



# Ohio Invasive Plants Council

## Newsletter November 2014

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

The Ohio Invasive Plants Council is about to celebrate its 10th anniversary. Please join us at our **Annual Meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2015** at Highbanks Metro Park, just north of Columbus. The meeting will run from 10 am to approximately 3 pm. This is your chance to learn of OIPC's past and ongoing activities, find out what non-native species have been assessed to be invasive in year two of the Assessment Team's work, see presentations by last year's winners of the student research grant competition, learn the winner(s) of this year's competition, as well as the recipient of this year's Award of Distinction. We will also have a couple of other presentations on invasive plants in Ohio, vote for new members to the OIPC Board, and break into work groups to plan activities and action for the coming year. Check [www.oipc.info](http://www.oipc.info) for details on the meeting.



Dave Gorchov

I would like to welcome our newest Board member, Carrie Morrow. Carrie is the Assistant Resource Manager for Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks, where she coordinates wildlife and land management projects, including management of invasive plant species. Carrie was involved in OIPC before there was an OIPC, she played a major role in the working group that preceded and led to the incorporation of OIPC and served on the original Board from 2006 to 2009. She majored in Wildlife Management at OSU, is a Certified Ohio Prescribed Burn Manager, and serves on the Boards of Friends of the Ravines and Ohio Prairie Association.

I would like to thank the Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association, Dawes Arboretum, and *The*

*Wilds*, for their recent donations, continuing their support of OIPC. I also thank Dow Agrosiences and CPS Crop Protection Services for supporting the Oct. 31 Workshop at *the Wilds* (see article in this newsletter). If your group or organization is interested in supporting OIPC, please contact me.

I also want to thank OIPC Board member Judy Holtvogt for her ongoing efforts in improving and updating our website, [www.oipc.info](http://www.oipc.info). This website now includes the outcomes of the 2013 assessments of non-native plant species by the Ohio Invasive Plant Assessment Team, including the score sheet for each species, and references providing the evidence to support the scoring. The website also lists the 'Schedule of Plants to be Assessed', in addition to links on best management practices and upcoming events and activities. We will be recognizing financial supporters on our improved website, including logos and links to the supporting organizations.

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

### EFFECTS OF HONEYSUCKLE ON STREAM BIOLOGY

Here is an interesting idea: The biology of small streams is very strongly linked to the vegetation growing on the stream banks. Researchers who study streams have, for a very long time, known that the leaves falling into the stream in autumn are very important to the organisms that live in the streams, especially insects...which are ultimately food for the fish. The trees and shrubs growing along streams also help regulate stream temperature by shading the stream and limiting sediment and nutrient flow into the stream from the land.

In my laboratory at the University of Dayton, we started from the basic idea that stream-side vegetation is very important to the biology of streams, and then asked, "What happens when that vegetation becomes dominated by invasive species?" We noticed that streams around Dayton are often covered by a canopy of the exotic shrub Amur honeysuckle. This species is well-known to move aggressively into forests in Ohio, and we have found that it is amazingly successful at colonizing along streams. In fact, it is a challenge to discover streams where Amur honeysuckle is absent!



Stream bank honeysuckle

We have studied many aspects of this phenomenon. My PhD student Rachel McNeish has been working on this issue for the past five years, and has discovered a few important traits. First, she used an experiment to discover that the leaves from honeysuckle disappear (decompose) in the stream much faster than native leaves. This is important because animal life in the stream sometimes uses the leaf material as habitat. Second, she found that the insects colonizing honeysuckle leaves are different from those found in native leaves. Finally, she observed that when honeysuckle shrubs are removed from the stream bank, the aquatic organisms in the stream take notice - their density increases.

As always in science, it seems each discovery only leads to more questions. For instance, we are seeking to understand which attribute of the invasion is most important to the aquatic organisms, and whether there are particular organisms that are vulnerable while others may be more resistant. Overall, we remain fascinated by

the idea of this forest invader driving changes to the stream system. My lab recently was awarded a large grant from the National Science Foundation to look deeper into this topic and we are excited to see what surprises await!

Information about my research program, including this project, can be found at:

<http://mcewanenvironecolab.wordpress.com>

*Ryan McEwan, University of Dayton, OIPC Board*

## EXPANDING BACKYARD HABITAT

The Grange Insurance Audubon Center (GIAC) is an educational oasis for Downtown Columbus. Located along the Scioto River and within the Scioto Audubon Metro Park, the GIAC provides environmental education opportunities to its visitors. Recently, staff at the Center began developing a backyard habitat program to promote conservation practices among central Ohio homeowners. The Backyard program is modeled after Audubon Society's successful Backyard Habitat Certification program in Portland, Oregon. The program encourages land owners to improve the habitat in their yards to benefit wildlife, while offering goals and incentives when practices are completed. Trained Backyard Habitat Technicians will visit backyards and assess and design enhancements with several milestone levels. GIAC presented this program to the OIPC Board in September, with the hopes of developing a partnership to bring in the expertise of the various organizations and individuals involved with OIPC. The Backyard habitat program has a large invasive plant control component and GIAC requested the guidance of OIPC in determining the species and control efforts to include in the program. The OIPC board decided that this was a great opportunity and will be working with Audubon in the coming months to get the project off the ground. Stay tuned for future updates!

*Carrie Morrow,*

*Columbus & Franklin Metro Parks,*

*OIPC Board member*



Image courtesy of Audubon Society of Portland

## SUCCESSFUL OIPC WORKSHOP AT *the WILDS*

### ***Converting Invasive Shrubland to Productive Grasslands: Benefits for People, Wildlife, & the Environment***

The Ohio Invasive Plants Council partnered with *the Wilds*, Dow AgroSciences, and Crop Production Services to hold an invasive plants workshop at *the Wilds* on Friday, October 31st, 10:00 am – 2:30 pm, entitled “*Converting Invasive Shrubland to Productive Grasslands*”. The morning session featured four speakers: **John Watts** of Columbus & Franklin County Metro Parks gave insight on grassland restoration & management; **Shana Byrd** of *the Wilds* covered conversion of invasive

shrubland at *the Wilds*; **Steven Boyles** of The Ohio State University presented options for cool & warm season pasture for forage; and **Danny Ingold** of Muskingum University discussed habitat availability for grassland birds at *the Wilds*. The



Steven Boyles

workshop was attended by more than 35 people. Refreshments and lunch were provided by *the Wilds* as a part of the registration fee. After lunch, a bus tour took participants to several grassland, forest, and wetland restoration projects at *the Wilds*. The workshop was well-received, with a lot of interest in grassland restoration techniques on formerly strip-mined land.

Dow AgroSciences and Crop Production Services were both generous sponsors of the workshop. *The Wilds* and OIPC are very thankful for their support. Both have been involved in the grassland restoration work conducted at *the Wilds*.

*Jennifer Windus, Ohio Division of Wildlife (retired), OIPC Vice President*

*Shana Byrd, the Wilds, OIPC Board Secretary*

### Progression of landscape at *the Wilds*



*Pure stand of invasive autumn olive shrub*



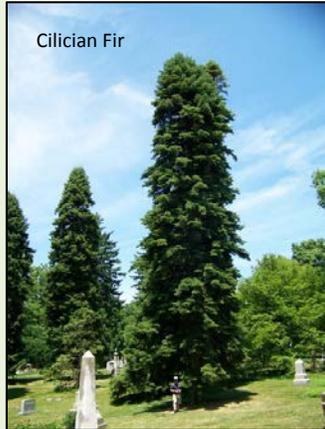
*Early successional vegetation*



*Reseeded pasture: Cool season on tree hillside; warm season in the foreground*

## SPRING GROVE CEMETERY AND ARBORETUM: NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

In 1845, members of the Cincinnati Horticultural Society created The Cemetery of Spring Grove with the hopes “that the natural setting would be a contemplative atmosphere conducive to consolation, commemoration, and education.” More than 160 years later, the marvelous grounds of Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum would undoubtedly exceed what the founding fathers intended.



Cilician Fir

What began as a 200-acre tract of farmland is now a unique combination cemetery, park, outdoor museum, and arboretum that welcomes visitors and guests to experience over 44 miles of winding roads, 15 serene lakes, a 10-acre woodland preserve, and an amazing collection of architecture, sculpture, and horticulture.

Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum is one of the true gems of the Greater Cincinnati region. The 733-acre garden serves as an incredibly beautiful horticultural educational facility for the Cincinnati community and for the region as a whole. Its heritage is tied to a strong, continuing tradition of horticulturists embedded in Spring Grove’s leadership.

Serving as a living horticultural laboratory, Spring Grove’s Arboretum boasts a remarkable 1,300 species with over 1,200 labeled for study and research purposes for universities, nurseries, growers, and the general public. The Arboretum is dedicated to the protection and stewardship of the cemetery’s heritage and to the promotion of environmental sustainability while increasing the beauty of the garden.



Bald Cypress with knees

Spring Grove's Arboretum is proud to be a Level III Accredited site, as awarded by the Morton Arboretum Register. The Morton Arboretum (<http://www.arbnet.org/arboretum-accreditation.html>) has established the Morton Register of Arboreta and a basic system of accreditation to recognize arboreta of various degrees of development, capacity, and professionalism. Spring Grove is only one of two historic cemeteries to achieve the enhanced Level III designation for arboretum standards.

The mission of Spring Grove's Arboretum is to collect and display woody plants to enhance the educational, outreach, and research opportunities for its visitors. The Arboretum continues to focus on plant selections and their use in managed urban landscapes throughout the Midwest. In addition to managing and expanding existing selections, another goal of the Arboretum is to establish new collections of Midwest natives and non-indigenous species, and ultimately, to develop gardens that express and promote the vital relationship that exists between plants and people.

The Arboretum is dedicated to the protection and stewardship of Spring Grove Cemetery’s heritage and to promoting environmental sustainability while increasing the beauty of the garden. In recent years, the cemetery has faced significant challenges with invasive plants. The vast majority of the non-native plant species introduced to the landscape have been model botanic citizens; however, a select few have proven to be quite a problem. Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum is proud to be working towards a more diverse landscape for future generations to visit and enjoy.

*Brian Heinz, Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum, OIPC Board*



Magnolias in flower and archway

## PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE IN CENTRAL OHIO

As many of you know, purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) is an invasive wetland plant found throughout Ohio.



Initially, 20+ years ago, it was known mainly from the Lake Erie marshes in the northern part of the state, but it has slowly migrated south into other wetlands and water bodies. In 2012-2013, the Ohio Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) worked with several partners,

including Columbus & Franklin County Metro Parks, Franklin Soil & Water Conservation District, Friends of the Lower Olentangy, and Friends of the Scioto, to conduct a survey for purple loosestrife in the Columbus area. Much of the funding for this survey was provided by a grant from the Appalachian Ohio Weed Control Partnership and the Ohio River Basin Fish Habitat Partnership. The Nature Conservancy provided matching funds and coordinated with the partners in the Columbus area to complete the survey.

The surveyors in this effort recorded **78 locations** for purple loosestrife in Franklin County. Many more locations undoubtedly exist, but the surveys focused on the Big Darby Creek, Scioto River, Olentangy River, and Big Walnut Creek watersheds. Latitude and longitude coordinates were recorded to map the locations so that populations could be confirmed and mapped by TNC. Most populations were assumed to be *Lythrum salicaria*, but a few may have been planted as a part of landscaping and were noted to potentially be *Lythrum virgatum* Morden Pink, a supposedly sterile horticultural variety.

The Nature Conservancy is looking for partners to assist in the eradication of these populations. Some populations which occurred on public lands, such as Columbus & Franklin County Metro Parks, have already been eliminated, but many occur on

private lands. OIPC is interested in helping with this effort by coordinating with partners to acquire funds and resources to remove as many of these invasive plant populations as possible. There are numerous central Ohio organizations, agencies, and local governments that may be interested in this effort, especially now since TNC has gathered so much information about existing purple loosestrife populations. For more information or to express your interest in this effort, please contact Anthony Sasson at TNC at 614/717-2770 or [asasson@tnc.org](mailto:asasson@tnc.org) or Jennifer Windus at [jlwindus@embarqmail.com](mailto:jlwindus@embarqmail.com). Jennifer Windus, Ohio Division of Wildlife (retired), OIPC Vice President



Wetland dominated by Purple Loosestrife



## 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.

## T-SHIRT DESIGN COMPETITION

### Deadline is December 1

To celebrate its 10th anniversary, the Ohio Invasive Plants Council (OIPC) will be selling T-shirts that spread the word about invasive plants. We seek the help of artists, graphic designers, students, and other talented individuals to develop a design that incites interest and motivates action.

The winning design will be used on T-shirts that will be sold to OIPC members, to members of the public and those attending our workshops and activities. Profits from T-shirt sales will help support the activities of OIPC, which is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

**The creator of the winning design will receive a \$75 check, recognition at the Annual Meeting of OIPC, and the heartfelt gratitude of our members and friends.**

**WHAT?** – We would like a design that includes our logo and web address (above). It would also be desirable to include our slogan, ‘**Spreading the Word about Invasive Plants.**’ The design could include representations of one or more invasive plant species.

**HOW?** – Send your design by email or snail mail to *David L. Gorchov, President, OIPC Board*, [GorchoDL@miamioh.edu](mailto:GorchoDL@miamioh.edu), Dept. of Biology, Miami University, Oxford, OH 45056

## 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!

### OIPC Board of Directors

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