

CSC Project REPORT

11/23/2020

Project Title: RINHS Conservation Stewardship Technical Support & Capacity-building

Goal: RINHS received a grant of \$25,000 for staff salary and other expenses essential for RINHS's stable, ongoing operations as a conservation stewardship leader in Rhode Island, particularly in the fields of biodiversity, habitat management, and invasive species.

Deliverables:

The deliverables for this year's funding included:

- *A meeting and other activities related to the RI Invasive Species Council:* The RIISC was convened remotely via email over the spring and summer to review, update, and approve a new invasive plant list for Rhode Island. RINHS also responded to the detection of kudzu for the first time in RI, visited the site, and communicated with the RIISC members.
- *Participation in the RI Land & Water Summit:* RINHS participated in the L&W Summit by organizing a session "A Conservation Toolbox from the "RICSC", with participation from other CSC members, to further the CSC's interest in promoting awareness and utilization of its products; also RINHS prepared a program ad for the CSC.
- *Supervise the heritage database* including the rare species data clerk and other activities; and produce a biodiversity data management report: RINHS reported on the rare species data clerk activities separately; a biodiversity data management report was delivered as a powerpoint via zoom to RIDEM and others in May, also to RIDEM again in November.
- *A bioblitz.* RINHS did much of the organizing for a BioBlitz at the Mercy Woods Preserve in Cumberland but due to COVID that event was cancelled. Instead, RINHS organized the first ever RI Backyard BioBlitz, held at the end of June. Nearly 300 participants inventoried 140 different locations around RI, observing over 1,000 species.
- *Public programs:* due to COVID, RINHS held only two traditional in-person public events: the open house and art exhibit opening in January and the RI Nature Video Festival, with ECRI, in February. However, RINHS developed a video event portfolio including Zoom tea on the last Wednesday of every month, two zoom lectures, and 8 short videos. Videos average 120 viewers and the RINHS YouTube channel has 114 subscribers.
- *Participate in state and regional bodies:* RINHS continues to participate in as many of the named bodies as are still active given COVID including Native Plant Trust PCV program, NBEP Steering Committee, CAPS, NEANS, and RI Woodland Partnership.

GRANT \$ 25,000

EXPENSES \$ 25,000

BALANCE \$0