



OIPC's AWARD OF RECOGNITION FOR 2015 KEITH MANBECK

Each year since 2013, the Ohio Invasive Plants Council has recognized someone in the state who has been outstanding in the field of invasive plant control, research, or education, cooperation with OIPC, or other worthy advancement of invasive plant issues. For 2015, the Board decided to recognize one of our own Board members since he has contributed so much to OIPC, even before he joined the Board in 2013. This individual has been instrumental in our invasive plant assessment process, being a strong advocate for this project among the nursery community and stressing the need for a transparent, scientifically-based assessment process. He has been very involved with the Ohio Nursery & Landscape Association for many years, including serving as President in 2007, the point at which he started to learn more about invasive plants and work with invasive plant researchers. In part because of this unique position, he was integral in improving the relationship between OIPC and ONLA as we began the formal process of assessing plants for invasiveness in 2012. Careful coordination was needed to ensure that both organizations were in agreement on OIPC's Assessment Team and the assessment process. Since many of the species to be assessed are horticultural species, OIPC thought it was important that ONLA accept the validity of the assessments. Keith Manbeck, with Willoway Nurseries at the time, not only assisted with this partnership, but agreed to join the OIPC Board in 2013 and serve as our Treasurer for two years. He was invaluable in improving coordination between the two organizations and helped our Board understand the concerns which ONLA had with our protocol and potential results. Keith now works for KAH Nurseries and serves as ONLA's Research Chair. He has also served on the Boards of the American Landscaping Association and Horticultural Research Institute. When Keith resigned from the OIPC Board last year, he was sorely missed – his cooperative spirit, strategic mind, and dry, subtle sense of humor. The OIPC Board selected Keith for the 2015 Award of Recognition. It gives me great pleasure to present the OIPC Award of Recognition to Keith Manbeck today. Thank you, Keith!