



HortusScope | What's Up in the

Central Indiana Gardening Community | Winter Trees Mandala ©ZenMoments.org

Saturdays, March 2, 9, 23 Train to Become a Habitat Steward Indiana Wildlife Federation's Habitat Stewardship training helps conservation-minded citizens and educators preserve, enhance, and restore wildlife habitat in urban and suburban neighborhoods. The training raises awareness of the benefits of wildlife habitat and gives participants the skills and resources to be able to create their own sustainable backyard habitats. Educators can receive 24 professional growth points for attending. Fee \$50. Three sessions: March 2 and 9, 8:00 a.m. to noon; March 23, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Oaklandon Elementary School, 6702 Oaklandon Rd, Indianapolis. Register by contacting the IWF office at info@indianawildlife.org or 317-875-9453.

Monday, March 4 Herb Society of Central Indiana Elderberry, the International Herb of the Year Society members will share history, lore, culinary uses, and cultivation of the elderberry. Public welcome. 7:00 p.m., John Hensel Government Center, 10701 N. College Ave., Indianapolis. Contact 317-418-0627 or visit www.herbsocietyofcentralindiana.org.

Tuesday, March 5 Indiana Daylily & Iris Society Open to the public; no charge. Social hour follows the meeting. 7:00 p.m., Holliday Park Nature Center, 6363 Spring Mill Rd., Indianapolis. Contact 317-327-7180.

Thursday, March 7 Hancock County Herb Society (Greenfield) Beekeeping Presentation by Paul Starks on beekeeping and the benefits of bees. Refreshments will be served. Meetings are free and the public is welcome and encouraged to come share their knowledge or learn more about growing and using herbs. 7:00 p.m. (doors open 6:45), Pat Elmore Center, 280 Apple Street, Greenfield. Call Carolyn at 317-326-2274 or visit <http://www.easysite.com/HCHS>.

Friday, March 8 Interfaith Eco-Film Series The Atomic States of America In 2010, the United States approved the first new nuclear power plant in 32 years, heralding a "nuclear renaissance." But that was before the Fukushima accident in Japan renewed a fierce public debate over the safety and viability of nuclear power. Two filmmakers journey to nuclear reactor communities around the country to explore the history and impact to date of nuclear power, and to investigate the truths and myths about nuclear energy. The Sundance Film Festival calls this film "potent, emotionally powerful, and highly revealing...opening our eyes to the reality of nuclear power." http://specialtystudios.semkhorr.com/page.asp?s=specialtystudios&content_id=33502 Free-will donations accepted. Snacks and soft drinks provided. 7:30 p.m., Epworth United Methodist Church, 6450 Allisonville Road, Indianapolis. www.epworthindy.org/green-team.php

Sunday, March 10 Horticultural Society Lecture and Tea Last May, members of the IMA Council and IMA Horticultural Society enjoyed a ten-day journey to scenic northern Italy, examining the tradition of art, architecture, and horticulture dating from Roman times. They explored Renaissance, Baroque, and contemporary gardens on lakeshores with mountain backdrops, in the lush countryside, and in several historic cities. Mark Zelonis, Ruth Lilly Deputy Director of Environmental & Historic Preservation, shares his photographs of the stunning sites visited in the Lakes Region, as well as in the historic cities of Verona and Venice. Featured gardens include those at Villa Taranto, Isola Bella, Villa Balbianello, and Villa Emo Rivella. Free. All are welcome to take tea after the lecture. 2:00 p.m., Tobias Theater, Indianapolis Museum of Art, 4000 North Michigan Road, Indianapolis. www.imamuseum.org

Tuesday, March 12 Amos Butler Audubon Program Wild Nature in Indy Tom Swinford, Regional Ecologist, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, will present on the natural history of Marion County. Highlighted will be the eight state nature preserves in Marion County—the highest quality natural areas remaining within Indianapolis city limits. This includes the sizable preserves of Ft. Harrison and Eagle Creek, which form the core of two of Indiana’s designated Important Bird Areas. Tom is recognized as an authority on the landscapes, flora, and fauna of Central Indiana. Join us as we learn the story of Marion County and the future prospects for the fascinating and rare animals that call it home. 7:30 p.m., Holliday Park Nature Center, 6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis. www.amosbutleraudubon.org

Friday, March 15 IMA Horticultural Society Gardening Book Group Discussion of *The Brother Gardeners: Botany, Empire & the Birth of an Obsession*, by Andrea Wulf, followed by a docent-led tour of “European and American Art in the 1700s” in the main museum building. Everyone is welcome to participate; you need not be a member of the Indianapolis Museum of Art or the Horticultural Society. 10:00 a.m., Horticultural Library, Newfields house, Indianapolis Museum of Art, 4000 North Michigan Road, Indianapolis. For more information, contact Kathleen at hullk@ccrtc.com or 317-996-4380.

Friday–Saturday, March 15–16 Morgan County MG Garden Fest and Pansy Sale (Martinsville) This Master Gardener-sponsored event features free tree seedlings given away, 30 vendors with garden related supplies, soil analysis, questions answered, free seminars, 2000 pots of pansies for sale, and food available for purchase. Friday 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.; Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., National Guard Armory, 1900 Hospital Drive, Martinsville. Contact 765-318-1192.

Sunday, March 17 Indianapolis Hosta Society The Future of Hosta Bob Solberg, Green Hills Farms, Chapel Hill, NC, nationally known lecturer, hybridizer, and expert on growing hostas, will consider whether hostas have seen their brightest moment and what the future will bring. Free and open to the public. 2:00 p.m., Holliday Park Nature Center, 6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis. <http://indianapolishostasociety.org>

Thursday, March 21 The Good, Bad, and Ugly of Indiana Wildflowers (Zionsville) Myrene Brown’s program is perfectly timed to add to your knowledge of Indiana wildflowers before you hike through Indiana woodlands in search of our beautiful spring ephemerals. 6:30 p.m., Zion Nature Center, 690 Beech Street, Zionsville. Registration is required at www.zionnaturecenterfriends.org.

Thursday, March 28 Friends of Heritage Gardens Lecture (Fishers) Small Gardens for Any Space Ron and Linda Williams, owners of Garden Travelers, provide ideas on garden rooms, what to do with that awkward space in the garden, or simply what can be accomplished in a small space using scale, shape, plant selection, and design. Free to members of Friends of Heritage Gardens; \$5 donation appreciated from non-members. Open to the public. Light refreshments provided. 7:00 p.m., Lower Level Meeting Room, Ambassador House, 10595 Eller Road, Fishers. Contact 317-845-4265 or email Diane at feendk@sbcglobal.net.

Saturday, March 30 Madison County MG Garden Talk (Anderson) Fantasy Gardens from Fairy to Zombie Come spread some fairy dust with us as Allisonville Nursery shows us how to create miniature fairy gardens complete with tiny furniture, plants, and fairies. For those with a darker side, get a thrill building a zombie garden complete with creepy crawly bones, skulls, spiders, and haunted houses. Free. 11:00 a.m. to noon, Anderson Public Library, Delaware Room, 111 E. 12th Street, Anderson. Contact 765-641-9514 or jdorff@purdue.edu.

Wednesday, April 3 Native Plants for the Home Garden (Brownsburg) Use native plants in your landscape for a low-maintenance, beautiful garden that will attract birds and butterflies. Indiana Advanced Master Naturalist Colletta Kosiba shows the wide variety of wonderful easy-care native plants that reduce your garden chores while providing food for wildlife. Learn an amazing variety of colorful, hardy native plants guaranteed to thrive in Hoosier habitats. An added treat; see a slide show of native/non-native combinations in Colletta's own Hendricks county gardens. Free. 7:00 p.m., Brownsburg Library, 450 S. Jefferson, Brownsburg. To register call 317-852-3167.

Saturday, April 6 Madison County MG Garden School II (Anderson) Joe Stasey answers tree questions; Roy Ballard covers vegetable gardening and gardening for pollination; Karen Lackey inspires us to creatively cook what we harvest from the garden; Brian MacGowan shares his knowledge of wildlife backyard habitats and controlling wildlife damage; Diane Shafer shares wildlife she has rehabilitated; Kevin Tungesvick helps gardeners who want to improve their landscapes with wildflowers; and Steve Mayer shows how to have environmentally friendly lawns and nine months of color with flowering trees and shrubs. Breakout sessions for all skill levels, drawing, auction, and vendor displays. Fee \$30 per individual, \$40 per family (includes lunch). 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Madison Park Church of God, 6607 Providence Drive, Anderson (just south off of the I-69 and SR 109 exit [226], then 1 mile west of Menards). To guarantee your spot, **register by March 27**. Contact Steve at 317-485-5593 or jsdoty@indy.net or visit <http://madisoncountymastergardener.org>.

Saturdays in April Spring Cleaning with KIB Join the Great Indy Cleanup on April 6, 13, 20, and/or 27. Three simple ways you can help keep Indy beautiful: (1) Coordinate a community cleanup of your own; we'll be working again in four quadrants of the City, the dates determined by your Mayor's Neighborhood Liaison. [CLICK HERE](#) to determine your MNL, then complete the required [Request Form](#) to receive resources for your community cleanup. (2) Volunteer as an [individual](#) or a [group](#) to help a community group with their cleanup. (3) Pledge to "fill a bag with litter," choosing any day in April by signing up for the [Every Litter Bit Helps](#) campaign. www.kibi.org

Saturday, April 13 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 \$35. 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.

Saturday, April 13 INPAWS Hike Shrader-Weaver Nature Preserve (Fayette County) Join Indiana Native Plant & Wildflower Society members to hike an easy two-mile trail containing an upland stand with one of the largest populations of old-growth black walnuts to be found anywhere. The spring ephemerals should be spectacular at this time. Led by Brent Smith, Professor of Biology, Earlham College. 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. EDT. Details and directions at www.inpaws.org.

Saturday, April 20 and May 11 IDNR Spring Field Days Division of Nature Preserves ecologists will lead hikes through old growth forest nature preserves resplendent with spring wildflowers. **Register by April 6.** Hikes begin at 10:00 a.m. local time. Find more info and a link to the Eventbrite registration page at www.naturepreserves.dnr.in.gov. Participate in a DNP survey at <http://www.in.gov/dnr/naturepreserve/7526.htm> and have a chance to win a copy of their latest Directory of Nature Preserves.

Save the Date Perennial Premiere at the IMA will be held April 20 & 21 this year. Watch for a list of anticipated plants for sale and participating vendors by mid-February at www.imamuseum.org/special-event/perennial-premiere.

Events at Garfield Park Conservatory **Early Morning Photography:** Saturday, March 2, 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. Fee \$5 per person. Practice your photography skills in the morning before the Conservatory opens. The Conservatory is full of tropical orchids, palms, ferns and so much more. Each photographer will be allowed a tripod during this event. Make sure to register at 317-327-7580, as space is limited. **Heirloom Seed Starting:** Sunday, March 17, 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Fee \$6 per person. It's time to get those summer seeds started! Learn seed-starting techniques and practice starting some of this season's unique heirloom varieties to take home. Registration required at 317-327-7580. **Spring Bulb Show:** March 22–29, Monday–Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sunday 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Fee \$3 per person or \$8 per family (2 adults max.). 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. **Bulb Sale:** Saturday, March 30 at 10:00 a.m. Garfield Park Conservatory and Gardens, 2505 Conservatory Drive, Indianapolis. www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org

Events at Nina Mason Pulliam EcoLab at Marian University **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. **Woodcock Walk and Owl Prowl:** March 2, 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. Ever been snipe hunting? This is even better! American Woodcock are a cute bird that frequents wet woods and have an amazing evening mating display. We will start in the Nina Mason Pulliam Nature Center dissecting owl pellets and doing Woodcock-related activities. We'll then take a walk through the EcoLab looking for displaying woodcock and listening for owls. All ages are encouraged to attend. Bring warm clothes, binoculars, and a flashlight. Please register by contacting jhslaughter@marian.edu or 317-524-7701.

Central Indiana Land Trust Events **Help Restore an Old-Growth Forest:** March 12. This volunteer event at Meltzer Woods will give you the unique opportunity to see one of the only remaining old-growth forests left in central Indiana. **An Evening Discussion with the Land Trust:** March 21. Join us for this first in a series of speakers on thought-provoking topics having to do with conservation, wildlife, and the environment. On this evening we will focus on the Greening the Crossroads plan, exploring issues with connected greenspace in central Indiana. **Protect a Beautiful Morgan County Forest:** March 28. Come lend a hand at the Fred and Dorothy Meyer Preserve. Volunteers will work to remove invasive species from this important forest. For more information on these and other upcoming events, visit www.conservingindiana.org/events/

Organic Gardening for Beginners Fall Creek Gardens (FCG) and the Indiana Organic Gardeners Association (IOGA) teach fundamental concepts of gardening without synthetic chemicals. Free and open to the public. Locations include the Chase Near Eastside Legacy Center, Big Car Service Station, and Unleavened Bread Café. **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.

Stay Connected Rapid Transit Public Meetings Indy Connect, Central Indiana's Transportation Initiative, wants to hear from everyone. This is your plan, and the time is now to

agree on our transportation future. The multiple public agencies behind Indy Connect will canvass all Central Indiana communities throughout the year, presenting the draft plan and gathering public input. We hope to see you in your neighborhood soon. Info at <http://www.indyconnect.org/pages/Stay-Connected/>

Photo Notes This is that drab time of year when we think we'll never see color again in the garden. Maybe we should adopt a zen attitude and contemplate the tracery of tree branches as symbolic of the cycle of life from death to rebirth. I know beans about zen, but this mandala of winter trees caught my eye on the internet. Keep the faith! There will be 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; make check out to Wendy Ford.