



## HortusScope | What's Up in the Central Indiana

Gardening Community | *Photo courtesy Wildscreen Wallpapers*

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**Urgent Support Avon Outdoor Learning Center** Help the Avon OLC raise \$17,000 to keep its doors open and its programming in place! In a cost-cutting measure, the school district has eliminated the funding for this seven-acre resource that served nearly 7,300 young people and their families last year. Its 1840s cabin, trails, and habitats provide hands-on learning and exploration of nature for people of all ages, and a fruit and vegetable garden showcases ways to grow nutritious food inexpensively. Look for Avon OLC on Facebook and “like” it to stay informed about what’s happening. If you can’t make the Walk-A-Thon on October 1 (9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., hosted by Tri Kappa), come hear the benefit concert by Indie Barefoot Truth at Avon High School on Tuesday, October 4, or partake in any of the fundraisers sponsored by local restaurants. Or, simply send a generous check to OLC Fund, 7203 East US Highway 36, Avon, IN 46123. For more information, call 317-544-6400 x6482 or email [olc@avon-schools.org](mailto:olc@avon-schools.org).

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**Saturday, October 1 Pot Recycling at the IMA Greenhouse** Bring your empty pots for recycling and reuse by the Greenhouse, saving them money and reducing the need for new plastic production. Plastic and clay pots are welcome. Knock out the dirt and give them a quick rinse before bringing them in. Keep in mind that annual cell packs and flimsy flats and trays are not useful. Please consider recycling these on your own. Pots can be dropped off in the Greenhouse parking lot at the designated times on this day only. 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Madeline Elder Greenhouse, Indianapolis Museum of Art, 4000 North Michigan Road, Indianapolis. [www.imamuseum.org](http://www.imamuseum.org)

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**Saturday, October 1 Medicine Making at Hobbit Gardens (Putnam County)** Prepare herbal/plant medicines as teas, infusions, decoctions, tinctures, and salves. Fee \$35. 3:00 to 6:00 p.m., Hobbit Gardens Earth Gathering Center, 6213 East County Road 300 North, Fillmore. Information at [hobbitgardens.blogspot.com](http://hobbitgardens.blogspot.com). Register at [hobbitgardens@tds.net](mailto:hobbitgardens@tds.net). “Like” us on Facebook and receive event, workshop, and program notices.

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**Monday, October 3 Herb Society of Central Indiana** Learn the basics of harvesting and preserving herbs, and participate in the fun projects of making herbal popcorn seasoning, soups, wreaths with fresh herbs, and dying silk scarves with vegetables and plants. Free and open to the public. 7:00 p.m., John Hensel Government Center, 10701 North College Avenue, Indianapolis. Contact 317-319-2946 or visit [www.herbsocietyofcentralindiana.org](http://www.herbsocietyofcentralindiana.org).

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**Thursday, October 6 Horticultural Society Lecture The Many Facets of Sustainable Landscapes** Designers are transforming traditional approaches to landscape design as issues of ecology, the growing aging population, and other concerns are incorporated into design solutions. Sabrena Schweyer discusses how well-designed “sustainable landscapes”—whether “natural,” contemporary, or more traditional—are not only beautiful, but also solve problems and add value. With the incorporation of holistic principles and sustainable design, a landscape can increase in beauty and value over time while requiring fewer resources and can become a living, vital part of the natural ecosystem. Free. 7:30 p.m., The Toby, Indianapolis Museum of Art, 4000 North Michigan Road, Indianapolis. [Event flyer](#)

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**Saturday, October 8 Eagle Creek Park Pull It-Plant It Day** Join Amos W. Butler Audubon and Indy Parks in pulling invasive shrubs like amur honeysuckle, and planting native plants like

spicebush. Enjoy the sweet, spicy aroma of a crushed spicebush leaf, and be refreshed with water and snacks during the event, followed by free pizza at the end. Please dress for the weather and working in a woodland. Saws and loppers will be provided but extras are always helpful. 9:00 a.m. to noon, Eagle Creek Park Ornithology Center, 6515 Delong Road, Indianapolis. Meet in front of the Ornithology Center, which replaced the nature center. Let the gate attendant know you are entering to volunteer for the Ornithology Center workday. The Ornithology Center is the second right from the 71st Street entrance. Questions? Call Don Gorney at 317-501-4212 or Brad Shoger at 317-327-2473.

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**Saturday, October 8 Indiana Daffodil Bulb Sale** Purchase daffodil bulbs for fall planting. Members of Indiana Daffodil Society will be on hand to answer questions and give tips for planting this fall. Proceeds go toward scholarships for students studying horticulture or related fields. The public is invited. 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., lobby of Holliday Park Nature Center, 6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis. Address questions to 317-295-8849.

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**Sunday, October 9 Indianapolis Hosta Society The Gardening World of Oregon** Lynda Miller, former IHS member and current Oregon resident, will discuss Oregon gardens, nurseries, and gardening trends. Free and open to the public. 2:00 p.m., Holliday Park Nature Center, 6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis. [www.indianapolishostasociety.org](http://www.indianapolishostasociety.org)

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**Wednesday, October 12 101 Landscape Ideas** Master Gardener Colletta Kosiba will inspire you with tips and projects to spruce up your yard and gardens. Free. 7:00 p.m., Brownsburg Library, Brownsburg. Register at 317-852-3167.

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**Thursday, October 13 & Saturday, October 15 KIB Workshop Series Rain Gardens: Beauty & Function** What is a rain garden? What is a bio-swale? How are they different from retention/detention ponds and ditches? Come learn about Best Management Practices (BMP's) for controlling stormwater in your neighborhood or on your own property. In the Keep Indianapolis Beautiful classroom on Thursday evening, learn how to build your rain garden: where to dig, what soil to use, and what plants to grow. On Saturday afternoon, take a field trip to rain gardens built by KIB and others. \$10 donation suggested. Limited to 30 people. [Click here to register](#)  
[www.kibi.org](http://www.kibi.org)

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**Saturday, October 15 Hendricks County MG Seminar Adventures in Gardening** Brent Heath of Brent and Becky's Bulbs gives talks on bulbs as companion plants, magical mystical meadows with bulbs, and living flower arrangement with layers of bulbs. Purdue graduate John Thieme, specialist in public health insect pests and agricultural pests talks about living with insects. \$35 fee (\$40 after October 7) includes continental breakfast and catered lunch. 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Hendricks Co 4H Fairgrounds, 1900 East Main Street, Danville.  
[www.hendricksgardeners.com](http://www.hendricksgardeners.com)

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**Saturday, October 15 INPAWS Hike Sweedy Hollow Nature Preserve (Morgan County)** Led by DNR's John Bacone, see high-quality mesic, dry-mesic, and dry upland forest, a bit of mesic floodplain forest, and an interesting area of sandstone cliffs and overhangs. The preserve provides habitat for numerous forest interior birds. Details and directions at [www.inpaws.org](http://www.inpaws.org).

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**Saturday, November 5 Winter Tree ID Hike at Touch the Earth (Bartholomew County)** When the leaves have fallen and many clues are gone, you'll still be able to recognize our woodland species after a brief course led by DNR District Forester Rob McGriff. Enjoy this easy walking tour through one of Sycamore Land Trust's most beautiful year-round preserves near Columbus. Free for SLT members. For non-members, suggested donation \$5 per adult or \$10 per family. Carpool from Bloomington begins at noon at Cedar Crest (SLT's HQ), 4898 East Heritage Woods Road. [Click here](#) for a map to Cedar Crest. [Click here](#) for directions to Touch the Earth. Hike from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. Please RSVP with your phone number **by October 28** to [info@sycamorelandtrust.org](mailto:info@sycamorelandtrust.org) or 812-336-5382 x100. Open to the first 25 people who respond.

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**Sunday, November 6 IMA Horticultural Society Lecture Garden Wiser as You Grow Older**

Respected writer and speaker Sydney Eddison shares her personal transition from dynamic garden maker to aging garden caretaker. Revealing strategies she developed to reduce the work of maintaining perennial borders, Eddison discusses a list of “gleanings” from her years of practical experience. Determining which perennials merit a place, choosing shrubs that require less care, and making task lists are timely suggestions for countless gardeners who are approaching the time in their lives when a garden sanctuary can feel like a burden. Eddison’s latest book, *Gardening for a Lifetime*, will be available for purchase and signing. 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., The Toby, Indianapolis Museum of Art, 4000 North Michigan Avenue, Indianapolis. [More information](#)

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**Saturday, November 12 Save the Date for INPAWS’ Annual Conference** This year’s theme is Connectivity & Corridors, and it’s about the tools we gardeners can employ to preserve biodiversity. We have the power to help plants and wildlife overcome the habitat fragmentation that threatens their species. Come to learn the science and issues behind linking up natural areas. Leave with specific ideas for creating backyards and gardens that will function as corridors, and with inspiration to help young people connect to nature. Also enjoy informational displays, a book sale, and sociability with others interested in native plants, conservation, and bringing up the next generation of environmental stewards. Register before **October 22** to be eligible for a discounted fee. Walk-ins also welcome the day of the event. 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Schwitzer Student Center, University of Indianapolis. Details and registration brochure at [www.inpaws.org](http://www.inpaws.org).

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**Go with the Flow White River to Central Indiana: Get to Know Me!** Discover the White River through “Flow: Can you see the river?”—an important art installation by New York artist Mary Miss, commissioned by the [Indianapolis Museum of Art](#). Mary Miss' slogan "All property is riverfront property" expresses a key environmental and social concept of interconnectivity of land, water, and people, that is often overlooked, especially by urban dwellers. Important and unique elements of the White River water system are revealed through a series of installations along the river and the canal. Stopping points, marked with oversized “thumb tacks” and mirrors, engage visitors and increase awareness of the watershed and its role in the life of the city. The installation continues through February 2012. See project details at <http://flowcanyouseetheriver.org/>.

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**Opportunity DNR Funds Available for Urban Forestry** Indiana Department of Natural Resources has \$120,000 in grant funds available to cities, towns, and non-profits for public tree inventories, urban forestry educational awareness, and tree planting projects. Municipalities and non-profits can request funds ranging from \$2,500 to \$20,000. Projects must show an equal match, which can be a mix of cash and in-kind services. All project trees must be planted on public property, defined as property owned and managed by a local or county government. Apply by November 30. Awards will be announced in January 2012, with projects starting in spring 2012. For more information or an application, contact Pam Louks at 317-591-1170 or [plouks@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:plouks@dnr.IN.gov).

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**Continuing Education Be a Leader in Watershed Management** Sign up now to improve your water quality and watershed management skills at the 2012 Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy. Organized by Purdue University, the program immerses participants in basic and advanced watershed topics such as leadership principles, watershed science, organization and communication, technology and GIS, stakeholder involvement techniques, and policy making. Participants who complete all requirements earn a Purdue University Continuing Education Professional Certificate in Watershed Management. Training includes three face-to-face group sessions and distance learning online (approximately 3-4 hrs/week). Fee of \$500 (due December 9) includes lodging, food, and course materials. **Enroll by November 1.** The Academy runs from January to May, 2012. To apply, contact Laura Esman at [lesman@purdue.edu](mailto:lesman@purdue.edu) or visit <http://engineering.purdue.edu/watersheds/>.

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**Web Find Hamilton County Urban Conservation Association** This is the brainchild of Dan McCord, who managed to save his subdivision thousands of dollars in mowing fees by planting a

prairie where there were acres of turfgrass and a retention pond. See the progress of his prairie installation, explore the benefits of native plants, and be inspired by the Association motto, "Think Habitat, Not Grass." <http://www.hamiltoncountyuca.org/habitat.htm>

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**Register Now Herbal Studies at Hobbit Gardens (Putnam County)** This intense, hands-on Apprentice II Program meets one weekend each month for 8 months beginning October 15-16. The course of study includes: growing, harvesting, and preserving herbs; plant identification; herbal preparations; herbs & nutrition; wild herbs and weeds; organic gardening; medicine making; physiology/body systems; and herbal first aid. For more information e-mail Constance at [hobbitgardens@tds.net](mailto:hobbitgardens@tds.net) or visit [hobbitgardens.blogspot.com](http://hobbitgardens.blogspot.com). "Like" us on Facebook to receive event, workshop, and program notices.

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**Events at Garfield Park "Trees of Indiana" Hike:** Sunday, October 9, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m., ages 18+, \$3 per person. Join us for a walk in the park and learn how to identify local trees. Registration required. **Leaf Collection:** Sunday, October 9, 2:00 to 3:00 p.m., ages 6-12, \$2 per child. Join us for a walk in the park and learn how to identify local trees and have a chance to start your own leaf collection. Registration required. **Garden Folklore:** Saturday, October 15, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m., ages 18+, \$4 per person. Throughout history, garden plants have had many different uses. Learn about some of the folklore surrounding popular plants, and try your skills at making herbal teas. Registration required. Garfield Park Conservatory, 2505 Conservatory Drive, Indianapolis. Registration info at [www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org](http://www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org).

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**Events at Holliday Park Labor and Learn Garden Workshops:** Join the volunteer effort that has transformed the historic rock garden at Holliday Park. The first Friday of every month, skilled horticulturalist Chris Turner will begin the work session with a discussion of a popular gardening topic. Other sessions are open for questions and answers, all sessions include time working in the garden. Tools and refreshments provided. Free. October 7 and 21, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. **Garden Work Days:** The diverse landscaping and gardens of Holliday Park provide visitors beauty no matter what the season. Here's your chance to become a steward of these beautiful grounds. Whether you are looking to fulfill master gardener requirements or just want to give something back to the park, everyone is welcome. Tools and refreshments provided. Free. October 8 and 29, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Holliday Park, 6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis, 317-327-7180. [www.hollidaypark.org](http://www.hollidaypark.org)

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**Farmers Markets Traders Point Creamery Green Market** Fridays 4:00 to 8:00 p.m., 9101 Moore Road, Zionsville thru October. [www.tpforganics.com](http://www.tpforganics.com) **Binford Farmers Market** Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to noon thru October. Free entertainment. 62<sup>nd</sup> & Binford Boulevard on Indy's northeast side. [www.BinfordFarmersMarket.com](http://www.BinfordFarmersMarket.com) **Broad Ripple Farmers Market** Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to noon, Broad Ripple High School thru November. [www.broadripplefarmersmarket.org](http://www.broadripplefarmersmarket.org) **Pittsboro Farmers Market** Closed until July 2012. [www.pittsborofarmersmarket.blogspot.com](http://www.pittsborofarmersmarket.blogspot.com)

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**Photo Notes** Sweet gum! *Liquidambar styraciflua* to the cognoscenti. A sparkle of red, purple, yellow fall color in my neighbor's yard. Star shaped leaves. Gumballs galore, but easily corralled with an underplanting of ground cover. It's native to southern Indiana and occurs naturally in low wet areas with rich, moist soil deposited by rivers and floods. One of my favorite trees.

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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). Supporting donations gratefully accepted at 6911 Cabernet Way, Indianapolis, IN 46278. (Thank you Barbara!)