



Ohio State HCS News

HORTICULTURE & CROP SCIENCE IN VIRTUAL PERSPECTIVE - THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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Landscape Horticulture Students: Future Leaders



Mayhew Scholar Michael Boeck gained valuable work experience with The Ohio State University Chadwick Arboretum & Learning Gardens.

Diverse educational experiences are cultivating Ohio State students to be future leaders in the green industry. Though their educational paths differ, Landscape Horticulture majors Michael Boeck, Karisa Bethune and Joseph Tychonievich each credit the opportunities provided by the Horticulture & Crop Science (HCS) program with preparing them to be successful horticulturists.

A fourth year student from Centerville, Ohio, **Michael Boeck** credits the educational opportunities afforded to him by the College of Food, Agriculture and Environmental Sciences with turning his interest in horticulture into a career path. "I studied and worked for two years with the Ohio State University Chadwick Arboretum & Learning Gardens as a Mayhew Scholar. In addition to working alongside my peers, the Mayhew program allowed me to receive extracurricular education from faculty and staff covering a broad spectrum of horticultural subjects," explains Boeck, who is also active with the student club, PLANET. "My arboretum experience included meeting industry icons, like Jim Smith, giving televised instruction on proper tree planting, and researching and promoting the Arboretum's renowned willow collection. Working in the arboretum as a Mayhew Scholar has been the greatest single asset to my education in horticulture," explains Boeck.

Currently employed at Wildflower Farm and Associates under the tutelage of David Allen Voyles, Boeck cites his numerous educational opportunities with refining his love of plants into a long-term plan for improving horticultural practices. "My goal is to work in an environment that allows me to design projects that reflect progressive thought and sound horticultural practice, and tackle problems prevalent in development such as compaction and the ecological effects of land use. Above all else, I value education as the key to a better world, and I see my education in horticulture as a gateway to the development and implementation of better practices in the green industry," says Boeck.



Joseph Tychonievich has benefited from the on-campus work opportunity with the Ornamental Plant Germplasm Center.

By working on-campus for the nationally recognized [Ornamental Plant Germplasm Center](#) (OPGC) and traveling to Japan for an internship experience, **Joseph Tychonievich** has prepared himself well for owning a specialty nursery in the future. "The Ohio State University has granted me hands-on experience working on campus, connections with knowledgeable professors, and the connections to get the job I have waiting for me in Japan when I graduate," explains Tychonievich, a fourth year student who speaks Japanese. "The Horticulture & Crop Science program has helped me clarify what my interests, strengths and weaknesses are and decide what direction I want my life to take post-graduation."

Tychonievich is currently researching the hybridization of *Cuphea* species with HCS Professor Dr. Jim Metzger. He has successfully combined his interests in Japanese gardening and plant breeding to develop the beginnings of a successful career path. Tychonievich expects to return to Japan and spend the next five years working at Shibami Nursery before returning to the U.S. and start his own specialty nursery.

Karisa Bethune, a fifth year student from Massillon, Ohio, has found her true calling in working with plants. Bethune has combined her background working in garden and nursery centers with an on-campus job helping in the greenhouse and the annual trial beds. The summer of 2005 landed her an internship at Cornell University's [Long Island Horticulture Research and Extension Center](#) (LIHREC) where she assisted in trial research, specifically with the side by side comparison of cultivars. This internship experience proved that Bethune is a capable researcher who is able to work independently and responsibly.

Bethune created this brief narrated slideshow about her internship experience at LIHREC. Click on the triangle "play" button to watch. The slideshow can be played on Macintosh or Windows computers using QuickTime software.

"My favorite courses at Ohio State were Theme Gardening with Dr. Steven Still and Interior Plantscaping with Dr. Peg McMahon," says Bethune, who plans to work in Extension and hopes to educate the public on horticultural issues after graduating. "My college experience has taught me to be better prepared and to never assume anything!"

Though each student's experience in the Horticulture & Crop Science program is different, exciting educational opportunities are available to all. Whether through an on-campus job, an internship experience or the classroom teachings of a favorite professor, HCS students are afforded the opportunity to engage in the world of plants.

Watch a narrated slideshow of this story with additional photos here: [Landscape Horticulture Students Slideshow](#). Quicktime software required to view slideshow.

Story by Michael Boeck and Victor van Buchem. Photos and web publishing by [Victor van Buchem](#). Slideshow by Tim Rhodus.

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