

## **Anticipating The Arrival Of An Unwanted**

Invasive species come in all shapes and sizes. While their introduction can be geographically specific, we know that more often than not, populations increase and radiate in an outward direction. The spread of an invasive species can be compared to a forest fire - the initial detection, no matter the threat, grows and its expansion occurs in a contiguous manner. However, “sparks” can escape and new “hot spots” build and develop into novel and separate infestations.

Using the spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) as a case study, we will describe and explain Ohio’s approach to its outreach and education plan prior to this planthopper’s unwanted arrival and subsequently illustrate how changes were implemented with the first, and then the second, confirmed reproducing populations in the Buckeye State.

The session will include examples of our collaborations, how partnerships were formed, and sources of funding used to implement SLF awareness and prevention in Ohio

Our SLF shared experience at the conference could be implemented in other states as is, but the process, or strategy, used can be applied as states face other invasives threats, including those posed by insects, diseases and plants. While we know no one eagerly awaits the arrival of any new invasive pest, we are sure our colleagues are eager to empower, engage and educate our own audiences and increase our own armies against invasives.



### **Amy Stone**

Amy Stone is an Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator with Ohio State University Extension in Lucas County in NW Ohio. Amy has earned degrees including an Associates Degree in Landscape and Turf Management, a Bachelor of Science Degree, and a Masters Degree in Vocational Education and has worked for OSU for nearly 30 years. While Amy loves the beautiful side of horticulture and natural resources, she has been drawn to work on invasive species and outreach and educational efforts on these unwanted pests.

### **Carrie Brown**

Carrie Brown is the Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator with Ohio State University in Fairfield County. Carrie began her career with Extension in 2021. Carrie was a teacher in the classroom, and worked for the Soil and Water Conservation District before coming to OSU.

### **Ashley Kulhanek**

Ashley Kulhanek is the Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator with Ohio State University in Medina County. Ashley joined OSU Extension in 2013, but had been with OSU for many years. She earned her Master's of Science in Entomology at OSU and began working as a Program Coordinator for the Good Agricultural Practices Team at OSU's Ohio Agricultural Research Development Center (OARDC) in Wooster before coming to Medina County in her current role.

**Kathy Smith**

Kathy Smith is a Program Director with Ohio State University in the School of Environment and Natural Resources. In 2001, Kathy came to OSU from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Forestry serving first as an Extension Associate, then later as Program Director for the Ohio Woodland Stewards Program. She is responsible for coordinating, promoting and teaching programs targeted towards Ohio's many woodland owners and natural resource professionals.