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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by *Teresa Matteson*

Winter Meeting 2014

Early bird registration deadline – January 24th!!!

It is rare to find entertainment that tops the soil dance. Presented with an excavated pit, engineered road cut or simple hole, a soil scientist cannot resist the lure to tango with the earth's precious skin.

First, the stance—a solid footing in preparation for the jig. Clear the soil's face. Then the squint. Head leans in close, then back; a few quick glances over the profile to plan the series of foxtrot steps. Tools emerge: squirt bottle, golf tees or nails, stained rag. Blade unsheathes; probing begins with a flick of the wrist or quick downward stabs. Fistfuls of dirt are methodically extracted and crumbled to assess structure, color, depth, roots, porosity, and worm channels; all mentally tallied. Then, with experience derived from existence with the soil, a manual texture method of personal preference is used to estimate particle size: calibrated ribbon, balled-mass under finger pressure, rapid squeezes.

This dance defines transitions, changes, boundaries, horizons. This polka summarizes a uniquely-identifiable, site-specific soil body. Soil – that home to a multitude of scientific disciplines: chemistry, biology, physics, health, hydrology, agronomy, forestry, wildlife...the list goes on as far as one's relational creativity will allow. So much of everything is related to soil, and that wisdom is lost on the quick-stepping masses who take no time to dance with the soil. At peak soil survey momentum, the Oregon NRCS employed around 20 mappers. Eight or so positions have yielded to completion or attrition. What occupational venues will host the next soil dance? The OSSS crusade must showcase the dancers, must continually educate the masses on soil's vital importance, and must define new soil scientist roles in this evolving world of opportunity.

In 2014, OSSS celebrates 40 years of Oregon soil science camaraderie – four decades of meetings, educational programs, young enthusiastic faces that age into familiar friends, common interests shaped around ethics, and work adapted to technological advancement – a professional legacy ripe and ready to be offered up to the next generation—all built around the soil dance.

The next generation has sincere reverence for seasoned members and they yearn to follow those footsteps, to learn the soil dance. The 2014 Winter Meeting and 40-year celebration will include some Mentor and Timeline activities planned to mortar the generation gap between professionals, working or retired, and eager students with dance cards in hand. First, the Mentor Program will pair pros with students to encourage deeper connections and build the bridges that nurture a thriving Society and sustain professional tradition. The commitment may be as simple as a few pre-meeting emails followed by one-on-one conversations and informal introductions to your OSSS buddies. I encourage everyone who registers for the Winter Meeting, professionals and students alike, to



Teresa Matteson, shown here sampling acid soils for John Baham in a Tolovana-Reedsport complex near Otter Crest.

check your status in the Mentor Program box and fill in your area of expertise or interest. That information will help to facilitate discussions and foster opportunities that launch careers and guide lives. Second, jot down your recollections and dust off photos from the good ol' days in preparation for the Winter Meeting Timeline Activity on Thursday evening. For timeline details, read Mark Fery's Westside Notes on page 9.

I apologize for the short early-bird deadline to register for the Winter Meeting – January 24th. **DON'T HESITATE! REGISTER NOW!!!** Be sure your membership is current or include payment with your registration fee. Join the celebration, February 27-28, Old St. Francis School in Bend, Oregon. See the registration form on page 4 or register online at www.oregonsoils.org/.

Wishing you all a happy, healthful 2014!

Additional Winter Meeting 2014 Information:

Attend the OSSS Annual Business Meeting

Thursday, February 27, 2014
Old St. Francis School – Father Luke's Room
700 NW Bond Street
Bend, OR
3:45 – 4:30 PM

followed by:

4:30 PM - Poster Session & Social Hour
6 PM Pizza Buffet and 40 Year Timeline

Annual Meeting Agenda

JB Good Scholarship Award
OSSS Non-profit status
Oregon Certifying Board
National Certification Update
Elect and Meet 2014-2015 Board members

Continuing Education Units – Documentation for CEUs will be available. For more information contact Teresa tmatt0@rdata.com.

Official Beverage of the OSSS 2014 Winter Meeting – Hot Tour Drinks!

Bring a thermos for hot tour drinks!!! At breakfast Friday morning, McMenamins will fill thermoses with decaf, coffee or hot water for tea/cider/cocoa.

Additional Lodging

Phoenix Inn Suites Bend
Address: 300 NW Franklin Ave
Bend, OR 97701
Tel: (541) 317-9292
Toll Free: (888) 291-4764

Old St. Francis School On-site Features

Soaking Pool – bring your suit!!!
Guests free - 7 AM to 12 midnight

Old St. Francis Theater
Food and beverages (alcohol) for sale
21 and older

Additional Winter Meeting 2014 Information (cont.):

Breakfast spots near Old St. Francis School – Thursday, February 27, breakfast is on your own.

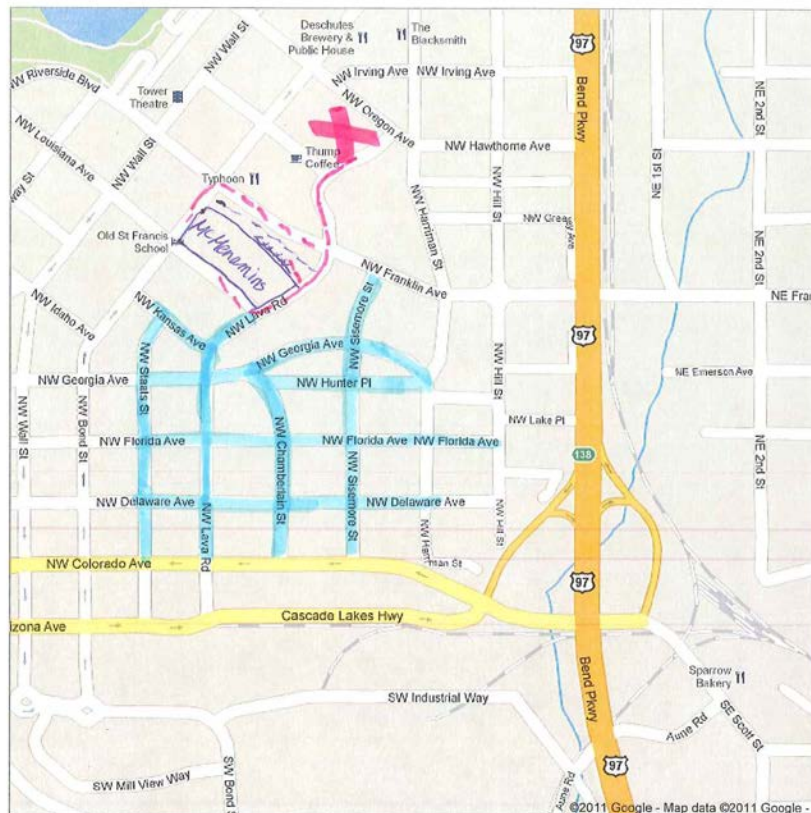
Old St. Francis Pub
Breakfast served 7 AM



La Magie Bakery
945 NW Bond Street, Bend
7:30 AM - 5:30 PM
541-241-7884

Alpenglow Cafe
1133 NW Wall Street #100, Bend
7 AM - 2 PM
541-383-7676

Parking in Bend <http://www.downtownbend.org/downtown-bend-services/parking/>

Also see map of parking near Old St. Francis School



-  Free On-Street Parking
- ~~xxxx~~ Free Hotel Overflow Parking (in alley)
 - only use spaces designated for McMenamins Hotel guests
- Alley on the north side of property.
-  Downtown Parking Garage - 61 NW Oregon Ave, Bend, OR
 - \$5 per day.
- To McMenamins from Parking garage.



OSSS 2014 Winter Meeting & 40 Year Celebration!!!!
Thursday, February 27 – Friday, February 28

Earth ☿ Fire ☿ Water

Old St. Francis School ☿ 700 N.W. Bond Street ☿ Bend, OR
 Toll-free 877-661-4228 ☿ mcmenamins.com/OldStFrancis

Early Bird Registration Deadline – January 24, 2014

Join us for Thursday formal presentations and Friday field trip to explore some of the area's natural features and related human issues, including:

- ☿ Recently discovered Crooked River Caldera, a large vent complex that collapsed during the Oligocene
- ☿ Landslides in the Ochocos
- ☿ Sedimentation of Bend's historic Mirror Pond
- ☿ Water Resources in the Crooked River area
- ☿ Unique Clay mineralogy

Registration includes: lunch 2 days, pizza Thursday evening, breakfast Friday & tour transport.

Register and pay online at <http://www.oregonsoils.org/>

Or complete one registration form below for each registration.

Mail registration form(s) with check payable to OSSS, PO Box 391, Corvallis, OR 97339

Questions, comments or suggestions? Call 541-840-3616 or email tmatt0@ridata.com

Check one:

- | | |
|--|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member | \$150 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-member / registration with membership renewal | \$200 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Graduate Student | \$75 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Undergrad Student | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> After January 20, 2014 | \$225 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor a student | |

Specify donation amount: _____

TOTAL enclosed: _____

Name of Attendee	
Address	
City, State, Zip	
Phone	Email

Please complete all sections below:

Van / Carpool	Start: Corvallis or specify location _____ circle Drive or Ride
Breakfast - Feb 28 Please choose →	<input type="checkbox"/> Rancher's (flaky buttermilk) Biscuits & (sausage) Gravy <input type="checkbox"/> Scrambled Eggs, roasted potatoes, choice Canadian or strip bacon or link
Lunch – Feb 28 Please choose →	<input type="checkbox"/> Bacon Cheeseburger <input type="checkbox"/> Fish Tacos (gluten free) <input type="checkbox"/> Greek Pita – VEGAN option - circle YES or NO
Mentor Program Please choose →	<input type="checkbox"/> Professional <input type="checkbox"/> Student Area of expertise / interest _____
Other special needs	Please specify: _____

OSSS Winter Meeting 2014

Earth ☿ Fire ☿ Water: The Crooked River Caldera

February 27th and 28th

Old St. Francis School ☿ 700 N.W. Bond Street ☿ Bend, OR

Toll-free 877-661-4228 ☿ mcmenamins.com/OldStFrancis

Cabins and rooms. Availability limited! Make reservation today!!

Additional nearby lodging - Phoenix Inn, 300 NW Franklin Ave. phoenixinn.com/bend/ ☿ Toll-free: 888-291-4764

Registration: www.oregonsoils.org – Early bird deadline January 24, 2014

Agenda – Thursday, February 27



Session Title	Time	Presenter
Registration – Breakfast on your own	8:00 AM	
Welcome, Introductions & Logistics	9:00 to 9:15 AM	James Cassidy
Geologic development of the Crooked River caldera - central Oregon's supervolcano	9:15 – 10:15 AM	Jason McClaughry Eastern Oregon Regional Geologist Oregon Department of Mineral Industries Baker City Field Office
Ochoco landslides	10:15 – 11:15 AM	Carrie Gordon USFS Geologist, Prineville
BREAK	11:15 – 11:30 AM	
The Mirror Pond Conundrum - Discover the background, process, issues and current status of the Mirror Pond Visioning Project Mirror Pond is an icon of different things to different people. To some it's an icon of Bend's past and all that makes Bend a place people want to live. To others it's the opposite, an icon of man's continued efforts to dominate nature and all the things that move Bend farther from the nature they love.	11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	Jim Figurski Bend Park & Recreation District
LUNCH –Included in registration	12:30 – 1:30 PM	One Speed Mentor Session
Recent Geology and Hydrogeology of the Deschutes Basin and the Lower Crooked River Caldera Subregion An overview of the general geology and groundwater flow within the Upper Deschutes Basin will set the stage for a detailed discussion of the more complex geology history and groundwater flow systems dominating in the Lower Crooked River Caldera.	1:30 – 2:30 PM	Bruce Brody-Heine GSI Water Solutions
Formation of phyllosilicate clay minerals in (super-)volcanic landscapes This talk will recapitulate the nine distinct origins that phyllosilicate clays may generally have in soils and put the respective processes into the context of the volcanic landscape surrounding the Crooked River Caldera. Special emphasis will be given to "bentonites" (smectite or illite/smectite type clays) and to the recently alleged coincidence of large bentonite deposits with supervolcano sites. The goal of the talk is to enable the audience to engage in educated speculation about the origin of clays observed in the soil pits visited during the Friday field trip.	2:30 – 3:30 PM	Markus Kleber
BREAK	3:30 – 3:45 PM	
OSSS Annual Meeting	3:45 – 4:30 PM	Teresa Matteson / Markus Kleber
Poster Session AND Social Hour	4:30 – 5:30 PM	Graduate Students
Pizza Buffet & OSSS 40-Year Timeline	6 PM	Included with registration

OSSS Winter Meeting 2014 The Crooked River Caldera Tour

Agenda – Friday, February 28

Location / Topic	Arrival / Depart	Presenter
Breakfast – included in registration	7:00 AM	
Bus departs Old St. Francis promptly at	8:00 AM	
Prineville Overlook – drive by	8:30 AM	Jason McClaughry
John and Lynne Breese (1 hour from McMen's) Dixie Meadows - soil pits	9 AM / 10 AM	Jason, Carrie, Tom Clark
Ochoco Reservoir (16 minutes from Breese's)	10:20 AM / 11 AM	Jason and local hydrologist
Clays near Barnes Butte Road (9 minutes from Reservoir)	11:10 AM / 12:10 AM	Markus, Tom Clark, Jason
LUNCH – Terrebonne Depot – 35 min from BBR 400 NW Smith Rock Way - Terrebonne, OR Included in registration	12:45 / 1:45 PM	Choose one: Cheeseburger Fish Taco (GF) Greek Pita (Vegan upon request)
Smith Rock State Park (5 minutes from Tb Depot)	2:00 / 3:00 PM	Jason, Carrie
Diatoms at Lower Bridge Way (30 minutes from Smith Rock State Park)	3:30 / 4:00 PM	Will Austin
McMenamins - parking lot	5:00 PM	Adjourn

DATES TO REMEMBER



February 12

Wine Tasting with Dr. Alan Busacca 5:00 - 6:15 PM - Northwestern Washington Research and Extension Center - Mount Vernon, WA. Hosted by WSU NWREC Graduate Students with wine from the WWCC student winery, Cougar Gold cheese, and The Bread Lab bread.

6:30 PM Directly following the tasting, Dr. Busacca will present a free, public lecture.
Food, Wine and Soil: Kindling a Sense of Terroir at the Table.

Dr. Busacca is a former WSU Soil Scientist and currently Director of the Center for Enology and Viticulture at Walla Walla Community College. Due to limited space for this special event, we appreciate your RSVP.

February 13 The Soil Quality Network is alive and well!

Soil Quality Network 2014 - Soil Health for Farmers

8am - 5 pm - WSU-NWREC in Mount Vernon, WA

This workshop will include sessions on soil biology, the use of compost and cover crops on the farm, plant resistance to disease, and field assessment of soil quality.

Registration and Agenda: <http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/soil-quality-network/workshops>

February 18

Live Stream sessions of the National Cover Crop Conference held in Omaha, NE. Contact the local office near you for more information.

- USDA NRCS State Office 1201 NE Lloyd Blvd. Portland, OR
- USDA Service Center 625 SE Salmon Avenue, Redmond, OR
- USDA Service Center 650 Hawthorne Avenue SE, Suite 130, Salem, OR
- USDA Service Center 2316 South 6th Street, Klamath Falls, OR
- OSU Extension, Blue Mt. Comm. College, Umatilla Hall, 2411 NW Carden, Avenue, Pendleton, OR
- OSU Extension, Jackson County 569 Hanley Road, Central Point, OR
- OSU Extension, Benton County 4077 SW Research Way, Corvallis, OR

To host a Live Stream Session in your area, contact Debi Kelly kellyd@missouri.edu.

February 22 The Soil Quality Network is still alive and well!

OSU Small Farms Conference <http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/sfc>

Session 1 - 10:30 – 11:55 AM - *Soil Quality and Visual Soil Assessment*.

Nick Andrews, OSU Small Farms Extension Horticulturist, and Teresa Matteson, Benton Soil and Water Conservation District, will discuss key principles of soil health management and demonstrate some techniques you can use to evaluate the health status of your soil.

February 27-28 OSSS Annual Meeting & 40th Anniversary Celebration! Earth & Fire & Water

Old St. Francis School, 700 N.W. Bond Street, Bend, OR

Toll-free 877-661-4228 or mcmenamins.com/OldStFrancis

Early Bird Registration Deadline – January 24, 2014 – Don't hesitate!

<http://www.oregonsoils.org/>

Other Upcoming Conferences posted on the SSSA website <https://www.acsmeetings.org/meetings>

March 6-9 [Ecosystem Services Conference](#) Sacramento, CA

April 7-8 [On-Site Wastewater Conference](#) Albuquerque, NM

Nov. 2-5 ASA, CSSA, SSSA International Meeting, Long Beach, CA

EASTSIDE NOTES

by Meghan Krueger, Eastside Director

PROJECT LEADER

My previous article was a nostalgic for those who have spent time mapping soils (see Fall Sharpshooter 2013). This issue we will hear from a unique character. Quiet, perceptive and knowledgeable, he is our very own 'Million Acre Mapper' and Southern Malheur County Project Leader, Mr. Jim Dorr. Sporting his functional hand-made hats and prepared for anything imaginable with "traditional skills" that can get a fire burning anywhere, anytime. Not only will the fire get started but Jim Dorr invokes an ambiance to that of a bonfire, just another good time. The foresight Jim brings to the lab bench is like looking through a microscope at a grain of sand with 100x magnification. In an attempt to learn more about this elusive character I had the opportunity to ask Jim a few questions.

Describe yourself with 3 words. Old, grumpy and grouchy (laughs), I've never been asked that before. I'll go with eccentric, badger and integrity.



Eastside Director, **Meghan Krueger**, sporting her dusty, black soil hat!



Jim Dorr in his element, 2012.

What's been your favorite soil survey project and why?

Southern Malheur County, the current Soil Survey and Ecological Site Project is my favorite. It is satisfying to see the continuing process develop as the survey builds on itself. The process the skills and the people all contribute to the excitement.

Do you prefer sagebrush or trees? While amongst the sagebrush, I miss the trees and while amongst the trees, I miss the sagebrush. Riparian ecosystems in both forested and shrub steppe landscapes are my favorite.

Having experienced soil survey projects from start to finish, what is your favorite part of the project? Carrying the process through is fulfilling.

For us new in our career, what was your experience at the inception of your career compared with today?

Thirty years ago we tracked many times less data than we do today. Nothing was electronic within the soil survey office. Now everything is electronic. The agency was working with Computer Assisted Writing. Hand written map unit designs were sent to the state office. Months later we received formatted and printed map units. The intent often times was lost in translation. Black and white aerial photography was a useful tool. I thought it was cool at the time because it was different than the usual road maps. I had heard of topographic maps but we did not have them available at the time. Hand drawn lines and symbols were used to indicate soil polygons. The digitizing that is currently done in Arcmaps^(TM) by soil scientists was done elsewhere by professional cartographers. Pedon descriptions were done on paper and kept in a filing cabinet, usually. The loss of pedon descriptions was probably huge. It wasn't until the Winema project that I was introduced to an inventorying system for pedon descriptions. Now we have National Soils Information System (NASIS). One utility of NASIS is to store pedon descriptions which can be viewed by users around the country.

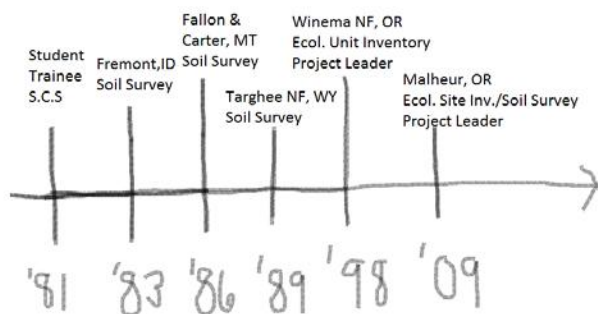
What drives you to produce quality soil survey data? Work is play, there is no distinction. It is fun. I'm not an idle person. Actively pursuing long term goals is essential for me.

What direction would you like to see Soil Survey Division proceed? Apply caution when adding interpretive data fields for soils in NASIS. Many of the recent additions are misleading when applied to wild land systems. There are more factors influencing the interpretation than is allowed in our survey.

Who/what is your biggest soils inspiration? Chad McGrath. Chad's been around throughout my career. Very sound and consistent with his direction. I always enjoyed observing and learning from Chad's technique.

Have you ever thought about working on a soils project internationally? Yes. Frozen saline soils on the Tibetan plateau are of particular interest. The area would be neat to experience from a soil survey perspective. Family ties have kept me close to home.

What advice do you have for soil scientists at the beginning stages of their career? Pursue activities that are a hoot, that are fun.



Timeline of Jim Dorr's career

With all of the time you've spent outdoors have you encountered any signs of Bigfoot? Yes.

What is your best Bigfoot story? You'd have to get a beer in me to answer that question (laughs).

If we are lucky enough to see Jim at the OSSS winter meeting, somebody get him a beer!

WESTSIDE NOTES

by Mark Fery

Looking ahead to 2014, the 40th anniversary of OSSS, this winter meeting will feature an interactive timeline activity. A large butcher-paper timeline will be the focal piece of a conversation regarding the history of the society so far. Some notable events will already be placed along the timeline, but there will also be very noticeable blank spaces just waiting to be populated with input from the great memories and fascinating photo albums of our long-time members. Items may include milestones, photos, traditions, takeaways, or any other memorable moments of the past.

Please take some time this winter to ponder the past and bring your submissions to the winter meeting. Don't forget to include the: who, what, when, and where. Questions and early submissions can be directed to Mark Fery at siltyclayloam@gmail.com

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

~ Shannon Andrews ~



I grew up in Corbett, OR, just east of Portland in the Columbia River gorge on a small hobby farm. At 15 I went to boarding school in Philadelphia where I had to learn how to deal with the world without a horse to carry me away. I came to Oregon State for the first time to study animal sciences with the goal of becoming a veterinarian. An opportunity to move to St. Thomas to study marine biology came my sophomore year and so I took my family's advice to get out of agriculture. The next year I was offered my dream job being the equestrian manager at a transitional organic beef ranch and I had the chance to prove that I could make it in agriculture. After working to get the ranch certified organic and learning some sustainable agricultural practices I knew I needed to have a more useful role in ag than as a horse trainer. I came back to OSU to finish my degree in animal science.

After graduation I became a commodities trader for Wilbur-Ellis working with the dairies of the Northwest. That led into trading ingredients for the organic fertilizer industry. This is where I found my passion. I scoured the internet for information about agricultural and industrial by-products that could be used as soil amendments. I read about and sold everything I could get my hands on. My bosses wanted more and I started looking into the algae companies that kept claiming they would have facilities operational in the next year. I contacted them to see if they had by-product available for contract. After countless dead-end conversations I learned about the roadblocks in the algal industry. This sparked a curiosity that led me back to Oregon State again.

The lessons I learned dealing with global markets, industrial by-products, beef cattle production, wildlife and marine biology all came together to form an idea that I have been unable to shake. I saw an integrated dairy algae production facility as a possible solution to the problems facing each of these industries. Dairies and other concentrated animal feeding operations emit a high nutrient load into the atmosphere as well as the soil. Algae production facilities are currently not sustainable nor economically viable due to the intensive energy requirements needed to produce the growth nutrients and process the algal meal. By coupling these two facilities with an anaerobic digester we can capture the nutrients from the dairy with the algae and produce on-farm energy to power the operation. The by-product from this production can be used as an organic fertilizer product. I was lucky enough to receive funding from the Sun Grant Initiative for a preliminary investigation of fertilizer value of algal meal for my Masters thesis.

I am currently working on my PhD with Drs. Maria Dragila and Markus Kleber on a Quincy sand water repellency issue. This has given me the opportunity to work on a challenging problem and learn how to use new analytical methods. I hope this work will lead toward a long-term position researching important questions on agricultural management practices impacting environmental degradation and economic productivity.

FY 2013 MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

The following reports summarize the OSSS membership, income and expenditures for the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 (July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013)

OSSS Membership – renew or upgrade your membership with Winter Meeting registration!

Membership Type	Fee	Paid Members
Lifetime	\$ 500	23
Sustaining	\$ 55	16
Regular	\$ 50	24
Student	\$ 30	12
Total Paid Members		75

FY2013 Financial Report

Beginning Balance	\$ 2,760.13
Income	
Description	Amount
Membership Dues	\$ 3,605.00
Business Checking Account Interest	\$ 0.21
Sharpshooter Advertising	\$ 180.00
Summer Tour 2012 Registration	\$ 500.00
Winter Meeting 2013 Registration	\$ 11,150.00
Merchandise Sales	\$ 280.00
Total	\$ 15,715.21
Expenses	
Description	Amount
Scholarships (JB Good & OSU Soil Judging)	\$ (600.00)
PO Box fee	\$ (80.00)
Oregon Corporation Fees	\$ (80.00)
Business Checking Account	\$ (37.50)
Promotional Merchandise	\$ (596.20)
Sharpshooter Printing & Mailing	\$ (408.08)
Summer Tour 2012	\$ (860.03)
Winter Meeting 2013	\$ (11,269.44)
PayPal Fees	\$ (383.59)
Winter Meeting 2014	\$ (1,700.00)
Total	\$ (16,014.84)
Ending Balance	\$ 2,460.50

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The Stevens pF Sensor is a matric potential probe that measures soil water potential using an innovative heat capacitance method. This makes the Stevens pF Sensor more accurate and provides high-accuracy readings even in dry or saline soils. Additionally, the sensor offers a measurement range of 10,000 bar, for a wider range of applications.



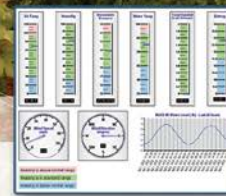
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Sharpshooter

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. Send address changes or inquiries about membership to:

OSSS

P.O. Box 391
Corvallis, OR 97339

Website:

<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 jpg file 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 (see below) in most any text, http, or word processing format. Pictures are best in 300 dpi jpg format.

Member rates

\$50.00	Regular Member
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