



Rhode Island Resource Conservation & Development Area Council, Inc.

Helping People Help the Land Since 1973

APRIL 22



Arbor Day April 25

Newsletter of April 2025

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 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*.



First Thursday Botanizing Walks

April 3 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

[First Thursday Botanizing Walk: Snake Den Park](#)

Join Christopher Modisette, State Resource Conservationist for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Warwick, RI, for our first walk of the season. We will explore the Snake Den Farm parcel of Snake Den State Park in Johnston, RI.

Please wear clothing for protection against sun exposure, ticks and mosquitoes. Dogs are not permitted.

Protection against sun exposure and nourishment.

Register

REGISTRATION CLOSED
Please join us next time for a Thursday Walk
— [The Wild Plant Society of Rhode Island](#)

maximize the ability for the process. Note: Only one person can register for the process.

Directions to the walk are provided upon registration.

Should you need to cancel, contact RIWPS as soon as possible at office@riwps.org

IN PERSON PRESENTATION

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

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 from 6:30 - 7:30 PM

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

RI DEM co-presenters

Alana Russell and Cynthia Kwolek

Alana is [Forest Health Program Coordinator](#)

Division of Agriculture and Forestry

Cynthia is Senior Environmental Scientist with

the [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

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



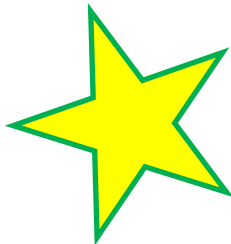
RHODE ISLAND Envirothon

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..



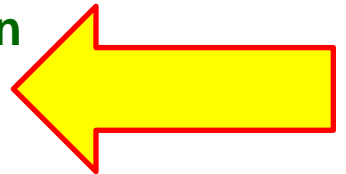
Envirothon is not just an educational program. The environmental appreciation and team-building skills the students learn are real-world experiences that they will carry throughout their lives as they become the leaders of tomorrow because Envirothon is teaching them HOW to think, not WHAT to think.



Rhode Island State Competition

May 23, 2025

Kent County YMCA,
900 Centerville Road, Warwick, RI 02886





2025 NCF-Envirothon Alberta

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

Hosted by Alberta Envirothon Association



Rhode Island winners compete in Calgary!

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 Call 401-

VISIT THE RI ENVIROTHON WEBSITE

WATCH THE ENVIROTHON VIDEO

SUMMER WALKS 2025

WITH **Christopher Riely**

Forester and Conservationist, Sweet Birch Consulting



Plants, Trees, & Shrubs, an ID Walk
Wednesday, June 25 from 5:30 to 6:30 pm
Cumberland Monastery

Plant ID walk

Wednesday, July 30 from 5:30 to 6:30 pm
Steere Hill Heritage Park, Phillips Farm
Glocester Land Trust



TO REGISTER CONTACT

Paul Dolan, RI RC&D Director

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



PROVIDENCE —
Latest News



[Long-Awaited South Coast Rail Line Connects Region to Boston Via Train for First Time in 67 Years](#)



[Bills Would Ban Use of Second-Generation Rodenticides](#)



[Researchers with URI Ties Co-Author Report Emphasizing Investment Needs in Ocean Research](#)



[Million Dollars in Grants Awarded to Support R.I.'s Local Food System](#)

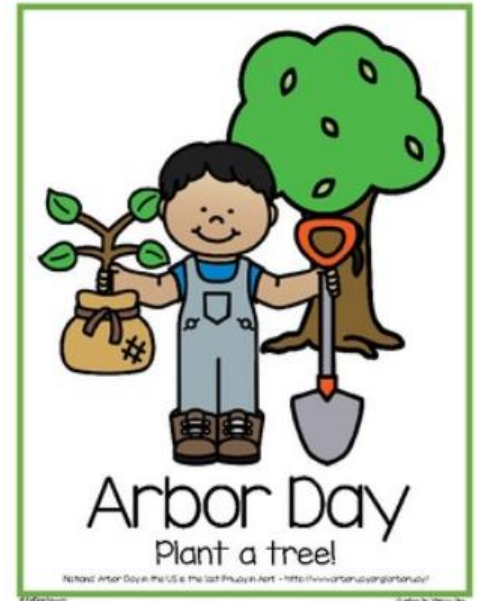
Earth Day

Every April 22 since 1970
Help the Earth!



Arbor Day

Last Friday in April since 1872
Plant a Tree!



The little-known ‘Supreme Court justices’ who decide your electricity rates

A few people in each state oversee where and how we get electricity. They’re called Public Utility Commissioners.

Charles Hua, founder of the nonprofit [PowerLines](#), sat down with Yale Climate Connections to break down who these commissioners are, how they make decisions, and why the public’s engagement—or lack thereof— can shape the future of our energy system...

[READ MORE](#)

Inside the Quest to Develop Long-Range Tornado Forecasts

Nearly four decades ago, William Gray, a hurricane researcher at Colorado State University, embarked on the first sustained effort at seasonal hurricane prediction. His initial outlooks each year were issued at the start of the Atlantic hurricane season giving an idea months in advance of how active the full season might end up being. The newest models are showing tantalizing hints that it might be possible to identify some especially dangerous weather patterns two weeks or more in advance — or even to create full-season severe-weather outlooks... [READ MORE](#)

Turning Sewage Sludge Into Fuel and Feed

The world produces millions of tons of sewage sludge, the semi-solid material left after wastewater treatment, every year. Nearly half of the US’s sludge is spread on farmlands as fertilizer, with the rest going to landfill or incinerated, raising concerns about harmful chemicals and contaminants leaching into soil and water sources.... Researchers at Nanyang Technological University devised a solar-powered process that integrates mechanical, chemical, and biological processes to treat the waste material.... [READ MORE](#)



Concrete Problems & Concrete Solutions

Concrete is the second-most consumed substance on Earth. (The first is water.)
The process of making its key ingredient, cement, creates major pollution....



Yale Climate Connections reports extensively on the problem. But Anthropocene reports that Alessandro Rotta Loria, a professor of civil and environmental engineering at Northwestern University proposes that the solution could be as simple as zapping seawater with electricity to make a solid carbon-negative building material. The oceans soak up almost a third of the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, and by simply applying electricity to seawater, they can convert the carbon dioxide in it to solid minerals. In a double whammy, the method sucks up carbon dioxide and upcycles it into a material that can be used to make not only concrete, but cement, plaster, and paint. **Click the images above to read the articles.**

Radio Prague International



[Beaver - Pest or Helper?](#)

Officials in the Brdy region of the Czech Republic were at an impasse. Despite securing more than ck23,230,000 (one million dollars) worth of funding for a new dam to address water issues, the project had stalled after seven years of planning because the necessary building permits for such a structure couldn't be acquired...

But then, everyone woke up one morning in January to find that the job had been completed— *by eight beavers*. For free! [READ MORE](#)

Watch on YouTube: [Bobr – škůdce nebo pomocník?](#) (Beaver - Pest or Helper?)

Environmentalists who inspected the work say that the wetland and pools that the beavers created, will offer good conditions for the rare stone crayfish, frogs and other species that thrive on wetlands.

"Beavers always know best. The places where they build dams are always chosen just right - better than when we design it on paper," said Jaroslav Obermajer, head of the Central Bohemian office of the Czech Nature and Landscape Protection Agency (AOPK).

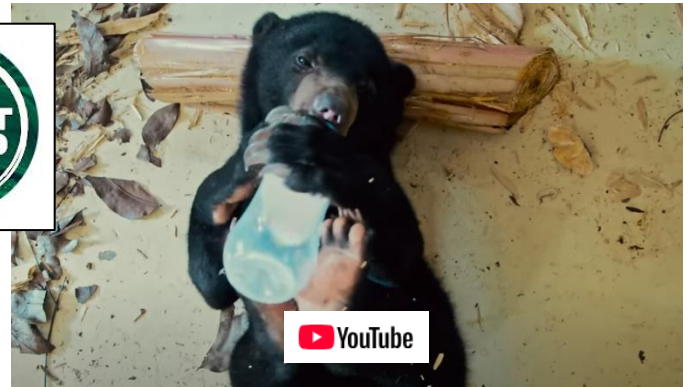


At least one European beaver family of about eight members lives in the area. There are others in the vicinity of Nové Mitrovce or Hořehled. According to AOPK spokeswoman Karolína Šulová, beavers have contributed positively to water retention in other areas in the past. However, it occasionally happens that what suits them is not in the interests of humans. For example, in the vicinity of Lanškroun in the Orlickoústec region, beavers inadvertently flooded fields and waterlogged a nearby railway line.

[Saving Europe's Cutest Bird](#)



[Saving Sun Bears](#)



[BBC: The Solar System](#)



[BBC Mind-Blowing Space Mysteries](#)



[30 of the Best Optical Illusions](#)



[Bizarre Places to Live](#)



[The Animal They Thought Was a Hoax](#)
[WATCH](#)



[What Meteor Showers Signified in Ancient China](#)
[WATCH](#)





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](#).



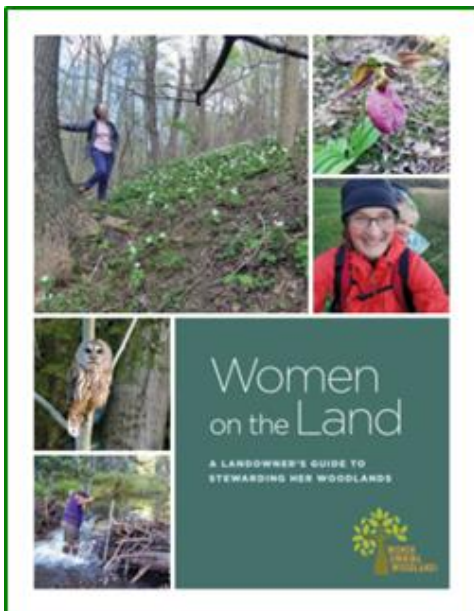
Producers and land managers are experiencing firsthand the impacts of climate change, which is caused by the build-up of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. With support from NRCS, farmers, ranchers and forest landowners across the nation's working lands can contribute to climate solutions. [MORE INFO](#)

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.

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

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

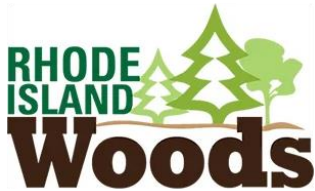
Helping to Safeguard Rhode Island's Woodlands



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



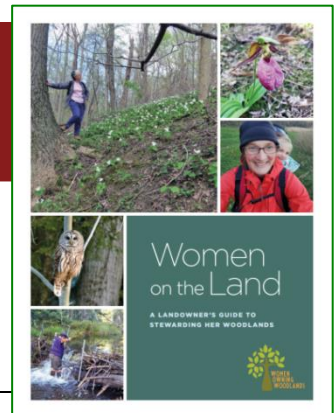
[American Forest Foundation Newsletter](#)

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.



[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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Jo-Anne@rircd.org

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Johnston, RI 02919



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