



A Newsletter for Friends of North Willamette Research and Extension Center

FALL 2017 / WINTER 2018

## Harvest Dinner Another Huge Success



*Governor Kate Brown greeting Clackamas County Administrator, Don Krupp, and wife, Susan Carr.*

The Annual Harvest Dinner at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center this past September was another huge success. A record number of attendees, 206, came out on a beautiful fall evening. Besides NWREC faculty, staff and OSU administrators, our Advisory Council members, our research and education partners, and our community stakeholders and financial contributors—this year’s special guests included Oregon’s Governor, Kate Brown. Governor Brown and her husband were invited by OSU Director of Extension Scott Reed.

The Dinner was a showcase of NWREC’s field research and demonstration trials utilizing vegetables and fruits grown during

the summer. Also, the Dinner was a collaboration within the university. OSU’s Food Innovation Center Research Chef, Jason Ball, created the menu and prepared the dishes. Clackamas Extension’s Kelly Streit, Family and Community Health Educator, coordinated her Family Food Educator volunteers to help prepare the food for the evening with Jason and serve the meal. Also, Kelly’s volunteers utilized raspberries and blackberries from NWREC to create two original table favors for the Dinner attendees—a blackberry chipotle sauce and a raspberry chocolate hazelnut sauce.

“The dinner meal is always special,” said Mike Bondi, NWREC Director, and creator of the Harvest Dinner event—now in its

sixth year. “Featuring our connections between agricultural research, food production in the valley with the farmers and industries we work with, and telling the story of these connections, is really what makes the Dinner unique. Lot of groups put on farm-to-plate-style dinners, but no one has the food stories and connections we do!”

Other special features at the Harvest Dinner included the—always back-by-popular-demand—OSU Cheeses made and marketed by the Food Science and Technology students on campus; a basil sauce tasting coming from the culinary vegetable variety trials and grower field

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*OSU Family Food Educator, Tanya Maldonado, serving up a great plate of NWREC food.*

**Harvest Dinner continued from page 1 . . . .**

day at NWREC; an olive oil tasting presented by farmer Bogdan Craceau and working with OSU faculty to establish Oregon's first olive tree large-scale variety evaluation at NWREC; and, an experimental beer pour—again, featuring food research and development on campus.

"In addition to telling our story, an important part of the program is sharing our work with elected officials and the media," Bondi said. Besides the Governor, Oregon Representatives Bill Kennemer, Ron Noble, Tawana Sanchez and Rick Lewis, plus Clackamas County Commissioners Jim Bernard, Sonya



*Wine-A-Bago host, Tara Knight, serving Harvest Dinner guests.*

**2017 Harvest Dinner Sponsors**

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Marion County Extension and 4-H Service District

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Also, we acknowledge the generous contributions of farm fresh produce provided by Big B Farms, Aurora; NW Transplants, Molalla; and the Oregon Hazelnut Commission, Aurora.

Fischer, and Ken Humberston, Yamhill County Commissioner Mary Starrett, and Polk County Commissioner Craig Pope, all attended the event. Media partners from the Capital Press, Lake Oswego Review and Charbonneau Villager attended the Harvest Dinner, too.

"The Harvest Dinner wouldn't be possible without the very generous support of our sponsors. Over the past three years, we have been able to cover the entire cost of putting on the Harvest Dinner solely from community contributions. We don't charge a ticket fee, so having partners who want to support this important community outreach and celebration, plus be associated with our event, is a great way to make it happen."



*Cornelius berry farmer, Matt Unger, thanking Oregon Rep. Rick Lewis, for supporting a berry position in the recent legislative session.*



*Rep. Lewis (back) visiting with Linda Strand, Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commissioner.*

# 2017 Recap—and looking ahead

The theme from the past year is **NEW FACULTY and STAFF**. In January 2017, we welcomed Aaron Heinrich and Heather Andrews, new Faculty Research Assistants in Nik Wiman's Tree Orchard Crops program. Nik began his work as our Tree Orchard Crops Extension Specialist in September, 2015 and continues to build his program and staffing. He expects to add a second post-doc in early 2018.

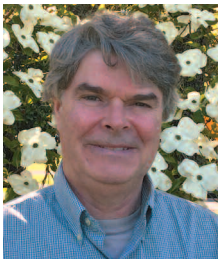


Aaron Heinrich



Heather Andrews

In April we welcomed Greg O'Neill from Canada to lead NWREC's IR-4 Pesticide Registration Research program. Greg replaced Joe DeFrancesco who retired in the fall of 2016.



Greg O'Neill

And, by August, Kristie Buckland arrived at NWREC to become the Vegetable and Specialty Seed Crop Extension Specialist.



Kristie Buckland

We had one important departure, too, this past summer. Gilberto Uribe resigned to take a position with the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Gilberto was Luisa Santamaria's Education Program Assistant and supported her bi-lingual program. Luisa hopes to refill this position in early 2018.

Finally, Nicole Anderson, Field Crops Extension Agent, is re-locating her office to NWREC from the Yamhill County Extension office. Nicole will be bringing a Faculty Research Assistant with her, too (see story, page 7).

In addition to the permanent staff, we hosted 31 summer students—a blend of

college and high school students (2:1 ratio) to support the faculty research and education programs and the work needed on the farm. We consider these summer employment opportunities for the younger generation critical to the mission of the Center. Our students obtain excellent subject matter work experience, insight into the field of agricultural research and education, and are an important part of our team and being able to get our work done.

Our other highlights from 2017 include several important facility and infrastructure upgrades. First, a sincere thank you to the Marion County Extension and 4-H Service District for a special \$10,000 allocation for infrastructure improvements. Their funds were used to develop a new parking area to accommodate the faculty, staff, and summer students away from the main parking lot, in order, to leave the main lot available for our visitors and program attendees. Also, the Marion dollars were used to re-gravel the main lot, paint and re-set the vehicle bumpers.

The Clackamas County Extension and 4-H Service District increased their annual financial support to NWREC by \$30,000 and these dollars were used for several priority needs during the past year. Investments include supporting the summer student program, electrical upgrades and painting in the downstairs lab areas, development of a new equipment and supply storage area for faculty programs,

## Calendar of Events

**December 18 (9:00-Noon—English) and (1:30-4:00pm—Spanish): Blueberry Pruning Workshop, NWREC**

**December 21 (9:00am-Noon): Blueberry Nutrition and Disease Workshop, NWREC**

**January 9—Vegetable, 10—Organic, 11—Berry (7:30am-4:30pm each day): North Willamette Horticulture Society Conference and Trade Show, Clackamas County Event Center, Canby**

**January 18 (8:00am-4:00pm): Nut Growers Society Winter Meeting, OSU Corvallis**

**January 23 (9:00am-Noon): Airblast Sprayer Training Workshop, NWREC; registration required**

**February 19 (8:00am-6:00pm): Oregon Blueberry Conference, Salem Convention Center, Salem**

**March 28-30 (8:00am-4:30pm, each day): Youth Tractor Safety Training and Certification Course, NWREC; registration required**

and filing fees and consulting services associated with the application process for our new irrigation well project.

As we look forward to 2018, listed below are additional priority facility upgrade projects we hope to address.

### NWREC Infrastructure Priorities—2018 and beyond

- New Irrigation Well to Support Expanded Research and Education Programs
- Main Parking Lot Expansion and All Weather Tractor Training Course
- New Parking Lot Lighting for Night Meetings and Events
- New "Dirty Lab" for Processing Soil and Plant Material
- Expanded Equipment Storage for Program and Farm Rolling Stock
- Outdoor Pavilion for Community Events and Field Days
- Expanded Office Space
- Expanded Conference Facilities
- Overnight Accommodations for Visiting Researchers and Guests

# Berry Position Update for NWREC

Thanks to the efforts of north valley strawberry and caneberry growers, working with Representative Rick Lewis, Silverton, funding was provided at the close of this past Oregon Legislative Session in Salem for berry program support at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center. The last time OSU had a faculty member focused on the education and applied research needs of the strawberry and caneberry growers was prior to Diane Kaufmann's retirement in 2011.

Mike Bondi, NWREC Director, has been considering options for the two-year funding provided by the Legislature and how to proceed. The monies from the Legislature will provide the equivalent of a ½ time position for the period through June 30, 2019.

"We will need to move quickly with a program that has specific outcomes and expectations, so we can report meaningful impacts that result from this work and the Legislature's important investment," Bondi said.



## Advisory Council Thank You!

Our NWREC Advisory Council provides advice, guidance and oversight to the operations of the Center. The Council is a volunteer group that meets three times each year in November, February and May. The members take an active interest in our research and education and advocate for our needs in their communities and with elected officials. The Council provides input about our budget, staffing, programs, and facility needs.

A special thank you to the following Council members for their time, talents and guidance. Those noted with an \* are charter members when the Council was formed in 2011 shortly after Mike Bondi's arrival as Director of the Center.

Anyone interested in joining the Council should contact Bondi. We welcome new members.

Greg Bennett\*, NW Onion Company; Brooks

Jim Bernard, Clackamas County Commissioner—Chair; Oregon City

Kevin Cameron, Marion County Commissioner; Salem

Jim Gill, Norpac; Stayton

TJ Hafner, AgriCare; Jefferson

Mike Iverson\*, Aurora Farms; Aurora

Jim Johnson\*, Oregon Department of Agriculture; Salem

Greg Leo\*, The Leo Group; Butteville

Neal Lucht\*, NW Transplants; Molalla

Lance Lyon\*, Nursery Consultant; Aurora

Craig Pope, Polk County Commissioner—Chair; Dallas

Bill Sabol, Arbor Grove Nursery; St. Paul

Mark Schmidlin\*, Schmidlin Farms; Banks

Matt Unger\*, Unger Farms; Cornelius

Tom Winterrowd\*, Pitkin Winterrowd Farms; Canby

In October, Bondi met with growers and industry representatives—along with NWREC's Bernadine Strik (Berry Crops Research Leader) and Wei Yang (Berry Crops Extension Agent), plus OSU's Department of Horticulture Head, Bill Braunworth, to discuss priority needs and hiring options.

"The growers see a big opportunity in developing our fresh market production for Oregon strawberries and caneberries. We all know our berries taste the best—without a doubt! But, getting our fruit to the market and supplying the growing demand and interest in local produce will take improved production methods, reduced costs, and market development. There just aren't many fresh market growers left. We need to re-build this segment of the industry. The potential impact for local farmers, and an increased availability of more fresh berries in our grocery stores and markets, is something we can all look forward to!"

Bondi hopes to have a berry position filled in early 2018 so work can be organized before the coming growing season. Watch for more about this project in your next *Down on the Farm*.

# Veggie Variety Trial Field Day

The Metro Small Farms Extension program hosted a Vegetable Variety Trial Field Day this past September. A group of about 65 attended the event to see more than 100 vegetable crop varieties in the field—everything to tomatoes, peppers, squash, cabbage, and cauliflower to basil, carrots, leeks, and endive—to hear performance reports and technical information, and to participate in taste tests prepared by Culinary Breeding Network chef, Timothy Watsell.

“These events have been a fun way to showcase the many vegetable varieties we have been testing for PNW performance over the past few years,” said Heidi Noordijk, Small Farms Program Assistant and manager of the program. Funding support for the project comes from seed companies wanting to have their varieties evaluated in farm growing conditions and managed by an independent party. The funding support from the seed companies helps pay for summer student help to establish and maintain the study area.

“This is a great collaboration,” said Nick Andrews, Metro Small Farms Extension Agent. “We have the opportunity to work with new varieties being developed by the seed companies, the universities, and private breeders, plus work with the breeders to come up with top performing selections for the Northwest. Also, NWREC is a great location for field tours and education programs.”

Participants in the 2017 variety trials included: Vitalis, Johnny’s Select Seeds, Sakata, Oregon State University, Log House Plants, Vitalis Organic Seeds, Pan American Seed, Territorial Seeds, Wild Garden Seeds, and Adaptive Seeds.



# Getting to Know Lloyd

Lloyd Nackley joined the faculty at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center in September, 2016 and has completed his first year working with nursery and greenhouse growers on production and management issues. The interview below introduces you to Lloyd, his work, and reflections on his first year.



**Editor:** Tell us about your first year at NWREC, Lloyd?

**Lloyd:** It flew by! I regularly look at my calendar or ever growing 'to-do' list on my white-board and wonder 'where did the time go?' I've been busy getting to know the growers and industry partners and building relationships. Spending time with the producers, learning about their challenges and where they need help is really important in the early part of a position like this. I feel I was lulled by the historically cold and wet winter and spring, and then raced all summer meeting growers, managing experiments, and presenting research at conferences around the country. Things are slowing again with cooling autumn weather. Although the winter may seem long, I now know there's less time than imagined to prepare for the next growing season.

**Editor:** What do you see as the big issues or areas of focus needed by nursery and greenhouse growers—at least, so far?

**Lloyd:** The big issues communicated to me this year are labor, weeds, water, and IPM. Many of the growers I have spoken

to feel like labor shortages have become a crisis, and hope for some sort of comprehensive immigration reform. The other three aspects also link to labor shortages, because the growers have fewer

employees to manage weeds, maintain irrigation, and monitor pest and pathogens. It's a tricky time for Nursery folk. At the same time the industry has surged back to the number one most valuable farm gate commodity, in part, due to strong consumer markets and creative growers who are doing more with less.

**Editor:** You've already initiated several projects at NWREC that our readers will be interested in. Can you share a bit about these?

**Lloyd:** My research program is designed



Lloyd (right) with previous nursery and greenhouse faculty at NWREC—James Altland and Jim Owen.

to support needs identify by the grower community in areas I have skills and expertise. A few of the projects I conducted this year include the design and construction of a tree-sized Rhizotron. The rhizotrons will be a collection of large (4'x4'x'4) "pots" that will allow us to study root growth in controlled settings.

I also ran a dozen trials for the Interregional Research Project No. 4, commonly known as IR-4. The trials this year looked at the phytotoxic effect of three different herbicides on commonly grown ornamental cultivars, like rose and hydrangea.



Also, I had a couple collaborative projects with industry partners. One was a nursery container designer who wanted to test if their product produced more vigorous crops with few resources, such as soil, water, and fertilizer. The other was a trial with an aboriculture company who was interested in testing the stress-tolerance benefits of a few organic 'bio-stimulants'.

Lastly, I partnered with OSU pathologist Dr. Jennifer Parke to help promote soil soliarization use as a non-chemical weed control in Nursery production systems.

**Editor:** *As you look ahead to 2018, what do you see?*

**Lloyd:** I expect the next year to be busier than the first. I will continue to focus on the main issues facing Oregon Nursery growers. Labor, weeds, water, and IPM. I am collaborating with growers and other researchers developing projects to utilize soil and atmospheric sensors to improve irrigation efficiencies. I will expand my work with IR-4 assisting growers to obtain

safe and effective pest management tools to combat insects, disease and weeds commonly found in commercial operations.

Our IPM specialist, Robin Rosetta, has invited me to be a part of the Intelligent Sprayer program, and we will expand this excellent project with coverage and efficacy trials of the new retro-fit.

Neil Bell, Heather Stoven, and I will be installing a new cultivar trial at the NWREC, which brings drought tolerant species from the Mediterranean, and looks to replicate the success of Neil's previous trials.

Likewise, we are trialing some of Dr. Ryan Contreras' newly developed cultivars in OSU's Ornamental Breeding program.

Finally, I am part of a number of exciting research proposals, but we won't count those chicks until they hatch. There's more than enough refurbishing, replacing and renovating of the neglected nursery equipment to keep me plenty busy, too. But I am so happy to be here, at the Farm, and count it a pleasure to work here. Looking forward to having an even better second year.



## Thanks to All!

At this end-of-the-year time, it's always good to give thanks to all of the people, businesses, county partners, organizations, and agencies who care about the work Oregon State University does through our faculty and staff at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center. We couldn't be us, without you!

Thank you to all who have supported us this past year.

We hope you will continue your support in 2018. Please share your knowledge of NWREC with friends, family and those you know. That's how our story will grow. And, if you ever need copies of our Down on the Farm newsletters to share with others (friends, neighbors, in your doctor or dentist office, etc.), just contact us and we'll be happy to provide for your needs.

Have a great new year!



## NWREC Brings in Another New Faculty and Program



Nicole Anderson, Field Crops Extension Agent based at the Yamhill County Extension office in McMinnville and serving Yamhill, Polk and Washington Counties, has joined the staff at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center. Nicole's office will be in the Parker House, upstairs and next door to the Small Farms Extension Team—Nick Andrews and Heidi Noordijk. Nicole will bring a Faculty Research Assistant, Brian Donovan, with her to share office space and support her program. Nicole and Brian expect to move in at NWREC in early January.

Nicole began work with OSU in 2009 and was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of Crop and Soil Science earlier this year. With changes in OSU's staffing for field crops programming in the Willamette Valley in recent years, Nicole's role will be to coordinate applied research in

field crops with two new professor of practice faculty members who will be located at the Marion and Linn County Extension offices and serving field crop growers in the mid and south Willamette Valley. Nicole's peers will be taking the lead on coordinating educational programs and farmer outreach throughout the valley.

"We are having to operate on a more regional model, especially with the decrease in the number of on-campus specialists serving the field crops industry," Nicole said. "Being located at NWREC will allow me to have easier access around the valley. Also, I'll have the opportunity to potentially manage field research trials at the center plus have a place in the north valley to store equipment. This will help a lot with efficiency. The meeting facilities at NWREC will be handy, too, for the growers."

Welcome, Nicole and Brian!



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and Extension Center  
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Shelley Hughes, *Administrative  
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Jan Egli, *Office Specialist*

Marc Anderson, *Farm & Facilities  
Manager*

Geoff Lewis, *Building Trades &  
Maintenance*

Derek Wells, *Farm Management*

**Extension & Research Faculty**

Bernadine Strik, *Berry Crops Research  
Leader*

Wei Yang, *Berry Crops  
Extension Agent*

Lloyd Nackley, *Nursery & Greenhouse  
Production & Management Research*

Robin Rosetta, *Nursery IPM Extension  
Agent*

Luisa Santamaria, *Nursery Pathologist/  
Bilingual Extension Agent*

Chal Landgren, *Christmas Tree  
Extension Specialist*

Nick Andrews, *Metro Small Farms  
Extension Agent*

Kristie Buckland, *Vegetable & Specialty  
Seed Crops Extension Specialist*

Greg O'Neill, *Pesticide Registration  
Research, Field Center Director*

Joe DeFrancesco, *Pesticide  
Registration Research, Emeritus*

Nik Wiman, *Tree Orchard Crops  
Extension Specialist*

Nicole Anderson, *Field Crops  
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Pat Jones, *Berry Crops Research*

Heather Andrews, *Tree Orchard Crops*

Aaron Heinrich, *Tree Orchard Crops*

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Membership forms for the *Friends of North Willamette Research and Extension Center* are also available by contacting the NWREC office at 503-678-1264 or downloading from the website at <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/NWREC>.

Contact Director, Mike Bondi, for more information or to discuss life or deferred gifts options.

Phone: 503-678-1264 • E-mail: [michael.bondi@oregonstate.edu](mailto:michael.bondi@oregonstate.edu)

Cell. 503-705-2434

Oregon State University—North Willamette Research & Extension Center  
15210 NE Miley Road, Aurora, OR 97002 • Phone: 503-678-1264 • Website: [oregonstate.edu/dept/NWREC](http://oregonstate.edu/dept/NWREC)  
Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00am-4:30pm