

Yards Alive!

2025 Living Landscapes Learning Series

Unleash your yard from the clutches of “Lawn and Order”! Join us on a quest to transform your outdoor oasis into a nature-loving paradise that gives back to the planet while working its magic for you! Get ready for a fabulous lineup of local gurus - we’ll blend science, design, practicality, and a sprinkle of fun to create a community extravaganza meant to inspire action.



Educate - Connect - Inspire - Empower

Join the fun for one, two, or better yet all of our upcoming workshops designed to spark a whole new vision for the space outside our doors! We’re talking about outdoor spaces that are not just pretty but packed with purpose—where science meets creativity to boost biodiversity, soak up carbon, and keep us connected to nature. Plus, they’ll help manage stormwater, elevate our health and happiness, and jazz up the community vibe! Dive into the art and science, and leave feeling inspired and ready to shake things up!

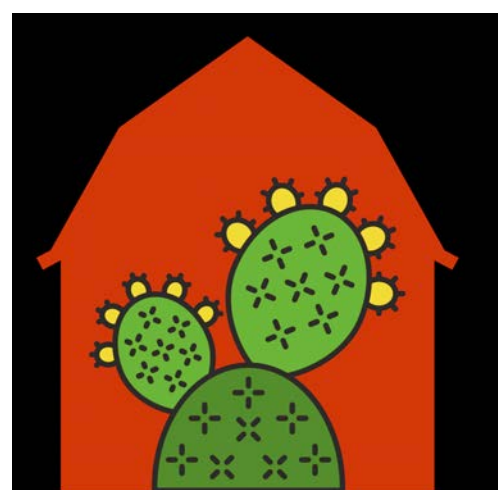
**Scheduled workshops will take place from 6:30-8:30pm on the dates noted below at the Barrington Public Library - 281 County Road, Barrington, RI
January 30th, February, 13th, February 27th, March 12th, March 27th, April 9th**

All are welcome but registration is required

**To learn more about the series, explore resources,
and register to attend, visit:**

<https://pricklyeds.com/upcoming-events>

Hosted By:



**Prickly Ed's Cactus Patch
Native Plant Emporium
www.PricklyEds.com**



Barrington
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January 30th 6:30pm
Buzz Alert!

Rhode Island's Native Bees are in Trouble - Discover How to Help Them Right at Home

Step into the world of University of Rhode Island Bee Lab's Casey Johnson, a dedicated scientist on a noble quest to catalog, comprehend, and preserve the enchanting Native Bees of Rhode Island for generations yet to come. With her captivating passion for our local pollinators, she will inspire you to partake in the valiant effort to safeguard these vital creatures.

As she unveils the knowledge of scientists, you'll discover that in this era of unparalleled habitat loss, the sanctuaries of our yards hold greater significance than ever before!

March 12th 6:30pm

Back to Class! - The Science of Plants and Why It Matters in a Rapidly Changing World

Prepare to embark on a deep dive into the world of plants with **horticulturist, master gardener, and science teacher, Joel Swan!** Join this verdant journey where you'll decode the secrets behind plant nomenclature, terminology, and growing techniques, while learning the importance of matching each plant with its ideal location. Additionally, explore how climate change is impacting our local vegetation and discover how you can use this knowledge like a gardening superhero! By anchoring the conversation in scientific principles, this engaging workshop will enhance your gardening confidence and boost your success.

February 13th 6:30pm
The Art of Inspired Ecological Design

Meet three Landscape Design Innovators who are redefining our understanding of outdoor spaces in Rhode Island. Dive into their standout projects and gain insightful design tips, culminating in an engaging panel discussion on topics surrounding the fast-changing local garden aesthetics. The stunning charm of a resilient landscape emerges with the right plants and a solid plan. Featuring:

Beth Brandon, Outer Spaces
Brooke Merriam, Sunflower Designs
Tysh McGrail, Woodscapes

March 27th 6:30pm

Bay-wise Landscapes Designed to Boost Biodiversity

Join **Audubon Society of Rhode Island's dynamic duo, Katie Schortmann, Pollinator Whisperer, and Rebecca Reeves, Stormwater Innovation Center Guru**, for an engaging exploration of how your yard can transform into both a stormwater sponge and a vibrant habitat. This interactive workshop will feature a live simulation demonstrating the connection between our outdoor spaces and local waterways. Snag some practical tips for creating rain gardens and constructing healthy habitats for pollinators, birds and other wild friends right at home. Discover ways to get involved in local initiatives and help foster positive change.

February 27th 6:30pm
Reclaiming the Front Yard - Freedom from Convention

Meet **Michael Veracka** - RISD trained landscape architect, award-winning design guru, professor, writer, and sustainability specialist! Get ready to explore design strategies to build a landscape teeming with curb appeal and habitat benefits.

Say goodbye to lifeless lawns and sad foundation beds, and hello to a front yard that's bursting with life! No more mullet landscapes—let's throw a garden party right out front and get the neighbors inspired to join the fun!

April 9th 6:30pm

Creating Magical Outdoor Spaces Where Kids Can Thrive

Celebrate the Week of the Young Child with a lively presentation facilitated by **Prickly Ed's own Cindy Larson Moura**. We'll explore the growing chasm between kiddos and the great outdoors— it's a very big deal! Dig into a world of opportunity to invite nature home, crafting nature rich wonderlands that'll have young ones blossoming like wildflowers!

Step aside microplastic slides - make way for repurposed loose parts, pollinator gardens, sensory nooks, fairy castles, tree cookie construction zones, and wild adventure corners - a world full of possibility awaits right outside our doors.