

# HLA HAPPENINGS

Issue 23-22 / June 16, 2023

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## KRISHNA NEMALI CONTINUES OUTREACH IN OTTERBEIN



**Krishna Nemali and Sangrak Son** (Ph.D. student in Nemali's lab) are continuing their outreach and engagement work at Otterbein Elementary School, Indiana. The goal of their project is to shift the attitudes in schoolchildren towards healthy eating by providing both hands on and curriculum-based training. They installed indoor hydroponic systems to enable schoolchildren produce leafy greens. Over the course of a month in May, they engaged with enthusiastic 4th and 6th graders, and trained them with the concepts related to seeds and germination, plant environmental factors (such as light, water, nutrients, and temperature), and growing crops in indoor environment. Moreover, schoolchildren experienced the exciting technologies used by researchers. The students eagerly sowed and transplanted their crops. Also, they recorded meticulous data on various parameters, including germination rates and plant height. This data

collection not only added a scientific dimension to their projects but also allowed them to analyze and interpret the results, drawing meaningful conclusions about the impact of different factors on plant development. During the project, their inquisitive minds brought unexpected questions that amazed us. On the last day of the project, each student took their plants home, and we harvested their big smiles. They eagerly expressed their desire to grow more crops in the future, including strawberries. This project is an ongoing initiative, set to resume in October 2023, and promises to empower more young minds with the wonders of indoor farming and the benefits of a fresh and healthy diets.

## BRODY PIEL STEPS OUTSIDE COMFORT ZONE WITH INTERNSHIP



“Take an internship/study abroad somewhere you are not familiar with but are interested in exploring! Stepping outside your comfort zone is the best way to grow your knowledge in whatever it is that you are passionate about!”

**Brody Piel** (Junior/Turf Management and Science) is spending the summer working for the Charlotte Country Club in Charlotte, North Carolina. Watching everything he has learned in the classroom being put to use in the real world has been very rewarding. He is also learning about calibrating sprayers, mixing chemical tanks properly, applying chemicals, and many other things.

But working in different climate zone can bring some challenges and new knowledge. "Living in a new environment with different plants to become familiar with. It requires different agronomic practices than I have been previously exposed to, which has expanded my knowledge in the field!"

## DRS. JADA POWLEN AND CALE BIGELOW PRESENTED AT THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON SANDY SOILS

Last week Drs. Jada Powlen and Cale Bigelow attended the Global Conference on Sandy Soils in Madison Wisconsin. They presented their research paper titled: Sand Rootzone Water Repellence and Localized Dry Spot Recovery as Affected by Surfactant Chemistry, Seaweed Extract and Soluble Nitrogen.

## SAVE THE DATE: PURDUE FRUIT AND VEGETABLE FIELD DAY

Registration is now open!

### Purdue Fruit and Vegetable Field Day

THURSDAY, JULY 20, 2023  
Purdue Meigs Ag Center  
9101 S 100 E, Lafayette, IN 47909

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!  
<https://cvent.me/SzevYD>



## SAVE THE DATE: PURDUE SMALL FARM EDUCATION FIELD DAY 2023

Registration is now open!

### PURDUE SMALL FARM EDUCATION FIELD DAY 2023

SAVE THE DATE **JULY 27, 2023**  
at the Purdue Student Farm



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!  
<https://cvent.me/ewWN3b>

PRESENTED BY:  
**PURDUE UNIVERSITY** Horticulture and Landscape Architecture



## SAVE THE DATE: PURDUE TURF AND LANDSCAPE FIELD DAY 2023

### PURDUE TURF & LANDSCAPE FIELD DAY 2023

SAVE THE DATE  
**JULY 18, 2023**  
at the W. H. Daniel Turfgrass Research & Diagnostic Center  
<https://www.mrtf.org/events/turf-and-landscape-field-day>

PRESENTED BY:  
**PURDUE UNIVERSITY**  
**MRTF**  
International Turfgrass and Landscape Foundation



### Newsletters

- Facts for Fancy Fruits: <https://fff.hort.purdue.edu/>
- Vegetable Crops Hotline: <https://vegcropshotline.org/>
- Purdue Landscape Report: <https://www.purduelandscape-report.org/>
- Greenhouse and Indoor Production of Speciality Crops: <https://mdc.itap.purdue.edu/newsearch.asp?sub-CatID=425%20&CatID=10>

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