



Oregon State
UNIVERSITY

Extension Service

A Quarterly Newsletter for Friends of North Willamette Research and Extension Center

FALL 2012

Changing Seasons Great Time to Reflect

This issue of **Down on the Farm** is our last for 2012. We have enjoyed the opportunity to share the work we do, our activities and events, and the people who are involved with us at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center. This past year we launched **Down on the Farm** and have built a regular mailing list of more than 300. Our goal is to grow this distribution list to as many as we can reach. We believe agriculture in our region is important to every Oregonian. Help share this publication with whomever you know. You can expect four quarterly issues in the coming year in February, May, August and November.

We claim a number of “firsts” for NWREC this past year, too, and some of these were pretty big milestones. Our first ever **youth farm tractor safety training certification** was a huge success. We are working already on how to improve this program for the coming year and build it into a regular part of what we do and the services we offer to the agricultural community.

The **Discover Willamette Valley Agriculture** program and the **High School Emerging Scholars** programs were important successes, too, and provided wonderful outreach to the community.

Our **Community Open House** in July was “off the charts” with over nearly 240 attendees and rave reviews. This will be a tough

act to follow, but we are committed to being back next year with another great program.

Our **Farmer to Farm** land lease pilot to a local farmer tried a new way to utilize the research center, our facilities, and our expertise to accommodate local needs.

As the summer came to a close, we completed the **roof restoration** project at our Main Office building—one of the largest capital improvement projects ever undertaken at NWREC. Besides the new roof and gutters, we were able to paint three sides of the building. We now look like somebody actually lives here! Check out the photo inside on page 6.

But, of course, the heart and soul of what we do at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center is **our faculty and staff**—their research, teaching and outreach in the community. NWREC includes more than 60 acres of active research trials and demonstration areas. This issue of **Down on the Farm** includes stories about several of our faculty and staff and their programs.

Finally, we can’t forget our **supporters**—the people who believe in what we do and



why it’s important. During the last year we started a **Friends of NWREC** group that provides financial and in-kind contributions to sustain the Center. Also, we have a dedicated group of folks supporting important **faculty endowments** at the Center. These groups had their first **Friends appreciation event** in late September. Again, we can’t thank you enough! See page 5.

2012 has been an outstanding year. And, we have much more planned for 2013. Come join us!

Michael C. Bondi
Director of the North Willamette Research and Extension Center

A Short History of the Bassettberry

If you have never tasted a fresh pie made from the little wild mountain blackberry, this story will not be as interesting, as if you have.

James B. (Jim) Bassett was born in 1900 in Doty, between Chehalis and the coast in SW Washington. He grew up as one of seven children in a hard-working family dependent on logging for the family income and on growing most of the food for their table.

To make money as a young boy, he would scour the many clear-cut logging areas nearby for what they called the "little wild mountain blackberry". He sold them to an area merchant for 10 cents a gallon. He regularly wished they were bigger.

He was not the only one of his siblings to attend college but, collectively, they were the first of their family line to do so. The exact reason for his particular interest in horticulture is lost, but it likely had to do with what he saw as a way one person could provide for his family.

Oregon College of Agriculture (now OSU) beckoned as it was closer to where he grew up than its Washington counterpart in Pullman. He enrolled in 1920, stopped out for two years after his father died to care for his mother, and returned after she died. He graduated from OCA in 1927 with a degree in horticulture.



Jim worked for several years as a commodities inspector for the US Department of Agriculture, mostly in SE Washington and NE Oregon. He changed careers several years later, obtaining a teaching degree, and working as a high school agriculture teacher in Washington State.

In 1950, fifteen years before he retired, he finally realized a life-long dream to own his own farm when he and his family purchased a 20 acre former small dairy on prime Skagit Valley agricultural land. The farm had a hired hand's cabin and that became his horticulture research lab.

Over the next 30 years he experimented with golden seal, mustard seed, Christmas trees, and maintained a prodigious vegetable garden and family orchard along with a milk cow, chickens and pigs. Also, Jim became a regional expert on the common mole, appearing on the Ed Hume garden show in the early days of Seattle TV.

Meet the Bassett Family—an amazing story from one of our own

The Bassett family has a long connection to the Pacific Northwest and Oregon State University. But, there's also another important connection we think you'll find fascinating. Included here is an edited version of a brief story about the Bassettberry, provided by Roger Bassett and his family, from Turner, Oregon.



But through all that, his abiding passion was to make that little wild mountain blackberry bigger.

Beginning in 1960 or so, he experimented with cross-pollinating the wild blackberry with other, larger cultivars. Records of his attempts are lost, but the winning partner was the boysenberry—very similar in flavor, but much, much bigger. Jim believed it was a perfect partner for his wild mountain blackberry!

Through a selection process, he produced a few parent plants. They have long, aggressive canes and tiny, but very sharp thorns. Others would have been drawn to create thorn-less varieties, but Jim simply wanted the amazing little wild berry to be bigger.

Over several years, using tipped starts from the most boisterous plants, Jim expanded his special berry patch to one acre. Production was promised to regular customers a full year in advance...all sold fresh the day he picked them to those who made the five mile trip from town. Jim's wife, Gladys, was the sales department and managed the point of delivery.

Among the things Jim discovered along the way:

- The berry cross ripened at the same time as its little wild parent—during the month of July.
- The cross had a high sugar content and molds quickly when fully ripe and gets

Calendar of Events

The events listed below are education programs that OSU faculty at NWREC have designed or provide leadership to organize. Check the NWREC website for additional events, details, and registration information.

November 6 NWREC Nursery Pathology/Bilingual Program Advisory Committee. 5:00-8:00pm. Facilitator: Luisa Santamaria; NWREC, Aurora.

December 4 NWREC Advisory Council. 5:00-8:00pm. Facilitator: Mike Bondi; NWREC, Aurora.

December 12 Annual Blueberry Pruning Workshops. 9:00am-Noon (English). Instructor: Wei Yang; NWREC, Aurora. And, 1:00-4:00pm (Spanish). Instructor: Luisa Santamaria; NWREC, Aurora

January 15-17 North Willamette Horticultural Society Meeting. 8:00am-4:30pm each day. Facilitator: Nick Andrews; Clackamas County Event Center, Canby. Organics Day on the 15th; Vegetables on the 16th; and Berries on the 17th.

January 29 Oregon Blueberry Conference. 8:30am-8:00pm. Facilitator: Wei Yang; DoubleTree Hotel-Lloyd Center, Portland.

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The Bassett's family farm in the Skagit Valley and their original Bassettberry plantings.



Farmer to Farm Project Ends Successful First Year

When Frank and Matt Battilega approached NWREC last winter with an interest in leasing land at the Center, the idea seemed a bit of a stretch. The thought of providing land and access to the farm for an "outsider" was something not done before. How would we control access? What about pesticide applications and impacts on each other? How do we handle equipment and irrigation needs?

Now, six months later, we can say the project has been a success. We found good answers to our questions. We've all been able to work side-by-side. We tested the Farmer to Farm idea by locating three plots (two conventional and one organic) for the Battilegas to work. They planted celery root, cucumbers, summer squash and mustard greens.

Matt Battilega, an OSU Agriculture graduate, is one of three sons in the family's fourth generation farming operation named Big B Farms, located in Aurora. Matt managed the NWREC project and said, "The lease arrangement worked well for us. The land at NWREC is convenient to our home operation and allowed us to expand our farming acres as we grow our operation to accommodate more family members entering the business. Also, we've never grown organic produce and wanted to try this method of production. Since NWREC already has certified organic ground, this was a great opportunity to experiment with this system."

wet. This was more of a problem in the Skagit Valley where July rains are common than in southern locations—like the mid-Willamette valley.

- Jim's solution: pick the berries when dry and process immediately or pick before fully ripe. The flavor is on the tart side anyway and slightly red berries produce the same taste after sugar is added as fully ripe ones do.
- Freezing was the preservation process of choice. Unwashed berries in zip lock bags keep up to 2 years in a chest freezer.

Among the uses of fresh or frozen berries: the aforementioned "to die for" pies; upside down cake; freezer jam (cooking jam changes the flavor); infused vodka liqueur; and, berry flavored sparkling honey mead or melamel. In all cases, sugar interacts with the tart flavor to produce that unique wild blackberry taste.

Jim had an intense respect for the horticultural code that discourages turning new varieties loose without certification. So, he destroyed his research records and asked that the plants themselves be destroyed if the farm was sold.

He did give his son Roger three plants and a family plot continues in the care of Roger and Mary Beth near Turner, Oregon and in the urban garden of granddaughter Karyn in Portland. Two to three plant successes have been recorded as far south as Sonoma County, CA.

Sixty years later—and thanks to the Oregon State University President's Office and, especially, Dr. Bernadine Strik, OSU Professor of Horticulture and Berry Research Leader at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center, and Dr. Chad Finn, US Department of Agriculture's Berry Crop Breeding Program Leader—the "Bassettberry" is now being evaluated in field trials at NWREC. These trials will compare the Bassettberry to other new cultivars and crosses, as well as, the today's standards for the industry. If these tests are successful, the Bassettberry could become commercially available to growers in the Northwest and, eventually, find its way to your kitchen and dining room tables.

Bassett's Become a New Friend, Too

Roger Bassett and his wife, Mary Beth, and daughter, Karyn, all attended the annual NWREC Caneberry Field Day this past July for the first time. It was there that they had the chance to see their Bassettberry in our evaluation trials. As result of their contact with Drs. Strik and Finn and the on-going research with OSU and NWREC, the Bassett Family has now become one of our recent additions to the **Friends of NWREC** as a member of our Dean's Club.

We thank the Bassetts for their support and the legacy of their family's contribution to the berry industry!

OktoberPest

By Robin Rosetta, NWREC Nursery
Extension Agent-Integrated Pest
Management

OktoberPest is a series of hands-on workshops held weekly at NWREC during the month of October. The three-hour workshops provide in-depth training on a wide variety of pest management topics. OktoberPest was developed to give people sufficient information and skills, in the span of one morning, to help them get started managing a pest problem. We offer pesticide training recertification credits so pesticide applicators and consultants can maintain their licenses. Designed primarily for greenhouse and nursery growers in the North Willamette Valley, OktoberPest often provides information of help to others working with plants including landscapers, Christmas tree professionals, and Master Gardeners.

OktoberPest is in its 12th season. There have been 52 workshops since the series started in 2001 when our first workshops were on biological control, spider mites, fungus gnats, and field rodents. This season we offered workshops on two topic

areas: An Introduction to Biological Control, and Reducing the Risk of New Disease Introduction. The classes were taught in both English and in Spanish.

One of the keys to the success of OktoberPest has been presenting information in a fun and enjoyable way, preferably with a hands-on experience. During Tunnel Vision, a 2004 workshop on field rodents, participants were led outside to learn how to distinguish mole, vole, and gopher tunnels. For the biological control workshops we bring in the bugs! People get a chance to see the Spider Mite Destroyer lady beetle and aphid "mummies" up close. Because we generally have a mixed audience, with some new to the topic and other participants quite informed, there is an opportunity to share a wide range of knowledge and experience.

Right from the beginning, many attendees of the OktoberPest workshops began implementing changes to their pest man-



OktoberPest workshop instructor, Jay Paxson, shows how to identify rodent problems.

agement programs. They increased their scouting and their use of cover crops. Many adopted biological control programs. Nearly half report reductions in the frequency, the amount and the toxicity of chemical applications. One grower said information from the workshops, particularly on the use of biological control, "saved money on sprays, labor and losses." Many growers report increases in plant quality. The benefits of OktoberPest workshops are magnified as the majority of past participants surveyed reported using OktoberPest information to train their employees.

I'm both amazed and pleased that people can be so passionate about knowledge that they will attend a three-hour workshop on spider mites or powdery mildew. But those three hours gain results—important changes which have saved growers money, improved pest management and plant quality, and reduced the pesticide load in the environment. It may be the season of harvest but at OktoberPest, we are still planting seeds of knowledge that we hope will grow into better plants for everyone.

Editor's Note: Robin Rosetta will be on sabbatical leave December 1 through July 31 and away from NWREC. Besides travelling to work with noted research colleagues around the country, she will be analyzing impact data from OktoberPest and other outreach programs during her career.

Welcome, Claire!

Claire Mallon is a senior at the Wilsonville High School. She was one of eight summer interns under the tutelage of Luisa Santamaria in our nursery pathology lab this past summer. During the training phase of the program, Claire demonstrated she was a fast learner, performed each activity very efficiently, and regularly volunteered to stay longer if work needed to be completed. She developed excellent skills culturing microorganisms and has been trained in an array microbiology lab techniques. She became a special helper to Luisa.

As the summer came to an end, Luisa asked Claire if she would like to work with her as a student employee in the pathology laboratory. Her answer was, "Yes" with a big smile. Claire was thrilled to accept this offer and happy to have the opportunity. She will be working between 10-15 hours per week after school. In addition, Claire is preparing a research proposal to work on a fungicide resistance evaluation for her High School Science project this coming year.

Welcome, Claire. We are fortunate to have such a talented young person on our team!



Claire has become an important collaborator in the IR4- project. She is helping to collect data and take care of the plants in an efficacy trial to manage root rot problems in ornamentals caused by Pythium ultimum.

Special Thanks to all our Contributors in 2012

The end of the year is a time to recognize those who have made gifts and contributions supporting the North Willamette Research and Extension Center, our research and education. It is amazing to see the number of individuals, companies and organizations who have provided financial gifts, supplies and services for our facilities and programs.

During 2012 we launched the Friends of the North Willamette Research and Extension Center. Our 49 members collectively contributed nearly \$12,000 to support the Center and help us improve our facilities and outreach to the public. Our Vegetable Crop and Specialty Seed Endowment contributors now number 19 with gifts and commitments over the next five years totaling more than \$260,000. Also, four contributors have initiated the Berry Endowed Professorship with a current value of \$175,000.

Finally, we have gathered a listing of our In-Kind contributors, too. This list includes 26 community businesses and farms who have provided a wide array of supplies and services to support our work—everything from equipment to plant material, chemicals and produce. We haven't tried to value all of these gifts, but be assured that the total value of these gifts will be many thousands of dollars.

This outpouring of generosity is truly humbling. Together, we can accomplish much more than working alone. We thank all of you!

Member (\$25)

James Bernards, St. Paul, OR
Walt & Dona Bubelis, Seattle, OR
Michael Darcy, Lake Oswego, OR
Joy & Peter Durkee, Canby, OR
Jamie & Dave Johnk, Molalla, OR
Eric Kirsch Enterprises, Hubbard, OR
Koch Farms, Inc., Wilsonville, OR
Greg & Rachel Leo, Aurora, OR
Ron & Anne Oberg, Oregon City, OR
Siri & Son Farms, Damascus, OR
Doug & Stella Shannon, Molalla, OR

First Crop (\$50)

Beverly Koch & John Martinson, Oregon City, OR
Ken & Dorrene Brown, Dallas, OR
Wayne & Joann Chambers, Albany, OR
Dale & Beverly Friedeman, Canby, OR
Peter Fry, Corbett, OR
Paul & Rose Miken, West Linn, OR
Lorraine Nevill, Aurora, OR
David Priebe, Salem, OR

Second Crop (\$100)

Casale Farms, Aurora, OR
Northwoods Nursery, Inc., Molalla, OR
Chemtura AgroSolutions, McMinnville, OR
Hertel Farms, LLC, Hillsboro, OR
Evergreen Growers Supply, Oregon City, OR
Peter McDonald, Wilsonville, OR
Robert & Sara Mitchell, Keizer, OR
Monitor Nursery, Mount Angel, OR

Bumper Crop (\$250)

Northwest Transplants, Molalla, OR
Riverside Farms, Oregon City, OR
Alta Vista Farms, Medford, OR
Marion Ag Service, Inc., St. Paul, OR
Aurora Farms, Aurora, OR
Pearmine Farms, Gervais, OR
Organically Grown Company, Eugene, OR

Bumper Crop (\$250), continued

Susan Yamanaka, Salem, OR
S&H Landscape Supply & Recycle, Tualatin, OR
Riverbend Organic Farms LLC, Jefferson, OR

Director's Club (\$500)

Wilbur-Ellis Company, Woodburn, OR
Michael & Connie Bondi, Lake Oswego, OR
Pratum Co-op, Salem, OR
Logan Zenner Seed, Aurora, OR
Motecucco Farms, Canby, OR
Dow Agro Sciences, Salem, OR
C&S Farms, LLC, Oregon City, OR
Bi-Zi Farms, Brush Prairie, OR

Dean's Club (\$1,000 and up)

Clark Cowlitz County Farm Bureau, Vancouver, OR
George Rossman, Aurora, OR
The Bassett Family, Turner, OR
Joan Parker, Aurora, OR

NW Berry Production and Management Endowed Professorship

AgriCare
Fall Creek Farm & Nursery, Inc.
Riverbend Organic Farms
Oregon Berry Packing, Inc.

Vegetable Crop & Specialty Seed Endowment Fund

Aurora Farms
Bi-Zi Farms
Joe Casale & Son
Clackamas County Farm Bureau
Clark Cowlitz Farm Bureau
C&S Farms
Craig & Sharon Hoffman
Kevin Duyck Farms
Logan Zenner Seeds
Marion Ag
Montecucco Farms

Vegetable Crop & Specialty Seed Endowment Fund, continued

Northwest Transplants
Scott Miller
Specialty Seed Growers of Western Oregon
West Coast Beet Seed
Western Oregon Onion Growers Association
Willamette Rhubarb Association
Willamette Valley Specialty Seed Association
Bill & Peggy Zimmerman

In-Kind Contributions

AG West Supply of Woodburn
AgriCare Inc.
AK Farms LLC
Bridgewell Resources
Cedar Valley Nursery
Clackamas Soil Water Conservation District
Concentrates Inc.
Country Grains/Fir Point Farms
Cutting Edge Formulations
D. Stutzman Farms
Fall Creek Farm & Nursery
Hostetler Farm Drainage
Kathy & Dave LeCompte
Littau Harvesters Inc.
Marion Ag
Norcal Nursery
North American Plant Co.
North Willamette Horticulture Society
Northwest Plants
Nourse Farms
Oregon Blueberry Farms
Oregon Department of Agriculture
Oregon Tilth
Spooner Farms
West Multnomah Soil Water Conservation District
Wilbur-Ellis

Join us as a Friend for NWREC in 2013!

Your gift is valuable—find membership info below.

Membership forms for the **Friends of North Willamette Research and Extension Center** are 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 • Fax: 503-678-5986 • E-mail: michael.bondi@oregonstate.edu • Cell: 503-705-2434

First Annual Small Farm School

By Heidi Noordijk, *Small Farms Program, Metro Small Farms Program Assistant*

Aspiring farmers, students and small acreage land owners came up the hill in Oregon City to Clackamas Community College on Saturday, September 8, 2012, with notebooks in hand and eager to soak up practical small farm knowledge. The sun was shining-making for a wonderful day at the first annual Small Farm School.



Individuals came from 13 different counties in Oregon as well as a handful from Washington and California. Just over 200 participants filled the venue with lively discussions during the morning and lunch breaks. "Having time to network and share experiences with other beginning farmers was just as valuable as the classes," shared farmer Alyssa Kiesel of Corbett.

Who came to Small Farm School?

- 41% Non-commercial land owners
- 26% Farmers selling products for less than 5 years
- 16% Students
- 10% Farmers selling products for more than 5 years
- 7% Agricultural professionals

Small Farm School was composed of four concurrent sessions and 26 classes with topics varied from on-farm veterinary care to direct marketing strategies. Descriptions of classes can be found at [www.small-](http://www.small-farms.oregonstate.edu/small-farm-school)

farms.oregonstate.edu/small-farm-school. Thirty-four instructors, representing experienced farmers, OSU Extension educators, conservationists and other agricultural professionals shared their expertise with participants. Nick Andrews, OSU Extension's Metro Small Farms Agent said, "We wanted to create an event with very practical workshops to help growers make improvements on their farms"

Clairmont Hall, home to Clackamas Community College Horticulture Department was the site of Small Farm School. Orchards, greenhouses, open spaces and gardens provided a great venue for fruit tree pruning, extending vegetable seasons, organic weed management, and tractor operation and safety workshops. Big hits included the chance to drive a tractor and observing up close sheep, goats, llamas and horses in a veterinary class. Event planners had some unplanned excitement when one of the goats bolted from its pen. Participants could escape the heat with indoor classes covering crop and animal production, direct marketing, and soil and water conservation. Beginning farmer classes were very popular and included assessing farm resources, selecting an enterprise, purchasing or leasing farm land and policies affecting small farmers.



Extending our vegetable production season in the Pacific Northwest was one class at Small Farms school.

Evaluations collected from 124 participants gave us important information about the event. They rated the combination of workshops extremely valuable and 94% plan to implement ideas from multiple sessions they attended. The overall event and venue were rated very highly and there were many constructive comments that will help in planning future Small Farm Schools. Andrews says, "We will repeat more of the popular classes and continue offering classes that equip and inspire small farmers." Next year's Small Farm School date will be posted on the Extension's Small Farms website in early 2013. The event was presented by Oregon State University Extension Service in cooperation with Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District and Clackamas Community College.

Roof Project Complete, On-budget, On-time

The six-week re-roofing project for NWREC's Main Office building was completed this fall. A replacement of the membrane roof on the original portion of the building (south section and left of front entry door)—plus the re-roofing of the mansard portion for the entire building, gutters and storm drains (for the first time), and restoration of major dry-rot in the stairwell area—was one of the largest capital improvement projects ever undertaken at NWREC.

Stella Coakley, Associate Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences at OSU,

arranged funding approvals at the College to make this project happen. "The re-roofing project was long over-due. We are just glad to get this done and ready for the winter wet weather and to ensure the long-term value of this building."

Funding for the \$130,000 project included OSU College of Agricultural Sciences funds plus special dollars allocated to building repairs and upgrades. Also, about 1/2 of the project budget will be absorbed into the NWREC budget over the next eight years.



Stella Coakley joins NWREC's Geoff Lewis, Building Maintenance Manager, to view recent upgrades to the Center's Main Office building.

Growing Farms Summer Livestock Workshops



By Heidi Noordijk, *Small Farms Program, Metro Small Farms Program Assistant*

Cattle and sheep and pigs and chickens, oh my! This summer OSU's Extension Metro Small Farms Program organized four on-

farm livestock workshops for beginning farmers and small scale ranchers in the North Willamette Valley. Over 80 farmers attended these all-day events to manage production and marketing risk to create viable and successful small farm livestock

enterprises. Instructors included Gene Pirelli, OSU Regional Extension Livestock Specialist; Lauren Gwin, Peter Sturman, Biotechnician at North Willamette Research and Extension Center; Nick Andrews, OSU Extension's Metro Small Farms Agent; Robert Dyk, USDA APHIS, and farmers Nita Wilton and Chris Roehm. And, a special thanks to the following host farmers for opening their farms for these workshops:

- **Raising Beef on Grass** (Ralph Meyer Farm, Oregon City)
- **Raising and Marketing Healthy Sheep** (SuDan Farm, Canby)
- **Processing Poultry - HB 2872 and the 1000 bird exemption** (Deo Volente Farm, Mulino)
- **Integrating Pigs into a Diverse Small Farm Operation** (Growing Seeds Farm, Corbett)

Similar workshops took place in the Southern Oregon and the South Willamette Valley and funding was provided by the Risk Management Agency.

Vegetable Agent Position Extended

Bob McReynolds, long-time Extension Vegetable Agent at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center, retired in June, 2010.



At the time of his retirement, Bob agreed to continue working 1/2 time while the university decided what to do about refilling his position. With declining state funding for faculty positions, more than 30 positions in the College of Agricultural Sciences has been left vacant over the past several years when retirements or resignations have occurred.

"These have been especially tough times," said Bill Braunworth, OSU's Agricultural Extension Program Leader and current Interim Head of the Department of Horticulture. "We don't want to leave these positions unfilled, but we just don't have the funding to commit to a rehiring."

During Bob's part-time post-retirement appointment for the past 2 1/2 years, he has been able to keep an education and research program going in fresh vegetable and specialty seed crop production in the

Willamette Valley. In addition, he has provided leadership for the development of an endowment to provide funding for reinstating his former position.

"Bob, his growers, and industry stakeholders have made incredible progress raising more than \$250,000 in donations and pledges for the Vegetable and Specialty Seed Crop Endowment at NWREC," said Mike Bondi, NWREC's Director. "The endowment's first goal is to raise a half million dollars for this position. To fully-fund the position will take considerably more resources, but this first goal will move us up higher on the ladder when it comes to re-filling vacant positions once state funding is available."

With full-retirement scheduled for the end of this calendar year, Bondi petitioned the College of Agricultural Sciences to extend Bob's 1/2 time appointment to go another six months through June, 2013. "Bob was agreeable to this move and our hope is to see if we can reach the half-million dollar goal by next summer. Bob has such strong relationships with the growers and industry, that he is the key player for OSU to help coordinate this effort."

IT Position Eliminated

NWREC's Information Technology (IT) Specialist position has been eliminated due to on-going state budget reductions. Ben Exstrom had been the IT Specialist at NWREC for the past ten years and worked with faculty and staff to support research and education programs and manage the Center's phone and computer systems and data needs.

Prior to Ben's departure in early October, he had secured a new position supporting IT at Catlin Gable School in Portland. We all wish Ben the best of luck.

As the Center goes forward without this position, we will be making several changes to our audio-visual, computer, web, phone and technology support. We request your patience as we make these transitions and learn how to manage more of these systems with our existing staff. One of the first changes you will see is a new website for NWREC. Be watching for this in the coming weeks.

North Willamette Research
and Extension Center
Faculty & Staff

Administration & Support Staff

Mike Bondi

Director

Shelley Hughes

Administrative Assistant

Jan Egli

Office Specialist

Marc Anderson

Farm and Facilities Manager

Geoff Lewis

Building Trades and Maintenance

Derek Wells

Farm Management (half time)

Extension & Research Faculty

Bernadine Strik

Berry Research Leader

Wei Yang

Berry Crops Extension Agent

Rich Regan

District Nursery Extension Agent

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

Bob McReynolds

Vegetable Extension Agent

Joe DeFrancesco

Specialty Crops Registration Research

Tom Silberstein

Crops & Forage Extension Agent

Research and Program Staff

Gil Buller

Berry Research

Adrienne Basey

Berry Research

Peter Sturman

Specialty Crops Registration Research

Gina Koskela

Specialty Crops Registration Research

Heather Stoven

Nursery Research

Judy Kowalski

Nursery and Christmas Tree Research

Derek Wells

Nursery Research (half time)

Heidi Noordijk

Small Farms Program Assistant



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North Willamette Research & Extension Center**

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Friends Gather for Great Evening

Our first gathering of the Friends of North Willamette Research and Extension Center was held in late September. The event was a BBQ on a beautiful early fall evening. NWREC's new 20' X 30' tent—purchased earlier in the summer to provide alternative meeting space Center activities—was a perfect place for the evening. More than 60 gathered to share time together, hear about NWREC's accomplishments of the past year, and to meet the new Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences, Dan Arp, on his first visit to Center.

Dean Arp visited with the attendees about the “grand challenge” facing modern agriculture—the prediction that we will need to feed the world's projected 9 billion person population by 2050. Dan talked about the innovation and advancements in science and technology that will be necessary to meet this challenge.

The evening included discussion amongst the attendees about the future of our research and Extension centers in the state, funding for positions and facilities, and strategies that will be needed to remain relevant during the important years ahead facing our agricultural industries.

“This was a great evening for me,” said Arp. “I always enjoy the opportunity to visit with our stakeholders. Although the challenges before us are great, working together, we can make a difference.”

Friends of NWREC members, Wayne and Joann Chambers, Albany, shared in a thank you note following the event, “We really enjoy reading the **Down on the Farm** newsletter. But, being together at the BBQ was even more meaningful to meet the people and hear their stories. Thanks, so much, for making this happen and inviting us to attend.”

Oregon State University—North Willamette Research & Extension Center

15210 NE Miley Road, Aurora, OR 97002 • Phone: 503-678-1264 • Website: oregonstate.edu/dept/NWREC

Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00am-4:30pm