

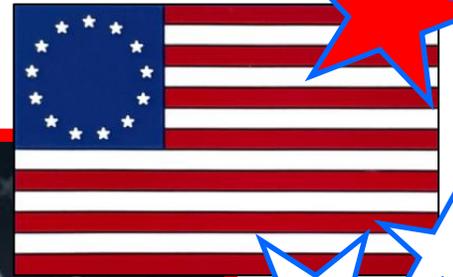


Rhode Island Resource Conservation & Development Area Council, Inc.

Helping People Help the Land Since 1973

Newsletter of July 2024

INDEPENDENCE DAY JULY 4TH



American History

How and why our war for independence began...



ZOOM WEBINAR

Stone by Stone, Wall by Wall

with Robert Thorson
author of "Stone by Stone"

Monday, August 26

6:00 to 7:30 pm

Click to Register

OR go to <https://tinyurl.com/Thorson-Webinar> OR Scan QR Code >



Presented by

Rhode Island Resource Conservation & Development Council
Paul Dolan, Director 401-500-0399 / rircd2283@gmail.com
2283 Hartford Avenue, Johnston, RI 02919

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

In preparation for our August 26 Zoom discussion with Author Robert Thorson, Professor of Earth Sciences at the University of Connecticut, here are some links—



[Why New England's Stone Walls Are Unlike Any Others](#)

By Robert M. Thorson, April 15, 2024

Bigger than the Great Wall of China, Hadrian's Wall, and the Pyramids of Giza combined, the region's ubiquitous stone walls are also a unique ecological habitat. The abandoned fieldstone walls of New England are every bit as iconic to the region as lobster pots, town greens, sap buckets, and fall foliage... Stone walls can be found here and there in other states, but only in New England are they nearly ubiquitous... [READ MORE](#)



[How Stone Walls Became a Signature Landform of New England](#)

By Robert M. Thorson, November 14, 2023

This knee-high, tumbled-down, lichen-crusting stack of boulders, slabs and cobbles inspired one of America's most enduring poems, Frost's "Mending Wall." When published in 1914, the poem immediately drew attention to the barriers that divide us from one another and to the unseen forces of nature that undo what we have done... These lines resonated so strongly with President John F. Kennedy in 1962 that he sent the aging poet to meet with Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev in Moscow to ameliorate Cold War tensions that would soon escalate into the Cuban missile crisis... [READ MORE](#)

SAVE THE DATE!



Walk Location:
Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge
12 Sanderson Road (Rt.5), Smithfield, RI 02917

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



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—

Results of the Battle of the Environmental Minds

HELD IN RI ON TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024 —



RI Envirothon Champions 2024
Wheeler School Team #1

Wheeler now has the opportunity to represent Rhode Island in the [International Envirothon Competition](#) to be held at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, New York from July 28 to August 3, 2024.

Congratulations to all our Rhode Island Envirothon Teams!

See all results and [PHOTOS](#) from the 2024 Rhode Island Envirothon Competition: [HERE](#).

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

WATCH THE
ENVIROTHON
[VIDEO](#)



[FOREST GRANTED LEGAL PERSONHOOD](#)

In 2008, Ecuador became the first country to change its constitution to state that nature has the same rights as people. The change was led by Ecuador's Indigenous movement, and marked one of the first major steps in what has become known as the 'rights of nature' movement— a movement centred on a legal framework that recognises the inherent right of the natural world to THE same protections as people and corporations...



[WHY INSECTS ARE THE MISSING LINK IN OUR FOOD SYSTEM](#)

Eating insects can be a part of the solution to our planet's growing food and climate crises.

Throughout our history, humans around the world have consumed these protein and nutrient-rich creatures. This hasn't been widely adopted as part of modern Western diets, however things may be changing.

A growing number of consumers in the West are now embracing entomophagy, or insect-eating. [WATCH](#)



[THE NEW CLEAN ENERGY TAX CREDITS](#)

Whether you need windows, a furnace, a car, or a rooftop solar system, new tax breaks are available through the President's Inflation Reduction Act to help you save money and go green. [Here's how...](#)



[PUBLIC LANDS PROTECTIONS 2024](#)

On March 27, Interior Secretary Deb Haaland signed an order withdrawing nearly 222,000 acres of federal land in western Colorado's Thompson Divide area from future mining claims and oil and gas leases. The protected area includes aspen forests, alpine ridges, piñon-juniper-dotted mesas and high-country meadows— diverse habitat that is home to an array of big game species and other wildlife... The move was a big deal for the eclectic ensemble of local ranchers, environmentalists and recreational users who had spent the last two decades fighting proposed mining and fossil fuel development in the area... [READ MORE](#)



[2024 CEA CENSUS](#)

Focusing on technology this year, the CEA Census survey launches on May 31, 2024, aiming to gather data for a global view of the industry. The findings will be shared through a keynote presentation by Henry Gordon-Smith, CEO of Agritecture, at the inaugural CEA World Conference & Expo in Raleigh, N.C., from August 26-28, 2024. The full report will also be available for download online in October 2024.

Open now until July 18, 2024, the CEA Census survey takes 10 minutes to complete. The organizations invite all growers — from high-tech CEA operations to more traditional outdoor setups using hoops, tunnels, nettings, and retractable roofs — to participate as part of a global community of growers in building a robust dataset that reflects the true state of the industry. [READ MORE](#)

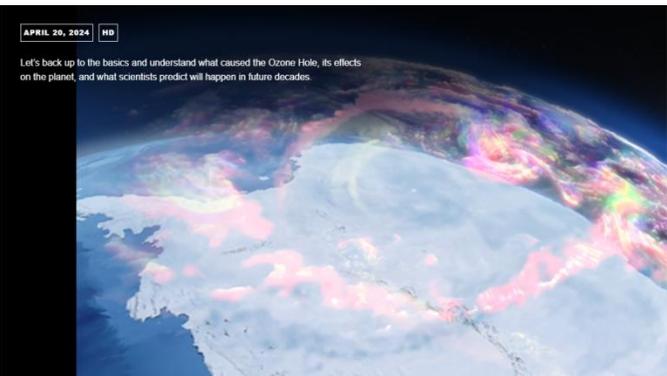
FROM TOAD TOXIN TO MEDICINE:
[THE PROMISE OF 5-MEO-DMT](#)



[FISH IN SPACE](#)



[WHAT IS THE OZONE HOLE?:](#)



[CYCLONES ON JUPITER](#)



[NEW ZEALAND'S TREE OF THE YEAR](#)

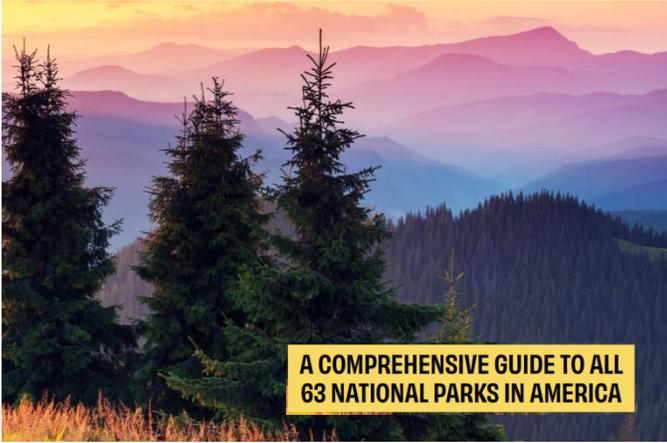


[WHY DYING FORESTS COULD BE GOOD NEWS](#)



[WHY REDWOODS ARE THRIVING IN BRITAIN](#)





[WORM GRUNTING](#)



The Cement that Could Turn
[Your Next House Into a Battery](#)

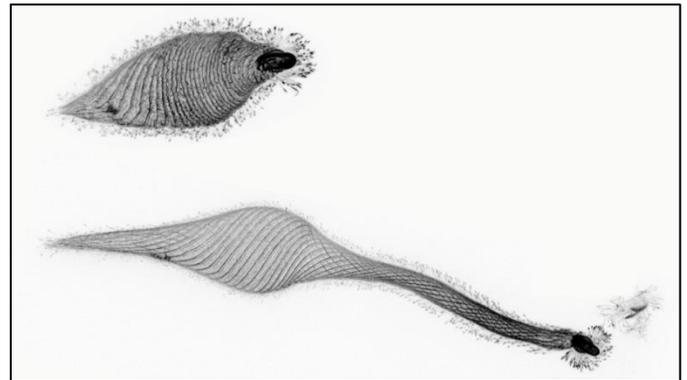
[CHECK OUT YOUR FAVORITE](#)



[Why You Should Let Insects Eat Your Plants](#)



[Cellular Origami](#)



SCIENCE QUIZZES





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.

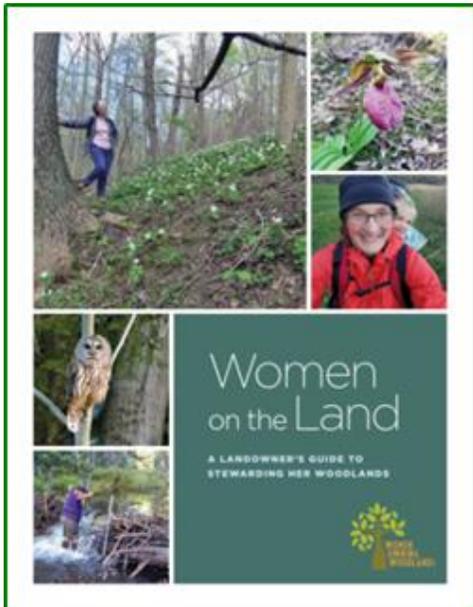
To learn more about NRCS programs, RI farmers and forest landowners can contact their local [USDA Service Center](#). Producers can also apply for NRCS programs, manage conservation plans and contracts, and view and print conservation maps by [logging into their farmers.gov account](#). If you don’t 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](#)

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
by E-Mail: 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



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



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

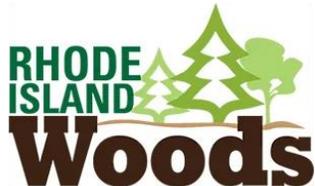
Helping to Safeguard Rhode Island's Woodlands



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.



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.

RITree 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



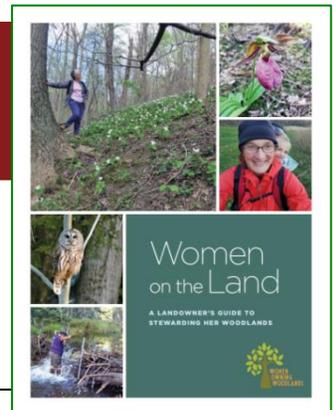
[American Forest Foundation Newsletter](#)

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.



[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.



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

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

RIRCD.ORG Phone: 401-500-0399



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



**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 Rhode Island Conservation District \(SRICD\)](#) serves Kent and Washington Counties
[Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District \(ERICD\)](#) serves Newport and Bristol Counties