



## HortusScope | What's Up in the Central

Indiana Gardening Community | Photo by Wendy Ford

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**Thursday, July 29 Marion County SWCD** Pogue's Run: Rain Barrel Build Workshop As part of The City League's basketball tournament, residents living along Pogue's Run will be able to build their own rain barrel to capture stormwater off their home downspouts. Thank you to the Kheprw Institute (KI) and their 'Express Yourself Rain Barrels' program for providing both the knowledge and materials needed for this workshop. 6:30-8:00 p.m., Boner Fitness & Learning Center, Chase Near Eastside Legacy Center, 727 North Oriental Street, Indianapolis. Register [here](#).

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**DNR Alert Remove Feeders and Birdbaths Statewide** After receiving reports of sick and dying birds, Indiana Department of Natural Resources recommends Indiana residents cease feeding all birds statewide. Bird feeders, bird baths, and other sources that encourage the congregation of wild birds should be taken down or discontinued. Feeders and baths should be cleaned with 10% bleach solution and stored until more information is available. Residents who find birds with eye or head swelling, crusty discharge around the eyes, and/or neurological signs (e.g., tremors, stumbling, weakness, lethargy) should submit the sighting to [DNR's sick or dead wildlife reporting system](#). Biologists are actively tracking reports, and samples have been submitted to the Indiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. No definitive cause of death has been identified at this time.

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**Free Tours The Medicinal Plant Garden at the Indiana Medical History Museum** demonstrates over 100 species from around the world. Informational signage tells how the plants have been used, and visitors are welcome to wander at their own pace. Free guided tours of the garden are offered on the **1st and 3rd Saturday mornings** June thru September at 11:00 a.m. Group tours can be arranged by contacting the museum. More information is available at [www.imhm.org](http://www.imhm.org) and 317 635-7329.

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**Take the Pledge! Protect Pollinators** Pollinator conservation is huge task, but it can work if each of us adopts this four-step mantra: (1) grow pollinator-friendly flowers, (2) provide nest sites, (3) avoid pesticides, and (4) spread the word. With these core values, pollinator conservation can be adapted to any location, whether you tend an urban community garden or a suburban yard, work in a city park or on a farm. Make your commitment to these four principles by signing our [Pollinator Protection Pledge](#).

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**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](http://HomegrownNationalPark.org).

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**Garden Wisdom 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](http://themadbotanist.com) for particulars.

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**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](http://www.BuyIndianaNatives.org)

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**Plant Shopping! Native Plants from Keep Indianapolis Beautiful** Native plants play a vital role in capturing stormwater, supporting native bee and pollinator populations, and beautifying our city. KIB is growing spring, summer, and fall blooming plants from seed, and new plants will be available throughout the summer and fall. In fact, many 2" plant plugs are ready TODAY for a new home in your yard or neighborhood greenspace. [All plant purchases must be placed online](#) and picked up from KIB's office (1029 Fletcher Ave) on Wednesdays or Thursdays from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. When you arrive, show your email or printed receipt as proof of purchase. Nursery boss Ethan Olson can answer any questions you may have at [eolson@kibi.org](mailto:eolson@kibi.org).

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**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>

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**Advocacy Opp Recovering America's Wildlife Act (HR 2773)** The bipartisan Recovering America's Wildlife Act will dedicate \$1.3 billion annually to state-led conservation efforts to prevent at-risk wildlife from becoming endangered, and an additional \$97.5 million to tribal fish and wildlife managers. If passed, this would be the most significant new investment in wildlife conservation in decades. Rep. Andre Carson is cosponsoring the bill. Reps. Frank Mrvan and Victoria Spartz have not signed on. Contact your U.S. House Representative and ask them to cosponsor HR 2773 Recovering America's Wildlife Act today!

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**Volunteer Opp Join HIP Weed Wrangles® in Hamilton County** Lend a hand in volunteer invasive species removal events 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](http://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](http://sicim.info/weed-wrangle-indiana).

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**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: October: Gardens and National Parks of New Zealand. <https://gardenandnaturetours.com/>

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**A Good Laugh New Service from Garden Writer Carol Michel** Are you working hard on your garden but getting little or no interest from your friends and relatives? The author of my favorite blog and several books of garden wisdom/humor is offering to come and admire your garden, for a fee. Just waiting for the right moment to sign up. <https://caroljmichel.com/?s=admiring>

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**Photo Notes** *Rudbeckia hirta* 'Indian Summer' is a cultivar of our native black-eyed Susan that inhabits open woods, prairies, roadsides, and wastelands. Known for its enormous blooms, this nativar flowers all summer long and brings a welcome dose of sunshine to the landscape on a rainy day. July belongs to the pollinators, and I expect to see a slew of butterflies visiting Indian Summer's golden flower heads.

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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.