

## 2009 North American Gathering

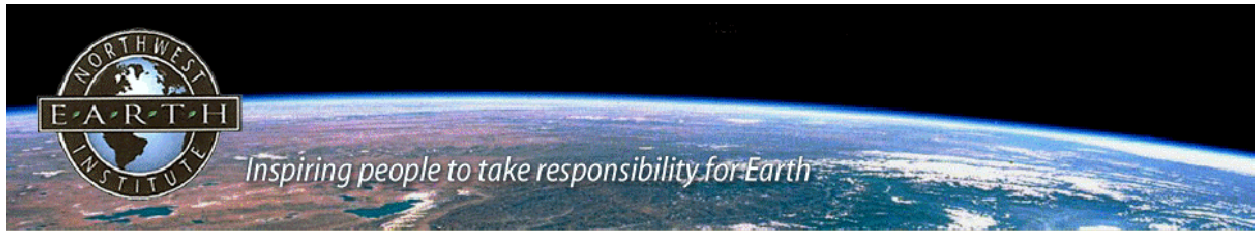
### *Speaker Biographies and Workshop Titles*

#### Mornings 7-7:45am

- **Sense of Wonder** Activities with Dani Dennenberg (see bio on page 5).
  - Reverence is an emotion akin to awe. What we revere, we honor deeply and are likely to protect and cherish. And if reverence is cultivated, we are likely to make choices that reflect our reverence which, in turn, creates a more compassionate and peaceful world. As kindred spirits to the Earth, we hold this truth to be true, and yet so often we dedicate ourselves to the vision of sustainability without consistent reminders of the beauty of this planet. These activities are meant to give you a taste of that childlike awe we can all tap into, particularly when we're feeling burned out, frustrated or overwhelmed. ***Saturday and Monday mornings only.***
- **Hatha Yoga** with Terry Wagner
  - Hatha Yoga is one of the paths in yoga to help us arrive at a state of oneness, and the one with which we are most familiar due to its current popularity. It is the path that utilizes the physical body as a means to self-awareness. "Ha" means sun. "Tha" means moon. Hatha Yoga is the integration of the polarities: the sun and the moon; gravity and levity; our connection to Earth and our connection to Heaven; the masculine and feminine energies; the left and right brain; and agonist and antagonist muscles. ***This class is open to all levels, and no experience is required.***

Terry is a registered Hatha Yoga teacher, and Port Townsend NWEI Volunteer. A life-long student of Eastern Philosophy, Western Psychology and various systems and styles of Yoga, she has worked as a counselor, teacher, and bodywork therapist for over 30 years. "Because my approach to teaching is eclectic and student-based, each class is different. The only constant in my practice and teaching is the emphasis on ahimsa (non-violence), the cornerstone of all Yoga. Once learned and applied to your own practice, it becomes the foundation for all actions and interactions in your life."





Saturday 9-10:30am, “We’re All In” Panel Discussion, **Mike Mercer**, *NWEI Executive Director* Moderating

“We’re all In” refers to two key concepts aligned with achieving a sustainable future.

- ❖ We need shared commitment – think WWII. All sectors of society came together and contributed to achieving a common goal. They didn’t just do it, it was required for success. Our challenges are too big and complex to relegate solutions to technological fixes such as “renewable energy” or the thought that we can simply regulate change. Often times we use ‘either-or’ thinking to manage the use of scarce resources of time and money. What will be necessary is the creative thought that allows us to do *both*; and...
- ❖ Think of “We’re all in” in the context of a card game: The moment you put all of your chips on the table and feel that combination of exhilaration about the possibilities and fear about a bet gone wrong. While we may not desire to put all our chips in, we will have to take some risks and be willing to accept failure with some actions, as we hold a positive vision.

For this panel, we have selected representatives of business, government, the faith community and higher education to represent some of the entities that are currently involved in this effort and will need to be in the future:

- **Barbara Ford**, Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth—

Barbara is an activist, facilitator, and artist with twenty years experience working with individuals and groups. She is presently active in the Unitarian Universalist faith as a voice for environmental advocacy and engaged spirituality, and facilitates workshops through GAIA Workshops: Growing Awareness Into Action.

- **Rex Burkholder**, Portland Metro Regional Council—

Rex first ran for Metro Council in 2000, hoping to use his energy, skills and knowledge to help create a sustainable region. He is now serving as lead councilor on Metro’s Regional Climate Action work, which will work with regional partners to develop a regional response to climate change. He has served on a number of state level task forces focusing on how the state should respond to climate change. He currently serves as a member of the Joint Transportation Advisory Committee on Transportation, where he has spearheaded the update of the Regional Transportation Plan. He is also co-chair of the Bi State Committee, working closely with Southwest Washington to ensure coordination of planning efforts. When not at Metro, you can see him zooming around town on his bicycle, playing his tenor guitar, spending time with his family, or hiking or kayaking around the Northwest.



- **Darrell Brown**, Portland State University School of Business Administration—

Darrell is Associate Dean for Undergraduate Admissions for the School of Business Administration. He has a B.S. in Forestry from University of Montana, an MBA from University of Montana, and an Accounting Ph.D. from University of Utah. Dr. Brown is a Certified Public Accountant (Montana, inactive) and teaches accounting information systems and managerial accounting. His current research interests include measurement issues related to organizational impacts on social and natural systems. In particular, he studies corporate social and environmental reporting, the relationship business reporting and business transparency, and the relationship between social and environmental reporting and firm performance.

- **Alysa Rose**, Rejuvenation, Inc.—

Alysa took her first NWEI course in 2001 and in 2007 joined NWEI's Board of Directors. Currently, Alysa is the President of Rejuvenation, a manufacturer and national direct marketer of authentic reproduction lighting and house parts. Alysa holds an undergraduate degree from Tufts University and an MBA from Cornell University.



### Saturday Morning Breakouts, 10:50-11:50am

- **“Grounding and Grace: Tools for Spiritual Activism”**, **Barbara Ford**, Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth (see bio above)
  - This workshop will draw on renowned activist Joanna Macy’s “Work That Reconnects”, a powerful series of exercises and tools to keep us enlivened and resourced as we work on behalf of the Earth. “As an inspiring guide in the Work That Reconnects, Barbara Ford combines a contagious vitality and a firm faith in the power of the human spirit. It is a joy for me to watch how she enlivens groups with her humor, intellect, and creativity. I rejoice that she is bringing this life-changing work to our world.” - Joanna Macy



- **“Interesting Times: Creating Sustainable Communities in a Time of Scarcity”, Rex Burkholder**, Portland Metro Regional Council (see bio above)
  - The Portland region is often held up as the model of sustainable urban development by publications like the NY Times and organizations like SustainLane. With an urban growth boundary, investments in light rail and the street car, revitalized urban neighborhoods in the inner city as well as in older suburbs, a well supported system of parks and protected habitat, and compliance with the Kyoto treaty's goals, Portland has a lot going for it. How did it get this way and is it really enough? Rex Burkholder is an elected Councilor in the regional government, Metro, that oversees land use, transportation, solid waste and natural areas for this metropolis of almost 2 million people. In this session, he will share the "Portland Story" and talk about the challenges ahead, as well as the promise of creating sustainable cities.



### Saturday Afternoon Session 1, 1:15-4:15pm

- **“Converting Interest into Commitment”, Tobey Fitch**, Fitch Associates—
  - Consultant Tobey Fitch will offer tools & support for NWEI community organizers and volunteers that will help participants to clarify and resolve roadblocks to outreach success, and better enable participants to engage and motivate others. Tobey has worked with NWEI for the past two years assisting NWEI in clarifying outreach strategies and vision. This workshop will share insights on effective messaging strategies in organizational outreach, as well as offer insights into better organizing outreach efforts to maximize successes in creating the sustainable future we wish to see.

Consultant Tobey Fitch works with organizations and individuals, helping them build stronger, more responsive strategies. Tobey has worked with business and non-profit clients such as Apple, Netscape, Sun Microsystems, Social Investment Forum, Human Rights Campaign, Child Advocates and Peninsula AIDS Research Group. He has also worked with NWEI for the past two years, assisting NWEI in clarifying outreach strategies and vision. Tobey studied International Studies and Communications at University of Oregon, and Political Science at the University of Puget Sound. He also completed the Columbia Advanced Program in Organizational Development, Stanford Executive Program, as well as MIT's Organizational Learning and Action Science Workshops. He started his company, Fitch Associates, in 1995.



## Saturday Afternoon Session 2, 4:45-5:45pm

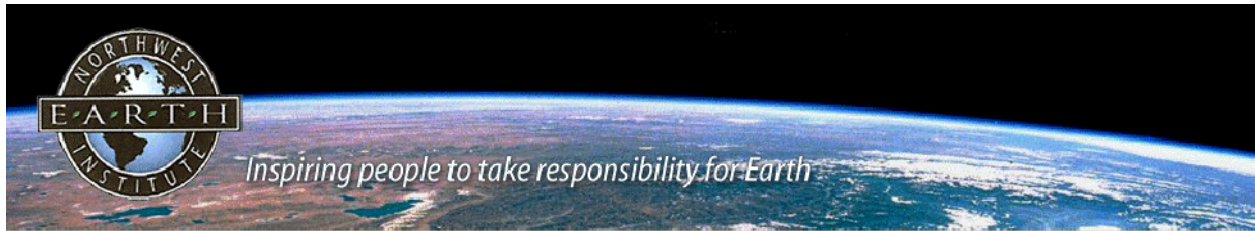
- **“Engaging Higher Education in Sustainability”, Dani Dennenberg, NWEI—**
  - In this workshop, you’ll gain insight into how you can engage faculty, staff and students in NWEI’s most recent and successful avenue of working with colleges and universities. Come learn about the myriad ways we are implementing courses on campuses and how you can forge your own relationships within the higher education realm.

Dani is the Director of Organizational and Higher Education Partnerships at the Northwest Earth Institute. She fosters and creates new partnerships, assists regional affiliates in their outreach efforts and enhances NWEI’s presence in colleges and universities. Dani was the first student in the United States to graduate with a M.Ed. in Humane Education. She then acted as director of the Humane Education Certificate Program (HECP) for the Institute for Humane Education (IHE) and served as adjunct faculty for Cambridge College until she relocated to the Pacific Northwest. She also founded and ran Seeds for Change Humane Education, which offered a series of global ethical issues presentations throughout Southern California. Dani has spoken at a variety of conferences and holds a Bachelor's degree in Sociological Studies with concentrations in Law and Society and Environmental Studies from the University of California San Diego.

- **“Funding a Sustainable Future”, Kerry Brown and Mike Mercer, NWEI—**
  - Obtaining the funding to create a sustainable future can be a challenge! In this workshop, we will break into two groups. Kerry’s group will focus on obtaining foundation grant funding. We’ll break down the process and answer questions you may have. We will discuss the basics of researching grant opportunities and writing grant proposals to private and corporate foundations. We’ll also cover resources for furthering grant opportunity research after the session. Mike will cover creative fundraising opportunities, including fun events, the NWEI EcoChallenge, and new ways to leverage community support for your organization.

Kerry is the Development Director for the Northwest Earth Institute. Kerry has been involved in the environmental movement since high school, and working for non-profits since college. Before joining NWEI in 2008, she held various positions at the Appalachian Mountain Club, Bike to Work, the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, National Environmental Trust and the United Way of Santa Cruz County. Kerry handles NWEI’s membership program, newsletter publication, grants management, donor events and other fundraising activities.

When she’s not hard at work for NWEI, Kerry enjoys hiking, biking, running and exploring the Northwest.



Mike serves as the Executive Director of the Northwest Earth Institute (NWEI). NWEI supports individuals in taking responsibility for Earth through small group self facilitated discussion and action. Over 100,000 participants have utilized NWEI discussion guides covering seven topics addressing the human relationship with this planet. Mike’s relationship with NWEI spans all 16 years of the organization’s existence - as a course participant, volunteer and board member. Prior to joining NWEI he spent 15 years with the YMCA, most recently as the Vice President for Financial Development and Communications. During his Y tenure, he worked with Rotary to build the first LEED platinum camping village in North America.

Mike and his family live in Portland, where he enjoys kayaking our many waterways, backpacking the West and taking in the numerous cultural opportunities this region provides. He is also a member of the Portland Downtown Rotary Club.



### Saturday Evening Session, 7:30-8:30pm

- **“The Columbia River Gorge: Floods of Rock, Water, and Lava”, Steve Carlson, Portland State University—**
  - Come find out about the Cenozoic history of the Columbia River Gorge thorough the eyes of Portland State University’s adjunct professor Steve Carlson. This cross section of the Cascade Range provides an overview of its Cenozoic development. Find out about famous geologic features like Rooster Rock, Crown Point, Multnomah Falls, Beacon Rock, the Cascade landslide, folds & faults, cenozoic intrusions, intra and inter canyon lava flows of Cascadian and CORIBA lavas, and individual volcanoes.

Professor Carlson has taught at PSU since 1978 and has been a PI on several NSF grants relating to the Cascades and the Northwest. Being the first person to lead a group of geology teachers from around the nation into the crater of Mt. St. Helens in 1986 was a highlight of his teaching. He is a board member for the National Association of Earth Science Teachers, an Educational Resource agent for NOAA, a member of Sigma XI, and has led countless professional field trips all over the Pacific Northwest.





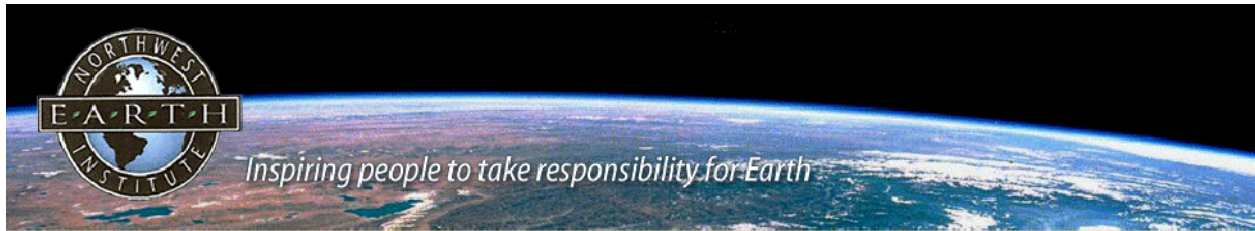
### Sunday Morning, 7-7:45am

- **Women’s Forum State Park Walk, Steve Carlson, PSU** (see bio on page 6)—
  - Join Steve Carlson again for an easy walk down to the Women’s Forum. He will provide raised relief and geologic maps of the area.
- **Hatha Yoga** with Terry Wagner (see description and bio on page 1)



### Sunday Morning Session 1, 8:45-9:45am

- **“Driving Sustainable Innovation and Commitment from the Ground Up”, Mike Mercer, NWEI** (see bio on page 6)—
  - Creating sustainable organizations will take a great deal of innovation and creativity. Where does it come from? From those that know the intricacies of their jobs better than management or anyone else - front line employees and mid level managers. Top down driven initiatives will only succeed over the long run if they are partnered with efforts to gain employee buy in and commitment. When employees get the green light, understand the framework they are working within and see the resulting greater good of their efforts, sustainability initiatives thrive. Come join us as we explore how NWEI’s new course *Sustainable Systems at Work* is being rolled out to achieve this engagement.
- **“Changing the Way We Live, One Garden at a Time”, Judith Alexander, Port Townsend NWEI Steering Committee**—
  - In the past two years, Port Townsend, WA, a town of 8,500 people, has gone from having 3 community gardens, to having over 20. This community has developed shared community gardens by effectively partnering with city government, county emergency preparedness personnel, non-profit organizations, several neighborhood groups, churches, schools, and the County Extension's Master Gardener Association. This presentation will present the story of one community's efforts to dramatically increase its access to local, healthy food while cultivating strong community connections at the same time.



This program will describe an easy model for community organizing through instigating community gardens that can clearly impact the way we live.

Judith has been a volunteer for NWEI since 2000, and a resident of Port Townsend, WA for 30 years. She is employed half time as a clinical social worker in a home-based private practice, and volunteers for both NWEI and other sustainability focused local efforts. Her passion is directed into community projects that engage people at the grass roots level in self-organizing ways, fostering cultural change while building community connections. She also grows most of her yearly produce in 2 different gardens, one at home, and one she collectively tends with her neighbors.



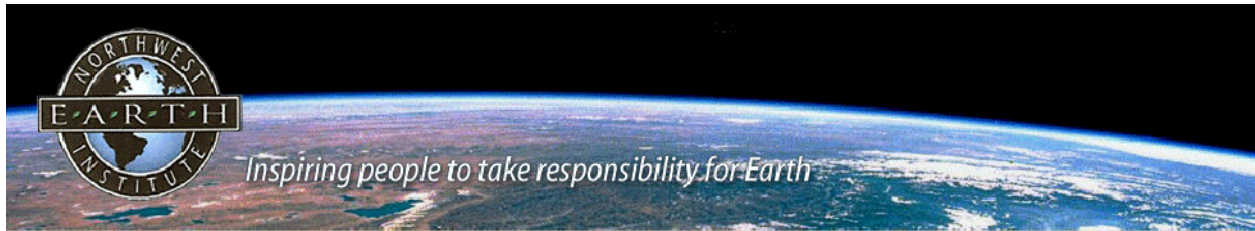
### Sunday Morning Session 2, 10:15-11:15am

- **“Simplicity Matters Earth Institute—The Secret to Our Success”, Lore Rosenthal, Simplicity Matters Earth Institute—**

*\*Recommended for all Sister Earth Institute representatives\**

- In order to reduce her carbon footprint, Lore Rosenthal of Simplicity Matters Earth Institute in Maryland will be joining us via Video and Skype. Lore's 30 minute pre-recorded presentation will be followed by 30 minutes of Q & A using video-conference technology.

SMEI has been starting discussion circles since 2002. Lore will share several of the "Secrets of their Success", including their Monthly Forums, Monthly Announcements, use of the "Next Steps" form and identification of "live wires" within each circle. Lore will describe one particular success story called "The Climate Change Initiative of Howard County". Inspired by David Gershon's "Low Carbon Diet", Lore convinced a team of 12 volunteers to grow circles "exponentially" while also influencing policies on a county-wide level.



Lore is one of three co-founders of Simplicity Matters Earth Institute. Since 2002, SMEI has started over 215 circles. They have a Monthly Announcement that goes out to over 1,800 names. Lore is affectionately known as the Circle Matchmaker. She is currently the Regional Circle Coordinator for Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Howard County and Prince George's County. She is the founder of the Baltimore Green Forum and The Climate Change Initiative of Howard County and is the co-chair of the programming committee of the Greenbelt Climate Action Network. Most recently, she has begun working with other local folks to launch "Transition Town" groups in several Maryland neighborhoods.

- **NWEI Volunteer Training, Jill Sughrue, NWEI Volunteer—**

*\*Recommended for new NWEI organizers*

- Come join seasoned NWEI Volunteer Jill Sughrue for a session on the role Volunteers play in starting NWEI courses around the country. Learn how to share the work of NWEI through offering compelling and inspiring public presentations. Fine tune your public speaking skills and learn more about the history and background of NWEI. Jill will also discuss the finer points of what it means to Mentor a discussion group.

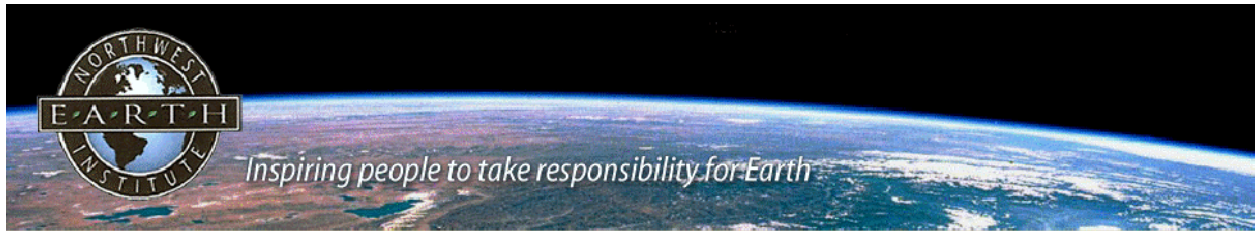
Jill has been a professional consultant and trainer with Sustain-NW since 2005, and has spent over 27 years in the corporate risk management arena, including sixteen years with Portland General Electric as their insurance director. She is a coach with the Oregon Natural Step Network, and a volunteer with NWEI. She was selected as one of the 1,000 presenters trained in Nashville by Al Gore to deliver the slide show from the Oscar-winning *An Inconvenient Truth*. Jill is passionate about sustainability, which she believes is the only viable solution to managing the ever-increasing risk and associated hazards of global warming.



### Sunday Afternoon Session 1, 1:30-2:30pm

- **Sisters Meeting, Dani Dennenberg, NWEI Moderating**

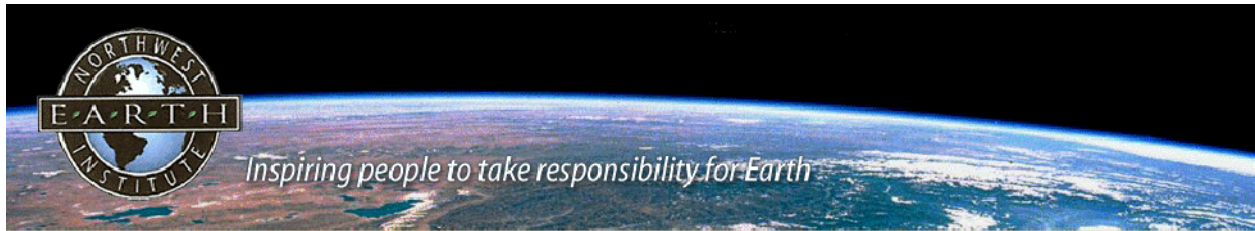
- This space is for sisters to be able to share their goals and needs and to answer/address any questions they may have for one another; to exchange information; and to build a support system for coming months and years. Sisters will take turns talking about what they are up to in their regions and we will then provide an overview of what we're up to at headquarters.



- **“Transition Towns”, Jim Newcomer, Transition Portland**
  - Transition Towns is a worldwide movement to organize communities for resilience in the likelihood that environmental limitations on energy (e.g., Global Warming and Peak Oil), water, and food will dictate a reduction in material standards of living. The goal is to find creative and satisfying ways to live with less, and we believe that it can be done better in communities than individually. This workshop will consist of a short introduction to the worldwide Transition Town movement and how local initiatives have started in Portland and several other American towns - followed by vigorous discussion of opportunities for participants to build on the courses in the NWEI portfolio and create a movement at home.

Dr. Newcomer, a volunteer Mentor for NWEI in Portland, brings an extraordinary range of experience to bear on his environmental writing and practice – including commercial recycling, wind farm development, reclaimed wood products and construction, peak oil studies, and the greening of corporations. Adding in his wide reading and conversations with environmental leaders ranging from Paul Hawken to Dennis Meadows to Richard Heinman, he has developed sophisticated hypotheses about what are the most pressing issues in our future. His conclusion, building local communities, surprises many, and the reasons he arrived at this conclusion may surprise you even more. As a community organizer, he presents a compelling picture of the Transition Towns movement that will direct the attention of the audience to development of their own communities to find hope in unexpected places.





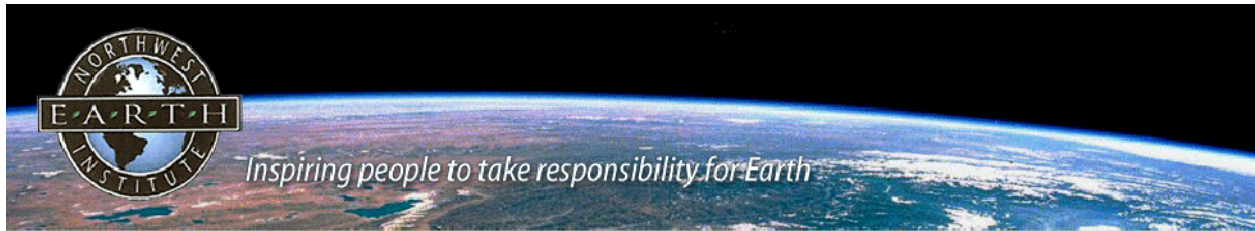
## Sunday Afternoon Session 2, 3-4:00pm

- **“Empowering Employees: Using NWEI Courses to Promote a Sustainable Business Culture”, Carrie Farrar and Kimberly Hauze, The Standard Insurance—**
  - Carrie and Kim will discuss the history of NWEI discussion courses at The Standard, the largest private employer in downtown Portland. This session presents a case study for integrating discussion courses in the workplace and will examine how employee engagement encourages corporate sustainability initiatives and influences business practices. Carrie and Kim will highlight successes from The Standard and will recommend what factors are important to initiate discussion courses in the workplace.

Kimberly chairs the Employee Education team of The Standard's Green Team and has been involved in NWEI discussion courses in the workplace since 2006. In addition to her volunteer work with the Green Team, Kimberly is a Communications Specialist for StanCorp Investment Advisers, a subsidiary of the StanCorp Financial Group ("The Standard"). Shortly after relocating to Portland in 2006, Kimberly's household of 3 humans and 1 cat became a car-free family. She treasures spending time with her 8 year-old son and partner of 17 years and enjoys knitting.

Carrie was born and raised in West Virginia, and now serves as the Sustainability Program Manager for Standard Insurance Company ("The Standard"), a financial services and asset management company in Portland, OR. With the help of an active Green Team, Carrie works to incorporate environmentally friendly practices into day to day business functions at The Standard. Carrie earned a B.A. with honors in Theatre Arts from Earlham College in Indiana where she also spent a semester abroad in rural Kenya studying local cultures and ecology. These experiences demonstrated the need for embracing sustainability and have inspired her to continue putting conservation ideas into practice. Carrie serves on the board of directors for Northwest Earth Institute. She also holds a certificate in Sustainability Leadership from the University of Oregon. Carrie and her husband Aron live car-free in Northeast Portland.





## Monday Morning Session 9-9:45am

- **“Grow Your Own: A Recent Experience Building and Nurturing the Greenhouse Garden”, Jim Dunn, Rocky Mountain Earth Institute**
  - Beginning in October, 2008, Jim assembled a geodesic dome greenhouse kit that was purchased from a manufacturer in southwest Colorado. Throughout the fall and winter, with help from friends and relatives, he completed the interior raised beds and planted seeds early in February, 2009. The abundance and growth speed of garden vegetables that have emerged in the greenhouse since then have been nothing short of extraordinary for this latitude and altitude. Join this workshop to learn about Jim’s greenhouse gardening experience!

Jim is a retired environmental engineer, after a 30-year career with the EPA. He is currently volunteering as an eco-activist, and is becoming a rabid gardener. He lives in Evergreen, Colorado, with his wife Yvonne Yousey. Jim serves on the steering committee for the Rocky Mountain Earth Institute, a Sister Earth Institute to NWEI.

- **“Exploring the Most Good, Least Harm Principle”, Dani Dennenberg, NWEI (see bio on page 5)**
  - In this workshop, you’ll gain an understanding of how this tool can be used to supplement your community outreach. The primary premise of Most Good, Least Harm is that when we do the most good and the least harm through our daily choices, our acts of citizenship, our communities, our work, our volunteerism, and our interactions, we create inner and outer peace. You will participate in hands-on exercises designed to help you explore this principle. You will also gain an understanding of how this principle can inform and supplement your community outreach using NWEI courses.



**We thank you for joining the 2009 NWEI North American Gathering. May our work together contribute towards a healthier and more sustainable future!**