



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

*Helping People Help the Land Since 1973*

[Arbor Day](#)  
Friday  
April 28!

## Newsletter of April 2023

### RI RC&D Needs Volunteers!

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 on-going community projects.

If you would like to know 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](http://RIRCD.ORG) — or, you can come get to know us and what we do!

### YOU ARE INVITED!

PLEASE PLAN TO JOIN US AT OUR

## RI RC&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!)

For more information, please contact Paul Dolan, Area Director  
401-500-0399 or Email: [rircd2283@gmail.com](mailto:rircd2283@gmail.com)



## EarthDay Saturday, April 22

[WATCH](#) EarthDay Livestream Videos



## Earth Day in Rhode Island



### EARTH DAY WITH THE BEES

Saturday, April 22, 2023

10:00am - 1:30pm

RIC Greenhouse (Behind Clarke Science Building)



[EarthDay Birthday](#) Save the Bay's annual Earth Day Birthday Party is a free, family-friendly community event connecting

Bay-lovers of all ages to fun near Narragansett Bay. The celebration features both indoor and outdoor games and activities; performances by musicians and other performers, our "Old School Art Contest," refreshments and more



[Join the Litter Free Rhode Campaign!](#)

# Celebrating Earth Day in Rhode Island

## Earth Day at Rhode Island Resource Recovery



Earth Day Cleanups



Rhode Island is a beautiful place to call home, and we want to make sure it stays that way! Each year, in honor of **Earth Day** and the [International Coastal Cleanup](#) (ICC) with [Save the Bay](#), [Resource Recovery](#) supports community litter cleanups across the state. By waiving the fees to dispose of the litter collected by dedicated volunteers, RIRRC is able to help community groups who would otherwise be unable to conduct cleanups. **If your group is planning to do an Earth Day cleanup between the last Saturday in March and the first Saturday in June, or during the International Coastal Cleanup in September, you may be eligible to have your disposal fees (tip fees) waived.** You can either work directly with [your municipality](#) to secure support through the RIRRC program, or private groups can request the waiver directly from Resource Recovery. Be sure to preregister with [Save the Bay](#) to be eligible for the [International Coastal Cleanup](#) tip fee waiver... [READ MORE](#)



YOU CAN WITNESS THE  
**BATTLE**  
OF THE  
**ENVIRONMENTAL**  
**MINDS**



## Rhode Island Envirothon

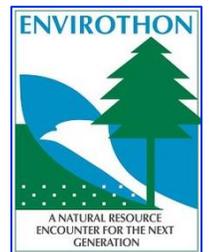
**Battle of the Environmental Minds!**

**Friday, May 19, 2023**  
**9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

[Goddard State Park](#)  
Ives Road, Warwick

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 winning team will go on to compete in the National 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 [HERE](#).



# Arbor Day Foundation®

## arborday.org

Friday, April 28, 2023



10  
YEARS

### CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF IMPACT

Since 2011, with the help of over 120 partners, we have distributed more than 450,000 trees to households nationwide. Join us in celebrating this incredible milestone!

▶ WATCH VIDEO

Did you know that the average homeowner can save up to 20 percent on energy bills by planting the right trees in the right place? That tree can also improve air quality, sequester carbon, help manage stormwater runoff, and more.

[Say Yes! To Arbor Day!](#)

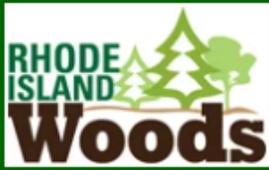
## Panel Discussion on Climate Disinformation

Free Virtual Event | Tuesday, April 18 6 - 7 p.m. — [Register Here](#)



*Orion Magazine* and *Columbia Journalism Review* present a discussion about disinformation in climate reporting featuring Mary Annaïse Heglar, Nancy MacLean, and Amy Westervelt. All three contributed to *Orion's* Deny and Delay series, a close study of climate disinformation generously supported by the Fine Fund.

The panel will be moderated by Kyle Pope, editor in chief and publisher of *Columbia Journalism Review*.



# RHODE ISLAND WOODS

Your online resource for RI woodlots information

Arbor Day  
Friday  
April 28!

## 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.

The American Tree Farm Program

*We grow stewardship from the roots.*

## Rhode Island Tree Farm Program

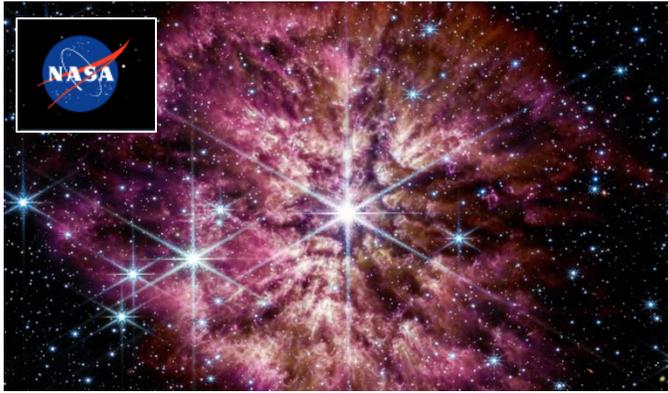
The American Tree Farm System is a program for woodland owners who are committed to sustainably managing their woods for wood, water, wildlife and recreation. Each state program is run by a diverse group of partners, such as state agencies, non-profit organizations, volunteers, foresters and landowners.

To learn more, please contact **Marc Tremblay**,  
Phone: 401-568-3410 or Email: [mstremb@cox.net](mailto:mstremb@cox.net)

# Rhode Island Forest Health Works RCPP

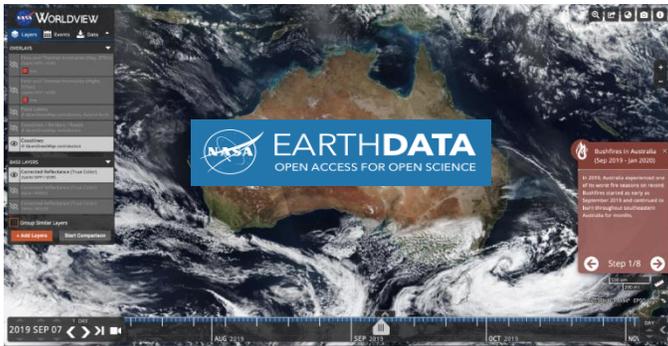
## The Rhode Island Forest Health Works Regional Conservation Partnership Program

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.



## [NASA's Webb Telescope Captures Rarely Seen Prelude to Supernova](#)

Massive stars race through their lifecycles, and only some of them go through a brief Wolf-Rayet phase before going supernova, making Webb's detailed observations of this rare phase valuable to astronomers. Wolf-Rayet stars are in the process of casting off their outer layers, resulting in their characteristic halos of gas and dust. The star WR 124 is 30 times the mass of the Sun and has shed 10 Suns' worth of material— so far.... [READ MORE](#)



The [Worldview](#) tool from NASA's Earth Observing System Data and Information System ([EOSDIS](#)) provides the capability to interactively browse over 1000 global, full-resolution satellite imagery layers and then download the underlying data. Many of the imagery layers are updated daily and are available within three hours of observation - essentially showing the entire Earth as it looks "right now". This supports time-critical application areas such as wildfire management, air quality measurements, and flood monitoring. View current natural hazards and events using the Events tab which reveals a list of natural events, including wildfires, tropical storms, and volcanic eruptions.



## [Cyclone Freddy Sets Devastating Records](#)

According to the World Meteorological Organization, Freddy holds the record for most accumulated cyclone energy (ACE), a measure based on a storm's wind strength over its lifetime, of any storm in the southern hemisphere and possibly worldwide.

Freddy generated about as much accumulated cyclone energy as an average full North Atlantic hurricane season, and may have broken the record for longest-lasting tropical cyclone on record...

Freddy lasted for 37 days. Developed off the coast of Australia in early February, crossed the entire South Indian Ocean and travelled more than 8,000 km (4,970 miles) to make landfall in Madagascar and then Mozambique in late February. It then did something unprecedented: it looped back and hit the coast of Mozambique again two weeks later, before moving inland to Malawi... "No other tropical cyclones observed in this part of the world have taken such a path across the Indian Ocean in the past two decades," said the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration... [READ MORE](#) (REUTERS)

### Key Details:

- Cyclone Freddy developed off the coast of Australia, crossed the entire south Indian Ocean, and travelled more than 8,000 km to make landfall in Madagascar and Mozambique in late February. It then looped back and hit the coast of Mozambique again two weeks later before moving inland to Malawi.
- **At 37 days, Freddy is the longest-lived tropical cyclone ever recorded in any of Earth's oceans and has broken the record of 31 days set by Hurricane John in 1994. It held peak wind speeds of 65 km/hr for 22 days.**
- **Freddy also broke the record for the highest accumulated cyclone energy (ACE) at 87.01 units, breaking the record of 85.27 units by Hurricane Ioke in 2006.** (ACE is the total wind energy generated by a tropical cyclone throughout its lifetime and is calculated as the square of peak wind speed, observed, calculated and added every six hours.)
- Cyclone Freddy's ACE is as much as the total ACE of all hurricanes in an average North Atlantic hurricane season, according to a press release by the [World Meteorological Organization \(WMO\)](#).
- **Cyclone Freddy is also the first tropical cyclone ever to experience seven phases of rapid intensification (RI) over its lifetime.** RI is when a tropical cyclone gains wind speeds of more than 55 kilometers per hour in a period of 24 hours. The previous record was four RI phases jointly held by Hurricane John (1994), Hurricane Emily (2005) and Hurricane Norman (2018).



## [A seaweed blob twice the width of the US is heading toward Florida](#)

Sargassum – the specific variety of seaweed – has long formed large blooms in the Atlantic Ocean, and scientists have been tracking massive accumulations since 2011. But this year’s bloom could be the largest ever, collectively more than 5,000 miles (8,047 kilometers) from the shores of Africa to the Gulf of Mexico. A blob of seaweed twice the width of the continental United States is headed for the shores of Florida and other coastlines throughout the Gulf of Mexico.

## [Can We Still Limit Global Warming to 1.5°C ? Here’s What the Latest Science Says—](#)



March 17, 2023 | 9:54 am

It’s been almost 33 years since the first IPCC report was issued. Instead of triggering a global wake-up call to policymakers around the world, global emissions have only increased since then—by a whopping 54%. It’s not a lack of information or a lack of actionable science that’s led to this inaction. Rather, the inaction is a product of policymakers’ indifference and prioritization of short-term wins over long-term needs, and the fossil fuel industry’s deep-pocketed [deception and obstruction](#). Those two forces of inaction are far from separate, of course, with fossil fuel companies having unfettered access to policymakers... [READ MORE](#)



Winter precipitation, combined with recent storms, wiped out exceptional and extreme drought in California for the first time since 2020, and is expected to further improve drought conditions this spring...

Significant flooding is ongoing in the western U.S., especially in California, following another series of strong Pacific storms that battered the region and piled on to an already historic snowpack. According to [NOAA’s U.S. Spring Outlook](#), the abnormally wet winter will further improve drought across much of the western U.S. as the snowpack melts in the coming months...

## [Light Pollution: Effects on Wildlife and Ecosystems](#)

For billions of years, all life has relied on Earth’s predictable rhythm of day and night. It’s encoded in the DNA of all plants and animals and humans. But humans have radically disrupted this cycle by lighting up the night, and it’s killing us...



## 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 Environmental Quality Incentives RI](#) [EQIP Forestry Initiative Information](#)

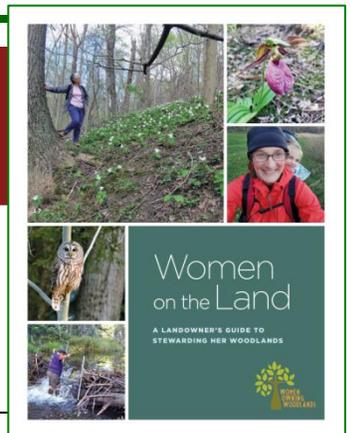
The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program for people who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat primarily on private land. Applicants with forestland or in fields with 25 percent more woody cover (aerial canopy cover) of tree species and who wish to install practices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



[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.

### [American Women: A guide to Women's History Resources at the Library of Congress](#)





## 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



## 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.

# 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](mailto:laurel@cmcri.org).

For information/support **1-800-327-6243** or email Laurel Witri [laurel@cmcri.org](mailto:laurel@cmcri.org)

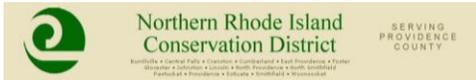


# Rhode Island Association of Conservation Districts

Helping Rhode Island Conservation Districts Help Rhode Island

conserving  
natural resources  
*for our future*

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



Northern Rhode Island  
Conservation District

Barrington • Central Falls • Cranston • Cumberland • East Providence • Foster  
— Hopkinton • Johnston • Lincoln • North Providence • North Scituate  
— Pawtucket • Providence • Tiverton • Westerly • Woonsocket

SERVING  
PROVIDENCE  
COUNTY



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

Barrington • Bristol • Jamestown • Little Compton • Middletown • Newport • Portsmouth • Tiverton • Warren



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

## Rhode Island Resource Conservation and Development Area Council



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