



NJ Invasive Species
Strike Team

FoHIVOS
FRIENDS OF HOPEWELL VALLEY OPEN SPACE

Strike Team Report June 2021

Local Strike Teams = Success!



Monmouth Invasive Species Strike Team training
The Arboretum in Eatontown 5/22/2021



In May, I was happy to provide a training session for the newly formed Monmouth

Invasive Species Strike Team. We toured the F. Bliss Price Arboretum in Eatontown to develop a plan of action. A great group of about 20 volunteers attended and are eager to begin plan implementation!

Local Strike Teams are absolutely critical to restore parks and strengthen outreach to communities throughout New Jersey. On July 10th, we are happy to be conducting another session in Colts Neck.

Please contact Mike if you'd like to arrange a visit to your local park to provide training and recommendations.

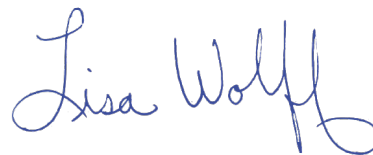
Stay tuned for details about our 3rd Annual Community Conference to be held in the afternoon of September 12 (rain date of September 19). It will feature the work of the Friends of Foote's Pond Wood, a local Strike Team doing amazing things! The conference will be aimed at helping others start their own teams or anyone that wants to know about controlling invasive species and native plant restoration.

This month's Live and Learn was contributed by John Berry. He is one of the best volunteers in New Jersey and the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge is lucky to have him! The efforts of John and his colleagues are the model that I have used to help kick off other local Strike Teams around the state. Please read about his experiences and pick up some more 'stewardship wisdom'.

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

“Annual Maintenance” as the Goal

By John Berry, Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge Strike Team

People new to the battle against invasives understandably hope that one or two well-planned workdays can take care of an infestation, allowing the site to recover and volunteers to resume their normal pastimes. Unfortunately, once an invasive plant has established itself at a site, complete eradication is often not possible, at least not in the short or medium terms. Finding and treating existing plants may take years. Even then, a seed bank will have been laid down, and birds will likely have spread seeds to areas outside of the original infestation. New plants will continue to appear for years to come.

The goal is thus more modest and long-term—reduce the infestation to an annual maintenance project. Initial eradication efforts are usually intensive and time-

consuming. Once most of the plants have been treated, however, the time needed to control an infestation begins to steadily drop, year by year. The team learns the site and figures out the best eradication methods (including timing), the extent of the infestation, and where to look for new plants each season. The seed bank is gradually reduced; fewer plants need to be killed each year. Eventually, the site becomes routine annual maintenance, which frees the team to tackle other emerging invasives. Of course, keeping up with such annual maintenance is critical. Skip a few years, and the infestation is sure to rebound.

The Great Swamp NWR Strike Team has a number of success stories. One example is water chestnut. When an infestation of this Eurasian invasive was discovered in 2016, the plant had formed dense monoculture mats across large sections of two refuge impoundments. That summer, strike team volunteers, interns, and refuge staff spent hundreds of hours hand-pulling several tons of water chestnut. Last summer, we needed just 51 hours to scout for and remove the plant from both impoundments, and the largest patch we discovered was perhaps 100 plants. Water chestnut has not been eliminated from Great Swamp NWR, but it has become an annual maintenance project.



In 2016, this section of Pool 1 was a water-chestnut monoculture.



Patch of water chestnut on Pool 1, summer of 2020

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@fohv.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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