



HortusScope | What's Up in the Central

Indiana Gardening Community | [Photo courtesy plantagogo.com](http://plantagogo.com)

Saturday, May 1 Hancock County Herb Society & Master Gardener Association Plant Sale 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 woodland plants. All major credit cards accepted. Hours are Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Hancock County Fairgrounds 4-H Show Arena, 620 Apple Street, Greenfield (southwest corner of Apple and Park Streets). For more information call 317-326-2274 or visit <http://hancockmga.com>.

Saturday, May 1 Herb Society of Central Indiana Plant a Salad Garden Get your hands dirty with us at Garfield Park Conservatory, learning to plant and tend a salad garden. We'll send home handouts to keep you going throughout the season. Plus, what's a garden without seeds or plants? You'll carry home the makings of your salad garden too. Adults, \$5. Masks required; social distancing will be observed. Therefore, space is limited. RSVP with Garfield Park Conservatory 317-327-7183. No refreshments will be offered at this time. 10:00 to 11:30 a.m., Garfield Park Conservatory, 2505 Conservatory Drive, Indianapolis. <https://www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org/>

Saturday, May 1 Johnson County Garden Club Garden Celebration: Wild and Native Discover how plants native to Indiana support your yard's ecosystem and preserve valuable wildlife from these speakers: 9:30 a.m. Dawn Slack, Director of Stewardship, The Nature Conservancy, "Our Amazing Indiana Native Plants and How to Manage for Them"; 10:30 a.m. Aaron Stump, Habitat Programs Manager, Indiana Wildlife Federation, "Certified Wildlife: How to Create a Wildlife Friendly Habitat"; 12:30 p.m. Sara High, Forestry Education Specialist, Woods on Wheels, DNR-IN (an interactive mobile exhibit throughout the day), "Best Indiana Trees as Host Plants"; 1:30 p.m. Andrea Quigley, Education Director, Providence Wildlife Rehabilitation, Northwest Indianapolis, "Urban Raptors in Central Indiana." *Note:* Seminar attendance qualifies for Purdue Master Gardener hours. Garden Celebration features 40+ garden-related vendors, a festive courtyard, and live music. Face masks required. The Garden Café, featuring selections from Chris Tompkins' Croc Pot Kitchen and Café, will provide breakfast and lunch for purchase. Main entrance is Scott Hall with educational seminars held in Herring Hall to the west. Free giveaways include seed packets and tree seedlings while supplies last. General admission is \$2 at the door. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Johnson County Fairgrounds, 250 Fairground St, Franklin. Visit [Johnson County Garden Club](#) Facebook page for updates.

Through Sunday, May 2 Art in Bloom Newfields is proud to show off this variety of breathtaking floral displays presented by Gary and Hannah Hirschberg, Aaron Wealth Advisors. During this four-day celebration, guests will experience the intersection of art and nature as the American, African, Asian, European, and Design Art galleries are adorned with blooming creations designed by some of Indianapolis' most talented floral artisans. During Art in Bloom, every flower will become a masterpiece alongside your favorite artworks in Newfields' permanent collection. Included with General Admission, free for members. Newfields, 4000 N. Michigan Road, Indianapolis.

<https://discovernewfields.org/calendar/art-in-bloom>

Saturday, May 8 thru Saturday, May 22 ISBVI Spring Plant Sale Features native plants, annuals, perennials, herbs, and vegetable plants (including heirloom varieties), hanging baskets, and beautiful planters of all sizes. We accept cash or check; sorry, no credit cards. All proceeds benefit students in the ISBVI Horticulture Program. Covid protocol will be in place, including masks and social distancing. Hours: 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. weekdays; 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, 7725 N. College Avenue, Indianapolis. www.lsbvigreenhouse.org

Through Sunday, May 9 Spring Blooms at Newfields Mother nature takes center stage at Newfields these days. The show, directed by Newfields' horticulture team, is not to be missed! With spring bulbs blooming throughout The Garden, there is something new to see every day. The IMA Galleries are brimming with life and so is The Madeline F. Elder Greenhouse. An intermission at The Beer Garden for a refreshing treat completes the experience. Presented by Wild Birds Unlimited. Included with General Admission, free for members. Newfields, 4000 N. Michigan Road, Indianapolis.

<https://discovernewfields.org/>

Tuesday, May 11 Indiana Daylily-Iris Society Historic Iris and Their Preservation In-person presentation by Peggy Harger-Allen, who divides her time between bird watching and gardening. Her mother and grandmother grew iris as it was a popular flower during the 1950s. Peggy started studying iris seriously in 2005 and now grows about 350 varieties. She especially enjoys black iris and historic iris (iris introduced over 30 years ago). Her garden is one of the display gardens of the Historic Iris Preservation Society. She is a garden/exhibition judge of the American Iris Society and currently serves as the treasurer for Region 6. 6:30 p.m., First Friends Church, 3030 Kessler Blvd, East Drive, Indianapolis.

www.indianadaylilyirissociety.org

Saturday, May 15, through Saturday, May 22 Indiana Native Plant Society Auction With native plant vendors popping up all around Indiana, we're forgoing our usual plant sale and instead highlighting the plant sellers in our [Buy Natives Directory](#). These vendors have committed to selling native plants and not selling invasive plants as part of our Grow Indiana Natives program. Their reward for donating to the auction: people will pick up the winnings at their places of business, introducing avid native plant enthusiasts to the best sources in their locales. The virtual auction will entice bidders with a specially curated collection of choice native plants and surprises to delight any gardener. Educational content is also planned. The silent auction kicks off at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 15, and culminates in a live auction at noon on Saturday, May 22; silent auction bidding closes at 2:00 p.m. that day. Register now to enjoy the bidding fun: <https://indiananativeplants.org/native-plant-auction-2021/>

Saturday, May 15 Hamilton County Master Gardeners Association 21st Annual Plant Sale Thousands of plants, sorted by sun-loving, part-sun, and shade ... perennials, herbs, vegetables ... Indiana native plants and pollinator-friendly plants ... Garden Store items and lots of free gardening advice ... and visit our daylily/iris bed where our iris will be in full bloom: you can pick your color and we will dig it for you!

(Our daylily sale will be later in the summer when they are blooming.) Our Plant Sale funds several scholarships and other small local grants every year. 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., 4H Fairgrounds, Noblesville. Bring your wagons, and we do accept cash, checks, and credit cards!

Tuesday, May 18 Fort Benjamin Blossoms Garden Club Plant and Garden Items Sale Proceeds support Club maintenance of public gardens in the area. Please join us! 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Benjamin Harrison YMCA, 5736 Lee Road, Indianapolis.

Thursday, May 20 Spring Green Garden Club of Carmel The History of Sunflowers Former president of The Garden Club of Indiana and local gardening expert Joyce Bulington will present a lively virtual presentation tracing the history of sunflowers from their early uses and cultivation to today's popularity in modern logos and weddings. Free. RSVP to SGGC1972@GMAIL.COM by May 15 to receive the Zoom link. 6:30 p.m., in the comfort of your own home.

Through Monday, May 31 Florathon Competition Benefitting Letha's Youth Outdoors Fund Florathon 2021 will again be an individual/household members competition while Covid is still at large. The Indiana Native Plant Society's Florathon is a great way to enjoy spring wildflowers and support a worthy cause. Here's how it works: Individuals (or small groups who live in the same household) enlist sponsors, then visit natural areas in Indiana during a 24-hour period of their choosing. The object is to identify as many native wildflower species in flower as they can. Sponsors honor the competitor's efforts by making a donation earmarked for [Letha's Youth Outdoors Fund](#), which puts kids in touch with nature. Sponsors who donate \$35 or more are eligible for a one-year complimentary INPS membership (pertains to first-time members only). <https://indiananativeplants.org/inps-sponsored-events/florathon/>

Tuesday, June 1 Indiana Daylily-Iris Society Hybridizing in the Tundra Phil and Luel Korth own Pinewood Gardens in a northern suburb of Green Bay, Wisconsin. Although close to Lake Michigan, the shallow bay freezes each winter and offers no temperature moderation. This means they are a full zone colder than directly across the lake in western Michigan. All their plants are field grown on sandy soil amended with topsoil and compost. Hybridizing daylilies since 1997, their program features full form tetraploids in a variety of colors and large green throated diploids. Raising around 1000 new seedlings each year, they have introduced 197 plants. All introductions are by both Phil and Luel so they have to agree on the flower and name. Prepare to hear the challenges of hybridizing in zone 4 and what future introductions may be coming from their work. 6:30 p.m., at First Friends Church, 3030 Kessler Blvd, East Drive, Indianapolis. www.indianadaylilyirissociety.org

Wednesday, June 2 Indianapolis Garden Club 25th Annual Garden Walk The event will showcase five of the city's finest urban and northside gardens, feature a local fine artist working *en plein air* in each garden (with the works for sale), and raise funds for nonprofits that serve conservation, civic improvement, and beautification projects in Indianapolis. The event is rain or shine, and tickets are non-refundable. Due to Covid restrictions, no luncheon option will be offered. Since 1996, proceeds from the annual Garden Walk have allowed the Indianapolis Garden Club to direct more than half a million dollars back into the City. The Club is a member of the Garden Club of America. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Garden addresses and map obtained with ticket purchase at <http://indianapolisgardenclub.org/garden-walk/>.

Thursday, June 3 Establishing and Maintaining a Wildlife Garden Whether you have a small or large space to grow flowers, are a beginner or have an established garden, Nancy Tatum will show you how growing flowers can attract wildlife. She will also discuss the importance of growing native plants, non-pesticide use, and how to certify your yard as a wildlife habitat with the Indiana Wildlife Federation. Vice

President of Indiana Native Plant Society's Central Chapter, Nancy is a self-taught gardener for over 25 years who has transformed her yard into a sanctuary for wildlife, including pollinators. She also has a large area for milkweed and raises monarchs from caterpillars she finds on the plants. Joint webinar presentation by Indianapolis Public Library and INPS Central Chapter. All are welcome to attend. 7:00 p.m. Register at <https://attend.indypl.org/event/5074552> to receive a Zoom link.

Cicada Guidance Purdue Extension entomologists say cicadas aren't something that needs to be managed. Females will lay eggs in ¼" to ½" diameter branches. This may cause flagging or dieback on smaller branches, but mature, healthy trees will outgrow the damage in time. Cicadas prefer oaks, maples, fruit trees and smaller trees or shrubs. If you have a newly planted smaller tree or shrub, netting with holes smaller than 3/8" may help prevent cicada damage. Netting would only need to be on vulnerable trees for about a month during peak emergence.

<https://extension.entm.purdue.edu/cicadas/>

Cicada Fun Want some fun ways to enjoy a little cicada magic? Check out [Purdue's Cicada Page](#) or the [DNR's Cicada Page](#). Download the [Cicada Safari](#) app and report on emergence in your area.

Get on the Map! Homegrown National Park™ Doug Tallamy's remarkable book *Nature's Best Hope* outlines a grassroots approach to conservation that homeowners everywhere can participate in. Relying on the initiatives of private individuals, this approach is immune from the whims of government policy, and is practical, effective, and easy. When you've planted some native plants, add your property to the national map of the growing Homegrown National Park™. Learn more at HomegrownNationalPark.org.

Garden Wisdom Bimonthly Sunday Classes with the Mad Botanist Rare, unique, non-credit, self-improvement educational opportunity including outside activity (participants need to be ambulatory). Every class is different and tailored to the participants (8 maximum); come ready to ask and answer questions (Socratic Method). [General Syllabus](#) [Testimonials](#) 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., 1st & 3rd Sundays through November; rain date the next Sunday. Check "Class" at themadbotanist.com for particulars.

Plant Shopping! Buy Natives Directory Indiana Native Plant Society makes it easy for you to locate native plants for sale. Our interactive Buy Natives Directory lets you find sellers and designers near you who offer native plants and do not use or sell invasive plants. A new URL takes you there directly: www.BuyIndianaNatives.org

Garden Gear Rain Barrels from Hamilton County SWCD Available for pre-order for \$75, these re-purposed 55-gallon barrels capture rainwater from your downspout and roof and hold it for later use to water plants and gardens or even wash the car. In peak summer months, a rain barrel can save around 1,300 gallons of free, naturally soft water for your use. Pre-pay for your barrel and choose between grey, terra cotta, and black. Diverter systems for easy installation are also available for \$25 and wooden pedestal stands are available for \$30. Rain barrel pre-orders are **due May 26** at www.hamiltonswcd.org. Orders will be available for pickup on Friday, June 4, 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. ** Carmel residents are eligible for a \$50-\$75 rebate from the City Stormwater Program after installing a rain barrel. The SWCD can provide an application for this program at the barrel pick up event.**

Grow Your Own! Indianapolis Public Library Seed Library We provide seeds for check-out as well as education and resources about growing and saving seeds and organic gardening. The Seed Library is

open and free to the public. For checkout and seed donation guidelines, please [contact](#) your local seed library branch. Find a list of available seeds and branch locations at <https://www.indypl.org/services/seed-library>

Volunteer Opp Join HIP Weed Wrangles® in Hamilton County This year, the first ever series of Weed Wrangles will be held across Hamilton County. These volunteer invasive species removal events are brought to you by the Hamilton County Invasive Species Partnership (HIP). HIP partners will be hosting Weed Wrangles throughout the year, targeting invasive species at parks and other public lands where invasive species are having a detrimental impact on our natural ecosystems. Eradicating these species is often a multi-year effort. Weed Wrangle volunteers learn how to manage a targeted invasive species and get to work as part of a collaborative effort to improve a natural area. Weed Wrangles are led by experts, so are a great opportunity for hands-on learning about invasive species and their management. Find Weed Wrangle volunteer opportunities at www.hcinvasives.org/weedwrangle. Registration is required, and new events are being added all the time. Address questions to 317-773-2181. **Weed Wrangle® Indiana** is part of a national movement to highlight the importance of managing invasive species and celebrate our native plant communities. To find Weed Wrangle events in your area, visit sicim.info/weed-wrangle-indiana.

Check It Out Indiana Wildlife Federation Updated Website More than a way to keep up with our latest [news](#), our new website is a resource for getting involved in wildlife and habitat conservation. New features are designed to meet the growing interest in our habitat work: [Native Plant Finder](#) Find details on hundreds of species of native Indiana plants, or plan your #Garden4Wildlife by using filters (sun exposure, soil type, height, bloom time, etc.). [Shop Our Native Plant Sale Online](#) Find out which plants are available through our year-round native plant sale and place your order online—no more printing and mailing orders. [Indiana Legislative Bill Tracker](#) Stay up to date with conservation-related legislation with our powerful bill tracker tool. Click on the bill to read the full bill language, see where it is in committee, find legislative cosponsors, and follow the latest updates. [Indiana Monarch & Pollinator Conservation Hub](#) IWF has led statewide monarch butterfly conservation planning since 2017, convening over 70 agency, nonprofit, education, and utility partners to build a strategy for monarch and pollinator conservation across broad sectors of Indiana's land users. Now the public can connect to #INMonCon too. [Habitat Program Booking](#) Browse our available habitat workshops and find a date to host your own! Student resources include the [Gary Doxtater Internship](#) and the [Holt Scholarship](#). <https://indianawildlife.org/>

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. 2021 Tours: June: Secret Gardens of Santa Fe; October: Gardens and National Parks of New Zealand. <https://gardenandnaturetours.com/>

Photo Notes What an amazing proliferation of *Heuchera* we have, thanks to enthusiastic breeders who know a lucrative effort when they see it. Heucheras (pronounced hoi'-ker-as, who knew?) now come in warm peaches, bright reds, purples, bright greens, and day-glo chartreuse. They're a wonderful ground cover for sheltered part-shade sites, and some even tolerate full sun. Just be aware that they tend to pop out of the ground during winter's freeze-and-thaw cycle. Just press them gently back into the soil and they'll be fine. Pictured is one of my favorites, *Heuchera* 'Southern Comfort', which has large leaves and a scrumptious color.

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.