

# Southern IN Cooperative Invasives Management (SICIM)

## The Invasive Species Informer

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Summer 2018 Newsletter

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### Upcoming Events:

- SICIM Steering Committee Meetings
- CISMA Events
- Training Opportunities

See the calendar on our website to see all of the events: <http://www.sicim.info/>

## Look out for Black Swallow-wort, Starting to Spread throughout IN

By Dawn Slack

Black Swallow-wort (*Vincetoxicum nigrum*) L. Moench  
Dogbane family (Apocynaceae)  
Black swallow-wort, also known as black dog-strangling vine, was introduced as an ornamental over 100 years ago and was recorded as early as 1864 from the Essex County, Massachusetts as "escaping from botanic gardens where it is a weed and promising to become naturalized" (Swearingen, 2014). Black swallow-wort's native range is the Mediterranean regions of France, Italy and Spain.

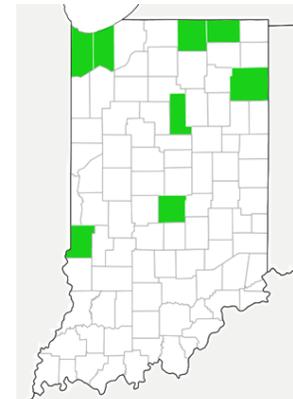
Black swallow-wort is an herbaceous, twining, perennial vine. It's leaves are opposite, dark green, oval and shiny. Leaf margins are entire and leaf tip is acute to acuminate. Short petioles attach leaf to vine.

Flower bloom is from June to September. The dark purple to black flowers are about 0.25 in. across and covered in short white hairs.

The fruit are slender, smooth follicles (pods similar to milkweed) 1.5 - 3 inches long. Seeds are approximately ¼ in. long, dark brown, flat with winged edges and a silky filament at tip. Fruit is wind dispersed.



Black Swallow-wort with its distinct black flowers. (Photo by Tessa Aby)



EDDMapS. 2018. Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System. The University of Georgia - Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health. Available online at <http://www.eddmaps.org/>; last accessed June 25, 2018.

### Look-alikes:

The native honeyvine (*Cynanchum laeve*) resembles black swallow-wort. Honeyvine has white flowers and heart-shaped leaves. Pale swallow-wort (an invasive species) also resembles black swallow-wort. Pale swallow-wort's flowers are pink to maroon-colored, and it's leaves have pointed tips.

Range: Black swallow-wort grows in southern and eastern Ontario and southern Quebec. In the U.S. it occurs in the northeast and midwest, with an additional occurrence in California. There are 8 counties in Indiana that have confirmed populations of black swallowwort (see map) as of June 2017. Black swallow-wort occurs in upland forest understory, old fields, pastures, flood plains, shores and disturbed areas.

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## Dubois County Holds Invasive Species Teacher Training

By Bill Schmeltzer & Emily Finch

Vo. Ag and science teachers attended an Invasive Species Teacher Training workshop hosted by the Invasive Species Awareness Coalition (ISAC) of Dubois County on June 5th. Presenters included ISAC members Ron Rathfon (Purdue Extension Forester), Greg Carpenter (US Army Corps of Engineers), Justin Herbaugh (Private Forestry Invasives Contractor), and SICIM's own Regional Specialist Emily Finch. The fourteen attendees spent the morning indoors for presentations on local invasive plants, invasive management, and planning invasive species lessons and community service projects. During the afternoon, they toured areas of the Southern Indiana Purdue Agricultural Center to see invasive plants being controlled with herbicide, machinery, fire, and goats.

ISAC and SICIM also compiled invasive species teaching resources for attendees and other educators around the state which can be accessed in an online google share file at <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Ibz5N882px3Cgx6z7j4Rvtx5BZKyvMgO>.



Ron Rathfon of Purdue demonstrated a large capacity, tractor mounted herbicide sprayer. (Photo by Bill Schmeltzer)

### Black Swallow-wort cont.

#### Ecological threats:

Both black and pale swallow-worts form dense, tangled masses that suppress native plants. The ability of both swallow-worts to out-compete and displace native milkweeds likely poses a significant threat to not only native plants, but also monarchs (DiTommaso et al, 2003). Root exudates from black swallow-wort cause significant root length reductions for butterfly weed (Douglass et al, 2010). In addition to stunted growth of neighboring plants, research indicates vincetoxin (the toxin produced by black swallow-wort) is lethal not only to mammals, but is also to monarch larvae.

In addition to negatively impacting monarch butterflies, black swallow-wort has been observed out-competing several populations of federally listed species, such as Jessup's milkvetch (*Astragalus robbinsii*) in Vermont, *Asclepias viridiflora* in Connecticut, and Hart's tongue fern (*Phyllitis scolopendrium*) in New York. Grassland birds are negatively impacted when black swallow-wort eliminates grassland habitat (Swearingen, et al., 2014).

#### Prevention and Control:

Do not plant either swallow-wort. Small populations can be pulled by hand, but you must remove all roots. Large infestations require herbicide application to control. Systemic herbicides (like glyphosate) are recommended because these chemicals will kill all parts of the plant to include the root.

#### Report it:

If you find black or pale swallow-wort please report it using the GLEDN app for smartphones or report it on a computer at

[www.EDDMapS.org/indiana](http://www.EDDMapS.org/indiana). You will need to create a profile to use either device/program.

To report by smartphone, download the Great Lakes Early Detection Network (GLEDN) app. This app is created and maintained by EDDMapS.org. The same EDDMapS profile can be used for both computer and smartphone reports.

For additional information on reporting invasive species through EDDmapS please visit the IISC website

([www.indianainvasivespecies.org](http://www.indianainvasivespecies.org)) and click on the Report it icon.

You may also call the free Indiana DNR Invasive Species Hotline: 1-866 NO EXOTIC (1-866-663-9684).

## Natural Resource Commission to Discuss Terrestrial Plant Rule

By Dawn Slack

The Natural Resource Commission (NRC) will convene July 17, 2018 at 10:00 A.M. at Fort Harrison State Park, Garrison, Indianapolis.

The NRC meeting agenda will be posted here <https://www.in.gov/nrc/2350.htm> at the beginning of July. At this meeting, the NRC will review the proposed rule and determine whether or not to preliminarily adopt it. If the NRC decides to preliminarily adopt it, the proposed terrestrial plant rule will begin the rule making process, which can take 9 months or longer. If the rule is preliminarily adopted, a public comment period will be available for you to voice your opinion of the proposed rule. In the meantime, the NRC meetings are open to the public and citizens may attend the meetings and show support for proposed rules.

If you would like to be on the listserv to receive invasive species information, which includes information about the proposed terrestrial plant rule, please email Dawn Slack at [dawn.slack@tnc.org](mailto:dawn.slack@tnc.org).

## Lawrence County KIC Garlic Mustard Pull

By Teena Ligman

Fifth grade students had the opportunity to learn about invasive species along the Milwaukee Trail on Wednesday, May 10th. The students learned about garlic mustard and vinca from employees from the Hoosier National Forest and Lawrence Soil & Water Conservation District. After learning how much damage these species could do to the environment, the students learned to identify the two species. Then the classes got to work and removed as many of the non-native invasive plants as they could.

The three fifth grade classes pulled a combined **299.8 lbs** of garlic mustard and vinca along the Bedford trail! Without these invasive plants the native plants and wildflowers will return along this popular hiking and biking trail.

The invasive project was sponsored by Lawrence County KIC (Keep Invasive in Check) who funded a pizza party for all three classes. An additional projects were planned two weeks later with the public to control invasive plants along the trail.

Interestingly a few weeks after the classes pulled the invasives, there was a "grand hike" down the trail in the area where the students had removed the invasive plants. One man actually noticed and commented that in that section of trail, there weren't any invasives and how nice it looked, asking who had done the work. People notice, but more importantly native plants respond and the area will begin to recover.



Parkview students bag up invasive plants they removed from along the Milwaukee Trail near their school.

## Photo from SICIM's 2018 Annual Meeting: Taking the Message Statewide



Above Image: SICIM President Steve Cotter welcoming a packed audience at the Orange County Community Center. (Photo by Emily Finch)

Right Image: Dr. Theresa Culley presenting new research on Callery Pear. (Photo by Emily Finch)

More photos can be found on our Facebook page at [https://www.facebook.com/pg/sicim35/photos/?tab=album&album\\_id=1812527045504079](https://www.facebook.com/pg/sicim35/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1812527045504079)





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## Invasive Species Display at Vigo County Public Library

By Amber Slaughterbeck

During the month of May 2018, the Vigo County Public Library had a SICIM display to help the public learn about invasive plant species in Indiana and how they could get involved in the "Indiana Invasives Initiative."

"Invasive species are wreaking havoc in our state. They are outcompeting our native species in our woods, prairies, waterways and in our yards. They cost our state millions of dollars per year to control and some pose health risks to humans and wildlife. Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management is excited for the opportunity to collaborate with the Vigo County Public Library with an educational display in the main lobby focused on invasive species and the Indiana Invasives Initiative – a grass-roots, statewide effort to combat invasive species," says Amber Slaughterbeck – Regional Specialist.

The display reached around 30,000 patrons and went through over 2,000 handouts. Sarah Trover, Program & Event Manager at the Vigo County Public Library commented, "The SICIM display was eye-catching and garnered attention for patrons looking for more information on the plants it featured. It was a perfect addition to our lobby because it was captivating and educational."



### The SICIM Mission:

***Protect, restore, and enhance southern Indiana's landscapes by coordinating efforts to identify, prevent, and control invasive species.***

SICIM is a Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) encompassing 35 counties in Southern Indiana as well as a non-profit since 2009. We are comprised of a Steering Committee as well as three active sub-committees: Communications, Financial, and Organizational and Development Committees.

For counties included, please visit our website [sicim.info](http://sicim.info) and click on our About tab.

To find out how to get more involved with SICIM please email us at [sicim.info@gmail.com](mailto:sicim.info@gmail.com) or call (812) 653-5563.