



NJ Invasive Species
Strike Team

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

Strike Team Report October 2017

We continue to be busy with grant proposals, this time submitting a proposal to the US Forest Service. If successful, this project would focus on protecting forests of high conservation value that we previously identified across the state (5 'focal forests' in each Landscape Project region). I'd like to sincerely thank all of our partners across the state (NJ Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Endangered & Nongame Species Program, Mercer County Parks, Monmouth County Parks, Morris County Parks, NJ Audubon, NJ Conservation Foundation, NJ Natural Lands Trust, Sourland Conservancy) that contributed to and/or pledged matching support for both of our recent grant proposals! These are exceptionally competitive grants, but we'll hear back in early 2018 and I hope that we'll all be rewarded with funding to continue our strategic approach to invasive species management.



- Mike Van Clef, Project Director

We are busily planning a Fall Strike Team Steering Committee meeting, our annual appeal and next year's annual conference. Throughout the state we are mobilizing to slow the relentless expansion of invasive species. External grants provide only part of the fuel needed to continue this important work. Supporters like you make a major difference. Please donate now.

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- Lisa Wolff, FoHVOS Executive Director

Thorns on every square inch...

Japanese Angelica Tree, *Aralia elata*, has unfortunately

become one of the most widespread 'emerging' invasive species in New Jersey. Morris, Union, and Essex Counties are particularly hard hit, where it occupies forest canopy gaps, shrublands and roadsides. But in the Hopewell Valley, there is only one large population (on a FoHVOS preserve!) and a handful of small populations here and there. Because we are active on many public and private lands (nearly 9% of Valley lands are enrolled in our Private Lands Stewardship Program), we are optimistic that there aren't too many populations throughout the Valley.



The large population will be treated by contractors in 2018 (with support provided by Bristol-Myers Squibb). But in our travels, we recently found some growing along the road on private property and reached out to the landowner, who graciously provided permission to search for more and spray whatever we found- they had a population of about 30 trees. While searching the area, one was spotted on the adjacent neighbor's property. We reached out to them and they also gave permission to search and destroy any aralia. We've also been partnering with the Municipality of Princeton and Friends of Princeton Open Space to eradicate isolated patches. If we stay on top of it, we believe that we can eradicate it from Hopewell and Princeton!

Species Spotlight - Trifoliate Orange (a.k.a. Hardy Orange)

This new thorny devil has been invasive in southern states and appears to be making its move here in New Jersey (think sharp as catbrier but as a shrub!) - [Strike Team fact sheet link](#). The Strike Team's Technical Advisory Committee added it to our "Watch List" a few years ago after an observation of an individual at Baldpate Mountain. Since then, we've been finding more at Baldpate and Charles Barreca of Duke Farms



recently found some in Hillsborough, so it appears to be making inroads across central New Jersey. It's time to stop 'watching' and start eradicating! Please keep this species on your radar and report to us through the [phone app](#)!

The Strike Team needs your help to fight invasive

species throughout New Jersey. By making a membership donation, you directly fund our efforts to keep invasive species at bay and protect our native plants and wildlife. Donate through the link below!

Donate

The above link will take you to the PayPal donation page for Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space. The Strike Team is a project of FoHVOS, so any donations you make will still fund strike team efforts. Thank you for your support!

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