




Rhode Island Resource Conservation & Development Area Council, Inc.

Helping People Help the Land Since 1973

Newsletter of February 2023

March is
Women's History Month

 International Women's Day

is March 8



Women in Agriculture

Women have been a critical part of farm and ranch operations across the country — and around the globe — for centuries. But now, as women in agriculture, we have a unique opportunity to be the change we want to see in our industry. We must build on the incredible legacy of stewardship, innovation, and productivity and help one another succeed now and moving into the future.

Whether it is a farm business that feeds the world, land that you leave better than you found it, or a relationship that empowers and supports your community, industry, and neighbors — there are many ways to build and grow your contribution to agriculture. The time is now for each of us to step up to the plate and take on these challenges.

PLEASE PLAN TO JOIN US FOR THE

2023 Rhode Island Women in Agriculture Conference

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Crown Plaza Hotel, Warwick, RI
801 Greenwich Avenue, Warwick, RI 02886**

Keynote Speaker

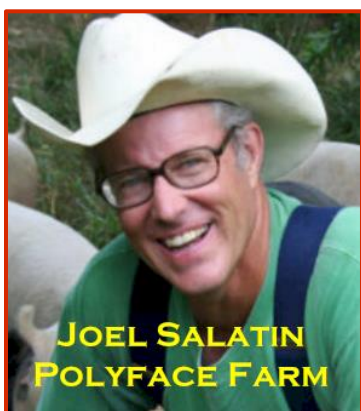
Joel Salatin, Polyface Farm, Virginia

BUY YOUR TICKET

Questions, Please Contact Kim Coulter

Phone: 401-932-6459

Email: olvr1855dsl@aol.com





WOMEN OWNING WOODLANDS

Coming in March

MARCH IS
**WOMEN'S
HISTORY
MONTH**

Fundamentals of Chainsaw Safety

Virtual Q & A Zoom Webinar

Wednesday, 22 March 2023

5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

You are Invited!

What you need to do to be ready to attend—

1. Register for the Webinar with RI RC&D (below)
2. Watch Part I and Part II Videos (links to the left)
3. As you watch, write down your questions

Joining us in our Zoom webinar to answer your questions are—

tish carr

Owner of tish carr Consulting, LLC

Tish is a licensed forester and licensed arborist, and has spent over 35 years in community forestry and arboriculture. She is the Executive Director for the Wabanaki Youth in Science (WaYS) program in Maine.

Amanda Mahaffey

Deputy Director, Forest Stewards Guild, Northeast office, Maine

Amanda is a licensed forester and she has been working closely with tish developing programs for women. From her base in Maine, Amanda supports the national Women Owning Woodlands network.

When you watch the videos, you will see both **Amanda** and **tish** who were part of the FSG team that produced the videos



Watch BOTH videos from the Forest Stewards Guild



Women's Chainsaw Safety Fundamentals
Part I and Part II

These videos ARE NOT A SUBSTITUTE for in-person hands-on training and instruction.

The videos are intended to provide BASIC INFORMATION while creating a safe and welcoming learning environment for women who are new to chainsaws.

To Register for this Zoom Q & A Webinar

Contact Paul Dolan, RI RC&D
401-500-0399 or email rircd2283@gmail.com

This Zoom session is RI RC&D presentation with the support of USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service and in collaboration with Forest Stewards Guild.

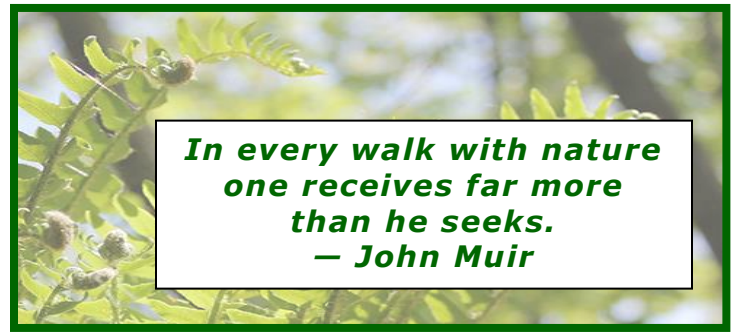


Let's go for a walk...

March



Blackstone River Valley
National Heritage Corridor



*In every walk with nature
one receives far more
than he seeks.
— John Muir*

Bark, Branches, and Buds –

Winter Tree and Shrub Identification Walk

Saturday, March 25 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

[Blackstone River State Park](#), 1075 Lower River Road, Lincoln, 02865

Have you ever wondered how to identify a tree in the winter? Come join us as Brian Maynard, URI Professor of Botany, shows us how to identify trees and shrubs without their leaves. During this program, you will learn the basics of identification using what is visible in late winter. **Please Note:** This program will be approximately 1 mile of walking on a flat even path. No public restrooms will be available at this program. **RSVP here:** [Bark Branches Buds Walk](#).

April



This spring, the [Rhode Island Wild Plant Society](#) will be resuming

First Thursday Botanizing Walks

RIWPS Walks are usually on easy to moderate terrain, and about two hours long. Beginners to experts are welcome to join in to explore plants and their habitats. All are invited to come learn and share knowledge about plants. Each month a different expert guide will lead participants on a plant adventure.

The first Botanizing Walk of 2023 will be held on Thursday, April 6, 2023 at 10 am at Goddard Park, located at 1095 Ives Road, in Warwick, Rhode Island. The walk will be about 1.3 miles over easy terrain. **Today's expert guide will be Paul Dolan**, Retired State Deputy Forester and member of the Executive Board for the RIWPS. The program will be held, **rain or shine**, and we will meet in the parking lot down by the beach all the way over by the stand of trees.

Please Note:

Starting in 2023 [registration will be required](#) for these walks. Although, the walks are held "rain or shine;" should there be a cancellation, e.g., **very** bad weather, RIWPS will post the cancellation on the event page of the walk.

Climate Change: Reasons for Hope



Reasons to be hopeful:

Six stunning environmental wins in 2022

Temperatures soared, hurricanes roared. It was easy to feel like we were losing the climate battle in 2022. But 2022 also saw some significant wins for the environment. Looking back on the year that was, let the good news springboard you into the year to come. [READ MORE](#)



Deal on new law to ensure products causing deforestation are not sold in the EU

Press Releases 06-December-2022-

From 1990 to 2020 an area larger than the EU was lost to deforestation. To fight climate change and biodiversity loss, the new law obliges companies to ensure that a series of products sold in the EU do not come from deforested land anywhere in the world. Those goods include palm oil, cattle, soy, coffee, cocoa, timber, rubber and their derivatives. (Think: beef, paper and chocolate.) [READ MORE](#)



Ten Reasons to Be Hopeful about Climate Action

Advocating for climate action can be discouraging and demoralizing. Grief, fear and injustice are woven into the harsh reality of a changing climate. It's real, and we're not here to dismiss it with toxic positivity.

But there are good reasons to hope that we can increase Canada's climate ambition and get on track to doing our fair share in the global effort to prevent climate catastrophe. [READ MORE](#)



Climate Crisis: 4 Reasons for Hope in 2023

BY JONATHAN OVERPECK, PH.D — 01/04/23

"... More than ever, people in the United States and globally are listening to science and taking action to stop climate change.... In the coming years, we will create a clean energy world in which both people and planet thrive. What can we all do to make this happen? Talk about climate change in your own communities, support climate action initiatives with your time and resources, work to elect political leaders who will lead on clean energy, and most importantly: Don't lose hope." [READ MORE](#)



In East Asia Pacific, There's Plenty of Hope in the Climate Fight

DECEMBER 20, 2022

Climate change is already having a profound impact on East Asia and the Pacific. This is a region that includes 13 of the 30 most climate-vulnerable countries on the planet, and which without concerted action could see millions more people fall into poverty due to climate impacts in the next few years.

In the face of such facts, it can be tough not to feel exhausted or a sense of despair. 'Climate anxiety' is very real. Yet, there are plenty of reasons for hope, for optimism

Here are five of them. [READ MORE](#)



[The Biggest Fossil Flower Ever Found In Amber Has a New Name](#)

The specimen is the largest-known fossilized flower found preserved in amber, with petals stretching across 28 millimeters (1.1 inches) making it three times the size of existing recorded specimens. It's believed to have blossomed some time around 38 to 33.9 million years ago in the Baltic forests of northern Europe. [READ MORE](#)



[Great Salt Lake Could Disappear Within Five Years](#)

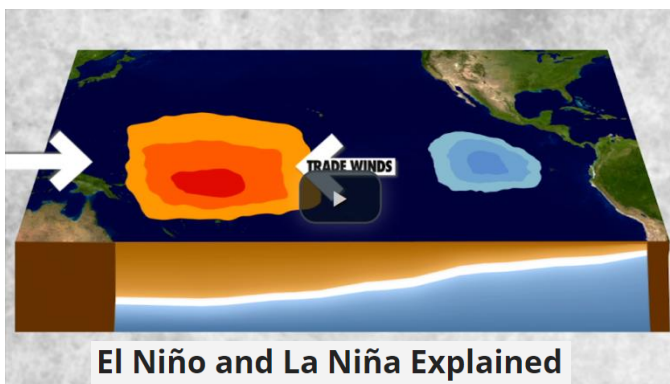
In 2022, the lake dropped to its lowest ever level, and the researchers now estimate that an additional million acre-feet per year are required to refill the lake.

"We are in an all-hands-on-deck emergency, and we need farmers, counties, cities, businesses, churches, universities, and other organizations to do everything in their power to reduce outdoor water use," write the researchers. [READ MORE](#)



[Why Greenland's Vikings May Have Vanished](#)

For more than 450 years, Norse settlers from Scandinavia lived in southern Greenland. Then, they suddenly vanished. Their mysterious disappearance in the 14th century has been linked to everything from plummeting temperatures and poor land management to plague and pirate raids... Now, researchers have discovered an additional factor that might have helped seal the settlers' fate: drought... [READ MORE](#)



We hear a lot about El Niño and La Niña. What are they? Together, they are part of a cycle that influences extreme weather and can impact food production, water supply and even human health not just in the US, but in many parts of the globe. Here are two videos that explain what they are all about from



OCEAN TODAY
Watch. Explore. Discover.



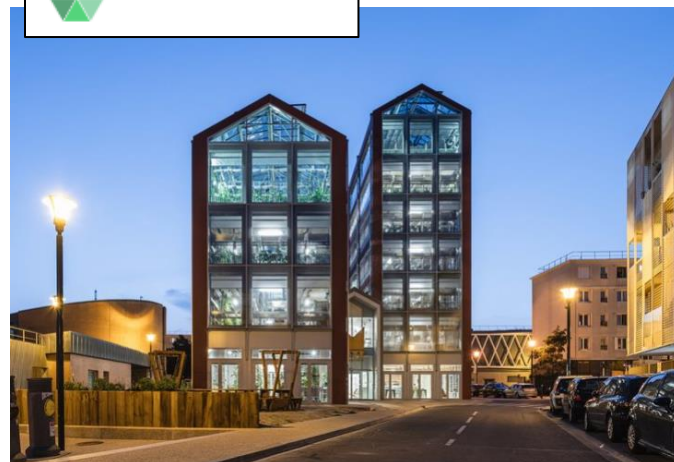
[Wind Power at the Core of Ukraine's Post-War Recovery](#)

There is a broad consensus that Ukraine will continue to be an attractive country for green energy investors. Before Russia's military invasion at the beginning of the year, Ukraine was confidently moving on a path of green transition to catch up with global trends... by the beginning of 2022, Ukraine's total renewables capacity reached 9.5 gigawatts (GW) and investment in green energy was estimated to be around 12 billion US dollars. [READ MORE](#)



[Agrivoltaic Solar Farms Offer "Shocking" Benefits Beyond Producing Energy](#)

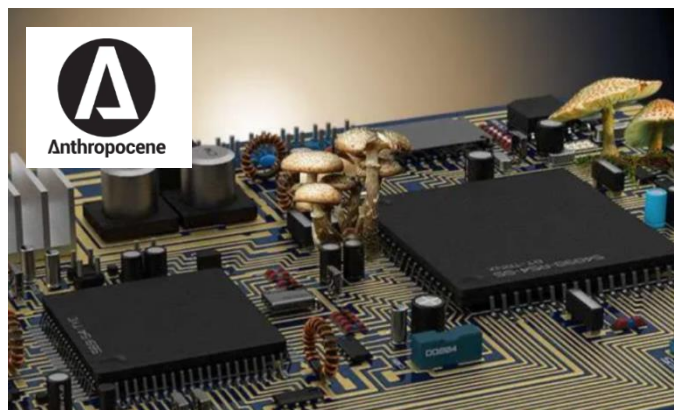
Next-gen solar parks that enable energy and food production as well as water conservation to work in synergy on the same plot can help to solve solar's growing land-use issue, according to the researchers making them a reality... *"There is this big debate around using land for solar versus using it for agriculture,"* said Colorado State University researcher Jennifer Bousset. *"And I just roll my eyes because you don't have to pick. They can be combined."* [READ MORE](#)



[Architects Reach New Heights with Vertical Urban Farms](#)

The environmental impacts of commercial agriculture are also concerning. Due to a lack of species diversity, the land could be losing nutrients after growing commercial crops for the long term. Overuse of chemical fertilizers is also polluting soil and water system. Furthermore, if more farmland can be given back to forests, it can help us confront the major environmental problem, global warming.

As the global population continues to grow, architects and cities could cultivate fresh greens in skyscrapers to confront food shortages. [READ MORE](#)




[Mushroom Skins Could Be the Secret to Recyclable Electronics](#) November 16, 2022

The world generates over 140,000 tons of electronic waste every single day. This waste is complex, made of many different materials, making it very hard to separate and recycle... Plastic boards used in electronic devices and batteries are near-impossible to recycle, so researchers devised a sustainable alternative made from biodegradable mushroom skin...

Researchers have turned to the humble fungus for help. In a new Science Advances study, they show how processed mushroom skin could be a biodegradable substrate for computer chips, taking us one step closer to recyclable electronics. [READ MORE.](#)


RESOURCES FOR WOODLOT OWNERS—



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.

To receive the [RIFCO](#) monthly e-newsletter



"[The Forest Conservationist](#)," visit our [Contact](#) page and submit a request online.
Or [Join RIFCO](#) and automatically receive a subscription as a [RIFCO](#) member.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Department of Environmental
Management

About Agriculture & Forest Environment

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.

[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](#)

THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

Plant Sciences and Entomology
College of the Environment and Life Sciences

Rhode Islanders have a unique relationship to the environment—and for our communities, ornamental plants, turf, agritourism, and conservation lands are as important as food crops. Our programs in ornamental horticulture, turfgrass management, food crop production, and control of invasive species, and insect-vectored diseases support all these aspects of the local economy. You'll be fully prepared for a job in agricultural industries, or to conduct your own research.

RESOURCES FOR WOODLOT OWNERS—

[RIWP: Your Online Resource for RI Forest Information](#)



The Rhode Island Woodland Partnership (RIWP) advances the stewardship and long-term protection of Rhode Island's woodlands to benefit the local economy, ecological values, and community enjoyment and health. The RIWP strives to increase the impact of forest conservation measures through education and information sharing.

RI DEM

[Forest Stewardship Program](#)

This program was developed for woodland owners who want to know more about their woodland and how to manage it. The Rhode Island FSP, in cooperation with the [USDA Forest Service](#), supports private forest landowners' efforts to manage, enjoy, and care for their land long-term. This program is designed to both recognize the public benefits of privately-owned working lands and good land management, and to help private landowners protect the ecosystem benefits and value of their forest.



[USDA Environmental Quality Incentives RI](#)



EQIP Forestry Initiative Information

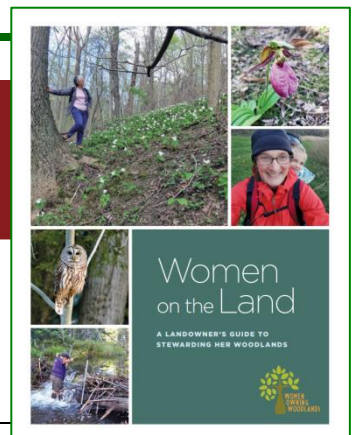
The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program for people who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat primarily on private land. Applicants with forestland or in fields with 25 percent more woody cover (aerial canopy cover) of tree species and who wish to install practices that will protect or enhance fish and wildlife habitat should apply to this initiative.

[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](#)

UMassAmherst

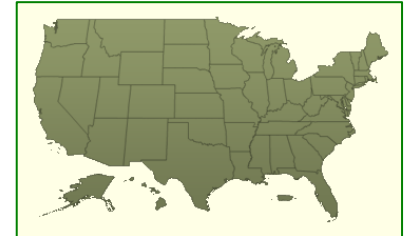
[Women on the Land](#) aims to build a network of female landowners and stewards in Massachusetts and provide opportunities for education and connection. We host events throughout the year and encourage women to foster relationships with each other and their land.



RESOURCES FOR WOODLOT OWNERS—



It is a misconception that a healthy forest is always an untouched forest. The health of your forest may depend on active forest management. A forest management plan is the road map to successful long-term management of your forest. With your forester, you need to evaluate your property's physical attributes and your management activities and the steps you can take to safeguard the environment. This lets you find out where your starting point is. [Forest*A*Syst](#) can assist you in making the choices in balancing your desires for managing your forest.



[PROFILE YOUR LAND](#)



CENTER for
RURAL AFFAIRS

[WOMEN NON-OPERATOR LANDOWNERS](#)

More than 50 percent of farmland in the U.S. is owned or co-owned by women. Center for Rural Affairs has designed workshops and learning circles specifically for women non-operator farmland owners. The peer-based model of learning circles assist women landowners with connecting to resources that aren't reaching them, and women prefer the intimate women-only setting. Whether the farmland was recently inherited, owned for years in a trust, or the land is going through a transition, learning circles provide opportunities for women to connect with programs, resources, and one another.



As the first forestry consulting business to focus on women landowners, [Land and Ladies](#) offers three different ways for women to be engaged, and start taking their ownership by the reigns OR to the next level. They equip women with the resources to tackle their landowner and forest management needs through their programs, membership and online resources.



They also offer a **FREE Online Beginner Landowner Course**, short course modules offering insight on hot topics like land objectives, planning, record keeping, and ways to make your land profitable.

March is Women's History Month

Imagine a gender equal world. A world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination. A world that's diverse, equitable, and inclusive. A world where difference is valued and celebrated. Together we can forge women's equality. Collectively we can all [#EmbraceEquity](#).

[International Women's Day](#)
is March 8.



International Women's Day





American Farmland Trust Announces Nationwide Network of Service Providers to Help Transitioning Land to the Next Generation

The successful transfer of land to the next generation of farmers and ranchers will also require a transfer of knowledge and skills. More than 40 percent of American farmland is owned by seniors aged 65 and older, who are likely to retire in the next decade or so. Given the demographics, American Farmland Trust estimates that 371 million acres, or one-third of U.S. farmland, will likely transition to new ownership in the next 15 years.



ORGANIC FARM FUNDING RESOURCES

Get Help Expanding, Improving, or Starting Your Organic Farm.

Are you a beginning farmer? Are you an established farmer? Do you need assistance with certification costs or creating value-added products on your farm? Are you looking to transition your farm from conventional to organic practices? The following resources provide funding and other assistance. One of the biggest hurdles to transitioning land to organic or enhancing conservation on the farm is securing the funds to make it possible. Rodale's resources can help



Conserving natural resources FOR OUR FUTURE



NACD's Guide to [Energy Conservation Opportunities in Agriculture \(PDF\)](#)

[NACD](#)'s mission is to promote responsible management and conservation of natural resources on all lands by representing locally-led conservation districts and their associations through grassroots advocacy, education and partnerships.

Stressed out? Need some help resolving **Agricultural Issues?**



Farm Ranch Stress Assistance Network RI
FRSAN RI

Help Is On the Way!

RI DEM- Division of Agriculture and the Center for Mediation and Collaboration are partnering to launch a mental health and wellness program for farmers, commercial fishers, and workers in forestry-related industries.

Workers in the farm, fisheries, and forestry (FFF) communities work in isolating, dangerous, and economically uncertain occupations where depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts are not uncommon.

We are bringing together stakeholders across the state to address the root causes of stress, and provide foundational supports to our farm, fishery and forestry communities.

What Support Could Look Like

- Financial Planning
- Succession Planning
- Tax Assistance
- Employee Training and Retention Programs
- Land Access
- Child Care
- Substance Use Disorder Support
- Counseling

Steering Committee Members

RI-DEM Division of Agriculture, Center for Mediation and Collaboration RI, Commerce RI, Commercial Fisheries Center of RI, Farm Fresh RI, East Coast Shellfish Growers Association, Hope & Main, Northeast Organic Farmers Association-RI, RI Conservation Districts, RI Farm Bureau, RI Food Policy Council, RI Land Trust Council, RI Nursery and Landscape Association, Southside Community Land Trust, Tomaquag Museum, URI Cooperative Extension, Young Farmer Network of Southeastern New England

Need Help Now?

401.414.LINK(5465) BH Link

800-273-8255 National Suicide Prevention Hotline

1-800-327-6243 Farm Aid Hotline

For information/support please reach contact Laurel Witri laurel@cmcri.org.

For information/support **1-800-327-6243** or email Laurel Witri laurel@cmcri.org

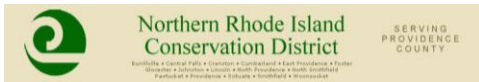


Rhode Island Association of Conservation Districts

Helping Rhode Island Conservation Districts Help Rhode Island

conserving
natural resources
for our future

2283 Hartford Avenue
Johnston, RI 02919
401-934-0840



The [Northern Rhode Island Conservation District \(NRICD\)](#) serves Providence County. The [Southern RI Conservation District \(SRICD\)](#) serves Kent and Washington Counties, and the [Eastern RI Conservation District \(ERICD\)](#) serves Newport and Bristol Counties.

The Newsletter of RIRC&D, The Rhode Island Resource Conservation & 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 Conservation and Development Area Council, Inc.; nor does RIRC&D advocate or endorse any of the opinions, positions, or products mentioned in the newsletter *except where specifically stated*.

CONTACT RIFEP

Rhode Island Resource Conservation and Development Area Council



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

Jo-Anne Pacheco, Coordinator
WOW (Women Owning Woodlands) Project
Jo-Anne@rifarmenergy.org

Phone: 401-500-0399

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

RI RC&D is an

