

The Bedford Vine-Cutter's

Invasive vines choke and smother trees - ultimately killing them.

The Town of Bedford in partnership with Bedford 2030 and the Bedford Riding Lanes Association is starting a group of volunteer residents seeking to preserve the health of our trees (and ourselves!) by removing invasive vines. Come join us for productive fun and exercise. No experience necessary: We provide training and equipment. If you have your own clippers or loppers, please bring them. In two hours, you'll feel good about making a difference and saving a tree. You'll meet new people and learn about the plants in our ecosystem.

Our first get-together: Saturday, February 5th at 1 PM – 3 PM. (Rain Date: Sunday, February 6th at 1 PM – 3 PM). We will be meeting at the Beaver Dam Sanctuary in Katonah (just east of I-684 – use 119 Beaver Dam Road on your GPS). Parking will be along the road.

For the purposes of this first event, please RSVP to sskolnik@bedfordny.gov

To join our mailing list, email us at vinecutters@bedfordny.com

REQUIRED WAIVER Kindly print out the waiver, sign it and bring it with you.

We will train you to recognize what to cut back and how to do so safely – valuable knowledge you can bring home to

your own property. Unaccompanied students under the age of 18 must have parents/guardians signed approval. We also pickup litter when we encounter it. All are welcome.

A bit more about vines

The vines we encounter most are porcelain berry and Oriental bittersweet, which were both imported from Asia over a century ago, and English ivy, imported from Europe in the 1700s. Porcelain berry takes over huge swaths of land, suffocating trees and extirpating native flora, while the fauna that relied on the native plants now face a landscape barren of the vegetation they need to survive. Bittersweet and English ivy strangle, weaken and eventually fell trees. Birds eat these vines' colorful berries, spreading them along their flyways and expanding the infestation. While it's good for berry-eating birds to have food to eat, these vines don't support the insects other birds eat. Also, the berry-eating birds lose on nutrition, as fast-growing porcelain berries and oriental bittersweet have more sugar and less fat than, for example, the native dogwood berries they've crowded out.

Come on a lop and learn to identify these plants and more!