

Strike Team Annual Conference – April 1, 2020 - Duke Farms Coach Barn



9:00 am – 9:15 am	Check-In, CEU Signups
9:15 am – 9:30 am	Welcome Jon Wagar, Duke Farms
9:30 am – 10:15 am	State of New Jersey Invasive Species Michael Van Clef, Strike Team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of 2019 and upcoming 2020 activities including species priorities
10:15 pm – 11:00 am	Prescribed Fire in New Jersey – Learning the Possibilities for Invasive Species Control Jeremy Webber – New Jersey Forest Fire Service Evan Madlinger – Natural Resources Conservation Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion of new prescribed fire landscape and how to apply its use to invasive species control
11:00 am – 11:15 am	BREAK
11:15 am – 12:00 pm	Morris County Prescribed Burning Program and Monitoring Efforts Kelli Kovacevic, Morris County Park Commission Jared Rosenbaum, Wild Ridge Plants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion of the use of prescribed fire in attempts to control invasive species and promote native species diversity, and the monitoring program that is being used to evaluate effects
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	LUNCH
1:00 pm – 1:45 pm	New Jersey Audubon Forest Health and Invasive Species Control Burn Program Donald Donnelly, New Jersey Audubon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion of fire and forest community composition, including invasive species control through prescribed fire
1:45 pm – 2:30 pm	Effects of Prescribed Burning in Forest Understories in Northern NJ Jay Kelly, Raritan Valley Community College <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary data on the impacts of fire frequency and time since burning on tree regeneration and native/invasive understory responses in young, post-agricultural forests compared to older, intact forests in northern NJ
2:30 pm – 3:30 pm	Cool Tools and Techniques – <u>Participants select one of the following</u> Group 1: The True Cost of Herbicide Application Options Michael Bellaus, Duke Farms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managing invasive species on a budget Group 2: Getting Specific on Invasive Species Control Beth Craighead and Gemma Milly, Strike Team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstration of various application techniques for specific invasive species and challenging situations (e.g., near rare/sensitive native species)

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Speaker Biographies

Michael Bellaus

FoHVOS, Duke Farms



Mike has been professionally managing both flora and fauna in New Jersey for nearly a decade. After graduating from McDaniel College in 2010, he worked for the New Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team and Monmouth County Park System systematically controlling invasive plant populations. He specializes in deer management with a focus on herd population reduction as well as deer management program creation and implementation. He works annually with the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife performing deer population distribution surveys and held a position on the Hopewell Township Deer Management Advisory Committee for three years. He is currently involved with the Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space as a Land Steward focusing on the control of newly emerging and highly threatening invasive plant populations but

works full time as the Manager of Habitat Restoration at Duke Farms where his primary responsibility is the restoration of habitats and management of the natural resources throughout the property.

Beth Craighead

FoHVOS



Beth has 15 years of experience in stewardship and education. She leads the FoHVOS and Strike Team volunteers, public outreach and partner coordination activities. Beth provides training and tracks eradication efforts utilizing NJ IPC Connect. She has extensive experience with invasive species control and implementing restoration projects utilizing scores of volunteers. Beth works with private landowners through the FoHVOS Private Lands Stewardship Program, coordinates citizen science efforts and performs rare animal surveys.

Don Donnelly

New Jersey Audubon



Don Donnelly earned a B.S. in Natural Resource Management with a concentration in Forest Management from Rutgers University. He has over 25 years of forestry experience working in the private and public sectors, including positions with the Morris County Soil Conservation District, the U.S. Forest Service Northern Research Station - Global Change Program, and with Hunterdon County Parks. His current position with NJ Audubon allows him to fully integrate his passion for wildlife into his forestry work. Don holds credentials as a NJ Approved Forester, NJ Licensed Tree Expert #376, NJ Licensed Forest Pesticide Applicator, USDA-NRCS Forestry and Wildlife Habitat Technical Service Provider, Type II Wildland Firefighter, Qualified Tree Farm Inspector, Accredited by NJ Community Forestry Council, and is a sitting member of the NJ Forest Stewardship Committee.

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Speaker Biographies

Jay Kelly

Raritan Valley Community College



Jay F. Kelly, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor of Biology and Environmental Science at Raritan Valley Community College, where he teaches a wide variety of ecology, botany, zoology and environmental science courses. He holds a BA in Biology and a PhD in Ecology & Evolution, both from Rutgers University. His research interests are the biology and conservation of rare plant and animal species, coastal and forest ecology, and the design and implementation of ecological land management practices that balance the needs of humans with other species in the landscape. His other research interests include historical ecology, plastic marine debris, human ecology, and toxins in consumer products. Dr. Kelly attempts to develop community-based research projects and partnerships that

benefit both his students and the communities they serve. He received a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for his research and service in 2010.

Kelli Kovacevic

Morris County Park Commission



Kelli Kovacevic has been with the Morris County Park Commission for 12 years and currently serves as the Director of Park Maintenance and Natural Resources overseeing the stewardship of over 20,000 acres of land and 216 miles of trails. She initiated the MCPC's Prescribed Burning Program in 2010 and has since worked in cooperation with the NJ Forest Fire Service to conduct prescribed burns on over 300 acres in 11 facilities. Kelli holds a M.S. in Biology from Montclair State University and a B.S. in Natural Resources Management from Rutgers University.

Evan Madlinger

Natural Resource Conservation Service



Evan is employed as a Biologist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Wildlife Management from The Ohio State University. His career with NRCS started as a summer intern in 1998 while still in college. Upon graduation he was hired full time in February 2002 as a Soil Conservationist in the Freehold Service Center covering Monmouth, Mercer and Middlesex Counties. In the fall of 2005, Evan was transferred to the Frenchtown Service Center where he covered Hunterdon, Somerset and Union Counties until December 2008. In January of 2009 Evan was promoted to his current position as a Biologist in which he is responsible for all NRCS wildlife and wetland work conducted in Northern New Jersey. His primary duty is to assist NRCS field staff with implementation of Farm Bill program practices

related to wildlife, wetlands, fisheries and forestry.

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Evan is a lifelong resident of New Jersey growing up in Bridgewater, Somerset County and currently resides with his wife, 9 year old daughter and 6 year old son in Alexandria Township, Hunterdon County. Evan enjoys fishing, hunting, and coaching lacrosse for the local youth program in his free time.

Gemma Milly FoHVOS



Gemma became a Land Steward for FoHVOS in 2015. She is a dedicated botanist with particular interests in rare plant populations, plant community health, and GIS. Motivated to support native ecosystems, Gemma leads rare plant studies and uses diverse tools to steward forest health in the Hopewell Valley. She graduated with a BS degree in Ecology from Rutgers University.

Jared Rosenbaum Wild Ridge Plants



Jared Rosenbaum is a botanist, native plant grower, and ecological restoration practitioner. He is a founding partner at Wild Ridge Plants LLC, a business that grows local ecotype native plants using sustainable practices, performs botanical surveys, and provides ecological restoration planning services. Jared has extensive experience in stewardship and monitoring of natural communities. He is known as an educator in plant ecology, ecological restoration, and the cultural uses of wild plant foods and medicines. Jared is the author of two books on native plants, including the children's book *The Puddle Garden*, and maintains an active blog at wildplantculture.com. He is a Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioner by the Society for Ecological Restoration.

Mike Van Clef FoHVOS



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.

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Speaker Biographies

Jeremy Webber

New Jersey Forest Fire Service



Originally from the Midwest, he moved to New Jersey in 2003 after completing his education from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, where he received both his B.S. and M.S. in Forestry. The path to his current position where he now serves as the lead for the State's Prescribed Burn Program with the NJ Forest Fire Service, first landed him working as a forester for the NJ Forest Service until 2011 when transitioned to working for the Forest Fire Service as a field firewarden before moving into his current role as Assistant Division Forest Firewarden beginning in 2017. His interests include fire effects, fire ecology and how prescribed fire can be used as a management tool across the landscape.