



Rhode Island Resource Conservation & Development Area Council, Inc.

Helping People Help the Land Since 1973

Newsletter of December 2022




Happy Holidays!

Wishing you and your families a warm and merry holiday season!

~ Your Friends at RIRC&D

Coming in 2023

The health and vitality of our lands and waters support our way of life and economy in Rhode Island. All woodland owners are encouraged to attend this workshop to ask questions and to get more in-depth information about how to managing the pests and diseases that threaten our woodlands, and wildlife.



ZOOM WEBINAR

Forest Pests and Diseases

Tuesday, 17 January 2023
from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

WOMEN OWNING WOODLANDS

Speakers

Alana Russell
URI Department of Plant Sciences and Entomology

Cynthia Kwolek
RI DEM Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey


To register and get your Zoom Link
please contact Paul Dolan
email: rircd2283@gmail.com
phone: 401-500-0399

This program is part of the Women Owning Woodlands Project but participation is open to ALL woodland Owners and Managers

Join us to learn how you can help keep your woodlands healthy and vibrant.



The Rhode Island Division of Agriculture and Forest Environment works to sustain, promote, and enhance Rhode Island's agricultural viability and preserve, manage, and promote healthy forests for today and for generations to come.

RESOURCES FOR WOODLOT OWNERS—



Rhode Island Forest Conservators Organization


Helping to Safeguard Rhode Island's Woodlands



Rhode Island Forest Conservators Organization (RIFCO) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and wise use of Rhode Island's woodland resources.

To receive the [RIFCO](#) monthly e-newsletter

"[The Forest Conservationist](#)," visit our [Contact](#) page and submit a request online.
Or [Join RIFCO](#) and automatically receive a subscription as a [RIFCO](#) member.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
Department of Environmental
Management

About Agriculture & Forest Environment

The health and vitality of our lands, waters, and communities support our way of life and economy in Rhode Island. The Rhode Island Division of Agriculture and Forest Environment works to sustain, promote, and enhance Rhode Island's agricultural viability and preserve, manage, and promote healthy forests and community trees for today and for generations to come.

[Animal Health Program](#)
[RI Grown: Eat Fresh, Buy Local](#)
[Produce Safety Program](#)
[Agriculture Grant Opportunities](#)
[LASA Grant Program](#)
[Pesticides Program](#)

[Urban Forestry Program](#)
[Forest Health Program](#)
[Wild Fire Program](#)
[Pest Alerts](#)
[Spotted Lanternfly](#)
[Forest Stewardship](#)

THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND



Plant Sciences and Entomology

College of the Environment and Life Sciences

Rhode Islanders have a unique relationship to the environment—and for our communities, ornamental plants, turf, agritourism, and conservation lands are as important as food crops. Our programs in ornamental horticulture, turfgrass management, food crop production, and control of invasive species, and insect-vectored diseases support all these aspects of the local economy. You'll be fully prepared for a job in agricultural industries, or to conduct your own research.

RESOURCES FOR WOODLOT OWNERS—

RIWP: Your Online Resource for RI Forest Information



The Rhode Island Woodland Partnership (RIWP) advances the stewardship and long-term protection of Rhode Island's woodlands to benefit the local economy, ecological values, and community enjoyment and health. The RIWP strives to increase the impact of forest conservation measures through education and information sharing.

RI DEM

Forest Stewardship Program

This program was developed for woodland owners who want to know more about their woodland and how to manage it. The Rhode Island FSP, in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, supports private forest landowners' efforts to manage, enjoy, and care for their land long-term. This program is designed to both recognize the public benefits of privately-owned working lands and good land management, and to help private landowners protect the ecosystem benefits and value of their forest.



USDA New England New York Forestry Initiative



EQIP Forestry Initiative Information

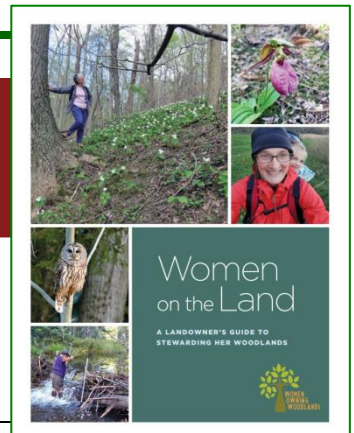
The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program for people who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat primarily on private land. Applicants with forestland or in fields with 25 percent more woody cover (aerial canopy cover) of tree species and who wish to install practices that will protect or enhance fish and wildlife habitat should apply to this initiative.

American Forest Foundation Newsletter

Sign up and receive updates from the **AFF** and/or its signature programs: the [American Tree Farm System](#) (ATFS) and [My Land Plan](#)

UMassAmherst

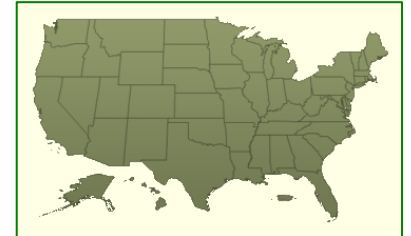
[Women on the Land](#) aims to build a network of female landowners and stewards in Massachusetts and provide opportunities for education and connection. We host events throughout the year and encourage women to foster relationships with each other and their land.



RESOURCES FOR WOODLOT OWNERS—



It is a misconception that a healthy forest is always an untouched forest. The health of your forest may depend on active forest management. A forest management plan is the road map to successful long-term management of your forest. With your forester, you need to evaluate your property's physical attributes and your management activities and the steps you can take to safeguard the environment. This lets you find out where your starting point is. [Forest*A*Syst](#) can assist you in making the choices in balancing your desires for managing your forest.



[PROFILE YOUR LAND](#)



CENTER *for*
RURAL AFFAIRS

[WOMEN NON-OPERATOR LANDOWNERS](#)

More than 50 percent of farmland in the U.S. is owned or co-owned by women. Center for Rural Affairs has designed workshops and learning circles specifically for women non-operator farmland owners. The peer-based model of learning circles assist women landowners with connecting to resources that aren't reaching them, and women prefer the intimate women-only setting. Whether the farmland was recently inherited, owned for years in a trust, or the land is going through a transition, learning circles provide opportunities for women to connect with programs, resources, and one another.



As the first forestry consulting business to focus on women landowners, [Land and Ladies](#) offers three different ways for women to be engaged, and start taking their ownership by the reins OR to the next level. They equip women with the resources to tackle their landowner and forest management needs through their programs, membership and online resources.



They also offer a **FREE Online Beginner Landowner Course**, short course modules offering insight on hot topics like land objectives, planning, record keeping, and ways to make your land profitable.



February 23 - 24, Brunswick, Georgia

This Symposium is a bi-annual national level event hosted and organized by Land & Ladies. This national women landowner's event purpose is to empower women with the confidence to take hold of their landownership as well as creating an atmosphere for women to connect with one another. This 1.5 day event is comprised of natural resource expert general sessions, breakout workshop opportunities and a social reception.

Attend in-person or virtually!



American Farmland Trust Announces Nationwide Network of Service Providers to Help Transitioning Land to the Next Generation

The successful transfer of land to the next generation of farmers and ranchers will also require a transfer of knowledge and skills. More than 40 percent of American farmland is owned by seniors aged 65 and older, who are likely to retire in the next decade or so. Given the demographics, American Farmland Trust estimates that 371 million acres, or one-third of U.S. farmland, will likely transition to new ownership in the next 15 years.



ORGANIC FARM FUNDING RESOURCES

Get Help Expanding, Improving, or Starting Your Organic Farm.

Are you a beginning farmer? Are you an established farmer? Do you need assistance with certification costs or creating value-added products on your farm? Are you looking to transition your farm from conventional to organic practices? The following resources provide funding and other assistance. One of the biggest hurdles to transitioning land to organic or enhancing conservation on the farm is securing the funds to make it possible. Rodale's resources can help



National Association of
Conservation Districts

Conserving natural resources FOR OUR FUTURE



NACD's Guide to [Energy Conservation Opportunities in Agriculture \(PDF\)](#)

[NACD](#)'s mission is to promote responsible management and conservation of natural resources on all lands by representing locally-led conservation districts and their associations through grassroots advocacy, education and partnerships.



New Degree at CCRI is the Region's First to Offer Courses in Blue, Green Economy Trades

A new associate's degree in environment, sustainability and management at the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) is the region's first interdisciplinary program at the intersection of environmental, social, and economic sustainability.

The degree, which covers agriculture, food and ecological systems; entrepreneurial thinking and processes; land and resource management; and the impacts of climate change on ecologies, businesses and industries, targets the \$2.5 billion industries that are in demand across the state yet struggle to fill their workforce pipelines.

This approach to workforce development unifies education and industry, said Rhode Island Nursery and Landscape Association (RINLA) executive director Shannon Brawley. RINLA partnered with CCRI, as well as the Rhode Island Food Policy Council (RIFPC) to curate the program with input from local businesses.

Anthropocene



When trees face drought and climate change, old age trumps youth

Sometimes old age and gritty stamina trumps youth and resilience. It's true for people. It turns out it's true for trees as well.... Old-growth trees can endure the battering of a drought better than their younger counterparts, scientists have learned. In the face of increasingly frequent and more intense droughts fueled by climate change, the new research underscores the importance of ancient trees to sustain forests.

BBC

Future Planet



How a Sand Battery Could Transform Clean Energy

The challenge is how to provide a year-round, steady power supply from renewable energy during changing seasons and variable weather conditions. The answer nestling in Vatajankoski power plant, 270 km (168 miles) north-west of Finland's capital, Helsinki, is remarkably simple, abundant and cheap: sand.

The Vatajankoski power plant is home to the world's first commercial-scale sand battery. Fully enclosed in a 7m (23ft)-high steel container, the battery consists of 100 tonnes of low-grade builders' sand, two district heating pipes and a fan...

[READ MORE](#)



Acorns and Octavia

BY KAITLIN SMITH

Imagined futures in Earthseed's fruiting bodies...



COMPRISING MORE THAN FOUR HUNDRED

species and two genera, oaks and their fruits abound in most temperate regions of the world, where they feed a great many organisms, from squirrels and deer to turkeys and jays to humans... Earth was once home to a number of intact balanocultures, human societies organized around harvesting acorns rather than, for example, grain. Remnants of these societies can be found in modern-day Korea, Italy, and the United States...

Oaks



Acorn Bread

BY JONI TEVIS

THAT FALL, my first October back in South Carolina, we had a bumper crop of acorns. Every day I heard the staccato rain of nuts hitting the roof, and when I walked the campus where I'd just begun teaching, acorns rolled underfoot. I'd read about acorn bread years before, and it seemed like a good time to try baking some, so I gathered nuts in a grocery bag until I had a good two pounds... [READ MORE](#)

ACORN BREAD

1 cup acorn meal
1 cup flour
2 tablespoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
3 tablespoons sugar
1 egg, beaten
1 cup milk
3 tablespoons oil

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Grease loaf pan. Sift together dry ingredients. Combine egg, milk, and oil in a separate bowl. Combine dry and wet ingredients. Stir to moisten—batter will be lumpy.

Bake at 400 degrees for 30 minutes.

ecoRI
news



For Better and Worse: Statewide Oak Tree Mortality Changes Rhode Island's Landscape

By Cynthia Drummond

CHARLESTOWN, R.I. — Once Rhode Island's predominant hardwood tree species, oaks have taken several major hits in recent years. Attacked by gypsy moths, weakened by drought and clear-cut for commercial solar-energy projects, the oak population has experienced a rapid decline. Ecologists are now watching to see what the state's woodlands might look like in the years, and decades, to come.

The 841-acre Francis C. Carter Memorial Preserve, the second-largest nature preserve in Rhode Island, is one of The Nature Conservancy's most frequently visited properties.

The preserve is an example of a landscape that has been dramatically altered as a result of oak mortality... black oak, scarlet oak, white oak, pitch pine, black huckleberry, and lowbush blueberry... Many of those oaks are now dead...

[READ MORE](#)



[Why Acorns re in Short Supply this Season](#)

Stressed out? Need some help resolving **Agricultural Issues?**



Farm Ranch Stress Assistance Network RI
FRSAN RI

Help Is On the Way!

RI DEM- Division of Agriculture and the Center for Mediation and Collaboration are partnering to launch a mental health and wellness program for farmers, commercial fishers, and workers in forestry-related industries.

Workers in the farm, fisheries, and forestry (FFF) communities work in isolating, dangerous, and economically uncertain occupations where depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts are not uncommon.

We are bringing together stakeholders across the state to address the root causes of stress, and provide foundational supports to our farm, fishery and forestry communities.

What Support Could Look Like

- Financial Planning
- Succession Planning
- Tax Assistance
- Employee Training and Retention Programs
- Land Access
- Child Care
- Substance Use Disorder Support
- Counseling

Steering Committee Members

RI-DEM Division of Agriculture, Center for Mediation and Collaboration RI, Commerce RI, Commercial Fisheries Center of RI, Farm Fresh RI, East Coast Shellfish Growers Association, Hope & Main, Northeast Organic Farmers Association-RI, RI Conservation Districts, RI Farm Bureau, RI Food Policy Council, RI Land Trust Council, RI Nursery and Landscape Association, Southside Community Land Trust, Tomaquag Museum, URI Cooperative Extension, Young Farmer Network of Southeastern New England

Need Help Now?

401.414.LINK(5465) BH Link

800-273-8255 National Suicide Prevention Hotline

1-800-327-6243 Farm Aid Hotline

For information/support please reach contact Laurel Witri laurel@cmcri.org.

For information/support **1-800-327-6243** or email Laurel Witri laurel@cmcri.org

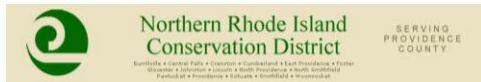


Rhode Island Association of Conservation Districts

Helping Rhode Island Conservation Districts Help Rhode Island

conserving
natural resources
for our future

2283 Hartford Avenue
Johnston, RI 02919
401-934-0840



Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District
— Serving Bristol & Newport Counties —
Barrington : Bristol : Jamestown : Little Compton : Middletown : Newport : Portsmouth : Tiverton : Warren



The [Northern Rhode Island Conservation District \(NRICD\)](#) serves Providence County. The [Southern RI Conservation District \(SRICD\)](#) serves Kent and Washington Counties, and the [Eastern RI Conservation District \(ERICD\)](#) serves Newport and Bristol Counties.

The Newsletter of RIRC&D, The Rhode Island Resource & Development Area Council, Inc.

Disclaimer: Please Note

This newsletter's purpose is threefold. Our primary purpose is to keep our readers informed about opportunities and resources which may be available to our readership. Our second purpose is to keep our readership informed about news, events, products, opinions, and information which may directly affect our readership, either adversely or beneficially. Our third purpose is to present our readers with information that they may find enlightening or entertaining.

The opinions and political positions represented in the newsletter do not reflect the opinions or political positions of either the Rhode Island Resource and Development Area Council, Inc., or the Rhode Island Farm Energy Program; nor does either RIRC&D or RIFEP advocate or endorse any of the opinions, positions, or products mentioned in the newsletter *except where specifically stated*.

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RI RC&D is an

