



HortusScope | What's Up in the Central Indiana Gardening

Community | [Photo by Wendy Ford](#)

NEW! Indiana Native Plant Finder The Indiana Native Plant Society is proud to announce the launch of a searchable database of Indiana native plants and their pollinators. This colorful, user-friendly tool can filter on numerous characteristics to present an array of plants suited to your site conditions. Garden-friendly natives are noted, as well as plants designated as caterpillar and pollinator magnets. The Finder holds 140 complete records now and will grow to 500 as details are added. Check it out at <https://finder.indiananativeplants.org>.

Saturday, July 9 Summertime in the Garden Rosanna Hardin Hall invites you to see her paintings of gardens during the re-opening of her two-story gallery, Villa Dell'Artista. Enjoy light refreshments in her garden and tour the gallery displaying her paintings of Woodruff Place, Italy, and the South Pacific. 3:00 to 5:30 p.m., 700 Middle Drive, Woodruff Place, Indianapolis. RSVP to Rosanna Hall at rosannahall@sbcglobal.net or 317-508-8797. www.rosannahall.net

Thursday, July 14 Indiana Native Plant Society Central Chapter Foraging and Native Plant Conservation: Expanding the Ecological Self Humans have a fraught relationship with the natural world, says presenter Greg Monzel, a student of nature with a gift for nourishing deep connections between people and plants. Modern humans are obsessed with controlling and extracting value from natural spaces, often to the detriment of people and nature alike. For most of human existence, we depended on hunting and gathering wild foods for sustenance, which tied people directly to their habitats, but extractive foraging and forestry practices have brought about the precipitous decline of plant diversity and damage to their habitats. With this program, Greg Monzel makes the case that thoughtful foraging of wild foods and medicines can help restore connections between people and nature, increasing the value of forests and other habitats to support their conservation. He will examine how hunting practices and policies can inform foraging policies and conservation efforts, and perhaps make foraging less taboo in conservation circles. Monzel has been a practicing herbal educator, medicine maker, and grower since 2008. He and his wife co-founded Persimmon Herb School in 2015 to hold plant-centered space and build a healing community. This virtual program, open to everyone, begins at 7:00 p.m. Register at <https://bit.ly/3sW1AY3>.

Tuesday, August 2 Indiana Daylily-Iris Society What's Happening at Riverbend Gardens Presentation by Sandy Holmes of Riverbend Daylily Garden, Xenia, Ohio. Sandy and her husband Mike started Riverbend Garden in 1996 when they became backyard hybridizers. They now raise 40,000 to 50,000 seedlings at a time. They grow and hybridize tetraploid daylilies, striving to introduce plants with excellent plant habit and distinctive looks. Sandy is drawn to large, unusual form daylilies; Mike prefers the rounder daylilies with fancy edges. Sandy's introduction "I Lava You" won the Stout Medal in 2020, the highest award given annually by the American Daylily Society. Join us to hear of their latest hybridizing work. 6:30 p.m., First Friends Church, 3030 Kessler Blvd, East Drive, Indianapolis.

Interesting Perennial Hope for Sustainable Agriculture Could perennial grains take the place of our customary annual wheat, rice, corn, and soybeans? Scientists are exploring perennial crops that could generate grain to make bread and beer while regenerating the healthy soil that we depend on as the world's largest land-based carbon sink. [Read all about it](#)

Volunteer Opp Hamilton County Invasives Partnership (HIP) Weed Wrangles Hamilton County landscapes are encountering growing threats from invasive introduced plants. Join teams of volunteers, supervised by knowledgeable guides, to locate and uproot unwelcome plants such as bush honeysuckle, garlic mustard, autumn olive, English ivy, and winter creeper. Opportunities to take part in Weed Wrangles 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 [Indiana Invasives Initiative](#), and central Indiana counties are part of Circle City CISMA. Ways to get involved: Participate in Weed Wrangles and other partner events to remove invasive species and collect native seeds. Follow us on social media (Facebook, Instagram). Take our [invasive species survey](#) 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/>.

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.

Outen the Lights! Protect Our Wildlife It may come as a surprise that artificial lighting is a real threat to our insect friends, migrating birds, and bats. Security lights and porch lights that remain on through the night disorient insects, keeping them from mating and successfully reproducing. That means less food for birds to feed their young. Bright lights may even suppress plant blooming. But you can install motion sensors on security lighting so the lights come on only when someone or something is actually prowling. And use yellow tinted bulbs for your porch lights, which are less attractive to night-flying insects. [More about ecological garden maintenance](#)

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.

The Why Rewilding 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 [Smithsonian Magazine article](#) that tells his own landowner story and eloquently states the case.

Photo Notes Rudbeckia hirta 'Indian Summer' ...so cheery! I save seeds from year to year so as to keep these long-blooming beauties close at hand. My garden beds bear huge cracks in this drought-ridden season, but Indian Summer doesn't seem to mind. And she make a great cut flower to brighten the breakfast table.

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.