

Open Space Chronicles

Newsletter of The Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space

Fall 2017



FoHVOS

Our Valley. Our Land. Our Trust.

Our 30th anniversary has been an exciting year for transition, reflection, and growth. We hired a new executive director. We partnered to preserve Mount Rose and build a 2-mile trail. We took over NJISST – a statewide nonprofit dedicated to invasive species control. All in addition to our great restorations, events, and stewardship programs.

Finally, the national Land Trust Accreditation Commission has registered FoHVOS for accreditation in 2018! We have worked hard in 2017 in preparation – applying best practices to our land policies and processes.

Our future is strong due to trust and support from friends like you.

Save The Date

November 28, 2017

i GAVE TO
FoHVOS
FRIENDS OF HOPEWELL VALLEY OPEN SPACE

#GIVINGTUESDAY™

On
#GivingTuesday

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www.fohvos.org

#PayItForward

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Pat Sziber
Gleeson Award Winner

Deer Management


Film Premiere and Expert Panel at The Hopewell Theatre

FoHVOS and The Sourland Conservancy partnered to commission a film that explores the impact of deer on our local environment, with grants from Washington Crossing Audubon Society and New Jersey Conservation Foundation. On October 3rd, “The Deer Stand” premiered to a full house at The Hopewell Theater. Following the film, Lisa Wolff, FoHVOS Executive Director moderated a lively panel discussion that included FoHVOS Stewardship Director Mike Van Clef, PhD, NJ Fish & Wildlife Carole Stanko, HTPD Chief Lance Maloney, Brick Farm Founder Jon McConaughy, Management Hunter Brian Kubin, Farmer, new hunter Chris Moran, and Deer Management Student Fiona Crawford. Sourland Mountain Spirits sponsored the event. 



Photos courtesy of Laurie Cleveland

Residential Stewardship Garden Tour & Home Owner Association Pilot

Last June, Mark & Samantha Bean opened up their backyard for a garden tour to showcase their flourishing wildflower meadow, formerly the neighborhood detention basin. Native plant landscaping has powerful ecological benefits, provides habitat for local wildlife, and requires less maintenance from homeowners. The Bean family and their homeowner’s association plan to convert another detention basin into a wildflower meadow. HOAs across Hopewell Valley are working with FoHVOS to make plans for similar projects. Email Info@fohv.org for Homeowner Association project planning. 



Top left: Butterfly Milkweed
Top right: Swamp Milkweed
Right: Cardinal Flower
Lower right: Rain garden
Tour Photos by Rob Snyder



Left: David Hughes, landscape architect, leads garden tour

Right: David’s plan for rain garden, meadows and detention basin meadows.



From Our Executive Director: *Growing Together*

At some point in business school, students inevitably have a long discussion regarding the corporate philosophy “Grow or Die.” In nature, the concept is far more straightforward.

When FoHVOS Stewardship Director, Mike Van Clef was interviewed in the film, “**The**

Deer Stand” (see page 2) he recalled the question, “*What do you mean you can’t grow a tree in the forest?*” It is mind blowing to consider the larger ecological impact that deer may consume enough seedlings and understory that new trees literally cannot grow in our forest.

Moreover, deer are not the only danger to our forests and lands. As invasive species proliferate and crowd out natives, the threat to ecosystem survival also increases.

FoHVOS has made our priority ensuring *all* land is healthy and growing. Also on page 2, we discuss Residential Stewardship. Public lands account for only 30% of our Valley. In order to have a truly meaningful ecological impact we must not only address stewardship on public lands, but also we must take care of our private lands. FoHVOS will visit your house or Homeowner Association, help plan your land strategy, and can provide access to wholesale native plants.

In addition to growing public and private land stewardship, we are expanding *access and outreach* to public lands. Page 6 details the informational walk at Honey Hollow for the 10th Ted Stiles Memorial Hike, and our award-winning display at The Amazing Pumpkin Carve!




On page 7, discover new volunteering options. Go it alone using our phone app to identify & track invasive species! Join our stewardship team to maintain preserves and trails. Or visit the mansion and help out at our offices!

We are extending our reach from regional to statewide! Our

core mission, preserving Hopewell Valley's character through land and natural resource protection, ensures our regional commitment. However, our Strike Team attacks emerging invasive species throughout the entire state. We partner with hundreds of organizations as New Jersey's invasive species management leader.

Additionally, we are growing our profile and budget. In order to achieve our ambitious agenda, we need to raise funds and our visibility. Pages 4 and 5 document our most successful gala. We tried to balance reflection of our successful past with motivation for a promising future.

Finally, a special shout out to FoHVOS trustees, staff, and volunteers who show how much they care by the obvious dedication and commitment reflected in their actions.

Thank you for reading this newsletter, participating in FoHVOS activities, and supporting us financially. Members are our oxygen. We appreciate your trust and are grateful we are growing together... 

Lisa Wolff

30 YEARS OF PRESERVING OPEN SPACE
FoHVOS
FRIENDS OF HOPEWELL VALLEY OPEN SPACE

Gala Honorees



Paul Pogorzelski, Patricia Sziber & Chris Boerner



VIP Keynote Speaker
Tama Matsuoka Wong

FoHVOS 30th Anniversary Gala . . .

Our 30th Anniversary gala was truly a special event! We switched it up a bit by going big – instead of one honoree, we had three, instead of the Mansion, our venue was a giant barn, and instead of one event, we held two! We started with a VIP reception and proceeded to a more traditional gala.

The VIP reception opened with appetizers, signature cocktails, and an excellent guitarist to set the mood. VIPs took the first balloon rides and were dazzled by stories and samples from our Keynote speaker and tenant farmer, **Tama Matsuoka Wong**.

Tama is a forager, meadow doctor, and author of *Meadows and More* -- a seasonally organized field guide that reveals the edible world of plants. She is also the tenant farmer at our Thompson Preserve, where she and her team can often be seen picking wild plants.

Our gala included several surprises for our guests. We prepared a unique slide show that featured special guest testimonial tributes for our honorees.

Hopewell Township Administrator/Engineer **Paul Pogorzelski** received individual recognition. **Bristol-Myers Squibb** received corporate recognition, and **Patricia Sziber** won the Jack Gleeson environmental award.



Special Sponsors

Our sponsors generously supported our honorees & our mission!

Thank you!!!



... A Tremendous Success

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Lisa Wolff & Paul Kinney
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30th Anniversary

Michael Dawson & Robert Tomaselli
 Frank & Kim Newport
 Tom Ogren
 Courtney Peters-Manning
 Amie Rukenstein

We broke previous FoHVOS records for number of attendees and fund-raising objectives. We also achieved our softer objectives:

According to our post gala survey, our guests overwhelmingly, had a great time, left feeling more connected to our mission, and would attend a future gala.

Finally, we thank the committee members that made our event possible: Jennifer Ghannam, David Glogoff, Judith Graber, Lisa Jordan, Ruth Jourjine, Ryan Kennedy, Carol Kleis, Patricia Lee, Anne Nixon-Ellery, Ruth Powell and Julia Snyder. 

Dedicated Donors

FoHVOS is grateful to these generous donors that provided awesome auction items.

Thank you!!!



Ted Stiles Memorial Hike

Decade in his memory

History & Ecology In The Woods

On October 8th about 30 people came to hear FoHVOS Stewardship Director Mike Van Clef, Ph.D. explain the ecological wonders of the forest while FoHVOS trustee Tom Ogren, and local historian David Blackwell rounded out the discussion with rich Honey Hollow history dating back hundreds of years.

While hiking, Van Clef shared that over a decade ago, Ted Stiles pointed out the bright red Virginia creeper leaves hanging above the trees, which he described as “foliar flags.” In early fall, their fruits ripen, and their leaves turn a vivid red to attract birds while surrounding leaves are still green. Nature’s billboard draws attention.



Left: Foliar flags
Upper right: Mike Van Clef
Center Right Tom Ogren & David Blackwell
Right: Hikers of all ages

The Amazing Pumpkin Carve

Hopewell Valley Arts Council

October 11 - 15

Special Thanks to
Anne Nixon-Ellery

Our amazing
pumpkin
designer!




Winner of the 2017 Community Partner Award



NJ Invasive Species
Strike Team

Get the App!


Identify and Manage Invasive Species from your Smartphone

Have you ever been out hiking and wanted to identify invasive species? With the NJ Invasives Smartphone app, you can learn about the invasive species threatening our area and send data on them directly to the New Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team. Review the app's list of invasive species to learn how to identify them. Next time you're hiking and identify one, simply snap a photo and submit your data using the app. We will use this information to eradicate emerging populations. Get the free "NJ Invasive Species Strike Team" app through the Apple App Store or Droid Google Play. Help us nip invasive species in the bud! 



About the Invasive Autumn Olive

The seemingly innocuous flowers above belong to the autumn olive shrub, an invasive species native to Japan, China, and Korea. Though beautiful, this shrub is a huge threat to our Valley's ecosystem. As overabundant deer populations browse on our native tree saplings, ensuring they never grow tall enough to reproduce, autumn olive outcompetes them for sunlight and nutrients. As it grows taller, it creates a dense shade layer that further prevents native plants from growing. Our native birds eat their fruit, spreading its seeds far and wide and increasing the abundance of this invasive shrub.

It is also tough to kill. Cutting it or burning it only propagates it further. The best methods to remove autumn olive are applying herbicide to the bottom part of the main stem or spraying the leaves with herbicide. By controlling this invasive species, we can give our native plants and forests a fighting chance. 



Callery pear




Japanese angelica tree



Toringo crabapple

Be a Volunteer

Invasive species are spreading throughout Hopewell Valley. Autumn olive, featured right, is encroaching on the trail at our Skyview and Thompson preserves. We need volunteers to help us remove the cut trees and clear our trails. Contact Beth at bcraighead@fohvos.org for more information. 



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*Friends of Hopewell Valley
Open Space is a nonprofit
land trust that is dedicated to
preserving the Valley's
character through open space
and farmland preservation,
and natural resource
protection.*

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