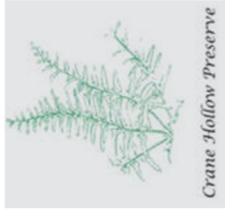


OIPC THANKS THE SPONSORS OF THE
2026 ANNUAL MEETING



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Ohio Invasive Plants Council Annual Meeting
February 20, 2026
Goslin Nature Center at Alley Park
Lancaster, Ohio



SPEAKERS

In order of appearance:

Sarah Emery is Director of the Center for Great Lakes and Watershed Studies and the Ryan Endowed Professor in Biology at Bowling Green State University. She is a plant community ecologist who studies how human-driven global changes—such as climate change, nutrient enrichment, invasive species, and urbanization—affect plant biodiversity and ecosystem functioning.

Mesa Grine is a second year Biological Sciences Masters student at Wright State University working in Dr. Cipollini's plant physiology and ecology lab. She was recently awarded an OIPC Research Grant to investigate a possible new invasive plant in Ohio called Asian beautyberry.

Tom Macy has been the Forest Health Program Manager for the Ohio Division of Forestry since 2013. In this role, he coordinates statewide monitoring and management of insects, diseases and invasive species affecting Ohio's forests and trees, as well as education and outreach. He earned his B.S. and M.S. in Forestry from the OSU School of Environment and Natural Resources.

Sam Wilhelm is the Natural Resources Manager of the eastern district of Metroparks Toledo, encompassing five metro parks along Lake Erie's coastal wetlands and the Maumee River's downtown corridor. After receiving a BS degree in Geology from Muskingum University, he worked with the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

Kevin Ptacek, Five Rivers Metroparks, focuses on the planning, implementation, and long-term management of ecological restoration projects, with an emphasis on stream and wetland restoration. Currently, he recommends strategies to allocate resources across large-scale landholdings.

Derrick Cooper has been the Northeast Ohio Preserves Manager for The Nature Conservancy for almost nine years. He operates and oversees multiple regional scale projects focused on cooperative invasive species management. Previously he worked in land management for the Medina County Park District.

Kari Horn is the Natural Resources Manager for Great Parks of Hamilton County. She has over 25 years of experience working in conservation and natural resources management. She leads and coordinates conservation planning for over 18,000 acres in Great Parks.

AGENDA

9:30	Registration, refreshments
10:00	Welcome; Update on 2025 Accomplishments — <i>Jennifer Windus, OIPC President</i>
10:30	Wind, Waves, and Weeds: Plant Invasions in Great Lakes Coastal Dunes — <i>Dr. Sarah Emery, Bowling Green State University, Center for Great Lakes & Watershed Studies</i>
11:30	Break
11:45	<i>Callicarpa dichotoma</i> (Asian beautyberry): An ecological evaluation of traits in an emerging invasive plant — <i>Mesa Grine, Wright State University, 2025 OIPC research grant recipient</i>
12:00	Lunch & Networking: Lunch buffet from Provisions Deli for those who registered in advance
1:15	Invasive Plant Management on Ohio's State Forests — <i>Tom Macy, Forest Health Program Manager, ODNR Division of Forestry</i>
2:00	Management & Research Updates (10 minutes each): <i>Sam Wilhelm, Toledo Metro Parks – Controlling Aquatic Invasives at Howard Marsh Metropark</i> <i>Kevin Ptacek, Five Rivers Metro Parks – Using GIS to Track & Prioritize Long-term Invasive Vegetation Management Strategies</i> <i>Derrick Cooper, The Nature Conservancy – Collaborative Approach to the Restoration of Brainard Fen</i> <i>Kari Horn, Great Parks of Hamilton County – Wintercreeper Treatments in Three Great Parks</i>
2:45	Panel discussion/questions on updates
3:15	Wrap-up and door prizes

Thank you to all the sponsors listed on the back of the program!