



HortusScope | What's Up in the Central Indiana Gardening Community | Photo by Wendy Ford

Tuesday, April 1 Indiana Daylily-Iris Society Japanese Iris Peggy Harger-Allen will showcase the beautiful Japanese iris, Hanashobu, which were featured at the American Iris Society's National Convention in 2024. Both her mother and grandmother grew iris which became her favorite flower in the 1950's. Peggy joined the Indiana Daylily-Iris Society in 2005 and started studying iris seriously. Today she grows about

350 varieties of iris and 150 daylilies with an emphasis on black iris and historic iris. Her garden is a display garden of the Historic Iris Preservation Society. She is a garden/exhibition judge and Assistant Vice President of Region 6 for the American Iris Society. 6:30 p.m., Clermont Lions Club, 3201 Tansel Rd, Indianapolis. <https://www.indianadaylilyirissociety.org/>

April 1 thru May 31 Indiana Native Plant Society Florathon 2025 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/>

Wednesday, April 2 Herb Society of Central Indiana How We Use Herbs We're excited to feature some of our members' accounts of how they use herbs. Come share their experiences, and yours, with using herbs in the kitchen, in the garden, as medicine, etc. We meet at 6:00 and enjoy member-made herbal foods, then learn from our presenters at 6:30. Free and open to the public. John Hensel Gov. Center, 10701 N College Ave, Indianapolis. Free parking available.

Thursday, April 3 Indiana Native Plant Society Central Chapter Project Wingspan, Working Together for Vital Habitat: Best Practices We welcome Mariah Russell, Indiana Project Wingspan Coordinator, to tell us how we can get involved and bring more pollinator habitat to our area. Commercially available, regionally native seed can be hard to find and expensive. Project Wingspan aims to make this seed available to committed landowners/land managers free of charge and provides training and support to volunteer teams and individuals throughout the state so they can identify target plant species and responsibly collect seed for this effort. The community connections made through this conservation work lay the foundation for long lasting stewardship of natural areas. This virtual event is free and open to the public. 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. ET. [Register](#) to receive the Zoom link.

Thursday, April 3 Indianapolis City Nature Challenge: The How and the Why The Indianapolis City Nature Challenge (#IndyCNC) offers Indy residents an opportunity for friendly competition with other major cities in the Midwest and around the world. The event calls on current and aspiring community scientists, nature and science fans, and people of all ages and science backgrounds to observe and submit pictures of plants and wildlife using the free [iNaturalist](#) app. As global human populations become increasingly concentrated in cities, documenting urban biodiversity is more critical than ever to ensure the future of plants and wildlife. This presentation by Project Organizer Angela Herrmann will

prepare you to participate in this citizen science project, which will help leaders make informed conservation decisions that allow human and natural communities to thrive together. 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. ET. [Register](#) to receive the Zoom link.

Saturday, April 5 The World We Share: Voices United for Indiana's Environment Advocacy and artistry combine at this free event hosted by Hoosier Environmental Council and the Indianapolis Women's Chorus, which merges powerful community singing with important discussions on environmental preservation in Indiana. Join us to engage with leading environmental advocates and learn how you can contribute to a sustainable future. After the official program, stay for an environmental resource fair and reception to connect [with our speakers](#) and local organizations like Confront the Climate Crisis and Earth Day Indiana. Come see how you can become a part of the solution through action and song, and find your voice in the movement to protect our planet. Program 3:00 to 4:30 p.m., optional reception 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., Unity of Indianapolis, 907 N Delaware St, Indianapolis. Free. Register at <https://www.hecweb.org/voices-united/>

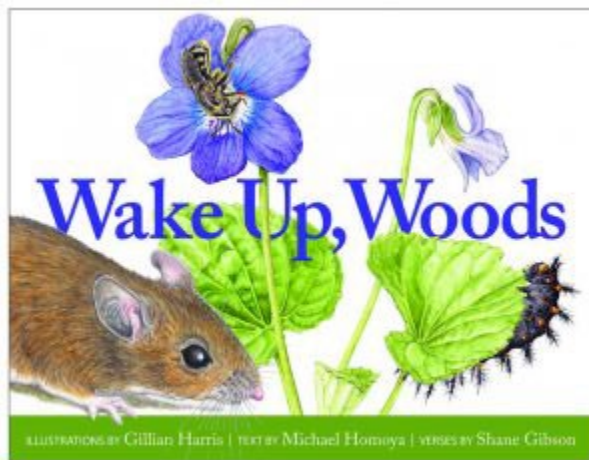
Saturday, April 5 Hancock County Master Gardener Association (Greenfield) Green Thumb Event: Spectacular Spring Gardening Cosponsored with Hancock County SWCD and the Hancock County Public Library. Irvin Etienne, Horticultural Display Coordinator at Newfields, will present on "Nativars: Strangers in a Strange Land" at 10:00 a.m. Afterward, there will be a demonstration by Master Gardeners on "Creating Charming Containers." The program is free. Refreshments will be served. Attendees can win door prizes and visit the many booths of interest to gardeners. 9:30 a.m. to noon, Hancock County Public Library, 900 West McKenzie Road, Greenfield. <https://hancockmga.com/>

Saturday, April 12 Herb Society of Central Indiana Spring Symposium: Tea-Riffic Chamomile Registration is closed, so this reminder is for those already signed up for this annual symposium featuring chamomile, the Herb of the Year. New location this year: Carmel United Methodist Church, Door 3, 621 S Rangeline Road, Carmel. Doors open at 8:00 a.m. with program beginning at 9:00.

Saturday, April 12 Central Indiana Land Trust 17th Annual Spring Wildflower Walk Spring ephemerals in the lovely Burnett Woods preserve are a tonic for the soul. Phillip, our stewardship specialist, brings his expertise to this free nature walk. 10:00 a.m. to noon, Burnett Woods, 8264 E County Road 100 S, Avon. [Details](#)

Tuesday, April 15 South Central Indiana Master Gardener Association (Columbus) Grow Your Own Food: Turning your Backyard into a Grocery Store Presentation by Master Gardener Lindsey Christy. 6:00 p.m., Bartholomew County Purdue Extension Annex, 783 S Marr Rd, Columbus. <https://www.scimga.org/>

Thursday April 17 Homegrown National Park From Wasteland to Wonder: Easy Ways We Can Help Heal Earth In the Sub/Urban Landscape To celebrate Earth Day, Treecologist Basil Camu is giving this special presentation. Our current landscaping practices work against nature by destroying ecosystems, polluting water, and wasting time and money. By choosing to work with nature, we can restore beauty, resilience, and biodiversity instead! In this talk, you'll learn: how plants, soil, water, and air interact to support life; simple steps to heal the Earth: protect trees, plant saplings, and replace lawns with native plants; and community-driven solutions, like growing and giving away native trees. This is the perfect event to inspire your biodiversity-curious family, friends, and colleagues to take their first steps in restoring nature. Free or suggested donation. 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. ET. [Register for the Webinar](#) An event recording will be available through May 16 for those who register.



Saturday, April 19 Grand Opening: *Wake Up, Woods* StoryWalk at Newfields As part of their Earth Day celebration, Newfields is offering two guided walks through spring ephemerals in the Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park, led by ecologist/author Mike Homoya of the Indiana Native Plant Society. The walks will focus on identifying and enjoying the spring blooms featured in INPS's award-winning children's book, *Wake Up, Woods*. Participants will need to sign up for the hour-long walks, which will take place at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Mr. Homoya will be available to sign copies of *Wake Up, Woods* from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Ruth Lilly Visitor Pavilion. Newfields'

Culinary Arts department will have a food trailer in the area to sell coffee and a dish featuring invasive garlic mustard removed from the woods. All Earth Day activities will be free to the public. Sign up at <https://discovernewfields.org/calendar/storywalk-grand-opening>.

Saturday, April 19 Villa dell'Artista Open House Artist Rosanna Hardin Hall invites you to enjoy the beauty and warmth of her art and gardens at the first art opening of the spring season at her gallery. Her two floors of works display a rich variety of art from around the globe. Noon to 3:00 p.m., 700 Middle Dr, Woodruff Place, Indianapolis. Please RSVP to rosannahall@sbcglobal.net or (317) 459-5074. www.rosannahall.net

Saturday, April 26 Hendricks County Master Gardeners (Danville) Gardening for All Ages This 38th annual free event will have garden-related vendors and community groups with plants, garden décor, bird-watching supplies, and advice to make this year's garden your best ever. Beginning at 9:30 a.m., Hendricks County Master Gardeners and exhibitors will present educational programs, and will distribute free vegetable and flower seeds and trees from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, including hard-to-find Shagbark Hickory, Pawpaw, Persimmon, Tulip Tree, Gray Dogwood, and American Plum. Food trucks will offer lunch options. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds & Conference Complex, 1900 E Main St, Danville. For more information visit www.facebook.com/HendricksCountyinMasterGardeners or www.hendricksgardeners.com or call (317) 745-9260.

Friday & Saturday, May 2 & 3 Hancock County Herb Society & Hancock County Master Gardener Association (Greenfield) Spring Plant Sale 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, annuals, and potted perennials. Master Gardener choices include an extensive variety of perennials, vegetable plants, geraniums, begonias, cala lilies, and house plants in addition to hanging baskets, just in time for Mother's Day. Enjoy live demonstrations and ask Master Gardeners your questions. Cash and credit cards accepted. Preorders open April 23-30. Hours: Friday 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Note our NEW LOCATION: Pioneer Building, Hancock County Fairgrounds, 620 N Apple St, Greenfield (southwest corner of Apple and Park Streets). Find us at hancockmga.com and on Facebook.

Saturday, May 3 Johnson County Garden Club (Franklin) Garden Celebration: 20 Years & Growing Shop for unique and popular plant varieties and find that special garden treasure you've been hunting for. Vendors will display their wares in both Scott and Herring Halls as well as a connecting courtyard. A variety of annuals, perennials and vegetables will be for sale, along with garden art and cottage-farm products. Johnson County Master Gardeners, Purdue Extension, and other agencies will be on hand to answer gardening and nature questions and mentor new gardeners. Experts will speak on flower farming, growing great soil, delightful dahlias, and Indiana raptors. Enjoy breakfast and/or lunch at the Garden Café, featuring Jodie Beasley Catering, while being serenaded by musical groups. Admission is \$2 per person, cash only. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Johnson County Fairgrounds, 250 Fairground St, Franklin. Enter from U. S. 31 at the northeast and southwest entrances for best access. Address questions to jcgardenclub@gmail.com.

Tuesday, May 6 Indiana Native Plant Society, Central Chapter Furbearers in Indiana and Habitat Improvement Get to know the furry native animals of Indiana and the habitats they rely upon. Furbearers include medium and small carnivores, two rodents, and our native marsupial. From raccoons to muskrats to river otters, Geriann Albers will talk about a few of the animals that might frequent your yard or share your neighborhood. We will also discuss native plants to add to your property to help support the furry creatures. Geriann is Furbearer and Turkey Program Leader for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. She received her Bachelors in Natural Resources from the University of Illinois and her Masters in Wildlife Resources from West Virginia University. She has worked in nine states, including Wisconsin and North Carolina, before joining Indiana DNR in 2017. This event is open to everyone. [Register](#) to receive the Zoom link.

Saturday, May 10 Madison County Master Gardeners (Alexandria) Annual Plant Sale Featuring a variety of perennials and annuals as well as houseplants and vegetables. Wagons encouraged. Free trees. Rummage sale. Master Gardeners available for Q&A. Discounted pre-sale tickets for July Garden Tour. 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Alexandria 4H Fairgrounds, 512 E 4th St, Alexandria.

Saturday, May 17 South Central Indiana Master Gardener Association (Columbus) Plant Sale All plants are Master Gardener grown and will include annuals and perennials for sun and shade, vegetables and herbs, houseplants, and more. Cash, check, or credit cards (with fee) accepted. Proceeds benefit Extension Master Gardener programs. 9:00 a.m. to noon, Plaza of the Bartholomew County Public Library, Columbus. Rain date May 24. <https://www.scimga.org/>

Advocacy Opp Hoosier Environmental Council Bill Watch Check their [2025 Bill Watch page](#) for regular updates and new additions to the bills HEC is following. Count on HEC to keep you updated and to provide you with context so you can call and write to your representatives as needed.

Volunteer Opps Central Indiana Land Trust: Garlic Mustard Erase-a-Thons Go behind the scenes with our stewardship crew. We have multiple opportunities to tackle garlic mustard, and no experience is needed. Join the Garlic Mustard Erase-a-Thon at [Meltzer Woods](#) or [Betley Woods at Glacier's End](#). Find all the work days [here](#).

Take a Hike! Central Indiana Land Trust The [2025 Trek our Trails Challenge](#) has begun. You have all year to visit our prettiest places, but why not start right now? See you on the trail!

Soil Health Tours! Marion County SWCD Demo Garden Join free in-depth seasonal tours with Soil Health Specialist Kevin Allison. Huddle around the garden to focus on soil health, no-till vegetables, crop

rotation, cover crops, mulching, compost, tarping, broadforking, bed preparation and planting, nutrient management, and wildlife plantings for beneficial insects and pollinators. Multiple dates: April 29 Tuesday: 6:00 p.m.; May 14 Wednesday: 6:00 p.m.; May 16 Friday: 10:00 a.m.; June 7 Saturday: 9:30 a.m. Join any or all. Register at <https://SWCD-Soil-Health-Workshops.eventbrite.com>

Cover Crop Cost-Share Marion County SWCD Check out the 2025 cover crop cost-share program for Marion County backyard gardeners, community gardens, and urban farms! Funding will be awarded based on the order in which complete applications are received, with priority given to applicants who provide a well-thought-out plan for managing and terminating the cover crop. See the details and apply at <https://forms.gle/TTcnrFwvwG8uVnpg6>

Movie Night Buy Now! The Shopping Conspiracy It's a new Netflix documentary written and directed by Emmy Award nominee Nic Stacey (*The World According to Jeff Goldblum*). The architects of our collective desire for endless consumption reveal how corporations are hell-bent on increasing profits, how they convince unsuspecting consumers time and time again to part with their money, and what happens when all our discarded purchases make their way to landfills. Commentators who witnessed the inner workings of corporations from Amazon to Apple sit down to talk about the unsavory practices their former employers are still using. As we quench a bottomless thirst for more stuff, future generations and our environment pay the price. [Trailer](#)

Something Different! Nature Journaling Workshop: Connecting Art & Science Through Observation This enriching in-person workshop will help you explore and engage with the natural world by cultivating observational skills, creativity, and curiosity. In this unique combination of book club, art lesson, and nature journaling, we explore the natural world through a 5-week series using the book, *Keeping a Nature Journal: Deepen Your Connection with the Natural World All Around You* by Clare Walker Leslie. Led by Mark Kesling, a pioneering educator, designer, and professional photographer, each session focuses on a different part of Clare's book. You will learn techniques for effectively observing and recording your surroundings, noting not just what you see but also what you hear, smell, and feel. As the founder and CEO of the daVinci Pursuit, Mark drives initiatives that embody the concept of a "museum without walls," fostering an inclusive and accessible environment for learning and exploration. The five sessions are held on Wednesdays, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. ET, beginning April 23 and ending May 21. Tuition: \$90 all 5 sessions; or \$23.18 per session. Register at <https://brewsterbookstore.com/events/nature-journaling-workshop-connecting-art-and-science-through-observation-spring-25>

Scholarship Opp Indiana Wildlife Federation Are you a sophomore in college? You may be eligible for the 2025 Holt Scholarship! The IWF Endowment awards a \$1,000 scholarship in memory of Charles Holt, a lifelong member and champion of fish and wildlife resources. Applicants must be at or above a sophomore level and studying a field related to resource conservation or environmental education. Applications are accepted until June 15. Visit www.indianawildlife.org/Holt-Scholarship to apply.

Plant Shopping! Native Plants Unlimited Finalizing the layout for your latest project? Preorders (and discounts!) end Tuesday, April 1 at 11:59 p.m. We have Indiana native plants for everyone. No order minimums. Beginner-friendly & challenging species aplenty. Our plant sales bring sustainable landscapes, wildlife support, and climate resilience home for gardeners of every level. No cultivars! To ensure wildlife support, we offer only wildtype species. No trademarked varieties here--share starts and seed with friends <https://nativeplantsunlimitedshop.com/collections/all-herbaceous>

Plant Shopping! Indiana Wildlife Federation Orders for our Stantec native plant kits are now closed, but we have a smaller, bespoke plant sale through our partnership with National Wildlife Federation and Garden for Wildlife. Check it out at <https://fundraising.gardenforwildlife.com/ufOfSv>.

Free Native Landscape Plans Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District To support residents in transitioning to native landscaping, the SWCD has launched new residential native landscape plans, now available at www.hamiltonswcd.org.

Photo Notes I love the blowsy garden in April, with its pristine daffodils springing forth from the brown earth and birds making family plans with winter's detritus of sticks and grasses. Magnolias are magnificent in this cool weather, underpinned in my yard with native bloodroot and a sea of blue (invasive) scilla. Pansies are showing off for walkers-by. And when the soil dries a bit, it'll be okay at last to dig and divide and move plants around to fulfill schemes dreamed up during the dark, icy months. My garden is my hope and my strength against a world of worry. Its yearly renewal restores my energy and brings me joy. Here's wishing yours does the same for you.

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.

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/>

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 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

Citizen Science Mapping Ground Nesting Bees Cornell University researchers have built a community science project, "Project GNBee," focused on mapping aggregations of diverse ground-nesting bees. They hope to facilitate the study of their nesting requirements as well as the biology of these bees

across space and through time. They are asking a broad community of participants to upload observations they have made of ground-nesting bee aggregations to their iNaturalist project, adding to more than 3,000 observations of over 300 bee species worldwide. GNBees: [website](#) iNaturalist: [project](#) Instagram: [projectGNBee](#).

Resources

Winter Plant ID Hamilton County SWCD says winter plant identification offers a fresh way to explore familiar landscapes, focusing on subtle details like structure and texture rather than leafy foliage. Start with the bark—its texture can be smooth, deeply furrowed, or even peeling, offering valuable clues that remain visible all winter. Look closely at branch patterns; some trees, like maples and ashes, have opposite branching, while others, like oaks and elms, are alternate. Buds provide additional hints, so bring a hand lens to inspect their size, shape, and arrangement. Study the silhouette of trees and shrubs from a distance, as their shape can help identify species. Bright winter colors, like the red of dogwoods or the yellow of willows, are also helpful. Finally, pay attention to any remaining fruits or seed heads, like those of American beech with its golden-brown leaves, or the bright berries of winterberry. With a field guide and patience, you can uncover Indiana’s subtle winter beauty through the quiet art of plant identification. Find many resources at <https://www.hamiltonswcd.org/news-articles/winter-tree-identification?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=16ce21dd-8bc8-49ae-84e7-344d10df1f58>

Mulch Madness Hamilton County SWCD says don’t leave your garden soil bare over the winter. They back this up with a good resource on all kinds of mulch [here](#).

For the Kids WonderGrove for Birds, in collaboration with Homegrown National Park, has launched free educational videos for K-2 students. These fun episodes teach kids the importance of creating bird habitats in their yards. Take a look at <https://homegrownnationalpark.org/hnp-kids/>.

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>.

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

Video Cover Crop Training Visit Marion County SWCD’s Soil Health Guide and check out the updates to the cover crop section. We’ve added the Indiana Cover Crop Tool and a 20-minute training video on how to use it. <https://marionswcd.org/indiana-cover-crop-tool-for-small-farms-and-gardens/>

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.

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.

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.

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/>

NOTE: NDAL received the **AHS 2024 Horticultural Innovation Award** as part of the American Horticultural Society's Great American Gardeners Awards. This award is "given to an individual or company whose innovations have made the field of horticulture more sustainable and accessible to all."

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.

Pollinator Partnership Pollinator-Friendly Solar Habitat Solar energy is good for the environment. It can be even better when integrated with habitat that supports pollinators and biodiversity. Find out how to make solar pollinator habitat work for you and how Pollinator Partnership can help ensure that your project is successful. Pollinator-friendly solar habitat refers to co-locating deep-rooted and regionally appropriate native grasses, wildflowers, and non-invasive cover-crop plants within solar sites, to provide multiple benefits for solar operation and maintenance, the environment, and surrounding communities. [Learn more](#)

Best Practices Good Reasons to Have Your Soil Tested A soil test is a process by which elements are measured for their "plant available" content within the sample. The quantity of available nutrients in the sample determines the amount of fertilizer or other soil amendments that are recommended. A soil test also measures soil pH, organic matter, and cation exchange capacity (CEC). These analyses indicate

whether lime, elemental sulfur, or iron is needed and, if so, how much to apply. [More from Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District](#)

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](#).

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.

Garden Travel Tours with Cole Burrell 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.