

HLA Happenings

Issue: 24-40
November 1, 2024

In This Issue

- [Halloween at HLA](#)
- [This Week at the Purdue Student Farm](#)
- [Ariana Torres Concludes Term as VP of Student Programs](#)
- [Purdue's Ag Comm Highlights Wea Creek Apple Orchard and Student Interns](#)
- [HLA Bowling Team](#)
- [HLA Fall Celebration](#)
- [November Community Corner](#)
- [2024 HLA Fall Seminar: Hernán Gonzalez-Osorio](#)
- [HLA 2024 Fall Seminar Series](#)
- [Save the Date: 2025 Indiana Hort Conference and Expo](#)
- [Purdue Crash Course in Hydroponics](#)

Halloween at HLA



Things were a little spooky on Halloween in the HORT building! Check out the [gallery](#) from around the building.

This Week at the Purdue Student Farm



Find yourself a tin roof, a rain gauge and enjoy the smell of [petrichor](#) on the horizon – we've got a potential thunderstorm this morning! And I say now as many a farmer has said before me: we suuuuure needed it.

As a whole, it's been a slower week, mostly harvest and maintenance. A classic case of no news is good news. However, for those curious: teardown of our varietal trial pepper tunnels is underway this week, as winterization continues. In our ongoing cover crop saga, sunnhemp termination is underway (if a little tangled in the flail mower), and we continue to brainstorm new uses for silage tarp and stale seed bedding in the spring. The Small Farms class was out at Meigs yesterday, and helped get a 20-bushel crate of Gold Rush apples picked. Our leeks are having a spot of corn seed maggot, which I'll admit, is not ideal. And finally, Chris at long last remembered to put cilantro on the list for this week's box. My deepest condolences to my fellow cilantro-soap-gene havers, our suffering is neverending, just like the ridicule I get from my coworkers for having bad taste buds.

Purdue Student Farm Spotlight: Ashley Adair

Hello! My name is **Ashley Adair** and I am the Extension Organic Agriculture Specialist at Purdue. I have been connected with the Purdue Student Farm for most of my adult life, starting with the summer of 2011 at the end of my freshman year here at Purdue. I had heard about the farm through a job ad from Steve Hallett, a

professor in Botany and Plant Pathology at the time, and decided to give vegetable farming a try for my summer job that year. The Student Farm was a fledgling, grass roots-y place located west of campus, where the Provenance neighborhood is now. Looking south on Pathfinder Drive, you can still see the tops of the willow trees that line the back edge of the old farm site. For three summers during my undergraduate career at Purdue, I worked at the farm. I learned about Three Sisters plantings, conducted a soil survey, grew vegetables, ran the farmstand at the Purdue Farmers Market alongside my coworkers, practiced how to wrestle walk-behind tractors, raised chickens, worked with good people... I could go on! One particularly important person I met during that time was Chris Adair, fearless farm manager since 2016 and my spouse since 2017!



Chris working the Purdue Student Farm farmstand at the Purdue Farmers Market, May 2013.



Me at the Student Farm harvesting mustard greens in one of the high tunnels, May 2013.

Fast-forwarding to post-grad life and my career at Purdue Extension, I have continued working at the farm on various events and projects. For the first five years of my career, I was an Ag and Natural Resources extension educator in Montgomery County, IN. I got into drones, earned my Part 107 commercial pilot license, and decided to make a case study of taking aerial images of the student farm once every couple of weeks. Horticultural crops are underrepresented in drone work and I wanted to change that. The student farm aerial imagery project is on-going, and has served both as a visual recordkeeping system and as a planning tool. I also participated in the Small Farm Education Field Day throughout my tenure as a county educator. This habit of presenting at these field days has continued into the present in my current role as an extension specialist in organic agriculture. I have delivered sessions on cover cropping, equipment demonstration (wrestling BCSs, of course), dry edible beans, and open-pollinated corn.

This year was the second growing season for my open-pollinated corn demonstration, inspired by a desire to explore less well-known varieties with different flavors and cultural background than the hybrid corn grown on the majority of Indiana farm acres today. I focused on two varieties that performed well in 2023: Hopi Blue, a blue corn good for corn meal, and Early Pink, a short-season popcorn. The demo teaches students how to grow and shell open-pollinated corn, and helps farmers interested in growing a storage crop on their farms understand the basics of production. This year at the Small Farm Field Day, I explained how growing open-pollinated corn is different from growing hybrids, how to shell corn by hand, and how to test grain for mycotoxins that can be harmful to human health. Luckily, none of the open-pollinated corn from last year's crop tested positive for aflatoxin, one of the most important mycotoxins. This year's corn is yet to be shelled, but hopefully we'll turn up the same result! I owe a huge thank you to Chris and this year's summer crew for taking good care of the corn plots this year and last, and to the Small Farms Experience class for harvesting. My hope is that showcasing storage crops and unusual varieties can help farmers make sound decisions when it comes to diversifying their crops and markets.



Early Pink popcorn drying in the equipment shed at the Student Farm, fall 2024.



Me wrestling one of the farm's BCSs to demonstrate roller crimping in buckwheat in July 2022.

While the Purdue Student Farm isn't certified organic, it is a great place for students, farmers, and the public to learn about organic management practices. Chris and the interns use OMRI-listed (approved for certified organic) products, follow a 6 year crop rotation plan, utilize a variety of hand tools for weed control, and implement soil health practices (cover cropping, silage tarping for no-till weed control, etc.). All of this means it's an awesome resource for folks of all kinds of backgrounds and skill levels! I'm grateful for the opportunity to use this space in my extension program and look forward to doing more work here in the future.

Ariana Torres Concludes Term as VP of Student Programs



Ariana Torres recently completed her 3-year term as VP of Student Programs for the Food Distribution Research Society, where she developed and led a case study competition for Agricultural Economics/Agribusiness students. Winners from Oklahoma State University (1st place, pictured), University of Connecticut (2nd place), and University of Kentucky (3rd place) were recognized at the annual meeting in Puerto Rico.

Purdue's Ag Comm Highlights Wea Creek Apple Orchard and Student Interns

Purdue's Ag Communications recently published a story online on Perry Kirkham and Wea Creek Apple Orchard, spotlighting former student interns, including HLA/ASEC alumna Mariah Schaeper: [Ag students love this local apple orchard a bushel and a peck.](#)

HLA Bowling Team

Our team **Good Thyme Gang** played against **Eamus Catuli** Monday afternoon at Mike Aulby's Arrowhead Bowl for Week 10 of the Purdue Staff and Students league. We won all 8 points, bumping us back up to 2nd place.

In the Team Category: **Good Thyme Gang** placed 3rd with team scratch game scoring a 649, placed 3rd with team scratch series scoring an 1871, and placed 3rd with team handicap series scoring a 2690.

In the Women's Category: **Alexandra Jewell** placed 1st with scratch game scoring a 219, placed 1st with scratch series scoring a 592, placed 2nd with handicap game scoring a 250, and placed 1st with handicap series scoring a 685.

In the Men's Category: No placements this week.

HLA Fall Celebration

Please join the HLA department for a

FALL CELEBRATION

November 8th at 5 p.m.

Meigs Hort Farm
9101 S 100 E, Lafayette Indiana 47909

Potluck style family event, with a chili, cornbread, and dessert competition

\$100 Amazon gift card for the best chili

\$50 gift card for the best cornbread

\$50 gift card for the best dessert

Farm tour and Gold Rush apple picking

Cornhole and kid's games

Come one, Come all

As the fall season approaches, we are excited to invite you to a Fall Celebration at the Purdue Meigs Horticulture Farm! This is a wonderful opportunity to come together, share in the festive spirit, and connect with colleagues.

Join us for an evening filled with food, fun activities, and a chance to celebrate this wonderful harvest season. This event is not only a way to unwind but also a great opportunity to foster connections with one another. We will have a potluck-style event with a fun twist! If you've ever felt compelled to show off your culinary skills, now is your chance! There will be a competition for the best chili, cornbread, and dessert. We still have 1 slot open for the Chili contest, 5 slots open for the cornbread contest, and 2 for the dessert contest. For the kiddos, we will be grilling hot dogs and providing chips.

Now is the prime time to pick Gold Rush apples! There will be wagon rides to the orchard for apple picking. You won't want to miss all the fun activities we have planned. Please bring your family and/or friends to celebrate this fall season!

Please fill out the surveys below so we can plan accordingly,

Sign

Up: https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7VubQ6ooprO2FAG

Food Sign

Up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A49AEAA2CA5F8CF8-52273260-hlafall>

November Community Corner

COMMUNITY CORNER

AN HLA DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER
CULTIVATING OUR DIVERSITY

NOVEMBER 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS ON CAMPUS

- **Dia de Los Muertos**
Nov. 1 | 6-8 pm | Purdue Memorial Union
- **Boilers OUT Loud Nights 1-3**
Nov. 1-3 | 7-8 pm | Civic Theater of Greater Lafayette
- **Queer Grad Coffee Hour**
Nov. 6 | 1:30-2:30 pm | LGBTQ Center
- **Fabulous Fridays: Real Queer Classics**
Oct. 8 | 1-4 pm | LGBTQ Center
- **HIV/AIDS Awareness Week**
Nov. 11-15 | LGBTQ Center
- **Queer Grad Coffee Hour**
Nov. 16 | 1:30-2:30 pm | LGBTQ Center

Religious Holidays

Nov 1 Samhain (Paganism)	Nov 15 Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Sahib (Sikh)
All Saints Day (Christian, Catholic)	Nov 16 Remembering the Martyrs of the UCA (Secular)
Nov 2 All Souls Day (Catholic)	Nov 24 Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib (Sikh)
Nov 2 - 3 Birth of the Báb (Bahá'í)	Feast of the Christ of the King (Christian, Catholic)
Nov 3 - 4 Birth of Bahá'u'lláh (Bahá'í)	Nov 26 - 27 Ascension of Abdul-Baha (Bahá'í)
Nov 15 Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Sahib (Sikh)	

HLA Community Reading Group
Join the HLA community to discuss a column, article, or chapter from a recent book about diversity, equity, and inclusion. Each topic will be led by one of your colleagues. Read the article or book in advance if you can, or just come along to enjoy the discussion. Feel free to bring your own lunch.

Nov. 15 @ 12:30 in HORT 222
In 2020, *High Country News* published a bombshell article that showed how our beloved Land Grant Universities had been the beneficiaries of land grabs from Indigenous Americans. *Ashley Adair* will lead a discussion on the article and interactive website.
Robert Lee & Tristan Altonne, Land-Grab Universities. *High Country News*, March 30, 2020.
Interactive website: <https://www.hcn.org/issues/52-4/indigenous-affairs-education-land-grab-universities/>

HLA Lunch & Learn Series is back!
Explore the diversity of food cultures and horticultures from around the United States and the World. Food will be provided.
December 2nd:
Hawaii
Hosted by ASHS

For a complete list of events and details, scan the QR

For a complete list of Purdue's Cultural Centers visit: purdue.edu/diversity-inclusion/about-us/departments.html

2024 HLA Fall Seminar: Hernán Gonzalez-Osorio



2024 HLA Fall Seminar

Hernán Gonzalez-Osorio
Scientific Researcher, Cenicafé,
National Center for Coffee Research – Chinchina, Colombia
 Thursday November 7th, at 3:30pm, HORT 117 or via Zoom



Coffee and light refreshments will be provided

“Sustainable soil management and coffee nutrition. Strategies within reach for Colombian coffee growers.”

Coffee plays a vital role in Colombia's economy. This crop is the livelihood of approximately 552,000 families, most of them (96%) smallholders working in a full complex of soils and environmental interactions. The National Federation of Coffee Growers, through their scientific research program carried out by Cenicafé, aims to generate recommendations focused on resilient and profitable crops. One crucial aspect of this effort is fertilization, a key practice for achieving optimal coffee production and quality. However, local farmers are reliant on synthetic fertilizers, 100% of which are imported, making Colombia heavily dependent on international trade. In this seminar, we will present a general overview of Colombian coffee production, discussing different strategies developed by Cenicafé to address current and future challenges, while integrating insights from the Soil Microbial Ecology lab at Purdue University to support a sustainable and profitable program of

Purdue University is an Equal Access/Equal Opportunity Institution.

Hernán Gonzalez-Osorio
Scientific Researcher, Cenicafé,
National Center for Coffee Research – Chinchina, Colombia
 Thursday November 7th, at 3:30pm, HORT 117 or via Zoom

“Sustainable soil management and coffee nutrition. Strategies within reach for Colombian coffee growers.”

Coffee plays a vital role in Colombia's economy. This crop is the livelihood of approximately 552,000 families, most of them (96%) smallholders working in a full complex of soils and environmental interactions. The National Federation of Coffee Growers, through their scientific research program carried out by Cenicafé, aims to generate recommendations focused on resilient and profitable crops. One crucial aspect of this effort is fertilization, a key practice for achieving optimal coffee production and quality. However, local farmers are reliant on synthetic fertilizers, 100% of which are imported, making Colombia heavily dependent on international trade. In this seminar, we will present a general overview of Colombian coffee production, discussing different strategies developed by Cenicafé to address current and future challenges, while integrating insights from the Soil Microbial Ecology lab at Purdue University to support a sustainable and profitable program of coffee nutrition in Colombia.

HLA 2024 Fall Seminar Series



2024 Fall Seminar Series

Date & Host	Seminars	Seminars will be in person with a zoom option unless otherwise noted @ 3:30pm in HORT 117
September 12	Kranthi Varala- Assistant Professor, Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, Purdue University	
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 Withalm – 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, PAPP, and CCH Credits Available

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

www.IndianaHortConference.org

PURDUE UNIVERSITY
 HORTICULTURE AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Purdue Crash Course in Hydroponics

Purdue Crash Course in Hydroponics



Date: November 23, 2024 (Saturday, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm)

Location: Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture Greenhouse Complex, 625 Agriculture Mall Drive, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907

The workshop is a perfect opportunity to learn about hydroponics for home and commercial-scale operations.

Register here: <https://am.ticketmaster.com/purdue/buy/HYDRONOV>

Registration fees : \$50 per person

- Lunch/snacks provided
- Parking is free
- Taught by experienced Purdue faculty

Contact: Lori-Jolly Brown
 Tel: 765494-1296 | Email: ljollybr@purdue.edu



Date: November 23, 2024 (Saturday, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm)

Location: Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture Greenhouse Complex, 625 Agriculture Mall Drive, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907

The workshop is a perfect opportunity to learn about hydroponics for home and commercial-scale operations.

Register

here: <https://am.ticketmaster.com/purdue/buy/HYDRONOV>

Registration fees: \$50 per person

- Lunch/snacks provided
- Parking is free
- Taught by experienced Purdue faculty

Contact: Lori Jolly-Brown

Tel: 765-494-1296

Email: ljollybr@purdue.edu

Newsletters:

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

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

Purdue Landscape

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

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

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