



NJ Invasive Species  
Strike Team

**FoHVOS**  
FRIENDS OF HOPEWELL VALLEY OPEN SPACE

## Strike Team Report January 2021

### *Striking Out Invasives in 2021*

The Strike Team had a successful year in 2020 despite the many challenges that continue to impact us all. We searched over 3000 acres, recorded over 2000 populations, and eradicated over 1000 of them (and started eradication on an additional 500 populations – THANKS to our dedicated seasonal land stewards!). Outreach efforts were hindered but with webinars and socially distanced outdoor training events, we held over 25 events reaching over 1600 people. In 2021, we plan to conclude our US Forest Service grant and continue to work with landowners on private and local, county, state, and federal lands toward eradicating over 2000 invasive species populations.

I am happy to announce that all Live and Learn articles this year will feature the work our partners. Please let me know if you'd like to contribute! This month features an article contributed by Susan and John Landau of the Friends of Foote's Pond Wood located in Morristown – they are an incredible local volunteer group knocking back invasives and restoring the land.

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

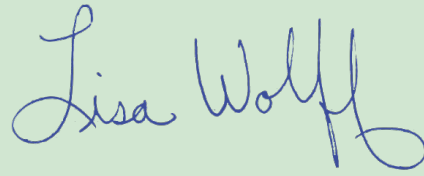
Mike Van Clef, Ph.D.  
FoHVOS Stewardship Director  
Strike Team Program Director

As 2020 made the importance of our work even more visible, FoHVOS and our Strike Team have risen to the challenge. In 2020 our interns got off to a late start due to pandemic restrictions. This year we apply what we've learned and are setting very ambitious land stewardship goals.

We are beginning our hiring process for summer interns. FoHVOS and The Invasive Species Strike Team are a great place to learn and work. Many of our

interns have continued work in stewardship careers throughout the state and some interns became permanent FoHVOS employees. All make a huge impact in conservation. Details are below the Live & Learn Section.

Let's work together to protect special places throughout New Jersey.



Lisa Wolff  
FoHVOS Executive Director

## Live and Learn

We have completed our annual species review and prepared our [2020 species list](#) as well as our updated [Do Not Plant List](#). In addition, please consider signing our [Landscape Planting Pledge](#).

### Foot's Pond Wood Restoration Team

*Morristown, NJ*

**Contribution By Susan and John Landau**

During 2020, 36 volunteers contributed just under 500 hours of work in this 24-acre woodland and meadow park that had become horribly overgrown with invasives. We are limited to mechanical control. Our work has been structured as narrow sub-projects (one or two target invasives in one area at a time) based on an assessment and recommendations by Mike Van Clef in 2019. Some project highlights are provided below with photos.



One challenging area is an erstwhile meadow stretching north-south between a school yard and the dock, with woodland on the east and west (outlined in red at left). Imposing 6- to 8-foot-tall walls of multiflora along the trail and around the dock platform threatened uncautious visitors and sometimes caused tears

for unwary toddlers. Vigorous porcelain berry vines with base stems up to four inches in diameter were smothering the smaller trees and slowly engulfing even the 50-60 footers. Japanese honeysuckle and oriental bittersweet vines also had major footprints but were less dominant.



Picture of porcelain berry vines swallowing the trees near the schoolyard.

This was unfortunately a high disturbance removal effort, requiring many passes to find and remove robustly resprouting root crowns. We had both lopper-wielding bramble and vine cutter volunteers and precision root puller volunteers. One guideline was to not pull the vines out of the trees and beneficial shrubs to not break branches. Near the shore we happily uncovered both silky and red twig dogwoods that had been engulfed under the brambles and vines. We chose to mound the trimmings into composting brush piles instead of dragging them across fragile soil to be hauled away.

Now the planter-volunteers are doing their work as we enter the restoration phase. We have just seeded the meadow areas with Ernst Seeds Deer Resistant Meadow mix. Bare root arrowwood viburnum, hazelnut, buttonbush, and elderberry shrubs are on order towards establishing a shrubby woodland edge. We are going to experiment with silky dogwood, red twig dogwood, and pussy willow live stakes to strengthen the native riparian border. And for park-patron-pleasing fastest recovery, in April-May we will plant many trays of diverse native perennial plugs. We planted plugs like these in another area last spring and they were 3-4 feet tall by late summer!

We will also scatter open-pollinated Zinnia and Coreopsis tinctoria seeds to boost the first year punch of flowers. Last summer the non-native but non-invasive Zinnias in another meadow area delighted covid-weary park patrons with months of colorful nectar-rich blooms busy with butterflies and occasional hummingbirds.

We expect a thriving young pollinator meadow in this dock-to-schoolyard area by July or August. (And will be monitoring for and removing the porcelain berry and Japanese honeysuckle vines that will recur).



Picture of seeded restoration area from the dock towards the schoolyard.

Recently restored meadow area re-claimed from mugwort. Photo by Willie Juhlin.

# 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 [lhovath@fohvos.org](mailto:lhovath@fohvos.org) for more information.

[I'm Interested!](#)

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**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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