



NJ Invasive Species
Strike Team

FoHVOS
FRIENDS OF HOPEWELL VALLEY OPEN SPACE

Teamwork Strikes Again!

Everything is greening up and the Strike Team is gearing up for another busy year! We were informed that our US Forest Service grant has been approved, over the next three years, the Strike Team and its partners (including dedicated private landowners) will be crushing lots of invasive species and restoring habitats throughout the state. Our partners include Mercer County Parks, Morris County Parks, New Jersey Audubon (Cape May project), and Sourland Conservancy (expanding their already enormous efforts to plant trees to mitigate ash loss).

We really appreciate the support provided by the New Jersey Forest Service for our application and are very appreciative of the US Forest Service for their continued financial support!

This month's Live and Learn was contributed by our very own Beth Craighead. Beth describes another fantastic and quite large project at Baldpate Mountain to enhance habitat for rare and common plants and animals. Like any big project, many contributors beyond FoHVOS are required to make it happen. We have a cost share agreement with NRCS to provide partial project funding and their expertise. Mercer County Parks has committed significant resources and expertise. Beth, as always, has done an amazing job guiding interns and volunteers to complete very large goals.

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

Restoring Baldpate Mountain Beth Craighead

In 2021, Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space received a 3 year cost share agreement with NRCS to perform restoration work at Baldpate Mountain, located in Mercer County. The plan is to remove invasive species (mainly Multiflora Rose, Tree-of-Heaven and Japanese Barberry), tree and shrub plantings, wildlife plantings and management, building brush piles and the creation of 2 vernal pools.

Thanks to interns and volunteers, so far we have planted 800 shrubs and trees, divided into 40 “islands” of 20 shrubs and trees each, built 20 brush piles and did cut stump on 20 acres of land. Mercer County Park Commission, who owns Baldpate, forestry mowed 2.3 acres of overgrown meadow that was mostly rose and autumn olive, which was then treated with cut stump by FoHVOS staff and interns and then planted with over 300 shrubs. Mercer County Park Commission also mowed two fields and seeded one of them with native grasses and wildflowers, including beardtongue, milkweed, mountain mint, wild rye and little bluestem. We also treated mile a minute by weed whacking before it seeded and mugwort with herbicide in the fall. Volunteers and interns were utilized to help with planting of shrubs and fence building.

Our interns did a great job hauling fencing and plants into the forest. By the end of 2022, Mercer County Park commission will have built the vernal pools. This year and next we need to follow up on any cut stump of invasives we may have missed the first time, more mowing of the fields and another round of seeding.

Our goal is to encourage healthy regeneration of native forests and fields while providing habitat for rare and common species. With so much ash decline on the mountain, we are trying to be proactive and get more native plants into those areas where the ash are so they can out compete the invasives that are just waiting to take over. This has been an interesting project with lots of objectives. I can't wait to see the benefits of all our hard work.



Volunteers planting native trees and shrubs inside of mini-exlosures.



Volunteers take on a massive rose infestation & create a wildlife friendly brush pile.

Upcoming Events

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

May 18, 7:00pm-8:00pm

Zoom

Native Plant Society of New Jersey - Native Plant Society of New Jersey - Native Plants and the Invasives they can Replace in Your Garden

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 4, 10:00am-4:00pm

Lewis Morris County Park, Morristown, NJ

BioBlitz Morris Nature Festival - - 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

Late Summer 2022

4th Annual Community Conference, South Mountain Reservation

Fall 2022

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

Fall 2022

14th Annual Professional Conference, Duke Farms

Other great events – contact event sponsors directly.

September 13-15, Cold Spring, NY

Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society – Aquatic Plant Camp

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 mvanclaf@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!

Donate

Our website

Facebook

Contributing Partners





WEEDS®



**NEW JERSEY
HIGHLANDS
COALITION**



**Ernest Christian
Klipstein
Foundation**

**Peter Blanchard
Charitable Trust**

**The Hyde and Watson
Foundation**

Fox Foundation

**Duke Farms
Foundation**

**Community
Foundation of the
Chattahoochee
Valley**

Steering Committee

Dr. Emile DeVito
New Jersey Conservation Foundation

Kenneth H. Klipstein, II
New Jersey Water Supply Authority

Kristi MacDonald
Raritan Headwaters Association

Kristen Meistrell
New Jersey Audubon

Dr. Michael Van Clef
Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space

Lisa Wolff
Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space

Technical Advisory Committee

Thom Almendinger
Duke Farms

Michele Bakacs
NJ Agricultural Experiment Station

Kerry Barringer
Flora of North America Association

Heather Corbett
New Jersey Bureau of Marine Fisheries

Chris Doyle
Limnologist

Art Gover
The Pennsylvania State University

Rachel Mackow
Wild Ridge Plants

Emily Mayer
Raritan Headwaters Association

Christopher Smith
New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife

Robert Somes
New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife

Carole Stanko
New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife

Rosa Yoo
New Jersey Forest Service

Staff

Lisa Wolff, *Executive Director*

Dr. Michael Van Clef, *Stewardship
Director*

Beth Craighead, *Land Steward*

Dana Christensen, *Land Steward*

Brian Kubin, *Land Steward*

Leslie Kuchinski, *Operation
Manager*

Richele Lieboff, *Outreach Manager*

Sebastian Vargas, *Program
Assistant*