



HLA Happenings

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Dr. Joshua Widhalm Named Deputy Director of Purdue Center for Plant Biology



Dr. **Joshua Widhalm** has been appointed Deputy Director of the Purdue Center for Plant Biology. Below is the email sent by Ronald Turco, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education, regarding the appointment.

Purdue University's Center for Plant Biology (CPB) is pleased to announce that Dr. Josh Widhalm, associate

professor of horticulture and landscape architecture (HLA), has been appointed as the center's deputy director, effective January 1, 2024. Widhalm's roles will include overseeing the trainee development program, enhancing CPB community-building activities and initiatives, and increasing the visibility of the center and its members. The CPB is an interdepartmental alliance of faculty and trainees interested in basic plant biology research and is committed to enhancing graduate and postdoc training in plant sciences.

Widhalm joined the faculty at Purdue in 2016 and has an established research program in plant natural product metabolism, synthetic biology, and functional genomics. His research aims to provide a clearer understanding of the biosynthesis, regulation, and functions of specialized metabolites that impact the biology of plants and their interactions with other organisms. He has published over 40 peer-reviewed articles in journals such as *Science*, *Nature Plants*, and *Plant Physiology*. Since 2020, he has served as an Associate Editor at *Horticulture Research*, the top-ranked journal in horticulture and among the most highly cited journals in plant biology focused on basic aspects of plant biology, physiology, genetics, evolution, and biotechnology. He has also received several honors, including being named a 2023 University Faculty Scholar, a Showalter Research Trust award, the Unsung Diversity Hero award, and was nationally recognized as a Scialog Fellow for Chemical Machinery of the Cell sponsored by Research Corporation for Science Advancement and The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

Beyond being actively involved in teaching and mentoring undergraduates, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers, Widhalm is in his third year as the chair of the HLA graduate program and serves on the college's and university's graduate councils. He is also the college's representative on the Disability Resource Center faculty advisory committee. In 2022-2023, Widhalm participated in leadership training through the Purdue Insights Forum and is currently a fellow with the 19th class of [LEAD 21](#), a national program geared at leadership development for current and aspiring leaders in the land grant system. As the deputy director of CPB,

Widhalm will work closely with the director, Dr. Natalia Dudareva, a distinguished professor of biochemistry and HLA, to advance the mission and vision of the center. He will also coordinate with the CPB faculty and staff to foster a collaborative and supportive environment for plant biology research and education at Purdue.

"I am honored and excited to take on this new role and to continue working with the outstanding CPB community," Widhalm said. "I look forward to enhancing the quality and diversity of our trainee development programs, as well as promoting the visibility and impact of basic plant biology at Purdue and beyond. I am both honored and humbled that my CPB colleagues trust and support me stepping into this leadership position."

Dudareva expressed her confidence in Widhalm's leadership and expertise. "Josh is an excellent researcher, teacher, and mentor, and he has been instrumental in strengthening the CPB graduate education program. I am delighted to have him as the deputy director and I am confident that he will bring new ideas and energy to the center."

The CPB was established in 2016 as part of the Purdue Moves initiative to invest in plant sciences research and education. The center has over 30 faculty members from eight departments in the Colleges of Agriculture and Science and the School of Chemical Engineering. The center's research focuses on advancing fundamental understanding of plant biology spanning scales from molecules all the way up to ecosystems. The center also offers a variety of seminars, workshops, symposia, and outreach activities to enhance the academic and professional development of plant biology students and researchers.

work with designers to document the environmental, social, and economic impacts of exemplary, high-performing landscape projects.

Petrus Langenhoven and Co-Authors Published New Article



Eze Pojmann-Ezeonyilo, **Petrus Langenhoven**, and Laura L Ingwell published an article, "Evaluating the impact of light quality on plant-herbivore interactions using hemp as the model system," in the Journal of Environmental Entomology: <https://doi.org/10.1093/ee/nvad127>

Dr. Yiwei Huang's Lab Published Case Study



Before and after images of Monon Boulevard and Midtown Plaza.

The case study report of the performance evaluation of Carmel Monon Boulevard and Midtown Plaza (by **Yiwei Huang's lab**) has been published to the Landscape Architecture Foundation's award-winning [Landscape Performance Series](#)! The study is funded through Landscape Architecture Foundation (LAF) Case Study Investigation (CSI) program, which offers a unique research collaboration and training program for faculty, students, and practitioners. In this program, faculty-student research teams

Dr. Moriah Bilenky to Present at the South Dakota Virtual Vegetable Short Course



South Dakota Virtual Vegetable Short Course

Presenter & Topic



Moriah Bilenky
Assistant Professor of Sustainable Horticulture, Purdue University

Summer Annual Cover Cropping: Benefits, Challenges, and Future Directions

31 WEDNESDAY JANUARY | 7:00-8:30 P.M. CST
6:00-7:30 P.M. MT | REGISTRATION [EXTENSION.SDSTATE.EDU/EVENTS](https://extension.sdstate.edu/events)

Moriah Bilenky will present "Summer Annual Cover Cropping: Benefits, Challenges, and Future Directions" at the South Dakota Virtual Vegetable Short Course on January 31.

Maynard and Meyers Present at Illinois Conference



Liz Maynard and **Stephen Meyers** provided two presentations each to attendees of “Everything Local- The Illinois Food, Famers Market, and Specialty Crop Conference” in Springfield, Illinois January 17-19, 2024.

Maynard presented “Managing High Tunnel Soil Fertility for Vegetable Crops” and co-presented “When and Why Do Greens Bolt?” with Marian Rodriguez-Soto.

Meyers presented “Effects of Dicamba on Tomatoes” and “Weed Management in Pumpkins”.

Jean Zavala Will Be Presenting at Indiana Green Expo



Jean Zavala from Dr. Torres’ lab will be giving a presentation at the Indiana Green Expo with the topic Economic feasibility of pest management in agriculture in Spanish on January 18th from 2pm-3pm.

HLA in the Media

Ashley Adair explained the importance of having a social media or website presence for small farms in an article published in FarmProgress: [How to tell your farm story using social media](#)

The LED lighting research of Dr. **Fatemeh Sheibani** and Dr. **Cary Mitchell** was published in AgriView: [New strategies for Vertical Farming More Productive, less costly](#)

HLA Bowling Team

23/24 Purdue Staff/Students RESULTS							
Player	Game 1	Game 2	Game 3	Scratch	Hdcp.	Total	
Alexandra Jewell	149	260	242	651	153	804	
Chris Adair	184	210	147	541	165	706	
Ashley Adair	106	138	160	404	282	686	
Wil Brown	71	116	128	315	366	681	
Team	Game 1	Game 2	Game 3	Scratch	Hdcp.	Total	
Good Thyme Gang	510	724	677	1911	966	2877	
	322	322	322				
	832	1046	999	Won	Lost		
				3	1		

Our team **Good Thyme Gang** played against **Mind Your Biz** Monday afternoon at Mike Aulby’s Arrowhead Bowl for Week 18 of the Purdue Staff and Students league. We won 6 out of the 8 points, keeping our team in 3rd place and tied with **The Purdues**.

Good Thyme Gang placed 1st in all categories last week including Team Scratch Game with a 724, Team Scratch Series with a 1911, Team Handicap Game with a 1046, and Team Handicap Series with a 2877. Nice job!!

In the Women’s category: **Alexandra Jewell** placed 1st in all categories including a scratch game of 260, scratch series of 651, handicap game of 311, and handicap series of 804. Her 260

scratch game sets the high game for the Women's category and is the new top score for the entire league.

In the Men's Category: **Chris Adair** placed 2nd in scratch game with a 210 and placed 2nd in scratch series with a 541. Nice game!

Come out and bowl with us!

We bowl 3 games on Monday nights starting at 6:30pm. All Purdue faculty, staff, students, and retirees are welcome. If you would like to bowl with us for a session during the season, please email **Alexandra Jewell** at jewell4@purdue.edu.

Registration is now open: <https://indianahortconference.org/>

Indiana Hort Conference and Expo



HORT INDIANA
CONFERENCE
& EXPO

Please join us

January 22-23, 2024

REGISTRATION OPENS NOVEMBER 1

Hendricks County Fairgrounds
1900 E Main St, Danville, IN 46122

EDUCATION • PARP, CCA, CCH CREDITS AVAILABLE!
TRADE SHOW • SOCIAL & NETWORKING EVENTS
SILENT AUCTION • CIDER CONTEST

www.IndianaHortConference.org

PURDUE UNIVERSITY Horticulture and Landscape Architecture

Purdue Small Farm Education Field Day



SAVE THE DATE

**PURDUE SMALL FARM
EDUCATION FIELD DAY**

JULY 25, 2024
at the Purdue Student Farm
<https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/studentfarm/events/>

PRESENTED BY:
PURDUE UNIVERSITY Horticulture and Landscape Architecture

Newsletters:

Facts for Fancy Fruits: <https://fff.hort.purdue.edu>

Vegetable Crops Hotline: <https://vegcropshotline.org/>

Purdue Landscape

Report: <https://www.purduelandscape.org>

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