



HortusScope | What's Up in the Central

Indiana Gardening Community | Photo by Wendy Ford

Thursday & Friday, September 8 & 9 Earth Charter Indiana Climate Leadership Summit (Richmond)

This 7th 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>

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.

Saturday, October 1 Herb Society of Central Indiana Member Sharon Patterson will present a how-to workshop on making your own soap. Program will include recipes, handouts, herbal munchies, and a hands-on experience. 10:00 to 11:30 a.m., Garfield Park Conservatory. To register, call 317-327-7183 or visit www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org.

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/>.

Saturday, October 15 Hoosier Environmental Council Greening the Statehouse This year's conference is our 15th GTS and the first in-person since the pandemic. The theme is Clean Water for Indiana. Our Keynote Speaker is Robert Bilott, the tenacious environmental lawyer who became "DuPont's worst

nightmare,” according to The New York Times. We're celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the passage of the landmark law known as the Clean Water Act. Because of the Clean Water Act, Indiana has substantially cleaner waterways than it did in 1972. This anniversary is an opportunity to celebrate all that the law has accomplished, but also to talk about the challenges that remain. Expect Indiana environmental updates, great discussions, networking, locally produced lunch, and more. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Eastern. Keep an eye out for registration and location information, which will be posted on our [website](#) and on social media soon. Questions? Email gts@hecweb.org.

Saturday, October 22 Indiana Native Plant Society Annual Conference The INPS Annual Conference is back for its 29th year of providing the know-how to help Hoosiers appreciate, grow, study, and conserve Indiana's native plants. The day-long conference is one of Indiana's premiere nature events, drawing environmentalists, gardeners, nature photographers, bird lovers, landscapers, ecologists, plant lovers, and more. This year's theme, "Viewpoints: New Perspectives on the Land Around Us," highlights various ways scientists and ordinary folk can study and appreciate our natural areas. [Speakers and topics](#) Fees for in-person attendance: \$75 INPS members, \$90 nonmembers, \$30 students. (Reduced fees for virtual attendance.) The conference will include an abundance of exhibits by sponsors and non-profit organizations, along with a book sale and a native seed swap. Free preconference activities feature an urban nature preserve, indigenous peoples' use of native plants, a former-railway-turned-trail that exhibits green infrastructure practices, and a Welcome Social hosted by INPS Central Chapter and Hamilton County Invasives Partnership (HIP). 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 502 East Event Centre, 502 E. Carmel Dr., Carmel. [Register](#) for in-person participation **by October 10**.

The Mad Botanist Goldenrod, A Lovely Garden Thug A provocative rant from our curmudgeonly friend, who loves the look of goldenrods but counsels wariness if you let them populate your garden and has words to say about plant nativity purists. [Read the Rant](#)



A Gentle Reminder This sign gets the message out by stimulating curiosity not shame. If you want a sign like this for your yard, contact beekeeper Greg Peterson at 317-445-7492 to arrange for pickup in the Meridian Kessler area of Indianapolis. Signs are 24 x 18", two-sided, and come with a stand. He is selling them at cost for \$12 each. A video by entomologist and native plant guru Doug Tallamy tells us about a targeted, less expensive, ecosystem-friendly solution than spraying: <https://youtu.be/TqcDZDNtP-0>.

Critter Care Habitat Programs from Indiana Wildlife Federation Do you belong to or manage a group looking for educational workshops? IWF offers several presentations from our Wildlife Habitat Workshop, which covers the basics of creating habitat at home, to our Indiana's Wild Climate Workshop

where we discuss the impact of the climate crisis on Indiana and our wildlife. For more information or to schedule a workshop, visit our [Workshops Page](#) or contact Aaron Stump at stump@indianawildlife.org.

Citizen Science Monarch Tagging with Indiana Wildlife Federation This will be our sixth year tagging monarch butterflies as part of the Monarch Watch citizen science effort. If you have never participated before, this is a unique opportunity to get hands-on with the conservation of these incredible insects. These migratory butterflies pass through Indiana on their way to Mexico in mid-September. They can travel upwards of 100 miles a day at an altitude of thousands of feet. In the evening, they make their way down to rest and eat. Tagging events are scheduled for September 10, September 28 (cosponsored with Central Indiana Land Trust), and October 6. For details, visit our [events calendar](#).

Who Knew? Insects Are a Lot Like Us Like us, insects are parents, siblings, homemakers, farmers, community members, and innovators. Like us, they can be resourceful, insightful, decisive, and prone to copy their peers. As we continue to energize more people to act on behalf of insects, these similarities matter. The stories and struggles of insects can help us to recognize their inherent value. To learn more, read a provocative article from Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation [here](#).

Plant Shopping! Native Trees from Hamilton County SWCD Cooler temperatures are just one of the many benefits trees provide including cleaner air, flood prevention, bird habitat, and higher property values. The first step toward reaping the many benefits trees provide is planting a few. The Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District is offering forty-six species of native trees and shrubs for just \$30.00 per three-gallon containerized specimen. Pre-orders are required **before September 28**. Orders can be picked up Friday October 14 at the Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds. Details on tree species and growing conditions, as well as online ordering, are available at www.hamiltonswcd.org.

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 **by September 18** at <https://www.hcinvasives.org/trade.html>.

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 and 317-635-7329.

Take a Hike! Trek CILTI's Trails 2022 Central Indiana Land Trust's Trek Our Trails Challenge features its most popular preserves: Oliver's Woods, Burnett Woods, Meltzer Woods, the Laura Hare Preserve at Blossom Hollow, Nonie Werbe Krauss Nature Preserve, and the Fred and Dorothy Meyer Nature Preserve, with a newly extended trail. Visit all six before December 31, 2022, to receive a CILTI pin and

the #trekourtrails2022 sticker, and to be entered into a drawing for CILTI logo gear. More information at <https://conservingindiana.org/2022/07/11/more-trails-to-trek-in-2022/>

Volunteer Opps Keep Indianapolis Beautiful 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 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 to join. 3. *Coordinate a community cleanup.* Visit 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.

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.

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/>.

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>.

Outen the Lights! Protect Our Wildlife 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. 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](#)

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.

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.

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.

Photo Notes It's a jungle out there! In my swale garden, that is. It's burgeoning with native sneezeweed, boltonia, and obedient plant. Behind those are hiding other goodies like swamp milkweed, blue lobelia, giant hyssop, pink turtlehead, Joe-pye, and blue mistflower. Standing amidst this craziness, the reason I've planted all this is clear. Pollinators galore! I'm rewilding just a small part of my front yard, hoping the neighbors will enjoy the ever-changing flower palette and be curious about the many insects buzzing and flitting about to nectar and collect pollen.

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.