



# Ohio Invasive Plants Council

## Newsletter January 2016

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER



As I reflect on 2015 and the year of OIPC's tenth anniversary, we are grateful for our accomplishments and numerous partners in 2015. Below is a short summary of some of our accomplishments:

- An award of a \$9,000 grant from *The Dr. Thelma I. Schoonover* Fund of The Columbus Foundation.
- Planning for the 2016 OIPC Research Conference is in full progress.
- The second set of assessed plants by the OIPC Invasive Plant Assessment Team was released; 39 species have been assessed thus far with 26 determined to be invasive; the Assessment Team is reviewing another set of species now.
- Coordination with the Ohio Department of Agriculture on the implementation of SB 192 regarding the regulation of invasive plants.
- Work has begun on a new brochure on landscape alternatives to invasive plants (part of The Columbus Foundation grant).
- The OIPC website has been revised in an exciting new format!
- OIPC has cooperated with several other partners to provide presentations and materials on invasive plants, including a workshop at The Dawes Arboretum in September, *The Landscape for Life* course at the University of Dayton coordinated by Hope Taft, a workshop with Toledo Metroparks, and a workshop for ODOT. This includes having the OIPC displays at numerous events during the year.

- OIPC received seven grant proposals for its third year of funding small research grants. Support for this funding effort came this year from The Columbus Foundation, Ohio Natural Areas & Preserves Association, and Cincinnati Wildflower Preservation Society, making \$5,000 available for priority invasive plant research.

OIPC cooperated with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), The Dawes Arboretum, Columbus & Franklin County Metro Parks, NOVCO, and USFWS to provide a workshop for ODOT, District 5 (SE Ohio) on identification and control of invasive roadside plants. More than 25 ODOT employees attended and the information was well-received. OIPC hopes to provide more of these workshops for other ODOT districts in the coming year (see article in this issue).

As we plan for our 2016 Research Conference, "*Preventing, Understanding, and Combating Plant Invasions*", on February 11<sup>th</sup>, we are looking for sponsors. If you are interested or know of an interested partner, please contact David Gorchov or me so we can include your support at this conference. See the article in this issue and our website for more information on the conference.

If you have any upcoming events where OIPC may participate by providing a speaker, please let us know (see our website to contact any of our Board members).

Finally, a sincere thank you from all of our 12 Board members for your support and interest in OIPC this year. Feel free to share your questions and comments on our listserv or directly to Board members. Keep spreading the word about invasive plants in Ohio!

*Jennifer L. Windus, OIPC President;  
ODNR (retired) & USFWS (contractor)*

## 2016 OIPC Research Conference

OIPC is pleased to announce a Research Conference on "Preventing, Understanding, and Combating Plant Invasions" February 11, 2016 at Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center, 2201 Fred Taylor Dr, Columbus, OH 43210.

The objective of the 2016 Conference is to encourage continued interaction among land managers, scientists, the green industry, and the public concerning the ecology and management of invasive plants in natural and managed ecosystems.



Our keynote speaker, Dr. Sarah Reichard, is the Director of the University of Washington Botanic Gardens. Dr. Reichard is an expert on the interface between invasive plants and horticulture, and author of [The Conscientious Gardener](#).

Conference includes poster presentations by researchers, land managers, and horticulturalists from both the public and private sectors.

Registration for the conference is open and includes lunch and a coffee break for only \$30! OIPC tee shirts are now only \$10 with registration. Register online at: <http://www.oipc.info/>

*Jean H. Burns, Case Western Reserve University, OIPC Board*

## Addressing the Threat of Invasive Plants in Ohio: Workshop for ODOT District 5, Managing Roadside Invasive Plants

This past spring, conversations began with the Ohio Department of Transportation's District 5 about ways in which OIPC might offer assistance on identification and control of problematic plants within roadside right of ways. Fairfield County

Transportation Administrator, Douglas Riffle facilitated the partnership and this fall, in cooperation with NOVCO, The Dawes Arboretum, Columbus & Franklin County Metro Parks, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, OIPC presented a workshop to meet this goal. The focus was to provide a practical overview for the most invasive and aggressive species along roadsides within District 5. Over 25 people from ODOT's staff who work directly to manage the right-of-ways along roads attended. ODOT provided a list of challenging species to control and species that they receive complaints about. The workshop provided recommended best management practices for each species.

The morning session was held at the Licking County ODOT District office in Jacksontown and included a presentation by Jennifer Windus on how invasive plants can spread and become threats to natural areas. John Watts, of Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks, gave specific examples of invasive species control efforts at various Metro Park sites. Dan Matteson of NOVCO presented information on specific types of herbicide treatment and how they can be used to combat invasive species. He also provided a list of species and the recommended herbicide and adjuvants, methods, and timeframe for control. A summary of the recommendations was provided by Shana Byrd of The Dawes Arboretum.

In the afternoon, we all met at The Dawes



Arboretum, where taxonomic botanist, David Brandenburg set out herbarium and live specimens of all the species that ODOT had requested information about. This gave the workshop participants the opportunity to see the plants up close and to compare and contrast them to similar species. Dave talked about identification of the plants and some of their ecology, while Dan recommended various methods of treatment.

In the future, we hope to present this workshop to other ODOT districts. The proactive approach of ODOT to work on successful treatment of invasive species is promising and may even encourage the growth of native species, including those beneficial to pollinators. In fact, ODOT is already establishing some pilot projects for planting native vegetation to benefit pollinators. Successful partnerships such as this can help reduce invasive species along our roadsides, while establishing habitat, keeping our roadsides safe, and reducing spread of invasives into Ohio's natural areas.

Jennifer Finfera, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, OIPC Board

Shana Byrd, The Dawes Arboretum, OIPC Board

## Don't Dare Plant Callery Pear! The Invasive Callery Pear, *Pyrus calleryana*

When considering a tree to plant in your yard, you may ask questions such as:

- Does it have pretty leaves?
- Does it have pretty flowers?
- Will it grow fast and provide shade?

Trees that rise to the top of the desirable list include those that have colorful foliage and abundant blooms. Callery Pear (*Pyrus calleryana*) falls into this category and was recognized by the landscape and horticultural trade in the 1950s; it was well received and widely planted. You may even have one in your yard! This inedible pear has small round fruit the size of a marble that is readily eaten by birds. The white flowers are some of the first to appear in the spring. The leaves are smooth and dark green, turning yellow to red in the fall and persisting after native trees have lost their leaves. The branches can be thorny or smooth and can be easily confused with apples and crabapples.

This invasive pear is native to China and Vietnam and was introduced to the United States several times before being valued as an ornamental tree. One of the initial introductions occurred in the early 1900s by the US Department of Agriculture for use as rootstock and fire blight resistance for the commercial pear trade (the pears we CAN eat!)

Later, when the Callery pear was appreciated for its hardiness and aesthetic value, several cultivars were developed. These include the Bradford pear, Washington Select and Cleveland Select. Unfortunately, these supposed self-sterile varieties began cross pollinating and self-pollinating and "wild" trees began showing up along roadsides, open fields and in natural areas. Over the past several years, land managers have begun to aggressively manage this species through increased mechanical removal and chemical treatments. This species has risen above other woody invaders like bush honeysuckles, buckthorns and autumn olive, as the species to wage war against. What we as land managers knew about honeysuckle, Callery pear takes to the next level. It is found in most natural habitats including prairies, wetlands, successional lands and reforestation areas.

Land managers are approaching the management of this invasive tree with a varied tool box, including; mowing, cutting and treating, foliar spraying and prescribed burning. Callery pear does its job well, in fact, too well! Callery pear's abundant fruits, fast growing root system, and thick leathery leaves make chemical application on this invasive tree tricky. Efforts continue throughout the state with new observations of infestations happening all the time.



Some zoos will also collect invasive trees and shrubs that have been removed for animal browse.

There are several native alternatives for this invader. The more consumers choose the natives over the Callery pear and its cultivars, the greater the availability will be for the alternatives. Common serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*), native hawthorns (*Crataegus sp.*) and native crabapples (*Malus coronaria*) are a few of the species that are

similar in structure and appearance to the Callery pear. Other natives such as Eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*), blackhaw (*Viburnum prunifolium*) and spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) would be appropriate replacements that offer wildlife food and are adapted to wood edges and open fields.

We can all help win this war on Callery pear by spreading the word about its invasiveness, identifying and removing existing trees on your own property, and volunteering at local park districts or natural areas to help with control efforts!

*Carrie Morrow, Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks, OIPC Treasurer*

## **The Morton Arboretum: A Green Industry Leader In The Invasive Plant Battle**

*Board member, David Listerman recently had the opportunity to tour The Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois, guided by Todd Jacobson, Head of Horticulture.*

Todd and I toured the arboretum and discussed a range of issues facing the green industry today. One topic we talked in depth about was invasive species. Invasive species are non-native plant and animal species that have been introduced either directly or indirectly into natural systems and out-compete the native species. The Morton Arboretum emerged to radically change its current inventory of plants as well as any new accessions to its collection.

Todd said that The Morton Arboretum decided to remove all Callery Pear cultivars, *Berberis thunbergii* cultivars, *Hedera helix*, *Euonymus alatus* cultivars as well as all other *Euonymus* species, *Lonicera* species and cultivars, and *Ligustrum* species and cultivars. While this is quite an undertaking, Todd said that he felt that to be a leader in the industry they need to 'practice what they preach'. Through its leadership, The Morton Arboretum's difficult and unenviable decision will have an impact on the green industry.

In our discussion, Todd felt that it is important to focus on being proactive in both educating about invasives as well as actively controlling them. What are the costs if we as an industry chose to do nothing toward removing invasives from our industry's plant palette; and what about control of those already escaped?

Education is a big hurdle to face when it comes to invasives, both within the green industry and to the general public. Teaching the public and industry members is a three prong effort. First is teaching to identify those plants that are invasive and recommending alternates that can be used in their place in the landscape. This is part of the value that the nursery industry offers to our customers, who rely on our expertise. The second is to educate about the direct impact invasives have on the ecosystem and the costs incurred by invasives on other industries such as forest production, agricultural production, and the tourist industry. The third point is teaching the best methods used to remove invasives from the established landscape as well as those plants that have escaped and are actively growing in naturalized locations.

Removing invasives in the woodlands comes with a great cost to The Morton Arboretum. In December of each year, the entire staff participates in the removal process. This is done with mechanical and chemical eradication methods. With invasive species all along the perimeter of the arboretum grounds and the aggressive tendencies of all invasives, the battle will be an ongoing struggle to reduce and or limit the populations throughout the arboretum.

Those efforts are paying off. While taking a tram ride through the arboretum we came to an area in which one side of the road had all invasives removed from the woodlands while the other side remained infested. What a dramatic difference it makes in the woodlands when the honeysuckles, privets, ivies and other invasives are removed! It was entirely foreign to me to see what our woodlands should be with no invasives present. It was so impressive that you could see the trees in the forest instead of a jungle of invasives crawling and sprawling all over the woodlands. The serenity of a clean and uncluttered woodland was impressive. Native wild flowers and



endangered plants could be seen and appreciated and actually given a chance to thrive.

With such a dramatic difference, I could finally understand how injurious the invasive plants have been to our environment, other industries, and the vast economic costs of these plants. This is not just good for the environment, but also good for the heart of someone who has spent his entire professional career working with nature and plants! It is quite an undertaking, but if you ever have a chance to visit the arboretum take the opportunity to see what a dramatic difference there is in the woodland areas without invasives. The tranquil and esthetically pleasing woodland devoid of invasives is remarkable and well worth making a trip to reinforce that this is one battle worth fighting.

*David Listerman, Listerman and Associates, Inc., OIPC Board*

## **Project Burning Bush: Wright State University Looking For Help From Citizen Scientists**

United States Executive Order 13112 defines an invasive species as “an alien species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environment harm or harm to human health.” Invasive plants are adaptable, have aggressive growth and have a high reproductive capacity. These characteristics combines with a lack of natural enemies often leads to outbreak populations. A lot of information is needed to investigate a plant as a potential invasive species including its invasion status (does it maintain populations outside of captivity and where is it located), biological characteristics (does it produce seeds with a high germination rate; does it spread vegetatively), and ecological impacts (does it harm other associated plants or animals). Once a species is listed as invasive, law-makers can use this information to create laws and protocols to protect native ecosystems from these plants.

Burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*) is a very popular ornamental shrub native to Asia that is of growing concern as an invasive species in Ohio. A small amount of information is known about the potentially invasive biological characteristics of burning bush (it produces a high number of seeds, seed germination rate is high, and it spreads vegetatively through root sprouting). There is no current knowledge of the potential ecological impacts of burning bush on the forest environment. Researchers at Wright State University are beginning to investigate these impacts.



Burning bush has begun to establish populations outside of planted areas; however, its specific invasive status is unknown. In order to most accurately examine the extent of burning bush invasion the location and extent of invasion must be carefully documented. This is where citizen scientists are being asked for their help! Because burning bush invasion may be widespread throughout Ohio, researchers are asking for the help of master naturalists to document burning bush while camping, driving, hiking, bird watching, or any outdoor activity within natural areas. Protocol for burning bush documentation can be found with the following links: [https://science-math.wright.edu/sites/default/files/page/attachments/BBWatch\\_DataSheet.docx](https://science-math.wright.edu/sites/default/files/page/attachments/BBWatch_DataSheet.docx) and [https://science-math.wright.edu/sites/default/files/page/attachments/BurningBushWatch\\_Protocol.pdf](https://science-math.wright.edu/sites/default/files/page/attachments/BurningBushWatch_Protocol.pdf) Population datasheets and questions can be emailed to [burningbushwatch@gmail.com](mailto:burningbushwatch@gmail.com)

*Libby Roberson, PhD student, Wright State University*

## **Native Landscaping Workshop in NW Ohio**

OIPC partnered with The Green Ribbon Initiative (GRI) and The Nature Conservancy to educate landowners on invasive plants and their landscape alternatives, including many natives. The Green Ribbon Initiative is a partner of organizations, landowners, and individuals that are working together to protect the globally rare Oak Openings Region of NW Ohio and SE Michigan. In 2014 GRI announced itself as a Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA). This gives GRI even more momentum to continue working collectively within the Oak Openings Region and its bordering landscapes to develop an invasive species strategy to keep new invasives at bay and to help the region focus on the invasives that are changing habitat integrity.

The native landscaping workshop event was held at Toledo Metroparks, Secor Metropark. Many of the attendees were part of an Oak Openings land owner registry maintained by GRI. Landowners that live in the Oak Openings Region that are interested in enhancing the Oak Openings habitats on their property can register their property. GRI provides



landowners with management advice and various trainings to help them rid

their property of invasives and help them identify native plants and good wildlife habitat.

LaRae Sprow, OIPC Board Member started the morning workshop with a powerpoint presentation which addressed the many common invasive plants that people may find in their yards, woodlots, and ditches such as border privets, honeysuckles, autumn olive, and purple loosestrife. LaRae then discussed methods of removal and landscape alternatives to plant after removal. The afternoon

was spent touring the native landscaping around the Secor Metropark National Center for Nature Photography. All participants were able to take home several native plants including junegrass, New England aster, little bluestem, columbine, and elderberry. Plants were donated and grown by the Metroparks of Toledo native seed and plant nursery.

*LaRae Sprow, Metroparks of The Toledo Area, OIPC Board*

## **Kroger Shoppers: Contribute to OIPC Every Time You Shop!**

OIPC is a participating organization in 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 #47139 for the central and eastern Ohio region, or #23916 for the southwest Ohio region. If you do not have the number at your fingertips you can also just 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!

## **“Spreading The Word About Invasives” T-Shirts Available.**



T-shirts will be available at this year's OIPC conference. T-shirt design is by Kristina Gauer, a graphic designer from Akron.

Conference registrants can receive the t-shirts at the discounted price of \$10.



### **OIPC Board of Directors**

**Jennifer Windus, President**  
**David Gorchoy, Vice-President**  
**Shana Byrd, Secretary**  
**Carrie Morrow, Treasurer**  
**Jean Burns**  
**Jenny Finfera**  
**Brian Heinz**  
**Nora Hiland**  
**Joan Kirschner**  
**David Listerman**  
**LaRae Sprow**  
**Liz Jacobs**