



OCTOBER 2011

The Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists
PO Box 871, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

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Nominations for 2012-2014 Board of Directors are still being accepted

PAPSS Wetland Seminar and Technical Field Session, Raystown Lake

by Laurel Mueller

On June 27 and 28, 2011, PAPSS hosted a two-day seminar and technical field session at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Raystown Lake recreational facility. Seventy wetland scientists participated. The first day seminar included a thorough presentation by Frank Plewa (Army Corps, Regulatory) and Mallory Gilbert (M.N. Gilbert Environmental) on the Interim Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Eastern Mountains and Piedmont Region. This was followed by a presentation on problem hydric soils, including the red triassics, by soil scientist Tim Craul (NRCS).

The Eastern Mountains and Piedmont supplement became an interim release September 2010, and is scheduled to be official version 2.0 in May 2012. The Corps was pleased to have PAPSS host this session in order to get the word out to wetland consultants that the standards for delineations have changed. Specifically, the regional supplements provide current technical guidance and procedures for identifying and delineating wetlands that may be subject to regulatory jurisdiction. Delineations continue to be based on a three-factor approach involving indicators of hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soil, and wetland hydrology. The regional supplements are part of a nationwide effort to address regional wetland characteristics and improve the accuracy and efficiency of wetland delineation procedures.

Notable changes include the requirement to more thoroughly describe soils by thickness and depth of "layers" (not by horizon name, for non-soil scientists), and to apply the Soil-Field Indicators of Hydric Soils in U.S., Version 7.0. For documentation of each strata of plant coverage, new methods to sample, quantify, and score dominance and prevalence of hydrophytic plants are specified.



PAPSS hosted this session because the Army Corps was anxious to spread the word that the current standards of the Supplements take precedence. The Corps expects consultants to use them when conducting delineations and submitting requests for Jurisdictional Determinations (JDs).

Mark Mills providing instruction at one of the stations.

The technical field session was held at the Aitch boat ramp and pavilion area within Raystown, with a focus on the hydric soil indicators. This site had previously been used by soil and wetland scientists who were instrumental in developing the Piedmont Supplement and the hydric soil indicators. PAPSS is grateful for field assistance provided by NRCS staff Ed White and Lenore Vasilas, and also to Frank Plewa and Mal Gilbert, to preview the soil stations used at the site. This setting has hydrology that is supported in part by the Raystown lake impoundment. One station was notably "way cool," as the landscape (trees and all) "waved" with buoyancy, when we jumped up and down.

PAPSS members manned soil stations to help participants learn to discern color, redoximorphic features, and percentages of peat, and muck. Trainers included Jake Eckenrode, Mark Mills, Paul Golrick, Steve Bason, Michael Lane, Tom Nobile, Laurel Mueller, Bill Davis, and Russ Losco. In being trainers for the day, we all discovered that we knew more than we thought we knew about hydric soils! ■



Determining hydric soil indicators starts with basics in texture and color.

Comments from Participants:

"Thank you for coordinating the workshop. That was fantastic! I really enjoyed myself and learned far more than I had hoped about texturing fine material....If there is PAPSS interest in offering training to consultants for basic soils, I would love to be involved in that. I look forward to being more involved in PAPSS."

Jennifer M. Marriott, PWS, Environmental Scientist 3, Rettew

"The seminar was great. I appreciate all the hard work by PAPSS members. Thank you very much for the certificate!"

Keith Maurice, Biologist, Normandeu Associates, Inc.

"Thanks! This was one of the best hands-on seminars I have attended. Please keep me in the loop for upcoming events."

Gregory T. Adams Senior Environmental Specialist, Alpha Consulting Engineers, Inc.



Bill Davis and Frank Plewa at station D.

Committee Seeks Nominations for Board of Directors

Per the PAPSS Bylaws, candidates for the Board shall be selected by a nominating committee. The nominating committee is looking for PAPSS members interested in being considered for the PAPSS Board of Directors to serve a term from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2014. Two Board positions will be up for election at this year's annual business meeting on October 28th. If you, or someone you know would be a good candidate to represent the membership, please contact Michael Lane (mlane@brickhouse-environmental.com) or Bill Davis (willidavis@pa.gov).

The nominating committee will nominate a minimum of two candidates for each available Board vacancy. All nominees will be placed in nomination only with their consent. Additional candidates may be nominated from the floor during the meeting. ■

MAPSS Field Trip – Michaux State Forest **by Walter Grube**

As a participating PASSS member, I report on observations made on the September 10, 2011, Michaux State Forest Soils, Sediments, and Landscapes Field Tour, sponsored by MAPSS (Mid-Atlantic Association of Professional Soil Scientists). I didn't count, but at least two dozen soil scientists and related professionals participated. There was a significant contingent from Maryland, as well as a mix of PAPSS, NRCS, geologists, and ecologists.

This tour was a good supplement to the meeting and soil/geologic tour of the Gettysburg battlefield PAPSS sponsored back in October, 2010. The hill country of western Adams and eastern Franklin counties provided principal pathways for soldiers coming and going from south of the Mason/Dixon line to the Gettysburg area. This region also flourished with Underground Railroad activity. In addition, there was significant iron ore mining, smelting, and goods production in this area. Thaddeus Stevens, early 1800's entrepreneur and politician, had large land holdings and was responsible for a lot of the local industry.

This tour enriched this writer with the extent and significance of colluvium as soil parent material, adding to that provided at the Biglerville area soils in the Fall or 2010. A 57-page guidebook included extensive local history and geography as well as discussions on 5 soil profiles.

The tour included a circular route through the State Forest, including Adams, Cumberland, and Franklin counties. Stops included soils mapped as Highfield channery silt loam at 1620-ft, an Edgemont channery loam at 1,220-ft, picnic lunch along the Conococheague Creek, another Edgemont channery loam at 1,890-ft on a ridge summit, various soils in thick colluvium at a footslope quarry at 940-ft, and several auger probes in the abandoned Old Chambersburg Reservoir bottom (alongside Rt 233). The third stop along Ridge Road also provided an opportunity to observe the setup and operation of a gas-powered water pump to drain a soil pit down to pallet-top level. Several non-digging talents are required.



Dr. John S. Wah, of Metapeake Soil & Environmental Consultants in Shippensburg, PA, and current President of MAPSS, organized and shepherded this fruitful day. ■

PADEP Posts "All-SEO" Notifications on the Web

Any soil scientists involved in the siting or design of individual onlot sewage disposal systems should be sure to periodically check the PADEP webpage for updates on approved alternate systems (PADEPHome > Water > Water Standards and Facility Regulation > Wastewater Management > Sewage and Disposal > Onlot Alternate Technology Listings).

On August 1, 2011, the Department issued a memo that appeared to require UV disinfection for alternate systems that had previously been approved for shallow limiting zone soils without disinfection, e.g. drip micromound and Eljen. Addressed to All SEOs, the letter was not sent to any SEO, but was made available on the website. Then, on October 7, 2011, a retraction memo was posted.

The latest published alternate system listing is from February 2004, but the Department has approved additional technologies and has provided guidance on their use on the website. Prior to beginning work on a new site, it's important to check the webpage for the latest version of approvals and to check for any further All SEO memos.

For further clarification, contact your regional DEP office or John Diehl at Jdiehl@pa.gov or by telephone at 717-787-8184.

http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/sewage_and_disposal/10583/onlot_alternate_technology_listings/607632 ■



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>>> PAPSS Annual Meeting, Licensing and the Legislative Process

October 28, 2011, Harrisburg, PA

Featured Speaker: Senator Mike Brubaker

October 29, 2011, Harrisburg, PA

Field Tour, Soils and Civilizations along the Susquehanna River

Please see the attached registration information

Cover Crop Field Days –Soil and Water Conservation Society

The Keystone Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society, along with Cedar Meadow Farm, is presenting a program on cover crops and soil management on November 1 and 2 in Holtwood, PA.

- Learn how cover crops increased 2011 corn yields, even in very tough growing conditions
- Penn State's new Cover Crop Interseeder demo
- Field-scale cover crop plots in real-world applications
- Registration includes info-packed Cover Crop Binder that's yours to keep as a resource
- Plus guest speakers covering the latest topics in cover crops

Registration *All payments due at the event*
\$25 early bird rate until Oct. 25
\$35 after Oct. 25

Day of event registration will begin at 2:30 pm on Nov. 1, and 8:30 am on Nov. 2.

Date & Time

Nov. 1: 3:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Nov. 2: 9:30 am - 3:30 pm

Event held rain or shine

Location

Cedar Meadow Farm
535 Drytown Road
Holtwood, PA 17532

Registration information is available at www.covercropsolutions.com.



Soil Mapping App

<http://casoilresource.lawr.ucdavis.edu/drupal/node/882>

Soil Taxonomy 11th edition

ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/NSSC/Soil_Taxonomy/keys/2010_Keys_to_Soil_Taxonomy.pdf

Tree identification app <http://www.rdmag.com/News/2011/06/Environment-Software-Imaging-Tree-identification-packaged-in-an-app/>

PAPSS

<http://www.papss.org>

Comments or contributions? mlane@brickhouse-environmental.com



papss

Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists

**2011 ANNUAL MEETING AND TECHNICAL SESSION
OCTOBER 28th and 29th, 2011**

“Pennsylvania State Licensing for Professional Soil Scientists”

**Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
South Central Regional Office
909 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110**

AGENDA

Friday, October 28, 2011

- 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. **Registration**
- 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. **PAPSS Business Meeting**
- 11:30 – 12:30 p.m. **A Presentation by Senator Mike Brubaker**
- 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. **Lunch**
- 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. **State Licensing**
Presented by Vince Phillips of Phillips Associates
- 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. **Discussions / Questions and Answers**

While dinner is NOT included, members have decided to meet (at their own expense) after the meeting at:

**The Appalachian Brewing Company
50 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101 Phone – (717) 221-1080**

*******A Block of rooms has been reserved for October 27nd and 28th at the Days Inn, 3919 Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110 (I-81, Exit 66) at the group rate of \$59.99 plus tax. Please contact the Days Inn directly at (717) 233-3100 to make your reservation and payment. TO GET THE GROUP RATE, YOU MUST MAKE YOUR RESERVATION BEFORE OCTOBER 14, 2011! YOU MUST ALSO TELL THEM THE ROOMS ARE RESERVED UNDER PAPSS!**

This special rate cannot be guaranteed after October 14, 2011!!!

Make your reservations early!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! *****



**2011 ANNUAL MEETING AND TECHNICAL SESSION
OCTOBER 28th and 29th, 2011**

“Soils and Civilizations along the Susquehanna River”

**Saturday, October 29, 2011
8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

**Harrisburg, PA
Dauphin County**

The day will begin with a brief introduction to the archaeology of the Susquehanna River flood plain and islands. A local archaeologist will review the development of these soils and the impact of man's influence over time.

A group tour of the state capitol is planned, and there will be an opportunity to discuss urban soils issues and various anthropogenic features at the capitol. A summary of the geology and geomorphology of the Susquehanna River water gap area will be presented at the National Civil War Museum at Reservoir Park.

The scenic route along the river will provide the background to a discussion regarding the development of Pennsylvania's capitol city region. A brief visit to a local stormwater management facility at Wildwood Park will emphasize the challenges presented by stormwater flows in an urban environment. Impacts of recent flooding events during this peak flow year will be discussed.

Following a quick introduction to the Susquehanna River Water Trail, a local historian will address Native American populations and the fort that was built north of Harrisburg, during the French and Indian War. The morning session will end at Fort Hunter Park, where an archaeological investigation is currently under way. Lunch will be provided by Uncle Moe's Soul Food at the Fort Hunter West Pavilion.

After lunch, backhoe excavations will be explored in red parent material and alluvial soils along the Fishing Creek valley. These soil test probes will be located within the wooded natural preserve area established by the nearby Country Club of Harrisburg, established in 1896.

Light refreshments will be available during registration from 7:30 to 8:00 a.m. on Saturday morning, at the (1919 North Front Street, Harrisburg PA 17110) Days Inn (Front Street Exit 66 off I-81). The bus will leave the Days Inn at 8:00 and should return by 3:30 p.m.



2011 Annual Meeting & Technical Session Registration Form

PAPSS MEMBERS	\$80.00*
NON-MEMBERS	\$100.00*
STUDENTS	\$25.00

Name: _____

Company/Agency: _____

Address1: _____

Address2: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Mail Registration and check (made payable to PAPSS) to:

Sue Miller/ PAPSS
1130 Boiling Springs Road
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
Email: Sue6951@aol.com

- Fee includes meeting room, coffee/donuts, lunch, Saturday morning coffee, lunch, and Harrisburg Tour.

Directions to PA DEP South-Central Regional Office

From I-81:

1. Take exit 67 (Cameron Street/Farm Show Complex)
2. At the 1st traffic light turn LEFT onto Elmerton Ave.
3. Turn RIGHT at the 1st traffic light into DEP's drive way
4. Continue to the back of the building to the parking lot.

From I-83:

1. Take exit 23 (Second Street)
2. At first traffic light turn RIGHT onto Paxton Street
3. At first traffic light turn LEFT onto Cameron Street
4. Continue to the 6th traffic light, turn RIGHT onto Elmerton Avenue
5. Go to the first traffic light and turn RIGHT into DEP's drive way
6. Continue to the back of the building to the parking lot

From the Pennsylvania Turnpike: Coming from the west:

1. Take exit 226 (Carlisle)
2. Turn left onto Route 11
3. Continue on Route 11 to I-81 NORTH
4. Take exit 67 (Cameron Street/Farm Show Complex)
5. At the 1st traffic light turn LEFT onto Elmerton Ave.
6. Turn RIGHT at the 1st traffic light into DEP's parking lot.
7. Continue to the back of the building to the parking lot.

From the Pennsylvania Turnpike: Coming from the east:

1. Take exit 247 (Harrisburg East)
2. Leaving the tollbooth take Route 283 NORTH
3. Stay in the RIGHT lane to merge onto I-83 NORTH
4. Stay in the LEFT lane to merge onto I-81 SOUTH
5. Take exit 67 (Cameron Street/Farm Show Complex)
6. At the 1st traffic light turn LEFT onto Elmerton Ave.
7. Turn RIGHT at the 1st traffic light into DEP's drive way
8. Continue to the back of the building to the parking lot.

The Following is a list of other hotels in the area (including their rates), should you choose not to stay at the Days Inn:

Best Western Capitol Plaza
150 Nationwide Drive
I81 & North Progress Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110
(I-81, Exit 69)
(717) 545-9098

Daily Rate: \$117

Crowne Plaza Harrisburg
23 South 2nd Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101
(I-83, Exit 43)
(717) 234-5021

Daily Rate: \$104

Four Points Best Sheraton
800 East Park Drive
I-83 & Union Deposit Road
Harrisburg, PA 17111
(I-83, Exit 48)
(717) 561-2800

Daily Rate: \$79

Harrisburg Hilton & Towers
1 North 2nd Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101
(717) 237-6408

Daily Rate: \$159
Tower Rate: \$189

Holiday Inn – Harrisburg East
4751 Lindle Road
Routes 283 & 441
Harrisburg, PA 17111
(283, Exit 2)
(717) 939-7841

Daily Rate: \$117

Howard Johnson
473 Eisenhower Boulevard
Harrisburg, PA 17111
(283, Exit 2)
(717) 564-4730

Daily Rate: \$69

Red Roof Harrisburg, North
400 Corporate Circle
Harrisburg, PA 17110
(I-81, Exit 69)
(717) 657-1445

Daily Rate: \$65

Sheraton Hotel Harrisburg
4650 Lindle Road
Harrisburg, PA 17111
(283, Exit 2)
(717) 564-5511

Daily Rate: \$169

Wyndham Garden Hotel
765 Eisenhower Boulevard
Harrisburg, PA 17111
(283, Exit 2)
(717) 558-9500

Daily Rate: \$79