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Happy Spring, Forest Hero! Volunteers

The snow is gone (mostly). The birds are singing (loudly). The plants are starting to get their leaves (more on that later). It must be spring! The warmer temps have us thinking about growing plants and changing climates. This edition of our quarterly newsletter comes right in the middle of Earth Week, and the return of the iNaturalist City Nature Challenge! We'll keep it short, since we bet (like us) you're longing to get outside, but we just had to share these articles, tools, and projects with you.

As always, thank you for all you do to protect biodiversity in Vermont.

Cheers,

Elizabeth Spinney & Lina Swislocki



In this issue:

Cool Tools

- [Plants on the Run](#)

Interesting Articles

- [Conservation Needed](#)
- [Fertile Ground](#)
- [Cross off Gallery](#)

Network News

- [Looking for Observers](#)
- [City Nature Challenge](#)

Cool Tools

Plants on the Run

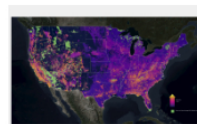
As the climate warms, many species will shift their ranges northward. This includes some invasive species, and some "neonatives" -- species that evolved in ecosystems south of us but have invasive tendencies here. [This article and flowchart](#) from researchers at UMass Amherst helps explain the concept and provides some guidance for when and how to act.



Interesting Articles

Conservation Needed

[This map](#) shows where biodiversity is at the most risk in the continental United States. Vermont looks... okay, but what's going on in Brattleboro?



Fertile Ground

Phosphorus is a vital component of fertilizer, and is a finite resource. Phosphorus runoff from farms and cities is wasteful, and is terrible for our water. [Researchers at the University of Minnesota are investigating using bacteria to capture and recycle phosphorus from wastewater.](#)



Cross off Gallery

States across the country are adding Callery/Bradford pears to their invasive plant lists. Read more about the tree and why it's a problem [here](#), then keep your eye on your local garden centers this spring and help them to spread the word and not the plant.



Network News

Looking for Observers

We are still looking for observers for our projects! We need folks from outside Chittenden county to help us record the phenophases of invasive plants you see (like Wild parsnip and Knotweed), and folks throughout the state who are interested in helping track the locations of Vermont's limited Tree-of-Heaven population. Find more info [here](#) or [get in touch](#) with any questions. Thanks in advance!



City Nature Challenge

Every year, iNaturalist hosts a global bioblitz called the [City Nature Challenge](#). Check out their project page to see what's going on in your area or around the world, or to start a challenge of your own!



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. Network Updates is made possible in part by the USDA Forest Service Landscape-Scale Restoration Grant.

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