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Spring 2009
Newsletter

From Left to Right: Jim Bonta, Martin Shipitalo, Jules Pretty, Leah Miller, Steve Slack, and Rattan Lal

Honorary Degree Recipient Ecologist Dr. Jules Pretty Visits OSU

Jules Pretty (OBE, FRSA, FIBiol) received a notable Honorary Degree from the Ohio State University in March, 2009. He is a Professor of Environment & Society at the University of Sussex, in Colchester, England. His research interests include: sustainable and ecological agriculture, green exercise, green care and green design, biodiversity and ecoliteracy, social capital and natural resources, agricultural policies and the real costs and human connections to nature.

Inside:

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Dr. Pretty writes on the importance and relevance of nature for people, and explores the relations between people and the land. His most recent book of essays is *The Earth Only Endures: On Reconnecting with Nature and our Place in it* (2007). He has also written widely on the sustainability of agricultural and food systems in both developing and industrialized countries, and books on these topics include *Agri-Culture* (2002), *The Pesticide Detox* (2005), *An Earthscan Reader on Sustainable Agriculture* (2005), The Living Land (1998) and *Regenerating Agriculture* (1995). Continued on Page 2...

The drop-box weir, during a strong run off event in 2004, installed at NAEW, Coshocton, Ohio. (Photo courtesy of Martin Shipitalo.

Martin Shipitalo (left) showing the impact of no-till farming and residue mulching to Jerry Bigham (center) and Jules Pretty (above), and on earthworm abundance in no-till soil (below).

…Continued from Page 1

He received an OBE in 2006 for services to sustainable agriculture in the UK and overseas. Jules Pretty has recently completed a book called *This Luminous Coast* about memory, place and identity along the 500 miles of the coasts of Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk. Further book projects are *Extinction*, with a focus on biological and cultural extinctions, and *Nature and Culture* (with Sarah Pilgrim).

Jules Pretty, along with distinguished OSU scientists and administrators, visited the OARDC Campus, the Coshocton-USDA Expl. Station and Amish farms while touring agricultural areas in central Ohio.

Dr. Pretty presented a PowerPoint presentation entitled "**Sustainable Agriculture and the State of the World Food System".** Below is a slide from his presentation with Dr. Pretty's recommended priorities for the 21st Century.

Priorities for the 21st Century

- More food from same land without harming supply of environmental services
  - And eventually without oil
- Improve investments in science and technology for both G and E outcomes
  - Biotechnology and agroecology
  - Search for a new synthesis
- Improve delivery and engagement mechanisms
  - Increase numbers of facilitators (extensionists) for social capital formation
  - Partnerships between agencies (GO, NGO, private)
  - Increased investment in agriculture
- Focus on novel pro-poor policies
  - Especially on what small farmers can do
  - Allow place-based solutions to emerge

(Pretty, 2009)

The presentation in its entirely is available on the C-MASC website (http://snr.osu.edu/cmasc/about.html).

Visiting Scholars

Guðrún Gísladóttir, of the University of Iceland, visited C-MASC from April 22, 2009 until May 29, 2009.

Present appointment: Professor, Department of Geography and Tourism, Faculty of Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Iceland.

Education: 1998 Phil. Dr. Physical Geography, Stockholm University,
1993 Phil. Lic. Physical Geography, Stockholm University.
1980 B.Sc. Geography, University of Iceland.

Main field of research: Land degradation and sustainable management; Soils and natural resources research; Ecosystems development, vegetation, carbon, erosion and natural and human impact thereon; The effects of natural hazards (volcanism and jökulhlaup) on environment and local population.

She presented a seminar on the collaborated research project that she is conducting with C-MASC.

Dr. M. Elayarajan, Assistant Professor in the Dept. of Soil Science & Agricultural Chemistry, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India. He visited C-MASC February 15 until March 23, 2009.

He is currently working in an Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) sponsored Long Term Fertilizer Experiment (LTFE) which is in operation for the past 40 years (since 1969).

In this study, changes in nutrient dynamics at varying levels of fertility gradients besides assessing physical and biological characteristics are measured. Currently, he is interested in assessing the carbon sequestration pattern under various fertility gradients created by continuous fertilization and intensive cropping. These analyses are needed to determine effects of fertilization and intensive cropping system on productivity and environmental quality.

Conferences & Events Spring 2009

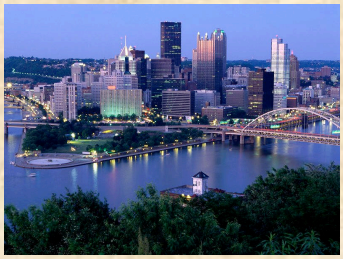
April 27-May 1 Princeton University:
The Princeton Environmental Institute (PEI), and the Science, Technology and Environment Policy (STEP) program of the Woodrow Wilson School organized a symposium entitled "Feeding at Hot and Hungry Planet: The Challenges of Making More Food and Fewer Greenhouse Gases".

World Agriculture Forum held the **2009 World Congress** in St. Louis, MO from 18-20 May 2009.The focus is on food security in relation to sustainable management of water, especially for agricultural use in the context of increasing competition for industrial and urban uses. The 2009 World Congress will seek solutions to issues around agricultural production and supply, rising food costs, the crucial resource of water, and the impacts on agricultural economies and resources during a period of unprecedented financial uncertainties on a global scale. Defining strategies and creating solutions will require a better understanding of the drivers and challenges of agriculture and food production including labor, rising prices, shrinking sources of credit, leveraging of innovation and technology, creation of incentives for production and higher productivity, and reducing the impact of input costs to farmers. Each sector -- government, private and private-public partnerships and civil society (NGOs) will be challenged to provide a road map to success by addressing the crucial issues of safe, affordable and reliable supplies of food, fuel, fiber and water.

International Symposium on Soil Organic Matter Dynamics: Land Use, Management and Global Change Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA July 6-9, 2009

The symposium will cover a range of topics on the vital role of soil organic matter (SOM) in the function and sustainability of terrestrial ecosystems and the global carbon cycle. Research on SOM in all terrestrial ecosystems (e.g., cropland, grassland, forest, tundra) is included. Aim of the symposium is to present the latest research on SOM across the globe and highlight future research directions. http://www.nrel.colostate.edu/som-home.html.

International Annual Meeting ASA-CSSA-SSSA, Nov. 1-5, 2009 Pittsburgh, PA "Footprints in the Landscape: Sustainability through Plant and Soil Sciences,"



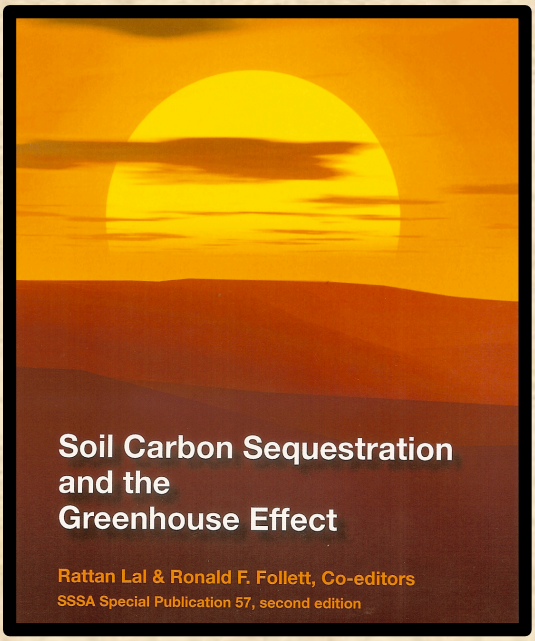
The purpose of this event is to: expand your knowledge with lectures, symposia, and 3,000 oral and poster papers; share ideas, successes, and challenges with your peers; connect with colleagues from around the world; learn about the best and latest products and services. For more information please visit: https://www.acsmeetings.org/

CENTER Carbon sequestration

Soil Carbon Sequestration and the Greenhouse Effect, second edition

The concept of the Greenhouse Effect is more than a century old, but today the observed and predicted climate changes attributed to anthropogenic increases in atmospheric CO_2 more urgently beg the question, what can be done? The second edition of *Soil Carbon Sequestration and the Greenhouse Effect* is essential reading for understanding the processes, properties, and practices affecting the soil carbon pool and its dynamics.

A timely update of the concepts, practices, and supporting data, all chapters are new contributions by both authors of the first edition and new invited authors. The expanded second edition includes 23 chapters, with a substantial new introduction and a concluding chapter. New themes addressed are urban soils, minesoils, biochemically recalcitrant compounds, carbonaceous materials, belowground carbon storage by woody plants, and peat soils. The geographic focus of the book is North America, with important chapters from Canada and Mexico. Thematically, the second edition encompasses data from modeling, lab analyses, plot studies, landscape assessment, and regional evaluation of soil carbon pools and fluxes.



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The Ohio State University

"Through this publication, the Soil Science Society of America is pleased to provide the platform for guiding the future research agenda on soil carbon sequestration, as well as contributing to the scientific knowledge base required to guide future public policy decisions. Congratulations to Dr. Rattan Lal and Dr. Ronald Follet for producing such an excellent and timely publication."

Paul M. Bertsch, President, SSSA

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