



Ohio Invasive Plants Council

Newsletter • September 2015

PRESIDENT'S CORNER:



We continue to celebrate our 10th anniversary this year. We received good news last month that our application to The Columbus Foundation for OIPC activities in 2015–2016 was approved for

\$9000. These funds will be used for the 2016 Invasive Plants Research Conference to be held February 11, 2016. It will also be used to support several workshops, invasive plant assessments, the small grants program, and a new brochure on landscaping alternatives. The OIPC Invasive Plant Assessment Team recently released its 2014 list of assessed plants which can be viewed on our website at www.oipc.info. Our website will be getting a makeover in the next few months, so be watching for new design and content. We are planning an invasive plant training for ODOT in September and another educational workshop, most likely in northern Ohio. Small grant applications are due again this year for invasive plant research projects by November 1st. 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).

Jennifer L. Windus, OIPC President, ODNR (retired)

OIPC REQUESTS RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSALS: DUE NOVEMBER 1st

OIPC requests proposals for research that enhances understanding of invasive plants relevant to the State of Ohio. The purpose of this program is to support research, outreach, and organizing efforts. In previous years only proposals from students were considered, but this year projects initiated by undergraduate or graduate students, land managers, or amateur botanists are welcome. There are two areas of emphasis for this award: (a) projects that would provide information that addresses one or more of the OIPC Research questions (on www.oipc.info scroll down to 'Research Needs...') and (b) projects that would improve effective management of problematic species. Maximum award is \$1000.

This grants program is supported financially by the Ohio Natural Areas and Preserves Association (ONAPA), the Cincinnati Wildflower Preservation Society, The Columbus Foundation, and OIPC. OIPC is very grateful for the support of these three organizations this year.

For more information visit the OIPC website at www.oipc.info. If you have any questions, please contact Jean Burns, OIPC Board member and leader of the OIPC Research Work Group, at jbm122@case.edu.

David Gorchov, Vice President, OIPC; Miami University

THE OHIO SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE SYMPOSIUM: THE DAWES ARBORETUM, SEPTEMBER 12th

Why do we care about invasive plants? Join the discussion at The Ohio Sustainable Landscape Symposium. Most people develop an interest in invasive plants because of their love of native plants, and diverse wildlife. They see the damaging impacts of invasive plants on local habitats, wildlife populations, the environment, and the economy and wonder how they can make a difference. If you are curious to learn more about how to manage our landscapes in more sustainable ways, you may be interested in The Ohio Sustainable Landscape Symposium to be held September 12, 2015 at The Dawes Arboretum. Whether talking about backyards or conservation preserves, the best way to care for our native plants and habitats is by getting to know the invasive plants and how best to get rid of them.

This symposium will include how to remove invasive plants while incorporating natives, and helping preserve Ohio's unique plant diversity. Topics will cover landscape design with nature in mind, including a variety of plants native to the Ohio River Valley that can provide beauty, function, and ecological benefit in a landscape setting. Opening remarks will be given by Hope Taft, former First Lady of Ohio and Founder of the Heritage Garden at the Governor's Residence. She will kick off a discussion about the role we can all play in creating healthier habitats for both people and wildlife.

Representing OIPC and US Fish and Wildlife Service, Marci Lininger will lead a breakout workshop providing a brief description of the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative in conjunction with ecosystem gardening. The session will include options for sustainable landscape management. Participants will receive an invasive plant ID packet, information about control options and some additional information regarding pollinators in the garden.

Additional featured speakers include Dewey Hollister, Landscape Designer and Project Manager

for the Ohio Governor's Residence and Heritage Garden and Dr. Nicole Cavender, Vice President of Science and Conservation at The Morton Arboretum.

Offered on the beautiful grounds of Dawes Arboretum, participants will enjoy touring the living collections and learning about the Arboretum's stewardship of woodlands, wetlands, streams, ponds, and prairies since 1929. The Arboretum hopes to continue in the tradition of bridging formal landscapes with natural areas as we bring together plant enthusiasts, gardeners, and experts to explore sustainable solutions for increasing and protecting biodiversity within our State. To learn more or register for The Ohio Sustainable Landscape Symposium, visit www.dawesarb.org

Shana Byrd, OIPC Board and The Dawes Arboretum

PHRAGMITES: A CHALLENGING WETLAND INVASIVE PLANT

Common reed grass or Phragmites (*Phragmites australis* ssp. *australis*) is one of the most difficult wetland invasive plants to control in Ohio. It has become well-established in many wetlands and coastal marshes in northern Ohio and is spreading south to many counties. It is thought to have arrived in North America accidentally, most likely in ballast material in the late 18th or early 19th

centuries. It established itself along the Atlantic coast and has spread across the continent.



Phragmites is a tall, perennial wetland grass, reaching 5-10 feet or taller in height. It forms a dense network of rhizomes with deep roots, and vertical stalks arising from the rhizomes. Stiff hollow stalks support 1-2-inch wide leaves. It flowers in late July through August with bushy, gray-purple panicles. Both native and non-native subspecies occur in Ohio,

with the native one being much rarer and it can be difficult to distinguish the two. The native subspecies is typically not aggressive, has smooth, shiny, somewhat purple stems, and short ligules. Two known populations of the native *Phragmites* are located at Cedar Bog and Resthaven Wildlife Area.

The non-native common reed grass can quickly invade a wetland and dominate the habitat, crowding out native plants and developing a monoculture. The monoculture provides very little in resource habitat needs for wildlife, reducing habitat suitability for native species and decreasing overall species diversity by 90%. Its tall stems and dense growth habit block light to other plants and its rhizomes often spread 10-20 feet across the soil surface. It can invade new areas by seed and vegetative rhizomes or even fragments of rhizomes. For many years it was thought to produce few viable seeds. Research at The Ohio State University showed that most seeds are viable and often germinate well in mudflat conditions. Germination conditions determine whether the plant reproduces mainly by seed or vegetative means at a specific site.



Control of *Phragmites* is difficult and requires multiple and ongoing efforts to eliminate it or at least maintain it at a low level in wetlands. Mechanical control methods can be used, such as cutting, pulling, or mowing in the summer, but they are labor-intensive and minimally effective. The use of a Marsh Master, a large piece of machinery which can access wetlands, to crush a stand has been effective in larger populations, such as at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge. Water level control works well when populations are flooded at

the right time of year and for the right time period. Combining herbicide application with mechanical methods or prescribed burning may be effective as well. For example, burning may be done to reduce standing plant biomass before or after herbicide application. Due to the extensive rhizome system, any control method must be repeated several times to control the rhizomes.

Herbicide application using Rodeo®, Accord®, Glypro, AquaNeat®, Habitat®, Polaris® (depending on the site) is most effective in the late summer or early fall when the plant will best transport the product to the roots. Herbicide can be applied with a low volume backpack sprayer, high volume skid sprayer, or even aurally for large populations. Application method and herbicide should be chosen carefully depending on the site and the other species present in the wetland. The herbicide and additives used should be approved for aquatic application.

This fall OIPC will be cooperating with ODOT on *Phragmites* control in some of their roadside wetlands in southeast Ohio. For more information on *Phragmites* and its control, there are numerous websites. We recommend the factsheet on the OIPC website at www.oipc.info, MIPN's control database at www.mipn.org, and Cornell University's website at www.invasiveplants.net.

Jennifer L. Windus, OIPC President & ODNR (retired)

FALL PLANTINGS...THINK SPRING!

***Cercis canadensis*, OUR NATIVE REDBUD**

It is a sure sign that spring is just around the corner when all the hills in Ohio burst into brilliant shades of lavender. The redbud is one of the first spring flowering native trees, typically flowering before it sends out a single leaf. Redbuds are beneficial for



pollinators, especially bees, and the seeds are eaten by various wildlife. Today, through

several horticultural selections and breeding programs, there are many options available to consider for landscape plantings. While our straight redbud is beautiful in its own right, some of these horticultural selections provide different landscape interest.

Ace of Hearts: The small heart-like leaves and its more lavender tinted blossoms add interest to the landscape. Prized both as a dwarf specimen and as a shade tree, has a very distinct and unusual leaf set on its branches.

Alley Cat: A newer introduction of a variegated leaf redbud that is scorch resistant. Splashes of white mottle the green leaves for a very pleasing effect.

Appalachian Red: A true red flowering redbud. The intense red flower almost hurts your eyes when it is in full bloom!

Hearts of Gold: A newer, outstanding introduction with the new growth being bright gold and maintaining the bright gold foliage throughout the growing season.

Merlot: An improved purple foliage redbud that maintains its purple foliage throughout the growing season.

Pink Heartbreaker: A newer weeping form with lavender-pink flowers and a more upright habit than Lavender Twist. Maintains a central leader with weeping side branches. Young leaves are red becoming dark green and remain slightly smaller.

Royal White: As the name suggests, this is a white redbud. Clear, pure white flowers adorn this tree at the same time the typical redbuds bloom. Great contrast when



planted with other standard redbuds.

Ruby Falls: Aptly named, dark maroon heart shaped leaves, rose-purple flowers, and bright red to purple stems, make this weeping purple redbud an outstanding addition to any garden.

Rising Sun: A newer outstanding redbud with the new growth being bright gold tipped with red around the margins. New growth throughout the season allows for a spectacular contrast all season long. This is one of the fastest growing redbuds. It exhibits great vigor and exceptional branching habit.



Vanilla Twist: A weeping white redbud

Pink Pom Poms: Has an outstanding flower display of large, double, dark pink to purple flowers. There are no seedpods because the blooms are sterile.

David Listerman, OIPC Board; Listerman & Associates

SYMPOSIUM ON NON-INVASIVE ORNAMENTAL PLANTS IN CINCINNATI

OIPC members will be participating in a pair of coordinated events exploring how the horticulture industry, plant breeders, regulators, and invasive plant experts can collaborate to promote the development and use of non-invasive ornamental plants. On September 28, a special symposium will be held as part of the International Plant Propagators Society (IPPS) Eastern Region annual meeting at the Cincinnati Netherlands Plaza Hotel. This symposium was organized by Steve Foltz (Cincinnati Zoo), Mike Yanny (Johnson's Nursery, Wisconsin), Theresa Culley (University of Cincinnati)

and past president of OIPC) and Mark Renz (Midwest Invasive Plant Network (MIPN). Speakers will include Mr. Yanny and Bill Hendricks (Klyn Nursery, Ohio) providing insights from the nursery industry, Mark Brand (University of Connecticut) and Kay Havens (Chicago Botanic Garden) speaking on vetting sterile and low-fertility cultivars, Dr. Culley speaking on assessment of invasive status, as well as regulators from nearby states.

On September 29th, the speakers and other participants will continue the discussion on several related issues involving sterile and low fertility cultivars (How stable is sterility? How should their invasiveness be assessed? How should they be regulated?). This will be the third meeting of the Invasive Plants in Trade Working Group, which has been convened and coordinated by MIPN. This discussion will take place at the Cincinnati Zoo.

If you would like to participate on September 28, register through the IPPS website (<http://ippseastern.org/meetings/annual-conference-2015/conference-overview-2015>).

Registration cost is \$125, which is the IPPS member rate as per arrangement between IPPS and MIPN. At this time it is not known how this discount will appear in the registration process, so you are encouraged to just mention MIPN in the registration. If you have problems with registration, please contact Mark Renz, President of MIPN, at mrenz@wisc.edu.

Participation on September 29th is free. Registration with Tony Summers is required (asummers2@wisc.edu).

David Gorchov, Vice President, OIPC; Miami University

RELEASE OF 2014 PLANT ASSESSMENTS

The OIPC Plant List Assessment Team has remained busy this past year and recently released the set of assessments for 2014, consisting of 20 plant species. Our team has continued to focus on assessing species from the 2000 list as well as new suggestions from the OIPC community. The assessment protocol uses 18 questions with a point system to classify species or cultivars into one of the following three categories: Invasive (45-80 points), Pending Further Review (35-44 points), or Not Known To Be Invasive (0-34 points). Of the 14 species recently identified as Invasive, 3 exceeded the previous highest assessment score of 65 points held by Amur honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*). These included reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) 74 points, common reed (*Phragmites australis*) 70 points, and Eurasian water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) 69 points. Other species previously listed as Invasive on the 2000 list were also assessed as Invasive using the newer assessment protocol. These included smooth brome grass (*Bromus inermis*), yellow and white sweet clover (*Melilotus officinalis* and *M. alba*), cutleaf and common teasel (*Dipsacus laciniatus* and *D. fullonum*), Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), and Tartarian and Morrow honeysuckle (*Lonicera tatarica* and *L. morrowii*). Relatively newer additions to the Invasive category are flowering rush (*Butomus umbellatus*), curly pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*), and black swallow-wort (*Vincetoxicum nigrum*).

There were also 3 species categorized as Pending Further Review. Both lesser naiad (*Najas minor*) and the recently reported Japanese chaff flower (*Achyranthes japonica*) received a score of 42, just three points away from being considered Invasive. Garden yellowrocket (*Barbarea vulgaris*) is also considered Pending Further Review with its score of 37. In all three cases, these scores are likely to increase as more information about these species

appears in scientific literature. Species within the Pending category are reassessed by our team approximately every 1-2 years.

Finally, 3 species were assessed as Not Known To Be Invasive. These consisted of border privet (*Ligustrum obtusifolium*), Amur maple (*Acer ginnala*) and hedge maple (*A. campestre*). It is possible. These scores may also change over time as more scientific information is available and if more occurrences are documented in Ohio.

What is coming next? The Plant List Assessment Team is continuing to assess other species, including narrow-leaved cattail (*Typha angustifolia*), hybrid cattail (*Typha x glauca*), spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*), wineberry (*Rubus phoenicolasius*), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum virgatum*), wintercreeper (*Euonymus fortunei*) with the cultivar 'Coloratus', Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) with its cultivar 'Rose Glow', and Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*) with its cultivar 'Crimson King'.

What can you do to help the OIPC Plant List Assessment Team? First, send us any suggestions for new species that you are witnessing to display invasive characteristics, (email Theresa Culley at address below). Your "boots on the ground" observations are important to us! Second, if you see an invader in a natural area, document the occurrence. This can be done by taking photos, recording the location with a GPS, and most ideally, collecting a voucher specimen to deposit at a herbarium (of course, only if you have permission!). This type of information is critical for the team, especially if we are assessing a relatively new introduction in Ohio and we need to determine the extent of spread. Finally, researchers should contact the OIPC Research Work Group to learn about areas of much-needed research that would help the team answer specific questions about certain species, especially species in the Pending Further Review category where we lack information

to adequately answer one or more questions. Ultimately, the success of the OIPC assessment process depends upon everyone working together to feed as much information as possible to our assessment team – together we can make a difference in Ohio!

Theresa Culley, OIPC Plant List Assessment Team Chairperson. Theresa.culley@uc.edu

OIPC INVASIVE PLANTS RESEARCH CONFERENCE SAVE THE DATE: Feb 11, 2016

The Ohio Invasive Plants Research Conference will be held at the Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center in Columbus. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Sarah Reichard, Director of the University of Washington Botanic Gardens. She is an expert on the interface between invasive plants and horticulture, and author of *The Conscientious*



Gardener. Details will follow, but mark your calendar and check our website for more information. Also, please ask for this to be listed on calendars of other organizations with which you are involved.

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