

## **NATURAL HISTORY WEEK IN RHODE ISLAND NOVEMBER 1 - 9, 2014**

Governor Lincoln Chafee will declare November 1 to 9, 2014, to be Natural History Week in Rhode Island.

### **What is Natural History and why is it important to me?**

Natural history is a discipline, practiced since classical times, through which we learn about animals, plants, ecological communities, and geological systems. It emphasizes observation and comparison of living organisms and natural habitats. It also emphasizes that you don't need to go to the ends of the earth or be the world's greatest expert to learn valuable lessons, anyone can do it.

Natural history is highly beneficial and fills many needs both tangible and intangible. Without natural history we would have no idea what species of animals and plants even occur in Rhode Island, what their distribution is, or whether their populations are trending up, down, or staying the same. Without natural history, if an economically valuable species began to decline would we even know? Without natural history, we would have no way to describe the impact of climate change on our biological resources. Without natural history, we would not know whether a particular species was here historically or is a recently arrived and potentially destructive invasive pest or pathogen.

Some of Rhode Island's highest profile educational resources have natural history at the center of their mission: Museum of Natural History & Planetarium at Roger Williams Park, the Roger Williams Park Zoo, the Biomes Marine Biology Center, and Audubon Society of RI.

We're fortunate to have such strong institutions in Rhode Island and we recognize and celebrate them during Natural History Week. They help individuals get involved in natural history and learn about the environment. By increasing the exposure for natural history in Rhode Island we hope Natural History Week will increase these benefits for all.

Any curious person, with training and support, can contribute to our knowledge. Natural history investigations carried out in Rhode Island teach us important lessons about environmental relationships and systems in Rhode Island and throughout the world. Knowledge of these environmental relationships and systems enables us better to manage, conserve, utilize, and enjoy Rhode Island's natural resources. By supporting better management, conservation, utilization, and enjoyment of natural resources and by engaging people of all ages in first-hand exploration of their environment, the practice and appreciation of natural history is beneficial to Rhode Island and its citizens.

### **How can I celebrate Natural History Week in Rhode Island?**

*Visit natural history sites throughout the week, including:*

**Roger Williams Park Zoo**, Providence

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, last admission at 3:30

**Museum of Natural History at Roger Williams Park**, Providence

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily except Monday, Nov. 3 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m., last admission at 3:30  
**Biomes Marine Biology Center**, N. Kingstown

12 Noon to 5 p.m. 7 days a week

**Audubon Society of Rhode Island Environmental Education Center**

Wed.-Sat. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sun. 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

*Attend a special Natural History Event:*

### **SPECIAL EVENT CALENDAR**

#### **Saturday, November 1**

*The Best of the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival*

10:00 am-5:00 pm and 6:30-9:00 pm

Audubon Environmental Education Center, 1401 Hope Street, Bristol

Free, all ages welcome

Phone: (401) 245-7500

Web: [www.asri.org](http://www.asri.org)

Come view the best of the nature films from the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival! From giant squids to birds in flight, you're sure to be entertained. Pull up a seat, grab a bag of popcorn, and settle in! We'll be showing a variety of short films perfect for nature enthusiasts of all ages. There will be evening screenings of longer films. This program is free thanks to Citizens Bank Foundation.

#### **Saturday, November 1**

*Seed Collection, Cleaning, and Preparation Techniques for Salt Marsh Restoration*

Native Plant Walk and Workshop

8:30am – 1pm

Meet at Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge, Middletown; indoor program at Norman Bird Sanctuary

Advance registration required

\$10 RINHS members and students, \$15 non-members, \$25 to attend and become a member

Light lunch will be served

Phone: RINHS 401-874-5800

Web: [www.rinhs.org](http://www.rinhs.org)

Join Hope Leeson, Botanist, RI Natural History Survey, for this walk and workshop. Accelerated sea level rise is changing salt marsh community structure. Restoration methods are being tested to facilitate salt marsh migration and improve tidal flow for maintenance of existing marsh structure. One component of these efforts is planting salt marsh grasses. Where should these grasses come from? How best can we assure the genetic diversity of plants used in habitat restoration? Join us for an on-the-ground look at Sachuest salt marsh in Middletown, which underwent restoration activities to improve tidal flow and habitat diversity in 1998. We'll be looking at primary salt marsh species and how their position on the landscape has changed in response to sea level rise. We'll also examine salt marsh grasses, and species along the inland edge of the marsh, for seed availability and seed

ripeness. Following our salt marsh excursion, we'll travel to the nearby Norman Bird Sanctuary where we'll have lunch and examine seed more closely, learn seed cleaning techniques and protocols which ready the seeds for the germination.

2014 Lisa Lofland Gould Native Plant Program sponsored jointly by RINHS, the RI Wild Plant Society and the URI Outreach Center with support of the Rhode Island Foundation.

### **Sunday, November 2**

*Follow In My Tracks: Photography by Anna LeBlanc*

Exhibit opening

1:00 to 3:00 pm

Audubon Environmental Education Center, 1401 Hope Street, Bristol

Free with Admission (adults \$6, children 4-12 \$4, children <4 free); all ages welcome.

Phone: ASRI Education Center (401) 245-7500

Web: [www.asri.org](http://www.asri.org)

Anna LeBlanc is an amateur nature and wildlife photographer who strives to convey her love of the outdoors to the viewer. Behold what nature has to offer—you won't need to recharge your batteries, for nature will recharge you!

### **Wednesday, November 5**

*Animal Experiences with Dave Marchetti*

5:30-7:00 p.m.

Biomes Marine Biology Center

6640 Post Road, North Kingstown

\$10 per person (\$5 for members), Children under 3 are free

Phone: Biomes 401-885-4690

Web: [biomescenter.com](http://biomescenter.com)

Animal Experiences with Dave Marchetti is a fun filled hour with over 20 of Dave's animals including turtles, lizards, snakes, tree frog, hedgehog, chinchilla and Wally the alligator. After learning about some of the animals the audience is welcome to touch and hold all their favorites.

### **Thursday, November 6**

*Moth Meet-up*

6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Museum of Natural History at Roger Williams Park

1000 Elmwood Ave., Providence

\$4, \$2 for members of either RINHS or MNH

Refreshments

Phone: RINHS 401-874-5800

Web: [www.rinhs.org](http://www.rinhs.org)

People of all ages interested in the moths of Rhode Island are invited to gather for a social evening of show-and-tell from the 2014 field season, hosted by RI Natural History Survey director David Gregg and Museum of Natural History curator Mike Kieron. You are encouraged to bring specimens or photographs from your own explorations. Where did you go? What species did you discover? What did you learn about the outlook for moth diversity in the state? What equipment worked for you? What didn't? View moths collected by RINHS and moths from the museum's historic collection. Think about next season! Sponsored by RINHS and the Museum of Natural History.

### **Thursday, November 6**

*Movie Night: "Shell Shocked: Saving Oysters to Save Ourselves"*

6 p.m. doors and dessert; 7 p.m. movie

Weaver Auditorium, Coastal Institute Kingston

1 Greenhouse Road, URI, Kingston

Free admission

Phone: RINHS 401-874-5800

Web: [www.rinhs.org](http://www.rinhs.org) and [www.shellshockedmovie.com](http://www.shellshockedmovie.com)

Award winning 2012 documentary by Emily V. Driscoll follows efforts to prevent the extinction of wild oyster reefs, which keep our oceans healthy by filtering water and engineering ecosystems. Today, because of overfishing and pollution, wild oyster reefs have been declared 'the most severely impacted marine habitat on Earth' and no longer play a role in their ecosystems. Now scientists, government officials, artists and environmentalists are fighting to bring oysters back to the former oyster capital of the world - New York Harbor. Co-sponsored by RI Natural History Survey and the Coastal Institute at URI. Dessert potluck before, discussion to follow.

### **Friday, November 7**

*Celebrate Natural History in Rhode Island*

Reception, Displays, Awards, Lecture organized by RI Natural History Survey

Reception starts at 5:30 p.m., program at 7 p.m.

Quonset O Club

200 Lt James Brown Rd., North Kingstown

\$20 RINHS members, \$10 students, others \$25 (includes a year's membership in RINHS)

advance registration required

Phone: RINHS 401-874-5800

Web: [www.rinhs.org](http://www.rinhs.org)

Join other fans of things that grow, squirm, walk, crawl, fly, or swim in Rhode Island as we celebrate Natural History Week 2014. Program includes award of the 2014 RI Distinguished Naturalist Award and 2014 Golden Eye Award, celebration of the RI Natural History Survey's 20th anniversary, and a lecture by Prof. John Anderson on his book "Deep Things out of Darkness: A History of Natural History." Displays, hors d'oeuvres, cash bar.

**Friday, November 7 to Saturday, November 8**

*Girl Scout Overnight at Biomes Marine Biology Center*

7 p.m. Friday to 9 a.m. Saturday  
Biomes Marine Biology Center  
6640 Post Road, North Kingstown  
Ages 6 and up. Ratio 1 adult to 5 children  
\$40 per child, \$20 per adult  
Phone: Biomes 401-885-4690  
Web: [biomescenter.com](http://biomescenter.com)

Spend a night at Biomes! Tour the exhibits, go on a scavenger hunt, make a craft project, and participate in special animal encounters! All Girl Scouts participating will earn a special Biomes Overnight Badge! Evening and morning snacks provided.

**Saturday, November 8**

*Bird and Wildlife Carving Exposition*

10:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Audubon Environmental Education Center  
1401 Hope Street, Bristol  
\$5.00 per person  
Phone: ASRI Education Center (401) 245-7500  
Web: [www.asri.org](http://www.asri.org)

Award-winning wildlife artisans from throughout the Northeast are returning to Audubon this autumn. Unique hand-carved bird and wildlife pieces will be on display and for sale. Meet the artists, shop the carvings, and enjoy the natural beauty of the Audubon Environmental Education Center in fall!

**Sunday, November 9**

*Bird and Wildlife Carving Exposition*

10:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Audubon Environmental Education Center  
1401 Hope Street, Bristol  
\$5.00 per person  
Phone: ASRI Education Center (401) 245-7500  
Web: [www.asri.org](http://www.asri.org)

Award-winning wildlife artisans from throughout the Northeast are returning to Audubon this autumn. Unique hand-carved bird and wildlife pieces will be on display and for sale. Meet the artists, shop the carvings, and enjoy the natural beauty of the Audubon Environmental Education Center in fall!