Biological Stain Identification and Microscopy of Biological Substances

Date: June 20–22, 2007 Richfield, OH Course Fee: $200
Enrollment: 15–20
Location: The BCI&I Laboratory and Training Academy in Richfield, Ohio
Instructors: Dale Laux and William Randle
Tentative Lodging: The Comfort Inn Akron West; Room Rate of $62.95 Including tax.

Workshop Coordinator: Brian Hoey, 573–526–6134 ext. 234
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This is the same workshop taught in the Spring of 2006. Due to its success and availability of resources and instructors, it is being offered again. The workshop will cover evidence handling and processing of biological evidence up to DNA analysis. The workshop will include microscopy of biological substances and will cover: collection and preservation of blood evidence; collection and preservation of semen evidence, saliva, urine and fecal matter; and presumptive and confirmatory testing of these materials. Designed for the entry–level forensic biologist, the workshop will focus on the critical aspects of finding probative biological material that can be exploited for DNA analysis. A trace evidence analyst will teach a component of the course to illustrate potential uses of the microscope to aide the forensic biologist in making decisions concerning additional testing. We intend to cover general microscopy including: basic microscope use and care, as well as basic examination of hairs, hair roots, fibers, and other sundry materials that biologists encounter in the evaluation of evidence. The intent is to broaden the biologist’s scope of observation so that better decisions may be made and to maximize the usefulness of crime scene evidence.

About the instructors:
Dale L. Laux began his forensic career in 1980 after graduating from The Ohio State University with a Masters of Science degree in Developmental Biology. He studied limb regeneration in salamanders and owes his scientific reasoning to his advisor, Dr. Roy Tassava, who taught him how to think and rationalize. Dale has spent his entire career with the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation (BCI), a division of the Attorney General’s Office. He has witnessed and been a part of the evolution of forensic biology from ABO and genetic markers to DNA and has authored or co-authored 12 papers, presented 22 papers, has given numerous workshops on the use of luminol, and lectured on a wide variety of forensic topics. He is a member and past president of the Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists (MAFS) and a Fellow of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and was named Ohio Peace Officer of the Year in 1988, received the Superintendent’s Award from BCI in 2004, and was recently given the Distinguished Service Award from MAFS, their highest honor.

William Randle began his forensic science career in 1990 after graduating from the University of Missouri – Columbia with a bachelor’s degree in chemistry. He has completed five workshops from the McCrone Research Institute during his employment as a Trace Evidence Analyst with the Missouri State Highway Patrol. He has authored 2 papers, presented 8 papers and provided training in the area of tape analysis. He currently teaches a criminalistics course at Columbia College, Columbia, Missouri.