



GET THE DIRT

Urban & Small Farm
Soil Health
Conference



Urban and Small Farm Soil Health Conference for Growers and Ag Professionals

DIG IN and **GET THE DIRT** on soils and soil health! This is a full-day conference training for conservation and agricultural professionals working with urban and small farms, vegetable growers, and diversified farms. Growers are also welcome to attend. Learn about microbiology, soil contamination, farmer projects, new NRCS programs for small farms, and more.

Thursday, June 2, 2022

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM EST

Register: <https://bit.ly/get-the-dirt>

AGENDA

9:00-9:30 – WELCOME

9:30 -9:45 - **Dr. Lori Hoagland** - Professor of Soil Microbial Ecology, Purdue University – Intro to soils and their importance for crop, human and environmental health

Soil contamination

9:45-10:30 - **Dr. Anna Paltseva** – Endowed Assistant Professor of Urban Soil Science at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL) – Testing soils for contaminants and methods to address them.

10:30-10:45 - BREAK

10:45-11:45 - **Dr. Candis Hunter** - Environmental Health Specialist – Exploring behaviors and interventions to reduce soil contaminant exposures among community gardeners and farmers.

11:45-12:00 - **Steve Yoder** - Community Development Regional Educator, Purdue Extension - Setting the stage to audience discussion

12:00-1:00 - LUNCH (free, must register for the event)

Soil and crop management in urban environments

1:00-1:45 - **Dr. John Taylor** - Associate Professor of Agroecology at the University of Rhode Island.
– Design and management strategies for regenerating healthy soils through urban agriculture

Soil health tests

1:45-2:30 - **Dr. Roland Wilhelm** - Assistant Professor of Soil Microbiology, Purdue University –
Understanding laboratory soil health tests: where are we now and where are we going.

2:30-2:45 - BREAK

2:45-3:45 - **Steve Yoder** - Community Development Regional Educator, Purdue Extension -
Audience discussion

3:45-4:00 - **NRCS and SWCDs** – New resources to manage soil health in urban and small farms

4:00-4:45 - SARE Farmer/Rancher Project Reports

- o **Ann Carnes** - Leveraging biodiversity to improve profitability on a small-scale vegetable farm.
- o **Caydee Terrell** - Examining the utility of black soldier fly larvae composting on urban farms.

4:45-5:00 - CLOSING

Event organizers & sponsors:

- Purdue University
- Purdue Extension
- Urban Soil Health Program
- USDA-NRCS
- ISDA (Specialty Crop Block Grant Program)
- North Central SARE
- Hoosier Young Farmers Coalition
- Partners IN Food and Farming



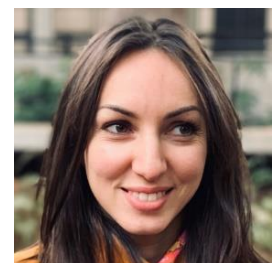
Speaker Bios:

Candis M. Hunter, PhD, is an environmental health specialist with research interests at the intersection of environmental justice, food security, community engagement, and children's health. She received her B.S. in Chemistry at Spelman College where she was a NASA Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) Scholar and her Master of Science in Public Health (MSPH) with a dual concentration in Environmental Health and Epidemiology from Emory University Rollins School of Public Health. She is the first African American to earn a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Environmental Health Sciences from Emory University. Her doctoral research explored behaviors to mitigate potential heavy metal soil contaminant exposures among community gardeners.



Dr. Hunter is certified as a Registered Environmental Health Specialist/ Registered Sanitarian (REHS/RS) and has been recognized for her work via the 2021 Young, Gifted, and Green 40 Under 40 Award, 2017 Emory University Alumni Association 40 Under 40 Award, and 2013 Institute for Georgia Environmental Leadership. Dr. Hunter is a volunteer with Soil Screening Health Outreach and Partnership (soilSHOP), a health education and outreach program that provides free soil lead screenings and information to protect communities from lead exposure. Dr. Hunter serves as a Senior Public Health Advisor at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Environmental Health and as an Environmental Health Officer in the US Public Health Service. In this role, she advises state, local, and tribal health partners in the development, implementation, and evaluation of childhood lead poisoning prevention programs. As a Louisiana native transplanted in Georgia, Dr. Hunter is particularly passionate about good food, community gardening, mentoring, microplastics, and mixed methods research approaches

Anna Paltseva, PhD, is an Assistant Professor in Environmental Sciences at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL), School of Geosciences. Her expertise is urban soil contamination and remediation of urban gardens. Anna's mission is to educate communities about the critical importance of soil health for growing nutritious food, supporting healthy ecosystems, and helping to reduce harmful greenhouse gases. She helps people understand the impact of being exposed to soil heavy metals on their health and find the best ways to improve soil quality in urban gardens. Anna presented her research at national and international soil conferences in Italy, Brazil, Mexico, China, and Russia; she has authored and co-authored twenty-five manuscripts and book chapters, with more on the way. In addition to her appointment at ULL as an endowed assistant professor, she has taught at New York University, CUNY Brooklyn College, the renowned New York Botanical Garden, and Brooklyn Botanic Garden. She has developed educational materials, led soil workshops, and coordinated collaborations with international researchers for the NYC Urban Soils Institute. Recently, Anna has launched The Delta Urban Soils Laboratory at ULL to provide soil testing services and informal education to communities, small production farmers, and gardeners.



John Taylor, PhD, is an Associate Professor of Agroecology at the University of Rhode Island. His research and teaching focus on urban food systems. He earned a PhD in Crop Sciences from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a Master's in Landscape Architecture from the University of Michigan, and has undergraduate degrees in horticulture and philosophy from Michigan State University and the University of Chicago, respectively. His interdisciplinary research explores the social and ecological dynamics of urban food production at multiple scales--from home gardens to commercial farms--with the overall goal of strengthening local food systems.



Roland Wilhelm, PhD, is an Assistant Professor of Soil Microbiology in the Department of Agronomy at Purdue University. Roland has worked with the Cornell Soil Health Lab to better understand the biological dimensions of soil health. He is knowledgeable about the various measurements and uses of soil health data and has recently co-authored a book chapter entitled: "Laboratory Methods for Assessing Soil Health" appearing in Biological Approaches to Regenerative and Resilient Soil Systems. At Purdue, he leads the Managed Ecosystem Microbial Ecology lab, where his team studies the impacts of natural resource management practices on soil microbiota to improve the productivity and stewardship of ecosystems. Roland has participated in workshops on soil health, including at the Soil Health Institute's Conference on Connections between Soil Health and Human Health, the NY Soil Health Summit and the Tompkins County Climate-smart Gardening Fair.

