

## ODA 2018 Noxious Weed Forum Speaker Biographies

### **Dr. Brenda Grewell**

Dr. Brenda Grewell is a Research Ecologist/Aquatic Botanist with the USDA-ARS Exotic & Invasive Weeds Research Unit at Davis, California and she holds a PhD in Ecology from UC Davis. She is Lead Scientist for the ARS Project team on “Watershed-scale Assessment of Pest Dynamics and Implications for Area Wide Management of Invasive Insects and Weeds”.



### **Nathan Harms**

Nathan Harms is a Research Biologist at the US Army Engineer Research and Development Center, Vicksburg, MS. His primary research focus is on biological control of aquatic invasive plant species and impacts of invasive species on invaded ecosystems. Since 2005, he has been involved with various aspects of biological control development and implementation, from overseas exploration for new agents to rearing, release and monitoring of control agents. He has worked on management of submersed (hydrilla, Eurasian watermilfoil), emergent (alligatorweed, water primrose, flowering rush) and floating (giant salvinia, water hyacinth, water lettuce, water pennywort) invasive plants. Currently, his focus is on the importance of genetic variability within and between introduced weed populations for management success. He is also leading a new-start project to initiate overseas exploration for yellow floating heart natural enemies in their native range.

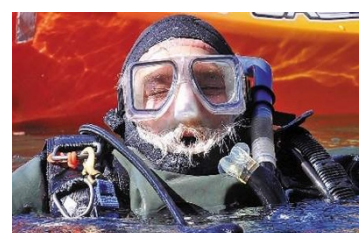


### **Barbara Mumblo**

Barbara Mumblo received her BS in Biology from Southern Oregon University in 1980. She worked for 6 years for Medford BLM and 28 years for the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest. Since retiring 2 years ago she continues to work with invasive species through the Jackson County CWMA.

### **Bruce Hansen**

Bruce Hansen is an Aquatic Ecologist, with the U.S. Forest Service, PNW Research Station and is the Region 6/PNW Dive Safety Officer. The Forest Service Dive Team works with Federal and State agencies and organizations to conduct surveys and aquatic plant control. Current and past activities have involved yellow floating heart, Eurasian water milfoil and Didemnum vexillum, an invasive marine tunicate. The Forest Service Dive Team works with Federal and State Agencies and organizations to conduct surveys and aquatic plant control. Current and past activities have involved Yellow Floating Heart, Eurasian Water Milfoil and Didemnum vexillum, an invasive marine tunicate.



### **Rich Miller**

Rich is research assistant at Portland State University's Center for Lakes and Reservoirs with over 20 years' experience conducting research and surveys at lakes and streams throughout the county. Rich has a Bachelor's degree from Humboldt State University and manages the Oregon Lake Watch Program, a volunteer based aquatic invasive species detection and water quality monitoring program. Since 2015 Rich has conducted aquatic plant surveys along the Willamette River and is a member of the Willamette Aquatic Invasives Network.



### **Kurt Carpenter**

Kurt Carpenter is an aquatic ecologist with the USGS Oregon Water Science Center who conducts hydrobiological and water quality studies in Oregon on issues related to nutrient enrichment, pesticides and other contaminants, and their effects on aquatic life and human health.



### **Matt Mellenthin**

Matt Mellenthin is the Habitat Restoration Coordinator for Integrated Resource Management and has been on the front lines in the battle against aquatic invasive species for the last eight years. Matt has dedicated his life to the preservation of native habitats and mentoring the next generation of environmental leaders. He has partnered with various agencies, landowners, municipalities, non-profits and utilities to develop effective and innovative management techniques for treating aquatic invasive species.



On top of his position at Integrated Resource Management, Mr. Mellenthin sits on the Board of Directors at the Calapooia Watershed Council, on the steering committee for the Western Invasives Network and most importantly is the father of two daughters, Lilly and Penny. Matt grew up in Madison, Wisconsin and graduated from the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point with degrees in natural resource management and social science.

### **Marci Krass**

Marci works as the Restoration Program Manager for Willamette Riverkeeper and is the Coordinator for the Willamette Aquatic Invasives Network. For more than a decade Marci has worked to restore floodplain forests, rivers, wetlands, and oak woodlands throughout the Pacific Northwest. In 2012, Marci earned an MS in Educational Leadership and Policy from Portland State University. She enjoys getting her hands dirty while working in the field alongside dedicated conservation professionals, youth, and volunteers.



**Melissa Newman**

Melissa joined the Benton Soil and Water Conservation District in June 2016 and is the coordinator for the Willamette Mainstem Cooperative. At Benton SWCD she collaborates with local landowners and a variety of conservation partners and technical experts to assess, prioritize, and coordinate stewardship activities along the mainstem Willamette River from the Corvallis to Albany reach. Melissa enjoys working with river community members and stakeholders on education and outreach about native and invasive species and on habitat restoration. Melissa has worked for 15 years in the field of natural resources, working in government, non-profit, private industry, and academia in a range of habitat types including riparian and stream, wet and upland prairie, oak savanna, agricultural, forest, and urban. She started out as a wildlife biologist, but realized if she wanted to work on restoring and enhancing habitats for wildlife species she was going to have to become a botanist as well! Melissa loves exploring out on the river.

