



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

*Helping People Help the Land Since 1973*



## Newsletter of April 2024

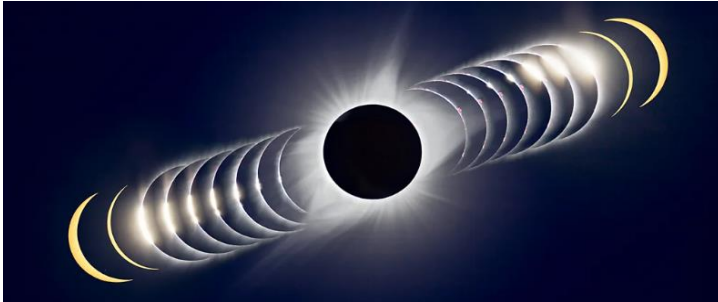
**April 22 is Earth Day! See page 2**

### Total Eclipse

Monday, 8 April 2024

### Arbor Day Rhode Island

Friday, 26 April 2024



On this day, the Moon's shadow will arc across the Pacific and North America, ending at sunset not far from Spain. In a deep partial eclipse, the sky will cool and sunlight will take on an eerie quality. We encourage you get inside the path of totality! You can only see the corona when eclipse totality is at 100%...

[READ MORE.](#)

**Rhode Island** will celebrate on Friday, April 26, 2024, at the **Joseph Ventetuolo Recreational Complex, Brayton Avenue, Cranston, RI** (aka: Brayton Avenue Park). **The celebration will start at 11AM** with welcoming remarks by Cranston's Mayor Ken Hopkins and The Honorable Jack Reed, United States Senator. The official Rhode Island Arbor Day Proclamation will be read by the Honorable Dan McKee, Governor of Rhode Island...Other activities will follow...[READ MORE](#)

## AN IN-PERSON WALK

# FORESTRY FOR THE BIRDS

## Wednesday, 8 May 2024

### 2:00 to 4:00 PM

## Norman Bird Sanctuary

583 3rd Beach Road, Middletown, RI 02842

Presentation by Paul Dolan, RI RC&D Director

Walk led by Jay Manning, NBS Conservation Manager



This RI RC&D program is presented in partnership with the Norman Bird Sanctuary

**REGISTER** through [NORMAN BIRD SANCTUARY](#)

<https://normanbirdsantuary.org/events/forestry-for-the-birds-workshop/>

QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT PAUL DOLAN 401-500-0399 [rircd2283@gmail.com](mailto:rircd2283@gmail.com)





# EARTH DAY 2024

APRIL 22



This year's theme is **Planet vs. Plastics** calling for widespread awareness on the health risk of plastics and plastic pollution.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
Department of Environmental Management

Celebrate the Earth!

April 22, 2024  
Earth Day





# 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 —

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](#).



### Other 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](#)

## WATCH...



LONG A MAGICAL AND MYSTERIOUS PHENOMENA WOVEN DEEPLY INTO MYTH AND LEGEND, THE NORTHERN LIGHTS ARE ABOUT TO GET EVEN MORE MAGICAL... [WATCH](#)

THE INDIAN TOWN OF SOHRA REGULARLY RECEIVES CONTINUOUS DOWNPOURS, SOMETIMES FOR EIGHT DAYS STRAIGHT. BUT TODAY, LOCALS FACE A SEVERE WATER SHORTAGE...[WATCH](#)



## SAVE THESE DATES!

Details and Registration Information for All Events to follow soon!



### In Person: Ecosystem Gardening with RI Native Plants

Monday, June 24

from 6:30 to 7:30 pm

Includes a guided tour of the Community Garden **after** the workshop.

Program presented by Karen Asher

Master Gardener and Native Plant Specialist

This program is presented in collaboration with the North Scituate Public Library.

Register through N. Scituate Library by phone 401-647-5133 or email [leah@scituatelibrary.org](mailto:leah@scituatelibrary.org)



### Zoom Webinar

With Robert Thorson, author of "Stone by Stone"

Monday, August 26

from 6:00 to 7:30 pm

Registration information TBA



### In Person: Tree ID Walk

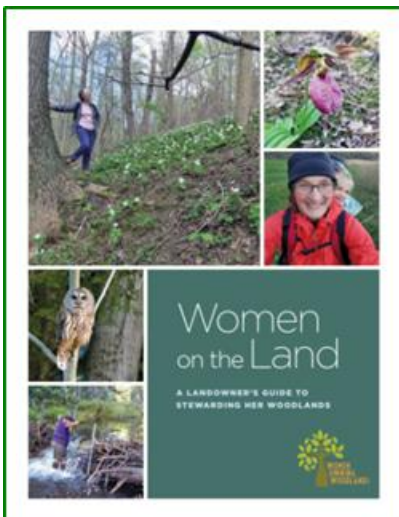
Monday, September 23

from 5:00 to 6:00 pm

To REGISTER, please contact PAUL DOLAN

Phone 401-500-0399 / e-Mail [rircd2283@gmail.com](mailto:rircd2283@gmail.com)

## 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. 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](#).

Or, to get a printed copy of this useful guide, please contact Paul Dolan by E-Mail: [rircd2283@gmail.com](mailto:rircd2283@gmail.com) or Phone: 401-500-0399





# 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!**

**Please plan to join us to watch this epic battle on  
Tuesday, May 21, 2024 from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm  
at Camp Hoffman in South Kingstown, RI**

2850 Ministerial Rd, South Kingstown, RI 02879

**Be there to see which Rhode Island team will go on to compete in the  
2024 National Envirothon Competition in Geneva, New York!**

**Rhode Island Envirothon Team Champion 2023— Wheeler School!**



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  
ENVIROTHON  
[WEBSITE](#)

**Paul Dolan**  
Call 401-500-0399  
Email [president@rienvirothon.org](mailto:president@rienvirothon.org)

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



### [You can't hear it, but this sound can reveal that a tornado is on its way](#)

It begins with the rustling of leaves, sinister squeak of hinges and the creak of nearby trees. Then comes a deafening rumble like an approaching freight train... unpredictable thuds from flying debris. These are the sounds often described by tornado survivors recounting their escape from these storms...There's another sound, however, that accompanies tornadoes that we can't hear. It is so low in frequency it is beyond the realms of human hearing, but it could offer a way of providing earlier, more accurate warnings of these destructive storms. [READ MORE](#)



### [The Most Dangerous Plant in Britain](#)

We are meant to be planting trees, little whips we've carried out in buckets and wheelbarrows, but our leader has stopped to tell us about weeds instead. "Here is the difference." Jonny reaches his gloved hand towards a leaf the size of his head. "This one is okay to touch. That's the native plant. See how its leaves are more rounded?" He points towards a larger specimen, its leaves jutting out into sharp, toothy points. A line of neon spray paint has been daubed across it. "This one . . . just never, ever touch it."

[READ MORE](#)



### [The Nuances of the 'Anthropause' Created by the COVID Pandemic](#)

In the early days of the pandemic, the Internet was rife with tales of nature reclaiming the world as humans were confined to their homes. Pumas took to the streets of downtown Santiago, Chile. Dolphins reappeared along the Italian coast. Jackals roamed city parks in Tel Aviv, Israel.

But it turns out this quieting of the human presence on the planet—the "anthropause" as scientists called it—didn't just turn into a coming-out party for wildlife. Different types of animals reacted very differently... [READ MORE](#)

### **Extreme weather is getting worse due to the world's changing climate— and it is taking a toll on our roads.**



Dire weather events are not the only way global warming is wreaking havoc worldwide. Climate change is also creating a pothole plague. In 2023, in the United States, about 44 million drivers reported damage to their vehicles from potholes in 2022, which was a massive 57% increase over 2021, according to AAA. And in the United Kingdom, there were nearly 630,000 reports of potholes, which marked a five-year high.

Among the intriguing innovations emerging is the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and robots to address transportation infrastructure problems, including potholes... [READ MORE](#)



## WATCH...



THE TAURUS: A PREHISTORIC BOVINE BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE... [WATCH](#)

HOW TUMBLEWEED BECAME AN INVASIVE SPECIES IN THE US [WATCH](#)



[Rhode Island Ceases Organic Farming Certification Program](#)

The reason for killing the program? DEM no longer has the staffing or funding to maintain the certification program in line with federal standards. Department spokesperson Evan LaCross told ecoRI News that, at minimum, the USDA requires programs to have two full-time staff for certification, and recommends three, due to the workload of certification... [READ MORE](#)



[Mussel Flex Keeps Freshwater Ecosystems Healthy](#)

North America contains a high proportion of the world's freshwater mussels, but "several mussel extinctions have already occurred and many other species are imperiled.... Corey Pelletier of the RI Department of Environmental Management stationed at the Great Swamp Management Area, said those eight species remain in Rhode Island, but he noted "there are certain species that... are at higher risk of extirpation." In fact, six of the state's freshwater mussel species are species of greatest conservation need... [READMORE](#)

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

## Rhode Island Forest Conservators Organization

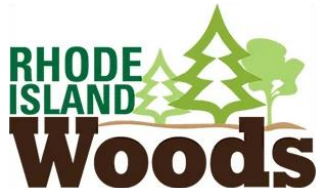
*Helping to Safeguard Rhode Island's Woodlands*



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)



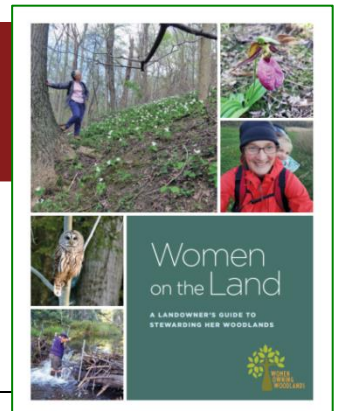
### [American Forest Foundation Newsletter](#)

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.



[RIRCD.ORG](http://RIRCD.ORG)



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[rircd2283@gmail.com](mailto:rircd2283@gmail.com)

**Jo-Anne Pacheco, Coordinator**  
*WOW (Women Owning Woodlands) Project*  
[Jo-Anne@rifarmenergy.org](mailto:Jo-Anne@rifarmenergy.org)

**Phone: 401-500-0399**

**RI RC&D Mailing Address:**  
2283 Hartford Avenue  
Johnston, RI 02919

#### In Memoriam



**Beverly Migliore**  
18 March 2024  
Secretary of RI RC&D



**Rhode Island Association  
of Conservation Districts**

*Helping Rhode Island Conservation Districts Help Rhode Island*

**conserving  
natural resources**  
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