



Rhode Island Resource Conservation & Development Area Council, Inc.

Helping People Help the Land Since 1973

Newsletter of February 2024

EVERGREEN EVERMORE!

The Evergreens of Rhode Island
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27 AT 6:00 PM

**TO REGISTER FOR THIS ZOOM WEBINAR
CONTACT PAUL DOLAN**

E-Mail: rircd2283@gmail.com

Phone: 401-500-0399

Why do we have Leap Years?

29
FEBRUARY
HAPPY LEAP DAY

A year has 365 days. But, Earth orbits the Sun in 365.242190 days, or 365 days 5 hours 48 minutes and 56 seconds. This means that an extra 5 hours 48 minutes and 56 seconds needs to be accounted for, either that or 700 years from now northern summers will begin in December! But we have a fix for that—

Add a day every four years. But, simple math will show that adding a leap day every four years actually makes the calendar year longer by over 44 minutes. What do we do about the extra minutes? We skip a Leap Year. The rule is this: if the year is evenly divisible by 100 and not divisible by

400, don't leap. For instance, the years 1700, 1800, and 1900 were not leap years, but year 2000 was because $1900 / 400 = 52.14285714285714$ but; $2000 / 400 = 50$.

The next time a leap year will be skipped is the year 2100.

And why is it called "leap year? Well, a year is 52 weeks and 1 day, or 365 days. If your birthday is on Monday, then next year it will be on Tuesday— unless it's a Leap Year. Then your birthday "leaps over" Tuesday and happens on Wednesday...

And what if you are born on February 29? Well then, you can either celebrate your birthday once every four years, or you can celebrate on March 1 during non-leap years and grow old like the rest of us.



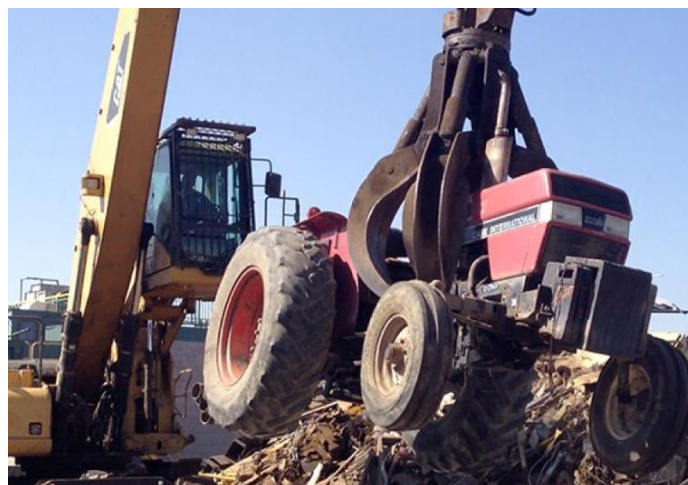
Natural Resources Conservation Service

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 — **EQIP APPLICATION DEADLINE 15 March 2024**

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](#).



Additional 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](#)
- 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. **EQIP Apply by 15 March 2024** [MORE INFO](#)

[A cash crop that never runs out](#)

Supplemental income from 50 wind turbines helps a fourth-generation family ranch stay viable.



This Slime Could Change the World

An ancient species of giant maize in Mexico can fix its own nitrogen...



The Year of the Dragon begins on February 10th. This year's dragon is a wood dragon...



"I'm seeing this wood Dragon year as a year of unlimited potential in terms of prosperity. Long-term, it could also be the year in which major conflict can be resolved, if people can focus on empathy," said Jonathan H. X. Lee, a professor of Chinese folklore and religion at San Francisco State University... "The Year of the Dragon could be lucky — but only if we're kind to one another." [READ MORE](#)

HAPPY 4721!

SAVE THESE DATES!

Details and Registration Information for All Events to follow soon!

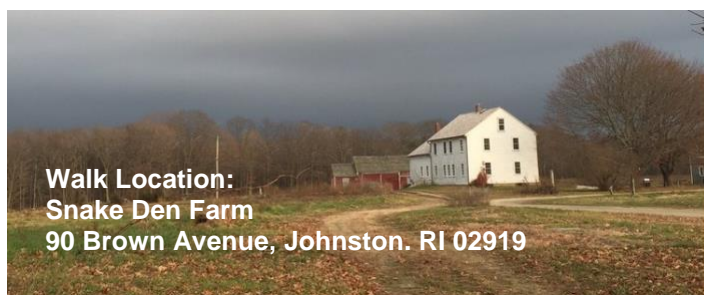


Zoom Webinar: Winter Tree ID

Wednesday, March 27

6:00 pm with Fern Graves

RI DEM Forest Stewardship Program Coordinator



Walk Location:
Snake Den Farm
90 Brown Avenue, Johnston, RI 02919

In Person: Winter Tree ID

Thursday, April, 24

from 10:00 am to Noon

A [Wild Plant Society First Thursday Botanizing Walk](#) lead by Paul Dolan



Walk Location:
Norman Bird Sanctuary
583 3rd Beach Road, Middletown, RI 02842

In Person: Forestry for the Birds

Wednesday, May 8

from 2:00 to 4:00 pm

(RAIN DATE: Wednesday, May 15, 2024)

Bird walk led by Jay Manning
Conservation Manager

Coming in June: **Coverts** all details TBA



RHODE ISLAND **Envirothon**

Developing Environmentally Aware Leaders of Tomorrow

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 each May in a one-day—

Battle of the Environmental Minds!

Working in teams, students use the skills and knowledge they have gained to solve real-world environmental problems.



Wheeler School Winners of the 2023 RI State Envirothon

The winning team goes on to compete in the National Envirothon held each summer.

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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ENVIROTHON CONTACT

VISIT THE RI
ENVIRONTHON
[WEBSITE](#)

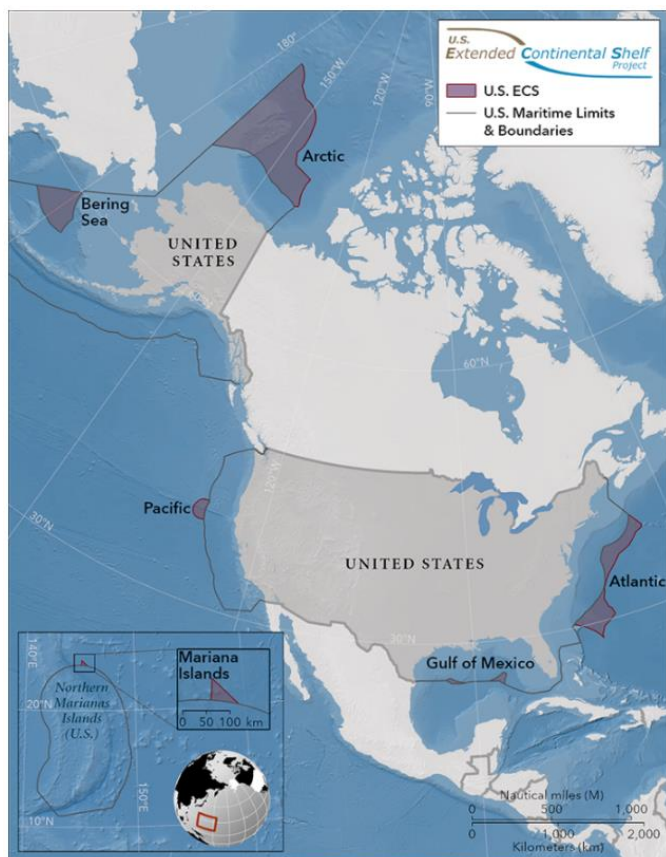
Paul Dolan
Call 401-500-0399
Email president@rienvirothon.org

WATCH THE
[ENVIROTHON](#)
[VIDEO](#)



[World's oldest wooden object soon to be on display in Czechia](#)

A 7,000-year-old well found in Czechia's Pardubice region six years ago will soon be on display as part of an archaeological exhibition at the Museum of East Bohemia. The wooden well, which has been in the care of restorers for the last few years, is, according to analyses, the oldest wooden man-made object in the world. [READ MORE](#)



Purple areas show the regions the U.S. is claiming as its extended continental shelf. (U.S. State Department)

[America is larger now, by declaration of State Department](#)

December 20, 2023

Tuesday, the United States grew by a million square kilometers—the equivalent of nearly 60% of Alaska's land mass. The State Department enlarged the country's geography, citing international law, by defining how far under the sea the continental shelf extends. The new additions are spread across seven areas of ocean, and more than half of the claim is in the Arctic. *"America is larger than it was yesterday,"* said Mead Treadwell, a former Alaska lieutenant governor and former chair of the U.S. Arctic Research Commission. *"It's not quite the Louisiana Purchase. It's not quite the purchase of Alaska, but the new area of land and subsurface resources under the land controlled by the United States is two Californias larger."*

[READ MORE](#)



[Liquefied Natural Gas 101](#)

What is it? Why is it?

And what does it mean for the climate?

Decades ago, the fossil fuel industry figured out how to transport gas by ocean liner, in its quest to open markets beyond the domestic U.S. pipeline network. Its trick—liquefying natural gas—was a boon for energy companies, but it's been bad for the rest of us...The energy required to chill, ship, and regasify the fossil fuel makes it far more carbon-intensive and increases the potential for leakage of dangerous methane. In addition, locking in this fossil fuel for the coming decades, through massive, long-term infrastructure projects, could make it impossible to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius...[READ MORE](#)



[UC San Diego Is Now a Bee Campus](#)

What does a Bee Campus USA designation mean?

The goal of the Bee Campus USA program, along with the Bee City USA initiative that the City of San Diego is working on, is to support all types of pollinators, including birds, bats, bees—and multiple insect pollinators including butterflies and moths—by preserving our regional biodiversity and increasing ecosystem resilience. The program was created by a prominent national group, the Xerces Society, which focuses on invertebrate conservation, and rests on several pillars.



[Cicadapocalypse Returns to the US with First Double Brood Emergence in 221 Years](#)

2024's Apocalypse Bingo Card can put a big fat cross through "insect invasion" as two mega-broods of cicadas are about to synchronize their uprising in America for the first time in 221 years. How can we know that? Because these peculiar insects have a passion for prime numbers...

[READ MORE](#)



[Common Sense? There May Not Be Anything Common About It](#)

"Ugh, nobody has any common sense these days!" We've probably all said it at one time or another, even though common sense is supposed to be this universal ability to know and understand something. A new study, however, suggests that there's nothing universal about it at all—our sense of common sense may actually be less collective and more about personal perspective... Mark Whiting and Duncan Watts from the University of Pennsylvania sought to determine what people believe to be common sense and to what degree this is, well, common... [READ MORE](#).



Watch the 2024 Doomsday Clock announcement

[Hermit crabs are 'wearing' our plastic rubbish](#)



Have you ever wondered about...

Lighting Then VS Now
[Fire Before Electricity](#)



How to Start a Fire
[No Matches, No Lighter](#)



Comfort Food Origins
[Mac and Cheese](#)



Colonial Food
[A Cheese Burger for Ben Franklin?](#)

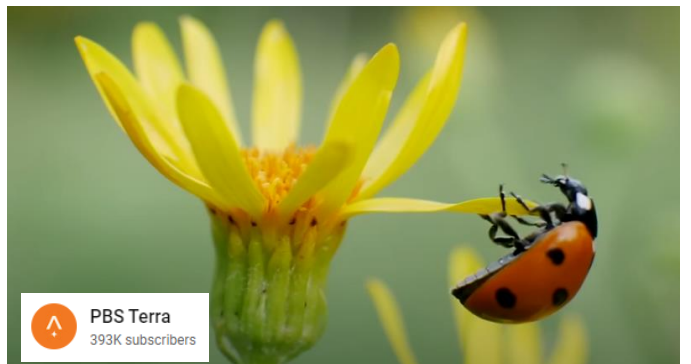


[Millennia-old mystery about insects and light at night gets new explanation](#)

For millions of years, insects have evolved to become masters of flight by relying on the brightest thing they see — the sky. Today, the lit-up world throws their instincts for a loop. *Insects think the imposter “sky” they find is the real one and...* [READ MORE](#)

[The Secrets Ladybugs Keep](#)

Ladybugs aren't just cute nursery rhyme stars. Beneath the charming spots and vibrant colors lie... [WATCH](#).



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393K subscribers

RHODE ISLAND RESOURCES FOR WOODLOT OWNERS



**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

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.



RHODE ISLAND WOODS

Your online resource for RI woodlots information

What is Woodscaping?

Woodscaping is a term for active management of small woodland parcels (in Rhode Island a small woodland parcel is considered to be less than 10 acres) in suburban and rural areas where more and more people are living. It is land stewardship that is done in a way that respects ecological values at the same time that it meets landowner goals such as creating a walking or skiing path, watching birds, enjoying privacy, cutting firewood or timber, making maple syrup, or other activities.

Why Care About Protecting Small Tracts of Rhode Island Forestland?

Small acreage forest ownerships are on the rise. The pattern of small forest and meadow ownership magnifies pressure on public water supply, wildlife habitat and wood supply. Wise stewardship depends on the many people that own and care for their property. And existing stewardship programs are aimed at larger woodland tracts, but not smaller ones.

RIW [Woodscaping TOC](#) (Table of Contents)
has links to **Fact Sheets and Resources**

TO HELP WOODLAND OWNERS BECOME GOOD STEWARDS OF THEIR LAND.

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



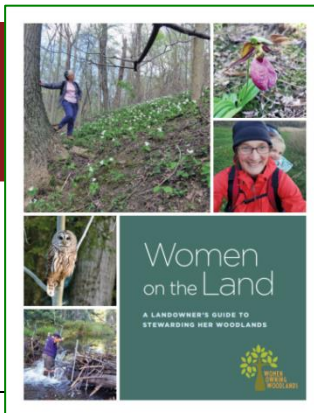
[American Forest Foundation Newsletter](#)

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.



RIRCD.ORG

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