



Invasive plant partnership hosts successful weed workshop in Southern Ohio

A workshop held in partnership with the newly formed Iron Furnace Cooperative Weed Management Area familiarized people with invasive plants and what they could do to help control these plants.



Michael Wagner, Wayne NF Biological Science Aid and Ohio University student shows a sample of privet

On March 21st, 2007, the Ohio Invasive Plants Council (www.oipc.org) and the Iron Furnace Cooperative Weed Management Area (IFCWMA) hosted an invasive species workshop at the Ohio University Southern (OUS) campus. Seventy-three people attended the event which was also sponsored by the Wayne National Forest, Ohio Division of Wildlife, the Lawrence Soil and Water Conservation District, The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, Noxious Vegetation Control, Townsend Chemical Division, and Ohio University.

The IFCWMA workshop committee led by Michael Wagner, (OUS student and Biological Science Aid from the Wayne National Forest) lined up a diverse array of speakers for the event. Each of three sessions focused on the basics of invasive, non-native species (what are they, where they came from, etc.), control techniques and what the general public can do to help.

The morning session featured Jennifer Windus of the Ohio Division of Wildlife giving an overview of invasives in Ohio, Chad Kirschbaum of the Wayne National Forest and Chris Smith of the Ohio Division of Wildlife on control methods used on public lands in southern Ohio, and Frank Porter of Porter Brook Native Plants on Alternative plants for gardening, pasture and erosion control.

The afternoon session featured Jennifer Windus's presentation again, Chris McCullough, Hamilton County Master Gardner, "10 ways to remove invasive species, a private landowner's perspective", and Jarel Bartig of the Wayne National Forest on "How You can fight invasive species".

The evening session featured Judith Dumke from Chesapeake who introduced the topic

of invasive plant species, Greg Ressler from Townsend Chemical Division spoke about basic control methods and herbicide safety, and Frank Porter and Jarel Bartig repeated their earlier presentations. Displays were provided with time to ask questions.

Each session had opportunities during breaks to examine fresh and dried specimens of invasive plants and opportunities to talk with weed experts from around the state. Also workshop participants won door prizes donated by many local businesses. The conference room and hallways were festooned with posters created by OUS student, Joe Bass, depicting invasive species, native plants and pollinators.

For more information contact Chad Kirschbaum at 740-534-6535