



Winter Issue 2019

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Trent Clinkscales

It's that time again. Yep, you guessed it, Annual Conference time! Time to earn CEU's, meet with vendors, chat with old friends, make some new ones and most importantly learn about On Site.

We are back at the Riverhouse in Bend and I'm excited about it. The remodel is complete, and the place looks fantastic! One of the areas I am most excited about is the basement. Yeah, I know that sounds weird but there is a reason.

Before I was a board member and long before becoming the president of the association I volunteered to help and the task I was given was to recruit vendors to the conference. I had been to the WETT (Pumper) Show and knew that having equipment to look at is so much better than a flat, lifeless picture on a brochure. Since then it has been a wish of mine to deliver that to you. This is where the basement ties in. The basement is big enough to allow us to bring equipment in doors! I sincerely hope our vendors will take us up on using this space. A few of the vendors I have talked to have indicated that they will.

We have a great line up of speakers and topics as always. Jim Bell with NOWRA will be our key note speaker this year. Brian Rabe with CES will be taking his group on a field trip to nearby Tumalo. Jeff Strasheim of Stosco Enterprises, Inc. will help us learn how to prepare our machines for evaluation. This is just a taste of the interesting classes available to you this year.

Lastly, this is the last time writing this column for me. After the conference Larry O'Connor of RepCo Sales will be your fearless leader. In the past few weeks Larry has been taking on more duties and getting ready to lead. I'm confident he will serve the membership well.

Thank you all for entrusting me to preside over your association, it truly has been an honor and I hope I made you all proud.

Trent Clinkscales

Q&A by Brian Rabe, CPSS, WWS

Question: I discovered roots in my system. What can I do about it?

Answer: The first consideration for a long-term solution is to identify the invading culprit and cut it down! Of course, that isn't always an option, so a person needs to look at alternatives. There are several products out there that will kill roots or inhibit their growth. The best solution will depend on where within the system the roots are getting in. The most common thing we hear about are roots invading and eventually blocking pipes and drainfields, but we also see them in risers, tanks, and any other places where moisture and nutrients are present. They can be aggressive and will actively seek out favorable conditions. Solutions may involve enhanced physical barriers or chemical treatments (some kill roots, others inhibit their growth). However, so long as the source of the roots remain, ongoing vigilance and system maintenance will likely be required.



Since we are in the beginnings of a rule change session, I have been giving some thought to the development of our rules for onsite in Oregon. Where did they come from? Who wrote that crazy jargon? One thing is certain: there was a lot of sewage seeing the light of day from leaking tanks, failing drainfields, and surface discharge. The combination of small lots and unsuitable soil conditions resulted in many failing systems. Disease outbreaks like hepatitis occurred that are associated with sewage. The situation drove state legislators to act and in 1974 the first DEQ rules went into effect.

Of course, no one went out and got a permit unless they had to. There are plenty of old systems out there that still work to this day. Although "working" seems to depend on whose definition we take. One of my favorite repairs was at an impeccably kept farm house. There was a tank out back followed by a single open trench behind the shed. The farmer had learned his neighbor farmer was getting a drainfield. As he explained to me, even though his little trench was working just fine he thought it might be for the best if he got a drainfield too. If only all repair permits were that simple.

Early rules were pretty restrictive. My coworkers in

Jackson County told me the initial denial rate was 60%. This created an uproar of course. An interesting period in the 1980s followed where DEQ permitted some "experimental" systems to be installed, tested and monitored. Some passed, some didn't. For instance the "mound system" used in Wisconsin didn't pass in Oregon. But the sand filter did. Since then sand filters, ATTs and other alternative systems with improved treatment allow development in more environmentally sensitive areas and provide a way to develop smaller lots.

Although administrative rules for onsite have come a long way since 1974, there is still room for improvement. Among the 39 proposals the Technical Review Committee (TRC) is currently discussing, substantive items include site evaluation expiration, winter water monitoring methods, hydrosplitter design, regulation of "spite wells", third tier effluent testing for groundwater sensitive areas and experience requirements for WPCF maintenance providers. The meetings have been mostly in Salem. They are open to the public in person or by phone. Brittany May, Linn County Department of Health Services is chair.

WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU by Penny Dunlap

I don't know about you , but we are ready for summer . As soon as the soils start drying will be shooting out the gates like race horses. We have been busy getting everything ready for the season. Just a thought while your waiting for the soils to dry we want to encourage everyone to come to Bend this year for the Annual O2WA Conference. Our committee has been working hard to create a more in-depth learning, hands on experience. This year we have a larger vendor area so they can show more of their products, with side classes teaching how to install products.

Want to be to be involved ? We have two positions opening up. Don't be shy and put your name in to join. There are big things coming up in the future, DEQ is working on some rule changes and the O2WA Committee is helping with input. This next year we will be working on some new ideas for possible hands on training and etc. We would like to hear your ideas . Email us, call or let us know at the conference. See you at the Conference.....

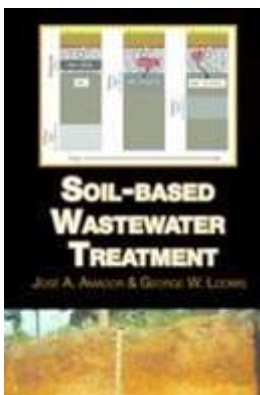


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A new book was published in toward the end of 2018 titled *Soil-Based Wastewater Treatment* by Jose A. Amador and George W. Loomis (Soil Science Society of America). I am about a third of the way through and, thus far, find it to be very thorough. George Loomis has spoken at our conference in the past. The following quote is from the back cover as is intended to provide an overview.

“Our book addresses the needs of practitioners, engineers, scientists, regulators, resource managers, planners, and others with a need to know about septic systems. It arose after discussions about the need for a text that integrated current understanding of the hydrologic, physical, chemical, and biological processes involved in the treatment of wastewater using soil. In our experience, people working with septic systems – ourselves included – have a fragmented understanding of what these systems are, how they function, how wastewater moves through soil, how and which pollutants are removed, and how these systems impact the environment and public health. The relevant information is scattered across disciplines, information sources and audiences. This book is an attempt to collect and integrate this information in one place, and provide a scientific framework for understanding soil-based wastewater treatment.



Key Features

- Provides a historical and infrastructure perspective of soil-based wastewater treatment.
- Reviews the pre-treatment processes undergone by wastewater before it is treated in the soil.
- Describes the biological, chemical and physical characteristics of wastewater.
- Explains the principals of soil science and hydrology as these apply to wastewater treatment.
- Provides mechanistic descriptions of the removal of contaminants – nutrients, carbon, pathogens, and emerging pollutants – from wastewater as it moves through the soil.
- Addresses the environmental impacts of soil-based wastewater treatment.
- Discusses the future challenges facing soil-based wastewater treatment and potential solutions.”

I recommend that anyone currently practicing in the onsite field, especially as a regulator, designer, or service provider, regardless of experience, read this book. As the authors state, we all “have a fragmented understanding of what these systems are, how they function, how wastewater moves through soil, how and which pollutants are removed, and how these systems impact the environment and public health.”

That is all for now. Remember, Soil Rocks!

O2WA SUPPORT FOR SEPTIC AFFORDABLE LOAN PROGRAM FUNDING - SB756

Appropriates moneys to Department of Environmental Quality to award grant under ORS 454.779 and cover administrative costs necessary to implement ORS 454.779.

Since its creation two years ago this program has grown into a state-wide program, serving families across Oregon by providing access to affordable, long-term lending that is operated, funded and overseen by the private sector with minimal government oversight or public financial risk. Given both the existing program’s success, and the constant demand for the program’s services, DEQ put \$2MM in its proposed budget. Unfortunately, these funds were removed in the final budget submitted to the legislature this year. This lack of funding greatly affects Housing Affordability and impacts families.

Thank you to Bob Sweeney for heading up the Legislative committee.

NOMINATIONS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS & ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING SATURDAY, APRIL 6TH - RIVERHOUSE HOTEL

◆ **Board of Directors - Nominations Close March 18th - Email info@o2wa.org if you have a nomination. Each year members are elected to the Board of Directors. This is an opportunity for members to shape the future of the organization and the onsite wastewater industry.**

2019 Open Board Positions:
* Environmental Health Specialist
* Soil Scientist
* Manufacturer
You may make an nomination or nominate yourself!
Nomination deadline is March 18th.

- ◆ **Scholarship applications for the 2019/20 school year will be available online @ www.o2wa.org**
- ◆ **Annual members meeting will be held on Saturday, April 6th at noon during the lunch at the conference. Register for the conference or email info@o2wa.org to RSVP.**



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- III. Utilizing the QuickBooks reminder features.**
- IV. Tying it all together**

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AIR PUMPS

