

From The Editor



I was recently talking with Oregon State University Extension Agent Chip Bubl when he told me about the passing of his OSU colleague Amy Grotta from a rare form of cancer on December 24, 2019, well over one year ago. Sadly, I had not known Amy was sick and was unaware of her passing.

I didn't know Amy all that well, but I did have the pleasure and honor of working with her on several occasions many years ago, including very closely on a project to develop indicators to track Vernonia's community vitality. Some of you may have come in contact with her through the many ways she worked across the forest industry.

I always thought of Amy as talented and bright, creative and engaging, and saw her as someone who brought energy, joy, and passion to whatever project she was involved in. But I didn't realize just what an amazing person Amy was until I read her obituary. We have published it in full, over a year late, on page 13 in this issue for those who are interested and who also may have been unaware of her untimely passing.

In her youth Amy was a gymnast and editor of her high school year book, earned a degree from UC Berkeley, and then held a variety of jobs before entering the Peace Corp, where she served in Paraguay, while also traveling around South America with

friends. She came to Oregon where she attended OSU and earned a Masters Degree in Forest Science, and worked for the Washington State University Extension Service before returning to join the staff at OSU, working with the Forestry and Natural Resources extension program and as a tenured professor. She actively worked with forest landowners in Columbia, Washington, and Yamhill counties, and engaged with the public through a number of community science programs, including Small Woodlands, Forest Pest Detectors, Season Tracker, and Oregon Bee Atlas. She left behind a husband and two teenage children. All of that before the age of 50.

The profound sense of sorrow and loss I experienced upon first hearing of her death took me by surprise, but must be a testament to the kind of person Amy was. Even though I only worked with her briefly, her impact was both subtle and long lasting. I know the world is a less kind, caring and intelligent place without her, and I send these belated condolences to her family, friends, and colleagues.

If you knew Amy, or ever had the pleasure of learning from her extensive knowledge, I hope you'll consider taking some time to go outside and dig around in your garden, take a walk in the woods, or just sit and listen to the birds sing, in her honor. That's what I'm doing.

Scott Laird
Editor and Publisher

VERNONIA'S
voice
reflecting the spirit of our community

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Kristi Wilson: Your Portland Community College Board Candidate - Zone 7



Kristi is a proud Portland Community College graduate and long-time resident of western Washington County. A leader and collaborator who understands our community and our education system. She has supported student success, strengthened a changing economy, and created pathways to livable wage careers.

- Created and supported career-related programs to serve over 3,000 youth and adults
- Over two decades of work and community service in western Washington County
- Has the experience of building strategic partnerships that will be critical as we move into economic recovery
- Dedicated to increase opportunities for historically underserved community members
- Advocated for community college funding and career technical education programs

"As a PCC graduate, I know firsthand the value of community college and its critical role in improving the lives of so many. I'm excited to build on my work and partnerships here in western Washington County and Columbia County to help create more accessible, life-changing opportunities for people in our community."

**Vote Kristi Wilson for
PCC Board of Directors
Zone 7**

**Ballots due by
8 pm on May 18**

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 **Kristi
Wilson**
for PCC Board

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