









**2014 NOFA Accreditation Course**  
**December 8-11, 2014**  
**Snow date Dec 12th**  
**Speaker Biographies**



	<p><b>Jenna Messier</b> is the Director of the NOFA Organic Land Care Program. She has a B.S. in Agriculture from the Ohio State University and is currently in the EMBA Program at the University of New Haven. Jenna worked on organic farms and in residential landscaping on Martha's Vineyard for 10 years. She loves getting off of the computer and into her urban garden, where she raises pears, strawberries and colorful butterfly gardens on .1 acre.</p>
	<p><b>Julie Snell</b> is a founding principal at TEND landscape inc., a landscape architectural and horticultural consulting firm in Philadelphia focusing on sustainable practices in landscape design, specification, installation and stewardship. Prior to forming TEND, Julie gained expertise in landscape management of high-profile public spaces through her 14 years as a project manager with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS). Julie became an AOLCP in 2012 and quickly formed a partnership with the NOFA OLC Program to bring the 4-day Accreditation Course to Philadelphia.</p>
	<p><b>Glen Abrams</b> serves as Director of Sustainable Communities at the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) where he leads the development, management and delivery of high-quality programming around urban greening, community stewardship and sustainable practices. Prior to joining PHS, Mr. Abrams worked for the City of Philadelphia for over 14 years. Mr. Abrams is recognized as a certified planner by the American Institute of Certified Planners and is a graduate in City and Regional Planning from the Ohio State University.</p>
	<p><b>Paul Wagner</b> is the Director of Soil Foodweb New York, Inc, a soil microbiology testing laboratory. He has over 20 years experience in the Green Industry and has 10 years experience focused on organic plant care. His work with soil microbiology helps provide the scientific basis for successful organic soil management practices and applications. Paul has taught at the NOFA Accreditation Course in Organic Land Care since 2009.</p>
	<p><b>Todd Harrington</b> is a true pioneer in organic lawn care having made it his business since 1987. Todd has proven that organic lawn, tree, and shrub care works and operates a profitable business near Hartford, Connecticut called Harrington's Organic Land Care. He is an international consultant and national organic speaker and trainer. Todd has published a number of papers, some used as the basis for legislation. Todd is certified by the Soil Food Web, headed by Dr. Elaine Ingham, recognized as one of the world's preeminent soil microbiologists.</p>
	<p><b>Michael Nadeau</b> - After 45 years in the landscape and tree trade, Mike sold his portion of Plantscapes Organics, Inc. to his brother and long-time partner Dan, and founded Michael Nadeau Wholistic Land Care Consulting, LLC. As one of the founding members of the NOFA Organic Land Care Program back in 1999, Mike has been blessed to work with the most knowledgeable and dedicated people in organic land care to develop this program. He is grateful to CT NOFA for providing a place where he can pass along his love of caring for the land.</p>



**Tim Abbey** is a Commercial Horticulture Educator with the Green Industry Team with the Penn State Extension. Hi areas of expertise include integrated pest management, entomology and horticulture. His main responsibility is to educate nursery and landscape care personnel on the basics of establishing an integrated pest management (IPM) program in eight counties in Pennsylvania.



**Chip Osborne** is a professional horticulturist with over 35 years of experience in various aspects of the green industry. As a turf professional, his focus has been for many years on developing a successful natural turf management program for athletic fields, public parks, and municipal properties. He is the founder of Osborne Organics, a consulting firm, that specializes in educational training and support to industry professionals as well as municipalities, school districts, and facilities managers.



**Frank H. Crandall, III** is the former owner of Wood River Evergreens and currently operates Horticultural Solutions; offering design work, garden maintenance, and pruning for clients in Southern RI and Eastern Connecticut. Additionally, Frank is performing small business consultations, hosting GEM seminars, speaking throughout New England, and published his second book: “The Essential Horticultural Business Handbook”. Frank is an Accredited Organic Land Care Professional.



**Mike Leventry** has been an integrated pest management professional for over 10 years. During his career, Mike has managed pests ranging from insects to algae to skunks. He has worked at Longwood Gardens, the University of Delaware, and the Kennett Collection, which is North America's largest privately held bonsai collection. He is currently an independent IPM consultant, helping green industry clients reduce their pest pressures to tolerable levels.



**Meg McGrath** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology at Cornell University. She has been working since 1988 at the Long Island Horticultural Research and Extension Center. Her extension/research program includes diagnosis and organic management of diseases affecting vegetable crops. Research topics being addressed include evaluating resistant varieties, other cultural practices, and fungicides approved for organic production.



**Altje M. Hoekstra, LEED AP** is a Senior Water Resources Designer at Meliora Design. She specializes in sustainable water management strategies, environmental science and policy, green stormwater infrastructure designs, and watershed analysis. Her experience includes and water resources master planning at small and large scales, as well as sustainable site and stormwater design and construction projects in urban and less developed areas.

	<p><b>Alden R. Zove</b> is President of Cedar Run Landscapes located in North Wales, PA, which is celebrating its 34th<sup>t</sup> Anniversary this year. Cedar Run specializes in pond and water garden installations, rain water harvesting systems, eco-sensitive landscape design practices including permeable pavements, LED lighting, native plantings, storm water management and environmentally sensitive maintenance.</p>
	<p>Tom Johnston, ThinkGreen</p>
	<p>Jonathan Nuss, David Brothers Landscaping</p>
	<p><b>Mark Highland</b> is Founder and President of The Organic Mechanic Soil Company, LLC, a manufacturer and distributor of premier organic potting soils and soil amendments. Mark focused his M.S. degree studies in the Longwood Graduate Program on compost and potting soil, and was a frequent guest on NBC's The 10! Show where he showcased the joy of gardening. Mark is also an approved consultant for the EPA and Institute for Local Self-Reliance, working to educate farms and businesses on food-waste composting.</p>
	<p><b>Lloyd Traven</b>, Owner of Peace Tree Farm graduated summa cum laude from Delaware Valley College of Science &amp; Agriculture in 1979 and attended Cornell University Graduate School in floriculture and ornamental horticulture. In the 1980's Lloyd worked in market research and special projects at Ball Seed Company developing Spark Plug, pelleted seed products and worked on the Genesis Seed project.</p>
	<p><b>Paco Verin</b> has been tending the land organically since 1995. He has done a 2-year organic farming apprenticeship with Shane LaBreak, worked seven years in urban community gardening, is a graduate of Longwood Gardens' two-year "Professional Gardener," worked two years at Chanticleer Garden, is completing his sixth season as owner of Earthwise Landscapes, and works part-time as the Woodlands Manager at The Miquon School.</p>