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### Good Autumn, Forest Hero! Volunteers

Apples, leaves, freshly sharpened pencils...it's easy to fall in love with fall, even when it's hard to believe it's just around the corner! From reading to removal, this issue of our quarterly newsletter focuses on learning and getting involved -- all in the "back to school" spirit of the season. As always, thank you for all you do to protect biodiversity in Vermont.

Cheers,

*Elizabeth Spinney & Lina Swislocki*



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## Cool Tools

### Youth Volunteer Program Guide

Know any youth? Anyone heading back to school? Anyone who might want to spend some time outside? We, along with the Winooski Valley Parks District, have compiled a comprehensive guide to hosting invasive plant removal workdays with young people of all ages in all settings. It's got everything you need to get from workday conception to completion. [Check it out.](#) (full guide coming soon, but lesson plans are live!)



### Adult volunteer opportunities

Want to get the young-at-heart involved? We've got you covered. Our downloadable Project How-To Guide has everything you need to plan a workday with adults, and take a look to see if there is (or if there should be) a CISMA in your area. All this and more on our [outreach page](#). And don't forget about the [Forest Hero! Volunteer resource page](#).



### maybe you?

We often get approached by community groups hoping to learn about invasive plants, so we're looking for volunteer presenters! Could it be you we're looking for? We'll give you all the supplies and support you could want. [Let us know](#) if you're interested.



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## Interesting Articles

### Community scientists are invaluable

A full QUARTER of new invasive species (a.k.a. early detection rapid response, a.k.a. EDRR for those in the know) have been discovered by community scientists like you. When we say "thank you for all you do to protect biodiversity in Vermont," we mean it.

[Read all about it](#)



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### Invasive to the Core

We know there's a link between the success of invasive plants and their phenology -- it's no coincidence that barberries and shrub honeysuckles leaf out first in spring. But is there a link between invasiveness and growth *rate*? And how does DNA factor in? Nerd out and read up on this exciting new research that "...support[s] genome size as a broad indicator of the growth behavior..." and invasive capacity of some plant species!

[Find the paper here](#)



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### What makes a tree a tree?

No, really? We generally know one when we see one, but is there a single defining feature of "tree-ness?" Something in the genome, perhaps? In any case, here's an interesting philosophical conundrum to have in the back of your mind during leaf peeping season.

[What do you think?](#)



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## Network News

### Tools to use

Hopefully, by now you're inspired to get outside and get to work and/or organize other people to get outside and get to work. Fall is the perfect time for manual removal of woody invasive plants, and we have just the tool for that. [Get in touch](#) if you'd like to borrow Weed Wrenches, loppers, gloves, or anything else to get woody invasive plants out of the ground.



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### 'nip it in the Buds

[Listen up!](#) The third episode of our Bud Buds podcast is available! Tune in for some cool vocab, interesting factoids, and hilarious asides about one of Vermont's most notorious invasive plants.



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### Field Trip

While technically not part of our network, these upcoming [virtual](#) and [in-person](#) events hosted by the Vermont Land Trust might be of interest. Join the club, and help spread the word not the plant! Extra credit if you can ID the plants on their



banner images.



Network Updates is brought to you by the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation's Invasive Plant Program, and all our project partners. Visit our website [www.vtinvasives.org](http://www.vtinvasives.org). Network Updates is made possible in part by the USDA Forest Service Landscape-Scale Restoration Grant.

To Contact Us: [anr.fprInvasivePlants@vermont.gov](mailto:anr.fprInvasivePlants@vermont.gov)



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