



Rhode Island Resource Conservation & Development Area Council, Inc.

Helping People Help the Land Since 1973

Newsletter of December 2024

You are cordially invited to the RI RC&D

Online Christmas Party!

Monday, December 2 from 6:00 to 7:00

Please plan to join us for the Annual Virtual Holiday Get-Together.

Make yourself comfortable. Visit with friends.

Tell us how we did this year, and let us know how we can help you in the year to come!

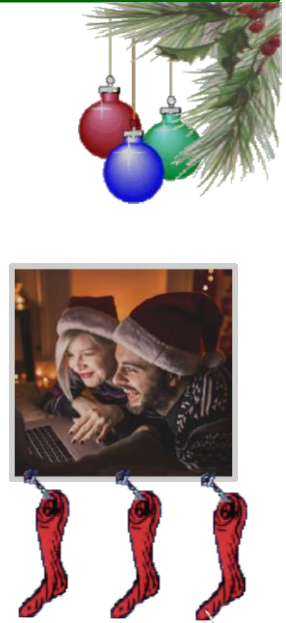
Enjoy a slide show review of all of 2024's workshops.

Then take our Self Scoring Workshop Quiz and see how much you learned—

and get a preview of what we already have in store for 2025!

To request your personal invitation, please contact Paul Dolan 401-500-0399 or e-mail rircd2283@gmail.com

Happy holidays from all of us at RI RC&D!



Invasive Plant Species in Rhode Island

Plants and trees and shrubs from around the globe were introduced to our state because they were pretty and durable. But like guests who have overstayed their welcome, many have become a pervasive and annoying problem.

Join us to learn about these plants that now dominate our landscape and find out what to do about getting rid of them.

With Paul Dolan

Retired Deputy State Forester and RI RC&D Area Director

Register with the Library
(401) 647-5133
alex@scituatelibrary.org

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13 FROM 1:00 TO 2:00 PM

North Scituate Public Library, 606 West Greenville Road, Rhode Island 02857

COMING IN 2025



ZOOM WORKSHOP
Saturday, January 25, 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM
“Birds of New England and Winter Birding in RI”

Presenter: Lisa Maloney
Audubon Community Education Coordinator, Audubon Society of RI



ZOOM WORKSHOP

Tuesday, February 25, 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM

A collaborative presentation—
“Winter Wildlife of Rhode Island's Woods & Fisher Cat Populations in Rhode Island”
Co-presenters: Mary Gannon and Laken Ganoe



ZOOM WORKSHOP

Wednesday, March 19, 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM

“Trees & Shrubs of Wetland Habitats in Rhode Island”

Presentation followed by Q&A
Presented by Scott Rabideau
[Natural Resource Services](#), Pascoag, Rhode Island

Registration for these Zoom Workshops will be announced in the January Newsletter. For more information about them, please contact Paul Dolan, RI RC&D Director.



First Right Whales of the Season gorge on critical food off Massachusetts, giving hope for a strong year...

The North Atlantic right whale is one of the rarest whale species in the world and it is thought to number about 370. The giant animals migrate, and usually arrive in Cape Cod Bay off Massachusetts early in the winter and stay until around the middle of May....Scientists who study a critically endangered species of whale that lives off New England said encouraging early signs suggest the animals could have a strong season for feeding and breeding....[READ MORE](#)



The Water Cycle and Climate Change

Water is always on the move. Rain falling today may have been water in a distant ocean days before. And the water you see in a river or stream may have been snow on a high mountaintop. Water is in the atmosphere, on the land, in the ocean, and underground. It moves from place to place through the water cycle, which is changing as climate changes..... [READ MORE](#)



[Japanese Method of Humane Fish Killing](#)

Ikejime is a Japanese term for the immediate killing of a live fish, according to Andrew Tsui, president of the Ike Jime Federation, an organization that trains individuals on how to perform the method.

The practice could benefit local fisheries, help with sustainability, and fish prepared using ikejime improve the look, quality, and shelf life to the point that can be sold for a higher price.

After a day of talking about ikejime and what it means, participants drove to Narragansett to try the method themselves. [READ MORE](#)



According to Molly Allard, district manager of the Northern Rhode Island Conservation District it's just part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's [Soil Your Undies Challenge](#),

You see, our underwear won't break down in just any soil. It needs healthy soil, which contains billions of microbes, which will eat the cotton. In addition to snacking on organic matter like cotton, microbes also help soil resist erosion, cycle nutrients, and store water.... Of course, the underwear must be 100% cotton, Allard said. "Women's, kids', or colored cotton underwear should work just as well...." [READ MORE](#)



EAST GREENWICH, R.I. — When the board of Glenwood Cemetery wanted to clear out some of the underbrush from the overgrown part of the cemetery, a volunteer had an idea: [goats](#).

The volunteer told Phyllis DeSalvo, Glenwood treasurer, about Sanctuary of Hope, a Rhode Island nonprofit farm animal rescue and sanctuary. A phone call to the farm was all it took. Fourteen goats arrived in July. DeSalvo said it's been wonderful.

"It's like nature taking care of nature," she said. "It's just perfect. They're doing a great job." [READ MORE](#)

This story originally appeared in East Greenwich News: [EastGreenwichNews.com](#).



[After Wind Blade Failure, Newport Fishing and Offshore Wind Event Draws Crowd, Questions, Some Ire](#)

About 50 people attended the event, hosted by Newport's [Energy and Environment Commission](#) and moderated by commission vice chair Emily Conklin.... [READ MORE](#)



[Jamestown Begins Work to Protect Conanicut Island from Storms Worsened by Climate Change](#)

North Road and Beavertail Road along Mackerel Cove are both becoming more prone to flooding thanks to sea level rise and climate change...[READ MORE](#)



[How Governments Could Meet Their Paris Climate Commitments](#)

The United Nations reports that there are no technological barriers to meeting the goals of the agreement. Governments simply aren't deploying the solutions fast enough,

Governments around the world face a conundrum. Virtually none are on track to meet their Paris climate commitments... And many of those policies, like the clean energy incentives passed in the Inflation Reduction Act— the landmark 2022 climate law— could be rolled back by the incoming administration and Congress, leaving the U.S. even further short of its climate targets... [READ MORE](#)

[Salmon Return to Klamath](#)



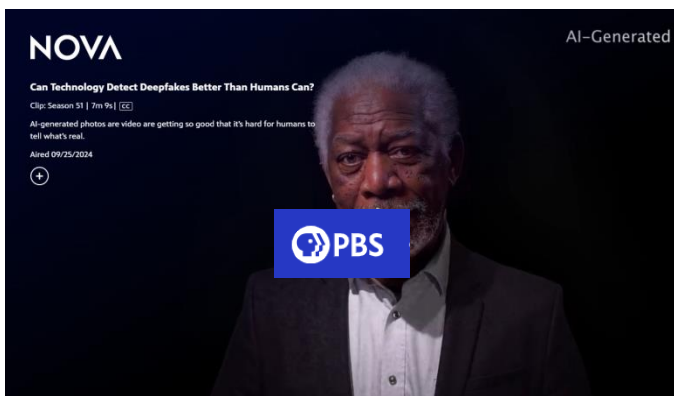
[Saving Humanity's History](#)



[What is a Persimmon?](#)



[The Largest Living Thing on Earth](#)



Artificial Intelligence is already very impressive, with many AI images and videos so flawless that it can be difficult to tell what's fake and what's real. But as it continues to develop, will identifying fakes become an impossible task?

If you are not sure if the news you're seeing on social media is true or false, how can you be sure? Is there a way to tell if it's fake?

Well... You can do your own research to find out whether credible sites have covered the story and whether images and videos came from, reliable sources. You can also check to see if other verifiable and trusted sites have the same information—

- Use the **S.I.F.T. Method**: **S**top Reacting
- I**nvestigate Sources
- F**ind Other Coverage
- T**race the Source Claims



[The AI or REAL Quiz: November 2024](#)
See if you can spot the REAL from the AI!



RHODE ISLAND **Envirothon**

Developing Environmentally Aware Leaders of

Rhode Island [Envirothon](#) is an exciting environmental program, perfect for middle and high school students who love the outdoors, animals, and plants, or who are just curious about the world we live in. Throughout the year, Envirothon students attend hands-on workshops that inspire learning about our natural environment, and instills in them an appreciation of nature and the delicate environmental balances that make life possible. After studying with experts on all aspects of the environment, the program culminates in a competition held each May to determine who will represent the state at the International competition..



Envirothon is not just an educational program. The environmental appreciation and team-building skills the students learn are real-world experiences that they will carry throughout their lives as they become the leaders of tomorrow because Envirothon is teaching them HOW to think, not WHAT to think.

Rhode Island State Competition

May 23, 2025

Kent County YMCA,
900 Centerville Rd., Warwick, RI 02886



2025 NCF-Envirothon Alberta

Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Mount Royal University
Dates: July 20 - 26, 2025

Hosted by Alberta Envirothon Association



2025 Current Issue Topic

Roots and Resiliency: Fostering Forest Stewardship in a Canopy of Change

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ENVIROTHON
CONTACT**

Paul Dolan

Call 401-500-0399

Email president@rienvirothon.org

VISIT THE RI
ENVIROTHON
[WEBSITE](#)

WATCH THE
[ENVIROTHON VIDEO](#)



Natural Resources Conservation Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Funding Available to Help Rhode Island Farmers Replace Diesel Tractors and Other Farm Equipment with Low Emitting or Electric Equipment —

In 2024 alone, USDA is making more than \$3 billion available nationally through Biden’s Inflation Reduction Act for climate-smart mitigation activities, in addition to the over \$2 billion available through the Farm Bill. This extensive funding will be used to meet demand for oversubscribed conservation programs, maximize climate benefits and to help farmers and forest landowners address their natural resource challenges.

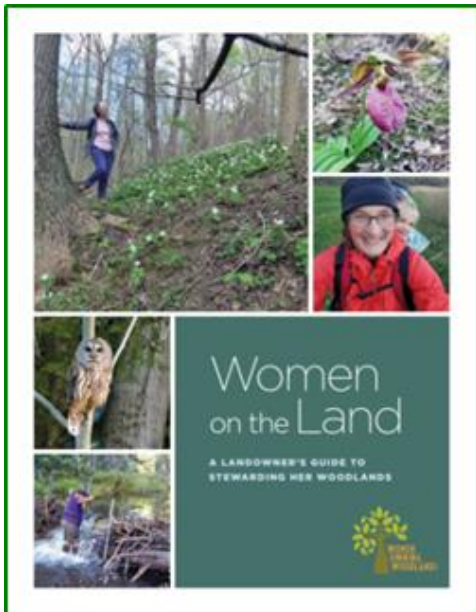
To learn more about NRCS programs, RI farmers and forest landowners can contact their local [USDA Service Center](#). Producers can also apply for NRCS programs, manage conservation plans and contracts, and view and print conservation maps by [logging into their farmers.gov account](#). If you don’t have an account, [sign up today](#).



Other USDA Programs

Producers and land managers are experiencing firsthand the impacts of climate change, which is caused by the build-up of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. With support from NRCS, farmers, ranchers and forest landowners across the nation’s working lands can contribute to climate solutions. [MORE INFO](#)

Women on the Land: A Landowner’s Guide to Stewarding Her Woodlands



A woman’s relationship with the natural world is often unique and meaningful, and for women who own land, this connection can be rewarding as well as challenging.

Women landowners engage with their woods in various ways, including enjoying the beauty of their property, caring for wildlife and nature, and appreciating the privacy that owning land offers. No two landowners are the same, just as no two properties are the same. The variations are limitless, from living far away to having your woodland behind your home, from actively engaging in stewardship for wildlife habitat to simply enjoying it as it is. You and your circumstances determine the decisions you make for your woodland.

This publication aims to help women landowners better understand their woodlands and make informed decisions to meet their goals.

You can **download** a PDF of this guide [HERE](#).
Or, to get a printed copy of this useful guide,
please contact Paul Dolan
by e-Mail: rircd2283@gmail.com or Phone: 401-500-0399



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 \(NRICD\)](#) serves Providence County
- [Southern RI Conservation District \(SRICD\)](#) serves Kent and Washington Counties
- [Eastern RI Conservation District \(ERICD\)](#) serves Newport and Bristol Counties



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service provides financial and technical assistance to address natural resource concerns through an array of conservation practices.

Contact [Rhode Island NRCS](#)

The [Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#) (EQIP) provides financial and technical assistance to Rhode Island agricultural producers and non-industrial forest managers to address natural resource concerns in the Ocean State. This voluntary program helps farmers, ranchers and forest landowners integrate conservation into their working lands.

The **Rhode Island State Office in Warwick, RI** is the state headquarters for NRCS operations in the Ocean State. If you're a farmer or forestland owner looking for help, **please contact your local NRCS District Conservationist—**

- **Eastern RI District Conservationist Ghyllian Alger 401-255-6210**
- **Northern RI District Conservationist Kate Bousquet 401-255-6212**
- **Southern RI District Conservationist Jameson Long 401-793-0230**

Rhode Island USDA Outreach & Public Affairs — Julie Wright: 401-786-3884

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT



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.

RI DEM PROGRAMS INCLUDE

[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](#)

RHODE ISLAND RESOURCES FOR WOODLOT OWNERS



Rhode Island Forest Health Works Regional Conservation Partnership Program

The RI Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) 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.

[Ask.USDA.gov](https://ask.usda.gov) 1-833-ONE-USDA askusda@usda.gov

Rhode Island Forest Conservators Organization

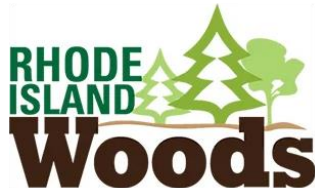
Helping to Safeguard Rhode Island's Woodlands



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

Sign up to get the [RIFCO](#) monthly e-newsletter "[The Forest Conservationist](#)"

OR [Join RIFCO](#) and automatically receive the newsletter.



Your Online Resource for RI Forest Information

Still more than half forested, Rhode Island has extensive and varied woodlands surrounding Narragansett Bay that contribute to the state's economy, environmental benefits, and quality of life.

The website is hosted and maintained by the University of Rhode Island, Department of Natural Resources Science, with the assistance of an advisory committee. This site provides information for landowners, businesses, and outdoor enthusiasts on forest stewardship, wildlife, science and policy, legacy planning, RI woods-related products, learning opportunities, and more. It also features information about Rhode Island forestry, including forest-related businesses, upcoming events and workshops, tree identification, new forestry technologies, and other educational tools. Throughout each section of the website you will find links to fact sheets and other organizations where you can learn more. [RI Woods](#) aims to be a hub of information for all experience levels and an avenue to resources that promote good stewardship and forest health.



[Rhode Island Tree Council](#)'s mission is to create healthy urban and community forests, which underpin the state's verdant ecological tapestry, support its vibrant economy, and enrich the lives of all Rhode Islanders.

RI Tree helps improve Rhode Island's tree resources, build healthy and vibrant urban forests, and educates citizens about urban forestry. The group offers a wide variety of programs and resources designed to educate woodland owners on the benefits and value of trees. [WATCH Video](#)

BENEFITS OF URBAN TREES



RHODE ISLAND RESOURCES FOR WOODLOT OWNERS



The mission of the Center for Mediation is: To provide individuals, organizations, and businesses with constructive skills and processes to effectively resolve their differences.

[The Center for Mediation](#) is the provider for Rhode Island’s Agricultural Mediation Program (RIAMP). This is the official USDA-certified program for our state.

This program offers confidential assistance to help resolve agricultural-related issues in a productive environment. For more than a decade, RIAMP has provided essential mediation services for agricultural loans, farm program compliance, and other agriculture-related issues to farmers and growers throughout Rhode Island.

Call 401-273-9999 from 9am to 4pm Mon-Fri or visit our [website](#)

OTHER RESOURCES FOR WOODLOT OWNERS



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



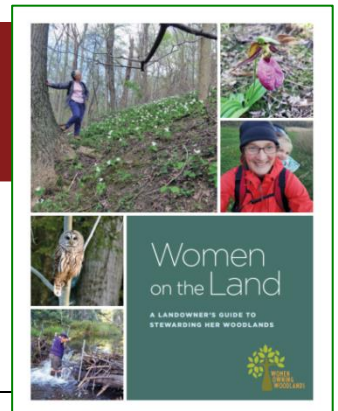
[American Forest Foundation Newsletter](#)

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

Unlocking the power of America's Family Forests to fight climate change.

UMassAmherst

[Women on the Land](#) intends 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.



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 RI RC&D

Rhode Island Resource Conservation & Development Area Council, Inc.



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