



# NJ Invasive Species Strike Team

A PROGRAM OF  
**FoHVO**S

## Strike Team 19th Annual Conference

# Event Speakers



**Joe  
Basralian**

NEW JERSEY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

Joe Basralian is contracted to the New Jersey Conservation Foundation to collaborate in addressing the crisis of overabundant deer herds impacting many parts of New Jersey. He has worked professionally or as a volunteer in New Jersey conservation for 17 years with The Nature Conservancy, New Jersey Audubon, the League of Conservation Voters, Friends of the Drew Forest, the Great Swamp Watershed Association, and other groups. For several years he played a key support role in the NJ Keep It Green Coalition for open space, farmland and historic preservation. He is a member of the NJ Highlands Council, has chaired Chatham Township's Open Space Committee for 14 years, helping to preserve 250 acres in that time, and has been an active leader in Scouting America for 10 years. Joe has worked in financial markets in New York and New Jersey for 25 years, often bringing together people with diverse perspectives to achieve each party's goals. He lives in Chatham Township, NJ and has a B.A. from Cornell University and an MBA from NYU's Stern School of Business. [joe.basralian@njconservation.org](mailto:joe.basralian@njconservation.org); (917) 596-7807; [LinkedIn](#)

Mr. Churm serves as the Senior Director of Field Services, where he leads Princeton Hydro's pond and lake management and invasive species control services. He is a licensed pesticide applicator in five states with over 20 years of experience developing and implementing invasive species management programs in ponds, lakes, wetlands, and uplands at hundreds of sites over 1,000+ acres. He is an expert in species identification and determination of appropriate control response, whether chemical, biological, and/or mechanical/manual. This includes designing and implementing alternative management practices in addition to standard aquatic and riparian pesticides. He maintains a fleet of amphibious, aquatic, and all-terrain vehicles and equipment to effectively control and eradicate invasive species. Mr. Churm is a proud U.S. Army Veteran, having served as a paratrooper for 5 years. He holds a B.S. in Life Science from The Pennsylvania State University.

# Scott Churm

PRINCETON HYDRO



# Emile DeVito

NEW JERSEY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

Emile has been the Manager of Science and Stewardship at the New Jersey Conservation Foundation since 1989. He received a doctorate in Ecology in 1988 for research on bird communities and vegetation landscapes in New Jersey's Pine Barrens. Dr. DeVito develops management plans for NJCF's 20,000+ acres of holdings designed to protect and enhance biological diversity. Emile educates government officials, advocacy groups, land trusts, teachers and students on forest-interior habitat and migratory stopover needs of Neotropical songbirds. He is a trustee of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance and the NJ Natural Lands Trust. He serves on the Endangered and Non-Game Species Advisory Committee within the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, the New Jersey Invasive Species Council, and the Science Advisory Committee of the NY-NJ Trail Conference.

Samantha is the Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries. After graduating from the University of South Carolina in 2016 with a B.S. in Marine Science, Samantha took a position with the Bureau of Marine Fisheries as a Fisheries Biologist where she worked until 2024 before transferring and taking on the new position. Samantha is deeply committed to ensuring that the goals of the NJ AIS Management Plan are met and to build a successful program within the NJDEP.

# Samantha MacQuesten

NJDEP BUREAU OF FRESHWATER FISHERIES



## Mike Van Clef

FOHVOS, NEW JERSEY INVASIVE SPECIES STRIKE TEAM

Mike is the FoHVOS Stewardship Director and Program Director of the New Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team. He co-founded the Strike Team in 2008 with the goal of bringing greater efficiency and effectiveness to invasive species management. Mike has a Ph.D. in ecology from Rutgers University and over 25 years of experience in land stewardship, planning and research, working extensively in the evaluation and management of rare and invasive species and deer management. He has consulted with over 30 organizations in NJ including the NJ Invasive Species Council for which he prepared the New Jersey Strategic Management Plan for Invasive Species.

Most recently, Mike was a member of Senator Bob Smith's Forest Task Force working toward consensus on the stewardship of public forest lands. He also serves on the Task Force's related an Invasive Species Workgroup that provides suggestions to regulate invasive species.

Dr. Eric Wiener is a faculty member in the environmental science, biology and sustainability programs at Ramapo College of New Jersey. In addition to his long-term expertise in the restoration of tree species diversity within successional forests in western regions of the Amazon basin, Dr. Wiener conducts extensive field research with strong student involvement about how the increasing prevalence of invasive herbivores, tree diseases and severe weather is impacting forest tree dynamics in the New Jersey Highlands. Dr. Wiener also conducts research about raptor migration in the Ramapo Mountains and has additional expertise in urban forestry and sustainable landscaping.

# Eric Wiener

RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



*The New Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team vision is to protect our natural lands, with their full abundance and diversity of native plants and animals, from future damage through coordinated strategic invasive species management involving a team of partners and volunteers. Our focus is eliminating threats posed by newly emerging invasive species before they become widespread pests and protecting our most pristine lands and rare species habitats.*