Ohio Invasive Plants Council

Newsletter • Spring 2021

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy Spring! It is so nice to have this mild weather encouraging us to get outside. Now is the time to start your spring invasive plant control projects on spring invasives such as garlic mustard, Dame's rocket (featured in this issue), and lesser celandine. Many of these species are already be visible in the woods, especially in southern Ohio.

This issue features some of the exciting work of our partners, including the Central Ohio Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (CO-PRISM), the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Committee, the Oak Openings Cooperative Weed Management Area (OO Region CWMA), and the OSU Society for Ecological Restoration (SER). Since OIPC was formed in 2005, other regional groups and committees have formed and we work in partnership to help each other further our collective goals. There is plenty to do with invasive species education, awareness, control, and collaboration, so it is critical to cooperate with each other. We are proud of the important efforts of our partners and hope you will learn more about them and get involved!

We continue to work on a new section for our website which expands on our alternatives brochure by offering more suggestions for alternatives to invasives when replacing them in landscaping or habitat restoration and hope to have this new page on our website in the next few months. We are very close to completing a new OIPC display to be used at events around the state, when we can safely attend them again.

The Board decided to postpone our 2021 Annual Meeting until late summer or early fall. We are hopeful that the COVID situation will be in a better place in the coming months, so we can get together with partners. At our next Board meeting in early May, we will decide how and where we can hold the Annual Meeting, either indoors or virtually. We are hoping to plan at least one outdoor workshop this summer, using a picnic shelter for short presentations and then some hikes to discuss invasive plants and their controls.

As some of you may know, Yahoo discontinued their listserv service in mid-December. OIPC had an active listserv of over 300 participants, and we have recently set up another listserv with Google Groups, oipc@googlegroups.com. 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 for information on 2021 winter projects. These projects will be limited to small groups of 10 people or less during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many local metro parks, park districts, state, and federal agencies 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, even during the coronavirus pandemic.

Help us spread the word about invasive plants and visit our website at www.oipc.info frequently! New materials, including a featured invasive plant or potentially invasive plant, are added each month. 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

OIPC AWARDS 2021 GRANTS

OIPC congratulates this year's OIPC research grant recipients! Alexa Wagner, doctoral candidate at Case Western Reserve University and the Holden Arboretum, received support for her project entitled, "Determining dynamics responsible for plant community responses to over story thinning and invasive species management." Sam O'Connell and Kenneth Filipiak from the City of Mentor and Mark Warman from the Cleveland Metroparks received a grant to support their proposal, entitled "Management of yellow floating heart in Ohio's Lake Erie Basin using the herbicide ProcellaCOR." Audrey Atzel, master's student at Cleveland State University, received support for her project "*Ranunculus ficaria*: Investigation of reproductive outputs and management techniques."

OIPC greatly appreciates the work of all applicants who took the time in this difficult year to write a proposal about invasive plant concerns in Ohio. We had an unusually large number of applicants this round, and we were unable to fund all worthy proposals. OIPC was fortunate to receive some additional support from ONAPA (Ohio Natural Areas and Preserves Association) which allowed us to fund an additional proposal. We appreciate the work of the review panel, which was chaired by OIPC Board member, Dr. Steve Hovick from OSU and included reviewers representing land management and academia.

We encourage students, academics, and land managers to apply for the 2021 grant cycle, which will be due in late fall. We especially encourage applications for projects that focus on OIPC's research questions (http://www.oipc.info/help-answer-researchquestions.html) or research projects that focus directly on invasive plant management.

Emily Rauschert, OIPC Research Chair, Cleveland State University, e.rauschert@csuohio.edu

DAME'S ROCKET: A SPRING WOODLAND INVASIVE

Dame's rocket, *Hesperis matronalis,* is a tall (1-3' in height when blooming), herbaceous biennial or perennial in the mustard family. It has become prolific in the understory of woodlands, especially in moist areas along streams. The beautiful flowers of Dame's rocket are pink or white and are arranged in large, fragrant clusters that bloom May-June. The leaves of Dame's rocket are oblong, sharply toothed, and alternately arranged on the stem. The seeds are produced in long, narrow fruit capsules, typical of a mustard and similar to garlic mustard. They produce hundreds of seeds which are "rocketed" out when the seed capsule splits. Many people confuse it as a native phlox because of the showy flowers that look similar to phlox, however phlox has flowers with 5 petals and opposite leaves that are not toothed. Garden phlox, *Phlox paniculata,* another non-native plant, may also be confused with Dame's rocket. Dame's rocket is sometimes included in wildflower mixes and will become invasive quickly in planted situations. Other common names include mother-of-the-evening and sweet rocket.

Dame's rocket has flowers with 4 petals, typical of the flowers in the mustard family. Photo by Gary Conley.

Control of Dame's rocket is similar to garlic mustard since it typically behaves as a biennial. First year rosettes may be pulled or dug out. A systemic herbicide can be used on the rosettes in early spring or toward the end of the growing season when other herbaceous plants are dormant. When flowering, plants may be pulled or cut back, but should always be removed from the site and piled to decay off-site to reduce continued seed maturation and dispersal. It is best to control this species before it becomes widespread and prolific in the woods as it will eliminate other native plants.

Dame's rocket is typically a biennial plant. Doing management on the first year rosettes is a good strategy because it reduces seed production.

One of our OIPC partners, Friends of Crowell Hilaka (FoCH), has focused on Dame's rocket removal while simultaneously doing garlic mustard control at Richfield Heritage Preserve in Summit County. Beth Sanderson, current Vice President of FoCH, shares their experience with Dame's rocket control:

Friends of Crowell Hilaka is a non-profit advocacy group supporting the preservation, protection, enhancement, and promotion of Richfield Heritage Preserve (RHP), a 336-acre public park administered by the Richfield Joint Recreation District (RJRD) located in Richfield, Ohio. With assistance from the Ohio Invasive Plant Council and the Ohio Natural Areas and Preserves Association, FoCH developed an Invasive Species Management Plan for the park. RHP's high-quality natural areas were identified, and priority was given to invasive species removal in the highest quality sites. A small group of volunteers have been trained to apply herbicide and others have been trained to assist with manual removal of invasive species. We also have frequent 'drop-in' projects where our wonderful volunteers can help eradicate invasive species.

Dame's rocket thrives along the sides of trails, where historical gardens once stood, and in disturbed semi-open woodland areas--much like its invasive competitor, garlic mustard. When seen on the grounds of RHP in its full pink or white bloom, Dame's rocket may fool many onlookers into thinking it is a harmless native woodland phlox. Appearing in early springtime, Dame's rocket is one of the first invasive species to emerge. Right after a spring rain, while the ground is still moist, is the perfect time to identify and pluck them from the soil, toss them in a black garbage bag, and then throw them onto a compost pile to wither and die. Like most invasive species, they are prolific spreaders. A few mature plants in one season can quickly feel like a hostile takeover--so don't let these beauties fool you into leaving them in place.

"Habitat Restoration In Progress" signs inform visitors at Richfield Heritage Preserve of the invasive control efforts within the preserve.

Let me add that during our challenging times, these types of projects are very therapeutic. When you spot Dame's rocket plants on your property, yank them immediately. This past season, a dedicated volunteer, named Clive, and I spent two hours near

the park's lower lake trail pulling 35 pounds of Dame's rocket from a disturbed hillside, where a historical dam restoration project had previously taken place. While we were working, hikers inquired about what kind of project we were doing. It just so happened that the hikers were the owner of the local paper, the Richfield Times, and were very interested in our project. They took pictures and wrote a small article about invasive species removal projects featuring Dame's rocket. A win-win situation! Here at RHP, we are committed to educating the public about invasive species and the damage they do to our ecosystems. This is a necessary step to create awareness and promote the change needed to improve habitat restoration. We have developed "Habitat Restoration in Progress" signs to inform visitors and we talk to them to educate them on invasive species management and issues. We also hold 'drop- in' projects for manual garlic mustard removal which is another noteworthy project. Over 3 tons of garlic mustard was pulled this past season by our dedicated RHP ISMP team! That is a great deal of pesto! Lots of therapy was provided all around!

Jennifer L. Windus, OIPC President
Beth Sanderson, Vice President of Friends of Crowell Hilaka

OHIO'S NATIVE PHLOX

Many Ohioans are familiar with the swaths of color displayed by various species of Phlox. Particularly visible are the lush blankets of moss phlox (*Phlox subulata*) blooming profusely in landscaped beds across the state. Known by several common names, moss phlox is sold widely in nurseries throughout the region and is a common choice for low-growing cover of sunny slopes and atop landscaping walls. While some sources consider it to be native to Ohio, it is likely that these occurrences are the result of introduction. Nevertheless, this species does provide one of the earliest blooms in Ohio flowerbeds ranging in color from white to various shades of pink and purple. While some refer to the previous species as creeping phlox, the author reserves that common name for the elusive native *Phlox stolonifera*. Blooming much later in the year, this secretive phlox is found in only a handful of Southeastern Ohio counties, though it has not been seen in some localities since the 1930's. Appearing conspicuously along Ohio's roadsides are native blue phlox (*Phlox divaricata*), garden phlox (*Phlox paniculata*), and spotted phlox (*Phlox maculata*). Found in every Ohio county, patches of wild blue phlox paint the forest floor with lavender to violet-blue blooms throughout the spring. Mid- to late-summer brings on the whitish to pink-purple domed clusters of garden phlox and the pinkish-purple plumes of spotted phlox. Appearing in most counties of Ohio, garden phlox occur scattered along roadsides or forming dense patches of color along streams and rich thickets. Similar to garden phlox in form, spotted phlox occurs less commonly in Ohio and prefers wetter situations such as wet meadows and stream banks.

Moss Phlox, *Phlox subulata*. Photo by Gary Conley.

Often found alongside or replacing native phlox in natural landscapes is Dame's rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*), an invasive plant that has found its way into our natural environment. It resembles native garden phlox, but blooms much earlier in the year. It can be easily distinguished from native phlox by the number of petals on each flower, as Dame's rocket has only four petals while native phlox will always have five. As a member of the mustard family (*Brassicaceae*), it produces prolific amounts of seed and spreads rapidly. It has been widely planted as a garden plant throughout North America. Now banned for sale or distribution in Ohio, Dame's rocket is often sold in "native" wildflower mixes. Always review species lists when purchasing

wildflower mixes and report any sales of this species to the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

Native wild blue phlox, *Phlox divaricata*. Photo by Gary Conlev.

Among the other native species of phlox that occur in Ohio is downy phlox (*Phlox pilosa*), smooth phlox (*Phlox glaberrima*), and the state-endangered mountain phlox (*Phlox latifolia*). Downy phlox is an upright wildflower with downy leaves and stems that presents pink to pale-purple flowers atop noticeably long corolla tubes. Occurrences are scattered throughout the south-central and northern counties in Ohio. Smooth phlox, similar to downy phlox in habitat and form, is confined to a few southwestern Ohio counties. The leaves and stem of this species lack the downy hairs that differentiate it from the downy phlox. One may encounter this species, as well as several other phlox species, while hiking along the miles of backing trails in Shawnee State Forest in Adams/Scioto counties. Mountain phlox, typically less than 6" tall, is found in only a few locations in the northwestern-most counties in Ohio. The small Indiana and Ohio populations are disjunct from the main populations of this species that runs through the heart of the Appalachian Mountains. Observations of this plant have been reported from Scioto Trail State Forest in Ross County and Oak Openings Preserve Metropark in Lucas County, both natural areas that are worthy of exploration.

Gary Conley, OIPC Vice-President & GreenReach, LLC.

OAK OPENINGS REGION CWMA NEWS

The Oak Openings (OO) Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) is a partnership of regional conservation stakeholders focused on prioritized control of current invasive species threats in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan. The partnership recently received funding through a grant administered and awarded by the USDA Forest Service to The Nature Conservancy (TNC) of Ohio. This grant supports employment for a coordinator position. The CWMA Coordinator works closely with partners, i.e. conservation agencies and groups that make up the Green Ribbon Initiative (GRI). Throughout the grant project period, October 2019 through April 2021, several CWMA goals were accomplished. The list below includes a few highlights and reflects the work accomplished by multiple partners, with emphasis on TNC and Metroparks Toledo involvement. Many of these goals are guided by the work plan of the Oak Openings Invasive Species Plan (OOISP). The OO CWMA Coordinator worked closely with the GRI Partnership Specialist on many of the activities.

- 153 assessment units covering 2,267 acres were surveyed across 9 different ownerships in the Oak Openings Region using the Oak Openings Rapid Assessment Method (OORAM)
- 287 new assessment units covering 4,876 acres were delineated across 9 ownerships
- Assessed 10 priority invasive species and assigned threat rankings; invasive species panel(s) created
- Completed Best Management Practices (BMPs) on the 10 assessed invasive species

- A new GRI invasive species mapping form (digital & geospatial) was created; over 200 records added to partner databases and shared with MISIN (Midwest Invasive Species Info. Network)
- Significant effort from volunteers including field surveys, invasive sp. mapping, and data entry

Oak Openings Rapid Assessment Method was used to assess quality of habitats within the Oak Openings Region of Michigan and Ohio. Photo by Autumn McAllister.

The accomplishments supported by this grant will continue to inform and support the OOISP and the completed BMPs can be accessed on the Green Ribbon Initiative website at www.oakopenings.org

Brian Yahn, The Nature Conservancy & Oak Openings CWMA Coordinator

OHIO'S AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE

Perhaps obviously, most human endeavors are conducted in terrestrial environments on solidly dry ground. Also, many biologists seem to concern themselves with a kingdom and don't necessarily think across the plant–animal boundary. Thus, those of us who take interest in the inter-kingdom expanse of biota by aquatic habitat grow accustomed to business that's perceived as ever so slightly alien to our fellow humans. It is thus hoped that this brief article will serve as a friendly introduction to the work of Ohio's Aquatic Invasive Species Committee (OAISC). I hope it proves to not be too "dry".

Nationally, more than a dozen agencies and several pieces of federal legislation are concerned with management against aquatic invasive species (AIS), often within narrowly defined areas of interest. The Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act (1990) was implemented to help coordinate those efforts and was later expanded and refined as the National Invasive Species Act (1996). This legislation created the multi-agency Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF; https://anstaskforce.gov/). The national ANSTF is in turn advised by six regional panels, and those regional panels help inform national policy and management actions. Ohio is represented on two of the regional panels: the Great Lakes (GLP; https://www.glc.org/work/glpans) and Mississippi River Basin panels (MRBP; http://mrbp.org/). Maintaining an AIS management plan qualifies individual states for some federal funding through the panels of the ANSTF.

John Navarro (Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife: ODNR) is the state's coordinator for AIS programs. As such, John is also Ohio's primary representative on both the GLP and

OAISC meeting at the Toledo Zoo.

MRBP. The current incarnation of the OAISC took form in 2008 when John approached Dave Kelch (Ohio Sea Grant, now retired) and me (then with Ohio Sea Grant, now with Ohio State Extension) to request that we assist in resurrecting the function of a previous committee to engage the state with interested stakeholders. To launch the effort, John arranged a small grant awarded to Ohio Sea Grant to review and help revise Ohio's comprehensive "State Management Plan for Aquatic Invasive Species" (latest revision: ODNR 2014). At that time, Dave also

served as Ohio's voting alternate on the GLP, and I on the MRBP. With Dave's retirement, Tory Gabriel (Ohio Sea Grant) is now our alternate to the GLP, and I inherited the mantle of coordinating the OAISC myself. (In addition to being Ohio's voting alternate, I am also a current Co-chair of the MRBP.)

The OAISC has grown and diversified from its 2008 launch. Its members represent federal agencies with operations within the state, state agencies, municipal park systems and zoos, academia, industry (including aquaculture, shipping, and nurseries/water gardens), non-profit and environmental organizations, and Ohio Invasive Plants Council (OIPC). Perhaps the best way to communicate our function is to simply transcribe our mission statement: *To provide a forum for Ohio's diverse stakeholders (its resource management agencies and related industries and organizations) to advise the state about the prevention and control of aquatic invasive species and for the state to inform those stakeholders about developing issues and policy*. You can also see presentations and agendas from our recent meetings at our Ohio State University-hosted web page: https://senr.osu.edu/extensionoutreach/ponds-fisheries-aquatics/aquatic-invasive-species-committee). Essentially, we serve an advisory function, but in a somewhat "informal" capacity.

The OAISC is sometimes called on to vet related policy as it is being crafted by the state. Recently, ODNR's "Determination of Injurious Aquatic Invasive Species in Ohio" policy (2017) and the Ohio Department of Agriculture's "Invasive Plant Rule" (2018) were so vetted. Several of us met with our OIPC member to select additional aquatic/wetland plant species for potential listing under the "Invasive Plant Rule." One of our members is using those plants as the subject of a classroom exercise for a Capital University ecology course that he teaches. The students are working to create formal risk assessments for each of the proposed additions. The OAISC was also polled to recommend species for inclusion in the "Ohio Field Guide to Aquatic Invasive Species" (Gabriel et al. 2018).

In conclusion, OAISC interests are uniquely nichey, and the fact of our existence is itself partnership. We depend upon the interest and engagement of our partners/members—including entities like OIPC and the Central Ohio Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management—to create value for our activities. If you have any thoughts on those activities or on potential partnership opportunities, I encourage you to reach out to me.

Eugene Braig, The Ohio State University School of Environment and Natural Resources, 2021 Coffey Rd., Columbus OH 43210, 614-292-3823, braig.1@osu.edu

Help Map Invasives Across Ohio!

Mapping is a critical component of understanding invasive species populations, their range, how they spread, and the habitats that they can invade. Mapping is also a critical component of rapid response to new invasives in Ohio. OIPC encourages the citizen science of mapping invasives and below are links to some of the mapping resources available:

https://www.eddmaps.org/

https://www.imapinvasives.org/

https://www.misin.msu.edu/

SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

The Society for Ecological Restoration at The Ohio State University (SER@OSU) brings together students and alumni dedicated to enhancing ecosystem functioning within the central Ohio landscape by promoting habitat conservation and restoring native plant communities. Our core values consist of hands-on restoration work, creating a

social environment of inclusion and diversity, and educating the public on how and why to participate in ecological restoration. We have been active since fall 2017, and membership consists primarily of undergraduate students but is open to anyone within the university.

We support ecological restoration through direct efforts to restore 2.25 hectares of degraded riparian forest and edge habitat along the Olentangy River within the urban matrix of Columbus, Ohio. We practice adaptive management and engage in annual monitoring so that we can assess and share the relative successes of our interventions. Our efforts include ongoing replacement of woody invasives (e.g., *Lonicera maackii, Pyrus calleryana*) with native woody species and recent preliminary attempts to replace *Cirsium arvense* with native herbaceous species. Educational activities included hosting a webinar in autumn 2020 titled "The Search for Secret Flowers," that focused on the identification, importance, and propagation of native plants in urban environments. A recording of the webinar can be viewed here: SEROSUFall2020webinar

We are also hoping to be more active on social media this year. Follow us on Instagram @osu.ser, check out our Facebook Group Society for Ecological Restoration at OSU, and email us at ecological.restoration.osu@gmail.com to join our list serv.

Kali Mattingly, The Ohio State University, PhD candidate in the EEOB department

COPRISM: Central Ohio Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management

Are you passionate about controlling invasive species within the central Ohio area? Do you believe in connection, coordination, and the power of "we?" If so, consider joining forces with others like you as part of COPRISM: Central Ohio Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management.

COPRISM is a regional partnership working to protect Central Ohio's natural resources, public health, safety, and economy through a coordinated approach to prevent, combat, and improve awareness of invasive species. We represent government agencies, non-profit organizations, businesses, community groups and concerned citizens in our 17-county region. Our focus is on all types of invasive species, including terrestrial and aquatic plants and animals, pests and pathogens within the Upper Scioto River watershed and beyond.

More information on COPRISM can be found on our website at www.centralohprism.org. There, you will find invasive species resources, along with details on getting involved. Consider joining our Facebook group and iNaturalist project, or attend one of our meetings. All are welcome, and you do not need to be an expert or affiliated with an organization to participate. For additional details and a meeting invite, contact centralohprism@gmail.com.

Carrie Brown, Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District

2 EASY WAYS TO SUPPORT OIPC!

Kroger Community Rewards

Use your Kroger Plus card to help OIPC grow. For your continued support you must enroll annually so be sure to check if your enrollment has expired.

Visit: KrogerCommunityRewards.com
sign in or create a new account. Select OIPC and click on "enroll." The codes for OIPC are:
#23916 Cincinnati Region (includes Dayton and Lima)
#47319 Great Lakes / Columbus region (rest of Ohio)

Support OIPC when you shop at Amazon.com!

OIPC is an eligible non-profit in the charitable program AmazonSmile! Amazon's foundation donates 0.5% of qualifying purchases to an organization you select. Use this address to go directly to the page that benefits OIPC; smile.amazon.com/OIPC or start at smile.amazon.com and you will be prompted to select a charity. There is no cost to you since Amazon makes the donation on your behalf. Save the link and use it every time you shop with Amazon!

OIPC Thanks You for Your Support!

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.

OIPC Board of Directors