

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER WINTER 2008-2009



HAPPY NEW YEAR 2009!

GET WISE ON WEEDS!

Unlike the invasives themselves, the Conservancy's invasive plant outreach program, *Wise on Weeds!*, is anything but dormant this winter. In the upcoming year, we're launching several new initiatives. Here's a quick snapshot of things to come and ways that we could use your talent and help!

HELP US GET THE WORD OUT!

We are looking for volunteers to help spread the word about invasives by giving public presentations in their local communities and throughout the state. Training is required. See "Opportunities for Learning" for more details or contact us for more information!

LIKE FLOWERS?

Looking for folks to staff our *Wise on Weeds!* booth at the Vermont Flower Show, March 6-8 at the Champlain Valley Expo in Essex Junction. For more info contact Bob Hawk at rhawk@tnc.org (<http://www.vermontflowershow.com/>)

LIKE TO WRITE?

We are developing a few new publications for the *WOW!* program and need a volunteer to lend a hand. Work from home or come to the Montpelier office.

BE AN INVASIVES DETECTIVE!

We're on the hunt for town office buildings that have plantings with burning bush, Norway maple, and Japanese barberry. Libraries and town halls are visible to thousands of local residents and make excellent *WOW!* demonstration sites. Does your town have these plants? Let us know what you find!

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

To find out more about these and other opportunities to help control the spread of invasive plants in our state, call Sharon at 802-229-4425 x120 or email splumb@tnc.org

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

BOUNDARY MARKING

Join us this winter as we head out into the snowy wonderland on snowshoes and skis to mark the boundaries of some of our beautiful natural areas. Using compasses, maps, and GPS units, we will follow the boundaries, touching up paint blazes and re-posting signs. Limited numbers of volunteers needed, so sign up soon!

Please be aware, the terrain may be rough.



Addison and Rutland Counties

Wednesday January 21 & Wednesday February 4

Back-up dates scheduled for:

Wednesday, February 18 & Wednesday, February 25

Southern Vermont

Please contact volunteer Bob Anderson if you are interested in helping with boundary marking in Southern Vermont by phone (802) 869-3106 or by email at: bob_anderson@vermontel.net.

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

If you'd rather spend the winter *indoors*, we still have plenty of opportunities for you!

We are seeking a data entry and quality control volunteer to help the stewardship team with our new easement database! Strong knowledge of Microsoft Access is required.

Please let us know if you have any other special skills you'd like to share!

To sign up or for more information, please contact Emily Seifert at: (802) 229-4425 ext 119, volunteervt@tnc.org

OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING

BECOME A WISE ON WEEDS! VOLUNTEER PRESENTER!

Are you interested in protecting biodiversity and like talking to people? Learn how to give our *Wise on Weeds!* presentation to the general public. Participants will be provided with the PowerPoint, handouts, and other tools to give fun and informative presentations. More dates may be added upon request. Workshops are from 6 pm – 9 pm. If you can't make the scheduled trainings, let us know and we can work out other arrangements.

Program credit available for Master Gardeners and S.O.U.L..

Norwich:	Montshire Museum	Thursday, April 2
Burlington:	Ethan Allen Homestead	Thursday, April 9
Manchester:	Hildene	Thursday, April 23

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CONSERVANCY IN VERMONT!

Emily Seifert, Stewardship Manager with the Conservancy, will be talking to the community about the work of the Nature Conservancy in the Northeast Kingdom on **Friday, February 20**. The talk will take place at the Northwoods Stewardship Center in East Charleston, VT. For more information, please contact the Northwoods Stewardship Center at 802-723-6551 x115 or check out their website: <http://www.northwoodscenter.org/index.html>



Other Creek Swamps Photo by Jon Binham-

The Nature Conservancy 
Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

VERMONT CHAPTER VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

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27 State Street, Suite 4
Montpelier, VT 05602

WISH LIST

We need **SNOWSHOES** for trekking through the winter woods while monitoring easements or marking boundaries. They must have aluminum frames with crampons and sturdy nylon straps.

We also need tools for working with invasives, including **KNEE PADS, PICKLE BUCKETS, HANDSAWS, BOWSAWS, PRUNING SHEARS,** and **WORK GLOVES.**

GIFT CERTIFICATES to Home Depot or other hardware stores would help.
The more sets of tools we have, the more **POWER** we have to steward the Conservancy lands!

We also have an ongoing need for donated **ROUGH-CUT, ROT-RESISTANT LUMBER** for trail improvement projects. We prefer cedar or hemlock.

If you can donate, please contact Bob Hawk, Stewardship Assistant, at (802) 220-4425 x 111; rhawk@tnc.org

THANK YOU!

LAND STEWARDSHIP INTERNSHIPS AVAILABLE

Are you a curious person with strong writing and organizational skills? We are looking for a talented individual or two to develop outreach and training materials for our stewardship program. Timeframe and content are flexible.

- The Wise on Weeds! program needs a strong writer to research and develop a landowners' manual to managing invasive species. This will include reviewing existing manuals from other states, web research, conversations with land managers around the region, and writing the manual itself.
- In the coming year, the stewardship team will be developing a regional volunteer base to help maintain trails, monitor easements, and protect manage our preserves. The practicum includes interviewing organizations that have existing volunteer based land management programs, and providing recommendations for our new program.

These unpaid internships could be done by one person or split between two. Both projects can be done in Montpelier or from a remote location. *For more information, contact Sharon at splumb@tnc.org or 802-229-4425 x120.*