



NJ Invasive Species
Strike Team

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

Strike Team Report September 2017

The Strike Team had a really productive summer! Using our own funds, along with contracts with Essex County, Morris County and the Municipality of Princeton, experienced Land Stewards Mike Bellaus, Brian Kubin, Beth Craighead and others eradicated over 300 populations of emerging invasive species!

September has been grant preparation season...always stressful but we need to work hard to make next year even more successful! We've been invited to submit a National Fish & Wildlife Pulling Together Initiative proposal involving the protection of federally listed species from invasive species. Wish us luck!

- Mike Van Clef, Project Director



The Strike Team has successfully merged with FoHVOS and stewardship efforts will now advance to a wider stage. 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.

- Lisa Wolff, FoHVOS Executive Director

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Kudzu for Cash??

Tama Matsuoka of [Meadows and More](#) has been adding interest and creativity to dinner plates (and FoHVOS events) through her wild foraging efforts. So when she approached the Strike Team about



a company interested in buying bags of kudzu to investigate the possibility of using it to create a wood finish, we were interested! Mike Bellaus & Brian Kubin collected 30 pounds of it within an hour, creating a net profit for the Strike Team. If interest continues, we'll consider using the sale of kudzu as a 'pre-treatment' to weaken the plants and partially fund the herbicide applications necessary to kill the plants. There

are two dozen populations in New Jersey, some very large, now is the time to dump all of them!

Making the Great Swamp Even Greater

The [Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge](#) is ecological magic. Through effective deer management for decades, it has some of the healthiest forests in the state. Some areas let you know what a primordial forest must have looked and felt like - dense understory of blueberry and winterberry holly with areas filled with mossy hummocks and huge ferns.



Unfortunately, edges of the forest and lands previously plowed for agriculture are under threat from Glossy Buckthorn, a relatively new emerging invasive species discovered by the Strike Team in 2010. For a day, the Strike Team joined forces with John Berry and the exceptionally dedicated volunteers from the Friends of Great Swamp that have been whacking away at this threatening pest. We look forward to continuing partnership to protect this incredible forest.

Upcoming Workshop

The Strike Team has collaborated with Friends of Princeton Open Space and the Princeton Environmental Commission to create a three-hour invasive plant species workshop. Learn about the underlying causes and effects of the invasive species problem, how to identify common and newly emerging invasive species, and track and report invasive species using the NJ Invasive Species Strike Team smartphone app. The workshop is available on two separate dates - October 15 and October 21 - from 1-4 pm both times. This workshop is free to attend. Register [here](#) for the October 15 workshop and [here](#) for the October 21 workshop.

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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