



HortusScope | What's Up in the Central Indiana

Gardening Community | [Photo courtesy Missouri Botanical Garden](#)

CALL TO ACTION Defend Indiana's Solar Incentives! *Update from Carmel Green Initiative:* Senate Bill 309 passed out of the House Utilities Committee on Wednesday with an 8-5 vote, and moves to a full House vote possibly as early as Monday, April 3rd. If signed into law, SB309 would take away your right to harness the sunshine on your property and get fair credit for energy contributed to the grid. It arbitrarily sets the compensation rate at 1.25 times wholesale, which is significantly below its true market value. Many studies in other states have shown the market value of rooftop solar is often more than retail, 3 to 4 times the wholesale rate. This anti-solar bill effectively shifts the economic benefits of free solar energy away from the free market and gives it exclusively to the monopoly utilities. This is a very bad deal for Hoosiers. **What You Can Do:** Contact your state representative TODAY and [him or her](#) to vote "No" on SB 309. [More about this issue](#)

Now through May 31 Spring Kickoff at the IMA Experience the IMA campus as never before when the gardens come alive with a quarter of a million blooms for [Spring Blooms: Celebration of Color](#). Take in the scenery and sip on a drink in the new family-friendly Beer Garden just outside the Madeline F. Elder Greenhouse. Enjoy the gardens during our regular museum hours, as well as newly expanded hours in the gardens and Beer Garden on Thursday through Saturday evenings until 9:00 p.m. Experience [Audubon: Drawn to Nature](#), an exhibition featuring the lifelike drawings by John James Audubon. Bring the whole family to explore and learn more about birds from different regional areas. Guests can expand their Audubon experience with observation guide books and compare their "wingspan" to that of popular species. The adventure continues outdoors with selfie stations of replica birds perched on benches, a life-size eagle's nest in Alice's Garden, and bird viewing stations. Continue your exploration with [Paula McCartney: Bird Watching](#). Cost included in general admission and free for IMA members. Indianapolis Museum of Art, 4000 Michigan Road, Indianapolis. (See also April 29-30 Perennial Premiere below.)

Monday, April 3 Herb Society of Central Indiana Hannah Coats, owner of Growing Places Indy, will talk about herbs and microgreens and her business. Starting with a single garden in White River State Park in the summer of 2010, GPI now manages four urban farm sites totaling 1.5 acres, and has helped numerous other gardens and urban farms take root in Indianapolis. They now serve more than 40 Indianapolis restaurants and grocers and have an annual Vegetable Subscription Program (CSA) for 20-30 households. 6:45 to 9:00 p.m., John Hensel Clay Government Center, 10701 N. College Avenue, Indianapolis. Contact 317-253-9381 or visit www.herbsocietyofcentralindiana.org.

Tuesday, April 4 Indiana Daylily-Iris Society Presentation on daylilies by Scott Elliott, Maneki Neko Gardens, Georgia. 6:30 p.m., First Friends Church parlor, 3030 Kessler Blvd, East Drive, Indianapolis. www.indianadaylilyirissociety.org

Thursday, April 6 Fort Benjamin's Blossoms Garden Club Melissa Moran from the Nature Conservancy will present on the "Children of Indiana Nature Park," whose goal it is to get more kids out into nature. Guests are welcome. 1:00 p.m., Benjamin Harrison YMCA, 5736 Lee Road, Indianapolis. (Next meeting May 4, same time and place.)

Saturday, April 8 Herb Society of Central Indiana Spring Herb Symposium: Duet in C The “duet” refers to the herb of the year, Coriander/Cilantro. Chefs Regina Mehallick and Cathy Richardson will demonstrate the preparation of savory dishes and pastry using coriander seed and cilantro leaves. Mark and Karen Langan of Mulberry Creek Herb Farm will talk about different types of cilantro, their growing habits, and how to keep them from flowering. Holistic Health Practitioner and Master Herbalist Delores Weis will speak on herbs and vitamins and oils on the medicinal side. Kim Galeaz, culinary nutritionist and registered dietician and a regular on Indy Style, Channel 8 and Fox 59, will discuss current food trends, what’s hot and what’s not. It will be a day of fun, education, multiple vendors, large silent auction, plants and more. 9:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m., Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds, 2003 Pleasant Street, Noblesville. Register by April 3 [here](#). [Website](#) [Facebook page](#)

Saturday, April 8 Friends of White River Downtown White River Cleanup The targeted sites are on the banks of the river corridor close to the city center. An on-site pizza lunch will be provided for all registrants. Register today, space is limited as a result of outstanding response to our Facebook page posting and the announcement on our web site. Why not make your own donation to support other cleanups we are planning for later this spring and summer? [Contributions to Friends](#) are tax-deductible and let us conduct activities throughout the entire year! 8:00 a.m. to noon. Sign-in and staging will be at the parking lot for Republic Distributing ([Google Map](#)). Please [register now through EventBrite](#).

Saturday, April 8 Boone County MG Gardenfest (Lebanon) This 31st annual festival features vendors offering flowering plants, herbs, hostas, succulents, gifts, and more. Speakers: 10:00 a.m., Master Gardener Myrene Brown on “The Good, Bad and Ugly of Indiana Wildflowers”; 11:30 a.m., Amy Mullen, Spotts Garden Center, on “Edible Landscapes”; 1:00 p.m., Master Gardener Jane Diedrich on “Moths and Native Trees.” Also on tap, a Garden Café with sandwiches and homemade desserts, a sale of used tools and garden items, kids’ activities, soil pH testing, door prizes, and Q&A. Free native tree seedlings to first 300 attendees. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Farm Bureau Community Building, Boone County 4-H Fairgrounds, Lebanon (I-65 at Exit 138). www.bccn.boone.in.us/mg

Sunday, April 9 Iris Growers of Eastern Indiana (Muncie) Thomas Tomlinson presents “Preparing Iris for Iris Shows.” 1:30 p.m., Minnetrista, 1200 North Minnetrista Parkway, Muncie.

Monday, April 10 Indianapolis Hosta Society Think Outside the Hosta Joseph Tychonievich, author of *Rock Gardening: Re-imagining a Classic Style* and *Plant Breeding for the Home Gardener: How to Create Unique Vegetables and Flowers*, will expand our horizon to a wide range of other great perennials for the shade garden. Free and open to the public. 6:30 p.m., Holliday Park Nature Center, 6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis. www.indianapolishostasociety.org

Friday, April 14 Interfaith Eco-Film Series Bidder 70 “The choice you are making today is what side are you on” is the theme of *Bidder 70*, which centers on an extraordinary, ingenious, effective act of civil

disobedience demanding government and industry accountability. In 2008, University of Utah economics student Tim DeChristopher committed an act which would redefine patriotism in our time, igniting a spirit of civil disobedience in the name of climate justice. Winner of 20 major film festival awards. [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.

Saturday, April 22 Hendricks County MG Gardening for All Ages (Danville) Have you ever wanted to start a garden but were unsure how? Now's the time to find out as the Hendricks County Master Gardeners offer four free "Gardening 101" sessions during this event. Morning sessions include "Cool Weather Gardening" and "Warm Weather Gardening" with Colletta Kosiba; a panel discussion on "Hints, Kinks, and FAQs"; and "Site Preparation and Raised Beds" where, weather permitting, attendees will visit the new demonstration garden at the fairgrounds. Afternoon sessions include "The Savage Garden" (growing carnivorous plants) and "Attracting Backyard Birds." The event will have over 60 garden-related vendors with plants, garden décor, bird-watching supplies, and advice to make this year's garden your best ever. Free tree saplings to first 500 attendees. Master Gardeners will be available to answer gardening questions. A vegetable-themed children's booth will have crafts and educational activities. Free flower and vegetable seeds will be available. Stream Cuisine (a local favorite from Danville's Courthouse Grounds) will have breakfast, lunch, snacks and drinks available for purchase. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds & Conference Complex, 1900 E. Main Street, Danville. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/HendricksCountyinMasterGardeners or www.hendricksgardeners.com or call 317-745-9260.

Saturday, April 22 Tippecanoe MG Association 12th Annual Garden Expo (Lafayette) The event includes more than 24 vendors and non-profit groups, an excellent plant sale, and children's activities. Speakers are Melinda Appold presenting "Prairie Plants of Prophetstown: How to Incorporate These Native Gems into Landscape Design"; and Kathryn Reeves and Michael Hathaway presenting "Sticks & Stems: Propagation with Stem Cuttings." Free and open to the public. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds, 1010 Teal Road, Lafayette. For more information call the Extension Office at 765-474-0793.

Saturday & Sunday, April 22 & 23 Orchid Show at Garfield Park Stroll through our tropical conservatory with hundreds of stunningly beautiful orchids on display. Orchid vendors will have select varieties for sale as well as growing supplies. \$4 per person or \$10 per family (2 adults max.) 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Garfield Park Conservatory & Sunken Garden, 2505 Conservatory Drive, Indianapolis. Full list of Conservatory programs at <https://www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org/programsevents>.

Friday, April 28 thru Saturday, May 20 Native Plants Unlimited Plant Sale This Friday kicks off a three-week sale featuring a wide variety of 100% native plants and wildflowers for residents of central Indiana. NPU uses select native plant growers to ensure the highest quality plants, true to species. Sale hours: Monday thru Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Saturday, 10:00 to 5:00 p.m.; Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Held at Geist Nursery, 9890 Mollenkopf Road, Fishers. <http://www.nativeplantsunlimited.com/plantsale.htm>

Saturday, April 29 Madison County MG Indiana Garden School V Join us for a day of education, entertainment, and "make and take" workshops. Speakers are Colleta Kosiba – 101 Landscaping Ideas;

Jen Rankin – Palette Pleasing Pallets; Ronda Hamm – Pest or Beneficial; Megan Dillon – 10 Ways to Manage for Wildlife & Native plants; and Jo Ellen Meyers Sharp – Edible Landscaping. Workshops (\$5.00 per class) include vermi-composting, tissue paper roll wall art, and old fence wood signs. Seminar fee of \$35.00 includes continental breakfast, lunch, and refreshments. Sign in from 7:30-8:30 a.m., Madison County 4-H Fairground Building, 512 East 4th Street, Alexandria. For further information contact Sylvia at sfinney5215@hotmail.com.

Saturday & Sunday, April 29 & 30 Perennial Premiere at the IMA Come purchase plants you can't get anywhere else, from perennials and annuals to tropical, herbal, and house plants. Along with rare and beautiful plants, IMA's horticulture staff will answer all your planting questions. Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to noon, members only; noon to 5:00 p.m., open to the public. Sunday, noon to 4:00 p.m. or until sold out, all plants will go on sale for 50% off. Newfield Lawn, Indianapolis Museum of Art, 4000 N. Michigan Road, Indianapolis. www.imamuseum.org

Saturday & Sunday, April 29 & 30 Indianapolis Garden Club Show Les Belles Fleurs Through the Looking Glass The Indianapolis Museum of Art and The Indianapolis Garden Club, in collaboration with the IMA Horticultural Society, present whimsical and original floral displays and horticultural exhibits inspired by the Lewis Carroll classic and staged within an enchanting setting designed by Toomie Farris, president of McNamara Florist. Displays will focus on flowers and elements from nature, and will compete for local and national awards in several divisions, including floral design, photography, horticulture, and conservation. The conservation education exhibit will highlight the importance of bees as pollinators and show how to rebuild their natural habitats by establishing key plants in our Indiana gardens. The purpose of the flower show is to set standards for artistic and horticultural excellence and to broaden knowledge in these areas for members and the public. Admission is free with paid admission to the IMA or with IMA membership. Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5:00 p.m. Deer Zink Special Events Pavilion, Indianapolis Museum of Art, 4000 Michigan Road, Indianapolis. www.imamuseum.org

Monday, May 1 thru Saturday, May 13 Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired Plant Sale One of Broad Ripple's best kept secrets is the greenhouse at ISVBI. Students enrolled in the Horticulture Program, along with Master Gardener volunteers and the horticulture teacher, tend the greenhouse, growing and propagating plants. Four times a year we hold a sale which is open to the public. This sale includes annuals, perennials, herbs, hanging baskets, native plants, and vegetables (including heirloom varieties). We accept cash or checks but not credit cards. Weekdays noon to 5:00 p.m., Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., closed Sundays. Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, 7725 N. College Avenue, Indianapolis. Contact 317-253-1481 ext. 207.

Wednesday, May 3 Indiana Daylily-Iris Society Tropical Butterfly Adventures Around the World Presentation by Mark Druckenbrod, Cleveland Botanical Garden, followed by NCAP Daylily Distribution by John Everitt & Dan Howell. 6:30 p.m., First Friends Church parlor, 3030 Kessler Blvd, East Drive, Indianapolis. www.indianadaylilyirissociety.org

Friday & Saturday, May 5 & 6 Hancock County Herb Society & MG Association Plant Sale (Greenfield) Get expert advice and select from a large array of plant choices. The Herb Society offers a variety of culinary, medicinal, decorative, and craft-use herbs, along with home-grown perennials and vegetable plants. Master Gardener choices include an extensive variety of perennials, vegetable and house plants, tree starts and geraniums. Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Hancock County Fairgrounds, 4-H Show Arena, 620 N. Apple Street (southwest corner of Apple and Park Streets), Greenfield. For more information, call Carolyn (HCHS) at 317-326-2274 (www.facebook.com/HerbiesofHancockCounty) or Jane (HCMGA) at 317-861-8145 (<http://hancockmga.com>).

Saturday, May 6 13th Annual Garden Celebration Creating a Pollinator's Paradise (Franklin)

Sponsored by the Johnson County Garden Club and Purdue Master Gardeners. Featured will be 40+ flower, plant, and garden-art vendors. Educational seminars include "What's the Buzz about Honeybees?" at 9:30 a.m. by Roger Graham. At 11:00 a.m. Christena Taylor of Eco Logic LLC of Bloomington will present "Native Plants for a Pollinator Paradise." Eco Logic specializes in natural area assessment, ecological restoration, GIS mapping, and stormwater management. Seed packets along with tree saplings (tulip, black gum, sugar maple and button bush) will be given away, first-come first-served. New this year will be garden-related family activities. Breakfast and lunch available for purchase. Admission is \$2.00 at the door. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Scott Hall, 250 Fairground Street, Johnson County Fairgrounds, Franklin. Questions? Visit Johnson County Garden Club's Facebook page or email jcgardenclub@gmail.com.

Tuesday, May 9 Herb Society of Central Indiana Lindsay Potter, program manager for Random Acts of Flowers Indy, will provide an overview of their organization. The non-profit works to improve the emotional health and wellbeing of individuals in healthcare facilities by delivering recycled flowers, hope, and encouragement. The group offers many volunteer opportunities. Members and guests are asked to bring any spare vases to gift to the organization. Refreshments 6:30; program at 6:45 p.m., Clay Township Government Center, 751 E 108th Street, Indianapolis. <http://herbsocietyofcentralindiana.org/>

Saturday, May 13 INPAWS Native Plant Sale & Auction: Planting an Invasive-Free Landscape

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 biologist/botanist Dawn Slack, who works as a land steward for The Nature Conservancy and chairs the Invasive Plant Advisory Committee for the Indiana Invasive Species Council. Dawn will talk about the role invasive plants play in our environment, and the importance of replacing them with Indiana native plants. 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). <http://www.inpaws.org/gatherings/native-plant-sale-auction/>

Events at Holliday Park Garden and Grow Workshops: Join a team of volunteers to work with horticulturalists Chris Turner and Kelly Frank to assure our many gardens remain an asset to Holliday Park. Each session, Chris or Kelly will spend 30 minutes addressing a garden topic or answering your questions. The remainder of the time will be spent working. Free. April 7, 15, 21 and 29, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. **Indiana State Daffodil Show:** Friday, April 21, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, April 22, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. **Indianapolis Hosta Society:** Join IHS for their monthly programs on shade gardening. Free. Monday, April 10, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. **Spring Wildflower Hike:** Join Norma Wallman, author of Wildflowers of Holliday Park, for a leisurely hike to see what's blooming. Saturday, April 8, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. \$6/person, pre-registration required. **Indiana Daylily/Iris Society:** IDIS is a group dedicated to the promotion of daylilies and iris and presents exciting programs, shows and sales that are open to the public. Tuesday, April 4, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Holliday Park, 6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis. 317-327-7180, www.hollidaypark.org

Landscape History Anyone? As landscape historian Jonathan Pliska has documented in his new book, *A Garden for the President: A History of the White House Grounds*, those grounds aren't just the lawns around the nation's most famous home. They're a historic treasure in their own right, shaped by U.S. presidents and their families over the past two centuries to suit their tastes and the times—from John Quincy Adams digging in the dirt to conduct horticulture experiments, to Richard Nixon hosting daughter Tricia's wedding in the Rose Garden, to Michelle Obama creating a kitchen garden. The book is published by the White House Historical Association to mark the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, which maintains the 18.7-acre property. Pliska traces the site from its birth as a mess of construction rubble to what we see today, based on famed landscape architect Frederick Olmstead Jr.'s thoughtful, judicious guidelines. <http://shop.whitehousehistory.org/a-garden-for-the-president>

Seeds for Beginners **IndyPL Seed Library** The Glendale Branch of Indianapolis Public Library is beginning its third season of sharing seeds with would-be gardeners, and Spades Park Branch is also opening an IndyPL Seed Library. You'll need a library card to be able to check out seeds. Learn more about the Seed Library at http://www.imcpl.org/IndyPL_SeedLibrary.

Native Plant Kits Available Support Mission Monarch and take the guesswork out of your landscaping by purchasing one of Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District's native plant kits. Each kit contains 50 native plants for \$120 and takes the guesswork out of plant selection by providing a set of plants that will be perfect for your yard. There is a kit for any area of your landscape including pollinator garden, rain garden (for wetter areas), prairie garden, and shade garden. Each kit contains 10 different perennial species of native plants and can fill a space anywhere from 50 to 150 square feet. Plant kit orders can be placed online at www.hamiltonswcd.org or by visiting the SWCD office at 1717 Pleasant Street in Noblesville. Orders and payment are due **by April 29**. The plant kits will be available for pickup at the SWCD office in mid-May. All proceeds support conservation projects and education in Hamilton County. More information on native plants can be found at <http://www.hamiltonswcd.org>. More info on Mission Monarch activities can be found at www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com. Direct questions to Claire.lane@hamiltoncounty.in.gov or 317-773-2181.

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 **Early Autumn in Oregon with Mark Zelonis:** Join Indy's own Mark Zelonis on September 13 -19, 2017, to see why many consider Oregon to be one of the most attractive places in the US to live, work, and play. Highlights include: The Oregon Garden, featuring the designs and plants of the state's many expert nurserymen; historic Deepwood Gardens, an early 20th century estate designed by the firm of Lord-Schryver; a visit to Swan Island Dahlias, whose fields should be in peak bloom; Portland's International Rose Test Garden, Japanese Garden, and Lan Su Classical Chinese Garden - all considered to be among the best of their type in the country; historic Pittock Mansion with its eagle-eye view of the city of Portland; and a special day-long tour through the spectacular Columbia River Gorge; and an opportunity to tour Cherry Hill Winery, owned by Jan and Michael Sweeney of Indianapolis. Book before April 1 and save \$100. Limited to 25 participants. Call 317-913-0387 to register. **Ring Around Paris with Garden Travelers Ron & Linda Williams:** Although Paris is wonderful, the area around Paris is

often done in a day, and many of the great gardens close to Paris are missed because you need to rent a car. We have decided to skip Paris and focus on the area around Paris, the Loire Valley, and Brittany. We will visit the top spots like Villandry, Chateau Fontainebleau, and Chantilly but also include the private or semi-private sites that make this “the trip of a lifetime.” Sept. 30-Oct. 11, 2017. Contact info@gardentravelers.com for a complete itinerary and visit our [Facebook page](#).

Photo Notes *Sanguinaria canadensis*, aka bloodroot, is one Indiana native wildflower that seems happy in my yard. In the wild, it typically blooms in rich woods and along streams. Guess all the years of adding organic matter to my clay soil have paid off, for the few I purchased have self-seeded throughout my shady patches. The flowers last just a day or two, but they bring a welcome touch of the spring woodland to my suburban lot. I’ll be digging some to bring to the May 13 INPAWS Annual Plant Sale & Auction. The photo is courtesy of Missouri Botanical Garden, my favorite online gardening resource.

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. *Thank you Johnson County Garden Club for your generous contribution.*