



HortusScope | What's Up in the Central

Indiana Gardening Community | Photo courtesy threadingwater

Monday, April 2 Herb Society of Central Indiana Bonnie Schaller of Red Hawk Botanicals will discuss spring tonic herbs and their soothing, cleansing properties. Free and open to the public. 7:00 p.m. John Hensel Government Center, 10701 N. College Avenue, Indianapolis. Contact 317-319-2946 or visit www.herbsocietyofcentralindiana.org.

Tuesday, April 3 Indiana Daylily & Iris Society Historic Iris & Floral Design Presentation by Jim & Jean Morris from Missouri. Free and open to the public. 7:00 p.m., Holliday Park Nature Center, 6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis. (Preceded by Iris judges training at 4:30 p.m.) *Note:* Indiana Daylily & Iris Society will sell daylily plants at the IMA Perennial Premiere, April 21 & 22.

Thursday, April 5 Fall Creek Gardens "Digging Deeper" Film & Book Series Square Foot Gardening by Mel Bartholomew Just in time for spring planting, revisit this classic guide to laying out, planting, and maintaining a productive, attractive garden in any amount of space—and make the most of your garden while conserving the resources and labor required. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Mapleton Fall Creek CDC Offices conference room, 130 East 30th Street, Indianapolis. www.fallcreekgardens.org NOTE: To be followed by a square foot gardening workshop on April 7 at 1:00 p.m. at the gardens on 30th & Central Avenue.

Monday, April 9 Indianapolis Hosta Society Ivy, Hosta, and Hurricanes Suzanne Pierot, President, American Ivy Society, and author of several books on ivy, will discuss ivy cultivars, identification, and culture. Free and open to the public. 6:30 p.m., Holliday Park Nature Center, 6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis. www.indianapolishostasociety.org

Wednesday & Thursday, April 11 & 12 Indiana State Daffodil Show See the newest styles of daffodils and learn how to extend your blooming season. Free. Wednesday, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.; Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to noon. Holliday Park Nature Center, 6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis.

Thursday, April 12 Hancock County Herb Society (Greenfield) Meeting will be held at the Riley Home in Greenfield, to rebuild and replant some of the HCHS gardens and do general "spring cleaning." Please bring your shovels, trowels, clippers, and trash bags. Refreshments will be served. Meetings are free and open to the public. 6:30 p.m., Riley Home Gardens, 250 W Main Street, Greenfield. To learn more about HCHS or the meeting call Carolyn Swinford at 317-326-2274.

Saturday, April 14 INPAWS Hike Spring Wildflowers of Fort Harrison State Park Hike the woods with members of the Indiana Native Plant & Wildflower Society and the expert guidance of Perry Scott. Expect a fine display of spring wildflowers in the hardwood forest of the Fall Creek Valley bottoms, slopes, and ridge tops. We will hike primarily on the Fall Creek and Camp Creek Trails. 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Find details in the blog at www.inpaws.org.

Saturday, April 14 Spring Shade-A-Thon at Daubenspeck Do you have a shaded yard or flowerbed? Come learn which beautiful native species will thrive there, and get hands-on experience planting them. Come volunteer during this two-part event (second session to follow on a weekend in May). Snacks & gloves provided. Volunteers will plant hundreds of small flowers

and shrubs in the nearly seven acres of woods under restoration in the park. Be a part of this tree-mendous transformation. Make new friends, get fresh air, restore natural habitat/biodiversity, and learn about shade plants. 9:00 a.m. to afternoon, Daubenspeck Community Nature Park, 8900 Ditch Road, Indianapolis. www.DaubPark.org

Saturday, April 14 Vegetable Gardening (Danville) What you need to know and some helpful hints for success! We will talk about insects and plant care. For the seasoned gardener or beginner. Presentation by Gold Master Gardener Colletta Kosiba. Free. 10:00 a.m., for location call Danville Parks and Recreation, 317-745-3012.

Sunday, April 15 Guided Hike of Browning Family Marsh Nature Preserve (Zionsville) Join Central Indiana Land Trust and the Amos W. Butler Audubon Society for a tour of this special property in Zionsville that harbors more state rare and endangered species than any other similarly sized property in Central Indiana. Space is limited. 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Register at info@conservingindiana.org or 317-631-5263 x114 to receive information and directions to the preserve.

Tuesday, April 17 KIB Workshop Edible Weeds Join Keep Indianapolis Beautiful and Greg Monzel, community herbalist, for an in-depth presentation on medicinal and edible weeds. A walking workshop, you will look at many wild plants, whether occupying cracks in sidewalks, lawns or lots, street trees, etc., as you trek through Fountain Square. Along the way, you'll learn plant names, identifying features, and how you can use them for food and/or medicine. You will sample the flavors of some plants, and learn to treat others with caution. This kid-friendly walk will not be too strenuous with ample time for questions. 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, Inc., 1029 Fletcher Ave., Indianapolis, 317-264-7555. www.kibi.org

Thursday, April 19 "Grow Up" with Vertical Gardening Nothing adds romance to a garden like climbing, trailing, and cascading plants. Use versatile vines, and see how structures will add vertically and extra space too. Presentation by Master Gardener Colletta Kosiba. Free. 7:00 p.m., Plainfield Library, 1120 Strafford Road, Plainfield. Register at 839-6602.

Thursday, April 19 Planet Indy Lecture Organic Lawns and Lawn Alternatives Common lawn care products used in the quest for a perfect lawn can imperil our children, pets, water, air, and soil. Explore the alternatives with Maine-based Paul Tukey, one of America's experts on creating beautiful landscapes without toxic products. Learn about the move away from the straightjacket of the stereotypical lawn toward safer and equally beautiful alternatives. Presented by the IMA Horticultural Society with support from the Hoosier Environmental Council. \$5 for the public, \$3 for IMA members, free for IMA Horticultural Society Members. 7:00 p.m., The Toby, Indianapolis Museum of Art, 4000 North Michigan Road, Indianapolis.

Saturday, April 21 INPAWS Biodiversity Garden Tour Spring Landscaping with Native Plants Visit spring blooming natives in a woodland park setting, then see them used in four designed landscapes in Central Indiana backyards. Sponsored by Indiana Native Plant & Wildflower Society. A great way to learn in preparation for the INPAWS Native Plant Sale coming up May 12! Free. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. To participate in the tour, email gardentour@inpaws.org to receive locations and directions a week or so before the event.

Saturday, April 21 Herb Society of Central Indiana Spring Symposium (Carmel) "Of All Herbs, Methinks a Rose Is Best" Featured will be the rose, the herb of the year, with keynote by internationally recognized rose expert Helen Pizzi. Tina Jesson will share her expertise on "Taking Tea." Enjoy an herbal luncheon, plant and herb vendors, silent auction, and door prizes. Cost is \$40. Register **by April 13**. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Ritz Charles, 12156 North Meridian Street, Carmel. For more information, call 317-251-6986 or visit www.herbsocietyofcentralindiana.org.

Saturday, April 21 Gardening for ALL Ages (Danville) Hendricks County Master Gardeners welcome kids to seniors to learn about planting vegetables and flowers. Education and vendor booths, children's area, a compost expert, and Master Gardeners to answer questions. Free 30 minute garden classes all day. Free seeds, trees, coffee! 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds, Danville.

Saturday, April 21 Saturday Garden Talks at the Library (Anderson) Beware of Friends Bearing "Free" Plants Are you mystified by the vast array of plants available in nurseries? Don't know what to plant where? Looking for something out-of-the-ordinary? Join Purdue-trained Kate Jones from Blue Moon Farm to get the scoop on selecting the best perennials for your Central Indiana yard using color, texture, and scale. Free. 10:30 a.m., Anderson Public Library, Delaware Room, 125 E 13th Street, Anderson.

www.madisoncountymastergardener.org/upcoming_events.htm

Saturday & Sunday, April 21 & 22 Perennial Premiere at the IMA Greenhouse Our annual salute to spring provides the novice gardener and the seasoned green thumb with a broad selection of plants including small trees and shrubs, native plants, herbs, dwarf conifers, and perennials. The weekend celebration has expanded to include other local vendors and horticulture and nature organizations. IMA horticulturists will be on hand to answer any questions, and attendees can take a guided garden walk and see demonstrations. Be sure to stop by the Lilly House lobby for a special Bonsai Exhibition. On Saturday, IMA Members only can shop during the special hours of 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.; sale is open to the public 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with a 2:00 p.m. talk on "Spring Bulbs and Companions." On Sunday, there will be a family activity at the Greenhouse; sale hours are noon to 5:00 p.m. Madeline F. Elder Greenhouse, Indianapolis Museum of Art, 4000 North Michigan Road, Indianapolis. www.imamuseum.org

Sunday, April 22 Picnic for the Planet Hosted by The Nature Conservancy, this new Earth Day event celebrates the planet on which we live, the food it provides, and the people with whom we share it. A fun, old-fashioned picnic for all ages featuring nature-themed activities including: music; lawn games, including potato sack races with prizes; guided wildflower and birding hikes; scavenger hunts; live animal show; children's crafts; and, of course, food! There is no cost for admission, and guests are welcome to BYOP (picnic) or purchase a locally sourced boxed lunch from Chef JJ's Big Green Bistro. Noon to 3:00 p.m., Ft. Harrison State Park, Cherry Tree Shelter, 5753 N. Glenn Rd., Indianapolis. Register to receive your free pass into Fort Harrison State Park. It takes just a minute. See details at www.nature.org/indianapicnic.

Thursday, April 26 Woman's Department Garden Club Indiana Wildflowers Take a walk among some of Indiana's common native wildflowers with Indiana Master Naturalist Colletta Kosiba. Free. 1:00 p.m., 5500 North Meridian Street, Indianapolis. Direct questions to Colletta at 317-852-5973.

Thursday, April 26 Heritage Gardens Lecture Series (Fishers) Conifer Recognition Jay Park, DVM, will speak on knowing evergreens in the broadest sense. His fast paced presentation answers basic questions about planting, texture, color, and growth of conifers for your garden. You will be surprised at the varieties of evergreen shrubs and trees available. Jay is a member of the American Conifer Society and the Indianapolis Hosta Society. Free to Friends of Heritage Gardens. Open to the public; \$5 donation appreciated from non-members. 7:00 p.m., Ambassador House, 10595 Eller Road, Fishers. RSVP to ppowers_2000@yahoo.com.

Saturday, April 28 Earth Day Indiana Come on down to White River Park for five action-packed hours of family fun in celebration of the planet. Exhibits and children's activities are under large tents, and we hold the event rain or shine. Now in its 22nd year, the Earth Day Indiana Festival is a family-friendly outdoor event that combines information and entertainment. Bring your bike, your family dog and your walking shoes. 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., White River State Park, 801 West Washington Street, Indianapolis. www.earthdayindiana.org

Saturday, April 28 Garden Expo (Lafayette) An all-day event featuring free lectures by garden experts: 11:00 a.m., "Your Trees & Shrubs: What Not to Do!" Micheal Dana, Purdue University Professor of Horticulture & Landscape Architecture; 12:00 noon, "Dealing with Nuisance Wildlife in the Garden," Judy Loven, Indiana State Director USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services Program; 1:00 p.m., "This Grass is Greener: Secrets to a Better Lawn," Janet Magnuson, Advanced Master Gardener. Door prizes, plant sale, more than 30 garden booths, hands-on activities for young gardeners, plant information, Garden Café. 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds, 1400 Teal Road, Lafayette. www.tippecanoeastergardener.org

Sunday, April 29 Garlic Mustard Pull and Wildflower Walk at the IMA Spend an afternoon removing garlic mustard and other invasive plants in 100 Acres: The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park. After working to eliminate "bad" plants, join IMA Horticulture staff for a wildflower walk to look at the "good" plants of the Park. Bring work gloves. 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Meet at the Lake Terrace in 100 Acres (overlooking the lake). Park at the "Loop" at the White River Parkway exit from 38th Street or in the main Museum lot. RSVP to David Gorden at dgorden@holemanlandscape.com or 317-849-3120.

Friday, May 4 2012 Indiana Environmental Health Summit Local and Urban Foods: Breaking Barriers and Protecting Health A day-long conference, with keynote speaker Gus Schumacher of Wholesome Wave speaking on the national movement toward local and urban foods. \$20 registration buys parking and a sustainable lunch. 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., IUPUI Campus Center, 420 University Blvd., Indianapolis. <http://www.ikeycoalition.org/Events?eventId=454305&EventViewMode=EventDetails>

Saturday, May 5 8th Annual Garden Celebration (Franklin) Sponsored by The Johnson County Garden Club and the Purdue Master Gardener Program of Johnson County, this all-day event features free garden seminars (approved for MG advanced education hours), shopping for garden items, food and snacks, and information from helpful Garden Club members and Master Gardeners. Speakers: 10:00 a.m., "Morel Mushrooms and More," Bill Doig, Agri/NR Extension Educator, Johnson County; 11:30 a.m., "Your Backyard Habitat: It's for the Birds!" Steve Van Zant, Certified Habitat Steward, Indiana Wildlife Federation; 1:00 p.m., "A Selection of the Best Plants for the Indiana Landscape," Jo Ellen Meyers Sharp, The Hoosier Gardener. Free tree seedlings given away while supplies last. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Scott Hall, Johnson County Fairgrounds, 250 Fairgrounds Street, Franklin.

Events at Marian University EcoLab Volunteer Conservation Days: April 21 and every third Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to noon. Join Jody Nicholson for an introduction to the hands-on field of restoration ecology. We'll do fun physical activities like planting native vegetation, removing invasives, or light trailwork, followed by a tour of the EcoLab where Jody will point out what is new. Bring work clothes, gloves, and water. **Bats of Indiana:** April 7, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Curious about bats? Come learn about the bat populations in Indiana. These critters are more than fascinating—the value of their ecological functions is estimated to be BILLIONS annually! Lecture/discussion in the Nina Mason Pulliam Nature Center followed by hike to see valuable bat habitat at the EcoLab. **Wildflower Hikes:** April 7 and 28, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Take a guided tour focused on native wildflowers. The EcoLab has a wide range of habitats that showcase a botanical bonanza throughout the year, especially spring. The ephemerals are typically very showy and often last only a short time. All ages welcome. Bring your camera to capture the flowering flora! **NOTICE:** On April 7, portions of campus and Cold Spring Rd. are likely to be closed for a cycling competition. Enter via 30th Street, next to the St. Vincent's Health Field and travel west through campus around Doyle Hall and the PE Center. All events are free and open to the public; they begin at the St. Francis Colonnade just west of the Allison Mansion on the Marian University Campus. Contact Dave Benson if you have any questions at dbenson@marian.edu.

Events at Zion Nature Center (Zionsville) Spring Wildflower Hike: Tuesday, April 17, 11:00 a.m. Adult hike through Zionsville's Starkey Nature Park led by Myrene Brown. Experience spring at its finest as you learn to identify wildflowers and the role they play in healthy habitats. Meet in

the parking lot off Sugarbush Drive. Free. **6th Annual Z'GreenFest:** Sunday, April 22, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Friends of Zion Nature Center and Boone REMC sponsor this Earth Day/Arbor Day festival featuring over 30 organizations that inspire "green" living. There will be non-stop musical entertainment, hands-on activities, live animals, and games for all ages to enjoy. This free event will take place at the Zion Nature Center, 690 Beech St. (rain location: Zionsville Town Hall, 1100 W. Oak St). **Spring Migration Bird Hike:** Tuesday, April 24, 8:00 a.m. Local birder Rob Ripma will lead us through Starkey Nature Park in search of resident and migrant birds. This adult hike is for both beginning and advanced birders. Meet in the parking lot off Sugarbush Drive. Free. For more information about any of these programs, contact the Zion Nature Center at 317-873-8950 or znaturecenter@aol.com.

Events at Garfield Park Spring Bulb Show: Through April 6, Mon-Sat: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Sun: 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. \$3 per person or \$8 per family. It's springtime at the Garfield Conservatory! Come see our stunning display of tulips and other spring blooms against the backdrop of our permanent tropical collection. NOTE: The bulbs go on sale 10:00 a.m. on April 7. **Spring Break Craft:** Wednesday, April 4, 2:00 to 3:00 p.m., for ages 5 to 15, fee \$4. Learn about different animals and make an animal track bandana to take with you on your next hike. Registration required at 317-327-7580. **Orchid Show:** Saturday & Sunday, April 14 & 15, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., \$3 per person or \$8 per family. The Conservatory will be filled with displays of blooming orchids from across the Midwest, all competing for awards. Presented by the Central Indiana Orchid Society. Vendors will have orchids for sale. Garfield Park Conservatory, 2505 Conservatory Drive, Indianapolis. www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org.

Events at Holliday Park Labor and Learn Garden Workshops: April 6 and 20, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. 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. **Garden Work Days:** April 4, 14, and 18, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. 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. **Spring Wildflower Hike with Norma Wallman:** April 21, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Join Norma for a leisurely hike as she shares her knowledge of the spring wildflowers blooming in the hills and hollows of Holliday Park. Fee \$5; call 317-327-7180 to register. Holliday Park, 6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis. www.hollidaypark.org

Road Trip Birds by Song & Sight – Breeding Birds of the Appalachian Heartland (Southern Ohio) This in-depth course from the Appalachian Forest School teaches you to permanently learn and remember the songs, calls, and field identification of the breeding birds in in America's Eastern forest heartland, as well bird natural history and ecology. Spend every day outdoors with a small group of registrants who will be personally coached and guided by an expert naturalist who has dedicated his entire life to learning and teaching avian natural history. This four-day course includes curriculum, beautiful lodging, and meals at the Highlands Nature Sanctuary, a 2200-acre natural area in southern Ohio. Fee \$640/person. June 4-8. Information and registration at <http://appalachianforestschool.org/birds/Birds-Course.shtml>. Other upcoming courses: Forests of the Far North; Ferns and Fern Allies of the Forest Heartland; Exploring the Adirondacks. <http://appalachianforestschool.org>

Opportunity Seeking Executive Director, Indiana Urban Forest Council The IUFC, established 1991, is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote public understanding of the need for trees and other natural resources in and along parks, green spaces, streets, and urban woodlands. It assists Indiana communities in protecting, expanding, and improving urban forests. The Executive Director works with the Board of Directors and appointed committees to lead and manage all IUFC activities. Position description at

http://www.iufc.org/IUFC_ED_JobAnnouncement2012.pdf Send application letter and resume via email **by April 6** to Burney Fischer, IUFC President, at bufische@indiana.edu.

Register Your Rain Garden or Native Planting The City of Indianapolis wants to recognize homeowners' efforts for the environment and reduce the risk of high weed and grass violations. If you have a rain garden or native planting in Marion County, please fill out the simple, free application at

<http://www.indy.gov/eGov/City/DPW/SustainIndy/WaterLand/GreenInfra/Pages/RainGardenResources.aspx> and register your site today! For help putting in a new planting, contact the city's urban conservationist at raingardens@indy.gov.

Farmers Markets Traders Point Creamery Winter Green Market Saturdays 9:00 to noon, 9101 Moore Road, Zionsville thru April. www.tpfororganics.com **Indy Winter Farmers Market** Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., West Wing, Indianapolis City Market, through April 21. <http://indywinterfarmersmarket.blogspot.com/>

Photo Notes Old fashioned lilacs are blooming in farm yards all over the countryside. So strange that they're this early! The phenology is freaky, yet I'm luxuriating in the balmy weather that's making everything explode into bloom. Generous rains and warm breezes make a heady combo for this gardener. If there's hell to pay with a blistering dry summer, at least we'll have good memories of spring.

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. Supporting donations accepted at 6911 Cabernet Way, Indianapolis, IN 46278.