



HortusScope | What's Up in the

Central Indiana Gardening Community | Photo by Bernie Kasper of Madison, IN

Now thru Sunday, May 12 Decorators' Show House and Gardens This 52nd annual fundraiser sponsored by St. Margaret's Guild features the historic Schnull-Rauch house at 3050 North Meridian Street. Open 1100 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. except Mondays. Daily tickets \$20 at the door and select Marsh locations. Discounts for seniors and children under 12. For special events and online tickets, visit www.showhouseindy.org

Thursday, May 2 Friends of Heritage Gardens Lecture (Fishers) Flip this Garden Sandy Wilkins and her husband have developed many conifer and hosta gardens on lakefront properties. She has also served as past president of the Indianapolis Hosta Society and is the originator of The Great Lakes Region of The American Hosta Society. Her presentation demonstrates that no garden, new or old, is static and can't benefit from an overhaul. Open to the public; \$5 donation appreciated. Free to members of the "Friends." 7:00 p.m., Ambassador House, lower level meeting room, 10595 Eller Road, Fishers. Please RSVP to Diane at feendk@sbcglobal.net.

Thursday, May 2 The Best Annual Flowers (Plainfield) Annuals are the costume jewelry of the garden. There is a whole world of annuals to choose from besides marigolds and petunias: unusual sizes and shapes, drought-tolerant, annuals that need no deadheading and bloom until fall. Over 30 favorite annuals for a splash of color in your garden or planter. Colletta Kosiba Master Gardener will help you select great annual plants for non-stop color this year. Free. 7:00 p.m., Plainfield Library, 1120 Strafford Road, Plainfield. To register call 317-839-6602.

Thursday–Sunday, May 2–5 Orchard In Bloom The 24th annual show celebrates Orchard School's 90th anniversary with the theme "Growing to Learn" and exhibits/activities focused on environmentally friendly gardening and sustainable living. Recognized by The American Horticultural Society as one of the top garden shows in the country, Orchard In Bloom features garden and landscape ideas and products; national exhibitors with a broad range of art and merchandise; live music; speakers; a café and children's activities. Advance tickets are \$10 at Marsh Supermarkets, The National Bank of Indianapolis branches, The Orchard School, and the Holliday Park Nature Center. Tickets are \$12 at the gate the days of the show. A three-day ticket is \$15. Children 14 and under are free. Holliday Park, 64th and Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis. Show hours and special events at www.orchardinbloom.org. Free parking and shuttle service available at Second Presbyterian Church, 7700 N. Meridian Street.

Saturday, May 4 Johnson County Garden Club and Purdue Master Gardeners Garden Celebration (Franklin) The theme of this 9th annual event is "Native Trees of Indiana." Trees will be given away; first come, first served. There will be speakers throughout the day, plant and garden related vendors indoors and outside, and food for purchase all day. Admission is \$2.00 at the door or the equivalent non-perishable items for the local food pantry. Come and help us celebrate gardening as well as the 25th anniversary of the Johnson County Garden Club. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Scott Hall, Johnson County Fairgrounds, Franklin. Call 736-8080 or 736-5609 for more information.

Sunday, May 5 Woodland Wildflower Walk at Artesian Farm (Hancock County) For nature enthusiasts of all ages, this guided walk reveals an exceptional display of native wildflowers. Photographers welcome. Trails are easy but not entirely groomed. Some areas could be wet or muddy; boots are highly recommended. Take US 40 east of Greenfield, turn south on CR 400 E to 2256 (first house south of CR 200 S). Park south of the house along the road. 2:00 to 4:30 p.m., 2256 CR 400 E, Greenfield. For questions, carpooling possibilities, or if weather is "iffy," call Anna at 317-755-9550. <http://www.hancockharvestcouncil.com/index.php?go=artesian>

Sunday, May 5 INPAWS Hike Bendix Woods Nature Preserve (St. Joseph County) The spring wildflower display at Bendix Woods Nature Preserve has been described as one of the finest native floral displays in the state. Led by Scott Namestnik, Senior Project Scientist and Botanist, Cardno JFNew, and Deb Marr, Associate Professor of Ecology, Indiana University–South Bend, our hike will traverse old-growth beech-maple forest, within which we should see ephemeral gems including wild ginger, purple spring cress, blue cohosh, squirrel corn, Dutchman's breeches, yellow trout lily, false mermaid, wild geranium, blue phlox, large-flowered trillium, red trillium, Canada violet, and the locally rare crinkleroot, in addition to several ferns and a diversity of mesic upland forest sedges. Sponsored by Indiana Native Plant & Wildflower Society. Free. 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. Please **RSVP by May 2** to John at johnjs@goshen.edu or 574-533-9496. Find details and directions on the INPAWS blog at www.inpaws.org.

Monday, May 6 Herb Society of Central Indiana Don Still, Herb Garden Designer and Trader's Point Creamery Market Manager, will talk about garden design. Free and open to the public. Refreshments at 6:45 and business meeting follows speaker. 7:00 p.m., John Hensel Government Center, 10701 N. College Avenue, Indianapolis. Contact 317-418-0627 or visit www.herbsocietyofcentralindiana.org

Wednesday, May 8 Perennial Plant Exchange (Brownsburg) Dig up several of your perennial favorites (4-6; please identify with labels) to exchange for plants brought by others. Garden expert Master Gardener Colletta Kosiba will give all the information you need about the plants to create a lovely garden. You take home the same number of plants you brought to exchange. Don't have any plants to exchange? Come anyway; this is a great informative program and many gardeners bring extra plants to share. Free. 6:30 p.m., Brownsburg Library, 450 S. Jefferson, Brownsburg. To register call 317-852-3167.

Friday, May 10 National Public Gardens Day at the IMA This fifth annual free event is a national day of celebration that 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 Indianapolis Museum of Art's gardens and grounds. Renowned for its beauty and history, the 152-acre campus includes Oldfields, a 26-acre American Country Place era estate that has been recognized as a National Historic Landmark, the Indianapolis Museum of Art, and [The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park: 100 Acres](#). We invite you to [pick up a fresh bundle of lettuce](#) grown at the IMA; we'll even throw in a packet of seeds to start your own garden (while supplies last). Enjoy a special lecture by Mark Zelonis on the history of Oldfields' gardens at DeBoest Lecture Hall, 2:00 p.m. Stroll the grounds in a guided garden tour of what's in bloom; meet at Lilly House main entrance, 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. Shoppers enjoy a 20 percent discount at the Greenhouse Shop. The IMA's gardens and grounds are open daily from dawn until dusk.

Saturday, May 11 INPAWS Native Plant Sale & Auction 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 garden designer Hilary Cox, who will speak on "Native Alternatives for the Garden." 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 12:30 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

Monday, May 13 Indianapolis Hosta Society Gardens of Paris, London and Everything in Between Randy Goodwin, hosta hybridizer and fellow Indianapolis Hosta Society member, will take us on a tour of the gardens of London and Paris. Free and open to the public. 6:30 p.m., Holliday Park Nature Center, 6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis. www.indianapolishostasociety.org

Tuesday, May 14 Amos Butler Audubon Butterflies of Indiana Jeff Belth, author of *Butterflies of Indiana*, and Sandy Belth, naturalist with Monroe County Parks, will present on the natural history, identification, and conservation of our native butterfly species. After studying and photographing butterflies for more than 25 years, Jeff has a great knowledge of these jewels of the sky. His new field guide features 149 species of butterflies and their close relatives, the skippers. Copies of the new field guide will be available for purchase and signing. 7:30 p.m., Holliday Park Nature Center, 6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis. Info at bluemoosey8@yahoo.com or call 812-340-0824. www.amosbutleraudubon.org

Friday & Saturday, May 17 & 18 Avon Outdoor Learning Center Native Plant Sale (Avon) Join us for our 11th annual native plant sale and concert to benefit the Outdoor Learning Center. Check us on YouTube! [Avon Outdoor Learning Center \(OLC \) in Avon Indiana](#) New this year is a concert (beginning at 4:00 p.m.) featuring local high school artists and Michael Kelsey (michaekelsey.com) at 8:00 p.m. Hours: Friday: 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., plant sale. Saturday: 8:00 a.m., plant sale opens. 9:00 to 10:00 a.m., book signing by Mike Homoya, author of *Wildflowers and Ferns of Indiana* and *Orchids of Indiana*. 10:00 a.m., talk on invasive plants of Indiana by Ellen Jacquart of The Nature Conservancy. 12:00 noon, talk on natives in your landscape by Simon Davies. 2:00 p.m., cooking demo and nutrition info in the garden. Why plant natives? Check out Indiana Plant and Wildflower Society for more info. <http://www.inpaws.org/>.

Saturday, May 18 Hamilton County Master Gardeners 15th Annual Plant Sale (Noblesville) More than 12,000 plants will be for sale to the public. In addition to the outstanding selection of perennials, annuals, vegetables and trees, bearded iris will be dug to order at the iris/daylily bed. An extensive selection of native plants will be offered. Good-size trees may be purchased on site. Plants are grown with care by Master Gardeners, are acclimated to Indiana's climate, and are priced well below local garden centers. Proceeds support scholarships for students in Hamilton County interested in horticulture-related careers and community activities supporting sound horticultural practices in Hamilton County. 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Exhibition Hall, Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds, Noblesville. www.hcmga.org

Saturday, May 18 Madison County Master Gardeners (Anderson) Plant Folklore, Romance, & Superstition Amanda Smith from Hamilton County Parks and Recreation explores the uses of some of Indiana's most beloved native plants. Romantic, funny, and just plain bizarre folklore will be discussed. Come join us for the fourth in our series of garden talks. Free to the public. 11:00 a.m., Anderson Public Library, Delaware Room, 111 E. 12th Street, Anderson. Information at jdorff@purdue.edu or 765-641-9514.

Monday, May 20 Irvington Garden Club Using the Garden as an Integrated Homestead Plant exchange and program by Amy Mullen of Spotts Garden Service. 7:00 p.m., Irvington Presbyterian Church, 55 S. Johnson, Indianapolis. <http://www.irvingtongardenclub.com/>.

Thru Saturday, June 1 Indiana Photographic Society and High School Art Exhibition See more than 80 works of fine art photography on display at The Garfield Park Arts Center, along

with artwork from top art students from 15 Marion County High Schools. Free. Hours: Tues, Wed, & Thurs, 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; Fri, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; Sat, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Closed Sun and Mon. Also closed Fri, March 29 and Tuesday, May 28. Garfield Park Arts Center, 2432 Conservatory Drive, Indianapolis. For more info call 317-327-7135 or visit www.gpacarts.org.

Saturday, June 1 Flowers, Trees, and Melodies Garden Tour (Johnson County) Enjoy a pleasant spring day strolling the gardens at the historic 1868 Heck-Hasler House with lovely music by members of the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra playing nearby. This beautiful three-acre garden contains many exceptional surprises. In addition to the many shrubs, trees, plants, and flowers, lovely statuary and striking pieces of architectural salvage are handsomely displayed throughout the grounds. Donation of \$10 requested; proceeds benefit Educational Programming of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Heck-Hasler home in northeast Johnson County, easily accessed via I-65 to the Whiteland Road exit. Go east on Whiteland Road, turn north on 575, and arrive at 6612 N. 575 E. on the left side of the road. Ticket information at 317-445-8531.

Wednesday, June 5 Indianapolis Garden Club 18th Annual Garden Walk and Luncheon Five fantastic gardens are featured in this annual fundraiser. \$35.00 per ticket or \$60.00 for the Garden Walk and Luncheon. Tickets purchased in advance will be mailed to participants with a map and garden addresses. Gardens open 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Luncheon at Woodstock Club, 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., 1301 West 38th Street. Parking available. Please email Julie Shortridge at j.shortridge2@gmail.com for ticket requests and payment instructions. Tickets available at Charles Mayer & Company, 5629 North Illinois Street, Indianapolis; and Kogan Antiques & Lighting, 195 S. Main, Zionsville. We are unable to process charge cards; please bring exact change or checks. www.igcgardenwalk.com

Saturday, June 8 Heritage Gardens Annual Bus Trip (Fishers) The tour will include gardens in the Louisville area, including Yew Dell Gardens, the source of millions of yew plants planted as foundation installations after World War II, and two private gardens, including a fern glade offering insight into "how to do it." Fee \$49, includes transportation, lunch and snacks, and entry to all gardens. Make checks payable to Historic Ambassador House & Heritage Gardens. Mail payment to Linda Williams at 9922 Cumberland Ridge Lane, Fishers, IN 46037. Remember to include your email and phone number with your registration payment so we can acknowledge your reservation. Bus departs 7:30 a.m. from the Marsh store at Lantern Road and 96th Street, east of I-69. For more information, email info@gardentravelers.com.

Events at Garfield Park Garfield Park Master Gardener Plant Sale: May 4, 9:00 a.m. to noon. Plants are donated by GPMG members and all proceeds go back to the GPMG to help pay for meeting speakers and scholarships. In addition to vegetable, annual, and perennial plants for sale, the Master Gardeners will be on hand to give advice and answer your gardening questions. Admission to the sale is free. Garfield Park Conservatory and Gardens, 2505 Conservatory Drive, Indianapolis. www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org **Annual Chalk Art Festival and Competition:** Saturday, May 11, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Help us decorate Garfield Park by creating works of art on our sidewalks with colorful chalk! Finished chalk drawings will be judged and fun prizes will be awarded. Enjoy food vendors and live music. The festival is for all ages and all experience levels. Bring your own chalk, or purchase a chalk kit for only \$3. There is no rain date. Register between 10 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. at the Garfield Park Arts Center. Work to be judged must be completed by 3:00 p.m.. Keep drawing for fun and enjoy live music from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. Awards given at 4:00 (must be present to win). Free. The Garfield Park Arts Center, 2432 Conservatory Drive, Indianapolis. Info at 317-327-7135. www.gpacarts.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. Please register by contacting jhslaughter@marian.edu or 317-524-7701. **Summer Camps at the EcoLab:** An active Science, Math and STEM summer camp

season is planned for K–8 students: June 10–14, Math and Science Camp; June 17–21, Math and Science Camp; June 24–28, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) Camp; July 8–12, Camp Invention. For more information visit www.marian.edu/EcoLab or contact Janice Hicks Slaughter, jhslaughter@marian.edu or 317-524-7701.

Events at Holliday Park **Indiana Daylily/Iris Society Iris Show:** Saturday, May 25, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. **Labor and Learn Garden Workshops:** 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. May 10 and 24, 9:00 to 11:00 am. **Garden Work Days:** 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. May 11, 25 and 27, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Holliday Park, 6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis. Call 317-327-7180 or visit www.hollidaypark.org.

Citizen Science Watch Ponds for Dragonfly Migrations The Xerces Society's [Pond Watch](#) connects citizens with scientists in a joint effort to gather information about dragonfly migrations. You don't need to be an expert naturalist to participate, just observant and with access to a pond. Pond Watch participants regularly visit a local wetland or pond and note the presence (or absence) of North America's five main migratory dragonfly species: common green darner, black saddlebags, wandering glider, spot-winged glider, and variegated meadow hawk. By making observations throughout the year, Pond Watch volunteers help us learn more about relationships between resident and migratory members of the same species. Join other citizen-scientists in this second year of collecting data to help unravel the mysteries of dragonfly migration! For more information or to register your local pond, visit [Pond Watch web-page](#).

Volunteer Opps Keep Indianapolis Beautiful KIB has many types of volunteer opportunities, perfect for school, work, family, or fun. Most take place on Saturday mornings from March through early June and September through November. Most Saturday projects begin at 9:00 a.m. and last anywhere from 3-5 hours. KIB projects are kid-friendly unless otherwise stated. Volunteers must be 16 years of age or older, or accompanied by an adult. Here are just a few types of projects that need volunteers: Planting trees along residential streets and parks. Beautification and revitalization of communities through planting trees, shrubs and perennials. Turning vacant lots into pocket parks. Cleaning up litter in neighborhoods, parks and waterways. Creating outdoor classrooms on the grounds of local schools. Some weekday projects for groups or individuals are also available. Check out the complete [volunteer calendar](#) online. www.kibi.org

Pollinator Patrol Mason Bees Are Appearing In many parts of the country, Earth Day coincides with the arrival of mason bees. These fascinating bees nest in wood cavities, hollow plant stems, and under peeling bark. While you can attract them to artificial nests, such nests tend to become contaminated over time with parasites and diseases. If you are looking for more sustainable ways to attract them, we recommend leaving brushy habitat around, or developing a system for periodically phasing out old nests. The Xerces Society [tunnel nest fact sheet](#) provides details on how to do it. (Note that they don't recommend buying or selling mason bee cocoons from outside their locally native area). Take the [Pollinator Protection Pledge](#) and purchase a pollinator habitat sign to hang in your garden.

Ordering Seeds? When you shop for locally grown vegetable seeds and seedlings at Nature's Crossroads Earth Friendly Seeds, you have an opportunity to benefit the Friends of Cold Spring School, a not-for-profit charity that supports IPS's environmental studies magnet school through partnerships with the community. Look for a drop-down menu when you check out, and click on Friends of Cold Spring School or another favorite charity. Nature's Crossroads makes a donation

based on the amount of your purchase. It's a painless way to help a good cause.
www.NaturesCrossroads.com

Photo Notes Virginia bluebells are loving all the rain this spring and rewarding us with lush growth. They'll disappear soon for their long sleep until next spring, making way for fern and hosta companions in the woodland garden.

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.