

President's Message

As 2010 nears its end, I would like to recap the activities and achievements of the association and its volunteers. The board developed and approved a new set of bylaws, and the membership approved an adjustment to the number of board members required. Positions will be available at the 2011 conference, please let Belinda know if you are interested in volunteering. In August the association sponsored a community outreach booth at the Oregon State Fair. The booth was made possible and primarily manned by O2WA member volunteers, over 500 homeowners were educated on their onsite systems and directed to our website to locate a professional in their area.

Recently the membership renewal was sent to all members for 2011, included in the mailing was an information packet outlining Legislative Concept (LC848) and Policy Package (#120) as presented by DEQ. We hope you have time to read through these and express your opinion to a local area lawmaker. If you would like to get involved you are invited to join us at the yearly meeting of the membership on December 14th in Salem, I am sure these issues will be a core topic of discussion.

Looking forward to 2011, the yearly conference has been scheduled to be held on March 11th and 12th at the Valley River Inn in Eugene. Please consider joining other association members for an opportunity to network, earn CEU's and keep up to date on trends and issues concerning our industry both in Oregon and nationwide.

Scott Davis
O2WA President



Fall Issue
2010



Inside this issue:

Interesting Soil Facts	2
Recent DEQ Enforcement	3
Member Meeting	3
March 11th Field Trip	5
Weird Onsite Stuff	6
If You Think . . .	7

Return Every Drop to it's Natural State

Bio-Microbics manufactures proven wastewater and stormwater treatment systems to provide solutions for use in new construction, remediation, or for water reuse opportunities for decentralized homes, clustered subdivisions, and commercial properties.



BIO-MICROBICS
INCORPORATED
Better Water. Better World.™



To learn more:

800-753-FAST (3278)

www.biomicrobics.com • sales@biomicrobics.com

Interesting Soils Facts Submitted by Dick Polson

- Shrinking and swelling of some kinds of soil damage buildings, roads, and other structures. Repairing this damage costs our Nation more each year than repairing the total damage from hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods.
- The tips of small plant roots move through the soil with a twisting screw like motion. Mature trees can have as many as 5 million active root tips.
- A single spade full of rich garden soil contains more species of organisms than can be found above ground in the entire Amazon rain forest.
- Although the soil surface appears solid, air moves freely in and out of it. The air in the upper 8 inches of a well-drained soil is completely renewed about every hour.
- The plants growing in a 2-acre wheat field can have more than 30,000 miles of roots, greater than the circumference of the Earth.
- The wonderful "earthy" smell of newly plowed ground is believed to result from chemicals produced by micro-organisms. One of these chemicals, called geosmin, is produced by actinomycetes, organisms that have some properties of both bacteria and fungi.
- About 10 percent of the world's land is used to grow plants and to feed either animals or humans. About 20 percent of the land in the United States is used to grow crops.
- Soil can act as either a sink or a source of greenhouse gases. An estimated 30 percent of the carbon dioxide, 70 percent of the methane, and 90 percent of the nitrous oxide released to the atmosphere each year pass through the soil.
- Worldwide, an estimated 25 percent of the soils used for agriculture are being degraded at an unacceptable rate.
- The American Midwest has the largest area of Prime Farmland soils in the world. Other large areas are in South America and in Eastern Europe and Russia.
- In the spring of 1934, a dust storm originating in the Great Plains carried an estimated 200 million tons of soil to the Northeastern United States and out to sea. This storm caused "muddy rains" in New York and "black snows" in Vermont.
- In 1950, there was more than half an acre of grain land for each person on earth. By 1990, there was less than one-third acre per person. By 2030, there will be only one-fifth acre per person.
- At field capacity, the amount of water available for plant growth ranges from less than 5 to as much as 50 percent, with an average of about 15 percent.
- It takes about 4,000 to 6,000 pounds of crop residue per year to maintain the content of organic matter in a soil.
- Modern farming practices that minimize soil disturbance (plowing) and return plant residues to the soil, such as no-till farming and crop rotations, are slowly rebuilding the Nation's stock of soil organic matter.
- Of the carbon returned to the soil as plant residue, about 5 to 15 percent become tied up in the bodies of organisms and 60 to 75 percent is respired as carbon dioxide back to the atmosphere. Only 10 to 25 percent is converted to humus in the soil.

Recent Enforcement Actions at DEQ

By Randy Trox

Below is a list of enforcement actions that occurred in the Onsite Program between 8/01/10-10/31/10. There's nothing special about those dates, I am just framing recent activities. Enforcement actions take time and some may not be resolved as of this writing.

Formal Enforcement

DEQ performed the following enforcement actions:

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has issued a \$3,015 penalty to Dalko Corporation, doing business as All Pump Sanitation Services, for conducting sewage disposal services in Oregon without a license.

DEQ reported that the company had used its equipment to pump sewage wastes from various septic tanks and grease traps in both the Portland area and in Washington on at least 28 days between Jan. 9 and May 11, 2010 without first obtaining a license from DEQ. Dalko Corporation/All Pump failed to appeal the penalty by its Oct. 4 deadline, and the full penalty amount is now due.

Expedited Enforcement Offers (EEOs). Generally, it is a more efficient process designed for violations with low environmental impact and a first time offense. There is a reduced penalty (40% of the Class I Moderate base penalty amount). The Onsite Program's costs are paid 100% by fees and any civil penalty money collected is paid to the state's General Fund. EEOs help address program violations in an efficient manner.

DEQ's Onsite Program issued 5 EEOs:

- 1 was for advertising without a license.
- 2 were for a licensed pumper who disposed of septage in a location not approved by DEQ
- 1 was for installing without a current certification
- 1 was performing sewage disposal services without a license.

Other Enforcement:

- 1 Pre-Enforcement Notice, also called a PEN, was issued to a pumper for continuing to perform sewage disposal services without a current license. This pumper had previously received an EEO and will be subject to formal enforcement action.
- 1 PEN was issued to a pumper for continuing to perform sewage disposal services without a current license. Due to prior violations, this pumper did not qualify for an EEO.
- 1 Warning Letter for an installer who installed a septic system while license was expired.
- 2 Warning Letters w/Opportunity to Correct was issued for pumpers that disposed of septage at a facility not approved in their septage management plan.
- 4 Warning Letters for WPCF-Onsite permit violations; including sewage discharging onto the ground surface, operating with an expired permit, failing to meet permit requirements, and failing to monitor and maintain the system.

O2WA 2010 Members Meeting & Holiday Reception

Date: Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Time: 4:30pm - 5:30pm Check In, Reception and No Host Bar 5:30pm-6:30pm Members Meeting

Location: Red Lion Hotel - 3301 Market Street Northeast, Salem, OR

Cost: Members FREE - Guest \$17.00 Pay w/ check or cash at the door

MUST RSVP BY: Wednesday, 12/8th - O2WA Office at 541-389-6692 or info@o2wa.org

Soils on the Horizon

By Brian Rabe

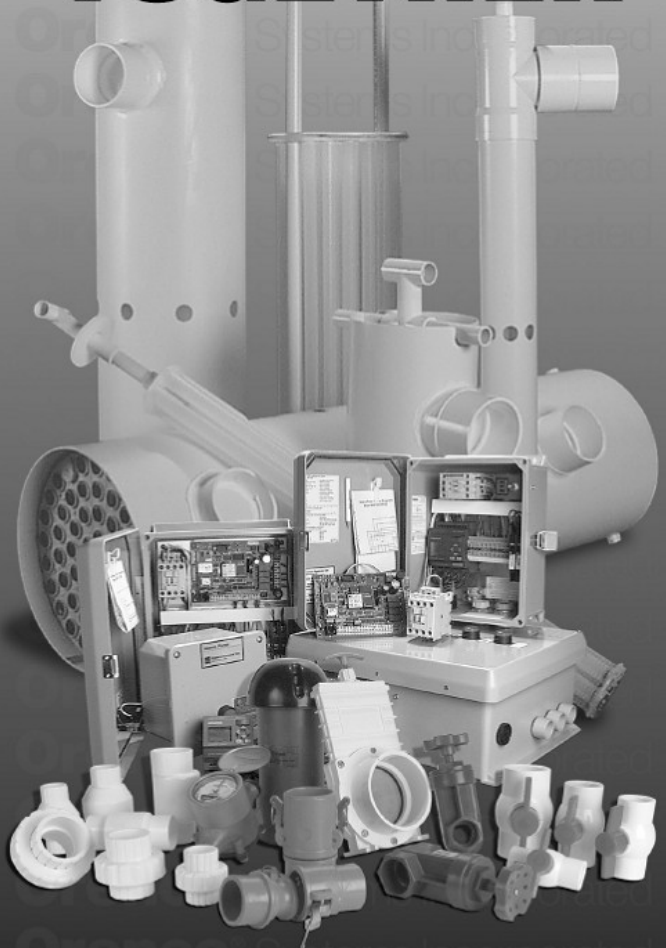
This edition of the column is intended to be colorful. Observation and description of the various soil colors are very important components of the determination of a site's suitability and system selection. There are two ways to measure soil colors: moist and dry. Since "dry" soil is rarely observed as a uniform condition throughout a natural soil profile, the standards in Oregon's onsite rules have always been intended to be applied using moist soil colors (historical personal communication with Dr. Robert Paeth, retired DEQ soil scientist). It is impractical for each of us to carry an oven in the field to dry soil samples to a uniform and reproducible level of dryness. Except for soils that are supersaturated (that could be a hint in and of itself), soils can be brought to a uniform moisture status by simply adding a drop (or drops) of water to a freshly broken ped face and allowing capillary action to draw the moisture in. Since this technique can be easily reproduced by anyone at any time, this reduces variability. However, there will still be variables related to light conditions (time of day, cloud cover, etc.) and personal perception.

Soils that are dry often appear lighter in color than when they are moist. Also, subtle color variations that can be seen when soils are dry will often disappear when moistened. All colors related to determining conditions associated with saturation must be measured in the moist state.



Proudly distributed by  **H.D. FOWLER COMPANY**
Bellevue (Corporate Office) 425.746.8400 • www.hdfowler.com

Orenco's 4,500+ onsite products are **BETTER TOGETHER**

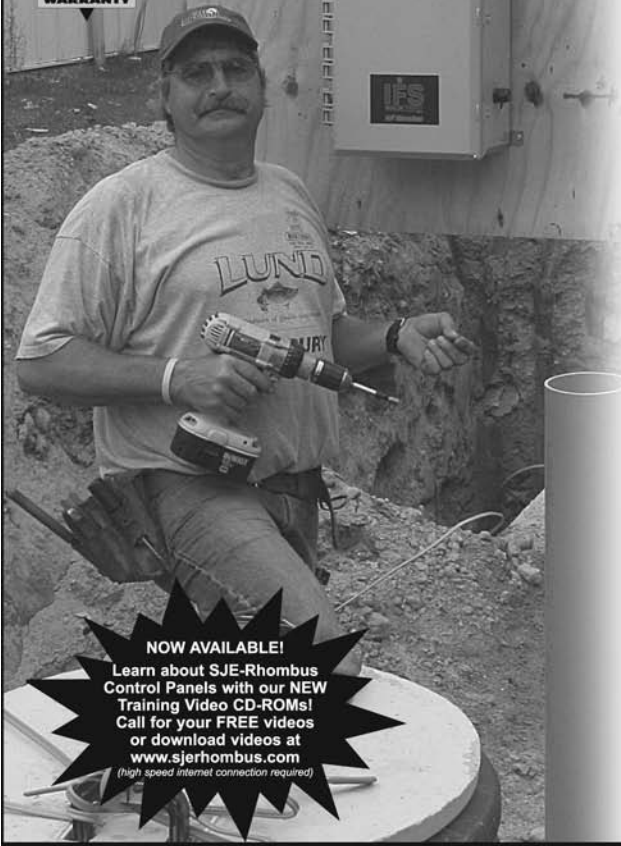


- **Engineered to work together**
- **Easy to install**
- **Quick to maintain**



1-800-348-9943
www.orenco.com

3
YEAR
LIMITED
WARRANTY



Install Confidence

Installer Friendly Series® Panels from SJE-Rhombus®

Do you have confidence in the control panels you are installing? You will, if you use the **Installer Friendly Series®** control panels from SJE-Rhombus. These **innovative, affordable** pump control panels feature an **easy-to-use touch pad** on the inner door for programming and monitoring on-site installations.

IFS Control Panel Features:

- NEMA 4X weatherproof enclosure
- Separate control and alarm fuses
- Circuit board design offers clean installation
- Can be *easily converted* to either demand dose or timed dose *in the field*
- UL/cUL Listed (UL, UL)



IFS Duplex Inner Door Shown Here

IFS Touch Pad/Display Features:

- Pump run indicator(s)
- HAND/OFF/AUTO pump control switch(es)
- Hand mode safety feature
- Float status indicators with out-of-sequence alarm
- 6 digit LED display is now a standard feature: elapsed time meter(s), cycle counter(s), alarm counter, lead/lag selector (duplex), float error counter, override counter (TD)

NOW AVAILABLE!

Learn about SJE-Rhombus Control Panels with our NEW Training Video CD-ROMs! Call for your FREE videos or download videos at www.sjrhombus.com (high speed internet connection required)

MATZKE
SALES, INC.

Phone: 253-872-2029
Fax: 253-872-1898

SJE
Rhombus
www.sjrhombus.com

The Best Names in the Onsite Industry



- Extensive Delivery Routes
- Complete Packages
- One-Stop Shopping



10 Convenient Locations throughout Oregon

ALBANY
(541) 924-9855

BEND
(541) 382-9311

BEND-SOUTH
(541) 318-6938

CLACKAMAS
(503) 788-8813

EUGENE
(541) 688-6511

KLAMATH FALLS
(541) 880-0587

MEDFORD
(541) 779-6721

ROSEBURG
(541) 679-7549

SALEM
(503) 588-1250

TIGARD
(503) 639-7473

www.unitedpipe.com

March 11th FIELD TRIP 2011 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

By Dennis J. Boeger, P.E.
Engineering Board Member

Anyone interested in going on a field trip the last two class periods of Friday afternoon? I'm putting on a field trip to an 80 space mobile home park about 15 minutes from the conference site (Valley River Inn). Since 2001, the park has slowly been replacing their septic systems which are over 40 years old. This includes the entire collection system, new concrete and fiberglass septic tanks, a 20 pod AX-20 system fed by a double-duplex pump system in a 22,000 gallon recirculation tank, controls, and 3,840 LF of shallow pressurized drain field, using Infiltrator LP chambers placed at 4 foot on center - over the existing drain field, which is still operational. I'll have the O&M provider on hand as well, so we should be able to answer any and all questions you may have. This site has a good mix of older and new technology, which I think many folks can relate to. Hope to see you there!

Weird Onsite Stuff

By Kim Aldrich

"SEWERCIDE"

So the other day Brittany from Linn County texted me, the text said " I dropped my glasses in a septic tank". I texted back "OMG, last yr I dropped the county camera in a tank , I should write a story about it".

I emailed everyone on the O2WA board and asked for stories on dropping stuff in septic tanks, and as you will soon read, the stories were great, I read them to the staff here at Yamhill County and we laughed a lot.

Let me share them with you;

Dan Bush writes;

Went to work in the private sector from the DEQ with a company who designed, constructed and managed systems for high waste strength. Being a newbie, I was all excited about taking samples, running dissolved oxygen scans etc. The first job involved a major grocery chain. The primary components (tanks) ended up in the parking lot and were set somewhat deep. Necessitated laying down on the asphalt to reach the influent level to collect samples. While getting up, something went splash. About an hour later realized it was my truck keys. GREAT! Went to the local hardware, obtained a magnet and some string. Proceeded to "fish" for the keys. After many trials and many times getting hung up on the submersible (cast iron body) pump decided it was a lost cause. Pulled up the magnet and there were my keys. Fortunately, had a steel key ring holding them together. From that day forward the keys stay in the truck. But, that's not all. About a week later, with the keys in the truck, the alarm system decided to go on the fritz and locked me out. Had a hide a key, right. The word is had; no, it was no where to be found, probably fell off crossing railroad tracks or something. So, today, many years later, still leave the keys in the truck, but in the canopy in a safe, inconspicuous spot and carry a spare key in the change pocket to my jeans.

Trent Clinkscales writes;

I dropped a can of chewing tobacco in the tank which promptly plugged up my suction hose. That really ticked me off. I recently had a cell phone commit "sewercide" by leaping from my bib pocket in a pump vault. Once while trying to break a lid loose I lost my pry bar into a septic tank. The customer fashioned a lasso out of string and we got it back. I found what the customer told me was the bones of an old goat that had fallen into a septic tank without a lid.



Brian Rabe writes;

Back in the early days of cell phones, I had the misfortune of dropping one (twice) into pump vaults. The first was full of "used" water (garbage juice) at the Tillamook County Recycling Center and Transfer Station. It fell out of my shirt pocket as I leaned over to test a float. I quickly removed the pump and pulled the vault so I could dump the phone out onto the ground. It was On when it went in, but was Off when it came out. Concerned that I had destroyed a piece of company equipment, but hopeful that it somehow survived, I shook as much of the leach ate out as I could. I was nearly done with my start-up inspection, so it wasn't long before I started for home. I placed the phone on the dash with the heater up all the way and the defrosters on full blast. After the two hour journey back to the office, I pushed the power button and it turned on as usual. I attempted to make a call, and it worked!

I disinfected the phone with bleach solution, but for some reason no one else wanted use it. It was previously a shared phone that any one of several of us could check out when we went in the field. Someone labeled it the "Septic Phone" with a Sharpie and from then on no one else checked it out (except me). Several months later a similar incident occurred, except this time it was clean water. The same treatment had the same result and out came the Sharpie to add a couple of tick marks, like the notches on the belt of an old west gun.

Alex Mauk Writes;

My father told he once he cleaned a tank to retrieve a guys false teeth, luckily they found them the guy put them in boiling water and ate his lunch!

Years ago I was teaching a new employee to run a pumper truck on a hot summer day, this particular job was a combination grease trap septic tank very very smelly. The tank served a motel restaurant and was probably 3,000 to 5,000 gallons and was buried about 6' under a parking lot with one access lid. The only way to clean a tank like this was to go inside otherwise you could not get the solids out. The temperature inside a tank receiving kitchen hot water was very hot! The high temperature created even more gross odor coming up and out the manhole. I could tell this young man was not destined for this line of work long term. About that time I found a \$5.00 bill in the mess I was wading around in. I climbed the ladder out of the tank and laid the messy greasy shi... \$5.00 bill out on the pavement telling the young man here you go now you know there is money in shi.. He did not return to work the next day. In the seventies and eighties it was not uncommon to enter tanks on a regular basis this was long before confined entry equipment and training was required. Many of those early tanks only got the water pumped out as most pumpers couldn't fit down the manhole or just wouldn't enter a tank. Those service providers were called "pumpers" my dad was adamant that Goodman Sanitation was in the septic tank cleaning business thus you went in the tanks to make sure "all " the solids were removed.

Thank you guys for your stories, I have more that were sent to me and I will publish a SEWERCIDE #2 in the Spring issue.

IF YOU THINK... education is expensive, try ignorance!" I admit this is one of my favorite bumper stickers. Maybe it is my experience as a school teacher or maybe it is because my wife still teaches middle school. Whatever the reason, the idea of not valuing education is something I can not accept.

Unfortunately I am finding that for many in our industry, the terms "value" and "education" seem unrelated. Let me share a couple of recent examples I have run into. The first example involves my role as the On-Site representative to the OESAC group. OESAC is the council that was established by legislative mandate to review and assign CEU credits for the drinking water, waste water and on-site communities in the State of Oregon. OESAC meets monthly to review submitted class outlines for relevancy in each of the three industry areas. Several months ago an educational institution submitted a large packet of information pertaining to a short school they were offering. While some sessions obviously applied to the on-site installers or O&M groups, most of the sessions were clearly aimed at either the drinking water or waste water industries. The initial result was that the sponsoring body was rather unhappy with the low number of allowed CEU's for the on-site industry. During the ensuing conversations I was told that while many of the sessions did in fact not pertain to our industry, at least they dealt with waste water (even though it was municipal waste water treatment) and that just being in that type of learning environment was justification for issuing CEU's. Needless to say, as a former teacher I strongly disagreed and explained that I looked at education opportunities from the PAR perspective. PAR stands for Pertinent, Applicable and Relevant. While many of the sessions were surely pertinent and applicable, they were not relevant to the on-site group. In the end, after much research into class materials, instructors biographies and numerous phone interviews with presenters I was able to see how several additional sessions did meet or at least come close to meeting the PAR guidelines. Still, I expressed to the representative that they needed to focus on developing sessions aimed at the on-site group specifically in future offerings. The concept of issuing CEU credits simply to increase registration fees or to issue non-applicable CEU's so licensing requirements could be met is a perfect example of the disconnect between value and education.

The second scenario involves the NAWT certified on-site inspectors course. I am no fortune teller but I think I can see the writing on the wall concerning Point Of Sale inspections. At present there are two nationally recognized organizations that offer a uniform inspection course and certification. One is the NSF and the other is the NAWT. The NAWT has teamed up with COWA, California's version of our O2WA, to offer inspectors courses in Salinas California so I registered and headed to Salinas for the one and a half day class. The class includes a written test at the end that attendees must pass with a score of 70% or higher to receive their NAWT Inspectors Certificate. Unfortunately the instructors are restricted to covering the NAWT material and the result was that 66% of the class time was spent on basic on-site system terminology, components, system types etc. In other words, VERY basic material! The final 33% of the class actually focused on the inspection process, documentation, protocols, paperwork and the like. After the class the instructors asked me what I thought of the class and I shared that I was very disappointed in the time/material allotment. The instructors then sheepishly admitted they realized this but that NAWT had felt that so many in our industry did not understand the basic concepts of on-site systems that they needed to spend most of the class time on just educating attendees on the basics. Only after hours of basic material could they cover the actual inspection aspects. The instructors did request that these issues be mentioned in the post class evaluation and to make suggestions for increasing the relevancy of the class. One of my comments was that this industry needs to get serious about the educational aspect and to realize that many of us do not mind paying for continuing education classes but if we are going to spend the money, we want the PAR concept to be kept in mind. I even went so far as to suggest that as a prerequisite for the class an attendee would have to either provide proof of complete of a basic systems class such as the new upcoming NAWT practitioners class OR by passing a pretest that determines if attendees have at least a basic working knowledge of on-site systems so class time could be focused on the class topic rather than on basic information.

Now, before I get "flamed" let me say that I realize that there are many in our industry that have years of experience and that practical application trumps untested theory hands down. But, I also realize that our industry often has an image issue, aka "Bubba the pumper". I also realize that why we all take our profession seriously, there are others who do not. This includes not only the uninformed homeowner but the real estate industry and even the banking industry. It is our job to educate these people as to what we do, what services we provide and the long term value of what we bring to the table but we can ONLY do this when we demonstrate our own professionalism. Education is the key to this professionalism so let's stop looking at continuing education as a burden but as an essential part of our business.

Robb Barnes
Kings Pumping

O2WA I.N.F.O. INDUSTRY NEWS FOR OREGON

FALL ISSUE 2010



Oregon Onsite Wastewater Association

70 SW Century Dr., PMB #353 - Bend ,Oregon 97702

Phone (541)389-6692 - Fax (541)389-2832 - www.O2WA.org - info@O2WA.org

O2WA Officers

Scott Davis, President
Brian Rabe, CPSS, WWS,
Past President
Kimberlee Aldrich, EWST,
President Elect
Erik Colville, P.E., Treasurer
William Austin, Secretary

Board of Directors Representing

Engineer - Dennis Boeger, P.E.
Manufacturer - Felice Cooper
Soil Scientist - Kimberlee Aldrich, EWST
Installer - Dan Buss
Sanitarian - Dan Bush, REHS
Tank Mfg. - Scott Hammerschmith
Education - William Austin,
County Regulator - Brittany May, REHS
Member at Large - Robert Barnes
DEQ Exoffcio - Randy Trox,

Committee Chairs

Kimberlee Aldrich, EWST - Newsletter
Scott Davis - Conference
Chris Rhodaback - Conference Site Location
Mike Hamer - Auction & Day at the Capital
Trent Clinkscales - Tradeshow/Sponsors
Dennis Boeger, PE - Membership
Felice Cooper - Annual Members Meeting
Scott Hammerschmith - Rules & Rodeo
Dan Buss - Continuing Education Program
Robert Barnes - OESAC Representative
Brittany May, REHS - Website
Zan Ewing, REHS - State Fair

Mark Your Calendar!
March 11 & 12, 2011
Onsite Wastewater Conference & Tradeshow
www.o2wa.org

Oregon Onsite Wastewater Association
70 SW Century Dr., PMB 353
Bend, OR 97702