

Date: Wednesday, July 8th, 2026

Time: 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Location: Fellowship Hall, GUCC

Event Title: Greensboro Area - Invasive Species Panel

Event Summary: An opportunity for members of the greater Greensboro community to hear from and engage with career professionals that work intimately with invasive species and their management. This event will feature perspectives from the federal, state, and local levels and explore ideas like what makes a plant invasive, what management strategies can be used, and what specific species can be found in the area. Don't miss this chance to ask your burning questions about plants like Knotweed!

Event Schedule:

- 5:05 - Intro (*Will Marlier*)
- 5:10 - Invasive Species General Information - Statewide Perspective (*Noah*)
- 5:20 - Mechanical Management of Invasives - Project Manager Perspective (*Mike*)
- 5:30 - Pesticide Use for Invasive Management - State/Federal Regulation (*Stephanie*)
- 5:40 - Invasive Species Trends & Observations - Local Perspective (*Jared*)
- 5:50 - Audience/Panelist Q&A
- 6:25 - Conclusion (*Will Marlier*)

Panelists:

Noah Hoffman: Invasive Species Coordinator with the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation

Noah joined FPR in 2024, and serves a statewide role coordinating several terrestrial invasive species monitoring and management efforts. He is especially interested in geographic information systems and their application in preventing and managing the spread of invasive species. Noah graduated from Warren Wilson College in Asheville, North Carolina in 2000, before moving to Vermont and working as a science teacher for over a decade. Outside of work, he enjoys woodworking, fly fishing, and hiking with his family and his dogs.

Mike Bald: Founder & Owner of Got Weeds?

Mike has managed terrestrial invasive / exotic plants for over twenty years, offering non-synthetic approaches to those wishing to manage landscapes in the organic spirit. With a degree in biology and experience in riparian monitoring, National Environmental Policy Act considerations, site-specific project planning, wildfire, landscape rehabilitation, and outdoor safety training, Mike works across New England. Specialties developed through the years have included treatment of Japanese knotweed, the danger plants, and the technique of solarizing. The goal

is always to connect people more closely to their land while empowering them to be receptive and responsible stewards. Trainings focus on team and individual safety, long-term site transition, and the notion that Stewardship = Presence. Got Weeds? has been a regular feature in the Invasion Ecology training curriculum at Queen's University Belfast and at the University of Rhode Island Extension's annual Environmental Horticulture certification program.

Stephanie Smith: Deputy Director of the Vermont Public Health & Agricultural Resource Management Division

Stephanie Smith joined the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets in 2013 and currently is a Deputy Director in the Public Health and Agricultural Resource Management Division. She develops and implements policies and programs supportive of the agricultural industry and natural resource protection. Stephanie manages the operation of multiple programs within the Agency including pesticide applicator certification and training, feed, seed and fertilizer, nursery, pesticide product registration, introduced plant pest species, and ginseng. Additionally, she provides education about household pesticides and their disposal. Stephanie was instrumental in designing and implementing Vermont's Hemp Program and the Cannabis Quality Control Program, between 2018 and 2022, and has professional experience as a land use planner. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies from Boston University and a Master of Landscape Architecture from the University of Georgia.

Jared Nunery: Orleans County Forester/Northern Region Lead with the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation

Jared is a licensed forester in Vermont, and works for the State of Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation as the Orleans County Forester. He lives in Craftsbury with his wife Ashley and two children. As the Orleans County Forester, he works with landowners across the county to promote sound stewardship of our forests. Prior to working for the State of Vermont, he worked across five continents evaluating forestry conservation practices. He has worked for non-profit organizations, private consulting firms, and both federal and state governments, offering a diverse background in organizational structure and function. Jared passionately cares about promoting and practicing sound stewardship of the land, and as Aldo Leopold best put it, "intelligent tinkering" in our forests.