



# Ohio Invasive Plants Council

## Newsletter • July 2016



### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

We hope you are having a good summer while making progress on control of invasive plants – they are everywhere!

OIPC will release the next set of assessed plants this month on our website for your review. These plants were evaluated by Dr. Theresa Culley and her 4-person assessment team. We are hosting two educational workshops; one was on **July 20<sup>th</sup>** at Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park and another on **September 8<sup>th</sup>** at Stratford Ecological Center in Delaware. See our website and an article in this newsletter for more information.

OIPC, in cooperation with The Dawes Arboretum and the Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association, is busy working on a new OIPC brochure using grant funds from The Columbus Foundation. It will focus on alternatives for invasive landscaping plants and should be available this fall.

If you are looking for opportunities to help control invasive plants in natural areas, one way is to participate in the Ohio Natural Areas & Preserves Association's 2016 Stewardship Projects. Twenty projects are scheduled for this year, both on weekends and weekdays. See the ONAPA website at [www.onapa.org](http://www.onapa.org) for more information, particularly what great work has been done so far this year on state nature preserves.

OIPC will again offer small research grants for work in Ohio on invasive plants. See the article in this issue for more information about this funding opportunity – proposals will be due by **November 1<sup>st</sup>**.

As always, we look forward to working with any of our partners this year to plan educational efforts to improve awareness of the threats of invasive plants in Ohio! If you have upcoming events where OIPC may participate by providing a speaker, please let us know (see our website to contact any of our Board members). Help us spread the word about invasive plants and visit our website at [www.oipc.info](http://www.oipc.info) frequently!

*Jennifer L. Windus,*

*OIPC President & ODNR (retired)*

### OIPC INVASIVE PLANTS RESEARCH GRANTS FALL 2016

OIPC will be soliciting applications for our Invasive Plants Research Grants in the fall of 2016. This small grants program funds research projects on invasive plants in Ohio for amounts up to \$1,000. Projects conducted by land managers, undergraduate or graduate students, or amateur botanists are welcomed. Proposals from land managers, especially those that demonstrate practical applications of research in the field, are particularly encouraged. We are hoping to fund research/monitoring projects which document effective control methods for Ohio invasive plants, as well as those which address questions that the OIPC Invasive Plant Assessment Team is trying to answer.

We will consider any research/monitoring project on invasive plants in Ohio, however we have two areas of emphasis for the upcoming grants:

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- (1) Research on management methods for invasive plants in Ohio (especially lesser celandine, Japanese knotweed, or Japanese stiltgrass).

(2) Research on topics that will facilitate completion of Invasive Plant Assessments by the OIPC Invasive Plant Assessment Team. For the current list of these questions, see <http://www.oipc.info/help-answer-research-questions.html>. When the grant evaluation team reviews grant proposals, extra points are given for proposals which address these questions.

Be on the lookout for more details about this opportunity in early fall 2016 at [www.oipc.info](http://www.oipc.info)  
**Applications will be accepted no later than November 1, 2016.**

Jean H. Burns, OIPC Research Chair,  
Case Western Reserve University

### ALTERNATIVES FOR BARBERRY

*Berberis thunbergii*, commonly called Japanese barberry, is a spiny, deciduous shrub native to Japan with broad-rounded leaves. First introduced by the Arnold Arboretum in 1875 as an ornamental shrub, it was promoted as an alternative for common Barberry, a shrub originally from Europe that is the alternate host for black stem rust disease of wheat. The nursery industry has developed many cultivars of barberry from dwarf purple foliated plants such as 'Crimson Pigmy' to ones with bright yellow foliage such as 'Golden Nugget'. Presently there are more than 50 varieties of barberry available in the trade; all with unique leaf coloration and mature sizes.

Japanese barberry has recently been assessed as a species that is 'invasive' in Ohio by OIPC, and is classified as invasive in many other states due in part to its ability to survive in full sun to full shade conditions, tolerance of most soil types, as well as its ability for heavy fruit production. The fruits are eaten by many birds, resulting in wide and fast seed dispersal. Barberry invades natural areas primarily in woodland habitats, often forming a carpet in the understory which out-competes native plants, particularly spring wildflowers.

However, it is the cultivars, not the straight species of Japanese barberry that are typically sold

by the nursery industry. With more than 50 cultivars of barberries potentially able to cross pollinate, how does one know if a certain cultivar is safe to plant? When seedlings are found in natural areas, how do we know which cultivar (or straight species) produced the seed, let alone which produced the pollen that sired that seed? Up to this point, very few cultivars have been assessed for their potential to spread. Work by Dr. Mark Brand from University of Connecticut has shown that measuring seed production in cultivars may not be enough to gauge the possibility that a certain cultivar may contribute to invasive populations. For example, seed production on many cultivars can be low initially, but then increases 10 to 20 fold after several years. In other cases, mature barberry plants of some cultivars may increase seed production when they are stressed.

So, until we know which cultivars of barberry contribute to invasions of natural areas, consider alternative, non-invasive shrubs, such as those described below.

#### For the dwarf purple alternatives, consider these:

##### *Hypericum androsaemum* 'Albury Purple'

This is a beautiful dusky-purple leaved selection of a semi-evergreen, bushy species. Plants have an upright habit, bearing contrasting yellow flowers in mid-summer followed by ornamental clusters of berries that change from pink to red to black.



##### *Weigela florida* 'Spilled Wine'

This is a beautiful dark purple foliage selection that is a low spreading shrub with brilliant pink flowers. Attracting many pollinators, including hummingbirds, makes this an excellent alternative to dwarf purple barberries without the thorns!



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#### For the yellow foliage alternatives, consider these:

##### *Hydrangea quercifolia* 'Little Honey'



A smaller oakleaf hydrangea selection that has bright yellow foliage. It will brighten up any shady location and seldom, if ever, needs any pruning. Creamy white flowers in the summer followed by persistent bloom heads, excellent fall color, and exfoliating cinnamon bark for winter interest.

*Sambucus racemose* 'Lemony Lace'<sup>TM</sup>

A brand new introduction of a native elderberry that produces spectacular lacy yellow foliage and maintains a diminutive stature. Small white flowers in late spring followed by bright red fruit that is a food source for wildlife.

With some incredible new cultivars of non-invasive alternatives, it is time to consider making those changes in your home landscape today.

David Listerman, OIPC Board,  
Listerman & Associates, Inc.

**OIPC ANNOUNCES THE RELEASE OF 2015  
PLANT LIST ASSESSMENT**

The OIPC Plant List Assessment Team is proud to announce the latest release of assessed plants for 2015. Our team, consisting of Rick Gardner (ODNR), Richard Munson (Miami University), John Cardina (The Ohio State University), David Brandenburg (Dawes Arboretum) and me (University of Cincinnati) has been busy assessing plant species for invasive ability using the OIPC assessment protocol (see: <http://www.oipc.info/invasive-plant-assessment-program.html>). This protocol is based on 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).

Last year, we reviewed a number of species that were either suggested to our team by OIPC members or they were on the original 2000 list, which we are now reassessing with the newer scientifically-based method. In addition, we included presumed non-invasive species to test the scoring system. Only individual species were examined; in cases of species

of ornamental importance, all cultivars must be assessed separately for invasive ability.

Of the 18 assessed species, 11 were found to be Invasive. These included species that had been previously recognized in the earlier 2000 list or are well-known invasives in other states: purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria* – 77 points, the new highest score), cattails (*Typha angustifolia* and *Typha x glauca* – each 73 pts), spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe* spp. *micranthos* - 59), and kudzu (*Pueraria lobata* – 56). New Invasive additions that were not previously assessed include Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii* -54), Chinese silvergrass (*Miscanthus sinensis* - 49), dame's rocket (*Hesperis matronalis* – 45), hairy willow-herb (*Epilobium hirsutum* – 45), morning glory (*Ipomoea purpurea* – 45), and wintercreeper (*Euonymus fortune* – 45).



Wintercreeper

Several plant species were assessed as Pending Further Review and thus do not reach Invasive status at this time: field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis* – 42), ditch lily (*Hemerocallis fulva* – 37), wineberry (*Rubus phoenicolasius* – 36), and Norway maple (*Acer platanoides* – 36). At the request of the OIPC Board, the team also reassessed princess tree (*Paulownia tomentosa*) and the species was upgraded from Not Known to Be Invasive to Pending Further Review status (an increase from 34 to 36 points). Three other species found Not Known to Be Invasive at this time are aralia (*Eleutherococcus sieboldianus* – 15), a cultivar of Norway maple ' (*A. platanoides* 'Crimson King' - 11) and big blue lilyturf (*Liriope muscari* – 7).

**What is the Plant List Assessment Team working on now?** We are continuing to assess many other plant species that have been suggested by OIPC members. These include *Lythrum virgatum*, bamboo (*Phyllostachys aurea-sulcata*), burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*), Cypress spurge (*Euphorbia cyparissias*), and Amur corktree (*Phellodendron amurense*).

**What can you do to help the OIPC Plant List Assessment Team?** We are always looking for suggestions for new species to assess, especially if you see something in natural areas – please email Theresa Culley at [theresa.culley@uc.edu](mailto:theresa.culley@uc.edu). Species are scheduled to be assessed well into early 2017, but we always welcome new additions. The team also seeks input from interested OIPC members who can answer specific questions that will help us update and complete assessments – please see: <http://www.oipc.info/help-answer-research-questions.html>.

Our Assessment Team looks forward to working with you to make a difference in Ohio and reduce the number of invasive species in our natural areas.

*Theresa Culley, University of Cincinnati, Chair of the OIPC Assessment Team*

## **OHIO POLLINATOR HABITAT INITIATIVE (OPHI): Creating and Improving Pollinator Habitat in the State of Ohio**

In May of 2015, the White House released a National Strategy that called on all Federal agencies to work within and with partners to reverse the declining number of pollinators and monarch butterflies by increasing habitat on the landscape. The national goal is to create or enhance 7 million acres of quality habitat for monarchs and other pollinators across the nation. The Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative (OPHI) was established to create and improve pollinator habitat across the state of Ohio and to increase and improve pollinator conservation awareness for all Ohioans. To support this mission a variety of Federal, state, and local organizations have come together to improve habitat on a landscape level scale.

In support of efforts to improve pollinator habitat, the most recent Federal highway bill proposed a decrease in mowing to support pollinator habitat in right-of-ways and other strategic areas, and emphasized the importance of milkweed. Currently OPHI is working with the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) to develop a pollinator-friendly seed mix for use in reclamation of former mine lands. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is assisting through conservation programs such as the

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). While not targeting pollinators specifically, the diversity of plants used to create habitat is beneficial for pollinators.

State agencies such as the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) have helped improve pollinator habitat by establishing specific pollinator areas and providing information to the public on how to create and enhance pollinator habitat. Ten ODOT districts have at least one pollinator project underway.

Last year OPHI worked with Soil and Water Conservation Districts to collect seed pods from common milkweed. This seed was cleaned by many volunteers and various organizations. Seed was distributed for various pollinator projects or grown into plugs by numerous organizations and used for restoration. ODNR has assisted by providing publications on monarchs and other pollinators.



Common  
milkweed

Private entities such as American Electric Power (AEP) approached ODNR, Division of Wildlife, seeking ways to develop pollinator-friendly habitat on their transmission line right-of-ways and at their facilities. This led to a cooperative effort between OPHI and AEP, leading to the development of a seed mix specifically for AEP right-of-ways.

One of OPHI's greatest accomplishments was developing a seed mix that all entities would support and use. It needed to be cost effective and produce flowering plants in the initial years of establishment. Members of OIPC and other entities also insisted that the mix be dominated by native species, instead of fast-growing, showy non-native species. After much discussion a seed mix specific to Ohio has been developed. It contains a mix of native species that will help to stabilize soil and will provide some nectar in the first season. There are several non-native, non-invasive species included. However, it is hoped that as demand for native plants increases this will improve production and availability of native species, which in turn will allow the non-native species to be removed from the seed mix in future years.

At the end of August OPHI will host a pollinator symposium aimed at improving pollinator conservation awareness and to assist in the creation and improvement of pollinator habitat across the state. To register for the symposium visit: <http://ohio.apwa.net/EventDetails/9036>. For more information about pollinators and their habitats visit [www.ophi.info](http://www.ophi.info).

*Jennifer Finfera, OIPC Board, US Fish and Wildlife Service*

### **NEW BROCHURE COMING SOON:**

#### ***Alternatives for Invasive Plants in Ohio – A Guide for Landscaping and Habitat Restoration***

Ohio Invasive Plants Council (OIPC) is partnering with Dawes Arboretum and Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association (ONLA) to develop a new brochure which describes 15 invasive plants and provides suggestions of 3-4 alternatives to plant in their place. Both Dawes and ONLA are providing guidance on the alternatives, to ensure they are acceptable, non-invasive choices and are available in the nursery market. Dawes is also helping with the graphic design and layout of the brochure.

The recommended alternatives will be good choices for replacing invasives in landscaping as well as adjacent natural habitat, such as woods, grasslands, and wetlands. As more landowners become interested in removing invasive plants from their landscaping and their property, they often need advice about what species are appropriate to plant instead. This brochure should reach a wide audience of gardeners, landscapers, land managers, and property owners. The full-color, 12-panel brochure is being funded by a 2015 grant from The Dr. Thelma I. Schoonover Fund of The Columbus Foundation. We expect the brochure will be printed this fall. Watch our website to announce its availability!

*Jennifer Windus,*

*OIPC President and ODNR (retired)*

### **WORKSHOPS FOR LAND MANAGERS AND PRIVATE**

**LANDOWNERS: July 20<sup>th</sup> and September 8<sup>th</sup> in  
Central Ohio**

The Ohio Invasive Plants Council (OIPC), in cooperation with the ODNR Divisions of Natural Areas & Preserves and Forestry, and Crane Hollow, Inc. in Hocking County, hosted a workshop on July 20 and will host another on Sept. 8 about controlling invasive plants for land managers and property owners: ***“Aliens on Your Land! Strategies for Controlling Invasive Plants”***. The workshops include an overview of invasive plants, how ODNR controls invasive plants on state nature preserves and forests, and how to deal with invasive plants on your property.

The July 20<sup>th</sup> workshop was held at Cedar Ridge Lodge at Battelle-Darby Creek Metro Park. 49 people attended the free workshop. Many of the attendees were homeowners with concerns about invasive plants on their property.

The September 8<sup>th</sup> workshop runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Stratford Ecological Center at 3083 Liberty Road in Delaware. Lunch and a walk to view invasive plants will be included for a \$10 registration fee. Registration is now open for this workshop. Attendees should register online in advance at [www.oipc.info](http://www.oipc.info). Registration is limited to 70 people.

*Jennifer Windus,*

*OIPC President and ODNR (retired)*

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