



# Ohio Invasive Plants Council

## Newsletter • Summer 2019



### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

#### Happy Summer!

We hope you are having a great summer and making progress with invasive plant control. The wet spring really invigorated

invasive plant populations, making it even more challenging to see progress. We are happy to report that April is now OHIO NATIVE PLANT MONTH, legislation recently signed into law by Governor DeWine!

The OIPC Board has been working on a new and revised 5-year strategic plan. The OIPC Board Advisory Committee will soon be included to provide review and input. The new plan is expected to be completed in the fall. We hope to add a new section to our website this fall which expands on our alternatives brochure by offering more suggestions for alternatives to invasives when replacing them in your landscaping or habitat restoration projects. We are also working on a new display to be used at events around the state.

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 2019 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 one of us can help to address invasive plant challenges on a local level.

As always, we look forward to working with any of our partners to plan educational efforts. If you have any upcoming events where OIPC may participate by providing a speaker, please let us

know (see our website to contact any of our Board members). If you would like to host an OIPC workshop, please let us know as we try to conduct 2-3 workshops each year.

Help us spread the word about invasive plants and visit our website at [www.oipc.info](http://www.oipc.info) frequently! If you need a plant identified or are looking for more information, just contact us through our website and we will respond as soon as possible.

*Jennifer L. Windus, OIPC President*

### OIPC INVASIVE PLANT WORKSHOPS: PAST AND UPCOMING

The first OIPC workshop this year was hosted by the Kingwood Center Gardens in Mansfield on May 16<sup>th</sup> - 16 people attended. Two speakers covered the topics of invasive plants, control methods, and alternative species to replace invasives in landscaping. The workshop included breakfast, lunch, and a tour of Kingwood's gardens, including invasive plants found there. There were also invasive plant specimens for attendees to review during the



lunch break. Kingwood Center has impressive formal gardens and will be building a brand new visitor's center this year, so it was a wonderful place for our workshop. See the OIPC website for a summary and photos from the workshop.

The second OIPC workshop will be hosted by the Franklin Soil & Water Conservation District on **August 21st, 6-9pm**. It will be held at the SWCD office on Goodale Boulevard in Columbus. Similar to the first workshop, there will be speakers from OIPC talking about invasive plants & control methods, as well as recommended alternatives. In addition, information will be provided about the Franklin SWCD's Community Backyards Rebate Program and the Central Ohio Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (CO PRISM). Registration will be on the Franklin SWCD website and the workshop will be free, with refreshments provided. We encourage attendees from garden clubs, Master Gardeners, CO PRISM, local nurseries, and landscape architects!

*Note: The Aug 21<sup>st</sup> workshop is already filled at 75 people!*

*Jennifer L. Windus, OIPC President*

## OIPC IS SEEKING APPLICATIONS FOR RESEARCH GRANTS!

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, land managers, and 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 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 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 information needed by the OIPC Assessment Team, can be found at [oipc.info](http://oipc.info).

Applications are due no later than **November 1, 2019**.

*Emily Rauschert, OIPC Research Chair & Cleveland State University, [e.rauschert@csuohio.edu](mailto:e.rauschert@csuohio.edu)*

## CONTROLLING EUROPEAN FROGBIT: AN AQUATIC INVASIVE



Photo: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org.

A new invasive species, European frogbit, *Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*, was first identified in the Old Woman Creek Reserve Estuary during the summer of 2017. This free-floating aquatic

plant begins its life stage as a small rosette and has the capacity to form dense mats choking out native wetland vegetation. By the end of summer, thick mats of this invasive species lined much of the eastern shore and northwestern side of the estuary. The aggressive nature of this invasive poses a great threat to the native vegetation and diversity of the estuary. The current most common approach to eradicate and reduce the spread of European frogbit has been mechanical removal and herbicide



application. In the past two years, volunteers and staff joined forces to help remove European frogbit

from the estuary. Three control approaches were employed: early spring volunteer pull, staff performed herbicide application, and late summer volunteer pull. The priority effort was placed on using trained volunteers to correctly identify, count, record, and remove individual plant rosettes from designated zones. Data collected from volunteers and additional mapping were used to help direct volunteer efforts and plan for staff herbicide applications.

Each year, volunteers pulled over 20,000 rosettes from the estuary, which has resulted in a notable decline in mat formation. To date, herbicide usage has been less effective than hand removal. The Reserve is still in the process of finding an effective chemical and appropriate concentration. Mapping of frogbit throughout the estuary has revealed that current control efforts have greatly reduced individual mat density when compared to control sites. In addition, the density of mats at Old Woman Creek is notably less than similar coastal wetlands where no control efforts are being employed.

In the end, the management efforts being conducted at Old Woman Creek Reserve, have proven to be essential in keeping this invasive species from quickly becoming out of control. Although mechanical pulling is very labor intensive, it does provide a fun and easy way to motivate visitors to the estuary to get involved in protecting this special place.

*Breann Hohman, Erie Conservation District*

## THE PAULOWNIA TREE IS NO PRINCESS!

*Paulownia tomentosa*, known by several common names such as princess tree, royal paulownia, or empress tree, is an aggressive ornamental tree introduced from East Asia. *Paulownia* is valued for its rapid growth as a shade tree, its attractiveness, and in some cases for its wood products. Identification of *Paulownia* is simplest in the spring when the large, showy, pale violet flowers appear in April-May before most of the leaves appear. The leaves vary in size and shape. Mature trees generally have leaves 4-8 inches wide and 6-16 inches long, while young sprouts may have

leaves twice that size. The somewhat heart-shaped leaves are light green on the upper surface and dull-green and fuzzy on the underside. Leaves occur opposite one another on stout twigs. The twigs can be hollow or chambered and they lack a terminal bud. Seedlings can reportedly grow as much as 15



feet in a single season quickly out-competing slower growing native woody species. *Paulownia* grows and spreads rapidly through disturbed areas such as forest harvest areas, roadsides, scoured streambanks, as well as penetrating into some sensitive habitats. It can become a significant invader disrupting natural succession, forest regeneration, and can yield significant economic and recreational impacts.

*Paulownia tomentosa* is not currently listed as an invasive species by the Ohio Invasive Plants Council or the Ohio Department of Agriculture mostly due to the fact that this tree has not been found throughout the entire state and is currently demonstrating invasiveness in the milder climate of southern Ohio. The aggressiveness of this species potentially threatens vast stands of mature native forested habitats, sensitive natural areas, and populations of rare, threatened, and endangered species throughout southern Ohio. *Paulownia* can reproduce by seed as well as by root sprouts. Mature trees can produce twenty million, light, papery, wind-dispersed seeds in a single season with the ability to be transported as far as two miles. Seeds can germinate within several days of landing on any suitable surface and can grow to a seed-producing tree in 8 to 10 years. These trees also have the ability to sprout prolifically from adventitious buds on stems and roots, giving it an advantage to survive cutting, fire, or even excavation by heavy equipment.

They are also quite tolerant of drought and poor soil conditions.

*Paulownia* resembles and is very often confused with *Catalpa* species. While seeking occurrences of *Paulownia* to research and photograph these trees in Athens County, documented locations turned out to



Photo: Nancy Loewenstein, Auburn University, Bugwood.org

be *Catalpa speciosa*. Some of the most notable occurrences of *Paulownia* can be found in Ohio counties bordering the Ohio River in southern Ohio. Clear-cut timber harvesting sites in Shawnee State Forest in Scioto County are heavily populated by *Paulownia* seedlings

and reproducing individuals. The invasive potential of this species is evidenced by the appearance of seedlings into adjacent mature forests and along forest roadways. Given that the surrounding undisturbed forest was virtually devoid of *Paulownia*, these trees were likely introduced by logging equipment that was not properly cleaned before entering the forest during clear-cut operations. The State of Ohio is now poised to spend millions of taxpayer dollars to control and eradicate the infestation over the coming decades to protect these important forest resources.

The difficulty in controlling and eradicating *Paulownia tomentosa* requires an integrated management approach. Many managers may choose to cut or girdle trees to prevent another season of seed production. However, resprouting is an inevitability as *Paulownia* spreads by suckering from the vigorous horizontal roots. Therefore, any cutting, girdling, or even some hand-pulling will require a follow-up herbicidal control or repeated cutting or pulling to achieve eradication. Useful herbicidal control methods include foliar spraying, cut-stump, basal bark, or hack-and-squirt applications with glyphosate or triclopyr herbicides. Follow herbicide directions and restriction for safe and effective use. However, the most effective control is prevention.

Gary Conley, OIPC Board & GreenReach, LLC

## NATIVE PLANT ALTERNATIVE: TULIP POPLAR

*Liriodendron tulipifera*, commonly called tulip tree, tulip poplar or yellow poplar, is one of the largest native trees in North America. It is a member of the magnolia family and has a unique, tulip-



Photo: Norbert Frank, University of West Hungary, Bugwood.org 538573

shaped characteristic to both its leaves and flowers. Best suited for larger landscapes, the tulip poplar is a fast growing tree that will typically grow to between 60-90 feet tall. The tallest specimen known at the present time is found in North Carolina where it towers at a staggering height of over 177 feet with a trunk circumference of over 11 feet.

The tulip tree gets its name from the tulip-like yellow-green and orange flowers that unfortunately appear after the leaves have matured and can often go unnoticed. The large leaves - often over 8" wide and long - have a distinct shape which is like the silhouette of a tulip flower. In the fall, the tulip poplar stands out in the landscape and in our native forests with its bright yellow leaves.



Photo: Rob Routledge, Sault College. Bugwood.org

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New cultivars developed for more residential applications have been introduced recently so that a larger audience can enjoy this stately tree.

***Liriodendron tulipifera* 'JFS-Oz' Emerald City®** matures at around 50 feet with a uniform ascending branching habit and a dominant central leader, making this an excellent choice for the homeowner.

***Liriodendron tulipifera* 'Little Volunteer'** is a dwarf cultivar, growing 30 to 35 feet high and about 18' wide. This is about 1/3 the size of the straight species. Along with its smaller stature comes smaller leaves, often the size of the palm of your hand.

***Liriodendron tulipifera* 'Arnold' 'Fastigiatum'** is a selection by the Arnold Arboretum. It grows in a very columnar form maturing 15 feet wide and 60 feet in height.

*David Listerman, Listerman & Associates, Inc. & OIPC Board*

## 2 EASY WAYS TO SUPPORT OIPC!



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Visit: [KrogerCommunityRewards.com](https://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)

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## OIPC Thanks You for Your Support!

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