

# Weekly Wild Wednesday

November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022

*What a Week of "Seeds and Seasons!"*

Laura from [Tallgrass Prairie Center](#) is not only a wonderful story teller, she is an incredible artist! Thank you to the MANY people who sent information about the Clematis Seed head Mystery! Please Enjoy this trip down Clematis Lane!

*"Hi! I think I may have an answer to the Clematis seed head mystery. I have a long-term affection towards Clematis pitcheri, which is abundant in my old home range of the Kansas Flint Hills. Of course, I've settled at the northern edge of its range, so I get even more excited when I find it. Here in NE Iowa, Virgin's bower, Clematis virginiana, is more common:*

<https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/shrub/virgins-bower>.

*There's another common name for it, Devil's Darning Needles, which leads me to think that folks have mixed feelings about it. I have a plant in my garden that I started from seed many years ago. Be aware that it spreads by rhizomes and climbs vigorously. Also, there are male and female plants, and only the females have the fluffy seed heads. My plant is staminate, so I miss the fluff, but when it's in flower, it's an absolute glory in*



*white, and very popular with diverse bees and wasps. Imagine my excitement when, a few years ago, I found two patches of Clematis pitcheri among the "weeds" along some railroad tracks in a downtown Cedar Falls park! I've managed to start some seeds (it's a long process) and I'd like to expand the population. There's one growing in my garden now. Here are a couple of pictures I took on a recent walk to check on the original plants. Clematis virginiana has extravagant fluff-balls. Clematis pitcheri is more restrained and elegant. (Maybe I'm biased.) Thanks again! Laura"*



**WE thank YOU, Laura!**





*Wishing you a week filled with "Seeds and Seasons!"*

