THE SHARPSHOOTER

Oregon Society of Soil Scientists Quarterly Newsletter Fall 2026

SAVE THE DATE - 2027 Winter Meeting

The 2027 OSSS Winter Meeting will be held at **Chemeketa Eola Hills Campus in Salem on February 25-27, 2027**.

Stay tuned for registration information, which will be on our website soon. If you are not already on our listserv, now is a great time to sign up! Follow this link to sign up for our email listserv. Those who receive emails from us are the first to know when registration opens for events, such as our annual Winter Meeting.

Letter From the Editor

Anna Perry

Greetings Soil Scientists! I hope you all are enjoying the changing of the seasons, especially as we get relief from the hot and dry summer which led to so many fires. Fall is my favorite time of the year, especially here in the Willamette Valley, as we start to experience that familiar earthy scent of petrichor. Petrichor, a term to describe that enticing aroma associated with raindrops hitting the soil, in part comes courtesy of the geosmin-producing *Actinomycetes* - soil dwelling bacteria. So next time you hear someone comment on the exquisite smell of rain, you can tell them it's really all about the SOIL!

Astute readers may notice that this edition of The Sharpshooter has a different look than what you're accustomed to. This is because our long-standing publication software, *Microsoft Publisher*, was retired on October 1st. After a lengthy search, we have found a replacement that is relatively easy to use and, best of all, free. I want to convey my sincere thank you to all who contributed to this edition of the Sharpshooter, and for everyone's patience as I navigated this new mode of newsletter creation.

In this shiny new edition we share a recap of our rainy Summer Tour on the coast, updates from both our Westside and Eastside Directors, and our Treasurers. We also share a special announcement from Seirra Wolfe, soil judging coach for the Soil Judging Team at OSU, about their recent success at the 2026 Region 7 Collegiate Soil Judging Contest. Congratulations to all who participated and contributed to their victory! Don't forget to read all the way to the end, where you will find information on our upcoming Winter Meeting and Field Tour, as well as our annual call for scholarship applications.

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Contact the Oregon Society of Soil Scientists @ https://www.oregonsoils.org/contact/

Summer Tour Recap

Jen Valentine

This year's Summer Tour took place along the Central Oregon Coast. We kicked off the weekend with a meal and great conversation at Seven Devil's Brewery in Coos Bay, followed by camping at the West Laverne Group Campground in Coquille.

We started our Saturday field tour at a site near where the endangered Western Red Lily grows. The lily has only been found to grow on Blacklock soil, a poorly drained spodosol characterized by a pan layer. Alice Yeates and Deborah Rudd of South Slough Reserve joined us to examine four soil cores they had collected with Isabel Christy. All four cores came from sites mapped as Blacklock soil, but only one was collected from a site where the lily grows.

We then went to the Wasson Creek Restoration Site within the South Slough Reserve, where a tidal marsh, converted to farmland in the early 1900s, is undergoing zero-stage restoration. Alice Yeates explained the ongoing efforts to remove invasive species and restore swamp habitat.

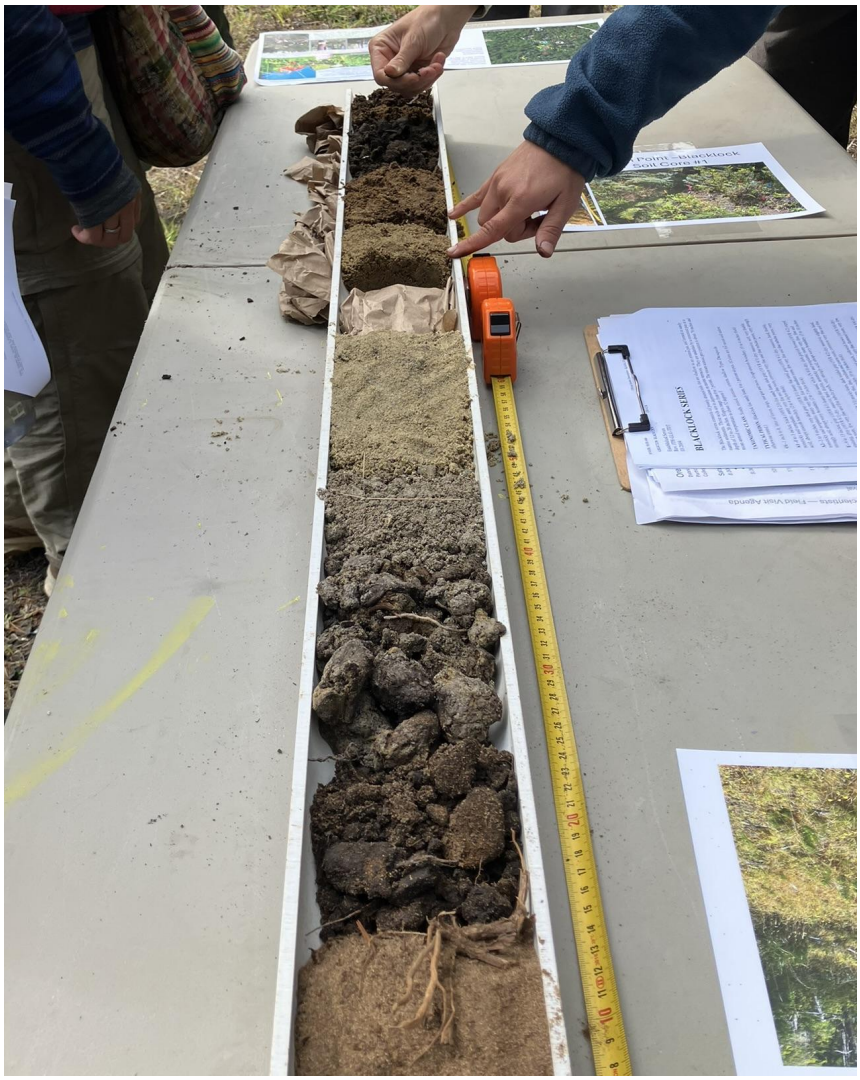


Photo credit: Anna Perry



Photo credit: Megan McGinnis



Photo credit: Megan McGinnis



Photo credit: Megan McGinnis



Photo credit: Megan McGinnis

Our tour of the restoration site was followed by a sack lunch at the South Slough Reserve Visitor Center and an engaging conversation with Maria Farinacci of Southwestern Community College about student engagement in the new agroecology program. Then we went to Seacoast Compost, where David Boyer shared his biodynamic approach to composting seafood waste over a three-year process.



Photo credit: Anna Perry



Photo credit: Megan McGinnis

Rain began to fall as we headed to our final stop for the day – the Winchester Fault Trench in Coos County Forest, where Lance Morgan met us and gave us a tour of the fault. Researchers from Western Washington University had recently exposed the fault for viewing.

We concluded the day back at camp with a taco bowl dinner and were very grateful for the sheltered kitchen as rain continued throughout the evening and Saturday night.



Photo credit: Megan McGinnis



Photo credit: Anna Perry



Photo credit: Anna Perry

On Sunday, under clearer skies, we headed south to Bandon for a quick stop at the Cranberry Festival, followed by an excursion to Coquille Point. Our field stop was at Schmidt Berry Farm, where Richard Schmidt gave us a tour of his cranberry bogs and answered our many questions about cranberry production. He then generously allowed us into a fallow field, located within a Blacklock soil map unit, where he excavated part of a bog. This was a full-circle moment for us, as cranberry bogs are often constructed on Blacklock soils, and we saw the hallmarks of Blacklock soil below the sand layer brought in for cranberry production.

For this tour, we owe immense gratitude for the time and expertise offered by Alice Yeates, who helped considerably with the planning of this tour. We are also grateful for the expertise and company of Deborah Rudd, Maria Farinacci, David Boyer, Lance Morgan, and Richard Schmidt. Their willingness to engage with us on local soils and management practices made this trip memorable.



Photo credit: Megan McGinnis



Photo credit: Anna Perry

Treasurer's Corner

Megan McGinnis

Howdy OSSS!

Fiscal Year 2025 has drawn to a close, and we just about broke even! Here is a summary of income and expenses between 7/1/2025 and 6/30/2026.

We brought in a net profit of $2,073.31! Thank you to all who attended our Summer Tour in Klamath Falls to view diatomaceous soils and learn about the dam removals; all who attended our Pit Day at the OSU organic farm in Corvallis; and all who joined our Winter Meeting at OSU's CH2M Hill Alumni Center in Corvallis! Your attendance and donations make our society possible.

Scholarships

($2,000)

We awarded one scholarship of $1,000 to Jesse Hauck, and two scholarships this year of $500 to Sydney Wagner and Anna Perry, all of whom are students at OSU. Congratulations, recipients!

Summer Tour

(September 2025, Net gain of $4,707.80)

We spent $1,002.25 on food and $0 on lodging due to the OSU Extension center in Klamath Falls hosting our campout. We purchased $58.88 in materials. We brought in $5,188 through registrations (6 lifetime, 29 regular, and 19 student) for that event and we sold $1,068 in merchandise. This was a very low-cost, well-attended, event that gave us a great base for issuing additional scholarships at our Winter meeting.

Operational Expenses

($5,326.27)

We paid $524.48 in Stripe processing fees ($0.30 plus 3% per transaction), $398 for liability insurance, $70 in Oregon State corporation and reporting fees, and $388 for PO box rental. We also purchased $696.78 in OSSS Hats for fundraising. Our GoDaddy domain renewal was $23.17, and we had a new administrative expense in the form of Mailchimp to help us manage our email lists, ($367.20), and awarded $221 in poster contest awards. Lastly, food and lodging in Depoe Bay for our annual board retreat was $3114.19.

Advertising Income

($0)

We received no advertising income in FY 2025.

Winter Meeting

(May 2026, Net gain of $4,066.38)

We spent $4,595.49 on catering and $2,332 on facility reservations for the winter meeting at the CH2M Hill Alumni Center at OSU. We brought in $11,215 in registrations including 25 regular, and 30 student registrations, and 20 lifetime member registrations. We received $360 raffle ticket purchases and generated $1,085 in merchandise sales. Huge thanks to all who donated items to support our raffle and purchased hats, t-shirts, and patches!



OSSS Student liaison Izzy Christy enjoying rainy weather at the 2026 Summer Tour in Coos Bay.
Photo credit: Anna Perry

Pit Day 2026

(June 2026, Net gain of $218.53)

This year, we also hosted a pit-day in June. This event was put on by OSSS members and OSU faculty who volunteered their time to help students and members of the public get some exposure to soil pits! The event was designed to be an affordable fundraiser for OSSS, with student registrations priced at $10 and regular registrations priced at $20. We had 13 students attend, as well as 5 regular registrations. While the earnings were modest, the impact was large. Students from LBCC came and joined us as a part of their term-ending activities! Thanks to all who made it possible.

The bank balance at the end of FY2025 was $8,780.01.

We have put on one event so far in FY2026, which was our Summer Tour in Coos Bay. Due to awkward timing with the start of university terms and some inclement weather, the event was somewhat lightly attended; we had a total of 23 registrants (3 lifetime, 11 regular, 2 retirees, and 7 student). Thanks to some donations (registrations for folks who were unable to attend but did not request a refund) and merchandise sales, we came out slightly ahead ($146.06) on this event. We have also incurred $94.19 in administrative expenses and belatedly awarded some poster contest awards for our Winter Meeting ($300). **Our current bank balance is $8,531.88.**

Eastside Report

Todd Reinwald

Shout out to the OSU Eastern Oregon Agriculture Research Center that is celebrating 125 years of service! Check out their website

https://agsci.oregonstate.edu/eoarc

for more information. Their history timeline and fun facts convey the foundation of their origins. Also check their October newsletter, which really highlights the spectrum and depth of research, community, and integration of their operations. Hats off to the EOARC. What a special organization and institution.

As many are aware, the record-low snowpack that was experienced in Oregon last winter was a principal factor in water availability through the following summer. Considered by climatologists to have been triggered by much larger influences such as a strong El Nino effect, drought conditions remain persistent throughout much of Oregon.

Data presented by the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) indicates that most of Oregon is still experiencing some degree of drought (https://www.drought.gov/states/oregon). According to NIDIS the period between January and September 2026 was the 10th driest on record in Oregon since 1895 – an estimated 5.38 inches below normal total precipitation.

Eastern Oregon's conditions are part of this broader pattern, but the region's reliance on snowmelt-fed rivers and reservoirs makes it especially vulnerable to low snowpack and early melt. The status of drought across roughly two-thirds of eastern Oregon is considered severe or extreme by the U.S. drought monitor. Likewise, the Governor has declared all the counties but one (Sherman) east of the Cascades in drought status. Most of those were declared prior to July.

Might there be notable impacts from drought to soil health, affecting resources in eastern Oregon in 2026? How have certain sectors been affected by persistent drought? Comprehensive data has not yet been compiled or quantified to help answer those questions in depth, but observed and anecdotal evidence suggests some implications.

Generally, stream flows in eastern Oregon were well below normal, which reduced the natural water supply. This was a result of not only the lack of snowpack but also precipitation deficits. Compounding water shortfalls with above normal temperatures across the region lead to heightened evaporative demand, which in turn contributed further to soil moisture deficits that were already well below normal by August. Hydrologic stress became significant and the wilting point across much of eastern Oregon was reached early.

Irrigation districts in many areas had to ration or curtail water. Some growers received less than half of their normal allocations. In a few cases water regulators shut off supplies before the end of the growing season.

Agricultural producers have used a mix of strategies to cope, such as purchasing and hauling additional water from non-local sources, adjusting irrigation practices, and diversifying crops. But where irrigation couldn't be sustained crop acreage declined, as did production in 2026. The agriculture sector in eastern Oregon remains under substantial pressure, with risks of further losses if drought persists.

National Forests east of the Cascades encountered rapid declines of early season soil moisture, unfavorable for reforestation. Planting operations were deferred on some acres, and the success of seedling survival on planted acres is uncertain. The water vapor deficit continued to widen for an extended period over the 2026 summer. Visible signs of forest stress included diminished cone production in some species, a poor wild huckleberry crop, and a decline in native grass forage. Conifer mortality, particularly along the forest fringe or in overstocked stands, contributed to overall declines of forest health and stimulated pest activity (such as bark beetles) in some areas.

Fuel moisture in forest and range was low going into fire season, and declined further. Drought had set in by May with extreme fire potential by August. As feared, significant wildfire activity scorched a record amount of acres. The Oregon Dept. of Forestry reported that wildfire activity in the 2026 season was 85% above the 10-year average (acres). Critical fire weather persisted through the summer. Several wildfires in eastern Oregon burned actively over multiple months into early fall.

These are but a select sample of the drought effects in eastern Oregon. The story is much more complex with many implications across a broad front, such as ecosystem services and resilience, changes in soil physical and chemical properties, wildlife, economics, tribal prosperity, and environmental justice. But what drought effects on soil health can be concluded from these observances?

While also a complex topic deserving far more than offered here, might consideration qualitatively be given to the short- vs long-term expectations? Many studies have elucidated the effects of drought on soil.

Drought-adapted arid zones and rangelands may be more resilient, while agricultural fields and forested areas may be less hardy. But disturbance during drought may upend either, as intrinsic pathways to natural recovery translate to shifts in vegetative potential. Invasive plants are adept at capitalizing on the disturbance.

Effective ground cover has decreased where direct disturbance occurred or growth withered, exposing soil to erosive forces for at least the near-term. Though recoverable, some irreversible soil loss could be expected. Live roots and soil biodiversity are likely to have been similarly affected. The lack of moisture has also altered microbial function,

enzyme activity, and nutrient cycling. Short-term declines in vigor are reversible, but interruptions in plant and soil interactions could take longer to reestablish.

These qualitative effects of drought on soil health are not particularly unique. The extent of effects on soil health, both spatially and temporally, are difficult to quantify at a regional scale. Cascading effects on soil-related ecosystem services are more far-reaching. As is often the case with questions about soil health the answer is: it depends. The full extent of drought's impacts on soil health remains to be seen. It may come down to the specific places, species, and individuals most affected. For Eastern Oregonians, the concern includes adaptation strategies and assistance to augment soil health if drought endures. For ecological stability, the feedback loop depends on the inherent capability and resilience of the living soil to influence response to drought in both the short- and long-term.



Deschutes River, Bend, September 2018.
Photo credit: Anna Perry

Westside Update:
Living Roots in a Changing Valley

Chris Lessey

Long before Euro-American settlement, Kalapuyan peoples actively managed the prairies, wetlands, and oak savannas of the Willamette Valley. The landscape encountered by early settlers was far from untouched wilderness; It was a productive mosaic shaped by generations of intentional stewardship. The Kalapuyan peoples used cultural burning to maintain open prairies and oak habitats. These fires encouraged the growth of camas, berries, acorns, and other important foods. They also improved habitat for deer and elk. Wetlands and waterways provided wapato, fish, and other resources.

In addition to providing food, native plants supplied materials for baskets, cordage, tools, and household goods. These practices formed a diverse food and resource system adapted to the soils and seasonal cycles of the valley. Descendants of the Kalapuyan peoples remain part of the region today. Many are members of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. [1, 2]

During the nineteenth century, the forced removal of Indigenous communities and the expansion of Euro-American settlement



Common camas (Camassia quamash) blooming at William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge, Oregon.

Photo credit: George Gentry/USFWS (public domain).

rapidly transformed this carefully managed landscape. Settlers plowed native prairies, drained wetlands, and suppressed the cultural burning that had maintained open habitats. Large Oregon white oaks were removed from the valley floor, while Douglas-fir forests in wooded areas and the surrounding foothills were cleared for timber, farmland, pasture, and growing communities. The converted land supported a succession of agricultural industries, from wheat and hops to grass seed, berries, vineyards, and hazelnut orchards. Although the crops and markets have changed, each generation has faced the same fundamental challenge: how to produce food and fiber while maintaining the productivity of the soil over time.

Wheat soon became the Willamette Valley's first major commercial crop. Production grew quickly during the nineteenth century, increasing from approximately 200,000 bushels in 1850 to more than two million bushels by 1870. Wheat grown in the valley supplied the California Gold Rush, mining communities throughout the Northwest, and eventually international markets. For several decades, wheat was the crop that drove agriculture in the Willamette Valley. Wheat was ideally suited to the needs of early Willamette Valley farmers. It grew well on newly cultivated prairie soils, could be stored for long periods, transported over poor roads, and sold into expanding regional and international markets. These advantages encouraged farmers to grow wheat



Wheat harvesting with horse-drawn equipment, circa 1940. Oregon State University Special Collections & Archives Research Center, Edwin Russell Jackman Photographic Collection, P089:396 (no known copyright restrictions).

repeatedly, often with little crop rotation or replacement of the nutrients and organic matter removed from the soil. [3]

The valley's initial productivity did not last. After decades of continuous wheat production and intensive tillage, yields declined, and farmers began describing their land as "exhausted." By the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, agricultural leaders increasingly promoted clover and vetch rotations, livestock manure, lime, and improved drainage as tools for restoring soil productivity. These legumes were often grown for forage or pasture rather than used strictly as cover crops, but they performed many of the same soil-building functions associated with cover crops today. [4]

Although the term ***soil health*** had not yet entered the agricultural vocabulary, the underlying lesson was already familiar: soils could not be treated as an inexhaustible resource. Clover and vetch added biologically fixed nitrogen to the cropping system, while their roots and residues helped restore soil organic matter and improve soil structure. When these crops were integrated with livestock, manure returned additional nutrients and organic material to the land. Cover crops may now be discussed as a modern soil-health practice, but their importance to Willamette Valley agriculture extends back more than a century. [4]

The Willamette Valley's agricultural landscape has continued to evolve since the wheat-dominated period of the nineteenth century. Today, vineyards and hazelnut orchards are two of the region's most recognizable perennial cropping systems. Both produce high-value crops, support processing and agricultural employment, and contribute to the identity of the valley. They are also relatively distinctive within American agriculture: Oregon is one of the country's leading wine-producing states and supplies nearly all domestically grown hazelnuts. [5, 6]

During the early 21 first century Oregon's wine industry experienced substantial growth. New vineyards were established throughout the Willamette Valley, and the region became nationally and internationally recognized for Pinot noir. Vineyards also



Vegetation maintained between grapevine rows in a Willamette Valley vineyard.

Photograph provided by the author

supported a large tourism economy built around wineries, tasting rooms, restaurants, and the scenery of wine country. [5]

Conditions have changed considerably in recent years. Wine consumption has declined nationally, with particularly low participation among younger consumers. At the same time, wineries have faced excess inventory, reduced export opportunities, and less demand for wine grapes. These pressures have left some growers without buyers and have caused vineyards to reduce production, remove vines, or leave portions of their crop unharvested. The decline has been especially striking because it followed a period of rapid growth and optimism within the industry. [5]

The hazelnut industry has experienced nearly the opposite trajectory. Oregon hazelnut acreage expanded rapidly during the past two decades, but increased production and weak prices created difficult conditions for growers during the 2022 and 2023 crop years. More recently, strong demand, favorable international market conditions, and a large crop have supported a substantial rebound in grower prices. Although the long-term outlook remains uncertain, hazelnuts may be well positioned to benefit from continued interest in plant-based foods, healthy fats, and nutrient-dense snack products. [6, 7]

The changing fortunes of vineyards and hazelnut orchards raise an important soil-management question. Vineyards commonly maintain grass, clover, or other vegetation between the rows. Because grapes



Bare-soil control orchard from the author's hazelnut cover crop research, summer 2023.

Photograph provided by the author.

are harvested from the vines rather than collected from the soil surface, alleyway vegetation can remain in place without directly interfering with harvest. Cover crops can therefore be managed as a relatively permanent component of the vineyard system.

Hazelnuts impose a different constraint. Mature nuts fall to the ground and are swept into windrows before being collected mechanically. Vegetation and residue can interfere with this process, retain moisture, and create an uneven harvest surface. Hazelnut growers commonly suppress vegetation before harvest to keep the orchard floor smooth, firm, and clean. Many hazelnut growers choose to keep the soil free from vegetation and debris year-round with the use of pre-emergent herbicides.

These differences do not mean that vineyard growers value soil health more than hazelnut growers. They demonstrate how harvest systems influence which soil-management practices are practical. Some hazelnut growers maintain vegetation through much of the year before mowing or suppressing it ahead of harvest. Others preserve living cover in the alleyways while keeping cleaner strips beneath the trees. These approaches show that orchard-floor management does not have to be all or nothing.

My research at Oregon State University, "Overcoming Barriers to Cover Crop Use in Hazelnut Orchards", found that grass and clover cover were associated with greater soil aggregate stability than little or no vegetative cover. Vegetation also moderated summer soil temperature. In one comparison, soil beneath established grass averaged 5.6°F cooler (at a depth of six inches) than adjacent bare soil during afternoon measurements.

Hazelnut growers' attitudes also appear to be changing. Some growers who once told me that cover crops would never work in hazelnuts, years ago, are now interested in experimenting after seeing other farms make them work.

The history of Willamette Valley agriculture is a story of continual change. Kalapuyan peoples managed a diverse landscape that supported food, wildlife, and useful plants. Settlers converted much of that landscape to commercial agriculture and built an economy around wheat. When continuous wheat production reduced soil productivity, farmers turned to clover, vetch, livestock, and manure to rebuild it. Today, the shift between vineyards and hazelnut orchards presents another version of the same challenge.

Cover crops will not look the same in hazelnut orchards as they do in vineyards, and no single system will fit every farm. The goal does not have to be uninterrupted vegetation throughout the year. It can be as simple as keeping living roots in the soil for as long as harvest and orchard management reasonably allow. Agricultural markets can change within a few years, but the effects of soil management can last for decades. Whether the next chapter of the Willamette Valley is defined by vineyards, hazelnuts, or crops that have yet to emerge, the soil beneath them will remain.

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[3] The Oregon Encyclopedia. "Willamette Valley." https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/willamette_valley/ (Confirm the historical bushel figures against the original census series before publication.)

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[7] USDA Economic Research Service. Tree nuts market reports and outlook. https://www.ers.usda.gov/

Image — Camas: George Gentry/USFWS, "Purple camas at William L. Finley Refuge." Public domain. https://www.fws.gov/media/purple-camas-william-l-finley-refuge

Image — Wheat: OSU Special Collections & Archives Research Center, Edwin Russell Jackman Photographic Collection, P089:396. No known copyright restrictions. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Harvesting_wheat_by_old_horse_drawn_method_(6484374049).jpg

Soil Judging Successes at OSU

Seirra Wolfe

The Soil Judging Team at OSU has just earned 4th place after competing at the 2026 Region 7 Collegiate Soil Judging Contest and has qualified for the 2027 National Collegiate Soil Judging Contest at Fort Collins, CO!

Megan Beck, a 3rd year Crop and Soil Science student, has earned 2nd place in the individual competition, and Sydney Wagner, a 4th year Crop and Soil Science student, has earned 10th place.



The first soil pit that the Soil Judging Team at OSU saw north of Logan, UT: a Calcixeroll on a backslope in a pasture. The striking color combination comes from the mollic epipedon, rich in organic matter, and the calcic subsurface horizon with free carbonates. It was formed in lacustrine sediments from the ancient Lake Bonneville and had relict redox concentrations from its parent material.

Photo credits: Spencer Goldberg.



An Argixeroll on a footslope in a pasture north of Logan, UT. It was on the same hillslope as the first soil pit that the Soil Judging Team saw. The dark color comes from its thick mollic epipedon. It was formed from both lacustrine sediments from Lake Bonneville and colluvium from the nearby hill.

We are so proud of all of our students. The four of them have learned so much in just one month of lectures and practice. The education they received in Utah has also been extremely enriching for them, because the soils in Logan, Utah are so different from soils here in the Willamette Valley.

Students got to experience the soils formed from lake terraces and deltas created by the ancient Lake Bonneville, and they got many opportunities to see soils with beautiful mollic epipedons and calcium-rich subsurface horizons.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us! We could not have competed without our excellent students: Megan Beck, Sydney Wagner, Ellie Kitchen, and Kaleigh Archer. I also could not have coached the team without the help of Spencer Goldberg, our new co-coach. Thank you to Ron Reuter and Pedro Martinez for their advice! Thank you to Manoj Shukla, Emmalie Goodwin, Rachel Swindon, and the CSS department for their permissions and advice. And thank you to everyone who has helped the team - all the landowners, donors, and kind folks who offered their knowledge and experience. Soil Judging at OSU would not be possible without all of you!



An Argixeroll on a lake terrace in a pasture south of Logan, UT. It contains a mollic epipedon as well as both argillic and calcic subsurface horizons. This soil was under aquic conditions. It also had had both secondary and free carbonates. It was formed primarily from lacustrine sediments left behind by Lake Bonneville.

Photo credit: Spencer Goldberg.

It's important that I add additional thanks to the landowners/managers who helped us practice for the Region 7 Soil Judging Contest: James Cassidy (OSU Organic Farm), David Taphouse (OSU Poultry Center), Dawn Sherwood (OSU Equestrian Center), and Carol Lorenzen, the department head of Animal and Rangeland Sciences. We appreciate your support and we love your soils!

More updates to come. We can't wait to share our activities with you!

Best,
Seirra Wolfe
Soil Judging Coach at OSU



A group photo of the Soil Judging Team at OSU taken at the Wind Cave near Logan, UT. From left to right: Spencer Goldberg, Seirra Wolfe, Megan Beck, Sydney Wagner, Kaleigh Archer, and Ellie Kitchen.

Photo credit: Spencer Goldberg.


Oregon Society of
Soil Scientists
2027 Annual
Winter Meeting
Save
the
Date
Membership Meeting
Field Tour
Interested in being on the
planning committee?
Email
avg@redhillsoil.com
February 25-27th
Chemeketa Eola
Salem, OR

Oregon Society of Soil Scientists

Call for Scholarship Applications
OSSS Scholarship: $500 to $1,000

Applicant Criteria and Required Materials

- Attending college or university in Oregon in 26/27
- Pursuing studies in soil-related discipline
- Students studying related disciplines invited to apply if applicant relates studies to soil in essay.
- OSSS Scholarship application form (link below)
- Minimum 3.0 overall GPA
- Preference given to students who have not received an OSSS scholarship in the past 12 months.
- Unofficial transcripts (high school transcripts if high school student or 1st year college student, otherwise, college transcripts only)
- 500 – 1,000 word essay on soil (No AI assist please)
  - Significance and importance of soil
  - One or both of the following topics:
    - a) Goals for career objectives relating to soil
    - b) Personal interest in studying or enhancing soil

Application Deadline:
5PM PST December 1, 2026

https://www.oregonsoils.org/links/scholarships/

Send submissions and questions to:
osss.scholarships@gmail.com

OREGON SOCIETY OF

Soil Scientists

Got news to share, a story to tell, or something fun happening?

Submit your stories, highlights, or any other soil-related content to osss.editor@gmail.com for a chance to be featured in the Sharpshooter Newsletter.

Good News is Better When It's Shared

Know someone who isn't receiving our emails? Have friends who'd love to join the fun, or coworkers who should be in the loop? **Help us grow our community and make sure no one misses out on the latest news, updates, and happenings.**