



NJ Invasive Species
Strike Team

FoHVOS
FRIENDS OF HOPEWELL VALLEY OPEN SPACE

Be on the lookout!

As we sift through our 2021 data, some newly emerging species rise to the surface. Some I've never personally observed in New Jersey. Others show mounting evidence of continued advancement. None of the following are even close to widespread yet, let's work together to keep it that way!

Click on links below to view species fact sheets:

[Chinese Yam](#)

[Japanese Zelkova](#)

[Amur Corktree](#)

[Tea Viburnum](#)

[Paper Mulberry](#)



Amur Corktree produces massive fruit crops. Particularly large infestations have been documented in Jamesburg, Lawrenceville, and Princeton, but growing numbers of 'here and there' individuals are popping up.

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Eradicating European Water Chestnut Melanie Mason

This month's Live and Learn was contributed by Melanie Mason. She is a Land Steward for the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, focusing on the central and northern portions of the state. Melanie describes their efforts to eradicate European Water Chestnut at the beautiful [Aphsawa Preserve](#). Melanie's appreciation for nature shines through, only surpassed by her strong persistence in ridding the Preserve of one of the most threatening aquatic invasives.

Stewarding land in NJ is a lesson in managing expectations. Invasives are seemingly everywhere and it's never fun to be the person who remarks during hikes with friends or family that those pretty, fragrant flowers or that vigorous green tangle are in fact *plantae non grata*. However, there are areas of respite in northern NJ and the Aphsawa Preserve in West Milford is one of them.

Aphsawa is a truly special place. Resplendent rock formations crown and cradle the forest. Waterfalls and streams serenade as they make their way towards the reservoir which pops in the spring and summer with water lilies and other native beauties. The forest here is stunning, so please do visit and see for yourself. But this article isn't about that.



This is instead a story of vigilance, endurance and European water chestnut found in the aforementioned reservoir. Because water chestnut is an annual, reducing and preventing future seed set is the best means of control. Over the last five or so years, NJ Conservation Foundation staff and two interns have diligently kayaked, row boated and canoed the length of the reservoir ad nauseam to haul thousands

of thorny, wet, muddy (and not to mention gigantic water spider harboring!) rosettes of this invasive before it had the chance to fruit. I was not yet at NJ Conservation Foundation the first two years of the eradication effort but I have heard the horror stories. I can attest however to what appeared to be a disheartening biomass of undesirability when I was handed the torch on only my second day. Kayaking on a beautiful reservoir in summer- yes please! Filling and hauling countless contractor bags across the reservoir by kayak over and over for hours on end- maybe not so much. Even so, I am certainly not complaining. This IS what I signed up for, and I love what I do- monster movie-sized water spiders and all.

I am very happy to report that while it still takes a few days a season to pull and monitor the population- with each return more time is spent on surveillance rather than eradication. This means increasingly

enjoyable days on the reservoir and the opportunity to see the preserve from a different perspective. However enjoyable it is though, it is still crucial work necessary for maintaining control that should never be shrugged off even if it doesn't always "feel" like work. I am very encouraged after these past few years and would say to anyone feeling overwhelmed by an invasive, don't wait! It won't get easier but it can get better, with persistence. Follow-up monitoring can be just as important as the eradication itself so don't skip it. I'll almost be sad when this population is marked **ERADICATED** and my monitoring visits will be further apart.



[Click for: Apshawa Preserve Website](#)

Upcoming Events

Please contact [Mike](#) if you are interested in attending any of the following scheduled events.

February 16, 6:00pm-7:00pm, Zoom

- DelVal One Health Seminar - Invasive Species for Homeowners

March 9, 10:15am-11:15am, Zoom

- Somerset County Master Gardeners - Invasive Species Identification and Control

March 12, 10:00am-11:00am, Zoom

- Essex County Master Gardeners - Invasive Species Identification and Control

June 3, 9:00am-3:00pm, Clover Rod and Gun Club, Kingwood Township, NJ

- New Jersey Tree Farm Day - Invasive Species Identification and Control (with field tours)

June 23, 6:00pm-7:00pm, Zoom

- Duke Farms Master Ecologist Program – Invasive Species and Deer Management

June 25, 10:00am-12:00pm, Duke Farms Visitor Center

- Duke Farms Master Ecologist Program – Invasive Species and Deer Management

Late Summer 2022 -- 4th Annual Community Conference, Location TBD

Fall 2022 -- Potluck Social (start foraging and thinking of recipes now!), Location TBD

Fall 2022 -- 14th Annual Professional Conference, Duke Farms

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 mvanclief@fohvos.org for more information.

[I'm Interested!](#)

Consider a Membership Donation

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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