

M A Y 2 0 2 6

Notable Notes

Notable Works Publication and Distribution Co., Inc.



Audubon Society
of Rhode Island



Photo by Kathy Allen

**May is the Best Month
for Birds and Birders!**

**Audubon Offers Over 25 FREE Bird
Outings in May
Locations Across the State**

Spring migration is here, with different bird species moving through each week. Audubon offers over 25 FREE birding outings throughout the month of May. These outings are geared for teen to adult, and novice birders are welcome. There are also Saturday Beginning Birding walks offered for the hard of hearing community. Just grab your binoculars and join the fun!

For dates, location and registration, visit asri.org/calendar.



WOONASQUATUCKET RIVER
WATERSHED COUNCIL

**Volunteer Rail Painting on the
Woonasquatucket River Greenway**

WRWC invites volunteers to help beautify and paint railings along the newly completed Promenade and Kinsley section of the Woonasquatucket River Greenway.

Each event is led by our River Ranger team, the Greenway maintenance crew.

**Location: Kinsley Avenue Boat Launch
~504 Kinsley Avenue,
Providence, RI 02909**

Time: 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Dates: Wednesdays May 6, May 20, June 3 and June 10

Please dress for outdoor work with sun protection, long pants, and closed toe shoes. Feel free to bring water and a snack. All tools and equipment will be provided. **Come lend a hand, meet your neighbors, and help care for the Woonasquatucket River.**

[Register Here!](#)

For other events visit: www.wrwc.org

Notable Works' Book Release Celebration @ William Hall

It is not too late to pre-order your copy of **Voices of the Earth: The Future of Our Planet IV** to pick up on **Saturday, June 27th** at Notable Works' Book Release Celebration in the **William Hall Library Auditorium** from **11AM to 1 PM**. Please contact Noreen before May 15th at info@notableworks.org to reserve your paperback book to be picked up at the door. Pre-ordered books are \$16 per copy which includes the tax.

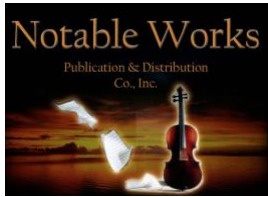
This launch event will feature readings by six of the poets included in **Voices of the Earth: The Future of Our Planet IV**: Christopher Gaynor, Kate Hamilton, Theresa Hickey, Janet D. Johnson, Peg Paolino and Sherri Stepakoff. There will also be a special presentation by **Sara Sampieri Horvet** of Stormwater Innovation Center, a premiere of new musical works by composers **Noreen Inglesi** and **Mary Zema** and an Open Mic (first come first served) led by **Carol Anderheggen**. Notable Works' new video highlighting the great efforts of the **Stormwater Innovation Center**, produced by **Maria Bilyeu** of North Kingstown, will also be showcased.

Following the program, please join Notable Works for complimentary refreshments and visit with the Editor of the new publication Noreen Inglesi, the Book Designer, **Mary Ann Rossoni**, the Cover Artist, **Ann Rozhon** and the many attending poets, members of the Notable Works' Ensemble and special guests **Sara Sampieri Horvet** and **Mary Zema**. In addition, we invite you to talk with Director **Bina Gehres** and the dedicated **Notable Works' Board of Directors** and **volunteers**.

This special book release celebration on June 27, 2026 from 11AM to 1 PM is being hosted by the **Cranston Public Library** and this entire collaborative project entitled ***Building Innovative Bridges for Tomorrow*** between **Notable Works** and **Stormwater Innovation Center** was made possible in part by a grant from the **Rhode Island State Council on the Arts**, through an appropriation by the Rhode Island General Assembly and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.



Photo of Roger Williams Park by Carolann Soder



www.notableworks.org

Thank You to

Notable Works' 2025/26 Sponsors:

Platinum Sponsors (\$300.00+)

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Helen Hudson Foundation
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Richard and Martha Ventrone
Shirley Zema

Thank You to:

Antonio's Bakery, Audubon Society of Rhode Island, DePetrillo's Pizza & Bakery, Shaw's, Spain Restaurant, Stop and Shops of Cranston and Warwick



www.stormwaterinnovation.org

The [Stormwater Innovation Center](http://www.stormwaterinnovation.org) is pleased announce that [BIOPOD Co.](http://www.biopods.org) was awarded a grant of \$8,000.00 from [Bloom Rhode Island](http://www.bloomrhodeisland.com) to help fund the floating wetland garden initiative at Roosevelt Lake in Roger Williams Park (RWP). Now that funding is secure, our first BioPods volunteer workshop took place on April 11th from 1-3pm at the [City of Providence Museum of Natural History and Planetarium](http://www.cityofprovidence.org). During this workshop the biodegradable pods were fabricated. Each pod measures approximately 18" x 18" x 8" and is fabricated from fully biodegradable components, including reishi mycelium (*Ganoderma* spp.) grown on sterilized hemp and wood shavings donated by the [Rhode Island School of Design](http://www.risd.edu) (RISD) woodshop. Planter holes are grown directly into the structure, lined with coco coir, and filled with nutrient-rich soil for plant rooting. A second workshop will be held in mid-May where the Pods will be planted and deployed. Read more about BIOPODs in this new article: [RISD BioPods aim to rewild Providence River, purify waterways - The Brown Daily Herald](http://www.browndailyherald.com).

For more information about **BioPods** you may email: hello@biopods.org!



BIOPODS co-founders Avantika Velho and Manini Banerjee presenting their product to the audience.



Mini-Grants for K-12 Teachers

The Rhode Island Environmental Education Association is thrilled to offer mini-grants to support hands-on, place-based learning related to the blue economy and coastal climate resilience! K-12 teachers and administrators can apply for up to \$500 for transportation, materials, and nonprofit-led programming. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, and you can expect to hear a decision within 10 days. Learn more and apply at <https://www.rieea.org/resources/teacher-mini-grants/>

Global Environmental Initiative



*Photo of a Solar Tube
Natural light in Home 24
Hours without using
electricity*

Click the Link to View on You Tube

https://youtube.com/shorts/k6DOoEgpPw?si=s_vYnNJyimgNh-Wx

Thursday, May 14, 4 pm – Evening History Walk at Sowams Woods. Sowams Woods, a 12-acre wooded area, is considered a sacred place by the Pokanoket people, once reserved for women and childbirth. It was also inhabited by some of the earliest settlers in the region and is now a model of community conservation efforts.

Other Upcoming BLCT Events:

Learning Series: A Better World Is Possible ~ Global Youth Confront the Climate Crisis

May 14 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm *Barrington Public Library
281 County Rd., Barrington, RI*

Art in Nature: Nature Journaling at Allin's Cove

May 20 @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Allin's Cove Barrington, RI



Sowams Woods

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.com).

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 or events go to www.blct.org/events.

Peace and Plenty Community Garden

After 36 years, Peace & Plenty Community Garden is finally home! We're celebrating a historic moment for [Southside Community Land Trust](http://SouthsideCommunityLandTrust.org) and South Providence: Joseph R. Paolino Jr. and @Paolino Properties have donated the land on which Peace & Plenty Community Garden sits to SCLT, permanently protecting this beloved green space for generations to come. This announcement comes alongside the sale of the former St. Joseph's Hospital property, with plans to bring new housing to the site while honoring its architectural and civic legacy. The donation of Peace & Plenty ensures that as the neighborhood evolves, this vital community resource will remain protected.

Margaret DeVos, SCLT's Executive Director, shared: "SCLT began leasing the community garden from St. Joseph's Hospital in 1989. Joe Paolino was the mayor of Providence at that time. When he purchased the Hospital property in 2017, almost 30 years later, we suddenly saw a bright, new future. One where the garden could finally be protected for generations of gardeners and community members. That future is now, thanks to Joe's thoughtful and generous decision to donate the garden."

For more than three decades, Peace & Plenty has served as one of South Providence's longest-standing shared green spaces, supporting food production, educational programs, and neighborhood partnerships. Now, this special place will be protected in perpetuity.

Thank you to Paolino Properties for this extraordinary gift. When developers choose to protect rather than erase, entire neighborhoods benefit.

ERICD EARTH MONTH EVENT

MIDDLETOWN

MAKE-AND-TAKE RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP

MAY 2, 10 AM TO 12:00 PM

**30 BARRELS AVAILABLE, \$65.87 EACH!
PURCHASE THROUGH EVENTBRITE!**

**19 BERKELEY AVE,
MIDDLETOWN, RI 02842
(BEHIND THE WASHING STATIONS)
(RAIN DATE MAY 3RD)**

Southside Community Land Trust's

34th Annual Plant Sale

2026

City Farm Providence 168 West Clifford

May 16th & 17th
Saturday & Sunday
10am-2pm

members get in early & 10% discount!

rain or shine!

thousands of rare & unusual plants!

Live music!
Circle of the Drum
Raffini Phil Edmonds
Chris Monti the mericans
Shira and Tabatha Rose
Community Music Works
Jake Haller 18 Wheeler
& other musical surprises!

EBT & SNAP benefits accepted

 southsideclt.org

Become a member today!

Poster design and illustration by [Cathy G. Johnson](http://CathyGJohnson.com)

Sunday Afternoon

By Mary Ann Mayer

Sunday strollers on the promenade,
the factories closed,
the river almost-blue, almost river-like.

The river-bank as it should be, elms
not yet sickened, green
thickness of willows.

Mallards strut, iridescent.
Sun-turtles shine in the muck,
an eel glides

luminous, past
boys fishing for pickerel
in the shallows.

Upstream, children build rafts of sticks,
to watch them drift off,
break apart on the lip of Pawtucket falls.

A father and son skipping stones, circles
ripple, one into the other
as evening comes.

Tomorrow, the violence again.
The river goes crazy with color
the mills spew into the Blackstone...

It's said, you can tell what the mills are doing each day
by the color of the river.
Mustard, vermilion, lime-green, magenta on Thursdays...

Branding and burning the river—
heavy, heavy metals, dyes, varnishes, solvents, bleach
and a dark-red poison to kill the cotton seed bug –

a hot effluent slop
raging seaward, forty-eight miles
from Quinsigamond to Seekonk,

with all the waste that perverts this river,
all the measures destined for her soul.

My Bike

By Chris Menton

Riding on my bike

Autonomy and union

Become resolved



These poems were published in
Notable Works' *Voices of the Earth:
The Future of Our Planet II* (2020)



UPCOMING
EVENT

Writing Marathon

“Urban Oasis” is the theme for the **Rhode Island Writing Project’s May 9th Writing Marathon**. We’ll meet at **Farm Fresh RI** to discover a part of Providence that is off the beaten track of most visitors: the **Woonasquatucket Greenway**. We’ll walk along the river and get to know a part of the city that has been transformed from a post-industrial wasteland into an urban greenway and hub for arts, culture and food!

Register for free here:

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



PRUDENCE DISPATCH is a new Rhode Island-based poetry journal publishing in print and online twice a year. Submissions for Issue No. 3 - Summer 2026 are open through May 31 through Submittable at prudencedispatch.submittable.com. There is no submission fee, and accepted poets receive two free print copies of the journal. Local accepted poets will be invited to a launch event and reading following publication. The prompt for this issue, construed liberally, is BUOYANCY: STAYING AFLOAT BY DESIGN, BY CHANCE, BY PERSEVERANCE. Contact the journal at prudencedispatch@gmail.com if you have questions.



Greetings, Creatives and Supporters! The next Words on Fire Open Mic takes place from 6:00-7:30 PM on Wednesday, May 6th 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!