



Rhode Island Resource Conservation & Development Area Council, Inc.

Helping People Help the Land Since 1973

Newsletter of February 2025

ZOOM WORKSHOPS



Tuesday, February 25, 6:00 to 7:30 PM
“**Winter Wildlife of Rhode Island's Woods**”
AND “**Fisher Cat Populations in Rhode Island**”



Co-presenters:

Mary Gannon

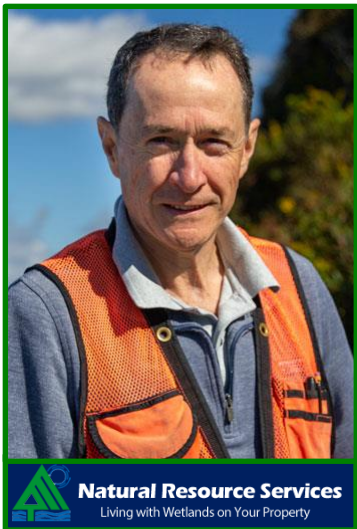
Wildlife Outreach Coordinator, Principal Biologist (Wildlife) for the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, Division of Fish and Wildlife



Laken Ganoë

Postdoc Researcher studying fisher abundance and movement, and the role they play in our local forest ecosystems.

The Rhode Island Fisher Study is a collaborative research project.



Wednesday, March 19, 6:00 to 7:30 PM
“**Trees & Shrubs of Wetland Habitats in Rhode Island**”

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



[Natural Resource Services](#), Inc. was incorporated in 1988. Scott has more than 35 years of experience working as a wetland scientist in Rhode Island, helping landowners navigate wetland regulations set by DEM and the CRMC.

TO REGISTER FOR THESE ZOOM WORKSHOPS, PLEASE CONTACT

Paul Dolan, RI RC&D Director

Phone **401-500-0399** or email rircd2283@gmail.com

The Northern Rhode Island Conservation District is holding Local Working Group Meetings to gather input from residents on local and state natural resource priorities & criteria for conservation programs administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

PLEASE ATTEND A LOCAL MEETING
YOUR input is very IMPORTANT to US!

NORTHERN RHODE ISLAND



Local working groups serve as a community panel to help the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Northern Rhode Island Conservation District (NRICD), plan out priorities for the following year.

LOCAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

These meetings are free and open to the public. To join via zoom, visit nricd.org.

All locations are wheelchair accessible



Wednesday
January 29
6:30-7:30pm

Saturday
February 1
12:00-1:00pm

Wednesday
February 26
6:30-7:30pm

Jesse M. Smith Memorial Library
100 Tinkham Lane, Harrisville

Rechambeau Library
708 Hope Street, Providence
Spanish, Swahili, and Kinyarwanda Interpretation Provided

North Scituate Public Library
606 West Greenville Road, North Scituate

USDA NRCS Rhode Island
60 Quaker Lane, Warwick, RI 02886
401-828-1300 | www.ri.nrcs.usda.gov

Northern Rhode Island Conservation District
2283 Hartford Avenue, Johnston, RI 02919
401-934-0840 | www.nricd.org

USDA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER, EMPLOYER, AND LENDER.

∞ COMING THIS SPRING ∞

The Vernal Equinox

During most of the 20th century Spring arrived on March 21, but during the 400-year Gregorian calendar cycle, the event continued to slide back earlier and earlier.

Believe it or not, the final March 21 equinox was in 2007.

In 2025, the astronomical beginning of Spring will happen on March 20 at 5:01 A.M. EDT. And, after that, and for the rest of our lives, Spring won't arrive on March 21st again. [Find out why.](#)

ZOOM WORKSHOP



"A guide to restoring the little things that run the world"

A presentation by [Doug Tallamy](#) followed by Q&A
Tuesday, April 1, 2025 from 6:00 to 7:30 PM

A recent UN report predicts that as many as 1 million species will disappear from planet earth because of human activities. Many are insects and nearly all species at risk rely on insects. Insects have already declined 45% since 1974. The most alarming part of this statistic is that we don't seem to care, despite the fact that a world without insects is a world without humans! So how do we create beautiful landscapes brimming with life; landscapes that support the pollinators, herbivores, detritivores, predators and parasitoids that run the ecosystems we depend on? Tallamy will remind us of the many essential roles insects play, and describe the simple changes we must make in our landscapes and our attitudes to keep insects on the ground, in the air and yes, on our plants.

Douglas W. Tallamy is a professor at the University of Delaware, an educator, author, and entomologist, specializing in the relationship between plants and insects. He is also co-founder of [Homegrown National Park](#), a grassroots movement to create more native plant habitats. His books include *Bringing Nature Home* and *How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants*.



Register by QR  or at <https://tinyurl.com/RIRCD-Tallamy>



Forestry for the Birds

The Forestry for Rhode Island Birds Project addresses threatened forest bird populations by educating landowners and natural resources professionals on the benefits of managing their land for forest-dependent bird species.

Please plan to join us for the program— it's for the birds!

With Paul Dolan

Retired Deputy State Forester and RI RC&D Area Director

Register with the Library

(401) 647-5133

alex@scituatelibrary.org

IN PERSON

FRIDAY, APRIL 25 FROM 1:00 TO 2:00 PM

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

ZOOM WORKSHOP

Monday, **May 12**, 6:30 to 7:30 PM

“Forest Pests and Diseases Affecting Rhode Island’s Landscape”



Co-presenters:

Alana Russell

[Forest Health Program Coordinator](#)

RI DEM Division of Agriculture and Forestry

Cynthia Kwolek

RI DEM Senior Environmental Scientist

[Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey \(CAPS\)](#)



The mission of the Forest Health Program is to protect the health, vigor, and resiliency of our rural and urban forests. Staff survey and monitor our forests for: circumstances that may pose a risk to forest health, such as insects or diseases, and evidence of harm from abiotic factors such as pollution, fire, drought, ice storms, or damaging winds.

While some threats to our forest are native to the region, there is an increase in serious threats arising from non-native and invasive pests, diseases, and plants. Because our forests did not evolve with these threats, the trees typically have limited or no natural defense mechanisms that enable them to withstand attack, or competition.

To Register contact **Paul Dolan**, RI RC&D Director

Phone **401-500-0399** or email rircd2283@gmail.com



PROVIDENCE 4 January 2025 — A Rhode Island Superior Court judge has ruled coastal regulators erred when they approved a controversial marina expansion and dredging project in Jamestown without complying with their own agency’s procedural regulations... In a decision issued Wednesday, Superior Court Judge Jeffrey A. Lanphear vacated the decision by the Coastal Resources Management Council to approve the Jamestown Boat Yard’s expansion and dredging project, and ordered the state agency to convene a subcommittee to reconsider the project... [READ MORE](#)

[Straw Bale Construction Comes to Providence](#)



[Advocates Protest Utility Injustice, ‘Catastrophic’ Effects of Rate Increases](#)



[Failure to Act on Climate Goals Increasingly Places Burden on Taxpayers](#)



[Southside Community Land Trust: Providence’s Urban Farmers Feed City](#)



POPULAR SCIENCE



[Cranberries...](#)

They can bounce, float, and pollinate themselves. Humans have cultivated sorghum for some 5,500 years, corn for around 8,700 years and cotton for about 5,000 years. In contrast, cranberries were only domesticated around 200 years ago—but people were eating the berries before that.

Compared to many valuable plant species that were domesticated over thousands of years, cultivated cranberry (*Vaccinium macrocarpon*) is a young agricultural crop...

[READ MORE](#)



[Stop and Smell the Tomatoes... Seriously](#)

They say that knowledge is understanding that a tomato is a fruit, and wisdom is knowing not to put one in a fruit salad. We're here to tell you that true enlightenment is realizing redness is not a sign of a ripe tomato. How to tell? The best clue here is smell...

Learn how to pick the sweetest, ripest fruit with this science-based guide. [READ MORE](#)



[Something Better than Fertilizer](#)

Synthetic nitrogen fertilizers are ubiquitous in modern farming due to their affordability and effectiveness, but those conveniences come at a cost. Manufacturing them often generates huge amounts of harmful emissions such as carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide. Nitrous oxide is particularly problematic, as experts estimate the gas exerts as much as 265-times the effect of CO₂ on the environment.

What to do? [READ MORE](#)



[Oyster Blood Could Fight Superbugs](#)

Over 90 percent of antibiotics that are currently in use are derived from nature in some way, including the life-saving penicillin. Oyster components have been used to treat respiratory infections in some traditional medicines, and their blood has been shown to exhibit anti-viral activity. Because oysters are constantly filtering bacteria from the water, they are a good place to look for potential antibiotics... [READ MORE](#)

[Sahara Desert Flooding — Scientists on Alert](#)



[Building China’s Great Green Wall](#)



[Spain Built a Sea of Plastic— and Got Rich](#)



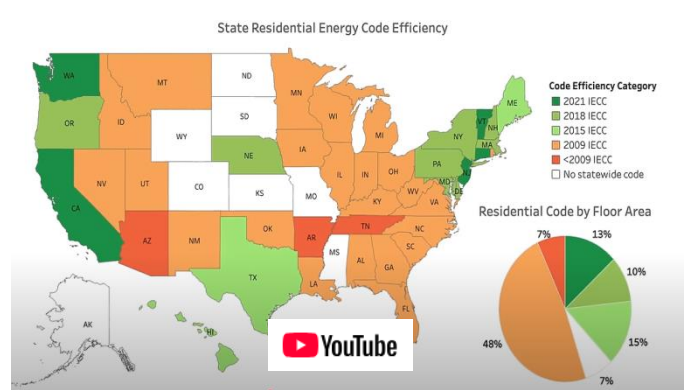
[Europe’s Most “OP” Country?](#)



[Building My Net Zero Home: What I Learned](#)



[Why American Homes... Suck](#)



[Killing 10,000 Trees to Restore an Ancient Forest](#)



[Heating a Greenhouse the Amish Way](#)



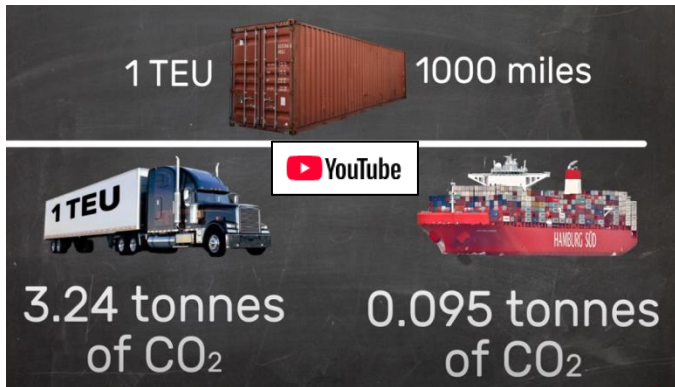
[Regrow Your Veggies](#)



[Engineering a New Supercrop](#)



[Why Shipping Pollutes Less than Trucking](#)



[50 Geographic Facts about the US](#)



[Your Grandparents' Forgotten Vegetables](#)



[Nordic Winter Routines](#)



[Opposition to Alternative](#)



[Goodbye Coffee?!](#)





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 Road, Warwick, RI 02886

ENVIROTHON



ALBERTA 2025

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](#)

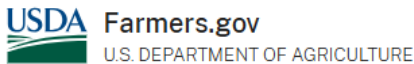


Natural Resources Conservation Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

In 2025, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Rhode Island will provide more funding than ever before to help farmers and forest managers adopt conservation practices. This includes funding for climate-smart practices, water quality initiatives, and a faster application process.

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](#).



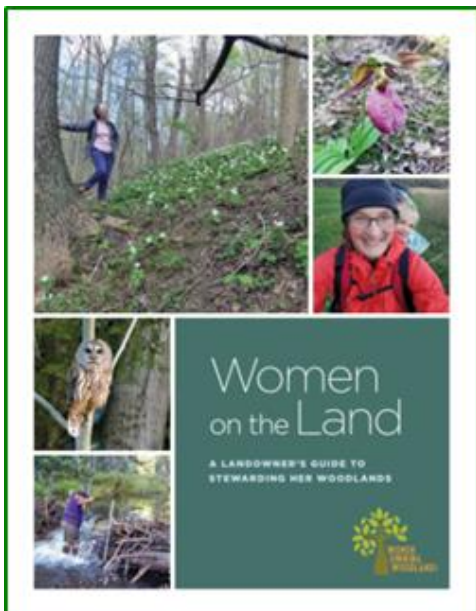
Producers and land managers are experiencing firsthand the impacts of climate change, which is caused by the build-up of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. With support from NRCS, farmers, ranchers and forest landowners across the nation's working lands can contribute to climate solutions. [MORE INFO](#)

2025 Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding: Up to \$5.7 billion for [Climate-Smart](#) practices will help farmers and forest landowners improve their operations' resiliency and productivity. Water quality initiatives will help address water quality concerns in the Sakonnet River and Tomaquag Brook-Pawcatuck River watersheds.

The **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)** provides financial and technical assistance to Rhode Island farmers, forest landowners, oyster growers, ranchers, and urban growers to address natural resource concerns in the Ocean State. **EQIP Apply by 25 February 2025.**

For more information: Call NRCS Field Office: (401) 822-8848 or your local Conservation District Office to apply.

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://www.Ask.USDA.gov) 1-833-ONE-USDA askusda@usda.gov

Rhode Island Forest Conservators Organization

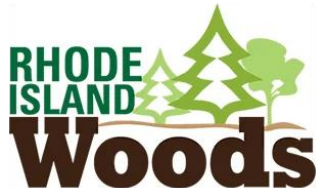
Helping to Safeguard Rhode Island's Woodlands



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



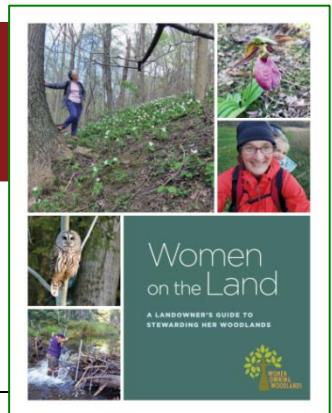
[American Forest Foundation Newsletter](#)

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.



Website: <http://rircd.org>



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WOW (Women Owning Woodlands) Project
Jo-Anne@rircd.org

Phone: 401-500-0399

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2283 Hartford Avenue
Johnston, RI 02919



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