



The 1st Rhode Island Plant Insect Community Network Conference

Saturday, March 7, 2026 | Quonset 'O' Club, North Kingstown, RI

Conference Program Schedule

MORNING SESSION

9:00 - 10:00	Registration Coffee & tea
10:00 - 10:10	Welcoming Remarks
10:10 - 10:30	Ren Johnson: "Phenological shifts in a flowering shrub community: 1982 to 2025"
10:32 - 10:52	Lou Perrotti: "A 30-year collaboration to reestablish the American Burying Beetle (<i>Nicrophorus americanus</i>) to Nantucket Island, MA"
10:54 - 11:14	Toby Shaya: "Rhode Island Pollinator Atlas: Showcase of Rhode Island Bumblebee Survey and Wild Bee Survey Highlights"
11:16 - 11:36	Lisa Tewksbury: "Progress toward biological control of emerald ash borer and spotted lanternfly"
11:38 - 11:58	Maria Aliberti-Lubertazzi: "Rhode Island gall stories"
12:00 - 1:00	~ LUNCH ~
1:00 - 2:00	Keynote: Avalon Owens: "Floodlights and Fireflies: Environmental sustainability starts in your front yard"
2:00 - 2:30	Poster Session
2:30 - 2:40	~ Break ~

AFTERNOON SESSION

	Concurrent Session I	Concurrent Session II
2:40 - 3:00	Imogen Daszak: "Insect fly to light at different rates depending on canopy coverage"	Gale Ridge: "A brief history of The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station and its impacts"
3:02 - 3:22	Amine Kousba: "Insect behavior along an urban gradient: how do insects respond to artificial light throughout the lunar cycle?"	Matt Durham: "Connecting people, plants, and insects through the University of Rhode Island Master Gardener Program"
3:24 - 3:44	Rachael Bonoan: "Effect of decreased snowpack on a rare butterfly's host plant"	Richard Couse: "Micro-habitat restoration projects: Fostering habitat connectivity and biodiversity through community engagement"
3:46 - 4:06	Abigail Robinson: "Geographic variation in preference, performance, and chemical defense in a putative mimetic butterfly"	David Mantack: "Rare bees of southern New England and how to find them"
4:08 - 4:28	Scott Ruhren: "Assessing variation in insect populations and possible impacts on birds in Rhode Island and North America"	Charlotte Brennan: "A host plant-informed exploratory framework for improving detection of rare specialist insects"
4:28 - 4:40	~ Break ~	
4:40 - 5:15	Discussion Panel	
5:15 - 5:20	Closing Remarks	
5:20 - 7:00	~ Networking Cocktail Hour ~	