

# COOL PLANTS HOT TOPICS

## Guest Speaker Bios

### Molly van der Burch

A native Seattleite, Molly retired after 30 years of teaching in 2009 and became a WSU Extension King County Master Gardener. She supports the Mercer Island and Crossroads Farmers Markets Master Gardener plant clinics and teaches classes at the Bellevue Demonstration Garden and Bellevue Botanical Garden. Molly has been a Board member of the Northwest Perennial Alliance and the Bellevue Botanical Garden Society. She has a small garden consulting business, designing gardens and coaching clients on pruning, containers, and plant choices.

### Susan Melgaard

Susan Melgaard is a passionate gardener spending much of her free time in retirement volunteering for many organizations. She joined the WSU Extension King County Master Gardener in 2020 and is a specialist on the topic of pollinators. She'll help us learn of pollinators and their critical importance in sustaining the health of our planet. In her upcoming presentation she will talk about our amazing pollinator insects & birds and how we can create essential habitats for them. Her college education includes a degree in microbiology from Washington State University. She has also completed the Pollinator.org Pollinator Stewardship program

### Daniel Mount

Daniel Mount hails from a long line of gardeners, horticulturists and farmers. Though his aspirations led him to take a degree in botany, with a minor in fine arts, he has remained bound to the earth. For the past 40 years he has worked as a professional gardener and designer, nesting in such far-flung places as the Island of Elba, Italy, St. Louis, Missouri, and Cologne, Germany. He finally settled in western Washington with its garden friendly climate, where he has run his own garden design and maintenance business for the last 40 years. Daniel is a former board member of the Northwest Horticultural Society, the editorial board of The Washington Park Arboretum Bulletin and the quarterly Pacific Horticulture. He currently is on the board of the Hardy Fern Foundation and leads their installation at Bellevue Botanical Garden. He writes regularly for the Hardy Fern Quarterly and other local and national publications. Now retired, he lives with his partner Michael on a small farm, tucked into the 190-acre Carnation Marsh protected wetlands, which they share with a cat, innumerable slugs and a bear.

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