

# RIPARIAN LANDS NATIVE SEED PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

Tamarack (*Larix laricina*)  
© Intervale Center

## UPDATES

### Newsletter Frequency

Thank you to those who responded to our newsletter feedback form in July! Taking your responses into consideration, we will now be releasing newsletters on a more frequent, quarterly basis in an e-news format.

### Seeds Available

At the end of 2024, the Riparian Lands Native Seed Partnership came to the consensus to share locally collected native plant seeds to conservation nurseries at no cost. Priority still goes to direct seeding projects with the state, NorthWoods Stewardship Center, and for propagation by the Intervale Conservation Nursery. Otherwise, availability is on a first come, first serve basis, and nurseries must be willing to pick seeds up from our storage locations. To request seeds, reach out to Statewide Seed Coordinator, Brooke Fleischman, at [brooke@intervale.org](mailto:brooke@intervale.org).

### Northeast Seed Network:

#### Northern Appalachian / Atlantic Maritime Hub

The Northern Appalachian / Atlantic Maritime Hub of the Northeast Seed Network is now in its strategic planning phase of development. The hub's scope includes Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, and Atlantic Canada or ecoregions 58, 59 (north of Massachusetts), and 82. Organizations on the planning committee consists of the Coastal Maine Botanical Garden, The Wild Seed Project, and the Intervale Center. At this stage, the hub is not looking at a sales-based model but rather a service model to serve a mission of ecological health and resilience.

### ICN Spring Availability

The Intervale Conservation Nursery is accepting orders for spring 2025. There are still high quantities of species such as silver maple, red-osier dogwood, northern white cedar, gray birch, and black willow. Flats of pollinator plants including joe-pye weed, boneset, and common milkweed are also available this year. Please reach out to ICN Nursery Manager, Ben Rodgers, at [benr@intervale.org](mailto:benr@intervale.org) for an availability list.

## THIS ISSUE

UPDATES

PAGE 1

FIELD SEASON & PARTNERSHIP

PAGE 2-4

UVM NR4060

PAGE 5

UPCOMING EVENTS

PAGE 6



Field technicians from Redstart team up with NorthWoods, ECNRCD, and Intervale to help collect tamarack (*Larix laricina*) 9/4/2024  
© Intervale Center

## Woody Species Collected

Balsam fir:	107,686
Red maple:	4,819
Silver maple:	219,874
Boxelder:	8,162
Speckled alder:	9,414,074
Yellow birch:	2,155,575
Paper birch:	23,646
Gray birch:	12,829,325
Black / Sweet birch:	221,278
Shagbark hickory:	816
Pagoda dogwood:	7,368
Silky dogwood:	18,746
Gray dogwood:	23,655
Red-osier dogwood:	69,196
Black ash:	4,281
Winterberry:	13,312
Tamarack:	180,053
Black spruce:	550
Red spruce:	95,389
Balsam poplar:	485,277
Eastern cottonwood:	487,544
Quaking aspen:	4,045,809
American sycamore:	277,531
Chokecherry:	150,790
Swamp white oak:	463
Northern red oak:	27,091
Shrub willow:	2,607,116
Black willow:	2,890,720
Elderberry:	211,975
Basswood:	9,261
American elm:	9,015
Nannyberry:	3,331
Wild raisin:	1,396

## COLLECTION SUPPORT

*In addition to our routine collections, we also received a lot of support from partners this fall! Here are some highlights:*

### Redstart

Field technicians from Redstart came out for multiple field days with both Intervale Center and NorthWoods crews in order to aid collection of species such as gray birch, tamarack, and speckled alder.

### Essex County NRCD Nursery (ECNRCD)

ECNRCD Nursery Manager, Clara Fernandez-Odell, came out with both Intervale Center and NorthWoods crews on multiple occasions to help collect more species than we could probably name!

### Verterra

Co-owner of the Verterra Nursery, David Berg, and Brooke went to the UVM Carse Wetland in order to collect tamarack, black/sweet birch, and bitternut hickory.

### Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area

Biological technicians based out of the Dead Creek WMA, including Rose Watts, collected shagbark hickory for the seed partnership at Dead Creek as well as the Little Otter Creek WMA.

### Poultney Mettowee NRCD Nursery (PMNRCD)

The PMNRCD nursery had a surplus of northern red oak acorns this fall and kindly shared what they wouldn't need to the seed partnership.

### Master Naturalist Program

Sophie Erhardt, a master naturalist student based out of the Winooski Headwaters Chapter, came out with Brooke for a day of collecting yellow birch.

### Missisquoi River Basin Association (MRBA)

Sarah Lund, Watershed Restoration Manager for both MRBA and Upper Missisquoi and Trout River Wild & Scenic Committee (UMATR), helped us identify sites this spring and sent their ECO AmeriCorps member, Ruby Bratcher, out with the NorthWoods Riparian Lands team to collect gray birch, basswood, and winterberry this fall.

### Universities

Thank you to all the professors and students who helped us collect seeds this year from the University of Vermont and Sterling College!

# FIELD SEASON & PARTNERSHIP

## Herbaceous Species Collected

Common milkweed: 43,862

Boneset: 478,336

Joe-pye weed: 667,428

**2024 Total:**  
**37,874,204 seeds**  
**from 39 species**

## PRESENTATIONS

### Thetford/Fairlee Conservation Commission

In late-August, Brooke visited one of the Conservation Commission meetings for the towns of Thetford and Fairlee to share the story of our work and give information on seed handling considerations for community members. See the presentation [here](#).

### VHCB: Sowing Seeds Conference

On October 7th, the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board hosted the “Sowing Seeds: conservation connections for a resilient future” conference. There were many presentations that covered a wide scope where farmers and conservationists could all come together. Brooke presented on the RLNSP’s purpose, goals, and what other organizations can do to support our work. See the presentation [here](#).



Gabiella Marchesani (ECO AmeriCorps member) and Jake Gallinger collect from a naturally fallen balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*) 9/18/2024  
© NorthWoods Stewardship Center



Jake Gallinger collects elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*) 8/20/2024  
© NorthWoods Stewardship Center



Wild raisin fruiting (*Viburnum nudum*) 8/26/2024  
© NorthWoods Stewardship Center

## New Equipment!

The “scarifier” is a piece of equipment that tumbles seeds with blunt metal blades and sandpaper to break through thick seed coats and overcome seed coat dormancy.



Scarifier  
© Intervale Center



Basswood (*Tilia americana*) seeds after going through the scarifier  
© Intervale Center

## NATIVE PLANT TRUST - NASAMI FARM VISIT

In November, the Native Plant Trust hosted a tour of their Nasami Farm seed facility in Whately, MA. Brooke and Ben Rodgers (ICN Manager) drove down for the tour and got a chance to see their temperature-controlled coolers and freezers, cleaning facility, and seed increase plots. Those who grow seed increase plots use wild-collected (generation 0) seed that is planted in rows in a more agricultural setting. Once those plants become mature and start producing their own seeds, there is a much higher seed collection yield with much less time and effort. These generation 1 seeds can then be used for restoration projects. New wild-collected seeds must replace the others in the plots every five generations or so. We learned a lot on the tour and it was great to connect with folks on a regional scale!



Nasami Farm cooler storage  
© Intervale Center

## ASH

### Collection Efforts

Brooke and Jess were able to collect some black ash seeds this year from a spot in the Northeast Kingdom. These seeds were processed and sent to the USDA Plant Introduction Research Station in Ames, Iowa for long-term storage.



Black ash (*Fraxinus nigra*) seeds  
© NorthWoods Stewardship Center

### Site Visit with Vermont FPR

In September, Brooke and Jess traveled to Cornwall Swamp WMA to meet with several folks from VT FPR to talk about ash conservation efforts.



Ash site visit with Vermont FPR to discuss seed collection potential.  
© NorthWoods Stewardship Center

## SPECIES SPOTLIGHT!

Speckled alder (*Alnus incana* subsp. *rugosa*)



### DID YOU KNOW?

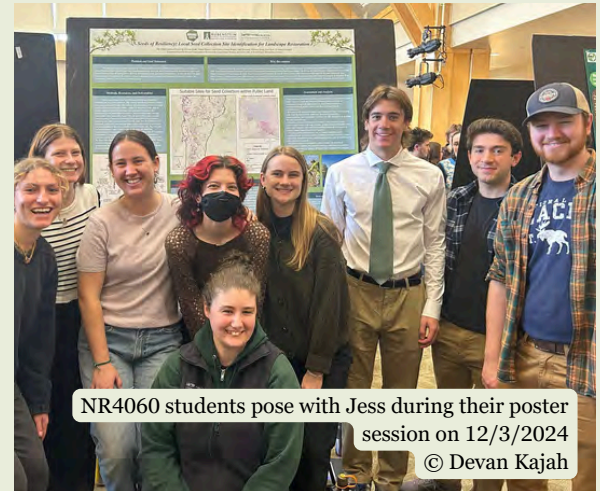
You could go out now and see what will be this coming spring's flowers! Speckled alder and many other species in the birch family develop their inflorescence in late summer before they bloom the following year in early spring.

# UVM NR4060 CAPSTONE COURSE

This fall, we worked with students from the University of Vermont's NR4060 Environmental Problem Solving and Impact Assessment course. We proposed a problem statement that outlined a need to expand our seed collection locations so that we can (1) improve the genetic diversity represented in restoration projects, (2) reduce the reliance on our current collection sites, and (3) efficiently expand our capacity to natural areas in southern Vermont, since most of our work currently occurs in the Champlain Valley and Northeast Kingdom. A group of eight students selected our problem statement and developed a project proposal to address our needs. By the end of the semester, the group of students produced an ArcGIS map that identifies suitable sites for seed collection. The criteria used to create the map included: being within a wetland and/or 150 feet from water bodies, within 50 feet from roads, and on public land. The students drew the criteria from research and our guidance.

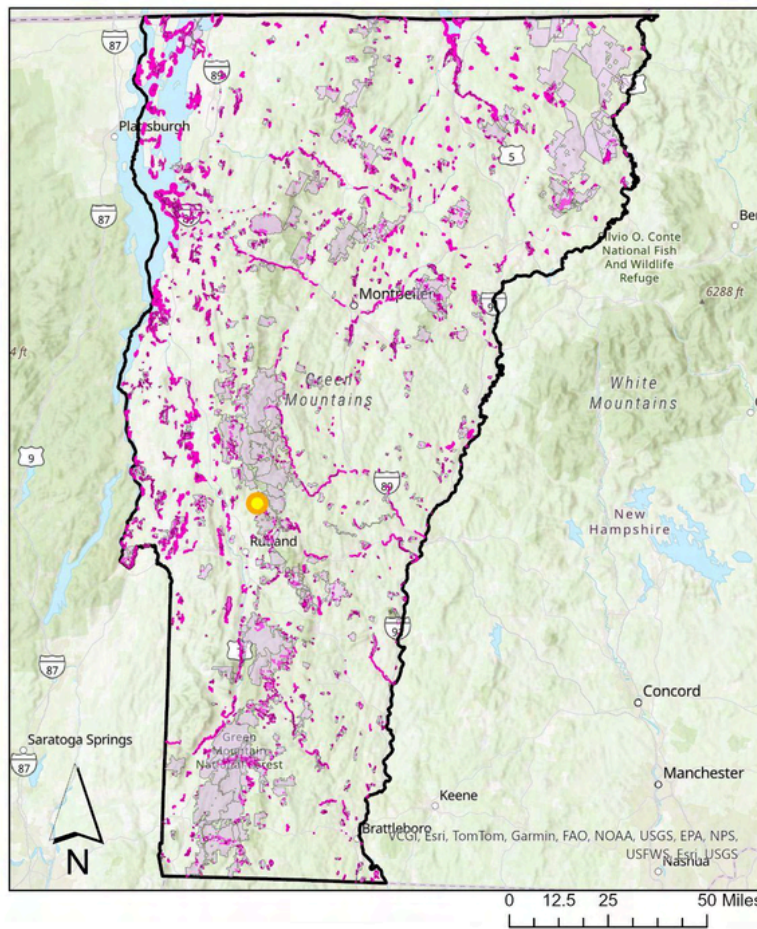
To ensure the map provided reliable site information, the students also developed a standard operating procedure (SOP) to evaluate site details. This SOP was utilized at five different sites to "ground-truth" the maps accuracy.

As the next field season approaches, we are very excited to implement this new tool so that we can more efficiently identify potential seed collection sites. Thank you to our skilled group of students who worked hard to help us move our seed work forward!

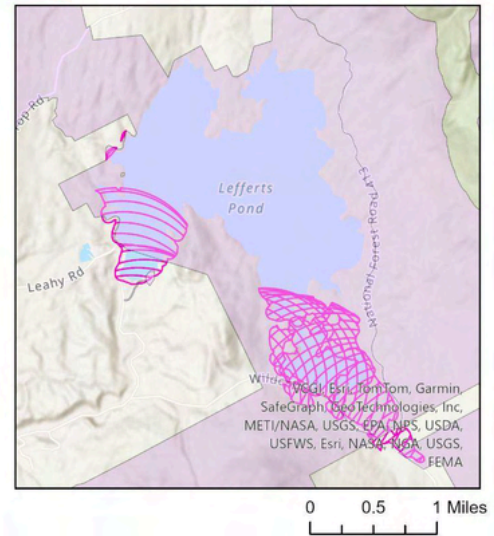


NR4060 students pose with Jess during their poster session on 12/3/2024  
© Devan Kajah

## Suitable Sites for Seed Collection within Public Land



● Site-scale Example: Lefferts Pond



**Legend**

- Public Lands with Suitability
- Suitable Sites in Public Land
- VT Border

Cara Muller, Sophie Becker, & Austin Rowland  
November 2024  
Data sourced from Vermont Open Geodata Portal & The Nature Conservancy

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## WEBINAR

*Woody Seed Site Selection in the Spring*  
When: January 22nd, 12 pm - 1:30 pm  
Where: Microsoft Teams Webinar  
[Details & Registration Here](#)



## IN-PERSON WORKSHOP

*Winter Sowing Native Seeds: Trees & Perennials*  
When: January 26th, 10 am - 12 pm  
Where: Cedar Circle Farm (Thetford, VT)  
[Details & Registration Here](#)



## CONNECT WITH US

### Brooke Fleischman

Statewide Seed Coordinator ([Intervale Center](#))  
[brooke@intervale.org](mailto:brooke@intervale.org)

### Jess Colby

Riparian Lands Program Coordinator ([NorthWoods Stewardship Center](#))  
[jess@northwoodscenter.org](mailto:jess@northwoodscenter.org)

Thank you to all who approved land access & collection permissions!



and many more town owned lands!

The Riparian Lands Native Seed Partnership would not be possible without the financial support and advisory guidance of our core partnering organizations!

