

HOPE DRURY LEESON, CURRICULUM VITAE

AB, Brown University, 1982

Concentration: Visual Art; Painting

Secondary Concentration: Environmental Sciences and Studies

TEACHING POSITIONS

- ***Lecturer***

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

New England Wildflower Society, Certificate Program, 2003-2006

- ***Courses Offered***

Plants: Botany and Ecology (RISD LDAR)

Bog, Swamp, Marsh, and River (RISD LDAR)

Botanical Survey: Moshassuck River (RISD HPSS SCI)

Wild Plants of Providence (RISD HPSS SCI)

Winter Tree Watching (RISD HPSS SCI)

Botany in the Kitchen (RISD HPSS SCI)

Introduction to the Botanical World (RISD HPSS SCI)

Field Botany and Taxonomy (URI CELS)

Freshwater Wetland Communities (NEWFS)

Freshwater Pond Ecology (NEWFS)

Plant Ecology (NEWFS)

- ***Student Mentor***

Rhode Island School of Design; Independent Study Projects (2020-2025), Secondary thesis advisor INTAR, LDAR (2021-2023); University of Rhode Island, College of the Environment and Life Sciences, Rhode Island Natural History Survey Coastal Fellow Mentor (2008-2018); URI Honors Program, Honors Project Mentor (2015); Rhode Island Natural History Survey Student Internship Mentor (2016).

BOTANICAL WORK

- Independent Contract Botanist, 1998-present. Recent work includes collaborative construction of floating wetlands ([Below and Above Collective](#)) for rebalancing life in freshwater aquatic communities, and inventory of floodplain plant communities along the Moshassuck River, with joint presentation of findings ([Society for Ecological Restoration North American Conference, 2024](#)).
- Staff Botanist, The Rhode Island Natural History Survey, Kingston, RI, 2008–2021. Established the [Rhody Native™ initiative](#) to sustainably collect wild seed for native plant propagation, habitat restoration, rare species population management, and landscape applications; Botanical field surveys; Habitat assessment and restoration consultation
- Wetland Scientist: Applied Biosystems, Peacedale, RI, 1992–94; Vanasse, Hangen, Brustlin, Providence, RI, 1989–1992, Wetland delineation and disturbance compensation design; Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, Freshwater Wetlands Section, 1986-89, Administrative application review, Wetland restoration monitoring.

EARLY WORK

- Rhode Island State Park Naturalist, RI Department of Environmental Management for *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, 1982–87; Mural commissions, decorative arts paintings, natural history illustration.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- Rhode Island School of Design, Professional Development Fund Grant, 2024 (co-recipient, Ann Kearsley); *Moshassuck River Project*.
- Rhode Island School of Design, Color Lab Fellowship, 2023; in support of research into dye properties of native plants. Work titled *"Colors of the Land"*.
- National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, 2019-2021; to Rhode Island Natural History Survey, in support of *Rhody Native*TM initiative for *Sabatia stellaris* (CT State Endangered species) restoration plan and nursery production protocol for the Great Meadows Marsh Unit, Stratford, Connecticut.
- Wildlife Conservation Society, Climate Adaptation Fund, 2015-2018; to Rhode Island Natural History Survey in support of *Rhody Native*TM initiative for habitat management at the Norman Bird Sanctuary, Middletown, RI.
- Coastal Resources Management Council Habitat Restoration Fund, and the University of Rhode Island Coastal Institute, 2014-2017; to Rhode Island Natural History Survey in support of *Rhody Native*TM initiative for habitat restoration, Napatree Point Conservation Area, Westerly, RI.
- Prospect Hill Foundation, 2014-2017; to Rhode Island Natural History Survey in support of *Rhody Native*TM initiative.
- Rhode Island Foundation, 2013-2014; to Rhode Island Natural History Survey in support of *Rhody Native*TM initiative.
- The van Beuren Charitable Foundation, 2012-2015; to Rhode Island Natural History Survey in support of *Rhody Native*TM initiative.
- USDA Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education grant (SARE), 2011-2013; to the University of Rhode Island, Mellon Outreach Center, in partnership with the Rhode Island Natural History Survey in support of *Rhody Native*TM initiative.
- New England Wildflower Society, 2009; Rhode Island Plant Conservation Award.
- Nature Conservancy John Wald Grant, 1998; *Investigation of Sub-aqueous Soil Substrate and Species Vigor among Populations of the State Endangered Aquatic Species Sagittaria teres (Alismataceae) in Rhode Island*.

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

Presentations

- Society for Ecological Restoration North American Conference, 2024; *Sharing Habitats: Supporting Non-human Agency in the Built Environment; Will River Otters Show us the Way?*
- Rhode Island Land and Water Conservation Summit, 2024; *From Forests to Fashion*
- Northeast Organic Seed Conference, 2021; Roundtable Discussion; *Rhody Native*TM; *Native Seed Producers of the Northeast*.
- Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, 2019; *Restoring habitats; The Role of Native Plant Seed*.
- Connecticut College, Smaller American Lawns Today Conference, 2018; *Why Native Plants?*
- Rhode Island Wild Plant Society, Native Plant Symposium, 2015; *Local Efforts to Bring Local Ecotypes to Market*.
- Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group, Invasive Plant Symposium, 2012; *Native Plant Growers 'Tell All'*.
- Rhode Island Garden Symposium, Food, Flowers, Family, 2012; *Adding Rhody Native*TM *to Your Garden*.

Workshops

- Rhode Island School of Design, Edna Lawrence Nature Lab, 2021-2023; *Natural Dyes*
- Audubon Society of Rhode Island, Ocean View Foundation, Block Island and Connecticut Chapter of Wild Ones; Newport Tree Society, 2016-2020; *Native Plant Seed Collection, Cleaning, and Propagation Techniques*.
- Rhode Island Wild Plant Society Native Plant Symposium, 2015, 2018; *Native Plant Seed Collection, Cleaning and Propagation Techniques*.
- Rhode Island Natural History Survey, RI Wild Plant Society, URI Outreach Center Co-Sponsored Lisa L. Gould Lecture Series, 2008, 2013, 2014; *Invasive Plant Management Research at the URI Alton Jones Campus; Native plant Seed Cleaning Techniques; Salt Marsh Restoration and Salt Marsh Plant Seed Collection and Cleaning Techniques*.
- Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE), 2011-2012; Workshop Series on *Native Plant Seed Collection Techniques and Seed Cleaning*.
- The University of Rhode Island, Outreach Center and the RI Coastal Resources Management Council Invasive Species Management Training, 2007-2018; *Ecology and Life Cycles of Invasive Plant Species in Rhode Island Coastal Habitats*.
- University of Rhode Island Watershed Watch Program and the Rhode Island Natural History Survey, 1994 and 2007-2012; *Aquatic Plant Monitoring Training*.

PUBLICATIONS

Leeson, Hope; Department, History, Philosophy, + the Social Sciences; and RISD Color Lab, "Faculty Fellow Hope Leeson | Colors of the Land" (2023). *Color Lab Exhibition Videos*. 1. https://digitalcommons.risd.edu/colorlab_exhibitions_video/1

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*. <https://rinhs.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/RINHS-Salt-Marsh-Botany-Final-Report.pdf>

Leeson, Hope, T. Kutcher, and D. Gregg, 2018. *Freshwater Wetlands of the Highest Ecological Value*; White Paper for the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management.

Leeson, Hope, K. Venturini Hardesty, V. Venturini, and G.L. Gardner, 2016. *RI Native Plant Guide*; University of Rhode Island and the Rhode Island Natural History Survey. <https://web.uri.edu/rinativeplants/>

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*. <https://rilandtrusts.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Invasives-prep-for-land-trusts.pdf>

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 Refuge*. Poster RI Natural History Survey Annual Meeting.