



HortusScope | What's Up in the Central

Indiana Gardening Community | [Photo courtesy Indianapolis Museum of Art](#)

We gardeners know better than most the importance of good soil, clean water, fresh air, and healthy ecosystems. So if you agree that 2017 is off to a bumpy start, may I suggest you really get to know your legislators this year. I've always meant to but never made it a priority.

Now I plan to meet my lawmakers face-to-face at their neighborhood meetings, and be in their face as issues come up. Helping me will be [Hoosier Environmental Council](#) and [Indiana Wildlife Federation](#), who are both tracking the progress of legislation related to conservation and the environment.

Power to the gardeners!

Check out the HortusScope [website](#) for other helpful organizations.

Thursday, February 2 Fort Benjamin's Blossoms Garden Club Barb McEvoy will present on making pictures with dried flowers and other natural materials. Barb is a member of the Hamilton County Artist's Association. She makes pictures and jewelry and has won awards for her work. 1:00 p.m., Benjamin Harrison YMCA, 5736 Lee Road, Indianapolis. Contact snsmls@aol.com for questions. (Next meeting March 2, same time and place.)

Thursday, February 2 Friends of White River Annual Meeting Learn about the newest feature at White River State Park, the Urban Wilderness Trail, and hear a presentation on invasive milfoil, a plant causing problems all across the nation, which will be of interest to anyone who has found boating, fishing, and other recreation severely hampered on the waterway during recent seasons. You'll also learn about Friends activities and have an opportunity to win raffle prizes and support the work we're doing throughout Central Indiana. 7:00 p.m., Riviera Club, 5640 N. Illinois Street, Indianapolis ([map](#)). A buffet is available prior to the program portion for \$13. (Please [email our executive director](#) if you plan to eat.) A cash bar also will be available. <https://friendsofwhiteriver.org/>

Monday, February 6 Herb Society of Central Indiana Derek Weaver, certified herbalist and herb room manager with Good Earth Natural Food Stores, will present "Talking Mushrooms with a Fun Guy." He will share his passion for natural living and practical healing. Public welcome. Herbie refreshments included. 6:45 p.m., John Hensel Government Center, 10701 N. College Avenue, Indianapolis. Contact 317-253-9381 or visit www.herbsocietyofcentralindiana.org.

Monday, February 6 Habitat Creation Workshop (Carmel) Learn how you can create a habitat for Monarch butterflies in your yard, church, business, or neighborhood common area. Learn how to plan

your project, maintenance considerations, financial assistance and more. Hosted by Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District, Hamilton County Urban Conservation Association, and Hamilton County Parks & Recreation Dept. 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Cool Creek Nature Center, 2000-1 East 151st Street, Carmel. Register at 317-774-2500 or by writing cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov.

Friday, February 10 Interfaith Eco-Film Series *The Last Mountain* In the valleys of Appalachia, a battle is being fought with severe consequences that affect every American, a battle that has taken many lives and continues to do so. It is a battle over protecting our health and environment from the destructive power of Big Coal. *The Last Mountain* tells the story of Coal River Valley, West Virginia, where a small but passionate group of ordinary citizens worked to stop Big Coal from continuing the devastating practice of Mountain Top Removal. [View the trailer](#) The Interfaith Eco-Film Series is co-sponsored by All Souls Unitarian, Cross and Crown Lutheran, Epworth United Methodist, and First Friends Quaker Meeting, along with the Heartlands Group of the Sierra Club. All films are free of charge, though free-will donations are accepted. Complimentary snacks and soft drinks provided. 7:00 p.m., First Friends Meeting, 3030 E. Kessler Boulevard, Indianapolis. Address questions to epworthgreenteam@gmail.com.

Friday, February 10 thru March 5 Orchids: Cultivating Beauty Find exotic orchids in bloom around the IMA this month. Escape the winter chill inside the Madeline F. Elder Greenhouse, a living gallery space that will transform into a tropical paradise with hundreds of exotic orchids filling each room with bold colors. New this year, the captivating orchid spectacle continues in the historic Lilly House and the galleries. As guests stroll through the mansion, stunning orchid displays and fragrances will fill each room on the first floor. The orchid experience continues in the IMA Alliance Gallery with the [Lilly Collection of Orchids in Watercolors](#) exhibition. Orchids will be available for purchase at the Pop-Up Shop in the Bret Waller Gallery located inside the main museum building, where IMA staff and volunteers will be on hand to share advice on orchid care. Orchids: Cultivating Beauty is included with general admission and free for IMA members. Indianapolis Museum of Art, 4000 N. Michigan Road, Indianapolis. To learn more, visit <http://www.imamuseum.org/exhibition/orchids-cultivating-beauty>.

Saturday, February 11 IMA Horticulture Symposium 2017: The Garden Reimagined Join horticulture experts to explore a hybrid of wild and cultivated design strategies at the Indianapolis Museum of Art's annual day-long symposium. Find inspiration, take risks, and use tried-and-true favorites to reimagine old spaces. Discover powerful alternatives to traditional plantings, the quintessential spring flowering tree, and other favorites to create diverse, resilient, beautiful, ecologically sound landscapes. Fees: \$95 Members / \$90 IMA Horticultural Society Members / \$110 Public / \$55 Students. Breakfast and lunch provided. 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Deer Zink Events Pavilion, Indianapolis Museum of Art, 4000 N. Michigan Road, Indianapolis. Program details and ticket purchase at <http://www.imamuseum.org/hortsymposium2017>.

Tuesday, February 14 Amos Butler Audubon The Secret Love Life of Birds Deception? Fidelity? Promiscuity? These words are not typically associated with the mating behavior of birds. But the amorous avian world is much more complex than our naturalist forefathers would have believed. Join speakers Will & John Schaust as they share recent research about the pair-bonding strategies of birds through some fascinating facts and humorous analogies to our own crazy courtship behaviors. Will Schaust is Assistant Manager at the Ornithology Center at Eagle Creek Park, and his dad John is Chief Naturalist for Wild Birds Unlimited. 7:30 p.m., Holliday Park Nature Center, 6363 Spring Mill Road. www.amosbutleraudubon.org

Wednesday, February 15 Let Your Voice Be Heard (Carmel) The Hoosier Environmental Council will explore what is happening to our environmental programs and policies on a national and state level. Learn about emerging developments in the Indiana Legislature & Congress and why your voice is needed now more than ever. Exec. Director Jesse Kharbanda will provide information on how to protect our planet and how you can actively take part. Amanda Shepherd, Senior Outreach Associate, will talk about being an advocate for the environment. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Carmel Clay Public Library, 55 4th Avenue Southeast, Carmel. RSVP [here](#).

Thursday, February 16 Hamilton County SWCD Annual Meeting and Workshop (Noblesville) Enjoy education sessions on Pest Management in Cover Crops, Indiana Plant Parasitic Nematodes, Introduction to Urban Agriculture, and Seed Starting Basics. A Soil & Water Conservation District board member will be elected and we will review SWCD activities and enjoy a delicious hot lunch. Fee \$12 includes lunch. 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Hamilton County 4-H Exhibition Center, 2003 Pleasant Street, Noblesville. Register **by February 9** at [https://www.hamiltonswcd.org/store/p12/Annual Meeting Registration.html](https://www.hamiltonswcd.org/store/p12/Annual+Meeting+Registration.html).

Wednesday, February 22 Veggie Gardening 101 (Brownsburg) Learn how to pick a garden site, prepare the ground, select seeds or plants, when to plant, watering, and use of mulch to hold down the weeds. We start with cool weather vegetables, some of which are planted in March. Hear hints to make the whole process fun and easy. Master Gardener Colletta Kosiba will relate some funny happenings. Gardening is the nation's number one pastime. Free. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Brownsburg Library, 450 S. Jefferson, Brownsburg. Call 317-852-3167 if you have questions.

Thursday–Saturday, February 23–25 Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired Houseplant Sale Fill your house with soul-nourishing leaves for the last days of winter. Houseplants, succulents, dish gardens, terrariums, and hanging baskets will be available. Thursday & Friday, noon to 5:00 p.m.; Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; Greenhouse at the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, 7725 N. College Avenue, Indianapolis. Contact Elizabeth Garvey at 317-253-1481 ext. 219 for more information.

Saturdays, March 4 and 11 Maple Syrup Days and Pancake Breakfast at McCloud Nature Park (Hendricks County) See how maple syrup is made and enjoy maple syrup on your pancakes! We need volunteers to assist in teaching visitors about the maple syrup process, and flipping and serving pancakes. If you can help, email Sarah at volunteer@hcparks.net. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., McCloud Nature Park, 8518 Hughes Road, North Salem. Info at <http://www.hendrickscountyparks.org/programs/71-maple-syrup-days>.

Monday, March 6 Herb Society of Central Indiana Learn about “The Herb of the Year: Cilantro/Coriander.” Ever wanted to learn how an herb came about, its history and how to grow your herb, as well as harvest it? And then what to do with your herb after you’ve harvested it? If so this is the place to be. Members will present information on the propagation/cultivation, culinary and medicinal uses of the herb as well as its history. Join us for a fun and educational night. Public welcome. Refreshments at 6:30 p.m.; speaker at 7:00 p.m., John Hensel Clay Center Government Center, 10701 N. College Avenue, Indianapolis. Contact 317-253-9381 or visit www.herbsocietyofcentralindiana.org.

Events at Garfield Park Dancing Waters: Crafted Glass Fountains and More: Thru February 11. Enjoy the tropical Conservatory this winter and see an art show like you’ve never seen. Each unique piece of art is made of repurposed items and constructed by Dennis and Daniel Baar of Two of a Kind Studio.

Mon-Sat: 10am-5pm and Sun 1-5 p.m.; \$4 per person or \$10 per family (2 adult max.). **Spring Bulb Show:** It's springtime at the Garfield Conservatory! Come see our stunning display of tulips and other spring blooms. March 3-10, Mon-Sat: 10am-5pm and Sun 1-5pm. Bulb Sale: March 11 at 10am \$4 per person or \$10 per family (2 adults max.) **Bonsai 101:** Join instructors from the Indianapolis Bonsai Club and dive into the basics of this unique form of art. A workshop will be included with the program on Saturday, April 8. Trees and supplies will be available for purchase. Wednesdays, Mar. 1, Apr. 5, May 3, Jun. 7; 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. \$20 per person. Ages: Adult. Register at www.indy.gov/playindy. **Herbal Teas Workshop:** March 11, adult workshop, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Making and blending herbal teas. We will also speak about herb of the year, coriander/cilantro, and the April Herb Symposium. Reservations required, limited; call 317-327-7184. Garfield Park Conservatory and Gardens, 2505 Conservatory Drive, Indianapolis. www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org

CALL TO ACTION Protect Solar Energy Jobs, Defeat Senate Bill 309 *From Hoosier Environmental Council:* You have the right to harvest the sunshine on our own property, but this bill would make it illegal. Solar is becoming much more affordable as the price for solar panels drop. The number of solar owners in Indiana has increased 300% in 5 years. And there are over 1 million solar installations countrywide. But SB 309, written by the Utility Lobby, would make home-grown clean energy unaffordable for Hoosiers and kill Indiana's emerging solar sector and jobs. Help us defend your solar rights. SB 309 will be heard Thursday, February 2, in the [Senate Utilities Committee](#) at the statehouse. Please contact your state senator before Wed. Feb 1, 10:00 p.m. Let him/her know you're a constituent and ask him/her to "VOTE NO" on SB 309 to protect solar rights. Let him/her know why this is important to you and be sure to include your name and address. [Click here to find your state senator](#) More about this issue from HEC: [Defend Indiana's Solar Incentives](#)



CALL TO ACTION Support Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) for State Wildflower The Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society is mounting a campaign to name Swamp Milkweed as our State Wildflower. It won't replace the State Flower, the Peony (of Asian origin), but will give equal attention to a native plant that's beautiful and good for Monarch butterflies. State senator Vaneta Becker has submitted a bill to that end, SB 470, but she wants to hear a groundswell of support from the public. Please call or write Sen. Becker, Sen. Long, and your own senator and representative and tell them you support naming Swamp Milkweed as State Wildflower. Find a plant description and talking points here: <http://www.inpaws.org/2017/inpaws-campaigning-for-indiana-state-wildflower/> and <http://www.inpaws.org/2017/butterfly-milkweed-asclepias-tuberosa/>. Find contact info for your legislators at <http://iga.in.gov/>.

Save the Date Understanding Native Pollinators and Their Needs (Bloomington) Join us Thursday March 30 at the [Monroe County Convention Center](#) on for an in-depth look at native pollinators. Speakers include [Heather Holm](#), [Jim McCormac](#), [Kevin Tungesvick](#), and [Natalie Marinova](#). Topics include: Pollination of Native Plants, Pollinator Nectar Sources for All Seasons, Lepidoptera and Their Larval Food Plants, Common Native Bees, Establishing a Low-Stature Forb-Rich Prairie for Pollinators and Grassland Birds, Funding Sources for Pollinator Planting Projects, and Establishment & Maintenance of Pollinator Habitat (Round-table Discussion). Email [Mary](#) to get added to our email list for conference updates. Registration begins February 16 at <http://ecologicindiana.com/understanding-native-pollinators-and->

[their-needs/](#). Sponsored by Eco Logic LLC and Spence Restoration Nursery.

Save the Date Herb Society of Central Indiana Spring Herb Symposium This year's symposium will be held April 8 at the Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds. It will be a day of fun, education, multiple vendors, large silent auction, plants and more. The featured herb of the year is Coriander/Cilantro. Register by April 3 [here](#).

Bird Hikes Eagle Creek Park: 6515 Delong Road, Indianapolis. Every Sunday year-round, 9:00 a.m. Meet at the Ornithology Center. Information 317-327-2473. **Beginning Bird Hikes at Cool Creek Park:** 2000 East 151st Street, Carmel. 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m., and every other Saturday, at 9:00 a.m. Meet in the parking lot at the bottom of the road by Cool Creek, past the Nature Center. Information 317-774-2500 or www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com **Strawtown Koteewi Park:** 12308 Strawtown Avenue, Noblesville. First Wednesday of each month, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Meet at the Taylor Center of Natural History. Information 317-774-2574 or www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com.

Garden Travel Springtime in Arizona with Mark Zelonis: (Last call) Journey west to revel in the warmth, excitement, and spectacular majesty of the Sonoran Desert. March 16–22, 2017. [Trip details and pricing](#) **Gardens & Natural Wonders of Panama with Cole Burrell:** Panama is a paradise for nature-lovers, gardeners, birders, and tropical enthusiasts. Join Cole Burrell for an unforgettable exploration of the rich diversity of plant life, birds, butterflies, mammals, and reptiles. July 11–22, 2017. [Trip details and pricing](#)

Photo Notes I couldn't resist posting this lush garden pictured in the Indianapolis Museum of Art's promotions for their February 11 Horticulture Symposium. The day-long [event](#) focuses on design this year and draws upon experts from Chicago Botanic Garden, Chanticleer, Arrowhead Alpines, North Creek Nurseries, and the IMA's own Horticulture Director Jonathan Wright. See you there!

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. Your supporting donation gratefully accepted at 6911 Cabernet Way, Indianapolis, IN 46278, check made out to Wendy Ford. *Many thanks to Jo Ellen Meyers Sharp and Sara Zeckel for your generous contributions.*