



HortusScope | What's Up in the Central

Indiana Gardening Community | [Photo courtesy North Carolina Farms Inc.](#)

Happy New Year! With this issue of HortusScope, we begin our seventh year of monthly ebuletins. Please keep HortusScope in mind when you want to publicize your organization's events or activities--we reach more than 1000 subscribers in Central Indiana. I will continue to publish HortusScope only on the first of the month and post only what people send me. (That's how I can offer this as a free service.) Here's hoping 2012 is a banner year for gardeners, bringing us balmy spring days, dependable summer rain, sparkling fall mornings, and fluffy winter snows. I wish you peace of mind and boundless joy in the simple pursuits of gardening.

Thursday, January 5 "Digging Deeper" Film & Book Series Urban Roots Fall Creek Gardens sponsors this timely, moving film, which follows the urban farming phenomenon in Detroit and speaks to a nation grappling with collapsed industrial towns and the need to forge a sustainable and prosperous future. Home popped organic popcorn included! 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Mapleton Fall Creek CDC Offices conference room, 130 East 30th Street, Indianapolis. www.fallcreekgardens.org

Thru January 8 Conservatory Crossing at Garfield Park Conservatory See the Conservatory decked out in its holiday best with a brilliant display of poinsettias. Enjoy model trains, a train village, and thousands of twinkling lights. This display is done in partnership with The Indiana Railroad Company. Fee \$3 per person or \$8 per family. Monday thru Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Sunday: 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Garfield Park Conservatory, 2505 Conservatory Drive, Indianapolis. www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org

Saturday, January 14 Fifth Annual Post-Holiday Recycling Event Cosponsored by the Office of Sustainability and Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, this is your opportunity to clear out the holiday debris in a responsible way. The following materials are accepted for recycling: live holiday trees (all lights and decorations removed); electronics (anything with a cord); cardboard; white molded foam packaging (previously called styrofoam). 10:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the following collection sites: Broad Ripple Park (main entrance); Ellenberger Park, Irvington (pool parking lot); Krannert Park, 605 S. High School Road; Garfield Park (Family Center parking lot). www.kibi.org

Tuesday, January 17 Purdue Extension of Johnson County Master Gardener Class Begins Although Central Indiana is in the grip of winter, Purdue Extension in Johnson County is thinking gardening! Their Master Gardener class is open to all residents of Indiana. It meets for twelve consecutive Tuesday and Thursday mornings through February 23. Topics include woody ornamentals, herbaceous ornamentals, lawn care, soil science, plant nutrition, plant science, vegetable gardening, weeds, pesticides, insect and animal pests, plant problem diagnosis, and fruit trees. Program fee is \$120 per person (\$10 per 3 hour session). **Register by January 10** at Purdue Extension Johnson County Office. Sessions meet 9:00 a.m to noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Purdue Extension Johnson County Office, 484 North Morton Street, Franklin (NE corner of the Johnson County Fairgrounds). For more information, contact: Bill Doig at 317-736-3724 or wdoig@purdue.edu. www.extension.purdue.edu/johnson

Tuesday, January 24 INCA Conservation Day at the Statehouse Come on down to the Indiana Statehouse and join other conservation-minded organizations in networking and lobbying your legislators for the legislative priorities set by the Indiana Conservation Alliance. Members of the Alliance will have displays set up and will host legislators at a reception with snacks. Prior to the event, INCA will record a web-ex presentation with topics to be discussed with your legislators. Let them know how important conservation and preservation of our natural resources are to you. 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., North Atrium, Indiana Statehouse, Indianapolis. Details and registration at <http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/indiana/events/conservation-day-at-the-statehouse.xml>

Saturday, January 28 Fall Creek Gardens Winter Workshops Gardening from the Ground Up Master Gardener Sharon Patterson shows you how to plan and design the best garden possible in the space you have available. Cosponsored by Growing Places Indy, this workshop series is designed to help gardeners at all experience levels grow and enjoy a productive garden. Free. 1:00 p.m. at the greenhouse on the Indiana State Fairgrounds, next door to the Normandy Barn. Register at www.fallcreekgardens.org.

Saturday January 28 Central Indiana Land Trust Winter Walk through Burnett Woods (Avon) Winter outings bring all kinds of fun things to discover. Join the Land Trust staff as we lead participants through the woods to explore the winter wildlife and inhabitants of this nature preserve. The outing will conclude with hot cocoa and coffee at the Light & Life Church next door. Bundle up and join us for a great day! Contact Stacy at scachules@conservingindiana.org or 317-631-5263 x114 to register your family. www.conservingindiana.org

Wednesday, February 1 Zion Nature Center Program (Zionsville) Win Against Invasives Invasive plants, some of which are still sold at garden centers, are spreading like wildfire across Indiana, jeopardizing the natural habitat for native trees, insects, and wildlife and damaging agricultural and forestry productivity and home landscapes. The recently formed 27-county West Central Indiana Cooperative Weed Management Area helps land owners win the battle against invasive plants. Join us for this comprehensive workshop which provides identification and control tips as well as information about alternative native plants to use after removing invasive plants. Ages 16 & up. Free. 6:30 p.m., Zion Nature Center, 690 Beech Street, Zionsville. Register by contacting znaturecenter@aol.com or 317-873-8950.

Thursday, February 2 "Digging Deeper" Film & Book Series Food Rebels, Guerrilla Gardeners, and Smart-Cookin' Mamas This book by Mark Winne, subtitled "Fighting Back in an Age of Industrial Agriculture," is a look at a rapidly growing alternative food system made up of innovative people reclaiming their connections to their food and their health and embracing the great American tradition of self-reliance. Sponsored by Fall Creek Gardens. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Mapleton Fall Creek CDC Offices conference room, 130 East 30th Street, Indianapolis. www.fallcreekgardens.org

Events at Garfield Park Neo Natural: A unique exhibit of glass art among the plant forms that inspired it. Artists from Anderson University and Ball State University will display glass pieces created in response to the botanical collection to create a unique exhibit. January 21 through March 18 (closed February 20), Mon-Sat: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sunday 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Admission: \$3 per person or \$8 per family. **Conservatory Guided Tours:** Garfield Park Master Gardeners share highlights of the Conservatory's interesting plants and history. January 14 and 28, 2:30 p.m. Free with paid admission. **Plants that Bite Back:** Can plants really bite? Learn about carnivorous plants and other unique plants found in the Conservatory. See plants in action and make a craft. Sunday, January 15, 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Ages: 6-12, \$3 per child. Registration required. **Mini Greenhouses:** Our greenhouse is alive and growing this time of the year! Come explore the "tropics" and make a mini greenhouse of your own to liven up your house this winter. Saturday, January 28, 11:00 a.m. to noon. Ages 5-14, \$4 per child. Registration required. Garfield

Park Conservatory, 2505 Conservatory Drive, Indianapolis. Registration info at www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org.

New Program! Register Your Rain Garden or Native Planting The City of Indianapolis has launched a program aimed at educating residents and encouraging them to install rain gardens and native planting areas in their yards. The sites can then be registered with the City and the homeowner will receive a nice sign to display in their yard. The sign recognizes the effort the homeowner is making for the environment and eliminates the risk of a high weeds and grass violation. If you have a rain garden or native planting in Marion County, please fill out the simple, free application (follow the link below) and register your site today! Or, if you're interested in putting in a new planting, contact the City's urban conservationist at raingardens@indy.gov for help. Join the movement!

<http://www.indy.gov/eGov/City/DPW/SustainIndy/WaterLand/GreenInfra/Pages/RainGardenResources.aspx>

Thru February Flow: Can you see the river? Discover the White River through this art installation by New York artist Mary Miss, commissioned by the [Indianapolis Museum of Art](http://www.indymuseumofart.org). Mary Miss' slogan "All property is riverfront property" expresses a key environmental and social concept of interconnectivity of land, water, and people, that is often overlooked, especially by urban dwellers. Important and unique elements of the White River water system are revealed through a series of installations along the river and the canal. Stopping points, marked with oversized "thumb tacks" and mirrors, engage visitors and increase awareness of the watershed and its role in the life of the city. See project details at <http://flowcanyouseetheriver.org/>.

Farmers Markets Traders Point Creamery Winter Green Market Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 9101 Moore Road, Zionsville thru April. www.tpfororganics.com **Indianapolis Winter Farmers Market** Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., West Wing, Indianapolis City Market, through April 21.

Photo Notes Have you ever attempted a closeup shot of the flower of a Christmas cactus? The flowers seem to grow upsidedown, necessitating physical contortions to manage the camera and angle in on a suitable backdrop. Obviously I gave up on trying to capture the delicate pale pink blooms that presently decorate my window sill. My thanks to Google Image Search for leading me to endless photos of any plant I'm looking for.

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. Supporting donations gratefully accepted at 6911 Cabernet Way, Indianapolis, IN 46278. (Thank you Shirley!)