Funding from the International Oak Society in 2023 helped Huntsville Botanical Garden and Auburn University’s Donald E. Davis Arboretum continue our collaborative work to safeguard Boynton oak (*Quercus boyntonii*), which is endemic to sandstone glades in central Alabama. Our efforts focused on acorn collection and removal invasive shrubs like privet (*Ligustrum sinense*) that are choking out its glade habitats. These efforts took us to *Q. boyntonii* habitats on both public and private lands where we were able to engage stakeholders and landowners in the importance of conserving this globally rare oak. Our efforts in removing invasive shrubs allowed us to access previously un-surveyed *Q. boyntonii* populations, which expanded the known number of individuals. Simultaneously, these funds allowed us to collect acorns from multiple maternal lines, bringing new genetic diversity into safeguarding collections that are distributed throughout eastern North America.

Dr. Matt Candeias – Curator at Huntsville Botanical Garden, Alabama, USA

**Huntsville Botanical Garden & Davis Arboretum staff removing dense thickets of invasive privet (*Ligustrum sinense*) that are choking out *Q. boyntonii* habitat.**

Credit: M. Candeias

**Acorn collection and distribution is an important part of building the ex-situ safeguarding collections that are important for *Q. boyntonii* conservation.**

Credit: M. Candeias