



Ohio Invasive Plants Council

Newsletter March 2014

PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

It was great to see so many of you at our Annual Meeting at the Columbus Hyatt Regency on Dec. 12, 2013. This was the first time we have aligned our annual meeting with a research conference of partner organizations; in this case the Midwest Invasive Plants Network (MIPN) and the North Central Weed Science Society (NCWSS). Our co-hosted Invasive Plant Symposium was a great success with 125 attendees. More than 50 researchers and land managers from Ohio and across the country presented findings of their studies on invasive plant species, including their impacts on native plants, animals, and ecosystems, management and control options, and issues related to listing and regulation.

The keynote talks were all very engaging. Diane Larson of the U.S. Geological Survey's Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center explored whether prairie restoration is an effective approach to minimizing exotic plant invasions. Don Cipollini of Wright State University discussed the chemistry of invasive plants, including effects of novel chemicals on other plants, soil microbes, and insect herbivores. Daniel Simberloff of the University of Tennessee summarized the history and current controversies in invasion biology, ending with specific evidence against the arguments put forward by those who think invasive species are not too harmful, or not controllable. Among the other highlights of the two-day meeting were; a symposium on invasive bush honeysuckles organized by Ryan McEwan and Theresa Culley's presentation on the OIPC Assessment Team's first annual set of species assessments (see article on page 3).

The 90-minute Annual Meeting that we held during the Symposium was very successful, with about 75 active participants. Four new members were voted onto the OIPC Board: Shana Byrd of The Wilds, and Brian Heinz of Spring Grove Cemetery & Arboretum in Cincinnati, both representing non-profit organizations; Kevin O'Dell of Kendrick & O'Dell Landscaping in Cincinnati, representing the Nursery/Green Industry, and Jennifer Finfera of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, representing State and Federal Government.

The first ever OIPC *Award of Distinction* was given to Gerald Greer, a resident of Pataskala, Ohio. Jerry was recognized for his volunteer work removing invasive plants from nature preserves and other natural areas. Protected areas that have benefited from Jerry's efforts include The Heritage Garden at the Governor's Residence, The Wilds, Old Woman Creek, Daughmer Savanna, the Big Swamp, Beck Fen and other areas protected by *The Nature Conservancy*; and Stratford Ecological Center.



Jerry Greer(left) receiving OIPC's Award of Distinction from Board President, Dave Gorchov at the December OIPC Annual Meeting in Columbus. Photo by Jan Kennedy.

Jerry grew up in northeast Columbus where he spent a lot of time at Glen Echo Park. An Army veteran, he received great satisfaction while working in physical therapy at the Martin Army Hospital, Fort Benning, Georgia. He was employed by the City of Columbus, Division of Water until his retirement. Jerry volunteers with many organizations, including Friends of the Ravines and Friends of Alum Creek. He is an Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist in Licking and Hocking counties, and is studying for his Naturalist Certificate from the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

We hope Jerry's tireless dedication will be an inspiration to the rest of us to do even more than we are doing to understand, prevent, and control plant invasions. Please be thinking about who you would like to nominate for next year's *Award of Distinction*.

The Annual Meeting ended with break-out meetings of the Work Groups. If you are not already engaged with one of these Work Groups, we encourage you to see what they are up to (articles in this issue), then contact the chair of at least one Work Group and get involved!

Finally, I would like to thank the sponsors that helped make the Annual Meeting happen: The Nature Conservancy, The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Crane Hollow Preserve, Gilson Gardens, The Davey Tree Expert Company, Noxious Vegetation Control, Inc., Ohio Sea Grant/OSU Extension, and the Ohio Natural Areas & Preserves Association.

Dave Gorchov, Miami University, OIPC President

OIPC's EDUCATION WORK GROUP

The Education Work Group met at the OIPC Annual Meeting during MIPN's Invasive Plant Symposium on December 12, 2013 in Columbus.

We had a large group of more than 20 people and discussed numerous educational ideas for 2014. Kathy Smith from OSU Extension explained the GLEDN (Great Lakes Early Detection Network) for apps and workshops. She asked for assistance in documenting the distribution of invasive plants in Ohio using this application. Several ideas for 2014 OIPC Newsletter February 2014, issue 2

workshops were considered; including cooperative efforts with the Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Ohio Association of Garden Clubs, Appalachian Ohio Alliance, Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, and Crane Hollow. Mary Klunk and Jennifer Windus will work together to organize 1-2 workshops this year in cooperation with willing partners. If you are interested in cooperating with OIPC on an educational workshop, please contact Mary or Jennifer.

Jennifer Windus, Division of Wildlife, OIPC Board
Mary Klunk, Five Rivers Metro Parks, OIPC Board

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SENATE BILL 192

In September 2013 Senator Gayle Manning introduced Senate Bill 192 into the Ohio Senate. This bill would give the Director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture sole and exclusive authority to regulate invasive plant species in the State of Ohio. SB 192 is an enabling piece of legislation and does not contain specifics of how the list of invasive plants would be determined. The exact details of how the plants are determined will be done in the "Rule" process if the bill passes the Senate and House and is signed by the Governor as a law. S.B. 192 passed the Ohio Senate on Feb. 4, 2014. To view the complete text of the bill go to: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_192 SB 192 defines Invasive plant species as "plant species that are not native to this state whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health as determined by scientific studies. Invasive plant species' does not include cultivated plants grown as food or livestock feed." The second sentence was added as an amendment following a request from the Ohio Farm Bureau.

OIPC President Dr. David Gorchov testified before the Ohio Senate Agriculture Committee to inform them of the existence of the OIPC Invasive Plant Protocol as well as how invasive plants can damage our environment. His testimony was well received. The OIPC board continues to monitor the progress of this bill through the state legislature. The Board is also collaborating with our partners to advocate using the Invasive Plant Assessment Protocol as the model for determining plant invasiveness.

Keith Manbeck, Kah Nursery, OIPC Board

RESEARCH GRANTS AWARDED

The Ohio Invasive Plants Council has awarded research grants for the first time. The goals of this new program are to (a) advance understanding of invasive plants in Ohio and (b) to encourage passion for invasive plant science in university



Bailey Hunter

students. Awards were announced at the 2013 Annual Meeting. Bailey Hunter, a graduate student at Ohio University, received a grant to further understand how

invasive plants may limit restoration of American chestnut in forests. Her faculty advisor is Dr. Brian McCarthy.

The second grant was received by Jennifer Murphy who is a graduate student in the laboratory of Dr. Jean Burns of Case Western University. In her project, Jennifer will analyze competition and the soil effects of multiflora rose. The award winners will present their findings at a future OIPC Annual Meeting, so you will have an opportunity to see the results of their research.



Jennifer Murphy

Ryan McEwan, University of Dayton, OIPC Board

OIPC Newsletter February 2014, issue 2

FIRST OFFICIAL RELEASE OF UPDATES TO THE OIPC INVASIVE PLANT LIST

The OIPC Invasive Plant Assessment Team released its first set of results at the recent MIPN/OIPC Invasive Plant Symposium, held at the North Central Weed Science Society meeting in Columbus on Dec. 12, 2013. As Chair of the Team, I provided assessments for 19 plant species during a presentation on "Assessing Invasive Plants in Ohio: The Process and Progress of the Ohio Invasive Plants Council Assessment Program". The Assessment Team, composed of John Cardina (OSU), Rick Gardner (ODNR), Richard Munson (Miami University), David Brandenburg (Dawes Arboretum), and I, used the OIPC Invasive Plant Assessment Protocol www.oipc.info/AssessmentProtocol.html to examine a number of species over the last few months. These species were run through this scientific, point-based protocol to determine if plants were Invasive (45-80 points), Not Invasive (0-34 points), in an intermediate category (Pending Further Review; 35-44 points), or lacked enough data to prevent a complete assessment (Insufficient Data). These point ranges were originally chosen by the team after carefully considering the point values for individual questions using hypothetical and real-life examples. To test the accuracy of the scoring procedure, plants were chosen to represent known invasives (such as Amur honeysuckle and garlic mustard) as well as widely recognized non-invasives (dandelion and broad leaf plantain; both of these are weeds of disturbed places, but generally are not problematic in natural areas). Additional species subsequently run through the protocol included recently spreading plants not mentioned in the 2000 OIPC Invasive Species List (such as lesser celandine, Japanese stiltgrass, and porcelainberry).

The Assessment Team found that all of the 9 species previously listed as invasive in 2000 (www.oipc.info/specieslist.html), remained in that category in the current assessment. These included in order of degree of invasiveness: Amur honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*; 65 points), garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) and autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*; both 63 points), glossy

buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*; 61 points), oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*; 59 points), common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) and multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*; both 58 points), tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*; 56 points) and Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*; 49 points). New additions to the OIPC Invasive Plant List that had not been previously assessed were Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*; 60 points), Callery pear (*Pyrus calleryana*; 49 points), and lesser celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*; 47 points). Several of these species would have ranked higher in total point scores if data regarding their ecosystem impacts were available.



Lesser celandine

Plant species identified as Pending Further Review were common privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*; 44 points), mile-a-minute weed (*Persicaria perfoliata*; 43 points), white mulberry (*Morus alba*; 40 points), and porcelainberry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*; 40 points). These species will be assessed again within two years. Based on new data they could potentially be placed in the Invasive category (especially those currently near the upper scoring threshold).

Of the three species assessed to be Not Invasive, princess or empress tree (*Paulownia tomentosa*; 34 points) was the only plant near the upper threshold (just one point away from the next category of Pending Further Review). Given that this species is now appearing in natural areas in southern parts of Ohio and is already problematic in Kentucky and Tennessee, it is likely that its score will increase as OIPC Newsletter February 2014, issue 2

more information becomes available. The other two species, dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*; 29 points) and broad leaf plantain (*Plantago major*; 23 points), both were well within the Not Invasive category, supporting the accuracy of the scoring range on the lower end of the assessment. All assessment information, including individual worksheets for each of the 19 species listed above, will be made available on the OIPC website or can be requested directly from me.

Over the next few months, the OIPC Assessment Team will continue to meet to assess plant species on a regular basis. Ultimately, the goal is to completely update the current 2000 list and to also assess any other species of concern that comes to the attention of the team. The Assessment Team has also identified research needs - questions for which data are needed to supplement or complete species assessments. Students and faculty looking for research project ideas are advised to contact the OIPC Research Working Group for this information. If you would like to learn more or have species suggestions for the OIPC team to assess, please contact me.

Theresa Culley, University of Cincinnati
Chair, OIPC Invasive Plant Assessment Team
theresa.culley@uc.edu

ALTERNATIVES TO INVASIVES SPECIES

Invasive plants seem to be what everyone is talking about these days. Land managers are removing them, scientists are studying them, Educators are teaching about them and nurseries are growing them. For the past 10 years these groups have been trying to work together on this issue through the Ohio Invasive Plants Council.

While we want to catch the next invasive plant before it becomes a problem there was no clear line on what was invasive and what was not. The OIPC Assessment Team painstakingly reviewed all major protocols and developed one to best fit our needs in Ohio. This assessment protocol probably doesn't go far enough for land managers and probably goes too far for the nursery industry. Bottom line it is a fair assessment that is based in fact not feeling. This

is the kind of science based information we need to make informed decisions on where we need to act.

When it comes to recommending plants for landscape use, some folks want to promote using all native plants. Taking this approach leaves no chance that an alien plant could escape into the wild! However, this is not practical.

There are three major landscape areas to consider; natural areas, areas adjacent to natural areas and urban and suburban landscapes. Obviously, restoration projects in natural areas have their own requirements and the plant selection is dictated by local provenance and what can be collected and grown within reason. Areas that are adjacent to natural areas require greater attention to plant selection. Plants that have the potential to spread into natural areas should be avoided near roadways and highways that go through minimally managed areas. Plant selections should be made with caution. Plants that may not technically be invasive but have the potential to spread into the natural area may not be the best selections. Knowing how a plant spreads will help guide this decision. These are areas where native plants may be the first choice if possible. Last and probably where we need to concentrate most of our efforts are in the urban and suburban landscapes.

Urban and suburban landscapes needs include plants that provide ecosystem services such as cooling the urban heat island, stormwater mitigation, carbon sequestration, sound absorption, food and shelter for wildlife plus beautify the area. This type of plant material can be purchased from the nurseries. Sound information on plant selection needs to be available both to the nursery industry and to the public.

Do we want to rate plants according to their potential for invasiveness? Do we want to just pick alternatives to a known invasive plant? For example if *Elaeagnus umbellata* is invasive we could recommend using *Viburnum prunifolium* instead. Do we want to provide a master list of plants that could be used on a regional basis according to regional experts on plants?



How should low fruiting cultivars of invasive plants be handled in the urban landscape? How should low fruiting or sterile cultivars of potentially invasive plants be handled in the urban/suburban landscape? These are the issues we are dealing with. Like it or not we need to address these questions with open dialogue and open minds. How can we have the most impact on the invasive plant issue through plant selection and recommendation? Plant information is the key to our success.

I would like to invite you to view a plant website that Brandan Jones, an IT instructor at the University of Cincinnati, and I have developed called www.plantplaces.com. The main idea is to track which plants are doing well in different regions across the country and around the world. By using regional arboretums, botanical gardens, local landscapes, and parks we can determine plants suitable to a particular area. We can also call out when a plant has exceeded its welcome like the Callery Pear has. This website was set up so that many different groups could use the information to suit their needs. All the photos are taken from actual locations on a regional basis. Anybody can sign in and create their own recommended plant list that they can post on their own site. Links of specific searches can be posted onto anyone's website. For instance if you wanted to recommend a native tree for wet soils just search that criteria and use the url to link the results to your site.

Each of you individually can have your own recommended lists, but as the Ohio Invasive Plants Council, how do we want to proceed?
Stephen Foltz, Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden
Stephen.foltz@cincinnati-zoo.org.

Help support the Ohio Invasive Plants Council

Your contribution will help support our outreach efforts, as well as researching sources with information needed to assess species using the Invasive Plant Assessment Protocol. We are a 501(c)3 organization, so your donation is tax-deductible. Checks can be sent to the OIPC Treasurer, Keith Manbeck, Box 38, Knoxville, OH 45871. Let him know if you need a receipt for tax purposes.

