



## HortusScope | What's Up in the

Central Indiana Gardening Community | Photo by Wendy Ford

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**Great Info Tree & Shrub ID** If you're out hiking this summer, you need this! Join restoration ecologist Melissa Grycan on a virtual tree and shrub identification hike and learn how to identify common species that are found in natural areas in northern Illinois and Indiana. You'll learn about key terms and characteristics that will help you really "see" woody plants.

<https://youtu.be/YcMsvqqmorM>

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**Freedom from Dirty Air Indianapolis Environmental Justice Initiative** For too long, African-Americans have faced great burdens from pollution (e.g., living near refineries, coal plants, landfills, and diesel trucking routes), which means breathing in toxins that can increase the likelihood of heart and lung disease and cancer. What has emerged from this suffering is a grassroots environmental justice movement led by such unsung heroines as Hazel Johnson, who spoke out against the growing number of toxic brownfields encircling her Chicago neighborhood; Emelda West, a grassroots leader in "Cancer Alley" in Louisiana; and Patsy Ruth Oliver, who secured federal protections in her Texas neighborhood, which had been built on top of a toxic site. Drawing inspiration from these unsung heroes and heroines who have fought for freedom from dirty air and contaminated water, Hoosier Environmental Council aims to advance that ideal in Indiana's capital city with the Indianapolis Environmental Justice Initiative. Learn about the issues and how you can help here:

<https://www.hecweb.org/issues/environmental-health-justice/environmental-justice/>.

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**Take the Pledge Bring Back the Pollinators** The Xerces Society tells all: who the pollinators are, what's at stake, and what you can do. Although pollinator conservation is a big task, by following four core principles, it can be adapted to any location, whether urban community garden or suburban yard, city park or farm. Learn about these four principles and commit to them by signing the Pollinator Protection Pledge at <https://xerces.org/bring-back-the-pollinators>.

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**Spreadsheet Fun Plant Finder for Pollinators** From the Indiana Native Plant Society, here's an Excel spreadsheet you can use to focus your plant purchases on supporting native pollinators. It lists 200 Indiana native plants, including trees, shrubs, vines, grasses (wind-pollinated), and

wildflowers. You can sort the entries by a specific pollinator, or sort by plant name, height, flower color, period of bloom, or light and moisture requirements. We include notes on which plants are hosts for specific butterflies and moths, and links to photos and more detailed plant information. <https://indiananativeplants.org/plant-finder-for-pollinators/>

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### **Garden Outing Medicinal Plant**

**Garden** Due to the pandemic, the Medicinal Plant Garden at the Indiana Medical History Museum will not offer guided tours this year, but the garden is open, and the educational signage is in place. Please come and enjoy the garden on your own—there's lots to learn and see. The address on the grounds of the old Central State Hospital is 3045 W. Vermont St, Indianapolis, IN. For more information about the garden contact

[hullk@ccrtc.com](mailto:hullk@ccrtc.com) or see the museum's website [www.imhm.org](http://www.imhm.org).

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**Garden Outing Newfields Re-Opens** The Garden, the Virginia B Fairbanks Art and Nature Park, and the Beer Garden are now open for visitation. You'll need to reserve a ticket to enter the grounds. [Details](#)

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**YouTube Fun Xerces Society Webinars and Classroom Series** Want to learn how to help invertebrates while hunkered down at home? The offerings at The Xerces Society [YouTube channel](#) will keep you happily occupied. Look for talks on the charismatic bumble bee, the jewels of the night (fireflies), pollination research, community science, and more.

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**New Rule Invasive Plants Banished from the Nursery Trade** The Indiana Terrestrial Invasive Plant Rule went into effect April 20, 2020—a great step toward restoring biodiversity to our Indiana landscapes. A handy pocket guide has been produced to help you identify the 44 regulated invasives and distinguish them from similar native plants. [Learn more](#)

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**Take a Hike Indiana Nature Preserves Profiled** One constant amidst uncertainty is nature, which offers a healthy way to lose yourself for a while. To support you in this challenging time, Central Indiana Land Trust has provided a series of short e-newsletters to share some of Indiana's most iconic places with you. There is nothing like nature to soothe the spirit. Whether you visit these places personally or just take an armchair tour, we hope these short profiles brighten your days. <http://www.conservingindiana.org/nine-days-nine-iconic-preserves/>

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**Hey, Photographers! Indiana Native Plant Society Photo Contest** Are your native gardens starting to bloom? We could sure use photos of well-designed native landscapes, especially those showing elements of human design (hardscape, birdbath, statue, etc.) Help INPS share

the beauty of native plants with the public. You could win a prize! The contest is open to non-members, and we have a special division for students ages 11 to 18. Details at <https://indiananativeplants.org/inps-sponsored-events/2020-photo-contest/>

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**For Students A Unique Opportunity** The Indiana Native Plant Society invites a college or university student to serve on their Council for a one-year term, Fall 2020 through Summer 2021. INPS is a statewide organization with regional chapters. Led by the INPS Council, the statewide organization sets policy and direction, hosts major events, and supports the activities of the regional chapters. INPS seeks a student who will enjoy contributing to an organization that aims to champion biodiversity, nurture the web of life, and bring youth to nature. [Details](#)

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**Travel Philadelphia Garden Tour**, September 9-12. CANCELLED **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: November 4-15, Gardens and Temples of Tokyo and Kyoto with Hiroshima Post-Tour. <https://gardenandnaturetours.com/>

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**Photo Notes** Summer is made for insect watching, and when it's too hot to garden, that's my favorite pastime. My bottlebrush buckeye affords closeups of bees and wasps working the fuzzy blossoms. It's a native buckeye that makes a lush border at the woods edge, eventually reaching 15 feet high and wide. Saw my first Monarch butterfly today, flitting about the huge stand of common milkweed that's buzzing with fat bumblebees in my backyard and wafting a wonderful fragrance.

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**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.