

QCC STAFF BIOS



Karen Waters, Executive Director

Karen Waters has resided in Charlottesville for 15 years, and began her work in the non-profit arena as a board member for the Elementary Institute of Science and Volunteer Spokesperson for READ San Diego. In 2001 she graduated from the University of Virginia with bachelors and masters degrees. Prior to being hired by the City Manager as Director of QCC, Karen served on the staff of the late Senator Emily Couric, and worked for a number of non-profits including MACAA, Planned Parenthood, Jaunt and the Under Fives Study Center.



Todd Niemeier, Urban Farm Manager

Todd Niemeier received his BS in Agricultural Sciences in 1998 from Truman University in Missouri, and has made Charlottesville his home since 2002. Fluent in Spanish, Todd has farmed for the Peace Corps in Bolivia, and trained as an Apprentice at Roxbury Farms in New York. In addition to his work at QCC, Todd volunteers with the ARC of the Piedmont and is a board member of the Rivanna Trails Foundation.



Susan Pleiss, Programming and Outreach Coordinator

Susan Pleiss has lived in Charlottesville for the past 13 years and came to QCC Farms! after 9 years with the City Parks Department. A Master Naturalist, Susan is active in many community organizations and brings skills in collaboration and networking to QCC's work in our target neighborhoods, always seeking to build sustainable partnerships.