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# TICT OFF

Tippecanoe Invasive Cooperative Taskforce  
Newsletter

## August 2023

### Put A Cork In It! Slowing the Spread of an Invasive Species

By: Jenna Parks Freeman, Interpretive Naturalist, Prophetstown State Park



*Prophetstown State Park staff searching for invasive Amur cork trees.*

Since 2015, staff within the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) have spotted Amur cork tree (*Phellodendron amurense*) at Prophetstown State Park (PSP.) I was unfamiliar with this species when I first started at PSP, but now it is one of the plants I see in my invasive-themed nightmares!

Native to Asia, Amur cork tree has compound leaves similar in appearance to the black walnut. Like the common name suggests, cork tree has corky outer bark. One striking feature of the species is the bright electric yellow inner bark (see photo.) This feature is unmistakable and unlike any other species I have seen. The tree is dioecious (meaning there are separate male and female trees) with the female trees producing berries. Birds are quite effective at spreading the seeds, though the fruits offer little by way of nutrition compared to native species.



*Inner bark of the Amur cork tree*

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In 1967, Amur cork trees were planted at the Battle Ground Golf Club. Today, PSP is located downhill and just south of the golf club. In recent years, Amur cork tree has

started to creep from the golf course and make its way into the park. Each year, staff treat about 300 acres of the park for the removal of Amur cork tree. It is rare to pinpoint the source of a spreading invasive species. While its movement throughout the park has taken place over several years, Amur cork tree is an unwanted guest that is competing with native species and spreading from the source.

In an effort to eradicate the source of this unwanted guest, staff within the DNR entered into discussions with staff at the Lafayette Parks Foundation and Battle Ground Golf Club regarding the removal of several female Amur cork trees on the golf course. The Battle Ground Golf Club agreed to let PSP staff cut the large female trees, grind the stumps, clear rough areas infested with Amur cork tree, and treat resprouts at the course.

Thanks to the Tippecanoe Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), funding was provided to order non-invasive replacement trees for the course (including oaks and maples.) In total, 17 mature female Amur cork trees were removed from Battle Ground Golf Club and 17 replacement trees were provided. DNR staff also provided suggestions to the golf club concerning the management of rough areas and the benefits of native species.



*Amur cork trees in the process of being cleared from a rough area at the golf club. All the light grey branches are Amur cork trees. There were at least 100 young cork trees in this spot.*



*Mature female Amur cork tree cut into chunks for removal at the Battle Ground Golf Club, with PSP staff for scale.*

The project wrapped up in March of 2023, although PSP staff will continue treating Amur cork tree resprouts at the club. It was refreshing to be a part of a project involving multiple agencies working together to solve an environmental issue. I very much look forward to the positive impact this will have in slowing the spread of Amur cork tree at Prophetstown State Park!

Special thanks to the following people for their support in this project: Brian Boszor, Dan Childs, Angie Garcia-Miller, Jason Getz, Kris Gertz, Dick Murray, Mike Mycroft, Jenna Parks Freeman, Gregory Shaner, Sarah Sowinski, Sarah Vaughn, Dan White, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Tippecanoe Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Battle Ground Golf Club.

Learn more about Amur cork tree by clicking the button below.

[Read More](#)

# Common Mullein

by Madison Neher

Have you ever seen a tall plant with felt-like leaves and small, yellow flowers before? That could be a Common Mullein! They are an invasive plant that grow most commonly in open areas, like meadows and forest openings. They prefer dry, sandy soils with no vegetation cover. It was originally brought from Europe by settlers where it was used as a medicinal herb.

This plant is an herbaceous biennial with deep roots. In their first year, plants are low-growing as rosettes and felt-like leaves. In the second year, they make the leap to produce a flower stalk that is 5-10 ft tall. The stalk has small 5-petaled flowers that grow densely. The flowers attract a wide variety of insects, like bees, flies, and butterflies.



*Very small seeds of Common Mullein*



*First year rosette of Common Mullein*



*Second year Common Mullein after bolting*

These plants spread by seed dispersion and a single plant can produce 100,000-180,000 seeds which remain viable for over 100 years! This makes it very difficult to fully eradicate them from an area. While it is invasive, it is not very aggressive due to seeds requiring open ground to germinate. But once the soil is disturbed, it can come back and become a problem in sunny, open areas.

Common Mullein is easily controlled in smaller areas by preventing soil disturbance and establishing a vegetative cover that will prevent seed germination. To control these, they are easily hand pulled on loose soils. This is the most effective if they are pulled before the seeds are set. Herbicides are effective but are only really necessary when controlling large populations. Mowing is also not effective, as it just causes the rosettes to increase in size before bolting.

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**Don't Touch Queen Anne's Lace**



Did you know Queen Anne's Lace can cause dermatitis? The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service recommends not touching it unless you are wearing long sleeves and gloves!



[Read More](#)

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**Volunteer Opportunities**



# Volunteer for



WONDERS ON THE WABASH



## September 6, 7, 12, 13, or 14

Accompany sixth graders on a floating classroom adventure down the Wabash River!

[Learn More](#)



## WABASH SAMPLING BLITZ

**September 8 & 9**

**3 hours between 9am-5pm**





**Come help us  
sample water  
quality!**

All training is available  
online, no experience is  
necessary, and all  
supplies are provided!

Learn more and register at  
[www.wabashriver.net!](http://www.wabashriver.net!)



Collect water samples from local streams to help monitor the health of our waterways!



[Learn More](#)

## Events Recap



### Wabash Riverfest

The morning rain did not put a damper on the attendees at this year's Wabash Riverfest! Check out the photos of one of our favorite annual events by clicking the button below.

[Riverfest Photos](#)



## Pollinatorpalooza

Prophetstown State Park had about 75 visitors visit Pollinatorpalooza and welcomed some new presenters this year. Attendees enjoyed talks and hikes on native plant ID, birdwatching, and habitat restoration. Thanks to all who visited, supported, and presented at the event!

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**TICT** Booth in the Community



Stop by our booth, say hi, and grab some great stickers! We will be at the following community events this summer:

- Lafayette Farmers Market on August 12
- Mosey Down Main Street on September 2
- West Lafayette Farmers Market on September 6
- Petals to the Medal on September 23

**WREC's Tool Library**



Did you know Wabash River Enhancement Corporation (WREC) has a free tool library? You can borrow some tools to help remove your invasive plants! Check out their shiny, new website by clicking the button below.

[WREC's Tool Library](http://www.wabashriver.net/tool-library/)

**Volunteer Groups**



**TICT** is looking for businesses, organizations, clubs, and other groups to volunteer for invasive removal projects in our community! No experience necessary—all tools provided! It's a great opportunity for team-building. Contact us at [TICTaboutinvasives@gmail.com](mailto:TICTaboutinvasives@gmail.com) to learn more.

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## Upcoming Events



## **Petals to the Metal: An Amazing Race-like Adventure**

**Saturday, September 23** at Prophetstown State Park

Save the date for this fun park-wide scavenger hunt that can be completed via bike, roller blades, skateboards, and other wheeled modes of locomotion! Open to families and teams of all ages and abilities. Registration and details to follow.

[Learn more](#)

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## **TICT** Honeysuckle Removal Workdays

- Wednesday, September 6 - Cole Elementary Invasives Workday
- Saturday, September 16 - Tippecanoe SWCD Invasives Workday
- Saturday, September 23 - Mar Len Invasives Workday

Questions or RSVP

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# INVASIVE PLANT SWAP PROGRAM

You can receive FREE native trees and shrubs when you remove your invasive callery pear, burning bush, and/or Japanese barberry.

**Deadline to apply:**  
August 1st, 2023



Learn more and apply at [www.rb.gy/tp81](http://www.rb.gy/tp81)

This program is generously funded by the Duke Energy Foundation.



Organized by:



## Invasive Plant Swap Program - Last Day to Apply!

If you haven't yet, get your application in for the Invasive Plant Swap Program!

**August 1** is the deadline!

Native plant replacement pick up will be on September 28.

Apply





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