



# Ohio Invasive Plants Council

## Newsletter • Fall 2022



### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy fall! We hope this fall finds you enjoying the cooler weather. Fall is a great time to work on control of woody invasive plants. It is the most effective season to apply herbicide to cut stems. It is also a time of year when the invasives really stand out and are easy to find since they hold onto their leaves longer than our native plants.

We were excited to hold our 2022 Annual Meeting this fall on September 30th at Highbanks Metro Park's Nature Center. We also had a workshop on September 1st at the Lowe-Volk Park Nature Center in Crestline, part of the Crawford County Park District. In this newsletter you will find a separate article on these events. We were pleased with the attendance and so happy to be in-person with our partners again! Our next major event will likely be the research conference in October 2023, although we may have other workshops before then.

OIPC has an active listserv using Google Groups of over 300 participant. You can join at [oipc@googlegroups.com](mailto:oipc@googlegroups.com). This is a place to share knowledge and ask questions about invasive plants. It is a great way to tap into the experiences of many people with different invasive plant experiences. We welcome people to join this group and make it larger!

If you are looking for opportunities to help control invasive plants in natural areas, one way is to participate in the Ohio Natural Areas & Preserves Association's Stewardship Projects. See the ONAPA website at [www.onapa.org](http://www.onapa.org) for information on 2022

projects. Many local metro parks and park districts, state and federal agencies around the state may also have opportunities for volunteers to help control invasive plants. Each of us can help to address invasive plant challenges on a local level.

Help us spread the word about invasive plants and visit our website at [www.oipc.info](http://www.oipc.info) frequently! We have added some new materials to the website, including an invasive or potentially invasive plant focus with timely information on threats and control options. If you need a plant identified or are looking for more information on invasive plants, contact us through our website and we will respond as soon as possible. If you would like to recommend a plant to be assessed for invasiveness by the OIPC Assessment Team, let us know and we can add it to the list for evaluation. Finally, if you would like to contribute an article to our newsletter about invasive plants, let us know as we are always looking for new material.

*Jennifer L. Windus, OIPC President*

### Ohio Natural Areas and Preserves Association Stewardship Program

ONAPA is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization dedicated to promoting, protecting, and improving Ohio's natural areas and preserves. It was formed in 2012, to assist DNAP (ODNR Division of Natural Areas & Preserves) with stewardship, conduct and produce educational programs and materials, and support natural areas programs statewide. Fast forward ten years, ONAPA now has over fifteen different partners within the state that we assist with habitat

management, controlling invasive plants, rare plant monitoring, and preserve monitoring.

Our stewardship program started in 2016 with ONAPA vice president, Jennifer Windus, leading the effort. Through this program ONAPA is able to contract with college students and recent college graduates. ONAPA provides training so that the



2022 ONAPA stewardship assistants. Left to right) Lydia Radcliffe, Peter Zimmermann, Rachael Patterson, Edison Cigany, Maddie Brown.

stewards can do meaningful natural areas management and gain valuable field experience. Volunteers also play a tremendous role in achieving management goals at each natural area where we work. They are the backbone of the organization and the reason why we are able to work so efficiently. We work 2-3 days a week with each steward working 300-800 hours per year. This year, we had five stewardship assistants, the most we've ever had during a season! Lydia and Rachael returned for a second year and Maddie is on her third season. Stewards are trained in native and non-native species identification, safe and effective habitat management, and herbicide techniques under the Trained Serviceperson Manual from the Ohio Department of Agriculture. This year, Lydia and Maddie tested for their Ohio Pesticide License and both passed. Peter, Rachael, and Edison all went back to college in August, while Lydia and Maddie will remain with ONAPA at least through the end of this year. Although the stewardship group is small, we are able to accomplish a lot.

Since we work all over the state, we need to be well-versed in Ohio habitats. We work in a variety of high-quality natural areas such as bogs, fens, prairies,

savannas, woodlands, and barrens. The stewardship team comes across multitudes of invasive plants when we are working. The most common ones we work with are Amur honeysuckle, privet, Japanese barberry, burning bush, autumn olive, garlic mustard, Dame's rocket, butterweed, glossy buckthorn, Japanese stiltgrass, narrow-leaved cattail, and purple loosestrife. This is in no way a comprehensive list of all of the invasive plants we encounter, but we control these on a regular basis.

Management techniques used on invasive plants vary by habitat and by the prescriptions of preserve managers. Woody species such as trees and shrubs are often managed by cut-stem application of herbicide. Using loppers, a hand saw, or pruners, we flush cut the woody stem 4 inches from the ground. A trained serviceperson or licensed herbicide applicator will then treat the stem with an herbicide-filled lab bottle, spray bottle, or Buckthorn Blaster. This is an effective way to kill woodies. The herbicide used will also vary by habitat or plant. Our stewardship team spends most of the fall and winter removing woody species. In the spring, manual removal of herbaceous invasives is crucial. Spring invasives such as garlic mustard and Dame's rocket seed out and spread quickly, so we make sure the removal of those species is #1 on



Hand-pulling frog-bit at North Pond State Nature Preserve, Kelleys Island.

our to-do list. Manual removal stops the spread of seeds for the upcoming year. We pull, cut and bag the invasive plant material and move it offsite. This year, we performed manual removal of frog-bit for the first time. ONAPA stewards and preserve manager, Warren Dunegan of DNAP, removed hundreds of pounds of frog-bit in one day at North Pond on Kelleys Island. The stewardship team also uses foliar herbicide application and mechanical removal on Japanese stilt grass, an annual, to minimize the spread of seed. During the summer, the team uses a hand-wicking technique to control

narrow-leaved cattail and its hybrid plant. Using a lab bottle or spray bottle, we apply a small amount of herbicide to a cloth glove with a nitrile glove underneath. Starting from the base of the plant, we wipe herbicide from the base of each leaf to the top. This selective measure ensures the herbicide reaches all exterior surfaces of the plant and does not impact nearby native plants.

As a team, we accomplish projects that put a Band-Aid on a gaping wound in Ohio's natural areas. We love what we do and we appreciate all of the help and support we receive because habitat management is never-ending, thanks to the abundance of invasive plants. ONAPA is grateful to work with our partners and volunteers because none of this would be possible without them! Check out our website at [www.onapa.org](http://www.onapa.org) for more information about our stewardship projects and how to join us!

*Maddie Brown, ONAPA Lead Stewardship Assistant*

## **OIPC Seeking Applications for 2022 Invasive Plants Research Grants: Deadline December 1, 2022**

OIPC is soliciting applications for our Invasive Plants Research Grants. This grants program funds research projects on invasive plants in Ohio for amounts up to \$1,500. Projects initiated by graduate students, researchers, land managers, or amateur botanists are welcomed.

We will accept and review proposals that focus on basic biology, ecology, management, distribution, or horticultural aspects of invasive plants in Ohio. Our highest priority for funding is for research proposals that address questions about potential invasive plants for which the lack of published data hinders their evaluation by the OIPC Assessment Team. In addition, we will also prioritize research proposals that directly connect to management of invasives. When the grant evaluation team reviews grant proposals, extra points are given for proposals which address these priority areas. More details about this opportunity, including questions needed by the OIPC Assessment Team, can be found at [oipc.info](http://oipc.info)

Applications are due no later than December 1, 2022.

Please direct any questions to Emily Rauschert, Cleveland State University, [e.rauschert@csuohio.edu](mailto:e.rauschert@csuohio.edu)

## **Dr. Earl Chilton Receives OIPC Award of Recognition**

Every year since 2013 (except 2021 due to Covid), OIPC has recognized someone in the state who has been outstanding in the field of invasive plant identification, control, research, education, cooperation with OIPC, contributions to OIPC, or other noteworthy advancement of invasive plant issues in Ohio.

This year, the OIPC Board, in cooperation with the Aquatic Invasive Species Committee (led by the Division of Wildlife and OSU Extension in Columbus), decided to give the Award of Recognition to Dr. Earl Chilton, who made significant contributions to the evaluation of aquatic and wetland plants that may be invasive in Ohio. Sadly, Dr. Chilton passed away unexpectedly on July 19<sup>th</sup>. His wife, Kathryn, and son, Earl accepted the award at our Annual Meeting on September 30<sup>th</sup>.



Earl Wallace Chilton grew up in Columbus, Ohio. He pursued a bachelor's degree in biology and history from Union College, New York; an MS in biology from Bowling Green State University; and PhD in aquatic ecology from The Ohio State University. Professionally, Earl settled in Texas where he was charged with managing aquatic invasive species programs for the state through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Earl returned to his hometown in retirement. He lent his decades of professional experience to Ohio's Aquatic Invasive Species Committee beginning in 2018. In that role, he helped select species for inclusion in the Ohio Field Guide to Aquatic Invasive Species.

Perhaps most importantly, Earl was instrumental in early discussions of augmenting the aquatic and wetland species listed by the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Invasive Plants Rule (2018). The proposal stalled in needing more than the simple opinion of a handful of experts to go forward and was further stalled by Covid. Finally, in the wake of the pandemic, Earl formalized a quantitative risk-assessment tool (editing an existing tool to be relevant for Ohio) and turned it into a class exercise for his Capital University students. During Covid, Earl took it upon himself to singlehandedly complete the risk assessments with professional competence. Eighteen new species were proposed for listing and presented by Earl to the Ohio Department of Agriculture's invasive species advisory committee in December 2021. The committee approved all 18, based on Earl's impressive and comprehensive presentation. We could not have accomplished this without his expertise and willingness to help. We will surely miss Earl as a partner with OIPC and as a good friend.

*Eugene Braig, OSU Extension*  
*Jennifer Windus, OIPC President*

## 2022 OIPC Annual Meeting & Lowe-Volk Nature Center Workshop

OIPC was thrilled to hold two in-person events in September: a workshop at the Lowe-Volk Nature Center in Crestline on September 1<sup>st</sup> and our Annual Meeting at Highbanks Metro Park Nature Center in



Gary Conley demonstrates the use of an EZ-Ject Lance herbicide injection system at the OIPC Annual Meeting. Photo by Jennifer Finfera.

Lewis Center. Both were well-attended with almost 40 people at the workshop and over 75 at the Annual Meeting. The events had a morning session with speakers and an outdoor afternoon session with hikes and invasive plant control demonstrations. OIPC was very fortunate to have 13 sponsors of the Annual Meeting, which generated over \$1,500 in support. Thank you to our generous sponsors!

Speakers at the workshop included Jennifer Windus, OIPC President, Kyle Bailey from Crawford Park District, Chris Roshon from Preservation Parks of Delaware County, Austin Roby from Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District, and Madison

Brown from the Ohio Natural Areas & Preserves Association. Speakers at the Annual Meeting included Jennifer Windus, Theresa Culley, Gary Conley, and Emily Finch. For more details and the agenda for each event, see our website at [www.oipc.info](http://www.oipc.info).



The workshop at Lowe-Volk Nature Center was well attended and included both indoor and outdoor sessions. Photo by Jennifer Windus.

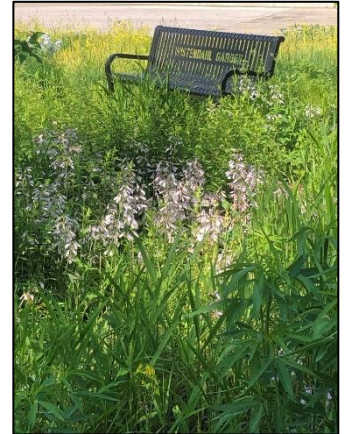
We are looking for new locations for workshops in 2023 so please let us know if you would like to host one. We are currently working on a summer workshop to be held at Cedar Bog in Champaign County and we are eager to do more.

*Jennifer Windus, OIPC President*

## **Wistendahl Garden: A Native Plant Paradise**

In 2014, a small group of volunteers gathered outside of the Athens County Visitor's Center with a mission to create a native plant garden representative of the flora of Ohio. The Visitor's Center is located in the eastside neighborhood of Athens, Ohio, sitting within eyesight of the Hocking River channel. Now called the Wistendahl Garden, this native garden was planted to honor the memory of Warren Wistendahl, a professor of botany at Ohio University, and Jean Wistendahl, a trained botanist who worked at OU's Bartley Herbarium. They were local mavens of Ohio native plants and spent much of their time working to preserve that heritage.

The purpose of the Wistendahl Garden is to educate residents and visitors about the diversity of Ohio's native flora. The original layout of the garden included three islands separated by a path to depict meadow, wetland, and woodland ecosystems. Over 300 species of native plants, some rare and endangered, are now represented in the garden. Trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, and forbs are all included, creating a welcoming natural oasis.



Three years ago, two short grass prairies were added to the garden. These new prairies, as well as the original garden, are meant to inspire visitors to become interested in adding native plants to their own property.



When visitors tour the Wistendahl Garden, the benefits of removing turf and incorporating native plants in the landscape are on full display. The garden is a magnet for wildlife. For example, because of the diversity of native

milkweed (*Asclepias*) plants, the garden is now an official monarch butterfly waystation. Monarch butterflies require native *Asclepias* species because their leaves are eaten by the monarch caterpillars when the carefully laid eggs hatch. Dozens of other native plants provide nectar to feed the numerous butterflies and insects that pass through the garden.

The Wistendahl Garden group, comprised mainly of Master Gardeners and interested volunteers, meets once a week on Tuesdays to perform maintenance on the garden. They also enjoy occasional field trips to observe native plants in their wild habitats. Anyone interested in helping to volunteer is

welcome to visit the garden on Tuesday mornings ready to work and learn!

The Wistendahl Garden and the short grass prairies



The Wistendahl Garden Group gathers weekly to maintain the beauty of the native gardens and celebrate the preservation of Ohio's native landscapes that it inspires.

at the Athens County Visitors Center are beautiful examples of how even small spaces can have meaningful and big impacts. They are well designed native gardens largely meant to educate the public, promote awareness and inspire interest about native plants and our imperiled native habitats. These gardens are considered a “gateway” to Ohio’s native plants. Visitors to the Wistendahl Garden will also find many pamphlets, informational brochures, and maps to direct them to nearby state parks, preserves, and nature trails where they can observe native plants in their natural habitats.

Gary Conley, OIPC Vice- President & GreenReach, LLC

### Are You Removing Invasive Plants and Replacing Them with Natives?

OIPC is looking for short articles to add to our newsletter about your experience. We want to share your story to help inspire others to redesign their landscape or remove invasives from surrounding natural areas so that they can also experience the value of replacing them with natives. Please contact us through our website if you are interested.

## Privets in Ohio: Invasive and Hard to Identify

There are over 40 species of privets, *Ligustrum sp.*, none of which are native to the United States. They are in the *Oleaceae*, or olive family, and native to Europe, Japan, China, and South Korea. They were



Privet leaves are small, have smooth edges and have opposite placement on the stem. Photo by Troy Evans, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Bugwood.org.

introduced to the U.S. in the 1800s, primarily used as a hedge, landscaping shrub and small tree. Due to prolific fruiting, privet has escaped from planted locations and is now well-established in natural areas. The challenge is to determine what species we have in Ohio and which are the most invasive. This is not an easy question to answer as privets are hard to identify, requiring characters related to hairs on the stems and also flower features (e.g., length of corolla tube and length of anthers). At least in 1991, Gleason and Cronquist suggested that common privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*) was the most likely established in the Eastern United States, although other species have occasionally escaped. In Ohio, both common privet and border privet (*L. obtusifolium*) have naturalized, with an adventive escape of a third species in Geauga County (California privet, *L. ovalifolium*; Cooperrider 1995).

The four species we likely have in Ohio today are:

- European or common privet, *Ligustrum vulgare* (assessed by OIPC as potentially invasive)
- Border privet, *Ligustrum obtusifolium* (assessed by OIPC as not currently invasive)

- Chinese privet, *Ligustrum sinense*
- California privet, *Ligustrum ovalifolium*

Species not reported yet in Ohio but present in surrounding states are:

- Amur privet, *Ligustrum amurense*
- Japanese privet, *Ligustrum japonicum*

The two most common species in Ohio, common and border privet, have been assessed by OIPC. The last three privets have begun to be assessed by the OIPC Assessment Team but are challenging due in part, to uncertainty in the literature about their identification. There are numerous privet cultivars on the market such as ‘Golden Ticket’, ‘Cheyenne’, ‘Wavy Leaf’, ‘Straight Talk’, and ‘Texanum’, most of which are cultivars of *L. vulgare* or *L. japonicum*. While they are promoted as fast-growing, forming dense thickets, and with spring and summer fragrant white flowers, privet can quickly escape landscape areas and move into our natural areas.

Privets are semi-evergreen, deciduous, thicket-forming shrubs or small trees. They typically have multiple stems and can reach up to 30 feet in height. Chinese and European privet are nearly identical, but



Privets can be difficult to identify, sometimes with the flowers as the only distinguishing feature. In Chinese and European privet you must look at the length of the anthers and corolla to identify the species. Photo by Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org.

can be distinguished from one another at flowering, by looking at the length of the anthers and the corolla. Privets are often found in forests, along fencerows, and in right-of-ways. This plant is spread by bird-dispersed fruits. Privet has long-leaning to

arching stems that are highly branched at nearly right angles. Twigs often have many short spur-like branches. The bark is gray to brownish gray. Small oval leaves have smooth margins (not toothed) and are arranged opposite along the stem. Clusters of small white, tubular, fragrant flowers appear in April to July along the terminal and upper axillary



Privets are prolific seeders. The dark purple seeds are spread to natural areas primarily by birds. Photo by Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org.

branches. Green fruits develop in late summer, ripen to blue-black berries in the fall, and may persist through the winter and into spring. Privets, although unclear which species, are well-established in Ohio’s natural areas, often forming thickets in the understory of woods and shrub zones, similar to Asian bush honeysuckles.

If you decide to eliminate privets from your property alternatives to consider may be arrowwood, blackhaw, and black chokeberry. To remove privets, you can pull or cut them, spray the foliage with a systemic herbicide, or cut and treat the stems with a systemic herbicide. Without herbicide treatment, they will re-sprout prolifically and create a dense thicket. If you feel adventurous, below is a key that you can use to identify the different privet species.

*Jennifer Windus, OIPC President*

*Theresa Culley, OIPC Assessment Team & University of Cincinnati*

Privets can be keyed out and identified according to floral or leaf features as follows:

**Floral Features (taken from Glean and Cronquist 1991)**

- 1 Corolla tube is 2.5-3mm, about as long as the lobes, anthers are 2mm AND
    - 2 Anthers do not reach the tip of the corolla lobes, twigs covered with fine hairs .....*L. vulgare*
    - 2 Anthers reach past the corolla lobes, twigs densely hairy.....*L. sinense*
  - 1 Corolla tube is 5-8mm long, twice as long as the lobes; anthers are 3mm AND
    - 3 Anther filaments reach out of corolla tube; twigs without hairs.....*L. ovalifolium*
    - 3 Anther filaments are included within the corolla tube; twigs are densely hairy
      - 4 Anthers do not reach the middle of the corolla lobes..... *L. amurense*
      - 4 Anthers reach nearly to the top of the corolla lobes..... *L. obtusifolium*
- (this key is Lacking *L. japonicum*, but it would be under the second #1 as its corolla tube is two times the length of the calyx)

**Leaf Features (adapted from Cooperrider 1995 and Dirr 1998)**

- 1 Branchlets without hairs
  - 2 Leaves deciduous or semi-evergreen in mild climates; hairless on leaves except beneath on midrib ..... *L. amurense*
  - 2 Leaves partially evergreen, or semi-evergreen, sometimes persistent AND
    - 3 Evergreen or semi-evergreen to deciduous, petiole is 1/6" long..... *L. ovalifolium*
    - 3 Evergreen; petiole is 1/4" long; 4-5 pairs of veins raised below, margin and midrib often reddish ..... *L. japonicum*
- 1 Branchlets minutely to densely hairy AND
  - 4 Leaves evergreen to semi-evergreen (deciduous in cold climates), hairy on midrib under leaf; petiole is 1/8" long ..... *L. sinense*
  - 4 Leaves deciduous AND
    - 5 Branchlets minutely hairy to nearly smooth; leaves without hairs on the undersurface or sometimes with a few scattered hairs along midrib; petiole is 1/8-2/3" long..... *L. vulgare*
    - 5 Branchlets with dense hairs; leaves hairy on underside, especially along midrib..... *L. obtusifolium*

NOTE: In several species, young growth may be hairy (pubescent), but may lack hairs at maturity.



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*The Ohio Invasive Plants Council coordinates statewide efforts and direction to address the threats of invasive species to Ohio's ecosystems and economy by providing leadership and promoting stewardship, education, research, and information exchange.*



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