



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

*Helping People Help the Land Since 1973*

Newsletter of October 2023



## Coverts II Workshop

**RI Coverts Project** is an educational program designed to help forest landowners promote the development of critical wildlife habitats using sound forest management practices that can help make wildlife healthier, more diverse and abundant.

### Who should attend?

*Forest landowners and those associated with managing forest properties.*

**Saturday, 4 November 2023**

**8:00 am to 3:00 pm**

**Lunch 12:30 - 1:30**

**\$20 Registration fee covers materials and lunch.**

**Canonicus Camp and Conference Center**

**54 EXETER ROAD, EXETER, RHODE ISLAND 02822**

### Topics will include

**Research from the University of Rhode Island,  
Wildland Fire, Climate Change,  
and Insect and Disease Problems**

For more information and to **register**, please contact



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

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

Please make registration checks payable to RIRC&D Council  
RI RC&D Area Council, 2283 Hartford Ave, Johnston, RI 02919



# Wednesday, December 6

The RI RC&D

Online Holiday Get-Together

From 7:00 pm to —?



**Pour yourself a cup of hot chocolate or a mug of eggnog and settle in to join us on Zoom for a holiday get-together!**

Our get-together will begin with Storyteller **Erin Johnston** who will present stories in the character of Gene Stratton-Porter (1863-1924). Stratton-Porter was an American naturalist and writer from Indiana whose most famous novel [\*A Girl of the Limberlost\*](#) (1909) takes place in and around the Limberlost Swamp, an impressive wetland region that was being reduced by heavy logging, natural oil extraction and drainage for agriculture.

**We don't know what stories Erin will share with us from Stratton-Porter's life tonight, but you can be sure they will be entertaining!**

**After that, we'll tell you our plans for the coming year, and you can tell us your ideas about what we can do for you while we visit with each other online!**

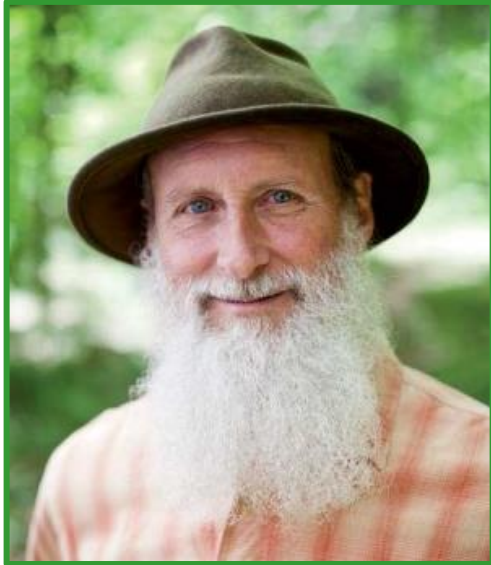
**PLEASE PLAN TO JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS!**

***Please let Paul Dolan know that you would like to attend the get-together!***

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



## COMING NEXT YEAR



**Saturday, January 27, 2024**

**Zoom Workshop with**

**Forensic Forrester**

**Tom Wessels**

Author of *Reading the Forested Landscape*, Wessels is a terrestrial ecologist and professor emeritus at Antioch University

*Using photographs submitted by participants, Tom will demonstrate methods for reading forest landscapes the way we might solve a mystery.*

**Please plan to join us!**

You can watch Tom's YouTube [Video](#) to find out more about his forensic forestry methods.

Why do beech and birch trees have smooth bark when the bark of other northern species is rough? How do you tell the age of a beaver pond or determine if beavers still reside there? Why are pines dominant in one patch of forest, while maples are dominant in another? Using images submitted by participants, Wessels discusses forest dynamics and history, coevolved interactions among forest species, and unique tree adaptations.

On a walk in the woods have you encountered interesting growth patterns, evidence of disturbance (either natural or human-made), or unique geological features? If you can show Tom some pictures of what you saw, Tom can probably tell you what you are looking at.

In addition to *Reading the Forested Landscape* and *Forest Forensics*, Tom is the author of *The Granite Landscape*, *The Myth of Progress*, and *New England's Roadside Ecology*.

Tuesday  
**February 27, 2024**

**Webinar**  
**Evergreens of Rhode Island**



Wednesday  
**March 27, 2024**

**Webinar**  
**Winter Tree ID**



***More information will be available soon.***  
***Clear your calendar!***



## **Humidity May Increase Heat Risk in Urban Climates**

As temperatures across the globe reach record-level highs, urban areas are facing increased heat stress. Cities are generally warmer and dryer than adjacent rural land. But in the Global South, there is an additional complicating factor — urban humid heat. A new study led by Yale School of the Environment scientists and published in Nature....[READ MORE](#)



## **Award-Winning Floating Wetland Possible Remedy for Blue-Green Algae Blooms**

Floating in a circle around a pond in Massachusetts is a mini-wetland built by six Rhode Islanders. Earlier this summer, the mostly natural creation was chosen as the winning installation in the seventh annual Art on the Trails outdoor art and poetry program.... [READ MORE](#)



## **Got Bunnies? Fencing, Native Plants Best Way to Deter Them**

Does it seem as though every time you look out into the backyard, or drive through a suburban neighborhood, you see a rabbit or two? You're not alone. Anecdotal evidence seems to indicate that this is a banner year for bunnies. There could be a few reasons for that, according to Mary Gannon, a principal biologist and wildlife outreach coordinator for the Rhode Island DEM... [READ MORE](#)

## **Woonasquatucket River Greenway a Slice of Nature in an Urban Setting**



Winding more than 7 miles from Johnston to Providence, the Woonasquatucket River Greenway is a linear slice of tranquility that has transformed what was once a dumping ground for trash into a scenic, vital urban bicycle path.

Following the meanderings of the river, whose name means "where the salt water ends" in Algonquin, the Greenway has helped restore 75 acres of land in the communities it touches, which include Johnston, Providence, and North Smithfield... [READ MORE..](#)



# FOREST HISTORY



## [America's Forests: A History of Resiliency and Recovery](#)

At the dawn of the seventeenth century, America's first European settlers stood in awe before a seemingly endless forest that blanketed the eastern third of the nation... in 1865, the inexhaustibility of forests was finally called into question...

This old video from 1993 contains rare film footage and turn-of-the-century photographs graphically depict the forest, watershed, and wildlife conditions which led to our first national conservation movement... [WATCH](#)



## [Forest History Society](#)

The Forest History Society is a nonprofit library and archives that collects, preserves, and shares the world's forest and conservation history... [MORE](#)



## [American Forests](#)

In 1875, led by physician and horticulturist Dr. John Aston Warder, concerned citizens founded the American Forestry Association (now American Forests) in response to rapid and wasteful postwar development and intense wildfires....



## [New England Forestry Foundation](#)

In the 1930s and 40s, an eclectic group of foresters and outdoor enthusiasts led by Harris Reynolds grew concerned about clear-cutting and destructive management on private New England forestlands. Much of the region's once vast and ecologically rich forests had only just begun to regenerate after centuries of deforestation, and parcel owners often acted with an eye to quick profit or simply lacked an understanding of how to care for a forest.



# RHODE ISLAND WOODS

Your online resource for RI woodlots information

## Land Stewardship for Small Forested Properties

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
- Existing stewardship programs are aimed at larger woodland tracts, but not smaller ones

The [Woodscaping TOC](#) (Table of Contents) has links to Fact Sheets and Resources for helping owners become good steward of their land.



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)




## Rhode Island Forest Health Works RCPP

## [The Rhode Island Forest Health Works Regional Conservation Partnership Program](#)

The RI Department of Environmental Management (DEM) 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.




## 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

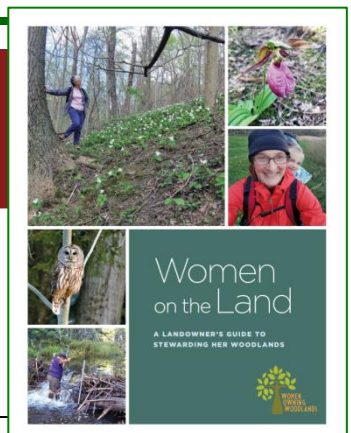
The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program for people who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat primarily on private land. Applicants with forestland or in fields with 25 percent more woody cover (aerial canopy cover) of tree species and who wish to install practices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

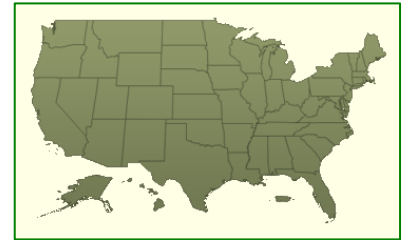




## RESOURCES FOR WOODLOT OWNERS—



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 reins 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.

### [American Women: A guide to Women's History Resources at the Library of Congress](#)





## 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](mailto:laurel@cmcri.org).

For information/support **1-800-327-6243** or email Laurel Witri [laurel@cmcri.org](mailto:laurel@cmcri.org)

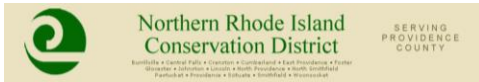


## Rhode Island Association of Conservation Districts

*Helping Rhode Island Conservation Districts Help Rhode Island*

conserving  
natural resources  
*for our future*

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



Northern Rhode Island  
Conservation District

SERVING  
PROVIDENCE  
COUNTY



Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District  
— Serving Bristol & Newport Counties —

Barrington : Bristol : Jamestown : Little Compton : Middletown : Newport : Portsmouth : Tiverton : Warren



Southern Rhode Island Conservation District

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 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*.

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Phone: 401-500-0399

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RI RC&D is an

