

# 2023 Annual Retreat



#23pbggRetreat 📍 Historic Iron Works – Columbus Convention and Trade Center 🏨 Columbus Marriott

COLUMBUS, GA

RIVER WALK – UPTOWN

MAY 17 – 19

## Wednesday 17



**Registration + Poster set up**  
Historic Iron works, Pre-function area  
11 AM



**Buffet Lunch**  
Historic Iron works, Pre-function area  
12 – 1 PM

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**Welcome**  
**Wayne Parrott** – Director  
Institute of Plant Breeding Genetics and Genomics

1:00 – 1:10 PM



**Making the Grass Greener (literally): Breeding for Stress Tolerance in Turfgrass**  
**Susana Milla-Lewis** - Professor  
NC State University

1:10 – 1:50 PM



**Breeding Resilient, Resistant High-Quality Grapes: The Germplasm – Technology – Cultivar Pipeline**  
**Bruce Reisch** - Professor  
Cornell University

1:50 – 2:30 PM



*New Faculty Spotlight*  
**Breeding for Better Blueberries**  
**Ye (Juliet) Chu** – Assistant Professor  
Department of Horticulture, UGA

2:30 – 2:50 PM



**Deborah Franco Recognition**  
Historic Iron Works, The Foundry A  
2:50 PM

*For her service to the Institute*



3:00 – 3:50 PM  
**Break + Social Bingo**  
Historic Iron works, Pre-function area



### The John Ingle Innovation in Plant Breeding Award

**Shelley Fincher**

Innovation Getaway, Office of Research, UGA

3:50 - 4:00 PM



*John Ingle Awardee*

#### Muscadine Aroma Volatiles, Calling the Possum

**Gaurab Bhattarai** – PhD Student

Institute of Plant Breeding Genetics and Genomics

4:00 - 4:20 PM



*John Ingle Awardee*

#### Applications for Whole Genome Sequencing of Hybrid *Epichloë* Endophytes

**Kendall Lee** – PhD Student

Institute of Plant Breeding Genetics and Genomics

4:20 - 4:40 PM



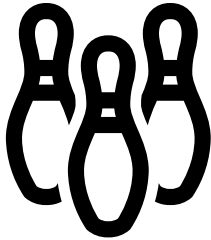
*John Ingle Awardee*

#### Deciphering Genetic Resistance of Soybean to Southern Stem Canker (*Diaporthe aspalathi*)

**Habib Widyawam** – PhD Student

Institute of Plant Breeding Genetics and Genomics

4:40 - 5:00 PM



[Stars and Strikes Columbus](#)

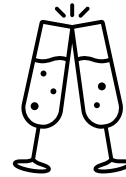
#### Dinner + Bowling

6:00 - 6:45 PM Dinner

6:45 - 7:45 PM Bowling

7:45 PM Arcade

[ \$10 card provided ]



#### 8:30 PM Social

Hotel Bar, Houlihan's  
[2 Drink Tickets Provided]

COLUMBUS, GA

#23pbggRetreat

MAY 17 - 19

### Thursday 18



#### Fun Run

Hotel Lobby

7:00 - 8:00 AM



#### Breakfast

Hotel Restaurant, Houlihan's

8:00 - 9:00 AM



9:00 - 9:40 AM

#### The Ten Most Important Rules to Follow If You Want to Be a Successful Annual Ornamental Plant Breeder

**Laura Masor** – Senior Plant Breeder

WinGen LLC



9:40 - 10:20 AM

#### Leveraging QTLs, eQTLs and Metabolomics in Apple Rootstock Breeding

**Gennaro Fazio** – Plant Breeder and Research Geneticist

USDA-ARS Plant Genetic Resources Unit, Geneva, NY



#### Poster Viewing + Granola Bar

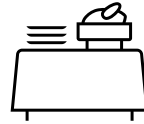
Historic Iron Works, Pre-function Area

10:20 - 10:50 AM



### Poster Competition

Historic Iron Works, Pre-function Area  
10:50 – 12:20 PM



### Buffet Lunch

Historic Iron works, Pre-function area  
12:20 – 1:20 PM



### GSA Meeting

Historic Iron Works, The Foundry A  
1:20 – 1:50 PM



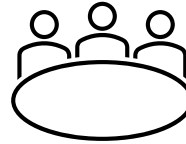
### Graduate Student & Postdoc Workshop

Historic Iron Works, The Foundry A  
1:50 – 2:50 PM



Led by

**Jeff Thompson** – Global Soybean Lead  
Corteva



### Faculty Meeting

Historic Iron Works, The Foundry B  
1:20 – 2:50 PM

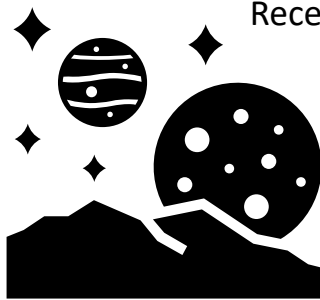


### River and Outdoor Activities

Tubing | Stand Up Paddleboarding  
Kayaking | Walking | Biking



Waveshaper Island



### Reception & Drinks

with Keynote Speaker: Geoff Graham

6:00 – 7:00 PM Reception + Museum Exhibitions [Cash Bar, One Drink Ticket Provided]



*Keynote Speaker*

**Driving Breeding Improvement via the Application of New Technologies**

**Geoff Graham** – Vice President Plant Breeding  
Corteva

7:00 – 8:00 PM



Coca-Cola Space Science Center

8:25 – 9:00 PM Planetarium Show



### 9 PM Social

Hotel Bar, Houlihan's  
[1 Drink Ticket Provided]

Friday 19 [Check-out by 11 AM]

**Breakfast**Hotel Restaurant, Houlihan's  
8:00 – 8:45 AM

[ Faculty Only ]

Tuition Return and Management  
Historic Iron Works, The Foundry A  
8:45 – 9:15 AM

Historic Iron Works – The Foundry A



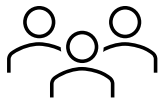
9:15 – 9:50 AM

*Applying for IPBGG Membership***Understanding the Mechanisms Underlying Improved Abiotic Stress Tolerance in Turfgrasses****David Jespersen** – Associate Professor  
Crop and Soil Sciences, UGA

9:50 – 10:10 AM

*IPBGG Postdoc talk***Pre-breeding Efforts in *Aronia* Berry: Developing a New Native Crop for the Southeast US****Leynar Leyton Naranjo** – Postdoctoral Research Associate  
Department of Horticulture UGA, Carol Robacker Lab

10:10 – 10:30 AM

*IPBGG Postdoc talk****Arabidopsis* HD-ZIP III Transcription Factors Promote Sugar Beet Cyst Nematode Feeding Site Formation****Xungliang Liu** – Postdoctoral Research Associate  
Department of Plant Pathology UGA, Melissa Mitchum Lab**PBGG Graduate Program Update**Esther van der Knapp  
Historic Iron Works, The Foundry A  
10:30 – 11:00 AM**Graduate Student Meeting – Part 2**Historic Iron Works, The Foundry B  
11:05 – 11:45 AM

[ Faculty Only ]

**Harshavardhan Thippareddi**Interim Associate Dean for Research  
Historic Iron Works, The Foundry A  
11:05 – 11:45 AM**Poster Awards Winners – Adjourn**Historic Iron Works, The Foundry A  
11:45 – 12:00 PM**Box Lunch**Historic Iron Works, Pre-function area  
12 PM