

The Sharpshooter

Oregon Society of Soil Scientists

Quarterly Newsletter

Spring, 2026



PRESIDENTS LETTER

Happy Spring to all friends of the soil, in Oregon and beyond! With warmer weather and longer days, I've felt a renewed push to get outside, soak up the sunshine, and dig into the garden or the woods. I hope you're finding moments to enjoy the season with friends and loved ones, and that fieldwork is ramping up smoothly. As a forest soil scientist, this time can be chaotic- the winter thaw fades, project work accelerates- but I always look forward to watching wildflower blooms mark our progress toward summer and planning another outdoor adventure with friends.



The Coast Range Fawn Lily, *Erythronium elegans*, one of Victoria's favorite spring blooms



Springtime kayaking at the Silverton Reservoir



Victoria on an early spring site survey on Saddlebag Mountain

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Visit the
Oregon Society of
Soil Scientists @
[https://
www.oregonsoils.org/
contact/](https://www.oregonsoils.org/contact/)

One adventure I'm especially excited for is our upcoming OSSS Summer Tour. This year we're heading to the Coos Bay area to explore wetland soils in classic sloughs of the central Oregon coast, cranberry bog farms, landslide-prone soils, and more. The Board is still finalizing logistics, but the tour will take place at the end of August, with group lodging near Coos Bay. Keep an eye on our website for updates and registration. If the location or theme sparks ideas, or if you'd like to help plan, please reach out at oss.s.pres@gmail.com. Anyone is welcome to join the planning committee, it's a great way to be involved without committing to a board position (which I also highly recommend!).

Even during the busy season, OSSS never feels like a burden. I've met incredible people through this organization, and every event brings far more enjoyment in camaraderie, laughter, and soil pit discourse than the time and effort it takes to plan them. Creating a space where more people feel safe, welcome, and connected is one of my priorities, not just for OSSS, but for the future of soil science in Oregon. At a time when the natural resources field as a whole is in a bit of a slump (geomorphic pun intended), widening the reach of our organization can help more folks find community through this wonderful, complex, and often confounding thing we call soil.

I'm excited for the events ahead of us and the chance to bring more people into soil pits across the state; to learn, to get our hands dirty, and to feel at home among fellow dirt nerds. Thanks for tuning in to this edition of The Sharpshooter. The Board is excited to share what's coming up for this year!

Your 2026 OSSS President,
Victoria Moreno



Victoria in a vitrixerand pit at the Upper Valley Farm
(2023 Winter Meeting field tour, in Hood River)



OREGON SOCIETY OF Soil Scientists



2026 OSSS Board Members. Left to right: Todd Reinwald (Eastside Director), Victoria Moreno (President), Jalene Weatherholt (Past President), Sahalie Ellickson (Secretary), Andy Gallagher (Vice President), Jen Valentine (Website Manager), Isabel Christy (Student Liaison), Chris Lessey (Westside Director), Anna Perry (Sharpshooter Editor), Megan McGinnis (Treasurer), Tom Mitchell (Incoming Treasurer). Not pictured: Kristin Dietz (Student Liaison).

Victoria Moreno, President

Victoria is a soil scientist working in forest land management in Salem. She completed her MS in Geology and Soil Science at OSU in Spring of 2025, and earned her B.S. in Environmental Science from the University of Texas at El Paso in her hometown. This is her fourth year on the OSSS Board and she is excited to bring a perspective of inclusion and broadening participation in the Oregon soils community to her year as president.

Andy Gallagher, Vice President

Andy is a Certified Professional Soil Classifier owns Red Hill Soils and specializes in Order-1 Soil Survey for high value crops, and land use planning. He has been working as a soil scientist for 40 years, and has mapped in the Midwest, Southeast USA and for the last 29 years in Oregon and Pacific Northwestern States.

Sahalie Ellickson, Secretary

Sahalie earned B.S. in Environmental Sciences and M.S. in Soil Science from Oregon State University. After her graduation in 2025 she began working as an onsite wastewater specialist with Jefferson County, where she evaluates soils for septic systems. Sahalie joined the board in 2024 as a student liaison and is currently serving her second year as Secretary. She continues to look forward to planning events with the OSSS board to promote community amongst Oregon soil scientists, young and old.

Megan McGinnis, Treasurer

Megan is an Oregon State University alumnus working federal land management, currently with the BLM out of Springfield, OR.

Tom Mitchell, Incoming Treasurer

Tom Mitchell is a Soil Specialist at Lane Forest Products. Previously, he earned a BS in Crop and Soil Science from Oregon State University and worked as a Biological Field Technician and Researcher for the USGS, where he focused on post-fire vegetation recovery and biomass fuel calculations across the Great Basin. He currently serves as Co-Treasurer on the OSSS board and is excited to help support the society's mission and connect with fellow soil enthusiasts!

Anna Perry, Sharpshooter Editor

Anna Perry is an MS student in the Horticulture Department at Oregon State University, where she studies microplastic contamination in urban garden soils. Previously, she earned two BS degrees from Oregon State University (Crop and Soil Science, and Sustainability). This is her first term serving on the OSSS board and she is thrilled to be a part of such an amazing organization of people!

Todd Reinwald, Eastside Director

Todd has been a member of OSSS off and on since 1992. Currently he is serving on the OSSS Board as the east side director and served as the westside director in 2022/23. Todd has worked in natural resource management for the past 40 years and has been employed as the soil and water program manager on the Mt Hood National Forest for the last 13 years. He has worked in both the public and private sectors, spending 29 years with state and federal agencies that administer public lands. His background is in soil science and forestry, with undergraduate degrees from Central Oregon Community college and Oregon State Univ. Originally born and raised in Columbus, Ohio, Todd has been an Oregon resident for 46 years, living in the Zigzag and Welches area for the last 33 years

Chris Lessey, Westside Director

Chris Lessey is a recent graduate of Oregon State University, where he earned a master's degree in soil science. His research focused on cover crops in hazelnut orchards, with an emphasis on improving soil health. He has been actively involved with the Oregon Society of Soil Scientists since the 2020 winter meeting. This is his third term serving on the board and his first as West Side Director.

Website Manager, Jen Valentine

Jen Valentine is a PhD student in Soil Science at Oregon State University. She previously received an MS in Plant, Soil and Environmental Science from the University of Maine. She serves as the Website Manager for OSSS and is really excited to serve on the board and be more involved in the OSSS community.

Isabel Christy, Student Liaison

Isabel Christy is a PhD student in the Environmental Sciences, Studies, and Policy Program at the University of Oregon. They previously received an MS in Soil Science from Oregon State University. This is their second term as student liaison for OSSS, and they are excited to engage more folks from UO in OSSS events!

Kristin Dietz, Student Liaison

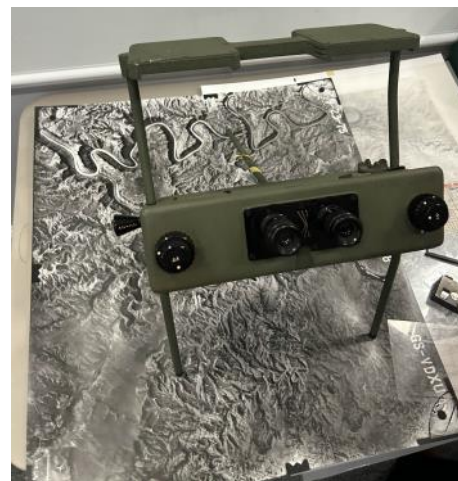
Kristen Dietz is a junior at Oregon State University majoring in Crop and Soil Science with a concentration in Soil Science. She is especially interested in soil microbial ecology and plans to pursue graduate studies in the future. As student liaison, she hopes to encourage involvement in the society, connect students with opportunities, and continue learning from the soils community.

2026 Winter Meeting: Past, Present, and Future of Oregon Soil Science

This year's Winter Meeting was a rollercoaster through time. The morning began with a captivating talk from keynote speaker J. Strat Noller, who shared his perspective on the history and future of soil science. This was followed by a panel discussion, *The Soils of Oregon*, organized by Craig Busckohl, and moderated by Andy Gallagher. The panel featured some of the legends of soil science in Oregon: Duane Lammers, Russ Langridge, Chad McGrath, Matthew Fillmore, and Craig Busckohl. Also involved was Thor Thorson, who, though unable to attend, contributed materials to the discussion. This free-wheeling conversation spanned the history of soil surveying in Oregon, as well as mapping and interpretation of Willamette Valley Geomorphology.

After lunch, we got down to business in the OSSS Membership Meeting, covering 2025 events, financials, a membership report, and concluding with the election of new board members. Attendees were then energized by a series of lighting talks! Speakers included Scott Burns, who covered the history of the establishment of Jory as the state soil

of Oregon; Steve Cambell, who discussed the evolution of soil mapping technologies from paper surveys to digital data; Seirra Wolfe, who made a compelling case for the future of soil science through the lens of the OSU Soil Judging Team; and Ron Reuter, who presented the upcoming CANVAS meeting in Portland and its accompanying regional tour. The talks closed with Andy Gallagher, who gave an enticing preview of the Saturday Field Tour. The afternoon concluded with the poster session, and a raffle of miscellaneous, mostly soil-related, treasures.



A relic of soil surveying from a different time, a stereoscope



Keynote speaker J. Strat Noller



Members of the OSU Soil Judging Team at Benton Lane Winery, OSSS Winter Field Tour

From left to right: Helen Beecher, Calvin McQuain, Seirra Wolfe, Megan Beck, Sydney Wagner, Gianna Garman

-Anna Perry, Sharpshooter Editor

2026 Winter Meeting: Past, Present, and Future of Oregon Soil Science

A special thank you to Craig for the many months, and many lunch meetings, he dedicated to singlehandedly organizing the panel recognizing those who contributed to the mapping of Oregon soils. On behalf of the 2025 board members, we are especially grateful for the energy, positivity, and enthusiasm he brought to every board meeting, as well as his continued efforts in helping make the Winter Soils Meeting possible and so meaningful.

-Sahalie Ellickson, OSSS Secretary



Andy Gallagher moderating panel discussion on the Soils of Oregon



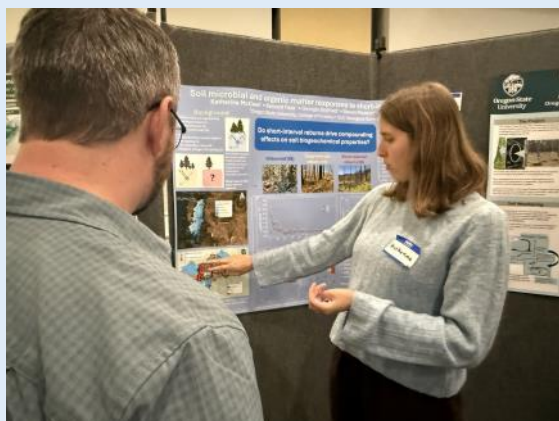
Sahalie and Craig,
at the 2025 OSSS
Board Retreat

Scholarship Awardees Announced!

Jesse Hauck OSU: BS, Crop and Soil Science,
graduated Winter 2026

Sydney Wagner OSU: BS, Crop and Soil Science

Anna Perry OSU: MS, Horticulture



Katherine McCool presenting her winning poster

Congratulations to the winners of the poster competition!

Isabel Christy—*Elucidating Impacts of Thermally Altered Material on Salt Marsh Soil Metabolism*

Katherine McCool—*Soil Microbial and Organic Matter Responses to Short-Interval Reburns*

Medora Knudson—*Potato Growth in Various Lunar Regolith Simulants*

2026 Winter Meeting: Poster Abstract Highlight

Soil microbial and organic matter responses to short-interval reburns in the Pacific Northwest, USA

Katherine McCool

The area burned by high severity wildfire is increasing in many regions on the planet, leading to a greater potential for short-interval reburns, where the same area is burned by two or more wildfires within 20 years. It remains unclear how soil biogeochemical processes will respond to short-interval reburns. A key uncertainty is how reburn history influences dissolved organic carbon (DOC) quantity and composition and microbial respiration, which together influence C processing and organic matter (OM) cycling in soils. We quantified differences in soil biogeochemistry across soils from forest stands that experienced zero, one (in 2023), or three (in 2003, 2017, and 2023) wildfires within a 20-year period, and classified those stands as unburned, long-interval reburn, and short-interval reburn, respectively. We collected soil samples from 0–5 cm mineral soil depths and quantified microbial biomass C and N and DOC and total dissolved N concentrations. We also carried out a 35-day lab incubation to quantify microbial CO₂ respiration and net inorganic N fluxes, and we characterized the chemical quality of DOC using excitation-emission indices and parallel factor analysis. Soil from short-interval reburn sites had lower DOC concentrations ($F_{2,12} = 14.5$, $p < 0.001$) and CO₂ fluxes ($F_{2,10} = 26.6$, $p < 0.001$) than both long-interval reburn and unburned stands, with close correlations in both short- and long-interval reburn sites. These preliminary results suggest that the short-interval reburn soils exhibited lower DOC concentrations and suppressed microbial respiration. Interestingly, these lower CO₂ fluxes were not fully explained by microbial biomass C and N, which appeared to be buffered, possibly due to less fuel consumption during the third fire. Instead, we hypothesize that reduced DOC quantity was the primary constraint on microbial processing under our experimental conditions. Slower decomposition may facilitate soil C retention following short-interval reburns.



Katherine in the field

2026 Winter Meeting: Willamette Valley Field Tour

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the many individuals who helped make the 2026 Winter Meeting Soil Tour such a success. This event was truly a team effort, and it would not have been possible without the dedication, hard work, and generosity of so many contributors.

A special note of appreciation goes to the incredible crew who quite literally laid the groundwork for the tour. Digging five soil pits across three farms is no small task, and doing so with enthusiasm—and then staying to backfill them in pouring rain—speaks volumes about their commitment. We are especially grateful to Calvin McQuain, Sierra Wolfe, Megan Beck, Sydney Wagner, Gianna Garman, Helen Beecher, all members of the OSU Soil Judging Team, for their outstanding efforts. We also thank Cove and Guthrie Gallagher for their help with the soil pits.

We would like to sincerely thank Corinne Butler for her exceptional work in planning and executing the field tour, as well as for lending a hand in digging pits. Her leadership and coordination were instrumental in bringing the event together.

Our gratitude also goes to Matthew Fillmore for sharing his expertise in soil geomorphology at the tour sites. His educational talks and training sessions provided invaluable learning opportunities for the OSU soil judging team and enriched the experience for all participants. Thank you to Teresa Matteson for presenting her soil health work.



Corinne Butler (standing), Seirra Wolfe (lower left), Calvin McQuain (lower middle), and Megan Beck (lower right) at the Oso Honey Farm

Finally, we are deeply appreciative of the generous hosts who welcomed us onto their properties and shared their knowledge and resources. Thank you to Henry Storch and Laura Bennet of Oso Honey Farm; Kathleen Sedehi of the truffle farm; and Jose Garcia and Jenn Bradley of Benton Lane Winery, and Alice Fairfield. Their hospitality allowed us to explore a diverse range of landscapes, including fields, greenhouses, truffières, homes, vineyards, and winery spaces, making the tour both informative and memorable.

To everyone who contributed their time, energy, and expertise—thank you for helping make this year's Soil Tour a meaningful and successful experience.

*-Andy Gallagher,
OSSS Vice President*

2026 Winter Meeting: Willamette Valley Field Tour

**Best Winter Tour
we've had in years!!!**
- James Cassidy



Upcoming OSSS Events

Pit Day!

When: May 30th, 2026; 8:45 am—1 pm

Where: between Sweet Home and Lebanon

We will focus on honing fundamental soil pit assessment skills like hand-texturing, Munsell coloring and horizon designations in two pits along a catena – one in a lowland valley flat, and another in a forested upland. Purchase some OSSS merch to support our events and Scholarship Fund, put your texturing skills to the test, and hang out with your local soil nerds! Purchase your registration TODAY!

[Click here to register!](#)

\$10—Students/Lifetime

\$20—General/Retiree



Photos from Pit Day 2025 in the Corvallis area



Summer Field Tour

When: August 2026, exact dates TBD

Where: Central Oregon Coast, exact locations TBD

We have big dreams of visiting the sloughs that characterize the Central Coast, cranberry bogs, and more. [Stay tuned for more information](#), including dates, locations, and registration details. Email oss.pres@gmail.com if you would like to join the planning committee for this event!

CANVAS 2026: Field Tour

By Ron Reuter, ron.reuter@oregonstate.edu

Oregon is going to be soil science central come November 2026! **CANVAS, the annual meeting of the Tri Societies, will be held in Portland at the convention center downtown on Nov. 1-6.** Wait, what are the Tri Societies you ask? They are the international professional organizations of the Soil Science Society of America, Crop Science Society of America, and the American Society of Agronomy (SSSA-CSSA-ASA). Not everybody puts the soil society first, but I do! And CANVAS (short for Crop, Agronomic, Environmental, and Soil Sciences) is the joint annual meeting between for the societies. Since I've been involved in soil science professionally (say, 1994) the meetings have never been in Portland...closest has been Seattle. So this is kinda big.

Currently I serve on the SSSA board as a rep for the Soil and Ecosystem Processes group, so I get a lot of the behind-the-scenes viewpoint on how SSSA runs. If you ever really want to know about an organization, serving on the board is the way to go...like maybe for OSSS!

The scoop is that folks are really jonesing for this PDX conference. They've all watched Portlandia and seen photos of Mt. Hood, Crater Lake, Multnomah Falls, and Haystack Rock. They know the grass, garlic, and carrot seeds that they grow were likely sourced here (okay, only a few of them know that – but we get to tell them now!). Lucky for them, the meetings come after grass pollination time, so they don't have to suffer the pollen haze in the Valley that haunts some of us in the spring and early summer. If they are lucky, things will even be dry-ish while they are here (and with no wildfire smoke).

Unfortunately, not very many of them will get the full Oregon Exposure. We are not just PDX and a couple of pretty landscape shots. We have 10 of the twelve soil orders (yes, only 10 of the 12, don't try to say otherwise unless you have measured, confirmable proof, or Markus will give you a talking to). These folks will not see the Columbia Plateau wheatfields, the melon patches along the Columbia, the biodiverse Siskiyou, the newly free-flowing Klamath, Steens Mountain over the Alvord, the depths of the Owyhee and Snake River canyons, or our baby alps of the Willows. I am sad for them, but also really happy for our active OSSS that has taken me to many of those locations over the 24 years I've lived in Oregon.

As a young soil scientist, that didn't really understand a fragipan, but studied them in my MS thesis at UIdaho, I joined SSSA. My advisor helped cover my costs to go to my first meeting in Seattle. I was overwhelmed – thousands of scientists roaming the halls of the convention center. The next year, I got to present my research via poster at the meetings in Indianapolis. Before the official start of the meetings, I joined the soil pedology pre-meeting field tour, led by Don Franzmaier. We explored the OLD glaciated areas of southern Illinois, saw pits in Mark Twain National Forest, and I brought home rocks, including an awesome geode that I used in my SOIL206 lab for years to teach



Where Crop, Agronomic, Environmental, and Soil Sciences Connect



Pedology tour of the Eastern Shore of MD from CANVAS 2022, Baltimore. Recognize any of these folks?

As a young soil scientist, that didn't really understand a fragipan, but studied them in my MS thesis at UIdaho, I joined SSSA. My advisor helped cover my costs to go to my first meeting in Seattle. I was overwhelmed – thousands of scientists roaming the halls of the convention center. The next year, I got to present my research via poster at the meetings in Indianapolis. Before the official start of the meetings, I joined the soil pedology pre-meeting field tour, led by Don Franzmaier. We explored the OLD glaciated areas of southern Illinois, saw pits in Mark Twain National Forest, and I brought home rocks, including an awesome geode that I used in my SOIL206 lab for years to teach

CANVAS 2026 Field Tour Announcement

mineralogy of parent materials (it was an example of a chemical sedimentary rock). Some of the folks that were on that tour were legends of pedology – but I didn't know to be awed. They treated me like a colleague, and taught me how to think about the landscape and soil relationships. Also on that tour were other students and recent graduates my age, who now are the giants in the field and just a phone call away because they became my friends and peers on those trips. I was lucky to do multiple pedology tours over the years. These types of events are where you get to bond with people that share your weird love for all things soil. Many of us who have been around for a while know how small the soil science (for me, pedology) community is. If you are just starting out...keep with it, we're okay people to know and hang with.

It's time for me to return the favor. So, I volunteered to help plan the soil pedology field tour for the PDX CANVAS. With my colleagues (and yours) Kris Osterloh and Pedro Martinez, both OSU grads, we've been working out a pretty cool trip. We will begin Thursday Oct 29 at ~10am near PDX (the airport) and work our way over Mount Hood. Todd Reinwald will help us look at some soil landscapes along the White River after a visit to Timberline. Continuing to Madras and the OSU Central Oregon Agriculture Research and Extension Center, Steve Culman will host the group as we look at a couple pits at the center, where they are working with Kernza, maybe the grain of the future? We'll overnight in Bend and hit the road early on Friday with a stop at a ranch in Sisters to investigate soils formed in ash, on basalt outcrops, and in glaciofluvial deposits. We'll climb back up the Cascades, stopping at Suttle Lake and Hoodoo, before coasting down along the McKenzie River to the HJ Andrews LTER, where OSSS held its winter meeting a few years ago. Wandering out of Eugene, we'll overnight in Corvallis, and on Saturday make our way north. We'll hopefully sneak in a Jory, maybe a Woodburn and Amity, and do some erratic driving to find some erratics while aiming for a winery to cap off the day. This day is the least well-planned, and so **if you have an idea for a safe, accessible stop between Corvallis and the suburbs of PDX for a tour bus with 50ish soil nerds, get in touch.**

While I encourage you to join the trip, unfortunately, nothing in this world is cheap anymore, except bad advice. CANVAS requires us to do this as single occupancy rooming, we have to rent a big bus, there is food, supplies, and pits to dig. Plus, Caesar extracts its share to make the system smooth. So, plan on ~\$700 for a professional level registration and ~\$500 for a student level. You do get two hotel nights, yummy box lunches, snacks and refreshments, a cush ride, and some smart-ish tour guides. And very likely some memories that you will carry with you for a lifetime. Who knows, maybe you will meet the person that gives you your first full time soil science gig.

As I write this, I am considering whether I need to run a trial tour in late summer with some volunteers?



SSSA Pedology Tour 2012 out of San Antonio. Looks a little like an OSSS Summer Tour!



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

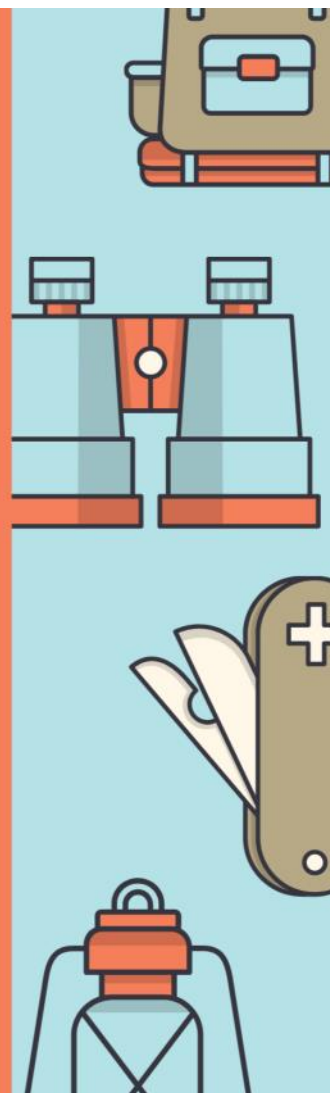
We are looking for *2-4 volunteers* to help facilitate the soils section of *Outdoor School near Salem, OR*

When? → End of October (specific dates to be finalized)

Time commitment? → 6 hours per day, 4 days total
(more volunteers = less time commitment per person!)

What would I do? → Lead a hands-on lesson for 5th graders in the fall round of Outdoor School.
All instructional materials provided!

Interested? Please contact Pam and Mark Keller for more info!
pam.mark.keller@gmail.com



OSU's Student Farm—The 26-Year Overnight Success!

By James Cassidy, james.cassidy@oregonstate.edu

Many of you probably know me from my participation in OSSS activities over the last 20+ years (presidencies, board positions, winter meetings, summer tours, student engagement, etc.) and many of you may know that I have been an instructor at OSU in the Crop and Soil Science department for over 20 years teaching undergraduate courses in Soil Science and Organic and Sustainable Agriculture. But you may not know that I am the founder and faculty advisor for OSU's student farm – The OSU Organic Growers Club. The student farm has grown from a small group of determined students to a complex farming operation. The student farm is in its 26th season and is in the middle of getting everything seeded/transplanted into well-tended SOIL! at two locations:

- OSU's East Farm Plot – Chehalis soil
- OSU Oak Creek Center for Urban Horticulture – Dayton/Amity soils

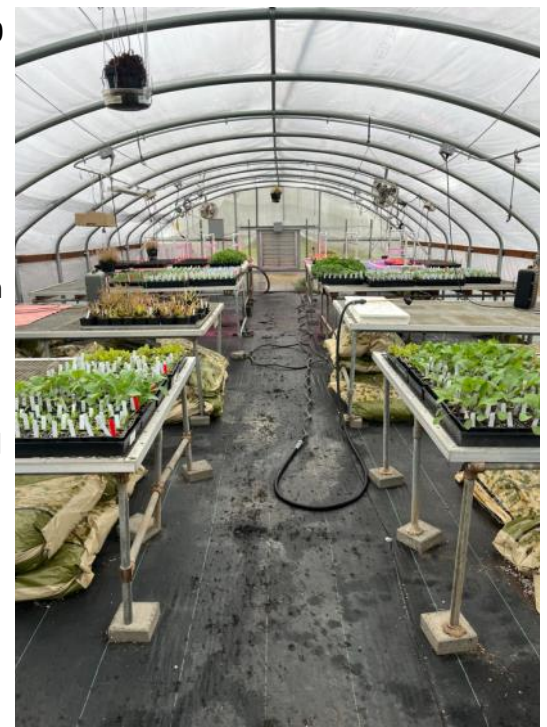


The OSU Organic Growers Club – OSU's Student Farm

The student farm was founded by 3 CSS students who complained about not getting any information on organic practices or any experiential learning opportunities. So, with the help of a research assistant (me), the help of a sympathetic land manager, and the protection of a sympathetic department head (thanks Russ!) we started our own damn farm in 2000!

For the last 26 years the farm has been managed as a volunteer program with work parties every Thursday Night 4:30-Dark (with a home-cooked hot supper served at 7:00) and every Sunday morning (Sunday Skool – 9-Noon!). Over 30,000 students have participated in the farm's activities, and we routinely have over 60+ students at the farm every Thursday Night! Remarkably, through all these years, the project has been almost entirely self-funded through the sale of fruit and veggies - we receive no financial support from the university.

The project now has a large Greenhouse, 3 high-tunnels, a walk-in cooler, two locations, certified organic berries and table grapes, a small farm truck, and with the sale of fruits and veggies through the club's CSA and farmers markets has supported over 200 paid summer internships. All of this development has been self-funded by selling fruits & veggies and seeking donations in-kind (that's why it's taken 26 years to get here!). The farm is now integrated into all the courses I teach (and some other classes I don't) and is the host-site for dozens of Service Learning Projects (experiential learning) associated with SOIL205 and SUS102. 300+ students from these classes visit the farm every year (in addition to the hundreds of student farm volunteer members).



OSU's Student Farm—The 26-Year Overnight Success!

We have hit our limit! – The farm started from nothing but the land itself and a dream that students can teach themselves by doing it themselves! And as anyone knows who has built something from nothing, against the odds, it takes countless hours of work, constant top-of-mind planning, and determination to create a project like this. I have devoted tens of thousands of hours to the project to get it where it is – it has been the work of my life! I do it ALL for the students! I could tell you hundreds of stories of student success that came about from their exposure to the student farm – real jobs, long-term relationships, changed majors, advanced degrees, OSU Extension jobs, started their own farms/seed companies, research jobs, and MUCH more! Many students describe their time at the student farm as being the best thing that happened to them at their time at OSU! However, for all the success we have to show for our efforts, the project is as big as it can possibly be using only a volunteer labor force and volunteer management/advising (me). The student farm project is at a remarkable and mature stage and is ready for what's next.



Looking to the Future – Overnight Success!

A few years back, Roger Worthington (founder of Worthy Brewing, among MANY other things) asked if I would advise on the development of a teaching garden he wanted to install at his Bend OR brewery. I had no idea who he was and was happy to help. The project was a success and Roger offered to donate a substantial amount of dollars to the student farm which allowed us to do things we could never have done – buy rain gear, fix/replace equipment, increase the stipends of our summer interns, donate more veggies to people in need, get an ARF account and have some money in it so I wouldn't have to personally float the club year-to-year...(!) As a result, I started thinking differently about what the student farm could be and how much more it could be. I approached OSU Foundation folks and, with the help of Russ Karrow (again), we created a Student Farm Endowment at the OSU Foundation. If we could raise \$1M through donations and/or pledges, the student farm would have PERMANENT support of the equivalent of 1, half-time instructor level position and ~\$20K in annual support funds in perpetuity!



And thus, an additional focus came into my life and I became determined to make this a reality! I had seen with my eyes what this farm project meant to thousands of students. The idea of all this work going towards a permanent farm for future generations became an organizing principle pushing me forward with the farm. On the advice of my partner in music, I approached an old friend of the band with significant inherited wealth and was able to secure a \$300K donation to the fund. On the strength of that, I was able to secure another \$50K from a former student farm member(!), and another \$10K from Roger. Another \$300K just came in from the same old friend and now we're talkin'! We are currently at \$660K! An overnight success indeed!

OSU's Student Farm—The 26-Year Overnight Success!

All we need is \$340K in support or pledges of support over a 5-year period equaling that amount for the permanent support to start immediately! I am absolutely hell-bent on seeing this through! I have tirelessly volunteered for 26 years to build this program, mentoring thousands of students to the point where it has the value to attract this sort of support. Help me close the gap!

This support can help us build on our past success as we seek to:

- Hire a seasonal student farm operations manager.
- Increase the number of CSA boxes that go to those in need.
- Provide year-round, paid internship opportunities for students.
- Expand and enhance our student volunteer weekly work sessions.
- Support other on-site employment and engagement opportunities.
- Support an instructor-level position.
- Sustain and grow the legacy of our remarkable student farm and club.



What I am asking of you...

Of course I would appreciate your direct support to help me get to the goal, and I would be happy to talk with you about ways to do that if you are in a position to help but – if you can help me identify potential sympathetic donors who can see the value in the learning that happens when young people come together with the common purpose of creating their own future, learning valuable life and leadership skills, and feeling the empowerment that comes from cultivating, learning soil science, and protecting and using this most fundamental resource to grow food for the future – their future – all our future(!) – let me know! Put me in front of people who care about the future, and I can close the deal! I've got the story to tell of how 26 years ago 3 students changed the lives of thousands because I listened to them and believed in them! Young people lead the way! Contact me and let's help them! Forward to the future!

Thanks!
James Cassidy

Ways of giving now!



[For Endowment Fund](#)
(must type in the Designations and Amounts field "OSU Student Farms Program Endowment Fund")



[For direct support to the Student Farm ARF Account](#)

Soilforward.org
SOIL T-Shirts and more! (100% of profits go to supporting summer internships!)



OREGON SOCIETY OF

Soil Scientists