



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

*Helping People Help the Land Since 1973*

## Newsletter of November 2024



# Coverts Workshop

## SATURDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 2024



Space is limited!  
Register today!

Rhode Island  
Coverts

**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.

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

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

**SCITUATE SENIOR CENTER** 1314 Chopmist Hill Road, Scituate, Rhode Island

**8:00 a.m. to Noon**

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

— **LUNCH** from Noon to 1:30 p.m. —

**1:30 to 4:00 p.m.**

**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** 401-500-0399 or [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 —



# Thanksgiving Day 2024

Thursday, November 28

*"The year turns its circle,  
the seasons come and go.  
The harvest is all gathered in  
and chilly north winds blow.  
The orchards shared their treasures,  
the fields, their yellow grain—  
open wide the doors for  
it's Thanksgiving time again!"*

*Wishing you, your families and friends  
a joyous and peaceful  
Thanksgiving Day!*

*From your friends at RI RC&D*




Farm Fresh Rhode Island is an Equal Opportunity Provider



10 Sims Ave, unit 103  
Providence, RI 02909  
401-312-4250  
HH@farmfreshri.org

[Donate](#)

**Hope's Harvest** started in 2018 as Rhode Island's first gleaning project. Since then, our program has grown to include not only farm-based food recovery but also expanding markets for local growers via the emergency food system. Hope's Harvest is proud to be a program of Farm Fresh RI, bringing fresh, nutritious, locally grown produce to our neighbors in need.

### Our Mission

To improve the livelihoods of local farmers, increase food security for our most vulnerable residents, and get everyone engaged in strengthening the food system by eliminating on-farm food waste in Rhode Island.

We envision strong and connected communities where farmers are honored, valued, and compensated for their contributions; neighbors get their hands dirty and have fun helping each other; and everyone enjoys an abundance of fresh, healthy food. [Visit FFRI](#)

## ∞ DECEMBER ∞

Rhode Island Resource Conservation & Development Council

# Online Christmas Party

Monday, December 2 from 6:30 to 7:30

Please plan to join us for the Annual Virtual Holiday Get-Together.  
Make yourself comfortable. Visit with friends.

Tell us how we did this year, and let us know how we can help you in the year to come!

Enjoy a slide show review of all of 2024's workshops.

Then take our Self Scoring Workshop Quiz and see how much you learned.

And get a preview of what we have in store for 2025.

*Happy holidays from all of us at RI RC&D!*



To request your personal invitation, please contact  
Paul Dolan 401-500-0399 or e-mail [rircd2283@gmail.com](mailto:rircd2283@gmail.com)

❧ DECEMBER ❧

# Invasive Plant Species in Rhode Island

Plants and trees and shrubs from around the globe were introduced to our state because they were pretty and durable. But like guests who have overstayed their welcome, many have become a pervasive and annoying problem.

Join us to learn about these plants that now dominate our landscape and find out what to do about getting rid of them.

**With Paul Dolan**

Retired Deputy State Forester and RI RC&D Area Director

Register with the Library  
**(401) 647-5133**  
[alex@scituatelibrary.org](mailto:alex@scituatelibrary.org)

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13 FROM 1:00 TO 2:00 PM**  
North Scituate Public Library, 606 West Greenville Road, Rhode Island 02857

❧ COMING IN 2025 ❧



### ZOOM WORKSHOP

**Saturday, January 25, 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM**

**“Birds of New England and Winter Birding in RI”**

Presenter: Lisa Maloney

Audubon Community Education Coordinator, Audubon Society of RI



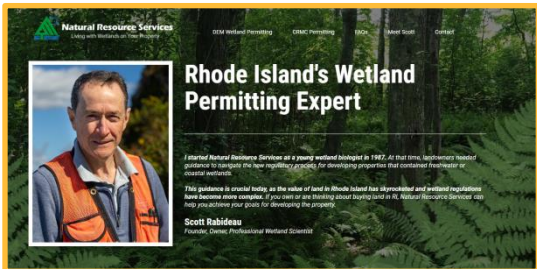
### ZOOM WORKSHOP

**Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM**

A collaborative presentation—

**“Winter Wildlife of Rhode Island's Woods  
& Fisher Cat Populations in Rhode Island”**

Co-presenters: Mary Gannon and Laken Ganoe



### ZOOM WORKSHOP

**Wednesday, March 19, 2025, 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM**

**“Trees & Shrubs of Wetland Habitats in Rhode Island”**

Presentation followed by Q&A

Presented by Scott Rabideaux

[Natural Resource Services](http://NaturalResourceServices.com), Pascoag, Rhode Island

**Registration for these Zoom Workshops will be announced soon.  
For more information about them, please contact Paul Dolan, RI RC&D Director.**

ecoRI  
news

The Deep, Indigenous Roots of  
'Rhode Island Corn'



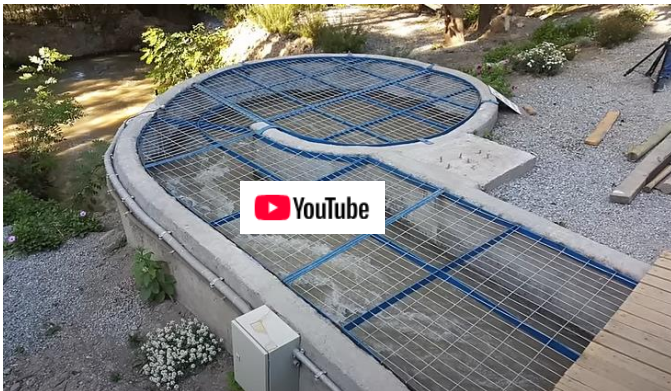
[URI Greenhouse Complex Grow Slowly](#)



[Hidden Senses of Plants](#)



[The Genius of Small Hydro Turbines](#)



[A Yummy Buffet of Invasive Plants](#)



[Vertical Solar Panel for Solar AND Crops](#)



[Lockdown:](#)

What We Learned about Noise Pollution and Nature



[In-Pipe Hydro is Here](#)



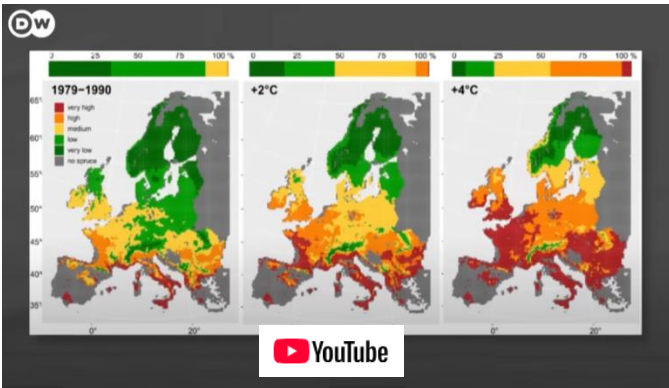
[Supplement to Protect Bees from Pesticides](#)



[What Will Our World Look Like at 4 Degrees?](#)



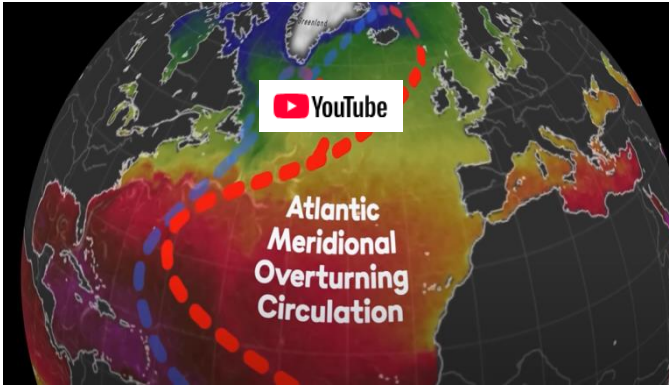
[Spruce Beetles a Blessing in Disguise](#)



[Forever Chemical PFOS is Everywhere](#)



[Is AMOC Already Slowing?](#)



[The Milankovich Cycle and Climate Change](#)



[Why We Need a Better Way to Measure Hurricanes](#)

Hurricanes are ranked by wind speed, which leaves out the cause of 90% of deaths during extreme storms. Scientists are racing to update the imperfect system we rely on to warn just how deadly a storm will be... [READ MORE](#)



[The US Island Ruled by Alien Snakes and Spiders](#)

Guam has 40 times more spiders than neighboring islands— and a population of invasive snakes so voracious, they have emptied the forests of every bird... [READ MORE](#)



# 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 Rd., Warwick, RI 02886



## 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](mailto:president@rienvirothon.org)**

VISIT THE RI  
ENVIROTHON  
[WEBSITE](#)

WATCH THE  
[ENVIROTHON VIDEO](#)



# 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](#).

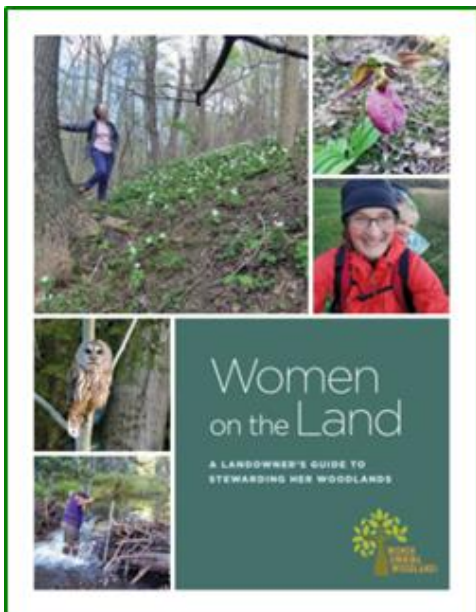


### Other USDA Programs

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://ask.usda.gov) 1-833-ONE-USDA [askusda@usda.gov](mailto:askusda@usda.gov)

## Rhode Island Forest Conservators Organization

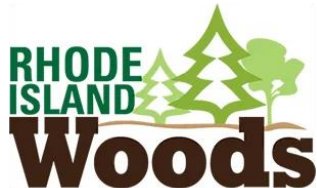
*Helping to Safeguard Rhode Island's Woodlands*



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)



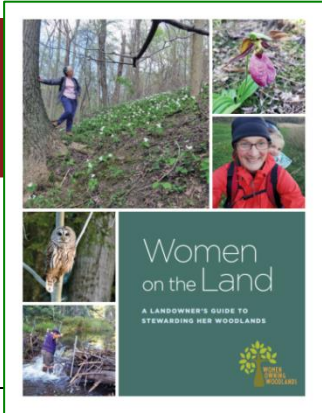
### [American Forest Foundation Newsletter](#)

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

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



Website: <http://rircd.org>



**Paul Dolan, RI RC&D Area Director**  
[rircd2283@gmail.com](mailto:rircd2283@gmail.com)

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