Wiman’s First Year
Crazy Busy

Nik Wiman came to the North Willamette Research and Extension Center in September, 2015 as our Tree Orchard Crops Extension Specialist. This was a new position for NWREC focused on tree fruit and nut crops—but, mostly working with the hazelnut industry. Besides getting to know his new industry, meet the growers, and get familiar with the key research and education needs, Nik has been building his program—both support staff and research activities at NWREC.

During this past year, Nik has become the principal investigator on a major federal grant to manage OSU’s Brown Marmorated Stink Bug research program. Nik was the post-doc researcher hired by that program for three years prior to coming to NWREC. In July he hired his replacement, David Lowenstein, who Nik now oversees. Also, Nik is in the process of hiring a faculty research assistant to support his growing research program in hazelnuts and other tree orchard crops. By next spring, Nik plans to hire an education program assistant to help with that portion of his program including teaching and developing outreach materials.

Also, during the past year, Nik has established or is in the process of putting in four new research and demonstration plantings at NWREC. Here’s a summary of this work.

**Hazelnut Irrigation Project:** Last winter was the time when Nik’s first hazelnuts were planted at NWREC. Two one-acre plots have been established to evaluate the effect irrigation on young, newly planted hazelnut trees. This work is supported by the Oregon Hazelnut Commission. One plot has a drip irrigation system and the other has full coverage microsprinklers. The purpose of this project is to provide irrigation guidelines to growers so that water is used efficiently and has maximum benefit for the crop. Christensen Farms, Amity, donated the Jefferson variety hazelnut trees for this project and Nelson Irrigation, Walla Walla, provided the sprinklers.

**Berm Planting:** Berms or planting on elevated ground is standard practice in crops like blueberries. Fruit tree growers have been using this approach, too, for improved production on certain sites. This NWREC study is designed to look at berm planting and how effective it might be for growing hazelnuts. The study site was prepared late last summer and is scheduled for planting this winter. Be watching for more information.

**Prunus Orchard:** This field trial, just west of the entrance road into NWREC, includes peaches, nectarines and almonds—all members of the *Prunus* genus. It is almost impossible to grow peaches and nectarines in the valley due to diseases. Nik is looking at disease-resistant varieties to help manage the disease pressure we have in the valley. Also, Nik is evaluating cold-hardy varieties of almonds that could
grow in western Oregon and what yield of nuts might be possible. Many of the trees in this trial were donated by Northwoods Nursery, Molalla.

Cider Apple Orchard: The craft cider industry is growing much faster than the craft beer industry as Americans get a taste for (gluten-free) hard cider. Preferred cider apple varieties have more tannins and malic acid than dessert or eating apples. This project will be evaluating the performance of more than 40 cider apple varieties—many grafted last spring and being held for planting this fall and winter. CopenHaven Farms, Gaston, donated the rootstock for this project.

Welcome, Lloyd!

Dr. Lloyd Nackley began his work with Oregon State University in late September as our new Nursery Production and Management Research and Extension faculty member at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center. Nackley replaces Jim Owen who took a position with Virginia Tech five years ago. The position has been vacant since.

Nackley comes to OSU from the University of California at Davis where he was a post-doc faculty working for Extension the past two years looking at drought adaptation studies with landscape plants. Prior to Davis, Nackley was a post-doc in South Africa.

Born and raised in California, Nackley and his wife have roots in the Pacific Northwest. His Ph.D. is from the University of Washington’s School of Environmental and Forests Sciences in 2012 studying biochar.

“We really appreciate the warm welcome” Nackley said. “We are happy to be back in the northwest and settling down. I am looking forward to meeting nursery and greenhouse growers and learning my way around—so, please contact me and invite me out for a tour and to meet you!”

Nackley plans on developing research and education programs focused on sustainable horticulture concepts for the nursery and greenhouse industries based on innovative materials and processes. Besides work with biochar, he has been working with irrigation efficiency and environmental monitoring, too.

Nackley and his wife, Emily, recently purchased a home in SW Portland where they live with their two young sons, Louis and Dean.

Help us welcome Lloyd and his family to NWREC and Willamette Valley agriculture!

Calendar of Events

For more information, contact faculty and staff noted.

November 18 (3:00-5:00pm): Techno Viernes; All welcome (Spanish); contact Gilberto Uribe.

November 30 (11:00am-2:00pm): National Women in Sustainable Agriculture; registration required. Contact Heidi Noordijk.

December 1 (10:00am-2:30pm): Opportunities in Organics—processed vegetable grower-buyer event. Contact Nick Andrews.

December 6 (8:30-11:00am): Blueberry Nutrition Workshop; contact Heather Andrews.

December 13 (9:00am-Noon): Blueberry Pruning Workshop; contact Heather Andrews.

December 14 (9:00am-1:00pm): Preventing Phytophthora Contamination in Native Plant Nurseries; contact Luisa Santamaria.

December 15 (8:00am-4:30pm): NWREC CLOSED for annual All-Staff Meeting.

December 16 (3:00-5:00pm): Techno Viernes; All welcome (Spanish); contact Gilberto Uribe.

January 10-12 (7:30am-4:30pm each day): North Willamette Horticultural Society Meeting; Canby Event Center; contact Nick Andrews.

January 17 (8:30am-Noon): Organic and Soil Health Workshop; contact Nick Andrews.

February 16 (TBD): Produce Handling and Food Safety Workshop; contact Heidi Noordijk.
Tenure, Promotion, and New Opportunities

Tenure and promotion at an academic institution are a big deal—a very big deal. Congratulations go to Luisa Santamaria, Extension Nursery Pathologist and Bilingual Educator at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center. Luisa received tenure and promotion this past summer at Oregon State University—our first faculty member to receive tenure since 2001. The process is long and arduous. Months of preparation are needed. We are very proud of Luisa’s accomplishments!

Luisa’s road to success is an interesting story. She has her Bachelor’s degree from her native Ecuador, then, came to America for a Master’s degree at the University of Delaware. She stayed in Delaware for a Ph.D. degree. Luisa came to Oregon in 2009 following a national search for a brand new position at OSU that included a bilingual education focus working with the Hispanic labor force in the nursery industry. OSU has no other faculty member specifically assigned to working with the Hispanic community in agriculture.

In addition, Luisa had to obtain her Green Card (permanent legal immigration status) within three years after accepting the OSU position. “This was more difficult than one might think,” said Mike Bondi, Director at NWREC. “I thought it would be pretty straight forward for someone to immigrate to the U.S. if they had already successfully competed in a national search for a position we were offering. After all, this person had some specific skills that no one else had. Not so. We just about had to stand on our heads to prove that Luisa was worthy of being a permanent resident of our country!”

Luisa did receive her Green Card in late December, 2012—it was quite a Christmas gift.

Throughout Luisa’s years at Oregon State, she is best known as an outstanding teacher that connects in a very special way with her audience. Her bilingual and bi-cultural skills help her effectively communicate with her audiences. And, her abilities have led to other opportunities working with the Christmas tree industry and berry industries—both needing someone to help educate their workforces—and, no one else to turn to.

And now, Luisa has been invited to serve on the Oregon Board of Agriculture—a position she started with her first meeting this past summer. “We are very proud of Luisa’s accomplishments,” said Bondi. “She is an important part of our team at NWREC, in the OSU’s nursery and greenhouse program and throughout the university. We look forward to many years of accomplishments ahead.”

Endowments Important Support for Faculty

The North Willamette Research and Extension Center has two endowments to support faculty stationed at the Center. With funding historically in short supply for faculty hiring, endowments play a key role in helping recognize local priorities.

The first endowment was established by vegetable and specialty seed crop growers in 2010. It came at a time when long-time Vegetable Extension Agent, Bob McReynolds, was retiring and growers wanted to help ensure Bob’s position would be refilled. The university has a policy that priority staffing for vacant positions would be based, in part, on local evidence of support—and, endowments show the way.

The vegetable and seed growers plan was to raise, at least, $500,000 with the thought that the interest income from these funds (about 4 to 4½% per year) would provide a boost to the faculty member and take some of the burden off of having to find external grants and contracts to fund research or pay salary. Today, the vegetable and specialty seed crop endowment fund has $288,000 is contributions and commitments.

With the new faculty member for the vegetable and specialty seed crops position now being recruited (see New Hirings, page 5), there is renewed interest to reach the endowment’s original goal as the new faculty member comes into their position.

The second endowment for faculty at NWREC is the Berry Professorship (currently Bernadine Strik’s position) that has an endowment dating back to 2011. This endowment was established in advance of Bernadine’s retirement with the desire to reach their goal of $500,000 well before it was needed to leverage support for refilling the position. The berry growers know that having an endowment in place to support a new faculty member will be very attractive to any prospective candidate considering coming to Oregon State University. The Berry Professorship endowment currently has $375,000 already committed.

If you’d like more information about these endowments, contact Jack Holpuch at the OSU Foundation. Jack is an Associate Director of Development for the Foundation and works on projects in the College of Agricultural Sciences. Jack can be reached at 541-737-9636 or at jack.holpuch@oregonstate.edu.
Harvest Dinner Celebrates End of Season

NWREC’s annual Harvest Dinner was another big success this year. Held the end of September, the event managed to dodge the fall rains that came early this year starting by Labor Day—and, then extending throughout nearly every day in October.

The Harvest Dinner is NWREC’s pause at the end of the summer growing season and provides a moment to share the bounty of the crops grown at the Center and a time to thank those who help make our work possible.

This year’s Dinner attracted 175 attendees and was fully booked 2 1⁄2 weeks before the event.

According to Mike Bondi, NWREC’s Director and organizer for the dinner, “We were especially pleased to see the strong attendance by our elected officials at this year’s event. We appreciate the chance to share our work with these folks.” Ten County Commissioners, state representatives and senators from around the north Willamette Valley attended.

The 2016 Harvest Dinner featured the work of the OSU’s Food Innovation Center (FIC) located in Portland. The FIC is one of the university’s agricultural experiment stations and works with businesses and entrepreneurs to develop new and improved value-added food products. The Food Innovation Center’s research chefs developed the menu for the Dinner and prepared the appetizers, salads, side dishes and desserts.

Also, back by popular demand, were the OSU cheeses showcased at the Harvest Dinner’s appetizer bar and in several of the dishes. Oregon State University students in dairy science milk the cows in the OSU dairy herd and provide the product to the food science and technology students—who, then, create a growing variety of specialty cheeses. This year’s cheese sampler included newly released pinot noir and hard apple cider soaked cheddar cheeses. Of course, the wine and cider are produced by the fermentation science students at OSU too!

Local farmers, Dan Wilson from Sudan Farm in Yoder, and Gary Bush, a Christmas tree grower from the Highland area in Clackamas County, prepared the meat entrées. Wilson, a sheep farmer, provided an amazing spit roasted lamb and Bush barbequed chicken that was excellent, too.

Bondi shared that Harvest Dinner sponsors provided generous contributions to make the annual event possible. These donations covered nearly the entire cost of this year’s dinner.

- Oregon Department of Agriculture ($2,500)—Platinum Sponsor
- Marion, Polk and Yamhill Extension Service Districts ($2,000)—Diamond Sponsor
- Clackamas Extension Service District ($2,000)—Diamond Sponsor
- Oregon Hazelnut Commission ($1,000)—Diamond Sponsor
- Oregon Blueberry Industry ($1,000)—Diamond Sponsor
- NW Transplants ($750)—Gold Sponsor
- OSU College of Agricultural Sciences ($500)—Silver Sponsor
- OSU Extension Service Administration ($500)—Silver Sponsor
- Pratum Coop ($500)—Silver Sponsor
- Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District ($500)—Silver Sponsor

(continued on next page)
Table Grapes Evaluated at NWREC

By Amanda Vance, Faculty Research Assistant, Berry Crops

Table grapes grow well in the Willamette Valley and can be a good addition to a diversified small farm or your backyard. Here at NWREC, we have over 40 varieties of table grapes in our 1/3 acre field. The majority were planted in 2001, while an additional 10 grape selections from the University of Arkansas (UA) were planted in 2006 as a replicated trial to help the breeder, Dr. John Clark, determine their suitability to our climate and growing conditions.

Since planting, five of the selections have become named cultivars: ‘Faith,’ ‘Hope,’ ‘Joy,’ ‘Gratitude,’ and ‘Sweet Magic,’ some of which perform better in our area than others.

Over the past 3 years, NWREC’s Berry Program research leader, Dr. Bernadine Strik and Faculty Research Assistant, Amanda Vance, have been collecting data on yield and fruit quality of 13 varieties, a mix of commonly grown cultivars and the UA selections. The best performing cultivars are those that have good yields, consistent berry size, taste good, and show disease resistance year after year. Our findings will likely lead to the release of a new variety which is particularly adapted to our climate.

According to Vance, “We have seen big differences in yield, disease resistance, flavor, texture, and susceptibility to splitting. Detailed results will be published in the coming year. Also, we will be updating the existing Growing Table Grapes publication (available online at: https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/ec1639) or producing a new publication on table grape cultivars suited to Oregon.”

Hirings at NWREC Mark an Amazing Year!

By November, we launched our fourth faculty search in the past 14 months—the most faculty hirings in such a short time at NWREC in memory. In September, 2015, Nik Wiman began his position at the Tree Orchard Crops Extension Specialist at NWREC. Wiman’s primary assignment is working with hazelnuts. In September 2016, Lloyd Nackley began his position as our new Nursery Production and Management Researcher. By the end of October, we began negotiations with our top candidate for the Pesticide Registration Research faculty position that will replace Joe DeFrancesco’s IR-4 Field Center Director role at NWREC. DeFrancesco retired at the end of September, but will continue working 1/2 time for the next year.

The fourth and final hire is the Vegetable and Specialty Seed Crops Extension Specialist position. This position is the former Extension Agent position that has been vacant since Bob McReynolds retired 4 1/2 years ago. The new position will combine Extension and research responsibilities. A national search is now underway and closes on November 27.

In addition, Nik Wiman hired David Lowenstein, this past July. Lowenstein is a post-doc researcher for the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug program that Wiman leads in Oregon. Also, Wiman is finalizing the selection of his preferred candidate for a Faculty Research Assistant position he is hiring to support his hazelnut research program.

NWREC Director, Mike Bondi, says, “It has been an amazing year with all of these hirings. But, it’s great to be able to finally have the capacity to address the needs we know are out there. Our next problem is finding adequate office and lab space for everyone. Hopefully, we’ll figure that out, too.”
North Willamette Research and Extension Center’s 160-acre experimental farm is home to approximately 50 field, greenhouse, and laboratory research and demonstration projects each year managed by our faculty and staff. Some projects work with annual or one-year cropping systems. Others are longer-term projects with perennial crops. Historically, we have between 40-60 acres or more of NWREC’s land each year that is not currently in a project. Sometimes, this land is being fallowed or rested between projects. In other cases, it may need to be out of production for several years depending on the most recent treatments or activity.

Over the past five years, we have been looking for more and more ways to utilize land at NWREC not being needed for research in the coming year. We like the idea of having more activities at NWREC and bringing different kinds of research, projects, and farming activities to the Center. We believe these community collaborations are beneficial for our faculty and staff at NWREC and provide opportunities to create links between our people and local farmers, consultants, industry and agency professionals that might not otherwise be possible.

Here’s an example of connections we now have that help further the research and education mission of the North Willamette Research and Extension Center. In each case, the land at NWREC is leased and the income generated is income to support NWREC’s budget and research center activities.

- City of Portland, Bureau of Environmental Services—native tree and shrub propagation area; on-going project over past 15 years.
- Big B Farm—commercial vegetable production on certified organic and conventional ground; on-going project over the past 5 years.
- West Coast Beet Seed Company—sugar beet seed flower initiation studies conducted with conventional and genetically modified lines; on-going project over past three years.
- Collins Agricultural Consultants—neonicotinoid absorption study in ornamental flower pollen and nectar; two year study now concluding.
- USDA Agricultural Research Service—ryegrass variety evaluation for disease resistance; current one year study.
- USDA Agricultural Research Service—biochar application and absorption evaluation; current two year study.
- USDA Agricultural Research Service—blueberry irrigation project; current multi-year study.

Collins Agricultural Consulting from Oregon City recently completed their neonicotinoid study at NWREC. A tour group of high school students examine one of the plots in a tented bee exclusion area.
Making NWREC a Better Place

Over the past five years, the North Willamette Research and Extension Center has seen a number of critical upgrades to our facilities to better support our faculty and staff and better serve the community. Some of this work has truly been a backlog of deferred maintenance and other items have been needed improvements, efficiency upgrades, and needed outreach.

We’ve used a variety of ways to fund this work. In some cases, we are paying off loans. Grants, faculty cost-shares, and internal budget support from NWREC has been used, too. And, the community has provided support through our Friends of NWREC program over the past several years that has added discretionary funds used for special projects—otherwise not possible.

Listed here are the major projects of the past 5 years. While this is a pretty impressive list, we still have plenty to do ensuring that NWREC is a world class research and education facility. The items marked bold and with an asterisk (*) indicate projects that our Friends funding helped make possible.

2012:
• Replaced stairs (rotting wood to concrete) on Main office building on east side and south side of building ($9,200; 15% from OSU and balance from NWREC budget*)
• Wood deck repairs on Main office building ($960; NWREC budget*)
• South Well irrigation pump rehab/maintenance ($1,600; NWREC budget)
• Develop new overflow parking area along east edge of exit driveway ($2,800; NWREC budget*)
• Drainage grate for walk-in cooler at berry processing area ($1,900; faculty program support)
• Replace entire roof on NWREC’s Main office building ($130,000; College of Agricultural Sciences funding plus $80,000 loan to NWREC for 10 years)
• Refurbishing entry, parking and building signs ($650; NWREC budget*)
• Harvest Dinner (partial support $3,500; NWREC budget*)

2013:
• Solar Field (one acre array provides all power needs of Center; approximately $1,000,000 installation funded through private vendor with site prep and landscaping cost to NWREC of $10,500; NWREC budget*)
• Harvest Dinner (partial support $3,500; NWREC budget*)
• Printing and mailing Down on the Farm newsletter ($3,000; NWREC budget*)

2014:
• Harvest Dinner (partial support $2,500; NWREC budget*)
• Printing and mailing Down on the Farm newsletter ($3,000; NWREC budget*)

2015:
• Purchased new tractor—first GPS capable unit ($88,000; equipment trade-ins plus loan to NWREC from College of Agricultural Sciences for 10 years financing $70,000)

Resolution for New Year... Become a NWREC Friend!

NWREC Friends are financial contributors in the community who believe what we do is important and want to help the North Willamette Research and Extension Center grow our programs and outreach. Friends include individuals, organizations, and businesses. Friends contributions have been used to help accomplish priorities not usually possible within existing budget sources.

Established in 2011, the Friends of the North Willamette Research and Extension Center contributions have been used to fund a wide variety of expenses—see article above. Our plans for 2017 include remodeling lab and storage areas, upgrading our North well house, painting and cleaning downstairs meeting room, and main office building landscaping.

Please consider joining the Friends of NWREC for 2017.
Fill out the form on the back and mail to:
North Willamette Research & Extension Center, 15210 NE Miley Rd, Aurora, OR 97002
Make checks payable to: OSU Foundation–NWREC

Membership forms are located on our NWREC website at oregonstate.edu/dept/NWREC. Memberships in the Friends begin at $25/year. Larger contributions are welcome, too. All contributions are made to the OSU Foundation and are directed to NWREC. All contributions are tax deductible. By working together, we can do great things. Join us for the journey!
### Oregon State University
#### North Willamette Research & Extension Center
15210 NE Miley Road
Aurora, Oregon 97002-9543

### Become a Friend of NWREC Today!

Membership—Friends of North Willamette Research and Extension Center

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

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**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 & Facilities Manager
- Geoff Lewis, Building Trades & Maintenance
- Derek Wells, Farm Management

**Extension & Research Faculty**
- Bernadine Strik, Berry 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
- Chip Bubli, Extension Agriculture Agent
- Joe DeFrancesco, Pesticide Registration Research
- Nik Wiman, Orchard Crops Extension Specialist

**Research and Program Staff**
- Amanda Vance, Berry Research
- Pat Jones, Berry Research
- Heather Andrews, Berry Extension & Orchard Crops
- David Lowenstein, Brown Marmorated Stink Bug Research
- Gina Koskela, Pesticide Registration Research
- Peter Sturman, Pesticide Registration Research
- Judy Kowalski, Christmas Tree & Pesticide Registration Research
- Gilberto Uribe, Nursery Pathology & Bilingual Program Assistant
- Heidi Noordijk, Small Farms Program Assistant

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