



HortusScope | What's Up in the Central Indiana Gardening Community | Photo by Mary Durkin

Tuesday, August 4 Indiana Daylily-Iris Society Endless Spring: Extending Your Daffodil Season Lisa Kuduk and her husband, Michael, live on a small farm in Winchester, Kentucky, where they have been members of the American Daffodil Society since 2005 and accredited judges since 2015. They grow over 1200 different varieties of daffodils with more added every year. Come and hear how to extend the blooming period of this beautiful spring flower. 6:30 p.m., First Friends Church, 3030 Kessler Blvd, East Drive, Indianapolis.

Saturday, August 8 Indiana Daylily-Iris Society Annual Daylily/Iris Sale Members will offer their daylilies and irises at reduced prices including outstanding varieties and colors not offered at local garden centers. Come early

for the best selection. 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Dammann's Garden Center, 4914 Rockville Rd, Indianapolis.

Monday, August 10 Indianapolis Hosta Society Celebrating North America in Our Gardens and Landscapes Presentation by Dawn Slack of southern Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management (SICIM). Free and open to the public. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., St Luke's Methodist Church, 100 W 86th Street, Entrance #6, Indianapolis. <https://indianapolishostasociety.org/>

Wednesday, August 12 Central Chapter, Indiana Native Plant Society Native Pond Buffers Join us for this webinar to learn how to reduce annoyance fowl and boost pond health with natural plants! Whether you are a private landowner, developer, or HOA leader, this online webinar is perfect for anyone curious about protecting ponds and promoting diverse wildlife. Learn steps and logistics to consider when contemplating putting in native plants around your pond. In addition to creating habitats that attract birds, butterflies, and other fascinating creatures, your transition from water to land will be a wildlife hotspot that doubles as mitigation for certain wildlife that sometimes linger where they aren't wanted. Jessica Merklings, Urban Wildlife biologist with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, will show you easy ways to create and maintain buffers using native plants that help keep water clean and habitats thriving. Grab your favorite beverage, get comfy, and learn some green-thumb secrets from the experts—all from your own space! 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. ET. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1989160648045>.

Wednesday, September 2 Crown Hill Cemetery & Arboretum Behind Closed Doors This exclusive after-hours event celebrating Crown Hill's 163rd anniversary will highlight preservation work at the Cemetery, including efforts to manage and recover the historic landscape. It will feature the premiere screening of "Resting Place," a new film developed through their Artists in Residence program. Guests will also have the rare opportunity to see inside private mausoleums and take guided tours, while enjoying heavy appetizers and beverages. 6:00 to 8:30 p.m., Crown Hill Cemetery Gothic Chapel, 3402 Boulevard Place, Indianapolis. [Register](#)

Monday, September 13 Indianapolis Hosta Society Annual Members-Only Pitch-In & Auction

Although this is a members-only meeting, it's never too late to join and get great deals on some wonderful plants, garden décor, and tools. 12:30 to 5:00 p.m., location TBA.

<https://indianapolishostasociety.org/>

Save the Date Indiana Native Plant Society Annual Conference This year's conference will be held in Westfield, Indiana, on October 17. Our keynote speaker is none other than Doug Tallamy! Registration is now open and all the details are shared at <https://indiananativeplants.org/inps-sponsored-events/annual-conference/>

On Demand! New Directions in the American Landscape View previously held virtual NDAL programs at your leisure. Register for a program, and it will be available in your [Participants Portal Dashboard](#) for 3 months. Register for the *Larry Weaner On-Demand Bundle* to view 7 virtual sessions, with access for one year.

Go Pro Ecology-based Landscape Practice: An Intensive 7-Part Course (On-demand) Join Landscape Designer Larry Weaner and native plant expert Ian Caton on a deep dive into the integration of restoration ecology and garden design. From technical instruction to personal anecdotes in this on-demand virtual course, Larry and Ian share over 70 years of combined experience on the fine points of designing, planting, and managing ecology-based landscapes. In addition to seven on-demand video sessions, participants will have the opportunity to compare notes and interact with instructors during four live *Conversation and Q&A* sessions. Participants who complete this course now receive an *NDAL Ecology-based Landscape Practitioner* Certificate. CEUs available. One-time fee \$695.00. The course is newly available for 1 year after registering. Watch at your leisure! <https://www.ndal.org/intensive-course-on-demand>



Your Yard Can Help! Save the Fireflies Is your memory of a classic Indiana summer night a warm, humid evening on the porch, highlighted by the mesmerizing blink of fireflies rising from the grass? This quintessential Hoosier experience is one that many kids today won't get the opportunity to enjoy. Our night skies that used to be thick with blinking gold and green are growing quieter, darker, emptier. To bring back the glow, we have to practice intentional ecological land stewardship. You need not surrender your yard to mosquitoes to save the fireflies. Instead of broad-spectrum chemical warfare, use a targeted, eco-friendly alternative like a Mosquito Dunk Bucket. Fill a five-gallon bucket with water and add a handful of straw, hay, or grass clippings. Let it sit in the sun for a few days to ferment. This creates an irresistible, stagnant oasis for female mosquitoes looking to lay their eggs. Drop in a "Mosquito Dunk" or "Mosquito Bits." These contain *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti), a naturally occurring bacterium.

Citizen Science Volunteer for Firefly Atlas Looking for a way to help fireflies? We need your help understanding firefly species distributions, habitat needs, and threats so we can make successful conservation decisions, especially in our focal regions. Learn more and get started at the [Firefly Atlas](#) website.

Employment Opp Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District Hamilton County SWCD is hiring a part-time Conservation Outreach Specialist (28 hr/week, \$26.95/hr). This position is ideal for someone who enjoys working with people, communicating about conservation, coordinating outreach and education programs, and representing HCSWCD throughout the community. They'll help manage our communications, coordinate our quarterly e-newsletter, support social media and website updates,

and implement our new Conservation Academy, among many other outreach efforts. If someone comes to mind who would be a great fit, please share the job posting with them or share our social media announcement within your own networks. The position description and additional information can be found here: www.hamiltonswcd.org/jobs--internships The info and application itself is on the HamCo gov site [here](#).

Employment Opp Hoosier Environmental Council Do you enjoy connecting with community changemakers from every corner of the state? Are you passionate about Indiana's environment? You're in luck! We're hiring a part-time [Senior Events & Outreach Coordinator](#) to help grow our community engagement. The role focuses on tabling and representing HEC at community events, planning and digitally marketing HEC events, and volunteer management. If logistics and people are your thing, we encourage you to [apply](#). Does this role make you think of someone you know? Forward them this notice and help us get the word out.

Great Idea Benefits of Bioswales If you have a drainage swale across your property, need to move water to or from a rain garden, or are concerned about water quality, local flooding issues, wildlife, and providing habitat for pollinators – constructing a bioswale is for you! Bioswales are channels that provide surface drainage while also filtering and encouraging infiltration of water. The channels are planted with water-loving native species that can also tolerate fluctuations in moisture levels. As water moves through the bioswale, it is slowed by the plants, allowing for filtration and soil absorption. The benefits include decreased volume of water leaving the site and entering storm drain systems which, when replicated throughout the watershed, can have a measurable decrease in downstream flooding. Bioswales also contribute to marked decreases in suspended solids, nitrogen, and phosphorus, and to substantial reductions in pollutant loads. The native plants provide variety and beauty to the landscape while increasing habitat for pollinators and other beneficial insects and wildlife. Because of their deep root systems, they provide erosion control and improved infiltration rates through the soil. Find out more about bioswales on the Marion County Soil & Water Conservation District website: <https://marionswcd.org/drainage/>

Grants Lower Fall Creek Watershed Rain Garden Cost Share Grant includes Bioswales! If you live in the Lower Fall Creek watershed, our home rain garden cost share grants can provide you with up to \$2,000 available per project. These grants can also be used for bioswales. Find out more about the grant program by scrolling down to the grant information found [here](#).

Webinar Wild Ones How to Talk to Your Neighbors (and Your HOA) About Your Garden You planted native. Your neighbor has questions. Maybe your HOA does too. Growing a native landscape is one thing. Talking about it with neighbors, responding to HOA concerns, or explaining why your yard looks different can be another challenge entirely. As part of the 2026 [Less Lawn More Life Challenge](#), Wild Ones invites you to join author and community activist Lorraine Johnson for a free webinar on navigating conversations with neighbors, responding to HOA concerns, and building support for native plant gardening in your community. [Watch on YouTube](#).

Hot Tips Xerces Society How to Talk to Your Neighbors About Pesticides If you garden for pollinators, there's a good chance you already know to reduce your own pesticide use as much as possible. However, your neighbors might not be on the same page yet. The pesticides they use on their yard can easily drift over to your space. Talking with a neighbor about pesticides can feel challenging, so the Xerces Society has put together strategies and talking points to help you start navigating the conversation! [Learn more](#)

Conservation Art Hamilton County Soil & Water District New Mural Unveiled Hamilton County SWCD has unveiled “Conservation Starts Here,” a new public mural at its office at the Hamilton County SWCD/4-H Fairgrounds, 1721 Pleasant Street in Noblesville. Created by Hamilton County-based artist Abigail Staffelbach, the colorful mural highlights the natural resources and landscapes that make Hamilton County special. Native plants, pollinators, wildlife, water, and healthy soil come together to illustrate how conservation practices support both people and the environment. “Conservation Starts Here” is an anchor for the district’s developing Conservation Art Trail, which connects conservation-themed murals and public art throughout Hamilton County. The trail is intended to make environmental education more visible, approachable, and engaging while encouraging residents and visitors to explore the county. The SWCD will host an open house on Tuesday August 25 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. The event is free and all members of the public are invited. <https://hamiltonswcd.org>

Free! Cover Crop Seed Giveaway at Hamilton County SWCD Mid-summer is a great time to think ahead to caring for the soil your crops depend on. Cover crops are plants grown to benefit the successful growth of other future crops and as a companion for plants in our vegetable gardens. They help with soil erosion, improve soil health, suppress weeds, reduce pest and disease pressure, and increase biodiversity. Free cover crop seed packets are available from the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District office Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Packets of a peas and oats mix, buckwheat, and crimson clover are available to home and community gardeners on a first come, first served basis (limit 3). Each packet covers 100-200 square feet. For more information, please contact the Hamilton County SWCD office at 317-773-2181 or visit hamiltonswcd.org/urbanagriculture.

Share Your Best Shot! Wild Ones 2026 Photo Contest Each year, Wild Ones members across the country share stunning images of native plants, wildlife, gardens, and community spaces that inspire others to create habitat where they live. Wild Ones’ mission is all about cultivating community and together taking action to heal our environment through landscaping with native plants. We rely on the contest photos to help inspire others to make this critical shift in their landscaping practices. This year’s contest categories seek to emphasize the joy, the connections, the journey, the beauty, and the healing experienced by both the people and the land through the native landscaping movement. This is a Wild Ones member benefit. If you are not yet a member, now is a great time to [join and participate](#).

Worthy Cause Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation Xerces mobilizes communities to establish wildlife habitat by distributing free, climate-smart, pesticide-free, native pollinator plants (they call them habitat kits) to partners. These kits establish vital habitats to sustain pollinators, while capturing carbon, beautifying landscapes, and bringing nature to areas that need it most. Xerces has supported more than 2,400 projects and given away over 550,000 plants to help pollinators and people. Additional funding will help them expand into new regions in the coming years. [Learn more](#)

Worthy Cause Indiana Phenology When young people record their first bloom or track migrating birds, they are building scientific literacy and a stronger connection to the natural world around them. Indiana Phenology brings environmental education into classrooms, parks, and neighborhoods across the state. Through all-ages community programs like [Schoolyard Phenology](#) and [Phenology Trails](#), participants learn to observe seasonal change and contribute to real scientific data. If education rooted in local science matters to you, consider a gift of \$25 or \$50 to help expand access this year. [Donate](#)

Cool Effort Join the Hoosier Habitats Challenge! In March 2026, Earth Charter Indiana and the Indiana Wildlife Federation launched the Hoosier Habitats Challenge. The goal is to certify multi-county regions

and communities across the entire state of Indiana in the National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program. Once certified, this Statewide Network of Community Wildlife Habitats will be the first of its kind in the United States, reaching all corners of Indiana. This is an effort anyone can participate in! Find out what region you belong in and get started earning points. Every action you take not only works to further your region's success but also provides a beneficial service to our wildlife. [How you can participate](#)

Plant Shopping! Indiana Wildlife Federation Fall 2026 Native Plant Sale No matter the size of your garden or your level of expertise, we have what you need to build a thriving native garden at home. It may seem like a small thing, to plant a few natives around your downspout or under a shady tree, but our wildlife don't think that's small at all. When we all work together to transform our gardens into natives, we amplify each other's efforts and have a HUGE impact! We've partnered with Stantec Nursery to offer professionally designed kits with a variety of choices for every garden. Each kit is 50 plugs with 5 plugs in 10 different species. Details at <https://indianawildlife.org/native-plant-sale/>. We also partner with National Wildlife Federation and Garden for Wildlife to offer customizable orders that let you get exactly what you want for your garden. Details at <https://gardenforwildlife.com/pages/find-native-plants#>.

Grants Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District HCSWCD has been awarded a \$100,000 Clean Water Indiana grant to support invasive species management efforts across Hamilton County. Through this three-year grant, \$94,000 will be distributed directly to Hamilton County residents as cost-share funding to remove invasive species and restore native landscapes—efforts that improve water quality, reduce erosion, and strengthen local ecosystems. The program is closely aligned with the Hamilton County Invasives Partnership (HIP), a countywide collaborative effort focused on education, outreach, and on-the-ground invasive species control. HCSWCD will introduce landowner toolkits designed to help smaller property owners get started managing invasive species. These toolkits will include essential equipment such as pruners, loppers, herbicide application tools, safety gear, and other supplies to support safe and effective removal. For more information, visit www.hamiltonswcd.org.

Grants South Central Indiana Master Gardener Association SCIMGA is offering two funding programs to promote the participation and education of the community in good gardening practices. The Scholarship Program is for students seeking degrees or certificates in horticulture and related disciplines. The Grant Program is for organizations implementing sustainable horticulture and related projects. Residents of Bartholomew, Brown, Decatur, Jackson, Jennings, Johnson and Shelby Counties are eligible to apply for these funds (max of \$500). More information is available at SCIMGA.org under Grants and Scholarships.

Classes Alice's Garden Enjoy quality time with family or friends while learning a brand-new skill and take home a plant-themed masterpiece you've made with your own hands! Alice's Garden, 3205 W 71st St, Indianapolis. Details and fees at <https://www.alicesgardenindy.com/events>.

Photo Notes Rattlesnake master—a spooky name for a worthy native landscape plant, *Eryngium yuccifolium*. Have you tried the Indiana Native Plant Society's Native Plant Finder? It's an interactive database of Indiana natives with info about their pollinators and host plants, water and sun needs, and links to further information. Here's what the Finder says about [rattlesnake master](#).

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

Restoring Nature Meet 3D NatureConnect We're a non-profit marketplace fueling nature restoration in the real world. Nature organizations with expert skills use our platform to collaborate with K-12 schools, youth organizations, civic groups, retirement communities, and businesses seeking volunteer opportunities to implement practical, high-impact projects. For their part, nature organizations are able to publish projects related to nature and the environment, as well as track volunteer hours and other analytics to power their organization to the next level of achievement. [Learn more](#)

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. GNBee: [website](#) iNaturalist: [project](#) Instagram: [projectGNBee](#).

Resources

Save Our State Bug Six Ways to Make Sure Fireflies Survive Firefly season has come and gone but brought with it the rumor that this may be the end of their dazzling summertime displays. While many fireflies are in serious trouble, Xerces Society staff have studied the situation and determined there are many things people can do to help. [Learn more](#)

Our Insect Friends Wings: Essays on Invertebrate Conservation This donor-supported magazine circulates to active members of the Xerces Society. The latest issue explores three very different ways to protect invertebrates: partnering with growers and food companies to create habitat on farmlands; scientists reintroducing a butterfly into its ancient haunts; and Xerces' volunteer ambassadors connecting with people. We hope these pages will inspire others to take action for the invertebrates of their community. [Read now](#)

&^%\$#@ Mosquitoes! Don't Spray, Build a Bucket Sick of mosquitos? We can all agree that mosquitos suck, and nobody wants a cool summer evening interrupted by these biting pests! Unfortunately, commercial mosquito fogging and lawn treatments indiscriminately kill all insects, eliminating beneficial insects along with pests. Some studies have shown that lawn treatments actually increase local mosquito populations by killing predatory insects that prey upon them, while mosquitos can quickly reproduce and move back in. Wildlife depends on a complex web of interactions, and indiscriminate mosquito treatments interrupt this web, harming not only insects but beloved wildlife like birds, bats and frogs that rely on them for their survival. Help wildlife and help yourself, make a mosquito bucket today! [Learn more](#)

Stronger Together How to Build Your Conservation Community At the Xerces Society, we preach that invertebrate conservation takes only one person and a little bit of habitat space to help a whole lot of bugs! Yet we know there are bigger challenges for the planet beyond our backyards that are going to be solved only by working together. Building our conservation community has practical benefits—it helps us share ideas and resources and tackle bigger, more ambitious projects—but perhaps even more important, community gives us a sense of belonging, support, and hope that lightens the load and keeps us coming back to the causes we care about. In recognition of Earth Week, the staff of the Xerces Society have come up with a whole collection of ideas to grow your conservation community--and have fun along the way! <https://xerces.org/blog/stronger-together-how-to-build-your-conservation-community-this-earth-week>

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&eId=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 Growing Pollinator-Safe Plants: What Nurseries Can Do (and How You Can Help)

Many nursery plants, even plants labeled as pollinator-friendly, can be treated with pesticides that remain in or on the plant and can cause harm to pollinators after you bring them home. How can you, as a consumer, make sure that your plants are safe for pollinators? What can nursery growers do to ensure plants are safer for bees and other wildlife? In this video, we feature stories from innovative nursery growers and highlight practices nurseries can use to reduce pesticide risks to pollinators.

<https://youtu.be/jcdvTNM5acw?si=0Wjbx3m9GiblCn9a>

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>

Soil Health Resources Visit Marion County SWCD's Soil Health webpage to find resources on crop rotation, cover crops, mulching, tarping, native plantings, and soil health in the vegetable garden. marionswcd.org/soilhealth/

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. [Check it out](#)

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.