



HortusScope | What's Up in the Central Indiana

Gardening Community | [Virginia bluebells by Lori Lawson](#)

Now thru Sunday, May 8 Spring Blooms at Newfields Presented by Wild Birds Unlimited
Warm days, cool nights and a mixture of rain and sun have done wonders for The Garden. Spring on over to Newfields to take in the spectacular showing of florals at Spring Blooms. Hyacinths, daffodils, poppies, and early tulips are popping up around every turn. Included in General Admission, free for Members. Newfields is open until 8 PM on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, so you have more time to enjoy the season. [Tickets](#)

Now thru Monday, May 30 Indiana native Plant Society Florathon It's a combination team competition and fundraiser. Teams of two to six people, traveling together, 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. Anyone can participate! Team members enlist sponsors (family, friends, office mates, church groups, carpool, businesses, whatever) who honor their efforts by donating to the Indiana Native Plant Society to further the INPS mission. Sponsors who donate \$35 or more are eligible for a one-year complimentary INPS membership (pertains to first-time members only).

Tuesday, May 3 thru Sunday, May 29 Native Plants Unlimited Find Geist Nursery well stocked with native plants for on-site purchase. <https://nativeplantsunlimitedshop.com/>

Friday & Saturday, May 6 & 7 Hancock County Herb Society & Master Gardener Association Plant Sale (Greenfield) 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 house plants in addition to hanging baskets just in time for Mother's Day. HCMGA pre-sale orders may be placed online thru May 3 at hancockmga.com and be picked up during the plant sale. Credit and debit cards accepted. Hours: Friday 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Hancock County Fairgrounds, 4-H Show Arena (southwest corner of Apple and Park Streets). For more information, please contact Carolyn (HCHS) at 317-326-2274 or Teresa (HCMGA) at 317-441-9944.

Saturday, May 7 Herbal Gifts for Mother's Day Join the Herb Society of Central Indiana for a workshop on making herbal gifts for Mother's Day or any day. We will be making sachets, tussie-mussies from fresh herbs and among other items. There will be handouts, recipes, and herbal goodies to sample. Fee: \$6 per person. 10:00 to 11:30 a.m., Garfield Park Conservatory, 2505 Conservatory Drive, Indianapolis. [Registration required](#)

Saturday, May 7 Johnson County Garden Club & Purdue Extension (Franklin) Garden Celebration XVII: Watch Your Garden Grow Enhance your garden with tips from professionals regarding roses, daylilies, trees, and much more. Scott and Herring Halls, located on the east side of the Johnson County fairgrounds, will feature 40+ garden-related vendors, a festive courtyard, and live music. Master Gardeners can qualify for education hours at these educational seminars: 10:30 a.m. Bret Clement, Growing and Breeding Daylilies; 11:30 a.m. Bob Bruner, Wild About Roses; 12:30 p.m. Brooke Alford, Embracing Indiana's Native Plants; 1:30 p.m. Sara High, Shrubs and Trees in the Garden; and Andrea Quigley, Urban Raptors in Central Indiana (at booth all day). The Garden Café featuring selections from Geri Girl Bakery (Edinburgh) will provide breakfast and lunch for purchase. 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, 484 N. Morton Street, Franklin. Free parking at Johnson County Fairgrounds, 250 Fairground Street. Visit the Johnson County Garden Club Facebook page for updates or email jcgardenclub@gmail.com.

Saturday & Sunday, May 7 & 8 Indy Urban Acres Plant Sale Indy Urban Acres is a collection of four organic farms that works to inspire transformational change within Indy's food system by providing food justice for low-income families, educating thousands of youth through tours and farm-to-plate workshops, providing community engagement to thousands of volunteers and groups, and teaching teens valuable job skills. Open for in-person sales, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
<https://www.iuaplantsale.com/#/>

Saturday to Saturday, May 7 to 14 Indiana Native Plant Society Auction After a successful virtual and statewide event in 2021, the INPS Auction will continue as an online forum in 2022. This virtual auction format reaches members and non-members throughout Indiana and provides fantastic offers of rare native plants, private garden tours, celebrity guided hikes, plants donated by INPS members, and choice natives from our invasive-free [Grow Indiana Natives](#) vendors. Online silent bidding will begin Saturday, May 7, at 8:00 a.m. and continue through Saturday, May 14, at 10:00 p.m. Winning bidders will be put in touch with donors to arrange for plant pickup from their home or business, or to set a time and place for a hike or private garden tour. [Register now](#) and plan on a week of bidding fun! Questions? Please send them to auktion@indiananativeplants.org.

Monday, May 9 Indianapolis Hosta Society The Good, the Bad & the Ugly: Garden Insects 101 Sarah Gray, an entomologist in a previous life, will introduce you to the fascinating world of insects, their importance and uses, the behaviors that make them so successful, how to encourage beneficial insect populations, and how to control undesirable ones in the garden. Impress your friends and family with bizarre insect trivia: which insect has been known to fly 100 miles in a day, which insect can release a chemical bomb, and why you would not want to be a male honeybee. Free and open to the public. 6:30 p.m., Holliday Park Nature Center, 6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis. indianapolishostasociety.org

Tuesday, May 10 Indiana Phenology Citizen Science Training Learn how to document seasonal changes in plants for yourself and for science in this free, virtual volunteer observer training program. Hosted by Indiana Phenology, a volunteer organization dedicated to documenting the timing of seasonal changes in Indiana plants. 10:00 a.m. Register at www.indianaphenology.org/events. Follow us on [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#).

Thursday, May 12 Marion County SWCD Spring Gardening Workshop Join Kevin Allison for an in-depth tour of cover crop termination, use of tarps for bed preparation and weed control, use of compost and mulches, no-till vegetable planting, and growing biodiversity. Meet at the SWCD

Demonstration Garden, located within the larger community Mayor's Garden at West 56th and Reed Road, Indianapolis. 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. [Register](#)

Friday & Saturday, May 13 & 14 Marion County SWCD Workshop Indiana Black Loam Conference

Designed to assist and inform BIPOC and underserved growers with resources available across the state and in our local communities, this free workshop will provide information and networking around USDA programs, loans, grants and scholarships, sustainable agricultural practices, business planning, and community development. USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service Chief Cosby will give the keynote address. Organized by The Legacy Taste of the Garden in partnership with the Center for Africana Studies & Culture IUPUI, Lawrence Community Gardens, and Moore Heritage Project among others. Hours: Friday, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., BIPOC grower reception and network; Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., conference. Held at Madame Walker Legacy Center, 617 Indiana Avenue, Indianapolis. [More about the event](#) Register at <https://bit.ly/black-loam-indy>

Saturday, May 14 Garfield Park Master Gardener Annual Plant Sale The sale will feature annual and perennial plants for both sun and shade grown by local Master Gardeners and Indianapolis area nurseries. Native plants, plants for shade gardens, vegetables and herbs also will be available. Proceeds fund the gardening needs of local community organizations as well as neighborhood educational activities. During the plant sale, Master Gardeners will answer questions and offer advice. After the sale, visitors are encouraged to visit the Garfield Park Conservatory. Located within the 136-acre Garfield Park on the city's near southside, the conservatory houses 10,000 square feet of plants from the world's tropics. Admission to the conservatory is \$3 per person; admission free to attend the plant sale. 9:00 a.m. to noon, Garfield Park Conservatory and Sunken Garden. For more information, contact Oren Cooley, Garfield Park Master Gardener Association, at pastpfct@aol.com.

Saturday, May 14 Madison County Master Gardener Association Plant Sale (Alexandria) The sale will feature perennial and annual bedding plants as well as a lovely selection of herbs and vegetables. Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer your gardening questions, provide educational materials and let you know how to become a Master Gardener yourself. A rummage sale will offer a wide selection of priceless treasures and goodies for your garden. Proceeds support our ongoing community education outreach. Come early for best selection. 9:00 a.m. to noon, Exhibit Hall at the Madison County Fairgrounds, 512 E 4th Street, Alexandria.

Tuesday, May 17 Fort Benjamin Blossoms Annual Plant Sale Proceeds used to maintain public garden spaces. 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Benjamin Harrison YMCA, 5736 Lee Road, Indianapolis.

Thursday, May 19 Indiana Native Plant Society Central Chapter Composting Demystified Whether you want to produce the most nutrient rich, organic fertilizer for your garden, divert your leaves from the landfill, or close the final leg of food waste, composting is a valuable tool. Brooke Alford, Urban Agriculture & Natural Resources Educator at Purdue Extension-Marion County, has been an avid composter for over 20 years. She will discuss the different strategies for composting, composting structures, and material input. Free and open to everyone. Virtual program begins at 7:00 p.m. Registration required at <https://bit.ly/3LiYggj>.

Saturday, May 21 Marion County SWCD & Friends of the White River Stream Steward Workshop Learn how to become a more responsible riparian property owner! The workshop will be held at a beautiful location adjacent to the White River and will highlight several facets of streambank management including: keeping trash out of our waterways; invasive plant identification and treatment

options; sediment and erosion control strategies; stream ecosystems and the macroinvertebrates; native plant and live stake installation options; tree and shrub planting activities. The program is funded with the generous support of the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust and its Partners for the White River involving more than a dozen organizations working towards enhancement of the waterway. Limited to 30 registrants. 9:30 a.m. to noon, Indianapolis Art Center, 820 E. 67th St, Indianapolis.

[Register](#)

Saturday, May 21 Hamilton County Master Gardeners Association's Plant Sale (Noblesville) Shop from our large selection of plants, including native plants, hostas, daylilies, perennials, vegetables, water plants, and some shrubs and small trees. Wagons will be available, but there are never enough for everyone so bring your own if possible. Cash, credit cards, and checks will be accepted. Choose your own iris to be dug in front of you in the iris bed at the rear of the fairgrounds. CDC guidelines in place at the time of the sale will be followed. 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., 4-H Fairgrounds main building, 2003 Pleasant Street, Noblesville. Learn more at [23rd Annual Plant Sale & Iris Sale – HCMGA](#)

Wednesday–Thursday, June 1–2 Columbus, Ohio, Garden Tour Join the Holliday Park Foundation for a unique opportunity to visit some of the most spectacular gardens in Columbus, Ohio. Horticulturist Chris Turner will lead an unforgettable tour of historic gardens, specialty nurseries, and exclusive private gardens rarely open to the public. For complete information on the tour and to register, visit <https://www.hollidaypark.org/events-programs/tours>.

Saturday, June 4 Indianapolis Hosta Society Annual Hosta Sale (Noblesville) Buy the newest hostas on the market, from miniatures to giants, as well as hostas you will not find in box stores. Cash, check, and major credit cards are accepted. The sale will also feature vendors specializing in rare and unusual plants and trees: Tree Frog Gardens, John Chapin – featuring unusual perennials, shrubs, conifers and flowering trees. Pine View Nursery, Kevin Collard – featuring ornamental trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants. Lulu’s Petals, Cindy Thompson – beautiful fused glass garden totems. Utopos Gardens, Chris Turner – tropical plants. 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Hamilton County Fairgrounds, Exhibition Center, Hall A, 2003 Pleasant St., Noblesville.

Saturday & Sunday, June 4 & 5 Garden Fair at Minnetrista Our annual Garden Fair is the ultimate destination for horticulturists of any level, whether you’re a master gardener or looking to simply spruce up your lawn. Throughout this free, two-day community event, a wide variety of vendors will be available to help you discover beautiful plants, landscaping tools, and crafts to enhance your summer garden. You can also speak directly with horticulture experts to get tips on your projects. Hours: Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. <https://www.minnetrista.net/garden-fair>

Monday, June 6 Fort Benjamin Blossoms & Shamrock Garden Clubs All are invited to a program on Container Gardening presented by Carey Grable, Home Horticulture Educator, Purdue Extension. 6:00 p.m., Lawrence Library Community Room, 7898 Hague Road, Indianapolis.

Saturday, June 11 Rosefest 2022 (Noblesville) The Indianapolis Rose Society and the Hamilton County Master Gardeners invite you to a day filled with beautiful roses, rose growing demonstrations, a rose garden tour, free roses to first 30 guests, an ARS accredited rose show, and wonderful speakers. 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Hamilton County Fairgrounds, 2003 Pleasant Street, Noblesville. Learn more at <https://indianapolisrosesociety.com/rosefest/rosefest-2022/>

Wednesday & Thursday, June 15 & 16 Acres Land Trust Visit by Robin Wall Kimmerer Details are lacking, but in Acres' latest quarterly (Spring 2022; vol. 61, #1) announce the visit by Ms. Kimmerer, author of *Braiding Sweetgrass*. Inquire at acres@acreslandtrust.org

Mad Botanist Rant Leaves of Three... Sayings meant to help identify poison ivy contribute to confusion since many plants we encounter are trifoliate (i.e., a compound leaf with three parts or leaflets). The confusion frequently involves another common woody native, boxelder, but the two species are quite different. Mad Botanist Bill McKnight explains all at <https://www.themadbotanist.com/rant-of-the-month-1>

Volunteer Opp Hamilton County Invasives Partnership (HIP) Weed Wrangles Green is not always good. Hamilton County landscapes are encountering growing threats from non-native plants. Invasive plants introduced in this region decades ago for landscaping and other purposes are now a serious concern for our parks, public green spaces, and our own backyards. More and more, this counties' beautiful native trees, plants and wildlife are losing the fight against these aggressive plants, vines, trees and insects that consume nutrients, disrupt the ecological balance and disfigure the outdoor world where county residents hike, bike, picnic, play, and relax. To restore balance, the organizations of the Hamilton County Invasives Partnership (HIP) are inviting volunteers to help rescue our public parks from invasive species by participating in Weed Wrangles. During the Weed Wrangle, teams of volunteers, supervised by knowledgeable guides, locate and uproot unwelcome plants such as bush honeysuckle, garlic mustard, autumn olive, English ivy, and winter creeper. Opportunities to take part in an invasive species Weed Wrangle on public property can be found on the HIP website, www.hcinvasives.org.

Volunteer Opp What's Up at Keep Indianapolis Beautiful? KIB needs your help to keep Indianapolis beautiful! Even a few hours can make a big difference. Every year we rely on nearly 20,000 volunteers to help us carry out our mission to help people and nature thrive together in our city. Whether you are interested in cleaning up litter, building pocket parks, creating greenspaces, planting trees, preparing mail, or assisting with special projects, there's a way you can help. <https://www.kibi.org/projects>

Volunteer Opp Circle City CISMA Did you know that Indiana landowners and managers spend more than \$8 million annually to manage invasive plants in our state? CISMAs (Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas) are forming all over the state through the [Indiana Invasives Initiative](#), and central Indiana counties are part of Circle City CISMA. Ways to get involved: Participate in spring Weed Wrangles and other partner events to remove invasive species and collect native seeds. Follow us on social media (Facebook, Instagram). Take our [invasive species survey](#) for property owners. Control invasives on your own property and remember, proper identification and eradication methods are the key! Learn more about how to fight invasives locally at <https://circlecitycisma.org/resources/> and find upcoming Weed Wrangles at <https://circlecitycisma.org/events/>.

Helpful! Creating & Maintaining a Prairie Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District has created a new resource to guide you in establishing native plantings on your property. The new booklet, a guide for native plantings in your Indiana yard of any size, outlines planning, site preparation, planting, and maintenance for plantings ranging from small pollinator gardens to multi-acre native prairies. Free copies of the 50-page booklet are available at the SWCD office in Noblesville thanks to a Clean Water Indiana Grant. Or, you can view the booklet [online](#) and download a PDF.

No, no, Mosquito Joe! The pressure has already begun to persuade you to hire a mosquito fogging company to rid your yard of those pesky mosquitoes and give you an itch-free summer. Please protect

Nature's delicate balance with a targeted, less expensive, ecosystem-friendly solution. This video by entomologist and native plant guru Doug Tallamy tells us how: <https://youtu.be/TqcDZDNtP-0>.

Fresh Addressing Indy's Food Desert Recent studies show Indianapolis is one of the worst food deserts in the country. Inside these spaces, African-American farmers are offering critical access points for nutrition. Learn more in [this article](#) from WTHR.com.

Web Find Marc Evans' "Cheat Sheet" for Spring Wildflower Seekers Marc Evans Media is tracking the phenology of spring bloomers in Southwest Indiana for all those participating in the Wildflower Weekend at McCormick's Creek State Park, the Brown County Wildflower Foray, and the Indiana Native Plant Society Florathon. As a free service, every year Marc provides a list of what started blooming when and provides numerous photos to guide the hunt. Find his website at <https://wildflowers2022.weebly.com/>

Start a New HABITAT!® 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.

Unleash the Wild on Your Backyard If you've not heard Doug Tallamy's message on why we should fight invasive species and sterile landscapes by going native and going natural, here's a [Smithsonian Magazine article](#) that tells his own landowner story and eloquently states the case.

Garden Travel English Gardens & Grand Estates, hosted by C. Colston Burrell & Isabel Wrench, May 21 to June 5, 2022. [Brochure](#)

Photo Notes What's not to love about our native Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*)? They're now in full bloom under my serviceberry trees, where I hope they'll colonize like they do in the wild, spreading a blanket of bright blue over the forest floor. Like all spring ephemerals, they'll be gone by summer, but certainly not forgotten. We thank Lori Lawson for this lovely photo she shared in the Indiana Native Plant Society Facebook group.

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.