

Mandy Merklein was born in New York but was raised in Europe, first in Germany and then Mallorca, Spain. She began exploring permaculture in early 1980 while completing her senior thesis at Wells College with the support of her advisor, Tom Vawter, who encouraged her to pursue what was then a new cross-disciplinary major in environmental studies.

She graduated with honors from Wells, continued studies in wildlife conservation at the University of Washington, and worked as a field biologist and environmentalist in the Rocky Mountains, Alaska, Pacific Northwest, South Pacific, Australia, South America and Europe, collecting biological data and learning from living in nature.

Mandy started gardening and urban homesteading and applying permaculture principles more coherently in her life in the early 1990s when she had access to land in a community garden and was able to grow most of her own food. In 2000, as a homeschooling mother, she became involved in conservation efforts with communities in the Pacific Northwest watersheds and along the coast.

Mandy and her family moved to Mallorca in early 2000 to care for her mother and be closer to her extended family. There she started a community garden and a children's permaculture club. She became involved with the Slow Food movement, and Poc a Poc, a transitioning-to-sustainability group on the island. Mandy has worked to earn both a Permaculture Design Certificate and Permaculture Teacher Certificate.

Mandy is a founding and active member of Permacultura Mediterranea (PermaMed.org), Youth in Permaculture, Gaia Youth, Community and Ecology Resources, and Escola Kumar, a permaculture education demonstration site, where she lives, practices, and shares permaculture with her family, friends and students.

Mandy designs and implements projects, sites and curriculum and facilitates workshops on permaculture with her fellow permaculture community.