



HortusScope | What's Up in the Central

Indiana Gardening Community | Photo by Deborah Silver

Welcome to HortusScope 2017, our twelfth year of posting news and events for the Central Indiana gardening community. We're now more than 1300 subscribers strong!

If you love the land as I do, I hope you'll resolve this year to fight for the health of our planet. The living things with whom we share this earth, especially our children and grandchildren, deserve clean water, clean air, and healthy ecosystems. We can do this!

The good news is, we're not alone. I hope you'll join or donate to those organizations doing good work for us. I've provided links to some of my favorites on the newly refurbished HortusScope [website](#).

Thursday, January 5 Fort Benjamin's Blossoms Garden Club 1:00 p.m., Benjamin Harrison YMCA, 5736 Lee Road, Indianapolis. Contact snsmls@aol.com for questions.

Thru Sunday, January 8 Christmas at Oldfields-Lilly House Holiday lights will greet you on the short walk from the IMA to Oldfields-Lilly House, where you'll discover a surprising array of winter bulbs and floral arrangements. The house will come alive with flowers, including stunning displays of poinsettias, amaryllises, cyclamens, and paper-whites. Your olfactory senses will be awakened with the scents of pines, cedar, and spruce that waft from room to room. Lit branches will make the house dance with light, while each room will offer a unique visual experience—from spiraling vertical gardens climbing up the grand staircase to expertly landscaped herbs in the kitchen. www.imamuseum.org

Register Now International/American Hosta Society Convention If you were "bitten by the Hosta bug" during our sold-out Summer Garden Tour 2016, the Indianapolis Hosta Society is hosting a convention in Indianapolis June 7-11, 2017. Register **before January 15** and receive a convention T-shirt and a FREE Giantland Hosta made possible by the Land of the Giants Hosta Farm and The First Look Organization. For more information visit <https://www.indyhosta2017.com> and like us on Facebook at Indy Hosta 2017.

Wednesday, January 25 Summer Garden Tour (Brownsburg) Come see 60 gorgeous gardens without venturing out in the heat of summer! This is a fun, relaxed way to see new ideas to apply at your home. Master Garden Colletta Kosiba has gathered the garden/ landscape photos and will answer questions about plants and designs. Suggestions and tips will be offered. Unwind and forget about winter's cold while enjoying this slide show. Free. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Brownsburg Library, 450 S. Jefferson, Brownsburg. Info at 317-852-3167.

Monday, February 6 Herb Society of Central Indiana Derek Weaver, certified herbalist and herb room manager with Good Earth Natural Food Stores, will present “Talking Mushrooms with a Fun Guy.” He will share his passion for natural living and practical healing. Public welcome. Herbie refreshments included. 6:45 p.m., John Hensel Government Center, 10701 N. College Avenue, Indianapolis. Contact 317-253-9381 or visit www.herbsocietyofcentralindiana.org.

Saturday, February 11 IMA Horticulture Symposium 2017: The Garden Reimagined Join horticulture experts to explore a hybrid of wild and cultivated design strategies at the Indianapolis Museum of Art’s annual daylong symposium. Discover powerful alternatives to traditional plantings, the quintessential spring flowering tree, and other favorites to create diverse, resilient, beautiful, ecologically sound landscapes. Fees \$95 Members / \$90 IMA Horticultural Society Members / \$110 Public / \$55 Students. Breakfast and Lunch provided. 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Deer Zink Events Pavilion, Indianapolis Museum of Art, 4000 N. Michigan Road, Indianapolis. Program details and ticket purchase at <http://www.imamuseum.org/hortsymposium2017>.

Thursday, February 16 Hamilton County SWCD Annual Meeting and Workshop (Noblesville) Workshop sessions are being finalized and details will be available on our [website](#) soon. A Soil & Water Conservation District board member will be elected and we will review SWCD activities and enjoy a delicious hot lunch. Businesses and organizations interested in reserving a vendor table are encouraged to contact us at soil.water@hamiltoncounty.in.gov or 317-773-2181.

Regularly Scheduled Bird Hikes Eagle Creek Park: 6515 Delong Road, Indianapolis. Every Sunday year-round, 9:00 a.m. Meet at the Ornithology Center. Information 317-327-2473. **Beginning Bird Hikes at Cool Creek Park:** 2000 East 151st Street, Carmel. 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m., and every other Saturday, at 9:00 a.m. Meet in the parking lot at the bottom of the road by Cool Creek, past the Nature Center. Information 317-774-2500 or www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com **Strawtown Koteewi Park:** 12308 Strawtown Avenue, Noblesville. First Wednesday of each month, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Meet at the Taylor Center of Natural History. Information 317-774-2574 or www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com.

Garden Travel Springtime in Arizona with Mark Zelonis: Journey west to revel in the warmth, excitement, and spectacular majesty of the Sonoran Desert. March 16–22, 2017. [Trip details and pricing](#) **Gardens & Natural Wonders of Panama with Cole Burrell:** Panama is a paradise for nature-lovers, gardeners, birders, and tropical enthusiasts. Join Cole Burrell for an unforgettable exploration of the rich diversity of plant life, birds, butterflies, mammals, and reptiles. July 11–22, 2017. [Trip details and pricing](#)

Volunteer Opp Random Acts of Flowers Indy’s chapter of this national organization recycles and repurposes flowers to make into arrangements for local residents of hospitals and nursing homes, bringing hope and encouragement to people struggling with health and aging issues. We launched our local initiative on October 13 at Eskenazi, and recipients tell us how much the personal visit and burst of color meant to them. We compost any flowers we cannot repurpose, and all the vases we use for our arrangements are recycled. We invite you to donate or to participate as a volunteer. This is a wonderful place to spend one’s time. Located at 1057 E 54th St., Suite F, Indianapolis, 317-282-0144. <http://indianapolis.randomactsofflowers.org/>

Photo Notes I enjoy Dirt Simple, a blog by Deborah Silver, who owns a garden design business in the Detroit area. Deborah’s especially gifted at creating seasonal decorations for homes and businesses. I

thought you might be inspired by this wreath her company made with dried limes. Find Deborah's blog at <http://deborahsilver.com/blog/>.

HortusScope, an e-bulletin for the Central Indiana gardening community, is published the first of every month as a public service by Wendy Ford. To submit news items, add or update your e-mail address, or remove your name from the HortusScope e-mail list, please drop me a note at hortusscope@comcast.net. Your supporting donation gratefully accepted at 6911 Cabernet Way, Indianapolis, IN 46278, check made out to Wendy Ford.