

Field Trip to The Arboretum - State Botanical Garden of Kentucky

Thirty Years of Invasive Plant Impacts on a Bluegrass Woodland

Jim Lempke - Curator of Native Plants and Natural Ecosystems, The Arboretum - State Botanical Garden of Kentucky

Field Trip to The Arboretum - State Botanical Garden of Kentucky

Thirty Years of Invasive Plant Impacts on a Bluegrass Woodland

Jim Lempke - Curator of Native Plants and Natural Ecosystems, The Arboretum - State Botanical Garden of Kentucky

While witnessing over two centuries of catastrophic changes, the 16 acre Arboretum woodlot is the best remnant of Inner Bluegrass upland woods left in the expanding city of Lexington. For over a decade, The Arboretum has been searching for ecological patterns in these woods. This effort has included an intensive battle with 12 exotic-invasive plant species, and many other aggressive alien weeds. In spite of this severe pressure, it is home to over 90 native plant species, including rarities in the city like fragile fern, wild hyacinth, white trout lily, and several ancient individuals of blue ash, bur oak, and chinquapin oak. (200-300 years old) This tour will feature examples of both success and setbacks in The Arboretum's search for a sustainable system of woodland management. Both subtle and dramatic changes that have occurred as a result of human-based restorative activities will be featured.

[View Next Abstract](#)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)