

M A Y 2 0 2 5

Notable Notes

Notable Works Publication and Distribution Co., Inc.



Audubon Society
of Rhode Island



Red-eyed Vireo-Jason Major

Go Birding With the Best! Audubon Offers 35 FREE Birds Walks in May

Locations Across Rhode Island

May brings the best birding of the year, so grab your binoculars and search for spring migrants with an expert on a FREE May birding walk. Learn about local species and the habitats they depend on. May is the perfect time to get outside, enjoy the warmer weather, and learn more about our feathered friends! All free birding walks require advanced registration - visit the events calendar at www.asri.org/calendar.



WOONASQUATUCKET RIVER
WATERSHED COUNCIL

Bike for Bees and Butterflies

Date: Saturday, May 31, 2025

Time: 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Location: Goldsmith Street, Johnston,
RI 02919 (Meet at the Fish Ladder)

Join us for the **third annual Bike for Bees and Butterflies!** Pedal along the scenic Woonasquatucket River Greenway and explore several interactive stations hosted by our amazing community partners. Celebrate the beauty of nature, connect with fellow riders, and learn about local environmental efforts while enjoying a fun, active morning. Stay tuned for more details on the event stations, and don't forget your bike! [REGISTER HERE](#)

This event is offered in partnership with **15 Minute Field Trips**, an organization dedicated to connecting people of all ages with the outdoors through accessible, hands-on learning experiences. Together, we aim to inspire curiosity, foster environmental stewardship, and encourage exploration of the natural world in our own communities.

Winners of Notable Works' 2025 Poetry Contest

Notable Works (www.notableworks.org), a non-profit arts organization dedicated to raising awareness for environmental and social concerns through the Arts, is pleased to announce **the winners of Notable Works' 2025 Poetry Contest**. This year's judges included Ocean State Poets: Carol Anderheggen, Lawrence J. Krips and Kate O'Kula, and the final judge was Tina Cane, Poet Laureate of Rhode Island (2016-2024). The theme for this year's contest focused on "healing and bridging the divide that misinformation can create as it pertains to our natural environment and social concerns."

First Place: Diana Cole for *In Concert*

Second Place: Monique Cellemme for *White Noise*

Third Place: Zachary Berger for *Anisoptera*

Honorable Mentions:

Mary Gutierrez for *Where the Divide Breathes*

Seth Rafal for *Crossing to Goosewing Beach*

Marissa Sasso for *Natural Memories*

Please join us to help celebrate the six winners who will be featured at ***Bridging the Divide Through Music and Poetry @ William Hall*** on Saturday, May 3, 2025 at 11AM in the William Hall Library Auditorium located at 1825 Broad Street Cranston, RI. 02905. Admission is Free and Everyone is Welcome.

Pre-Reservation Available- Not Required

<https://events.cranstonlibrary.org/event/13004740>

*A BioBlitz at Peace And
Plenty Community Garden
Story on page 3*



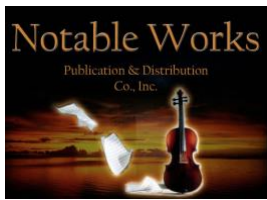
ecoRI
news

ecoRI News will be hosting a free live event on the topic of shoreline access — just in time for beach season.

I hope you'll join us on May 22 after work at the Westerly Armory. Our reporter Rob Smith will moderate a panel discussion and take up your questions about beach access.

If you are interested in coming, please RSVP for this free event at the link below. And please share with friends, neighbors, and colleagues who might be interested in joining the discussion.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/its-no-day-at-the-beach-demystifying-shoreline-access-tickets-1316160414229>



www.notableworks.org

Thank You to

Notable Works' 2025 Sponsors:

Platinum Sponsors (\$300.00+)

Helen Hudson Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kelly
Bill and Peg Paolino

Gold Sponsors (\$100.00+)

Carol Anderheggen
Belmont Market
Zach Berger and Michael Alper
Dr. Jeannie Burkhard
Bill Carpenter & Emily Westcott
Captain's Catch Seafood
DeAngelis, McNamara & Cofone, PC
Cold Brook Café LLC
Eugene and Joyce Daignault
Ruth Ann Dougherty and
Cindy Drake
Michael and Charron Holtzman
Pools Plus, Inc.
Joanne M. Quinn
Robert's Musical Instruments
Jen and Jonathan Scungio
Mr. & Mrs. Phil Soder
Peter White
Marianne Quinn and Mary Zema

Silver Sponsors (\$50.00+)

Marguerite K. Flanders
Greenwich Bay Chiropractic
Tracey Ormande
Gary Pancarowicz
Roberta Ricci
Mary Ann Rossoni
Kathleen Rourke
State Ballet of Rhode Island

Bronze Sponsors (\$25.00+)

Anne Diamond
Dr. Jodi Glass
Linda Kamajian
Jim Manchester
Linda Martin
Mary Ann Mayer
Jamie O'Connor
Barbara Pavone
Stephanie Mills' Photography
Phyllis Smiley
Turf Works
Richard and Martha Ventrone
Shirley Zema

*And Thank You to Stop and Shop,
Shaw's and Fellini Pizzeria of Cranston, RI*



Between Moon Tides: Saving the Saltmarsh Sparrow

Jason Jaacks pictured left

BARRINGTON, RI – In a ribbon of saltmarsh in coastal New England, an intergenerational group of citizen scientists is trying to save the Saltmarsh Sparrow from extinction, one nest at a time.

On Tuesday, May 6, at 7 pm, the Barrington Land Conservation Trust and the Barrington Public Library will present a free community screening of the new documentary by **Jason Jaacks**, *Between Moon Tides*. A discussion will follow, led by the co-directors of the Saltmarsh Sparrow Research Initiative, Steve Reinert, Jim O'Neill and Deirdre Robinson, along with Research Assistant Joel Eckerson.

Visit www.blct.org/events to register. Registration is limited to 100 people. All ages are welcome and there is no residency restriction. The presentation will take place in the Salem Family Auditorium at the Barrington Public Library.

The Saltmarsh Sparrow has often been referred to as the “canary in the coal mine” for rising sea levels due to global warming. It has successfully built nests only an inch above the ground for thousands of years. Dependent upon healthy salt marshes on the East Coast of the US, the Saltmarsh Sparrow's population has diminished by 75% since the 1990s. It lives nowhere else in the world and could become extinct by mid-century due to flooding, depredation and habitat loss

The Land Trust Learning Series is a year-long program of free environmental education presentations. The Learning Series is sponsored by Guinness Financial Services, BankNewport, and Prickly Ed's Cactus Patch Native Plant Emporium with additional support from Meridian Custom Homes, Pods Swimming, Jaffe Orthodontics, Rosemary's School of Dance and Charles Millard General Contractors.



Join the Rhode Island Land Trust Council on **Monday, June 16th at The Guild in Pawtucket** for our Annual Meeting & Celebration. We'll reflect on a year of conservation successes, unveil our new mascot *Thistle*, and enjoy great food, music, and community.

Registration is required.

[Learn more here!](#)



As a core part of their mission, RIEEA supports community-led advocacy efforts and drives environmental education policy on the local, state, and federal levels. Often, they are the only voice of the environmental education community testifying on proposed legislation and participating in state policy discussions. Their four priority areas are: environmental education, access to outdoor spaces, spaces community awareness, and environmental justice. RIEEA is currently tracking 38 bills this legislative session. [You can see them all here](#), along with links to the testimony RIEEA has submitted. Bill introductions have slowed down dramatically, and now that we're past spring break, things will be moving quickly. [Join the RIEEA Google Group](#) to keep updated!





Earth Month Rain Barrel Events

Learn how to prep a rain barrel, with all the materials and step by step guidance provided within the workshop. At the end of the workshop, you will be taking home a ready-to-install rain barrel and installation kit, which will collect and store stormwater for your garden. There are four total workshops throughout the months of April and May. [Check them out here!](#) The next upcoming workshop is May 3rd in Bristol! Purchase [here](#) before they sell out!

Residential Stormwater Info Session

Are you a residential property owner or manager in Eastern Rhode Island? Do you have rising concerns about stormwater management on your property? Join the Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District (ERICD) and Sustainability Studies capstone class of Roger Williams University (RWU) for an information session on Residential Stormwater Management on Monday, April 28th at the Quinta Gamelin Community Center in Bristol, RI at 6:30PM. This is a free event, [RSVP HERE!](#)



Last Chance - Don't Miss Out!

18th Annual Women Helping Women Fundraising Event

Crossroads is excited to host its 18th annual Women Helping Women fundraising event which will be held on Thursday, May 8th at the WaterFire Arts Center. Last year, your support provided essential programs and emergency services to more than 3,500 women and children. Nothing is more powerful than strong women reaching out and lifting up other women.

[Get Your Tickets Today!](#)



A BioBlitz at Peace and Plenty Community Garden

On Saturday, April 12, the first ever BioBlitz was held at Peace and Plenty Garden. Yes, it was cold, damp, windy and rainy; however, the spirit of the event was not dampened by the 17 folks (environmentalists from organizations like the RI Wildplant Society, Audubon, 15 Minute Field Trips, Providence Urban Wildlife Conservation Partnership, gardeners, a musician, an artist, Wheeler School students and more) showed up to identify 72 different

species of both flora and fauna: species like cuspidate earth moss, false turkey tail, common chickweed, furry snake millipede and red-bellied woodpeckers were identified. All findings were uploaded to iNaturalist, which is an online social and scientific network of people sharing biodiversity information. It's also a crowdsourced species identification system and an organism occurrence recording tool. See the list: [here](#). For example, did you know that common chickweed is not only edible, but it is packed with nutrition and you can make pesto with it? Here is the recipe and more about chickweed: <https://www.learningherbs.com/blog/chickweed-pesto#tgsc.tab=0>. Come by the garden on Thursday or Saturday mornings to learn more. Every species discovered has a story and a role worth telling. A BioBlitz helps gardeners better understand who their wild neighbors are from common 'weeds' to invertebrates who live in the soil and even a visiting grey squirrel. Each species performs a job in the interconnected bio system of the garden.

Understanding what role they play in a community garden is critical especially when "embracing both the 'permaculture measures' to re-envisioning food-growing success." It also serves to more fully identify the impact of invasive species and problem insects in a garden. And lastly, it informs us how we can more intentionally support our threatened pollinator populations such as our beloved bumblebees. **We will be holding 2 more BioBlitzes this year on Saturday, July 12th and Saturday, October 11th.** The 3 seasonal BioBlitzes will give us a deeper understanding of the garden's overall ecosystem. Special thanks to Bloom Rhode Island for the grant that made these BioBlitzes possible.

<https://bloomrhodeisland.org>. For more information, contact Doug at this

Southside Community Land Trust Garden:

doug.crimewatch@gmail.com

Dew Point

By Badiana Badio

She glittered, a single dewdrop, bright,
Her warmth like sunlight on grass
blades alight.

The chill of morning clung close and
deep,

A hush fell.

Other droplets, shimmering near,
Gathered from the mist, dispelling
fear.

She felt their unity, a silent call,

Unwavering.

Taking a breath, the air so clear,
She steadied herself, casting off all
fear.

They merged as one, a form renewed,

Empowered.

A symphony in dew, their essence
shared,

Lost and found, a universe declared.

A new dawn broke, the world anew,

Awaken.

Submitted as part of
Notable Works'
2024 Poetry Initiative

Top(pled) soil

By Christopher Gaynor

It starts with the ground -- soil's surface --
The perfect substrate to begin
A foundation to build upon, again

Creating spectacular behemoths
Monuments dedicated to a foundation
The bedrock which makes construction possible

Until the skyscrapers breach atmosphere
And smother themselves with delusions,
only possible while engaged in a superiority complex

Separated entirely from the clouds,
lost in their own self-made obscurity
of realities on the ground

A veneer, forgotten the foundation
upon which privilege is granted,
to where privilege is founded;

Demanding to be higher,
to ascend further above
the limits permitted by the ground below, and so

It ends with the ground
Where the mighty and arrogant fall
Crashing to the surface catastrophically

Becoming one, once again, with the surface
Integrated into new foundation, from remnants

Destruction a catalyst for fresh creations
Dependent on a vital resource, limited.

Wisdom of the Moon

By Nina Quaratella

Craters abound.
Desolate seas of lava.

Pulling our waters.
Leveling our tides.

Orbiting in an elliptical balance.
Waxing and waning.

Patiently awaiting full illumination.

For the moon teaches us,
you do not always need to shine your brightest
to be beautiful.

**These poems were submitted as part of
Notable Works' 2024 Poetry Initiative**

RIWP Writing Marathon

Touisset means "at the cornfield" in Wampanoag. For thousands of years before European settlers arrived in America, Native Americans grew corn during the summer months in the Touisset area of present-day Warren. For this year's writing marathon we'll walk beside the Kickemuit River in Warren, stopping to write and share on topics related to nature, teaching, land, and legacy.

SATURDAY, MAY 17, 9:00 – 12:00

\$25 for teachers, \$10 for students.

3 hour PLU certificate.

[Register here.](#)



For information:

www.RIWP.org



Creative writers of all genres and experience levels are invited to the monthly Words on Fire Open Mic at William Hall Library in Cranston. The next event will be Wednesday, May 7, 2025 6:00-7:30PM. Learn more and register at:

<https://events.cranstonlibrary.org/calendar/events/wordsonfire>.

BENCH COMMUNES

By Diane Webster

I am a bench on the trail
where some people stop...
rest, breathe, commune,
appreciate pine tree smells
in pre-dawn lightening,
hear crows caw bird news
to sparrows stretching in their nests,
converse if path leads
to a boisterous waterfall
splashing effervescent tickles
or narrows into ferns, brambles,
branches tangling around ankles
to pull down to its ground level.

Tell me your thoughts, your worries,
your aspirations, your personal views
secure with me as bolts in my slats
as my legs in cement hidden by moss.

Resume your journey. I hope you
had a good time. I'll be right here
if you need me again. Just a bench
on your trail to where you are going.

Quote of the Month

"Art is a language which anneals individuals to each other through experiences that are uniquely human." Ann Lauterbach

Leave it to a poet to employ a word like "anneals." It's a scientific term, used to describe the joining of two complementary strands of nucleic acid through hydrogen bonds. An obscure word, yes, but also perfectly chosen for this metaphor. In Ann Lauterbach's prose, art becomes the hydrogen bond through which well-matched [individuals are connected](#). This lovely quote appears in Lauterbach's 2008 book "The Night Sky: Writings on the Poetics of Experience," in which she explores the myriad ways in which art and poetry are integral to the human experience.