



Rhode Island Resource Conservation & Development Area Council, Inc.

Helping People Help the Land Since 1973

Newsletter

January 2026



*Happy
New
Year!*

Winter is definitely for the birds!

ZOOM WEBINARS

Wednesday, January 14 FROM 6 to 7 PM



Liam Corcoran, MSc, Research Associate

Department of Natural Resources Science, URI

The nesting ecology of the Eastern Whip-Poor-Will:

including observations of male and female interactions at the nest, adult interactions with potential nest predators, and adult interaction with chicks, plus much more!

Wednesday, January 28 FROM 6 to 7 PM

Megan Gray, MS Research Associate, URI

Nesting ecology of Eastern Towhee and Prairie Warbler:

Assessing umbrella species management for two songbirds in Rhode Island.

To Register for one or both webinars

contact Jo-Anne Pacheco

401-500-0399 or email Jo-Anne@ircd.org



ZOOM WEBINAR

Winter Tree ID

with Fern Graves

RI DEM Forest Stewardship Program Coordinator

Thursday, 19 February, 2026 from 6 to 7 PM

TO REGISTER FOR THIS ZOOM WEBINAR PLEASE CONTACT JO-ANNE PACHECO

E-Mail: Jo-Anne@rircd.org Phone: 401-500-0399

ZOOM WEBINAR

“Insects and Diseases of Rhode Island’s Forests”



**WEDNESDAY, 11 MARCH 2026
FROM 6 TO 7 PM**

Presented by Alana Russell

RI DEM Forest Health Program Coordinator
Division of Agriculture and Forestry

The mission of the Forest Health Program is to protect the health, vigor, and resiliency of our rural and urban forests. Staff survey and monitor our forests for: circumstances that may pose a risk to forest health, such as insects or diseases, and evidence of harm from abiotic factors such as pollution, fire, drought, ice storms, or damaging winds.

While some threats to our forest are native to the region, there is an increase in serious threats arising from non-native and invasive pests, diseases, and plants. And because our forests did not evolve with these threats, the trees typically have limited or no natural defense mechanisms to enable them to withstand attack, or competition.



To Register contact **Jo-Anne Pacheco**
401-500-0399 or email Jo-Anne@rircd.org

Rhode Island Forests and People: Partners through Time

Southern New England is one of the world's great meeting places of forests and people. Here in Rhode Island, the woods are more than just scenery—they've been a source of food, fuel, inspiration, and community for countless generations. From the first caretakers of this land to today's neighborhoods and cities, forests have always shaped how we live, work, and connect with one another.

Scheduled Presentations 2026

Hope Library

(401) 821-7910
374 North Road, Hope, RI 02831

- **Common Forest Insects, Diseases and Invasive Plants**
- **Challenges and Opportunities for our Forests**

Saturday **January 10**, Noon – 1:30 pm

Saturday **March 21**, Noon – 1:30 pm

North Scituate Library

(401) 647-5133
606 W. Greenville Rd., N. Scituate, RI 02857

- **Forestry Concepts Used in the Care of Our Forest Systems**

Friday **February 6**, 1:00 – 2:30 pm

This series invites you to explore that story. Together we'll look at how forests and people have grown side by side, how they've faced challenges, and how our choices today will determine the future of these remarkable landscapes.

Come join us for a journey through time, discovering the past, reflecting on the present, and imagining the role our forests can play in a healthy, thriving Rhode Island for generations to come.

These 90-minute talks will be presented monthly **through March 2026** by **Rhode Island Foresters Paul Dolan and Christopher Modisette**,

Please **REGISTER** with the hosting library:



N. SCITUATE LIBRARY



HOPE LIBRARY



For more information about this series, please contact

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

A project of Rhode Island Resource Conservation & Development Area Council, Inc.,
supported by, and in collaboration with, the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service.



Equal opportunity employers.



Nothing to do on a cold, gray wintery day? Interested in Forestry?



Why not join Forester and RI RC&D Director Paul Dolan at your cozy local RI Library for a fascinating PowerPoint Presentation about the forests all around you?



Come on! It'll be fun! And warm!

Exeter Library (401) 294-4109

773 Ten Rod Road
Exeter, RI 02822

Forest History

Saturday, 17 January at 11:00 am

Forest Management

Saturday, 21 February at 11:00 am

Harmony Library (401) 949-2850

195 Putnam Pike
Chepachet, RI 02814

Common Forest Invasive Plants

Monday, 9 February at 6:00 pm

Loutitt Library (401) 397-3434

274 Victory Highway
West Greenwich, RI 02817

Evergreens of Rhode Island

Tuesday 3 February at 6:00 pm

Forestry for the Birds

Tuesday, 3 March at 6:00 pm

All you need to do is
Call the library to register—then join us!

Check out
our new
website!



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rhode Island



Sign up for USDA Conservation Programs in Rhode Island

Are you a Rhode Island Farmer or Woodland Owner?



Do you want to—

- *Improve your Farm or Forest Health?*
 - *Have Cleaner Air and Water?*
 - *Conserve your Soil & Water?*
- *Improve Wildlife Habitat on your Land?*
- *Improve your Animal Waste Management?*
- *Conserve your land through a Conservation Easement?*



NRCS encourages Rhode Island farmers, livestock producers, woodland owners, small-scale growers, and oyster growers to call or visit us to see how we can help you enhance your Ag operation through conservation practices.

Conservation practices and activities can provide you with significant benefits: improved forest and soil health, water quality, air quality, pollinator and wildlife habitat; wildfire mitigation; and improved energy and irrigation efficiency.

We offer a variety of practices and activities like cover crops, high tunnels, tree planting, composting facilities, pasture and hay planting, oyster reef restoration, wildlife habitat planting, animal waste management, efficient irrigation systems, wetland restoration, and farmland conservation through our [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#), [Conservation Stewardship Program \(CSP\)](#), [Agricultural Management Assistance \(AMA\) Program](#), [Agricultural Conservation Easement Program \(ACEP\)](#), and [Regional Conservation Partnership Program \(RCPP\)](#).

Visit www.RI.nrcs.usda.gov

Rhode Island State Office:

401-828-1300, ri-nrcs-publicinfo@usda.gov

Eastern Rhode Island – Serving Bristol & Newport Counties

NRCS Field Office: 401-786-1389

Conservation District Office: 401-934-0842

Northern Rhode Island – Serving Providence County

NRCS Field Office: 401-822-8835

Conservation District Office: 401-934-0840

Southern Rhode Island – Serving Kent & Washington Counties

NRCS Field Office: 401-822-8837

Conservation District Office: 401-661-5761

Conservation Technical Assistance

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) provides our nation's farmers, ranchers and forestland owners with the knowledge and tools they need to conserve, maintain and restore the natural resources on their lands and improve the health of their operations for the future.

FEATURED



Ag Innovator's Guide

Tips for Recommending Innovation and New Technologies for Use in Conservation Assistance

JANUARY 2026

Funding is provided through a competitive process. NRCS accepts applications for conservation programs year-round but sets state-specific ranking dates to evaluate applications for funding. Application cutoff periods allow NRCS to screen and rank applications for those with the highest conservation benefits across Rhode Island's landscapes, including cropland, pastureland, and private non-industrial forestlands.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Forest Stewardship Program

RI DEM Forest Stewardship Program

The Rhode Island Forest Stewardship Program (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.

The FSP provides information and resources on forest planning, information and education about forest issues, and supports forest landowner access to Rhode Island's current use tax program for their forest land, The Farm, Forest, and Open Space Act (FFOS)... [Find Out More About this Program](#)

PROVIDENCE — [Latest News](#)



Johnston, RI — Where Rhode Island's Plastic Bottles Actually Go

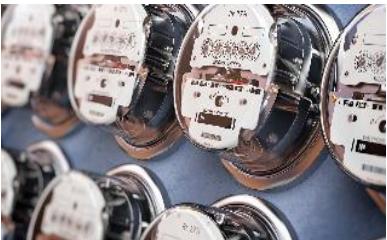
It's no secret that the state is not good at recycling. But there's growing data to suggest Rhode Islanders are throwing away more than they recycle. Last year only 12 municipalities met or exceeded the state's mandatory 35% recycling rate; 14 recycled less than 20% of all material sent to the Johnston, and the worst performing municipality, Providence, couldn't even crack double digits! The capital city achieved only a 7.1% recycling rate, meaning more than 92% of all material sent to RIRRC went straight into the landfill! How do we know this? [READ MORE](#)

Rhode Island News:

[Why Trees Grow That Way](#)



[PUC Considering Cuts to Programs](#)



[Biodiversity Blues in RI](#)



[Port: Money Spent w/o Input](#)



[750 Year Old Shoe Found in Vulture's Nest](#)

Between 2008 and 2014, scientists rappelled down cliffs to reach a dozen bearded vulture nests and begin analyzing what was inside them. They discovered that shoe, along with more than 200 other human artifacts, including some from the Middle Ages. These finds are described in a new study in the journal *Ecology*... NatGeo: [READ MORE](#)

[Africa's Vultures are disappearing](#)

From lappet-faced vultures with nine-foot wingspans to long-crested eagles with spiky mohawks, Africa's raptors are undeniably spectacular birds. But these predators are fast disappearing from the skies, according to new research showing an 88-percent overall decline in the raptor population across the continent... Out of the 42 species of savanna predators and scavengers included in the study, 90 percent experienced decreases, and more than two thirds met the criteria to qualify as globally threatened... [READ MORE](#)

[Read PDF of Study](#) from *Nature Ecology and Evolution* 2024.

RI RC&D NEWSLETTER OF JANUARY 2026

Winter is for the birds!

THE WORST WAY TO IDENTIFY A BIRD



7 THINGS EXPERTS DON'T TELL BEGINNERS



RAISE YOUR BIRDING SKILLS TO THE NEXT LEVEL



WINTER BIRDING SURPRISE IN RHODE ISLAND



SNOWY OWLS VISIT CHICAGO



5 OWL CALLS EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW!



BEST PLACES TO SPOT WINTER WILDLIFE IN RI



AUDUBON RI: WINTER NATURE WALK

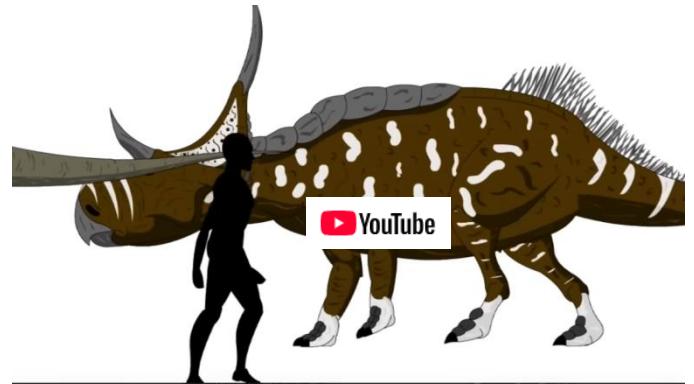


RI RC&D NEWSLETTER OF JANUARY 2026

GOOD NEWS IN 2025 (YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED)



MARCHING DINOSAURS, A SIZE COMPARISON



GÖBEKLITEPE & TAS TEPELER: QUESTION EVERYTHING



MENDIK TEPE & CAKMAKTEPE: OLDER SITES?



SCARA BRAE, ORKNEY, SCOTLAND



OLLANTAYTAMBO'S ANCIENT WATER SYSTEM



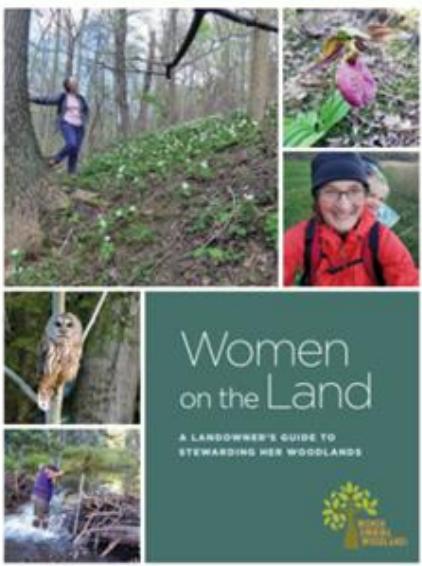
PLANT COOLS PLANETS & RELACES FERTILIZERS



WILL ICELAND REMAIN MOSQUITO FREE ?



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](#).

To get a printed copy of this useful guide
please contact Jo-Anne Pacheco
E-Mail: Jo-Anne@rircd.org 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

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 1-833-ONE-USDA askusda@usda.gov

Rhode Island Forest Conservators Organization

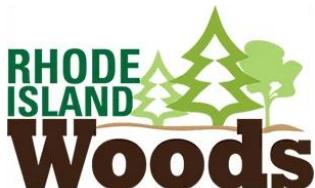
Helping to Safeguard Rhode Island's Woodlands



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



We grow stewardship from the roots.

[The American 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



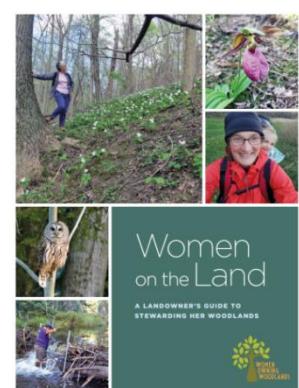
[American Forest Foundation Newsletter](#)

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.



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