



NJ Invasive Species  
Strike Team

**FoHVOS**  
FRIENDS OF HOPEWELL VALLEY OPEN SPACE

## Strike Team Report February 2021

***Save the Date - October 13th!***  
***(Fingers Crossed)***

Dear Friends:

The Strike Team is keeping busy through winter. We're planning on meeting with our Steering Committee and Technical Advisory Committee in the coming months to prepare for the upcoming field season. Stay tuned for an updated species list and control recommendations by early spring. Also, *Save the Date* for our annual professional conference to be held at Duke Farms on October 13<sup>th</sup> – more information will come in the spring as we assess current COVID conditions, but we are keeping up our hopes to see you all in person!

This month's Live and Learn was contributed by Anna Corichi from the Friends of Princeton Open Space. She led a massive and extremely impressive 18-acre forest restoration project. Read below to learn and be inspired!

We hope that you will consider [a donation to the Strike Team](#) to support our critical work.

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

Lisa Wolff  
Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space  
Executive Director

Live and Learn

The Forest Restoration Project

*Friends of Princeton Open Space (FOPOS)*  
Contribution By Anna Corichi  
Director, Natural Resources and

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The Friends of Princeton Open Space 18-acre Forest Restoration Project site is located in the heart of Princeton at the Billy Johnson Mountain Lakes Nature Preserve, a 75-acre municipal park. The Preserve is a popular destination nestled among almost 400 acres of preserved public and private land. The project site just upslope from Mountain Brook can be viewed from the green

trail, a favored route that circles Mountain Lake offering scenic views and glimpses of birds, turtles, and wildflowers. The Forest Restoration Project aims to accelerate the regeneration of native forest habitat to support a diversity of birds and other wildlife, as well as to provide an enhanced aesthetic and educational experience for park visitors.

The project broke ground in 2018 with the construction of an 8ft-tall enclosure that protects approximately half of the 18-acre site from the pressures of white-tailed deer. The following year, in 2019, target invasive species were removed from the entire site; this work was completed by professional contractors and volunteers, and led by FOPOS's Director of Natural Resources and Stewardship. The list of target invasive species for removal is a long one that includes many of the typical offenders: multiflora rose, honeysuckle, winged euonymus, privet, oriental photinia, Asiatic bittersweet vine, and stilt grass, among others. Some select 100 existing native saplings were caged as discovered; among them were flowering dogwood, oaks, musclewood, and native viburnums.

This past year, in 2020, volunteers helped to plant nearly 3,000 native trees and shrubs across the 18-acre project site. A diversity of 40 species were planted, both bare root saplings and containerized plants, to provide immediate native habitat as well as to ensure the future forest canopy. Spicebush, chokeberries, and St. John's wort were planted along the understory, while Oaks, hickories, and maples establish as canopy species. Come spring of 2021, FOPOS is committed to planting 5,000 native wildflowers, grasses, and ferns to complete the planting phase of the project. Those interested in helping out should contact [info@fopos.org](mailto:info@fopos.org)!

Volunteers continue to be the powerhouse behind FOPOS's restoration efforts, and this project especially. Growing a volunteer base, engaging with local schools, students, community groups, and corporations has been invaluable and helps to foster local stewardship. FOPOS's own Land Steward interns contributed significantly to this project. In addition, Rutgers Environmental Stewards assessed the mortality of bare roots planted and reported an approximate 85% survival rate, much higher than we had expected!

As we gear up for planting the herbaceous layer in 2021, the battle with invasive species persists. One focus of ours this year is to 'Stop the Stilt!' Stilt grass is one of the most threatening invasives: widespread and very difficult to manage, it is also a pervasive seeder. Last year we had success reducing stilt grass populations within a targeted area of the restoration site using a foliar application of 20% horticultural vinegar. Early season applications allowed for existing native species, such as jewelweed, *Hypericum punctatum*, *Carexes*, asters, *Solidago*, and American pennywort, to thrive and spread in its place. This year we will expand our approach, continuing the use of vinegar as well as planting aggressive natives, such as mountain mint, that may outcompete stilt grass and offer native habitat as the forest grows.

This project is generously supported by the NJDEP/Green Acres Stewardship Program, the George H. and Estelle M. Sands Foundation, the New Jersey Committee of the Garden Club of America and the Garden Club of Princeton, the Holden Grant Program of the Washington Crossing Audubon Society, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc., the Franklin Parker Grant Program administered by New Jersey Conservation Foundation, and Investors Foundation. In-kind support has been provided by the Municipality of Princeton. FOPOS thanks all of its donors and the many volunteers who have helped with this important conservation project.



Water Paw Paw Bare Root



Restoration Planting Session



Trails' Edge Before

**WE'RE  
HIRING!**

**Land Steward Interns**



Land Steward Interns will be based out of our Titusville location and participate in hands-on land stewardship activities that include fieldwork and administrative tasks. Fieldwork will consist of performing control of invasive species, native wildflower planting, rare species stewardship, and ecological monitoring. Administrative activities will include GIS (Geographic Information System) mapping and data management.

- Salary and Hours: The salary for the internship is \$13.00/hour with a 40-hour workweek. Monday – Friday -- Approximately 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM.
- Three positions will be 10 weeks -- Approximately 6/7/21 through 8/13/21.
- Three positions will be 26 weeks -- Approximately 6/7/21 through 12/3/21.
- Housing is not provided. Personal transportation required.
- A commitment is **required** for the full term of the internship.

[Apply Here!](#)

[Full Job Description](#)

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**13th Annual Professional Conference  
Duke Farms Coach Barn  
October 13, 2021**

*\*\*As the year progresses, we'll keep tabs on COVID restrictions and set an agenda and open registration once we have confidence that we'll have an all clear by fall. We're very much hoping to see you all!*

**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 [Ihorvath@fohvos.org](mailto:Ihorvath@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!**

[Donate](#)

[Visit our Website](#)

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## Contributing Partners

CORA HARTSHORN



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*New Jersey Conservation Foundation*

**Keri Green**

*New Jersey Highlands Council*

**Kenneth H. Klipstein, II**

*New Jersey Water Supply Authority*

**Dr. Michael Van Clef**

*Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space*

**Lisa Wolff**

*Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space*

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*Duke Farms*

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*NJ Agricultural Experiment Station*

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*Flora of North America Association*

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*New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife*

**Rosa Yoo**

*New Jersey Forest Service*

### Staff

**Lisa Wolff**, Executive Director

**Dr. Michael Van Clef**, Stewardship Director

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**Cory Snyder**, Land Steward

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**Tyler Christensen**, Land Steward

**Leslie Kuchinski**, Operations Manager

**Logan Horvath**, Program Manager

