

J A N U A R Y 2 0 2 6

Notable Notes

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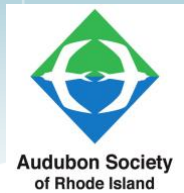


Photo of Red Fox
by Peter Green

Audubon Field Naturalist: Wildlife Tracks and Signs Three-session Series Audubon Wildlife Refuges

January 10, February 7, March 28, 2026;
10:00am-1:00pm

Discover the art and science of interpreting wildlife tracks and signs! Participants will learn gaits and patterns, track and scat identification, as well as some of the telltale signs and clues that wildlife leave behind. Each session includes indoor activities as well as an opportunity to practice what you learned on the trails. Held on Audubon Wildlife Refuges in Smithfield, North Smithfield, and Exeter, RI.

Register at asri.org/calendar.

Fee per session: \$36/member, \$42/non-member. Ages 15 to Adult.



Environmental Studies Scholarship Applications Now Open!

The Rhode Island Environmental Education Association (RIEEA) is happy to announce that applications are now open for our 2026 Environmental Studies Scholarships. These scholarships are for Rhode Island residents pursuing a college or university degree related to the environment. Winners have demonstrated a passion for the environment, community leadership, and success in their academic and/or employment and volunteer endeavors. Please share widely amongst your networks! Learn more at <https://www.rieea.org/resources/environme>

Seeking Art Submissions for a New Publication

Submissions are now open for original art and photography for Notable Works' upcoming publication **Voices of the Earth: The Future of Our Planet IV**, which will be released by Notable Works at an event on June 27, 2026 in the William Hall Library Auditorium in Cranston, RI from 11AM to 1PM. Artists from high school age and up may submit up to three original works following the theme: ***Bridging the Divide and Coming Together for a Common Goal***, as it pertains to the natural environment, to be considered for inclusion in this new book.

All submissions must be received prior to **February 1, 2026 at midnight (EST)**. The "Call for Art Flier and Submission Guidelines" are available on Notable Works' website: www.notableworks.org or email: info@notableworks.org.

This "Call for Art" is part of Notable Works' collaborative project with Stormwater Innovation Center (www.stormwaterinnovation.org).

"Songs and Poems for the Earth and the Season"

Notable Works hosted an event on November 29th 2025 at the North Providence Library from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM, featuring a Special Presentation by Ryan Kopp (*pictured on right*), Director of Stormwater Innovation Center (SIC) at the Audubon Society of Rhode Island, which focused on SIC's efforts to improve water quality and stormwater management in Rhode Island. Through collaborative projects with government, non-profits, and industry partners, SIC connects research, education, and real-world implementation to build a cleaner and more resilient future for Rhode Island's waterways.



This November 29th event also featured six of the poets whose works will be included in **Voices of the Earth: The Future of Our Planet IV** (*see photos by Jen Scungio below*).



Carol Anderheggen



Tarshire Battle



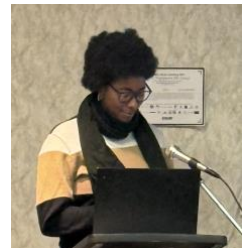
Bill Carpenter



Kate O'Kula

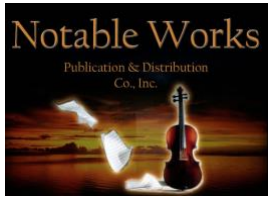


Elizabeth Spring



Yvonne Wingard

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www.notableworks.org

Thank You to

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Shirley Zema

Special Thanks to Audubon Society of Rhode Island, Lang's Bowl-a-rama, The Newport Playhouse, and DePetrillo's Pizza & Bakery, Santoro's Pizza, Shaw's and Stop and Shop of North Providence.

Also at this event, North Providence Teacher, Greg Berger, introduced some of his students from the fourth Grade Classes at Stephen Olney School who each shared some of the original poems they created expressing what they liked about this time of year, the holidays and also some of their ideas about how to help protect our natural environment.

Notable Works was so pleased and honored to have **The Notable Works' Ensemble**: Maria Bilyeu, cello; Teresa Gervais, flute; Noreen Inglesi, composer and vocals; Beth Schapira, lead vocals; Alison Shea, Ensemble Director, pianist and vocalist with Special Guest Mary Zema, guitar and vocals perform original songs about the natural environment and inspirational songs about the season with Dave McNally, sound engineer.



Click the link below to listen to The Notable Works' Ensemble's performance of "Never Stop Believing," words and music by Noreen Inglesi and arranged by Noreen Inglesi and Mary Zema for the new musical "Sell Division: Breaking the Chains of Perception" or type "'Never Stop Believing' by Noreen Inglesi (arr. Inglesi/Zema)" on You Tube.

<https://youtu.be/oX5ZG3H2Dog>



Sara Sampieri Horvet (pictured above) joins the **Stormwater Innovation Center as the new Stormwater Outreach and Engagement program manager**. She brings more than two decades of experience in water quality science, with a focus on how nutrient enrichment affects the ecological health of estuaries and freshwater ponds. Sara holds a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies from Providence College and a Master's Degree in Coastal Systems Science from UMass Dartmouth-SMAST.

She has extensive experience in analytical laboratory operations, coordinating / managing volunteer programs, and mentoring interns, graduate students, and citizen scientists. Sara is also an active board member of the Barrington Land Conservation Trust, where she serves on the Stewardship Committee, Education Committee, and the Terrapin Conservation Project. Additionally, Sara co-founded and helps lead the Women on Run-Barrington running group.

In her new role at SIC, Sara looks forward to applying her background to advance stormwater research, support community-based monitoring, and help design solutions that protect and restore natural habitats. She looks forward to expanding outreach and education efforts to help communities better understand and mitigate stormwater issues. She is deeply committed to ensuring that her children (and future generations) can continue to enjoy Rhode Island's most beautiful and ecologically important places.



Land Trust to Hold History Walks for Country's 250th Anniversary

BARRINGTON, RI – The Barrington Land Conservation Trust will lead a series of six History Walks between January and June in conjunction with town-wide celebrations of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Each History Walk will present elements of Barrington's history in connection with the location you are visiting. They are held in collaboration with [Barrington 250](http://Barrington250.org).

All events are free and open to the public, regardless of where you live. All ages are welcome. To register for any of these History Walks, go to www.blct.org/events.

Thursday, January 1, 1 pm – New Year's Day History Walk on the Hampden Meadows Greenbelt. The two-mile walk will begin at the trailhead on Kent Street and continue to Linden Road, returning the same way. The Greenbelt offers an opportunity to explore its significance to the Pokanoket people as well as Hampden Meadows' role as a place of trade in the early days of settlement.

Thursday, Feb. 19, 10 am – Family History Walk at St. Andrews Farm. Designed for families during February vacation, this event will feature a hot cocoa station, old-fashioned outdoor games and snowman building (if there's snow). While the kids play, the adults can learn about the history of this special property. Once a working farm, St. Andrews Farm is now one a popular spot for walkers. This conservation property was protected through a generous local philanthropist who purchased the property and donated it to the Town.

Saturday, March 7, 10 am – History Walk to Allin's Cove. Allin's Cove is comprised of more than a dozen conservation areas owned by the Town, State and Land Trust. This property provides a glimpse into the life of General Allin, the history of slavery in Barrington, and early industry in town like Rhode Island Laceworks.

There will also be three other History Walks: **Wednesday, April 22, 1 pm – Earth Day History Walk and Cleanup at Osamequin Nature Preserve;** **Thursday, May 14, 4 pm – Evening History Walk at Sowams Woods** and **Sunday, June 7, 1 pm – Summer History Walk at Johannis Farm Wildlife Preserve.**

About the Barrington Land Conservation Trust

Founded in 1979, the Barrington Land Conservation Trust is a volunteer-powered organization which has protected hundreds of acres of conservation land in Barrington, RI. Volunteers continue to care for this land. The Land Trust provides free environmental engagement and educational experiences to the public. For information on how you can get involved, visit www.blct.org or email cindyelder@blct.org.

About Barrington 250

Barrington celebrates the 250th anniversary of American independence with festivities through July 2026 that invite neighbors and visitors of all ages to commemorate our town's rich history in establishing and sustaining a democratic nation. Presented in collaboration with community partners, programs will feature educational events, civic engagement activities, ceremonies and celebrations that culminate over the July 4th holiday weekend. Learn more at barrington.ri.gov/250.



**New Year's Day History Walk on
the Hampden Meadows Greenbelt.**



**Family History Walk at St.
Andrews Farm.**



History Walk to Allin's Cove.

Cold and Bright on a Winter Night

By Peg Paolino

The moon up high
Smiling down
Casting shadows on the ground
Stars sketch twinkling images
Blinking beams of light
To keep the ceiling bright
In the woods
Creatures nesting
Hiding silently
Waiting
Watching
People passing
Slipping
Sliding
Laughing
Chatting
Feeling cold but crisp and happy
Winter night
So cold and bright

*All Poems on this page published in Notable Works'
Voices of the Earth: The Future of Our Planet III.*



Thanks, and wishing Happy Holidays to you and Bina! Greetings, Creatives and Supporters! The next Words on Fire Open Mic takes place from 6:00-7:30 PM on Wednesday, January 7 in the William Hall Library Auditorium. If you haven't yet signed up to read and/or watch, there's still space available!

[You can read more and register on our website.](#)

We hope to see you there!

Icicles

By Janet Barron

Icicles suspended
In a frozen magic freeze,
As Jack Frost blows his cold wind,
In a wintry, chilly breeze.
Hanging in their splendor,
For the world to feast its eyes,
Admiring these works of art,
That man did not devise.
How brief will be their beauty.
Soon their wonder will be done,
When Mother Nature calls to them
And sends her favorite "sun".
Reflect upon their beauty,
As we strive to call to mind,
How fleeting are the gifts in life;
How precious is our time!

To realize the simple things,
In life are really grand –
To listen, give, appreciate,
To help and understand.

To comprehend that we must learn,
The role we're here to play,
To help our fellow man to
Celebrate each wondrous day.

Icicles suspended in,
A frozen magic freeze,
With stark and tranquil beauty,
They can melt our hearts with ease.



Husbandry

By Carol Anderheggen

The squirrel
with a hunk of food
in her mouth
surveyed my vinca
until she found
by scratching out a hole
the perfect place
to bury her treasure
then like a mother
covering her infant
she gently pushed
the vinca back
over the little wound
in the earth...
saying I'll be back.

January and February Events

JANUARY Get your year started off on the right foot with WAM (Writing, Art Movement.)! Join **Brittany Ahnrud** and **Autumn Messier** for the **theme of "Let It Go" on Saturday, January 10 from 9-12 on the RIC campus.** You will get to write, make art, and engage in movement practices designed to let go of negativity and embrace creativity and joy for 2026.

FEBRUARY In *Lessons from My Teachers*, a book of short essays, famous playwright **Sarah Ruhl** describes the impact of educators throughout our lives. The stories and vignettes honor classroom teachers, mentors, children, and friends, as she reflects on the roles of student and teacher. **Please join us over Zoom on Thursday, Feb. 12, from 4-5:30** to discuss your favorite essays from the book and how they connect to your personal and professional life. You can buy the book at Bookshop.org, order from your favorite bookseller, or get it from the RI library system.

Register for one or both of these events [at this link.](#)