



HortusScope | What's Up in the Central Indiana

Gardening Community | Winter tree mandala ©Zen Moments

Happy New Year, HortusScope reader! Welcome to our seventeenth year of posting news and events for more than 1600 subscribers in the Central Indiana gardening community. Please continue to send me details of your gardening events and environmental efforts, and let's make this a fruitful and satisfying 2022.

Saturday, January 1 Take a First Day Hike on New Year's Day Welcome 2022 with an Indiana DNR First Day Hike, a healthy way to start the new year and provide a chance to get outside, exercise, and enjoy nature. First Day Hikes have become a tradition for thousands of Hoosiers.

<https://www.in.gov/dnr/state-parks/programs/program-schedules/>

Sunday January 2 Holiday Tree Recycling Day (Carmel) Wondering what to do with your evergreen tree once the festivities are over? We would love to take it off your hands! Come by to drop off your decoration and wire-free holiday tree, wreath, or mantel garland and enjoy a warming beverage on us. Your tree will be recycled into mulch and put to good use here in the community. A sustainability event that's good for you and good for the planet! Sponsored by Carmel-Clay Parks & Recreation. Noon to 4:00 p.m., Central Park Westermeier Commons, Carmel. carmelclayparks.com

Through January 2 Winterlights at Newfields Last chance to experience over a million and a half lights glittering in The Garden at Winterlights, which transforms Newfields into a winter wonderland. Holiday goodies and hot cocoa will be served up under the glow of the lights; Girl Scouts will be selling their famous s'mores. Masks are required for all guests at Newfields when inside and outdoors when social distancing is not possible. [Purchase tickets](#)

Saturday January 15 Indiana Organic Gardeners Association (Carmel) Winter Sowing Presentation by Denise Miller following a pitch-in/brown-bag lunch and a business meeting and Q&A. Masks required. Luncheon 11:00 a.m., presentation 1:00 p.m., Nature Center, Cool Creek Park, 2000 E 151st Street, Carmel. <http://www.gardeningnaturally.org/>

Wednesday, January 19 Indiana Native Plant Society Central Chapter Bats of Indiana Most of us don't know much about bats and may even be fearful of them. This informative virtual program will help participants better prepare themselves to be a bat advocate year-round, dispelling bat myths and sharing interesting facts about these unique creatures such as what the bats of Indiana do seasonally and where they go in the summer versus winter. Speaker Brad Westrich, Mammalogist with Indiana DNR, will discuss the benefits bats provide people; how to help bats through gardening, landscaping, providing artificial habitats, and some out-of-the-box ideas too; and what to do if you find a bat under

various scenarios. Open to everyone. Register at <https://bit.ly/3ccHekH> to obtain a link to the 7:00 p.m. program.

Saturday, January 22 Central Indiana Seed Swap (Noblesville) Sponsored by Hamilton County Master Gardener Association. Free admission, speakers, and a silent auction. 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Hamilton County Fairgrounds, 2003 Pleasant Street, Noblesville. <http://www.hcmga.org>.

Saturday, January 29 Indiana Wildlife Conference Indiana Wildlife Federation will offer an in-person event as well as a virtual attendance option. Attendance in-person will be available only to those who have been fully vaccinated against the coronavirus. Keynote speaker is Dr. Mamie Parker, the first Black woman regional director in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, overseeing 13 Northeastern states and key conservation successes, including pivotal work to remove dams and restore fish passage for Atlantic salmon. She went on to serve as Head of Fisheries nationally. Popular speaker Jim McCormac will talk about Flora, Moths, and Birds, and Amanda Wuestefeld and Brad Westrich will present updates from DNR's Division of Fish and Wildlife. For in-person attendees, there will be a live bird demonstration by the Eagle Creek Ornithology Center and a catered lunch at the Garrison at Fort Harrison State Park. Fees range from \$25 to \$75 for in-person versus online participation and member/non-member status. Register online at indianawildlife.org/conference.

Employment Opp Hoosier Environmental Council Seeking Executive Director The HEC Board of Directors has started the search for a talented, experienced, passionate individual to serve as our next Executive Director and pilot the organization into its fifth decade. We are looking for a leader who is knowledgeable and passionate about environmental issues, a skilled and effective communicator with diverse audiences, and an accomplished Level 5 Leader (Collins). The successful candidate will possess the patience, resilience, and determination to accomplish long-term goals that will affect generations of Hoosiers. Learn more and apply at <https://apply.workable.com/the-hoosier-environmental-council/j/9898CDE7D5/>

Advocacy Opp Help Indiana Wetlands As we head into the 2022 Legislative Session, Hoosier Environmental Council offers three ways you can help: 1.) Ask your [state representative and state senator](#) to preserve wetlands and other Indiana ecosystems by using a portion of the budget surplus for land, water, and wildlife conservation. 2.) Ask your [state representative](#) to co-sponsor Rep. Pat Boy's wetland bill. Her bill will create a new tax incentive for wetland preservation. As a constituent of a state representative and state senator, you are best positioned to influence their thinking on the environment. [Schedule time with your lawmakers](#)—as an individual or as part of a group—to inform these lawmakers, dialogue with them, and persuade them. It's easy to set up such meetings and it's the start of a long-term working relationship with them. 3.) Do you like to research, write, and work to protect Indiana's wetlands? If so, volunteer to watchdog wetland permit applications! Email HEC's Senior Water Policy Associate, Susie McGovern, at smcgovern@hecweb.org to get started.

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.

Hobnob with Sedge Guy Sedge Symposium Honoring Paul Rothrock Ever wanted to spend 2+ days and evenings discussing Carex and related plant topics with outstanding botanists and sedge experts? Here is

your chance! The Indiana Academy of Science is hosting a special symposium honoring Dr. Paul Rothrock, IU Deam Herbarium author of *Sedges of Indiana and the Adjacent States (Vol II): The Carex Species*. The symposium will take place in Bloomington (IN) May 16-18 at the Monroe Convention Center, featuring field trips and presentations focusing on Carex, nativity, taxonomy, status & future of herbaria and natural history study, symbiosis (esp. ants), horticulture and, of course, the Sedge Man. Limited to 100 participants. For more information and to register, see Rothrock Sedge Symposium on the IAS website (indianaacademyofscience.org) or contact symposium organizer Bill McKnight at bill.madbotanist@gmail.com or 317-205-5440.

Photo Notes The mandala, or circle, evokes time's circular pattern of creation, flourishing, and destruction leading again to creation. Some see it as representing the spiritual universe and draw or color mandalas to reduce stress, connect deeply with themselves, and appreciate forms of beauty in the world (see www.mandalasforthesoul.com). This winter tree mandala (courtesy zenmoments.org) reminds me of the peace that comes from a walk in the woods, no matter the time of year. The Japanese call it *Shinrin-yoku* or "forest bathing." First Day Hikes with the DNR can take you into that happy place. Happy New Year everyone!

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. *Thanks, Shirley Fry, the Herb Society of Central Indiana, and Bill "The Mad Botanist" McKnight, for your generous support of HortusScope.*