VTeen Science Explorations

What's Going on Under There? How Does Vermont's Spring Snowmelt Period Affect the Soil Ecosystem?

Wednesday, March 31, 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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Spring snowmelt is an important hydrological event for Vermont because melting snow carries nutrients, like nitrogen and phosphorus, to Lake Champlain. Harmful algal blooms (HABs), which occur often in Lake Champlain and disrupt the Lake ecosystem, are linked to nitrogen and phosphorus overloading during the spring snowmelt period. HABs also prevent us from recreating in the Lake during the hot summer months when we want to go for a swim. Fortunately, riparian areas, which are transition zones between the landscape and waterways, can be highly efficient at trapping and reducing nutrients before they reach the Lake. This café addresses the role of riparian areas in the reduction of nitrogen loading to streams. It will also touch on how soil conditions change throughout the spring snowmelt period, and how we can expect these changes to influence riparian soil nitrogen reduction.

ABOUT OUR SPEAKER

Brittany Lancellotti is currently finishing up her PhD in Natural Resources from UVM's Rubenstein School. She is very interested in how fluctuations in soil conditions influence soil nitrogen cycling in riparian areas. Brittany studied the nitrogen removal dynamics of septic systems at the University of Rhode Island before studying soil biogeochemistry at UVM.

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 lauren.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 lauren.traister@uvm.edu by March 10, 2021 so we may assist you.

THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT EXTENSION

www.uvm.edu/extension/youth