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**URI FACULTY EXPOSE
DANGERS OF TICKS *HIDDEN IN THE LEAVES***

Documentary Airs on WSBE Rhode Island PBS

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND (June 11, 2008) – What do you see in *your* backyard? Beyond the green lawn...the flowers and shrubs...the children playing....

Still don't see them? Well, they're there, hidden in the leaves. In the tens, hundreds, maybe even the thousands.

But it only takes one. One infected tick can change your life.

Hidden in the Leaves, directed by award-winning filmmaker and University of Rhode Island film media professor Mary Healey Jamiel, is the story of URI entomology professor and director of the Center for Vector-Borne Disease, Thomas Mather, and his team's efforts to help people understand the risks of serious tick-transmitted disease lurking in an increasing number of rural, suburban and even semi-urban landscapes in the eastern United States.

The documentary will air on WSBE Rhode Island PBS (channel 36 / digital 36.1 / RI cable 8 / DirecTV 36 / Dish 7776) on Sunday, June 15 at 1:30 p.m.; Wednesday, June 18 at 10:30 p.m.; Sunday, June 22 at 11:30 a.m.; and Friday, June 27 at 7 p.m.

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This 24-minute documentary exposes the hidden dangers that ticks represent and spotlights strategies to avoid ticks and their diseases. *Hidden in the Leaves* includes interviews with Polly Murray, the first person to bring Lyme disease to the attention of public health authorities, as well as others who have been affected by the disease. The film also recommends solutions for ridding one's yard of ticks and offers successful strategies for avoiding tick bites.

WSBE Rhode Island PBS is owned and operated by the Rhode Island Public Telecommunications Authority, a quasi-public agency of the State of Rhode Island. Rhode Island PBS is a viewer-supported member of the Public Broadcasting Service. For 40 years, Rhode Island PBS has used the power of commercial-free media to educate, inform, engage, and inspire viewers of all ages. For more information about the programs and education services at Rhode Island PBS, visit www.RIpbs.org.

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