



Speaker's Audio/Visual Form

Thank you for being our speaker. Please provide the following information	
Presenter's Name(s)	Annise Dobson
Date and Time	Sporadically throughout the year
Presentation Title	Impacts of invasive earthworms
Fee / Honorarium	
Location	The Ottawa Valley
Cell Phone or Contact Number for day of Presentation	607-262-0840
Email of Presenter	Annise.dobson@yale.edu
May we share your contact information with other members of the Ontario Horticultural Association?	
If yes, please initial here: <u>AD</u>	
Please check items if they apply to you: ✓	
I have my own Projector and Computer system	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Talk Title: Impacts of invasive earthworms

Brief Description: You may expect that earthworms have always had a place in the soils of Ontario. However, all of the earthworms found in the area are non-native species originating in Europe and Asia. For at least the last 11,000 years since the glaciers receded, ecosystems in the Northern North America developed without earthworms. During the late 1800's and early 1900's many settlers imported European plants that likely had earthworms or earthworm cocoons (egg cases) in their soils. The widespread use of earthworms as fishing bait has spread them to more remote areas of the continent. Without earthworms, fallen leaves are slowly decomposed by microbes, fungi and soil invertebrates. This



creates a spongy layer of organic duff, which is the natural substrate for native woodland wildflowers and many tree seedlings. Invading earthworms consume the leaves that create the duff layer and are capable of eliminating it completely. In this talk I will discuss the most recent research on earthworm ecology, which challenges assumptions about their ubiquitous benefits to native and ornamental plants.

**Brief
Biography**

Dr Annise Dobson grew up in the Ottawa Valley. For her undergraduate degree she attended McGill University, studying plant-insect interactions. She acquired her MSc and PhD at Cornell University, focusing on the impacts of white-tailed deer and invasive earthworms on native plants. She is currently employed as a postdoctoral researcher at Yale University where she studies urban ecology and the invasion of Asian jumping worms. On her trips home to the Valley to visit her family, she loves to discuss plants and ecology.

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Speaker: Annise Dobson
Signature: _____

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