# Rhode Island Resource Conservation & Development Area Council, Inc.



Newsletter of March 2023 Fundamentals of Chainsaw Safety

Helping People Help the Land Since 1973

Virtual Q & A Zoom Webinar

Wednesday, 22 March 2023 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

You are Invited!

What you need to do to be ready to attend-

- 1. Register for the Webinar with RI RC&D (below)
- 2. Watch Part I and Part II Videos (links to the left)

3. As you watch, write down your questions

# Joining us in our Zoom webinar to answer your questions are—

#### tish carr

Owner of tish carr Consulting, LLC

tish is a licensed forester and licensed arborist, and has spent over 35 years in community forestry and arboriculture. She is the Executive Director for the Wabanaki Youth in Science (WaYS) program in Maine.

#### Amanda Mahaffey

Deputy Director, Forest Stewards Guild, Northeast office, Maine

Amanda is a licensed forester and she has been working closely with tish developing programs for women. From her base in Maine, Amanda supports the national Women Owning Woodlands network.

When you watch the videos, you will see both Amanda and tish who were part of the FSG team that produced the videos.

#### To Register for this Zoom Q & A Webinar Contact Paul Dolan, RI RC&D 401-500-0399 or email rircd2283@gmail.com

This Zoom session is RI RC&D presentation with the support of USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service and in collaboration with Forest Stewards Guild.







OMEN OWNING WOODLANDS

#### Watch BOTH videos from

the Forest Stewards Guild Women's Chainsaw Safety Fundamentals A two-part interactive webinar



"Special Thanks to the Midcoast Conservancy!" Women's Chainsaw Safety Fundamentals Part I and Part II

These videos ARE NOT A SUBSTITUTE for in-person hands-on training and instruction.

The videos are intended to provide BASIC INFORMATION while creating a safe and welcoming learning environment for women who are new to chainsaws.



# Women in Agriculture Conference

RIRC&D made its presence felt at the Crown Plaza in Warwick on March 7. Here we are, Jo-Anne, Leslie, and Fearelss Leader Paul Dolan behind our table proudly displaying all our various ongoing projects.

Lots of folks stopped by to chat and pick up flyers and brochures, but also to find out more about what RI RC&D does, not only for people actively in involved in agriculture, but for all of Rhode Island's citizens.

And quite a few folks took part in our contests to win Fabulous Prizes by counting the <u>tree rings</u> and telling us the age of the trees!

We were happy to see you all and tell you about our current projects and to get to know you. Thanks to all who visited us at the conference!

While at the Conference, we were handing out invitations to RI RC&D's upcoming

# **RIRC&D MEET & GREET**

Wednesday, April 19, 2023 from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

**Richard's Pub Function Room** 

3347 South County Trail, East Greenwich, RI Light Appetizers & Cash Bar (Non-alcoholic drinks are on us!)

CONSIDER THIS YOUR PERSONAL INVITATION PLEASE PLAN TO JOIN US!

RIRC&D has been helping people help the land since 1973 and we are always looking for new volunteers to help us carry out our various community projects. To find out more about RI RC&D and how it helps Rhode Island Communities conserve and preserve and develop natural resources you can visit our website

RIRCD.ORG and download our Informational Tri-fold

Or you can contact Paul Dolan at 401-500-0399 or Email: <u>rircd2283@gmail.com</u> — or, best of all, come get to know us and what we do!



# **Bark, Branches, and Buds** Winter Tree and Shrub Identification Walk



Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor

# Saturday, March 25 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

<u>Blackstone River State Park</u>, 1075 Lower River Road, Lincoln, 02865

Have you ever wondered how to identify a tree in the winter? Come join us as Brian Maynard, URI Professor of Botany, shows us how to identify trees and shrubs without their leaves. During this program, you will learn the basics of identification using what is visible in late winter. **Please Note:** This program will be approximately 1 mile of walking on a flat even path. No public restrooms will be available at this program. **RSVP here:** <u>Bark Branches Buds Walk</u>.

# Coming in April...



## This spring, the <u>Rhode Island Wild Plant Society</u> will be resuming <u>First Thursday Botanizing Walks</u>

RIWPS Walks are usually on easy to moderate terrain, and about two hours long. Beginners to experts are welcome to join in to explore plants and their habitats. All are invited to come learn and share knowledge about plants. Each month a different expert guide will lead participants on a plant adventure. The first Botanizing Walk of 2023 will be held on Thursday, April 6, 2023 at 10 am at Goddard Park, located at 1095 lves Road, in Warwick, Rhode Island. The walk will be about 1.3 miles over easy terrain. Today's expert guide will be Paul Dolan, Retired State Deputy Forester and member of the Executive Board for the RIWPS. The program will be held, *rain or shine,* and we will meet in the parking lot down by the beach all the way over by the stand of trees.

#### **Please Note:**

Starting in 2023 <u>registration will be required</u> for these walks. Although, the walks are held "rain or shine;" should there be a cancellation, e.g., **very** bad weather, RIWPS will post the cancellation on the event page of the walk.

# Coming in May...



### Rhode Island Envirothon

#### BATTLE OF THE Environmental Minds

Friday, May 19, 2023 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Goddard State Park Ives Road, Warwick



# Rhode Island Envirothon's Battle of the Environmental Minds! Friday, May 19, 2023 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Goddard State Park Ives Road, Warwick

Working in teams of five, students from high schools around the state will use the skills and knowledge they have gained over the past year to solve real-world environmental problems.

The wining team will go on to compete in the Natioal Finals, and the winning National Team will go on to compete in the North American Envirothon, which will be held in Canada in 2023!

For more information about **Envirothon** click <u>HERE</u>.



# RHODE ISLAND WOODS

Your online resource for RI woodlots information



### Land Stewardship for Small Forested Properties

What is Woodscaping? Woodscaping is a term for active management of small woodland parcels (in Rhode Island a small woodland parcel is considered to be less than 10 acres) in suburban and rural areas where more and more people are living. It is land stewardship that is done in a way that respects ecological values at the same time that it meets landowner goals such as creating a walking or skiing path, watching birds, enjoying privacy, cutting firewood or timber, making maple syrup, or other activities.

#### Why Care About Protecting Small Tracts of Rhode Island Forestland?

- ≻Small acreage forest ownerships are on the rise
- > The pattern of small forest and meadow ownership magnifies pressure on public water supply, wildlife habitat and wood supply
- >Wise stewardship depends on the many people that own and care for their property
- >Existing stewardship programs are aimed at larger woodland tracts, but not smaller ones

#### The Woodscaping TOC (Table of Contents) has links to Fact Sheets and Resources for helping owners become good steward of their land.



#### **Rhode Island Tree Farm Program**

The American Tree Farm System is a program for woodland owners who are committed to sustainably managing their woods for wood, water, wildlife and recreation. Each state program is run by a diverse group of partners, such as state agencies, non-profit organizations, volunteers, foresters and landowners.

> To learn more, please contact Marc Tremblay, Phone: 401-568-3410 or Email:mstremb@cox.net



#### The Rhode Island Forest Health Works Regional Conservation Partnership Program

The RI Department of Environmental Management (DEM) Division of Forest Environment and ten partners will leverage over \$3.9M in 5 years under 2021 RCPP to permanently protect over 2,000 acres of critical, privately owned forest lands to combat fragmentation and improve wildlife habitat. Funding is provided through a competitive process. For more information about the next application cycle, please contact them.

# Women's History Month







# Women Who Revolutionized Agriculture and the World: <u>Part 1</u> & <u>Part 2</u>

#### Maria Sybella Merian, 1614-1717, Entomologist, German

One might daresay, she was the first ecologist. In 1679, she published <u>The</u> <u>Wondrous Transformation of Caterpillars</u>, a two-volume book focused on metamorphosis. She captured the insect's life cycle as a continuous process and searched for ecological connections between animals and plants. It was totally unique in its illustrations; unlike any other book.

After getting divorced and relocating to Amsterdam, she was able to financially support her two children by commission and sale of paintings.

#### Harriet Williams Rusell Strong, 1844-1926, Water Conservationist, American

Harriet Williams Rusell Strong was much more than a water conservationist. Strong was a women's activist, musical composer, mother, agribusiness woman, inventor, and much more..





#### Rachel Carson, 1907-1964, Biologist, American

At the age of eight Rachel Carson wrote her first book and by age ten, Carson became a published writer for children's magazines. Initially entering the Pennsylvania College to pursue an English degree, however, Biology was what she found most thrilling. After several years of arduous work and battling cancer, in (1962) she used an ecological perspective to meticulously report pesticides effects, specifically <u>DDT</u> in her famous book **Silent Spring**. She argued that chemical companies were being irresponsible and challenged agricultural scientists and the government to carefully evaluate pesticide's regulations.

#### Maria Isabel Andrade 1958-Present, Plant Breeder, Cape Verdean (African)

Andrade's pioneering work began in the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (<u>IITA</u>) at Mozambique as the regional cassava and sweet potato agronomist. Under her leadership, the IITA released nine drought-tolerant varieties that were distributed to farmers in Mozambique. Andrade and her team released 41 new varieties, 30 of which are pro-vitamin A, orange-fleshed varieties, and 20 of which are drought-tolerant. Top-yielding varieties were distributed to 123,000 households and drought-tolerant varieties were adopted by half a million farmers

Read more about these remarkable women and others at Women in Ag Science



<u>Freight Farms</u> mission is to create a global infrastructure to revolutionize local access to food, believing that healthy food is a right, not a luxury. For this reason, they are dedicated to making fresh food accessible to anyone, anywhere, any time with a complete platform of products and services. Today, there are Freight Farmers around the world, from snowy Canadian wildernesses, to Middle Eastern deserts, to concrete urban jungles and everything in between. While Freight Farmers have different backgrounds, they all want to shorten the distance that food travels from farm to table, and they rely on container farms as a source of high-quality and sustainable produce, 365 days a year.





**Meet Freight Farms Picks for** 

**<u>12 Awesome Female Leaders in Agriculture</u>** 



# This Scientist Won the Agricultural 'Nobel Prize' for Finding the Best Fish for Babies

Thanks to nutrition expert Shakuntala Thilsted, who grew up in Trinidad and Tobago, millions of low-income families across Asia and Africa have access to affordable and locally available fish that provide vital nutrients for children's cognitive development in their first 1000 days of life.

Thilsted, who is currently Global Lead for Nutrition and Health at WorldFish, (part of CGIAR, the world's largest agricultural research and innovation network), recently became the 2021 Laureate of the World Food Prize, also known as the "Nobel Prize for Food and Agriculture," for her work in documenting the essential micronutrients in Mola and Changwa - two hugely popular and commonly consumed fish species in Bangladesh and Cambodia.

"The data and the research on the nutritional value of the local fish species was not there," she says, adding that between her field research work in Bangladesh and lab work at the University of Copenhagen, she was able to demonstrate high levels of multiple essential micronutrients and fatty acids in these fish.



**Future Planet** 



#### The Plan to Save Italy's Dying Olive Trees with Dogs

A deadly and hard-to-detect disease has been ravaging the treasured olive trees of southern Italy for 10 years. A highly trained squad of super-sniffer dogs could save them.

At Vivai Giuranna, an extensive commercial greenhouse with over one million plants in Parabita, in the southern Italian region of Puglia, Paco is searching for *Xylella fastidiosa*, a type of bacterium that has been <u>ravaging southern Italy's</u> <u>olive fields for the past decade</u>. Paco and a few other fourlegged colleagues make up the highly trained *Xylella* Detection Dogs team. <u>READ MORE</u>

#### Tackling Fashion's Colossal Waste Problem

Cavalli-Björkman says that fast fashion's reliance on lowcost synthetic fibres has affected consumer attitudes towards the value of clothes. "Before we had industrialized textiles production, people took care of their clothes," he says. "They repaired them because clothing was an investment. Today, clothing is so cheap that the perception is, you can always grow some more cotton, you can always pump some more oil- that's far easier than putting the effort into creating a quality product from something that already exists and could stay in circulation." **READ MORE** 



**Anthropocene** 



### A Clue to Growing Less Polluting Crops

Wheat, rice and maize: these three staple crops are critical for global nutrition. Yet they also account for an astounding 50% or more of global fertilizer consumption. Turf grass, known formally as *Paspalum vaginatum*, is actually a relative of maize (and sorghum, another staple grain). And yet, it has traded its cousins' nutrient-guzzling ways for a more constrained diet, capable of thriving in nitrogen- and phosphorus-depleted soils.... Scientists have long been interested in the roots of its nutritional resilience. But it wasn't until this University of Nebraska-Lincoln led study compared turf grass to its cousin, maize, that some important clues were found. <u>READ MORE</u>

#### **The More Bees the Merrier Farmer**

There is a growing appreciation for the importance of all kinds of diversity in ecosystems. Genetic diversity within a species helps ensure organisms can adapt to changes in their surroundings and reduces the risk of inbreeding, a problem for endangered species. Habitat diversity can increase the odds that a species will find a place to thrive. Crops benefit from a diversity of pollinating bees, and the benefits grow the longer scientists track them. **READ MORE** 



### **Fireball Over France**

A small asteroid safely crashed into Earth's atmosphere – putting on a light show for observers in northern France – around 3 UTC on February 13, 2023.

Krisztián Sárneczky of Hungary made the discovery of the object, which has been given the designation Sar2667, just hours before its predicted impact.

The last asteroid discovered just before striking Earth, 2022 WJ1, entered the air over Canada on November 19, 2022. Considering the small size of this little object moving through space, it's amazing it could have been discovered *before* striking

What's more, this object – Sar2667 – struck Earth's atmosphere at *almost* the 10-year anniversary of the <u>Chelyabinsk explosion</u> over Russia. That object struck on February 15, 2013, creating a shock wave that broke windows in several cities in Russia.

You can read more about Sar2667's stats at NASA's Center for Near Earth Object Studies <u>page</u>.

**READ MORE** 



# New rules on light pollution take effect in Czechia

Light pollution has grown by at least 50 percent over the past 25 years and affects not only our health and environment but also our energy consumption, says Ruskin Hartley, director of the <u>International Dark Sky</u> <u>Association</u>, who recently attended a conference on light pollution in Brno:

"By some estimates, in Europe alone, we are emitting 38 terawatt hours of energy each year just to light the night sky. That's estimated to be at least 10 billion wasted euros... In terms of human health, we grew up as all living things did under natural day night cycle that we have essentially disrupted both by spending all our daytime indoors but also by exposing ourselves to high levels of light at night.

"The more we are learning about it the more we are learning that high levels of light pollution are associated with many of the ills in modern society." Officials at the Ministry of the Environment are working on making the new regulations part of a binding decree in the near future. <u>READ MORE</u>



**United Nations members** reach agreement on treaty protecting marine biodiversity in ocean areas lying outside each country's boundary waters; language had been negotiated for almost two decades.

Already being referred to as the '**High Seas Treaty**', the legal framework would place 30 per cent of the world's oceans into protected areas, put more money into marine conservation, and covers access to and use of marine genetic resources. <u>READ MORE</u>

# **RESOURCES FOR WOODLOT OWNERS**—



#### To receive the <u>**RIFCO</u>** monthly e-newsletter</u>

"<u>The Forest Conservationist</u>," visit our <u>Contact</u> page and submit a request online. Or <u>Join RIFCO</u> and automatically receive a subscription as a <u>RIFCO</u> 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 <u>RI Grown: Eat Fresh, Buy Local</u> <u>Produce Safety Program</u> <u>Agriculture Grant Opportunities</u> <u>LASA Grant Program</u> Pesticides Program Urban Forestry Program Forest Health Program Wild Fire Program Pest Alerts Spotted Lanternfly Forest Stewardship



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— <u>RIWP: Your Online Resource for RI Forest Information</u>



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 <u>USDA Forest Service</u>, 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 Environmental Quality Incentives RI

#### **EQIP** Forestry Initiative Information

me 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 <u>American Tree Farm</u> <u>System</u> (ATFS) and <u>My Land Plan</u>

# **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.



MARCH IS

PROFILE YOUR LAND



#### 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 peerbased 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, <u>Land and Ladies</u> offers three different ways for women to be engaged, and start taking their ownership by the reigns 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.







# American Farmland Trust Announces Nationwide Network of Service Providers to Help <u>Transitioning Land to the Next</u> <u>Generation</u>

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 y our 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



NACD's Guide to Energy Conservation Opportunities in Agriculture (PDF) <u>NACD</u>'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.

# 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 no<u>t uncommon</u>.

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 Assocaition-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

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# **Rhode Island Association** of Conservation Districts



2283 Hartford Avenue Johnston, RI 02919

401-934-0840

Helping Rhode Island Conservation Districts Help Rhode Island



Northern Rhode Island **Conservation District** 



Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District - Serving Bristol & Newport Counties -

Southern Rhode Island Conservation District

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 RI RC&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 the Rhode Island Resource and Development Area Council. Inc.: nor does RI RC&D advocate or endorse any of the opinions, positions, or products mentioned in the newsletter except where specifically stated.

#### CONTACT RIFEP

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