



NJ Invasive Species
Strike Team

FoHVOS
FRIENDS OF HOPEWELL VALLEY OPEN SPACE

In the Heat of the Fight against Invasives

Summer is winding down, but for most it seems like there is still so much to accomplish! A local TV station and news site went out with the Strike Team. Check out both stories below.

Also, please take some time to consider our three upcoming events. They are all great ways to learn and spend time with colleagues. See below for more details, but here is a quick summary.

Community Conference

- Led by Rich Rockwell, volunteer extraordinaire, at South Mountain Reservation. This event is perfect for volunteers (including members of current or future Volunteer Stewardship Teams) and those responsible for recruiting and managing volunteers on public lands.

Professional Conference

- Our annual all day event at Duke Farms. This year will feature speakers covering eDNA, aquatic invaders, forest pests and pathogens, climate change impacts and regional species listings, and a history of New Jersey forests.

Potluck Social

- Purely for fun, spend some time with colleagues sharing each other's wild edible recipes. If you aren't a forager, please show your shopping skills by bringing some interesting eats.

This month's Live and Learn was contributed by Kristen Meistrell, recently promoted to Vice President of Stewardship at New Jersey Audubon. Kristen has been a great partner to the Strike Team in past and present US Forest Service grants. Kristen reports on their efforts to restore critical avian habitat in Cape May. If you haven't been to this area recently, you'd know that the challenge with invasives is more severe than nearly all other areas in New Jersey.

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

Lisa Wolff
Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space
Executive Director

Strike Team In The News



News12 Heads Out With The Strike Team



New Jersey Monitor reports on Invasive Species Legislation

Click on the images above to check out what we've been up to!

Live and Learn

Kristen Meistrell

New Jersey Audubon Society: Invasive Plant Management on the Cape May Peninsula New Jersey Audubon is pleased to continue our partnership with the NJ Invasive Species Strike Team. This summer, we will continue to restore critical forest habitat on Cape Island through invasive plant management. Cape Island is situated on the southernmost tip of Cape May peninsula, nestled between Delaware Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. Comprising of freshwater wetlands, scrub shrub habitat, maritime forest, grasslands, farmland, open water, and dune and coastal habitat, this is a critical stopover point for migratory birds on the Atlantic flyway. New Jersey Audubon has been working to restore a 25-acre portion of forest habitat at Cape May Point State Park through non-native invasive plant management, thereby improving native plant biodiversity, and enhancing critical habitat for migratory birds and pollinators such as the monarch butterfly. (Image Above: Restoration after forestry mowing.)



The initial focus of the restoration project was to preserve native trees in the overstory. Many of the trees were being overtaken by non-native invasive vines such as English ivy, sweet autumn clematis, oriental bittersweet, and porcelain berry. Freeing the trees from this pressure ensures stable



habitat and food sources for migratory species as well as securing a native seed supply for the restoration area. This was paired with a management technique called forestry mowing which utilizes heavy equipment to mow down undesirable species in the understory. At the state park, this helped in suppressing bush honeysuckles, privet species, paper

mulberry, and multiflora rose. Since the mowing was conducted, follow up herbicide treatments of invasives in the understory have been conducted to maintain suppression.

With these management activities being implemented consistently since 2018, there has been a significant increase in native plant regeneration in the understory. In areas where the invasive management has been most effective, New Jersey Audubon has also incorporated supplemental plantings of woody species to provide more habitat diversity and resources for wildlife. New Jersey Audubon has expanded this work by taking on similar projects at nearby Lake Lily and Triangle Park and is excited to expand even further with the support and partnership of the NJ Invasive Species Strike Team. (Image Above: Goldenrods and milkweeds filling in the previously infested area.)

Save the Date!

September 17, 1:00pm-5:00pm, 4th Annual Community Conference, South Mountain Reservation

(Rain Date – October 15, 1:00pm-5:00pm)

- Please join Strike Team Director Mike van Clef at our 4th Annual Community Conference to celebrate and learn about the amazing contributions of Volunteer Stewardship Teams. Registration will be capped at 30 people. We expect a mix of experienced and new volunteers to network and share their interest in protecting New Jersey's natural heritage.
- Rich Rockwell has become a leading volunteer land steward in New Jersey. He will lead a tour of the Reservation where he has done very extensive control work. He will also share his experiences through the New York / New Jersey Trail Conference and other organizations at High Point State Park, Swartswood State Park, Paterson Great Falls, Morris Canal Park, and Pyramid Mountain Natural Area. As you can see, Rich has much to teach that would benefit anyone interested in the control of invasive species toward protecting our natural heritage! Registration required. There is a \$30 registration fee, includes a meal served from 4-5pm during a one hour social.

[Register For the Community Conference!](#)

October 5, 9:00am-4:00pm, Strike Team Professional Conference, Duke Farms

- Our annual all day event at Duke Farms. This year will feature speakers covering eDNA, aquatic invaders, forest pests and pathogens, climate change impacts and regional species listings, and a history of New Jersey forests.

[Register For the Professional Conference!](#)

October 22, 12:00p-4:00pm, Potluck Social, Private residence

- Bring your favorite wild collected foods. If you are new to foraging, please bring your favorite non-foraged dish and enjoy all the great food!

[Register For the Potluck Social!](#)

Upcoming Events

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

September 17, 1:00pm-5:00pm, 4th Annual Community Conference, South Mountain Reservation

Learn about the amazing contributions of Volunteer Stewardship Teams

September 19, 8:00am-9:00pm, Pennington School, Pennington

Washington Crossing Audubon Society - Invasive Species for Homeowners

October 5, 9:00am-4:00pm, Strike Team Professional Conference, Duke Farms

Share and learn new ideas at this all day conference! -- [Register Now!](#)

October 22, 12:00p-4:00pm, Potluck Social, Address shared upon registration

Strike Team Potluck Social -- [Register Now!](#)

November 3, 9:00am-1:00pm, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Mercer County, Ewing

Mercer County Master Gardeners - Invasive Species Identification and Control

November 10, 11:00am-12:00pm, Pinelands Commission, New Lisbon

Pinelands Speaker Series - Invasive Species Threat, Identification and Control

November 12, 8:30am-2:30pm, Lord Stirling Park, Basking Ridge

PA/NJ Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation Annual Conference -
Invasive Species Identification and Control

Other great events – contact event sponsors directly.

September 13-15, Aquatic Plant Camp, 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!

Volunteer Stewardship Teams Information

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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