

Curriculum Vitae

Hope Drury Leeson hleeson@risd.edu

B.A. Brown University, 1982. Major: Studio Art with concentration in painting.
Secondary concentration: environmental and life sciences.

Professional Positions

Adjunct Professor

Rhode Island School of Design, History, Philosophy and Social Sciences, 2012-present

Rhode Island School of Design, Landscape Architecture, 2018-present

University of Rhode Island, College of the Environment and Life Sciences, 2006-09

Courses Taught

Botany in the Kitchen (RISD HPSS)

Plant Materials (RISD LDAR)

Introduction to the Botanical World (RISD HPSS)

Field Botany and Taxonomy (URI CELS)

Botanist

The Rhode Island Natural History Survey, Kingston, RI, 2008–present

Recent work includes spearheading the organization's initiative, trademarked Rhody Native; Propagation and production of native plants from seed for habitat restoration and landscape applications; Botanical field surveys; Habitat restoration and consultation

Student Independent Studies Mentor

University of Rhode Island, College of the Environment and Life Sciences, Coastal Fellow Mentor Program, for Rhode Island Natural History Survey, Annually from 2008-18; URI Honors Program, Honors Project Mentor 2015, and Student Internships in 2016 for RI Natural History Survey

Independent Habitat Consultant

Taylor Point Preservation Association, Jamestown, Rhode Island, 2016-present; Hale House, South Kingstown Land Trust, 2016; Napatree Point Conservation Area, Watch Hill, Rhode Island, 2016

Independent Contract Botanist

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Nature Conservancy, and RI Natural History Survey, 1998–2008

Environmental Scientist

Applied Biosystems, Peacedale, RI, 1992–94; Vanasse, Hangen, Brustlin, Providence, RI, 1989–1992; Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, Freshwater Wetlands Section, 1986-89

State Park Naturalist

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management for the *Rhode Island Naturally* K-12 young naturalist program; Prudence Island and Goddard State Parks, 1986

Graphic Design Production Manager

Delany Design Group, Providence, RI, 1984-86

Independent Commercial Artist

Mural commissions, decorative arts paintings, natural history illustration, 1982–87

Grants and Awards

Wildlife Conservation Society, Climate Adaptation Fund award to Rhode Island Natural History Survey in support of its Rhody Native initiative for habitat management at the Norman Bird Sanctuary, Middletown, RI 2015-17

Coastal Resources Management Council Habitat Restoration Fund, and the University of Rhode Island Coastal Institute, program funding for Rhode Island Natural History Survey in support of its Rhody Native initiative for habitat restoration at Napatree Point Conservation Area, Westerly, RI 2014-17

Prospect Hill Foundation program funding to Rhode Island Natural History Survey in support of its Rhody Native initiative 2014-17

Rhode Island Foundation funding award to Rhode Island Natural History Survey in support of its Rhody Native initiative 2013-14

The van Beuren Charitable Foundation program funding to Rhode Island Natural History Survey in support of its Rhody Native initiative 2012-15

USDA Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education grant (SARE) grant award to the University of Rhode Island, Mellon Outreach Center, in partnership with the Rhode Island Natural History Survey in support of its Rhody Native initiative 2011-13

New England Wildflower Society; The Society's RI Award for Plant Conservation; 2009

Recipient of the Nature Conservancy's John Wald Grant; to investigate *Sub-aqueous Soil Substrate and Species Vigor among Populations of the State Endangered Aquatic Species Sagittaria teres (Alismataceae) in Rhode Island*; 1998

Seminars, Presentations, Workshops

Presentations

Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, 2019; Restoring habitats; the role of native plant seed

Connecticut College, Smaller American Lawns Today 2018 Conference; Why Native Plants?

Rhode Island Wild Plant Society, Native Plant Symposium; Local Efforts to Bring Local Ecotypes to Market; 2015

Guest Lecturer, Rhode Island School of Design; Foundation Studies; Insect Pollinators and Flower Structure, 2014

Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group, Invasive Plant Symposium; Native Plant Growers 'Tell All'; 2012

Rhode Island Garden Symposium, Food, Flowers, Family; Adding Rhody Natives to Your Garden; 2012

And annually on topics pertaining to: Rhode Island's Native Plants, the Rhody Native Initiative, and Invasive Plant Species; 2000-present

Workshops:

Newport Tree Society; Workshop Series on seed collection, and germination of tree species, 2016-2017

Rhode Island Wild Plant Society Native Plant Symposium; Native Plant Seed Collection, Cleaning and Propagation Techniques, 2015, 2018

Rhode Island Natural History Survey, RI Wild Plant Society, URI Outreach Center Co-Sponsored Lisa L. Gould Lecture Series; Workshops on Invasive plant management research at the URI Alton Jones Campus, Native plant Seed Cleaning Techniques, and Salt Marsh Restoration and Salt Marsh Plant Seed Collection and Cleaning Techniques; 2008, 2013, 2014

Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Funded Workshop Series on Native Plant Seed Collection Techniques and Seed Cleaning; 2011-12

The University of Rhode Island, Outreach Center and the RI Coastal Resources Management Council Invasive Species Management Training; 2007-18

University of Rhode Island Watershed Watch Program and the Rhode Island Natural History Survey Aquatic Plant Monitoring Training; 1994 and 2007-12

New England Wild Flower Society, Native Plant Certificate Program; Courses taught: Freshwater Pond Ecology, Plant Ecology, Freshwater Wetland Communities; 2003-6

Publications

Leeson, Hope, 2019. Botanical assessment of coastal habitat along three coastal lagoons in Rhode Island, and disturbance mediated responses of vegetation to thin layer deposition; White Paper for Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council

Leeson, Hope, 2018. Freshwater wetlands of the highest ecological value; White Paper for the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

Gardner, Graham L. and H. Leeson, 2014. Rhody Native; Growing the Local Aesthetic, *Chapter News*, RI Chapter American Society of Landscape Architects

Leeson, Hope, 2011. The Rhody Native Initiative, *WildfloraRI*, Bulletin of the Rhode Island Wild Plant Society, Volume 25, No. 1

Leeson, Hope, 2011. Aquatic Plant Communities in Trustom Pond: Changes in Composition 1985-2008. Poster RI Natural History Survey Annual Meeting

Leeson, Hope. 2008. Rhode Island's Coastal Habitats, *The Blazing Star*, Newsletter of the North American Native Plant Society volume 9, issue 3.

Leeson, Hope, and D. Gregg. 2007. Invasive Preparedness for Land Conservation Organizations. Website publication of the Rhode Island Natural History Survey

Leeson, Hope and D. Gregg et al. 2007. Demonstration of Management Techniques for Invasive Plants of Forested Ecosystems in Rhode Island. Poster RI Natural History Survey Annual Meeting

Leeson, Hope, 2002. Invasive Species Mapping, Ninigret National Wildlife Preserve. Poster RI Natural History Survey Annual Meeting

Memberships and Civic Engagement

Appalachian Mountain Club

Harvard University's, Arnold Arboretum

New England Botanical Club

New England Wildflower Society's, New England Native Plant Conservation Corps

(Rhode Island Task Force 1994-present)

Rhode Island Natural History Survey (Board of Directors 2000-02)

Rhode Island Wild Plant Society (Board of Directors Stewardship Chair 2000-05)

The Nature Conservancy, Rhode Island Chapter

Town of S. Kingstown, RI Conservation Commission Conservation Commission 1990-94