



CITY OF WARWICK

FRANK J. PICOZZI, MAYOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 1, 2023

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WWCC Offers Free Environmental Education Events to the Public *Sept. 21 Presentation – Forestry Management & Prescribed Burns* *Sept 30 – Pollinator Seed Exchange & Education Program*

WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND: The City of Warwick Wildlife & Conservation Commission (WWCC) invites the public to attend two free environmental education programs in September. On Thursday, September 21, 2023, from 6 – 7 PM, at the Warwick City Hall Annex (Sawtooth Building, 65 Centerville Rd., Warwick, RI 02886), a presentation will be provided on forestry management and the use of prescribed burns to benefit the environment. On Saturday, September 30, from 10 AM to 2 PM, a Pollinator Seed Exchange & Education Program will take place at the Clouds Hill Museum (4157 Post Rd, Warwick, RI).

The first program, on the use of controlled burns in forestry management, will consist of a presentation by Aidan Quinn, a wildland firefighter of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management. Quinn, who has participated in the application of prescribed burns, will explain why planned burns protect and encourage the health of environmental areas, such as forests. He will share his experiences, including activity with the 2023 Canadian wildfires. The one-hour program will take place before the regular monthly and public WWCC meeting at 7 PM.

The second program, a Pollinator Seed Exchange & Education Program, will serve to provide attendees with basic information and resources for establishing plantings and providing lawncare to feed and protect pollinators – bird, bee, and butterfly species. The program is the latest in a series of WWCC efforts focused on pollinators, and two presentations are planned:

1. Katie Shortmann, coordinator for the Audubon Society of Rhode Island's Bristol pollinator garden, will open the program by sharing information concerning native seed-starting and why native plants are important to pollinators and the ecosystem as a whole.
2. Keynote speaker Nathan Lamb, a landscape designer of Nathan Lamb Gardening & Ecology, LLC (Charlestown, RI), will discuss his methods for ecology-based gardening and describe how people can effectively, efficiently, and economically undertake steps to transform their yards into pollinator-friendly landscapes. "My mission is to grow gardens that support pollinators, require fewer inputs, and evoke the beauty of wild nature," says Lamb, who serves as an instructor at the University of Rhode Island where he teaches

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principles and practices of field botany and plant propagation. "I hope to make ecological gardening more accessible through education, informed plant selection, and smart gardening techniques."

The pollinator program will also feature a seed exchange – attendees are welcome to bring seeds from their gardens to share with others – and resource and information tables from participating organizations, including WWCC, the Environmental Council of Rhode Island (ECRI), the Rhode Island Wild Plant Society, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA/NRCS). Amy Otilige, local butterfly enthusiast, will also provide information for supporting butterflies in pollinator gardens.

No registration is needed for either free program. To learn more about either the controlled burn presentation or the Pollinator Seed Exchange & Education program, contact Sue Cabeceiras, Warwick Office of City Planning, 401.921.9687 or susan.w.cabeceiras@warwickri.gov; or Sue Kennedy, 401.450.2666 or skennedy1168@gmail.com.

The Warwick Wildlife and Conservation Commission was established by the City in 1974 to protect watershed resources, preserve and enhance natural aesthetics and wildlife habitat, and promote an ecological balance between preservation of natural landscape and development of manmade environments.