



VOL. XXIV, NO. 1
WINTER 2011

What's Inside This Issue:

- President's Message
- Winter Meeting Registration & Info
- A Call for Posters
- East- & Westside Notes
- Member Spotlight
- Dates to Remember



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Cory Owens

Greetings OSSSers! I am very excited about the upcoming winter meeting! I am pleased to announce that OSSS is joining up with the Northwest Forest Soils Council, bringing together two organizations who've long worked to keep soil issues in the forefront of the public consciousness. The collaboration was able to bring in great speakers including Dr. Sue Grayston from the University of British Columbia to bring an international perspective. This year's theme is "Soil Carbon and You: It's Complicated." Topics will vary from fast pyrolysis, soil carbon in grass seed, soil carbon in forest ecosystems, the COMET-VR carbon sequestration

tool, and so much more. We are also very fortunate to have Dr. Dawn Ferris (from the SSSA) attending to speak on certification and other topical issues for soil scientists in a changing political and social environment.

We are changing the format this year to include an extended lunch break, where we will host a student poster competition, mentoring for students, and informal networking. If you are interested in participating as a mentor during the session please let Vice President Joshua Owens know at vicepresident@oregonsoils.org. We are also bumping up the time of the annual board meeting and hosting a social hour immediately following to encourage members and guests to attend. At the board meeting we will discuss the upcoming National Collegiate Soil Judging Competition, so if you are interested in participating/helping with that you should definitely be there.

The meeting will be at The McMinnville Grand Ballroom, in the heart of downtown McMinnville. If you haven't been there it is truly a gem in the Willamette Valley. Just outside the doors are great shopping, dining, and entertainment opportunities. Several hotels are within walking distance and there is ample free parking nearby.

Folks will surely notice an increase in the registration fee from last year. OSSS strives to keep all registration fees as economical as possible while completely covering costs and supplementing student participation. We appreciate your support!

Register now via the form included in this issue or online.

For the most up-to-the-minute Joint Annual Meeting information check out <http://www.oregonsoils.org/>

I can't wait to see you all in McMinnville in February!

OSSS and NWFSC

Joint Annual Meeting 2011

February 24 & 25, McMinnville, OR

“Soil Carbon and You: It's Complicated”

Agenda

(Subject to change, check <http://www.oregonsoils.org/> for current info, titles, and speaker bios)

Thursday February 24, 2011

- 8:00 a.m. Registration + Continental Breakfast + Welcome
- 9:00 a.m. Dr. Mike Strobel, NRCS Water and Climate Center
- 10:00 a.m. Dr. Scott Holub, Weyerhaeuser
Soil C Change in Pacific Northwest Coastal Douglas-fir Forests: Change Detection Following Harvest – Establishment Report
- 11:00 a.m. Extended lunch + Networking + Student Poster Competition
- 1:00 p.m. Dr. Adam Chambers, NRCS West Technical Center
- 2:00 p.m. Dr. Mark Johnson, EPA
- 3:00 p.m. Break
- 3:30 p.m. Dr. Dawn Ferris, SSSA
- 4:30 p.m. Announcements + Adjournment
- 5:30 p.m. Business Meeting (All participants encouraged to attend)
- 6:30 p.m. Social Hour(s) – no host bar and light refreshments

Friday February 25, 2011

- 7:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast + Welcome
- 8:00 a.m. Jim Archuleta, USFS
Biochar: Ancient Technology in Modern Forestry
- 9:00 a.m. Dr. Stephen Griffith, ARS
Soil Carbon in Grass Seed Production Systems of Western Oregon
- 10:00 a.m. Break
- 10:15 a.m. Dr. Sue Grayston, University of British Columbia
- 11:15 a.m. Swift adjournment and egress (The venue is booked by another party at noon)
- 12:00 p.m. Field trip group meets (location TBD)

Field Tour: Vineyard Soils of the Willamette Valley Foothills: From Fir to Ferment

Field Trip Leaders: Dr. Scott Burns, Portland State University + Dr. Jay Noller, Oregon State University

- 12:30 p.m. Depart
- Stop 1: Stoller Winery
- Stop 2: Willakenzie Winery
- Stop 3: The Allison
- Return to McMinnville no later than 5:00 p.m.

OSSS and NWFSC

Joint Annual Meeting 2011

February 24 & 25, McMinnville, OR

Registration Form

This year the Oregon Society of Soil Scientists is teaming up with the Northwest Forest Soils Council to bring you our annual meeting entitled: Soil Carbon and You!, It's Complicated! If you would like to attend you must register by either mailing in this form, or filling out the online form at oregonsoils.org. Registration confirmations will be sent out by e-mail once we have received and processed your form. We hope to see you there!

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Selection	Cost	Quantity	Total
Current Members: This is available to all current members <input type="checkbox"/> OSSS <input type="checkbox"/> NWFSC <input type="checkbox"/> WSPSS	110.00		
Non-Members: Includes one year membership to OSSS.	150.00		
Students: Includes one year membership to OSSS + Field Tour.	50.00		
Field Tour: There is an extra fee for the field tour, which includes transportation and a box lunch.	20.00		
Help out Students! If you would like to support student attendance at the meeting indicate	Donation :	X	
Total			

Please mail this completed form and payment to:
Oregon Society of Soil Scientists
P.O.Box 2382
Corvallis, OR 97339

VENUE

[McMinnville Grand Ballroom](#)



Parking

Lots of free parking is available in city lots around the venue. There is a large garage between 5th and 6th off of Evans as well as parking along 2nd and 4th Streets.

Accommodation

The OSSS has a variety of rooms held in block at [McMenamins Hotel Oregon](#), just a couple blocks from the venue, until thirty days prior after which they will be released to reserve by 1/24/2011! Rooms are held under Oregon Society of Soil Scientists.

Hotel Oregon
310 NE 3rd St.
McMinnville, OR
503-472-8427
2 blocks away from the ballroom

Other Accommodations in the Area

Americas Best value Inn and Suites 381 NE Highway 99w McMinnville, OR 503-472-5187 6 blocks away from the ballroom	Motel 6 2065 SW Highway 99w McMinnville, OR 503-472-9493 7 blocks away from the ballroom
Twisted Willow Inn Bed and Breakfast 509 NE 9th McMinnville, OR 6 blocks away from the ballroom	Best Western Vineyard Inn Motel 2035 S Highway 99w McMinnville, OR 503-472-4900 1.7 miles away from the ballroom
Comfort Inn & Suites 2520 SE Stratus Ave. McMinnville, OR 503-472-1700 1.9 Miles away from ballroom	Red Lion Hotel McMinnville 2535 NE Cumulus Ave. McMinnville, OR 503-472-1500 1.7 miles away from ballroom

There are no available campgrounds. Devils Lake State Park is closed for the winter for repairs and is 1.5 hrs away on the coast. Silver Falls State Park and North Santiam State Parks are open but are 1.5 hrs away (Southeast off Highway 22). There are no private campgrounds in McMinnville.

NORTHWEST FOREST SOILS COUNCIL

by Dr. Shannon Berch, Research Scientist, BC Ministry of Environment

The Northwest Forest Soils Council (NWFSC) is a part of the Western Forestry and Conservation Association, began in 1949. It was and is organized to facilitate the exchange of forest soils information and ideas among interested professionals in the Pacific Northwest, and encourage a more widespread understanding that soil is the basis for production of forest wealth -- timber, forage, water, wildlife, and recreation values. The Council is interested in fostering, among technically trained people and laymen alike, the following concepts:

1. Soil is an integral part of the forest--no crop can be considered without considering the soil that produces it. Forest practices can enhance or impair the productivity of the soil.
2. Surveys of the forest soil resource are important to provide a useful basis for better understanding of land capabilities and limitations, and for extending knowledge gained from research.
3. Increased forest soils research is vitally necessary, if we are to maintain production of substantial values from forest and range lands. Acceleration of research should be accomplished by increasing studies of the soil itself and by including soils investigations in other pertinent research.
4. Soil Science and its application should be strongly emphasized in all forestry school curricula. Students of forestry and allied subjects should be impressed early in their training that a major concern should be for the productivity of the soil.
5. Education of the public in these concepts herein is necessary to achieve sound management and sustained productivity of forest lands.

The NWFSC meets twice yearly. A one-day technical and business meeting is normally held in January. A field meeting is held in early summer. We are happy to join with the Oregon Society of Soil Scientist and be a part of this upcoming winter meeting. Hope to see you there.

DATES TO REMEMBER



February 24-25, 2011: Oregon Society of Soil Scientists 2011 Winter Meeting: Soil Carbon and You: It's Complicated! The McMinnville Grand Ballroom, McMinnville, OR. For the latest information visit the OSSS web site at: http://www.oregonsoils.org/?page_id=29

March 4, 2011: Washington Society of Professional Soil Scientists 2011 Winter Meeting. Central Washington University, Ellensburg, WA. For the latest information visit the WSPSS web site at: http://www.ieway.com/wspss/wspss_events.html

April 25 – 30, 2011: The 2011 National Collegiate Soil Judging Competition, Bend, OR. For the latest information visit the OSSS website at: http://www.oregonsoils.org/?page_id=418

May 2011: National Society of Consulting Soil Scientists: 24th Annual Meeting, Asheville, NC; to be held jointly with the National Cooperative Soil Survey. Visit their web site for more information: <http://www.nscss.org/>

July 29-30, 2011: California Forest Soils Council Field Tour – Mt. Shasta City, CA. Visit their web page for the latest information: <http://www.caforestsoils.org/summer-field-tour/>

October 16-19, 2011: ASA-CSSA-SSSA 2011 International Annual Meeting: "Fundamental for Life: Soil, Crop, & Environmental Sciences," San Antonio, TX. Visit their meetings page for the latest information: <https://www.soils.org/meetings>

2011 OSSS Board Positions: Candidate Profiles & Ballot

Vice President:

James Cassidy ☐

James Cassidy has been an Instructor of Soil Science at Oregon State University for over 8 years. James is also the faculty advisor for the wildly popular OSU Organic Growers Club, the student farm. Coming from a non-traditional background (music industry for over 25 years) he is passionate about soil and is popular with students because of his dynamic speaking style. The student farm project has over 600 student volunteers on its list-serve and continues to grow. The farm cultivates over 50 different fruit and vegetable crops and is just finishing its 9th season.

Write-in ☐ _____

East Side Director:

Sarah Hash ☐

I grew up in the mountains of southwest Virginia and studied soils at Virginia Tech before coming to OSU for graduate school in 2006. I worked with Dr. Jay Noller, first as a graduate student and then as a faculty research assistant, to develop digital and predictive mapping technologies for soil survey. Since March, I've been working as a Soil Scientist for the Deschutes National Forest. I implement our district soil quality monitoring program, perform project-specific mapping, and provide input for a variety of timber harvest/management, recreation, range, and prescribed fire projects. Oregon is a magnificent natural playground and learning environment!

Write-in ☐ _____

Ballots can be submitted at the Winter Meeting or via mail to OSSS by February 18, 2011
Oregon Society of Soil Scientists
P.O. Box 2382
Corvallis, OR 97339

Calling all Bankers!

Ron Reuter has long served as the competent treasurer of the OSSS and is looking to retire the checkbook. Responsibilities would include participation at quarterly board meetings, providing an annual report, and bill paying throughout the year. If you are a responsible person who wants to be a part of a great organization and help keep track of the funds please contact Ron at ron.reuter@oregonstate.edu.

WESTSIDE NOTES

by Cameron Bergen

SOIL CARBON CHALLENGE BEGINS IN OREGON and CALIFORNIA

by Peter Donovan

Today we understand, as never before, the crucial role that carbon-rich soil organic matter plays in the quantity and quality of the food we grow, in moderating flood and drought, in the quantity and quality of runoff and groundwater, in biodiversity, and in the composition of the atmosphere, especially its carbon content.

However, our institutions and political systems have been largely unable to take advantage of the great opportunity this understanding offers, because like most of us they focus on problem-solving, on managing against threats. For example, since 1900 the U.S. Department of Agriculture has been managing against food contamination, low prices for agricultural commodities, soil erosion, hunger and malnutrition, fire in the forests, nitrate pollution, and on and on. (Is it working?) The #1 recommendation to land managers of its small Soil Quality Team is to enhance soil organic matter, yet the overall effect of USDA policies, by fostering tillage, fire, and chemical use, is to oxidize large tonnages of soil carbon into the atmosphere, and limit its replenishment.

Climate policy proposals are even more tightly focused on problem-solving, on threats and risks. Because of the great size of the soil carbon pool compared to atmosphere and vegetation, and the magnitude of its responses to human decisions, the soil carbon factor threatens to reframe the climate debate, discomfiting both climate activists and agribusiness, and increasing the uncertainties all around. Proposals to commodify soil carbon as a potential "offset" to fossil fuel emissions have raised resistance from every sector and stripe, yet such proposals have framed almost all of the recent research on soil carbon.

If you want to find out how fast a human can run 100 meters, do you build a computer model, do a literature search, or convene a panel of experts on human physiology to make a prediction?

No, you run a race. Or many of them.

There's been tons of talk about soil carbon, but it's time for motion: to show with good data what's possible, and recognize those land managers who know how to increase soil carbon.

Where things are stuck or the way forward is unclear; a competition can supply creative and unconventional solutions. A competition can leapfrog the decades-long cycle of research, pilot projects, legislation, and incentives, and can showcase leadership based on knowhow and performance rather than on promises and predictions. A competition can tell the stories of soil carbon to citizens, governments, and farmers better than anything else. Competitions change the question from *Can it be done?* to *How well, and how fast?*

The Soil Carbon Challenge, coordinated by the Soil Carbon Coalition, an Oregon nonprofit organization, measures soil carbon change with permanent plots, field sampling, and elemental analysis. Three baseline plots make an entry, resampled at years 3, 6, and 10.

It's not an offset scheme. It's the next agricultural revolution, and you can bring it to your district, sector, or community. We welcome partnerships, local and sectoral subcompetitions, and those who have already done good monitoring on permanent plots over time or wish to do so.

Find out more about the Soil Carbon Challenge at: <http://soilcarboncoalition.org/challenge>

Peter Donovan is a long time community volunteer, writer, editor and computer content developer. With a background in land and stock management, Holistic Management and community development, Peter currently operates <http://managingwholes.com/>, a website dedicated to "sharing knowledge and information about managing holistically." Peter resides in Wallowa County, Oregon.

EASTSIDE NOTES

by Jenni Moffitt, Tom Clark, and Ed Horn

Significant news on the dry side of the state is that Ed Horn, our present Sharpshooter editor and past OSSS president, is retiring after 33 years and 10 months in government service. Ed started his career with the Soil Conservation Service in Medford, Oklahoma, then moved to Craig, Colorado, with details to Jasper, Florida; Madison, Florida; Talkeetna, Alaska; and Burlington, Colorado. He later worked with the BLM in Burns, Roseburg, and Prineville, Oregon. While in Burns, Ed was an early innovator in using a computer database to manage the legend portion of a soil survey manuscript. This was long before NASIS (National Soil Information System) was in existence. In addition to his soils skills while leading BLM inventories, he brought an expertise in range vegetation. Ed doesn't have specific plans for retirement, but plans to continue in the OSSS and has multiple interests that include skiing, computers, listening to and watching live blues music, etc. He does plan to remain in Prineville amongst the juniper and sage. Congratulations, Ed, and best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

Of a sadder note, longtime OSSS supporter and champion of the environment, Larry Thomas, passed away quietly at his home in Prineville, Oregon, on November 26, 2010. Larry started his federal career in 1975 with the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Gallup, New Mexico. In 1977, he moved to Rawlins, Wyoming, where he worked with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). In 1978, he transferred to Prineville, Oregon, BLM where he remained for 30 years working in soils, hydrology, weeds, as well as hazardous materials. He loved being out in the field and working with people. Larry retired from the BLM in 2008.

In his private time, Larry volunteered to help the local Prineville grade school kids learn about nature and soils on field trips. He enjoyed gardening and was designated as a Master Gardener with the OSU Extension Office. Larry loved birds and enjoyed watching them in bird feeders placed around his garden and property. Larry will be sorely missed by all of us that knew him.

Craig Busskohl, long time Pendleton resident, OSSS member, I love dirt Man, Past President, and Forest Service Employee has taken a new job with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Lincoln, Nebraska. He is now working at the National Soil Survey Center in Lincoln, providing technical support and interpretations for forestry. Best of luck with your new job, and we hope you continue to be a member of the OSSS, even while living in Nebraska! Stinkin' Lincoln, Big Red – what is that???

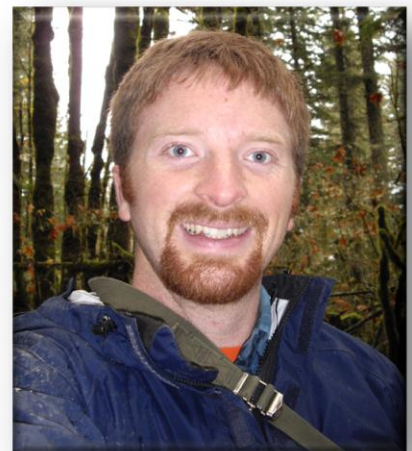
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

by Jaimee Davis

MARK FERY

1) Mark, please tell us a little about yourself...Are you from Oregon originally? Where did you grow up? What are some of your favorite things to do/hobbies that you enjoy in your spare time?

I am definitely an Oregon native. Born in Salem, I spent the first seven years of my life on a small vegetable farm in the Aumsville area. Bell peppers were a specialty of the family farm, and I really enjoyed spending time in the fields. When I was nine I moved to the McMinnville area, to the family dairy farm that was purchased by my great grandparents in 1920. I really enjoy having a vegetable garden each summer and have had one since I was a sophomore in high school. Some of my favorite things to grow are tomatoes, onions, and watermelons. Photography is another hobby, and I particularly enjoy photographing landscapes, plants, and wildlife; I'm also the designated photographer at my family's annual pioneer family reunion.



**2) Where did you go to school? What was your major?
(both undergraduate and graduate, if applicable)**

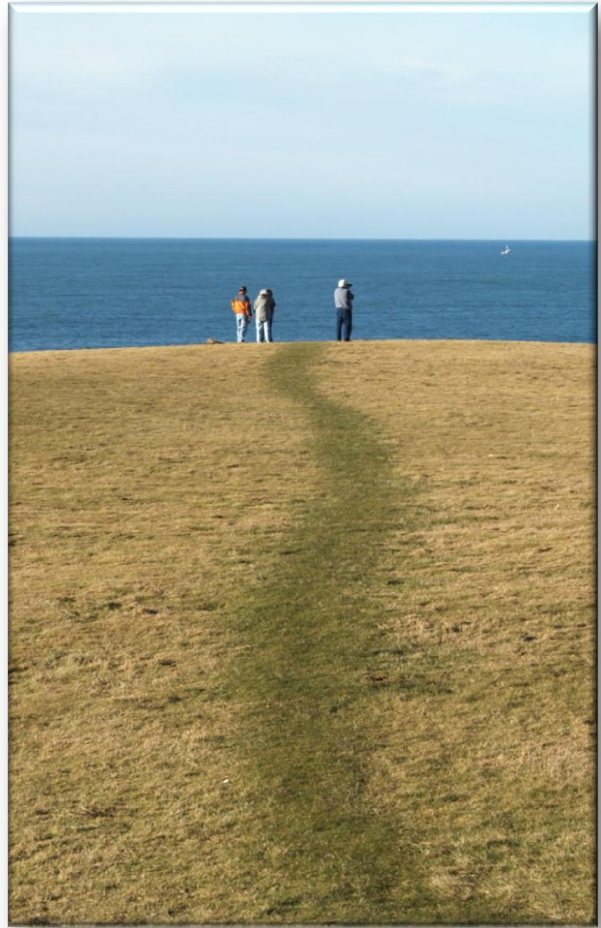
After a brief run-in with computer engineering at the beginning of my college career at OSU I was left not knowing what to do. For a couple years I took many different courses to see if anything struck me as interesting. At that point I decided that I would like to major in Philosophy, and I did. During the beginning of my time as a philosophy major I was still taking other courses to see if there was anything else that might interest me. That was when I took James Cassidy's "Soils for Poets" class, which made me realize that I would have to go back to my roots. Soon after that I became a Soil Science major in addition to Philosophy. I started and finished the soil science curriculum during the next two years, working with Jay Noller in the Pedology laboratory during my final year. I was also an undergraduate teaching assistant for the undergraduate non-major soils course for two terms.

3) What made you decide to study soils? What is your favorite area of study in soils? Why?

No matter how hard I may have tried I couldn't manage to get myself away from working in the Agriculture / Natural Resources field. I've been fascinated with soil since I was a small child and spent a lot of time in and around it through the years. In college I came to realize that soil is vitally important to almost everything that we rely on every day, which is my motivation to continue to pursue a career in the field. An upper division philosophy course led me to write a paper about the value of soil to society, which I find very interesting. My interest in soils at this point is still fairly broad, but centers around resource conservation.

**4) I see you are currently a Wetlands Reserve Program Assistant at NRCS
What does that entail? How did you get involved with that?**

After graduating with both a philosophy degree and soil science degree in the spring of 2009, I had a summer internship with Mark Johnson, Soil Scientist, at EPA in Corvallis. Following that I went to work with the Wetlands Reserve Program with NRCS, assisting with program activities. Currently I am working with the Soil Survey staff in the Salem MLRA Soil Survey Office beginning to work on survey activities for the Willamette National Forest.



Green Line to the Central Oregon Coast
Photo by Mark Fery

ANNOUNCEMENT ~ A CALL FOR POSTERS



The Oregon Society of Soil Scientists + The Northwest Forest Soils Council Graduate and Undergraduate Poster Competition

Show off all your amazing work in any natural resources topic during the
societies joint annual meeting-

Soil Carbon and You: Its Complicated

February 24-25, 2011

◇ McMinnville, OR



Submit posters & questions to:
james.cassidy@oregonstate.edu
by Friday 2/18/2011

Judged by meeting participants

Cash prizes for the top three finishers in each group (Grad/Ugrad)

Members: If not attending the winter meeting, please remember to renew your membership by filling out and mailing the following form or by renewing online at: http://www.oregonsoils.org/?page_id=58



OSSS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Name:		
Phone (preferred):		
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip Code:
Email:		
Affiliation:		
\$30.00 <u>Regular Member</u> – Soil Scientist or with credits to qualify; voting member eligible to hold office. \$18.00 <u>Associate Member</u> – Not a professional Soil Scientist; non-voting not eligible to hold office. \$10.00 <u>Student Member</u> – Actively pursuing a degree in soils or a related field.		
<i>Dues are for one year from January 1 to December 31. Please make Checks payable to OSSS</i>		
Mail Application To: OSSS PO Box 2382 Corvallis, OR 97339		
Signature:		
Date:		

Stevens Hydra Probe Soil Sensor

All in one multi-parameter soil sensor

The Stevens Hydra Probe soil sensor is the most robust and unique soil sensor available. Users can select up to 22 parameters, including:

- Soil Moisture
- Soil Temperature
- Soil Electrical Conductivity
- Real and Imaginary Dielectric Permittivity
- and many more!

Features of the Stevens Hydra Probe

- Extensively researched and well-tested, durable design provides quality data over many years without removal or recalibration
- Over 10 years of field use
- Excellent precision and accuracy
- Temperature corrected measurements
- Smart Sensor technology
- No calibration required for most soils
- SDI-12 or RS-485 signal output

Over 100 universities, government agencies (USDA, USGS, NOAA, DOD, NASA), farms, vineyards and other companies use the Hydra Probe for quality data analysis!

The POGO portable multi-parameter soil sensor - just poke and go!

The POGO portable soil sensor enables manual readings to be taken quickly and easily. Simply insert the Hydra Probe into the soil you wish to sample, select the soil type and user defined location, and click "Sample" on the PDA's screen. The soil measurements can be logged to the PDA for further analysis via *MS Excel* or other spreadsheet programs.

The POGO enables immediate understanding of soil conditions for agriculture, greenhouse monitoring, research, golf course greens, ground penetrating radar studies or any other application that requires manual checking of soil conditions at multiple locations.



Data Loggers



Water Level & Quality



Radio Telemetry



Weather Sensors

Tel: 800.452.5272
503.445.8000

Web: www.stevenswater.com

**Monitoring the Earth's Water
Resources Since 1911**

Stevens®
Water Monitoring Systems, Inc.

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://www.oregonsoils.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 emailed to the Sharpshooter editor at e2horn@gmail.com in most any text, http, or word processing format. Pictures are best in 300 dpi jpg format.

Member rates

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

E
X
E
C
U
T
I
V
E

B
O
A
R
D

President: Cory Owens

ph: (503) 399-5741 x134
email: president@oregonsoils.org

Vice President: Joshua Owens

ph: (503) 780-4912
email: vicepresident@oregonsoils.org

Past President: Daniel Moreno

ph: (541) 737-2291
email: daniel.moreno@oregonstate.edu

Secretary: Brenda Sanchez

ph: (541) 553-2020
email: brenda.sanchez@wstribes.org

Treasurer: Ron Reuter

ph: (541) 322-3109
email: ron.reuter@oregonstate.edu

Westside Director: Cameron Bergen

ph: (541) 685-9963
email: EdaphicConsulting@gmail.com

Eastside Director: Jenni Moffitt

ph: (541) 416-6700
email: jennifer_moffitt@blm.gov

Newsletter Editor: Ed Horn / James Cassidy

ph: (541) 416-2645 / (541) 737-6810
email: e2horn@gmail.com /
james.cassidy@oregonstate.edu

Membership Director: Brenda Sanchez

ph: (541) 553-2020
email: brenda.sanchez@wstribes.org

Publications Administrator: Tracy Mitzel

ph: (541) 737-5712
email: tracy.mitzel@oregonstate.edu



OREGON SOCIETY OF SOIL SCIENTISTS
P.O. Box 2382 • Corvallis, OR 97339