

NJ Invasive Species
Strike Team

FoHVOS
FRIENDS OF HOPEWELL VALLEY OPEN SPACE

A Very Successful Community Workshop Save the Date for our Potluck Social!

We had a really informative and inspiring Community Stewardship Field Workshop! Trish Shanley, Chris Barr, and five of their superstar youth participants led a group of 20 attendees through Ridgeview Woods in Princeton. This 12-year student-powered effort has resulted in the removal of large swaths of invasive plants, clearing the way for native plants to rebound. Trails were established and adorned with informative and fun messages and trinkets to entice visitors to immerse themselves in the forest – a very magical place!



This month's Live and Learn is provided by James Hartobey from NJDEP Fish & Wildlife. Jim manages large scale restoration projects across the network of Wildlife Management Areas including heavy clearing, prescribed fire, and herbicides followed by planting of native grasses and wildflowers – turning infestations into diverse native habitat.

Strike Team Potluck Social – October 21, 2023 – FREE EVENT –
[Register Here](#)

Purely for fun, enjoy eating wild edible recipes while spending time with colleagues, private landowners, hunters, and stewardship volunteers from around the state. If you aren't a forager, please show your shopping skills by bringing some interesting eats. The event will be held at a private residence located in Hopewell Township on October 21st from Noon to 2 pm.

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

NJDEP Bureau of Land Management Invasive Species Control and Restoration

By Jim Hartobey

New Jersey DEP Fish and Wildlife's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is tasked with managing over 360,000 acres of land in our Wildlife Management Area system to benefit all types of wildlife and the public that accesses these areas. As land managers of these large areas covering Northern, Central, and Southern New Jersey, we are tasked with identifying, controlling, and eradicating invasive species with the goal of reestablishing native plants to reclaimed areas.



Before any work can begin, projects are chosen based on the severity of the invasive takeover and are then reviewed through NJDEP's Land Management Review process (LMR). LMR is an internal review of activities on Divisions of Parks & Forestry and Fish and Wildlife Lands. Through the LMR process, NJDEP professional staff makes recommendations concerning the project to avoid and /or minimize impacts to ecological and/or cultural resources before implementation of the activity. Once approved, those selected areas are transformed into beneficial wildlife habitat. BLM uses many tools and methods to first control and then ultimately eradicate invasive trees, shrubs, and plants. BLM employs the use of heavy machines and root rakers, performs controlled field burns and brush pile burns, applies herbicides, and undertakes large scale mowing and plantings.



To date, BLM has and continues to reclaim thousands of acres of fields overtaken by invasive trees, shrubs, and noxious plants with those reclaimed areas being replaced with pollinator forbs, warm season grasses, and grain food plots. Through consistent monitoring, BLM prevents reinfestations of invasive plants. The transition from invasive infested areas to beneficial habitat is a long process that requires ever changing strategies, planning and methods. BLM has successfully controlled and eradicated invasive tree, shrub, and plant species and the areas reclaimed now have established native vegetation.

Infested sites are prepared for native plantings through mechanical clearing, herbicide application, and/or prescribed fire. This area at Columbia Wildlife Management Area was infested with mile a minute, autumn olive and bittersweet vines. You can see in the background how invasives

have overtaken this area, I like to employ a complete clear down to the native tree line, apply herbicides at first green up and plant plateau tolerant forbs and little bluestem and continue to do yearly herbicide treatments until the native plants have covered every inch of exposed soil. This cleared and will have showy flowers by mid-summer.



Upcoming Events

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

- **July 8, 11:00am-2:00pm, Bundt Park**
 - Clinton Township Green Fair - Food Trucks, Electric Cars, and Tabling
- **August 16, 9:00am-3:00pm, Duke Farms Visitor Center**
 - New Jersey Nursery & Landscape Association, Summer Plant Symposium
- **October 11, 7:00pm-8:00pm, Cranford Public Library**
 - 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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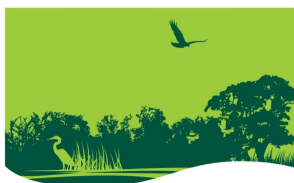
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Chris Barr**

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