

AUGUST 2024

Notable Notes

Notable Works Publication and Distribution Co., Inc.



Audubon Society
of Rhode Island



Photo of Barn Owl by
Charles Ledoux.

Raptor Weekend

September 7 & 8 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Get up close with owls, hawks, and falcons at Audubon's annual celebration of birds of prey.

Advance tickets on sale at asri.org/raptor-weekend. Tickets may be purchased at the event.



WOONASQUATUCKET RIVER
WATERSHED COUNCIL

The 2024 Fish Fun(d) party at Buttonwoods Brewery.

We'll see you at 50 Sims Avenue in Providence on **August 1st from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM**. The time to purchase tickets is **now**--there is a capacity limit, so be sure to reserve your spot today. With your help, this mid-summer celebration will raise \$50,000 to support our shared mission to revitalize the Woonasquatucket River and \$50,000 to support our shared mission to revitalize the Woonasquatucket River and its Greenway.

Pre-party bike ride, 5 PM - 6 PM
MC David Morales keeps the energy up and party moving.

Enjoy **Music by DJ Thirsty**

Delicious food by **Screaming Unicorn**

A cash bar by **Buttonwoods Brewery**

Special costume contest for the best river-inspired outfit

We're asking you to support WRWC's long standing environmental and bicycle education, climate resilience, and trash removal programs.

For more information and to register click here: <https://wrwc.org/events/the-fish-fund-party-and-fundraiser/>

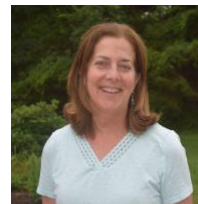
Notable Works' Upcoming Events

Hoping you will join Notable Works on Saturday, August 3, 2024 at 11am at the Weaver Library, 41 Grove Ave., East Providence, Rhode Island to enjoy the Notable Works Ensemble and see Maria Bilyeu's video "Notable Works' Presents *Connections Nurtured by Nature's Harmonies*," with original music, research and narration by Noreen Inglesi, concerning the very poignant history of Hundred Acre Cove and the East Bay area. This event will also feature six of the poets who were finalists in the Notable Works' 2024 Poetry Initiative and will be sharing their great work. There will also be an open mic for music and poetry (first come first serve). The Public Services Librarian of Weaver Library, Michelle Perry, will talk about the magnificent East Providence Library System and the many opportunities offered to the public.

The Notable Works' Live Staged Reading of the musical "Sell Division," which will take place on November 15th at CCRI's Bobby Hackett Theater in Warwick, still has a few openings for cast members. This musical includes 20 musical numbers composed by Noreen Inglesi and Mary Zema and is about overcoming the impacts of misinformation, disinformation, labeling and stereotyping. For more information about the final auditions for cast members for this Live Staged Reading, contact Mary at: zemawoman99@gmail.com or call (401) 391-1874.



Land Trust offers "Poetry in the Wild" Workshop



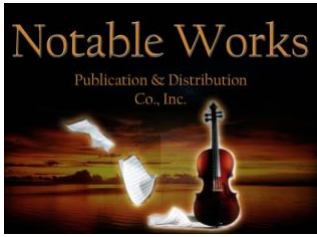
Cindy Elder
(left) & Kate
Hamilton
(right)
Workshop
Co-Leaders

The Barrington Land Conservation Trust's new "Art in Nature" series invites you to explore your artistic side while interacting with natural places. Their next event is a free "Poetry in the Wild Workshop" at Doug Rayner Wildlife Refuge on Friday, Aug. 9, from 10 am to noon.

Advance registration is required for this free event due to limited parking. To register, go to www.blct.org/events.

The workshop will be led by published poets Cindy Elder and Kate Hamilton. "We'll begin with a walk through the Refuge, and then we'll find a comfortable place to sit and write, drawing on our observations, sensations and reflections on the wilderness around us," says Elder, who also serves as executive director of the Land Trust. "Those who are comfortable may share their work with the group."

This workshop is recommended for adults and students ages 12 and up who have an interest in writing. All forms of poetry are welcome. Participants should bring a folding chair or a blanket to sit on, a water bottle, and any writing supplies they need. The Land Trust recommends that you wear shoes and socks, lightweight long pants and shirt, and a hat to protect from sun and insects. Mosquito and tick spray will be provided on site if you need it.



www.notableworks.org

Notable Works' 2024 Sponsors:

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The Doug Rayner Wildlife Refuge is an 82-acre town-owned preserve along Hundred Acre Cove in Barrington. The terrain is gentle but may be wet or uneven in places, with some moderate inclines. The Refuge is located at 111 George Street in Barrington, off Warren Avenue in Seekonk (near Four Town Farm). There is a parking area along the side of the road near the white gate at the entrance to the Refuge.

In the event of bad weather, the event will be rescheduled to Friday, Aug. 16. If you have any questions, email cindyelder@blct.org.

Presented by Newport's Energy & Environment Commission

a summer educational series:

CLIMATE CHANGE & RESILIENCE ON AQUIDNECK ISLAND

23 July Climate Change & Aquidneck Island

8 August The Effect of Climate Change & Offshore Wind on Fisheries & Ocean Ecosystems

15 August Offshore Wind Development off of Aquidneck Island & Newport County

6:30 - 8:30pm at the Newport City Hall Council Chambers



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The City of Providence Parks Department's investment in over 40 projects to clean polluted stormwater runoff within Roger Williams Park has inspired this yearly event, which highlights the importance of clean water and climate resiliency in our communities. Hosted by the Stormwater Innovation Center and City of Providence Parks Department.

For more information and a complete schedule of events, please visit: stormwaterinnovation.org/rainharvestfestival



Funded through RI Department of Transportation Partnership.



For more information, click the link below:

<https://www.easternriconservation.org/residential-rain-barrels>

For questions contact Ryan Brancato at:

rbrancato.ericd@gmail.com or call: (401) 903-2370

Cottonwood Tree: A Story

by Doreen Beyer

The cottonwood tree is a story in motion— a story shared with the fertile earth, the orbiting sun

and its own philosophical musings. In December, its fallen fan-shaped leaves ghosts a winter reverie—

its gnarly twigs a restless geometry of bud scale scars burning with memory of sunrises, of distant stars

and silent knowing that the Sun's hydrogen core will one day run out. Concealed within the twig,

a dramatic reddish five-point starlike structure— the clarity of its luminescence captured

like sacred symbolism suggesting an expression of hope in the time of Earth's despair.



All Poems Published in this newsletter were selected from Notable Works' 2024 Poetry Initiative

Winding through the Woods

by Dr. Anne Marie Vale

A plush carpet of pine needles, so soft,
Lies below my calloused feet as I gaze aloft.
A breathtaking and scintillating scene
Of heavenly blue and sparkling green.
Cheerful chirps, scurrying squirrels, a babbling brook.
Each event enchants me; no scene can I overlook.
Creatures in their environment instinctively harmonize.
A glorious, sensorial feast with no compromise.
What a profound, personal observation!
Indeed, an epiphany and revelation!
This is rather surreal, or so it seems.
As I bask in the glow of the sun as it gleams,
I thank our Creator in the heavens above,
Who embraces all of nature with a sweet, tender love.

An Absence of Turtles

by Sara Letourneau

I've been waiting for them to hatch.
It's been at least one hundred days
since my first-floor neighbor exclaimed,
with one hand on her hip and the other hand
pointed at the far corner of the parking lot,
"She was laying eggs! A mama snapping turtle!
I bet she came from the brook behind us in the woods."

That was late June.
It's now October first,
and there has been no upheaval,
no changes where the mother dug her nest.
That is, if a nest exists.
No one else in our building
says they saw a turtle, much less her laying.
Still, I've made a side trip to this corner
every day for the past week,
hoping for traces—
bits of eggshell, a collapse in the gravel
marking the boundary between cracked asphalt
and parched grass, something to interrupt
the layer of browned pine needles and red-gold leaves,
something that tells me
there is new life here.

Maybe I have missed the hatchlings
and their flight to the brook,
and the earth has already reclaimed this spot.
Maybe the eggs did not survive the summer.
Or, maybe their mother was never here.
I want to refuse those last two uncertainties
unless—no, until—there's some kind of evidence.
But as I stand vigil over this unproven cradle,
the deadweight of absence grows heavy in me,
and I accept that the daydream I conceived of—
the moment their mother began her excavation,
kicking away dirt and rock and debris
with her clawed feet and thick, powerful legs,
then turning around, slowly, to empty her body
of two dozen milk-colored, soft-shelled promises,
one after another—
is now a barren of if, not when.



RHODE ISLAND
LAND TRUST DAYS

This year, the Rhode Island Land Trust Council and Coventry Land Trust are kicking off Land Trust Days at the Tutsch and Merrill S. Whipple Conservation Area on August 23rd! Land Trust Days is the Council's two-month program designed to showcase the state's 45+ land trusts. The kickoff will feature a short speaking program, commencing at 2:00 pm, celebrating the work of the Coventry Land Trust. The hike will begin at 2:15 pm, taking visitors over the boardwalk, through the swamp, along the Pawtuxet River, and through the upland forest. Learn more at:



<https://www.rilandtrusts.org/landtrustdays/>

Quote of the Month

***Just set one day's work in front of the last day's work. That's the way it comes out.* John Steinbeck**

John Steinbeck had already received critical acclaim for "Of Mice and Men" when, in 1938, he began to write "The Grapes of Wrath." Not one to rest on his laurels, the author was more driven than ever [to create his best work](#). To that end, he kept what he called "the diary of a book," later published as "Working Days." Full of dogged determination and inspiration, as well as stinging self-doubt and self-reproach, the diary reveals the creative process throughout the 100 days Steinbeck spent writing the novel. He constantly reminds himself to keep going, to write each day no matter what, and to accept doubt and forge onward. "I am sure of one thing — it isn't the great book I had hoped it would be," he wrote in the diary. "It's just a run-of-the-mill book." He was wrong, of course. "The Grapes of Wrath" won a Pulitzer and earned Steinbeck the Nobel Prize.