



# Ohio Invasive Plants Council

## Newsletter February 2015

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER:



Dave Gorchov

I am hoping to see many of you at our Annual Meeting, Tuesday, Feb. 10 at Highbanks Metro Park in Lewis Center, Ohio. This year marks the tenth anniversary of the Ohio Invasive Plants Council; OIPC was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization in 2005 as a result of efforts in the late 1990's to improve awareness of the threats of invasive plants. Many of you were involved in the working group that evolved into OIPC, or were involved in the early years of the organization. Over the past 10 years OIPC has convened triennial research conferences, carried out workshops on invasive plant identification and control, produced brochures and factsheets, and has emerged as a resource for stakeholders throughout Ohio on invasive plant issues. Most recently, OIPC led the effort to generate an official, science-based list of plants invasive in Ohio. As somewhat of a latecomer to OIPC, I would like to extend my appreciation to all of you who helped initiate and grow this organization. On behalf of the OIPC Board, I would like to encourage you to continue to contribute ideas and expertise, as well as encourage new members to become more active, as OIPC looks forward to its second decade.

We are fortunate to have several co-sponsors of our 10th Annual Meeting: The Nature Conservancy, the Ohio Natural Areas and Preserve Association, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Ohio Wetlands Foundation, and Ohio Prairie Nursery. Thanks for your generous support.

I also want to thank the members of the OIPC Board who are completing their terms this month. Judy Holtvogt maintained and improved our

website, posting all the documents associated with the Invasive Plant Assessment, as well as news, events, and online registration for meetings. Mary Klunk served as Vice President, co-organized several workshops, and contributed to other endeavors. Ryan McEwan developed and coordinated the OIPC student research grant program, among other contributions to OIPC.

*David L. Gorchov, Miami University, President, OIPC*

### OIPC PLANT LIST ASSESSMENT TEAM REVEALS NEW ADDITIONS FOR 2014

The OIPC Plant List Assessment Team is pleased to announce the next set of plants to be added to the invasive plant list for 2014 following the Ohio Invasive Plant Species Protocol (see [www.oipc.info](http://www.oipc.info)). The team uses science-based information to assess each species on 18 criteria. Species scoring 45 or above are assessed to be 'Invasive,' those scoring below 35 are 'Not Known to be Invasive,' and those in between are 'Pending Further Review.' The 14 new additions and one revision to the list include representation in each of these categories. Several species determined as Invasive will not be surprising as they previously appeared on the 2000 'Ohio's Invasive Plant Species' list compiled by the Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserves. These include Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), Reed Canary Grass (*Phalaris arundinaceae*), Smooth Bromegrass (*Bromus inermis*), Sweet Clover (*Melilotus alba* and *M. officinalis*), Teasel (*Dipsacus laciniatus* and *D. fullonum*) and Morrow (*Lonicera morrowii*) and Tatarian Honeysuckle (*L. tatarica*). A newer addition to the Invasive category is Flowering Rush (*Butomus umbellatus*). These species join 12

that were assessed 'Invasive' during 2013. In addition, our reassessment of the Callery Pear (*Pyrus calleryana*) resulted in an increased invasive score from 49 to 54 as more documentation became available over the past year.

A new addition to the 'Pending Further Review' category is Japanese Chaff Flower (*Achyranthes japonica*), which we view as an "up-and-comer" in Ohio with great potential for further spread, but currently not the subject of much research in our state. In addition, Garden Yellowrocket (*Barbarea vulgaris*), widely recognized as invasive in other states, is now also ranked in the middle assessment category.

Species assessed as 'Not Known To Be Invasive' at this time with available documentation include Border Privet (*Ligustrum obtusifolium*), Amur maple (*Acer ginnala*), and Hedge maple (*Acer campestre*). However, we will reassess these species as more information becomes available. All scores and assessment worksheets are available online at the OIPC website ([www.oipc.info](http://www.oipc.info)).

Plant species currently undergoing review for 2015 by our team (David Brandenburg, John Cardina, Rick Gardner, Richard Munson, and this author) include the following:

- Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*) and cultivars
- Japanese Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) and cultivars
- Spotted Knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*)
- Five Leaf Aralia (*Eleutherococcus sieboldianus*)
- Burning Bush (*Euonymus alatus*) and cultivars
- Wintercreeper (*Euonymus fortunei*) and cultivars
- Leafy Spurge (*Euphorbia esula*)
- Daylily (*Hemerocallis fulva*)
- Dame's Rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*)
- Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum virgatum*)
- Kudzu (*Pueraria lobata*)
- Wineberry (*Rubus phoenicolasius*)
- Narrow-leaved Cattail (*Typha angustifolia*)
- Hybrid Cattail (*Typha x glauca*)

If you have any suggestions for species that should be assessed in Ohio, please contact me at [www.theresa.culley@uc.edu](mailto:www.theresa.culley@uc.edu). We are always looking for suggestions!

Theresa Culley, University of Cincinnati, Chair of the OIPC Invasive Plant Assessment Team

## OIPC GRANT COMPETITION A SUCCESS

This fall marked the second year that the Ohio Invasive Plants Council offered a student grant program. The purpose of this program is to fund work that *enhances understanding of invasive plants that are relevant to the state of Ohio*. We will accept and review proposals that focus on basic biology, ecology, management, distribution, and horticultural aspects among other areas. This year, in particular, we focused on two areas of emphasis for the award: (a) projects that would provide information that addresses one or more of the OIPC research questions (which can be found on the OIPC website) and (b) projects that would facilitate the management of problematic species. We aim to utilize this grant program to enhance understanding of invasive plants in the state, encourage a new generation of researchers, and help spread the work about OIPC as an organization.

This year we received 7 proposals from universities across the state of Ohio including:

- Bowling Green State University
- Wright State University
- Ohio State University
- Miami University
- University of Dayton
- Cleveland State University

The proposals were reviewed by a team of scientists and practitioners from a wide range of institutions and backgrounds who were asked to write reviews for each proposal. The overall pool of applicants for the reward was absolutely outstanding and the reviewers expressed regret that we could not fund them all!

The winner of this year's grant, as determined by the review process, is Justin Kermack from Cleveland State University who works in the research laboratory of Dr. Emily Rauschert. The project focuses on lesser celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*). This is an important species from both a scientific and management perspective. We look forward to seeing this work come to fruition!

Ryan McEwan, University of Dayton, OIPC Board



## **DR. THERESA CULLEY AWARDED OIPC AWARD OF DISTINCTION**



Dr. Theresa Culley has been an integral part of the Invasive Plants Council (OIPC) since she became a Board member in 2006. Theresa is a professor of biological sciences at the University of Cincinnati, and much of her research involves

invasive plants. Her research revealed the invasive nature of Callery Pear, and in particular the role of hybridization between self-sterile cultivars in this invasion.

Theresa served on the OIPC Board from 2006 to 2011, including as President during 2010 – 2011. In 2009, she became the lead in the effort to develop an invasive plant assessment protocol by which OIPC would revise the 2000 Ohio Invasive Plant List as developed by the ODNR Division of Natural Areas & Preserves. This science-based protocol was developed by Theresa and the Invasive Plant List Work Group over several years by reviewing a number of other states' assessment protocols, then drafting a protocol specific to Ohio. This work included multiple meetings and calls with the Ohio Nursery & Landscape Association (ONLA) to ensure their support of the protocol. It was a laborious process which involved reaching consensus with many partners so that the resulting new list of invasive plants in Ohio would have widespread support. Theresa mentored several students at the University of Cincinnati to search for and review relevant publications on invasive plants in Ohio and convened an assessment team of 4 botanists to evaluate Ohio plants using the draft assessment protocol.

The first list of assessed plants was released by OIPC in December 2013, the second in December 2014, and the team plans to continue assessing other potentially invasive plants. Theresa has worked tirelessly on this process, coordinating with

OIPC Board members, the OIPC assessment team, ONLA, and her students to develop the protocol and initiate its use to realize a new and revised list of invasive plants found in Ohio. She has done an excellent job of coordinating among many partners with varying opinions, and yet reaching consensus on tough issues. Theresa is extremely deserving of OIPC's annual Award of Distinction.

## **INSPIRING A COMMUNITY TO GET PERSONALLY CONNECTED TO NATURE WHILE HELPING REFORESTATION EFFORTS**

Five Rivers MetroParks asked the community for its nuts – and boy, did it receive them!

The agency in Dayton, Ohio, implemented a community-wide reforestation effort as a means to fight invasive species and other stresses on local forests. Since the effort was launched in 2010, MetroParks has planted 28,000 trees and 1,800 shrubs using volunteers and staff, as well as 150,000 seeds into prepared fields and more than 50,000 trees from contractors. While it's too early for final results, it is hoped the reforestation effort will have a significant impact on the health of the natural areas of Five Rivers MetroParks.

And this was done with a community effort that could be replicated elsewhere.

Five Rivers MetroParks protects nearly 16,000 acres of natural area in southwest Ohio. Our mission is to protect the region's natural heritage and provide outdoor experiences that inspire a personal connection to nature.

For decades, management of MetroParks' forest allowed the natural forest process to continue with a hands off approach. However, in the last 15-20 years it became obvious natural processes had been interrupted by several factors, including such invasive plants as Amur honeysuckle, Autumn olive and an over-population of white-tailed deer. New action was needed to effectively provide as much bio-diversity as possible. Efforts paid off as Trillium, wild orchids and native shrubs and trees bounced back.

- Then came the Emerald Ash Borer -

As an agency, MetroParks began a brainstorming session full of hope and enthusiasm. In summer and fall 2010, Five Rivers MetroParks developed its reforestation effort, which involves the public every step of the way. It includes:

- **Go Nuts campaign:** During fall, MetroParks staff and the public collect as many red and white oak acorns, hickory nuts and walnuts as possible. The public was given instructions on how to collect and conduct float tests to separate viable seed from bad seed before bringing



them to MetroParks. More than 80,000 seeds were collected that first year.

- **Growing the trees:** Staff took a crash course on the best methods to grow these small saplings and grew 14,000 seedlings at Cox Arboretum MetroPark.
- **Forest Foster Families:** The public was invited to become a Forest Foster Family, which would entail taking home a tray of 20 small trees and keeping them watered through the summer. Families then returned the trees to be healed in for the winter, and then returned in the spring to plant.



- **Seedling Saturdays:** Several spring dates were set aside for volunteers to plant seedlings in designated areas where high ash mortality was expected.



- **Master Silviculture Classes:** A six-week course was offered to train volunteers to become team leaders in forest restoration, which included assisting staff in collecting

seeds, growing seedlings, planting the trees and caring for them after they were in the ground.

- **Direct Planting:** Remaining seeds were planted into a plowed, disked field.
- **Clean Ohio Grants:** This funding source allowed MetroParks to hire contractors to plant trees on newly acquired land.
- **Native Shrubs:** The Marianist Environmental Education Center (MEEC) grew native shrubs such as wild plum, hazelnut, wafer ash, prairie rose and dogwood. These shrubs are planted in select areas to help re-establish native species after removing invasive honeysuckle and autumn olive.

Five Rivers MetroParks has learned a lot of lessons through this experience and tweaked its methods and techniques along the way. In the end, we have all gained so much more than trees. We have inspired a personal connection to nature in our community that will grow and protect our forests for years to come!

For more information, contact ...

[www.metroparks.org/forest](http://www.metroparks.org/forest) and make sure to watch the video or contact

[mklunk@metroparks.org](mailto:mklunk@metroparks.org)

Mary Klunk, Five Rivers MetroParks, OIPC Board

## OHIO NATURAL AREAS & PRESERVES ASSOCIATION ASSISTS WITH INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL ON STATE NATURE PRESERVES

The Ohio Natural Areas & Preserves Association (ONAPA) has been assisting with invasive plant control efforts on state nature preserves for the past two years. ONAPA was formed in 2012 primarily to support and encourage the efforts of the ODNR Division of Natural Areas & Preserves (DNAP). Their mission specifically states they are “dedicated to promoting, protecting and improving Ohio natural areas and preserves for educational and scientific purposes.” As many of you know, DNAP has endured a number of severe budget cuts since 2002 until finally in 2010, DNAP was transferred to the Division of Parks & Recreation

with only a small staff remaining, primarily the preserve managers. The preserve managers have been doing their very best to maintain the preserves, but there is a lot of work to be done to maintain high-quality plant communities and many rare species on state nature preserves. With limited staff and resources and significant habitat management to be done, ONAPA is filling a critical role by lobbying for statewide support both with the general public and the Ohio General Assembly, organizing volunteers to monitor and conduct management on preserves, and establishing local friends groups for preserves around the state.

One of the nature preserves where ONAPA has played a major role in controlling invasive plants is a relatively new nature preserve in Crawford County managed by the Crawford County Park District. Daughmer Savanna State Nature Preserve has 33+

acres of high-quality bur oak savanna, a small remnant of the once vast Sandusky Plains. It is located nine miles southwest of Bucyrus and was acquired by DNAP in early 2011. It had been maintained by the Daughmer family by grazing, which encouraged a number of invasive plants to proliferate, but was never plowed. ONAPA volunteers, along with volunteers from Columbus



Photo by Jan Kennedy

common teasel, multiflora rose, autumn-olive, and blackberry thickets. Other invasives also occur there, including Canada thistle and reed canary grass, but these have not been controlled as yet. The volunteers have primarily been using manual methods, such as digging, cutting, and brush-cutting, to control the invasives and are making great progress. While grazing helped to control woody invasion, it mostly eliminated many of the prairie forbs. With regular

invasive plant control and prescribed burning, it is hoped that Daughmer Savanna can be restored to its original native plant diversity.



Thanks to ONAPA for being one of the sponsors of OIPC's Annual Meeting!

*Jennifer Windus, ODNR (retired), OIPC Vice President*

## THE OIPC 10th ANNIVERSARY T-shirt!

At this year's annual meeting, OIPC celebrates 10 years since its inception as a 501(c)3. To commemorate this event, the OIPC board held a graphic art contest, challenging artists to create a graphic that helps promote OIPC. Our winner was Kristina Gauer, a graphic designer from Akron, who entered her compelling artwork of the state of Ohio being overrun by invasive roots with the words "Spreading the word about invasive plants." T-shirts will be offered to the annual meeting registrants at a discount and be sold at the meeting for \$15 each to help raise money to continue our mission to spread the word! Supply is limited so be sure to grab one!

*Carrie Morrow, Columbus & Franklin County Metro Parks, OIPC Board*



## **CONTRIBUTE to OIPC every time you shop at Kroger**

OIPC has joined the Kroger Community Rewards program. This means that Kroger makes a quarterly donation to OIPC in proportion to our members' expenditures at their stores. To participate, use your existing Kroger Plus Card or get a new card at any Kroger store. With your card number at hand, either create an account or sign in to your existing account at [www.kroger.com/communityrewards](http://www.kroger.com/communityrewards). To designate OIPC as the recipient organization, enter NPO number 23916, or select Ohio Invasive Plants Council from the list of organizations. After you confirm that OIPC appears on the right side of your information page, every swipe of your card will generate some revenue for OIPC to use for education, outreach, and assessment! Thanks!

## **SUPPORT and SUSTAIN**



At this time OIPC has no formal membership fee structure, but donations are always welcome. Your contribution will help support our outreach efforts, as well as enable us to research sources with valuable information needed to assess species using our Invasive Plant Assessment Protocol. Groups or organizations contributing \$100 or more in the current year will be recognized on a Financial Supporters page on our website, with your logo and a link to your group's webpage. Your donation is tax-deductible because OIPC is a 501(c)3 organization. Checks can be made out to OIPC and sent to OIPC Treasurer **Keith Manbeck**, Box 38, New Knoxville, OH 45871. Let him know if you need a receipt for tax purposes.

### **OIPC Board of Directors**

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