



Rhode Island Resource Conservation & Development Area Council, Inc.

Helping People Help the Land Since 1973

Newsletter of June 2025



RHODE ISLAND Envirothon

Developing Environmentally Aware Leaders of

VISIT THE RI
ENVIROTHON
[WEBSITE](#)

WATCH THE
ENVIROTHON
[VIDEO](#)

Rhode Island State Competition Winners 2025

Congratulations to Our State Competition Winners!

1st Wheeler School-Team1 2nd Greene School-Team1 3rd Wheeler School-Team2

Read the
Envirothon
Press Release

~~~~~ FUNDRAISER ~~~~~

**Help Send the Wheeler School Team to Calgary
and support Environmental Education in Rhode Island!**

Join us at [WHALERS TAPROOM](#) in Peacedale, RI

Friday, June 20th from 5:30 to 9:00 pm

Food trucks, raffle prizes, and more! Enjoy some local brews and chews
and support our students all in one event that you won't want to miss!
Alberta is a long way away and this is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for our
students. Your donation will help with the students' travel costs.

Please plan to join us!

★ **REGISTER HERE** [Envirothon at Whalers](#)



2025 NCF-Envirothon Alberta

Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Mount Royal University
Dates: July 20 - 26, 2025



Wheeler School Team
REPRESENTING ENVIROTHON RI
Providence, Rhode Island, USA

2025 Current Issue Topic

Roots and Resiliency: Fostering Forest Stewardship in a Canopy of Change

For more information: Paul Dolan, Envirothon RI President

Call 401-500-0399 Email president@rienvirothon.org

∞ IN-PERSON SUMMER WALKS 2025 ∞

WITH Christopher Riely

Forester and Conservationist, Sweet Birch Consulting

Plants, Trees, & Shrubs, an ID Walk
Wednesday, June 25 from 5:30 to 6:30 pm

Cumberland Monastery
Diamond Hill Road, Cumberland, RI

Plant ID Walk
Wednesday, July 30 from 5:30 to 6:30 pm

Steere Hill Heritage Park, Phillips Farm
Glocester Land Trust, Chepachet, RI



TO REGISTER, PLEASE CONTACT

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

Scituate Reservoir Watershed Plans Information Session



Wednesday, June 18
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm



**North Scituate
Community House**

546 W Greenville Road, North Scituate, 02857



A few years ago the Natural Resources Conservation Service, NRCS, and the Northern Rhode Island Conservation District, NRICD, identified the Scituate Reservoir watershed area as not having watershed assessments in place that address agriculture impacts on water quality, and thus partnered to complete research assessments for the area.

With these assessments completed, NRCS-RI and NRICD will be hosting multiple public events to showcase these findings, starting with a public meeting to introduce the assessments and their findings to the public.



Learn More Here



Questions?



jlebeau.nricd@gmail.com

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to participate in this meeting should contact the **Disability SEPM, Kat Zuromski, at 401-786-1389 or Kathryn.zuromski@usda.gov**, or dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunication relay services.



USDA NRCS Rhode Island
60 Quaker Lane, Warwick, RI 02886
401-828-1300 | www.RI.nrcs.usda.gov

Northern Rhode Island Conservation District
2283 Hartford Avenue, Johnston, RI 02919
401-934-0840 | www.nricd.org



USDA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER, EMPLOYER, AND LENDER.

More SUMMER PROGRAMS 2025

ZOOM PRESENTATION

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"**

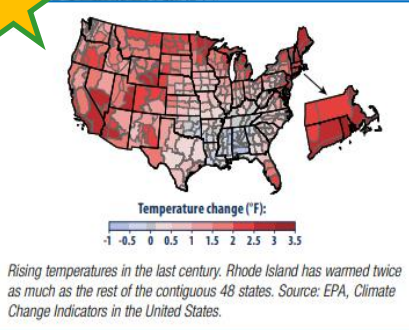
FOLLOWED BY Q&A

TO REGISTER, PLEASE CONTACT

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

KEY CLIMATE IMPACTS FOR THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND:

INCREASED AIR & WATER TEMPERATURES
MORE EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS
MORE DROUGHT
INTENSE PRECIPITATION EVENTS
SEVERE STORMS AND FLOODING
INCREASED SEA LEVEL RISE
SHORTER WINTERS
LONGER SUMMERS
DECREASED SNOWFALL
DECREASED ICE COVERAGE



Coming this Fall

In-Person Presentation

Bird Migration in RI and Native Food Sources

With Dr. Charles Clarkson of Audubon

Wednesday, 10 September

6:00 to 7:30 PM

(one hour presentation with 30 minute Q&A)

Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge

12 Sanderson Road (Rt.5), Smithfield, RI 02917

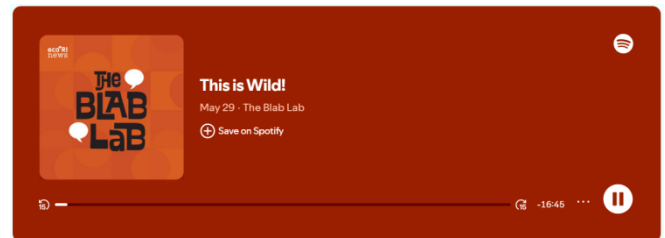
To Register contact Paul Dolan, RI RC&D Director
401-500-0399 or email rircd2283@gmail.com



ecoRI
news

PROVIDENCE — [Latest News](#) June 2025

[Blab Lab](#) podcast host and ecoRI News reporter Rob Smith speaks with senior reporter Frank Carini to discuss Carini's ongoing series on Rhode Island's endangered species — many of which are threatened by habitat loss, pesticides, and climate change... [Listen to Podcast](#)



[RI's First Coastal Resilience Study](#)



[Stumpgate Update](#)



[The River Whisperer](#)





[Giant Robotic Bugs Are Headed to Farms](#)

May 2025— Dan Goldman at Georgia Tech has been working on bioinspired robotic locomotion for as long as anyone. When it comes to farming, there are now many companies offering automated sensing, feeding and weeding bots. However, not all plants grow in well-kept rows on mostly flat ground. Perennial crops, like wine grapes, for instance. The vines stick around and grapes are harvested every year— and they often grow on steep and rocky slopes. Those crops are an excellent opportunity for Dan's long and skinny and wiggly robots to go from being an academic curiosity to something with unique commercial potential... [READ MORE](#)



[The First Solar Storm Emergency Drill Did Not Go Well](#)

May 2025 — The federal government released the results of a multiday emergency drill intended to assess our ability to handle the next massive solar storm. Unfortunately, it sounds like there's a lot of room for improvement. According to a report published earlier this month by the Space Weather Operations, Research, and Mitigation (SWORM) task force, institutions across the board need to better coordinate their interoffice responses, at the very least. Meanwhile, educating both themselves and the public on the complexities of cosmic forces that threaten societal infrastructures is a major must that remains unfulfilled... [READ MORE](#)



[What to do if you find a baby bird out of its nest](#)

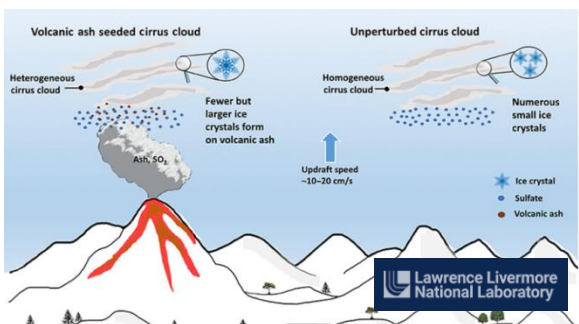
Spring brings many changes to our natural surroundings. Flowers bloom, barren trees fill with leaves, and occasionally, baby birds come tumbling out of those trees.

If you've ever encountered one of these not-quite-flighted chicks and wondered how best to look after them— [READ MORE](#)



[NOAA Isn't ready for Hurricane Season](#)

Hurricane season starts June 1, and above-average activity is predicted. But America's premier agencies for protecting lives and property from these destructive storms— the National Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration, or NOAA, and the Federal Emergency Management Association, or FEMA— are in unprecedented disarray. The chaos will likely harm hurricane forecast accuracy in 2025, as well as disaster preparation and response... [READ MORE](#)



[Volcanic eruptions trigger ice formation in clouds](#)

When a volcano erupts, it can spew ash high into the atmosphere— injecting aerosols right where clouds typically form. How exactly these aerosols impact cloud formation has long been a mystery to atmospheric scientists... In a study published in [Science Advances](#), researchers from [Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory](#) (LLNL) analyzed 10 years of satellite data to determine that volcanic ash particles can trigger cloud formation by providing a surface for ice to coalesce.... [READ MORE](#)

RI RC&D NEWSLETTER OF JUNE 2025

[WE KNOW YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE....](#)



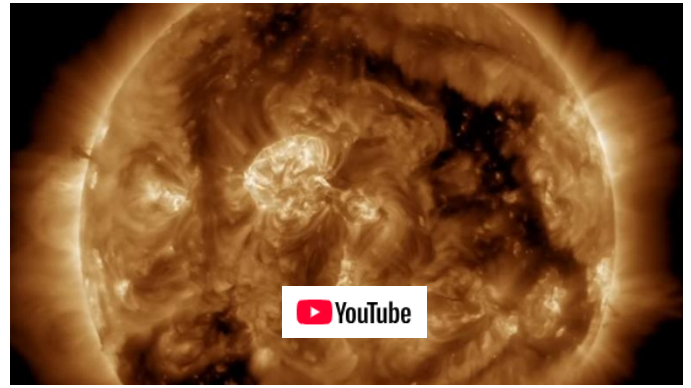
[GOOD NEWS FOR MAY 2025](#)



[REINVENTING THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT TREE](#)



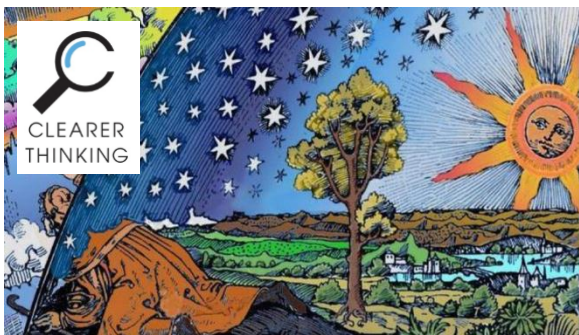
[CME OF 31 MAY 2025](#)



[THE MEDIEVAL CROP BETTER THAN POTATOES](#)



[DANDELIONS AND CIVILIZATION: A FORGOTTEN HISTORY](#)

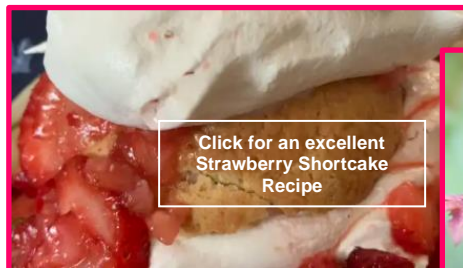


[HOW WELL CAN YOU TELL REALITY FROM B.S.?](#)

Ever wonder if many of the things you've been told and believe to be true are actually socially propagated lumps of B.S.? Are bats really blind? Is it truly bad to swim after you eat? Do our nose and ears really get bigger with age? **Take the common misconceptions test to see how many common 'truths' you fall for....** [TAKE THE TEST](#)

Summer Solstice
Friday, 20 June 2025 at 10:41 pm

It's summer! Pick some strawberries and make some [Strawberry Shortcake!](#)





Natural Resources Conservation Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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.

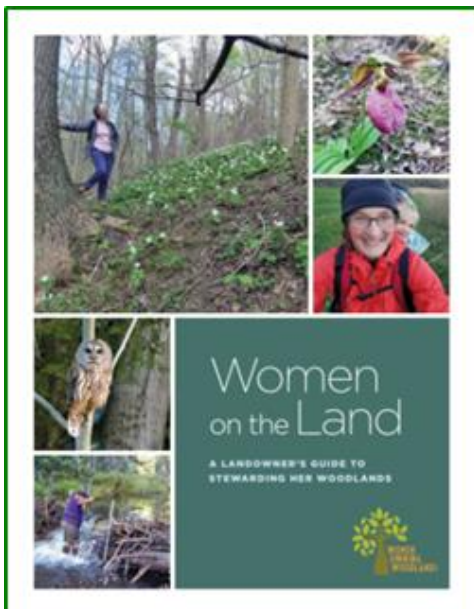


[CLICK HERE](#)

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

Read the
Envirothon
Press Release

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 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.

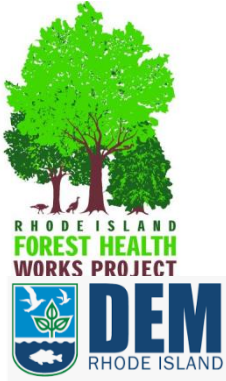
RI DEM PROGRAMS INCLUDE

[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

Rhode Island Forest Conservators Organization

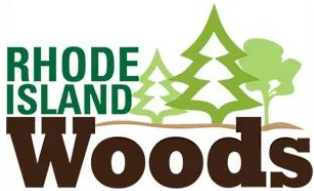
Helping to Safeguard Rhode Island's Woodlands



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



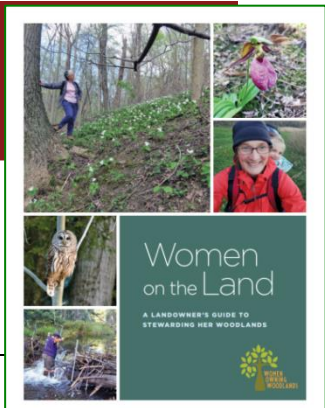
[American Forest Foundation Newsletter](#)

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.



Website: <http://rircd.org>



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WOW (Women Owning Woodlands) Project
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Phone: 401-500-0399

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



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