



HortusScope | What's Up in the Central Indiana

Gardening Community | Photo by Wendy Ford

Wednesday, April 1 Virtual Great Indy Cleanup At 12:15 p.m., grab a trash bag, a pair of gloves, and head outside for 15 minutes of cleaning up the spaces right in front of your house. Keep Indianapolis Beautiful would LOVE for everyone in Indy to join this effort, so invite your neighbors, friends, and family to join you ... at a safe social distance (6 feet or more!).

<https://www.kibi.org/virtual-GIC>

Thursday, April 2 Deadline for Pathways Over Pogue's Raffle POP's kickoff silent auction was postponed, so they've found another way to get donated auction items into people's hands. First up is a cool donation from Big Green, a national organization with a local office that teaches kids about growing and eating their own food. They donated a canvas bag filled with 75 packets of vegetable and flower seeds, along with an X-Large t-shirt and hat. Package is worth approximately \$100. Seed packets include: organic corn, beets, collard greens, snap peas, bush beans, popcorn, romaine, sunflowers, borage, blueboy, calendula, nasturtium, zucchini, yellow crookneck squash, and red bell peppers. Seeds should be getting into the ground soon, so POP is going to "virtually" raffle off the package. Anyone who donates \$10 or more at <https://popindy.org/donations/> by April 2 will be entered into a raffle drawing. Winner will be announced April 3 and package delivered (wearing plastic gloves) to their door. POP is fundraising to repair the historic Nowland Ave Bridge in Spades Park, just west of Rural, in Indianapolis, and help finish the Pogue's Run Trail. More info at <https://popindy.org>.

Tuesday, April 7 Indiana Daylily & Iris Society CANCELLED My Favorite Flowers Presentation by Lana Wolfe, Northeastern Indiana Iris Society President. 6:30 p.m., First Friends Church parlor, 3030 Kessler Blvd, East Drive, Indianapolis. indianadaylilyirissociety.org

Wednesday, April 8 Owen County Forest Stewardship Series (Spencer) Tree Planting Basics One of a years-long series on land and forest management presented by the Soil and Water Conservation District in cooperation with the District Forester, Ralph Unversaw. Free event, no registration required. 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., SWCD office, 788 Pottersville Road, Spencer. Details on [Facebook](#).

Saturday, April 11 Herb Society of Central Indiana Symposium CANCELLED Brambling Herbs The genus Rubus (raspberries, blackberries and other brambles) is featured in a day of programs to entice you to keep learning and experimenting with the herb at home. Herb author

Susan Belsinger will show how to blend usual and exotic herbs for your kitchen creations; Susan Betz of Michigan will intrigue you with garden phenology (magical moons and seasonal cycles); and local celebrity Bill McKnight, the Mad Botanist, will inspire you to plan your landscape with fragrance in mind. A Tai Chi instructor, Christine Bhe, will move the winter out of your muscles and ready you for spring. See the day's agenda [here](#). Local vendors have booths for you to browse full of herb plants, art, crafts, and handmade herbal jams. Our large silent auction offers a diverse assortment of garden related items. Fee 52\$ members, \$57 nonmembers. Lunch by [Juniper Spoon](#) included. 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Hamilton County Fairgrounds, 2003 Pleasant Street, Noblesville. MAP <http://herbsocietyofcentralindiana.org/symposium/>

Monday, April 13 Indianapolis Hosta Society The Good, The Bad & The Ugly: Garden Insects 101 Presentation by gifted garden designer Sarah Gray. An entomologist in a previous life, Sarah will introduce you to the fascinating world of insects, their importance and uses, the behaviors that make them so successful, how to encourage beneficial insect populations, and how to control undesirable ones in the garden. Free and open to the public. 6:30 p.m., Holliday Park Nature Center, 6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis. indianapolishostasociety.org

Thursday, April 16 Spring Green Garden Club of Carmel Goldfinches Presentation by Kathleen Lich, Holliday Park Naturalist and employee of Wild Birds Unlimited at Clearwater Crossing. Refreshments after the program. Guests welcome. 6:30 p.m., John Hensel Government Center, 10701 N College Avenue, Indianapolis. Address questions to cabracken@gmail.com.

Saturday, April 18 Spring Hike at Ritchey Woods Nature Preserve CANCELLED Join Indiana Native Plant Society's Central Chapter in exploring spring ephemerals, a skunk cabbage fen, and a variety of woodland birds that rely on the preserve in the middle of an ever-growing urban area. The preserve hosts owls, woodpeckers, hawks, and songbirds that all directly or indirectly rely on the diversity of native wildflowers, shrubs, and trees for food and shelter. Enjoy the easy to moderate trails on a relaxed walk through the woods. There is no fee to enter the park. Meet at the cabin at the south end of the parking lot. Two hikes will be offered: 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Free and open to the public. Preregistration is required (maximum of 12 people for each hike) at <https://tinyurl.com/wm499hh>

Saturday, April 18 Hamilton County SWCD Invasive Species Workshop (Noblesville) ON HOLD Spring brings warmer temperatures, birds chirping, colorful flowers, and green leaves; but if you look closely, you'll see the spring resurgence of invasive species that are damaging our natural areas and wrecking cherished animal habitats. Once your eyes are opened to invasive species, you'll see them everywhere. The good news is, our actions managing our own properties and our choices when buying plants can help take back our ecosystem for beneficial native plants. The Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is here to help you learn how. The public is invited to join us for a hands-on workshop to learn about the threat of invasive species, practical management basics with demonstrations, and how to identify, eradicate, and replace invasives species on their property with quality native varieties. Attendees will also get support in creating a management plan for their land. Fee is \$12 and space is limited. 9:00 a.m.

to 1:00 p.m., Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds Annex, Noblesville. Register at www.hamiltonswcd.org.

Saturday & Sunday, April 18 and 19 Indianapolis Garden Club Flower Show: Les Belles Fleurs POSTPONED TO 2021 The show will immerse visitors in an artistic collaboration of floral design, horticulture, photography, and conservation in celebration of the beauty of flowers. Charles Venable, Newfields' Director and CEO, is the honorary chairman. Floral Designs will be exhibited in the first-floor galleries of the museum. Horticulture, Photography, and Conservation will be in the Deer Zink Pavillion. The Indianapolis Garden Club is a private nonprofit service organization, founded in 1930, whose purpose is to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening and to restore, improve, and protect the quality of the environment. The Indianapolis Garden Club is a member of The Garden Club of America. Free with Museum admission. Hours: Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Sunday 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Newfields, 4000 Michigan Road, Indianapolis. <http://indianapolisgardenclub.org/>

Saturday, April 25 How INDOT Is Promoting Native Plants CANCELLED Presented by Indiana Native Plant Society's Central Chapter in partnership with the Nora Branch Library. Matt Kraushar of INDOT's Vegetation Management Program will discuss what INDOT is doing to promote native species and control invasives while providing a safe and aesthetically pleasing roadside. Free and open to the public. 2:00 p.m., Nora Library, 8625 N. Guilford, Indianapolis. No registration required.

Monday, April 27 ISBVI Annual Spring Plant Sale POSTPONED Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired is rescheduling the sale to sometime in May, as conditions permit. Watch for updates at <https://www.in.gov/isbvi/index.htm>.

Tuesday, April 28 Indiana Daylily & Iris Society Hybridizing in the Tundra Presentation by Phil Korth, Pinewood Gardens, Suamico, WI. 6:30pm, First Friends Church parlor, 3030 Kessler Blvd, East Drive, Indianapolis. indianadaylilyirissociety.org

Friday & Saturday, May 1 & 2 Avon Outdoor Learning Center 18th Annual Native Plant Sale POSTPONED TO SEPTEMBER 18 & 19 Plants come from Spence Restoration Nursery. They are high quality 2-3/8" square x 3-3/4" deep pots. When buying native plants, healthy root systems should be the primary consideration. These plants have wonderful roots! Hendricks County Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists will be on hand to help you pick out the best choices for your yard and land. A list of available species will be posted as we get closer to the event. Shop with us and support our programming and local wildlife! Friday 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.; Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Avon Outdoor Learning Center, 7237 East US Highway 36, Avon. Find us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/avonlearningcenter).

Friday & Saturday, May 1 & 2 Hancock County Herb Society and Master Gardener 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 tomato and pepper plants and potted perennials. Master Gardener choices include an

extensive variety of perennials, vegetable plants, geraniums, begonias, and house plants. 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Friday and 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturday. Hancock County Fairgrounds 4-H Show Arena, 620 Apple Street, Greenfield (southwest corner of Apple and Park Streets). More information at <http://www.facebook.com/HerbiesofHancockCounty> or <http://hancockmga.com>.

Saturday, May 2 Johnson County Garden Club Garden Celebration XVI: Wild and Native (Franklin) Discover plants native to Indiana and how they support your yard's ecosystem and prevent loss of valuable wildlife. Seminars: 9:30 Carol Michel, "Tips and Tricks to Grow Food You Actually Want to Eat"; 10:30 Aaron Stump, Habitat Programs Manager for Indiana Wildlife Federation; 1:00 Dawn Slack, "Invasive vs. Natives in Nature as Well as Your Home Garden"; 2:00 Wildlife Rehabilitators, Hope, IN, an interactive presentation with rescued animals. The event features a festive courtyard and live music. Scott and Herring Halls will be open to allow attendees more space to browse the 40 vendors, shop, and enjoy the Garden Café that will provide breakfast and lunch for purchase. Free seed packets and tree saplings given away while supplies last. General admission \$2 at the door. Presented in coordination with Purdue University's Johnson County Extension Office. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Johnson County Fairgrounds, 250 Fairground Street, Franklin. Questions? Email jcgardenclub@gmail.com.

Saturday, May 9 Indiana Native Plant Society Plant Sale & Auction CANCELLED Adding native plants to the landscape is something positive that any gardener can do to help build healthy ecosystems. This is the place to learn and to buy, now in a NEW LOCATION! Keep Indianapolis Beautiful is loaning us their warehouse on Indy's southeast side for the day. It will be chock full of Indiana natives to plant in designed landscapes or natural areas, and INPS members will be on hand to answer questions and help you shop. Indiana Wildlife Federation Executive Director Emily Wood will give the pre-sale presentation, urging you to "Garden for Wildlife." *Schedule:* 9:30 a.m., pre-sale presentation for a \$10 fee that entitles ticket holders to hear the talk, begin shopping 15 minutes before the general public, and receive a \$10 discount on any auction purchase. 10:00 a.m., plant and book sale open to pre-sale presentation ticket holders. 10:15 a.m., plant and book sale open to the public. 11:15 a.m., live auction of rare and choice plants begins and continues until every general sale plant is sold (about 12:30 p.m.). KIB Warehouse, 3655 Raymond Street, Indianapolis. [Details and map to new location](#)

Saturday, May 16 "Wake Up, Woods" Hike at Newfields Art and Nature Park Chandler Bryant, Natural Resources Director at Newfields, and Ben Hess, Senior Ecologist at Cardno, will lead a group through the 100 Acres Art and Nature Park, where intensive native restoration is underway. They will identify the ephemeral species found in the Indiana Native Plant Society's award-winning book, *Wake Up Woods*. Register for this free event at <https://tinyurl.com/u8gjddb>. An email with meeting details will be sent out prior to the event.

Saturday, May 16 Indiana Daylily & Iris Society IDIS Iris Show Set-up: 8:00 to 10:30 a.m. Judging: 10:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Public viewing: 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Sullivan Hardware & Garden Pavilion, 6955 N. Keystone Avenue, Indianapolis. indianadaylilyirissociety.org

Great Idea KIB's Every Litter Bit Challenge Keep Indianapolis Beautiful has a way you can

volunteer to care for our city even though we can't come together. People are sharing inspiring pictures and posts. Join the effort at www.kibi.org/every-litter-bit.

Volunteer Opps Saturday Work Days at Pennsy Trail and Schramm Nature Preserve

(Greenfield, New Palestine) Work sites have plenty of room for social distancing, so come on out for some exercise and a dose of fresh air. (Youth groups please select another time.) **April 11**, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., at 1926 S 600 W, New Palestine; picking up trash along 600 West and pulling invasive honeysuckle, multiflora rose, dame's rocket, garlic mustard; bring work gloves, drinking water. **April 18**, 9:00 a.m. to noon, Pennsy Trails at 400 West trail head, 424 South 400 West, Greenfield; picking up trash, pulling and burning honeysuckle, replacing with mulch; bring work gloves, drinking water, hand tools to cut, wheelbarrows, rakes, shovels. **April 25**, 9:00 a.m. to noon, Pennsy Trails at 400 West trail head, 424 South 400 West, Greenfield; picking up trash; pulling and burning honeysuckle, replacing with mulch; bring work gloves, drinking water, hand tools to cut, wheelbarrows, rakes, shovels. We are working the Pennsy Trails site designed by ecologists from the DNR. A trail head at 400 West is planned with handicap parking, a shelter, and educational stations for families, scouts, and school groups. This site will highlight the Sugar Creek Water Shed as an important habitat to the American Bald Eagle and many other types of wildlife. Donations are still being accepted so we can complete the 400 West Trail head in 2021. More info at www.PennsyTrails.org.

Learning Opp Apprenticeship Work/Exchange Program at Hobbit Gardens Erth Gatherings

Center We offer a hands-on learning experience on our organic herb farm in Putnam County. Owner Constance Ferry has grown vegetable, herb, and flowering plants for 30 years surrounded by her 27-1/2 acres of woods, ravines, pastures, and gardens. She will share with you the art and science of organic gardening, herb propagation, harvesting, and preserving along with the folklore, history, and medicinal uses of the plants. In exchange, you will work in the gardens for 20 hours each month, May through September. Hours are mandatory, but we can schedule them around school, job, family, your life. No experience necessary, just a strong desire to learn about the plants by working with them. Constance is a Master Gardener, Master Naturalist, and speaker for many garden clubs. Contact her at 765-246-6315, at hobbitgardens@tds.net or hobbitgardens.blogspot.com for more information. Shop & gardens hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Sunday 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Other hours by chance or appointment.

Plant Shopping! Native Plants Unlimited In addition to fulfilling pre-order pickup orders, George Peregrim will be selling a wide variety of native plants at Geist Nursery in Fishers, daily from May 2 through May 17. Before you come to the sale, check for updates at <https://www.nativeplantsunlimited.com/plantsale.htm>

Plant Shopping! Native Plants and Rain Barrels The Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District has the tools you need to conserve water and support pollinators like bees and butterflies with beautiful native plants. Native plant kits take the guesswork out of plant selection by providing a set of plants that will be perfect for your yard. Each kit contains 50 native plant plugs for \$125. There is a kit for all areas of your yard including pollinator, rain

(for wetter areas), prairie, and shade garden. Each kit contains 10 species of native perennials and can fill a space 50 to 150 square feet. Rain barrels are also available for pre-order for \$75. These repurposed 55-gallon barrels capture rainwater from your downspout and roof and hold it for later use. Rain barrel water is great for watering plants and gardens or even washing the car. In peak summer months, a rain barrel can save around 1,300 gallons of free, naturally soft water for your use. Place orders at www.hamiltonswcd.org or by visiting the SWCD office at 1717 Pleasant Street in Noblesville. **Orders for plants are due April 17 and rain barrel pre-orders are due May 21.** Orders will be available for pick up on Friday May 29 in Noblesville. Proceeds support conservation projects and education in Hamilton County. Questions can be directed to Claire Lane at claire.lane@hamiltoncounty.in.gov or 317-773-2181.

Travel Philadelphia Garden Tour, September 9-12. Join Friends of Holliday Park for a trip to Philadelphia, garden capital of the U.S. Horticulturist Chris Turner will lead us on an unforgettable tour of historic gardens, a specialty garden shop, and exclusive private gardens rarely open to the public. Details at www.hollidaypark.org/tours. **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 Friends, spring beauty is unfolding in my garden as though nothing were out of the ordinary. Although many events are cancelled this month to maintain social distancing, I'm posting everything that was planned so that we can appreciate what a great gardening community we have here in central Indiana. I may not have captured all the cancellations, so please check details online before venturing out. I hope this enforced isolation means more walks in the woods and more time in the garden for you. We need Nature now more than ever. Be well and stay safe.

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.