



Live farm fresh without the farm®

Living Homegrown Podcast – Episode 114 Behind the Scenes Of Garden TV

Show Notes are at: www.LivingHomegrown.com/114

- Theresa: This is the Living Homegrown podcast episode number 114.
- Announcer: Welcome to the Living Homegrown podcast where it's all about how to live farm fresh without the farm. To help guide the way to a more flavorful and sustainable lifestyle is your host, national PBS TV producer and canning expert, Teresa Loe.
- Theresa: Hey there everybody, welcome to the Living Homegrown podcast. I'm your host, Teresa Loe, and this podcast is where we talk about living farm fresh without the farm. That can mean preserving the harvest, small space food growing, and just taking simple steps towards living a more sustainable lifestyle. All the different ways that we can live closer to our food even if we have little or no garden space at all. If you want to learn more about any of these topics, or my online courses, or my membership, just visit LivingHomegrown.com. Well, I thought today would be kind of fun to go behind the scenes of our PBS television series, Growing a Greener World. I wanted to pull back the curtain a little bit and tell you what's coming up in season nine, what we're working on, and also, a little bit of the back story about how this TV show came about, how we get the stories that we cover on PBS, and some of the most inspiring stories that we've ever told.

Now, if you're not familiar, Growing A Greener World is a national PBS television series where we just tell the stories of people who are really making a difference in the world through organic gardening and sustainable living. For the past nine years, I've been the co-executive producer and the on air canning and homesteading expert for the show. I thought it would be fun to bring on the host and executive producer, Joel Lamp'l who is also the creator of Growing a Greener World. This was his brainchild, he built the show from scratch, and he has a long background as a TV host. If you're a gardener who likes to watch TV, you have probably seen him on TV before. He has hosted several gardening shows for the DIY network and PBS, and he makes regular appearances on the Today Show, ABC, Good Morning America, and the weather Channel.

Joe is also the Joe behind the Joe Gardner brand and website. He has a very comprehensive organic gardening website and a podcast where you can find all

sorts of gardening information. About nine years ago, Joe asked me to help him create this new kind of TV show that he just wasn't finding on air. He built this entire crew, we have a ton of fun together, and it's been a real honor to be on the show and working with Joe for the last nine years. I thought it would be fun to bring him on and have him give you a little bit of the back story about some of the work that we do.

Now, in the show notes for today's episode, I will have links to everything that we talk about. The show, any of the episodes that we mention, and information about Joe himself. To get to the show notes, all you do is go to LivingHomegrown.com/114. Okay, so LivingHomegrown.com/114. That's it, that's all you have to do. I'll have everything there for you. With that, let me bring on Joe and share with you our discussion about season nine and what we've been doing over at Growing a Greener World.

One more thing, if you are a long time listener of this podcast, then you know I have a secret at the end of some of my episodes where I include bloopers that may have happened while recording. It doesn't happen every time, but sometimes some funny things get recorded, and I always put them at the very, very end of my podcast after the closing music. Well, today is no exception. Whenever Joe is around, we always do a lot of laughing, so there are bloopers at the end of this podcast. Be sure to catch those at the end. All right, so here we go with my interview with Joe Lamp'l. Hey there, Joe, thanks so much for coming back on the show.

Joe: Oh, it's always good to be here, Teresa. Thanks for having me.

Theresa: Well, I'm super excited to have you on the show today, because I thought it would be really fun to talk about Growing a Greener World, and where we're headed into 2018, because we're just now laying out season nine. Also, in case someone didn't know anything about the show, tell them a little bit behind the scenes of how the show came about, and where we get our ideas for the show. I guess that would be what the show was about today. If you're willing to go down the behind-the-scenes route, I'd love to do that.

Joe: I love the behind-the-scenes route. We don't go down that road enough, and we need to do more of that. Yes, to answer your question about Growing a Greener World, we are definitely coming into nine seasons now, and if you round it up, it would be closer to 200 episodes than 100 episodes, which is hard to believe as you and I sat and envisioned what this show could be about before it even existed. Remember that bus ride? That was kind of crazy.

Theresa: Oh, yes, yes.

Joe: Yeah.

Theresa: I didn't really realize what I was getting into.

Joe: You didn't. Gosh. When we talked about this, and I was sharing my idea with you, it was having just come off hosting two other television shows as the hired head. Just the host with not much input other than being told what to say and what not to say by people in the industry that were coming at it from a television side, and really nothing to do with sustainability, or horticulture, or any of the things that we really care about. I decided, after that second round of television shows, it was time to break away and call a timeout, and do what I felt a calling to do.

That was to create a series where we were really taking the opportunity that we had with this generation coming up, and the lack of gardening shows out there, and trying to blend the best of both worlds, where we still got an opportunity to talk about gardening, and organics, and things that we really love and enjoy, yet at the same time, weave that bigger, more important message into it. That is how to lighten our environmental footprint, because I was feeling very frustrated as the host of those other shows where we were never talking about those things. We were missing an opportunity, we were skimming the surface, and there was this audience out there that was seeking this information, and there was nowhere to go get it.

I said, "Let's do it. If we're ever going to do it, let's do it, Teresa. This is what I wanted to do, and I would love your help on it." That was in 2009 when we shot that pilot, which was basically around the idea of filming episodes that would tell the stories of people, and places, and organizations that were doing those good, special things for the planet, with an emphasis on organic gardening, and growing food, and homesteading, and things like that. Maybe coming at the gardening side through the back door, because we were really trying to focus on that younger audience who probably wasn't into watching a gardening show, even if they could find it.

We were hoping that with the content we were creating it would catch their eye as they were flipping through the channels, or surfing the web, the subject matter of what we were talking about would be appealing to them, and while they are watching, it's like, "Oh, by the way, that's really cool. They're actually growing that food in an urban backyard in a small raised bed, but they're feeding their family. How cool is that?" That's how it evolved, and that's how it's remained. To this day, that's our focus. We go where the story is to tell those stories.

Theresa: Yeah, I think what was so exciting to me when you were first telling me this whole vision was that at the time was right when all the other television shows were doing the big makeovers, where they would go in and 24 hours completely re-landscape in really not sustainable ways. These landscapes that really could not even continue because they were not designed well. You were talking about

showing people, real life people doing what we all wanted to do in our own lives, and that was why I was so anxious to jump on board. We've covered so many really inspiring stories and met so many super inspiring people that it's been a real honor to get to showcase some of them and let the world know that what they're up to, because then, what happens is this trickle effect where someone hears that story, and then they want to do something in their neighborhood, or with their family, so it's like what you did with this idea was you threw a pebble in the lake, and it's just rippled across.

I've loved being a part of it and watching it grow, and getting to be part of every season. There's always more stories to tell. That's probably something we should talk about is where do we get those stories. Because that's a question, probably one of the more common questions we get is where do you find these people?

Joe: Wow, that is a good point. When we were doing the first season, the hardest part of the first season, other than all the travel that we did in a record period of time, was narrowing down to 26 episodes the ones you wanted to tell. We had this big, long wish list and dream list of shows we wanted to do, and narrowing it down to 26 was the hard part. Well, the second year, it was not as hard. We had done, I think, our favorite shows that we knew of at the time that first year, and the second year we did the ones that we didn't get to, plus we added some. Then, over time, finding new, unique stories that we hadn't already told got harder, and harder, and harder. Because we knew that it was important for us to have an impact with the stories that we were telling, and we didn't want to repeat topics that we had already covered. We didn't want to do the same old same old. It was getting harder and harder.

Then, as we got smarter about where we looked for information, and ideas, and people came to us and said, "Hey, what about this?" As you are fond of saying, some of the best stories we've done have come from our viewers. They will email us, or contact us and share ideas with us, and we do investigate everything that comes across, and we have actually filmed shows that way. We've also utilized the Internet quite a bit, it's easier than ever to come across, through key word searches, some of those unique stories.

Here, Teresa, I think is where we really ... One of the things about us that makes us different and authentic is that we are coming into the content that we create as people that walk our talk. We live a sustainable life, we garden, we are organic, we homestead, we do the things like the stories that we tell, versus like when I was in television before, the people telling me what to say and what not to say were TV people that didn't know anything about gardening, or sustainability, or any of those things. They were clueless. That's the difference. We are people that walk our talk first who happen to be able to tell those stories through television, versus being television people trying to figure out how in the world do we tell a story about sustainability or gardening?

Theresa: Oh, absolutely. I think it's because we can ask the right questions. Not only when you're on television asking those questions, but before we even get to that point, as a team, we are figuring out, what do we want answered in that episode? We always are, when we're laying out an episode, we're always saying, "What's in it for the viewer? What take away do we want them to learn or be inspired by?" We have to do a lot of pre-interviews, which my first year was when I was an associate producer, that was actually incredibly fun, because I was calling up these people and getting to ask them every question that I thought you could possibly ask, and then from that, we would build out the story so that you would know exactly which direction to take it when you're doing the real interview. I think if we, both us on the team, and you were not gardeners, you wouldn't have asked the right questions. The story wouldn't have been told in the way that it gets told.

That's something that people who have been featured on the show always say to us after we're done filming as they say, "Wow, no one ever asked me those questions, no one ever told my story the way I wanted it to be told until Growing a Greener World showed up." That's one thing that I'm super proud of, because I do, I think it's gardeners, and organic gardeners, and real food people telling the story of people doing that. It brings out that story better.

Joe: We hear that all the time. It's wonderful that eight years, nine years in, we're still being told that by people who we cover in the stories that we film. These days, it used to be, and it still is to some extent, it used to be that we were always the first to break the story, because we live this world, we know about these people, and we're out there getting to them before national or global media gets to them. These days, sometimes we're going to tell a story that we aren't the first person on the scene. They, in many cases, have been covered inside and out.

An example of that would be Stephen Ritz with the Green Bronx Machine out of the Bronx, New York. This is a guy who, Barack Obama, Oprah Winfrey, Sir Richard Branson, the Pope, these are all fans of Stephen Ritz and the work that he's doing. Needless to say, he's been covered every which way until Sunday. Yet, we go out there and do a show, and we embed in his school for a few days a couple times, and we do the show, and the show comes out, and Stephen is beside himself. He basically says, "No one has ever told the story the right way, or the way that you got it, and you nailed it." We hear that a lot.

Maybe part of it is selfish, because we really do, we are truly, genuinely interested in these stories before we approach them about it. We want to know more about these stories ourselves. It's partially selfish I would say, but at the same time, we know the importance of that story. The other way to compare that, a lot of times when these people are covered, it's often times from a noose standpoint. Maybe that beat reporter has been assigned the story for the day,

or for the week, and the day before, he was doing a dry cleaner, and tomorrow he's doing a flood or something, but this day he's doing that story.

Well, it's fair to say that they probably aren't emotionally connected to it like we are for one, and they're may have less time to prepare for it. That's understandable. That is one of the reasons for the main difference is that we invest a lot of time ahead of time, plus we come to it from the standpoint of this is our world. We do have a bit of an unfair advantage I would say. In a good way.

Theresa: In a good way, absolutely. Also, our crew, every cameraman and every person who is on our crew are usually also gardeners or come from farming backgrounds, and so even when we hire someone in who's just a locational, we just pick someone who's local, who's going to help us, they always know of us, and they are usually also gardeners. When we're walking up, one of the things that always happens is I was always reassuring people, "Don't worry, we won't be stepping on your plants." Because that's something, apparently, that all the other crews do when they're there, and our crew is always so careful when they have to step into the beds. They always ask permission, they understand you have been raising these tomatoes from a little seed, and how important it is, where other crews, I think, don't even consider that. The entire crew has that feeling.

Joe: I think that's the one question that we throw out there right off the bat, at the right time, but it's the one thing that disarms the person we're filming to let them know we get it, and we understand where we're at, and the importance of where we are. When we ask them about where we can step, and do you mind if we stepped lightly into this bed? They understand that, wow, nobody's ever asked me that before. They know we know the importance of where we're at.

Theresa: Yeah, yeah, I think that's great. Also, when we're even in post-production, people don't understand how many hours go into the 22 minutes of film that is on TV, there are all the hours of prep before we even arrived, but then once we're there, I forget how many hours Carl said he films, our director, Carl, films for every minute on TV. Do you remember?

Joe: No, but I can tell you that when we come back from a shoot and we've been there for two days, or two and a half days, and we're looking at all the footage, because he'll dump all that footage onto a sharing service online, and I'll look at everything and decide what we send to our writers and editors to cull it down, and I'm looking through, sometimes eight hours of footage, and I'm not talking about B roll, just the beauty shots, I'm talking about-

Theresa: Interviews. Yeah.

Joe: Where there's conversation, right. Four hours of solid filming to eight hours. Somewhere between 4 to 8. That's really a lot of time to have to cull through

down to 22 minutes. Talk about leaving good stuff on the cutting room floor. We leave a lot of that on the floor.

Theresa: Yes, and so that's part of the process is deciding, for one person's interview, is not going to be 22 minutes of the interview with that one person. That one person may only have two to four minutes on camera. If we interviewed them for two hours, we have a lot of cutting and snippets to try and pull the story, and so we have an outline that we start with of the story that we want to tell, and when we're out on the field, we make sure that we get the footage of that story. Then we have to build it and post.

We have one person on our team, Todd Brock, who is incredibly talented, and has hours, and hours, and hours of TV experience, but he also is not as much of a ... He's a do-it-yourself guy, but he's not as much of a gardener as we are, so when he comes to the table, one of his jobs is to watch the story from an outside point of view to make sure we didn't say a term, or use something very flippantly thinking, "Oh, everybody knows what that means." Like CSA, and he's always saying, "You have to define what that means, because not everybody knows." He's very, very good about that, but he's also so good at helping us build that story. That's one of the jobs that he does.

Joe: Yes, he's a secret weapon. His name really isn't Todd Brock, it's Bob Scheffer. As far as everybody else knows, yeah, just forget you heard Todd Brock. We're not sharing anything with anybody.

Theresa: Right, right. He also is our do-it-yourself guy on camera, so he does do some projects on camera. He's very good. I think when we have done shows before where we've talked about, what is our favorite episode? He always looks at things so differently. I'm curious, with you, what is your favorite episode? That's probably like trying to pick your favorite child, but do you have a favorite episode, or a favorite snippet, or something from all the years of filming that we done?

Joe: I do, and it may be related to the recency of the episodes that we did in season eight, but I tell you, I mentioned Stephen Ritz a minute ago, the Green Bronx Machine episode that we did, if somebody wanted to learn about our show, and wanted to see where we've evolved to, it won't give you a perspective of where we started, but it will let you see the production value and the storytelling focus that we put into the shows these days, because that's really where we've gotten to.

I would say, that episode, 808, the Green Bronx Machine, not only was a powerful story about how one teacher, actually one family, a husband, and wife, and daughter who volunteered their time inside of the Bronx city school system, dedicated and volunteered their time to work with kids in the poorest congressional district in the country to teach them about how to grow food in

the classroom, and the importance of fresh food, and getting them off of these junk food diets in the way that got these kids excited to show up for school, mentally thinking about how they were eating food, not only in school, but at home, and how that translated into better grades, and a better self-esteem, and an attitude, and thinking bigger about their future. All of these things. It just had all those things in it. We did manage to tell that story in a really impactful way.

So much so that it literally moved me emotionally to the point that it overwhelmed me at one point, because I was just so taken by all the, it's hard to say, just all the wonderful things that I experienced over the period of my time there. That was definitely one. Then the one, the week before as it aired, episode 807, which we called Hope for Heroes, which is a feature about the farmer veteran coalition where this organization assists veteran farmers returning to the US, and helping them find careers in farming. Not giving them money, but giving them resources so that they can do what they do in farming, but the impact that that had on their lives, and the purpose that it gave them.

That was a common theme that, again, emotionally moved us to realize how important these kind of organizations are. It did connect our theme, because it involved farming. Wow, it was quite moving as well. Those were back to back in season eight. There's lots of episodes that we've done through the years that are every bit as special as those, but those are the ones that I remember the most because they're just so recent I guess.

Theresa: Well, then you have an emotional tie when you watch them, they're very moving, and I think the audience felt that too, because we get a lot of letters from people after they've seen many of our episodes. Those two in particular have really touched a lot of people, which makes the long hours and having to put up with you so much more worth it. No, it really does. It makes it very powerful for us when we know that something that we put out there really does resonate with them too. Because sometimes, when we're filming, we've had this moment when we're filming and someone says something super touching, and we didn't capture it. When we do get those gems, and Carl can work his magic to weave it into the story, and we know that the people watching are going to feel that same moment, it's very, very special.

Joe: You know what I do love is that we do get a lots of comments that come in through the days via email, and on the web comments to the post. I have to say, those episodes especially have garnered comments, such as, "That episode changed my life." Or something to that effect. To create something out of nothing to the point that you have impacted somebody's life in that way, that they take the time to write you and tell you that, obviously it did have an impact on their life. Versus those shows, as you mentioned for example, the makeover shows that we don't do that are really entertainment with no educational value that I can see, how is that life-changing? How is that really important these days? There's no shortage of entertaining shows, but I do think there's a big

shortage of the shows like we do, but at the same time, it helps us stand out. I think there's room for more, people doing what we do, but I'm just thankful that we're in this place, and we've got quite a foothold there.

Theresa: Absolutely. I'll be sure to link in the show notes to link to those episodes, and to our website that lists all of our episodes. That's one thing that we also do differently is that people can watch every single episode online in its entirety. Once it airs, or once we release it to PBS, we do put it on the website. You're able to watch, rewind, share it with people, and that really is powerful, because all the PBS stations are independent, and they have their own schedule, and sometimes it isn't matching up with the season, which is always been so frustrating with us. We're like, "It's springtime and they're showing the winter episodes." We keep them on our website so that you can watch them in real time for when it's pertinent to you. I'll be sure to link in the show notes for those.

Joe: Great.

Theresa: What's coming up for season nine? I'd love to have us tease a little bit about what you have been working on in your head, and now we're working on it in paper to try and make some of those episodes come to life.

Joe: Okay. Well, the first episode that we're doing here in a couple weeks, we're going out to the San Antonio area, and we're going to do a show. This is one that I never really, I wouldn't say never, but I haven't really thought about this as a show that I would've thought to do in the season, but thank goodness we have some great connections throughout the country now. One of my good friends who works with the U.S. Forest Service is out of Atlanta, Dennis Crusack, we've done a couple shows with him. He's an expert in creating pollinator gardens, and wildlife habitats, and he also has a specialty with the Forest Service on bats. B-A-T-S, bats. Their benefit, and their plight, and the agricultural value that they provide to farmers and gardeners, and we're doing a show on bats.

I'm so excited, because just outside of Austin there is a cave that a lot of people in the area probably are familiar with, but it hosts the largest migratory bat population in the world. Every night, when they go on their hunt, it takes about, I think it was four hours for the cave to clear out of the millions and millions of bats that go there every night or every day to sleep out the day, like you do. That come out at night to forage. There's a lot to the story of bats, and their benefits, and their risk, and the perils that they face with the alternative energies, and the wind turbines, and the risk that that's having, and this white nose syndrome that's causing millions of bats to die that we can't find a way to cure them. I'm fascinated by it. Who would have thought that we were going to do a show on bats? As it relates to the subject matter that we typically cover, it fits perfectly.

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- Theresa: Oh, yes. I'm actually very excited about that, because I saw video of all those bats pouring out. I guess it's a thing where people go and watch for them to come out right at dusk, and they start coming out. I'm sure some people thought it would look scary, I thought it was fascinating. I love bats, because I have the heirloom orchard up in Northern California, and we have a lot of bats in the area. We need those bats, and we try to encourage those bats. I'm super, super excited to learn more about them. That would be a great episode.
- Joe: Yeah, me too. Another one we're doing, the fun one that came up recently, and this is actually out in your neck of the woods, Teresa. We're going to do a show, this evolved as an afterthought for me, I got contacted by Ed Begley who lives out in L.A., former actor, and now he's a big environmental activist, and a leader in that sector. He does a podcast with his wife, Rochelle, and it's called Begleyesque. If you go there and check out their podcast, it's hysterical. They interview a lot of the celebrities in the L.A. area that come to their home and do the podcast interview.
- The two of them have had a television show over the years in the past, and they're hysterical. Ed is the straight guy, and he's really miserly, and he's all about the environment, and cutting energy costs and everything. They invited me to be on their podcast, and I thought, "Well, that's really cool." They said, "Hey, if you're out in the L.A. area, come on over and we'll do the podcast from our home." I thought, "When am I going to be in L.A.?" I thought, "Well, Teresa lives there, but I don't want to go to LA for that."
- Theresa: Right.
- Joe: I thought, "Well, what other reason what I have to go to L.A.? I don't want to go just for that." Then I thought, "Wait a minute, how cool would it be to do an episode on the Begleys? Because their home is lead platinum certified." We're going to do in environmentally conscious show on the eco-friendly home. We did one earlier a few years back, but I think this will be completely different, and there'll be a lot of fun to cover it, and we'll get some really neat ideas about how they live their life. He's a gardener too, he has a food garden, and all of that. I'm excited to do that one, and that's going to be this year as well. I'm thinking about the ones coming up in the near future.
- Theresa: That'll be a fun one, and they are super funny. People always try to hang him up. One time he made some comment on a TV show that he composts and recycles so much that he could fit a week's worth of trash in the glove box of his car, and a news crew showed up and challenged him to see if he could do it, and he could. It was pretty cool. Yeah.
- Joe: Wow. I'm glad you told me that. I'll have to follow up on that one, that's cool. Well, speaking of minimal to zero waste, another show that we're going to do, if I may, and that is a focus on people and companies focused on reducing their

waste. Basically, going to zero waste company, or a campaign internally to not feed the landfill, whether it's your personal life, or your business life. Subaru is a company that has always been really big on zero landfills. Well, they partner with the National Park Service recently. They're going into some of these major national parks to find ways in which the millions of people that visit these parks can cut down on the amount of solid waste that ends up in landfills. They've really taken on this project, they're developing ways, and they are putting in systems and methods to really cut down on some of that.

We thought that we would take that theme and go to a national Park. At this point, we look like we may be heading to Denali early next summer, because that's one of their focus parks, and they have a lot of success in that park, to show some of those ways that not only are private public partnerships working on that, but how then that translates down to how some of the things that we can do individually. Because as you know, Teresa, we always take this focus of maybe starting with a 30,000 foot view, and maybe it's at a corporate level, or level that's beyond what an individual can do, but the theme is still the same. In that same episode of 22 minutes, we want to bring that home to what's in it for me? What can the viewer do where this is really, truly applicable, and actionable to them as well? That's always the focus, and that will be the focus of the show as well. I think it's interesting to raise our awareness of those things that we can do when we're out and about, and at home as well.

- Theresa: Yeah, I love that. Because we're shining the light on some people and companies who are trying to do it right, and that's very inspiring, but then also saying, and these are some things that you could do yourself that will make a difference. Sometimes it's trying to wade through all the clutter as a consumer or a viewer, it's hard to know where you can really have the most impact with the least amount of effort. I think that's what's so great about what we always try to do. That'll be another really good episode. I'm excited about that one.
- Joe: There are others. I don't want to show our whole hand, but we have some really exciting ones that are different than anything that we've ever done featuring really neat heroes out there that have maybe made a life changing decision. They walked away, I'm kind of hinting to one, I may or may not tell you. We haven't confirmed that yet, so I won't give away the whole story. Somebody that has made the news rounds a bit lately, but walked away from a big career with a big paycheck to get into farming and do it in an organic way to provide food to his community that really didn't have access to that kind of food before. We're working out the details there. If we pull that one off, it's just going to be another one of those great stories that will probably end up making my list of favorites for season nine, because I have a feeling that it's going to be that good.
- Theresa: Yeah, that's always exciting. I think we should also talk about something else that's super exciting to me, and that is that we have someone new on our crew. Anyone who is into gardening, garden TV will know who she is. Why don't we

tell everybody about that?

Joe: Sure. I was one of those ones that was glued to HDTV when they actually had gardening shows on, and one of my favorite shows, probably, not even probably, my favorite gardening television show on HDTV, as far as providing a great story with accurate, true horticultural information was A Gardener's Diary hosted by Erica Glasener. I always felt like she was so good, because she is a horticulturalist, and she's a great communicator in her delivery, and the story, and the way the show is done. Every show, you didn't want it to end, and you always felt like you got so much out of it. She's a great interviewer and conversationalist.

Well, she is Atlanta-based as I am as well, and we've been friends for quite a while, and we stay in touch. For a couple years now, she's been, not bugging me, but nudging me to say, "When are you going to hire me?" I'm like, "Well, when I can afford you, I would love to hire you." I don't know when that's going to be. Believe me, it's not that I don't want to, it's just the ability to do so. I finally decided we needed to make this work, because our workload has gotten bigger, we've grown, we've gotten more sophisticated, we have those needs that just aren't being met, and we need to build our team, and when we're going to do that, we're going to do with the best people possible. Recently, I decided we're going to pull the trigger on this one. I called her up and I said, "Okay, I'm ready to have that conversation."

Theresa: Can you start tomorrow?

Joe: Yeah. Well, I got to call Teresa first and give her a pink slip.

Theresa: Yeah.

Joe: No, that will never happen. Talk about job security, you've got it in spades. Anyway, we started that dialogue, and she was super excited, and she accepted the opportunity to come on as senior producer, so she'll work with you and me to coordinate the details of some of these episodes. Really taking a lot off our plates, Teresa, as you know, to do a lot of the legwork, and the research, and her connections, and her content. She's just got all the right things. She knows the TV business, because she was that person for 14 years on a Gardener's Diary that did it in front of and behind the camera.

She has that, plus the horticultural knowledge, which goes back to the fact that what we said before, the people that work on our team are the real deal. She certainly raises the bar on the level of horticultural knowledge coming in and going back out. She also brings with her that prestige and that recognition that, when she picks up the phone and reaches out to some of these people, she's got that cloud already instantly built-in. I am super excited to have her on board, and if we thinks season eight or anything prior to that was good, I can

only imagine what season nine and beyond is going to be having more pedigree on board, like Erica.

Theresa: Yeah, I could not be more excited about this, because it's just like you said, the person who is working on the team, working on the story, but also talking to the people really has to understand where they're coming from. She has the clout, she can roll those botanical names right off her tongue, and she is able to also help lay out the story. When you first mentioned it to me, I was like, "Oh, man. Like that would be like the golden ticket to be able to have her." I'm super duper excited that she's going to be on our team next year, because I think the stories are going to get even better because of that.

Joe: Yes. Even with the garden focus that they have now, she is bringing even more of an emphasis to that. We're reaching out to people that we've never reached out to before based on a lot of her contacts and where she's been, because she's been all over the country many, many times over the years with her show and just her natural contact. That, she brings that to the table too, but it's nice that we're talking about this with you, Teresa, because we really haven't hit it, but this is all really new. We haven't really made a public announcement of this yet, and so when people hear this podcast, it may be ahead of anything that we do publicly to make the announcement. I'm glad that we're having it on your show.

Theresa: Ah, yeah. Well, me too. It was mentioned on Facebook, and I know that blew up, because everyone was so excited. A lot of the listeners and viewers of the show may not even know. I think that's really fantastic. Well, I'm super excited about that, and I guess, in closing, I would love to know what it is that you are most looking forward to in this season. Aside from Erica and some of the stories that you mentioned, is there anything else that you can't wait for season nine?

Joe: That is a good question. I'm sitting here looking at our schedule, and I would say maybe it is going back to Alaska, if we end up doing that, into the national parks for two reasons, I've been to Alaska one time, and I'll never forget it. I want to go back, but I've never been, I hate to say this, I've never been to one of the major national parks before. I know.

Theresa: Scandal, scandal.

Joe: Here's the thing, I'm going to make up for lost time in, I told my wife, in a couple years, I have a goal, I want to visit every national Park in America in the near future. We'll be probably pulling an airstream behind the truck or something, I don't know yet, I haven't figured out the details. We're going to be one of those people, because I love that life. I think in my next life I maybe want to be a park ranger. We're going to make up for some lost time. I would say back to the fact that we would get to a national Park and do that story, and Alaska would be really cool. I'll go with that.

Theresa: Yeah, I love it. Yeah, I think that sounds good. I'm excited just that we're telling you stories. For me, it's the stories that come out, and sometimes those stories aren't revealed until we're actually filming. I always look forward to that moment when someone will be on camera and they're talking, and we start looking at each other because we're all getting tears in our eyes. We know this is that golden moment. You get goosebumps when it happens. I look forward to that with every season, and I can't wait for season nine to have that too.

Joe: Yeah, it's always exciting heading out to a new show.

Theresa: Absolutely. Well, Joe, I can't thank you enough for coming on and talking about all of this. I love that we're giving the scoop and the inside story to my listeners of the podcast about growing a greener world. Thanks so much for coming back on.

Joe: You're welcome. It's always a pleasure. Thanks for having me.

Theresa: Well, I hope you enjoyed that behind the scenes episode of what it's like with Growing a Greener World and season nine. I'm super, super excited about some of the episodes that we have coming up. I think you'll really love them, and I will have links to all of the episodes that we talked about in the show notes for today's show. Just go to LivingHomegrown.com/114 and I'll have everything there for you. Thank you so much for joining me here today. I know how busy you are, and I really appreciate that you spent part of your day listening to this podcast. Until next time, just try to live a little more local, seasonal, and homegrown. Take care.

Announcer: That's all for this episode of the Living Homegrown podcast. Visit LivingHomegrown.com to download Teresa's free caning resource guide and find more tips on how to live farm fresh without the farm. Be sure to join Teresa Loe next time on the Living Homegrown podcast.

[BLOOPERS]