



Rhode Island Resource Conservation & Development Area Council, Inc.

Helping People Help the Land Since 1973

Newsletter of July 2025



**The Scituate Reservoir Watershed
Education Program invites you to...**

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT AND PESTICIDE WORKSHOP

Presented by Charlotte Canner
Learn about integrated pest management,
best practices when using pesticides, and
how it all impacts our drinking water!

July 16, 2025 • 6:30-7:30 PM
@ The Scituate Community House
546 W Greenville Road, Scituate, RI 02857



To watch from home,
join our livestream on
YouTube!
@Northern RI
Conservation District



SCAN ME



Northern Rhode Island
Providence County
Conservation District



SCITUATE RESERVOIR WATERSHED
EDUCATION PROGRAM
Protecting our clean water

For more information, visit nrird.org

∞ Summer Programs 2025 ∞

∞ IN-PERSON WALK ∞

WITH Christopher Riely
Forester and Conservationist, Sweet Birch Consulting

Plant ID Walk

Wednesday, July 30

5:30 to 6:30 pm

Steere Hill Heritage Park, Phillips Farm
Glocester Land Trust, Chepachet, RI

TO REGISTER, PLEASE CONTACT
Paul Dolan, RI RC&D Director
Phone 401-500-0399 or email rircd2283@gmail.com



Zoom Workshop

Rhode Island's climate is changing. The state has warmed about 3°F since the year 1900.
PLEASE JOIN US ON

Tuesday, August 12

6:00 to 7:30 PM WITH Danielle Shannon

Coordinator, USDA Northern Forests Climate Hub,
staff at Michigan Technological University and the Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science,
SPEAKING ON

*"Impacts of a Changing Climate on
the Ecosystems of Rhode Island's Forests"*

FOLLOWED BY Q&A

TO REGISTER, PLEASE CONTACT
Paul Dolan, RI RC&D Director
Phone 401-500-0399 or email rircd2283@gmail.com

Rhode Island Resource Conservation & Development Council
2283 Hartford Avenue, Johnston, RI 02919



AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



∞ Coming this Fall ∞

Note Venue
Change



In-Person Presentation
“Bird Migration in RI and Native Food Sources”

Presenter: Lauren Parmelee

Senior Director of Education Programs, Audubon RI

Wednesday, 10 September

6:00 to 7:30 PM

(one hour presentation with 30 minute Q&A)

Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium

1401 Hope Street, Bristol, RI 02809

To Register contact Paul Dolan, RI RC&D Director
401-500-0399 or email rircd2283@gmail.com

ecoRI
news

PROVIDENCE — [Latest News](#)

It took 10 years for Rhode Island to ban plastic retail bags, and much of that effort began long before the Task Force to Tackle Plastics rose from the plastic-infested sands of Scarborough Beach.... Seven years ago, on July 16, 2018 during “Beach Office Hours” at Scarborough State Beach in Narragansett, then-Gov. Gina Raimondo announced the creation of a “Task Force to Tackle Plastics.”... It’s going to take at least 18 more months for Rhode Island to adopt a bottle bill. It’s already been decades.

[READ MORE](#)



[Retreat is Not Weakness](#)



[Mammals with Venomous Saliva](#)



[Summer Study for RI Lawmakers](#)

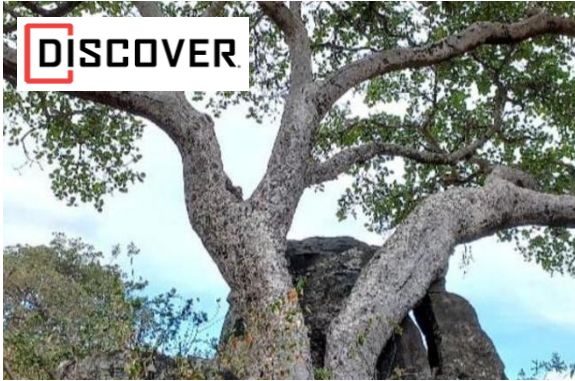


Norway’s Floating [Greenhouse on the Sea](#)



Norwegian engineers have launched a circular floating greenhouse island that could revolutionize food and energy production. Called “Ocean Bloom”, the structure combines aquaponics, solar energy, and desalination— all within a single self-sustaining ring.

The greenhouse sits on a floating pontoon that houses solar panels, water purifiers, and wind turbines. Inside, freshwater plants grow in nutrient-rich water tanks that are fed by fish waste from integrated aquaculture systems below the surface. This closed loop ensures that no external fertilizers or chemicals are needed — only sun, air, and seawater.



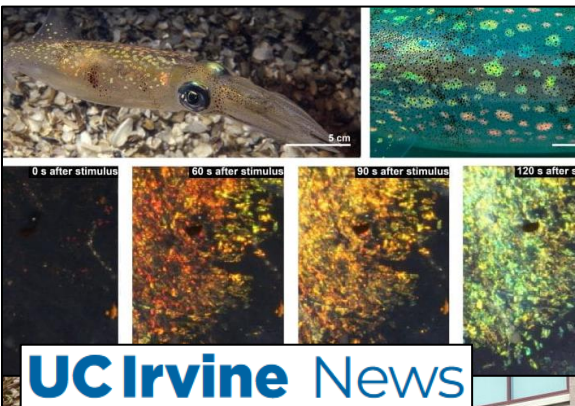
[Some Fig Trees Can Turn CO₂ into Carbon](#)

Whenever trees are involved in climate change dialogue, they're usually brought up for their ability to remove carbon from the air and use it to create oxygen during photosynthesis. While all trees can mitigate climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide, a few have another trick up their sleeve: Recent research has shown that certain species of fig trees that grow in Kenya specialize in turning CO₂ into stone, a trick which may give CO₂ storage efforts an extra boost."... [READ MORE](#)



[Melting Glaciers Could Waken Dormant Volcanoes](#)

Over the last few decades, melting glaciers and erupting volcanoes are two events that have captured the attention of scientists and the general public alike. But have you ever thought about how these two processes might be related? New research presented at the Goldschmidt Conference suggests that climate change is the link between melting glaciers and exploding volcanoes. As glaciers continue to retreat due to global warming, the Earth is likely to experience more frequent and more powerful volcanic eruptions... [READ MORE](#)



[How Squid Change Their Appearance](#)

By examining squid skin cells three-dimensionally, a University of California, Irvine-led team has unveiled the structures responsible for the creatures' ability to dynamically change their appearance from transparent to arbitrarily colored states... The group of scientists, which included collaborators from the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, Massachusetts, found that in vibrantly colored squid mantle tissues, light-manipulating cells called contain stacked and winding columns of platelets that function as Bragg reflectors that selectively transmit and reflect light at specific wavelengths... [READ MORE](#)



[Smarter Flight Decisions Can Help Cool the Planet](#)

Civil aviation contributes to global warming through several factors: carbon dioxide from fuel, nitrogen oxides that affect ozone and methane levels, and the formation of lingering condensation trails. Each of these plays a role in trapping heat in the atmosphere. Historically, efforts to reduce one of these climate offenders have often increased another, leading to tough decisions for the aviation industry.... But now, researchers led by Michael Prather, a professor of Earth system science at UC Irvine, have created a new decision-making tool that gauges the full climate impact of each aviation activity, including the uncertainties... [READ MORE](#)



[Africa's "Heartbeat" Could Tear the Continent Apart](#)

Beneath the Afar region in Ethiopia, scientists have discovered pulsing waves of molten rock rising from deep within the Earth. The pulses aren't random: they follow patterns shaped by the tectonic plates above, behaving differently depending on how thick the plates are and how fast they're spreading— a geological heartbeat that could eventually split Africa in two. These rhythmic surges of mantle material are helping to stretch and thin the continent's crust, setting the stage for a new ocean to form— in millions of years.... [READ MORE](#)



LIVESCINCE

[Ancient Roman Shoes of 'Exceptional Size' Discovered](#)

In May, archaeologists unearthed an enormous leather shoe while digging at the bottom of one of Magna's "ankle-breaker" defensive ditches— narrow, deep trenches that, when full of water, could cause an enemy soldier to trip and snap their ankle. The waterlogged conditions in the ditch created an oxygen-free environment that preserved the shoe. The sole measured 12.6 inches (32 cm) long, which is the equivalent of a men's U.S. 14 or U.K. size 13 today. For context, the average U.S. men's shoe size is around 10.5, while basketball player LeBron James wears a size U.S. 15 and Michael Jordan wears a U.S. 13.5.



As scary as they can appear— often starring in horror movies and our nightmares— most spiders tend to avoid humans and would much rather scurry away than attack. In fact, spiders are some of nature's most skilled engineers, survivalists and hunters. From questionable courtship rituals to elite hunting strategies, we can't help but be amazed by these adaptable arthropods.

So, are you a true arach-nerd or will you get caught in a web of lies? Test your web of knowledge, if you dare and take the.... [SPIDER QUIZ](#)

[EVERY SPIDER IN YOUR HOUSE](#)



[MAKING FRIENDS WITH A JUMPING SPIDER](#)



[NORWAY'S FLOATING COASTAL HIGHWAY](#)



[WHAT CANADA DID](#)



[NATURE STOPS BEE DISASTER NATURALLY](#)



[BEAVERS AT WORK IN THE DESERT](#)





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](#).



[CLICK HERE](#)
Get all the latest news from NRCS
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news>

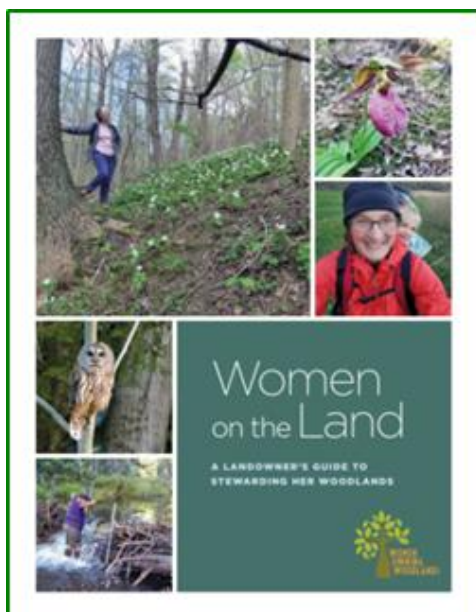
Producers and land managers are experiencing firsthand the impacts of climate change, which is caused by the build-up of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. With support from NRCS, farmers, ranchers and forest landowners across the nation's working lands can contribute to climate solutions. [MORE INFO](#)

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.

Acting State Conservationist (2025) is Brunilda Velez Diaz 401-822-1820

If you're a farmer or forestland owner looking for help, please contact your local NRCS District Conservationist—

- Eastern RI Field Office (Kat Zuromski, Acting DC): 401-786-1389
- Northern RI Field Office (Ghyllian Alger, Acting DC): 401-255-6210
- Southern RI Field Office (Jameson Long, DC): 401-793-0230
- 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

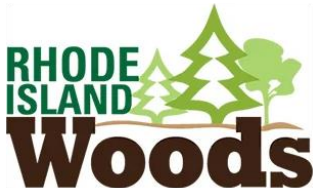


Rhode Island Forest Conservators Organization (RIFCO) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and wise use of Rhode Island's woodland resources.

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](#)

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



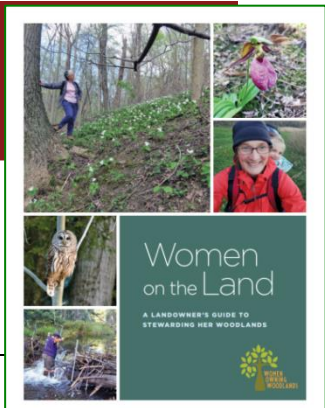
[American Forest Foundation Newsletter](#)

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



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