



## HortusScope | What's Up in the Central Indiana

Gardening Community | Photo courtesy of Gardening Express

---

**Thursday, February 6 Ft. Ben Blossoms Garden Club** Presentation by Sue Arnold on herbs. Visitors welcome. 1:00 p.m., Benjamin Harrison YMCA, 5736 Lee Road, Indianapolis.

---

**Saturday, February 8 Planning Your Garden** With spring right around the corner, now is the time to start thinking about your garden. Join Purdue Extension Marion County Master Gardeners to learn tips on planning your garden. 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., Glendale Branch, Indianapolis Public Library, in the mall at 6101 N Keystone Ave, Indianapolis.

---

**Wednesday, February 19 Demand Film Screening: The Pollinators** Thousands of semi-trailers crisscross the country in the dead of night delivering goods through the darkness to stores, warehouses, and factories nationwide, but some of them carry an unsuspected and highly unusual cargo—honey bees, tens of billions of them. This award-winning documentary feature presents the fascinating and untold story. Promoted by North Central Beekeepers Club and Friends of Hamilton County Parks. General Admission: \$11.75 + booking fee of \$1.95 per ticket. 6:30 p.m., Regal Village Park Stadium 17, 2222 E 146th Street, Carmel. Reserve tickets at <https://tickets.demand.film/event/9525?ref=VbKBGwQo>.

---

**Thursday, February 20 Hamilton SWCD Annual Meeting** Interested in the soil and water concerns in Hamilton County? Want to know how our Soil and Water Conservation District office spent its time this year? Love free food? Join us for our annual meeting. Speaking this year will be Melissa Widhalm from Purdue Climate Change Research Center presenting her topic, "Building Resiliency for Tomorrow's Climate." Free and open to the public. 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., OV Winks Building, Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds, 2003 E. Pleasant, Noblesville. Please RSVP **before February 12** at <https://www.hamiltonswcd.org/annual-meeting.html>.

---

**Sunday, February 23 INPS Central Chapter Tree Planting and Maintenance Techniques** Thinking of placing a new tree in your landscape? Getting it to survive and thrive into maturity takes planning, proper planting, and after care. This talk will focus on different types of planting stock (balled and burlapped, containerized, and bare root trees), choosing good trees at the nursery, and planting each type of stock correctly. You will learn how much water it takes for a new tree, types of mulch, how to mulch, fertilization do's and don'ts, and post planting care.

Hosted by Indiana Native Plant Society Central Chapter. Free and open to the public. 2:00 p.m., Pike Branch Library, 6525 Zionsville Road, Indianapolis. [More INPS Central Chapter events](#)

---

**Saturday, February 29 Newfields Horticulture Symposium** Join fellow plant-lovers for a full day of talks focused on plants, design, and environmental stewardship. Hear experts share on a variety of topics that will inspire and inform your own garden. Topics include inspiration from travels in Japan, hardy perennials from the Chicago Botanic Garden trials, annuals at the Cincinnati Zoo, developing resilient landscapes for a changing climate, houseplant selection and care, and more. Cost: \$80 for Newfields members; \$95 for the public; \$70 for Horticultural Society of Newfields members; \$50 for students. 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., The Toby Theater at Newfields, 4000 N. Michigan Road, Indianapolis. Tickets and full schedule available at <https://discovernewfields.org/calendar/newfields-horticulture-symposium> or 317-923-1331.

---

**Monday, March 2 Herb Society of Central Indiana Herb of the Year: Rubus** Come learn about the *Rubus* genus which includes raspberries and blackberries and other brambles. Members will give short presentations on the history and folklore of brambles, their medicinal properties, their culinary uses, and how to grow a bumper crop. Refreshments will be provided that always include a variety of herbal teas and homemade dishes, not just sweets. A business meeting follows. This is our precursor to our 20th annual Spring Symposium, highlighting the herb of the year, held the following month. Come to the meeting to hear more about THAT special event. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Clay Township Center, 10701 N. College Avenue, Indianapolis.

---

**Good Idea Plan Your Rain Garden** Fort Wayne is working hard to improve their water conservation and prevent flooding. Check out their “Catching Rain” green infrastructure initiative, which includes a detailed manual for homeowners wanting to establish their own rain garden. <http://www.catchingrainfw.org/rain-garden-101>

---

**Community Effort Hamilton County Forming Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA)** 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](http://www.hamiltonswcd.org/cisma.html).

---

**Thursday, March 26 Inaugural CISMA Conference: Invasive Species and Watersheds** Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMAs) are Indiana’s community action initiative to curb the threat of invasive plants. Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management (SICIM) and the Indiana Invasives Initiative (III) will host this state-wide CISMA conference. All are invited to join them for a full day of learning about invasive species’ impact on watershed health, forest health, and native species. Fee \$25. CEUs available. 9:00 a.m. to

4:00 p.m., Hamilton County, Indiana 4-H Fairgrounds and Conference Center, 2003 Pleasant Street, Noblesville. Information and registration at <http://www.sicim.info/cismaconference>

---

**Apply for Tree Planting KIB Community Forestry** Sometimes, keeping our city beautiful is as simple as planting a tree. Trees enhance our lives in more ways than you might think. Keep Indianapolis Beautiful (KIB) coordinates a number of programs dedicated to planting, preserving, and educating people about trees. Our goal is to increase Marion County's tree cover by planting 100,000 large trees—with trunks 1" in diameter or larger at planting time—in strategic locations. Together we can grow our city's tree canopy and make Indianapolis a better place to live, work, and play. Apply [here](#) for trees to be planted in your neighborhood! You can also download a printable version [here](#).

---

**Get Organized! Spring 2020 Weed Wrangle® Indiana Contest** Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management invites your community to plan a Weed Wrangle® Indiana for your county this spring. Weed Wrangle® is a national campaign that highlights the necessity to manage invasive species, celebrates our native species and ecosystems, and provides action through hands-on invasive species management in our precious green spaces. The contest is intended to increase participation and partnerships as well as praise the efforts of Weed Wranglers throughout Indiana. Details at <http://www.sicim.info/2020weedwrangleincontest>.

---

**Fancy a Career in Horticulture?** Per the Seed Your Future project, “the fate of our world lies in the next generation embracing the importance of plants not only to humans, but to animals, and to Earth.” Who will have the expertise to provide the technology, science, art and business acumen necessary to meet the rapidly increasing demand for ornamentals, fruits, vegetables, nuts, and herbs? As avid gardeners and gardening professionals, our job is to show others the way and inspire more people to pursue “green collar” careers. Details at <https://www.purduelandscape.org/article/growing-green-collars-seed-your-future/>. <https://www.juliaspangler.com/2019-results-year-in-review/>

---

**Green Wedding Anyone? Sustainable Event Planning** Here's someone who can help you or your business live up to your environmental values at your next event. A “sustainable events consultant”! Who knew? <https://www.juliaspangler.com/2019-results-year-in-review/>

---

**Subscribe Outdoor Indiana** Our state's premier magazine delivers the wonders of the Hoosier outdoors to subscribers' homes and offices six times a year in 48 pages of vibrant color. For the best of state parks, lakes, wildlife, forests, trails, hunting, fishing, wildflowers and outdoorsy people, plus inside information from DNR experts, [subscribe](#) for \$15 per year or \$28 for two years. Follow the magazine staff on [Facebook](#). <https://www.in.gov/dnr/10300.htm>

---

**“Good People” Profile Hoosier Environmental Council** HEC partners with lawmakers on both sides of the aisle and with a diverse coalition of public interest and business organizations to build a more positive future for Indiana. They make it easy for you to be an advocate for our state's air, water, land and quality of life by [following bills](#) going through the legislature and providing information and opportunities for you to take action. For the latest updates and calls

to action, sign up for their newsletter at <https://www.hecweb.org/enews/>. You can get involved in the legislative process by: contacting your representative and senator on bills of concern and in support of strong environmental programs; attending “meet your legislator” events or setting up a meeting in the district; hosting a Greening Your Community House Party; attending an Environmental Advocate training; and writing a letter to the editor for your local paper. **Saturday, February 8**, is Indiana Civic Day at HEC, your best chance all session to get up to speed on an array of public interest priorities, including the environment. [Register](#)

---

**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 4-15, Gardens and Temples of Tokyo and Kyoto with Hiroshima Post-Tour. <https://gardenandnaturetours.com/>

---

**Photo Notes** Blooming already in my front yard is this little beauty, *Helleborus* ‘Madame Lemonnier’. Discovered in a French garden, she is a chance hybrid between a Christmas rose (*Helleborus niger*) and the Lenten rose (*Helleborus orientalis*). The intensely pink flower looks rather lonely in the otherwise bland landscape of February. But Madame gives us hope that with the turn of the season we will again see color in the garden. Can’t wait!

---

**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](mailto:hortusscope@comcast.net). Your supporting donation cheerfully accepted at 6911 Cabernet Way, Indianapolis, IN 46278, check made out to Wendy Ford.

*A big thank you to Deborah Lawrence and Sara Zeckel for their generous support of HortusScope.*