



HortusScope | What's Up in the Central Indiana

Gardening Community | [Illustration courtesy wildlifepicasa.blogspot.com](http://wildlifepicasa.blogspot.com)

Thursday, December 5 Celebrate with Central Indiana Land Trust We invite you to join us for a year-end open house to celebrate another great year of conservation in Central Indiana. Come meet our newest staff members and hear the latest news about protecting our region's beautiful natural areas. We are looking forward to 2020, which marks CILTI's 30th year of land protection. Thanks to the dedication of our members, board, and staff, 5,500 acres of land have been protected from potential threats. We hope you will join us to raise a glass to nature. 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., Central Indiana Land Trust offices, 1500 N. Delaware Street, Indianapolis.

www.conservingindiana.org

Thursday–Saturday, December 5–14 ISBVI Holiday Plant Sale & Open House Featuring beautiful poinsettias, blooming holiday planters, fresh greenery arrangements, and gift items including ceramics and ISBVI note cards. December 5 & 6, noon to 5:00 p.m., December 7 & 14, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. **December 7 Special Events:** IBCF Pancake Breakfast 8:30-11:30; Christmas Tree Sale 9:00-3:00; visit with Santa 10:15 to 11:00; entertainment by the Indianapolis Ukulele Club 12:30 to 1:30. Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, 7725 N. College Avenue, Indianapolis. www.isbvik12.org

Sunday, December 15 Natural Healing with Local Plants A repeat of our successful October event. Dr. Candace Corson, who practices Integrative Medicine, will demonstrate and assist participants with making their own jar of healing cream which helps with multiple types of skin conditions and injuries. She will discuss this ancient healing remedy that uses wild white yarrow, along with the use and benefit of other plants and flowers such as jewelweed, plantain, violets, and dandelions. This is a hands-on class. Please plan on staying 2½ hours from start to finish. Everyone will take home their own jar of salve! There is a suggested donation of \$3.00 per person or family to cover the cost of the olive oil and beeswax. Sponsored by Indiana Native Plant Society (INPS) Central Chapter in partnership with the Nora Branch Library. 2:00 to 4:30 p.m., Nora Library, 8625 Guilford Avenue, Indianapolis. Class size is limited. Registration required at <https://attend.indypl.org/>.

Through January 5 Winterlights at Newfields Winterlights returns for a third year, making it an official holiday tradition in Central Indiana. Stroll through our spectacular Winter Wonderland, sip apple cider or hot chocolate (spiked options available for adults) and make s'mores over a fire pit. Watch lights dance to music on the Lilly House lawn and stop to take

photos at the Snowflake Bridge, Frosted Forest, and other illuminated displays throughout the grounds. Special glasses will be available that transform every one of the 1.5 million lights into a shimmering snowflake. Guests can also revisit another beloved Newfields tradition, Deck the Halls at the Lilly House, during Winterlights. Each room in the elegant, historic mansion will feature decorative surprises, including beautiful holiday floral arrangements. Purchase tickets at <https://discovernewfields.org/Checkout?eid=39315&page=listeventscalendar> When purchasing tickets, please be sure to select the day you wish to attend in the drop down menu.

Saturday, January 18 Indiana Wildlife Conference Keynote speaker is Naomi Edelson, Senior Director, Wildlife Partnerships, National Wildlife Federation. She will speak on “Recovering America’s Wildlife.” Also presentations on Indiana’s state wildlife action plan, the Indiana bobcat population, climate change impacts on birds, and the return of trumpeter swans to Indiana. Conference includes catered lunch, silent auction, and guided hike. Members \$40, non-members \$60, register-and-join bundle \$70, students \$30. The Garrison, Fort Harrison State Park, 6002 N. Post Road, Indianapolis. Reserve tickets at www.indianawildlife.org.

Community Effort Hamilton County Forming CISMA (Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area) Representatives from municipalities, parks departments, non-profits, businesses, advocacy organizations, and private landowners are working to form a CISMA in Hamilton County. Sometimes called coalitions, partnerships, or councils, CISMAs are formed to collectively combat the problem of invasive species spreading across the landscape. Hamilton County partners have begun work on formulating the vision and mission for their CSMA. Any individual or representative interested in addressing invasive species in Hamilton County is invited to join the effort—you do not have to be an expert. Sign up to get on the mailing list at www.hamiltonswcd.org/cisma.html.

Nontraditional Giving Give Back to Your Soils Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District is proposing a new way to give back this holiday season—giving back to our soils. This ultimately improves the health and well-being of everyone, and the impact will last for many years to come. Our soils nourish us, protect us from pollutants, and give us structure and stability—and they need our help! Whether you are prompted by religion, a desire to participate in the community, or an urge to be selfless this season, giving back to our soils can satisfy these needs. For ways to give back to our soils and see results, visit <https://www.hamiltonswcd.org/news-articles/nontraditional-giving>

Travel Garden and Nature Tours with C. Colston Burrell Experience nature’s beauty and diversity in designed and native landscapes with C. Colston Burrell, who offers personalized leisure tours to exceptional gardens and natural areas around the globe. 2020 Tours: May 20-30, Twenty English Gardens You Must See Before You Die. May 17-20, Chelsea Flower Show Pre-Tour. November, Gardens and Temples of Tokyo and Kyoto with Hiroshima Post-Tour. <https://gardenandnaturetours.com/>

Photo Notes At the Indiana Native Plant Society annual conference in November, we learned from author Sharon Sorenson how some of our North American bird populations are declining

rapidly because human activities are degrading their habitats. To counter this, we can plant a diversity of native plants in our gardens. Native plants nourish the insect life with which birds feed their young. The message is not that we shun exotic plants, but that we need at least 71 percent of our plants to be native if we want to support a wide variety of bird species. Something to think about for the new year. <http://birdsintheyard.com/bird-conservation.html>

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 cheerfully accepted at 6911 Cabernet Way, Indianapolis, IN 46278, check made out to Wendy Ford. *Thanks to Jo Ellen Meyers Sharp, Max Gentry, and Shirley Fry for their generous support of HortusScope.*