

## SN2G Speakers info

### Neil Bell

**Title: Shrubs to Plant Now for Fall and Winter Bloom**

**Description:** This presentation will cover the variety of shrubs that provide fall and winter bloom from late October through mid-February in the Willamette Valley and their characteristics.

**Bio:** Neil Bell is a Community Horticulturist at OSU Extension Service for Marion and Polk Counties. He works with home gardeners and oversees the Master Gardener program in both counties. In addition, he is done research trials on Hebe, Ceanothus and Cistus in the Willamette Valley and began new evaluations of Grevillea and Arctostaphylos in 2011. He has co-authored OSU publications on water-efficient landscape plants, soil amendment and mulching for home gardeners.

He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Plant Science from the University Of British Columbia, 1990 and has a Master of Science degree in Horticulture from Oregon State University, 1992. He lives and gardens in Polk County on 5 acres west of Monmouth with his wife, Bernadine and two daughters, Nicole and Shannon, aged 14 and 16.

### Sue Domingues

**Title: Building Healthy Soil**

**Description:** This presentation will stress the importance of soil health and discuss practical steps to feed and protect the soil life, so that the soil in turn can support healthy plants.

**Title: Backyard Composting**

**Description:** There is no denying the benefits from regularly composting your organic waste. While it may take a little effort to set up your own backyard composting system, the results will be worth it. We will learn how to properly manage your compost pile to turn your leaves, grass, and food scraps into excellent compost in just a few months.

**Bio:** Sue Domingues lives in Corvallis and has created and managed community gardens for the past eighteen years. She became a Master Gardener in 2007 and currently teaches Seed to Supper classes and hands-on organic gardening to youth and adults at a 13,500 square foot donation garden. Sue has been an organic gardener for the past fifty years.

### Sophie Grow

**Title: Flower Soup and Mud Pies: Kid Garden Play Ideas**

**Description:** Explore the senses in the garden with Sophie Grow. The garden is such a playful place, and yet we forget its playful nature when we have work in mind. Children are inclined to engage in natural play in garden spaces that welcome them to touch, taste, hear, and smell. Throw out the rules books! It's time to be truly creative out in the garden.

**Bio:** Sophie is a young mother and community organizer. She coordinates events for the Benton County Master Gardener Association as Vice President. Certified since 2014, Sophie has taught Seed to Supper for 5 years and helped developed a complementing child education program called Kids Grow. Kids Grow won a Search for Excellence award in 2016. Professionally, Sophie is a postpartum doula with Proud Mama Support Services in the Corvallis Oregon area.

## **Claudia Groth**

**Title: Slug Hunting: Know Your Enemy”.**

One slug can lay up to 500 eggs in a year! But you don't have to let slugs and snails get the best of your garden. Learn about the behavior and biology of these fascinating, though pesky, creatures. Then use what you've learned to choose the best control methods to protect your garden. A fun and fascinating presentation.

**Bio:** Claudia has been working with home gardeners for over 30 years in the Pacific Northwest. She was the "Garden Doctor" on Portland's KEX radio, the naturals specialist for Whitney Farms, appeared on Oregon Field Guide talking kindly about slugs, and currently staffs the Information Desk at Portland Nursery.

She writes a quarterly insect column for the Hardy Plant Society of Oregon and speaks to a variety of audiences on soils, soil improvement, and common sense pest management, including Master Gardener training classes in a number of Oregon counties.

Claudia has a master's degree in Plant Science, has logged over 300 hours of pest management classes, and was named Oregon State Master Gardener of the Year for 2013.

## **Katherine Johnson**

**Title: Roses: Pruning and Care**

**Description:** Does the thought of growing roses scare you? Do you fret that their maintenance and upkeep will be just too much? Don't let rose care stop you from enjoying these amazing beauties. Let this rose care expert teach you how easy it is to plant, care for and prune roses.

**Bio:** As the Past President of the Portland Rose Society, Katherine is eminently qualified to speak on this topic. Besides her duties with the Portland Rose Society and her Master Gardener position as OMGA treasurer, she maintains a spectacular home rose garden planted in hybrid teas, grandifolias and floribundas.

## **Gail Langellotto**

**Title: How Gardening Will Save the World**

**Description:** In a rapidly urbanizing world, gardens will play an increasingly important role in community food security, climate moderation, and biodiversity conservation. In cities, gardens provide important opportunities to interact with the natural world and to experience new foods. This talk will present the latest research on ecosystem services provided by gardens, and tips that you can use to make your garden a lean, mean ecosystem-service machine.

**Bio:** Gail Langellotto, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor of Horticulture at Oregon State University, where she also coordinates the statewide Extension Master Gardener Program.

## **Andony Melathopoulos**

**Title: Never doubt how a small, thoughtful and committed pollinator habitat (in your garden) can change the world**

**Description.** Pollinator populations are under stress from all sides. Be it from habitat loss and fragmentation, pesticide exposure, or the spread of new diseases, pollinators face many challenges. The good news is that these damaging effects can be reversed through the retention or restoration of small bits of natural habitat. And there is particularly prominent habitat fragment that a lot of us have control over: our gardens. In this session we will dive deep into how to

create pollinator habitat. What plants do you need? How do you get things established? Do you need to prepare a place for pollinators to nest? And what about host plants for butterflies? After working through some of the more common challenges with building pollinator habitat, the session will conclude by returning to what current science has to say about how your modest activities might link up and contribute to overall urban pollinator health.

**Bio:** Andony Melathopoulos is a new Assistant Professor who, since 2016, has been leading OSU's efforts to design, implement and evaluate a state-wide pollinator health program. OSU's work around pollinator health comes out of a mandate from the Oregon Legislator. Each year he provides training to over 1000 pesticide applicators on how to reduce pesticide exposure to pollinating insects, he hosts a weekly podcast on pollinator health (PolliNation) and is currently working on a number of education products designed for helping homeowners and landscapers better understand how to manage pests while minimizing impacts to pollinators. He also sits on the steering Committee of the Oregon Bee Project, which coordinates pollinator health work across state agencies. He has over fifteen years' of experience in pollinator health extension, which includes over 30 peer-reviewed papers, speaking at industry and public meetings, writing for trade journals (over 40 articles), conducting qualitative risk assessments for government agencies and developing public education activities.

## **Darren Morgan**

### **Title: Every Nook and Cranny: Productive Container Gardening**

**Description:** The presentation will show how to expand available garden space by growing in containers. We will cover growing fruits, vegetables, and herbs in pots, tubs, planter boxes, and raised beds, including selecting a container, crop choices and tips, and the advantages and challenges of container cultivation.

**Bio:** I grew up in Dayton, Oregon on a small farm and moved to Corvallis to attend OSU (though not anything related to horticulture!). I have worked at Shonnard's Nursery, Landscape, and Floral for 26 years, starting as a member of the landscape crew before moving to the retail part of the operation. I am the Nursery Manager at Shonnard's, where my specialties include plant identification, diagnostics, trees and shrubs, and of course vegetable and herb gardening.

## **Sue Randall**

### **Title: Hardy Fuchsias – Ideas for a Wonderful Season**

#### **Description:**

**Bio:** I am president of the Oregon Fuchsia Soc. My interest in fuchsias has led me to grow them, show them and judge them for other societies' exhibitions. My garden is in the SW hills of Portland with over 200 rhodies and azaleas as a background. Interspersed in the garden framework are numerous perennials including over 100 fuchsias planted in the ground.

## **Marcia Sherry**

### **Title: The How To's of Organizing a Container Garden**

**Description:** Planting in containers is a lighthearted way to garden. It has everything going for it—and anyone can do it. Container gardening requires less time, space, and energy than in ground planting and is just as much fun. The only limitation is your budget and creativity. Learn the basics of organizing every detail from choosing the container to what soil to use to basic design and plant selection. Remember, a container can be anything that holds soil and provides drainage.

**Bio:** Marcia Sherry has been a master gardener since 2000, starting out in Cincinnati, Ohio then onto Salt Lake City and finally in Newberg, Oregon since 2008. She is a member of Yamhill County MG Chapter. She is currently the editor of OMGA's Gardener's Pen. Having a career as an architect in her own firm for 30+ years, she always has had a crafty side, too, exploring all sorts of creative outlets such as designing Barbie clothes and houses as a child, painting, weaving and graphic arts. She currently teaches stained glass classes and does commissioned work. Combining gardening and "fun art" has always been a passion which she loves to share.

## **Bethany Hagan or Emily Sitmac**

**Title: Edible Flowers**

**Description: ???**

**Bio:** First and foremost, Bethany is a nature lover. She is fortunate that her passions for art, food, writing and gardening get to be expressed daily in her position as General Manager of The Thyme Garden Herb Company, an organic herb nursery in Alsea, Oregon. Bethany's youngest years were in a restaurant kitchen with her parents where she got an early exposure to food that was made fresh from great ingredients and more importantly was presented as a work of art. From there her family moved on to start The Thyme Garden, and she has been working with them ever since. Bethany's wide range of interests has led her to being a florist, a salmon researcher, and a home builder for Habitat for Humanity, but she always comes back to her roots in the garden. She now spends springs cultivating herbs in the greenhouse, summers cooking herbal luncheons in the kitchen, autumns harvesting in the garden, and winters working on everything in between. She is also co-author of an herbal cookbook and has blogged about herbal living for Mother Earth News.