



HortusScope | What's Up in the Central

Indiana Gardening Community | Photo by Wendy Ford

Nature is coming to life early this year! And the central Indiana gardening community is off to a lively start, offering events galore where you can mingle with other avid gardeners and friends of the land while anticipating spring flowers.

We will have colorful landscapes again soon, and, as this photo reminds me, yes, there will be weeds. I look forward to getting my hands in the dirt to bring forth beauty and root out the spoilers.

Be sure to bookmark our [website](#) where you'll always find the latest HortusScope.

Thursday, March 2 Fort Benjamin's Blossoms Garden Club Shelagh Miles will present on making bath salts and air fresheners. Attendees should bring one or two small containers that seal tightly so they may make some to take home. 1:00 p.m., Benjamin Harrison YMCA, 5736 Lee Road, Indianapolis. Contact snsmliles@aol.com for questions. (Next meeting April 6, same time and place.)

Friday, March 3 First Friday at Villa dell' Artista Enjoy plein air artist Rosanna Hall's paintings of gardens and nature and preview her book, *Poesia: Painting in Venetian Gardens with Giorgione*, to be published this summer. 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., 700 Middle Drive in Historic Woodruff Place, Indianapolis. www.rosannahall.net

Saturdays, March 4 and 11 Maple Syrup Days and Pancake Breakfast at McCloud Nature Park (Hendricks County) See how maple syrup is made and enjoy maple syrup on your pancakes! 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., McCloud Nature Park, 8518 Hughes Road, North Salem. Info at <http://www.hendrickscountyparks.org/programs/71-maple-syrup-days>.

Sunday, March 5 Marguerite T. Smith Memorial Lecture Series Walking on the Wild Side: Indiana's Native Orchids A brief IMA Horticultural Society Annual Meeting will be followed by this lecture by Michael A. Homoya, Botanist/Plant Ecologist for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources' National Heritage Program. Through prose and pictures, Mike will bring to life the marvelously beautiful, mysterious, and complex native wild orchids, 43 species of which grow right here in the Hoosier state. Free and open to the public. Receptions follows. 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., Deboest Lecture Hall, Indianapolis

Museum of Art, 4000 N. Michigan Road, Indianapolis. <http://imahortsoc.org/>

Thru March 5 Orchids: Cultivating Beauty The Madeline F. Elder Greenhouse has transformed into a tropical paradise with hundreds of exotic orchids filling each room with bold colors. The orchid spectacle continues in the historic Lilly House and in the IMA Alliance Gallery with the [Lilly Collection of Orchids in Watercolors](#) exhibition. The exhibit is included with general admission and free for IMA members. Indianapolis Museum of Art, 4000 N. Michigan Road, Indianapolis. To learn more, visit <http://www.imamuseum.org/exhibition/orchids-cultivating-beauty>.

Monday, March 6 Herb Society of Central Indiana Learn about “The Herb of the Year: Cilantro/Coriander.” Members will present information on the propagation/cultivation, culinary and medicinal uses of the herb as well as its history. Join us for a fun and educational night. Public welcome. Refreshments at 6:30 p.m.; speaker at 7:00 p.m., John Hensel Clay Center Government Center, 10701 N. College Avenue, Indianapolis. Contact 317-253-9381 or visit www.herbsocietyofcentralindiana.org.

Tuesday, March 7 Indiana Daylily-Iris Society A double program features Roger McCay on controlling moles and Peggy Allen on this year’s convention “Median Iris Rein Supreme 2017.” 6:30 p.m., First Friends Church parlor, 3030 Kessler Blvd, East Drive, Indianapolis. www.indianadaylilyirissociety.org

Friday, March 10 Interfaith Eco-Film Series *Blind Spot* This 2008 documentary film illustrates the oil and energy crisis that our world is facing. Whether due to ignorance, greed, or wishful thinking, we have put ourselves at a crossroads: we either (1) continue to burn fossil fuels and choke the life out of the planet; or (2) don’t continue burning fossil fuels and watch our way of life collapse. According to one review, the film makes [An Inconvenient Truth](#) look like a sitcom! [View the trailer](#) The Interfaith Eco-Film Series is co-sponsored by All Souls Unitarian, Cross and Crown Lutheran, Epworth United Methodist, and First Friends Quaker Meeting, along with the Heartlands Group of the Sierra Club. All films are free of charge, though free-will donations are accepted. Complimentary snacks and soft drinks provided. 7:00 p.m., First Friends Meeting, 3030 E. Kessler Boulevard, Indianapolis. Address questions to epworthgreenteam@gmail.com.

Friday, March 10 Amos Butler Audubon Woodcock Walk Join Scott Enochs in a walk through West Park to watch the American Woodcock’s acrobatic mating display performed at dusk. 6:30 p.m. at the northwest corner of the parking lot, West Park, 2700 West 116th Street, Carmel. Please contact Scott at 317-850-4801 or msenochs@comcast.net if you have any questions.

Sunday, March 12 Jens Jensen: The Living Green Join us at Marian University for this film documentary that profiles the unsung pioneering landscape architect who became one of America’s most influential urban designers and early conservationists. Jensen shaped the Midwest’s physical and cultural landscape in an enduring way. At the turn of the century, Jensen designed the historic landscape around Riverdale, including Allison Mansion, former home of James Allison, and 30 acres of the Nina Mason Pulliam EcoLab on the property of Marian University. The landscape is noted as one of the best remaining examples of a Jensen landscape in the world. 2:00 p.m. screening at Marian University Theatre, followed by a reception from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Please R.S.V.P. for the reception by contacting Olivia Gehrich at ogehrich@marian.edu or 317.955.6146. R.S.V.P. is not required to attend the screening; tickets will not be issued. Visit www.marian.edu/jensjensen for more information.

Sunday, March 12 Iris Growers of Eastern Indiana (Muncie) Peggy Harger-Allen will preview garden tours of the combined 2017 Median Iris Convention and Region 6 American Iris Society's Spring Meeting in May of 2017. 1:30 p.m., Minnetrista, 1200 North Minnetrista Parkway, Muncie.

Tuesday, March 14 Amos Butler Audubon Cloud Forest Orchids and Best Orchids for the Home

Orchids are one of the most fascinating plants on earth. Join Ron Giles for this amazing presentation that will introduce you to cloud forest orchids as well as the best and easiest orchids to grow at home. Ron has been growing orchids for more than 20 years and cares for more than 790 species! Ron also enjoys birdwatching and nature photography. Free and open to the public. 7:30 p.m. at Holliday Park Nature Center, 6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis, IN. <http://www.amosbutleraudubon.org/>



Tuesday, March 14 Treasures in Our Local Woods: Indiana

Wildflowers (Zionsville) Make your next walk in the woods a treasure hunt, whether at Starkey Nature Park, Zion Nature Sanctuary, or Turkey Foot Nature Park. Join Myrene Brown to learn about some of our interesting plants that appear early in the spring in local woodlands. Get some tips as to where you should look to find these ephemeral treasures and make hunting for them part of your next hike in the wood. Registration is required via [email](#) as space is limited. 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., Zion Nature Center, 690 Beech Street, Zionsville. <http://www.zionsville-in.gov/270/Zion-Nature-Center>.

Wednesday, March 15 Warm Weather Vegetables/Insects/Diseases 101 In our second food raising series we cover warm weather vegetable gardening. Learn what cultivars to select, when to harvest, what to do about insect pests, and disease prevention, plus great hints to make the whole process easy. Master gardener Colletta Kosiba shares her 30 years of experience. Free. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Brownsburg Library, 450 S. Jefferson, Brownsburg. For questions, call 317-852-3167.

Saturday, March 18 Indiana Wildlife Federation Annual Meeting We begin with a business meeting at 9:30 a.m. to elect Board officers, vote on a proposed catfish resolution (http://www.indianawildlife.org/resolutions/2010s/#2017_01), review our 2016 accomplishments, and discuss 2017 priorities. Then at 11:00 a.m. we will host a presentation of the IWF Backyard Habitat Workshop, which introduces how to create a wildlife friendly backyard, explores the links between your backyard and larger ecosystems, and teaches about native plants and animals. This event is free, and light refreshments will be provided. 9:30 a.m. to noon, 708 E. Michigan St, Indianapolis. <http://www.indianawildlife.org/>

Sunday, March 19 Indianapolis Hosta Society When the Hosta Bug Bites Bob Solberg of Green Hills Farms, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, nationally known lecturer, hybridizer and expert on growing hostas, will take a light-hearted look at hosta collecting, fortunately (or unfortunately) based on reality. We can all identify with being a little hosta crazy once in a while and we will discuss the causes and cures. Also, we will look at how to produce red coloring in hostas. Free and open to the public. 2:00 p.m., Holliday Park Nature Center, 6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis. www.indianapolishostasociety.org

Sunday, March 19 Owen County Garden Club (Spencer) Master Gardener Pat Sollars of Vermillion County, Illinois, will present Designing a Garden. Joni James, Master Naturalist, Environmental Educator

and Nature Photographer, will talk about Creating Wildlife Habitat. Free and open to the public. 2:30 p.m. social, presentations at 3:00 and 4:15 p.m., Spencer Presbyterian Church, 154 N. Main Street, Spencer (we'll be in Cornerstone Hall—at the rear of the church; can park on and enter from Washington Street). Direct questions to Karen.crosby@hylant.com or 812-333-3239.

Events at Garfield Park Spring Bulb Show: It's springtime at the Garfield Conservatory! Come see our stunning display of tulips and other spring blooms. March 3-10, Mon-Sat: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Bulb Sale: March 11 at 10:00 a.m. Admission \$4 per person or \$10 per family (2 adults max.). **Bonsai 101:** Join instructors from the Indianapolis Bonsai Club and dive into the basics of this unique form of art. A workshop will be included with the program on Saturday, April 8. Trees and supplies will be available for purchase. Wednesdays, March 1, April 5, May 3, June 7; 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. \$20 per person. Ages: Adult. Register at www.indy.gov/playindy. **Herbal Teas Workshop:** Make and blend herbal teas and learn about the herb of the year, coriander/cilantro, and the April Herb Symposium. March 11, adult workshop, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Reservations required, limited; call 317-327-7184. **Herb Workshop:** Kids will have fun learning about herbs and how to grow them. Handouts and recipes on making different kinds of herb gardens (salsa, pizza etc.). Each child will take home a small container garden to watch it grow. Goodies provided. April 1, ages 6-12, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Reservations required, limited seating; call 317-327-7184. **Gnome Away from Home:** It's spring break and garden gnomes from far and wide have gathered at the Conservatory! See this whimsical display of garden gnomes and try to spot them all. This year, visitors can enjoy a glimpse of everyday gnome life. Contact the staff for information about loaning a gnome to be part of the display. \$4 per person or \$10 per family. March 18–April 2, Monday–Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Garfield Park Conservatory & Sunken Garden, 2505 Conservatory Drive, Indianapolis. Full list of programs at <https://www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org/programsevents>.

Saturday, March 25 Morgan County MG Gardenfest and Pansy Sale (Martinsville) Morgan County Master Gardeners present this day-long free public event featuring a pansy sale and over 30 garden-related vendors. Speakers include Brambleberry Farm on permaculture tools and approaches; and Joni James on creating a backyard/land that attracts wildlife. Garden Cafe available for food service. Free seeds and native trees will be given away. Pansy sale proceeds benefit MCMG projects including community demonstration garden, Boys and Girls Club of Mooresville partnership, and Purdue scholarship. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Hoosier Harvest Church, 4085 Lenoil Road, Martinsville. www.mcmastergardeners.org.

Thursday, March 30 Understanding Native Pollinators and Their Needs (Bloomington) Join us for an in-depth look at native pollinators. Speakers include [Heather Holm](#), [Jim McCormac](#), [Kevin Tungesvick](#), and [Natalie Marinova](#). Topics include: Pollination of Native Plants, Pollinator Nectar Sources for All Seasons, Lepidoptera and Their Larval Food Plants, Common Native Bees, Establishing a Low-Stature Forb-Rich Prairie for Pollinators and Grassland Birds, Funding Sources for Pollinator Planting Projects, and Establishment & Maintenance of Pollinator Habitat (Round-table Discussion). 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monroe County Convention Center, 302 S. College Avenue, Bloomington. Fee \$40. [Register here](#) Sponsored by Eco Logic LLC and Spence Restoration Nursery.

Monday, April 3 Herb Society of Central Indiana Hannah Coats, owner of Growing Places Indy, will talk about herbs and microgreens and her business. Starting with a single garden in White River State Park in the summer of 2010, GPI now manages four urban farm sites totaling 1.5 acres, and has helped numerous other gardens and urban farms take root in Indianapolis. They now serve more than 40 Indianapolis restaurants and grocers and have an annual Vegetable Subscription Program (CSA) for 20-

30 households. 6:45 to 9:00 p.m., John Hensel Clay Government Center, 10701 N. College Avenue, Indianapolis. Contact 317-253-9381 or visit www.herbsocietyofcentralindiana.org.

Tuesday, April 4 Indiana Daylily-Iris Society Presentation on daylilies by Scott Elliott, Maneki Neko Gardens, Georgia. 6:30 p.m., First Friends Church parlor, 3030 Kessler Blvd, East Drive, Indianapolis. www.indianadaylilyirissociety.org

Saturday, April 8 Herb Society of Central Indiana Spring Herb Symposium: Duet in C (Noblesville) The “duet” refers to the herb of the year, Coriander/Cilantro. Chefs Regina Mehallick and Cathy Richardson will demonstrate the preparation of savory dishes and pastry using coriander seed and cilantro leaves. Mark and Karen Langan of Mulberry Creek Herb Farm will talk about different types of cilantro, their growing habits, and how to keep them from flowering. Holistic Health Practitioner and Master Herbalist Delores Weis will speak on herbs and vitamins and oils on the medicinal side. Kim Galeaz, culinary nutritionist and registered dietician and a regular on Indy Style, Channel 8 and Fox 59, will discuss current food trends, what’s hot and what’s not. It will be a day of fun, education, multiple vendors, large silent auction, plants and more. 9:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m., Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds, 2003 Pleasant Street, Noblesville. Register **by April 3** [here](#). [Website](#) [Facebook page](#)

Saturday, April 8 Boone County MG Gardenfest (Lebanon) This 31st annual festival features vendors offering flowering plants, herbs, hostas, succulents, gifts, and more. Speakers: 10:00 a.m., Master Gardener Myrene Brown on “The Good, Bad and Ugly of Indiana Wildflowers”; 11:30 a.m., Amy Mullen, Spotts Garden Center, on “Edible Landscapes”; 1:00 p.m., Master Gardener Jane Diedrich on “Moths and Native Trees.” Also on tap, a Garden Café with sandwiches and homemade desserts, a sale of used tools and garden items, kids’ activities, soil pH testing, door prizes, and Q&A. Free native tree seedlings to first 300 attendees. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Farm Bureau Community Building, Boone County 4-H Fairgrounds, Lebanon (I-65 at Exit 138). www.bccn.boone.in.us/mg

CALL TO ACTION Protect Solar Energy Jobs, Defeat Senate Bill 309 *Update from Hoosier Environmental Council:* The highly controversial anti-solar bill, SB 309, passed out of the Indiana State Senate on a vote of 39 to 9, despite overwhelming opposition among those who contacted their senators and despite an array of school leaders, entrepreneurs, pastors, homeowners, and public interest groups opposed to the bill. HEC’s statement goes on to say “In a state that celebrates freedom, liberty, and customer choice, this bill does a great deal to discourage commitment to those principles.” **What You Can Do:** [Ask Your State Representative to vote “No” on SB 309](#). HEC Talking Points: “Urge the House Utilities Committee Chairman to not hold a vote on SB 309. Instead, call on the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission to do a data-driven study — which at least ten conservative-leaning states have done — that allows our state to carefully develop sound public policy related to solar energy.” [More about this issue](#)

New Book Landscape History Anyone? “When Thomas Jefferson moved into the White House in 1801, the grounds were little more than a dump site, littered with construction debris, piles of leftover clay and tree stumps. An outhouse graced the premises for at least another two years.” So says landscape historian Jonathan Pliska, who has documented it all in his new book, *A Garden for the President: A History of the White House Grounds*. The White House Grounds are a historic treasure in their own right, shaped by U.S. presidents and their families over the past two centuries to suit their tastes and the times—from John Quincy Adams digging in the dirt to conduct horticulture experiments, to Richard Nixon hosting daughter Tricia’s wedding in the Rose Garden, to Michelle Obama creating a kitchen garden. The book is published by the [White House Historical Association](#) to mark the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, which maintains the 18.7-acre property. Pliska traces the site from its birth

as a mess of construction rubble to what we see today, based on famed landscape architect Frederick Olmstead Jr.'s thoughtful, judicious guidelines.

Now Available IndyPL Seed Library The Glendale Branch of Indianapolis Public Library is beginning its third season of sharing seeds with would-be gardeners, and Spades Park Branch is also opening and IndyPL Seed Library. You'll need a library card to be able to check out seeds. Glendale Branch is hosting talks to help you get started: Sunday, March 12, 1:00 p.m., indoor seed starting; Saturday, April 1, 11:00 a.m., planting your garden. Learn more about the Seed Library at http://www.imcpl.org/IndyPL_SeedLibrary.

Native Plant Kits on Offer This spring, support [Mission Monarch](#) and take the guesswork out of your landscaping by purchasing one of Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District's native plant kits. Each kit contains 50 native plants for \$120 and takes the guesswork out of plant selection by providing a set of plants that will be perfect for your yard. There is a kit for any area of your landscape including pollinator garden, rain garden (for wetter areas), prairie garden, and shade garden. Each kit contains 10 different perennial species of native plants and can fill a space anywhere from 50 to 150 square feet. Plant kit orders can be placed online at www.hamiltonswcd.org or by visiting the SWCD office at 1717 Pleasant Street in Noblesville. Orders and payment are due **by April 29**. The plant kits will be available for pickup at the SWCD office in mid-May. All proceeds support conservation projects and education in Hamilton County. More information on native plants can be found at <http://www.hamiltonswcd.org>. More info on Mission Monarch activities can be found at www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com. Direct questions to Claire.lane@hamiltoncounty.in.gov or 317-773-2181.

Garden Travel 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](#) **Early Autumn in Oregon with Mark Zelonis:** Join Indy's own Mark Zelonis on September 13 -19, 2017, to see why many consider Oregon to be one of the most attractive places in the US to live, work, and play. Highlights: The Oregon Garden, featuring the designs and plants of the state's many expert nurserymen; historic Deepwood Gardens, an early 20th century estate designed by the firm of Lord-Schryver; a visit to Swan Island Dahlias, whose fields should be in peak bloom; Portland's International Rose Test Garden, Japanese Garden, and Lan Su Classical Chinese Garden, all considered to be among the best of their type in the country; historic Pittock Mansion with its eagle-eye view of the city of Portland; a special day-long tour through the spectacular Columbia River Gorge; and an opportunity to tour Cherry Hill Winery, owned by Jan and Michael Sweeney of Indianapolis. Book before April 1 and save \$100. Limited to 25 participants. Call 317-913-0387 to register.

Bee-Friendly Plant Meet Giant Blue Hyssop *Agastache foeniculum* *From the Xerces Society:* Giant hyssop, which derives its common name from its licorice-like scent and taste, happens to be one of the



most attractive plants for bees and supports a diversity of pollinators. Historically, mass plantings of giant blue hyssop were established in parts of the Midwest and Canada specifically as a "honey plant" to support apiaries. While bees probe the deep tubular flowers for nectar, skippers, fritillaries, and the occasional hummingbird may also visit the plant. Though it is in the mint family, it does not spread aggressively like culinary mint, but it may re-seed throughout the garden. Generally ignored by rabbits and deer, it can be used as a barrier to keep them away from more sensitive plants. The plant has been widely cultivated and hybridized for nursery sales in recent years,

but if you're looking to provide the best support for pollinators, plant the straight species (*Agastache foeniculum*) or the cultivar 'Blue Fortune' which, in a study by Mt. Cuba Center, was found to be just as attractive. For details visit <http://www.xerces.org/blog/plants-for-pollinators-giant-hyssop/>

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. *Thank you Phyllis Schmidt and The Herb Society of Central Indiana for your kind support of HortusScope.*