



HortusScope | What's Up in the Central

Indiana Gardening Community | [Mandala courtesy zenmoments.org](https://zenmoments.org)

Welcome to HortusScope 2018, our thirteenth year of posting news and events for the Central Indiana gardening community. We're now a community of more than 1500 subscribers! Please continue to send me details of your gardening events and environmental efforts, and let's roll up our sleeves to make this a fruitful and satisfying year.

Wednesday, January 3 Wild and Crazy Nature This interactive slide show is specially designed to show nature in an amusing light. The bonus is we will be reviewing our knowledge to pass along to those we touch in our work in Eagle Creek Park. Birds, bugs, animals, plants—they're all there for you to see! Some of the photos are just begging you to give them a title! Presented by Colletta Kosiba, Indiana Master Naturalist. Free coffee talk. 8:30 a.m., Eagle Creek Park Earth Discovery Center, Indianapolis.

Through Sunday, January 7 Winterlights at Newfields A dazzling display featuring more than a million lights covering the trees and Lilly House lawn. Bring the whole family for a fun evening celebrating the holiday season. Save 20% and more when you buy tickets online. Members save an additional \$5. Access ticket sales here: (<https://discovernewfields.org/Checkout?filter=f|winter&page=listeventscaendar> Newfields (Indianapolis Museum of Art), 4000 Michigan Road, Indianapolis. <https://discovernewfields.org>.

Sunday, January 14 Herb Society of Central Indiana New Year Pitch-In No meeting, just food and friends. Bring a dish to share. Members only. 3:00 to 6:00 p.m., 7727 Mystic Bay Court, Indianapolis. <http://herbsocietyofcentralindiana.org/>

Wednesday, January 17 Great Plants for Shady Areas You planted wonderful trees to shade your house. Now you are wondering what to plant in the shade for color and texture. Hostas come to mind, good choice! But there are so many more choices. This presentation explores the array of other species that do well in low light: perennials such as bleeding hearts, corydalis, heucheras, lungworts, astilbes, hardy geraniums, and Solomon seals; ferns such as ostrich, Christmas, beech, and Japanese painted; bulbs like caladiums and surprise lilies; and annual impatiens, coleus, and begonias. Shade is not your

enemy. Learning compatible plants will insure a great outcome. Free. Presented by Colletta Kosiba, Gold 3000 Master Gardener. 6:30 p.m., Brownsburg Library, 450 S. Jefferson, Brownsburg, 317-852-3167.

Saturday, January 20 Indiana Organic Gardeners Association (IOGA) Speaker Kris Medic, Agriculture & Natural Resources and Community Development Educator for Purdue Extension in Bartholomew County, is an expert in landscape sustainability and arboriculture and author of *The New American Backyard*. Kris visited several organic farms in Maine and Vermont last year on a study trip and will give a presentation on her findings. Arrive at 10:45 a.m. for a pitch-in lunch at 11:00 (bring an organic or homemade dish to share and your own plate, silverware, and drink), followed by a gardening Q&A and a short business meeting. The speaker will begin at 1:10 p.m. The public is welcome. Franklin Road Branch of Indianapolis Public Library, 5550 S. Franklin Road, Indianapolis. For questions contact judithhouser@att.net.

Saturday, January 27 Hamilton County Master Gardener Association (Noblesville) 1st Central Indiana Seed Swap This event, created for seed enthusiasts and gardeners across North America, is going to be the next BIG annual seed swap to attend. Bring your native, heirloom, and open-pollinated varieties. Share ideas and experiences while learning from some of the best savers and growers out there. Bring your seeds, bring your friends, make new friends, and leave with your friends' seeds. This is a buy-sell-trade event, open to the public. 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Hamilton County Fairgrounds, 2003 Pleasant Street, Noblesville.

Monday, February 5 Herb Society of Central Indiana Join us for an Herbal Tea Party. The speaker is Alexandra Harris who, along with her husband Justin, owns a new tea shop in Broad Ripple, HoiTEA ToiTEA, as well as Nelson's Wholesale Teas which they started in 2012. "Alex" is a self-taught master custom tea blender with a strong curiosity to understand and teach the art and science of tea making. She will discuss tea blending, the benefits of blends, medicinal effects, and the use of flavorings versus natural tea, among other topics. Herb Society members will provide scrumptious tea-type foods for everyone in attendance. A meeting to take your mind off the winter blues—guests are welcome and tea samples will be provided. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., 10701 N. College Avenue, Indianapolis. <http://herbsocietyofcentralindiana.org/>

Thursday, February 15 Indiana Invasive Species Council Conference (Danville) Grassroots Networking and Resources to Manage Invasive Species in Indiana The focus for this biennial conference is to bring Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMAs) and Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs) together with other agencies and organizations that manage invasive species to strengthen existing focused and collaborative efforts and to empower statewide grassroots actions for effective invasive species management. Join us and learn who's doing what and why, new resources and tools and how together we can have a greater impact on invasive species management in Indiana and even the Midwest. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds & Conference Center, Danville. Registration is \$25 and can be completed online at <http://indianainvasivespecies.org>. For questions, email dawn.slack@tnc.org.

Wednesday, February 28 Using Native Plants in the Home Garden Hardy Indiana natives can turn your yard into a low-maintenance, beautiful garden that attracts birds and butterflies. Indiana Advanced Master Naturalist and Gold 3000 Master Gardener Colletta Kosiba will show the wide variety of easy-care, wonderful native plants that will 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: a slide show of native/non-native combinations in Colletta's own Hendricks County gardens. Free.

6:30 p.m., Brownsburg Library, 450 S. Jefferson, Brownsburg. For more info call 317-852-3167.

Giving Opps Letha's Youth Outdoors Fund Your donation helps to put underserved school children in touch with nature. The Indiana Native Plant & Wildflower Society sponsors this program to nurture the next generation of environmental stewards. [Donate](#) **Save Our Ashes** The Indiana Parks Alliance is working with Indiana State Parks and Nature Preserves to protect 100 mature, seed-producing ash trees in state parks and state-owned nature preserves across the state. To learn more and donate to the Save Our Ash Trees campaign, visit www.indianaparksalliance.org. **Central Indiana Land Trust** Invest in a strategic effort to protect the best of Central Indiana's natural areas. Every dollar you give stays in Indiana to ensure that Hoosiers today and tomorrow can enjoy and appreciate the state's natural heritage. [Donate](#)

Volunteer Opp Naturalist Training at Holliday Park If you are looking for an environmental volunteer opportunity and enjoy sharing the outdoors with others, then this is the place for you. Monthly training prepares volunteers to lead groups of children during school field trips and other environmental programs at the nature center. Ages 18+. Wednesdays: Jan. 3: Winter Wildlife; Feb. 7: Weathering & Erosion; Mar. 7: Trail Techniques; Apr. 4: Food Chains; May 2: Native Americans. Free. No registration required. 9:30 to 11:00 a.m., Holliday Park Nature Center, 6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis. Visit www.hollidaypark.org/volunteer.

New Funding Available Grasslands for Gamebirds & Songbirds Indiana DNR's Division of Fish & Wildlife has landed \$1 million from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to fund a new grassland and pollinator habitat development program that will benefit private landowners. The "Grasslands for Gamebirds & Songbirds" initiative, GGS for short, will employ three full-time "grassland biologists" to provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners seeking to improve their properties by developing grassland and pollinator habitat throughout focal regions of the state. This habitat development will benefit species such as bobwhite quail, ring-necked pheasant, Henslow's sparrow, and loggerhead shrike. "[I]ndiana landowners will receive assistance to install practices such as native grasses, pollinators, prescribed burns, tree plantings, and invasive species control that will increase declining bird populations," said Jane Hardisty, Indiana NRCS's state conservationist. If you are interested in participating in the GGS initiative, or if you'd like to support the effort, please visit wildlife.IN.gov/9467.htm. For more information, contact Josh Griffin, private lands program manager with DNR Fish & Wildlife, at 317-234-9737 or jgriffin@dnr.IN.gov. To view all DNR news releases, see dnr.IN.gov.

Temporary Employment Central Indiana Land Trust CILTI is seeking a Seasonal Field Assistant to help implement the day-to-day stewardship of its preserves and natural areas. Depending on weekly needs, this hourly position has the potential to work up to 30-40 hours a week on a flexible schedule. To apply, send a cover letter and resume to Operations Director Stacy Cachules at scachules@conservingindiana.org. Download job description [here](#).

Apply Now KIB GreenKids Outdoor Classroom Program Did you know the average American child spends 7.5 hours per day in front of a screen? Keep Indianapolis Beautiful is countering this growing epidemic through its GreenKids program, a two-year partnership between KIB and a school, during which time KIB will help build an outdoor classroom right on school grounds for students to experience. The outdoor classroom will consist of a native plant garden, a fruit tree orchard, and a nature play area, each area supplemented with environmental education programming. These three spaces further KIB's

mission of helping people and nature thrive. Find an information packet and online application at <http://www.kibi.org/programs/youth-programming/greenkids/>.

Advocate for the Planet Climate Solutions Caucus Carmel's Green Initiative urges you to ask your representative about the bipartisan [Climate Solutions Caucus](https://www.facebook.com/Carmel-Green-Initiative-151779035744/), which it sees as our best hope for bipartisan climate action at the national level. <https://www.facebook.com/Carmel-Green-Initiative-151779035744/>

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 Southern Comfort Garden Tour with Mark Zelonis, April 2 to 6 Journey south by coach to Tennessee and Kentucky to enjoy the best of Nashville & Lexington gardens in the heart of music and horse country. Mark Zelonis, who has spent his entire career directing beautiful gardens including Fuller Gardens, Blithewold Mansion, and the Indianapolis Museum of Art, will lead this tour. Details [here](#). Garden writer and designer **Cole Burrell** is hosting tours to Cuba, France, Brazil, and South Africa this year! Details at <http://ccolstonburrell.com/garden-and-nature-tours/current-tours.php>.

Photo Notes The mandala, or circle, evokes time's circular pattern of creation, flourishing, and destruction leading again to creation. Some see it as representing the spiritual universe and draw or color mandalas to reduce stress, connect deeply with themselves, and appreciate forms of beauty in the world (see www.mandalasforthesoul.com). This winter tree mandala (courtesy www.zenmoments.org) reminds me of the peace that comes with a walk in the woods, no matter the time of year. The Japanese call it *Shinrin-yoku* or "forest bathing." I'm going to need all the peace I can get in 2018! I resolve to work hard, tend my garden well, speak truth to power, and take walks in the woods. Happy New Year everyone.

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 Jo Ellen Meyers Sharp and Colletta Kosiba for your generous gifts!