



HortusScope | What's Up in the

Central Indiana Gardening Community | Photo by Kevin Tunesvick

Tuesday, May 1 Herb Society of Central Indiana Get to know a wide variety of basil for your garden as member Joyce Miller shares "Basil, basil, basils!" The public is welcome. 7:00 p.m., John Hensel Government Center, 10701 N. College Ave. For information, contact 317-319-2946 or visit www.herbsocietyofcentralindiana.org.

Wednesday, May 2 Indiana Daylily & Iris Society AHS Region 2 president Nikki Schmith will speak about their website where members can share ideas, expertise, and projects online. Join us for an informative and enjoyable evening. Free and open to the public. 7:00 p.m., Holliday Park Nature Center, 6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis. For information call 317-327-7180.

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>

Friday & Saturday, May 4 & 5 Hancock County Master Gardener & Herb Society Plant Sale (Greenfield) 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 hard-to-find woodland perennials. Master Gardener choices include an extensive variety of perennials, vegetable plants, and geraniums. Friday 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Hancock County Fairgrounds, 4-H Show Arena, 620 N Apple Street, Greenfield (southwest corner of Apple and Park Streets). For more information, contact Carolyn (HCHS) at 317-326-2274 or Jane (HCMG) at 317-861-8145.

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. Donation of a non-perishable food or toiletry item for the Inter-Church Food Pantry or \$2.00 per person. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Scott Hall, Johnson County Fairgrounds, 250 Fairgrounds Street, Franklin.

Tuesday, May 9 Rain Garden Workshop (Zionsville) The Zionsville Storm Water Dept. is creating a rain garden at Town Hall. Myrene Brown, local rain garden expert, will present this

workshop highlighting a low-maintenance rain garden with four-season interest that will be attractive to humans and wildlife. The excavation and hardscaping has been completed and a limited number of individuals will actually help plant during the workshop. Free. (In case of rain, the program will take place May 16.). 1:00 p.m., Zionsville Town Hall, 1100 W. Oak Street, Zionsville. Pre-registration is required by contacting Zion Nature Center at znaturecenter@aol.com or 317-873-8950. Please indicate if you would like to attend the workshop and/or help with planting.

Friday, May 11 National Public Gardens Day at the IMA This fourth annual national day of celebration invites communities to explore the beauty of their local green spaces while raising awareness of the important role public gardens play in promoting conservation, education, and environmental preservation. Celebrate the day by visiting the IMA's gardens and grounds. Plant yourself at the Greenhouse parking lot to receive a fresh bundle of lettuce grown at the IMA, as well as a packet of seed to start your own garden (while supplies last). Cultivate your interest on a guided tour of the IMA gardens and toss around ideas on vegetable gardening with IMA horticulturists. Shoppers enjoy a 20% discount at the Greenhouse Shop. www.imamuseum.org

Saturday, May 12 INPAWS Native Plant Sale & Auction (New Venue!) Something for everyone at this popular annual event sponsored by the Indiana Native Plant & Wildflower Society. On offer will be native plants for shady, sunny, and wetland settings, a different selection every year. The choicest, rarest plants are set aside for the plant auction, an entertaining and informative opportunity to learn about Indiana natives. The pre-sale speaker is Janet Cramer, Staff Naturalist for Indy Parks, who will speak on "Native Plants to Attract Birds"; the \$10 fee for the talk entitles ticket holders to start shopping 15 minutes before the general public and get a discount off an auction purchase. Alongside the plant sale, INPAWS will sell select books on plant families, naturalistic gardening, conservation, and related topics. Pre-sale talk begins at 9:30 a.m. Plant and book sale open 10:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Live auction begins at 11:15 and continues until every plant is sold. Park Tudor School, Upper Gymnasium, 7200 N. College Avenue, Indianapolis (use the 71st Street entrance). www.inpaws.org

Saturday, May 12 First Annual EcoFest Indy Experience Earth-friendly ways to live a more sustainable lifestyle. As described by our friends at Green Piece Indy, EcoFest is a celebration of sustainable and healthy lifestyle. It's a drum circle in the Circle City. It's a chance to build your own rain barrel. It's businesses representing natural health, wellness, sustainability, pets, kids, fitness and the environment. It's samples, prize drawings, interactive displays and community spirit. It's a festival that showcases the best Indianapolis and surrounding communities have to offer while treading with a light footprint. Free. Hosted by Natural Awakenings of Indianapolis and Indianapolis City Market. 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Indianapolis City Market. <http://ecofestindy.com/index.html>.

Saturday, May 19 Gardening with Native Plants Carolyn Harstad, author of *GO NATIVE! Gardening With Native Plants and Wildflowers in the Lower Midwest* and *GOT SHADE? A 'Take it Easy' Approach for Today's Gardener*, will speak on using native plants in the landscape. Sponsored by the Irvington Garden Club and Bookmama's, 9 South Johnson (Irvington). Free. 1:00 p.m., Irvington Community School, 6040 East Pleasant Run Parkway, South Drive, Indianapolis. For additional information call 1-317-503-6139.

Saturday, May 19 Indiana Daylily & Iris Society Iris Show Members will display many irises in a variety of colors and sizes to be evaluated by accredited judges from out of state. Free and open to the public. 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Holliday Park Nature Center, 6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis. For information call 317-327-7180. www.indianadaylilyirissociety.org

Saturday, May 19 Garden Talks at the Library (Anderson) Compost Happens If you've had trouble growing certain plants, your garden dries out too quickly, or your veggies just aren't producing like they used to, then it's probably time to pamper your soil. And there's no better tonic for tired soil than compost! Learn how to make your own "black gold" with Susan Eichhorn from

the East Central Indiana Solid Waste District. Sponsored by the Madison County Master Gardener Association & Madison County Purdue Extension. Free. 10:30 a.m. to noon. Anderson Public Library, Delaware Room B, 125 E 13th Street, Anderson. For more information, contact Purdue Extension at 765-641-9514 or orick@purdue.edu or visit www.madisoncountymastergardener.org/upcoming_events.htm

Sunday, May 20 Medicinal Plants at the Indiana Medical History Museum Dr. Kathleen Hull will present "Growing Miracles: 5 Modern Wonder Drugs from the Medicinal Plant Garden." Come early and view the IMHM medicinal garden. 4:00 p.m., Indiana Medical History Museum. www.imhm.org

Thursday, May 24 Landscape 101 with Keep Indianapolis Beautiful Learn what you should be doing and not doing in your yard, from "right tree right place" to discerning the difference between an exotic and an invasive plant. This workshop is geared to the "brown thumb" who wants a better looking landscape, who might want to create a special place outside their house, and increase the value of their home in the process. 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., KIB Headquarters, 1029 Fletcher Avenue, Indianapolis. www.kibi.org

Friday, May 25 Garden Book Group at the IMA You're invited to this debut of the IMA Horticultural Society's new book group for garden lovers. The book for discussion is *Founding Gardeners* by Andrea Wulf. The public is welcome. You do not have to be a member of IMA or Hort Soc to attend. 10:00 a.m., Newfield building, Indianapolis Museum of Art, 4000 North Michigan Road, Indianapolis. For more information, contact Kathleen at hullk@ccrtc.com or 317-996-4380.

Saturday, June 2 Bus Trip with Friends of Heritage Gardens Enjoy a one-day bus trip to five display gardens and a garden center in the Dayton, Ohio, area. Something for every gardener: a cottage garden, expansive hosta gardens, conifer gardens (one of which features dwarf and unusual conifers), rock gardens, a cactus, agave, and other succulent display, perennials, flowering shrubs, koi ponds, a bog and water fountains. Lunch and snacks included in the \$49.50 price. Leave from Marsh Grocery parking lot at 116th and Allisonville Rd. at 7:00 a.m. Register at ppowers_2000@yahoo.com or 317-596-2866. No cancellations with refund after May 25 unless your seat can be filled from a waiting list.

Events at Marian University EcoLab Volunteer Conservation Days: May 19 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. Meet 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. **Science and Math Summer Camps:** Campers will explore, protect, and advocate for the environment throughout the one-week camps. Available for Kindergarten-8th grade students. Fun hands-on activities and experiments aligned with the Indiana Academic Standards. Classroom and lab activities, field trips, and of course exploration in the EcoLab. Week One, June 18–22; Week Two, June 25–29. Cost: \$160 per week (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily); \$25 per week for aftercare from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Special discounts available. For more information or to register, contact Janice Slaughter at jhslaughter@marian.edu or 317-524-7701.

Events at Holliday Park Labor and Learn Garden Workshops: May 4 and 18, 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:** May 2, 12, 16, 26 and 30, 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. **Indiana Daylily/Iris Society Iris Show:** May 19, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Visit www.indianadaylilyirissociety.org for more information. Free. Holliday Park, 6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis, 317-327-7180. www.hollidaypark.org

Food for Thought Are Neonicotinoids Killing Bees? A possible link between neonicotinoids (a widely used group of insecticides) and honey bee die-offs has led to controversy across the United States and Europe. Beekeepers and environmentalists have expressed growing concern based on the fact that neonicotinoids are absorbed into plant tissue and can be present in pollen and nectar, making them toxic to pollinators. A new report from the Xerces Society details potential negative impacts of neonicotinoids insecticides to honey bees, bumble bees, and solitary bees and makes recommendations on how we can better protect these important pollinators. <http://www.xerces.org/neonicotinoids-and-bees/>

Opportunity Free Plants for Community Gardens Local community gardens and community “greening” projects can win up to \$2,000 in plants in the 2012 Nature Hills Nursery Green America Awards. The Green America Awards honor community groups, nonprofit groups, and other organizations that are literally “greening” their communities, parks, schools, and public spaces by planting trees, shrubs, and other plants. Sponsored by Omaha-based Nature Hills Nursery, the largest online nursery and garden center in the United States, with more than 10,000 products available for direct shipping to consumers. Apply online at www.naturehills.com/green_america_awards.aspx by June 17, 2012. The winners will be determined by votes on the Nature Hills Nursery Facebook page.

Seeking Great Ideas Reconnecting to Our Waterways This project is a collaborative initiative to embrace the waterways that weave our neighborhoods together. Learn more about the initiative at ourwaterways.org. The project is looking for great ideas on how to reconnect people, and the neighborhoods they call home, with waterways. They'll be taking some of these ideas and trying to align resources to actually make them happen, or at least get them started. Our friend Chris Carlson is proposing a City ordinance to prohibit feeding of ducks and geese along the canal in Broad Ripple. You can read her proposal online and, if you agree with her assessment, vote in favor of it. Here is a link to Reconnecting to Our Waterways. You will have to register to vote, but it's easy to do.

Farmers Markets Traders Point Creamery Summer Market Fridays 4:00 to 8:00 p.m., 9101 Moore Road, Zionsville, through October. www.tpfororganics.com **15th Annual Original Farmers Market** Wednesdays 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Market Street in front of Indianapolis City Market, through October. www.indycm.com

Photo Notes Wild stonecrop, our native sedum, likes to grow in the shade. It makes a fine groundcover under deciduous trees, opening starry white blooms to usher in the balmy days of May. Kevin Tungesvick, native plant guru from Spence Restoration Nursery, took this photo and shares many other wonderful images on his Facebook page. Kevin will be appearing at the May 12 INPAWS Plant Sale & Auction, offering his commentary on choice native plants that will be auctioned to the highest bidders.

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 gratefully accepted at 6911 Cabernet Way, Indianapolis, IN 46278.