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# TICT OFF

Tippecanoe Invasive Cooperative Taskforce  
Newsletter

## October 2023

### Invasive Alert: Sweet Autumn Clematis (*Clematis terniflora*)

By: Susan Ulrich



*Sweet autumn clematis, photo from [SICIM](#).*

Something else to watch out for, sweet autumn clematis is a twining vine belonging to the Buttercup Family and native to Japan and China. It blooms during August and September producing numerous small white flowers which makes the plants easier to spot and control at this time. Originally brought to the US as an ornamental, sweet autumn clematis is currently ranked as 'invasive' in Indiana although not yet added to the Indiana Terrestrial Plant Rule list.

It is considered invasive because of its aggressive growth habit, rapidly climbing up to 25 to 30 feet on trees or structures, forming tangled masses that cover whatever it grows on. The profuse flowers are fragrant—one reason the plant was introduced—but each flower produces numerous clusters of flat oval shaped achenes with long spreading styles. Each style has long feathery silvery hairs enabling the wind to carry the seeds to other sites. When deciding if something is invasive, one of the things you consider is whether it produces lots of seed, and if that seed is easily dispersed. The answer is “yes” to both for this species.

Sweet autumn clematis is in the same genus as our native virgin's Bower (*C.virginiana*) and looks very similar. Both have leaves made up of 3 (to 5) leaflets. The easiest way to tell them apart is by looking at the edges of the leaflets. Those of Virgin's Bower have jagged or toothed edges, while the leaves of the invasive sweet autumn clematis are smooth. Virgin's bower styles are also different, being smooth instead of feathery like sweet autumn clematis. This invasive vine has an increasingly wide distribution in the state and is able to grow in a variety of soils. It tolerates a variety of light and moisture conditions.



*Sweet autumn clematis, photo from Amanda Estes.*



Ecologically it readily outcompetes native plants, interrupts native food webs, and reduces wildlife biodiversity. Sweet autumn clematis is considered highly invasive and should be eradicated from landscape plantings and controlled in disturbed sites and natural area settings.

How to control it: You can try to pull or dig out a single vine by hand, but this is not recommended. If you do try it, wear gloves. This species, like all clematis, contains a poison called protoanemonin which can cause dermatitis in people and distress if eaten. Note: cats and dogs and even horses have been made ill or died from eating this plant.

In addition, any stem or root material left in the ground will regrow, so the area needs to be rechecked frequently. For a large infestation, systemic herbicide such as glyphosate (a non-selective herbicide which kills all plants) or triclopyr (broadleaf specific herbicide) is effective as a foliar spray. CHECK THE LABEL. When using any herbicide read the label carefully and follow the instructions for use, dosage, and any protected gear specified. Again, control needs to be monitored regularly over several years to prevent persistent or new infestations.

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## Prophetstown State Park's Trail of Scarecrows



Be sure to plan a trip out to see **TICT**'s scarecrow (Carl & the Honeysuckle Haunting) at Prophetstown State Park's Trail of Scarecrows this fall from **October 1 - November 5**. Bring a dollar and cast your vote for your favorite—we hope it's ours!

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## Volunteer Opportunities



### **Remove Invasive Plants (RIP) Squad Volunteer Workdays**

Long sleeves, long pants, gloves and boots are recommended. Bring loppers, pruning saws or stump pullers if you have them. We'll be pulling out OR cutting/lopping/sawing/herbiciding invasive shrubs. Herbicide will be provided for those comfortable using it.

- **Tuesdays from 3-5 PM - October 17, 24, 31 & November 7, 14, 21, 28**

We'll be at Prophet's Rock Woods focusing on bush honeysuckle, autumn olive and burning bush. Meet at the little parking lot near Prophet's Rock on Prophets Rock Road, just north of 600N near Battle Ground.

GPS address: 6027-6137 Prophets Rock Rd, West Lafayette, IN 47906.

- **Thursdays 3-5 PM - October 19, 26 & November 2, 9, 16, 30**

We'll be at Ross Hills Park focusing on bush honeysuckle and autumn olive. Take South River Rd/Division Rd past Ft. Ouiatenon, continue past the Granville Bridge, and past the Ravines Golf Course. Follow signs for Ross Hills Park; watch for a left turn at 875 W. Take the park entrance road to the Ross House parking area.

GPS address: 8815 W 50 S, West Lafayette, IN 47906

For more information, contact Patty Jones, [removeinvasiveplants.wcinps@gmail.com](mailto:removeinvasiveplants.wcinps@gmail.com)  
Landline / voicemail 765-463-3050





### **Invasives Workday at Mar-Len Park**

**Saturday, October 28 from 10 am - 2 pm**

Stop by and lend a hand removing invasive plants from Mar-Len Park. We will be hand pulling and cutting bush honeysuckle and other shrubs. Bring work gloves and loppers or a hand saw if you have them. Some extra tools will be available.

No prior experience required!

Questions? Contact Jordan at [jordan.young@in.nacdnet.net](mailto:jordan.young@in.nacdnet.net)

**WREC's Tool Library**



<http://www.wabashriver.net/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.

## Upcoming Events

**WABASH RIVER**  
ENHANCEMENT CORPORATION  
Oct 7, 9am-12pm

# Native Seed Collection Workshop

**WABASH RIVER**  
ENHANCEMENT CORPORATION

Learn how native plants help reduce stormwater runoff, and hear from restoration expert Stephanie Frischie about how to collect and store seeds from native plants.

Participants will take home the seeds they collect! Spaces are limited and registration is required.

Learn more and register  
[www.WabashRiver.net](http://www.WabashRiver.net)

### **WREC's Green Tour: Native Seed Collection Workshop**

Come and explore local stormwater infrastructure with Stephanie Frischie, a restoration specialist, and the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation on **Saturday**,



**October 7 from 9 am - 12 pm!** During this event, the WREC team will teach you how to collect seeds from established native plants, identify different types of plants, and proper seed collection and processing techniques. You will also have the chance to collect your own seeds to take home! All necessary materials for the workshop will be provided, and we will arrange a carpool to travel from one site to another. We will also be hosting a winter sowing workshop in December. Participants of the seed collecting workshop can either store their seeds for the winter sowing workshop or use them in their own home projects.

Registration is required!

[Register here](#)



The poster features a central teal brushstroke graphic with the text "DE-TRASH The Wabash". Below this, a dark teal box contains the event details: "Saturday, October 21", "9 am - 12 pm", and "Tapawingo Park, West Lafayette". To the left is a photo of a woman holding a full trash bag, and to the right are two photos of people participating in the cleanup. At the bottom left is the TCPWQ logo, and at the bottom center is the text "HELP CLEAN UP THE COMMUNITY! PIZZA LUNCH PROVIDED.".

**DE-TRASH**  
*The Wabash*

**Saturday, October 21**  
9 am - 12 pm  
Tapawingo Park,  
West Lafayette

**HELP CLEAN UP THE COMMUNITY!**  
**PIZZA LUNCH PROVIDED.**

TCPWQ

### **De-Trash the Wabash**

Join us for a day of community action as we come together to make a significant impact on the health of our beloved Wabash River! Let's roll up our sleeves and tackle the trash that has accumulated along its banks.

**Date: October 21, 9 AM - 12 PM**

**Location: Tapawingo Park, West Lafayette**

[Learn More](#)



### **TICT Reboot Conference**

Join us on **November 13th at 1 pm** at the Lilly Nature Center. We'll be regrouping and discussing important changes to our committee structure.

But it's not all business--let's catch up before the holiday season kicks in!

Current Committees:

- Steering
- Education
- Eradication
- Reporting

If you're interested in joining a committee, come to the meeting! We'll be discussing restructuring, moderated by Jordan Young and Amber Slaughterbeck, our regional specialist with SICIM.

Got questions or concerns? Reach out to Jordan Young at 618-684-8262.





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Our mailing address is:

1812 Troxel Dr. # C3, Lafayette, IN 47909

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