On April 8, 2005, Governor Donald L. Carcieri named Dr. W. Michael Sullivan, a Professor of Agronomy at the University of Rhode Island, as the next Director of the Department of Environmental Management (DEM). Professor Sullivan is a former State Senator from District 25 and is currently President of the Richmond Town Council.

As a scientist, Dr. Sullivan brings the technical background necessary to understand the challenges facing Rhode Island’s environment and, as an experienced public servant, understands the importance of Rhode Island’s environment to our state’s economic future. His service as a State Senator and Town Council President also provide Dr. Sullivan with invaluable insight into how public policy is formulated and implemented.

A resident of Richmond, Dr. Sullivan grew up in North Attleboro, Massachusetts. He earned his Ph.D. in Agronomy from the University of Nebraska in 1981. He holds an M.S. in Agronomy from the University of Vermont, and a B.S. in Plant and Soil Science from the University of Rhode Island.

Dr. Sullivan has taught at the University of Rhode Island since 1981. He has been a full Professor of Agronomy since 2000. The author of scores of articles in scientific journals, his research has focused on land-use management practices and their impact or potential impact on water quality. He has a particular interest in research that focuses on the coexistence of agriculture in urbanized areas.

Previously, Dr. Sullivan was an Assistant Instructor at the University of Nebraska from 1977 to 1981. Dr. Sullivan is a member of the American Society of Agronomy, the Soil Science Society of America, and the Crop Science Society of America. He has also served on a number of boards and commissions, including Rhode Island Scenic Roadways, Borders Farm Preservation, Rhode Island Community Farm, Rhode Island Agricultural Lands Preservation Commission, and Rhode Island Conservation Commission.

Dr. Sullivan is married to Mary Cunningham Sullivan, an Associate Professor of Nursing at the University of Rhode Island and a Researcher at the Infant Development Center at Women’s and Infant’s Hospital. They have three children: W. Matthew, Peter and Bridget.

Dr. Sullivan will speak of his vision for the Department at the May 19 Environmental Roundtable meeting.
Greenhouse Gas Update

**Stakeholders Win US EPA Climate Protection Award**
Rhode Island Greenhouse Gas Stakeholders have won a 2005 Climate Protection Award from EPA.

Established in 1998, the *Climate Protection Awards* recognize exceptional leadership, personal dedication, and technical achievements in protecting the Earth's climate. Stakeholders received the award for the work they have been doing since 2001 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions starting with the development of a state action plan and implementation of a number of initiatives such as a Renewable Energy Standard law and low emissions standards for new vehicles. Efforts underway include buying 100 percent renewable energy for the state house, Executive Orders for Clean Vehicles and Energy Efficient New Buildings, streamlining environmental permitting for clean distributed energy, fossil fuel energy efficiency assistance, and improved energy measures in the state building code.

Janet Keller of DEM and Emily Rochon of Clean Water Action accepted the award on behalf of the stakeholders on May 4, 2005 in Washington, DC. Stakeholders (shown at left) celebrated the award on May 13 in Rhode Island at a reception with EPA Regional Administrator Robert Varney and DEM Director Michael Sullivan.

**Stakeholders Continue Efforts**
Rhode Island Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Stakeholders continue to work toward implementation of initiatives that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Rhode Island.

Major initiatives include a stakeholder recommendation that DEM propose regulations to adopt California standards to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from new motor vehicles. The standards, also known as Pavley, build on California Low Emission Vehicle II standards adopted by Rhode Island last year. Beginning with the 2009 model year, Pavley would require new cars and light trucks to achieve maximum feasible and cost effective reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Available technologies include turbocharging, better alternators and multi-speed transmissions, and gasoline direct injection.

Once fully implemented, the regulations would reduce carbon dioxide emissions by an estimated one million tons annually by 2020, a reduction of more than 31% and over two times larger than the largest options in the 2002 RI GHG Action Plan. Massachusetts and Connecticut, New York and Vermont, have committed to adopting California’s GHG standards. A legal challenge to the California rules by auto manufacturers would not affect the RI adoption process, but could affect ultimate enforcement.

For more information about the stakeholder process and additional programs stakeholders are pursuing, please visit the RIGHG website at [http://www.righg.raabassociates.org/](http://www.righg.raabassociates.org/).
New Publication To Help Fight Global Warming
The Environmental Council of Rhode Island (ECRI) published a new brochure aimed at helping state decision makers curb global warming. *Global Warming in Rhode Island: Warning Signs, Winning Solutions* outlines how the state is affected by global warming and provides information on how Rhode Islanders’ choices in building maintenance, vehicle purchases, fuel selection and buying products and services can save energy use and help curb global warming.

The ADDD Fund of the Rhode Island Foundation, the Rhode Island State Energy Office, Earth Day RI, ECRI, ECRI Education Fund and DEM provided funding to help with publication. Call or email ECRI at (401) 621-8048 or environmentcouncil@earthlink.net for a copy of the booklet.

Mercury Commission Update
Submitted by Elizabeth Stone

The RI Commission on Mercury Reduction and Education, created by the RI General Assembly in 2003 and chaired by Marcella Thompson, issued its final report in April 2005. The report and numerous related mercury documents/studies can be found on the Commission's website at: [http://www.dem.ri.gov/hgcomm/index.htm](http://www.dem.ri.gov/hgcomm/index.htm)

Terry Gray, DEM Assistant Director for Air, Waste & Compliance, served as the Department’s representative to the Commission, and support for the Commission was provided by DEM staff.

The Commission’s purpose was to study the system for reducing and eliminating mercury hazards in Rhode Island. A large portion of the Commission’s responsibility included an examination of RI’s current mercury product law, adopted in 2003 and later amended in 2003, with an eye towards determining if additional statutory changes would be needed in advance of July 1, 2005, when many portions of the law are slated to take effect. The report makes numerous suggestions for amendments in RI’s mercury law, including the following:

• Continue to phase-out mercury products wherever feasible, but the implementation date for the first tier of the statutory phase-out should be delayed from July 1, 2005 to July 1, 2006;
• Exempt from all phase-out provisions high intensity discharge (HID) lamps, including metal halide, high pressure sodium, and mercury vapor types;
• Further encourage labeling requirements that are consistent with similar requirements in other states and delay implementation from July 1, 2005 to July 1, 2006;
• RI DEM and the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation (RI RRC) should strive to establish a statewide network for the collection of household mercury-added products; and
• Amend the Mercury Reduction and Education Act (RIGL 23-24.9) to establish disposal ban and collection requirements for mercury-containing auto switches at vehicle end of life.

For a complete listing of the Commission’s recommendations, please see Section 8 of the final report (beginning on page 60).
Because a significant amount of RI’s mercury (air) pollution originates from sources outside the region, the Commission acknowledged that action must be taken at the regional and national level to reduce mercury to levels that will fully protect all residents equally. As a result, the Commission recommended that Rhode Island should aggressively support more stringent federal standards with well defined targets and deadlines for reducing emissions from power plants, industrial and commercial boilers and sewage sludge incinerators, as well as long-term management and storage of excess elemental mercury. In addition, the Commission recommended that RI DEM should continue to facilitate strong interstate collaboration in developing and implementing public education and outreach programs on mercury-added products.

Questions and comments on the April 2005 final report should be directed to the Commission chair, Marcella Thompson, at marcy_thompson1@yahoo.com.

**Litter Task Force Update**
Submitted by Tom Getz

The Litter Task Force was initiated in August 2003, based on a discussion at the May 7, 2003 DEM Environmental Roundtable meeting. Due to past budget cuts DEM does not have the financial or personnel resources to be an active participant in this program. The roundtable participants requested DEM to initiate a Litter Task Force to discuss the future of this program. DEM convened the group and has provided limited staff support to the Litter Task Force. The Task Force met monthly for a year until August 2004. The group developed a report on the status of litter enforcement in the state and reviewed the litter statute for possible changes among other things.

The group has not meet since August 2004, when the previous leader stepped down from this position. The group is directed by the environmental community and needs your help. If you are interested in being a leader of the Task Force, please attend the next meeting. The Task Force leader is responsible for setting meeting agendas and chairing the meeting.

The group has met twice this year and there is energy to move forward with a number of topics. The group has been meeting the fourth Thursday of the month in DEM headquarters. For more information on the group, visit their website at: http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/ombuds/litter/index.htm

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**Governor Carcieri, RIDOT Unveil “Ride With PRIde” Campaign To Encourage Litter-Free Roadways**

On April 28, Governor Donald L. Carcieri and the RI Department of Transportation announced the kickoff of “Ride with PRIde”, a new anti-litter campaign which encourages Rhode Islanders to take pride in cleaner roads by not littering. The Governor was joined by Jim Capaldi, Director of the RI Department of Transportation; Colonel Steven Pare of the Superintendent of the Rhode Island State Police; and members of the highway and bridge maintenance operations staff of the RIDOT.

The Governor has asked Jim Capaldi to enhance work in cleaning State roads and also instructed Colonel Pare to strengthen enforcement, and A.T. Wall to increase the number of inmates assisting the Department of Transportation with litter pick up.

New equipment purchased for this campaign totals $36,556 and includes four push mowers, eight walk-behind push mowers, and four trailers. Funding came from the Division of Highway and Bridge Maintenance operating budget. One hundred thirty-five signs will be posted along major Rhode Island highways asking motorists to properly dispose of trash.

The event was also aimed at heightening awareness of the Adopt-a-Highway and Adopt-A-Spot programs. There are currently twenty-three sponsors for the Adopt-a-Highway program, but eighty-eight segments available to be adopted.
DEM, Partners Purchase Significant Riverfront Property

DEM, with the help of several partners, will purchase a conservation easement to nearly 500 acres of riverfront property in Westerly from the Westerly Land Trust, preserving the land for watershed protection and recreation. The property, which has been named the Grills Preserve by the land trust, will be open for public recreational activities such as nature study, hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, fishing, and hunting. Plans include construction of a small parking area and informational kiosk and development of a trail use map.

The purchase price of $1,650,000 will be achieved by combining The Nature Conservancy contribution of $500,000 through a grant from the Champlin Foundation, $140,000 from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and $1,010,000 from open space bond funds. The bond funds include $710,000 from DEM’s land acquisition program and $300,000 from DEM’s local open space grant program. Both TNC and DEM staff have identified this property as a high priority by for many years. It is located in the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed, a sole source aquifer for drinking water supply, and includes more than two miles of pristine frontage on the Pawcatuck River. The property contains diverse and extremely valuable natural and undisturbed habitats including wetlands, forests, and fields that support a wide variety of animals and plants. Abandoned roads and forest trails run throughout the property, which has a variety of elevations, including “Big Hill” at 162 feet, a locally important vista and viewing point.

Farmers’ Markets at State Parks to Open in May

Four farmers’ markets located in state parks will open on a weekly basis in early May. For the first few weeks, the popular markets primarily will offer bedding plants, hanging plants, cut flowers, early vegetable crops, honey, and maple syrup. More vendors will participate as traditional local summer crops become available.

Farmers’ markets in DEM-operated parks and market hours of operation are:

- **Fishermens’ Memorial State Park** in Narragansett, Sundays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. beginning on Sunday, May 1.
- **Haines Memorial State Park** on Route 103 on the East Providence/Barrington line, Wednesdays from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. beginning on Wednesday, May 4.
- **Goddard Memorial State Park** in Warwick, Fridays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. beginning on Friday, May 6.
- **Colt State Park** in Bristol, Fridays from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. beginning on Friday, May 6.

DEM Farmers’ Markets accept farmers’ market checks from the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). Last year’s successful Senior Farmers’ Nutrition Program will
again be offered as the season progresses, with coupons expected to be available at senior centers sometime in June.

The opening of the DEM Farmers’ Markets coincides with the opening of many other farmers’ markets throughout the state. DEM’s Division of Agriculture and Resource Marketing, which helps farmers with marketing information, offers a free brochure that lists the locations of all farmers’ markets and roadside stands, along with addresses, hours, days and months of operation, and telephone numbers. To obtain a free brochure, call the Division at 222-2781 or find it on DEM’s website, www.dem.ri.gov, by clicking on “Agriculture” under “Programs”.

Earth Day an Overwhelming Success

Earth Day 2005 drew over 44,000 people to Roger Williams Park Zoo in Providence for Conservation Week and the Earth Day Festival. All who attended enjoyed music, fun, and environmental education exhibits. The festival featured the Ponagansett High School Band Protium the World’s first hydrogen fuel cell powered band. Protium provided the power supply for all the entertainment.

Throughout the month of April, over 9200 volunteers joined forces and participated in over 75 cleanups around the state. DEM awarded 43 organizations mini grants of $250 each to help enhance their clean ups and provided gloves and bags to the volunteers.

Earth Day RI also recognized a number of groups and individuals. Westerly’s Babcock Middle School was recognized for a project to raise awareness of E-waste and the importance of recycling obsolete electronic goods. Cranston’s Park View Middle School received an award for incorporating comprehensive energy programs into curricula and making energy efficiency improvements at the school that resulted in approximately $8,200 in annual savings. Bob Cerio, was recognized for his work with biodiesel fuels and energy conservation in the Warwick Public Schools, which saved the district over $2 million in the past six years. Toray Plastics, Inc. was recognized for its recycling efforts. Mark Gould Scholarships of $1,500 each were awarded to two local college students. Recipients were Auriane Koster of Wakefield, who is currently attending the University of Rhode Island, and Vanessa Venturini of Warwick, who will transfer to URI in the fall.

The Earth Day Committee is considering plans for Earth Day 2006. If you would like to join the Earth Day Committee, the meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month at RIDEM Headquarters, Room 340C at 5:30pm. Or, call Earth Day Committee Chair Jeff Fornaro at 949-2187.
Environmental Champions Named

On Earth Day, April 22, Clean Water Action, Ocean State Action and the Rhode Island Public Interest Research Group (RIPIRG) recognized local champions of environmental health at an “Earth Day Breakfast of Champions” event at the Osprey Boat House in Edgewood. The awards recognize individuals who demonstrate leadership in protecting Rhode Islanders’ health and environment.

Janet Keller, Chief of DEM’s Office of Strategic Planning and Policy was recognized as the “Behind the Scenes Champion” for her leadership in the Rhode Island Greenhouse Gas Stakeholder Process. The process brought together diverse interests and led to the adoption of the Clean Energy Act and the Clean Cars Standard.

State Representative Peter Ginaitt and Senator Susan Sosnowski, D-South Kingstown, were recognized as “Legislative Champions.” Representative Ginaitt worked with environmental advocates to pass then later staunchly defend and strengthen the Mercury Reduction and Education Act, the first-in-the-nation legislation to phase out and control mercury products. Senator Sosnowski led the effort to pass the RI Workers’ Safety Act, making Rhode Island only the seventh state in the nation to ensure that workers are no longer subject to the dangers of second hand smoke.

Finally, Roberta Hazen-Aaronson, director of the Childhood Lead Action Project, received the “Lifetime Champion” award for her efforts on legislation that requires owners to decontaminate lead poisoned buildings where children live.

Dem To Hold Public Hearing On Underground Storage Tank Regulations

The Department of Environmental Management will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, May 24, on proposed amendments to the state’s regulations governing underground storage facilities used for petroleum products and hazardous materials. The public hearing will take place at 6 p.m. at DEM Headquarters, 235 Promenade Street in Providence.

The proposed amendments would mandate a self-certification compliance program for underground storage tank owners and operators. The proposed amendments also include financial responsibility measures for owners of underground storage tanks storing hazardous waste; revised leak detection requirements for underground tanks storing waste oil; and several modifications, corrections and clarifications to current regulations.
The proposed amendments are available on DEM’s website, www.dem.ri.gov, by clicking on “Programs”, then “Waste Management”, then “Notice re: Proposed UST Rule Amendments”, or by calling DEM’s Office of Waste Management at 222-2797.

Written comments will be accepted at the hearing and may also be sent to DEM’s Office of Waste Management, 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908, to the attention of Kevin Gillen, up until 11 a.m. May 25, the morning after the hearing.

**America the Beautiful Grants**

In celebration of Arbor Day on April 29, DEM awarded seven thirty thousand dollars in America the Beautiful grants from the US Forest Service, matched by more than $57,000 in local funds. The grants will enable the recipients to plant more than 80 trees, produce an educational guide about trees, develop a forested park at a school, a sidewalk renovation demonstration project, an experimental tree farm, and a tree management plan for downtown Providence. Since 1991 DEM’s Division of Forest Environment has awarded more than $1.7 million in America the Beautiful grants, matched by over $2.9 million in local funds.

This year’s America the Beautiful grants:

- **Friends of Blackstone Park and Boulevard** (Providence), $5,000, matched by $7,500, for 32 trees
- **Town of Bristol** (Bristol Tree Commission), $4,000, matched by $6,000 for an education tree guide and the planting of 20 trees
- **Town of Jamestown**, $5,000, matched by $19,095, for the development of a school forest park and a sidewalk renovation demonstration project
- **Middletown Tree Commission**, $4,000, matched by $6,350, for 18 trees
- **Providence Parks Department**, $4,000, matched by $6,000, for a downtown tree management plan
- **Tiverton Tree Commission**, $4,000, matched by $6,000, for 14 trees
- **City of Warwick**, $4,000, matched by $6,035, for the development of an experimental tree farm, using a unique potting system

**DEM Awards Grants for Forest-Based Businesses**

DEM recently awarded a total of $3,640 in three challenge grants to two Rhode Island forest landowners for alternative forest-based businesses.

Charles Chase of Coventry received $2,000 to establish sugar maples for maple syrup production and $1,000 to establish forest greens for eventual sale. And, Wayne and Ruth Anderson of Exeter have been awarded $640 to cultivate oyster mushrooms.

All the sugar maples that Chase taps to make Rhode Island pure maple syrup are on other people’s properties. Last year he was awarded a challenge grant by DEM to establish sugar maples on his property. He will add 200 more trees with this year’s grant, with the expectation that they will mature
in about 20 years. Chase also received a challenge grant in 2003 for floral green production, and will establish fir trees that will be trimmed to produce greens for holiday decorations, such as wreaths, garland, and swags for about 20 years without cutting down the trees.

The Andersons plan to cultivate 600 logs on their property, which is used for active farming and logging, to grow edible oyster mushrooms. Wayne Anderson, with a partner, received a challenge grant from DEM last year for production of forest-grown edible shitake mushrooms to be sold at farmers’ markets along with other farm products such as vegetables and eggs.

Forests cover nearly 60 percent of Rhode Island’s landscape, contributing over $530 million to the state’s economy as well as providing clean air and water, habitat for wildlife, and aesthetic benefits. More than 70 percent of the state’s forestland is in private ownership and many of the parcels are less than 15 acres. The small size of most parcels and the long wait between harvests make management for traditional wood-based forest products difficult.

Forestland owners indicate that start-up capital is the major factor that prevents them from initiating natural resource-based enterprises. These grants covers part of the cost of supplies and materials needed to establish forest-based businesses that fit in with community character and generate revenue to help landowners pay property expenses, reducing the likelihood the land will have to be sold. DEM has awarded over $20,100 for 21 forest businesses that involve such activities as producing forest mushrooms, growing medicinal plants like witch hazel and ginseng, and producing maple syrup and floral greens. The approximately $9,000 that remains will be used to produce a publication to educate forest landowners about forest-based businesses.

$325,000 Available For Local Recreational Trails Grants

A total of $325,000 in federal transportation funds is now available to local communities and non-profit agencies in grants for trail development, improvement, and equipment. Applications for the grants will be accepted by DEM through June 30.

The grants, which require local match of 20 percent, may be used to create new recreational trails, as well as restore and improve existing recreational trails, for both hikers and other trail users, and are generally limited to $50,000 per award. The grants also may be used for trail construction and maintenance equipment such as tractors, lawnmowers, chainsaws, and brush cutters. The trails grant awards are expected to be awarded in October.

Further information and downloadable applications for the local grants program are available on DEM’s website, www.dem.ri.gov, by clicking on “Planning and Development” under “Programs”. Applications and further information about the grant program are also available by contacting DEM’s Office of Planning and Development at 222-2776 ext. 4310.
May 18
DEM Quahaug Transplant from Greenwich Cove to High Banks, and Potowomut Shellfish Areas and Potowomut Spawner Sanctuary. 8 AM-12 Noon. For information, call Dennis Erkan at 423-1932.

Health, Environmental and Pesticide Safety Education Training, University of Rhode Island’s East Farm, 8 AM to 4 PM. For information, call Robin Mooney at 222-2781 ext. 4513.

Haines Memorial State Park Farmers’ Market, E. Providence, 2 PM-6 PM. For information, call Peter Susi at 222-2781 ext. 4517.

May 19
Environmental Roundtable Meeting, DEM, Room 300, 235 Promenade St, Providence, 3-5 PM

Public Hearing re: Proposed Changes to RI Marine Fisheries Regulations (Dockside sale, Atlantic Herring), University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography Corless Auditorium, Narragansett, 6 PM. For information, contact Jason McNamee at 423-1943.

Tree Stewards Education Course, W. Warwick Senior Center, 20 Factory Street, W. Warwick, 6:30-9 PM. For information contact Jeanne at 861-1995.

May 20
Goddard Memorial State Park Farmers’ Market, Warwick, 9 AM-1 PM. For information, call Peter Susi at 222-2781 ext. 4517.

Colt State Park Farmers’ Market, Bristol, 2 PM-6PM. For information, call Peter Susi at 222-2781 ext. 4517.

6th Annual Senator John H. Chafee Conservation Awards Dinner, Federal Reserve, Sixty Dorrance St., Providence, 6-9 PM. For information call Environment Council of RI at 621-8048.

May 22
Fishermens’ Memorial State Park Farmers’ Market, Galilee, 9 AM-1 PM. For information call Peter Susi at 222-2781 ext. 4517.

June 2
Tree Stewards Education Course, West Warwick Senior Center, 20 Factory Street, W. Warwick, 6:30-9 PM. For information contact Jeanne at 861-1995.

June 4
Tree Stewards Education Outdoor Workshop, Location to be Announced, 9 AM-12 PM. For information contact Jeanne Current at 861-1995.

RI Sustainable Living Festival & Renewable Energy Expo, 451 Hammet Rd, Coventry, 11 AM-7 PM. For more information call 397-3430.

June 9
From Forest Primeval to Suburban Woodland: New England Forests through Time, West Warwick Senior Center, 20 Factory St, W. Warwick, 6:30-8:30 PM.

June 11
Spring 2005 Tree Stewards Education Outdoor Workshop, Location to be Announced, 9 AM-12 PM. For information contact Jeanne Current at 861-1995.

June 19
Forest Habitat Field Trip, Sprague Farm, Glocester, 1:30-4PM. For more information, contact Jeanne Current at 861-1995.