

## Healthy lawns and clean water secrets revealed

By Sam Bari

One of University of Rhode Island's master gardeners, Marion Gold, revealed the secrets to keeping lawns healthy without polluting surface water run-off at a May 22 workshop at Town Hall.

Gold told her small but enthusiastic audience not to believe the advertisements put out by companies selling fertilizer. "People apply a lot more stuff to keep their lawns healthy than is necessary," Gold said. "So don't fertilize too much. If the lawn looks healthy without fertilizer, then don't fertilize it."

"And whatever the directions recommend, start out with half the amount and see how the lawn responds. If half the amount achieves the desired results, then stop. If your lawn still looks like it needs help, then add a little more," she added.

The watchwords of the evening appeared to be "less is better." That meant less water as well as less fertilizer, according to Gold. "Give your lawn about an inch of water once a week," she said to the surprised audience. "There is no need to water every day."

Gold told her intimate audience they could ask questions whenever they wanted throughout her PowerPoint presentation. Sav Rebecchi asked if the water run-off from his roof was harmful to the grass because his lawn had brown spots about five feet in front of the downspouts.

"The water isn't polluted," Gold said. "It's just fine. But there's too much of it coming

through the downspouts. Too much water is just as harmful as not enough," she emphasized. The less water rule was welcome news to the audience that was used to summertime water rationing.

Gold's presentation centered around seven easy tips to keeping lawns healthy and bay waters safe.

The tips included:

- Over seed new lawns. Use new, improved varieties. Buy the best seed you can afford. Fescues are best. Gold also suggested integrating clover to the grass seed mix.

- If an unfertilized lawn is considered acceptable, then don't fertilize it.

- Sweep chemicals (fertilizer) off hard services.

- Leave clippings on the lawn.

- Mow high - about 3-inches is best.

- Water wisely. One-inch of water per week once a week is best.

- Minimize pesticide use.

Gold's comprehensive program answered many questions that would have been asked. However, the audience still came up with a few that she readily fielded, sometimes with surprising answers.

"When is the best time to seed?" was one of them. "The ideal time is early fall," Gold said. "When should we fertilize?" was another. "Don't fertilize in the spring until the lawn is actively growing. Wait until the lawn is mowed three times," she said.

Gold also suggested using compost because it raises the pH

value. She said that it was wise to "get your lawn tested. The pH should be around 6 to 7," she said.

She also gave tips for water conservation, recommending rain barrels with a screen to keep out insects, and using BTI for mosquito larva control. Drip irrigation and soaker hoses were also recommended to conserve water.

"Gardening is the country's number one hobby," Gold said. "In Rhode Island there is more acreage in turf (lawns) than any other land use," she added. "Plant problems are many and complex. Chemicals are not a good quick fix. The 'Clean water starts at home' program initiated by URI is a statewide campaign to reduce storm water run-off pollution. Know where it goes," she said.

For more information, Gold recommended going to the URI website [www.healthylandscapes.org](http://www.healthylandscapes.org). She also recommended calling the URI Master Gardener Hotline at 1-800-448-1011 and the URI Plant Protection Clinic at 874-2900.

Town environmental scientist Justin Jobin organized the event. He attended a URI workshop offered to all municipalities by the Department of Transportation, which was designed to educate and inform towns about how lawn care maintenance can affect storm water quality. Jobin invited Marion Gold, one of the instructors, to make her presentation to encourage and assist Jamestown residents to do their part in preserving our precious resources.

### Wild plant group to hold annual sale

The RI Wild Plant Society invites everyone to the best native plant sale in Rhode Island.

The sale will be on Saturday, June 7, from 9 a.m. to noon on Flagg Road at the University of Rhode Island campus.

Native plants are adapted to the particular combination of soil, temperature, and rainfall in Rhode Island. They require little, if any, supplemental water, fertilizer, pesticides, or other chemicals. This provides economic benefits through reduced energy costs, water and maintenance; ecological benefits, by enhancing ecosystem stability and reduced chemical use; and aesthetic benefits, through the natural beauty native plants provide.

The sale will offer a great selection of wildflowers and native shrubs often not available in local nurseries. There are plants available for every location, wet places, dry places, acid soils and shady areas. This is a great opportunity to replace plants lost during the winter. Among the offerings will be trilliums, bloodroot, columbine, asters, bleeding heart, wild blue phlox, Virginia bluebells, Jack in the pulpit, mayapple, Solomon's seal, Christmas fern, maidenhair fern; bog plants, and tons of gorgeous native laurels, azaleas and rhododendrons. Knowledgeable members of the RI Wild Plant Society will be on hand all day to answer your questions and give out plant information. For more information visit the website, [www.rivwps.org](http://www.rivwps.org).

### Tree identification and planting at Saturday session planned

On Sunday, June 1, at 11 a.m., join URI landscape architecture graduates Ben Morton and Steven D'Ambrosia on a walk-about of the historic Boesch Farm as they examine different tree species found around the farm's fields and along the walking trails on the property. There are several very unique species that will be noted.

Also, learn proper techniques for planting trees as they will plant a new specimen on the farm.

Ledge Ends Learning Center will be hosting this program at the historic Boesch Farm, which is located at 830 South Rd. in East Greenwich. The fee is \$10 for adults and \$6 for children and pre-registration is required. To sign up for this or any other program, email Trish at [LedgeLearning@hotmail.com](mailto:LedgeLearning@hotmail.com).

### POST MEMORIAL DAY MUSINGS

.....  
Another great Memorial Day parade in Jamestown has just been enjoyed by all. The thought occurs that it will be a sad day when there are no more World War II vets to lead us in this important event.

...  
Remembering deceased war veterans is important. Of equal importance is caring for the living who have served as soldiers, sailors, and Marines. We need a renewed and updated GI Bill of Rights, and better attention paid to the health care needs of those who return from dangerous duty.

...  
Despite the reasonable argument that can be made against compulsory service in a free society, there would seem to be many benefits from a universal service requirement binding upon all young people in our country. Those who choose to fulfill this obligation through military service could be provided benefits beyond those opting for less dangerous forms of public service.

...  
Noted pediatrician and columnist John Rosemond, M.D. is a persuasive proponent of strict discipline for children. Where was he when we needed him, back when today's much indulged ruling generation was being parented?

.....  
*Brought to you as a public service by*  
**MORNEAU & MURPHY**  
**ATTORNEYS**  
77 Narragansett Avenue  
Jamestown, RI 02835  
(401) 423-0400  
E-mail: [jmurphy@jamestownlawyer.com](mailto:jmurphy@jamestownlawyer.com)

### Burns to attend arts conference

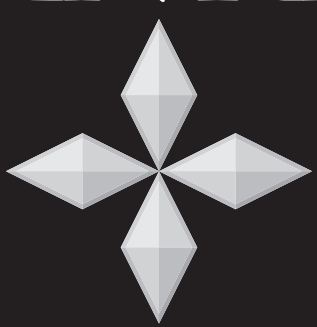
A team of Rhode Island arts education leaders will take part in an exclusive Arts Education Leadership Institute this July, thanks to a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

Rosemary Burns, of Jamestown, was chosen to attend the conference. Burns is the president of the RI Art Education Association, fellow in the Office of Middle and High School Reform

at the Rhode Island Department of Education, and co-chair of the visual arts proficiency team of the RI Arts Learning Network.

Five state teams will meet with experts from throughout the country to discuss current challenges in the arts education field on such topics as assessment, leadership in arts education, curriculum development and access to arts learning. They will meet in Chicago from July 15 to 17.

# YANKEE



## HOUSEWRIGHTS

**Comprehensive Whole-House Remodeling**

*Robert Van Cleef, Master Builder*  
*RI Registration #10*

# (401) 423-3800

[yankeehousewrights.com](http://yankeehousewrights.com)

Advertise in the  
2008 Jamestown  
Summer Guide  
**Deadline is June 6**  
  
Call Now!  
**423-3200**



## New "Baby Cone" Policy

**Summer Hours**  
Friday & Saturday • 7 a.m. - 10 p.m.  
Sunday - Thursday • 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
3 Ferry Wharf, Jamestown • 423-3077

We know your toddlers love our ice cream, but our sizes are pretty big. So we are now making a special cone size just for them, and it's **FREE** (with another ice cream purchase). All of your "big kids" under 40 inches tall are eligible.




**OPEN EVERY DAY - PLENTY OF FREE PARKING**

ALICE WHITE CHARDONNAY 1.5 <b>2 FOR \$20</b>	MIONETTO PINOT GRIGIO 750 ML <b>3 FOR \$25</b>	CHECK OUT OUR NEW BARGAIN WINE BIN
GOSLING RUM 1.75 <b>\$29<sup>99</sup></b>	SKY VODKA 1.75 <b>\$29<sup>99</sup></b>	CASE OF WINE MIX & MATCH <b>10% OFF</b>
MILLER LITE 30 PACK CANS <b>\$19<sup>99</sup></b>	MOLSON & MOLSON GOLDEN 12 PACK <b>\$9<sup>99</sup></b>	BUD & BUD LIGHT 24 BTLS <b>\$19<sup>99</sup></b>

**VIDEO SHOWCASE**

WE SELL PREVIOUSLY VIEWED DVD & VHS	GET YOUR JAMESTOWN SWEAT SHIRTS & T-SHIRTS HERE!	TANNING BOOTH  <b>\$9</b> ONE VISIT
--	---	--

**Locally Owned • Community Minded**  
30 Southwest Avenue • 423-0100 • [www.jamestownwine.com](http://www.jamestownwine.com)