

REFERENCES AND RESOURCES

For Landowners

Websites

The Warren Conservation Commission website <https://www.warrenvt.org/departments/conservation-commission/>

Friends of the Mad River website <https://www.friendsofthemadriver.org/>

Vermont Audubon website <https://vt.audubon.org/>

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources: Conservation Design <https://anr.vermont.gov/node/1182>

Vermont Natural Resources Council <https://vnrc.org/>

Native Plant Resources: Vermont Fish and Wildlife Dept. <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/learn-more/landowner-resources/liep-invasive-species-program/terrestrial-invasive-plant-resources/native-plant-sources>

Invasive Plant Resources: Vermont Fish and Wildlife Dept. <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/learn-more/landowner-resources/liep-invasive-species-program/terrestrial-invasive-plant-resources>

Books

Nature's Best Hope by Douglas W. Tallamy The single best source to help the homeowner develop a "backyard national park".

Half-Earth by Edward O. Wilson. The best easy-to-read theorist on the importance of biodiversity.

Farming with Native Beneficial Insects, the Xerces Society Guide. Lots of practical ideas on how to attract and support beneficial insects. A great resource.

Spirit of Place: The Making of a New England Garden, by Bill Noble. Bill Noble is a master gardener with an ecological point of view. Beautiful photographs of his southern Vermont garden.

Wetland, Woodland, Wildland A Guide to the Natural Communities of Vermont by Thompson, Sorenson, and Zaino. A comprehensive guide to good land stewardship by three Vermont authors.

Eager: The surprising secret life of Beavers and why they Matter, by Ben Goldfarb. Beavers are a keystone species. Reading this will make you a beaver advocate.

Soil Animals, by Friedrich Schaller. A somewhat rare book that helped me understand the importance of soil organisms to soil fertility.

Four Season Harvest by Eliot Coleman. Pages 16-30 explain how to build an easy to manage and effective compost pile.

The End of Nature, by Bill McKibben. The theory that human activity has changed the course of nature on a global scale. After it brings you down it will lift you up.

Biodiversity and Climate Change, Transforming the Biosphere, edited by Lovejoy and Hannah. A collection of academic papers on one of the most important subjects of our generation.

In Season, A Natural History of the New England Year, by Estrin and Johnson. Comprehensive essays written by Vermont naturalists.

Listed, Dispatches from America's Endangered Species Act, by Joe Ramon. Ramon is a UVM Professor who outlines the challenges of saving earth's endangered species.

Reading the Forested Landscape, A Natural History of New England, by Tom Wessels. Helpful Vermont specific information about the nature in your backyard.

Swampwalker's Journal, A wetland Year, by David M. Carroll. A great introduction to the ecology of the most biologically important and most endangered of all habitats.

The Resilient Farm and Homestead, An Innovative Permaculture and Whole Systems Design Approach, by Ben Falk. Practical advice on how to live more sustainably written by a Moretown resident.

Mycorrhizal Planet, How Symbiotic Fungi Work with Roots to Support Plant Health and Build Soil Fertility, by Michael Phillips. It turns out mycorrhizae are super important to ecosystems...who knew...

The Hidden Life of Trees, by Peter Wohlleben. Trees are important and their relationship with each other and the environment is really complicated. Every tree species is a keystone species in its native habitat.

The Earth Manual, How to Work on Wild Land Without Taming It, by Malcolm Margolin. Living on the land without taming it is an essential goal.

Growing a Revolution, Bringing Our Soil Back to Life, by David R. Montgomery. An exploration of how agricultural lands need to be a more constructive part of their local ecosystems.

Beneficial plants

Trees and Shrubs (adapted from Spirit of Place)

Birches, (Gray, White, and Yellow)
Crabapple and Apple
Cranberry
Dogwood
Honeysuckle

Maple (Sugar, Red, and Striped-sometimes locally referred to as Moosewood)
Oak (especially White Oak)
Poplar (often referred to in Vermont as “Popal”)
Hydrangea (Smooth, Panicle, and Climbing)
Spruce (the Vermont native is Red Spruce)
Viburnum
Willow
Alder (usually associated with wetlands. Alder is a favorite of beaver)
Winterberry

Perennials (a partial list)

Allium
Anise hyssop
Aster (beautiful blue flower that blooms in Fall)
Bee balm
Cardinal flower
Garden phlox
Gentian
Goldenrod
Helenium
Joe Pye weed
Milkweed (the sole source of nectar for the endangered Monarch butterfly)
Nepeta
Perennial sunflower
Snakeroot
Thyme

Other Resources

Von Trapp Greenhouses (Waitsfield-a good source for plants (seasonal))
Kenyon’s Store (Waitsfield-tools, seeds, and supplies)
Vermont Compost Co. (Montpelier)
Grow Vermont Compost (Moretown)
Johnny’s Selected Seeds (Maine-Online and catalog: A broad selection of seeds, high quality garden tools)
Fedco (Maine- similar to Johnny’s with a broader selection of natural fertilizers)