Edward Baker</b> , Northern RI Conservation District	
<b>Eugene Pepper</b> , DEM-Div. of Agriculture	

## President's Message—Harriet Powell

Resource Conservation and Development Councils (RC&D) play an important role in rural development and natural resource conservation across this country. The RC&D program is one of the federal government's success stories with its ability to return \$7.50 for every dollar the federal government invests to support economic development and resource protection in rural areas.

In Rhode Island, the RC&D has created jobs, protected water quality, is in the process of promoting alternative energy, and provides assistance and ideas to start-up businesses, particularly those that are farm-related. Throughout the United States, other RC&D's perform the same or similar functions for their communities. For example, a recent undertaking of the RI RC&D was to assist a farm co-op project that now produces wool blankets. The sheep farmers of our State were unable to find markets for their wool and were using it for animal bedding, burning it, or disposing of it in other ways. Under the aegis of RI RC&D, the group, called Rhody Warm, has successfully produced about 350 heritage wool blankets for sale this year and intends to continue to grow and expand every year from now on. Due to the success of the Rhody Warm project, Alpaca growers in RI are also interested in joining the Co-op as well. This is but one of the many and varied efforts of the RC&D's throughout the country.

All RC&D boards are volunteer and are job creators, small-business supporters, water quality and quantity protectors and conservation-minded. Communities and citizens need them. We, in Rhode Island, certainly need ours.