



# Rhode Island Resource Conservation & Development Area Council, Inc.

*Helping People Help the Land Since 1973*

## Newsletter of September 2024



# TREE ID WALK

With Paul Dolan

Retired Deputy State Forester and Area Director, RI RC&D.

## Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge

12 Sanderson Road (Rt.5), Smithfield, RI 02917



**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 FROM 5:00 PM TO 6:00 PM**

For more **information** and to **register** contact Paul Dolan, RI RC&D Director  
Phone: 401-500-0399 or e-mail: [rircd2283@gmail.com](mailto:rircd2283@gmail.com)  
RIRC&D 2283 Hartford Avenue, Johnston, RI 02919.

# TREE ID WALK

With Paul Dolan

Retired Deputy State Forester and RI RC&D Area Director

## Canonchet Farm

South County Museum

111 Strathmore Road, Narragansett, Rhode Island 02882

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19 FROM 10:00 A.M. TO NOON**

RAIN DATE: OCTOBER 26

**Reserve Your Free Spot**

Join us for a fun and educational event all about **tree identification!**

First, we'll watch a slide show to get ready to learn how to distinguish one tree from another and discover interesting facts about different tree species.

Then, this in-person event will go outside at the **South County Museum**, and you'll have the opportunity to explore the beautiful grounds and put your newfound knowledge to the test. Whether you're a nature enthusiast or just curious about the world around you, this event is perfect for anyone interested in trees and the environment. Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity to deepen your understanding of the natural world!

*Early arrivals will get a free copy of the Arbor Day Foundation's booklet "What Tree Is That?"*

∞ COMING THIS NOVEMBER ∞



# Coverts I

**Rhode Island Coverts Project** is an educational program designed to help forest landowners promote the development of critical wildlife habitats using sound forest management practices that can make wildlife healthier, more diverse and abundant.

**RI Coverts** seeks to help landowners restore early habitat by educating them on proper management techniques, and this helps restore populations of the New England cottontail and the many avian species such as American woodcock, ruffed grouse, eastern towhee, prairie warbler, golden-winged warbler, blue-winged warbler, brown thrasher, and field sparrow, which are native to Rhode Island forests.

**SATURDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 2024**

**SCITUATE SENIOR CENTER**

1314 Chommit Hill Road, Scituate, Rhode Island

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND?**

**Forest landowners and those associated with managing forest properties.**

**TWO SESSIONS**

8:00 a.m. to Noon — Lunch — 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.

— MORNING SESSION —

**BASIC CONCEPTS IN FOREST ECOLOGY, BASIC CONCEPTS IN WILDLIFE ECOLOGY, AND COMPONENTS OF A MANAGEMENT PLAN**

— AFTERNOON SESSION —

**A GUIDED FIELD TRIP**

Rain or shine. Please dress appropriately!

**The Coverts Workshop is IN-PERSON only.**  
**You MUST REGISTER for this workshop prior to the event.**  
**A \$10 REGISTRATION FEE COVERS ALL MATERIALS AND LUNCH.**



For more information and to **REGISTER**

Contact **Paul Dolan** by phone **401-500-0399** or e-mail: [rircd2283@gmail.com](mailto:rircd2283@gmail.com)



**Coverts** is a project of Rhode Island Resource Conservation & Development Area Council, Inc. supported by, and in collaboration with the **USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service**.  
— RI RC&D and NRCS are Equal Opportunity Employers —







# 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 **B B C**. 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.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ENVIROTHON CONTACT**

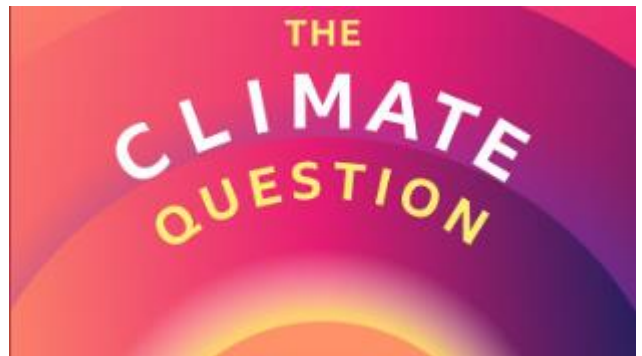
VISIT THE RI  
ENVIROTHON  
[WEBSITE](#)

[WATCH THE  
ENVIROTHON VIDEO](#)

**Paul Dolan**

**Call 401-500-0399**

**Email [president@rienvirothon.org](mailto:president@rienvirothon.org)**



[MOST DANGEROUS TREES IN THE WORLD](#)

[THE BIGGEST AND OLDEST TREES ON EARTH](#)





[RICE TERRACES INSPIRE MODERN FLOOD CONTROL](#)

*"The answers to the future of climate change, many of them are actually in the past."  
– Kotchakorn Voraakhom*

One of Kotchakorn's most memorable moments growing up in Bangkok in the 1980s was playing in floodwaters in a small boat built by her father in front of her home. *"I was so happy that I didn't need to go to school because we didn't know how to get to it,"* she recalls... But nearly 30 years later, flooding turned from a fun childhood recollection to a devastating experience... [READ MORE](#)



[SHEPHERDS PEACEFULLY CO-EXIST WITH WOLVES](#)

*Hunted by humans and deprived of their habitats, wolves vanished from most of Europe in the 19th and 20th Centuries...*

But today in the region of Montesinho, Portugal, shepherds, sheep and wolves have coexisted for centuries. "Wolves have caused me no trouble," says Afonso while patting one of his six guard dogs, which protect his flock from attacks. "The wolves are actually helping me because they are hunting deer and boar, which damage my chestnut and grain plantations."

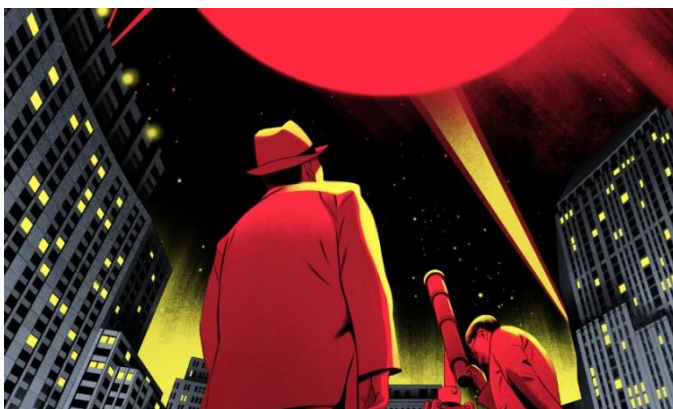
[READ MORE](#)



["STAGGERING DISEASE" FOUND IN COLORADO](#)

Rustrela Virus identified in the US— The disease was first identified in Sweden in 1974; later research found the virus had been present elsewhere in northern Europe too, with additional hotspots in Austria and Germany. The virus has been documented in a variety of zoo animals, including lions, marsupials, an otter and a donkey. While in Europe it's most commonly found in domestic cats, no official statistics on how many cats die from the disease exist.

[Rustrela Virus](#): Severe meningoencephalomyelitis in domestic cats.



1924: [The Search for Extraterrestrial Life Begins](#)

During the third week of August 1924, Earth and Mars were separated by just 34 million miles, closer than at any other point in a century, and scientists had plotted for years to make the most of the Martian "close-up." A radio receiver, built for the battlefields of World War I, was going to test the idea that humans were not alone in the solar system. To aid the experiments, the U.S. Navy cleared the airwaves, imposing a nationwide period of radio silence for five minutes at the top of each hour from Aug. 21 to 24 so that any messages from Martians could be heard... The radio signals received set the stage for a century of more practical and scientific search for aliens... [READ MORE](#)



[There Might Have Been Another Race Before Humans](#)

The Silurian Hypothesis: “Would it be possible to detect an industrial civilization in the geological record?”

The [Silurian hypothesis](#) is a thought experiment which assesses modern science's ability to detect evidence of a prior advanced civilization, perhaps several million years ago. The most probable clues for such a civilization could be carbon, radioactive elements or temperature variation...

[WATCH](#)



[The Appalachian Rainforest](#)



[Scotland’s Secret Rainforest](#)



[Saving Earth’s Underwater Forests](#)



[Earth’s Hidden History Uncovered: LIDAR](#)



[Arizona’s Volcanoes](#)



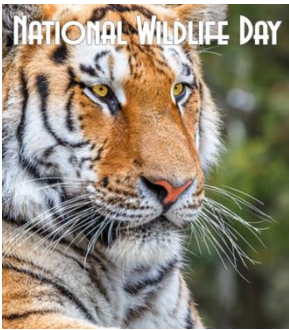
[The Most Mysterious Sea in the World](#)





# SEPTEMBER 2024

Feel like celebrating... something?  
Here are a few suggestions:



- 01 — [National Cherry Popover Day](#), [National Ginger Cat Appreciation Day](#)
- 02 — [World Coconut Day](#), [National Blueberry Popsicle Day](#)
- 03 — [National Skyscraper Day](#)
- 04 — [National Wildlife Day](#), [Eat an Extra Dessert Day](#)
- 05 — [Be Late for Something Day](#), [International Day of Charity](#)
- 06 — [National Coffee Ice Cream Day](#)
- 07 — [International Day of Clean Air](#), [National Hummingbird Day](#)
- 08 — [National Iguana Awareness Day](#), [National Ampersand Day](#)
- 09 — [National When Pigs Fly Day](#)
- 10 — [National TV Dinner Day](#)
- 11 — [National Hot Cross Bun Day](#)
- 12 — [National School Picture Day](#), [National Chocolate Milkshake Day](#)
- 13 — [World Chocolate Day](#), [National Bald Is Beautiful Day](#)
- 14 — [National Cream Filled Donut Day](#), [National Coloring Day](#)
- 15 — [Greenpeace Day](#), [National Double Cheeseburger Day](#)
- 16 — [National Cinnamon Raisin Bread Day](#), [National Working Parents Day](#)
- 17 — [International Country Music Day](#), [National Pet Bird Day](#)
- 18 — [Locate an Old Friend Day](#), [National First Love Day](#)
- 19 — [International Talk Like a Pirate Day](#), [National Butterscotch Pudding Day](#)
- 20 — [National Concussion Awareness Day](#), [German World Children's Day](#)
- 21 — [National Coastal Cleanup Day](#), [International Red Panda Day](#)
- 22 — [World Rivers Day](#), [National White Chocolate Day](#), [Autumn Equinox](#)
- 23 — [National Apple Cider Vinegar Day](#), [National Great American Pot Pie Day](#)
- 24 — [World Bollywood Day](#), [National Punctuation Day](#)
- 25 — [National Comic Book Day](#), [National Lobster Day](#)
- 26 — [Johnny Appleseed Day](#), [World Maritime Day](#)
- 27 — [World Tourism Day](#), [National Scarf Day](#)
- 28 — [Ask a Stupid Question Day](#), [National Public Lands Day](#), [National Hunting & Fishing Day](#)
- 29 — [National Biscotti Day](#), [World Heart Day](#), [Urban Wildlife Refuge Day](#)
- 30 — [International Translation Day](#), [National Hot Mulled Cider Day](#)







# 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](#).



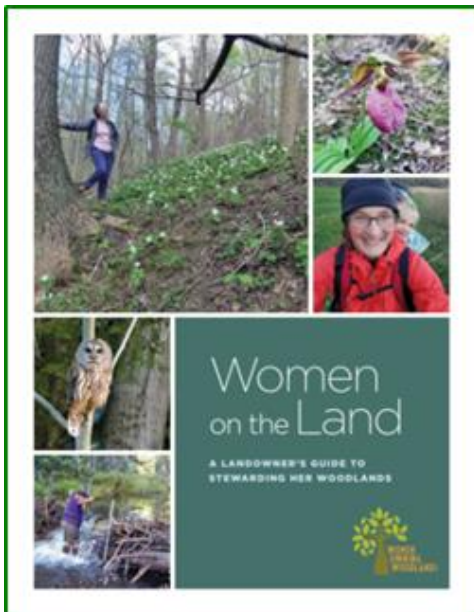
### Other USDA Programs

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](#)

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## 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](mailto: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](mailto:askusda@usda.gov)

## Rhode Island Forest Conservators Organization

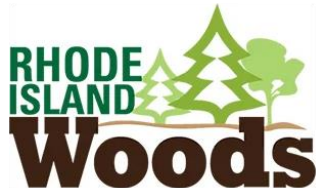
*Helping to Safeguard Rhode Island's Woodlands*



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](mailto:mstremb@cox.net)



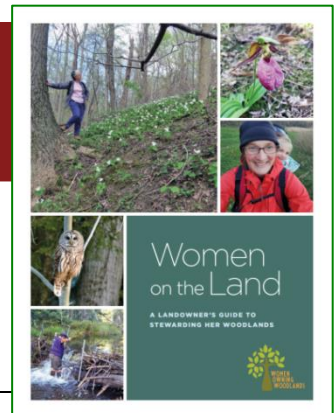
### [American Forest Foundation Newsletter](#)

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.





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# 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

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[rircd2283@gmail.com](mailto:rircd2283@gmail.com)

**Jo-Anne Pacheco, Coordinator**  
*WOW (Women Owning Woodlands) Project*  
[Jo-Anne@rifarmenergy.org](mailto:Jo-Anne@rifarmenergy.org)

[RIRCD.ORG](http://RIRCD.ORG) Phone: 401-500-0399

**RI RC&D Mailing Address:**  
2283 Hartford Avenue  
Johnston, RI 02919



**Rhode Island Association  
of Conservation Districts**

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