

## CCAL Water Analysis Laboratory Fall 2006 Newsletter

The Cooperative Chemical Analytical Laboratory, CCAL, is a cooperative laboratory operated by Oregon State University and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service. CCAL specializes in high quality, trace level analysis of nutrients, ions, and physical properties of lake, stream, precipitation and groundwater research samples. This newsletter is being distributed to inform our customers of all the changes and improvements taking place at CCAL to better serve you.

See our new web page at <http://www.ccal.oregonstate.edu>. You will find procedural documentation, information on methods and detection limits, a current price list and an on-line sample submission form. Eventually, information you enter on this form will import directly into your final database just as you have entered it. The page is still under development and we appreciate your feed back as we go through revisions over the next year. Thanks to Ryan Hink in the OSU Forest Science Department for all his hard work and creativity.

Methods are currently being developed to make processes throughout the lab more efficient, and to increase precision and accuracy. This will help us decrease our turnaround time while maintaining the most accurate results achievable. Method reformation at this level is a very slow process as we have to be very careful to maintain comparable datasets for our long term projects, and we are "financially limited" in our effort to keep our prices down.

CCAL is in the process of making changes to improve turn-around time of analytical results and provide a broader suite of analyses. To improve data processing efficiency, CCAL is moving towards a standardized collection and reporting format. We now offer interim draft databases for those that need information as quickly as possible, but we do ask that customers remember this is only draft data that has not been through the rigorous checking process required for final datasets. CCAL has recently purchased a new carbon analyzer and we have access to a new Ion Chromatograph.

A new chemist, Kathy Motter, was hired last September to work with Cam to organize CCAL and improve methodologies used in the lab. Kathy managed a water analysis lab at the Willamette Research Station at the Environmental Protection Agency, and then at Hewlett Packard in the "invent phase" of Research and Development.

You will see a Quality Management Plan posted on the webpage in the next few months. Watch for new analyses being offered and let us know if you have analysis needs not currently being met. Please feel free to contact us anytime.

Kathy & Cam



<http://www.ccal.oregonstate.edu>

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