

# HLA Happenings

Issue: 24-39  
October 25, 2024

## In This Issue

- [HLA Celebrates New Overbeck Controlled Agriculture Facility with Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony](#)
- [This Week at the Purdue Student Farm](#)
- [Dr. Linda Prokopy Member of External Review Team](#)
- [HLA Members Successfully Complete REM's CPR and First Aid Training](#)
- [HLA Bowling Team](#)
- [Lunch and Learn: China](#)
- [HLA 2024 Fall Seminar Series](#)
- [Save the Date: 2025 Indiana Hort Conference and Expo](#)

## HLA Celebrates New Overbeck Controlled Agriculture Facility with Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony



On Friday, October 18, we held a ribbon-cutting for the **Overbeck Controlled Agriculture Facility** located at the **Purdue Student Farm**. Members of the Overbeck Family were present to cut the ribbon cleverly made to look like lettuce! It was a lovely event and attendees got to see first-hand how well **Brittany Weerts** has our Freight Farm containers up and running! Thanks to **Chris Adair** and all his student helpers for getting the Farm in great shape for the event. More information will be coming out in an official press release next week so stay tuned for more details!

Additional photos can be viewed in this [gallery](#).

## This Week at the Purdue Student Farm



Back to your regularly scheduled programming folks! Things have been quiet this week, in part because we got very on top of things for last week's events (and needed a little bit of recuperation time), partially because Chris finally fell victim to the bug that's been going around the Horticulture department. He had to be banished from the premises. Unfortunate.

In other news, we had the final harvest of Petrus' pepper variety trials this morning! The wind-down of our production continues with the help of the Small Farms class, as we've started to remove plants that were hit by our most recent frost. Gold Rush apples have also been on our minds, as it's anyone's guess at this point as to when they'll finally be ready; We wait with bated breath. The new cooler is finally up and running, thanks to **Nathan Deppe** and his breaker array wizardry. As such, the pepper towers can, at long last, be dismantled.

Hope you're all enjoying the flocks of redwing blackbirds and fuzzy caterpillars, even as daylight savings time looms ahead of us, *definitely* not at all ominously.

**Purdue Student Farm Spotlight:** Dr. Stephen Meyers Lab



Left to Right: Jeanine, Carlos, Lidysce, Helen, Celia, Steve, Josué

**Dr. Stephen Meyers:** The Horticulture Crops Weed Science Lab is led by Stephen Meyers (Associate Professor, HLA). They conduct applied research in weed biology, weed-crop interactions, and integrated weed management to address the needs of Indiana vegetable and fruit growers. They work across multiple crops, scales of production, and in both organic and conventional production systems. They share the results of their research directly with farmers to ensure that Indiana farmers can apply the most up-to-date research-based information and make informed decisions.

Hello everyone! I'm **Josué Cerritos**, a second-year master's student in Horticulture and Landscape Architecture at Purdue, and I have the privilege of working in Dr. Stephen Meyers' Horticulture Weed Science Lab. My journey at the Purdue Student Farm began in the summer of 2022 when I was a visiting scholar. My first task? Hand weeding onions, a necessity if you're growing them! I was surprised by how close the farm was to campus and the incredible variety of crops—many of which I was seeing for the first time. They were beautifully organized, with some thriving in high tunnels and others in the open field.

Little did I know that one year later I would return to the Student Farm as a master's student, working with onions for one of my thesis projects. This project explores the use of silage tarps, specifically black plastic tarps—as ground covers before transplanting onions. The goal is to create a stale seedbed and reduce early-season weed emergence. We even conducted a small trial using these tarps for weed control on potatoes, which impressed Chris Adair enough to implement the practice on his own, expanding it to other crops!

The sense of community at the Student Farm has made my experience even more rewarding. The Meyers Lab team and I have always felt welcomed and supported by Chris and the student crew, who work tirelessly to keep everything running smoothly. I admire the dedication involved in the CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) program. Coordinating the logistics to ensure a diverse array of vegetables is not an easy task, but it's incredible to know that it's supporting the local community by providing fresh, nutritious options. The Student Farm also offers a fantastic learning environment for students interested in different horticultural crops.

I also wanted to share some thoughts from some of my lab mates about their experiences working at the Student Farm:

**Celia:** "What I enjoy about working at the Student Farm is that, beyond our projects, there's the chance to see a wide variety of crops growing,

creating a colorful atmosphere in the summer. It's fulfilling to know that the produce we grow is shared with the local community through the CSA."

**Helen:** "I appreciate the wide variety of equipment available at the Student Farm, including new and experimental tools. It has been extremely helpful for our studies. I also admire how knowledgeable and supportive the station manager is, and I love having access to different workspaces, like the cold room."

In summary, working at the Student Farm has been an enriching experience for me and my teammates. We're excited to continue our work here and contribute to the vibrant community at Purdue!

## Dr. Linda Prokopy Member of External Review Team



Department Head, **Linda Prokopy**, participated in an external review of the University of Connecticut Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture. Fun fact: the review team consisted of Heads of all the HLA departments located at land grant universities - Purdue, Oklahoma State (Justin Moss), and Colorado State (Mengmeng Gu).

## HLA Members Successfully Complete REM's CPR and First Aid Training



Six HLA members participated in CPR and First Aid training this week. It

was an excellent training conducted by REM. Thanks to **Rebecca Stevenson**, Safety Committee Chair, for setting this up. Do you know where the AED is in the HORT building??

## HLA Bowling Team

Our team **Good Thyme Gang** played against **The Purdues** Monday afternoon at Mike Aulby's Arrowhead Bowl for Week 9 of the Purdue Staff and Students league. We won 6 out of 8 points, leaving us in 3rd place.

In the Team Category: **Good Thyme Gang** placed 3rd with team handicap game scoring a 963 and placed 2nd with team handicap series scoring a 2734.

In the Women's Category: **Ashley Adair** placed 3rd with scratch game scoring a 144, placed 3rd with scratch series scoring a 401, and placed 3rd with handicap series scoring a 653.

In the Men's Category: **Wil Brown-Grimm** placed 1st with handicap game scoring a 320 and placed 1st with handicap series scoring an 807. Tonight, Wil bowled a personal high game of 211. Nice Job!!

## Lunch and Learn: China



Join us for the **FIRST** departmental Lunch & Learn featuring Chinese agricultural production, food, and culture!

Presented by: Yiwei Huang, Wenjing Guan, & Ying Li

November 1<sup>st</sup> in HORT 222 at 12:00 pm (lunch provided)

Roots of Flavor: The Role of Agriculture in Chinese Food Culture

Join us for Lunch and Learn with our own HLA faculty! Wenjing, Ying, and Yiwei will share stories from their hometowns in China, exploring the rich and varied agriculture, food, and culture that shaped the place they grew up within. Don't miss this opportunity to connect and learn over delicious food!

**RSVP FOR THIS EVENT HERE**

RSVP deadline is October 30<sup>th</sup>!

Join us for the first departmental Lunch and Learn featuring Chinese agricultural production, food, and culture!

Presented by: Yiwei Huang, Wenjing Guan, and Ying Li

November 1 in HORT 222 at 12:00 PM (lunch provided)

Roots of Flavor: The Role of Agriculture in Chinese Food

Join us for Lunch and Learn with our own HLA faculty! Wenjing, Ying, and Yiwei will share stories from their hometowns in China, exploring the rich and varied agriculture, food, and culture that shaped the place

It is the policy of the Purdue University that all persons have equal opportunity and access to its educational programs, services, activities, and facilities without regard to race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, disability or status as a veteran. Purdue is an Affirmative Action Institution. This material may be available in alternative formats.

HLA Happenings © Purdue University - [www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/hla-happenings](http://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/hla-happenings)

Editor: Pamela J Fisher | Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, 625 Agriculture Mall Dr., West Lafayette, IN 47907

they grew up within. Don't miss this opportunity to connect and learn over delicious food!

RSVP for this event by Oct. 30!

## HLA 2024 Fall Seminar Series



### 2024 Fall Seminar Series

Date & Host	Seminars	Seminars will be in person with a zoom option unless otherwise noted
September 12	Kranthi Varala- Assistant Professor, Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, Purdue University	Thursdays @ 3:30pm in HORT 117
September 26 Host: Guan	Lei Zhang – Assistant Professor, Department of Botany & Plant Pathology, Purdue University	
October 4	Cary Mitchell – Retirement Symposium Note: Friday 2 PM to 5 PM, PFEN 241	
October 10	Josh Widhalm – Associate Professor, Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, Purdue University	
October 17 Host: Langenhoven	Robert Colangelo – Founder – Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) “The Design and engineering of a profitable vertical farm?”	
October 24	HLA Teaching Panel- Kathryn Orvis, Cale Bigelow, Steve Hallett, Yiwei Huang	
November 7 Host: Hoagland	Hernan Gonzalez Osorio – Scientific Researcher, Cenicafé, National Center for Coffee Research – Chinchina, Colombia	
November 21 Host: Meyers	Kim Shearer – Curator of Collections and Manager of New Plant Development for the Morton Arboretum, Lisle, Illinois	

## Save the Date: 2025 Indiana Hort Conference and Expo

**HORT INDIANA 2025**  
CONFERENCE & EXPO

EDUCATION • TRADE SHOW • POSTER SESSION • SOCIAL & NETWORKING EVENT

Save the date! **January 14-15, 2025**

Multiple Education Tracks • CCA, PARP, and CCH Credits Available

Event Location: Hendricks County Fairgrounds  
1900 E Main St, Danville, IN 46122

[www.IndianaHortConference.org](http://www.IndianaHortConference.org)

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.com/>