Rhode Island Resource Conservation & Development Area Council, Inc.

Helping People Help the Land Since 1973

Newsletter of November 2026

Zoom Presentation

Wednesday, 18 November 2026

6:00 to 7:00 PM

"Rhode Island's Forests: A Natural Climate Solution"

More than half of Rhode Island is covered by forest. Joe and Tara will introduce a new partnership between the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and the University of Maryland that is helping reveal just how important these forests are in slowing the impacts of climate change and supporting the state's climate goals.

A Co-Presentation with

Tara Hoda, RI DEM and Joseph Poccia, State Climatologist, RI DEM

Find out more about the project here:

New Project Helps Rhode Island Track How Trees Combat Climate Change

TO REGISTER Call Jo-Anne at 401-500-0399 or e-mail Jo-Anne@rircd.org

RI RC&D IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Equal Opportunity Employer



Saving Plant and Insect Diversity in a Time of Climate Change: Lessons from the Field

A Lisa Lofland Gould Program

Sunday, November 15

2:00 – 4:30pm

URI Pharmacy Bldg., Avedesian Hall, RM 170,
7 Greenhouse Road, Kingston

A panel discussion with:

Casey Johnson, URI, pollinator ecologist
George Christie, RINHS, entomologist & plant propagator
Nick Ernst, USFWS, habitat restoration practitioner

~ Please RSVP ~

riwps.org/event/save_diversity/

Rhode Island Wild Plant Society

Rhode Island Natural History Survey — Ecosystem Resilience Through Biodiversity

Cultivating the future — URI Master Gardeners — Outreach & Education & Sustainability

A Time for Giving Thanks...

In November, as we gather in the very last of the crops, we can't help but reflect on whether it was a "good" year or a "bad" year, and often we start noticing all the chores yet to be done, all the work that will have to be undertaken to make next year a "better" year, and it sometimes gets us down a little thinking of all that work...

But we should look around to see how many blessings we can count, too. We often discover that we have much to be thankful for. And if we look a little further, beyond our own fields, we realize that there are many who are not as fortunate as we are.

At this time of year have you ever wondered, Is there something practical I can do to help my less fortunate neighbors?

Well, perhaps there is...

Thanksgiving Day Address, 1901

"No people on earth have such abundant cause for thanksgiving as we have...Let us remember that, as much has been given us, much will be expected from us; and that true homage comes from the heart as well as from the lips and shows itself in deeds.

"We can best prove our thankfulness to the Almighty by the way in which on this earth, and at this time, each of us does his duty to his fellow men."

—President Theodore Roosevelt



Gleaning, an ancient practice that allowed the poor to collect unharvested crops, or the remains of harvested crops, was once recognized as a legal right for the poor in many countries. Now, due to the increasing attention focused on food waste, the idea of gleaning is being re-examined: **THE NATIONAL GLEANING PROJECT**

Center for Agriculture and Food Systems

With local, regional, national, and international partners, CAFS addresses food system challenges related to food and nutrition security and affordability, farmland access, food system workers, farm viability, local economies, and public health, among others. CAFS works closely with its partners to provide law and policy support and develop resources that respond *to their needs.*

Here in Rhode Island—

Hope's Harvest mobilizes volunteers to harvest surplus fruits and vegetables from farms, contracts with local growers, and pays for surplus produce— all for distribution to hunger relief agencies throughout Rhode Island.





Originally inspired by a Brown University student project, Farm Fresh RI was founded in 2004... Their mission from the start: to grow a local food system that values the environment, health, and quality of life of the farmers and eaters in our region...

If you want to change the world, just commit random acts of kindness whenever you can.
The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention.
Unexpected kindness is the most powerful, least costly, and most underrated agent of change.
Remember, there is no such thing as a small act of kindness.
And even the smallest act of kindness will echo throughout the world.

November & December 2026

Library Presentations

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. Join us to learn how you can help protect and care for Rhode Island's woodland resources.

Saturday, 21 November

Forestry for the Birds 11:00 am to Noon
Speaker Paul Dolan, Forester and RI RC&D Director
Portsmouth Free Library
2658 East Main Road, Portsmouth, RI 02871
(401) 683-9457
PLEASE REGISTER THROUGH THE LIBRARY

Thursday, 10 December

Forest Invasive Species 6:00 to 7:00 pm
Speaker Paul Dolan, Forester and RI RC&D Director
George Hail Free Library
530 Main St, Warren, RI 02885
(401) 245-7686 / info@georgehail.org
PLEASE REGISTER THROUGH THE LIBRARY

Saturday, 12 December

Tree ID & Winter Tree ID 10:00 to 11:00 am
Speaker Paul Dolan, Forester and RI RC&D Director
Peace Dale Library
1057 Kingstown Road, Wakefield, RI 02879
(401) 789-1555 / rflynn@southkingstownri.gov
PLEASE REGISTER THROUGH THE LIBRARY



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
Department of Environmental Management

Forest Stewardship Program

Landowner Workshops

The Stewardship Program is hosting a variety of presentations / workshops for RI landowners.
If you own woodlands or forest, these FREE workshops are for you —any acreage welcome!!

November 5 East Greenwich Grange: Invasive Forest Plants Impacting RI

Join us for at 4:30 for a box lunch and learn about the plants that can affect the health and biodiversity of any size woodlands or forest, and learn how to identify and treat the invasives. 5:00 pm-7:30 DETAILS REGISTER

Winter 26/27 RI Master Forest Steward Workshop Series

9 am -11 am 2185 Putnam Pike, Chepachet DETAILS REGISTER
Monthly workshops held from Nov-Feb at the George Washington Management Area.
Receive a certificate and a free one-year membership to RIFCO after attending the entire series

"The care of the Earth is our most ancient and most worthy, and after all our most pleasing responsibility. To cherish what remains of it and to foster its renewal is our only hope."
*— **Wendell Berry**.*

Check out our new

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Rhode Island

Sign up for USDA Conservation Programs in Rhode Island

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. 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

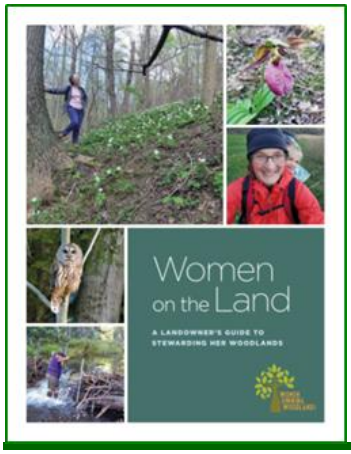
Northern Rhode Island – *Serving Providence County*
NRCS Field Office: 401-822-8835
Conservation District Office: 401-934-0840

Southern Rhode Island – *Serving Kent & Washington Counties*
NRCS Field Office: 401-822-8837
Conservation District Office: 401-661-5761

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 Employer and Lender.

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 Department of Environmental Management

DEM RHODE ISLAND

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

Center for Mediation RHODE ISLAND

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

WOOD WATER RECREATION WILDLIFE CERTIFIED FAMILY FOREST AMERICAN TREE FARM SYSTEM

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

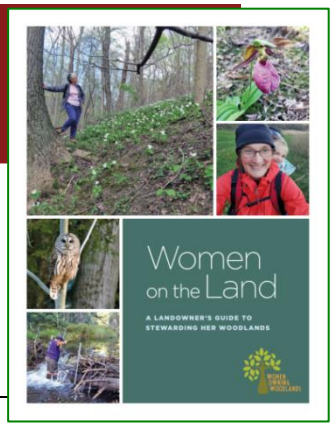
American Forest Foundation Newsletter

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*.

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RIACD

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

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