

Week 3 Speaker Bio's

Bob Simmons is WSU Extension's Olympic Region Water Resources Regional Specialist and serves as WSU Extension's Water Resources Program Leader. He has over 25 years of experience in providing community based natural resource stewardship and conservation programs focusing on water quality in the Puget Sound region.

Valerie Normand is the Communications Specialist for Snohomish County's Surface Water Management division within the Public Works Department. In this role, she supports SWM's educational outreach programs related to clean water – including pet waste outreach to vet clinics, septic care workshops and household chemical use and storage.

Prior to joining the County's staff, she wore a number of hats in the private and public sectors – including working with several small non-profits and nine years for the National Park Service – all of which provided a surprising number of opportunities to talk to the public about poop!

Valerie has a B.A. in Liberal Arts, a M.S in Environmental Studies and a passion for Northwest ecology.

Apryl Hynes works for the City of Everett as a Public Information Education Specialist in Public Works. Apryl has been with the city for more than 8 years and coordinates outreach efforts related to stormwater, water conservation and GSI (green stormwater infrastructure) programs; including homeowner rain garden rebates, natural yard care workshops, school programs, and the make your own rain barrels. Prior to joining the city, she managed the Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, a Gold LEED certified facility on a 320-acre freshwater wetland in Bellevue. She has a degree in Environmental Science from Boston University and has completed the WSU Master Gardener certification with a Natural Yard Care focus.

I recently transitioned into the role of habitat restoration specialist within the Toxic Cleanup Program's Headquarters Section in Olympia. Prior to this position, I served the program as a Sediment Cleanup Specialist, which means I provided regulatory and technical oversight and guidance to parties involved in remediating contaminated sediment along the shores of Puget Sound.