



Rhode Island Resource Conservation & Development Area Council, Inc.

Helping People Help the Land Since 1973

Newsletter of August 2026

Zoom Presentation



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



Thursday, August 13 from 6:00 to 7:00 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

RI RC&D IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



LIBRARY PRESENTATIONS

Peace Dale Library— Saturday, August 15 at 10:00 AM

1057 Kingstown Road, Wakefield, RI 02879

“Tree Identification” Presented by **Paul Dolan**

Please **REGISTER** through the Library (401) 789-1555

Willett Free Library/North Kingstown— Thursday, August 20 at 4:00 PM

45 Ferry Road Saunderstown, RI 02874

“Tree Identification” Presented by **Paul Dolan**

Please **REGISTER** through the Library (401) 294-2081 or e-mail willettfree@gmail.com

Maury Loontjens Memorial Library

25 Pier Market Place, Narragansett, RI 02882

“Forestry for the Birds”— Friday, August 21 at 1:00 pm

“Forest Insects & Diseases”— Friday, August 28 at 3:00 pm

both presentations will be by **Paul Dolan**

Please **REGISTER** for either or both presentations through the Library

(401) 789-9507 or e-mail kelseycronin@narlib.org

— **LIBRARY PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED** —

Greene Library— Tuesday, September 22 at 6:00 PM
179 Hopkins Hollow Road, Coventry, RI 02827

“Invasive Plant Species” Presented by **Paul Dolan**
Please **REGISTER** through the **Library** (401) 397-3873

Kingston Free Library— Wednesday, September 30 at 6:00 PM
2605 Kingstown Road, Kingston, RI 02881

“Invasive Plant Species” Presented by **Paul Dolan**
Please **REGISTER** through the **Library** (401) 783-8254

Zoom Presentation

Along the Wall

Exploring Wildlife Biodiversity in Rhode Island's Stone Landscapes

Wednesday, September 23 from 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Presenters: Dr. Kathleen Carroll, Assistant Professor of Quantitative Ecology, URI
S. Shelby Rinehart, Assistant Professor of Watershed Ecology, URI
Madalyn Stoltz, Masters Student, URI

TO REGISTER Call Jo-Anne 401-500-0399 or e-mail Jo-Anne@rircd.org



RI RC&D IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



Zoom Presentation

Trees and Bees

Tuesday, October 20 from 6:00 to 7:00 PM

Presenter Casey Johnson

Casey is an entomologist and wildlife biologist having received her Master's degree from URI. Currently she is working as a research associate in Dr. Steven Alm's Bee Lab at URI. Her primary research project is an evaluation of federally funded pollinator plantings in southern New England and the curation of a seed mix to best meet the needs of bees in the area.

TO REGISTER Call Jo-Anne at 401-500-0399 or e-mail Jo-Anne@rircd.org



RI RC&D IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER





RHODE ISLAND Envirothon

Developing Environmentally Aware Leaders of Tomorrow



Wheeler School, Team 1 2026
with Coach Rani MacNeal (L) and Dean Dr. Jean VanderGheynst (R)
of the URI College of the Environment & Life Sciences

Wheeler School, winner of the 2026 Rhode Island State Envirothon Competition, competed in the Annual **International Envirothon Competition** held July 19 – 25, 2026 at Mississippi State University in Starkville, Mississippi.

Tune in next month for the International Competition Results!

VISIT [RI ENVIROTHON WEBSITE](#)

WATCH / [RI ENVIROTHON VIDEO](#)

For more information about Envirothon, please contact
Coordinator Paul Dolan 401-500-0399

October Library Presentations

Cranston Public Library

140 Sockanosset Cross Road, Cranston, RI 02920

“Tree Identification”— Wednesday, **October 7** at 6:30 pm

“Forest Insects & Diseases”— Wednesday, **October 21** at 6:30 pm

both Presentations will be by **Paul Dolan**

Please **REGISTER** for either or both presentations through the Library
(401) 943-9080 or e-mail rnyzio@cranstonlibrary.org

Kingston Free Library

2605 Kingstown Road, Kingston, RI 02881

“Forestry for the Birds”— Tuesday, **October 27** at 6:00 pm

Presented by **Paul Dolan**

Please **REGISTER** through the Library (401) 783-8254 or visit <https://www.skpl.org>

ecoRI
news

PROVIDENCE — [Latest News](#)

Rhode Island News:

[RWPZ Runoff Addressed](#)



[RI Bengal Cat Ban in Limbo](#)



[Cyclist Who Keeps Coming Back](#)



[Stocking Wild Brook Trout](#)



There's so much more that you can do. Climate solutions that fit your life.



[Genevieve: 2026's First Cat 5](#)



[Canceled, But Still Ongoing](#)



[Summer Heat & Your Heart](#)



[Ticks Flood the US Mail](#)



[The Stingless Bee in Pre-Columbian America](#)

Beekeeping—providing a safe residence for bees in order to exploit them—is an ancient technology in both the Old and New Worlds. The oldest known Old World beehives are from Tel Rehov, in what is today Israel, about 900 B.C.E.; the oldest known in the Americas is from the Late Preclassic or Protoclassic period Maya site of Nakum, in the Yucatán peninsula of Mexico, between 300 B.C.E.—200/250 C.E.

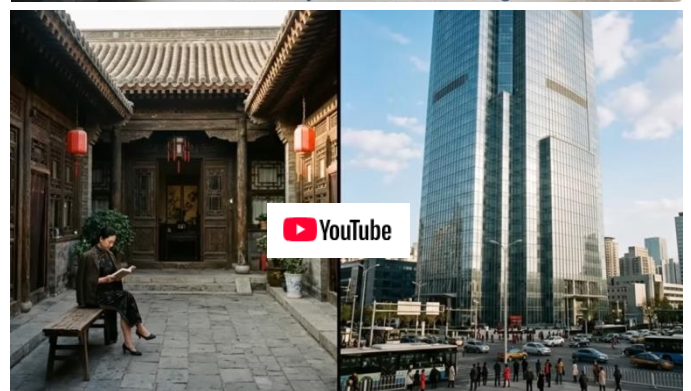
[READ MORE](#)



[The Beluga Whale Cam Is Now Live](#)

On **Arctic Sea Ice Day, July 15, 2026**, viewers around the world began watching these lovely cetaceans via Polar Bears International (PBI) Whale Cam.

Now watch ice-dwelling beluga whales spend hours chattering as they navigate their frosty world. These canaries of the sea are among some of the most charismatic summer visitors to Canada's Hudson Bay, where they arrive with their babies in tow to feast on fish and kick back. [WATCH NOW](#)



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 \(RCPP\)](#).

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

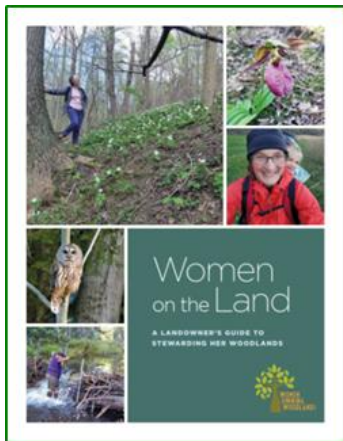
Conservation District Office: 401-661-5761

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

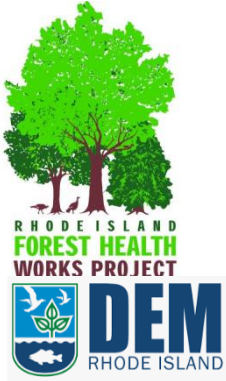


The health and vitality of our lands, waters, and communities support our way of life and economy in Rhode Island. The Rhode Island Division of Agriculture and Forest Environment works to sustain, promote, and enhance Rhode Island's agricultural viability and preserve, manage, and promote healthy forests 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 **1-833-ONE-USDA** askusda@usda.gov

Rhode Island Forest Conservators Organization

Helping to Safeguard Rhode Island's Woodlands

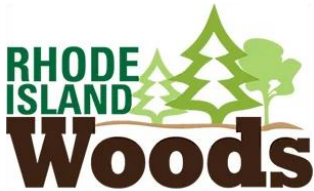


Rhode Island Forest Conservators Organization (RIFCO) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and wise use of Rhode Island's woodland resources.

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



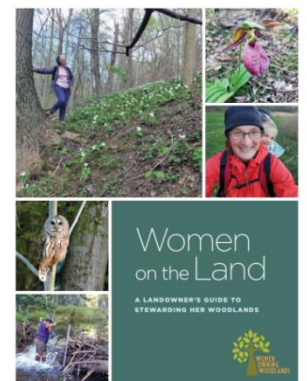
[American Forest Foundation Newsletter](#)

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.



Website: <http://rircd.org>

Paul Dolan, RI RC&D Area Director
rircd2283@gmail.com

Jo-Anne Pacheco, Outreach Coordinator
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