

2020 Insights into Gardening – Speaker Biographies

Amy Bartow, US Department of Agriculture

Amy Bartow graduated from OSU with BS degrees in Botany and Wildlife Science from Oregon State University in 2001. She has worked at the USDA NRCS Corvallis Plant Materials Center since 1997 specializing in production of native plants. Some of her favorite projects include revegetation following dam removal on the Elwha River in Olympic National Park and completion of the Native Seed Production Manual for the Pacific Northwest. Her current projects include establishing pollinator habitat on working lands such as vineyards and orchards, writing a seedling identification guide, and oak savanna restoration. When she's not at work she likes to go on wildflower hikes, laugh with her kids, play soccer and eat ice cream sandwiches.

Priyadarshini Chakrabarti Basu, OSU Department of Horticulture

Priya Chakrabarti is a Research Associate at the OSU Honey Bee Lab. Priya has a PhD in Zoology and uses an interdisciplinary approach to address her research questions. Priya's chief research foci include understanding bee nutrition and the impacts of pesticides on bees. Along with numerous awards from the Royal Society and Governments of India and UK, Priya received the OSU Phi Kappa Phi Postdoctoral Scientist Award and the OSU Postdoctoral Excellence Award in 2019. While working in close collaboration with various stakeholders and peers, Priya also mentors undergraduate and graduate students and teaches honey bee biology and pollinator awareness in schools.

Andrew Billing, Territorial Seed Company

Andrew is currently Product Development Manager at Territorial Seed Company. This job that includes evaluating hundreds of vegetable, flower, and herb varieties each year, including about 1 acre of winter vegetables. He has 8 years of experiencing consulting and managing small-scale sustainable farms in Oregon, Michigan, and North Carolina and has been an avid gardener his entire adult life. He has organic gardening training from Oregon Tilth. He holds an M.B.A. from Portland State University with an emphasis in sustainability.

Jeff Cope, Home Grown Gardens

Jeff Cope has a B.S. degree in landscape horticulture from Cal Poly and M.S. from Cal State. Jeff taught in the Environmental Horticulture Program at Santa Barbara City College and was park manager for the city of Santa Barbara for 18 years. Jeff is a Certified Arborist with the International Society of Arboriculture and has been a practicing Urban Horticulturist for over 45 years.

Dan Edge, OSU College of Agricultural Sciences

Dan Edge is a Certified Wildlife Biologist and Associate Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences at Oregon State University. Dan served as Extension Wildlife Specialist for 12 years before becoming Department Head of Fisheries and Wildlife, a position he held for 13 years. He has been in the dean's office for 5 years. Dan is an

enthusiastic gardener spending much of his spare time on his knees or behind a wheelbarrow.

Brooke Edmunds, OSU Extension Service

Brooke Edmunds is the OSU Extension Community Horticulturist in Linn and Benton County. She has degrees from North Carolina State University and Iowa State University. Brooke is currently helping the OSU Vegetable Breeding program to evaluate new vegetable varieties for home gardens.

Jennifer Klammer, Benton County Master Gardener

Jennifer was born and raised in the Willamette Valley with farming in her roots. Her interest in vegetable garden planning came with leading the Giving Garden, a church garden with the mission of providing a place for people to learn about gardening and donating produce to local food banks. She enjoys designing learning tools for her 4-H Horticulture Club and has expanded the use to Seed to Supper classes, which are adult beginner gardening classes co-sponsored by Benton County Master Gardeners and the Oregon Food Bank.

Alec Kowalewski, OSU Department of Horticulture

Dr. Alec Kowalewski received his Master's and Ph.D. degrees from Michigan State University. He worked as research scientist in the University of Georgia Turf Breeding Program, Briggs & Stratton Yardsmart Expert and consultant at the 2008 Olympic Games. Since 2012 he has been the Turfgrass Specialist at OSU. Current interests include improving the environmental and economic sustainability of turfgrass management.

Gail Langellotto, OSU Department of Horticulture

Gail earned her Bachelor's, Master's and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Maryland and worked on various agriculture and entomology projects in California, Hawaii and New York before coming to Oregon in 2007. She is a Professor of Horticulture at OSU and also serves as the Statewide Master Gardener Coordinator for OSU Extension.

Janet Magedanz, Benton County Master Gardener

Janet says she became a CPA so she could afford to garden on her one-acre property that is intensely planted with nearly every type of plant material. Her interest in gardening began as a child in North Dakota while visiting her aunt's flower beds which were surrounded by white painted rocks. That enthusiasm for gardening matured after several garden tours to Great Britain and after completing the Master Gardener program in 2012. Janet considers herself a plant nerd and loves to talk about plants, so she has opened her garden to many tours over the years.

Darren Morgan, Shonnard's Nursery

Darren Morgan grew up gardening and farming in the northern Willamette Valley. He has worked at Shonnard's for 29 years and is currently the nursery manager. He specializes in trees and shrubs, vegetable gardening, and diagnostic consultation. He has an exceptional depth of knowledge on all aspects of gardening in the Willamette

Valley. Darren also currently teaches gardening classes for LBCC through their Community Education Department.

Joleen Schilling, Chemeketa Community College Horticulture Program

Joleen received her BS (Horticulture) and MS (Environmental Education) from OSU. She has worked for and managed nurseries in the Willamette Valley, Central Oregon, and Colorado. After completing her master's degree in 2007, Joleen started teaching part-time at Linn-Benton Community College for their horticulture program. In 2014, she joined Chemeketa Community College as their horticulture instructor and Program Chair.

Andrea Shonnard, Shonnard's Nursery

Andrea Shonnard was born in Bend, Oregon and was raised in Philomath at her family's garden center, Shonnard's Nursery. She graduated from OSU in 2005 with a BS in Merchandising Management and emphasis in Interior Design. After graduating she landed at Shonnard's Nursery where you will find her today. Growing up with parents that enjoy gardening she picked up the same love for plants and gardening at a very young age. She received her first house plant in 6th grade and still has it today, a Draceana that is now taller than she is. Andrea enjoys her large collection of house plants, her vegetable garden, grapes, small orchard, and hiking with her dog.

Heather Stoven, OSU Extension Service

Heather Stoven received her Master's Degree from UC Davis in Integrated Pest Management. She has been an Extension Horticulturist in Yamhill County since 2014 but has worked for OSU since 2007 as a Faculty Research Assistant for Nursery Crops. For the last two years she has collaborated with other OSU faculty on the Olea Project which is a research project for the emerging Olive industry within Oregon.

Fred Weisensee, Dancing Oaks Nursery

Fred Weisensee is co-owner of Dancing Oaks Nursery and Gardens located about 30 minutes north of Corvallis which began in 1995. Fred's horticultural knowledge and experience are revealed in the hands-on building of the nursery and its gardens, visiting gardens far and near, and staffing the nursery and plant sales on weekends whenever his full-time Internal Medicine practice in Corvallis allows.

Ella May Wulff, Author and Heather Expert

Ella May Wulff holds a B.A. degree in botany from Smith College and an M.A. in marine science from The College of William and Mary and studied landscape architecture at Oregon State University. She has been gardening all her life and seriously interested in heathers for the last twenty-five years. She is a past president of the North American Heather Society and recently retired as longtime copy editor of its newsletter, for which she wrote many articles. She is co-author of *Gardening with Hardy Heathers* (Small and Wulff, Timber Press 2008).