



Ohio Invasive Plants Council

Newsletter May 2014

PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

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The proverb "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" applies to biological invasions. Once an invasive species has spread into an area it is expensive to control and eradication is practically impossible. Preventing new invasions is much more cost effective. Another cost-effective option is 'Early Detection and Rapid Response.' As the name suggests, these programs aim to detect locations of new invasions, coordinate containment and quickly develop eradication responses.

In our region, the Great Lakes Early Detection Network (GLEDN) coordinates and facilitates the sharing of information regarding new locations of invasive species. GLEDN is promoting the use of a free smartphone app developed by EDDMapS (Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System) in conjunction with the Bugwood Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health at the University of Georgia. It enables citizen scientists to photograph invasive species in the wild, and upload these photos with location information for experts to confirm. Once verified, these localities are added to the GLEDN and EDDMapS databases that are available to land managers and the general public. Among other applications, these databases allow us to anticipate which invasive species to anticipate in our regions of interest. OIPC has sought to have an indicator added to the EDDMapS app that indicates which invasive plant species in the system are on Ohio's invasive plants list. We are pleased to learn that they will work with us to implement this.

In Ohio, use of the GLEDN smartphone app is being promoted by Ohio State University Extension under the leadership of Kathy Smith, director of the Ohio Woodland Stewards Program. This year, OIPC has teamed up with OSU Extension to focus on

kudzu, a notorious invasive vine in the southeastern U.S. that has recently been reported in only a few localities in Ohio. The aim is to get a comprehensive picture of where kudzu is growing in Ohio through the contributions of people throughout the state, including botanists, land managers, birdwatchers, Scouts, backpackers, and nature-lovers. Everyone is encouraged to download the free app from



Kudzu

Purdue Extension/C. Parker

<http://apps.bugwood.org/mobile/gledn.html#upload> or <http://go.osu.edu/GLEDN>, learn about kudzu (you can start with <http://cfaes.osu.edu> and search for 'kudzu'), then keep your phone in your pocket as you explore Ohio's natural areas ready to expose kudzu, if and where you see it.

Dave Gorchov, Miami University, OIPC President

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. 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, Knoxville, OH 45871. Let him know if you need a receipt for tax purposes.

A big OIPC thank you to our recent donors:

Nora Hiland
Debra Knapke
Terry Lavy, "the Conservationist"
Charles McLaugherty
Paul Olen

RESEARCH GRANTS FOR STUDENTS

The OIPC Research Group has reformatted and reissued our call for small grant proposals for 2014. This program is aimed to encourage research by college undergraduate and graduate students that focuses on non-native invasive plants in Ohio. We encourage applicants on any topic; however, the group is especially interested in reviewing proposals that (a) address questions that have been developed by the assessment team in their quest to assess invasive plants in Ohio, and (b) help provide some information that could influence management decisions. This program has an additional underlying goal, which is to help promote invasive species research and awareness to young people who may someday be the next generation of leaders in the field. Grants are due on November 1. Please spread the word and help OIPC attract a large pool of applicants. See the OIPC web site at www.oipc.info for additional information.

Ryan McEwan, Dayton University, OIPC Board

INVASIVE PLANTS WORKSHOP IN HOCKING HILLS

The Ohio Invasive Plants Council is sponsoring an invasive plant workshop on May 21st, "So You Know You Have Invasive Plants, Now What? Managing Invasives in Southeast Ohio", at Hocking Hills State Park in Hocking County. The workshop will be held from 9:30am to 3:30pm, with a morning session and lunch in the lodge and field trips in the afternoon. There will be four speakers in the morning presenting an overview of invasive plants in southeast Ohio, control options, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, the Great Lakes Early Detection Network, and habitat restoration after invasive removal. Registration is required and can be found on the OIPC website at www.oipc.info. There will be a \$10 fee to cover lunch and materials. Demonstrations

outside the lodge will be conducted after lunch. Potential field trips to the state park, Conkles Hollow and Crane Hollow Nature Preserves are being planned. Several partners are helping to organize the workshop including the ODNR Divisions of Parks & Recreation and Wildlife, Crane Hollow, and Columbus and Franklin County MetroParks. We look forward to a great workshop! See the OIPC web site at www.oipc.info for additional information.

Jennifer Windus, Ohio Division of Wildlife, OIPC Vice-President

RESULTS OF OHIO INVASIVE PLANTS ASSESSMENT AVAILABLE ON LINE

The first group of invasive plant assessments for the State of Ohio is now available online at: <http://www.oipc.info/AssessmentResultsApril2014.html>. This list of 19 species includes species previously recognized as invasive in Ohio and the following newly recognized invasives: Callery Pear (*Pyrus calleryana*), Japanese Stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*), and Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*). The list is the culmination of several years of work in which OIPC first developed a scientifically-based assessment protocol, which is now being used by the OIPC assessment team (Rick Gardner, Richard Munson, John Cardina, David Brandenburg, and me) in ongoing analyses of many species. The list of 19 species is the first group to be released and starts the beginning of a 6 month comment period by OIPC stakeholders and members; subsequent groups are already in the assessment process. We anticipate releasing the next group of assessed species later this year.

For each species, a PDF of the assessment worksheet as well as a list of references that were used in the assessment are available at www.oipc.info. If you have any comments,

especially if you are aware of relevant documentation (preferably in the published literature) that needs to be included in the assessment, please let me know by email (theresa.culley@uc.edu).

On the webpage, species are listed as "Invasive", "Pending Further Review" or "Not Known To Be Invasive". The category of "Pending Further Review" consists of those species that did not rise to the level of invasiveness, as indicated by the protocol, but will be periodically reassessed; especially as more documentation becomes available (hence your help in locating documentation is particularly important here). Many of the species in the category of "Not Known To Be Invasive" were included to test the assessment protocol.

The OIPC Invasive Plant Assessment Protocol document can be viewed at:

<http://www.oipc.info/AssessmentProtocol.html>.

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

GARLIC MUSTARD CONTROL

At this time of year many groups are organizing Garlic Mustard pulls. If you are organizing an activity to rid an area of Garlic Mustard you may benefit from the information on control found in the Ohio Invasive Plants Council's website www.oipc.info. Click on "Invasive Plants" and then scroll to "Species List". Once you click on the "Species List" scroll down to the Garlic Mustard fact sheet which can be printed out. It has pictures of the plant in different stages and details on control methods. A more comprehensive comparison of control methods is available at the Invasive Plant Control Database of the Midwest

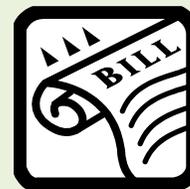


Invasive Plant Network (MIPN), which is also linked to our Management and Control webpage. If your group keeps track of how many bags you fill with garlic mustard you can enter the Stewardship Network's Garlic Mustard Challenge (garlicmustardchallenge.wordpress.com), or plan to do this next spring.

Nora Hiland, OIPC Board member

STATEHOUSE LEGISLATION ON INVASIVE PLANTS

In February the Ohio Senate passed S.B. 192; a bill that would give the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) sole authority to regulate invasive plants in Ohio.



When this bill came before the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources on March 11, I presented 'interested party' testimony to make three points to the Committee. First, I explained why invasive plants were a problem that deserved regulation by the state of Ohio. My second point was that OIPC had developed a protocol to assess which plants should be considered invasive and we think it should be the model for state of Ohio rules. Finally, I expressed concern regarding the exclusion of plants grown for food or livestock feed from the definition of 'invasive plant species.' That exclusion had been introduced as an amendment in the Senate at the request of the Ohio Farm Bureau, who sought to prevent new regulation of crop plants. Many of us in OIPC recognize that some plants used as livestock forage are known to invade natural areas and feel that ODA should be allowed to assess in order to determine whether they are invasive. My discussion of this concern with representatives of the Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association (ONLA) and the Farm Bureau led to the insertion of wording that restricted the exclusion of

food and feed plants only to those grown 'in accordance with generally accepted agricultural practices' (see part A in the full text below). This is an improvement, as the cultivation of a problematic plant would not prevent ODA from assessing and regulating it. An attempt was made to insert plants grown for 'fiber' with plants grown for food and feed, but this was dropped when I raised our concern about putatively invasive species that could be grown as feedstock for biofuel. The last sentence in part A refers to plants authorized by the APHIS office of U.S.D.A.; APHIS' approval of crops only involves genetically modified (GM) organisms that pose a potential threat to plant health. Our assumption is that APHIS review will continue to include the potential of a GM crop to spread from the fields where it is planted.

The next step for S.B. 192 is consideration by the full House. If and when it passes the House, the bill will then need concurrence from the full Senate, since it was amended in the House. If it passes the Senate it goes to the Governor to be signed into law. Then ODA would begin to draft the rules (regulations) to implement the law. This rule-making is critical, as the rules will determine the process by which plants are assessed for 'invasive' status and what restrictions follow from a designation as invasive. It is important that OIPC contributes to this rule-making phase, including consideration of the criteria to be used to determine whether a species is invasive. We need OIPC members to contribute to this effort, so if you are interested, please contact me.

David L. Gorchov, Miami University, President, OIPC

Below is the full text of Substitute bill S. B. No. 192, as passed by the House Agriculture Committee on March 18, 2014:
Senator Manning

Cosponsors: Senators Patton, Seitz, Skindell, Hite, Peterson, Balderson, Burke, Coley, Eklund, Gardner, Lehner

A BILL

To enact section 901.50 of the Revised Code to grant the Director of Agriculture exclusive authority to regulate invasive plant species.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 901.50 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:

Sec. 901.50. (A) "Invasive plant species" means 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 in accordance with generally accepted agricultural practices, including all plants authorized by the animal and plant health inspection service in the United States department of agriculture".

(B) Except as provided in division (C) of this section, the director of agriculture has sole and exclusive authority to regulate invasive plant species in this state, including the identification of invasive plant species and establishment of prohibited activities regarding them. The director may adopt rules in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code to administer this section.

(C) Nothing in this section precludes the director of environmental protection from continuing to consider the existence of invasive plant species when evaluating applications and permits for impacts to or mitigation and monitoring of wetlands that are subject to regulation under Chapter 6111. of the Revised Code and rules adopted under it, including using a list of invasive plant species compiled by that director. However, upon the taking effect of any rules adopted by the director of agriculture under division (B) of this section, the director of environmental protection shall use the list of invasive plant species established in those rules when conducting the activities described in this division.