

## ***RESUME***

**Thomas L. Potter, Ph.D.**

Contact Information:

Phone: 229-834-1934

Email: tphone5534@gmail.com

2212 Newbern Street

Valdosta, GA 31602

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### **PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY**

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Researcher, research manager, teacher, and scientific consultant with more than 40 years of professional experience practicing environmental and agricultural chemistry. Accomplished author and public speaker with more than 110 peer-reviewed journal and government publications and leadership of symposia at national and international scientific meetings. Internationally recognized leader of multidisciplinary teams evaluating how conservation practices and agronomic management control the fate and transport of pesticides and other agrochemicals at field, farm, and watershed scales. Definitive quantitative research on how reduced tillage, use of cover crops, and other conservation practices reduces risks of pesticide use, enhances soil carbon storage, and mitigates climate change. Service by invitation on fifteen USEPA FIFRA-SAP Federal Scientific Advisory Panels (2001-2020) evaluated tools for pesticide risk assessment. Strong commitment to public service including 2 years as a US Peace Corps Volunteer in the Philippines (1975-77) and 3.5 years as board member of the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) (2017-2020). Currently serving as an Emeritus member of the NPCA board and board member of the Pollution Detectives (Kannapolis, NC), and the First Coast Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (Jacksonville, Florida). Recently completed 8-mo service as a US Peace Corps Virtual Service Pilot program volunteer providing support and guidance in the development of an environmental sustainability plan for the Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology (Philippines) and as a USAID-Purdue University Farmer to Farmer volunteer providing guidance on implementing Climate Smart agricultural practices for vegetable crop production in Trinidad Tobago.

### **SKILLS**

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- Human and ecological risk assessment
- Cross-cultural awareness
- Experienced public speaker
- Accomplished technical writer
- Mentorship of young scientists
- Planning and Policy Development
- Analytical and strategic thinking
- Conservation agriculture
- Collaboration
- Virtual and classroom teaching

## EXPERIENCE

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**Principal Scientist, Innovative Systems for Education and Environmental Technology.**  
Valdosta, GA. Apr-2017 to present.

- Human and ecological risk assessment of pesticides
- Technical writing and oral presentations at national meetings
- Pre and post submittal editing of manuscripts for peer-review journal publications
- Invited service on USEPA FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panels
- Business development

**Senior Research Chemist, US Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service, Tifton, Ga.** June 1998 to April 2017.

- Lead scientist of team investigating field scale conservation practices and how they enhance soil and water quality and crop production
- Human and ecological risk assessment and simulation modeling of pesticide environmental fate at field, farm, and lanscape scales
- Author of >110 peer-reviewed journal publications and government reports and editor of two books
- Supervision of technical staff and post-doctroal research associates
- Organization of symposia at national and international scientific meetings
- Service by invitation on USEPA FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panels
- Principal investigator of extramurally funded research that supported international collaborations with Israeli and Egyptian scientists.

**Graduate Faculty Member and Director of CFNR Mass Spectrometry Facility, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA.** Dec 1985 to June 1998.

- Advised and directed MS and PhD students in plant and soil science, environmental science, and food chemistry
- Managed Core Mass Spectrometry for College of Food and Natural Resources
- Principal investigator of research grants exceeding \$600,000.
- Prepared budgets and reports for faculty advisory committee and the college dean
- Founding member of the Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon Working Group with invited lectures on Environmental Analytical Chemistry of petroleum at national and international meetings
- Expert testimony on forensic chemical analysis in legal proceedings
- Executive Director, First Latin American Conference on Soil and Water Contamination, Quito Ecuador.

**Senior Chemist, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Augusta Maine.** 1980-85.

- Established and directed organic chemical analysis laboratory that supported RCRA and other programs related to the management of hazardous waste spill and disposal sites.
- Field and laboratory-based investigations of spills, discharges, and other releases of petroleum products in the environment
- Supervised technical staff
- Public speaking to industry, school, and citizen groups

## EDUCATION

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- Doctor of Philosophy, 1992, Environmental Chemistry, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA
- Master of Science, 1980, Soil Chemistry, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
- Bachelor of Science, 1973, Chemistry, University of Maine, Orono, ME

## VOLUNTEER SERVICE

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- U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer, Philippine Fisheries Group 85, Brackishwater Aquaculture Research Center, Leganes, Iloilo. 1975-77.
- U.S. Peace Corps Virtual Service Pilot Program volunteer. Consultant on sustainability principles and practices to the Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology. Philippines. Aug.2021-Feb. 2022. <https://www.peacecorps.gov/returned-volunteers/virtual-service-pilot/>.
- USAID-Purdue University Farmer to Farmer Program. Volunteer technical expert for virtual 5-week short-course on climate smart agriculture presented to a rural women's farmer cooperative located in Trinidad-Tobago. Oct-Nov, 2021. <https://ag.purdue.edu/ipia/Pages/F2F-Trinidad-Tobago.aspx>.
- Board of Directors, National Peace Corps Association, Washington, D.C. 2017-2020. <https://www.peacecorpsconnect.org>.
- Board of Directors Emeritus, National Peace Corps Association, Washington, D.C. 2020-present. <https://www.peacecorpsconnect.org>.
- Board of Directors, First Coast Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, Jacksonville, FL. 2020- present. <https://first-coast-rpcvs.peacecorpsconnect.org/cpages/home>.
- Board of Directors and Chair of Science Committee, WWALS watershed coalition. Hahira, GA. 2016-2023. <https://wwals.net/>.
- Board of Directors, Pollution Detectives. Kannapolis, NC. Apr. 2022-present. <https://thepollutiondetectives.org/>.