WATERLOO TECHNICAL SOCIETY
Meeting Minutes - 8 October 2003

The 8 Oct 2003 meeting of the Waterloo Technical Society was held at the Greenstreets Restaurant located at the Cedar Falls Holiday Inn, with 31 members, 1 speaker, and 2 guests attending (34 dinners total). President Dick Michael called the meeting to order at 7:20 PM. Guests were introduced and past presidents and honorary members, and current officers for 2003-04 were recognized. President Dick Michael read the minutes from the 10 Sep 2003 WTS meeting. Co-Treasurer Dave Berry presented the financial report with a current balance of $727.73 for the month ending 30 September 2003.

Old Business:
Jerry Mohling reported that he had word from Tom Vinson that Nauticos is planning a March/April 2004 expedition so that an update on the Amelia Earhart plane search will not be possible in the 03-04 meeting year. Dick Michael announced while reading the minutes that the February meeting will be on Crime Scene Technology. Don Goers is going to be chairman for that meeting program.

New Business:
None

Program: Chairman Dick Michael

Topic: ***Soil Polymer Technology***

Speaker: Johnny Dickinson

After retiring from Deere, Johnny got involved with Osborn & Barr Communications in St. Louis. His responsibility was to work with the smaller accounts. While working with American Soil Technologies to develop the use of polymers to improve crop yields, he was offered and accepted a position as Vice President. American Soil Technologies, Inc is a small startup company dedicated to becoming the leading supplier of super-absorbent polymer technology to turf, agricultural and retail horticulture markets. The stock symbol for American Soil Technologies, Inc is SOYL. John Babinat is a Midwest distributor through SOIL STUFF, ETC.

The polymer can absorb up to 400 times its weight in water. A demonstration was presented where a few grains of polymer were put in the bottom of a cup, then about 1.5 inches of water was added. After a few minutes the polymer absorbed the water into a hydrogel form! It gets very slimy when it absorbs water so machines and surfaces need to be kept clean. The polymer can increase yields up to 30 percent and often increases quality as well.

The polymer is a petroleum-based product, which deteriorates in ultra-violet radiation. Therefore, it needs to be incorporated in the plant root zone. Normally, incorporation is done by tilling the soil. However, there is also a demand for the product for dry area golf courses. Johnny cited one example where the golf course spends around $800,000 yearly for water. It is expected that polymers can reduce the water cost to 1/3. However, tilling is not possible, so a machine has been designed by Diedrichs & Associates, Inc of Cedar Falls to inject the polymer into the soil through needles.

In addition to absorbing water, the polymer will also absorb fertilizer and herbicide to make it more effective, and reduce the amount needed. During dry periods, the polymer will release the moisture for as long as 14 days. For very sandy soils, zeolite clay is added as a wicking agent. The polymer will last 3 to 5 years before it needs to be replenished.

Additional information can be found at www.Americansoiltech.com.

The meeting ended with Dick Michael presenting Johnny with a WTS medallion. The October 03 WTS meeting at Greenstreets was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Dick Michael, President