

Marisha Auerbach (she/her) is an internationally recognized permaculture educator, designer, and speaker. Since 2009, she's been teaching, practicing, and studying permaculture, offering independent courses for all ages. She has taught permaculture at Oregon State University since 2011 and co-developed the Holistic Landscape Design program at Bastyr University. She's also taught at Portland Community College and Maharishi University of Management. Marisha runs Permaculture Rising, a plant nursery at her farm in SW Olympia, WA.

532

Neil Bell is (mostly) retired as Community Horticulturist for OSU Extension Service, having overseen the Master Gardener program in Marion and Polk Counties from 2000 to 2021. He has conducted several landscape plant evaluations for un-irrigated landscapes, which have included an evaluation of evergreen ground covers. He is employed part time by OSU Extension to assist with a multi-year evaluation of 116 olive cultivars at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center in Aurora, a planting which produced it's first olive oil in November 2025.

553

Loree Bohl is a lifelong Pacific Northwest resident, passionate about plants and garden design. She's written for magazines and served on the board of directors for the Hardy Plant Society of Oregon and Pacific Horticulture. She founded the blog The Danger Garden (thedangergarden.com), exploring her love for agaves, spiky plants, ferns, and moss. Her book, "Fearless Gardening: Be Bold, Break the Rules, Grow What You Love," was published by Timber Press. Loree practices garden cramscaping and believes there's always room for more plants.

541

Brenda Bye is a Benton County Master Gardener. Her home garden consists mostly of deer resistant, shade and drought tolerant perennials and shrubs. With her home garden besieged by deer and bunnies, she spends much of her vegetable gardening time at the Demonstration Garden at the Benton County Fairgrounds. Her favorite plants to grow are actually hollyhocks and dahlias but she enjoys eating fresh ground cherries and green beans from the garden also.

455

Jean Chapin is a Master Gardener, garden designer, and community educator known for his engaging, science-based approach to teaching. His classes and workshops focus on connecting people to gardening through creativity, joy, and practical skill-building. Jean blends horticultural knowledge, design insight, and clear, accessible techniques that help gardeners of all levels feel confident and inspired. His design work has been recognized internationally, with two Willamette Valley client gardens featured in *Better Homes & Gardens*.

535

Kathy Clark joined the Master Gardeners in 2010 after 35 years teaching at LBCC. Her interests include native landscape design, plant propagation, and unusual plants. Her oak grove home garden features drought and shade-tolerant plants. For several years, she's been re-wilding half an acre, removing invasive plants and replacing them with natives. With an unfenced front garden, she's curated deer-resistant plants that provide year-round bloom and foliage, while her fenced back garden allows more variety.

510

Jeff Cope is an Urban Horticulturalist, ISA Certified Master Arborist, and co-owner of Home Grown Gardens nursery in Corvallis, OR. With 30+ yrs experience, he specializes in sustainable urban landscapes. He has shaped and maintained notable California green spaces and academic programs, and combines practical experience with rigorous academic qualifications. He is an Oregon-licensed Landscape Contractor and Nurseryman, holding an MPA from Cal State Northridge and a BS in Horticulture from Cal Poly. His passion for plants began at age 12, building foundational expertise that drives his work today.

604

Dr. Christopher Daly directs the PRISM Climate Group and is Chief Scientist for the Northwest Alliance for Computational Science and Engineering at Oregon State University. He holds a B.S. in Atmospheric Sciences from UC Davis, M.A. in Forest Geography from Univ. of Colorado at Boulder, and Ph.D. in Physical Science from OSU. He pioneered the discipline of Geospatial Climatology, studying spatial and temporal climate patterns and developed the PRISM climate mapping system, which produces daily and long-term weather and climate. He is the lead author of the 2012 and 2023 USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Maps.

609

Tom Kaye is Chief Scientist and Founder of the Institute for Applied Ecology, a nonprofit focused on conserving native habitats and species through research, restoration, and education. He's also a courtesy Associate Professor in Botany and Plant Pathology at Oregon State University. He researches rare species reintroductions, pollination biology, habitat restoration, plant invasions, and climate change impacts on plant populations; and specializes in sourcing native plants for restoration. He leads the Sagebrush in Prisons Project engaging prison inmates in conservation. He serves on the Society for Ecological Restoration board.

638

Gail Langellotto is a Professor of Horticulture and the Director of the BioResource Research Program at Oregon State University, where she also leads the Garden Ecology Lab. She has an M.S. and Ph.D. in entomology, and is a regular contributor to the Hardy Plant Society of Oregon Quarterly Magazine and Pacific Horticulture.

325

Erin McMullen has gardened for 30+ years. Growing up in the Willamette Valley, she studied horticulture, botany, and environmental science while working at a nursery. After graduation, she worked on an organic farm and with her partner Aaron, founded Rain Drop Farms. Over 25 years, the farm evolved into a wholesale specialty cut flower producer, supplying florists from Seattle to Southern California. They're members of Seattle Growers Market, a cooperative of 20+ Pacific Northwest farms, and the Oregon Flower Growers Association in Portland.

547

Darren Morgan grew up on a small farm in the Willamette Valley. He is the nursery manager at Shonnards Nursery in Corvallis, where he has worked for 36 years. He also teaches workshops and community education classes at the nursery, for organizations throughout western Oregon, and through Linn-Benton Community College, with a focus on trees and shrubs, edible gardening, and most recently beekeeping.

402

Jim Myers held the Baggett-Frazier Endowed Chair of Vegetable Breeding and Genetics in the Department of Horticulture at Oregon State University for 29 years. He has bred several vegetable crops including snap bean, edible podded pea, broccoli, tomato, pepper, table beet, winter and summer squash from which 20 varieties have been released. His focus has been to improve vegetables for disease resistance, human nutrition and organic production systems. Although retired, he's not done yet and has several new varieties in the pipeline.

537

Ebba Peterson is a research plant pathologist at Oregon State University, specializing in Phytophthora diseases of woody plants. Working closely with the Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Department of Forestry, USDA Forest Service, and industry partners, she seeks to prevent the introduction of invasive pests to keep our wildlands and gardens healthy.

362

Dr. Dana Sanchez conducts research on native wild mammals, their habitats, and management. As OSU Extension's Wildlife Specialist, she promotes sustainable management of Oregon's wildlife through daily interactions with Oregonians ranging from Ask Extension inquiries and delivery of educational presentations and products to collaborative, need-based applied research projects conducted with public agencies, agricultural producers, and communities.

450

Joleen Schilling is a horticulture instructor and Program Chair at Chemeketa Community College in Salem, Oregon. She is a dedicated

educator with professional experience in Oregon's robust nursery industry and a passion for hands-on, applied teaching. At Chemeketa, Joleen teaches a diverse range of courses—including plant propagation, greenhouse and nursery production, pest and disease management, and her favorite, plant identification—while guiding the overall direction of the college's horticulture program.