



NJ Invasive Species  
Strike Team

**FoHVOS**  
FRIENDS OF HOPEWELL VALLEY OPEN SPACE

## Strike Team Report October 2018

Sometimes it can be challenging to describe the "Strike Team". On one hand, it is a small group of part-time staff housed by the Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space that applies for and implements grants and contracts, maintains our statewide database, provides training and outreach and searches for and eradicates invasive species. But that is only a tiny bit of the actual **Team** of private citizens and partner organizations working to protect our natural heritage from the daunting threats posed by invasive species. For this newsletter, we've highlighted partners and private citizens doing their part. For the kudzu zapping, we just acted as a conduit - - that's a big part of the value we bring to fighting invasives -- but the real kudos clearly belongs to Sol, Rachel and Solitude Lake Management. For the water chestnut, we're just happy to report the fantastic and generous work of others -- we encourage others to forward their success stories so that we can share them with the conservation community!

- Mike Van Clef, Strike Team Program Director



We are so pleased to share that our friends at [VolunteerConnect](#) spent almost a year finding us the perfect executive to help us craft a strategic marketing plan. Andrea Stumpf spent significant time meeting with Mike & I to assist in researching our partners and best practices. She presented a strategic business and marketing plan to the FoHVOS Board of Trustees. We are excited to get started on implementing her recommendations. Watch for a new presence for the Strike Team in 2019!

Also, watch this space next month! We will offer a Strike Team #GivingTuesday promotion. The FoHVOS Board of Trustees has already pledged a match to make your donations go further. Thank you for supporting the NJ Invasive Species Strike Team!

- Lisa Wolff, FoHVOS Executive Director

### New Jersey Water Supply Authority and Lake Solitude Management Teams up!

Volunteers gathered on August 22nd to hand pull water chestnut plants and fruit from Lake Solitude located in High Bridge, NJ. Organized by the New Jersey Water Supply Authority, SOLitude Lake Management provided kayaks, canoes and staff to help in this effort! This initial effort to eradicate water chestnut helped to prevent the spread of this aquatic invasive plant at Lake Solitude. Each fruit could produce over 300 seeds the following year. At the end of the day, the team successfully pulled out



38 pounds of water chestnut plants and fruit.

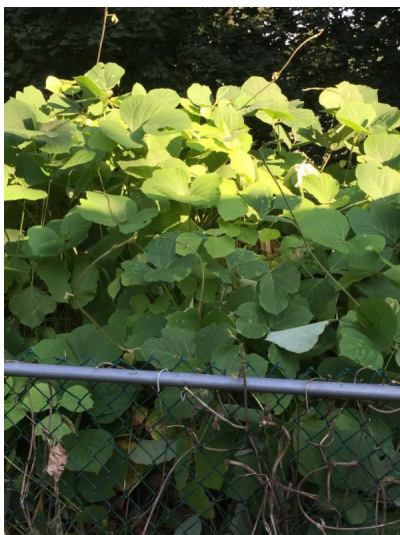


The Water Chestnut plant, if gone untreated, can create large nearly impenetrable mats that can cause harm to boaters and reduces biodiversity.

## **Gone in a Blink! Efficient Kudzu Eradication**

In early summer, landowners Sol Basilyan and Rachel Gelman reached out to the Strike Team for assistance to eliminate of Kudzu found on their property. Residents of Passaic County, they had reported finding Kudzu on about 1/4 acre of their property. Eager to act and eliminate the Kudzu from spreading, the Strike Team reached out to SOLitude Lake Management to connect them with the landowners. SOLitude offered volunteer time as well as materials to assist in the eradication of the species at the Basilyan/Gelman residence. Thanks to Kevin Shank at SOLitude Lake Management and his team, by the time summer concluded, the Kudzu had been assessed, addressed, and eliminated from their property in less than two months after the initial report!

With the increased warming of seasonal temperatures, Kudzu threatens to explode across the state from the couple dozen sites known in New Jersey. The Strike Team and its partners are committed to the complete eradication of Kudzu in New Jersey prior to an increase in population due to increasing temperatures.



Kudzu was identified and eliminated on a 1/4 acre of a Passaic County Residence.

# SOLITUDE

LAKE MANAGEMENT

**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!

[Visit our Website](#)

[Facebook](#)

#### Steering Committee

**John Cecil**

*New Jersey Audubon*

**Dr. Emile Devito**

*New Jersey Conservation Foundation*

**Keri Green**

*New Jersey Highlands Council*

**Kenneth H. Klipstein, II**

*New Jersey Water Supply Authority*

**Dr. Michael Van Clef**

*Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space*

**Lisa Wolff**

*Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space*

#### Technical Advisory Committee

**Thom Almendinger**

*Duke Farms*

**Bruce Barbour**

*Rutgers Cooperative Extension*

**Kerry Barringer**

*Flora of North America Association*

**Jeanette Bowers-Altman**

*New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife*

**Chris Doyle**

*SOLitude Lake Management*

**Art Gover**

*The Pennsylvania State University*

**Larry Herrighty**

*New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife*

**Rachel Mackow**

*Wild Ridge Plants*

**Mark Mayer**

*New Jersey Department of Agriculture*

**Christopher Smith**

*New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife*

**Robert Somes**

*New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife*

#### Staff

**Lisa Wolff**, Executive Director

**Dr. Michael Van Clef**, Project Director

**Beth Craighead**, Land Steward

**Brian Kubin**, Land Steward

**Michael Bellaus**, Land Steward

**Leslie Kuchinski**, Operations Manager

**Logan Horvath**, Event Coordinator

**FoHVOS**  
FRIENDS OF HOPEWELL VALLEY OPEN SPACE