



HortusScope | What's Up in the Central

Indiana Gardening Community | Photo by David Ford

Happy New Year! This issue of HortusScope marks the start of our eighth year of monthly e-bulletins. Please keep HortusScope in mind when you want to publicize your organization's events or activities--we reach more than 1200 subscribers in Central Indiana. I will continue to publish HortusScope only on the first of the month and post only what people send me. (That's how I can offer this as a free service.) May you thrive in 2013 and find joy in the simple pursuits of gardening.

Thursday, January 3 Hancock County Herb Society (Greenfield) Members will present the history and lore, propagation and uses of the elderberry, the 2013 Herb of the Year. Refreshments will be served. Meetings are free, and the public is encouraged to come share their knowledge or learn more about growing and using herbs. 7:00 p.m., Pat Elmore Center, 280 Apple Street, Greenfield. For more information, call Carolyn at 317-326-2274 or visit <http://www.easysite.com/HCHS>.

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

Saturday, January 12 INPAWS Hike Woody Winter Wonderland (Fountain County) Led by Sally Weeks, dendrologist, Purdue University Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, see trees and shrubs in their "all-together" and hear tips on how to recognize winter characteristics, in particular, buds, twigs and bark. Sponsored by Indiana Native Plant & Wildflower Society. 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., property of Harmon and Sally Weeks, located approximately 7 miles northeast of Attica, Indiana. Details and directions at <http://www.inpaws.org/2012/inpaws-hike-woody-winter-wonderland>.

Wednesday, January 23 Conservation Day at the Statehouse A great opportunity to influence your legislators and network with fellow conservation advocates. Sponsored by Indiana Conservation Alliance, a consortium of 30 environmentally minded organizations, this event promotes INCA's agreed-upon priorities for the 2013 legislative session. 12:30 to 5:00 p.m., Indiana Government Center and Statehouse North Atrium, Indianapolis. Agenda and registration at <http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/indiana/partners/conservation-day-2013.xml>

Thursday, February 14 Horticulture Symposium at the IMA This day-long symposium brings 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 include plant selection ranging from ephemeral and herbaceous to woody, design aspects, and comparison of native species and non-native cultivars. Information and ticket purchase at <http://www.imamuseum.org/special-event/emily-n-daniels-horticulture-symposium-shade-savvy>

Events at Marian University EcoLab Bird Walks: Wednesdays, 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. Explore the EcoLab with its director, Dr. David Benson, while identifying and learning about the birds encountered in this historic and natural landscape. Bring binoculars and good walking shoes/boots. **Winter Friends:** January 19, 10:00 a.m. to noon. This family friendly program (those under 12 must be accompanied by an adult) includes a winter hike to explore how our plant and animal neighbors adapt to the cold and snow and how the environment changes during winter. A short presentation follows while sipping hot cocoa, and we will put together take-home pine bird feeders to help our feathered friends through the winter. Please register by January 10.

Events at Zion Nature Center (Zionsville) Wildlife Outside Your Windows: Thursday, February 7, 6:30 p.m. Ages 15 and up. Learn how to create an eco-friendly habitat that will attract beautiful songbirds, insects, amphibians, and other interesting wildlife for viewing from your very own window. During the program, you can start paperwork to certify your yard as a Backyard Habitat with the National Wildlife Federation. Your certified habitat can become part of Zionsville's special designation from the National Wildlife Federation as the 2nd certified Community Wildlife Habitat in the nation. Your yard can become part of the solution in providing interconnected habitats which allow the creatures we share our yards with to travel in search of food, water, and mates. Program is free but space is limited. Register at znaturecenter@aol.com or 317-873-8950.

Apply Now Indianapolis Sustainability Awards Presented by SustainIndy, these awards are designed to inspire innovation, showcase impact, reward leadership, and promote education around the principles of sustainability. Five awards will be given in each of the following categories: water, land, air, energy, and reduce-reuse-recycle. Projects must have been completed in Marion County between January 1 and Dec 31, 2012. Apply **by February 8**. Information and applications available at <http://www.indy.gov/eGov/City/DPW/SustainIndy/Sustain/Pages/2013-Sustainability-Awards.aspx>

Get Sustainable! Organic Gardening for Beginners In response to a growing interest in sustainable home gardening, Fall Creek Gardens and the Indiana Organic Gardeners Association announce a new class series on organic gardening. Students can expect to learn fundamental concepts of gardening without synthetic chemicals, with ample opportunity for questions and discussion. Free and open to the public. Classes will be offered twice monthly from January through April, on Tuesday evenings and Saturday afternoons. Locations include the Chase Near Eastside Legacy Center, Big Car Service Station, and Unleavened Bread Café. Local experts will lead the sessions, including Constance Ferry, Rosie Bishop, David Englert, Lynn Jenkins, Jessica Trimble, and Adam Clevenger. Class information: **January 15 and 19**, SOIL: if you can grow healthy soil, you can grow anything. **February 12 and 16**, SEEDS: what to grow and how to get going. **March 19 and 23**, SUSTAIN: weeds, pests, droughts, and other calamities. **April 13 and 16**, SAVE: harvest and enjoy—and save those seeds for spring! Register at www.fallcreekgardens.org/events.

Early Bird Registration Going Garden Crazy Spring Symposium (La Porte) Dr. Allan Armitage (U. of Georgia, well-known author/plant breeder) and Chris Hansen (Great Garden Plants) will be featured speakers. Presentations, garden themed vendors, door prizes, raffles, good food, and plant-a-holics—all gathered in one beautiful rural location. Fee (including lunch) is \$25 if you register **by February 1**; \$35.00 after that. Advance registration includes special drawing for autographed book by Dr. Armitage and choice plants from Great Garden Plants. April 13, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Central Daylight Time), Heston Hills Conference Center, 1933 East 800 North, La Porte, IN 46350. Download a registration form at

www.ag.purdue.edu/counties/laporte. For more information, or to request accommodation of special needs (by March 31), contact Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service, La Porte County, at 219-324-9407 or lpmastergardener@purdue.edu.

Indiana Wildlife Goes Electronic Check out Indiana Wildlife Federation's inaugural electronic newsletter at [HC Newsletter Vol 1 No 1.pdf](#). Feedback and comments welcome, and watch for a refreshed IWF website in 2013. To learn about making your yard suitable for wildlife, contact IWF at 317-875-9453 or visit www.indianawildlife.org.

Blooming Algae Jamie Palmer passed on this food for thought; think of this when dreaming of summer boating in Indiana lakes and streams. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WaIrLFq3DGI>

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 can help us protect our waterways; they 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, agency staff, and others to use invertebrate 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.

Photo Notes Rocky, our Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, takes center stage in the garden today--romping in the snow, chasing birds and squirrels. His every return from outdoors brings a shower of tiny snowballs into the family room.

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. (Thank you Hancock County Herb Society!)