



# TICT OFF

Tippecanoe Invasive Cooperative Taskforce Newsletter  
February 2022

# 2021

## YEAR IN REVIEW

If you'd like to hear more about what the Tippecanoe Invasive Cooperative Taskforce accomplished in 2021, join the TICT Partners Meeting on Tuesday, February 1st from 10am-11am on Webex.

Learn more about what our Committees (Steering, Education, Eradication & Reporting) are doing and how you can get involved!


Join here:

<https://wabashriverenhancementcorp.mywebex.com/wabashriverenhancementcorp.my/j.php?MTID=m4094f687cce6fb5cd0c7730bcb3569cf>

Tippecanoe County  
INVASIVE SPECIES  
ACCOMPLISHMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Sent bi-monthly TICT OFF! newsletter	Initiated a Callery Pear Replacement Program
Conducted site visits to help landowners identify and manage invasive plants	WREC Invasive Tool Library program
RIP Squad invasive plant removal workdays	NICHES War of the Weeds Garlic Mustard removal work days
Held first annual Native Plant Fest	TICT display at Prophetstown State Park's Trail of Scarecrows
EDDMapS Reporting Blitz on Miscanthus grass	Invasive Plant Workday at Tippecanoe County Amphitheater
Weed Wrangle at Ouiatenon Preserve: A Roy Whistler Foundation Project	Invasive Plant Workdays at WREC S. River Rd property

This is just a sampling of the great work being done!



# NOW HIRING: Invasive Species Technician

By: Angie Garcia-Miller, Tippecanoe County Soil & Water Conservation District

The Tippecanoe County Soil and Water Conservation District is now accepting applications for an Invasive Species Technician. This part-time contractor position is funded thanks to a 3-year Clean Water Indiana grant. The Technician will work closely with TICT on a variety of local efforts, including providing public education and outreach about invasive species, assisting with invasive plant removal workdays, and reporting invasive species locations. The Technician will provide technical assistance to local landowners on the identification and control of invasive species, including developing personalized management plans. Additionally, they will serve as the coordinator for an SWCD-led cost-share program that will provide financial assistance for invasive plant control.

Applicants should have strong plant identification skills and experience with invasive plant control. Visit the SWCD website for additional information: [www.tippecanoecountyswcd.org](http://www.tippecanoecountyswcd.org). Questions can be sent to Angie Miller at [angela.garcia-miller@in.nacdnet.net](mailto:angela.garcia-miller@in.nacdnet.net).



## Invasive Species Workshop for Landowners

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

Join us on March 5th from 8:30am-Noon at Prophetstown State Park for an Invasive Species Workshop. This workshop is being offered in partnership with the Tippecanoe Invasive Cooperative Taskforce (TICT).

This workshop is ideal for private landowners who want to improve their invasive species knowledge, identification skills, and have an interest in learning about methods of treatment and removal. Participants will have the opportunity to get outside and apply identification and treatment skills discussed in the classroom in the field. Natural resource professionals from across the county will be assisting with both the classroom learning and field portion of this workshop. Coffee and tea will be provided.

The workshop is free and open to the public, though space is limited and registration is required. Register here: <https://psp-tict-march-2022.eventbrite.com>  
Questions, reach out to Jenna at [jparks@dnr.in.gov](mailto:jparks@dnr.in.gov)



## Check Out the TICT Calendar

This new calendar compiles invasive education, eradication, and native plant restoration events from our local partners into one easy-to-access spot. Visit the calendar here: <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=tictaboutinvasives%40gmail.com&ctz=America%2FIndiana%2FIndianapolis>

# TICT Volunteer Callout

**Name of the property:** Frank and Ada Beineke Memorial Forest, located on 725 West, 0.4 miles north from intersection with South River Road (park on west side of road).

**Property Highlights:** Frank and Ada Beineke Memorial Forest protects 27 acres of riparian floodplain along the banks of Indian Creek. The property takes its name from the parents of the adjoining private property owner, Walt Beineke, who has his land in estate with NICHES. Walt Beineke has the distinction of being the first forester to hold a patent on a tree, you can learn more about his life and story in the book "Purdue Number One". The property is connected on its north end to Purdue's Martell Forest (477 acres) and is separated by one private property from NICHES Parker's Indian Creek Basin preserve (59 acres) on its south end. The preserve features:

- A riparian overstory dominated by sycamores, box elders, and cottonwoods.
- several retired tree plantations.
- Spring ephemeral wildflowers and a floodplain section packed with equisetum.
- Significant beaver activity and a dam located on a tributary to Indian Creek.

Over the past 3 years NICHES has been engaged in an extensive honeysuckle removal project on the property. The bulk of the project began in 2019 when two NICHES interns, Catherine Fisher and Zach Neff, started hacking away at a jungle of dense honeysuckle growing along Indian Creek.



Volunteers gather by the beaver dam

The plants were likely deposited from the creek decades ago during flood events and moved their way into the preserve. In 2019, the floodplains along the creek were a textbook example of a late stage honeysuckle invasion, representing perhaps one of the worst invasive species take overs on any NICHES holdings along the Wabash River Corridor. Uninhibited growth over the past 20+ years created a nearly impenetrable wall of honeysuckle that stretched 15-20 feet high as individual plants competed amongst themselves for light. To make matters worse the upper canopy of the honeysuckle was interwoven with green brier and grapevine which held everything together even after it was cut. Using brush cutters and hand saws, NICHES interns, staff, and volunteers steadily chipped away at the 1/4 mile wall running along Indian Creek. After sections were cut and treated, volunteers assisted in dragging, piling, and burning the fallen brush to clear the site for follow-up resprout spraying and more cutting. In 2020 and 2021 NICHES Volunteer Matt Zeller would take breaks from his work at Purdue University to hack away at the wall. One particularly monstrous honeysuckle that was a foot in diameter at its base even prompted Matt to "go electric" and invest in a battery operated chainsaw.



On Martin Luther King Jr day 2022, NICHES hosted its first volunteer workday of the year at Beineke Memorial Forest with a focus on stacking as much previously cut brush as possible. 32 volunteers worked shifts hacking, hauling, and stacking mountains of honeysuckle. This volunteer project was expected to last into February-March, but the strong volunteer turnout allowed the group to push through almost all the work in a single day!

Volunteers stand by a defeated wall of honeysuckle

## TICT Volunteer Callout continued...

The incredible progress at this preserve reveals a few lessons about the not-so-fine art of invasive species removal. First off, no project is too big if you keep up the work and continue to hack away at it bit by bit. Second, the longer an invasive species infestation is allowed to exist, the larger and more complicated it becomes to remove. And lastly, the work goes by so much quicker when we work together to tackle the problem.

NICHES invites you to register as a volunteer through their website (<https://nicheslandtrust.org/volunteer>) and join them in the local fight against invasive species. More stacking work will be needed at Beineke Memorial Forest this spring as NICHES volunteer Matt Zeller continues his honeysuckle cutting crusade. Before then NICHES will be needing help stacking invasive Siberian elm limbs at their Granville Sand Barrens Preserve on Saturday February 5th and 12th (10:00am – 1:00pm). If you have any questions about this project or how to get involved as a habitat restoration volunteer with NICHES please reach out to contact listed below.



Thank you, Volunteers!

**Contact:** Sam Cody, NICHES Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator  
Phone: 513-490-5080 Email: [sam@nicheslandtrust.org](mailto:sam@nicheslandtrust.org)  
<https://www.nicheslandtrust.org/tippecanoe-county/frank-and-ada-beineke-memorial-forest>

---

## Follow Us on Facebook

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

**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>

---

## Invasive Workshop for Professionals

Do you work in landscaping? Join the TICT Invasive Plant Management Continuing Education Workshop! This 2-hour workshop will focus on identifying, removing and replacing invasive plants in a landscape setting. February 22nd, 9am-11am

Sign up here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tict-invasive-plant-management-continuing-education-workshop-tickets-243738216567>