



NORTHWEST  
HORTICULTURAL  
SOCIETY

## 2025 Proposed New Board Member Bios

### Erica Browne Grivas

Erica Browne Grivas is an award-winning journalist and lifelong gardener who explores the interplay between people and nature, aiming to help both be happier and healthier. Her features appear in publications like *The Seattle Times*, *Horticulture*, *Better Homes and Garden*, as well as the American Horticulture Society's *American Gardener*. Erica studied Landscape Design at The New York Botanical Garden, where she also led education publicity for three years. She has nine years of experience working in nurseries and recently became a Tilth Alliance Sustainability Steward. She is actively engaged in the horticultural community as a content consultant for *Pacific Horticulture*, a Western director for Garden Communicators International, and a member of the NHS education committee.

### Kyle Gaines

Kyle Gaines is an Arkansas raised, Seattle based landscape designer with a background in landscape architecture and over 17 years in the landscape design and horticulture industry. Kyle is a certified professional horticulturist and an ecoPro certified sustainable landscape professional. When he's not envisioning his next garden design, he's teaching in the horticulture department as an associate faculty member at Edmonds College and tending the bar for Plant Amnesty events.

Deeply rooted in outreach of underserved communities in Eastern Arkansas, Kyle has volunteered and worked professionally for the Boy Scouts of America for over 10 years, co-founded and vice chaired the Forrest City Downtown Revitalization Project, Inc, and earned the Rotary award for community service and development. His passion project within these communities was to work with local government agencies in design collaboration and acquisition of grant funding for reenvisioning city centers for economic development, sense of space, and community culture. On his rest days, you'll find him lying on a bed of moss on the Olympic peninsula or climbing crags in the cascades.

## **Lisa Port**

Lisa, a Seattle native, is a respected figure in the landscape design industry in Washington state and across the region. While she tends to a young garden in Lake Forest Park, her main achievements come from her business, Banyon Tree Design Studio. Here, she collaborates with an extensive network of clients and contractors to create custom landscape designs in Seattle and beyond, blending landscape design and architecture for residential clients. With an architectural background from Washington State University, Lisa has spent the past 25 years dedicated to designing unique and sustainable outdoor garden spaces, using plants and horticulture to harmonize the built environment. She has also held leadership roles on both the chapter and national boards of the Association for Professional Landscape Designers (APLD) and is a Certified Professional Landscape Designer.

## **Nita-Jo Rountree**

Nita-Jo Rountree is a speaker, educator, and landscape designer. She is past vice-president for the board of directors of the Bellevue Botanical Garden Society, is a member of the Heronswood Garden Steering Committee, and serves on the advisory board of the Northwest Horticultural Society, of which she is a former president. Nita-Jo is a frequent speaker at the Northwest Flower & Garden Show and was a judge on “The Best Use of Color”, she competed against gardening celebrity Ciscoe Morris in “Container Wars”, and gave a lecture with Ciscoe on “Let’s Show Off Our Cool Plants!” Additionally, she was a frequent guest and substitute host on *Gardening with Ciscoe*, in Seattle, Washington. Along with Ciscoe, she talks about her favorite “Plant of the Week” on the Bellevue Botanical Garden Society’s Facebook page. Her book, *Growing Roses in the Pacific Northwest*, was published by Sasquatch Books.

## **Rose Tobin**

Rose grew up in the Seattle area and has always had a passion for gardening. After many years of living and working abroad, Rose returned to Seattle, earned a degree in Environmental Horticulture and turned her love of plants into a full-time career. A former Elisabeth C. Miller Garden intern, Rose works full-time on the garden staff at Dunn Gardens, where she is a Senior Horticulturist and serves as the nursery manager.

Rose spends her free time volunteering at a food bank garden on Beacon Hill, where she is a garden leader, and also tries to find time to work in her own flower and vegetable garden at home. She loves the endless path of learning that horticulture has to offer—so many plants, so little time!

Rose is a Certified Professional Horticulturist, an ISA Certified Arborist, and holds a BA in Philosophy from the University of Washington.