



SHARPSHOOTER

OREGON SOCIETY OF SOIL SCIENTISTS

VOL. XXII, NO. 1
WINTER 2009

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President's Message

by James Cassidy

Hello Oregon Society of Soil Scientists! I hope your winter is going great and that this message finds you happy and well. I am very excited to invite you to this year's OSSS Winter Meeting – we have a great program shaping up that you are not going to want to miss! The meeting is being held in Portland this year on Friday and Saturday, February 20-21 (with a pre-meeting gathering on the evening of the 19th at the hotel or a nearby watering hole, TBA). The theme for this year's meeting is "The Soil-Human Interface." As you can imagine the topic is very broad and allows for a great diversity of speakers ranging from the Ice Age Floods Artwork of Stev Ominski and Sonar Beam Survey results of Celilo Falls to the Greenroofs of Portland and Cemeteries and Natural Burial! We have a great field trip planned on Saturday as well, which you are not going to want to miss! – Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery and Portland Underground Shanghai Tunnels!!! Really, this meeting has something for everyone!



The meeting will be held at the University Place Hotel & Conference Center located on the southwest corner of SW 4th Avenue & Lincoln Street near PSU. I will have secured a block of rooms for our members and speakers for \$89/night – so make sure to identify yourself as being with the OSSS – and please reserve your room soon as rooms are limited. The registration fee for the meeting is \$100 for OSSS members and \$60 for students (student fee includes 1-year membership, registration fee, Friday-night banquet, the field trip, transportation, and we even have a few rooms for crashing too!). See registration form inside for details and get it in the mail today!

Students, we will be providing transportation from Corvallis so let me know if you are in need. Also, if our student rooms are filled by the time you decide to attend the meeting, please check for Youth Hostels in Portland, there are at least 3 in the downtown area that range in price from \$17-\$27/night. We are planning a special Student Break-out Session in the late afternoon on Friday where our members and speakers will be at your disposal to discuss job opportunities, science/research questions, business ideas, etc. And remember, we'll be in Portland so there will likely be fun, late-night activities happening. Disco? Pool hall? Live music??? The world is our oyster!

One of the most exciting things about putting this year's meeting together was how eager many of the speakers are to meet you and ask questions of you regarding soils and possible research and other cooperative opportunities. See the list of topics and speakers included in this issue of the sharpshooter or on the website and make plans now for your trip to Portland! One more thing, in addition to paying your registration fee for the meeting, please be sure to pay your membership so you can stay on the mailing list and continue getting the news on upcoming events and other stuff. Also, please send us any updated contact information – mailing address, email, and phone number.

Thanks for your involvement in our society; I look forward to hanging out with you all, listening to some great talks, meeting new people, and having a few beers!

Make your arrangements today!

Your humble servant,

James Cassidy, OSSS President 2008-2009

Oregon Society of Soil Scientists - OSSS Winter Meeting 2009
University Place - 310 SW Lincoln, Portland OR

Tentative Speakers/Times & Topics –
Friday, February 20th and Saturday, February 21st

	Speaker	Topic	Title/occupation
8:00 - Friday	Registration and Breakfast		
9:00 - Morning Session	Bill Lang	Environmental History of Oregon and developing the Oregon Encyclopedia	History Department, Portland State University
	Scott Burns	Landslides in the Portland Area	Geology Department, Portland State University
10:30 - Break			
	Kuri Gill	Preservation of Historic Cemeteries and More!	Historic Cemeteries Program Coordinator
	Cynthia Beal	Natural Burial - The Future of Death!	Natural Burial Company founder
12:00 - Lunch			
	Mel Littell	Sonar Beam Survey - Having a Look at Celilo Falls	Engineering Tech (Civil) and work for USACE Portland District Hydrosurvey section
	Tom Powers	Jory - Round two! State Soil Designation Moves Forwarded On President Cassidy's Watch!	Legislative Director
	Karen Lewotsky	Food Alliance - What It Is	Certification Director - Food Alliance
	Pat Hayes	Growing Opportunities for Local Value-added Barley Production: Organic and Otherwise	Professor, Department of Crop and Soil Science, Oregon State University
	Tom Liptan	Greenroofs and Water Management in Portland	Ecoroof Program Manager - Sustainable Stormwater Group, City of Portland
5:00 - 6:00	Business meeting and student breakout session		
7:00 - Banquet	Mark Buser	Ice Age Floods Trail Update!	Ice Age Floods Institute Director
	Stev Ominski	Ace Age Floods Art - How Does He Do It?	Oregon Artist
8:00 - Saturday	Breakfast		
8:30 - Morning Session	Keith Bellingham	The Physics of Soil Moisture Sensors, and Vadose Zone Data Interpretations	Stevens Water Monitoring Systems

	Markus Kleber	A New Geochemical Model for Environmental Black Carbon and What It Means for the Persistence and Aging of Charcoal in Soils	Professor, Department of Crop and Soil Science, Oregon State University
	Christophe Moni	Impact of the Global Warming on the Leaching of Carbon and Nitrogen from an Oregonian Soil Under Grassland	Post-Doc, Department of Crop and Soil Science, Oregon State University
11:30 - Box Lunch			
12:30 - Field Trip		1) Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery 2) Shanghai Tunnels	1:00-2:30 3:00-4:00

WESTSIDE NOTES

by Dan Cressy

Bureau of Land Management's west side soil scientists, fishery biologists, and hydrologists will gather for a workshop at the Eugene District Office on February 2 and 3. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the implementation of BLM's Western Oregon Resource Management Plan Revision at the project scale. Topics to be covered include individual timber harvests, stream shade, large wood, peak flows, sediment delivery and project design features to protect soil productivity. The plan revisions went into effect this January.

EASTSIDE NOTES

by Jenni Moffitt

As soil surveys across the nation are nearing the once over completion, the Natural Resources Conservation Service is implementing a new approach for managing these completed surveys. Instead of managing each individual survey as a single political entity, the surveys are being grouped together in regions with similar agricultural uses and management. These regions are called Major Land Resource Areas (MLRAs) and are defined by their physiographic and climatic properties. The entire United States has been partitioned into about 120 MLRA management areas each serviced by a single office. East of the Cascades in Oregon, there have been three new MLRA project offices established. In the last two years, two MLRA project leaders have been hired to staff these offices. The Eastern Oregon offices are in Redmond, La Grande, and Lakeview. Mark Keller was hired in 2007 as the La Grande MLRA Project Leader and Kyle Stephens was hired in 2008 as the Redmond MLRA Project Leader.

Kyle is responsible for correlating, managing and updating soil surveys on over 12,500,000 acres of land in Central Oregon. Kyle has east coast roots. He was born and raised in Reading, PA and attended undergraduate and graduate college at West Virginia University. His undergraduate degrees are in Environmental and Soil Science and his Masters Degree is in Plant and Soil Science. Prior to accepting the MLRA position in Redmond, he was the Project Leader for the Spokane, WA soil survey for 5 years.

Mark Keller is managing soil surveys out of La Grande covering over 15,000,000 acres of land. The La Grande MLRA area covers the far eastern portions of Oregon and small parts of Idaho and Washington. Prior to his present position, Mark has been Project Leader on three soil surveys: Harney County, South Malheur, and now the North Malheur survey. Mark was hired in 1982 when the Natural Resources Conservation Service was known as the Soil Conservation Service; Mark prefers the old name since it implies that "Conservation" is our middle name!

The duties of these new MLRA Project Leaders include overseeing quality assurance and correlation on soil surveys within their respective project area. This ensures consistency across the MLRA management area; other

duties include conducting soil investigations, managing soil survey staff members, providing soils information to users, and working closely with the Portland MO1 soils staff, and with soil scientists from other agencies such as the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. Currently, the main focus for the MLRA project leaders is to ensure all unmapped private lands are mapped by 2011.

One other notable event that happened on January 1, 2009, is that Jamie Kienzle entered the sacred halls of retirement. He still graciously volunteers his expertise in the John Day soils office keeping Stan Winther company, who's soon to be one of the loneliest soil scientists in Eastern Oregon. We hope to have more information on Jamie in the next Sharpshooter.

OSU–Cascades Professor Named Fellow of the 2009 International Canadian Studies Institute

by Christine Coffin

Bend, Ore. – A natural resources professor from Oregon State University–Cascades Campus has been selected as a fellow of the International Canadian Studies Institute by the Canadian Consulate General Seattle in collaboration with the Pacific Northwest Canadian Studies Consortium (PNWCSC). Ron Reuter, an associate professor who specializes in soil science and soil ecosystems, was selected in part because forestry, natural resources and sustainability issues are of increasing importance in the U.S.–Canada relationship. He is the first Canadian Studies Institute fellow to be selected from OSU–Cascades.



Reuter joined the faculty of OSU–Cascades in January 2003, has served as program lead for the natural resources program since 2005, and teaches a range of upper level courses, including current issues in natural resources, restoration ecology, wetland ecology, and soil science. Locally, his research focuses on the management of western juniper ecosystems and the restoration of vernal pools of the high desert. He has expertise in online education and has authored several publications on the topic of lab-based distance education. He has published many articles on soils and restoration ecology research, and he has delivered lectures on soils, restoration ecology, and distance education nationally and internationally. Reuter's research projects and collaborative work equate to more than \$500,000 in funding from sources including the Mazamas and the National Science Foundation.

The International Canadian Studies Institute is an annual multi-disciplinary program that provides American academics, administrators and Ph.D. candidates with a broad multidisciplinary introduction to Canada and its provinces and territories, and assists in developing or strengthening their respective international studies programs. As part of the program, Reuter will join 11 fellows from universities that are U.S. members of the PNWCS on a 12-day intensive visit to the Province of Alberta in July 2009. The participants, all from Alaska, Washington, Oregon and Idaho, will meet with academics and officials from the agriculture, oil and energy, mining and health care industries, and from the education, justice, cultural arts, economic development, first nations, and environmental fields.

Following his fellowship, Reuter intends to incorporate the information he gathers into courses that discuss international environmental and sustainability issues. He also plans to pursue research and teaching opportunities, and student exchanges with Canadian universities that will broaden interaction within Central Oregon.

SILENT AUCTION !!!!

All OSSS members! We are having a silent auction at the annual winter OSSS meeting in Portland. Do you have any items to contribute to the auction? A good bottle of wine? Tools? Sporting equipment? Gift card? Squirrel nesting boxes? Anything is great. We have been fortunate to auction many really fun and useful items over the past couple of years, so let's make it happen again this year. Remember, all proceeds from the auction go to the OSSS student scholarships.

MEMBER RENEWAL AND UPDATES

You have received a self-addressed, stamped envelop in this issue of the SharpShooter. Member renewals are due on January 1 of each year. You can use the envelop to renew your membership or you can renew your membership at the Winter meeting. You decide, but RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP! Also, and this is just as important as paying your dues, send in your CURRENT email, home address, and other vital information so we can keep you updated in the OSSS membership list. Even if you owe no dues or if you are a life member, send in your updated info because this is the only way we have of knowing of changes to your vital statistics. If you do not keep us informed of changes to your vitals, we may loose contact with you. So take two minutes and mail it in!

SOIL AT THE SMITHSONIAN – Do we have any reports on how it was received?

by Benno P. Warkentin, Professor Emeritus, OSU



Likely, most of you have not seen the Smithsonian Soils Exhibit; I have not. Several OSSS people devoted much work to it; it was a major part of our effort to explain soils and soil science to the public. This is a need that we have recognized, and many of our discussions, including at the International Union of Soil Science level, have focused on this.

One report that it succeeded in its purpose was from my granddaughter, with her leaning toward Irish dancing and music, I accept her admitted interest in the exhibit as unbiased.

I liked the quotation on the second picture. Obviously, a Smithsonian contribution; Soil Scientists don't think of soils in those terms.

(The quote reads: "How can I stand on the ground every day and not feel its power? How can I live my life stepping on this stuff and not wonder at it?" – William Bryant Logan, *Dirt – The ecstatic skin of the earth*)



DATES TO REMEMBER



February 18-20, 2009: Oregon Society of Soil Scientists Winter Meeting; Portland, Oregon. For more information: <http://osss.peak.org/>

July 19, 2008 – January 3, 2010: Smithsonian Soil Exhibit is Open, Washington, DC. Information available at <http://forces.si.edu/soils/>

February 26-29, 2009: Organicology Workshops, Networking and Trade Show, Portland, OR (Doubletree/Lloyd Center). For more information: <http://www.tilth.org/files/organicology/OrganicologyWebAgenda.pdf>

OSSS Board Election 2009

Time to vote for some new officers...

Ballot for Election of OSSS Officers

Vice President – President Elect 2009-2010

Cory Owens or write-in: _____

Cory Owens is a Soil Scientist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and a MS graduate of Soil Science at OSU. She has worked in survey and resource projects around the state including Tillamook County, Malheur County, and throughout the Willamette Valley. She is interested in serving on the OSSS board to build connections between the soil science community throughout Oregon and is interested in continuing to grow the membership base with students.

Eastside Director

Jennifer Moffitt or write-in: _____

Jennifer Moffitt grew up in Enterprise, OR where she was very active in 4-H, FFA, and the agricultural community in Wallowa County. She graduated from OSU in December 2006 with a BS in Rangeland Ecology and Management, and two minors: one in Natural Resource Environmental Law and Policy, and one in Soil Science. Jennifer now lives in Central Oregon where she works with the Prineville District Bureau of Land Management (BLM). During her time at the BLM Jennifer has been part of the Ecological Site Inventory (ESI) crew, and worked mapping soils on BLM lands in Crook County as a part of the Crook County Soil Survey.

Oregon Society of Soil Scientists - OSSS Winter Meeting 2009

University Place - 310 SW Lincoln, Portland OR

Friday, February 20 and Saturday, February 21

University Place Hotel and Conference Center
<http://cegs.pdx.edu/stay/upl/>
 Reservations: (503) 221.0140 or 1.866.845.4647

Registration form for Annual Meeting:

Name _____

Title/organization _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

	OSSS Member	Member Spouse	Student	Non-member	Total
Full Meeting (Friday/Saturday)	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 140.00	
Friday Banquet	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ -	\$ 15.00	
			Total		

Yes, I would like to co-sponsor student attendance to the meeting with a donation of: \$ _____

Registration Deadline: February 18. Late Registration Fee after February 18: \$15.00. \$ _____

Check or cash only **Grand Total** \$ _____

Full Meeting includes continental breakfast and lunch both days, and the Field Trip on Saturday. Banquet not included in registration.

Completed registrations should be returned to: OSSS, c/o James Cassidy, 5256 SW Secher Lane, Corvallis OR 97333 *or*
 Fax to: 541.737.5725 *or*
 Email registration form to joan.sandeno@oregonstate.edu
 Faxed or emailed registrations will be liable for all fees even if you are a no-show.

Sharpshooter

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

OSSS
Box 2382
Corvallis, OR 97339

Website and email address:

<http://osss.peak.org>
email: osss@peak.org

Advertisements

Reach more than a hundred soil science professionals with an advertisement in the *Sharpshooter*. And the price is right—whole page \$45, 1/2 page \$25, 1/4 page \$15, or 1/6 page \$10. All you need to do is provide a disk and hard copy to the *Sharpshooter* editor by the deadline (first of the month – January, March, June, and November).

All articles and advertisements submitted are subject to room available basis.

News items

Remember all articles submitted to the *Sharpshooter* can be sent on 3-1/2" disk in most any DOS, MAC or ASCII format, along with a hard copy. In doing so, the *Sharpshooter* can get to you faster.

Member rates

\$ 30.00	Regular member
18.00	Associate member
35.00	Sustaining member
10.00	Student member
300.00	Lifetime member

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