

M A R C H 2 0 2 6

# Notable Notes

Notable Works Publication and Distribution Co., Inc.

*Voices of the Earth: The Future of Our Planet IV*  
Book Release Celebration



Photo by Josephine Doucette

**Eco-Engineering Workshop**  
**Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium,**  
**Bristol, RI**

**March 5, 2026; 5:00-7:00pm**

According to the EPA, paper products, like cardboard, make up almost a quarter of our landfilled material! Boxes can (and should) be recycled, but what if you could transform this packaging into an enchanting piece of decor? Join Audubon and build hanging bird mobiles (that actually flap their wings) out of discarded cardboard! No experience necessary.

*Fees from this program will support in-school eco-engineering programs for Rhode Island's youth.*

For details and to register, visit  
[asri.org/calendar](http://asri.org/calendar).



**Free Sunday Guided Bird Walk**

Every other Sunday 8:00 am - 10:00 am

Meet in the Parking Lot

Led by Jay Manning, Assistant Director of Conservation at NBS

**Free Wednesday Nature Walks**

March 1 - October 31 3:30 - 4:15 p.m.

This free public program requires no registration and will meet outside the Welcome Center ten minutes prior to the walk. In the event of inclement weather, an announcement that day will be made on our website determining whether the walk will continue or not.

Norman Bird Sanctuary,  
583 3rd Beach Rd, Middletown, RI 02842

Phone: (401) 846-2577

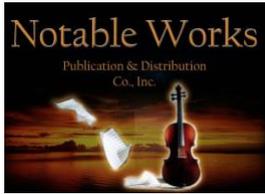
[www.normanbirdsantuary.org](http://www.normanbirdsantuary.org)

We're thrilled to announce some exciting news for our Notable Works' community! The much-anticipated *Voices of the Earth: The Future of Our Planet IV - Building Innovative Bridges for Tomorrow* is right on track and set to be released and celebrated at the **William Hall Library Auditorium** on **Saturday, June 27, 2026, from 11 AM to 1 PM**. We warmly invite you to join **Notable Works, Stormwater Innovation Center** and the **Cranston Public Library** for this inspiring event, where guests will have the opportunity to be among the first to experience this new collection of original poems and artworks. Each piece is thoughtfully created around the theme: "Bridging the Divide and Coming Together for a Common Goal." Beyond showcasing creative voices, this beautiful publication also includes a helpful listing of dedicated environmental agencies across Rhode Island. We hope you'll join us in celebrating music, art, poetry, and the collective power of community as we work towards a more sustainable and innovative future!

This special celebration will feature an inspiring lineup of speakers, poets, artists, composers and musicians whose expertise and creativity enrich this "Voices of the Earth" event. Scientist **Sara Sampieri Horvet** of the Stormwater Innovation Center, who brings over twenty years of experience in water quality science and serves on the Barrington Land Conservation Trust's Board of Directors, will deliver the keynote address. Notable Works is also proud to present readings by six poets whose works are included in this new publication:

- **Christopher Gaynor** — Employed by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, Christopher has served in the United States Peace Corps in Tanzania and as an American corps serviceman in VT.
- **Kate Hamilton** — As a member of the Barrington Land Conservation Trust's Board of Directors and a volunteer at the East Bay Food Pantry in Bristol, Kate enjoys creating art and especially writing poetry about nature and the world around her.
- **Theresa Hickey** — An award-winning poet and freelance writer, Theresa is honored to have recently published her fourth collection of poems.
- **Janet D. Johnson** — As professor of English Education at Rhode Island College and site director for the Rhode Island Writing Project (RIWP), Janet works with K-12 teachers on integrating writing and critical literacy both inside and outside the classroom.
- **Peg Paolino** — A wife, mother, grandmother, and retired nurse, Peg finds writing poetry to be a meaningful way of sharing her thoughts and reflections.
- **Sherri Stepakoff** — Sherri served as the inaugural poet in residence at Unity Farm Sanctuary, an animal rescue farm in Sherburn, Massachusetts. Her poetry collection, *Sanctuary at Unity Farm*, will be released this summer.

This June 27<sup>th</sup> celebration will also showcase a musical performance by the Notable Works' Ensemble, premiering new works by Notable Works' Artist and Residence **Noreen Inglesi** and special guest composer and performer **Mary Zema**. Whether you are a passionate supporter of the arts or simply curious about local environmental efforts, this event promises to offer something special for everyone. We look forward to your presence as we unite in celebration and inspire each other to make a lasting impact.



[www.notableworks.org](http://www.notableworks.org)

**Thank You to  
Notable Works' 2025/26 Sponsors:**

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**Register now for the  
RIEEA Annual Summit!**

Join the Rhode Island Environmental Education Association on Saturday, March 14, for the 2026 Annual Summit - *Education Through Cultivation: Rooting Teaching, Farming, & Healing in Relationship to the Land*. Keynote speaker Sienna Viette from Open fArms Retreat will share her experience working across Rhode Island to strengthen local food systems, position farms as centers of community learning, and improve student nutrition. The morning will also include facilitated small-group discussions, cross-sector networking, and resource-sharing that highlight effective practices in environmental education, agriculture, traditional ecological knowledge, and land stewardship. Participants will enjoy a full, hot breakfast, along with a fun raffle and door prizes. Learn more and register at: [bit.ly/RIEEA-Summit](http://bit.ly/RIEEA-Summit)

**404 BROAD STREET  
PROVIDENCE, RI**

**APRIL 18, 2026  
10AM - 1PM**

# URBAN AGRICULTURE KICK OFF

**FARMERS, COMMUNITY GARDENERS, & FRIENDS WELCOME!**

**WORKSHOPS**  
Dividing Perennials | Drip Irrigation  
Growing Herbs Indoors | Soil Health

**RESOURCES**  
Ask-the-Experts | Free Seeds | NRICD  
Kids Table | Community Partners

**& MORE!**  
Building Tours | Membership Sign-up  
Compost Pick-up | Meet the Staff

**Join Southside Community Land Trust** and friends on **Saturday, April 18 from 10am to 1pm** at 404 Broad Street in Providence for our annual Urban Agriculture Kick Off celebration! Launch the 2026 growing season with hands-on workshops on dividing native perennials, drip irrigation, growing herbs indoors, and soil health fundamentals. Attendees will connect with fellow farmers and community gardeners at Ask-the-Expert tables, pick up free seeds with Providence Seed Library, explore kids activities, meet with community resource advocates, and tour the 404 Broad Street building.

All are welcome at this free event designed for urban farmers, community gardeners, and anyone interested in growing food in Rhode Island's cities. Whether you're managing a community garden plot, farming commercially, or just getting started on your urban agriculture journey, you'll find the resources and community connections to make this your most successful growing season yet. Visit [southsideclt.org](http://southsideclt.org) for more information.



Land Trust is Holding History Walks for Country's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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.

Wednesday, April 22, 1 pm – Earth Day History Walk and Cleanup at Osamequin Nature Preserve. Osamequin Nature Preserve is a 42-acre conservation area along the western shore of Hundred Acre Cove in Barrington. The Preserve offers insight into the ancestral homelands of the Pokanoket people, the original inhabitants of this area, and is one of the most highly used network of public walking trails in Barrington.

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](#).

All events are free and open to the public, regardless of where you live. All ages are welcome. To register for any of the Land Trust's History Walks, go to [www.blct.org/events](http://www.blct.org/events).

Future history walks include:

Thursday, May 14, 4 pm – Evening History Walk at Sowams Woods.

Sunday, June 7, 1 pm – Summer History Walk at Johannis Farm Wildlife Preserve.

2026 Land & Water Summit  
March 21<sup>st</sup> at URI  
**Registration now open!**

Scan QR code or go to [rilandtrusts.org/2026-summit](http://rilandtrusts.org/2026-summit).  
**Register by February 17<sup>th</sup> for Early Bird pricing!**

Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District

**ERICD SEEDLING SALE**

ON SALE NOW UNTIL APRIL 23RD

*Pick Up*  
April 25th, 2026 | 9:30AM-12:30PM

Greenvale Vineyards 582 Wapping Rd, Portsmouth, RI 02871

**TREES**  
**GREEN YOUR WORLD**

Discover the benefits of trees, simple care tips, and how to support your community as a PCF Tree Steward.

Dates, location, and time:  
Where: 2/26 at **George Wiley Center**, 32 East St. Pawtucket, RI from 5-6 pm  
3/5 and 3/12 at the **Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park**, 67 Roosevelt Ave, Pawtucket, RI 02860 from 5-6 pm

**Registration required.** Limited to 15 participants per session. Participation is limited to one workshop per person.

Food provided and a \$25 dollar stipend.

ROOTS2EMPOWER

Rhode Island Tree Council **LISC RHODE ISLAND**  
Trees Are Cool

## Resilience

By Sharon E. Alexander

**Recovering** quickly, resolved she stands to reach the sky after recurring rains soak in; retaining midst remote rugged rocks.

**Entangled**, sometimes exhausted and empty; established though with an elastic entity exists with exhilaration; effectively escapes the enemy, the elements- elevated like an elite eagle examining its environment.

**Scarred** snarly branches, safe and secure she slowly sways 'neath stormy skies; shimmering supple leaves sing softly shielded from searing scorching sun's rays.

**Intensely** insulted, standing irately isolated illuminating the mountainside, impressive and irrevocable, leaving an impenetrable indelible imprint.

**Licking** the landscape at times, she appears lame, limp and languid; literally struggling with labors of life, while lingering limitlessly with luster.

**Inch** by inch with illogical initiative, immense she stands – internally immune, inevitable inspiration, always ingrained with integrity.

**Encircled** and exiled, each root extraordinarily envelops the expanse, entrapping the earth, preventing erosion with elegance.

**Notice** how she narrowly leans nestled with nerve, nearly into nothing; negated and nurtured with native, natural nourishment, always navigating her niche.

**Challenging** one's character, the camouflaged cedar in Creator's care, celebrates if chafed or cramped in crisis, colliding with calamity; carefully maintains control; courageously capable; coping with calm and certainty.

**Exhausted**, on edge, sometimes enslaved and enfeebled – every moment equipped with exemplary effort; overcome with energy evidently engrossed, empowered and entirely engaged with exemplary esteem!



Greetings, Creatives and Supporters! The next Words on Fire Open Mic is a special Saturday Edition and takes place from 2:00-4:00 PM on March 21 in the William Hall Library Auditorium. If you haven't yet signed up to read and/or watch, there's still space available! [More information and registration are available on our website.](#) We hope to see you there!

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## Spring Signs

By Jim Manchester

Heavy snow lies thick and lazy  
on the silent ground;  
Sand stained, discolored now, it pushes 'gainst the  
freeze beneath  
And craters at the dormant trunks of trees and stems  
of shrubs.  
Its burden is to bear the promise of a spring to be,  
Unbothered by the wizened winter past.  
The pack succumbs, if slowly, to insistent sun,  
Recedes beneath itself  
in a slow  
dance of  
disappearance . . .

Both Poems Previously published in Notable Works'  
*Voices of the Earth: The Future of Our Planet II*

### Global Environmental Initiative



Amazon Fungus EATS Plastic (Yale Students' Mind-Blowing Discovery) *Click link then skip ad to view.*

<https://youtu.be/kFr5sdB4IM>



Upcoming  
Events

Join the Rhode Island Writing Project for one, two, or all three of our spring events! Register for free at this link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScdf9tMUiFjUxKxS7g4m17sWrcl-9mLg7tr2HuW0Q2zLWlzxw/viewform?usp=header>

Email us at [riwritingproject@gmail.com](mailto:riwritingproject@gmail.com) with any questions.

- The "Women of Aquidneck Island" Open Air Institute will take place on Saturday, March 21st 9:00am-1:00pm in Portsmouth, RI.
- "After the Clouds, the Sun: Hartford's Writing Legacy of Resistance and Revival" will take place on Saturday, April 11th at 9:15am-3:15pm. The day will begin at the Twain/Stowe Nook Farm Neighborhood in Hartford, CT. Be prepared to pay an admission fee and either bring your lunch or money for lunch.
- The RIWP's annual Writing Marathon will take place on Saturday, May 9th from 9-12.

Rhode Island Writing Project

[RIWP.org](http://RIWP.org)

[Want to sign up for our mailing list? Sign up here!](#)