



Oregon State
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Extension Service

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

FALL 2013

NWREC Open House Attracts Big Crowd

The North Willamette Research and Extension Center (NWREC) hosted its annual Community Open House in late July. This was the fifth outreach program designed for the general public audience in recent years. Nearly 360 attended the late afternoon-early evening event...and, many of the visitors were Charbonneau residents, from the housing development north of the Center, or the Wilsonville and Canby communities. Besides educational displays about the farm and research activities, there were free farm fresh local vegetables, berry tasting, farm tour hayrides, and tractor driving opportunities.

they do. I think we've changed that." Last year's Open House attracted 240.

"With the growth in this event the

past two years, the question is now about just how many more people we can reasonably accommodate at the Open House. That's a nice problem to have!"



"We are very excited to see the growth of this event," said Mike Bondi, Director of NWREC. The first three Open Houses each drew about 40-60 participants. The faculty and staff at the Center assumed no one in the community really cared about what



Solar Array Moving Forward—slowly

A solar panel array—stretching along Miley Road from the entry gate at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center (NWREC) to its northwest corner—begins construction in November. Depending on the weather, installation should be complete by year end and operational by the end of February. The array is part of a larger Oregon State University effort to install alternative energy infra-structure throughout its system. NWREC was invited to participate in the project due to the amount of electrical energy we utilize, our location and the local utility.

Among the challenges have been finalizing all the paperwork and agreements

between the university, the private vendor who will own the equipment and do all the installation and maintenance, and Clackamas County. The solar array project requires a 20-year agreement between OSU and the vendor. But, the lease OSU has with Clackamas County for the Research Center is only 10 years. The Clackamas County Commissioners are requesting that OSU change their property lease to 20 years to coincide with the solar array agreement.

Other challenges and delays have resulted from the land use permitting process and the concerns raised by neighbors who objected to the siting of the array.



Solar City technicians performing geotechnical evaluations of soil strength for the engineering requirements of the solar array panels and their footings at NWREC.

Summer Brings Lots of New Young Faces

Twenty seven high school students, interns, graduate students, and seasonal workers brought their talents and enthusiasm to NWREC this past summer. Never before has the Center been host to so many who have come to work and learn—side by side—with our faculty and staff.

“It was a wild and crazy summer,” said NWREC Office Manager Shelley Hughes. “We had plenty of coming and going. Finding places for everyone—even around the lunch table—was a challenge.”

But, it was a great experience, too, for the young people. The grad students were all part of the Berry Research Program under Bernadine Strik’s guidance—two working on Master’s theses and one a Ph.D dissertation. Strik’s program also supported nine other college and high school students. Interns in the Nursery, Small Farms program, and High School Scholars programs were either grant funded by the faculty or volunteered. More college and high school students supported the IR-4 and Berry Extension programs. Finally, high school students came from the surrounding communities—with several connected to NWREC as recent graduates in the 4-H Tractor Safety Training and Certification programs. Funding for these high school

youth was provided by program funds or the NWREC farm budget.

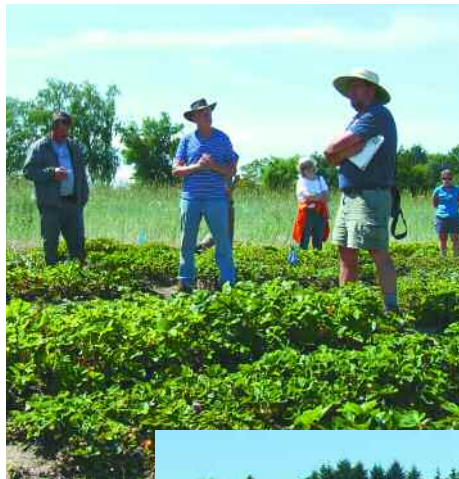
Here’s a list of this past summer’s young people at NWREC and their important role in our activities:

- **Kimie Ernst**, Seasonal BioScience Research Technician
- **Emily Dixon**, OSU Master’s project (organic blackberry production)
- **Javier Fernandez-Salvador**, OSU Master’s project (organic blackberry production)
- **Khalid Almutari**, OSU Ph.D candidate (organic blueberry production)
- **Jackson Chandler**, West Linn HS (Berry Research)
- **Keith Nichols**, Canby HS (Berry Research)
- **Spencer Rutz**, Linfield College (Berry Research)
- **Ben Jeske**, Linfield College (Berry Research)
- **Dustin DeGeorge**, OSU (Berry Research)
- **Josh Yoder**, Linfield (Berry Research)
- **Katherine Walgrave**, OSU Grad Student (Berry Research)
- **Helena Krebs**, OSU Grad Student (Berry Research)
- **Samantha Farwell**, OSU Grad Student (Berry Research)

- **Evan Dishion**, OSU (Berry Research and Extension)
- **Margaret Parks**, Clackamas Community College (Berry Research and Extension)
- **Adriana Escobedo-Land**, Reed College (Nursery Intern)
- **Kris Koskela**, Oregon (IR-4)
- **Samantha Sturman**, Oregon City HS (IR-4)
- **Emma Eichorn**, Clackamas Community College (Small Farms Intern)
- **Anne Bernert**, OSU (Nursery Pathology/High School Intern Program)
- **Ty Seely**, Glencoe HS (Nursery Pathology High School Intern)
- **Camille Collier**, West Linn HS (Nursery Pathology High School Intern)
- **Zaina Zaidan**, Wilsonville HS (Nursery Pathology High School Intern)
- **Chase Unger**, Canby HS (General Farm)
- **Collin LaMaster**, Canby HS (General Farm)
- **Jake Widing**, Canby HS (General Farm)
- **Anthony Moran**, Clackamas Community College (General Farm)

Berry Field Days—sign of summer

Summer came early in 2013 and so did the Berry Field Days. Strawberry Field Day was June 5; Blueberry Field Day on the July 10; and, Blueberry Field Day on July 17. Nearly 200 growers participated in these three events this past summer. The combination of research updates, show and tell in the field, special events like falcon flying for bird damage control, and of course, berry tasting with ice cream were the highlights.



The photos here share some of the sights and scenes of the 2013 Berry Field Days.



Calendar of Events

- September 20 Friends of NWREC Harvest Dinner.** NWREC. 5:30-8:30pm. Contact: Mike Bondi
- October 3 OktoberPest: When Rhodies Wear White: Integrated Pest Management of Azalea Lace Bug.** NWREC. 9:00a-12:00p. Contact: Robin Rosetta.
- October 8 Nursery Pathology and Bilingual Education Advisory Council Meeting.** NWREC. 5:00-8:00pm. Contact: Luisa Santamaria
- October 10 OktoberPest: Los Chinch y Los Afidos (in Spanish).** NWREC. 9:00a-12:00p. Contact: Robin Rosetta
- October 17 OktoberPest: Bee Aware: Pollinator Protection in Ornamental Systems.** NWREC. 9:00a-12:00p. Contact: Robin Rosetta
- October 24 OktoberPest: Banishing Wilt and Damping Off: Verticillium and Pythium Disease Prevention and Management.** NWREC. 9:00a-12:00p. Contact: Robin Rosetta
- October 31 OktoberPest: Damage Control: Aphid Management in Ornamental Systems.** NWREC. 9:00a-12:00p. Contact: Robin Rosetta
- November 6 Shade Tree Growers Meeting.** NWREC. 1:00-4:00pm. Contact: Rich Regan
- December 13 Blueberry Pruning Workshop.** (English session, 9:00a-Noon and Spanish session, 1:00-4:00p) NWREC. 9:00a-12:00p. Contact: Wei Yang
- January 14-16 North Willamette Horticulture Society Meeting.** Clackamas County Event Center. 8:00am-5:00pm. Contact: Nick Andrews

503-678-1264 • oregonstate.edu/dept/NWREC

Welcome Back, Robin

Nursery
Integrated Pest
Management
Extension Agent,
Robin Rosetta,
returned to the
North Willamette
Research and
Extension Center



on the first of August—following her eight month sabbatical. This was Rosetta's first sabbatical with the university during her 19-year Extension career. The university encourages its faculty to take sabbatical leave as a way to concentrate on specific projects, complete writing or publishing, and to develop new skills that will better serve our clients.

Rosetta's sabbatical included several study trips to different areas of the U.S., working with research and Extension faculty having similar interests, building these relationships and collaborations, and to share her work.

Examples of Rosetta's sabbatical work include the smart sprayer technology (see adjacent article), seeing other research labs focusing on slug and snail pest management, and summarizing participant feedback and impact data from her well-known OktoberPest educational program.

"It has already been crazy busy—getting caught up, reconnecting, planning programs for the fall and winter months. Being away from the everyday of the office was a good break. But, it's time to get back to our work and applying some of the new ideas I learned over these months."



Smart Sprayer Showcased



The Smart Sprayer is a motorized spray system that uses computerized laser sensors to detect the size, density and presence of trees and shrubs in a field row and adjust the amount of spray to apply. Only crops plants are sprayed. When there is a gap in the field, the Smart Sprayer senses the open area and does not spray.

"Our field trials are indicating that we are having a huge reduction in the amount of spray material needed without sacrificing the control of our pests," according to Rosetta. Reductions up to 60% of the water and chemical used has been documented.

"We see great potential for the other agronomic crops, too. I know the berry growers are very interested, too.

Besides working on the Smart Sprayer field trial evaluations in Oregon this past summer, Rosetta did travel see the U.S.D.A.'s Agricultural Research Service station in Ohio to see where the sprayer prototypes are being built.

"I have been collaborating with the ARS scientists at Wooster for the past three years on the development of this new sprayer technology to more efficiently apply pesticides to crops. This is very new technology that could radically change how we apply pesticides in farming. It



was really good to get to Wooster to see their development lab and see their work."

When Rosetta returned from sabbatical, she hit the ground running with two field demonstrations at the Hans Nelson Nursery near Sandy. And, she orchestrated great media outreach to OPB, NPR and a wide variety of local, regional and national print media outlets.

"I really think this new technology will revolutionize how we spray. The media seems to have been very interested in this story. Our goal is to reduce the amount of wasted pesticides. We know we can reduce costs for the growers by using less water and chemical. And, we will be putting much less chemical into the environment—so, this is a win-win for everyone."

Second Friends of NWREC Fun Evening

Last year's first-ever *Friends of NWREC* Harvest Dinner was a nice success. About 65 financial, supply and service contributors to NWREC gathered to share the successes of the past year and look ahead. Also, Dan Arp, the new Dean of OSU's College of Agricultural Sciences, had his "coming out" party and addressed the crowd with his vision for the future.

Our 2nd Annual *Friends of NWREC* event was in September and brought together supporters along with our elected officials in NWREC seven-county region that we serve—County Commissioners, state representatives and senators, and the federal delegation and/or their staff.

"Our dinner this year featured a Taste of OSU—foods that all have a connection to research, education and our community of farmers," said Mike Bondi, organizer for

the event. "I really feel strongly about bringing the people together who know and care about this place. They all deserve to be thanked—at least once a year."

"But, having our elected officials is important, too, so they can hear the stories and feel the impact of our work and the activities of our farming community." This year's *Friends* event attracted nearly 80 attendees.

The Friends of NWREC is a member support group organization started in 2011. Memberships begin at \$25 per year and all funds go to support the Research Center and expand and grow programs and needed improvements not possible with annual state budget dollars. Sign up below to become a *Friend of NWREC*.

Youth Tractor Training

November 9-11 will be the next 4-H/ NWREC Youth Tractor Safety Training. The three-day training is scheduled on Veteran's Day weekend with the local schools having a day off on Monday, November 11 for the holiday weekend. Advance registration is required. Contact the Clackamas County Extension office in Oregon City at 503-655-8631 for information.

More than 80 youth have completed tractor trainings at NWREC during the past year. Class size is limited to 20 to ensure plenty of hands on learning opportunity. Besides required indoor sessions, students will practice driving, implement hitching, pulling and backing trailers. The training uses a nationally accredited curriculum.

A special thank you to the following implement dealers who generously provide tractors for these trainings: AgWest and Pape.

Become a Friend of NWREC Today!

Our Friends are great and many have already renewed their membership with a 2013 contribution. Those not yet already a **Friend of NWREC** are encouraged to join the team.

Contributions by our **Friends of NWREC** have been instrumental in helping us transform our facilities, plus initiate new educational programming and outreach in the community. We are very grateful for the support.

Find out more about our Friends and how to join on our new website at <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/NWREC>. You'll see the **Friends of NWREC** tab across the top rail—and, down the right side rail, too. Memberships begin at \$25. Our goal this year is to reach 200 members and \$35,000.

Membership—Friends of North Willamette Research and Extension Center

YES, I WANT TO BECOME A FRIEND OF THE NORTH WILLAMETTE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER!

Name: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Phone(s): _____ Email(s): _____

I prefer to remain anonymous. Please do not publish my name in future publications.

Membership Category (circle one):

\$25 Member

\$100 Second Crop

\$500 Director's Club

\$2,500 President's Club

\$50 First Crop

\$250 Bumper Crop

\$1,000 Dean's Club

\$5,000 Sustainable Agriculture Club

Make checks payable to: **OSU Foundation—NWREC**

Mail to: North Willamette Research and Extension Center, 15210 NE Miley Road, Aurora, OR 97002

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 • Fax: 503-678-5986 • E-mail: michael.bondi@oregonstate.edu • Cell. 503-705-2434

New Faculty & Staff... Comings and Goings

Amanda Vance

The Berry Research program added a new full-time research assistant last spring. Amanda Vance joined Bernadine Strik's research program and will be working mostly at NWREC.



This past summer, Amanda's work focused on the organic blueberry and organic blackberry projects. Future plans will expand Amanda's work to the conventional systems and with the cultivar evaluations.

Amanda hails from the Tacoma area, but went to college in the east and worked in the landscaping industry in the Atlanta area for several years. It was there that Amanda became interested in growing

crops, like vegetables.

She attended grad school at OSU to study grape growing and completed her Master's in Viticulture studying yield evaluation relationships in Pinot noir. This is where she met Bernadine, too. Amanda had Bernadine for one of her instructors in grad school and Bernadine served on Amanda's grad committee.

So, when the opportunity at NWREC came along, Amanda applied. "There are lots of similarities between growing grapes and other berries," reports Amanda. "Growing the perennials is what I like."

Amanda has a busy family life, too, with an 18 month old daughter and her husband just starting his own chiropractic practice.

Welcome, Amanda!

Gilberto Uribe

Nursery Pathology/Bilingual Education Program Assistant



Gilberto began his work at NWREC in July. Born in Mexico, his family moved to California to work in agriculture when he was a young child. Gilberto grew up in the Salinas and Bakersfield areas. After high school he attended California State University at Bakersfield where he obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Biology. He followed that with a Master's degree in Plant Pathology from the University of California at Riverside.

Gilberto says his background has been mostly academic and had been planning to continue on in his education, following his Master's with a PhD and a teaching/research career. But, then, the NWREC opportunity came along.

"I was attracted to this position due to its emphasis of working with the migrant farm workers in a nursery setting to improve plant health and performance and the bottom-line of these businesses. From my experience growing up around agriculture I can appreciate that increasing knowledge and understanding of the workers can help a lot."

Gilberto works in Luisa Santamaria's Nursery Pathology and Bilingual Education program. Together, they make a strong team. "Since I've been at NWREC and able to work with Luisa and participate in her farm worker workshops, I can see how eager and curious these people are. All they want is a chance to learn and to make connections between what they are doing in their daily work and the difference it makes at the end of the day."

Good luck, Gilberto!

Heather Andrews

Heather was hired in early July to take over Adrienne Basey's position supporting Wei Yang's blueberry research and Extension program. Heather had nearly two months to transition with Adrienne before her departure. This position works mostly with Wei's grafted blueberry tree and his spotted wing *Drosophila* control projects.



Raised in the Prineville area, Heather's grandparents were at the University of California at Berkeley. Her grandfather was a protozoologist and her grandmother worked in his lab. Heather grew up spending most vacations in the Berkeley area attending science camps and being exposed to the culture of the Bay Area.

Heather is a unique blend of biologist and artist, both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in biological fields, yet she still has an intense interests in music (a harpist), drawing, pottery, and jewelry making—to name a few of her artistic

pursuits. Check out her website at heatherandrewsbugs.com for a sampling of her amazing work.

"Although I have always been passionate about art, I wanted to continue enjoying it as a past-time, instead of making it a career," Heather shared. "I didn't want it to potentially become an obligation, and I knew it would be challenging to make a living becoming a 'starving artist'. Biology was something I grew up with as a kid. It was a natural fit for my career interests. I feel like we are uncovering the secrets of life through our work. My art is a reflection of my science interests."

Heather obtained her Master's in Entomology at Virginia Tech University. Following graduation she worked for an IPM (integrated pest management) consulting company in the Sacramento Valley.

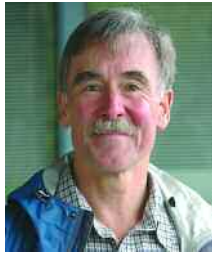
Heather says, "I was attracted to the position at NWREC because of the research being done here and the idea of helping farmers solve real problems. I really like how this feels."

Welcome back to the Northwest, Heather!

Chip Bubl

Columbia County
Extension Agriculture
Agent

Chip Bubl is a long-
time Extension
Agriculture Agent in
Oregon for the past



34 years. During that time Chip has served in Columbia County at the St. Helens Extension office. In a previous life Chip worked as a company field rep working with vegetable growers in California.

With Extension Vegetable Agent Bob McReynolds' retirement on June 30, Chip has agreed to step in to provide temporary and part-time support for Bob's work at NWREC. Our current arrangement will extend through June, 2014.

"We'd really like to re-fill this important position to support the commercial vegetable growers in the north valley," said Mike Bondi, NWREC Director. "But, the reality is that OSU isn't filling a lot of the positions that are vacated from retirements or resignations. It's a budget issue."

Farewell, Adrienne!

Adrienne Basey has been a Bio-Technician working with Wei Yang in his Berry Extension program for the past two years. Adrienne left NWREC in late August



to pursue her next step in life—a Master's degree at Northwestern University, near Chicago, Illinois, in Plant Biology and Conservation.

"I know this is going to be a big change for me, but I really think I'm ready," Adrienne said. "The experience I've had at NWREC has been a great step toward introducing me to the world of research and what that involves from the conception of an idea to experimental design, data collection, and analysis. Because I've had the chance to experience this kind of work, I know I can do what will be needed

Currently, the College of Agricultural Sciences at OSU has about 30 vacant Extension positions around the state from the past several years. And, Bondi has seen three faculty vacancies occur at Aurora during his 2 1/2 years as the NWREC Director.

"We do appreciate Chip's willingness to help us keep a finger in the dike for the vegetable program at this time. Chip is well known around the grower community, knows the subject area, and knows where we can get the right help for the growers."

During the coming year, Chip will focus about 10-15% of his time on the following priorities: 1) providing leadership for the Vegetable Day program at the North Willamette Horticulture Society meetings in January; 2) maintaining contact with the commercial vegetable growers and being their resource person for questions and problems; 3) identifying critical pesticide registration research needs and communicate and represent these to regional and federal officials; and 4) providing support to the specialty seed crop industry in western Oregon.

A big THANK YOU, to Chip!

in my Master's program."

Basey was born and raised on the Portland Eastside. She says she wasn't the best high school student. After spending a year at Portland State University, she worked for several years in environmental education and found her niche in natural sciences. She followed that interest with studies at Evergreen State College near Olympia receiving a Bachelor's degree in Botany. She stayed in the Puget Sound area for the next eight years working mostly at a native plant nursery and focusing on wetland restoration.

"When I came to NWREC it was a time of transition for me. I had an interest in graduate school, but wasn't sure I had what it takes. I wanted to get a close look at research before jumping in. I'm ready now."

Interestingly, Basey's research will center on the population genetics of restored

Silberstein Moves on to K-Falls

Tom Silberstein, OSU Extension Crops and Forage Extension Agent, worked this past year funded by the Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District (75%) and the Clackamas County Extension and 4-H Service District (25%). During Tom's time funded by the Clackamas Extension District he was stationed at NWREC.

"It was good having Tom's crops and forage influence and his help thinking about broader cropping options and strategies for NWREC," said Mike Bondi. "Tom had a particular interest in flax as a rotational grain crop in the Valley. He worked really well with the farming community. We will miss him."

Tom's Extension position in the Valley has been eliminated. Two regional Extension Crops and Forage faculty now serve the Willamette Valley where there had previously been three positions.

In June he began working as a Research Assistant at the Klamath Basic Agricultural Research and Extension Center at Klamath Falls.

plant communities here in the Pacific Northwest. The faculty at Northwestern University have connected Adrienne with Tom Kaye, Director of the Institute of Applied Ecology at OSU, and his work on the golden paintbrush.

"This is a perfect fit for me. I know my program back at Northwestern will be excellent. I will have the opportunity to conduct my research at the Chicago Botanical Garden, too. Doing relevant work on a Pacific Northwest problem is great. My goal is to come back to Oregon and find a career in plant and/or land conservation in the Portland area. That's where I want to be."

Good luck to Adrienne. We know you are going to be successful!

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and Extension Center
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Director

Shelley Hughes

Administrative Assistant

Jan Egli

Office Specialist

Marc Anderson

Farm and Facilities Manager

Geoff Lewis

Building Trades and Maintenance

Derek Wells

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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

Chip Bubl

Extension Agriculture Agent

Joe DeFrancesco

Pesticide Registration Research

Research and Program Staff

Gil Buller

Berry Research

Amanda Vance

Berry Research

Heather Andrews

Berry Research

Gina Koskela

Pesticide Registration Research

Peter Sturman

Pesticide Registration Research

Heather Stoven

Nursery Research

Judy Kowalski

*Nursery, Christmas Tree, and
Pesticide Research*

Derek Wells

Nursery Research (1/4 time)

Gilberto Uribe

Nursery Program Assistant

Heidi Noordijk

Small Farms Program Assistant



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OktoberPest is Back!

Nursery IPM Extension Agent Robin Rosetta is back...and, so is OktoberPest. This annual event has been going for 13 years. Each year in the month of October, nursery growers, managers, agency and service sector professionals—plus anyone else interested in plant pests—gather for 1/2 day learning sessions. This year, mark your calendars for the each Thursday of the month.

“We have lots of fun together,” says OktoberPest creator Rosetta. “Learning should be fun and something we do together.” Rosetta is known as an outstanding teacher who involves her students while she teaches. And, she brings in other excellent presenters and experts in their fields.

Rosetta is in the process of trying to assess the impact of this education program on its attendees over the years. “For some, OktoberPest has been their gateway to getting involved in our programs. For others, it’s an annual renewal of information and adding to their knowledge base for successful management. We want to know how participants have used this information.”

OktoberPest 2013 was held every Thursday during the month and was well attended. Among the hot topics this year were sessions on the azalea lacebug, bee pollinator protection, disease prevention, and aphid management.