



Rhode Island Resource Conservation & Development Area Council, Inc.

Helping People Help the Land Since 1973

❧❧ Newsletter of October 2026 ❧❧



ZOOM PRESENTATION

Trees and Bees

Tuesday, October 20
6:00 to 7:00 pm

Presented by Casey Johnson

Casey is a Conservation Biologist and Entomologist with a Masters Degree from URI. She is currently a research associate in Dr. Steven Alm's Bee Lab at URI and 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

Equal
Opportunity
Employer

SAVE this DATE!

Wednesday, November 18, 2026

6:00 to 7:00 PM

“Rhode Island's Forests: A Natural Climate Solution”

More than half of Rhode Island is covered by forest. Joe and Tara will introduce a new partnership between the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and the University of Maryland that is helping reveal just how important these forests are in slowing the impacts of climate change and supporting the state's climate goals.

A ZOOM Co-Presentation

WITH

Tara Hoda, RI DEM and Joseph Poccia, State Climatologist, RI DEM

Find out more about the project here:

[New Project Helps Rhode Island Track How Trees Combat Climate Change](#)

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



RI RC&D IS AN EQUAL
OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

October Library Presentations



Here in Rhode Island, the woods are more than just scenery— they've been a source of food, fuel, inspiration, and community for countless generations. From the first caretakers of this land to today's neighborhoods and cities, forests have always shaped how we live, work, and connect with one another. Join us to learn how you can help protect and care for Rhode Island's woodland resources.

All Presentations are by
**Forester and RI RC&D Director
Paul Dolan**

PLEASE REGISTER THROUGH THE LIBRARIES

Saturday, October 3 from 10:00 to 11:00 am

"Forestry for the Birds"

North Providence Union Free Library

(401) 353-5600 or e-mail qmarciano@nprovlib.org

1810 Mineral Spring Avenue, North Providence

Saturday, October 17 from 11:00 am to Noon

"Invasive Forest Plants"

North Providence Union Free Library

(401) 353-5600 or e-mail qmarciano@nprovlib.org

1810 Mineral Spring Avenue, North Providence

Monday, October 5 from 3:00 to 4:00 pm

"Forest Invasive Species"

Narragansett (Loontjens) Memorial Library

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

25 Pier Market Place, Narragansett

Wednesday, October 21 from 6:00 to 7:00 pm

"Forest Insects & Diseases"

Kingston Free Library

(401) 783-8254 or register here: [Forest Insects & Diseases](#)

2605 Kingstown Road, South Kingston, RI 02881

Wednesday, October 7 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm

"Tree Identification"

Cranston Public Library

(401) 943-9080 or e-mail myzio@cranstonlibrary.org

140 Sockanosset Cross Road, Cranston

Tuesday, October 27 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm

"Forestry for the Birds"

Cranston Public Library

(401) 943-9080 or e-mail myzio@cranstonlibrary.org

140 Sockanosset Cross Road, Cranston

ecoRI
news

PROVIDENCE — [Latest News](#)



[Number of Climate Projects Seeking EC4 Funding Doubles](#)

It's the third year in a row the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council has allocated funds to different state agencies and institutions. A statewide climate education program, Wave Card incentives, and a state resiliency manager are just a few of the climate-and resiliency-minded projects getting funded at state agencies this year.

"They were all good projects, and as we deal within our agency budget, we don't have unlimited money but we do some really great things," said Terry Gray, director of the Department of Environmental Management and chair of the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4)...

[READ MORE](#)

Rhode Island News:

[DEM Serves Notice](#)

[Worker Protections for Heat Stress](#)

[Greenway Hope to Win Approval](#)

[Station Well PFA Contamination](#)





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



[Ocean Waters are Expanding](#)



[April Showers Bring Mayhem](#)



[New Mexico's Clean Energy](#)



[Museum Gets People Talking](#)



[11 Foods to Have on Hand for Emergencies](#)



[Restoring Coastal Sea Gardens](#)



Harvest Moon
26 September 2026



Hunter's Moon
26 October 2026



Beaver Moon
24 November 2026

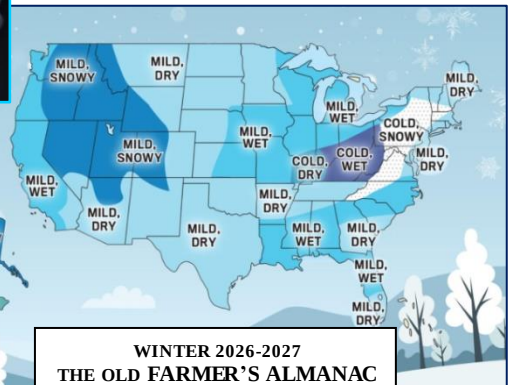
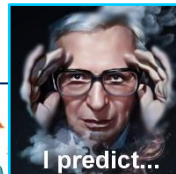
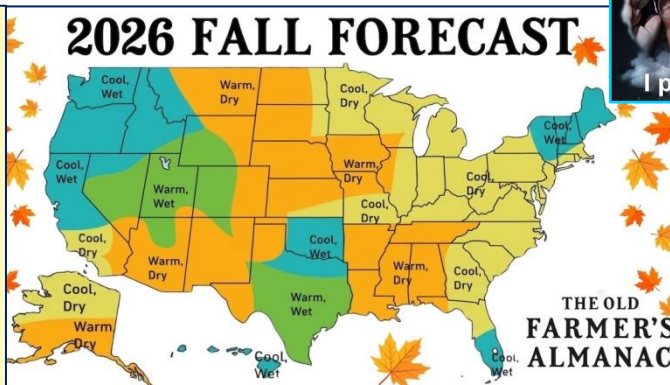
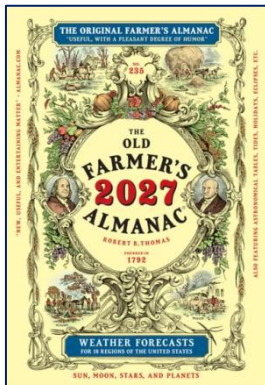


Cold Moon
23 December 2026

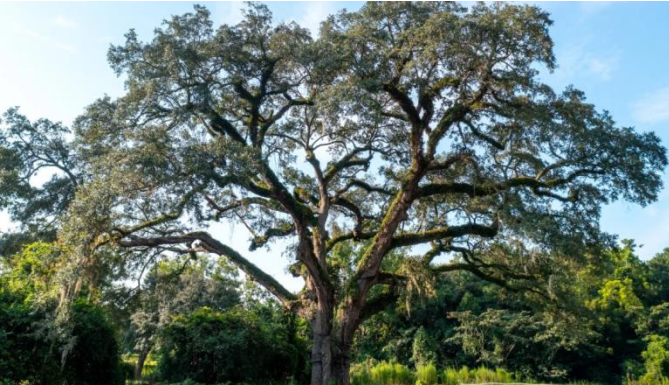


[Roger Williams Park Zoo Tickets](#)
October 1 to November 1

Weather Forecast for Fall and Winter? *It's anybody's Guess!*



POPULAR SCIENCE



Revolutionary “Witness Tree” Still Survives

This nearly 300-year-old tree was already nearing its semicentennial on September 8, 1781, when 2,000 British and 2,500 American troops met at the Battle of Eutaw Springs, South Carolina. The vicious combat was later remembered by colonial **Maj. Gen. Nathanael Greene** as *“by far, the hottest action I ever saw, and the most bloody for the numbers engaged.”* Ironically, the famous oak survived battle and lead balls only to be re-endangered by the conservation efforts applied after a lightning strike that happened only decades ago... [READ MORE](#)



Ethel and Gertrude Go to Maine

Two unusually colored lobsters have been spared from the dinner plate and are living at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI) in Portland. There they will be educating students. Ethel is a split-colored lobster, with a very autumnal orange and black hue, while Gertrude is a breathtaking blue... Shawn McEwen at Sea Salt Lobster Wholesale in nearby Saco, Maine contacted the team at the research center to see if they were interested in taking the lobsters... [READ MORE](#)



The Strange Behavior of Australian Whales

The Whitsundays is a region of islands between the Great Barrier Reef and Australia's north-eastern coast. In 2009, Australian tourism operators spotted more and more humpbacks floating upside down, holding their tails above the water. It was unusual behaviour, not seen before. Confused by the behavior, they reached out to scientists for help, but, at the time, not even the whale scientists knew what it meant. And that triggered a research effort that solved one of the biggest mysteries about humpback whales: The reason that whales “fluke.” [READ MORE](#)



Hibernation: Cues the Bears Use

While temperature primarily drives the black bears' hibernation timing, there is a more complicated dynamic between environmental signals. And shifting climate patterns could disturb this relationship. Climate change could pull apart the link between the amount of sunlight in a day and temperature, since daylight is constant and temperature isn't. Decouplings of this sort could change hibernation timing and trigger chain reactions within the ecosystem, in addition to bringing about more human-wildlife interactions... [READ MORE](#)

Check
out our
new



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rhode Island

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.



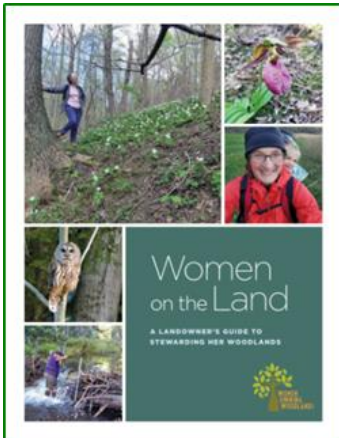
FEATURED

Ag Innovator's Guide

2026

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

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

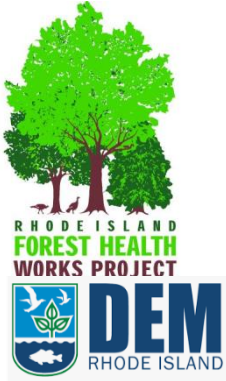


The health and vitality of our lands, waters, and communities support our way of life and economy in Rhode Island. The Rhode Island Division of Agriculture and Forest Environment works to sustain, promote, and enhance Rhode Island's agricultural viability and preserve, manage, and promote healthy forests 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

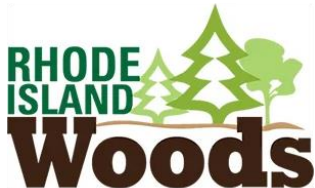
Helping to Safeguard Rhode Island's Woodlands



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](#)



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



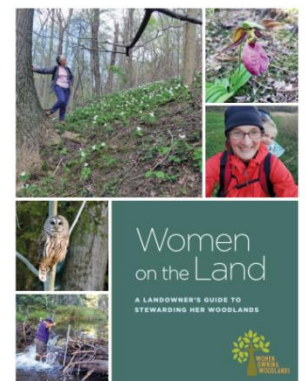
[American Forest Foundation Newsletter](#)

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

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**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