

Lars J. Munkholm

This issue of ISTROINFO contains an introduction of Elke Noellemeyer, who has recently been appointed as new Editor-in-Chief for Soil and Tillage Research. Elke takes over after Warren Buscher – thanks to Warren for doing this very important job. Soil and Tillage Research is performing very well (see May 2016 issue) and therefore receives a lot of papers. This makes it a very busy job being an Editor-in-Chief. We can all help to reduce the workload on the Editors by accepting to do reviews for the journal.

This issue also includes an obituary for our past president, John Morrison, who passed away a couple of months ago. John made a very significant contribution to our area of research through his research and not the least via his strong involvement in ISTRO.

Lastly, this issue also contains information on upcoming ISTRO events and other meetings, job opportunities and new books.

## ⌘ Introducing New Editor-in-Chief for Soil and Tillage Research



Elke Noellemeyer, National University of La Pampa, Santa Rosa, Argentina, has been appointed as new Editor-in-Chief of Soil and Tillage Research.

Elke has a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and an honors degree in Soil Science from the University of Saskatchewan, Canada and a Ph.D. degree from Ciencias Aplicadas, Universidad de Luján, Argentina. She has been an active member of ISTRO for some years now.

### *Why did you take on being an editor of S&TR?*

I always liked the scope and contents of Soil and Tillage Research, which are also my main concerns and research topics. I cite many articles from S&TR and I have also been a reviewer for many years. Being an editor, I hope to serve the S&TR community to preserve the interest in Soil Physics and the effect of tillage, and to keep up the excellent standard of our journal.

### *From your research what stands out as giving you the most satisfaction?*

I have been working in no-till systems for many years and more recently we included cover crops in the rotations. It is amazing how the soil responds to both, with more organic matter, better structural characteristics and improved hydrology. Communicating these results to farmers has always been a highlight for me. The field days where we show how good management improves soil fertility and the response of farmers, practitioners and students are by far the most satisfactory events for me.

### *Who inspires you?*

Students and colleagues of my research working group.

### *Who were your mentors?*

I studied in Saskatchewan in a moment where the University of Saskatchewan was one of the most important centers of Soil Science research. My mentors were John Stewart and Eldor Paul, as the most important ones, who taught me that our research not only needed to be original and high quality, but also that it is a very important issue for science to solve the problems of people and societies.

### *What 3 words sum you up?*

No idea??? Never thought about it.

## *What do you do in your spare time?*

Most of my spare time I spend on our farm-ranch. I like to ride and to work with animals, so my preferred pastime is chasing cows on horseback. But, of course, I also like to read, especially in summer holidays by the swimming pool.

## *What was the last non-work book you read and what is your favourite film?*

I recently read "My brilliant friend" by Elena Ferrante and I have a good collection of Bill Bryson's books which I enjoy very much. I like the Argentinean romantic and historic novels by Viviana Rivero or Florencia Bonelli.

## ☞ Obituary John Morrison



We are sorry to announce the death of John E. Morrison, Jr. on August 22, 2016 at age 77. John was past President of ISTRO and remained an active member throughout his career and even into retirement. Dr. Morrison was born in Saranac, Michigan and passed away in Unicoi, Tennessee where he had retired.

Dr. Morrison was raised on a farm near Saranac, Michigan. He received his B.S. degree in Agricultural Engineering from Michigan State University in 1961 and his M.S. degree in Engineering Mechanics from the University of Michigan in 1968. He was employed for several years in the agricultural machinery industry where he worked on planter design and was awarded two patents for novel seed metering designs.

John began his career with the United States Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Research Service (USDA-ARS) as a Agricultural Engineer in 1968 at Lexington, Kentucky. He completed his

Ph.D. degree in Agricultural Engineering at the University of Kentucky in 1978. He received the ASAE Young Designer Award in 1974. While in Lexington, he was involved in research to mechanize tobacco production. John was transferred to the USDA-ARS Grassland Soil and Water Research Laboratory in, Temple, Texas in 1978, and accepted an assignment to lead a new conservation tillage research program. The work involved the development of conservation tillage systems and the design and testing of new machinery concepts that could be used to conduct conservation tillage on shrink/swell clay soils (vertisols). As a result of his research, conservation tillage concepts are now widely used on the clay soils of central Texas. His research has also been applied in numerous other countries. His research has resulted in over 130 publications.

While in Texas, he served as President of ISTRO from 1997-2000, presiding over the 15<sup>th</sup> ISTRO Conference, Fort Worth, Texas, July 2-7, 2000. John, retired from the Grassland Soil and Water Research Laboratory, on November 2, 2002 after 36 years of US federal service and settled in Unicoi, a small town in eastern Tennessee after his retirement. During his retirement, John enjoyed horseback riding, fishing, backpacking, writing poetry, painting, and continued to work on designing agricultural machinery.

Although he retired in 2002, he continued his enthusiasm for Agricultural Engineering and remained an active member of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers (ASAE), Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS), and Sigma Xi. He also continued as an active member of ISTRO, serving as a liaison for ISTRO Branch development.

John is survived by his wife of 54 years, Mary Ellen Morrison, his daughter, Suzie Coghlan, two sons, John Eddy Morrison and Thanh Van Nguyen Morrison, one grandson, Matthew Morrison, and two granddaughters, Danielle Coghlan, and Lisa Le. John will be deeply missed, as a friend, as a colleague, and as a scientist. Our thoughts are with his family.

*Allen Torbert*

## Supplement from Blair McKenzie, ISTRO Secretary General

It is appropriate that ISTRO acknowledges the contribution that John Morrison made to our organisation. Others have noted John's efforts as ISTRO President for the 15<sup>th</sup> conference in Fort Worth, USA. However John's quiet, unassuming service did not end there. Early in my term as Assistant Secretary General I was not aware of the largely behind-the-scenes support and mentoring John did for several of the ISTRO branches. The extent of this was finally brought home to me when John and I shared accommodation at the Nigerian branch conference in Illorin in February 2011. Talking with John it was rapidly obvious that John knew and worked with people in several ISTRO branches. John found ways to schedule his own travel (e.g., in promoting his no-till seeder see ISTROINFO December 2014) to fit in with ISTRO branch events and meetings. This allowed him to build and foster ISTRO activities at minimal (or usually no) cost to ISTRO. After our week in Nigeria I paid special note and was not surprised at how often a report or update from different ISTRO branches happened to follow John's presence in the country. So I take this opportunity to recognize the work John did for ISTRO.

## ☞ISTRO Conference 2018

The 21<sup>st</sup> ISTRO Conference will take place on September 24-28, 2018. It will be held at "Cité Universitaire Internationale de Paris (CIUP)", Paris, France. The venue is located "Intramuros", in the south of the city, 15 min. from downtown of Paris by bus or subway. More details on programme etc. will follow later.



Picture of "Cité Universitaire Internationale de Paris"

## ☞3rd International Scientific Conference on "Sustainability challenges in agroecosystems"

The conference is organized by Croatian Soil Tillage Research Organization (CROSTRO), Czech branch of ISTRO and HUISTRO – Hungarian branch of ISTRO, under the auspice of International Soil Tillage Research Organization (ISTRO) and many others supportive institutions. June 21, 2017 in Osijek, Croatia.

Webpage: [www.hdpot.hr](http://www.hdpot.hr)

## ☞Job Vacancies

### Postdoc position at Agroscope

Agroscope is seeking for a Postdoctoral Fellow to work on Soil Fertility and Soil Protection.

**Employment level:** 80%

**Workplace:** 8046 Zürich-Affoltern

**Salary:** According to the standards of the Swiss National Science Foundation

### Application

Interested applicants should send an online application, including a research statement, CV and list of publications, copy of up to three research papers, academic transcripts and the addresses of 2-3 referees in a single PDF file to

[human.resources@agroscope.admin.ch](mailto:human.resources@agroscope.admin.ch)

For further information please feel free to contact Dr. Thomas Keller, project coordinator ([thomas.keller@agroscope.admin.ch](mailto:thomas.keller@agroscope.admin.ch), +41 58 468 76 05). **Please do not send applications to this email address.**

## ☞Upcoming Meetings and Events

### November/December, 2016

2nd Global Soil Security Conference. December 5-6, 2016, Paris, France:

Webpage: <https://gssparisen.wordpress.com/>

Soil, a Balancing Act Downunder. December 12-16, 2016 Queenstown New Zealand.

Webpage: <http://www.nzsssconference.co.nz/call-for-abstracts/instructions-themes.html>

## March 2017

“Intersol 2017: The Europe of Polluted Sites and Soils: Blockages and Successes”. March 14-16, 2017, Lyon, France. International Conference-Exhibition on Soils, Sediments and Water; **Deadline for call for papers:** November 4, 2016.

Webpage: <http://www.intersol.fr/>

Soil Science Society of Nigeria, 41st Annual Conference on “Land Degradation, Sustainable Soil Management and Food and Nutrition Security”. March 13– 17, 2017, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi, Nigeria.

Webpage: <http://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/resources/events/other-soil-events/detail/en/c/446304/>

## June/July 2017

1st World Conference on Soil and Water Conservation under Global Change – CONSOWA, 2017. June 12-16, 2017 in Lleida, Spain.

Webpage:

[http://www.swcs.org/index.cfm/6404/72691/first\\_world\\_conference\\_on\\_soil\\_and\\_water\\_conservation\\_under\\_global\\_change](http://www.swcs.org/index.cfm/6404/72691/first_world_conference_on_soil_and_water_conservation_under_global_change)

Pedometrics 2017 Conference

June 26 -July 1, 2017 in Wageningen, the Netherlands.

Webpage: <http://www.pedometrics2017.org/>

## October 2017

2nd Global Soil Biodiversity Conference

October 15-21, 2017, Nanjing, China

Webpage: <https://globalsoilbiodiversity.org/>

## August 2018

21<sup>st</sup> World Congress of Soil Science (WCSS) on the theme: “Soils to feed and fuel the world”. August 12-17, 2018 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Webpage: <http://21wcsc.org/>

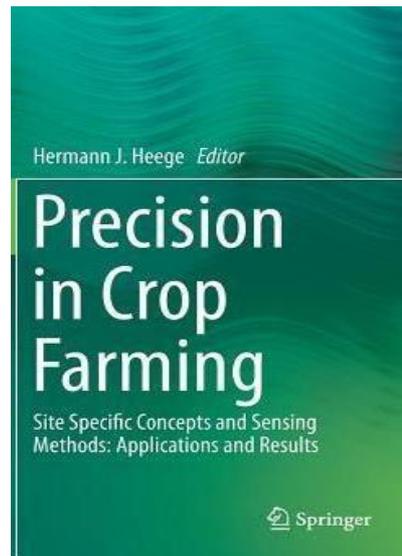
2018 21<sup>st</sup> ISTRO Conference, Paris, France.

September 24-28, 2018.

## Book Review

### **Precision in Crop Farming – Site specific concepts and sensing methods: Applications and results**

Edited by Hermann J. Heege



Sustainable but also economical farming requires precise adaptation to the natural site management and economic conditions. Thus, interactions between external and internal i.e. soil processes and properties need to be considered in order to optimize site specific and adapted farming systems as well as to minimize environmental impacts and economical consequences. This very interesting book aims at explaining the rationales existing between agronomical sciences, sensing principles plus its physical, chemical and biological background as well as finally possibilities in agricultural engineering and farming management. It is therefore to be located between several fields of agricultural sciences and adjacent disciplines.

The book is well written and agricultural engineering details are included while e.g., actual soil properties and functions could have been included more in detail, because not capacity but intensity parameters of soils define the consequences of soil and environmental management approaches. However, because the aim of this book is the bridging between science disciplines it cannot go too much into these certainly necessary details.

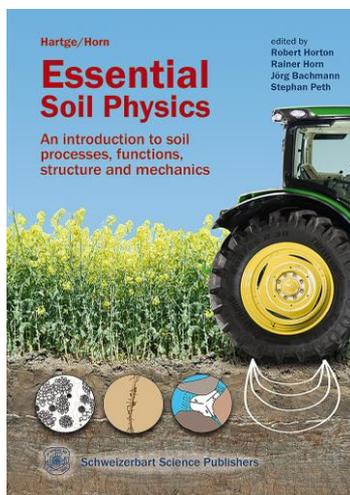
It can be recommended for agricultural engineers, environmental scientists and all those who are interested in modern agricultural topics and technological approaches.

Kiel, 14.10.2016 Rainer Horn

## ☞ New Book by ISTRO Members

### **Essential Soil Physics: An introduction to soil processes, functions, structure and mechanics**

Edited by Robert Horton; Rainer Horn; Jörg Bachmann; Stephan Peth



This textbook introduces the reader gently but comprehensively to soil physical processes. The authors discuss both the origin and dynamics of soil physical properties and functions - volume-mass relations of the solid, water and gas phases, grain and pore size distributions, permeability and storage capacity for water, gases and heat - and finally soil deformation and strength in relation to mechanical and hydraulic stresses resulting in structural changes through compaction, kneading, slaking and soil crusting. Unlike other soil physics textbooks, soil mechanical properties are herein described in great detail, because otherwise it is impossible to understand and adequately quantify soil stability and the effects of soil deformation on soil physical functions. This book is valuable for researchers, upper-level undergraduate students, and graduate students of agronomy, soil science, horticulture, geo-sciences, environmental science, landscape architects and everybody interested in understanding the intricate physical processes which control and modify soil functions. Problems

are provided at the end of each chapter to enable readers to develop soil physics related problem solving skills.

More information about this book:

[https://www.schweizerbart.de/publications/detail/isbn/9783510652884/Hartge Horn Essential Soil Physics](https://www.schweizerbart.de/publications/detail/isbn/9783510652884/Hartge+Horn+Essential+Soil+Physics)

## ☞ Other Books

### **Precision Crop Protection - the Challenge and Use of Heterogeneity**

By Oerke, E.-C., Gerhards, R., Menz, G., Sikora, R.A. (Editors)

More information about this book:

<http://www.springer.com/la/book/9789048192762>

### **Infiltration Measurements for Soil Hydraulic Characterization**

Authors: Angulo-Jaramillo, R., Bagarello, V., Iovino, M., Lassabatere, L.

More information about this book:

<http://www.springer.com/us/book/9783319317861>

### **History of Soil Science: International Perspectives**

By Dan H. Yaalon & S. Berkowicz (Editors)

List price EUR 135.00, **special rate EUR 67.50**

### **Subsoil Compaction — Distribution, Processes and Consequences**

By R. Horn, J.J.H. van den Akker & J. Arvidsson (Editors)

List price EUR 101.00, **special rate EUR 50.50**

# ISTRO INFO

NEWSLETTER  
of the  
International Soil Tillage Research Organisation

## Soil Degradation

By Julia Krümmelbein, Rainer Horn & Marcello  
Pagliai (Editors)ist price 149.00 EUR, **special rate**  
**EUR 74.50**

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