Ohio River Valley Invasive Species Conference

March 19-20, 2025

Burlington, Kentucky

BUILDING BRIDGES FOR INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Hosted by

mipn

MIDWEST INVASIVE PLANT NETWORK

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Welcome to the Ohio River Valley Invasive Species Conference!

We are so glad you could join us for the first Ohio River Valley Invasive Species Conference. The theme for this event is *Building Bridges for Invasive Species Management* and we are excited to bring together professionals and concerned individuals who work on, and care about, the issue of invasive species in the lower Midwest. This time together will help strengthen awareness of invasive species issues, prevention, and management. We are grateful to the many talented and committed individuals and organizations that are providing oral presentations, sharing their work via poster presentations, and leading informative and inspiring field trips and workshops. Our hope is that by sharing innovative and practical solutions among resource managers, researchers, green industry professionals, landowners, government agencies, and concerned individuals we can help improve invasive species management in the Ohio River Valley and beyond.

Hosted by the Midwest Invasive Plant Network

mipn
MIDWEST INVASIVE
PLANT NETWORK

The Midwest Invasive Plant Network's (MIPN) mission is to reduce the impact of invasive plants in the Midwest. Our network brings together government agencies, nonprofit and for-profit corporations, scientists, and private citizens across the Midwest to collaborate on projects and share information on invasive plants. MIPN primarily works with partners in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin, and the Province of Ontario. MIPN's efforts are focused on promoting effective prevention methods and early detection of new invaders; providing information on recent research that is relevant to the management of invasive species; supporting growth and development of Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas; and connecting states within our region to each other and to invasive species organizations at a national level.

Conference Partners

Thank you to all the partners who have stepped up to help plan this event and make it a reality. A special thank you to **Boone County Extension** for providing the venue space.

Kris Stone, Boone County Arboretum

Theresa Culley, University of Cincinnati

Chris Evans, University of Illinois Extension

Emily Finch, Martin, Daviess, and Orange County SWCDs (Indiana)

David Gorden, Mark M. Holeman, Inc.

Robert Brockman, University of Kentucky Extension

Mike Smith, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet

Kasia Bradley, Kentucky State University

Lacey Laudick, University of Kentucky Extension

Shikha Singh, JLW CISMA (Michigan)

Ellen Crocker, University of Kentucky

Joyce Bender, Kentucky Invasive Plant Council

Dawn Slack, Indiana Invasive Plant Council

Jessica Slade, Kentucky Natural Lands Trust

Paul Cappiello, Yew Dell Gardens

Congratulations to the Kentucky and Ohio Invasive Plant Councils!

The Kentucky Invasive Plant Council and Ohio Invasive Plant Council are celebrating milestone anniversaries this year.

Kentucky Invasive Plant Council (KIPC) – Celebrating 25 years!
The Kentucky Invasive Plant Council (KIPC) is dedicated to protecting Kentucky's native biodiversity by identifying, preventing, and managing the spread of invasive plants. Through collaboration with government agencies, conservation groups, academic institutions, and local communities, KIPC fosters research, education, and best management practices that help safeguard the Commonwealth's unique natural landscapes. Learn more about KIPC's ongoing efforts—and how you can get involved—at www.se-eppc.org/ky.

Ohio Invasive Plant Council (OIPC) – Celebrating 20 years!
The Ohio Invasive Plants Council became a non-profit organization in July 2005, after starting as a working group of many diverse partners for four years. In the past 20 years, OIPC has developed brochures, factsheets, displays, and a website, held annual meetings and research conferences, developed a science-based assessment protocol, worked with the Ohio Department of Agriculture to ban the sale of 64 invasive plants, and cooperatively worked with partners, including the nursery industry, to improve awareness of the threats of invasive plants.

General Conference Information

Location and Parking

Free parking is available at the Boone County Extension Enrichment Center located at 1824 Patrick Drive, Burlington, KY.

Registration/Check-In

A registration desk is located just inside the main entrance to the Enrichment Center. Check in times are listed below. Michelle Beloskur, Director of the Midwest Invasive Plant Network is our Conference

Administrator (mipn@mortonarb.org). Members of our conference planning team and volunteers will also be on hand to assist you and answer questions throughout the event.

March 19th 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

March 20th 7:00 am – 8:30 am

Poster Presentations

Poster presentations will be on display in Room 4. You are welcome to peruse the posters at any time, but there will be a reception on March 19th from 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm when presenters will be on hand to answer questions and discuss their work.

Exhibits

Please be sure to stop by the sponsor and exhibitor tables located throughout the Center's main floor. The reception on Wednesday March 19th and the morning and afternoon breaks on Thursday March 20th are ideal times to check out their displays and learn about their work and services.

Food & Beverage

Barone Catering will be providing most of our food and beverage services, which will include meat and vegetarian options. If you requested a gluten free alternative, you will receive a ticket when you check in for the conference that you will show to receive one of our other meal options. In an effort to reduce plastic waste, we will not be providing bottled water. Coffee will be available with breakfast and with our afternoon snack on Thursday. Iced tea and soda will be provided with lunch. Attendees are encouraged to bring water in a reusable water bottle if they would like to have that as an option.

March 19

We encourage field trip and workshop attendees to eat lunch prior to these events or you may bring food with you. We also encourage you to bring water in a reusable bottle. Light snacks and drinks will be provided, but they may not meet all dietary needs.

An evening reception will be held from 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm with our exhibitors and poster presenters. A variety of hors d'oeuvres will be served along with non-alcoholic beverages.

March 20

7:00 am – 8:30 am – Continental Breakfast

9:45 am – 10:20 am – Morning Break

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm – Lunch Buffet

2:50 pm – 3:20 pm – Afternoon Break with Refreshments

At-A-Glance Schedule

Wednesday March 19, 2025

11:00 AM	Registration Opens
12:30 PM - 4:30 PM	Field Trips & Workshops
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Burning Bush Demonstration, Boone County Extension Enrichment Center
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM	Reception, Exhibits, & Poster Presentations

Thursday March 20, 2025

7:00 AM - 8:30 AM	Registration
8:30 AM - 8:45 AM	Welcome Address: Kristopher Stone, Boone County Arboretum
8:45 AM - 9:45 AM	Keynote Address: Daniel Simberloff, University of Tennessee-Knoxville *Pie in the Sky or Pie a'la Mode: What Can Molecular Genetics Contribute to Managing Invasions?*
9:45 AM - 10:20 AM	Break with Exhibitors
10:20 AM - 12:00 PM	Breakout Sessions Room 1: Early Detection & Innovations Room 2: Forest Health
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM - 2:50 PM	Breakout Sessions Room 1: Control & Management Part 1 Room 2: Aquatic Invasives
2:50 PM - 3:20 PM	Break with Exhibitors
3:20 PM - 5:00 PM	Breakout Sessions Room 1: Control & Management Part 2 Room 2: Collaborating for Success!

Keynote Presentation

Sponsored by Davey Resource Group & State of Indiana Cooperative Invasive Management

Dr. Daniel Simberloff

Professor of Environmental Science, University of Tennessee, Knoxville Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

Daniel Simberloff is the Nancy Gore Hunger Professor of Environmental Studies at the University of Tennessee. He received his A.B. (1964) and Ph.D. (1968) from Harvard University and was a faculty member at Florida State University from 1968 through 1997, when he joined the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Tennessee. His publications number ca. 500 and center on ecology, biogeography, evolution, and conservation biology; much of his research focuses on causes, consequences, and management of biological invasions. His research projects are on insects, plants, fungi, birds, and mammals. He was editor-in-chief or co-editor-in- chief of Biological Invasions (2009-2024), senior editor of the Encyclopedia of Biological Invasions (2012), author of Invasive Species: What Everyone Needs to Know (2013), co-editor of Integrating Biological Control into Conservation Practice (2016), and serves or has served on the editorial boards of several journals. In 2006 he was named Eminent Ecologist by the Ecological Society of America, in 2012 he won the Margalef Prize for research in ecology, and in 2015 he won the Wallace Prize of the International Biogeography Society for lifetime contributions. He is a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Pie in the Sky or Pie a' la Mode: What Can Molecular Genetics Contribute to Managing Invasions?

The rapid development of molecular genetic technology beginning with the discovery of allozymes in the 1950s and leading to the entire field of genomics has led to several new approaches to managing invasive species. The main ones involve attempting to silence important genes in an invader, introducing a transgene that induces functional sterility, and gene-editing, especially with CRISPR-Cas9. Although several projects along these lines have already been implemented or are nearing implementation, they are far from exhausting possible uses of molecular genetic technology to manage invaders; I will give an example of using sequence data to increase the success rate of eradication efforts. Almost all proposals to deal with invasions through molecular genetic means are bootlegged on much larger and better funded projects in medicine and agriculture. Although some ideas seem like hyped wishful thinking, and impediments abound, greatly increasing the relatively low investment in research on molecular genetic methods to manage invasions would at least lead to a firmer understanding of what might really be possible and could lead to implementing promising projects more quickly.

March 19, 2025

Field Trips & Workshops

Transportation will be provided for each field trip. Buses and vans will depart from the Enrichment Center at 12:30 pm and return no later than 4:30 pm. Please plan to eat lunch prior to your arrival, or you may bring your own food either on the bus or to the Enrichment Center. All attendees are welcome to take part in an on-site demonstration of burning bush removal and native plant restoration at 4:00 pm provided by Williams Creek Management. Afterwards, don't forget to join us for a reception and poster presentation session at 5:00 pm. This will be a great opportunity to meet and network with our conference sponsors and exhibitors.

Conservation of the Oxbow Wetland: A Successful Tristate Collaboration

Sponsored by Davey Resource Group

Photo courtesy of Theresa Culley

Located just 16 miles from downtown Cincinnati, the Oxbow is a unique floodplain that has been shaped through the centuries by the mighty Ohio River. In 1985, a non-profit grassroots conservation organization, Oxbow Inc., was formed by local citizens (hikers, birdwatchers, hunters, anglers, farmers, etc.) concerned about growing threats of industrial development in the area. Today, this 2,500-acre area is protected across three states (Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky) due to the successful collaboration of Oxbow, Inc. with state and local agencies. This biodiverse gem is constantly being reshaped by natural spring flooding and today is home to nearly 500 vascular plants, at least 66 species of fish, many species of resident birds (including bald eagles), and is a stop-over location for rare birds such as the tundra swans, white pelicans, and sandhill cranes. Certain invasive plant species able to persist in flooded areas have also appeared over time, and are now being managed by volunteers and AmeriCorps interns. During this trip, we will learn about the history of the Oxbow and how it was successfully safeguarded through land purchases and easements, as well as management plans today to protect the unique biodiversity of this floodplain ecosystem. Travel within the preserve may be subject to spring flooding, but will consist of stops with short hikes to points of interest.

Photo courtesy of the U.S. Dept. of Energy

Fernald Preserve: A Superfund Site that Became a Biodiverse Natural Ecosystem

Sponsored by KCI Technologies

Once a contaminated Superfund site due to its role in the Cold War uranium production industry, the 1,050-acre Fernald Preserve in southwestern Ohio is now considered a success story of environmental clean-up, remediation, and ecological restoration. Created and supervised today by the US Department of Energy, Fernald consists of 395 acres of forest, 384 acres of prairies and grassland, 60 acres of open water, and 83 acres of wetlands. It boasts a 7-mile trail network, a Visitors Center (one of the first platinum-LEED certified buildings in Ohio) with educational programs, and many opportunities to observe a diverse array of plants, birds, and other wildlife. During our trip, we will learn about the history of this former Superfund site at the Visitors Center and hike in the preserve to see native plants and animals, and learn about their invasive management program.

Boone County Arboretum: A PGSIP Site in Action

Sponsored by Boone County Arboretum

Photo courtesy of Boone County Arboretum

Located just outside Union, KY, and only 25 minutes southwest of downtown Cincinnati, Boone County Arboretum offers a unique opportunity to explore diverse plant collections in a landscape arboretum setting. Situated on 121 acres, it is the first arboretum in the U.S. to be integrated within a recreation park, blending the beauty of nature with 12 athletic fields connected by a 2.2-mile multi-use trail system. The true highlight of the Arboretum lies in its specialized plant arrangements. From native species to rare and obscure introductions, the collections captivate plant enthusiasts and casual visitors alike. Boone County Arboretum holds the prestigious Level IV Accreditation from the ArbNet Accreditation Program, a distinction shared by very few arboreta in the region. During this field trip, participants will have the chance to explore the Arboretum's extensive plant collections and learn about its active role in the Public Gardens as Sentinels against Invasive Plants (PGSIP) initiative. As a PGSIP site, the Arboretum plays a vital role in monitoring and assessing the invasive potential of non-native species. Additionally, the tour will include a visit to a recently completed stream restoration project, conducted in collaboration with Northern Kentucky University, which demonstrates innovative conservation efforts on the property.

Cincinnati Horticultural Tour

Sponsored by BASF

Photo courtesy of Spring Grove Cemetery & Arboretum

Spend an afternoon at two of Cincinnati's most significant horticultural attractions, where you will learn about them from the staff that cares for them. The Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, one of the country's first zoos, is renowned for its year-round beauty, from its April tulip display to its stunning fall colors. It offers a variety of themed gardens and realistic animal exhibits. But beyond its plantings are plant conservation, native plant education, and plant trial programs that place it at the forefront of regional horticultural significance. And it has animals too! Spring Grove Cemetery was established by the Cincinnati Horticultural Society in 1845. Their intent was to create a cemetery with a "romantic landscape in the English fashion". Its "rural" design with picturesque aesthetics influenced many other cemeteries that followed. As it grew and evolved, so did its extensive collection of plants. Today, it features over 1300 different labeled trees and shrubs, including 30 State Champion trees and a 400-year-old White Oak. Recognizing the Cemetery's active involvement in forestry, nursery, and horticultural activities, the name "Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum" was formally adopted in 1987. It received National Historic Landmark designation in 2007.

On Site Demonstration! Burning Bush Eradication & Native Plant Restoration

Sponsored by Williams Creek Management

Photo courtesy of Michelle Beloskur

Williams Creek Management will lead a demonstration of burning bush eradication at the Boone County Extension Center from 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm. Time and materials permitting, they will also work to restore the site with native plantings. All available conference attendees are invited to meet at the Center and join in this event, prior to our evening reception.

Workshop 1: Invasive Grasses of the Lower Midwest

Sponsored by Eco Logic, LLC

Miscanthus sinensis, photo courtesy of Leslie Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

Presenters: Erin Garrett and Chris Evans, University of Illinois
Duration: 4 hours
This workshop will cover identification and management strategies for several invasive grasses found in the lower Midwest including: stiltgrass, small carpetgrass, *Miscanthus* spp., Johnsongrass, tall fescue, *Phragmites*, brome grass, and reed canarygrass.

Workshop 2

Sponsored by the State of Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management

Part 1: Herbicide Preparation and Application Techniques for Invasive Plant Management

Photo courtesy of Purdue University

Presenters: Lenny Farlee and Ron Rathfon, Purdue University
Duration: 2 hours
This workshop will provide a comprehensive overview regarding the use of herbicides for invasive plant management. Lenny Farlee and Ron Rathfon, from Purdue University, will present on common herbicides and formulations, and how they are used. Learn about creating herbicide mixes, the best concentrations for various uses, and when to use adjuvants such as surfactants and water conditioners. This workshop will also cover a variety of application techniques and tools, including recommendations of herbicides and application methods for specific invasive plants.

Part 2 : An Introduction to EDDMapS: Use and Applications in the Lower Midwest

Presenters: Rebekah D. Wallace, Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health and Dawn Slack, Indiana Invasive Plant Advisory Committee
Duration: 2 hours

The Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health (Bugwood) at the University of Georgia has spent the last 3 decades working with partners worldwide to create tools and make resources available for the invasive species and pest fields. EDDMapS was launched in 2005 and has had many upgrades over the years. A few of the most recent advances have occurred with the EDDMapS Pro app, the launching of Bugwood Connect, the debut of EDDMapS Projects, new partners and expansions with the Wild Spotter

program, and updates to various tools available on the EDDMapS website. All of these features and tools are built in collaboration with partners to ensure they achieve the goals of those programs and then are made broadly available for free to help other programs. This workshop is for new EDDMaps users, or for those wanting to reacquaint themselves with this invasive species reporting tool. We will also hear from local natural resource managers on what plants you can be on the lookout for, and how the reports you submit help guide invasive species prevention and management efforts in the Lower Midwest.

March 20, 2025

8:30 AM – Welcoming Remarks

Kristopher Stone, Director of Boone County Arboretum & Midwest Invasive Plant Network Board Member

8:45 AM – Keynote Address

Sponsored by Davey Resource Group and the State of Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management

Pie in the Sky or Pie a 'la Mode: What Can Molecular Genetics Contribute to Managing Invasions?

Dr. Daniel Simberloff, Professor of Environmental Science
University of Tennessee-Knoxville, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

9:45 AM Break – Visit with Sponsors & Exhibitors

10:20 AM Breakout Sessions

If there is more than one author, an asterisk (*) denotes who will be presenting

Early Detection & Innovations – Room 1

Sponsored by Kentucky Invasive Plant Council

- 10:20 AM **Identification of Early Detection Terrestrial Invasive Plant Species** Emily Finch, Martin County Soil & Water Conservation District
- 10:40 AM **3-D Printed Models: A Novel Approach for Invasive Species Scouting** Carrie Brown*, Amy Stone*, and Ashley Leach, Ohio State University Extension
- 11:00 AM **The Role of Ornamental Cultivars in Plant Invasions in the Midwestern U.S.** Theresa Culley*, Robert Elam, Megan Callahan, Caitlin Barilleaux, Jenn Breiner, Becca Erikson, Sandro Chikovani, and Olivia Leek, University of Cincinnati
- 11:20 AM **Public Gardens as Sentinels of Plant Invasion** Theresa Culley*, University of Cincinnati; Kurt Dreisilker, The Morton Arboretum; Michelle Beloskur, Midwest Invasive Plant

Network; Nadia Cavallin, Royal Botanic Garden; Kayri Havens, Chicago Botanic Garden; Hans Landel; Brittany Shultz, Missouri Botanical Garden; Jenn Breiner, University of Cincinnati

- 11:40 AM **Tracking Early Detection Non-Native Plant Invaders in the Mid-Atlantic: Wavyleaf basketgrass (*Oplismenus undulatifolius*), Goatsrue (*Galega officinalis*), and Glossy Buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*)** Heather Smith, USDA Forest Service (pre-recorded)

Forest Health - Room 2

Sponsored by University of Illinois Extension

- 10:20 AM **Association Between Invasive Plant Species, Tick Abundance and Pathogen Carriage in Southern Illinois** Chris Evans*, Teresa Steckler, and Yvette Johnson-Walker, University of Illinois; Holly Tuten and Chris Stone, Illinois Natural History Survey; San Myint and Erica Jackson, University of Illinois
- 10:40 AM **Updates on Laurel Wilt Disease in Kentucky, A New Threat to Sassafras** Ellen Crocker*, University of Kentucky; Tyler Dreaden, USDA Forest Service
- 11:00 AM **Deer and Invasive Plants: Impacts and Interactions** David Gorchov, Miami University
- 11:20 AM **How Effective are Emerald Ash Borer Parasitoids, and Can We Integrate Them with Insecticide Treatments?** Caleb Wilson*, University of Kentucky; Louise Labbate, Toby, Petrice, and Therese Poland, USDA Forest Service; Deborah McCullough, Michigan State University
- 11:40 AM **Seeding Log Landings to Benefit Pollinators and Limit Non-native Plant Invasion** Jen Larson*, Lauren Piel Knapp, and Dacoda Maddox, USDA Forest Service (pre-recorded)

12:00 PM – Lunch

1:10 PM Breakout Sessions

Control & Management Part 1 – Room 1

Sponsored by Purdue University

- 1:10 PM **Invasive Plant Control Priorities & Goals for Landowners** Emily Finch, Martin County Soil & Water Conservation District
- 1:30 PM **Are *Elaeagnus umbellata* invasions limited by microbial mutualists?** Scott Meiners* and Cody Leverette, Eastern Illinois University
- 1:50 PM **Native Forb Cover and Density are Increased by Cut Surface and Foliar Herbicide Applications to Woody Shrubs Invading Restored Midwestern Prairies** Mark Renz, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 2:10 PM **- Herbicide and application timing trials for controlling winter creeper** Ron Rathfon, Purdue University
- 2:30 PM – **Q&A with session presenters**

Aquatic Invasives – Room 2

Sponsored by U.S. Geological Survey

- 1:10 PM **The Kentucky Aquatic Nuisance Species Plan (KANSP)** Jeffrey Herod, Kentucky Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources
- 1:30 PM **Overview of Aquatic Invasive Species in Kentucky: Building a Team** Jeffrey Herod, Kentucky Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources
- 1:50 PM **Would the real Rusty Crayfish please stand up? Genetic and Morphological Evidence of Cryptic Diversity in its Native Range** David Hayes* and Mauro Madrid-Perez, Eastern Kentucky University
- 2:10 PM **Identification and Ecology of the Native Common Reed (*Phragmites americanus*)** Zach Poynter, Ramboll
- 2:30 PM **Opportunities and Barriers to Collective Action for Controlling *Phragmites* in Suisun Marsh** Erica Kronenberger* and Zhao Ma, Purdue University; Baishnavi Tripuraneni, University of Delaware; John Takekawa, Suisun Resource Conservation; Karin Kettenring, Utah State University

2:50 PM – Break – Visit with Sponsors & Exhibitors

3:20 PM Breakout Sessions

Control & Management Part 2 – Room 1

Sponsored by Alligare

- 3:20 PM **Keep Calm and Drone On: Two years of Invasive Species Treatments with Drones** Samantha Loutzenhiser, KCI Technologies, Inc.
- 3:40 PM **Developing Methods for Landscape-level Exotics Treatment in Heavily Invaded Areas Using UAV's** Stephen C. Tillman* and Terry L. Esker, Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources
- 4:00 PM **Evaluating the Effectiveness and Cost of Integrated Approaches to Manage Woody Invasive Plants** Mark Renz, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 4:20 PM **Invasive Management Panel Discussion** – Mark Renz, UW-Madison; Emily Finch, Martin County Soil & Water Conservation District; Mike Maine, Alligare; Ron Rathfon, Purdue University; Davey Research Group

Collaborating for Success! – Room 2

Sponsored by Ohio Invasive Plant Council

- 3:20 PM **Conservation Stewardship: Building a Network of Dedicated Volunteers** Sam Settlemyre*, Civic Garden Center; Greg Torres*, Drew Goebel*, Brendan Bogosian, Christyl Johnson, Crystal Courtney, and Garrett Dienno, Cincinnati Parks

- 3:40 PM **Community Conservation: Turning Intention into Action with the Meridian Conservation Corps**, Emma Campbell, Meridian Township
- 4:00 PM **On the Front Lines: Building an Effective CISMA Strike Team** Claire Lane, Hamilton County Invasives Partnership
- 4:20 PM **Unlikely Allies: How Strategic Partnerships Advance Our CISMA's Invasive Species Goals** Claire Lane, Hamilton County Invasives Partnership
- 4:40 PM **Tackling Invasive Species Across 55 Counties in Indiana** Dawn Slack, State of Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management

Poster Presentations

Posters will be on display March 19th and 20th. Join us for a reception on Wednesday the 19th from 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm for an opportunity to meet the poster presenters and discuss their work.

Controlling Oriental Bittersweet: Herbicide Trials in Southwest Ohio Forests Chad Gibson and Zach Marcum, Greenacres Foundation

Influence of White-tailed deer herbivory on the invasion of Callery Pear Haley Weber and Dave Gorchov, Miami University

Effects of White-tailed Deer and Woody Invasive Plants on Native Tree Seedlings Abby Hay, Emma Jeffers, and Dave Gorchov, Miami University

Effectiveness of Foliar Herbicides on Privet and Burning Bush Luke Weyer, AJ Norton, and Zach Marcum, Greenacres Foundation

Control Options for Japanese Knotweed Along Roadsides Joe Omielan, University of Kentucky

Kudzu in Covington Kyle Pickering and Chris Kaeff, Williams Creek Management

Answering a Burning Question: Are Invasive Populations of Winged Burning Bush (*Euonymus alatus*) Related to Ornamental Cultivars? Theresa Culley, Megan Callahan, and Sandro Chikovani, University of Cincinnati

Invasive Carp Harvest within the Ohio River Basin Maris Weihe, Chris Bowers, Logan Clark, Chris Hickey, and Jeffrey Herod, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife

Answering a mystery: Genetic analysis of seeds produced by wintercreeper (*Euonymus fortunei*), an invasive ornamental groundcover Robert Elam, Caitlin Barilleaux, Becca Erikson, and Theresa Culley, University of Cincinnati

Origin of Invasive Miscanthus sinensis Populations in North America: Do Cultivars Play a Role? Theresa Culley and Olivia Leek, University of Cincinnati

Sponsors & Exhibitors

Platinum Sponsors

Davey Resource Group

Davey Resource Group works with municipalities, businesses, and a variety of organizations to manage and protect vital ecosystems. We are equipped with the technology and experience to help you with your wetlands and streams, environmental design and ecosystem restoration projects, stormwater management and compliance, and invasive species management. It is our goal to help move projects forward and provide cost-effective solutions to achieve long term goals.

State of Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management (SICIM)

SICIM's vision is a natural landscape defined by healthy, diverse and economically productive communities of native species integrated within a mosaic of other land uses driven by an informed public. SICIM engages people and partners in the restoration and protection of Indiana's natural resources by cultivating and coordinating efforts to manage invasive species

Gold Sponsors

Williams Creek Management

Williams Creek Management is a team of dedicated, multi-disciplinary construction professionals and scientists delivering superior contracting expertise and resource management solutions in order to solve real world problems. We are committed to principles of value-based construction and long-term sustainability of built and natural systems.

KCI Technologies

KCI is a leading multi-disciplinary engineering firm specializing in ecological restoration and innovative aerial land management solutions. With expertise spanning stream and wetland design, low-head dam removal, and construction, our team has successfully restored over 60 miles of stream channels and 1,200 acres of wetlands. The company's cutting-edge Aerial Land Management services utilize advanced drone technology for imagery, species detection, precision seeding, and targeted spraying, ensuring sustainable and efficient project outcomes.

U.S. Geological Survey

The U.S. Geological Survey was created by an act of Congress in 1879 and provides science for a changing world, which reflects and responds to society's continuously evolving needs. As the science arm of the Department of the Interior, the USGS brings an array of earth, water, biological, and mapping data and expertise to bear in support of decision-making on environmental, resource, and public safety issues. The USGS monitors, analyzes, and predicts current and evolving Earth-system interactions and delivers actionable information at scales and timeframes relevant to decision makers. As the Nation's largest water, earth, and biological science and civilian mapping agency, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) collects, monitors, analyzes, and provides impartial scientific understanding about natural resource conditions, issues, and problems. USGS Invasive species research focuses on providing methodologies and information to address the increasing threat to ecological systems and native species from the introduction and spread of invasive plants and animals in aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.

EcoLogic

Eco Logic LLC is an ecological restoration and green infrastructure firm founded in Bloomington Indiana in 1999. We work with clients focused on restoring natural areas and improving the sustainability of our urban environment. We bring over 20 years of experience to every project from assessment and planning through to implementation and long-term management. We understand the life cycle of restoration and green infrastructure projects. Our continued investments in training, infrastructure, and career development have allowed us to retain well trained, passionate team members that bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to every project.

Silver Sponsors

Boone County Arboretum

Kentucky State University

Kentucky Invasive Plant Council

Ohio Invasive Plant Council

University of Illinois Extension Urbana-Champaign

Purdue University

Alligare

BASF

University of Kentucky Extension

Exhibitors

Indiana Forestry & Woodland Owners Assoc.

Ohio River Foundation

Daviess-Martin CISMA

Midwest Great Lakes Society for Ecological Restoration

Woody Warehouse Nursery

Blazing Stars CISMA

Sponsored by