



Rhode Island Resource Conservation & Development Area Council, Inc.

Helping People Help the Land Since 1973

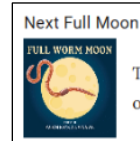
Newsletter of March 2025

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... but, after that, and for the rest of our lives, Spring won't arrive on March 21st again. [Find out why.](#)

**DST 2025?
SEE PAGE 3**



The **Full Worm Moon**, will occur on Friday, March 14, 2025.



ZOOM WORKSHOPS

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.

REGISTER through Director Paul Dolan
401-500-0399 or email rircd2283@gmail.com

“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. 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!

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?

Please join us to find out!

< Use this QR Code to REGISTER or go to <https://tinyurl.com/RIRCD-Tallamy>

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*.



COMING SOON

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



DST: Sunday, 9 March 2025: Time to Spring Forward?



[Why DO we observe DST? \(No, it's not due to farmers!\). And why is Daylight "Saving" Time not "Savings" Time?](#)

The Old Farmer's Almanac: On the second Sunday in March, we set our clocks forward 1 hour, beginning Daylight Saving Time. Many Americans (as well as others around the world) believe that changing the clocks is an antiquated wartime practice with more negative than positive results. According to one study, 7 out of 10 Americans do not want to change their clocks and think it's a bad idea. According to another 2022 study, 6 out of 10 Americans would stop fooling with the clock. You get the idea. Not everyone agrees... [READ MORE](#)

[Why do some people need less sleep—and can you train yourself to sleep less?](#)

Popular Science: The quantity of sleep you need is dictated by your biology—specifically, your genes and your age. According to scientists, "There is no evidence that lifestyle can influence sleep need." It's also important to distinguish true short sleepers—people who naturally function on six hours of sleep or less—from those who rely on alarm clocks, coffee, or other stimulants to get through the day. The latter "are not obtaining sufficient sleep." So, while you can build a tolerance to sleep deprivation, that's not the same as actually *needing* less, sleep.... [READ MORE](#)



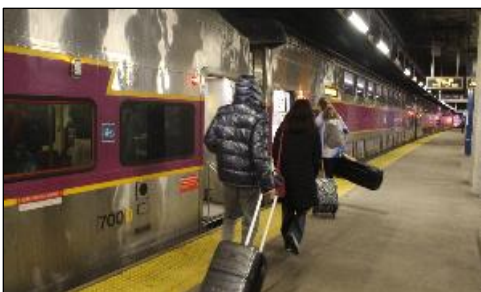
PROVIDENCE February 2025 —

[Proposed Bill Would Provide Grants for Individuals, Organizations Seeking Intervenor Status in Environmental Cases](#)



Should Rhode Island pay people or organizations wishing to intervene in contested environmental cases?

That's an issue that may receive an airing in the General Assembly this year. Under legislation slated to be introduced by the environmental nonprofits the Acadia Center and the Conservation Law Foundation, intervenors in certain contested utility cases—such as power plant siting, fossil fuel infrastructure applications, or the twice-yearly utility rate changes—could be awarded grants to cover the cost of intervening....[READ MORE](#)



[Is Commuter Rail Feasible for Westerly?](#)



[Proposed Study: Feasibility of State-Owned Utilities?](#)



[Freshwater Crustaceans: Why their Presence Matters](#)



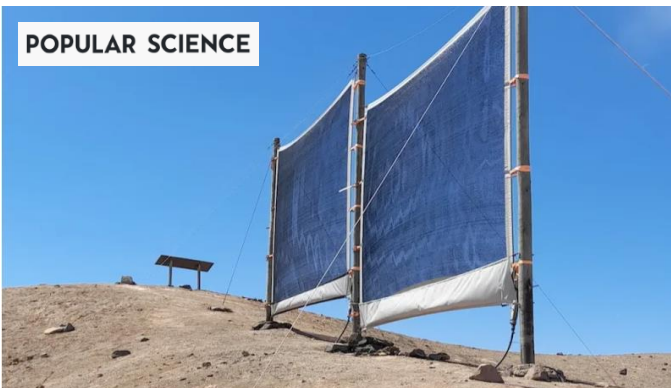
Climate Resiliency: A Focus for Indigenous People

What do climate policymakers have to learn from Indigenous people? Quite a bit, according to Casey Thornbrugh, climate science liaison for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe... The Center for Coastal Studies in Provincetown, Mass., hosted Thornbrugh recently to discuss the history of his nation and the climate resiliency practices they and other Indigenous people have lived by for thousands of years... [READ MORE](#)



The Eerie Ambassador from the Abyss

Under somber mausoleum lighting at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa rests a monster. Its enormous body lies in a huge glass coffin, thick tentacles trailing beneath a strange, mottled body that once contained two huge staring eyes.... it resembles a creature from another world—reminiscent of the first awestruck description of a Martian by the nameless narrator in H G Wells “The War of the Worlds.” The bunches of tentacles beneath a bearlike bulk and a nightmarish beak of a mouth... [READ MORE](#)



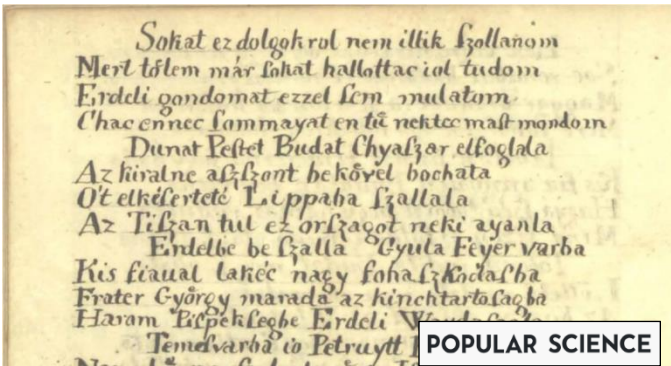
Fog Harvesting: Water that Hides in Plain Sight

The Atacama Desert in northern Chile sits in the rain shadow of the Andes Mountains. Though it borders the Pacific Ocean, a persistent cold flow known as the Humboldt Current keeps moisture levels in the air relatively low. Clouds form, but quickly dissipate. As a result, rain comes rarely and in small amounts— a few millimeters per year, on average in some parts... An alternative, an as-of-yet untapped and inexpensive water source, could help resolve the burgeoning water crisis... [READ MORE](#)



The Fever that’s Killing Earth’s Oceans

Earth’s oceans caught a fever in March 2023 that has yet to break. The two years of heat have created a scientific mystery, with 450 straight days of record high global sea surface temperatures from April 2023 to July 2024— a streak that exceeded climate scientists’ predictions even when accounting for climate change and the natural climate pattern known as El Niño. A study by researchers at the University of Reading helps solve the puzzle and points to one prominent culprit: the sun... [READ MORE](#)



What 500-year-old Transylvanian Diaries Found

Researchers in Romania are exploring how a region best known for vampire legends was drastically altered by the effects of [The Little Ice Age](#). This period of colder than usual temperatures from the early 14th century CE to the mid-19th is known for major social upheaval, famine, and plague. According to these first person accounts, geographical regions of the continent also appear to have experienced major weather changes at different times and they reveal how humanity responded.... [READ MORE](#)

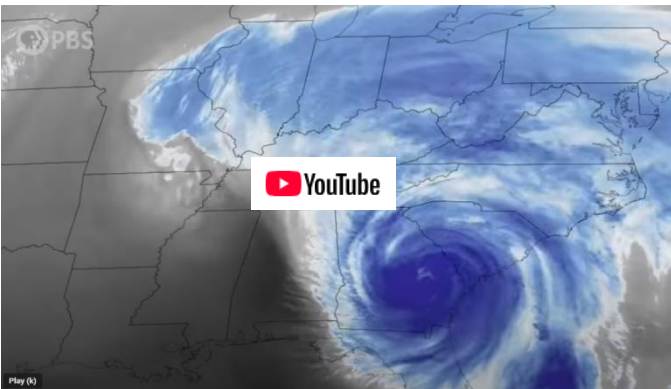
[Can Clean Energy Stop Our Worst-Case Scenario?](#)



[Why the Los Angeles Fires Are Almost Impossible to Stop](#)



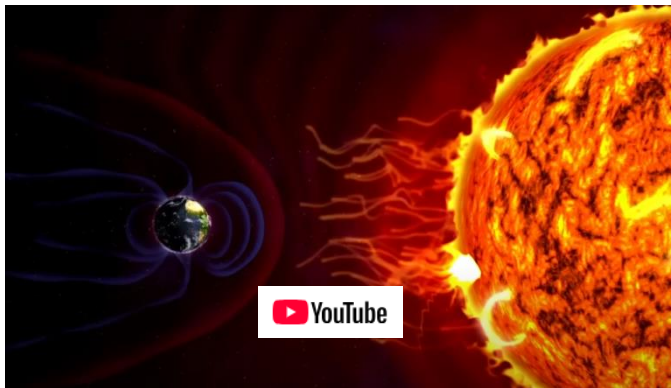
[Why Do We Keep Moving to the Riskiest Areas?](#)



[Miyaki Event: Earth's Ancient Trees Reveal Secrets of Solar Storms](#)



[The Sun's Magnetic Field Has Flipped We've Entered Solar Maximum](#)



[What Will Happen When Earth's Magnetic Field Flips?](#)



[Why an Unusual Pattern May Save This Rainforest](#)



[Why and How Tropical Places Can Freeze](#)



[Good News in February
\(that you might have missed\)](#)



[Why We Diverted a Dead River into a Field](#)



[Native Oyster and Seagrass Restoration](#)



[Exploding Cukes](#)



[Successful Gardening
Placement of Alleopathic Plants](#)



[Saving Sweden's Muskox](#)



[How Plants Drink Water](#)



[I Built A Wildlife Pond](#)



[The Original Recipe!](#)



[A Genius Idea for](#)



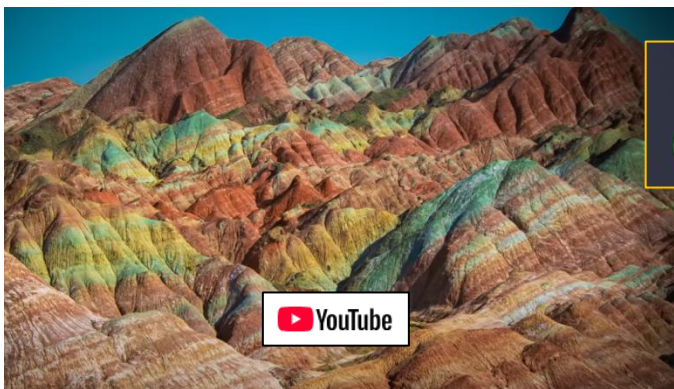
Global Warming: [A Crazy Solution](#)



[Nature Helping Nature](#)



[China's Rainbow Mountains](#)



[Carbon Dating: The Old Wood Problem](#)



[Garden Plants that Spell Trouble](#)



[Managing Weather with Cloud Seeding](#)





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](#)

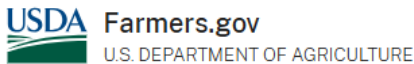


Natural Resources Conservation Service

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](#).



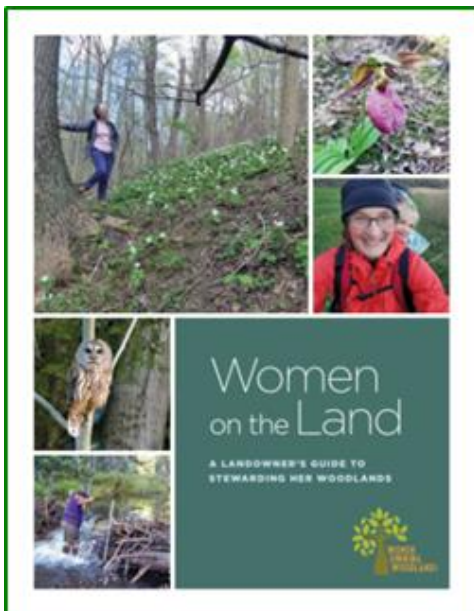
Producers and land managers are experiencing firsthand the impacts of climate change, which is caused by the build-up of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. With support from NRCS, farmers, ranchers and forest landowners across the nation's working lands can contribute to climate solutions. [MORE INFO](#)

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



- [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



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 1-833-ONE-USDA askusda@usda.gov

Rhode Island Forest Conservators Organization

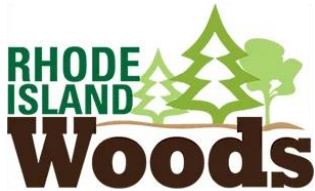
Helping to Safeguard Rhode Island's Woodlands



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



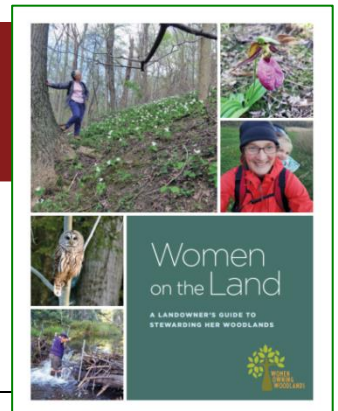
[American Forest Foundation Newsletter](#)

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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Johnston, RI 02919



**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

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