



Rhode Island Resource Conservation & Development Area Council, Inc.

Helping People Help the Land Since 1973

Newsletter of April 2026



Thursday, April 2 from 10:00 to Noon

The Rhode Island Wild Plant Society invites you to experience the pleasure of being in the natural world, honing your observational skills, learning to identify plants and consider the natural community in which plants grow, and to share this experience with a small group of fellow plant and nature enthusiasts, when you join this walk at

Snake Den Park in Johnston

with expert Guide and Forester Chris Modisette.

Folks with all levels of experience are welcome to join in!

For more information and to REGISTER visit the [Rhode Island Wild Plant Society website](#).



Forestry for the Birds Lecture

Tuesday April 7 at 6:00 PM

Join Paul Dolan, RI RC&D Director, to learn about the twelve spokes birds! What habitat do they like? How can we best manage our environment for them? (This event was rescheduled from February 26th.)

No sign up is required for this event.

CLARK MEMORIAL LIBRARY

7 Pinehurst Drive, Carolina, RI 02812

Call (401) 364-6100 for Information

Rhode Island Forests and People: Partners through Time

Hope Library
(401) 821-7910
374 North Road,
Hope, RI 02831



• **Forest Walk at Trott-Perry Land Preserve** (library adjacent)
Saturday April 11
11:00 am Noon

Come join us for a journey through time, discovering the past, reflecting on the present, and imagining the role our forests can play in a healthy, thriving Rhode Island for generations to come.

This 60-minute Walk will be led by
Rhode Island Forester Christopher Modisette.

For more information about this series, please contact Paul Dolan, Director RI RC&D
Phone: 401-500-0399 Email: rircd2283@gmail.com

A project of RI Resource Conservation & Development Area Council, Inc. supported by, and in collaboration with, the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service.

PLEASE REGISTER THROUGH THE LIBRARY.



EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYERS.



EARTHDAY 2026



CELEBRATE EARTHDAY IN RHODE ISLAND

2026 ERICD Seedling Sale

Curated collection of native seedlings to grow a resilient garden of plants that truly belong here. Carefully chosen for the climates of Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Connecticut to support pollinators and strengthen local ecology.

☪☪ MAY ☪☪



Plants, Trees, & Shrubs, an ID Walk

Tuesday, 5 May from 6:00 to 7:00 pm

with RI RC&D Director Paul Dolan

Cumberland Monastery, 1464 Diamond Hill Rd, Cumberland, RI 02864

To REGISTER please contact

Jo-Anne Pacheco 401-500-0399 or email Jo-Anne@rircd.org



CHAINSAW SAFETY LECTURE & DEMONSTRATION

SATURDAY, 16 MAY AT 10:00 AM

at Hope Library 374 North Road, Hope, RI 02831

Lecture by Forester Paul Dolan followed by

a Live Demonstration by Forester Wolf Mueller

Please Note: This DOES NOT include hands-on training.

PLEASE REGISTER
WITH
HOPE LIBRARY
(401) 821-7910



RHODE ISLAND Envirothon

Developing Environmentally Aware Leaders of Tomorrow

Each year over 25,000 high school students across the United States embark on a journey to offer solutions to this critical question:

How do we balance quality of life and quality of the environment?

Please join us on May 22, 2026

8:00 AM to 1:00 PM

at Goddard Memorial State Park, Warwick, Rhode Island

for the Rhode Island State Envirothon Competition.

Be there to find out which school's students will represent our state this year in Mississippi.



VISIT [RI ENVIROTHON WEBSITE](#)



2026 NCF-Envirothon Mississippi

The 2026 annual competition will be held from July 19 – 25, 2026 at Mississippi State University in Starkville, MS. Get the latest news and competition details here!

WATCH [RI ENVIROTHON VIDEO](#)

For more information, please contact President **Paul Dolan** 401-500-0399 / president@rienvirothon.org



Press Release

For immediate release: March 24, 2026

Contact: Jeanine Silversmith, jsilversmith@rieea.org, 401-569-8758



RIEEA to Assume Leadership of Rhode Island Envirothon

Transition supports long-term sustainability and expanded access to environmental education statewide

[Providence, RI] – The Rhode Island Environmental Education Association (RIEEA) is pleased to announce that it will assume stewardship of the Rhode Island Envirothon program beginning in August 2026. This transition was mutually agreed upon by the Rhode Island Envirothon Board of Directors and the RIEEA Executive Board, with a shared commitment to strengthening and sustaining the program for years to come.

Envirothon is an internationally recognized environmental and natural resource education program that engages high school students in hands-on, team-based learning across five topic areas: aquatics, forestry, soils and land use, wildlife, and a current environmental issue. Since 1995, Rhode Island Envirothon has provided students with opportunities to develop critical thinking skills, explore environmental careers, and connect with the state’s natural resources through a rigorous, field-based competition.

“Envirothon has a long and respected history in Rhode Island, and we are honored to carry this program forward,” said Jeanine Silversmith, Executive Director of RIEEA. *“This transition reflects a shared vision for expanding access to high-quality environmental education and ensuring that more students across the state can participate in meaningful, hands-on learning experiences.”*

As part of this transition, RIEEA will focus on stabilizing participation, expanding access to resources for coaches and teams, and strengthening the program’s long-term capacity. Planned enhancements include the development of Envirothon Field Kits, expanded training opportunities, and increased outreach to schools and community-based organizations.

RIEEA also announced that it has posted a part-time Program Manager position to support coordination and growth of the program. The organization is seeking a highly organized, collaborative individual with a passion for environmental education and youth engagement.

The Rhode Island Envirothon program will continue to operate as usual through the 2026 competition season, with RIEEA working closely alongside current leadership to ensure a smooth and thoughtful transition. The organization has secured lead financial support from Embolden Environment Foundation to grow and support the Envirothon program.

“We are deeply grateful to the many educators, volunteers, and partners who have built and sustained Rhode Island Envirothon over the past three decades, in particular Norman Hammond, Janet Hammond, Paul Dolan, and Peter Stetson, for their unwavering commitment to the program,” Silversmith added. *“Their dedication has created a strong foundation, and we look forward to building on that legacy.”*

Founded in 1978, RIEEA is a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting and promoting high-quality environmental education. Through collaboration, professional development, and advocacy, RIEEA works with educators, students, and partners to advance high-quality environmental education that responds to community needs and supports a more just and sustainable future.

For more information about RIEEA and updates on the Envirothon transition, visit <https://www.rieea.org>.



Plant ID Walk
WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE FROM 6:00 TO 7:00 PM
WITH RI RC&D DIRECTOR & FORESTER
PAUL DOLAN
AT HAWKINS POND
 Putnam Pike, West Gloucester, Rhode Island



TO **REGISTER** PLEASE CONTACT JO-ANNE PACHECO
401-500-0399 / Jo-Anne@rircd.org
Rhode Island Resource Conservation & Development Council
2283 Hartford Avenue, Johnston, RI 02919

RI RC&D IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER 



PROVIDENCE — [Latest News](#)



Proposed Sludge Incinerator Has Residents Smoking Hot

NORTH KINGSTOWN, R.I. — The subsidiary of a renewable energy developer is causing a stink among residents for proposing to build a new sludge incinerator in West Davisville... In its technical review of the project, SAGE Environmental noted the Environmental Protection Agency does not consider pyrolysis to be incineration... Pyrolysis, critics contend, still results in greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution, and possible groundwater contamination... [READ MORE](#)

Rhode Island News:

- [Recycled Metals Misses Hearing](#)
- [Singing Mother Nature's Praises](#)
- [Exorbitant Utility Profits](#)
- [Folding CRMC into DEM](#)



[Quahoggers Frozen Out](#)

[Help for Blizzard Damage](#)

[Food Assistance: Library Steps Up](#)

[Enforcing the Food Waste Ban](#)



HEY! IT'S SPRING! GO OUTSIDE!

Stuff to do in Rhode Island in the Spring



And take the kids with you!

APRIL 2026

GETTING OUT
GUIDE
things to do with kids in Rhode Island

Official Rhode Island Travel Guide

OFFICIAL RHODE ISLAND TRAVEL GUIDE

RHODE ISLAND
ALL THAT.

Check
out our
new



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rhode Island

Are you a Rhode Island Farmer or Woodland Owner?
Sign up for USDA Conservation Programs in Rhode Island

NRCS encourages Rhode Island farmers, livestock producers, woodland owners, small-scale growers, and oyster growers to call or visit us to see how we can help you enhance your Ag operation through conservation practices. We offer a variety of practices and activities like cover crops, high tunnels, tree planting, composting facilities, pasture and hay planting, oyster reef restoration, wildlife habitat planting, animal waste management, efficient irrigation systems, wetland restoration, and farmland conservation through our [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#), [Conservation Stewardship Program \(CSP\)](#), [Agricultural Management Assistance \(AMA\) Program](#), [Agricultural Conservation Easement Program \(ACEP\)](#), and [Regional Conservation Partnership Program \(RCPP\)](#).

FEATURED



Ag Innovator's Guide

APRIL 2026

Tips for Recommending Innovation and New Technologies for Use in Conservation Assistance

Visit www.RI.nrcs.usda.gov
Rhode Island State Office: 401-828-1300, ri-nrcs-publicinfo@usda.gov

Eastern Rhode Island – Serving Bristol & Newport Counties
 NRCS Field Office: 401-786-1389
 Conservation District Office: 401-934-0842

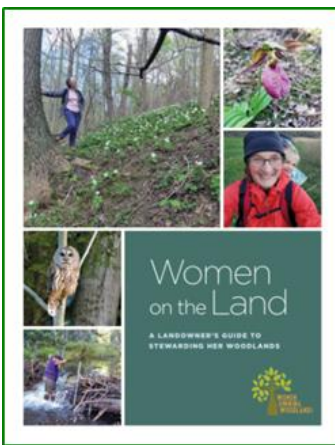
Northern Rhode Island – Serving Providence County
 NRCS Field Office: 401-822-8835
 Conservation District Office: 401-934-0840

Southern Rhode Island – Serving Kent & Washington Counties
 NRCS Field Office: 401-822-8837
 Conservation District Office: 401-661-5761

Funding is provided through a competitive process. NRCS accepts applications for conservation programs year-round but sets state-specific ranking dates to evaluate applications for funding. Application cutoff periods allow NRCS to screen and rank applications for those with the highest conservation benefits across Rhode Island's landscapes, including cropland, pastureland, and private non-industrial forestlands.

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Lender.

**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](#).
 To get a printed copy of this useful guide
 please contact Jo-Anne Pacheco
E-Mail: Jo-Anne@rircd.org or Phone: 401-500-0399

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

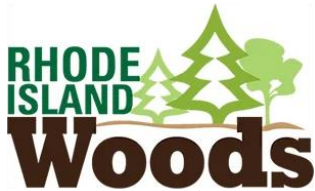
Helping to Safeguard Rhode Island's Woodlands



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



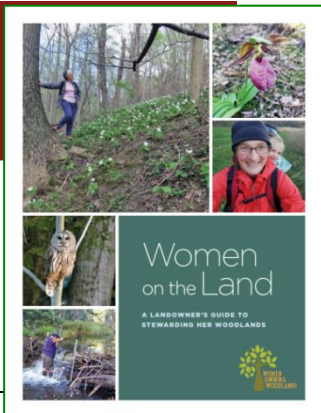
[American Forest Foundation Newsletter](#)

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.



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Phone: 401-500-0399

RI RC&D Mailing Address:
2283 Hartford Avenue
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

Northern Rhode Island Conservation District (NRICD) serves Providence County
Southern Rhode Island Conservation District (SRICD) serves Kent and Washington Counties
Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District (ERICD) serves Newport and Bristol Counties

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