



Rhode Island Resource Conservation & Development Area Council, Inc.

Helping People Help the Land Since 1973

Newsletter of September 2023

Coverts II Workshop



Rhode Island
Coverts

RI Coverts Project is an educational program designed to help forest landowners promote the development of critical wildlife habitats using sound forest management practices that can help make wildlife healthier, more diverse and abundant.

Who should attend?

Forest landowners and those associated with managing forest properties.

Saturday, 4 November 2023

8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Lunch 12:30 - 1:30

\$20 Registration fee covers materials and lunch.

Canonicus Camp and Conference Center

54 EXETER ROAD, EXETER, RHODE ISLAND 02822

Topics will include

**Research from the University of Rhode Island,
Wildland Fire, Climate Change,
and Insect and Disease Problems**

For more information and to **register**, please contact



Paul Dolan, RI RC&D Area Council Director

Phone: 401-500-0399 — Email: rircd2283@gmail.com

Please make registration checks payable to RIRC&D Council
RI RC&D Area Council, 2283 Hartford Ave, Johnston, RI 02919





Women's Chainsaw Workshop

Saturday and Sunday

WOMEN OWNING WOODLANDS

October 14 and 15, 2023

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day

Cost: \$100

to be paid upon registration.

Lodging and Meals ARE NOT included.

**LIMITED to 10 participants
REGISTER TODAY!**



For more information
and to REGISTER Contact

Paul Dolan, RI RC&D Area Director
401-500-0399 rircd2283@gmail.com



Saturday Session:

The Instructional Part of the Program
George Washington State Campground
and Management Area

2185 Putnam Pike, Chepachet, RI 02814

Sunday Session:

Hands-On Practice & Application
Snake Den Farm

90 Brown Avenue, Johnston, RI 02819

This two-day chainsaw safety course was designed for women. The focus is overwhelmingly on safety: safe posture, safe practices, safe clothing, and safe habits. The first session will provide information about chainsaws, maintenance, safety clothing, and introduce participants to good practices.

The second day will be a full day of hands-on practice and application.

Beginners welcome! Come learn chainsaw safety, what safety gear is needed, and what to look for when buying a chainsaw. Learn how to cut firewood, clear brush, and buck small trees safely. PPE required.

This [RI RC&D](#) program is presented with the support of the [USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service](#) and the [Forest Stewards Guild](#).



To prepare, you can watch these videos from the [Forest Stewards Guild](#):

Women's Chainsaw Safety Fundamentals

Part I

<https://youtu.be/Ng6luz3vNPE>

and **Part II**

<https://youtu.be/HpsXx5Q1e0c>

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.



National Johnny Appleseed Day September 26

We all remember learning about Johnny Appleseed when we were kids. According to the legends, this post-Revolutionary War apple enthusiast wandered barefoot around the eastern half of the United States, planting apple trees along the way and delighting the pioneers he met with his quirky ways. He was often described as wearing a tin pot for a hat and wearing threadbare clothing. Over his shoulder, he carried a burlap sack full of apples and a pouch full of apple seeds just waiting to be planted...

But that's only the legend. The true story is much more interesting... [READ MORE](#) from **Smithsonian Magazine**

Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johnny_Appleseed



SAVE THESE DATES

Wednesday, December 6 RI RC&D Online Get-Together

Pour yourself a cup of hot chocolate or a mug of eggnog and settle in to join us on Zoom for a holiday get-together!

We'll tell you our plans for the coming year, and you can tell us your ideas about what we can do for you!

And you can let us know what we did right in the past year and what we could do better.

Please plan to join us!

Saturday, January 27, 2024

Zoom Workshop with

Forensic Forrester

Tom Wessels

Author of *Reading the Forested Landscape*, Wessels is a terrestrial ecologist and professor emeritus at Antioch University

Using photographs submitted by participants, Tom will demonstrate methods for reading forest landscapes the way we might solve a mystery.

Watch this YouTube [Video](#) to find out more.

**More information will be available soon. Clear your calendar!
We're planning on having a special guest for our get-together
and you won't want to miss either event!**



[Saving Farmland by Synthesizing Starch from CO2](#)

Researchers say they have developed a method to make starch, a crucial industrial ingredient, 8.5 times faster than nature can in the process of photosynthesis which is how corn plants convert CO₂ and sunlight into carbs— with potential consequences for food security and land savings... [READ MORE](#)



[As glaciers vanish, what should we do with the land that's revealed?](#)

But what about the terrain revealed as the ice retreats? The loss of glaciers could expose territory equivalent to the entire country of Finland—huge stretches of land that are both relatively pristine and, in many cases, unprotected, according to new research.

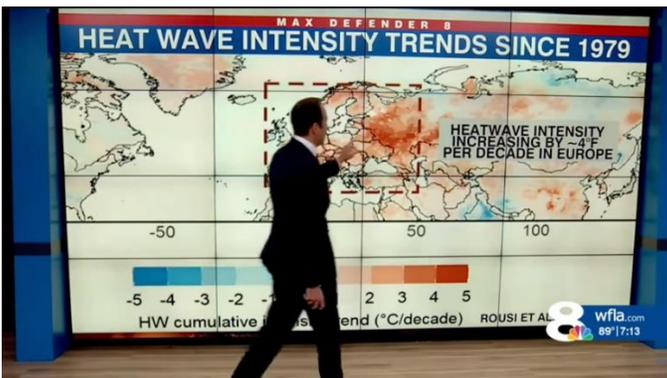
“Vast terrestrial, marine and freshwater ecosystems are emerging,” geomorphologist Jean-Baptiste Bosson said in an email. Enhancing protections of “post glacial ecosystems will help limit direct damages and secure their ecological evolution.” [READ MORE](#)



[Science Tackles the West's Megadrought](#)

As the U.S. Southwest gets drier and drier, researchers recommend ways to lessen the pain from 23 years of megadrought in the Colorado River basin...

[READ MORE](#)



[Extreme heat waves in Europe may be linked to melting Arctic sea ice](#)

Global warming is melting the Arctic ice cap, and that's having unforeseen effects on the world's weather — even thousands of miles away from the North Pole. Some climate scientists have begun to link increasingly common heat waves in Europe to what is called a “double jet pattern.” [WATCH](#)

[This Is Not Cool](#): Monthly series of original brief videos exploring the most timely and critical climate change science issues from Yale Climate Connections.

Concrete

Concrete has been integral to buildings and architecture since the Romans used it to construct monuments like the Pantheon and the Coliseum. The Romans also used the material to build marine structures in breakwaters to protect their harbors, which have endured some 2,000 years despite the constant, erosive presence of saltwater. Even today, they fare far better against the sea than any modern concrete could...



RAAC—Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete, was used widely in construction of public buildings in Europe and other countries during the 1950s until the mid-1990s. The material, lighter than traditional concrete, was used to build roofs but has also been found in walls and floors. The life of RAAC has been set between 30 and 50 years.... [READ MORE](#)

[Riddle solved: Why was Roman concrete so durable?](#)

The ancient Romans were masters of engineering, constructing vast networks of roads, aqueducts, ports, and massive buildings, whose remains have survived for two millennia. Meanwhile, many modern concrete structures have crumbled after a few decades... [READ MORE](#).

[Engineers close a circular economy loop by making stronger concrete with old coffee grounds](#)

Their technique not only keeps coffee grounds out of landfills, it also works as a replacement for dwindling sand resources... [READ MORE](#)



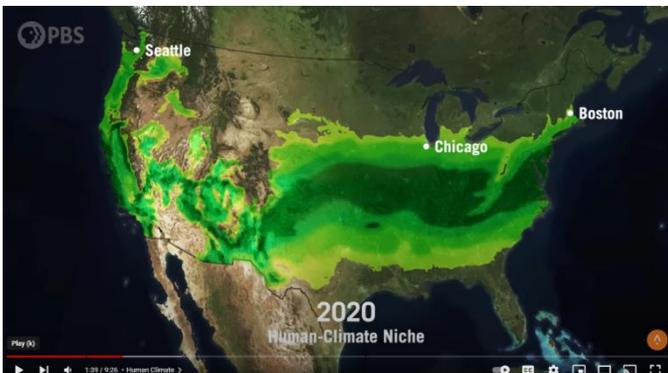
[Is Earth's Largest Heat Transfer Really Shutting Down?](#)

With unprecedented heat waves and record-breaking global temperatures, it's hard to believe that there might be a place on earth that has actually COOLED since the industrial revolution. But, it turns out, there is such a spot. The COLD BLOB off of Greenland mystified scientists for years, but new studies have uncovered a scary reality - this cool patch might be a warning of the impending collapse of a vital earth circulation system. And the consequences would be dire. [WATCH](#)



In this episode of Weathered, we travel to the Gulf Stream with the new PBS Terra show Sharks Unknown to experience the AMOC first hand. And we ask, what is the likelihood that the AMOC will collapse, and what would the consequences be?

[This Is the Safest Place to Live in the US as the Climate Changes... WATCH](#)



FOREST HISTORY



[America's Forests: A History of Resiliency and Recovery](#)

At the dawn of the seventeenth century, America's first European settlers stood in awe before a seemingly endless forest that blanketed the eastern third of the nation... in 1865, the inexhaustibility of forests was finally called into question...

This old video from 1993 contains rare film footage and turn-of-the-century photographs graphically depict the forest, watershed, and wildlife conditions which led to our first national conservation movement... [WATCH](#)



[Forest History Society](#)

The Forest History Society is a nonprofit library and archives that collects, preserves, and shares the world's forest and conservation history... [MORE](#)



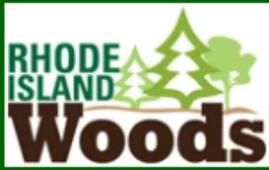
[American Forests](#)

In 1875, led by physician and horticulturist Dr. John Aston Warder, concerned citizens founded the American Forestry Association (now American Forests) in response to rapid and wasteful postwar development and intense wildfires....



[New England Forestry Foundation](#)

In the 1930s and 40s, an eclectic group of foresters and outdoor enthusiasts led by Harris Reynolds grew concerned about clear-cutting and destructive management on private New England forestlands. Much of the region's once vast and ecologically rich forests had only just begun to regenerate after centuries of deforestation, and parcel owners often acted with an eye to quick profit or simply lacked an understanding of how to care for a forest.



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.

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

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.

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](#)

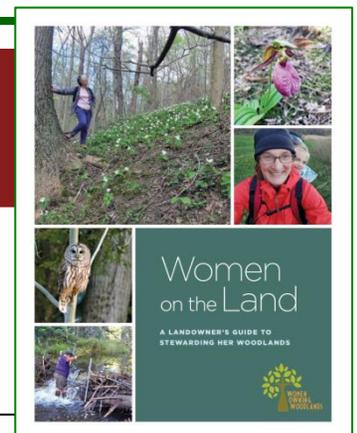
The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program for people who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat primarily on private land. Applicants with forestland or in fields with 25 percent more woody cover (aerial canopy cover) of tree species and who wish to install practices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

[American Forest Foundation Newsletter](#)

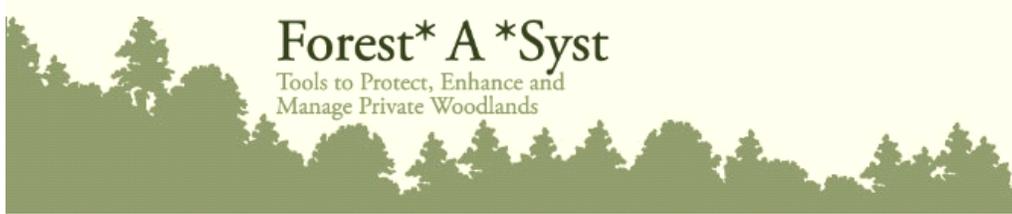
Sign up and receive updates from the **AFF** and/or its signature programs: the [American Tree Farm System](#) (ATFS) and [My Land Plan](#)

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.

[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.

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

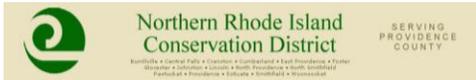


Rhode Island Association of Conservation Districts

Helping Rhode Island Conservation Districts Help Rhode Island

conserving
natural resources
for our future

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



Northern Rhode Island
Conservation District

Barrington • Central Falls • Cranston • Cumberland • East Providence • Foster
Greenville • Johnston • Lincoln • North Providence • North Scituate
Providence • Pawtucket • South Scituate • Westerly

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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WOW (Women Owning Woodlands) Project
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RI RC&D is an

