

HortusScope | What's Up in the

Central Indiana Gardening Community | Photo ©Lynne A. Tweedie

Saturday, April 2 Boone County Master Gardeners' Gardenfest (Lebanon) Twenty-two vendors will sell unique garden art, gifts, flowers, herbs, succulents, native plant seed, and other garden items. Gardenfest highlights include a used tool and garden item sale, free soil testing, and door prizes throughout the day. Expert speakers include John Thieme, "Where are All the Butterflies?"; Myrene Brown, "Garden Surprises"; and Teresa Downham & Trudy Struck, "Creating and Maintaining the HCMGA Rose Garden." Children's activities, free Q & A, and lunch with homemade desserts will also be available. Free native tree seedlings will be given to the first 200 participants. Free and open to the public. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Boone County 4-H Fairgrounds, Farm Bureau Community Building, 1300 E 100 S, Lebanon. Find more info at www.mastergardenerboonecounty.org or on Facebook.

Saturday, April 2 Hamilton County SWCD Sustainability Workshop: Invasive Species (Noblesville) Invasive species out-compete and eliminate native plants, taking critical habitat for wildlife and pollinators with them. The good news—our actions managing our own properties and our choices when buying plants can help take back our ecosystem! This workshop covers such landowner basics as what invasive plants are, species identification and management, and creating a management plan, as well as hands-on demonstrations of identification and treatment methods. Marion County residents are welcome to attend. Register here.

Tuesday, April 5 Indiana Daylily-Iris Society The Ups & Downs of Hybridizing Chuck Bunnell, one of our own members, shares the challenges of developing new iris varieties. A retired PhD chemist from Eli Lilly, Chuck began growing iris 15 years prior to his retirement and quickly found he could fill many hours with this hobby. He not only grows iris but has been hybridizing iris for the past 32 years. Chuck has introduced 14 iris in the Miniature Tall Bearded classification. His 2005 introduction, "Dividing Line," was the first MTB awarded the top honor in the American Iris Society, winning the Dykes Medal in 2014. His garden holds over 1000 named iris varieties, and his seedling beds house another 1000 or so iris that he is evaluating. 6:30 p.m., First Friends Church, 3030 Kessler Blvd, East Drive, Indianapolis. www.indianadaylilyirissociety.org

Marion County SWCD Spring Gardening Workshops Learn how to terminate cover crops and plant notill vegetables! Join Kevin Allison for an in-depth tour of: cover crop termination, use of tarps for bed preparation and weed control, use of compost and mulches, no-till vegetable planting, and growing biodiversity. These are free, in-person sessions—let's get together! Meet at the SWCD Demonstration Garden, located within the larger community Mayor's Garden at West 56th and Reed Road, Indianapolis. Workshops: Thursday, April 14, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.; Thursday, May 12, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Register here. In addition, there will be a virtual Zoom presentation,

Terminating Cover Crops in a No-Till Garden, **Friday, April 8**, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. <u>Register here.</u> This work is supported by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Saturday, April 9 Indiana Parks Alliance Forum Stewardship and Engagement in Indiana State Parks & Natural Areas Here's an easy way to learn what's going on and in store for some of Indiana's choice natural areas. Join your fellow conservation enthusiasts for an insider's briefing from a panel of experts: Terry Coleman, Indiana State Parks; Steven Wolter, Eppley Institute for Parks & Public Lands; Stephanie Schuck, State of Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management (SICIM); Scott Namestnik, Indiana Natural Heritage Data Center, Indiana DNR Division of Nature Preserves; Chris Smith, Land Management, Indiana DNR; and Tom Hohman, Indiana Parks Alliance. There is no cost to participate, but registration is required to obtain the Zoom link. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. Look for announcements and updates on the IPA Facebook page (@indianaparksalliance). Questions about registering? Contact the Zoom@IU Team at cthelp@iu.edu or https://kb.iu.edu/d/bfqu. Zoom begins at 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, April 9 Herb Society of Central Indiana Spring Symposium. After not having a symposium for two years, we're ready to ensure you have a great time and learn as you enjoy this a day of fun and education celebrating the 2022 Herb of the Year, violas, and touching on the herbs of the past two years, brambles and parsley. National herbalist Susan Belsinger will discuss the viola with its many culinary and medical uses. Bill McKnight will educate and entertain after lunch on the Best Fragrant Plants for the Midwest Garden. Along with other presentations, there will be plants for sale, a large silent auction, vendors with many different items and a delicious lunch by Juniper Spoon. 9:00 a.m. to 2:20 p.m., Hamilton County Fairgrounds & Exhibition Hall, 2003 Pleasant Street, Noblesville. Register by April 1 at https://sites.google.com/view/herb-society-of-central-indian/symposium.

Monday, April 11 Indianapolis Hosta Society Mosses in Our Garden Presentation by Bill McKnight, a local plant geek whom many of you may have met when he worked at Rosie's Gardens in Indianapolis. Bill is a Bryologist, a scientist who studies bryophytes – spore producing plants which includes about 450 species found growing wild in Indiana. These small plants are divided into three groups – hornworts, liverworts, and mosses. Bill's presentation will focus on mosses, but he will also point out the two liverworts all nature lovers are bound to encounter in our area. Free and open to the public. 6:30 p.m., Holliday Park Nature Center, 6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis. Free and open to the public. http://indianapolishostasociety.org/

Wednesday, April 13 Indiana Native Plant Society, Central Chapter Invasive Species: How to Identify and Control Them Invasive species can come along at any time – taking up space where native species should be. The unwanted species can be removed through a variety of methods. Crystal Renskers will discuss which species are invasive, how to tell them from native species that may look similar, and, best of all, the when and how to remove invasive species with a focus on the spring timing. Crystal has worked in ecological restoration for more than 15 years. Her experience is focused in and around Indiana, assessing wetlands to woods to stream habitat in rural and urban areas. While much of her time is focused on plants, she enjoys spending her free time in the woods and wild places observing the birds, butterflies, and other wildlife that abounds. This virtual program starts at 7:00 p.m. and is open to everyone. Register at https://bit.ly/3HdAy2J.

Saturday, April 16 Indiana Organic Gardener's Association Plant Sale/Auction Items donated by IOGA members will include organically grown vegetable starts, perennials, books, and other garden-related items. Drop off auction items at 10:30 a.m. Pitch-in lunch (bring a dish to share and plate, utensils, and

drink) at 11:00 a.m. There will be a short business meeting and Q&A at 11:45 followed by the auction. Everyone welcome. Nature Center at Cool Creek Nature Park, 2000 E. 151st St., Carmel. http://www.gardeningnaturally.org

Saturday, April 16 through Monday, May 30 Indiana Native Plant Society Florathon It's an educational "fun-raiser" for a good cause. Florathon 2022 will see teams from all over the state venture out into our wild areas, state parks, and nature preserves to see how many Indiana native wildflower species they can spot in bloom during a 24-hour period. Teams of two to six people will enroll sponsors to support their citizen-science effort with a donation to further the INPS mission. Florathon is not just for Indiana Native Plant Society members. Anyone can form a team, enlist sponsors, and visit their favorite wild area to record native species in bloom. For detailed participant information, visit https://indiananativeplants.org/inps-sponsored-events/florathon/.

Tuesday, April 19 Farmer Learning Community Opportunity Meet and network with local farmers about voluntary conservation practices, led by area farmers. This is an ongoing meeting in small groups of about 10-20, so your in-person participation is important to the group and your ideas will be heard! We'll start with a facilitated roundtable discussion to share your current practices and our plans for 2022. Your USDA NRCS District Conservationist will lead a white-board conversation that identifies your local resource concerns and farmer-led solutions to guide the learning group to focus on your biggest conservation priorities and opportunities. Lunch provided. Register here to join Sharrona Moore & Lawrence Community Gardens group. Meeting 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Pa and Ma's Backyard BBQ, 3469 N College Ave, Indianapolis. America's Conservation Ag Movement

Friday, April 22 Urban Soil Health Soil Health in High Tunnels Learn how to improve soil health on Indiana's urban and community small-scale agricultural land. Attend virtual training or participate in a regional in-person session (limited to 40 participants) to learn from growers in the field. Geared toward conservation professionals and open to growers. 10:00 a.m. to noon, Porter Farm (Hendricks Co) Register here for either virtual or in-person event. https://www.urbansoilhealth.org/

Saturday, April 23 Zionsville Greenfest: Think Green, Act Sustainably In celebration of Earth Day and Arbor Day, this event presented by EcoLogic LLC connects participants with the resources to become good stewards of the environment. Learn about living sustainably while having fun! Local businesses and organizations will be on hand that provide and promote environment-friendly goods and services. Think green and bike to the event along the Big-4 Rail Trail and use our free Pedal and Park Bike Valet. Participants will explore exhibits and displays, shop for native plants provided by Native Plants Unlimited, attend ongoing workshops and presentations on a variety of topics, collect a free milkweed plant (while supplies last), and earns a chance to win one of our door prize drawings—a rain barrel kit with diverter courtesy of Robert Goodman Jewelers, or a Home Composting setup courtesy of Boone County Solid Waste Management. 9:00 a.m. to noon, Zionsville Town Hall, 1100 West Oak Street Zionsville.

Monday, April 25 thru Saturday, May 7 ISBVI Annual Spring Plant Sale On offer will be native plants, annuals, perennials, herbs, vegetable plants (including heirloom varieties), hanging baskets, and beautiful planters of all sizes. We accept cash or check but, sorry, no credit cards. Proceeds benefit students in the ISBVI Horticulture Program. Masks are required in the greenhouse. Hours: noon to 5:00 p.m. weekdays; 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturdays. Closed Sundays. Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, 7725 N College Avenue, Indianapolis, (317) 253-1481 x207. Isbvigreenhouse.org

Saturday, April 30 Friends of the White River Downtown White River Cleanup Registration is open for this year's clean-up in partnership with Citizens Energy Group. Join your fellow Friends from 8:00 a.m. to noon to work on behalf of a waterway we know you love. Your advanced registration ensures you receive a free tee-shirt recognizing your volunteer efforts. Please dress for the weather and wear long pants, shoes that can get muddy, wet, or dirty (no sandals or flip flops, please). Also bring sunblock, a hat, and a filled reusable water bottle. Park free at 700 W Morris Street, Indianapolis, IN 46225. If you can't participate in the hands-on clean-up, please consider making a donation to Friends of White River to help support this and other restoration efforts. Your contribution helps pay for work gloves, masks, trash bags and garbage pickers, refreshments, and other supplies used for this and other clean-ups throughout the year. https://friendsofwhiteriver.org/

Friday & Saturday, May 6 & 7 Hancock County Herb Society & Master Gardener Association Plant Sale (Greenfield) Get expert advice and select from a large array of plant choices. The Herb Society offers a variety of culinary, medicinal, decorative, and craft-use herbs, along with tomato and pepper plants and potted perennials. Master Gardener choices include an extensive variety of perennials, vegetable plants, geraniums, begonias, and house plants in addition to hanging baskets just in time for Mother's Day. HCMGA pre-sale orders may be placed online April 26–May 3 at hancockmga.com and picked up during the plant sale. Credit and debit cards accepted. Hours: Friday 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Hancock County Fairgrounds, 4-H Show Arena (southwest corner of Apple and Park Streets). For more information, please contact Carolyn (HCHS) at 317-326-2274 or Teresa (HCMGA) at 317-441-9944.

Saturday, May 7 Johnson County Garden Club & Purdue Extension Garden Celebration XVII: Watch Your Garden Grow (Franklin) Enhance your garden with tips from professionals regarding roses, daylilies, trees, and much more. Scott and Herring Halls, located on the east side of the Johnson County fairgrounds, will feature 40+ garden-related vendors, a festive courtyard, and live music. Master Gardeners can qualify for education hours at these educational seminars: 10:30 a.m. Bret Clement, Growing and Breeding Daylilies; 11:30 a.m. Bob Bruner, Wild About Roses; 12:30 p.m. Brooke Alford, Embracing Indiana's Native Plants; 1:30 p.m. Sara High, Shrubs and Trees in the Garden; and Andrea Quigley, Urban Raptors in Central Indiana (at booth all day). The Garden Café featuring selections from Geri Girl Bakery (Edinburgh) will provide breakfast and lunch for purchase. Free giveaways include seed packets and tree seedlings while supplies last. General admission is \$2 at the door. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Johnson County Fairgrounds, 484 N. Morton Street, Franklin. Free parking at Johnson County Fairgrounds, 250 Fairground Street. Visit the Johnson County Garden Club Facebook page for updates or email jcgardenclub@gmail.com. 23rd Annual Plant Sale & Iris Sale — HCMGA

Saturday to Saturday, May 7 to 14 Indiana Native Plant Society Auction After a successful virtual and statewide event in 2021, the INPS Auction will continue as an online forum in 2022. This virtual auction format has the advantage of reaching members and non-members throughout Indiana and provides fantastic offers of rare native plants, private garden tours, celebrity guided hikes, plants donated by INPS members, and choice natives from our invasive-free <u>Grow Indiana Natives</u> vendors. Some auction items will begin to be previewed on the <u>Givergy</u> website starting **April 15**. Online silent bidding will begin Saturday, May 7, at 8:00 am and continue through Saturday, May 14, at 10:00 pm. Winning bidders will be put in touch with donors to arrange for plant pickup from their home or business, or to set a time and place for a hike or private garden tour. <u>Register now</u> and plan on a week of bidding fun! Questions? Please send them to auction@indiananativeplants.org.

Monday thru Wednesday, May 16–18 Sedge Symposium Honoring Paul Rothrock (Bloomington) The symposium will take place in Bloomington at the Monroe Convention Center, featuring field trips and presentations focusing on Carex, nativity, taxonomy, status & future of herbaria and natural history study, symbiosis (esp. ants), horticulture and, of course, the Sedge Man. Limited to 100 participants. Register by April 20 at https://www.indianaacademyofscience.org/events/carex-symposium.

Thursday May 19 Indiana Native Plant Society Central Chapter Composting Demystified Whether you want to produce the most nutrient rich, organic fertilizer for your garden, divert your leaves from the landfill, or close the final leg of food waste, composting is a valuable tool. Brooke Alford, Urban Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator at Purdue Extension-Marion County, will discuss the different strategies for composting, composting structures, and material input. Returning to Indy from the Pacific Northwest, where she earned a BA in Urban Forestry and a Master's in Landscape Architecture, Brooke now works with market and community growers to increase the sustainability of urban ag in Marion County and delivers programming around urban agriculture and green infrastructure. She has been an avid composter for over 20 years. This event is free and open to everyone. Zoom presentation at 7:00 .m. Registration required at https://bit.ly/3LiYggj.

Saturday, May 21 Hamilton County Master Gardeners Association's Plant Sale (Noblesville) Wagons will be available, but there are never enough for everyone so bring your own if possible. Cash, credit cards, and checks will be accepted. Choose your own iris to be dug in front of you in the iris bed at the rear of the fairgrounds. CDC guidelines in place at the time of the sale will be followed. 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., 4-H Fairgrounds main building, 2003 Pleasant Street, Noblesville. Learn more at 23rd Annual Plant Sale & Iris Sale – HCMGA

Register Now Columbus, Ohio, Garden Tour Join the Holliday Park Foundation on **June 1–2** for a unique opportunity to visit some of the most spectacular gardens in Columbus, Ohio. Horticulturist Chris Turner will lead an unforgettable tour of historic gardens, specialty nurseries, and exclusive private gardens rarely open to the public. For complete information on the tour and to register, go to https://www.hollidaypark.org/events-programs/tours.

Spring Wildflower Walks Blatchley Nature Study Club (Nobelsville) The public is invited to join us at the Blatchley Sanctuary for guided tours of some of the most diverse varieties of wildflowers in Indiana. Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Virginia Bluebells, Dutchman's Breeches, the delicate Bloodroot and canopies of May Apples are just a few of the varieties you'll enjoy. Walks are scheduled Saturday, April 16 (early bloomers) and Saturday, April 30 (late bloomers). Come any time between 1:00 and 5:00 p.m. to the Blatchley Sanctuary and Clubhouse, 125 Boulder Drive, Noblesville. Take Edith Avenue west (north of Potter's Bridge off Cumberland) to Boulder Drive and *follow the signs*! The mission of the Blatchley Nature Study Club is to promote the appreciation, preservation, and respect of the environment through education and fellowship. Please ask how you can become a member too!

Job Opp Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District The District seeks a part-time Office Coordinator, a courteous, detail-oriented person good with financial documentation/reporting who will greet customers, report/record financial activities, prepare/maintain accurate documentation and records, and support SWCD Supervisors. **Apply by April 5**. Details at https://www.hamiltonswcd.org/jobs--internships.html.

Fill Up to Fight Invasives Hamilton County Invasives Partnership (HIP) Bucket Challenge Invasive species abound in our parks, roadsides, woods, trails, and yards, and their presence negatively affects our ecosystems. HIP is fighting back with an invasives bucket challenge. Individuals are asked to fill a bucket or bag with removed invasives, then post a photo of their invasives-filled bucket on social media using the hashtag #invasivesbucketchallenge for a chance to win prizes. Participants can tag friends or family members to challenge them to fill a bucket with invasives as well. Special HIP buckets with invasive garlic mustard information are available for free from the Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District in Noblesville and other participating partners while supplies last. The invasives bucket challenge is a new program launched as part of Hamilton County Invasive Species Awareness Week which runs April 16 to 23. Opportunities to take part in an invasive species Weed Wrangle on public property can be found on the HIP website, www.hcinvasives.org.

Volunteer Opp What's Up at Keep Indianapolis Beautiful? KIB needs your help to keep Indianapolis beautiful! Even a few hours can make a big difference. Every year we rely on nearly 20,000 volunteers to help us carry out our mission to help people and nature thrive together in our city. Whether you are interested in cleaning up litter, building pocket parks, creating greenspaces, planting trees, preparing mail, or assisting with special projects, there's a way you can help. https://www.kibi.org/projects

Volunteer Opp Circle City CISMA Did you know that Indiana landowners and managers spend more than \$8 million annually to manage invasive plants in our state? CISMAs (Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas) are forming all over the state through the <u>Indiana Invasives Initiative</u>, and central Indiana counties are part of Circle City CISMA. Ways to get involved: Participate in spring Weed Wrangles and other partner events to remove invasive species and collect native seeds. Follow us on social media (Facebook, Instagram). Take our <u>invasive species survey</u> for property owners. Control invasives on your own property and remember, proper identification and eradication methods are the key! Learn more about how to fight invasives locally at https://circlecitycisma.org/resources/ and find upcoming Weed Wrangles at https://circlecitycisma.org/events/.

Citizen Science Trainings Indiana Phenology A volunteer organization dedicated to documenting the timing of seasonal changes in Indiana plants, Indiana Phenology is holding several free, virtual volunteer observer training programs. The dates are April 12, noon; April 15, 10:00 a.m.; and May 10, 10:00 a.m. An in-person hands-on workshop is scheduled for April 23 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Holliday Park Nature Center. Join us at one of these sessions to learn how to document seasonal changes in plants for yourself and for science. Register at www.indianaphenology.org/events. Follow us on Facebook | Twitter | Instagram.

Helpful! Creating & Maintaining a Prairie Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District has created a new resource to guide you in establishing native plantings on your property. The new booklet, a guide for native plantings in your Indiana yard of any size, outlines planning, site preparation, planting, and maintenance for plantings ranging from small pollinator gardens to multi-acre native prairies. Free copies of the 50-page booklet are available at the SWCD office in Noblesville thanks to a Clean Water Indiana Grant. Or, you can view the booklet online and download a PDF.

No, no, Mosquito Joe! The pressure has already begun to persuade you to hire a mosquito fogging company to rid your yard of those pesky mosquitoes and give you an itch-free summer. Please protect Nature's delicate balance with a targeted, less expensive, ecosystem-friendly solution. This video by entomologist and native plant guru Doug Tallamy tells us how: https://youtu.be/TqcDZDNtP-0.

Plant Shopping! Native Plants Unlimited Spring Herbaceous Plant Sale pre-orders are now closed, with pick-up is scheduled April 27 through May 1 at Geist Nursery, but Geist will be well stocked with native plants for on-site purchase Tuesday, May 3, through Sunday, May 29.

https://nativeplantsunlimitedshop.com/

Plant Shopping! Urban Acres Plant Sale Grab a tray and come on in! We are selling only full trays of plants during the presale period ending Friday, April 15. Buy a tray and fill it (online) with any 18 plants of any variety. Presale pickup will April 30 & May 1, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. If you don't need 18 plants, no worries, we will be open for in-person sales May 7 and 8, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Indy Urban Acres is a collection of four organic farms that works to inspire transformational change within Indy's food system by providing food justness for low-income families, educating thousands of youth through tours and farm-to-plate workshops, providing community engagement to thousands of volunteers and groups, and teaching teens valuable job skills. https://www.iuaplantsale.com/#/

Fresh Addressing Indy's Food Desert Recent studies show Indianapolis is one of the worst food deserts in the country. Inside these spaces, African-American farmers are offering critical access points for nutrition. Learn more in this article from WTHR.com.

Web Find Marc Evans' "Cheat Sheet" for Spring Wildflower Seekers Marc Evans Media is tracking the phenology of spring bloomers in Southwest Indiana for all those participating in the Wildflower Weekend at McCormick's Creek State Park, the Brown County Wildflower Foray, and the Indiana Native Plant Society Florathon. As a free service, every year Marc provides a list of what started blooming when, and provides numerous photos to guide the hunt. Find his website at https://wildflowers2022.weebly.com/

Start a New HABITAT!® Homegrown National Park® Doug Tallamy's remarkable book *Nature's Best Hope* outlines a grassroots approach to conservation that homeowners everywhere can participate in. Relying on the initiatives of private individuals, this approach is immune from the whims of government policy, and is practical, effective, and easy. When you've planted some native plants, add your property to the national map of the growing Homegrown National Park. Learn more at HomegrownNationalPark.org.

Unleash the Wild on Your Backyard If you've not heard Doug Tallamy's message on why we should fight invasive species and sterile landscapes by going native and going natural, here's a <u>Smithsonian Magazine article</u> that tells his own landowner story and eloquently states the case.

Garden Travel English Gardens & Grand Estates, hosted by C. Colston Burrell & Isabel Wrench, May 21 to June 5, 2022. <u>Brochure</u>

Photo Notes This fabulous photo by Lynne Tweedie captures the exquisite beauty of one of my favorite Indiana native plants, bloodroot (Sanguinaria canadensis), named for its blood-colored sap. I'm happy to say it likes me back, for it's popping up all over my backyard, the seeds carried and buried by ants as much as 40 feet from the source. Each flower lasts only a day or two, hopefully to be pollinated by small native bees. I'm intrigued by the delicate relationships between native plants and our insect friends. If you are too, I recommend Wake Up, Woods, a beautifully illustrated guide to the spring ephemerals of Indiana's deciduous forests and their wildlife associates—perfect to take with you when you go exploring in the woods with your kids or grandkids.

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 cheerfully accepted at 6911 Cabernet Way, Indianapolis, IN 46278, check made out to Wendy Ford. Thank you, Amy Perry, for your generous support of HortusScope.