



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

Gardening Community | Photo by Wendy Ford

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**Tuesday, August 2 Indiana Daylily-Iris Society What's Happening at Riverbend Gardens** Presentation by Sandy Holmes of Riverbend Daylily Garden, Xenia, Ohio. Sandy and her husband Mike started Riverbend Garden in 1996 when they became backyard hybridizers. They now raise 40,000 to 50,000 seedlings at a time. They grow and hybridize tetraploid daylilies, striving to introduce plants with excellent plant habit and distinctive looks. Sandy is drawn to large, unusual form daylilies; Mike prefers the rounder daylilies with fancy edges. Sandy's introduction "I Lava You" won the Stout Medal in 2020, the highest award given annually by the American Daylily Society. Join us to hear of their latest hybridizing work. 6:30 p.m., First Friends Church, 3030 Kessler Blvd, East Drive, Indianapolis.

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**Saturday, August 6 Herb Society of Central Indiana Herbal Harvest** Join us for all things herbs! Learn about harvesting, drying, storing, and cooking with your garden harvest. Fee: \$5 per person. 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Register [here](#).

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**Monday, August 8 Indianapolis Hosta Society Redbuds** In-person presentation by Chad Franer, Director of Horticulture at Newfields. Chad has been a part of the Museum's horticulture staff since 1998. His primary responsibility is to develop, manage, and maintain all aspects of the 52-acre campus, including Oldfields, a 26-acre National Historic Landmark. Free and open to the public. 6:30 p.m., Holliday Park Nature Center, 6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis. [www.indianapolishostasociety.org](http://www.indianapolishostasociety.org)

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**Wednesday, August 10 Central Indiana Land Trust Work Day** Join the Land Trust stewardship staff at Nonie Werbe Krauss Nature Preserve to remove wild teasel, an invasive that can choke out native vegetation, reducing viability for the insects and birds that rely on native plants. 10:00 a.m., Nonie Werbe Krauss Nature Preserve, southwest corner of 116th Street and Eller Road. Public parking available in the northeast corner of parking lot at Riverside Middle School (10910 Eller Road). RSVP/more info: <https://conservingindiana.org/event/wild-teasel-removal-at-nonie-werbe-krauss-nature-preserve/> **Note:** Gifts to the Land Trust between now and September 1 will be matched by a board member and friend up to \$50,000. [Donate today](#) to double your impact!

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**Saturday, August 13 Indiana Daylily-Iris Society Annual Sale** Members will offer their daylilies and iris at reduced prices, including outstanding varieties and colors not offered at local garden centers. 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Allisonville Home & Garden by Sullivan, 11405 Allisonville Rd, Fishers. <http://www.indianadaylilyirissociety.org/>

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**Wednesday–Saturday, August 17–20 2022 Indiana CISMA Conference: Invasive Species and Loss of Biodiversity** Conference includes an in-person meeting (Trafalgar, Indiana), recorded sessions, and statewide field events. District staff will lead field events in partnership with the City's Office of Land Stewardship and Eco Logic LLC. Learn more and register **by August 9** at <https://www.sicim.info/cismaconference>.

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**Tuesday, August 23 Marion County SWCD Fall Gardening Workshops** Join Kevin Allison for tours of the Soil and Water Conservation District's demo garden, focused on cover crop planting and management, the use of tarps for bed preparation and weed control, the use of compost and mulches, no-till vegetable planting, and growing biodiversity. Free sessions are limited to 15 attendees. Two sessions: 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., at the SWCD Demonstration Garden, located in the larger Mayor's Garden, West 56th and Reed Road, Indianapolis. Register [here](#). A limited supply of free cover crop seed packages will be available to attendees. Check our website for updates & more information on our Soil Health Initiative: <https://marionswcd.org/soilhealthConstruction>

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**Tuesday, August 23 Indiana IN-Climate Summit (West Lafayette)** This event on the Purdue University campus will focus on the role that agriculture can play in addressing climate change. This is the only gathering of professionals, producers, and government officials involved in Indiana's food and energy industries and climate. It aims to educate, inform, and create a dialogue with the idea of Ag as the Solution. 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Beck Agricultural Center, 4550 U.S. 52, West Lafayette. [Details and registration](#)

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**Wednesday, August 24 Central Indiana Land Trust Work Day** Join the stewardship staff at Oliver's Woods for a creek cleanup. Help clear debris and invasive plants in and around Carmel Creek, which flows into the White River. 10:00 a.m., Oliver's Woods, 8825 River Road Indianapolis, Indiana. Park in the lot adjacent to I-465 and meet staff on foot in front of the house. RSVP/more info: <https://conservingindiana.org/event/creek-clean-up-at-olivers-woods-2/>

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**Thursday & Friday, September 8 & 9 Earth Charter Indiana Climate Leadership Summit (Richmond)** This 7<sup>th</sup> annual summit features the work being done in communities throughout Indiana to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve their resilience to the effects of climate change. <https://www.earthcharterindiana.org/climate-leadership-summit>

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**September 14 Indiana Native Plant Society Central Chapter Perceived Pests in the Garden** You may have experienced some frustration when your last native planting was rudely pruned or worse, girdled. The instigators may have been deer, voles, or moles. Brad Westrich, a mammalogist with Indiana DNR since 2018, will discuss the biology and habits of some of these mammals and offer ways to deter them from becoming a pest in the first place. You may even gain a greater appreciation for the daily plight these animals face. You will also learn about a reporting tool for some uncommon backyard mammals. Brad has a diverse work history as an ecologist working with animals ranging from fish in Utah and New Mexico, birds in Central America and Florida, and mammals across the Southwestern US. Today he can be found working with bats, rodents, bears, and rabbits across Indiana. This program is free and open to everyone. 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Register at <https://bit.ly/3cFMvV5> to receive the Zoom link.

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**Saturday, October 8 A Big Day for Birding** [Oliver's Woods](#) is a hotspot for migratory birds on the Mississippi Flyway. During migratory season, it hosts extraordinary birds like the blackburnian warbler. Countless migratory warblers make a stop in this urban preserve before winging on. You can witness this timeless journey with an experienced birder this fall! On one [Big Day](#) in October, experience the wonder of the fall migration with an expert guide. October 8 is known to birders worldwide as the "October Big Day," a global celebration of birds. This year, [Indiana Audubon Society](#) experts will lead free bird walks at nature preserves across the state. The [Indiana Land Protection Alliance](#) is coordinating the event with land trusts statewide. Only 15 people can take part at each site, so sign up soon for our

guided walk, or find one near you! 9:00 to 11:30 a.m., Oliver's Woods, [map](#). Register at <https://indianaaudubon.org/event/october-big-day-hikes-with-ilpa/>.

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**What a Deal! Free Native Trees to Replace Invasives** The Hamilton County Invasives Partnership (HIP) and Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) want to help you replace your invasive landscape vegetation with native species that support a diverse, healthy environment. Via a trade-in program, property owners can show proof of removal of an invasive species on their Hamilton County property and receive up to three, three-gallon native trees or shrubs 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. Successful applicants will be able to choose from the over thirty-five native tree and shrub species available in the SWCD's fall native tree sale. Trades are limited to one per address. Learn more and apply at [www.hcinvasives.org](http://www.hcinvasives.org).

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**The Mad Botanist Farmers and Farming** Plant domestication has permitted civilization as we know it, yet farmers and farming are taken for granted. The wise farmer who appreciates the land and farms in an environmentally responsible way is a rare and endangered breed. Says Mad Botanist Bill Mcknight. He maintains that corporate farming (i.e., large scale monoculture) is not sustainable and will tell you all about why in his monthly rant. <https://www.themadbotanist.com/single-post/farmers-and-farming>  
<https://xerces.org/blog/part-1-how-research-about-pesticide-risks-informs-our-efforts-to-rewild-agricultural>

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**Research Agricultural Pesticide Risk to Pollinators** The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation has been wrestling with questions about the costs and benefits to pollinators of installing habitat in areas that are likely to be occasionally or continuously exposed to pesticides. What risks does pesticide contamination in field margins pose to pollinators? And how can we minimize pesticide exposure to maximize the benefits of habitat in working lands for pollinators? The increasing evidence of insect declines creates urgency for our work to rewild landscapes, but we do not want to install flowering habitat that crosses the line into an "ecological trap," an area that attracts pollinators but ultimately has a negative impact on their survival and reproduction. In a two-part blog, Xerces dives into recent field studies on pesticide contamination of pollinator food and shelter in agricultural landscapes and how they apply this research in Xerces programs to create healthy, high-value habitat on the ground. <https://xerces.org/blog/part-1-how-research-about-pesticide-risks-informs-our-efforts-to-rewild-agricultural>

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**Garden Tours Medicinal Plant Garden at the Indiana Medical History Museum** The garden demonstrates more than 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 thru September at 11:00 am. 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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**Forest Bathing Opp Visit Oliver's Woods** This 54-acre nature preserve, owned by Central Indiana Land Trust, offers walking paths through the woods, an ADA-compliant trail, and a canoe launch. The property is located along the White River at 8825 River Road, Indianapolis. Gates are open roughly dawn to dusk. More information:

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**Volunteer Opps Keep Indianapolis Beautiful** If you're looking for ways to get involved, KIB offers four easy ways to volunteer: 1. *Plant a tree*. Spend Saturday morning planting trees with friends and family in a neighborhood or park. Our certified arborists will demonstrate how to plant a tree and provide all necessary tools. Visit [kibi.org/projects](http://kibi.org/projects) to sign up. 2. *Adopt your block*. Sign up to take care of your block year-round and score your very own KIB litter grabber! As a block captain, you're eligible for free cleanup supplies, native flowers, and trees. Visit [kibi.org/adopt-block](http://kibi.org/adopt-block) to join. 3. *Coordinate a community cleanup*. Visit [kibi.org/gic](http://kibi.org/gic) to select a date for your community cleanup. Complete the request form to receive resources and tools, such as gloves, trash bags, and access to dumpsters. 4. *Represent KIB in the community*. KIB can always use ambassadors to help represent our organization at community events. [Fill out an interest form](#) and we'll be in touch! Our projects are family-friendly and accessible to anyone wishing to participate. We welcome you to share your photos of work you do in our community. Tag us (@kibiorg or #BeautifulNeedsYou) on your favorite social platform.

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**Volunteer Opp Hamilton County Invasives Partnership (HIP) Weed Wrangles** Hamilton County landscapes are encountering growing threats from invasive introduced plants. Join teams of volunteers, supervised by knowledgeable guides, to locate and uproot unwelcome plants such as bush honeysuckle, garlic mustard, autumn olive, English ivy, and winter creeper. Opportunities to take part in Weed Wrangles on public property can be found on the HIP website, [www.hcinvasives.org](http://www.hcinvasives.org).

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**Volunteer Opp Circle City CISMA** 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/>.

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**Check It Out Indiana Native Plant Finder** It's the Indiana Native Plant Society's searchable database of Indiana native plants and their pollinators. This colorful, user-friendly tool can filter on numerous characteristics to present an array of plants suited to your site conditions. Garden-friendly natives are noted, as well as plants designated as caterpillar and pollinator magnets. The Finder holds 140 complete records now and will grow to 500 as details are added. Find it at <https://finder.indiananativeplants.org>.

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**Outen the Lights! Protect Our Wildlife** It may come as a surprise that artificial lighting is a real threat to our insect friends, migrating birds, and bats. Security lights and porch lights that remain on through the night disorient insects, keeping them from mating and successfully reproducing. That means less food for birds to feed their young. Bright lights may even suppress plant blooming. But you can install motion sensors on security lighting so the lights come on only when someone or something is actually prowling. And use yellow tinted bulbs for your porch lights, which are less attractive to night-flying insects. [More about ecological garden maintenance](#)

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

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**The Why Rewilding 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.

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**Garden Travel 2023 Tours with Cole Burrell** January 12-22—Costa Rica: Gardens, Volcanoes and Waterfalls; March 1-10—Chile’s Gardens and Glaciers; June—Denver Gardens and Rocky Mountain Wildflowers; August 24-September 7—Gardens of Art and Architecture: Roberto Burle Marx, Oscar Niemeyer, and Brazilian Modernism; October/November—Gardens and National Parks of New Zealand. If interested in one or more of these tours, please contact [Cole Burrell](#) to add your name to the list for advance brochure and registration information. Please visit our [Garden and Nature Tours](#) website for more information on exceptional tours.

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**Photo Notes** Last week I fulfilled a long-time dream of visiting Claude Monet’s garden in Giverny, France. This exotic plant was a new one to me, but oh how large and luxurious! It’s *Tigridia pavonia*, AKA Tiger Plant or Mexican Shell Flower, a tender bulb grown as an annual in our climate. Like daylilies, its flowers last only a day. Surprises at Giverny? Featured plants included great stands of purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), an invasive plant that’s clogging our waterways here in the US, and a great patch of gooseneck loosestrife (*Lysimachia clethroides*) that’s pretty but a nasty garden thug here.

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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.

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