



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

*Helping People Help the Land Since 1973*

## Newsletter of August 2025

### ZOOM WORKSHOP

Rhode Island's climate is changing. The state has warmed about 3°F since the year 1900.

PLEASE JOIN US ON

**Tuesday, August 12**

**6:00 to 7:30 PM WITH Danielle Shannon**

Coordinator, USDA Northern Forests Climate Hub,  
staff at Michigan Technological University and the Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science,  
**SPEAKING ON**

*"Impacts of a Changing Climate on  
the Ecosystems of Rhode Island's Forests"*

**FOLLOWED BY Q&A**

**TO REGISTER, PLEASE CONTACT**

**Paul Dolan, RI RC&D Director**

**Phone 401-500-0399 or email [rircd2283@gmail.com](mailto:rircd2283@gmail.com)**

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



AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

## In-Person Presentation

### *"Bird Migration in RI and Native Food Sources"*



**Presented by**

**Lauren Parmelee**

Senior Director of Education Programs, Audubon RI

**Wednesday, 10 September**

**6:00 to 7:30 PM**

(one hour presentation with 30 minute Q&A)

**Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium  
1401 Hope Street, Bristol, RI 02809**

To Register contact Paul Dolan, RI RC&D Director  
**401-500-0399 or email [rircd2283@gmail.com](mailto:rircd2283@gmail.com)**





**PROVIDENCE** — [Latest News](#)

The recently passed Federal tax bill, does nothing to address the climate crisis or protect the natural world. By phasing out tax incentives that were intended to spur investment in wind and solar power, battery storage, electric vehicles, and other low-emissions technology, it fails to do anything to promote efforts to mitigate or prevent climate change... [READ MORE](#)

**Rhode Island News:**



[Clean Heat Incentives](#)



[Seawall Repair Deadline Extended](#)



[Coral Reef Food Webs Vulnerable](#)



[Earth Just Had a Freakishly Short Day—](#)  
but the fastest day of the year is yet to come!

July 9 was unusually short thanks to changes in how fast the Earth is spinning. But two other days this summer are expected to be even shorter... Earth is spinning unusually fast this summer, thanks to changes in the position of the moon. July 9 was predicted to have been an unusually short day of 1.3 milliseconds less than average, as the Earth spun faster on its axis. July 22 also lost 1.38 milliseconds; but **August 5, 2025** is expected to lose 1.52 milliseconds. Why are some days getting shorter this summer, and how will it affect us? [READ MORE](#)



[Peatland Suddenly Stops Being Carbon Neutral](#)

Peatlands cover just a fraction of Earth's surface, but they play a crucial role in the carbon cycle. In Peru, they cover less than 5% of the country's total area, but they store about 5 gigatons of carbon belowground— roughly equivalent to all of the carbon stored aboveground in vegetation in Peru. According to a new study, a palm swamp peatland in the Peruvian Amazon that normally absorbed more carbon than it released each year, suddenly in 1922, switched to being carbon neutral.... These findings may seem like a sign of trouble; however, experts say there's more to the story... [READ MORE](#)



[Could World Rainfall Patterns Shift?](#)

A new study, published May 2025 in the journal Earth's Future, studied what would happen should global temperatures swell to 2.7 F (1.5 C), even for just a few decades. Such an increase could have a permanent impact on the ITCZ, the intertropical convergence zone, a region near the equator where trade winds from the northern and southern hemispheres meet... According to the research, higher global temperatures could shift the ITCZ and 2 billion people could face chaotic and 'irreversible' shift in rainfall patterns... *"These impacts that we quantify here will be there for the long term,"* said lead author Norman Steinert, senior climate researcher at the Center for International Climate Research in Norway... [READ MORE](#).



[YOUR MONTHLY DOSE OF GOOD NEWS](#)



[SAM BENTLEY'S GOOD NEWS FOR JULY 2025](#)



[10 ANCIENT FARMING TECHNIQUES THAT STILL WORK](#)



[10 COMMON WEEDS THAT ARE SUPERFOODS](#)



[10 VEGETABLES NEARLY LOST FOREVER](#)



[10 INVASIVE PLANTS YOU CAN EAT](#)



[CRAZY FRUITS YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF](#)



**BEWARE!** [PLANTS BANNED SINCE THE 1950s](#)







- [How to Spot Symptoms of Heat Exhaustion](#)
- [How to Make an Evacuation Plan](#)
- [Climate Change 101](#)
- [Yale Climate Connections Podcast](#)

## Inside Climate News

- [As Consumer Tax Credits Vanish, What Do You Need to Know?](#)
- [Clean Energy Project Cancellations Top \\$14 Billion So Far in 2025](#)

Businesses have pulled the plug on big projects, but plenty remain in the pipeline, awaiting a Congressional decision on tax credits. And at least \$4.2 billion in new renewable energy, grid, electric vehicle, and battery projects were announced from January through April.



### [A South Bronx Park is a Hive of Activity](#)— both for Bees and for New Yorkers Training for Green Jobs

A concrete plant reimagined as a garden along the Bronx River offers training for workers to meet NYC's promise of more green jobs. The Training Green Stewards curriculum is a blend of classroom learning and hands-on, in-the-field work. Participants study basic horticulture, learn to identify some native plants and gain some skill in different green infrastructure techniques, including rainwater harvesting and green roofing.

The Bronx River Alliance, which works closely with the city's Department of Parks and Recreation and HOPE, hosts a range of activities including a pollinator scavenger hunt that encourages visitors to wander and observe how pollen moves on the wings of insects from one flower or plant to another.... [READ MORE](#)



### [Santa Feels the Heat](#)

*"Make sure the reindeer have plenty of water— and don't forget to drink a glass every hour too,"* Santa reminds his team of elves as Lapland swelters in a record heatwave.

It's not every day that Father Christmas finds himself briefing about the hazards of sunstroke inside the Arctic Circle at Santa Claus village, but, this summer, northern Finland has seen temperatures hover around 30C (86 F) for days on end.... On July 25 2025 the Finnish Meteorological Institute said that a temperature of 30C was measured somewhere in Finland for the 14th day in a row— the first time since records began in 1961. [READ MORE](#)



### [Kew Opens Garden Focused on Supporting the Planet](#)

A new garden opened this July. It features 6,500 new plants and 35 trees, and shows not only how carbon helps to sustain life on Earth, but also illustrates the scale of the climate crisis and how nature can be used to combat it.

The Carbon Garden aims to inspire visitors to take actions in their everyday lives to support the planet and educate them about how plants and fungi act as "natural allies in climate repair" by capturing carbon and restoring balance.... [READ MORE](#)



Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

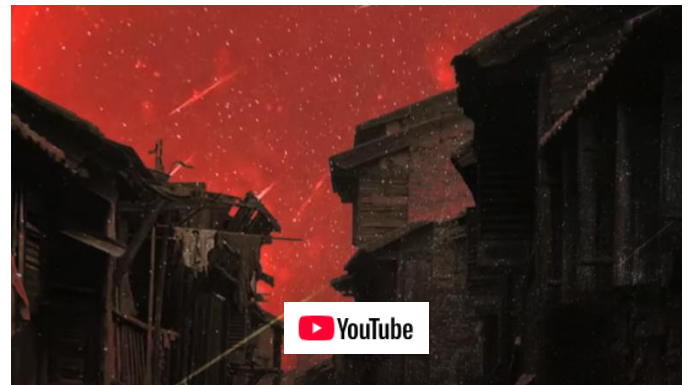
[WATCH](#) [Frö: Saving Plant Species Beyond the Arctic Circle](#)



[WHY NO ONE CAN SEE STARS ANYMORE](#)



[THE METEOR SHOWER THAT KILLED 10,000](#)



[WHY THE SAHARA "GREENS" EVERY 21,000 YEARS](#)



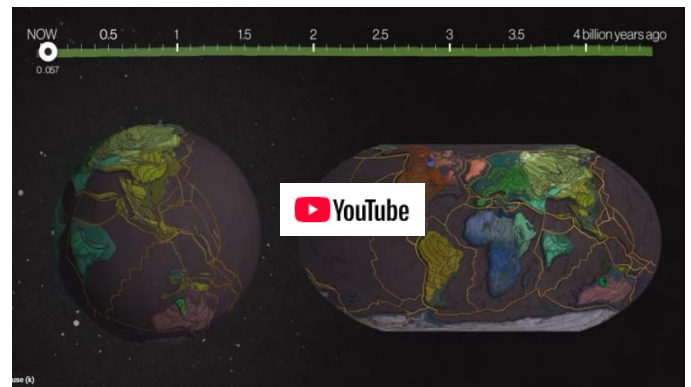
[THE OCEAN'S FREAKIEST LITTLE WEIRDOS](#)



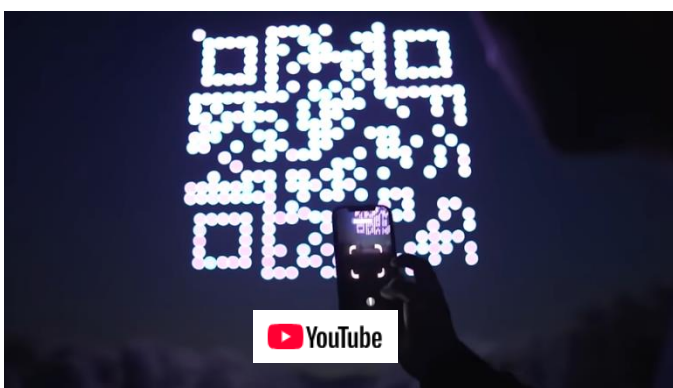
[WHY BEES DIE AFTER STINGING AND OTHER FACTS](#)



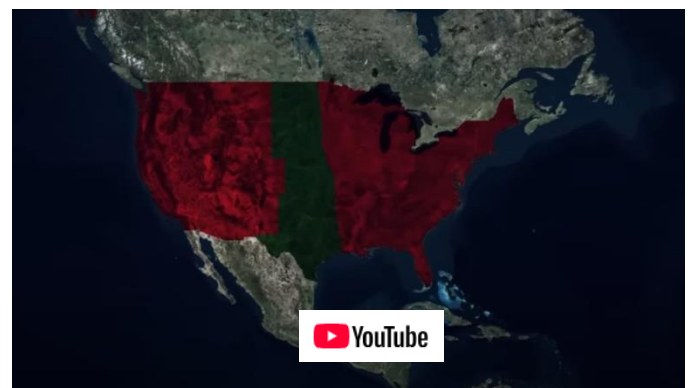
[4 BILLION YEARS OF TECTONIC PLATES IN 17 MINUTES](#)



[MORSE CODE > USP CODE > QR CODE > ? CODE](#)



[THE US FOREST BETWEEN CANADA AND TEXAS](#)





# Natural Resources Conservation Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

[CLICK HERE](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news)

Get all the latest news from NRCS  
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news>

In 2025, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Rhode Island will provide more funding than ever before to help farmers and forest managers adopt conservation practices. This includes funding for climate-smart practices, water quality initiatives, and a faster application process.

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](#).



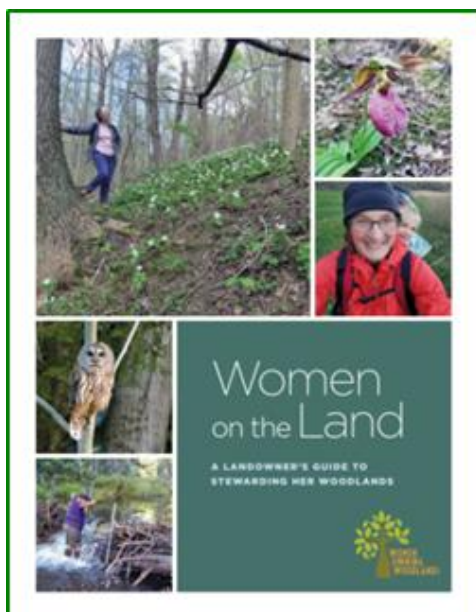
Producers and land managers are experiencing firsthand the impacts of climate change, which is caused by the build-up of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. With support from NRCS, farmers, ranchers and forest landowners across the nation's working lands can contribute to climate solutions. [MORE INFO](#)

**2025 Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding:** Up to \$5.7 billion for [Climate-Smart](#) practices will help farmers and forest landowners improve their operations' resiliency and productivity. Water quality initiatives will help address water quality concerns in the Sakonnet River and Tomaquag Brook-Pawcatuck River watersheds.

The **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)** provides financial and technical assistance to Rhode Island farmers, forest landowners, oyster growers, ranchers, and urban growers to address natural resource concerns in the Ocean State.

For more information: Call NRCS Field Office: (401) 822-8848 or your local Conservation District Office to apply.

## 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](#).

Or, to get a printed copy of this useful guide,  
 please contact Paul Dolan

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





## 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.

**Acting State Conservationist (2025) is Brunilda Velez Diaz 401-822-1820**

If you're a farmer or forestland owner looking for help, please contact your local NRCS District Conservationist—

- Eastern RI Field Office (Kat Zuromski, Acting DC): 401-786-1389
- Northern RI Field Office (Ghyllian Alger, Acting DC): 401-255-6210
- Southern RI Field Office (Jameson Long, DC): 401-793-0230
- 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.

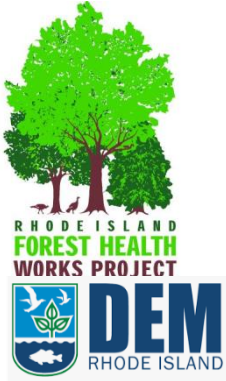
### RI DEM PROGRAMS INCLUDE

[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](mailto:askusda@usda.gov)

## Rhode Island Forest Conservators Organization

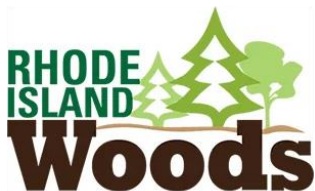
*Helping to Safeguard Rhode Island's Woodlands*



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](#)





## 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)



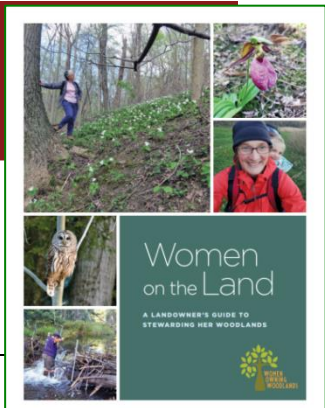
### [American Forest Foundation Newsletter](#)

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.



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**Jo-Anne Pacheco, Coordinator**

**WOW (Women Owning Woodlands) Project**

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

**Phone: 401-500-0399**

**RI RC&D Mailing Address:**

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**Rhode Island USDA NRCS Outreach & Public Affairs — Julie Wright: 401-786-3884**