



# TICT OFF

Tippecanoe Invasive Cooperative Taskforce Newsletter  
April 2022

## Star of Bethlehem

By: Patty Jones, RIP Squad

*Ornithogalum umbellatum* (Star of Bethlehem) is listed in the Invasive Plant Atlas of the United States. The flowers are beautiful, aren't they? But the plant spreads quickly, growing from small bulbs, and soon becomes a problem. Unfortunately, it is still around as a garden plant. The small grass-like leaves with cream-colored mid-ribs begin to emerge in March in our area, and the delicate white flowers with six petals usually bloom in late April to May.

Besides being invasive, the plant itself is poisonous. In the U.S. Forest Service Weed of the Week fact sheet (linked below): "Poisonous potential: Flowers and bulbs contain glycosides similar to *digitalis*. In some countries children have been poisoned after ingesting the flowers or bulbs. Ingesting two bulbs can cause shortness of breath in adults. Symptoms of toxicosis include nausea, salivation, vomiting, diarrhea, and shortness of breath, pain, burning, and swelling of lips, tongue, and throat, skin irritation following prolonged contact."



Picture by Dan Childs, used with permission



Star of Bethlehem leaves. Picture by Patty Jones

Star of Bethlehem is very difficult to remove once established. **Dig out the bulbs before flowering year after year, let them dry and place in the trash.**

*Patty Jones first noticed two or three Star of Bethlehem plants flowering around her house in spring 2021, and this year she's seen over three dozen leaf clumps emerging. Angie Miller dug a dozen clumps from her yard last year and this year is finding more in her yard and is NOT a fan of this plant!*

Learn more:

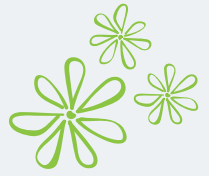
### **Invasive Plant Atlas:**

<https://www.invasiveplantatlas.org/subject.html?sub=6109>

### **USDA:**

<https://www.invasive.org/weedcd/pdfs/wow/star-of-bethlehem.pdf>

# Native Plant Fest



The second annual Native Plant Fest is scheduled for May 14th from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at Ross Camp in West Lafayette. The event is hosted by the Tippecanoe County Soil and Water Conservation District in partnership with the Park and Recreation Department. This free event is focused on the celebration of and education about Indiana's native plants. The event will include a variety of presentations, demonstrations, and hikes. Topics include Managing Invasives to Protect Native Plants, Landscaping with Native Plants, Plant Photography and much more! Additionally, the SWCD Native Plant Sale will offer a variety of native forbs, grasses, sedges, trees and shrubs. Arrive early for the best selection.

This year's event will also feature booths from a variety of local groups that work with native plants, offering a chance to promote their organizations and recruit more volunteers to lend a hand with local conservation work. Be sure to stop by the TICT booth! Organizers are seeking volunteers to help with both the plant sale and event. If you're interested in volunteering, please email Angie Miller at [angela.garcia-miller@in.nacdnet.net](mailto:angela.garcia-miller@in.nacdnet.net).

Please visit the SWCD website for details: [www.tippecanoecountyswcd.org](http://www.tippecanoecountyswcd.org)

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## Introducing the New Invasive Species Technician- Jordan

Hi! I'm Jordan and I'm finishing my undergraduate degree in Natural Resources and Environmental Science at Purdue University. Throughout my college career, I have worked for the Weed Science, Natural Resource Social Science, and Human Dimensions of Natural Resource Management lab groups at Purdue. I recently had an incredible internship with NICHES Land Trust, who I continue to volunteer with. At NICHES, I gained hands-on experience in habitat restoration and was introduced to the world of managing native and invasive plant species found in Indiana. I look forward to being a part of the team at Tippecanoe County SWCD and working with all of you to eradicate invasives!



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## Follow Us on Facebook

**TICT Facebook Page:** <https://www.facebook.com/TippecanoeInvasiveCooperativeTaskforce>

**TICT Webpage:** <https://tippecanoecountyswcd.org/tict-2>

**NICHES Land Trust Facebook Page:** <https://www.facebook.com/NICHEShelpingecosystemssurvive>

**Prophetstown State Park Facebook Page:** <https://www.facebook.com/prophetstownsp/>

**RIP Squad:** <https://www.facebook.com/RIP-Squad-102185094741433>

**Wabash River Enhancement Corporation:** <https://www.facebook.com/WabashRiver>

# TICT Volunteer Callout



**Group:** RIP Squad (Remove Invasive Plants)

**About:** RIP Squad (Remove Invasive Plants) is an open group of volunteers. Several of us are connected with the West Central Chapter of the Indiana Native Plant Society. We work in cooperation with the Sycamore Audubon Society, West Lafayette Parks and Recreation, Tippecanoe County Park and Recreation, and Tippecanoe Invasive Cooperative Task Force (TICT).

**The Project:** One of our joys is seeing spring wildflowers as we work. This year we'll be out April 5 - June 9; on Tuesdays from 3-5pm at West Lafayette parks and Thursdays from 3-5pm at Tippecanoe County parks. Our workdays will focus on GARLIC MUSTARD (*Alliaria petiolata*), and we'll also pull small invasive shrubs.

**Contact:** Patty Jones

Email: [removeinvasiveplants.wcinps@gmail.com](mailto:removeinvasiveplants.wcinps@gmail.com)

Voicemail: 765-463-3050



## Locations & Dates

## Acreage

## Invasive Plans Targeted

Celery Bog Nature Area 3-5pm April 5 & 26, May 17, June 7	105	<i>Alliaria petiolata, Euonymus fortunei, Lonicera maackii</i>
Cumberland Woods (Michaud Sinninger Nature Preserve) 3-5 pm April 19, May 3 & 24	62	<i>Alliaria petiolata, Euonymus fortunei, Lonicera maackii</i>
Happy Hollow Park 3-5 pm April 19, May 10 & 31	81	<i>Alliaria petiolata, Euonymus alatus, Euonymus fortunei, Ficaria verna, Lamium galeobdolon (escaped house plant), Lonicera maackii</i>
Prophet's Rock Woods 3-5pm April 7&21, May 5&19, June 2	48	<i>Alliaria petiolata, Euonymus alatus, Euonymus fortunei, Lonicera maackii</i>
Ross Hills Park 3-5pm April 14&28, May 12&26, June 9	169	<i>Alliaria petiolata, Elaeagnus umbellata, Lonicera maackii, Microstegium vimineum</i>
Ross Camp Saturday May 14 - Native Plant Fest	200	<i>Alliaria petiolata, Elaeagnus umbellata, Lonicera maackii</i>



# NICHES War of the Weeds



From April 8th to May 22nd, NICHES will host our annual spring volunteer effort to improve diversity in woodlands. Every spring, the invasive plant garlic mustard emerges across our preserves in large numbers. If left unchecked, this weed can change soil chemistry, overtake the forest understory, and diminish the beautiful display of native ephemeral wildflowers. With your help, the forest understory will be filled with a diverse mix of plants that provide food and shelter to abundant wildlife.

For this year's effort, we will be hosting 41 garlic mustard pulling shifts at 16 different local nature preserves within a 10-50 minute drive of Lafayette. This is our organization's single biggest annual volunteer push; if we can manage to fill every volunteer shift it will provide over a thousand volunteer hours during a critically important stewardship window. Please check out our shift dates/locations and sign-up.

Contact Sam Cody with any questions: [sam@nicheslandtrust.org](mailto:sam@nicheslandtrust.org)

Every volunteer who signs up for 2 shifts or more before the end of March will receive a t-shirt!

Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c49a5ab28a1f8c43-2022>

## Purdue Resources

Looking for information on invasive species (and other natural resources issues)? Purdue University has some great online resources!

- This page is an excellent hub of invasive species information, including species profiles and links to additional invasive species sites: <https://ag.purdue.edu/reportinvasive/>
- The Habitat University podcast features a variety of discussions on wildlife habitat issues, including this one on the impacts of invasive species: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/episode-11-exploring-the-challenges-of-invasive-species/id1542816604?i=1000531593022>
- Have you heard of using goats for invasive plant control? Check out this issue of the "Got Nature?" Blog to learn more: [https://www.purdue.edu/fnr/extension/goat-grazing-could-be-an-option-for-invasive-species-removal/#:~:text=In%20a%20recent%20study%2C%20Purdue,Purdue%20Agricultural%20Center%20\(SIPA%20C\).](https://www.purdue.edu/fnr/extension/goat-grazing-could-be-an-option-for-invasive-species-removal/#:~:text=In%20a%20recent%20study%2C%20Purdue,Purdue%20Agricultural%20Center%20(SIPA%20C).)
- There are a variety of helpful (and free!) factsheets available through the Purdue Extension Education Store. Just type "invasive" in the search box: <https://mdc.itap.purdue.edu/newsearch.asp>.