

PEN SPACE CHRONICLES

A newsletter by Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space

Photo taken at our 2019 Annual Gala- Glenmoore Farm by Lynne Dorner

TAKING THE SCHOOLS BY STORM (WATER)



Timberlane Middle School students cultivate native plants for their new Rain Garden

Timberlane Middle School is the latest Community Conservation project completed in the school district. When Greg Hunter was a TMS teacher he noticed that every time it rained puddles would form in front of the school. In winter, the puddles would freeze. Some affectionately called the area "Lake Timberlane" or the "TMS ice rink."

School officials were concerned that the area could be a safety hazard. In the 2018-2019 school year Mr. Hunter became a Teacher-In-Residence at The Watershed Institute and assembled a proposal to have students solve the puddling issue with a green infrastructure solution. He submitted a grant to Sustainable Jersey who declined to fund implementation.

When FoHVOS heard about the idea, we worked with Mr. Hunter to repackage the idea to obtain grant funding from Janssen Pharmaceuticals for a rain garden. Once the grant was approved, FoHVOS worked with the school district officials and StewardGreen, a professional firm that specializes in drainage solutions, to determine that a more robust solution was needed.

Originally, the front of Timberlane Middle School had two sidewalks. After the rain garden, only one sidewalk remains. Continued on Page 3

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2019 Annual Gala Honorees Vanessa Sandom, Anne Nixon-Ellery, Peg Forrestel - Janssen Pharmaceutical



#OPTOUTSIDE NOVEMBER 29TH 2019, 10AM-1PM

#OptOutside with FoHVOS, RomYoga & Mercer County Parks on Black Friday!



- What: #OptOutside
- Where: Baldpate Mountain
 - 28 Fiddler's Creek Rd. Titusville, NJ 08560
- When: Friday, November 29th 10am
- Choose your hike distance up to 5 miles.
- It's FREE, but please Register online at fohvos.org!

Please park at lower parking lot. Be mindful to dress according to weather

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION 2020 HES REFLECTION SPACE



FoHVOS is excited to tie into existing conservation efforts in Hopewell Boro and the school district by leading a Community Conservation partnership to bring outdoor reflection and learning areas to Hopewell Elementary School. We will provide land stewardship guidance and solicit additional partners and funds.

"Our vision for the new area is to provide an ecologically sound and peaceful space for learning and relaxing," said Helen Corveleyn, HES STEM Facilitator. "In addition, we wanted to tie it together with native flowers students saw playing at the park as children and help them identify those they'll see when the move on to Timberlane Middle School."

HES joins all other district schools in converting lawn space to native grasses and wildflowers to improve the land and water by reducing erosion and runoff. HVRSD environmental priorities also model actions they encourage for students and the community.

FoHVOS and HVRSD share a passion for connecting children with nature, maximizing the ecological use of our lands, and promoting Hopewell Valley green initiatives.

Several partners have already committed to the new initiative including Nectars Landscape & Design, The Sourland Conservancy, and Boy Scout Troop 71. An Art Sparks fundraiser sold out in a day and the Hopewell Harvest Fair contributed \$1,000 to the project.

Pictured below is Roxanne Klett, Hopewell Harvest Fair, Lisa Wolff-FoHVOS, Helen Corveleyn and



CONSERVATION INCLUDES EVERYONE!



In the not so distant past, environmental advocates were perceived as an elite circle of "tree huggers." The new reality of climate change has introduced a sense of urgency to a much larger audience. While the impact of climate change is scary and far-reaching, the reaction and engagement of our next generation is cause for optimism.

On an international level Greta Thunberg has mobilized a global youth movement. Driven by the understanding that the action that leaders take – or don't take – in the next decade will determine the livelihood for generations to come, our young people are vigorously seeking transformational change for people, the planet, and a shared prosperity.

We are experiencing a very exciting time in the conservation landscape (pun intended) as this new energy also reveals connections between climate change and economic, social, and health issues.

Fortunately, the mission of accredited land trusts like FoHVOS is aligned with leading environmental priorities. FoHVOS has adjusted our programs in the last couple years to dramatically increase local conservation impact.

Specifically, conservation must include everyone. Preserved lands not only keep our community beautiful, but also provide health, wellness and economic opportunities. As awareness increases, it is our duty to ensure that everybody shares in our land's vast benefits.

Our partnerships promote meaningful connections to nature for a much wider audience. For example, our cover story, "Taking the Schools by Storm(water)!" shares not only the comprehensive middle school effort to correct their storm water management problem with a beautiful green solution, but also the dedication to install outdoor learning areas in every Valley school. Check out the sidebars on this page and the next to learn about our newest school programs.

When our new Community Conservation program completes its 2020 initiatives, nearly 4,000 Valley students will have participated in outdoor experiential learning at an arboretum, school meadows, r a i n gardens, hiking trails, ponds, reflection areas, and other unique spaces adjacent to the schools. This great work is only possible with Community Conservation partners, many of whom are listed on our sponsor and donor summaries on page 4.

While Hopewell schools promote green practices to Valley youth, new programs partner students throughout Mercer County. Learn how our partners are building diversity to strengthen the future of conservation. Also on Page 5, you can learn new ways that you can interact with the lands. Next year we'll share a new trail guide, but in the meantime pilot our new online trails app. We have begun by sharing a tutorial on our website with the newest interactive trail map for the Nayfield preserve.

Residential Community
Conservation work is breaking new
records. Check out Mike Van Clef's
update on page 7.

At FoHVOS we believe that people who fall in love with the land are most likely to protect it. That's why we are so committed to preserving beautiful lands and providing access for everyone. On page 7, Tom Ogren discusses hiking along Jacobs Creek and our newest acquisition to extend that opportunity.

FoHVOS continues to administer Clean Communities for Hopewell Township. Community members earn money for their favorite nonprofits, while also giving back to their neighborhoods by cleaning up.

Late breaking news: Thank you Washington Crossing Audubon Society for granting FoHVOS \$5,000 for our rare species work!

Finally, our tribute program completed its first year and has surpassed our expectations. Donating native wildflowers and trees to a local preserve is the perfect gift for ecologically conscious family and friends. Enjoy the holidays.

See you on our lands,

Lisa Wolff Executive Director

FoHVOS Fall 2019

TAKING THE SCHOOLS BY STORM (WATER)

"The rain garden

- Nicole Gianfredi



Above: Timberlane Middle School property prior to Rain Garden Installation

Right: Timberlane Middle School Rain Garden upon

In its place, a bioswale, a channel for stormwater runoff to help prevent pollution and debris, was added along with natural flora and fauna from Hopewell Valley. The rain garden's design included peaks and valleys, so water could pool in a desirable area, to concentrate storm-water runoff and recharge the ground water.

In addition, FoHVOS Stewardship Director Mike Van Clef Ph.D. directed ecological aspects of the project and Nectars Landscape designed planting plans to ensure beauty and ecological value. Gretchen Kish of Nectars

included plants with deep roots. These plants boost water infiltration project provided a by redirecting the water wonderful opportunity to slowly reabsorb into to collaborate with the ground, reducing our community." runoff and erosion while cleaning and replenishing groundwater. The project

incorporates native plants, grasses and trees to provide wildlife and pollinator habitat.

The project was carefully coordinated with TMS Principal Nicole Gianfredi, HVRSD STEM Supervisor Dr. Vicky Pilitsis, and TMS STEM Teacher Grace Rarich. Students were involved in all aspects of the project. Greg Hunter won a "Talented Trios Award" for his storm-water teaching module designed during his initial work at The Watershed Institute.





Rarich's class worked with FoHVOS, StewardGreen, and Nectars on all TMS onsite education, planting, and subsequent plant labeling and identification.

"The rain garden project provided a wonderful opportunity to collaborate with our community," shared Principal Gianfredi, "It's exciting to see how the students can take ownership of the garden. Everyone is so enthusiastic that we are planning more FoHVOS Community Conservation projects in our courtvard and basins where we will restore more areas to native plantings."

FoHVOS Community Conservation programs are making their way into

every HVRSD school. In addition to our work at TMS, we have completed projects at Bear Tavern Elementary, Stony Brook Elementary and Central High School.

In 2020, FoHVOS will Community complete

Conservation projects at the remaining district schools. On page 2, read about the new Hopewell Elementary Outdoor Reflection Space. Finally, the 2020 Pennington project is our most ambitious, combining outdoor classroom activity with the new Howe's Habit behind Tollgate Grammar school.

These projects are known as Community Conservation they are only possible due to generous community support. Local environmental nonprofits, corporate donors, school PTOs, municipalities, and community members have generously volunteered and donated time, expertise, and money to provide outdoor spaces that benefit our students, schools, environment, local habitat, and the community. Visit www.fohvos.org and scroll down to see more Community Conservation stories.

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION 2020 PENNINGTON/ TOLLGATE RESTORATION



In 2017, an area behind Tollgate, known as Howe's Habitat, was an overgrown eye sore. With the help of an ANJEC grant, Pennington Boro commissioned FoHVOS to help plan for

FoHVOS Stewardship Director Mike Van Clef worked with several borough committees including the environmental, open space, shade tree, and parks and recreation committees and in April 2018 the plan was complete. In order to execute the plan, the Boro Council is buying the lot from the school district.

The design features deer exclosures and an arboretum that will begin in 2020 when the purchase is complete. However, work and curriculum has already begun for Tollgate. Aren Southall, Boy Scout Troop #24, of Pennington built a Bird Blind as his Eagle Scout project and in January Toll Gate will receive final approval for River-Friendly certification from The Watershed Institute for their environmental teaching and stewardship.

The borough is set to use open space funds, as well as New Jersey Green Acres and Mercer County At Play grants to acquire the property, remove dead and diseased trees, remove invasive species and improve pathways through the property.

FoHVOS is currently fundraising, has received a Pennington Day grant, and has applied for other grants to augment outdoor classroom spaces

Jane Ellen Lennon - Tollgate Principal, Joe Lawver - Pennington Mayor, Lisa Wolff - FoHVOS - Executive Director.



COMMUNITY CONSERVATION GALA 2019



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

15 Landsdowne Amber Spa **Antimos** Aunt Chubby's Blue Bottle Cafe Boro Bean Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve Bradford Portraits Brick Farm Tavern City Winery Colonial Farms Complete Health Yoga Crossing Vineyard Cuginos Dandelion Wishes DoTerra Double Brook Farm Elizabeth B. Designs Emily's Cafe Entráta Erica Johanson Field Station Dinosaurs Flying Fish Grounds for Sculpture
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On September 28th, 2019, FoHVOS celebrated the many successes of Community Conservation at our Annual Gala. Held at the Glenmoore Barn in Hopewell, the gala featured a locally sourced menu and live music.

We recognized Anne Nixon-Ellery for her dedication as an individual volunteer. Anne had previously been named our Force of Nature for her earlier FoHVOS mission support. Anne has designed most of our branded logos including our iconic FoHVOS logo. Her entries each year at the HVAC Pumpkin Carve are always met with acclaim and FoHVOS appreciates her family's kind annual donation of their Glenmoore Barn.

Janssen Pharmaceuticals was named our corporate volunteer for being an early Community Conservation supporter. The TMS Raingarden featured on this newsletter cover was actually their second CC project. The Bear Tavern Outdoor Learning Area was the first Hopewell school to complete a Community Conservation project sponsored by Janssen.

Finally, Vanessa Sandom was presented with the Jack Gleeson Award for her lifetime achievement in Conservation. Open Space would not be what it is throughout Hopewell Valley without the leadership shown by Ms. Sandom while she was Mayor. Her generosity continued even after she left office and she is credited with sponsoring our second Community Conservation school project – a 10,000 square foot native meadow near Stony Brook Elementary School.

In addition to a program recognizing honorees, VIPs were treated to a personalized tour by our FoHVOS tenant-farmer Tama Matsuoka Wong and attendees tasted her sustainable wildcrafted "I am a weed" sumac tea.

FoHVOS held our regular silent auction but also added our first ever raffle. Vince Janowski walked away with the grand prize worth \$7,500!

A great time was had by all and we raised over \$65,000 to support our mission.



Tama Matsouka-Wong leading VIP Meadow Tour



Principal Chris Turnbull, Jon & Gretchen Kish -Nectars, Lisa Wolff, Peg Forrestel - Janssen, Grace Rarich - TMS, Gene Huntington StewardGreen



Anne Nixon-Ellery
Volunteer of the Year with her family



Vanessa Sandom, Gleeson Award Winner, Lisa Wolff, Vince Janowski - Grand Prize Raffle winne

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS



Vanessa Sandom & Carl Seiden • Billie Moore • Carol Kleis & Rex Parker • Mimi & Charles Turi • John & Carol Jackson • Paul Kuenhert & Judith Graber Lisa Wolff & Paul Kinney • Mayor Kristin & Mike McLaughlin • Courtney Peters-Manning & Tomas Manning • Jeffrey Osborn • Dan & Nancy Rubenstein

Villa Francesco's

Viva Dance Studio Washington Crossing Inn

Wild Ridge Plants

ERADICATING INVASIVE SPECIES - A WIN!



Did You Know?

One of the most common questions we are asked by skeptics

is, "Does the FOHVOS Strike Team honestly believe they can make a difference in the fight against invasive species?" Our answer is a resounding yes!

The key to success is working in teams and concentrating efforts on wiping out emerging invasive species.

Last year, we made significant impact by fighting Japanese Aralia throughout Hopewell Valley. More recently the FoHVOS Invasive Species Strike Team was part of a team led by NJCF to eradicate invasive Chinese Pond Mussels in Raritan Township.

According to Eric Schrading, of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, "Early detection and eradication of the Chinese pond mussel likely saved us a tremendous amount of resources and damage to our rivers and native mussel populations."

FOHVOS GPS TRAIL MAP APP



Go to FoHVOS.org and watch the tutorial for our new GPS Trail Map App and navigate our trails real-time on your mobile device. After watching the tutorial scan this QR code to download our Nayfield preserve map. Check it out, share your feedback, and come back soon to see what additional trails we've added.

Building Diversity to Strengthen the Future of Conservation

FoHVOS has received grants to offset costs for a new internship program intended to build diversity to strengthen the future of conservation. The program will team students from Hopewell Valley Central High School and high schoolers from the Boys & Girls Club of Mercer County to engage in conservation efforts on public lands throughout Mercer County. Students will receive ten training sessions which will be followed by applying that knowledge to ten working sessions.

Participants will:

 Learn to appreciate public lands that they may not normally encounter.

- Gain skills and marketable experience that may be transferable to future employment.
- Work collaboratively with other students, nonprofits and municipal organizations.

The program is partially funded by a Franklin Parker grant and monies from Bristol-Myers Squibb. Additional grant applications are outstanding. Training will include teambuilding, mindfulness, careers in conservation, land, water, and trails stewardship, and local opportunities. The training sessions will be led by an impressive field of expert partners shown below. For more information email Lisa at lwolff@fohvos.org.



SHAZEL MUHAMMAD



BETH CRAIGHEAD FoHVOS



ROMY TOUSSAINT



CAROLYN KLAUBE
The Sourland Conservancy



ALEX RIVERA



WANDA MCNEILL Mercer County Parks



MIKE VAN CLEF PH.D.



JAY WATSON
New Jersey Conservation Foundation



GEMMA MILLY



DR. DAVID ANGWENYI HVRSD & Global Connections Kenya



JENN ROGERS Mercer County Parks



DR. ZOUBIR YAZID

A LIVING MEMORIAL

A PARTNERSHIP WITH CAPITAL HEALTH AUXILIARY





Each year Capital Health Auxiliary sponsors a Tree of Lights ceremony. Their fundraiser provides several ways to honor a loved one. Now in our second year, we partner

with a customized tribute gift. A Donation to the Capital Health Auxiliary includes wildflowers to be planted by FOHVOS in the CHAI Healing Gardens at Hopewell in addition to a tree light and keepsake ornament. The Tree of Lights ceremony is at Capital Health Hopewell on December 1 and features a performance by the Hopewell Valley Central High School Chambers Singers. For additional information, contact Donna Costanzo at DCostanzo@capitalhealth.org.



2018 Tree of Lights Ceremony with Tree & Tribute Barbara Brennfleck - CHA and Logan Horvath - FoHVOS

IN 2019 WE....

EMEMBER

Richard Cann
Tyler Colt
Lucy Delafield
Perry Goerner Jr.
David S. Henry
Memom
Captain Peter Nixon

Ann Beaver James Betar Damron Lila DeJessa Carolynn Edelman Natalie & James Frush Phoebe Gunn Betty Hall Reed Hartel Anne Heasly Renee Jones Carolyn Klaube Miranda Luther Catherine Liese-Spencer Chris & Randee Tengi Ashley Treusdell Debra Volenec Jay Watson

Mark Your Calendars!

December 3rd 2019

FRIENDS OF HOPEWELL VALLEY OPEN SPACE

#GI≫INGTUESDAY

Visit: fohvos.org

MAKE YOUR DONATION GO FURTHER!

Match up to \$5,000 of #GivingTuesday donations.



To Order your Tribute Donation:

Scan here:



or visit fohvos.info/tribute-donations/

All Tribute Donations include:

- Locally planted native wildflowers or trees
- FoHVOS Charitable Contribution
- A personalized hand written note
- Framed card wrapped with a "Tree of Life" Charm
- Tributes offer a variety of options to meet your needs.







PROTECTING JACOBS CREEK

BY TOM OGREN

Hopewell Valley's longest running stream, Jacobs Creek, is soon to receive the highest level of protection possible from the New Jersey Department of Environmental

Under a proposed Departmental rule, Jacobs Creek will be given a "Category One" designation. Under the rule change proposed earlier this year, the Department would extend that designation to over 16 miles of the Jacobs Creek and its tributaries from its source near Poor Farm Road to the Woolsey Brook just south of Washington Crossing -Pennington

With designation, the development can take place within 300 feet of the creek and there can be no "degradation" of water quality.

FoHVOS is fortunate to have preserved open space along the

1.5 mile length of its Jacobs Creek Trail. Last year FoHVOS also helped to preserve land along another one mile section of Jacobs Creek with the acquisition of the 146 acre Woosamonsa Ridge Preserve. This acquisition preserved mature woodlands which border the creek near its headwaters. partnered with the D&R Greenway Land Trust and Hopewell Township in the acquisition of the preserve.

Why did Jacobs Creek deserve this protection? According to NJ DEP, Category One waters achieve that status "because of their exceptional ecological significance, exceptional recreational significance, exceptional water supply significance, or their significance as an exceptional fisheries resource."

Want to take an "Exceptional" Hike? Jacobs Creek Trail extends to

the north and south of Pennington-Titusville Road and is located approximately one half mile east of Bear Tavern Road. The trail can be accessed from a small parking area near the Jacobs Creek bridge. A large trail map is posted on a kiosk at that location. Hunting dates during which the trail is closed are also posted. Between now and the end of hunting season in mid-February, the trail is open for hiking every





COMMUNITY CONSERVATION SUCCESS-30,000 NATIVE PLANTS ADDED TO THE VALLEY!

BY MICHAEL VAN CLEF, Ph.D. your home and discuss your



Our residential FoHV@S community incredible milestone this

year - 30,000 native trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers have been added to the Valley! For those participating in our spring and fall wholesale plant orders since 2013, we applaud and congratulate your efforts to give back to nature!

Leading the way in calling homeowners to stem ecosystem degradation caused by habitat destruction, deer overabundance and invasive species, Doug Tallamy has implored us to "Garden as if life depends upon it" in his book entitled "Bringing Nature Home." For those that care deeply about protecting nature, it can be very difficult, even painful, to absorb the onslaught of bad news of dramatic

reductions in birds (30% of the bird population has vanished since 1970) and insects (40% of species are at risk of extinction).

But FoHVOS is ready to assist homeowners in their efforts to remedy these dangerous trends by facilitating the purchase of native plants required to feed

birds and insects and "Garden as if life help nature to regain its health. We took depends upon it." on this role because native plants can be

challenging to find and we bring the ability to 'pool orders', giving access to wholesale nurseries. This greatly increases availability AND significantly reduces costs (often 30% or more less than retail prices).

If you haven't yet participated in our program, this is how it works: 1) Customized Home Visit - For FoHVOS members, Stewardship Director Mike Van Clef will visit

goals and recommend native plants that can thrive in your yard; 2) Order Native Plants - FoHVOS coordinates orders through a number of native plant nurseries every spring and fall. We sell plants wholesale as a service to meet our mission

> to encourage others to improve the ecological health of their yards.

Depending on your experience level, more - Doug Tallamy options are available! FoHVOS can have our

stewardship interns install your native plants for a fraction of the cost of professional landscapers. For even more help, FoHVOS can recommend some proven landscape designers that specialize in native plants.

Our past participants continue to give back to nature by adding more native plants to their yards and we encourage others to join us! Please reach out to set up a visit!



P.O. Box 395 Pennington, NJ 08534



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Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space is an accredited non-profit land trust that is dedicated to preserving the Valley's character by partnering with the community to **preserve** land, **protect** natural resources, and **inspire** a new generation of conservation.



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