Evelyn Beaury

Evelyn Beaury received her PhD from the University of Massachusetts Amherst where she studied the spatial ecology and biogeography of plant invasions in the context of climate change. This work had a strong applied focus, thinking about how human activities influence invasions and what management/policy decisions we can make to prevent further spread. Evelyn is now a postdoctoral research associate at Princeton University, where she has broadened her research to think spatially about how we can increase carbon storage via changes in land use and land management.

Michael Bellaus

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

Beth graduated from Delaware Valley College in Doylestown with a degree in Environmental Science. She has worked at the Stoney Brook Millstone Association, Washington Crossing State Park Nature Center and Hunterdon County Parks before becoming a Land Steward for FoHVOS. Beth works with private landowners to implement stewardship strategies on their property for the Community Conservation Program and surveys for the removal of invasive plants. She helps participants with layout of their plantings and recommendations for care. Beth leads workdays with volunteers to remove invasive plants and maintains the trails system. She also coordinates the Clean Communities Program twice a year.
Beth takes the lead on Citizen Science, she coordinates volunteers for the Christmas Bird Count, the Great Backyard Bird count and the Fourth of July Butterfly Count. Beth leads the American Kestrel Nest Box Program, which includes communicating with landowners and coordinating with state experts. She coordinates volunteers to monitor nest boxes through the spring and summer. Beth trains and supervises the FoHVOS summer interns. Beth assists with restoration plantings and maintenance and recruits volunteers for special projects. She is responsible for maintaining FOHVOS meadows by getting them mowed on a regular basis and keeping them free from invasives. Beth is responsible for the Summer Triangle Project and the restored garden at Baldpate, she maintains the triangles and the garden with the assistance of volunteers. Beth also assists with the planning and implementation of the NJ Invasive Species Strike Team.

Heather Desko

Heather Desko is a Senior Watershed Protection Specialist for the New Jersey Water Supply Authority. She joined the Authority in 2009, after serving as an AmeriCorps NJ Watershed Ambassador. Heather manages the Authority's water monitoring programs, aquatic invasive species and harmful algal bloom projects, and River-Friendly Business and School certification programs. She is a member of the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS), the Mid-Atlantic Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species (MAPAIS), the New Jersey Water Monitoring Council, and is on the Board of Directors of the Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society (NEAPMS). Heather received both her BA in Environmental Science and MA in Energy and Environmental Analysis from Boston University.

Chris Doyle

Chris graduated from Rutgers with a BS in Natural Resource Management. He has nearly 30 years of experience as an aquatic biologist, including 16+ years of experience as a lake manager. Currently, Mr. Doyle is an aquatic consultant/project manager with Naiad Consultants. He became a Certified Lake Manager in 2008. He has attended and presented at numerous lake management conferences since 2005, including the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS), the Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS), the New York State Federation of Lake Associations (NYSFOLA), the Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society (NEAPMS) and the New Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team (NJISST). He is the former NALMS Region 2 Director (2019-2021), is a member of the New Jersey Harmful Algal Bloom Expert Team and holds a seat on the NJISST Technical Advisory Committee (Aquatic

Plants). He is a Past President and Past Editor (8 years) of the Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society and currently is the Program Director for the society's annual conference. Mr. Doyle is a proud lifelong resident of New Jersey and resides in the Garden State with his wife, son, and an adopted cat.

Julie Lockwood
Julie Lockwood, professor and chair of the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources at the Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences. A Rutgers faculty member since 2004, Lockwood is a global leader in the study of invasive species and the negative economic, ecological, and social impacts they can impose.

Lockwood has provided critical scientific evidence for the conservation and restoration of native species in the face of massive land use changes, sea level rise, human alteration of rivers and estuaries, and the overexploitation of animals in the wildlife trade. Her work on the rising rates of species invasions and extinctions has led to widespread recognition of global-scale shifts in biodiversity, which she and her colleagues have termed "biotic homogenization."

Lockwood is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and the Ecological Society of America, and she contributes to the United Nations intergovernmental Science-Society Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

Dedicated to mentoring students, in 2020 Lockwood was named a recipient of the Excellence Award in Graduate Student Mentoring by the Rutgers School of Graduate Studies.

Emily Mayer

Watershed Scientist Emily Mayer oversees the stream monitoring program efforts and organizes the citizen science volunteers, who assist in collecting data throughout the Raritan watershed. With 10 years of experience working in the lake management industry, Emily specializes in water quality analysis, invasive aquatic plant mapping, and large-scale project management of drinking water resources. Ms. Mayer holds a B.S. degree in Biology from Centenary University and a M.S. degree in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences from the University of Florida. Her graduate research focused on anglers' perceptions of invasive species management in the Delaware and Raritan Canal. Emily serves as Editor on the Board of Directors for NEAPMS (Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society) and is also an active member of NALMS (North American Lake Management Society), as well as NJIST (New Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team).

Christopher Smith

Chris is the Principal Fisheries Biologist with the NJDEP with the NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife.

Mike Van Clef

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.

Rosa Yoo

Rosa Yoo is the Forest Health Specialist with the NJ Forest Service. Although she primarily works with non-native insects and diseases that threaten the state's forests, she also surveys and monitors native insects and diseases that pose a threat to the state's forest health. Rosa has worked with the NJ Forest Service since 2004 and holds a bachelors and master's degree in Forestry from SUNY-College of Environmental Science and Forestry.