

## **Bios of Proposed NHS Board Members (3-Year Term: 2026-2029)**

**Emily Joseph** is passionate about connecting people through a shared love of plants, the cultivation of public gardens and the beauty of wild places. She is retail sales manager and assistant nursery manager at the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, where she has been an integral part of the team since 2020. In 2023, she joined the Hardy Fern Foundation as nursery and sales manager. She oversees retail sales, purchasing, merchandising, and nursery operations across both organizations, and propagates a diverse range of plant genera through cuttings, grafting, seeds and spores.

Emily shares her knowledge through educational programs and as a regular contributor to publications and social media marketing. As a Washington State Certified Professional Horticulturist, Emily advocates for sustainable gardening practices, soil stewardship and integrated pest management. She holds degrees in environmental horticulture and fine art.

Most recently, Emily was selected by the International Plant Production Society as the recipient of the 2025 Young Professional Exchange Fellowship to New Zealand. Representing the Western Region of North America, she participated in the international conference, delivered a presentation on conservation propagation, and explored the country's extraordinary gardens, nurseries and landscapes.

**Chuck Ogburn** is a returning NHS board member of multiple terms where he was especially recognized for his efforts organizing the major NHS plant sales. He has had many years on the Dunn Gardens' board of directors and is a past president; he is currently the treasurer. Chuck is on the Hardy Fern Foundation board where he focuses on managing the plant sales. He has spent 20+ years of retirement gardening in northeast Seattle, following a 32-year career at the UW as a research scientist. He enjoys world-wide travel with horticultural groups. Chuck looks forward to being of service again with NHS.

**Robin Parsons** has been designing gardens and landscapes in the Pacific Northwest for 23 years. After graduating from Syracuse University with a BFA in graphic design, she worked as a graphic designer in Boston. After moving to Seattle, she found her calling in garden design and attended the landscape design/horticultural program at South Seattle College. She is inspired by contemporary design, Mediterranean and Australian gardens. Her gardens have received design awards from the Association of Professional Landscape Designers. Both her gardens and writing have been published in *Fine Gardening*, *Garden Gate Magazine* and the *Seattle Times*. She is a member of the APLD, Northwest Horticultural Society and Northwest Perennial Alliance. Robin

draws inspiration from drought-tolerant gardening, environmentally sustainable solutions, and trying new plant combinations and materials in her clients' gardens and her own.

**Cindy Widmaier** has been a member of the Woodinville Garden Club for 36 years, where she has had the privilege of serving multiple terms as both president and vice president. Currently she manages the club's website, social media and publicity, and represents it at the local chamber of commerce. Cindy has enjoyed and appreciated the many benefits of NHS membership over the years and now looks forward to giving back by serving on the board. She is especially interested in attracting new members under the age of 40 and fostering friendships among local gardeners and clubs. Cindy is eager to plan regional and international travel focused on gardens and cultural exploration. She is married with four adult children and two grandchildren. This year she has enjoyed growing sweet peas and looks forward to saving their seed for propagation.