



HortusScope | What's Up in

the Central Indiana Gardening Community | Photo courtesy Mon@rch's Nature Blog

Saturday–Sunday, December 1–9 Celebration of Nature Exhibit at Eagle Creek Park

Exquisite elements of nature are captured through a variety of media including photography, woodcarvings, oil and watercolor paintings, and even pen and ink, all contributed by local artists. Entries depict natural flora, fauna, and landscapes that are undisturbed and represent a variety of Indiana ecosystems. Admission is free with park entry fee (\$5 per vehicle). A percentage of sales benefits the Eagle Creek Park Foundation whose mission is to protect, promote, enhance, and support one of the largest city-owned parks in the nation. Monday thru Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Sunday 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.; Eagle Creek Park, Earth Discovery Center, 5901 Delong Road, Indianapolis. (A second nature-themed show, the “Wood Carver and Turner” exhibit, will take place February 23-24, also at the Earth Discovery Center.) www.eaglecreekpark.org

Thursday, December 6 Indy Connect Event Transit and TOD: What's In It for Me? Hear from national experts about the strong market demand for the types of places to live and work fostered by transit and [transit-oriented development](#) (TOD) and the significant potential to create opportunities in land use and economic development. Learn what Indy Connect is doing to move the process forward. Free. 7:00 to 7:30 a.m. networking continental breakfast; 7:30 to 8:45 a.m. program; Indiana Landmarks Center, 1201 Central Avenue, Indianapolis. To register, or for more information, go to indiana.uli.org and see Upcoming Events, or call 1-800-321-5011.

Thursday, December 6 Central Indiana Land Trust Holiday Open House Come for an evening of fun co-hosted with other organizations in the building—CODO Design, Empower Results, and the Upper White Watershed Alliance. Stop by to learn more about the Land Trust and help us ring in the holiday season. RSVPs appreciated but not required. 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., Land Trust Office, 1500 N. Delaware Street, Indianapolis. For more details and to RSVP, contact Stacy at stacyc@conservingindiana.org or 317-631-5263.

Thursday, December 6 Holiday Hullabaloo at the IMA Luminaria light your way to an evening of holiday shopping and festivities at the Museum Store, Greenhouse Shop, and Lilly House Christmas Shop. Find a unique gift for someone you love or shop for an extra special something to deck the halls for holiday gatherings. Enjoy music, complimentary giftwrap, holiday refreshments, and special pricing available only this evening. IMA members will receive a 20% discount on all purchases during this event. Free. 5:00 to 9:00 p.m., Indianapolis Museum of Art, 4000 N. Michigan Road, Indianapolis. imamuseum.org

Thursday, December 6 Friends of Heritage Gardens (Fishers) Holiday Fresh Greens Wreath Making Enjoy the hands-on experience of making a wreath with the mixed variety of evergreen boughs, dried cones, and flowers provided. Please bring your own wreath form (grapevine or wire), green floral wire/24 gauge, wire cutters, pruners to cut the boughs, garden gloves, glue gun/sticks, ribbon, and ornaments. Cost: \$8 for members of Friends of Heritage Gardens, and \$12 for the public. Make check out to AHHG. Refreshments will be served. 7:00

p.m., Ambassador House and Heritage Gardens, 10595 Eller Road, Fishers. Space is limited, so register early at ppowers_2000@yahoo.com.

Friday, December 7 IMA Horticultural Society Book Group The public is invited to participate in this book club for garden lovers. You do not have to be a member of IMA or Hort Soc to attend. The book under discussion this month is *50 Plants That Changed the Course of History* by Bill Law. 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.

Friday & Saturday, December 7 & 8 Old-Fashioned Southwestern Christmas at Villa dell'Artista Artist Rosanna Hardin Hall hosts this open house in historic Woodruff Place, featuring new works by herself and by Fritz Kackley, home for the holidays from his adobe studio in new Mexico. Villa dell'Artista is located in a cottage behind a large white Queen Anne home. Watch for signs and look for the Indianapolis Downtown Artists and Dealers Association (IDADA) banner. Farolitos, so popular in northern New Mexico, will light your way to this sneak preview of paintings of the Southwest desert and as far away as Italy. Come fill your own stockings or a wall for Christmas giving. Friday, 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.; Saturday, noon to 5:00 p.m.; Villa dell'Artista, 700 Middle Drive, Indianapolis. www.rosannahall.net

Tuesday, December 11 Amos Butler Audubon Climate Change: The Science and the Effect on Plant Communities The December monthly program of Amos Butler Audubon features Kevin Tungsevik of Spence Restoration Nursery. Free and open to the public. 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., Holliday Park Nature Center, 6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis. amosbutleraudubon.org

Thursday, December 20 Winter Solstice Celebration at the IMA Celebrate the season by enjoying twinkling luminaria, an ice carving demonstration, art-making, and music on the IMA grounds. Warm up in the [Lilly House](#) with historic holiday decorations and more music. Finish up your shopping at the Greenhouse and Museum. Cozy up to the bonfire with hot chocolate and holiday treats available for purchase from Nourish Café. Free admission and parking. 5:00 to 8:30 p.m., Indianapolis Museum of Art, 4000 N. Michigan Road, Indianapolis. imamuseum.org

Through January 6 Christmas at Lilly House American Christmas decorations demonstrate both continuity and change in delightful combination from colonial times to the present. Christmas at Lilly House uses the American country house setting to explore the decorative ideas of the 1930s and 1940s, offering an opportunity to see the ways that familiar motifs such as trees, wreaths, and evergreens were enlivened with refreshing touches of newer fashions. Tuesday through Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5:00 p.m., except Christmas Day and New Year's Day; Lilly House, Indianapolis Museum of Art, 4000 N. Michigan Road, Indianapolis. imamuseum.org

Save the Date Horticulture Symposium at the IMA Set for February 14, 2013, this day-long symposium will bring together regional and national experts to discuss the challenges and joys of growing plants in the shade. Suitable for the novice gardener as well as the professional designer, topics will include: plant selection ranging from ephemeral and herbaceous to woody, design aspects, and comparison of native species and non-native cultivars. Information at <http://www.imamuseum.org/special-event/horticulture-symposium-shade-savvy>

Everybody Lives Downstream Xerces Society Resources New court rulings have narrowed the definition of the Clean Water Act, so that it no longer protects all waterways. Rivers that are within one state, those that sometimes run dry, and lakes unconnected to larger water systems are now excluded, and pesticide regulations have been relaxed, so that increasingly they can be used near or over waterways. Invertebrates like dragonflies act like "the canary in the coal mine," enabling us to better understand which streams, rivers, and wetlands are impaired. The Xerces Society has resources that help watershed stewards and agency staff use invertebrates to assess these areas. The Society also works to protect key species like freshwater mussels, long-lived

animals that actually help clean waterways. Visit the EPA's "[Adopt Your Watershed](#)" web page to find groups working to protect and restore your local waterway. Visit [Xerces' Aquatic Program](#) web pages to find resources for watershed stewardship.

Job Opportunity Alliance of Indiana Rural Water The Alliance seeks applicants for a Clean Water Act Section 319 grant administrator for the Middle Patoka River Watershed Source Water Protection Plan. The administrator will work with partnering organizations, IDEM, and landowners to utilize 319 grant money to reduce harmful runoff and keep it from reaching streams and tributaries. The administrator will develop a cost share program for landowners to implement Best Management Practices in the watershed, promote the cost share program, monitor progress and educate and promote the watershed project to the public. [Full Job Description / Application Instructions](#)

Gift Idea Xerces Society Dragonflies of North America Calendar A nifty gift for your favorite naturalist, this 9.5" x 12" calendar features stunning photography of these dramatic insects, accompanied by brief notes about their natural history, behaviors, and conservation needs. Month by month your naturalist will discover new facts about dragonflies and damselflies, learn about how to watch them in the wild, and find out how to contribute to citizen-science projects tracking dragonflies as they migrate from Canada to Mexico. Calendars cost \$15 each; they are shipped by USPS mail and take two to three weeks to arrive. <http://www.xerces.org/calendar/>

Photo Notes What's not to like about a shrub that tolerates wet sites, attracts songbirds, and puts on this display in early winter! It's winterberry, *Ilex verticillata*, native to Indiana and well suited to mixed shrub borders or planting in masses. Caveat: It prefers moist, acidic soil, which is hard to come by in central Indiana, and needs a male to pollinate the female. I'm growing two cultivars for the first time, lured by the promise of berries for winter decorations and hoping for the best.

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.