



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

Gardening Community | Photo courtesy Marilee Biddle

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**Wednesday, November 3 Traditional Uses of Indigenous Plants** Karen LaMere, INPS Central Chapter board member, Carmel-Clay Parks Naturalist, and descendent of the Ho-Chunk Nation will discuss the use of plants and animals in the daily life of her ancestors. Her grandfather was born in a wigwam in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Karen has been working in the field of natural resources for 30+ years and is currently the naturalist for Carmel-Clay Parks and Recreation. Her past experiences include naturalist work at Eagle Creek Park, Merry Lea Environmental Center, Wisconsin DNR, and River Bend Nature Center. She received her Bachelors degree in Biology from Olivet College and a Masters in Fisheries and Wildlife from Michigan State University. This free event is open to everyone, but registration is required by midnight November 2. Program is at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. Register at <https://bit.ly/3nrtiKk>.

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**Saturday, November 6 Indianapolis Hosta Society Turning Trash into Treasure & Blocking the View** Jason Reeves, horticulturist, curator of the University of Tennessee Gardens, and a well-known garden speaker, will deliver two programs. "Turning Trash into Treasure" will inspire you to repurpose your own castaway into a whimsical garden creation. In "Blocking the View," Jason will talk about successful screen plantings. Between the two programs there will be time for socializing and appetizers. Free and open to the public. Noon to 4:00 p.m., Holliday Park Nature Center, 6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis. [www.indianapolishostasociety.org](http://www.indianapolishostasociety.org)

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**Sunday, November 7 Spirit & Place Festival Monarchs in a Changing World: How These Butterflies Bring Us Together** Learn about monarch butterflies and the importance of conservation while helping complete a new mural. A partnership between [CILTI](#), [Jefferson Art Studio](#) and Indiana Wildlife Federation. Monarchs go through the ultimate change when they metamorphosize from caterpillar to chrysalis and finally the beloved butterfly we all recognize. Attendees will assist in the completion of a mural designed by local artist Megan Jefferson while learning how to help increase the population of monarch butterflies. We will discuss how the monarch is a flagship species that improves the visibility of other conservation goals. All ages, free of charge; sponsored by Central Indiana Land Trust. 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., Oliver's Woods Nature Preserve, 8825 River Road, Indianapolis. [RSVP Required](#)

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**Monday, November 8 Herb Society of Central Indiana An Evening with Chef Regina Mehallick** Five-time James Beard Semifinalist and one of our favorite chefs, Regina Mehallick will share wonderful ideas for gift giving and demonstrate some foods to serve when we entertain over the holidays, including Herb Garden Chef's Salt; Dukkah, a spice blend; and Mediterranean pesto for a Pesto Pasta Salad. Those attending will get to taste or take home a sample of these treats! You will not want to miss the suggestions and recipes of this Farm to Table Pioneer. The program will be followed by snacks and a business meeting. Let us know if you are bringing a snack at [magic\\_46060@yahoo.com](mailto:magic_46060@yahoo.com). Free and open to the public. Gather at 6:15 p.m., John Hensel Gov't Center, 10701 N College Ave, Indianapolis.

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**Thursday, November 11 Hoosier Environmental Council How to Watchdog Wetland and Water Permits** Free online training. 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Eastern (6:00 to 7:00 Central). [Register](#)

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**Saturday, November 13 Indiana Native Plant Society Virtual Annual Conference Wild Indiana & Wilding Indiana Gardens** One of Indiana's premiere nature events, the INPS Annual Conference draws environmentalists, gardeners, nature photographers, bird lovers, landscapers, ecologists, seed planters and more.



This year's theme highlights the variety and beauty of our native flora and how our own gardens might employ them to support native wildlife. Paul Rothrock, sedge guru and emeritus curator of the Indiana University Herbarium, will explore the legacy of "Charles Deam, The Great Hoosier Botanist." Two of Indiana's best botanists will talk about the natural landscapes they know best. Mike Homoya will share tales of "Southern Exposure: Indiana's Land of Bluffs, Bayous, and Barrens." Scott Namestnik will visit our northern border as he reveals "True North: Indiana's Territory of Prairies, Lakes, Forests, and Wetlands". Popular nature blogger Jim McCormac will speak on "Gardening for Moths in the Midwest." Between sessions, participants will enjoy a nature trivia quiz and learn the winners of the 2021 Photo Contest and the inaugural 2022 Native Plant of the Year. Find links to registration (open now until November 12) and speaker talks at <https://indiananativeplants.org/inps-sponsored-events/annual-conference>. Participants who register and pay the \$25 fee will be sent an email with instructions on obtaining their own personal Zoom link.

[Register](#)

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**Friday & Saturday, November 19 & 20 Greening the Statehouse Virtual Meeting**

Organized by Hoosier Environmental Council, this is the largest annual gathering of environmentally minded Hoosiers. It is the year's best chance to learn about upcoming legislative issues, engage with environmental public policy experts, and network with environmental- and green-minded Individuals and businesses from across the state. [Agenda](#) includes solar energy, wetland protection and restoration, environmental justice, and what it will take to move Indiana from its

polluting past and present. General admission \$35, students \$25. [Register](#)

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**Monday, November 22–January 2 Winterlights at Newfields** Experience over a million and a half lights glittering in The Garden at Winterlights, presented by Bank of America. Just over the river and through the woods, Winterlights transforms Newfields into a winter wonderland. Tradition abounds and old favorites return—Landscape of Light dances on the Lilly Allee while wind whistles in the Ice Storm Walk. See your family and friends' eyes twinkle as they take in new additions including Huckleberry Funk's own projection-mapped rock show and local artist Anila Agha's mesmerizing sculpture that uses light and shadow to explore concepts of communal space, belonging and exclusion. Holiday goodies and hot cocoa will be served up under the glow of the lights; Girl Scouts will be selling their famous s'mores; and holiday shoppers can find something for everyone on their list at the Wintermarket. Masks are required for all guests at Newfields when inside and outdoors when social distancing is not possible. [Purchase tickets](#)

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**Forward Thinking** **Hamilton County Lets You Trade In Your Invasive Plant for a Native** This fall the Hamilton County Invasives Partnership (HIP) and Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) are offering an invasive species trade-in program. For a limited time and as supplies last, property owners can show proof of removal of an invasive species on their Hamilton County property and receive one five-gallon native species specimen for free. Landscape plantings of callery pear species, burning bush, Japanese barberry, and Norway maple are the preferred species for removal but you can apply when removing other invasive species listed on the Official Indiana Invasive Species Council Invasive Plant List. Trades are limited to one per address. Learn more and apply at [www.hcinvasives.org](http://www.hcinvasives.org).

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**Grant Opportunities** **Indiana Native Plant Society** INPS supports well-conceived grant projects that are in line with its mission to promote the appreciation, preservation, scientific study, and use of plants native to Indiana and to teach people about their beauty, diversity, and importance to our environment. The state organization funds two grant programs, each with its own emphasis, application process, and timelines, and two regional chapters have recently launched their own small grant programs. Explore the possibilities at <https://indiananativeplants.org/about-us/grants-home/>.

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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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**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). 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.

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**Photo Notes** When are we to expect our first frost/freeze? Just because the average date for Marion County has been October 19 for the past 46 years doesn't mean we should expect it then. Our friend Bill McKnight, aka The Mad Botanist, who pays attention to such things, notes that for the past five years, the first frost/freeze occurred on Nov 12 (2016), Oct 26 (2017), Oct 21 (2018), Oct 31 (2019), and Oct 15 (2020). Says Bill, "We are hung up on averages and mistakenly think (our desire for comforting consistency, a sense of control) that what happened last year OR what might happen next year have any connection with the event date this year OR that the spring and fall events are at all connected. IT DOES NOT! THEY DO NOT!" He has more to say about this in his February 2020 rant at [www.themadbotanist.com](http://www.themadbotanist.com).

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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.