



## HortusScope | What's Up in the

Central Indiana Gardening Community | Photo by Wendy Ford

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**Happy New Year, Gardening Friends!** It's the start of year nine for HortusScope—how the time flies! I launched this e-bulletin aiming to build community among gardeners in Central Indiana, and I've been richly rewarded by your sharing of information and your positive comments. Keep those news items coming! And may 2014 bring you bountiful gardens and deepening friendships. Gardeners are the best!

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**You Can Help! Avon Outdoor Learning Center in Jeopardy** The Center's funding was cut as a result of a failed referendum. Since that time, money to pay the Outdoor Instruction Coordinator has depended on grants and fundraising to remain open to the students of Avon Schools. Funding for the Center will be depleted by February, but you can keep the doors open by helping us raise \$30,000. Avon Outdoor Learning Center serves as an engaging outdoor classroom that has been used to teach science, math and history to our students. More than 9,100 students, parents, and faculty members visited the OLC during the 2012-13 school year. To contribute, visit <http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/instruction-coordinator-salary-fund>.

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**Thursday, January 2 Hancock County Herb Society (Greenfield)** Meetings are free and the public is welcome and encouraged to come share their knowledge, or to learn more about growing and using herbs. Refreshments will be served. 7:00 p.m., Pat Elmore Center, 280 Apple Street, Greenfield. For additional information, call Carolyn at 317-326-2274 or visit <http://www.easysite.com/HCHS>.

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**Thursday, January 9 Slow Food Indy Book Club** The public is invited to attend this free discussion. This month's book is *The Sweet Life in Paris* by Dave Lebovitz, a "deliciously funny, offbeat, and irreverent look at the city of lights, cheese, chocolate, and other confections." Parking fee \$5 for nonmembers; free parking available at the Greenhouse. 6:30 p.m., Indianapolis Museum of Art Café, 4000 North Michigan Road, Indianapolis. And stay tuned for Slow Food Indy's Annual Meeting and Pitch-In, Sunday January 26. Details at <http://www.slowfoodindy.com/calendar/>

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**Tuesday, January 14 Amos Butler Audubon Program Birding Through the Eyes of a Photographer** Dr. Ryan Sanderson often stands out in a crowd because he's the guy with the bazooka lens attached to his camera. A recent medical school graduate, Ryan spends much of his precious free time chasing the perfect photo. Join us for Ryan's presentation filled with exquisite photos, stories from the field, and an exciting bird ID quiz. 7:30 p.m., Holliday Park Nature Center, 6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis. [www.amosbutleraudubon.org](http://www.amosbutleraudubon.org)

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**Friday–Sunday, January 24–February 2 Indianapolis Home Show** Experts will showcase everything for the home including the latest in cabinetry and countertops, flooring, sunrooms and additions, basement finishing, waterproofing, smart home automation, energy efficient windows

and exterior products as well as the newest landscaping ideas. Monday–Friday, 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.; Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Indiana State Fairgrounds, 1202 East 38<sup>th</sup> Street, Indianapolis. See listing of celebrity guests and buy tickets at [www.indianapolishomeshow.com](http://www.indianapolishomeshow.com).

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**Tuesday, January 28 Conservation Day at the Statehouse** This annual event sponsored by the Indiana Conservation Alliance is your chance to network with conservation-minded organizations and to influence your lawmaker to follow INCA's recommendations for the upcoming legislative session. Learn about INCA at <http://www.inpaws.org/biodiversity/legislative-approaches/> Register and get all the details about Conservation Day at <http://www.eventbrite.com/o/indiana-conservation-alliance-inca-5432631069>.

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**Classes and Events at Indianapolis Museum of Art Christmas at Lilly House:** Continues through January 5. **Bonsai for Beginners:** Discover the art of bonsai from Indianapolis expert Paul Weishaar. All materials will be supplied; and each participant will leave with a beautiful bonsai plant in a ceramic pot. IMA members \$50, public \$70. Saturday, January 18, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m., Greenhouse Atrium. Register at 317-955-2339. **Beginning Propagation:** Denise Petolino will teach you to propagate a variety of houseplants using some of our favorite “mother plants” in the IMA Greenhouse’s permanent collection. IMA Members \$5, Public \$10. Saturday, February 15, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m., Greenhouse Atrium. Register at 317-955-2339. Indianapolis Museum of Art, 4000 North Michigan Road, Indianapolis. [www.imamuseum.org](http://www.imamuseum.org)

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**Thursday, February 6 Emily N. Daniels Horticulture Symposium Smaller Garden–Bigger Impact** In today’s gardening world, less can definitely be more. The IMA’s day-long horticulture symposium will bring together regional and national experts to discuss the challenges and joys of gardening in smaller spaces. Suitable for the novice gardener as well as the professional designer, topics will include: plant selection, ranging from moderately-sized woodies to abundantly prolific fruits and vegetables; intriguing perennials to liven up any garden or patio; and special design considerations for these new spaces. A wide selection of relevant gardening books will be available for purchase, as well as ample opportunity for one-on-one conversation with the speakers and IMA Horticulture staff. Featured speakers: C. Colston Burrell, Jo Ellen Meyers Sharp, Lee Reich, Vincent Simeone. Organized by the IMA’s Division of Environmental & Historic Preservation with additional support from the IMA [Horticultural Society](http://www.imamuseum.org). Fees: Horticultural Society \$90, Public \$100, Students \$75. Registration required; call 317-955-2339. Thursday, February 6, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., The Toby, Indianapolis Museum of Art, 4000 North Michigan Road, Indianapolis. [www.imamuseum.org](http://www.imamuseum.org)

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**Events at Garfield Park Conservatory Neo Natural—Botanically Inspired Art Works:** The Conservatory presents a unique exhibit of artwork among the plant forms that inspired it. Artists from Ball State University have created pieces in response to inspiration from the botanical collection to create a unique exhibit. January 24 through March 2; 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 (max. 2 adults). **Terrific Topiary:** Get out of the house this winter and create a simple topiary to green up your space. All supplies will be provided. Saturday, January 25, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Fee \$7 (ages 12+). Registration required by calling 317-327-PARK. 2505 Conservatory Drive, Indianapolis. [www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org](http://www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org)

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**Organic Gardening for Beginners** Fall Creek Gardens and Indiana Organic Gardeners Association are offering their second annual winter class series. January classes are focused on building fertile soil. Choose from two sessions: Saturday, January 11, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., Mezzanine Level, City Market, 222 East Market Street, Indianapolis. Saturday, January 25, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., Community Room, Unleavened Bread Café, 3001 Central Avenue, Indianapolis. Register at [www.fallcreekgardens.org/events](http://www.fallcreekgardens.org/events).

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**Zion Nature Center Programs (Zionsville) Purposeful Pruning:** Join Myrene Brown to discuss pruning tools and their roles in shaping plant material to enhance plant flowering and form. Once

the fear of pruning and making a mistake is overcome, the art of making selective cuts to your plant material can bring an element of fun to your time spent in the garden during the winter and spring months. The goal of the class is to pass on the joy of pruning to get the garden effect you desire and impress family and friends with your pruning talents. Tuesday, January 28, 7:00 p.m. Register at [www.ZionNatureCenterFriends.org](http://www.ZionNatureCenterFriends.org). **Alien Invaders, Armed and Dangerous:** In today's globalized world, humans are moving plants and animals into new habitats at an unprecedented rate. While most exotic species are harmless in their new habitats, some become dangerous "alien invaders!" PhD candidate Lauren Smith will tell of invasives that carry "novel weapons," or adaptations that make them particularly harmful to native ecosystems. Then, we'll discuss ways that you can combat invaders and protect native species in your own backyard. Wednesday, February 12, 7:00 p.m. Space is limited so please register for this free program at [www.ZionNatureCenterFriends.org](http://www.ZionNatureCenterFriends.org). **Where Are All the Butterflies?** Join retired entomologist John Thieme for a program about Indiana butterflies. John will share his knowledge about them in a fast moving and interesting slide show. He will highlight what has been happening to butterflies over the years and what we can do to help. Wednesday, February 19, 7:00 p.m. Space is limited so please register for this free program at [www.ZionNatureCenterFriends.org](http://www.ZionNatureCenterFriends.org). Zion Nature Center, 690 Beech Street, Zionsville. Questions? Call 317-873-8950 or contact [znaturecenter@aol.com](mailto:znaturecenter@aol.com).

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**Ordering Summer Bulbs?** "Bloomin' Bucks" with Brent and Becky's Bulbs is a progressive fundraising program designed to earn select non-profit organizations cash for every order received through the Brent and Becky's Bulbs website. A portion of every dollar you spend goes to support the organization you chose. If you have questions, call 877-661-2852. [www.bloominbucks.com](http://www.bloominbucks.com)

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**Advocacy Opportunity Hoosiers for Ethical Hunting** A new nonprofit organization aiming to preserve our conservation heritage and end canned hunting is soliciting your support. Hoosiers for Ethical Hunting seeks to preserve the traditional Hoosier values of sportsmanship and fair chase through public education and citizen-driven advocacy. The organization advocates an end to high-fence canned hunting in our state and aims to protect the environment by keeping Indiana free of Chronic Wasting Disease. Speakers are available to visit your group. Visit [www.hfeh.org](http://www.hfeh.org) for more information. Contact Jerry Wheeler, Director, at [jwheeler@hfeh.org](mailto:jwheeler@hfeh.org) or 812-272-7925.

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**Check It Out! United States Map Based on Where We Get Our Water** Instead of fighting over water, what if each state's boundaries let it get water from one source? Check out the Watershed States of America. This map shows what America would look like if it followed its watersheds. It's an America designed to use water more efficiently, and reduce state conflicts over water. Made by John Lavey, a land use planner at the [Sonoran Institute](http://www.sonoraninstitute.org), the map is inspired by an idea from 19<sup>th</sup>-century adventurer and geologist John Wesley Powell. In 1879, Powell proposed that "as the Western states were brought into the union they be formed around watersheds, rather than arbitrary political boundaries." Powell's map of Western "watershed states" is very different from what we have today. <http://www.fastcoexist.com/3019858/visualized/a-new-map-of-the-us-created-from-where-we-get-our-water#1>

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**Photo Notes** My garden lady in winter often wears a cap and shawl of snow, as do the dried flower heads of the nearby sedum. Time to stay snuggled in a chair by the fire with seed catalogs, dreaming of lush flowers and fabulous veggie harvests to come. Dream on, gardeners, and shore up your energy, for it won't be long before it's time to get our hands dirty again.

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**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](mailto:hortusscope@comcast.net). Supporting donations accepted at 6911 Cabernet Way, Indianapolis, IN 46278; make check out to Wendy Ford. (Thank you, Broadripple Garden Club!)