



VTeen Science Explorations



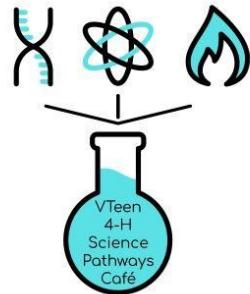
How Humans and Forests React to an Invasive Species

Wednesday, June 2, 2021, 3:30-4:45 pm

Open to all youth entering grades 7-12 in VT and across the country!

Register@ www.uvm.edu/extension/youth/announcements

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Many new species of plants and animals have come to the United States from overseas, some on purpose and some accidentally. A few of those species become invasive: They spread and cause damage to North America's native ecosystems by killing or out-competing the plants and animals that already live here. In forests, some of the most dangerous invasive species are insects, like the hemlock woolly adelgid and the emerald ash borer. These insects don't only kill their targeted trees, but their ripple effects cause larger changes in forests and in cities and towns, too. But forests aren't helpless, and humans can help them fight back. In this cafe, we will talk about these invasive forest pests and what people are doing to stop them.

ABOUT OUR SPEAKER

Hanusia Higgins is a master's student studying applied forest ecology at the University of Vermont. Her research focuses on an invasive insect, the emerald ash borer, and what it's doing to New England forests. She is especially interested in how humans respond to the emerald ash borer, and how that response affects our forests, too. Understanding these impacts of human responses will help foresters make better informed decisions. Before Hanusia came to Vermont, she grew up in Pennsylvania and has since lived and worked in places including Missouri, Panama, Madagascar, and North Carolina. Aside from her love for trees, she also enjoys riding her bike, cooking vegan food, and talking about sustainability in the beauty industry.

What is a Virtual Teen Science Café? It is a free, fun way for teens to explore science, engineering and technology with local scientists, engineers and technology experts. Teens will "meet a scientist", learn about their work, and be able to participate in informal discussions.

Questions? Contact lauran.traister@uvm.edu

To request a disability-related accommodation to participate in this program, please contact the 4-H Office at 802-888-4972 or lauran.traister@uvm.edu by May 12, 2021 so we may assist you.



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