



NJ Invasive Species
Strike Team

FoHIVOS
FRIENDS OF HOPEWELL VALLEY OPEN SPACE

Strike Team Report May 2019

Join us for our First Annual Community Conference!



Our Community Conference will be held at Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. This conference will be geared towards residential land owners who are interested in good land stewardship. Speakers will include Wild Ridge Plants, Rachel Mackow and Weatherwood Design's David Hughes. Maggie Southwell and John Berry will discuss their inspiring work at Great Swamp. (Photo Credit to John Berry working on eliminating a Glossy Buckthorn infestation at the Great Swamp.) To view the full agenda please visit the link below.

We look forward to hosting our first Community Conference on **Sunday, June 2nd, 2019** at Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge! This event is open to all friends and family seeking to learn about native plant gardening and forming an effective local strike team.

To register, please see link below.

Registration

Agenda

Prevention

The essential strategy for stopping the spread of invasive species is prevention.

At the national level, this would involve a screening process to restrict the importation of plants and animals based upon their invasive potential ([Australia has been a leader in risk assessment.](#)) There have been proposals for risk assessment in the United States, but there are no current regulatory risk assessments for invasive species of natural areas.

The next tier of prevention is at the state level, stopping the ongoing sale of invasive or potentially invasive species. Several of our neighbors have taken this approach, including [New York](#), [Connecticut](#), [New Hampshire](#), and [Massachusetts](#). While New Jersey has had a [Strategic Management Plan for Invasive Species](#) since 2009 and recent legislation has been proposed to restrict the sale of invasive species ([New Jersey Senate Bill No. 3086](#)), it is unclear whether we will join our neighbors in banning the sale of invasive species.

It is my sincere hope that New Jersey becomes a leader in prevention, as well as planting native species, which would build an even stronger and more vibrant nursery industry with ever increasing sales driven by the production of native species. In an ideal world, our gardens would bolster the ecological health of our state, rather than serving as seed sources for invasive species, leading to

further ecological degradation.

The good news is that small actions can make a difference in slowing the spread of invasive species, starting with what you plant at home. To learn more of the value of native plant gardening, see Doug Tallamy's [Bringing Nature Home](#), check out the resources provided by the [Native Plant Society of New Jersey](#) and "Garden as if life depended upon it!"

Want to do something right now? Please consider signing our "[Landscape Planting Pledge](#)" and letting us know that you've decided to avoid new purchases of species on our "[Do Not Plant List](#)"!

Have a great spring!



Michael Van Clef, Ph.D.
Strike Team Program Director

Live and Learn!

The goal of this 'Live and Learn!' feature is to spread newly obtained knowledge provided from Strike Team partners. Please share your expertise! Send news of successes or lessons learned, either big or small, to Mike at mvanclenf@fohvos.org.



The month's installment comes from Ryan Hasko of NJ Audubon and the potential of prescribed burns.

A learning curve for the conservation community

New Jersey Audubon is utilizing prescribed burning as a management tool to improve forest composition and control invasive plant species on some of its properties as well as other managed lands. Most recently, a prescribed burn was conducted on private land with the help of the NJ Forest Fire Service and NJ Audubon staff. The goal was to burn a Japanese barberry dominated forested wetland and abandoned field. Although the field burned quickly, weather conditions were a hinderance to adequately "carry" the fire

through the proposed 30-acre forest stand. It was observed that the barberry would effectively burn, even in the presence of wet soils, when short gusts of wind helped fuel and push the fire through the understory. Unfortunately, the infrequent gusts were not enough to effectively burn the entire work area. This experience reinforces the importance of evaluating site conditions, acknowledging potential barriers, and embracing collaboration to meet management goals.



Private Land Prescribed Burn



**NEW JERSEY
AUDUBON**
www.njaudubon.org



The lack of cooperating weather conditions made it hard to spread

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!

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Contributing Partners

If you would like to know how to become a Strike Team Contributing Partner, please contact lhovath@fohvoss.org



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Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space

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Brian Kubin, Land Steward
Michael Bellaus, Land Steward
Leslie Kuchinski, Operations Manager
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