



NJ Invasive Species
Strike Team

FoHVOS
FRIENDS OF HOPEWELL VALLEY OPEN SPACE

A New Year!

We are getting geared up for another busy year! In 2022, we were awarded another grant from US Forest Service to continue our work with 30 private landowners along with Mercer and Morris County Parks. The grant also allows a continuation of our partnership with NJ Audubon for their work in Cape May and initiates a partnership with Sourland Conservancy to expand their amazing tree planting initiative to private lands.

We're also happy to continue our contract work with the National Park Service and multiple counties and municipalities. With their help, we are really making a big impact on natural lands across the state.

We're finally switching back to our normal schedule – the Strike Team's annual professional conference will be held in April at Duke Farms – see below for details. We hope to see you there!

This month's Live and Learn is provided by me this time around. It covers the very exciting possibility that legislation will be passed to ban the sale of invasive species 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

Live and Learn

Ban the Sale of Invasive Plants!

New Jersey is only one of five states in the US that does not have legislation to ban the sale of invasive plants!

In fall 2022, a subgroup of Senator Smith's Forest Task Force set ourselves to develop recommendations to improve Senate Bill S2186 introduced by Senators Linda Greenstein and Bob Smith – we are extremely grateful for their attention to this critical problem! Recommendations were provided and over 70 members of the Forest Task Force signed on with their support.

The subgroup consists of concerned and very dedicated citizens, along with representatives from NJ Audubon, NJ Conservation Foundation, and the Native Plant Society of New Jersey. Importantly, we have been in communication with the NJ Nursery and Landscape Association.

In December, three members of our subgroup testified to the Senate Environment and Energy Committee and our suggestion to re-establish the New Jersey Invasive Species Council was unanimously approved by the Committee (and also supported by the nursery trade association).

We continue to work toward improvements with the bill sponsors. While the current version of the legislation would ban the sale of two dozen invasive species, we feel that this only scratches the surface of the much larger number of invasive plants in the state. We are recommending that the legislation empower the new Council to work with NJ Department of Agriculture and NJ Department of Environmental Protection to adopt a protocol and evaluate the potential listing of nearly 200 species deemed to be invasive or potentially invasive by the Strike Team, as well as a regional approach that considers invasives from nearby states.

While we might be late to the party compared to other states, we hope to be the best guest by having very thoughtful and thorough legislation. The old cliché of 'when you find yourself in a hole, stop digging!' applies here – we absolutely must stop the purposeful sale and propagation of invasive plants that keeps getting us deeper in the hole. And we feel strongly that this can be done reasonably, without unnecessary financial burden, in partnership with New Jersey's nursery industry.

Save the Date!

April 19, 9:00am-4:00pm, 16 th Annual Strike Team Professional Conference, Duke Farms

- Includes a panel discussion on Kudzu, presentations on the history of New Jersey's forests, biological control, and invasive wildlife and wildlife diseases along with invasive species control demonstrations.
- Continuing education units will be available for NJDEP Pesticide Control Program, PA Pesticide Program, NJ Urban and Community Forestry Program, and Society of Ecological Restoration. We will send out the specific credit numbers in February.

[View Conference Agenda](#)

[View Conference Speakers](#)

[Register Here!](#)

Upcoming Events

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

March 11, 9:00am-3:45pm, Pinelands Short Course, Stockton University

Multiple presentations and field trips. Mike's talk will be on Roadside Native and Invasive Plants of the Pinelands

March 21, 2023 7:00pm-8:00pm, Zoom

Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Ocean County - Invasive Species Threats, Identification, and Control

June 17, 9:00am-1:00pm, Duke Farms, Hillsborough (Presentation and Field Visit / Demonstrations)

Invasive Species Threats, Identification, and Control

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 mvanclef@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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