



## The Wayne NF Co-Sponsors Successful Ohio Invasive Plants Research Conference.

*Wayne NF co-sponsors a conference on invasive plant research.*



Scottie Kiser, Fire Engine Captain on the Ironton Districts, learns about the invasive species control from one of the industry sponsors of the conference.

The Wayne National Forest was one of 34 sponsors of the second Ohio Invasive Plants Research Conference, entitled "Continuing Partnerships for Invasive Plant Management." The conference was sponsored by private industry, local garden clubs, private conservation organizations and federal, state and local government land management agencies. The Ohio Invasive Plants Council's (OIPC, [www.oipc.info](http://www.oipc.info)) research work group organized the event that was held at Ohio Wesleyan University.

Nicole Cavender, restoration ecologist at The Wilds and Chad Kirschbaum, botanist on the Ironton Ranger District led the research committee which spent over a year planning this event. Many hours of in-kind contributions were also made by managers and researchers from Summit Metro Parks, Ohio University, Townsend Chemical, Holden Arboretum, USFS Northern

Research Station, Ohio State University, Ohio Wesleyan University, the Nature Conservancy, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the University of Cincinnati.

Over 250 participants listened to talks on invasive species control, research and policy. Case studies on amur honeysuckle, buckthorn, Phragmites and Japanese stilt grass gave the audience insight on how others have been controlling these species. Dr. Zackary Lowe presented his work on integrated vegetation management for invasive species which detailed prescriptions being used to restore habitat at Purdue University. An interesting talk by Dr. Glenn Matlock of Ohio University explained how Japanese stilt grass and multiflora rose use roadsides as habitat and dispersal corridors. Sean Gwinn, a recreation technician on the Ironton District said "Matlack's speech on roads as corridors for invasive plant species was most interesting. I was unaware of the importance that roads and trails play in the spread of invasives."

The plenary speaker was Valerie Vartanian. Valerie discussed The Nature Conservancy's Global Invasive Species Initiative and her efforts to help state invasive plant councils and the nursery industry to work together to prevent future invasive plant problems.

Seven employees representing fire management, recreation, timber, wildlife and botany on the Wayne National Forest attended the meeting. "I learned a great deal about the research that is

being done in the world of invasive species" said Gary Dixon, a forester on the Ironton District. "I felt like the conference was very informative and easy to understand. I was encouraged by the efforts to manage these species, and enlightened by new methods and tools for control."

The work presented at the conference will be published in a peer-reviewed proceedings, the funding of which was provided by a grant from the Forest Service, State and Private Northeastern Area.

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