**Watershed Forestry Partnership Annual Meeting**

**March 27, 2024, Davis Center (4th floor), University of Vermont**

**Morning Session, Silver Maple Ballroom**

**8:30 – 9:00 am Check-in, Continental Breakfast**

**9:00 – 9:10 Welcome and Introduction** (Shawn White, UVM/ Lake Champlain Sea Grant)

**9:10 – 9:25 Announcements by Partners**

**9:25 – 10:15 Funding for Riparian Restoration**

● Cost share and assistance, CREP (Phil Wilson & Ben Gabos, VT Fish & Wildlife)

● Funding for Planting and Site Maintenance (Christian Pelletier, Watersheds United Vermont; Jess Miller, Vermont Association of Conservation Districts)

● LISFF Funding for Habitat and N Reduction (Kyle Gray, Throwe Environmental)

*---------------10:15 – 10:30 am Break---------------*

**10:30 – 11:00 Site Preparation & Maintenance** (Katie Kain, US Fish & Wildlife Service)

● Current thoughts about best practices

**11:00– 11:30 Status of Nurseries & Nursery Stock** (Mandy Fisher and Ben Rogers, Intervale Conservation Nursery)

● Updates from the Intervale Conservation Nursery: 2024 sales, climate & flood impacts, and the barriers the conservation community is facing in planting trees and how we can overcome those barriers together.

*---------------11:30 – 11:40 am Break---------------*

**11:40am -12:15pm Seed Collection Partnership update and discussion** (Jess Colby, Northwoods Stewardship Center, and Brooke Fleischman, Intervale Conservation Nursery)

● Update on native woody plant seed collection, cleaning, storage, and use; how organizations can help with collection efforts

*---------------12:15 – 1:15 pm Lunch, Sliver Maple Ballroom---------------*

**Afternoon Concurrent sessions:**

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| **1:15 – 2:45 Jost Foundation Room** | **1:00 – 2:45 (front circle, Davis Center)** |
| **Roundtable discussion – Nursery production** (lead by Brooke Fleischman and Kiana French)  Contribute to the discussion about the challenges of growing native woody plants for conservation purposes and the opportunities for collaboration among established and emerging local nurseries. | **Assessing sites for bird-habitat & planning bird-friendly riparian plantings** (Cassie Wolfanger, Margaret Fowle, and Mark LaBarr, Audubon-VT)  Join Audubon-VT for a field trip to the Intervale to learn about considerations for bird habitat when selecting, designing, implementing, and maintaining projects. |

*---------------2:45 - 3 pm Break---------------*

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| **3:00 – 3:35 Jost Foundation Room** | **3:00 – 3:35 Chittenden Room** |
| **Monitoring methods and results**   * Monitoring riparian plantings on ANR lands (Sam Puddicombe, Friends of the Winooski /VTFW)   A 3-year study of mortality and natural regeneration as a function of site conditions | **Targeted Landowner Outreach**   * NFWF project with Orianne S - targeted landowner outreach (Becky Budd, Connecticut River Conservancy)   A case study sharing the results of outreach to landowners about restoration practices to reduced erosion and improve water quality & wood turtle habitat |

*---------------Short 5’ Break---------------*

**Jost Foundation Room**

**3:40 - 4:20 Future of the Watershed Forestry Partnership Roundtable Discussion**

(Shawn White, UVM/ Lake Champlain Sea Grant)

* What do we want out of the partnership and how can we best support riparian restoration practitioners and native plant nurseries; Are there education/outreach needs? What research and funding is needed? What groups/communities are we not reaching or currently unable to include in our work?

**4:20 – 4:30 Conclusions and Wrap-up**