



## HortusScope | What's Up in the Central Indiana Gardening Community | [Graphic courtesy GetDrawings.com](#)

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### **Saturday, March 2 Garfield Park Conservatory Herbie Workshop**

Decorate a card with herbs or by hammering or using an ink pad. A fun craft to take home! We will also be doing our annual herb seed starting workshop. There will be handouts, recipes, and herbal munchies. Fee \$5, registration required at

<https://www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org/> or 317-327-7183.

10:00 to 11:30 a.m., Garfield Park Conservatory, 2505 Conservatory Dr, Indianapolis.

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**Monday, March 4 Herb Society of Central Indiana Yarrow, the International Herb of the Year** Three of our members will share information about culinary, ornamental, and medicinal uses, history, and propagation by seed, division, and cuttings. We meet at 6:15, enjoy member-made herbal foods and learn from the speakers at 6:30. Free and open to the public. Convenient free parking. John Hensel Government Center, 10701 N College Ave, Indianapolis.

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**Tuesday, March 5 Indiana Daylily-Iris Society The Move: Relocating an Iris Garden** Presentation by Dr. Charles Bunnell, PhD chemist at Eli Lilly who began growing iris 15 years prior to his retirement and quickly found he could fill many hours with this hobby. He has also been hybridizing iris for the past 34 years, introducing 14 iris in the Miniature Tall Bearded classification. His "Dividing Line", introduced in 2005, was the first MTB iris awarded the top honor in the American Iris Society, winning the Dykes Medal in 2014. This past summer, he and his wife, Barb, relocated from their 10-acre homestead to a small lakeside plot. Moving a garden with over 1000 named iris varieties and another 1000 iris seedlings he was evaluating was quite a challenge. Join us as he shares his decision-making about which iris to move, what the process involved, and what to consider if you are moving to a new location. 6:30 p.m., First Friends Church, 3030 Kessler Blvd, East Drive, Indianapolis.

<https://www.indianadaylilyirissociety.org/>

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### **Wednesday, March 6 Indiana Native Plant Society Central Chapter Pesticide Use in a Garden Setting**

This program will cover the categories of pesticides and the risks vs. benefits of commonly used pesticides. Learn about the insect apocalypse, the impact of neonicotinoid use by growers, how to recognize a "real" problem, and the safe use of pesticides. Presented by Ellen Jacquart, who has spent a career managing natural areas in Indiana, working for the Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Forest Service and the Indiana Chapter of The Nature Conservancy before retiring in 2016. A major focus of her work was to address the threat of invasive plants to forests, prairies, and wetlands. When the Indiana Invasive Species Council created the Invasive Plant Advisory Committee in 2010, she led it until she retired in 2016. She now chairs Monroe County – Identify and Reduce Invasive Species (MC-IRIS) which works to reduce the impact of invasive plants in Monroe County and was president of the statewide Indiana Native Plant Society from 2018 to 2022. Open to everyone. Zoom presentation at 7:00 p.m.

Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pesticide-use-in-a-garden-setting-tickets-787840681687>.

<https://secure.givelively.org/event/indiana-phenology-co/observer-training>

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**Saturday, March 16 Morgan County Master Gardeners' Gardenfest (Martinsville)** Featuring pansies and cool season flowers to start your spring garden. Educational presentations by Morgan County Master Gardeners. Free seeds and tree seedlings available while supplies last. Enjoy lunch provided by

Gather Around BBQ. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Bell Intermediate Academy, 1459 E. Columbus Street, Martinsville. <https://mcmastergardeners.org/gardenfest>

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**Tuesday, March 12 South Central Indiana Master Gardener Association (Columbus) Annuals are Natives Somewhere!** Speaker Gail Plattner is an Advanced Master Gardener and has grown annuals for many years. She has explored the origins of some of our favorite annual plants and flowers that are purchased each spring. 6:00 p.m., Purdue Extension Office Annex Building, 783 S. Marr Road, Columbus. The Annex building is located behind the main office building. Visit us at <https://scimga.org> or find us on Facebook.

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**Thursday, March 21–Sunday, March 24 Art in Bloom at Newfields** Art and nature collide in this fourth annual exhibit. Fifty fabulous floral arrangements will transform the IMA Galleries in the early days of spring with breathtaking creations inspired by works of art. Seven monumental showstoppers and 43 pedestals promise to captivate guests of all ages in the largest Art in Bloom yet. Fees: \$16 Members & \$32 Public. Tickets include THE LUME Indianapolis featuring Dalí Alive. <https://discovernewfields.org/art-bloom>

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**Sunday, March 24 Indianapolis Hosta Society Creating Design in the Hosta Garden** Presentation by Bob Iames, a groundskeeper at the 173-acre Lange Estate in Ludlow Falls, Ohio. He is a member of the American Conifer Society and current president of the Miami Valley Hosta Society. Free and open to the public. 2:00 to 5:00 p.m., Coxhall Mansion, 11677 Towne Rd, Carmel. <https://indianapolishostasociety.org/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/Master-Gardeners-of-Boone-County-Indiana-596354453716188/>

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**Thursday, March 28 Orchid Book Club at Newfields** Join Newfields' Orchid Specialist Ian as he journeys through Michelle Wan's orchid murder mystery series! This and two further sessions will pursue a fun and twisting conversation about the series in historic Lilly House. First up: Deadly Slipper. 6:00 to 7:45 p.m., Lilly House, Newfields, 4000 n Michigan Rd, Indianapolis. Tickets at <https://discovernewfields.org/calendar/orchid-murder-mystery-book-club-1>

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**Thursday, April 4 Bird ID Hike at Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park** Journey through the Park with Wild Birds Unlimited's Naturalist Brian Cunningham. You'll find all sorts of feathered friends, including white-breasted nuthatches, downy woodpeckers, goldfinches, and more on this 1.5-mile guided hike. Free. 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., Fairbanks Art & Nature Park, west of Newfields. Register at <https://discovernewfields.org/calendar/bird-id-hike-wild-birds-unlimited>.

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**Saturday, April 6 Garlic Mustard Pull at Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park** Join Indiana Native Plant Society members in identifying and pulling invasive garlic mustard before it goes to seed. Free. 10:00 a.m. to noon, Fairbanks Art & Nature Park, west of Newfields. Register at <https://discovernewfields.org/calendar/garlic-mustard-pull-inps>.

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**Saturday, April 6 Boone County Master Gardeners' Gardenfest (Lebanon)** More than 22 garden-related vendors will sell unique garden art, gifts, flowers, herbs, shrubs, succulents, native plant seeds and other garden items. Highlights of the day include a used tool and garden item sale, free soil testing, and expert speakers: Jared Spokowsky, "Pollinator Plants"; Karen Smith and Jennifer Davies, "The Laws of Attraction – Birds, Butterflies and Bees"; and Rachel Walker, "So you Bought an Orchid, Now What? Basic Orchid Keeping in the Home". Children's activities, free Q & A, lunch with homemade desserts will also be available. Free native tree seedlings will be given to the first 300 participants. Free and open to

the public. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Farm Bureau Community Building, Boone Co. 4-H Fairgrounds, 1300 E 100 S, Lebanon. Find more info at [www.mastergardenersboonecounty.org](http://www.mastergardenersboonecounty.org) or <https://www.facebook.com/Master-Gardeners-of-Boone-County-Indiana-596354453716188/>

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**Saturday, April 13 thru May 31 Indiana Native Plant Society Florathon 2024** How many native wildflower species will you find in bloom? Form your teams now, give yourselves a name, solicit sponsors, and prepare to venture out into Indiana's lovely natural areas to spot flowers in bloom. The Florathon is a great way to enjoy spring wildflowers and support a worthy cause. <https://indiananativeplants.org/inps-sponsored-events/florathon/>

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**Wednesday, April 17 Indiana Phenology Spring Observer Training** A 90-minute in-depth virtual training session for those who want to become Indiana Phenology Backyard Observers. 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Tickets \$5 at <https://secure.givelively.org/event/indiana-phenology-co/observer-training>

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**Saturday, April 20 Herb Society of Central Indiana Spring Symposium Yarrow: It's the Bees Knees** The herb of the year, Yarrow, will be honored with a presentation by Audrey Barron, herbalist with her own herb farm. Yarrow is her favorite herb, and she will share its many uses and benefits. The symposium features knowledgeable speakers, silent auction, live plants, snacks and lunch, crafts, vendors, and books. Cost \$75. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Hamilton County Fair Grounds, 2003 Pleasant St, Noblesville. Register **by April 6** at <https://sites.google.com/view/herb-society-of-central-indian/symposium-2024?authuser=0>

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**Saturday, April 27 The Dirty Dozen: Are These Invasive Plants in Your Yard?** Learn all about invasive plants, including what makes them so invasive, where they come from, how they spread, and the damage they cause to our environment, health, and economy. You'll learn how to identify the 12 most common invasive plants in Hamilton County and what you can do to prevent their spread. Presented via a partnership between Hamilton County Invasives Partnership and the Carmel Clay Public Library. 11:00 a.m. to noon, Main Library, 425 E Main St, Carmel. Registration recommended, opens March 9 at <https://carmelclaylibrary.org/event/10154271>.

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**Saturday, April 27 Tippecanoe Master Gardeners' Garden Expo & Plant Sale (Lafayette)** Thousands of plants: tomatoes, vegetables, herbs, flowers, wildflowers, trees, and shrubs. Vendor garden booths, Garden Shed with gently used tools and garden items, raffle of a basket of garden goodies. Garden Cafe offers soup, sandwiches, desserts. Admission: adults \$2, children free. Free parking. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds, 1406 Teal Road, Lafayette. [tippecanoemastergardener.org](http://tippecanoemastergardener.org)

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**Bill Watch 2024 Hoosier Environmental Council** A "good" wetlands bill is making its way through the legislature with bipartisan support: **SB 246** would expand a voluntary incentive program for property owners to preserve wetlands. Please contact [your state rep.](#) and urge them to support this legislation. Wetlands are the "kidneys" of the landscape, filtering the water we drink. They're sponges for floodwaters, and they're hotspots of biodiversity, as well as places of rare beauty. **Update on HB 1383** Despite strong bipartisan opposition and 1300+ petition signatures, Governor Holcomb signed HB 1383 into law. Thank you to everyone who was involved and took action. Learn more and follow the legislative process here: <https://www.hecweb.org/bill-watch-2024/>

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**Donate to a Worthy Cause Indiana Phenology** Did you know we've gathered nearly a quarter of a million phenology observations over the past five years? It's all part of our mission to deepen our understanding of Indiana's natural world through phenology – the study of nature's cycles. But we need

your support to upgrade our data analysis capabilities! We need \$500 by the end of March to fund a subscription for GIS software to support our data analysis and visualization efforts and the day-to-day business needs of a small volunteer-run nonprofit. Your contribution, no matter how small, brings us closer to unraveling the mysteries concealed in the observations gathered by our citizen science observers. It will enable us to invest in advanced tools and technology to analyze phenology data with greater precision and insight, helping us uncover important insights into Indiana's ecosystems so we can aid in their protection and preservation. Donate at <https://www.indianaphenology.org/donate>. See also April 17 training event.

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**Advocacy Opp Save the Tree Canopy** A new grass roots group has formed, inviting all to make the general public, civic leaders, and developers aware of the urgent need to protect mature green-growth areas and to educate them regarding the benefits of extensive wooded areas. A tree canopy exists when the upper portions of mature trees come together to form a layer sheltering the ground. The group's aim is to preserve, maintain, and protect existing and established green spaces to store as much carbon dioxide as possible. They will support volunteers to attend local government meetings, petition, and write letters when proposals call for the destruction of existing mature trees. Learn more and get involved at <https://www.savethetreecanopy.org>.

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**Employment Opps Hoosier Environmental Council** Seeking a part-time *Mounds Greenway Coordinator* to support the promotion, implementation, and expansion of the Mounds Greenway plan in East Central Indiana. HEC seeks a leader, organizer, and coalition builder who is well-versed in community trails and related issues. Job description and application at <https://www.hecweb.org/about/careers/>.

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**Photo Notes** Lion or lamb? Who knows what March will bring us from day to day. I just know that I'm itching to resume communing with my garden. I'm enjoying snowdrops, winter aconites, and Lenten roses and spotting an early dandelion or two amidst the emerging tulip foliage. My native plants are still cozy in the ground, with their stalks and leaves in place to shelter our insect friends who will emerge later to become food for our birds and their babies. My garden is a living, breathing entity and soothing to the soul. I'm embracing it whatever the weather.

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**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](mailto:hortusscope@comcast.net). Your supporting donation cheerfully accepted at 6911 Cabernet Way, Indianapolis, IN 46278, check made out to Wendy Ford. *Thank you Zelma Taylor for your kind support of HortusScope.*

## Volunteer Opportunities

**Pollinator Partnership Collect Native Seed for Project Wingspan** Project Wingspan is an initiative supported by a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Federation. It is administered by the non-profit Pollinator Partnership, which is leading a coalition of partners to enhance land across the Midwest to support our imperiled pollinators – especially monarch butterflies and the rusty patch bumblebee. You can help us make a difference! Native seed that is collected will be shipped to the main nursery with Pollinator Partnership where it will be processed (cleaned and sorted) and distributed to predetermined conservation areas to help these pollinators survive. Volunteers under 16 years old must be

accompanied by a parent/guardian. Interested volunteers can sign up here:  
<https://www.carmelclayparks.com/park-conversation/protecting-imperiled-pollinators/>

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**Cull Invasives HIP Weed Wrangles and Strike Team** There's no shortage of opportunities to help with invasive removal this season at Hamilton County Invasives Partnership (HIP) Weed Wrangles! Visit our website to find details on each event. [www.hcinvasives.org/weedwrangle](http://www.hcinvasives.org/weedwrangle) Volunteers are also invited to join our HIP Strike Team, a group led by experienced volunteers and/or SWCD staff volunteers who provide technical support and labor to remove invasive species at partner sites. These are typically public use sites such as parks, schools, land trusts, nature reserves, etc. See upcoming Strike Team dates here: [www.hcinvasives.org/striketeam](http://www.hcinvasives.org/striketeam)

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## Resources

**Interactive Indiana Native Plant Finder** It's the Indiana Native Plant Society's 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. Find it at <https://finder.indiananativeplants.org>.

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**Videos Indiana Native Plant Society YouTube Channel** Enjoy your winter break from gardening chores with videos on landscaping with natives, propagating with native seeds, native plant conservation, nature preserves, land stewardship, and other goodies. Find them at <https://www.youtube.com/@indiananativeplantsociety8035/playlists>

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**Reference The Gardener's Guide to Prairie Plants** Promising to be the definitive reference on the subject, this thoroughly researched and illustrated handbook is a one-stop compendium for gardeners passionate about native plants and prairie restoration. Author/photographers Neil Diboll of Prairie Nursery and Hilary Cox of our own Indiana Native Plant Society offer details every gardener might need to know to welcome these plants into their landscapes. Available in bookstores and online.

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**How-To Rain Gardens for Homeowners** Rain gardens are not just landscape features-- they absorb water and pollutants, reduce runoff, protect water quality, and prevent flooding. Claire Lane, Urban Conservationist with Hamilton County SWCD is eager for you to know how to manage stormwater on your property and clean it of contaminants. The SWCD is offering a free booklet online and downloadable [here](#). Print copies are available at the SWCD office Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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**How-To Prairie Up! Designing a Small Meadow Garden with Commonly Available Native Plants** by Benjamin Vogt. It's easy to be overwhelmed when shopping for new plants, especially when you want to create a wildlife habitat, and plant tags seldom provide enough or even the right information to make informed decisions suitable for our specific site conditions. Drawn from Benjamin's own experience designing and maintaining suburban gardens, this book features lists of which plants to use, in what combinations, and under what conditions. Available at bookstores and online.

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**Design New Directions in the American Landscape (NDAL)** This educational organization is dedicated to the art, culture, and science of ecology-based landscape design. Although the message of ecological design is increasingly popular, our knowledge of how to implement that message and make it successful remains limited. NDAL's conferences for landscape architects and designers regularly feature topics in

ecology and sustainability, creatively integrating science and design. They also include topics in anthropology, history, and the arts, providing a rich framework for understanding the full extent of what's possible and required by ecological design. Paired with this approach is a commitment to exploring tangible, practical techniques applicable at diverse scales and contexts. View courses for the Professional, Home Gardener, Students & Educators [here](https://www.ndal.org/). <https://www.ndal.org/>

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**Podcast Bug Banter with the Xerces Society** Cozy up to your invertebrate friends with this podcast exploring the world of invertebrates and how to help these extraordinary animals. Co-hosts Matthew Shepherd and Rachel Dunham dive into the mysteries of native insects and other invertebrates in North America. Your imagination will travel underground, overhead, and in between as you listen to expert guests share the secrets of tiny creatures that live amongst us but are often unknown. In just half-hour sessions, become an apprentice in the ways we can better share the earth with wildlife and help these precious animals in peril.

## Inspiration

**Life Support Doug Tallamy's 4 Universal Landscape Goals** Our landscapes must do the things that enable ecosystems to produce the life support we and every other species require. They must: 1) Support a diverse community of pollinators throughout the growing season. 2) Provide energy for the local food web. 3) Manage the watershed in which they lie. 4) Remove carbon from the atmosphere where it is wreaking havoc on the earth's climate. How well a landscape accomplishes these goals depends on how well we, as landscape managers, choose and deploy the plants on our landscapes. Learn why lawns fail and native plants succeed at these four goals [here](#).

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**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](https://HomegrownNationalPark.org).

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**Garden Travel Tours with Cole Burrell** Coming in 2024, trips to Vietnam, the Hudson Valley, Chile, and more. Contact [Cole Burrell](#) to add your name to the list for advance brochures and registration information and visit the [Garden and Nature Tours](#) website for more information. Registration is now open for Gardens of the Hudson River Valley, June 10-17, 2024. The Hudson River Valley is noted for grand estates of the Gilded Age, impressive wineries, farm-to-table sustainable agriculture, and bucolic scenery made famous by artists of the Hudson River School.