



HortusScope | What's Up in the Central Indiana

Gardening Community | Photo by Carl Wilms for Indiana Audubon Society

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, HoI TEA ToI TEA, at [6283 N College Ave](#) 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, 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/>

Friday, February 9 Orchids at Newfields It's opening night for the orchid show, and from the Madeline F. Elder Greenhouse to Lilly House to the Indianapolis Museum of Art, these colorful and exotic plants will welcome guests with the first signs of spring. Escape the cold and discover colorful orchid varieties from around the world blooming inside the Greenhouse. Explore the historic Lilly House as orchids fill the rooms with colorful décor and intoxicating aromas and buy a plant (or two) to take home in the Pop-Up Shop inside the Museum. Included with admission and free for members. If you're interested in learning more about orchids, sign up for a class with our resident expert Ian Wilhite. Exhibit is open through March 4. www.discovernewfields.org

Saturday, February 10 Horticulture Symposium at Newfields Join fellow garden enthusiasts for an inspiring day of presentations on a wide range of horticultural topics from in-depth plant lectures to inspiring design ideas. Speakers: Michael Dosmann, Keeper of the Living Collections at Harvard University's Arnold Arboretum, is giving two talks: "Tales from the Plant Explorer" and "Do your Garden Plants have a Backstory?"; David Mattern, Assistant Horticulturist at Chanticleer Garden, "Vegetable Gardens: Plants, People and Food"; Patty Schneider, Horticulturist at The Garden at Newfields, "Design Evolution: Understanding a Garden Aesthetic." The symposium is developed by Newfields Horticulture Department. Newfields members: \$89; public: \$99; students: \$49. Lunch and light refreshments for breakfast are included in the ticket fee. 8:30 a.m., Newfields, 4000 N Michigan Road, Indianapolis. For more details and to register, visit <https://discovernewfields.org/calendar/horticulture-symposium>

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.

Thursday, February 15 Hamilton County Green Congregations Learn what congregations are doing to care for God's creation and how you can make a difference at your place of worship. 7:00 p.m., St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 4780 E 126th Street, Carmel.

Sunday, February 18 Why Native Plants? Learn about the advantages and importance of native plants in our yards and parks at this free event hosted by the Central Chapter of the Indiana Native Plant & Wildflower Society. Presenter Tom Hohman is past president of INPAWS and past president of the Central Chapter, serves on the board at both levels, and heads up the Central Chapter Invasive SWAT Team. A retired civil engineer from the Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources, he is also president of the Indiana Parks Alliance. Non-members are welcome! Social time and brief business meeting precede Tom's presentation. 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., Plainfield Library, 1120 Stafford Road, Plainfield.

Monday, February 19 Westfield Green Together A new environmental group is forming in Westfield! A guest speaker from the Hoosier Environmental Council will speak about Greening Your Community. 6:30 p.m., Westfield Washington Public Library, 333 West Hoover St., Westfield.

Thursday, February 22 Sustainable Living Seminar: Indiana's Path to Sustainability Janet McCabe, assistant director for IU Environmental Resilience Institute and senior law fellow at the Environmental Law & Policy Center, will share her vision of Indiana's path to sustainability: why we need one; what it might look like; and who will get us there. Jesse Kharbanda, Executive Director of the Hoosier Environmental Council, will also provide an update on key environmental bills at the Indiana State House this session. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Carmel Clay Public Library, 55 4th Ave SE, Carmel. [Read more and RSVP](#)

Thursday, February 22 Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District (Noblesville) Annual Meeting & Workshop This event includes multiple workshop sessions of interest to both agricultural and suburban property owners along with various exhibitors and concurrent education sessions. Morning sessions include: Impact of Cover Crops, Where the Wild Things Were (a natural history session with county historian David Heighway), Dicamba training, and Indy Wildlife Watch: Using photography to understand how urban wildlife utilize urban and periurban habitat with Dr. Julia Angstmann, director of Butler University's Center for Urban Ecology. The agriculture sessions are eligible for CCH, CCA, and PARP credits. The business meeting will include a summary of 2017 SWCD activities and election of a supervisor for the one open position on the SWCD board. Cost \$12 per person, includes lunch. 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Hamilton County Fairgrounds, 2003 Pleasant St, Noblesville. Register at www.hamiltonswcd.org. For soil.water@hamiltoncounty.in.gov or 317-773-2181.

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.

Monday, March 5 Herb Society of Central Indiana Did you know a pillow made with hops leaves helps induce sleep? Discover more interesting facts about hops, the 2018 Herb of the Year. Members will provide information about growing, culinary uses, the history and medicinal uses of this versatile herb. It's not just for beer! Meet at the John Hensel Government Center/Clay Township Building, 10701 North College, Indianapolis, at 6:15 p.m. to fill your plates with refreshments. Program begins at 6:30 followed by a brief business meeting. herbsocietyofcentralindiana.org

Tuesday, March 6 Indiana Daylily-Iris Society Leslie Bishop of Earlham College expounds on the "The Spectacular, not Spooky, World of Spiders." Free admission. Guests welcome. 6:30 p.m., First Friends Church (parlor), 3030 Kessler Blvd., East Drive, Indianapolis.

Wednesday, March 7 Restoration for Wildlife Habitat (Bloomington) Sponsored by Eco Logic & Spence Restoration Nursery. Topics: "It Takes a Community" by Dawn Slack, Land Manager, The Nature Conservancy; "Establishing Nectar Sources in Woodland Habitats" by Kevin Tungesvick, Senior Ecologist at Eco Logic; "Identifying Common Indiana Butterflies" by Jeff Belth, Author of Butterflies of Indiana; "Restoring Woodland Habitats" by Tom Swinford, Assistant Director of Division of Nature Preserves, DNR; "Beyond Echinacea, Diversifying Your Pollinator Plantings" by Natalie Marinova, Nursery Manager at Eco Logic; "Taking it to the Streets: Integration of Native Landscapes in Ultra Urban Settings" by John Hazlett at Williams Creek Consulting; "Animals Respond to Ecological Restoration Too!" by John Shuey, Director of Conservation Science, The Nature Conservancy in Indiana. Fee \$50. 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monroe Convention Center, 302 South College Avenue, Bloomington. [Register](#)

Saturday, March 17 Morgan County Master Gardeners (Martinsville) Pansy Sale and Vendor Show A one-day public free event featuring a pansy sale, over 30 garden-related vendors, and speakers. Garden Cafe available for food service. Free seed give-away and native tree give-away. Pansy sale proceeds benefit MCMG projects including community demonstration garden, Boys and Girls Club of Mooresville, and Purdue scholarship. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Hoosier Harvest Church, 4085 Leonard Road, Martinsville. To learn more, visit [Facebook](#) or www.mcmastergardeners.org.

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](#)

New Funding Available Grasslands for Gamebirds & Songbirds Initiative 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. GGS 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. If you are a landowner interested in participating, 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.

Employment Opp Central Indiana Land Trust Join our awesome team! We have an opening for a part-time communications specialist, details available [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](#), which it sees as our best hope for bipartisan climate action at the national level. <https://www.facebook.com/Carmel-Green-Initiative-151779035744/>

Good News for Hamilton County Gardeners Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District has received a \$38,000 Clean Water Indiana grant to continue their Urban Agriculture program, which supports backyard and community gardens. Education and outreach are focused on alleviating food insecurity in the county and connecting residents with local food. Donations of fresh vegetables to local food pantries are supported by pairing businesses, community gardens, and service organizations with food pantries through the Hamilton County Garden Network. Learn more at www.hamiltonswcd.org. County residents may request a free on-site urban agriculture or urban conservation site visit by calling 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 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 <https://gardenandnaturetours.com/>.

Photo Notes Nothing to do in the garden this month but exercise patience, maybe read a gardening book (Carol Michel has a new one coming soon!), and delve through the heap of newly arrived seed catalogs. Speaking of seeds, if you're feeding birds through the winter, you might enjoy a lively write-up about chickadees and other backyard birds at www.indianaudubon.org. This one's a Carolina Chickadee photographed by Carl Wilms.

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 Phyllis Schmidt for your generous gift.*