



NGBH-KVCC WORKFORCE TRAINING PROGRAM

SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING & GARDEN MANAGEMENT

OUR TEAM OF INSTRUCTORS

Program Leaders



AVY CLAIRE, program co-leader, NGBH co-founder, and hands-on session instructor

Avy has been designing and maintaining garden landscapes for the past 30 years. As an employer, she has hired and trained dozens of young gardeners. In 2015 she co-founded Native Gardens of Blue Hill to help demonstrate sustainable gardening practices to the community of the Blue Hill Peninsula. Avy's journey to creating gardens has origins in fine art. With a BFA from Carnegie Mellon University in 1978, she has exhibited widely throughout the country and is included in numerous private and corporate collections. A conceptual theme in her studio practice illustrates the intersection of human activity and nature. This theme informs Avy's garden practice, where she focuses on solutions that weave her client's program with nature's systems.



CATHY REES, program co-leader, NGBH co-founder, and hands-on session instructor

Cathy has worked for more than 25 years creating and maintaining gardens while doing ecological consulting for parks, forests, land trusts, and private individuals during that time. Her familiarity with native flora has inspired the creative use of natives in the garden and the uncultivated landscape. The desire to educate others about their native flora—including its beauty, mystery and benefit to the ecosystem—led her to co-found Native Gardens of Blue Hill. Having worked as an educator, researcher, and gardener, Cathy combines her interests to advocate for gardening as though the future depends on it. She majored in environmental design and planning and earned an MS in ecology.



TOM BARRY, Organic Practices & Lawn Maintenance Instructor

Tom has a Bachelor's and a Master's degree from the University of Connecticut in Turfgrass and Soil Science. He has spent many years in the golf course industry including three years as Assistant Superintendent at Wailea Blue Golf Course in Maui, Hawaii. Tom also worked as Plant Health Care Specialist for a landscaping company, maintaining a number of exclusive residential properties. Tom is currently Grounds Manager at Greens Farms Academy: an independent co-ed day school for grades PreK-12 in Westport, CT. As Grounds Manager, Tom oversees the maintenance of 45 acres of athletic fields, lawn areas and landscape beds without the use of synthetic pesticides. In addition to his field experience, Tom works part time as an adjunct instructor in the Horticulture department at Naugatuck Valley Community College.



MARECHAL BROWN, Botany, Horticulture, Garden Bed Maintenance, and Garden Planning Instructor

Marechal studied botany and horticulture at the New York Botanical Garden and had the great fortune to work for NYC Parks for over 20 years. As the gardener in Morningside Park, she worked with thousands of volunteers and developed a hands-on school gardening program with NY Audubon. During her tenure, the park was designated a Scenic Landmark by the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission. She went on to direct horticulture operations in North Manhattan Parks, 600 acres of parks large and small, including Fort Tryon Park. After 13 years in the field, Marechal became Director of Horticulture for NYC Parks, working with colleagues to oversee 30,000 acres of public parklands. Her team collaborated with the Brooklyn Botanical Garden to offer a Parks Master Gardener program, as well as in-house horticultural training. In her two decades in public service, she had the immense pleasure of devoting her time to cultivating great gardens and great gardeners in NYC's public parks.



MARJORIE PERONTO, Soil Ecology, Pruning, and Stewardship Instructor

As a professor for the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, Marjorie teaches courses in fruit and vegetable gardening, ecological landscaping, and pruning. She is also a resource on native and invasive plants of the Northeast. Marjorie manages Downeast Maine's Master Gardener Volunteers Program, training individuals to conduct community outreach projects that promote sustainable gardening and food security. She has developed nationally recognized school gardening courses for teachers. Marjorie also oversees Downeast Maine's Eat Well Volunteers program, training individuals to conduct cooking, food preservation and food safety education for patrons of emergency food distribution sites. Marjorie and her partner, Dr. Reeser Manley, have published two gardening books: *The Life in Your Garden: Gardening for Biodiversity* (2016) and *The New England Gardener's Year: A Month-by-Month Guide for Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Upstate New York* (2013).



TREVOR SMITH, Landscape Site Assessment & Best Practices Instructor

Trevor is lead designer at Land Escapes Design Inc, specializing in green infrastructure, urban farming, stormwater management, rain harvesting, native plant design and soil reclamation. For 19 years, Trevor has been working to improve our planet and our community through landscape design and education. As outgoing President of the Ecological Landscape Alliance, Trevor and the ELA work to bring vital information, resources and educational materials to the landscape design community. Trevor is a regular contributor to landscape magazines and newsletters and a regular speaker at industry events. As a company, Land Escapes Design Inc. has led the way in Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) in New England as well as regenerative land care.