



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

*Helping People Help the Land Since 1973*

## 🌀 Newsletter of May 2026 🌀



### 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](mailto:Jo-Anne@rircd.org)



RI RC&D IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER 



### 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



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

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

### 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.



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!

VISIT [RI ENVIROTHON WEBSITE](#)

WATCH [RI ENVIROTHON VIDEO](#)

For more information, please contact President Paul Dolan 401-500-0399 / [president@rienvirothon.org](mailto:president@rienvirothon.org)

☯☯ SUMMER ☯☯



# Plant ID Walk

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3<sup>RD</sup> 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](mailto:Jo-Anne@rircd.org)

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

RI RC&D IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER 

## WORKSHOPS AT GREENE PUBLIC LIBRARY



**Tuesday, June 16 at 6:00 PM**

**Tree Identification**

**Tuesday, August 18 at 6:00 PM**

**Insects and Diseases of Trees**

Workshops presented by RI Forester Paul Dolan.

Please REGISTER through the library:

**401-397-3873**

## ☯ A VERY COOL ZOOM WEBINAR ☯

### “Managing Habitat to Benefit At-Risk Rhode Island Wildlife”

**Thursday, August 13 from 6 to 7 PM**

**Melissa Hayden**

State Biologist for Rhode Island USDA-NRCS  
will discuss habitat for Eastern Cottontail, Northern  
Long-Eared Bats, Wood Turtles, and Spadefoot Toads



**TO REGISTER**

Phone 401-500-0399 or e-mail [Jo-Anne@rircd.org](mailto:Jo-Anne@rircd.org)



PROVIDENCE — [Latest News](#)



**Thar She Blows: Region’s Springtime Leviathan Remerges**

*It blows my mind how protective we are of a gasoline-powered machine that spits lung-infecting fine particulate matter and whose caterwaul can waken the dead...Leaf blowers, lawn mowers, weed wackers, and hedge trimmers emit as much pollution in an hour as driving hundreds of miles in a car...Much of this pollution is generated in neighborhoods, where people live, play, and relax... Pollution from millions of gas-powered lawn-care machines accumulates. It doesn't magically disappear...*

[READ MORE](#)

**Rhode Island News:**

[New Ocean State Alliance](#)

[Balcony Solar](#)

[Hopkinton Zoning Changes](#)

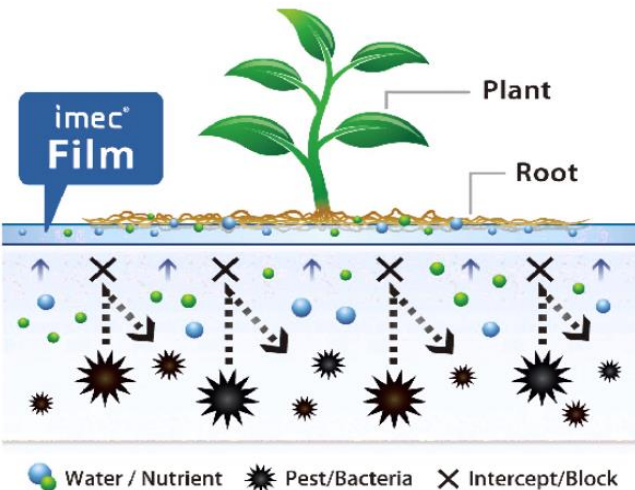
[Outdoor Rec Accessibility](#)



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE  
**WOMAN FARMER**  
2026



A breakthrough farming method has been developed that makes it possible for anyone to produce high-quality crops even in environments where crop cultivation is difficult. **Named IMEC (intelligent membrane culture), it utilizes a technique called “film farming” that uses a special film instead of soil...**

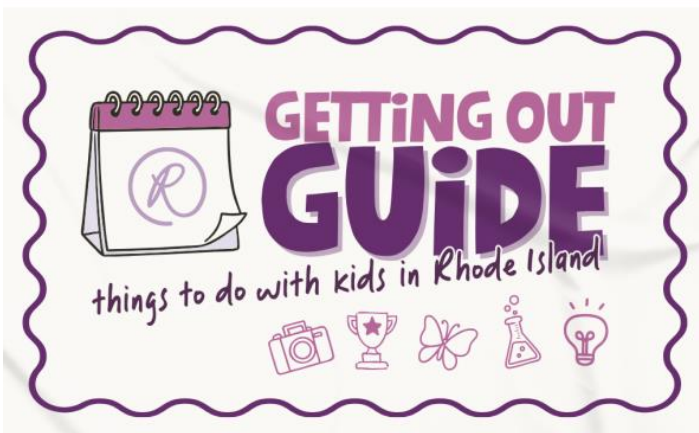
The world today is facing climate change that causes extreme weather such as droughts and heavy rains, threatening stable production of crops. In order to solve this problem, a farming method that can grow high-quality crops with a small amount of water and without using soil even in harsh environments has been developed by a startup headquartered Japan...

The water necessary for growth is only a fraction of the conventional amount; moreover, the waterproof sheet laid under the film does not leak the nutrient solution to the ground, and so crops can be grown even in places with little water. In addition, the plants are safe from soil pollution caused by excessive salinity and pests...[READ MORE](#)


# SUMMER STUFF TO DO IN THE OCEAN STATE



And take the kids with you!



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



MAY 2026

Ag Innovator's Guide

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

Visit [www.RI.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.RI.nrcs.usda.gov)  
**Rhode Island State Office: 401-828-1300, [ri-nrcs-publicinfo@usda.gov](mailto:ri-nrcs-publicinfo@usda.gov)**

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

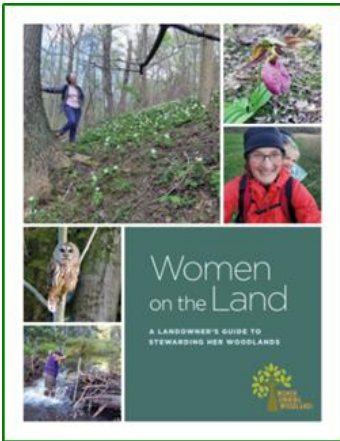
**Northern Rhode Island – Serving Providence County**  
 NRCS Field Office: 401-822-8835  
 Conservation District Office: 401-934-0840

**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](mailto: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 PROJECT



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

## Rhode Island Forest Conservators Organization

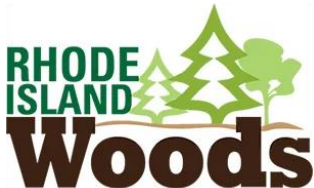
*Helping to Safeguard Rhode Island's Woodlands*



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)



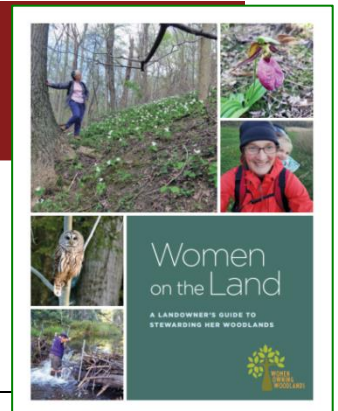
### [American Forest Foundation Newsletter](#)

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.



---

# 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, Outreach Coordinator**  
[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**

*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**