

# Registration is Open!

## The 1<sup>st</sup> Rhode Island Plant Insect Community Network Conference

Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026 | 10:00 am – 7:00 pm

Quonset 'O' Club, North Kingstown, RI



### Featured Keynote



**Dr. Avalon Owens**  
of the Rowland Institute at Harvard

“Floodlights and Fireflies: Environmental sustainability starts in your front yard”

#### Morning Session

“Phenological shifts in a flowering shrub community: 1982 to 2025” | *Ren Johnson*

“A 30-year collaboration to reestablish the American Burying Beetle to Nantucket Island, MA” | *Lou Perrotti*

“Rhode Island Pollinator Atlas: Showcase of Rhode Island Bumblebee Survey and Wild Bee Survey highlights” | *Toby Shaya*

“Progress toward biological control of emerald ash borer and spotted lanternfly” | *Lisa Tewksbury*

“Rhode Island gall stories” | *Maria Aliberti-Lubertazzi*

#### Lunch | Keynote | Poster Session

#### Afternoon Concurrent Session I

“Insects fly to light at different rates depending on canopy coverage” | *Imogen Daszak*

“Insect behavior along an urban gradient: how do insects respond to artificial light throughout the lunar cycle?” | *Amine Kousba*

“Effect of decreased snowpack on a rare butterfly’s host plant” | *Rachael Bonoan*

“Geographic variation in preference, performance, and chemical defense in a putative mimetic butterfly” | *Abigail Robinson*

“Assessing variation in insect populations and possible impacts on birds in Rhode Island and North America” | *Scott Ruhren*

#### Afternoon Concurrent Session II

“A brief history of The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station and its impacts” | *Gale Ridge*

“Connecting people, plants, and insects through the University of Rhode Island Master Gardener Program” | *Matt Durham*

“Micro-habitat restoration projects: Fostering habitat connectivity & biodiversity through community engagement” | *Richard Couse*

“Rare bees of southern New England and how to find them” | *David Mantack*

“A host plant-informed exploratory framework for improving detection of rare specialist insects” | *Charlotte Brennan*



Pre-registration for this event is required.

Registration CLOSES at 5:00 pm Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>

<https://tinyurl.com/PICNregistration26>

Questions? Contact us at [picn@rinh.org](mailto:picn@rinh.org)

