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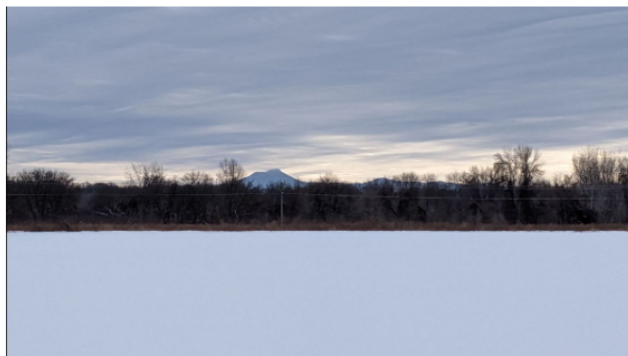
### Warm Winter Wishes, Forest Hero! Volunteers

Welcome to 2022! The winter Olympics have the world celebrating what Vermonters already know: there's a lot of fun to be had in the ice and snow! But winter can also be a nice time to sit inside by the fire, to read, learn, and prepare for spring. This edition of our quarterly newsletter comes just in time to celebrate National Invasive Species Awareness Week (Feb 28th - Mar 4th)! We've included articles, new tools, and upcoming projects that we've found interesting and inspiring, and hope you enjoy them too. In particular, we're looking for volunteers to help us observe invasive plants and their seasonal changes - check out 'Network News' to learn more.

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

Cheers,

*Elizabeth Spinney & Lina Swislocki*



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## Cool Tools

### New York State PRISM Story Map

[This interactive map](#) is a great tool both to visualize New York's response to invasive plant management, and also to visualize what a story map is and how to use one. We've loved exploring this, and are looking forward to making one for Vermont.



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### IDing Vermont Trees

Can you ID a tree with no leaves? Winter can be a great time to behold bark, branch, and bud patterns to become better at discerning different species. Crow's Path school has [this handy tree ID reference](#), plus [this neat dictionary on tree name etymology](#).



### Calling all Kids

The Urban and Community Forestry program is inviting students from K-8 to [submit original stories and artwork](#) about a meaningful memory or experience enjoyed because of trees. A lovely opportunity to reflect on trees, and there are prizes!



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## Interesting Articles

### Ecosystem AND the Economy

We generally classify an invasive species as something that harms human health, the ecosystem, or the economy (per Executive Order 13122). Research from Auburn University shows that [the economic cost](#) may be higher than anyone has realized.



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### RISCC Management

In January, we attended the RISCC (Regional Invasive Species and Climate Change) Network Species and Climate Change) Network Symposium, and learned so much! Although we can't take you back in time to join us, we can provide [links to the recorded talks](#) (including our very own Elizabeth Spinney [here](#), from minutes 10:59-23)



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### Ground-shift

We know invasive trees can change the makeup of a forest. New research from New Mexico and Texas shows that [invasive trees can also change the makeup of the very ground they grow](#) in by altering the soil microbes.



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## Network News

### Looking for Observers

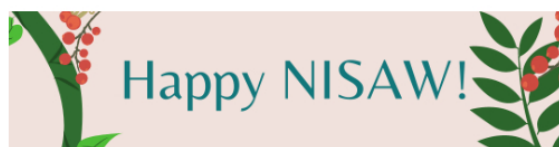
Good baseline data is the foundation of good management. We're organizing a number of different observation projects for people who would like to contribute to Vermont's invasive plant datasets, and would really love your help! The different projects (and the commitments involved) are explained [on the website](#); check them out and start submitting observations or be in touch with any questions.



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### NISAW

Did you know there's a National Invasive Species Awareness Week? NISAW 2022 kicks off on Feb 28 and, while it's a little early to start managing invasive plants in Vermont, it's always a good time to learn. We're particularly excited about the Climate Change Webinar on March 1. [Which events will you be attending?](#)





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.

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