



# **ISTRO INFO**

**A Publication of the  
International Soil Tillage Research Organization**

March 2010

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## In Memoriam – Beverley Kay



Dr. Beverley David Kay, 67, Professor Emeritus, died on 14 Jan. 2010 at home in Elora, Ontario, Canada, after a long journey with a slow form of ALS. He was born on a farm in Ontario and received his B. Sc. (1965) and M. Sc. (1966) from the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph, which, at that time, was part of the University of Toronto. He went to Purdue University for his Ph.D. (1969) with Professor Phil Low. There he met his future wife Maureen. He joined Guelph's soil science faculty in 1969 and chaired the Department of Land Resource Science from 1983 to 1994. In the mid-1990's, he co-chaired the U of G's Strategic-Planning Commission. A Fellow of the Canadian Society of Soil Science, he retired in 2003.

Dr. Kay was renowned for his research in soil structure and carbon sequestration. His most significant single contribution has been the development of the concept of "the least limiting water range (LLWR)" He authored and co-authored more than 100 papers and chapters in books. He was an inspiring mentor to over two dozen graduate students and many postdoctoral and research associates. Several of these people have become leaders in research and teaching in Government and Universities in Canada, the United States, Australia, Brazil, Denmark, Iran and Sri Lanka. He was admired and loved by his staff.

Dr. Kay was an enthusiastic participant in the life of the International Soil and Tillage Research Organization (ISTRO), which he served as its Secretary-General from 2000-2003.

Prof. Kay is survived by his wife, Maureen, and two children, Ailsa and Laird.

## ISTRO INFO – March 2010

Members will no doubt be saddened to read of the passing of Prof Bev Kay – a former ISTRO Secretary General. I will not try to embellish the words that Pieter Groenevelt, Cam Grant, Raneer Pararaj and Dave Elrick put together with help from Bev's family. I will simply say from the numerous contacts I have had from ISTRO members over the last 6 weeks it is clear that admiration and affection for Bev stretched across the globe.

With the equinox just past and seasons changing (be it spring or autumn, wet or dry), farmers the world over will be ploughing, planting, picking or involved in other activities associated with food production. ISTRO members will similarly be engaged in thinking, experimenting, advising, modeling, and measuring different aspects of those activities. The ISTRO goals include promotion of contacts among scientists undertaking research in soil tillage and field traffic and their relationship with the soil environment, land use and crop production. To try to capture the diversity of agricultural activities that engage ISTRO members, I am asking that some of you send me a couple of sentences describing the agricultural activities that involve you over the next few weeks. I will collate anything that comes in, and include comment in the next ISTRO INFO.

Several ISTRO events are coming up in the next few months. In April the CTF working group meets in Switzerland; in June the Estonian Branch holds its conference, in July the Uruguayan ISTRO Branch holds its conference in conjunction with the local Soil Science Society and in September the Croatian Branch holds its conference. These have been well publicized and the calls for papers and posters widely distributed. All that is needed now is for the action to start. Final or near final details for these events are given in the following pages with updates appearing on the activities page of the ISTRO website ([http://iworx5.webxtra.net/~istroorg/p\\_frame.htm](http://iworx5.webxtra.net/~istroorg/p_frame.htm) )

Blair M. McKenzie  
Assistant Secretary General

## **Reviewing is every member's responsibility**

ISTRO members are the sponsors of one of the most respected soil science journals in the world, with Soil and Tillage Research being a primary publication outlet for the results of our research projects. To have a high-quality, credible publication, peer review is an essential step that must be taken seriously by all members. Recently, I was informed by our Editors that they are having great difficulty in obtaining prompt, high-quality reviews for the manuscripts that are being submitted for possible publication in our journal. Serving as a peer reviewer should be viewed as a crucial responsibility for every ISTRO member. Reviewing has many personal advantages as one can always learn how to communicate better by examining the writing of others. It also provides the reviewer an opportunity to better understand what types of information (e.g. yield response alone is generally not enough) and the depth of analysis that may subsequently result in an accepted manuscript for them. I do recognize that reviewing someone else's manuscript does take time, but this should not be an excuse for not serving your professional society as well as all of the people who may eventually benefit from a well-written publication. We are all busy, but I do encourage you to be an active ISTRO member by taking your turn when asked to serve as a reviewer for a potential publication. Finally, if you have never been asked to serve as a reviewer, please contact me or any of our four editors. You will be asked for some information about your areas of interest and your name will be added to the list of active reviewers.

Thank you for your attention and service to ISTRO.

Doug Karlen  
Secretary General

## **Controlled Traffic Farming and minimum tillage in the framework of small scale farming**

The CTF working group and in particular Thomas Anken and colleagues at the Agroscope Reckenholz-Tänikon Research Station in Switzerland have put together a 2

day workshop for 19 & 20 April 2010. The practical programme includes demonstrations and hands on sessions including:

- Minimum tillage and direct drilling: more than 20 years of experience in Switzerland - overall situation and updates
- Visit to field lysimeters: nitrate leaching from plough and no-tillage
- CTF trial in Tänikon (soil water, redox-potential, soil air, temperature and more)
- Spade test: Practical application - How can we improve acceptance by farmers?
- GNSS: Presentation of the virtual network in Switzerland and practical experiences with auto steer and the Swiss virtual network
- Visit to the research farm (tractor test bench, automatic detection of broad-leaved weeds, renewable energies in Switzerland)
- Visit to entrepreneurial farmers practicing strip tillage of wheat and corn
- Visit of a local vineyard with wine tasting

All details and the final programme have been published on websites ( [www.ctf-swiss.ch](http://www.ctf-swiss.ch) and [www.controlledtraffickingfarming.com](http://www.controlledtraffickingfarming.com) ). Contacts Thomas Anken & Martin Holpp, Agroscope ART, CH-8356 Ettenhausen  
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 A report on the event will be in the next ISTRO INFO.

### **Estonian Branch conference 8-10 June 2010**

Members and others interested are invited to participate in the Estonian Branch conference “Risks in Agriculture: Environmental and Economic Consequences” for June 8-10, 2010, in Tallinn, Estonia. Sessions include Environmental Strategy (chair: Anto Raukas, Estonia); Weather and Soil Resources (chair: Gyorgy Varallyay, Hungary); Crop Production (chair: Jean Rogr-Estrade, France); Food Quality and Safety (chair: Fred Stoddard, Finland) and Economic Consequences (chair: Volkhard Scholz, Germany). A field tour of the Kuusiku region will be on 10 June.

Details are on the website at (<http://www.eria.ee/index.php?page=273&> ). The final deadline for registration is 1 May.

The conference is jointly organized by the Estonian Branch of ISTRO and the Estonian Research Institute of Agriculture ([www.eria.ee](http://www.eria.ee)), in collaboration with the Scientific Creative Association “SCA Ecofiller” and non-profit Organization “Estonian Excellence Centre for Rural Development”.

Tallinn can be reached by direct flight, bus, train and boats from Helsinki or Stockholm. English will be the official language for the Conference. For more information check the website or contact the Chair of the organizing committee at [edvin.nugis@eria.ee](mailto:edvin.nugis@eria.ee), or the RAEEC conference team at [RAEECinfo@eria.ee](mailto:RAEECinfo@eria.ee) For those unable to attend a report there should be report of the outcomes in the next ISTRO INFO.

### **Uruguayan ISTRO Branch and the Uruguayan Society of Soil Science Conference 12-14 July 2010**

The science and technology community is invited to participate in a meeting on the topic of “Soil properties dynamics under different land uses” to be held in Colonia del Sacramento, Uruguay. Topics include: Evaluation of soil quality; Land, energy and food security; Soil fertility and plant nutrition; Erosion and runoff management; Control of land degradation and potential for restoration; and the Environmental impacts of different plant production systems. Invited speakers include Ricardo Melchiori, Cimeli Bayer, Douglas Karlen, Jorge Hernandez, Blair McKenzie, and Mariano Saluzzi. Manuscripts and posters should be submitted before 30 March 2010. The website of the Universidad de la Republica – Uruguay, Estacion Experimental station ( <http://www.eemac.edu.uy> ) provides a range of information for this meeting (as well as hosting information for the 19<sup>th</sup> triennial conference). Details specific to this meeting can be found at [http://www.eemac.edu.uy/dmdocuments/reunion\\_tecnica/La Sociedad Uruguaya de Ciencia del Suelo y la ISTRO.pdf](http://www.eemac.edu.uy/dmdocuments/reunion_tecnica/La_Sociedad_Uruguaya_de_Ciencia_del_Suelo_y_la_ISTRO.pdf) ).

A meeting of the ISTRO board will follow on 15-16 July 2010

## Croatia Branch Conference 9-11 September 2010

Members and others interested are invited to attend the Croatian Branch conference “Soil Tillage – Open Approach” from 9-11 September 2010 in Osijek. Details are on the website (<http://suncokret.pfos.hr/~hdpot/simpozij.htm>). Over 40 delegates have already registered. Key dates:

- 1 May – submission of full paper
- 1 July – notification of acceptance of full papers for publication
- 1 July – payment of “early bird” registration due
- 1 August – final programme published

The conference is organized by the Croatia Soil Tillage Research Organization – CROSTRO and the Croatian branch of ISTRO. The conference themes will be:

1. Soil tillage in function of environmental protection
2. Conservation tillage – direct seeding – no-tillage
3. Soil biotic and abiotic degradations – causes and consequences
4. Soil tillage – new approach – technologies – perspectives

The scientific and professional presentations will promote correct application of agrotechnical measures, the newest state-of-the-art information and techniques, and alternative approaches in agricultural production – all in the scope of soil tillage. English will be the official language for the conference. For more information including regards travel and accommodation, see the website contact Dr. Bojan Stipešević – Branch President at: [Bojan.Stipesevic@pfos.hr](mailto:Bojan.Stipesevic@pfos.hr)

## Other conferences and events

1<sup>st</sup> International conference of soil and roots engineering relationship (Landcon1005) in Ardebil Iran, 24-26 May 2010. For information: <http://www.landcon-ir.com>

19<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Soil Science in Brisbane Australia, 1-6 August 2010. For information: <http://www.19wcscs.org.au/whats-new.html>

XI<sup>th</sup> European Society for Agronomy in Montpellier France, 29 August – 3 September 2010. Information at: <http://www.agropolis.fr/agro2010>

ASA-CSSA-SSSA International Annual Meeting is in Long Beach California, U.S.A. 31 October – 4 November 2010.

6<sup>th</sup> International Congress of the European Society for Soil Conservation in Thessaloniki, Greece, 9-14 May 2011. Website to be launched soon.

## **Final Comments**

A reminder that members involved in supervising doctoral students are reminded that ISTRO will honor each new PhD in soil-tillage related fields with a free 3-year Membership of ISTRO and a free 1-year subscription to our journal - Soil & Tillage Research. New PhD's should be nominated by one of their graduate advisors / promoters who must be an existing ISTRO Member by sending an email to the Secretary General of ISTRO. Again details are on the ISTRO website

Blair M. McKenzie

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