SHARPSHOOTER

OREGON SOCIETY OF SOIL SCIENTISTS

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INDEX
Spring 2006

Kah-Nee-Ta Revisited
OSSS Annual Meeting:
"The Land of Water and Food"

Luther Smith, Executive Director of Certification Programs for SSSA-ASA-CSSA

by Steve Campbell

Thanks to our outgoing president, Kathy Verble, we had a great annual meeting at the Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort on March 2-3. The theme of the meeting was the Klamath Basin in Oregon and California. Numerous speakers provided us with such topics as an overview of the Klamath Reclamation Project, economics of water allocations, and nutrient loading. Other presentations included hydrologic modeling, groundwater hydrology, a water table study, the influence of diatomaceous earth in

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Book Tells History of Soils Research

by Benno Warkentin

"Footprints in the Soil," edited by Benno Warkentin, published by Elsevier Academic Press, will be available in May 2006. Ordering on line at http://books.elsevier.com or from book sellers, ISBN 0444 521771.

It tells the stories of the footprints left by soil users and soil scientists in the last two millennia. The chapters are grouped into four main themes of soils concerns, each with an introduction to set the stage.

The first group, on early understanding of soils, has chapters on soil science in Roman times, among the Aztec, 18th and early 19th century Europeans who began to use spades to study soils, the lessons from ethnopedology, and a chapter on Souls and Soils. The second group is for genesis and soil classification interests, with a story on Dokuchaev, the Whitney-Hilgard arguments over how best to study soils in the USA, and two chapters on history of soil cover and catena concepts, and finally geomorphology and soils concepts. The third group is soil chemistry, soil biology and soil physics, with an interesting

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President's Message

A short note from your president. El Presidente is alive and well despite his absence at the winter meeting. I am sorry I missed the excellent group of speakers and the fiery business meeting! Thanks go to Kathy Verbal for all her hard work and worrying in getting things put together for that meeting.

Ed Horn
OSSS
President

Please reserve the dates of August 24 and 25 for our 2006 summer tour. We will be exploring the country around the center of Oregon. Yes, you can visit and have your picture taken on the exact geographic center of Oregon near Post. Post is the place, post a note and come! We have lots of interesting things to do and see in this relatively unknown part of Oregon, there are 1,500 year old juniper trees, ash and pumice soils, silver sage wetlands, riparian restoration projects, kitty litter plants, fossils, old soils, old farts and more! The lost Meek Trail came through this part of the country. Pull marks can be seen on some old juniper trees that were used to lower wagons down the steep grades into the Price Valley/Camp Creek. There have been a number of studies done trying to determine the time frame and cause of the down-cut gullying along Camp Creek, and even more studies and projects done trying to restore riparian function. There will be more information on the summer tour in the months to come so feel free to check our web site for the latest information at www.osss.peak.org.

Speaking about our web site, it needs a face lift. If any of you have web ideas and/or are good with Adobe Photoshop or would like to be involved in any part of its re-development please send me an email at ehorn@aaahawk.com. I would like to better develop our education page to inform, educate and make it fun learning about the soils and soil management of Oregon, and possibly make a fillable electronic form for membership applications and meeting registrations that would interact directly with our membership database. That's about all from this corner of the world, keep the peace and save the soil!!

Eastside Notes

by Larry Thomas

BLM Prineville

The major work by Larry Thomas this spring and summer field season will be to continue soil and range site condition assessments for inclusion of the soil and range data into the Standard and Guides Evaluation for the roughly 76,000 acres of the ZX allotment. This allotment is all in the Upper Deschutes Soil Survey which borders the Northern Lake County Survey from Frederick Buttes area then west towards Deschutes National Forest boundary southeast of Pine Mountain. The other major work priority is the cleanup and restoration of the Maury Mountain Mine site (southeast of Post, Oregon). It is an old mercury mine and mill site on public lands that both EPA and ODEQ have looked at. This work will involve clean up and removal of mercury contaminated mill tailings and rock tailings, removal of several buildings including oven and retort, closure of mine adits and re-contouring of disturbed soil areas and road closures.

Ed Horn along with Randy Hinson (Range Tech.) will continue Ecological Site Inventory work in the Gl Basin to finish up that area of about 26,000 acres. This updated soil mapping and range site and condition

(Continued on next page.)

(**Eastside Notes:** from previous page.)

class data then to be used for the Standard and Guides rangeland health assessments update for the Gl Ranch this year. Ed will also be deeply involved in setting up the summer field tour for OSSS in eastern Deschutes and southern Crook County showing examples of intermittent lakebed soils, Gl basin salt flats, fossil sites on Logan Butte, Camp Creek riparian sites, and the paired watershed sites just north of Logan Butte (OSU research).

NRCS Soil Survey Happenings on the East Side for 2006 field Season

Big news in the Crook Co soil survey is that in additional to Kurt Moffitt (student SEEP) being back again this year, an additional student SEEP will be working out of the Redmond office. Kurt will be paired with Dick Kern and their major focus area this year will be the private lands around the Post, Oregon area. Ryan Miebach will also be working in that same general area. Tom Clark (NRCS) will be working in the Gl Basin area mainly on private lands and work will be coordinated with Ed's. Jerry Weinheimer, project leader at the NRCS office in Redmond, will be doing a lot of data management and working with the new soil scientist student (SEEP) trainee. Jerry has stated that the SEEP trainee will be getting work experience and exposure to all facets of soil survey work this summer. The NRCS field review for the Crook Co. Survey is scheduled for August 7-11, 2006.

The Grant Co soil survey will be focused in the Middle Fork John Day River area around Ritter, Oregon. Jamie Kienzle project leader and Stan Winther soil scientist will be looking at the mesic soils on scabland and mounds as well as mesic soils with ponderosa pine. The Grant Co. NRCS field review is scheduled for July 24-28, 2006.

Also in Crook County, Jim David USFS Ochoco National Forest will be continuing to do soil mapping work on the forested lands.

In Klamath County, Sue Malone project lead for North Klamath soil survey has taken a new job in California near the Yosemite area.

Jane Culver, Advisory Group, USCSSA submitted the following:

World Congress of Soil Science

Preparations and Final Promotions for the SSSA World Congress. The key focuses are on the early registration savings (before May 1) and the just opened online program. Of course, there are several other pieces of information as well on workshops, tours, housing, the NE branch meeting and exhibiting. Contract Susan at schapman@agronomy.org for any question you may have concerning this.

"Hemingway's Tribute to Soil" by Henry Mount

"Hemingway's Tribute to Soil" – Henry Mount: retired soil scientist - USDA has worked extensively over the past 35 years in the National Cooperative Soil Survey and Internationally. He has done extensive readings and research on Ernest Hemingway's collection of short stories and novels. He is in the process of completion and publication of his findings in a book entitled "HemingWay's Tribute to Soil." This book will be of interest to teens, adults and scientists.

DATES TO REMEMBER

July 9 -14, 2006: The Society of Wetland Scientists 27th International Conference: Cairns, Queensland, Australia. Information available at http://www.sws.org/

July 9-15, 2006: 18th World Congress of Soil Science; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Information at: http://www.colostate.edu/programs/IUSS/18wcss/index.html

July 22-26, 2006: Soil and Water Conservation Society International Conference: Keystone, Colorado. Information available at http://www.swcs.org/en/swcs_international_conferences/2006_international_conference/

August 24-25, 2006: Oregon Society of Soil Scientists Summer Tour, Central Oregon

November 4-8, 2006: Soil Science Society of America Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, Indiana. More information at http://www.soils.org/meetings.html

November 12-16, 2006: ASA-CSSA-SSSA International Annual Meetings, Indianapolis, Indiana. Information available at: http://www.acsmeetings.org/meetings/

(**Kah-Nee-Ta *Revisited*:** from page 1.)

soils of the area, and the geology of the Klamath Basin.

Luther Smith, Executive Director of Certification Programs for SSSA-ASA-CSSA gave a presentation on the status of state licensing of soil scientists. He also discussed the certification programs for soil scientists and soil classifiers through the Soil Science Society of America, and informed us that the society is considering having state boards for certification.

Margaret Jenks, geologist with the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, discusses her work in mapping the geology of the Upper Klamath basin.

The John Good scholarship of $500 was awarded to Shanna Bernal-Fields from Oregon State University.

Highlights of the Business Meeting:

- OSSS members have contributed $750 to the Smithsonian Soils Exhibit.
- Election results were announced and Will Austin is the new Vice President / President-elect. Thanks Will for agreeing to serve the society.
- Ron Reuter will serve another year as treasurer, and Rudy Wiedenbeck will serve another year as secretary.
- There was considerable discussion as to whether some of the Sharpshooter issues should only be in an electronic format posted to our web site, rather than mailed out hard copies, in order to save money. A motion from the Board to have two electronic issues and two paper issues per year resulted in a tie vote of 9 for and 9 against. The Board will continue to discuss this topic.
- The Board proposed adding a Membership Coordinator position. Judy Good agreed to serve in this position
- The Board also proposed that delinquent members be removed from the Sharpshooter mailing list and active member list if dues are unpaid by the date of the Spring newsletter. This resolution did not pass and the Board will continue to discuss this topic.
- Will Austin gave an update on the Oregon State Soil Judging Team. They had their best performance in 10 years at the regional contest in Moscow, Idaho. Unfortunately the team could not compete in the national contest because it conflicted with finals week at OSU.

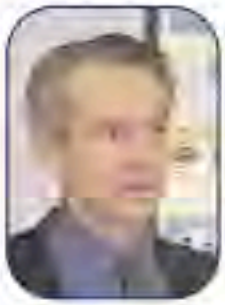
OSSS president Kathy Verble opens the meeting

OSSS past president Craig Busskohl gave us a fascinating presentation on his recent trip to Africa during our evening banquet.

The meeting concluded with a tour of the Museum at Warm Springs.

John Good Scholarship recipient: Shanna Bernal-Fields

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Benno Warkentiin

Benno Warkentin
Professor Emeritus
in Soil Science at
Oregon State University

My first view of the Willamette Valley was of fields of pole beans along Route 99, during a drive from Puyallup to Corvallis. After finishing my undergraduate study in soil science at the University of British Columbia, I continued with a Master's program at Washington State University with a thesis on a survey of the potassium status of peas in Western Washington. Summers were at Puyallup, winters in Pullman. Crops were changing and fertilizer use was on a big upswing.

An observation at Puyallup was important to my later interests. I was measuring grain size distribution (mechanical analysis) on a group of western Washington soils. All the samples dispersed properly with the sodium silicate (water glass) we were still using, except one—the particles coagulated. The sample was from the southwest area of the state. I could not explain the phenomenon.

From the west coast the road led to the east, where I was granted a Ph.D. degree at Cornell for a thesis testing a model to explain behavior of swelling soils. A letter I found recently in old files (I am cleaning out drawers) showed that I had applied for and been accepted to an academic position in soils at Oregon State College. I also had an opportunity for an overseas post-doctoral position, which I accepted. After a post-doctoral year, I accepted a position at Macdonald College of McGill University in Montreal. Twenty years passed before I came back permanently to Corvallis. My parents, who had moved from Manitoba to British Columbia, assumed I would be back to the west coast in two or three years. When year after year this did not happen, they had to conclude sadly that I was incompetent to get the good jobs.

The "cutting edge" in soil physics during my earlier years was in explaining water flow using the Pachappa fine sandy loam. My interests were in clay soils. I made a reasonable professional living saying "but things don't happen that way in clay soils." Then Wilford Gardner moved to Wisconsin and found "things did not happen that way" either in the north Wisconsin sandy soils used for growing potatoes. I needed a new line.

My interests, and work in soil science, have dominantly been at interfaces of soil science with other disciplines. At McGill I had the opportunity to collaborate with a soil engineer with very broad interests. We brought some soil physical-chemical ideas into engineering to explain properties such as plasticity, strength, stability and interactions with water. Ray Yong and I published two books.

> **"Who volunteered to edit the book? It has been mostly a fun learning experience, with some frustrations. Recall the verity about herding cats. The book experience is leading to other writing, mostly as sole author."**

I also joined a McGill group studying water provi-

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1-800-SOILS-LAW

By Sam Winther

On daytime TV, there are commercials for cold remedies for those people who are sick at home. Then there are commercials for trade schools for those with only a high school education and have no job. Finally there are advertisements aimed at victims of harmful products. Such products might include medicines with serious side effects, toys with swallowable parts, or vehicles that may burst into flames. One of the leading law firms for injury claims is the firm of "Sticky, Plastic, and Plastic, Attorneys at Law." - Herb Sticky, Joshua Plastic and Joshua Jr. A rising star in the firm is "Silty" Masonjar. (Silty because he was smooth).

Silty began as a GS-5 soil conservationist after college. Beyond his usual duties, Silty was given the responsibility of selling off old trucks used by the soil surveyors. He portrayed these trucks as low-mileage vehicles that were driven by surveyors near retirement who seldom ventured far from the office. What he failed to tell the buyer was that these vehicles had bounced over hundreds of dirt roads strewn with loose rock and then driven up and over other roads carved out of hillsides. All in low gear. With fast talk and crossed fingers, he had sold most of the trucks. The remainder were given away to public television and their local vehicle donation program. During pledge week, volunteers left their phones, came down to the studio floor, and stripped the trucks of any usable parts before the TV audience.

It was then that he realized his true calling. He would move from used car salesman to lawyer. It would be a smooth transition. He applied to the Conservation Service to send him back to college with all expenses paid. His application was granted. Evidently the agency saw a need to have someone from within the organization to represent them in any future soils litigation.

Once out of law school and back on the job, Silty established the first hotline for soil surveyors in which he answered any legal questions concerning soil survey. Basically it was meant to keep soil surveyors out of trouble whether it be from the surveyors driving home for lunch in their government pickup truck, extending their soil lines into "denied access" areas, or moving their type location pit to another location just to negate conflicting lab data associated with the first pit. In case of an inquiry, he pledged to defend them at their next soil review.

Silty's greatest concern as a soils lawyer was that the Official Series Description (OSD) for individual soils was too precise. An example of this is the statement, "Alpha soils are found at an elevation of 3,400 to 5,400 feet." Silty would have used a "weasel" word instead of a definite "are." If a weasel word was allowed, then the statement would have read as follows, "The Alpha soils (might, could, perhaps, maybe, sometimes, possibly, etc.) occur at an elevation of 3,400 to 5,400 feet." This change would prevent any GIS "legal-beagle" from examining certain soils maps, discovering an Alpha soil at 3,300 feet, and then reprimanding the surveyor. How embarrassing!

Amongst his accomplishments, Silty had successfully argued before the federal court that the word "soils" rather than "soil" should be used in all future soils publications. This rule is based upon the belief that a specific soil can be found in many places, not just one. Therefore, the National Soil Survey Staff was directed by the court to refer to the Snell soil, for example, as the Snell soils. Once he had won this decision from the high court, he sought to change the word "gravels" to "gravel." He contended that when a load of small rock is delivered to the driveway of a homeowner, the rock is said to be a load of "gravel" not "gravels". Once again the high court ruled in his favor. Thus a soil horizon may have "30 percent gravel" whereas stones and cobbles will remain as plural. But for how long?

Silty also wanted words like "hillslopes, yardang, and hogback" to be split into 2 words. Why? Well, because most geomorphic terms are already split in two like the words "flood plains," so all terms should be divided. And, of course, words such as "slickensides" and "pahoehoe" would be cut into thirds. Silty feels that since we frown on "run-on" sentences, we should be consistent and frown on "run-on" words.

Otherwise, Silty's main duties were to represent any conservationist who had denied money to a landowner. In such cases the landowner had charged ahead on the project without obtaining an approved conservation plan. Such projects might include forming a bowl-shaped pond along a creek, laying underground pipes to remove excess water from a field, or placing perforated pipes into stream beds to withdraw water for irrigation. The landowner had used his own equipment and his own money to buy the pipe and now he expected to be paid back. It was Silty's job to calm the landowner down and then tell him that his check is indeed in the

mail ... minus federal, state, and local taxes as well as gas tax, sales tax, and telephone tax. With an encouraging tone Silty went on to tell the landowner that he was lucky in that he was past 59 - years of age. Or else there was a 10% penalty for early withdrawal. The landowner went home wondering if he would receive enough to pay for his dinner. On the other hand, imagine if the landowner had laid his pipe in a trench but the trench had gradually pointed upslope! And he still expected to be paid by the government!

After a while Silty realized that there was little money to be made in conservation. So when Herb Sticky of "Sticky, Plastic, and Plastic" was seeking an apprentice, Silty applied. There were other well qualified applicants, but Silty already had a plan. In the grand tradition of selling ice to Eskimos, Silty was already selling rocks to ranchers. Herb was impressed and Silty was hired on the spot.

With his experience in soils and water and, of course, in how the government works, Silty was immediately assigned cases involving natural disasters. His first case concerned soil cracking found in a new housing development. Admittedly, soil cracking wasn't an earthquake, flood, fire, or hurricane, but homes were damaged and that was all Silty needed to know. In an effort to find clients quickly, he produced a TV commercial. Of course to appear more respectable in front of the camera, he put on a blue suit and tie, dyed his sideburns gray, and then practiced having a serious demeanor.

Sitting behind his desk and facing the camera, Silty spoke with a clear, calm voice saying, "Today I come to you in your hour of grief, anger, and confusion. At the time you bought these homes, everything was perfect. The exteriors were newly painted, your lawns and hedges were neatly clipped, the streets were wide, and young trees lined the sidewalk." His voice began to rise here with emotion and his words came quicker. "Yet after the long, hot summer, the foundations of your dwellings have buckled, underground pipes have snapped, fences have zigzagged, and your mailboxes have tilted. As a result, you were forced to live with your pompous Aunt Mildred on the other side of town."

With righteous indignation Silty struck his desk resulting in his green, SOILS HANDBOOK to fall off the edge. "No one told you about the presence of heavy clay lurking just below the soil surface. Developers had scraped off the surface soil to form a level pad to build upon. In so doing they had exposed the subsoil clay. You must understand that it is the movement of water in or out of the soil which causes clay to expand or contract. The loamy topsoil was kept by the developer to sell back to you, the unsuspecting homeowner, for your lawn once the home was built." As he spoke, his telephone number (1-800-SOILS-LAW) scrolled across the bottom of the screen.

Silty struck his desk several more times causing his heavy SOIL TAXONOMY book to bounce over to the edge of the desk. "Now I ask you to join with me and together we will recover everything that is due you and more. This is known as a 'class action suit.' I feel that it is my civic duty to help you for my usual percentage of the final settlement." What he did not tell them was that victims in a class action suit rarely receive any money from the corporation. The money is usually pocketed by the lawyer while the victim gets a toaster.

In conclusion, Silty demanded the victims rise up and sue the developer, planning council, and of course, the soil surveyor and his dog for $10 million in physical damages, $30 million in pain and suffering, and $20 in pocket money. At this point he took a deep breath and seemed to steady himself. Then he explained that because homeowners insurance does not cover "expanding or contracting soils," each policy-holder would have to absorb the cost himself unless he sued. Soil cracking was not a named "peril" according to the insurance company.

Needless to say, the commercial was a success. People jammed the phone lines in order to be included in the law suit, even people in unaffected areas signed up. Now it was Silty's job to prosecute the case.

Undoubtedly, the developer was after the work and the planning council was after more tax money for the city by encouraging growth. Neither had looked at the soil survey report beforehand, but now that the damage was done, they sought to shift the blame to the soil surveyor.

The surveyor had never been to the particular site in question during the survey, but he did map the soils in the area. The field work had been completed years ago and the surveyor was now in another county. He was ordered to return.

In a criminal case, guilt must be established beyond a "shadow of doubt" whereas in a civil case, only a preponderance of evidence is required. This was a civil case.

Jury selection was relatively easy. Normally the defense attorney does not want anyone with any soils experience on the jury. In an attempt to weed out persons with such knowledge, each prospective juror was asked if all soils are the same. If they answered in the affirmative, then they were considered to be an acceptable juror. The jury was instructed not to discuss soils outside of the courtroom and that included gardening.

Then, somehow it was leaked in the coffee room that the judge, in his younger years, had been a member of a secret soil judging society. When court resumed, Silty immediately demanded that the judge excuse himself from the case. With this revelation the courtroom erupted into shouts, cameras flashed everywhere, and the judge pounded his gavel.

(To Be Continued.)

(**Book: Footprints in the Soil:** from page 1.)

chapter on soil/ecology interactions. The final group, on soil uses and users, has chapters on soil conservation, nutrient management for plants, soil stewardship concepts, soils and the environment, and history of agricultural terraces.

The authors were chosen from among international experts in their fields, all with a common interest and a fascination with soils. The central theme is how we came to our present understanding of soils.

The book, a Thought and a Poem

(My peek into the book Footprints in the Soil, by Benno Warkentin)

by Judy Good

As the book says; "Soils are always under foot." This is a 'mosaic' of soils history that needed to be told, and twenty eight contributors are on the list of 'cats' herded together for the telling. In college textbook style the story "...begins when communication by writing in Latin languages became available." Although women certainly came away with dirty fingernails through history, they were apparently sorely lacking in their written accounts. Most (all?) of the people celebrated herein are men. The extent of this truth saddened me, especially after hearing Benno's OSSS banquet talk where he said women, via farming and gathering, brought many more total calories into their households than men did via hunting...and nobody threw them a campfire party when they came back from the gather like the men got when they came back from the hunt. I found a reprieve, though, when I saw some contributors to the book are women. That's great - our voices are rising.

Thank you Benno, It was a privilege to get an early peek at this wonderful book. Your description, beginning on page one of this Sharpshooter, gives a good brief overview of the book's layout. Your use of "bio Boxes," and the many citations and references listed will become a treasure for future soils students. To avoid recapping your overview I would simply like to share a poem from page 180 of the book:

Final Comment on Soil Landscape Dynamics

by Dr. Francis D. Hole (1913 - 2002)

Five things influence soil landscapes;
Biota, climate, terrain shapes,
Initial stuff and human kind.
A blend of these may loose or bind
The land skin of hills and dales:
Here turns soil dark, and elsewhere pales;
Leaches it poor or makes it rich,
Defining each natural niche,
Erodes or catches soil debris,
Changing the landscape endlessly.

Benno Warkentin

(Member Spotlight - Benno Warkentin: from page 5.)

sion and use in the Caribbean. The West Indies Islands were developing their universities, and we were able to provide support for master's degree students to do their academic courses at McGill and field studies for thesis work in their home islands. It was my opportunity to visit many of the islands and become familiar with their geography and problems of water use in agriculture. I also participated in soils field trips arranged by the soils group in Trinidad, and learned about the soils developed on volcanic materials. About the same time Dr. Takeshi Maeda from Hokkaido University came to work with me for two years and taught me about volcanic soils. The Japanese were leaders in this field, and now I had someone who could translate for me. At last an explanation for that soil in southwest Washington that would not disperse, because of Mt. St. Helens' influence.

While the volcanic soils studies provided legitimacy in the soil science establishment for me, and may have aided my final return to Corvallis, my interests were increasingly moving to "environmental studies," again at the interface with soil science. I helped organize programs at the university and taught courses on water quality. This introduced me to the "people" part of soil science: how people interacted with soils. While not yet legitimate in soil science, this interest did lead to my participation in the Commission on "History, Philosophy and Sociology of Soil Science" in the International Union of Soil Sciences. But that is a jump ahead. It is confusing enough to follow a career that cannot seem to settle on any one thing, so let us keep it chronological. Yes, there is more.

Ace Cheney had retired as head of the Department of Soil Science at Oregon State University, and in 1978 I left the east coast to come to Corvallis. The international soil classification community had recognized the distinct properties of soils developed on volcanic parent materials. The International Committee on Andisols, ICOMAND, was formed to evaluate the need for an 11th Order in the Soil Taxonomy and to suggest the properties by which it could be distinguished from other orders. Since much of the distinctive behavior of these soils results from their physical properties, the Committee felt they needed a soil physicist, but a domesticated one who would communicate with them. In return they would take me to some of the most spectacular landscapes in the world—New Zealand, Japan, Chile and Ecuador, and the Pacific Northwest. Would you refuse such a deal? The result was the Andisol Order, which was accepted into the Soil Taxonomy.

The time left over from university chores at OSU was given to learning about Oregon beyond the valley. The OSSS was an important guide. I had become an annoyance to my peers by continually harping on the importance of water, and that we (the College of Agriculture) should be more involved in water studies; so I was made director of the Oregon Water Resources Institute. We had several cooperative projects under the EPA Non-Point Source Water Quality programs. I learned some ecology, and thought about functions of soils in ecosystems. As it turns out, of course, the soil has the critical role.

The OSSS was partly responsible for initiating the next phase, my interest in soil history. I was asked to talk about soils and the environment at the Bend meeting. It struck me that there were many things about soils that we did not know, and that was because we had not asked the questions. Phosphorus is a good example. Soils students had been taught that phosphate does not move in soils, so we asked questions about how to make it more available to plants, more soluble or positioned closer to the roots. It turned out that the phosphate coming from the land, so called non-point or diffuse pollution, was not all from sediment moving into streams. Phosphate could also move in soil solution to drainage water, even if much more slowly than nitrate. I became interested in why we knew what we knew. What were the broader social conditions that determined the questions we asked at different times?

By the time I began to draw a pension (retirement for some academics is not a specific date, it is a process, a slow, unnoticeable drift into senility) the national and international soils societies decided we needed a book on soil history, the chapters were to be written by different experts, and it was to be ready for the meeting of the International Union of Soil Science in Philadelphia, July 2006. Who volunteered to edit the book? It has been mostly a fun learning experience, with some frustrations. Recall the verity about herding cats. The book experience is leading to other writing, mostly as sole author.

Now I am getting the hang of retirement. My wife Jane Anne paints water colors and forms part of that volunteer core that does the many unpaid tasks necessary to civilized living in a community. We travel to spend time with grandchildren and three children, the nearest in Seattle and the farthest in London. And I plan to be more regular in attending OSSS meetings.

Sharpshooter

The *Sharpshooter* is the official newsletter distributed to the members of the Oregon Society of Soil Scientists. Published quarterly by J.R. Good, Inc. and the Oregon Society of Soil Scientists. Address changes or inquiries about membership to:

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email: osss@peak.org

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