



NJ Invasive Species
Strike Team

FoHVOS
FRIENDS OF HOPEWELL VALLEY OPEN SPACE

Strike Team Report September 2020

The Strike Team Professional Conference has been **CANCELLED!**

We appreciate your support of the Strike Team's 2020 annual conference. As you know, we had to postpone our in-person conference that was set for April 1st to October. In August, we had plans to shift to a series of virtual webinars to be held next week. But registrations were quite low and we felt that asking busy professionals to prepare and provide presentations for a small number of attendees would not be appropriate.

Therefore we have decided to cancel this year's event. The annual conference has always been a great way for lots of people to get together professionally/socially (hosting about 150 people), and it has always been our most significant fundraiser. We appreciate your support and look forward to an in-person conference in 2021!

Mike Van Clef, Ph.D.
FoHVOS Stewardship Director
Strike Team Program Director

Live and Learn

With the help of our exceptional Technical Advisory Committee, we completed our annual species review and prepared our [2020 species list](#) as well as our updated [Do Not Plant List](#).

Tree-of-Heaven Meets it Maker

Tree-of-Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) has been a well known invasive for decades (early New Jersey observations began in the 1950's). While it tends toward growing along heavily disturbed areas, it can be problematic along forest edges and clearings. We had a huge infestation growing on rocky slopes along with numerous rare species.

Question: How to safely unscramble the egg?

Answer: Stem injection with imazypyr!

The infestation consisted of hundreds of large trees and thousands of sprouts. It was a daunting task but we were able to secure grant funding to purchase two EZject lances that use herbicide 'bullets' that made it possible to achieve virtually complete eradication. By treating each large tree (one bullet per 2 inches of diameter), the treatment not only eliminated the large trees, but also every attached sprout! Over the last two years, multiple rare species have responded positively!

Stewardship is always hard work and outcomes can be slow and/or uncertain, but it was an absolute pleasure to see rapid success this one time.

Tree-of-Heaven is extremely common and feeds the spread of Spotted Lanternfly (SLF). Anything we can do to reduce its abundance can also reduce SLF impacts. Stem injection is effective but initial equipment purchase can be pricey (about \$1,000 for injector and initial bullet supply). Basal bark applications can be effective too but we aren't sure if treating main stems will eliminate sprouts too - If you have experiences to share, please let us know.



Tree-of-Heaven – Plants are either male or female (shown above)



Tree-of-Heaven is a required food source for the Spotted Lantern Fly

Volunteer with us!

Looking for a volunteer opportunity?

The NJ Invasive Species Strike Team is the organization for you!

Visit our sign up genius below to share your interests with us.

Contact lhovath@fohvos.org for more information.

I'm Interested!

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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