



NJ Invasive Species
Strike Team

FoHIVOS
FRIENDS OF HOPEWELL VALLEY OPEN SPACE

Strike Team Annual Fundraiser

Please support the Strike Team!

Donate

The Strike Team and its project partners had a very successful 2021! Through our grants and contracts we eliminated nearly 1,000 populations of invasive species and cleared over 50 acres of dense infestations. Our training and outreach effort included outdoor, in person annual professional and community conferences, along with numerous field training sessions and webinars that reached over 500 people.

There are critical functions of the Strike Team that are supported by generous private donations.

These functions include maintaining and improving web resources that serve the conservation community and the general public along with phone app functions such as updating / adding species fact sheets and reviewing data submissions to be added to the statewide database, all allowing us to serve as a statewide clearinghouse on invasive species knowledge. Private donations also support core activities such as our investigations of new and ongoing threats posed by newly emerging invasive species.

Your donation will support our mission to protect special places and rare species by working with the public and our conservation partners to prevent the spread of invasive species across New Jersey.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to Mike Van Clef, Strike Team Program Director!

Email: mvanclenf@fohvos.org; Mobile: 908-528-6674

Our Annual Professional Conference was a Great Success!

We had 100 participants and presentations that explored the potential use of prescribed burning toward landscape-scale reduction of invasive plants. Thank you to Margaret Waldock and the Duke Farms staff for doing an excellent job hosting the event (and the food was fantastic!) and to the New Jersey Forest Fire Service for demonstrating their knowledge and techniques! [Click here](#) to see presentations.

This month's Live and Learn was contributed by Carolyn Klaube from the Sourland Conservancy.

Stay Tuned!

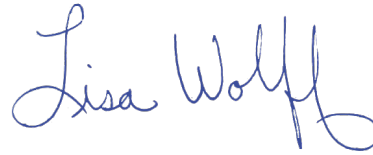
**We are
planning
many
workshops**

Carolyn shares the importance of community, connection to the land, and the resulting stewardship that follows. The Sourland Conservancy has a major initiative to plant many thousands of trees with the work of dedicated staff and volunteers – a truly impressive stewardship endeavor!

and
conferences
for 2022!



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



Lisa Wolff
Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space
Executive Director

Building Community

By Carolyn Klaube

When I walk into the Sourland Forest, it feels like home. I didn't grow up here, but I've spent thousands of hours on my knees running my hands over the plants that grow in these soils. My children learned how to walk on the diabase boulder-filled trails and butterfly-laden meadows. I belong to these woods.

Whenever we lead volunteers on stewardship activities, we try not to focus solely on the task at hand but ask and listen to stories of the people who gathered to help restore this forest. We bend and lift, cut and drag, dig, and plant. As we share stories, we build community between us. As our hands become dirty and tired, we are as much changed as the soil we are working with. People want to be connected to the land; it is deep within all of us. When your hands are filled with Earth, you start to root yourself to the land. Slowly at first, but then your eyes start to change, and you can pick out the shades and textures of the forest. You become part of the forest community.

Our role is not just to restore habitat, it is to restore people to their forest. To see that they are part of the forest community whether or not they physically live in the Sourlands. Forests are composed of interspecies and intraspecies relationships, and through active stewardship, we become a positive force, moving the needle slowly in the direction of positive change. One of the reasons the Sourland Conservancy has been so successful in its efforts to plant trees and restore habitat is that we are deeply committed to ensuring that volunteers know that they are part of the healing that needs to happen here. That they can make a positive change in their community - and that change can be what they do in their own backyard, municipality, or in the Sourland Forest.

When people feel part of a community, it can be empowering. If you combine that feeling with the knowledge and tools to make a change, you have a community that can do great things. You have a community that belongs to these woods.



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 mvanclef@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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