

MILLENNIUM PAPSS BOARD ELECTED AT ANNUAL MEETING

The new Board of Directors, to lead the Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists in the new Millennium, were elected at the November 19, 1999 Annual Meeting held at Fort Indiantown Gap, PA.

PAPSS BOARD FOR 2000

- President** John Chibirka (1999-2001)
Vice President Joe Valentine (1999-2001)
Treasurer Bruce Willman (2000-2002)
Secretary Ed White (1998-2000)
Board Member Lew Auchmoody (2000-2002)
Board Member Patricia Peck Olenick (1998-2000)

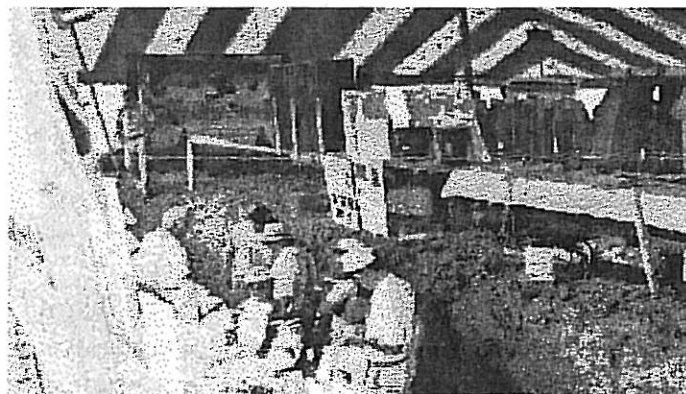
The 2000 Association budget was approved at the annual meeting. Highlights of the meeting were to increase the PAPSS scholarship to \$500.00, increase the consulting list fees to \$60.00 (effective in 2001), and approval of changes in the By-laws as written in the meeting announcement. Also discussed by the members were potential year 2000 field trips, the 25th Anniversary of PAPSS (in 2000), and getting a representative on the SAC Committee. **Laurel Mueller** agreed to chair a Soil Scientist Certification Committee. As recommended by the Treasurer we voted to have the PAPSS dues remain unchanged at \$25-Professional, \$20-Apprentice and Associate, and \$10-Student Members, but to increase the late fee to \$5.00. After the

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business meeting and luncheon, the technical session was held, with Dr. Charles Cole of the Penn State Cooperative Wetland Center discussing both the Center and the Hydrogeomorphic Approach to wetland Classification and Assessment. Lenore Matula Vasilis, USDA-NRCS spoke on the Hydrogeomorphic Model Development in the Mid-Atlantic Piedmont.

SOIL SCIENTISTS CELEBRATE SOIL SURVEY CENTENNIAL AT AG PROGRESS DAYS



The Soil Profile Excavation at Ag Progress Days

Soil Scientists in Pennsylvania celebrated the Soil Survey Centennial with a 40X60 foot soils tent at the 1999 Ag Progress Days at Rock Springs, PA. The many soil exhibits in the tent attracted a great deal of interest from about 1,000 people who visited the display. Many visitors were attracted to the 40 foot long soil excavation where soil properties such as redoximorphic features, a fragipan, soil compaction, organic matter accumulation, soil structure, texture and



Interest in the Soil Texture Display

moisture were pointed out and soil sampling and measurement equipment was displayed. **Les Rothermel** (DEP), **Joe Valentine** (DELVAL Consultants) **Brian Needleman**

(PSU), and **Tim Craul** (NRCS) conducted many of the tours through the soil pit. **Sharon Waltman**, PSU grad and soil scientist with NRCS in Lincoln,



Mark Callahan helps a customer find their soil type at the soil survey table.

NE, staffed a computer display that included national interpretive maps, such as drought susceptibility and an interactive soil science educational CD-ROM. **Rob Knight** (NRCS) set up a Soil Texture contest where people could win prizes by correctly determining soil texture and children could make "soil marbles" from various clay samples. PAPSS also had their display in the tent. The Penn State Soil Judging team (**Mark Reider**, **Jedd Moncavage**, **Mike Callahan**) staffed the "What soil do you live on" table where visitors could find their soil type from one of the Pennsylvania soil surveys and discuss soil related problems and concerns. The "Make a Hazleton Soil Profile" table was staffed by **Allison Mowry**, **Mike McDevitt**, and others from the NRCS map compilation and digitizing staff. Along with Hazleton, 12 other state soil monoliths were displayed, on loan from NRCS in Washington, D.C. These attracted a lot of attention. Many visitors were interested in comparing them to the soil monoliths from Pennsylvania that were on display. **John Hudak** (NRCS) had an aerial photography and stereoscopic table where people could take a stereoscopic tour of the U.S. and its landforms. **Barry Frantz** (NRCS) had a Soil Health and Soil Quality display, the soil pit had good examples of both fibrous and tap root systems that fit in with this display. The Pennsylvania Soil Survey History display (developed by **Jake Eckenrode**, NRCS) was used as part of the display along with a large Soil Survey Centennial poster display that was on loan from National Soil Survey Center. **John Chibirka**, **Panola Rivers**, **Ned Ellenberger**, **Alex Dado** and **Ed White** also helped prepare, set up, and staff the Soil Survey Centennial Tent.

GOVERNOR RIDGE SIGNS SOIL PROCLAMATION

On April 21, 1999, Governor Ridge signed a Proclamation for Pennsylvania Soil Stewardship Week that recognized the soil resources of Pennsylvania, the Soil Survey Centennial, the Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists and Hazleton as the state soil of Pennsylvania. A copy of the proclamation is on a separate page of this newsletter. Thanks to the PAPSS board and members who contributed to the development and review of the proclamation and to the Governor for his interest in Soils and their influence on the environment.

SECOND EDITION OF SOIL TAXONOMY PUBLISHED

The Second Edition of Soil Taxonomy (formerly the Green Book, now in a mauve cover) has been published that is a complete revision of both the Soil Taxonomy Keys and other text was published in August. It contains 869 pages, 27 chapters, 40 photographs, US and Global maps and laboratory methods for Soil Taxonomy. Copies of AH 436 can be purchased through the Superintendent of Documents, US Government Printing Office, PO Box 371754, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954. Phone 202-512-1800, Fax 202-512-2250. Stock Number 001-0000-04663-2. Cost is \$84.00 in the US and \$105.00 outside the US. Soil Taxonomy is also available on CD-ROM from the NSSC web site.

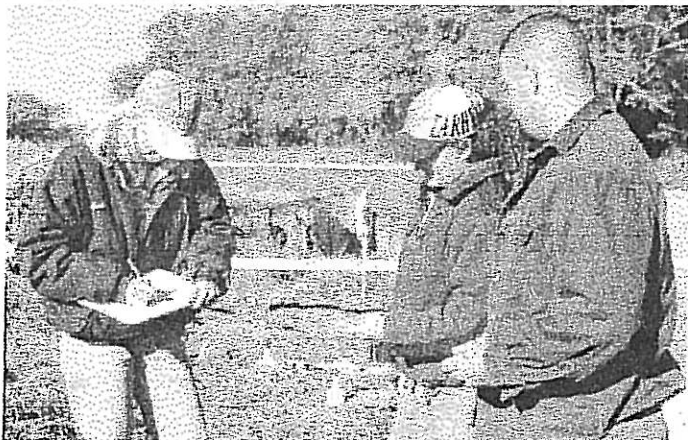
THE BUCKEYES WIN THE NORTHEAST REGIONAL SOIL JUDGING CONTEST

By Joe Valentine

The 1999 Northeast Regional Soil Judging Contest was held on October 15 and 16, 1999. The competition was hosted by Delaware Valley College. Competing at this year's regional contest were Ohio State University, University of Maryland, University of Rhode Island, Penn State University, Cornell University, University of New Hampshire, Delaware Valley College and Wilmington College in Ohio.

On Saturday, October 16, 1999, the Penn State Nittany Lions football team beat the Ohio State Buckeyes in Happy Valley. But, on the same day, the Ohio State

Buckeyes soil judging team beat everyone at the Northeast regional competition. This year's event saw the inaugural use of group judging. In the past, regional soil judging consisted of 1-2 days of practice pits and competition usually on Saturday. The competition generally consisted of four individually judged contest pits. The team score was determined by selecting the top three individual scores from a team of four in order to calculate a team score.



So what is group judging? This approach has been used in other regions and will be used for the first time at the national contest in 2000. The group judging concept utilizes a cooperative approach to completing a score card. The entire school team of four is in the test pit alone. They can talk and develop a single pit description and interpretation. In order to accommodate group judging at the regional contest, two days of competition had to be utilized. Practice pits were available on Wednesday and Thursday for the teams to become familiar with local soils, geology and the judge's bias. Group judging occurred on Friday, October 15th and individual judging was on Saturday the 16th. The team score was a combination of the group score and the individual scores.

The contest was held on soils developed from Lockatong Argillite and Stockton Sandstones. These soils were also influenced by windblown loess. Students had the opportunity to observe fragipans and partake in the never-ending discussion as to what is "C" material, what is "Cr" material and what is "R" material. And as always is the case, there was a lot of discussion as to which constitutes the difference between these materials. The contest judges were PAPSS members, **John Chibirka** and **Ed White**, along with MAPSS member, Joe Kraft, all

NRCS Soil Scientists. They did an excellent job and left the contest with their skin in tact.

This year's event was won by the Ohio State University, followed by University of Maryland, University of Rhode Island, **Penn State**, University of New Hampshire, Cornell, **Delaware Valley College** and Wilmington College-Ohio.

The top individual was also from Ohio State University. Also placing in the top ten were R. Michniak of Penn State University #7, E. Dumire of Delaware Valley College #8; M. Manos of Penn State University #9. Other members of the Penn State University team were: D. Truax, B. Georgic, T. Luxton, **M. Callahan**, M. Reider and R. Munz. Other individuals competing from Delaware Valley College were: L. Swimley, **W. Cissel**, K. Graver, A. Miller, J. Firesinger and B. Bennetch.



Trophies were awarded to the top three schools; however, at this year's national competition, the top four teams will compete. Trophies were awarded to the top five individuals and plaques awarded to individuals placing 6th through 10th. All contestants were awarded certificates.

Penn State University will join Ohio State University, University of Maryland and University of Rhode Island representing the Northeast Region at the National Soil Judging contest in April 2000 hosted by the University of Idaho. We wish them the best of luck.

ELEMENTS OF NATURE: SOIL LIFE LONG LEARNING

The Board of Directors of Life Long Learning invited PAPSS member, **Joseph A. Valentine**, to their Fall group meeting to present an hour-long short course on soil.

Life Long Learning was formed to offer individuals in the community an opportunity to hear and participate in discussions on contemporary topics. It is a five-week educational series for adult enrichment. Although the series is open to all adults, it is predominantly attended by retired citizens. Those attending certainly show more zest for life than sitting in front of a television.

The Fall session of Life Long Learning has a faculty of volunteers. Each instructor contributes his or her time to the Life Long Learning program. The class instructors for the fall program were as follows: Marian Archibald, organist and choir director, St. Luke's UCC Church, North Wales; Dr. Gerianne Burke, Family Physician, Grand View Hospital Valley Medical Center; Kevin Crilley, Naturalist, Montgomery County Nature Center, Green Lane; Steve Cummings, Forest Fire Specialist Supervisor; Don Fischer, Photographer, The Morning Call; Dr. Kevin Fox, Breast Cancer Specialist, University of Pennsylvania Hospital; Dr. Timothy Fox, Pharmacologist, Jefferson Hospital; John French, PhD, Professor of Music, William F. Heefner Chair of Music, Ursinus College; David Furniss, Minister of Music, St. John's UCC Church, Lansdale; Dr. Kevin Gingrich, Orthopedic Surgeon and Lecturer, Hahnemann Hospital; Joe Hruby, Imaging Systems Manager, Brown Printing Company; Dr. Charles Ludivico, Rheumatologist, St. Luke's Hospital, Bethlehem; Preston Luitweiler, Manager, Research and Environmental Affairs, Philadelphia Suburban Water Company; Nancy Mack, Public Relations Coordinator, Montgomery County-Norristown Public Library; Mary Maguire, Board Member, Montgomery County-Norristown Public Library and Montgomery County Literacy Network; Joe Sherwood, Director, Upper Perkiomen Valley Library; Win Smith, Retired Administrator and History Buff; **Joe Valentine**, Member, PA Association of Professional Soil Scientists; Charles Steitz, Teacher, Historian, Photographer; Brian and Chris Werkheiser, Owners, The Memory Makers; and Donald Zucker, PhD, M.A. in Music, Bryn Mawr Emeritus Professor of Political Science, Ursinus College.

The 60-minute session on soil certainly was a whirlwind tour on the subject. In that allotted time, the participants were introduced to the concept and definition of soil, its nature and function, physical properties including texture and structure, a very brief discussion on soil/water movement and chemical properties of soil, specifically cation exchange capacity, a discussion on the theory of five soil forming factors and an introduction to soil

morphology and classification. The session was concluded with a discussion on the Montgomery County Soil Survey, how it was made and how to use it. The attendees also learned that PA has a State soil, the Hazleton series. Slides of the introduced concepts were also presented.

Surprisingly good questions were asked for a group who had little formal soils training. One attendee commented that she could understand now why her lot did not pass percolation, but her neighbor did, due to the variability of soil affected by soil forming processes.

DETERMINING THE HYDRAULIC CAPACITY OF SOILS BY MORPHOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

AN UPDATE BY JOE VALENTINE

1999 saw a continuation of this topic by PAPSS. The 1998 annual meeting introduced this topic to PAPSS members. In April of 1999, the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) identified individual drip irrigation as an alternate system for use in Pennsylvania. The siting of this system requires the use of a qualified Soil Scientist. This individual is to utilize morphologic properties to determine the hydraulic capacity of soils to accommodate drip irrigation. A training course was quickly put together by PAPSS in May, which was well attended. In June of 1999, a second PAPSS technical session on the subject was held at the PADEP Rachel Carson State Office Building. Presentations were given by Dr. Jerry Tyler from the University of Wisconsin; Dr. Randy Miles from the University of Missouri; **Dr. Gary Petersen** from Penn State University; **Mr. Larry Hepner** from Delaware Valley College and **Mr. Milt Lauch** from the PADEP. This meeting was well attended by PAPSS members, DEP staff and others.

At this time, no additional meetings are planned for this subject. However, this should not preclude our organization from continuing to pursue this approach in Pennsylvania. Several PAPSS members, who work for DEP, have indicated that the administratively the Department is considering an expansion of this approach for all systems. This would necessitate the Department developing a policy and procedure of utilizing a soil

scientist to determine the hydraulic capacity of soils by morphologic properties, in lieu of standard percolation tests. This approach would not eliminate the use of a percolation test but simply be an option to this method. Certainly, a morphologic approach will not eliminate regulatory SEO's, but it could provide the opportunity to place a soil scientist in the field more often with the SEO.

PAPSS members who are interested in this topic and would like our organization to continue to develop symposiums on the subject should contact the PAPSS president-elect, **John Chibirka** at 610-736-3220, email: jchibirka@paleesport.fsc.usda.gov, or **Joe Valentine** at 215-345-5545, email: jvalen@voicenet.com.

NATIONAL SOIL WEB SITE USAGE

Server statistics from the National Soil Data Access Facility <http://www.statlab.iastate.edu/soils> show

Quote of the Month

"...for only rarely have we stood back and celebrated our soils as something beautiful, and perhaps even mysterious. For what other natural body, worldwide in its distribution, has so many interesting secrets to reveal to the patient observer? The great events of long ago - volcanic eruptions, dust storms, floods, and Ice Ages - have left their imprints as have the agricultural practices of earlier times. The soil can also tell us much about our present day environment. It is the home of millions of living things and a recycling factory for so much of the solar and geochemical energy that sustains life. In its form and properties it expresses the combined influences of local climate, shape of the land, and rocks and organisms that are broken down and incorporated into it." - Les Molloy, *Soils in the New Zealand Landscape: the Living Mantle*. New Zealand Society of Soil Science, 1988.

almost 2 million hits in the last 11 months. The MUIR data (Map Unit Interpretation Records), Hydric Soils data, and Soil Survey Lab data are just some of the information that is downloaded from the site. Official Soil Series Descriptions and the Soil Classification files can also be accessed along with the Keys to Soil Taxonomy, Soil Survey Manual, the National Soils Handbook, the National Soil Survey Center, and Soil Survey Division.

SOIL SCIENCE COMPETENCY AREAS AND PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES

The Soil Science Competency Areas and Performance Objectives established by the Council of Soil Science Examiners (CSSE) are available on the Soil Science Society of America web site <http://www.soils.org>. A few examples are listed here for your own mental testing. Are you keeping up with your Soil Science?

- Identify the major chemical and physical properties of the following clay minerals: Kaolinite, mica (illite), Smectite (montmorillonite).
- List the factors effecting phosphate and nitrate mobility in soils.
- List conditions which lead to a soil becoming reduced.
- Compare and contrast grid and random sampling protocols.
- Describe how soil texture and structure influence water movement and water holding capacity.
- Describe the relationship between hydraulic conductivity and soil porosity.
- Use a soil profile descriptions to: judge the relative wetness of a soil, identify the relative importance of each soil forming factor, arrange a set of descriptions as to how they would fit in a toposequence.
- Identify soil characteristics that are compatible with a given land use.
- Compare and contrast the major differences between soils given their taxonomic classification.
- Describe the soil conditions that reduce availability of heavy metals in land applied biosolids (sludge).
- Describe the fate of human and animal pathogens introduced into the soil environment from fecal materials.
- List the factors that increase the potential for contaminant movement by leaching.

The above are only a few of the many soil science performance objectives listed. The major categories include Soil Chemistry and Mineralogy, Soil Fertility, Soil Physics, Soil Genesis, Morphology and Classification, Soil Biology and Biochemistry, and Land Use and Management. **The goal of the Council of Soil Science**

Examiners performance objectives and the examinations is to protect the health and welfare of the public by insuring only competent soil scientists are certified or licensed.

NORTH TO ALASKA

by Jake Eckenrode, USDA-NRCS

The NRCS soil survey program in Alaska maintains only a basic full time staff of soil scientists. This generally consists of one project leader per survey. Because of the very short field season each year, Alaska looks to the lower 48 states to supply them with help during the summer mapping season. This past spring I was fortunate to have been selected as one of the three detailees to map in Alaska for the summer. I was selected to work in Anchorage with Greg Hammer. Other positions were in Fairbanks and Homer.

The Anchorage soil survey area is approximately 220,000 acres and consists of an irregularly shaped area from Potter's Marsh on the south of Anchorage to the Knik River about 25 miles northeast of Anchorage. This includes Fort Richardson Army Base, Elmendorf Air Force Base, the municipality of Anchorage, major land holding of the Eklutna Native Corporation and a portion of the Chugach State Park.

Elevation in the survey area ranges from sea level to about 4,000 feet. Summer temperature ranges from 40 to 70 degrees and annual rainfall is 15 inches. Snowfall is about 5 feet. Summer daylight is in excess of 18 hours. Earthquakes are common to the area and we had a 5.3 shakeup in July along with several small ones.

The soils are dominantly glacial till (some reworked several times), outwash and glacialfluvial deposits with surface layer influenced by 5 to 20 inches of loess and volcanic ash. Minor soils in the area include poorly drained organic bogs of varying depths, broad highly braided flood plains with glacial rivers flowing thick with freshly ground glacial silt, and small areas of lacustrine deposits and sand dunes.

Several river valleys extend in a northwest to southeast direction from the Knik Arm of the Cook Inlet. These river valleys have wide flood plains that are quite active in the spring and early summer during snow melt. just above the flood plains is a series of slightly older terraces and bogs. Above that is a mixture of out wash and moraine deposits. Most of the till has been moved

around by many glacial events over the last 13 million years.

The glacial deposits in the valleys are generally several tens of feet to hundreds of feet thick. However, as you progress up the steeper valley sides the deposits thin to only several feet or less in thickness. Numerous bedrock outcrops are in some map units. Slope units mapped are A through G with slopes approaching 100 percent. What a climb! At about 2,000 foot elevation there is a change in the vegetation with trees giving way to low shrubs, grasses and forbs with some Alders in the moist areas. At about the 3,000 foot elevation level there is a dramatic change in the landscape. The glacially smoothed vegetated mountains break sharply into rough, jagged bedrock. Most of the mountaintops are covered with snow from September to June.

Older (early Pleistocene) deposits are on the smooth rounded mountaintops at elevations of 2,000 to 3,000 feet. They generally consist of a thin mantle (less than 5 feet) of till over bedrock with the same loess and ash. These slightly older soils have a thicker and darker Bhs horizon and in some areas show evidence of severe frost action with hummocky topography and polygonal ground patterns.

Vegetation below 2,000 feet consists of Black, White and Sitka spruces, some aspen, birch and cottonwood trees with an understory of alder and Devil's Club. Above the tree line the cover consists of various shrubs, grasses, sedges, mosses, and some scattered alder in drainageways. Some blueberry, wild cranberry and Salmonberry shrubs are found.

Both black bears and grizzly bears are common to the area along with moose. Mosquitoes weigh 5 pounds each in the spring and 10 pounds in the fall. 100% DEET does the trick, just don't inhale. Sheep and goats are generally found on the higher rough mountain land, but occasionally venture down for a taste of road salt or block salt. An interesting part of the mapping experience in Alaska was being given a crash course in bear and gun safety and being issued a 12 gauge slug gun and a large can of pepper spray for bears. Fortunately the nastiest thing I encountered while mapping was an irate, unreasonable, gun toting landowner. After that encounter a grizzly would have been a welcome change.

I worked alone for the majority of the summer. However, in August, Greg and I paired up to map some of the more inaccessible areas of order three mapping. This included a backpacking trip into an undeveloped valley (

oh, the pain for these old bones), a canoe float trip 12 miles down the Eagle River, and two weeks of four-wheeling AVT's into hard to get to, and high elevation areas. The blueberries were delicious!

To sum up my feelings of the Alaska mapping experience, it was terrific! Joe Moore (state soil scientist) and Greg Hammer both invited me back for next year and that hasn't happen for many of the detailees.

(Editors note: When you see Jake, ask him about some of the extracurricular activities such as ferry boat rides, halibut fishing, the tourist flu's, cross country truck rides, sore ribs, and visitors, i.e. will he let us visit if he returns to the north next year. He also has some terrific photographs and soil mini-monoliths.)

PAPSS SOIL SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED TO WILLIAM J. CISSEL, DELAWARE VALLEY COLLEGE

By John Chibirka

Each year the Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists awards a monetary academic scholarship to a student in Pennsylvania who majors in and best demonstrates an interest of, leadership in, and career pursuit of soil science. The purpose is to provide financial assistance to students leading to careers in soil science.

At the 1999 Annual Meeting, Scholarship Committee Chairperson, **John Chibirka**, presented the PAPSS Soil Science Scholarship to **William J. Cissel** of Delaware Valley College in Doylestown, PA. Mr. Cissel was also presented a certificate and a student membership in PAPSS. He has a 3.27 GPA in Agronomy and Environmental Science, is a member of the Soil Judging team and participates in activities such as the Agronomy Club, Alpha Gamma Rho (a national agriculture fraternity), Treasurer of the Inter-Greek Council, member of Delta Tau Alpha (a national agriculture honor society), and is an Eagle Scout. William works as a crew foreman at Pleasant View Farms, responsible for hay and straw production as well as planting, harvesting and dairy husbandry. William is interested in Soil Conservation as a career. The PAPSS Board welcomes Mr. Cissel as a new student member and we wish him the best in his education and career.

UNDERSTANDING SAPROLITE TECHNICAL MEETING

More than 50 people attended the April 23, 1999 PAPSS



Technical Session "Understanding Saprolite" in Glen Rock, Pennsylvania. Speakers included **William Sevon**, PA-Geological Survey, Carl Robinette, USDA-NRCS, and **Joe Valentine**, DEL VAL Consultants. After the informative presentation on the Geology of the Glen Rock Area, Soil/Saprolite Description and

Interpretation, and Drip Irrigation, the group headed to the field to observe and describe multiple soil types on various schistose saprolites (weathered rock). The group was divided into teams who each had a chance to describe 4 distinct soil profiles (the rainy weather did not hamper the event, only made the descriptions more rapid). During a picnic lunch within a pavilion, a summary of each of the teams soil descriptions and horizon designations was reviewed, compared and discussed. As the rains began to subside, additional soil pits, on new landscapes were observed for the remainder of the afternoon session. The purpose of the session was to promote consistency in soil descriptions and interpretation between soil scientists and across state lines. One of the important properties of soils and saprolite discussed was research that showed BC and CB horizons to have the lowest Ksat values due to plugging of spaces between mineral grains by clay and lack of vertical cracks produced by soil structure. Many of the lower horizons of Pennsylvania soils have high bulk density and reduced grades of soil structure.

See: Mark Ryder in the photo on the next page. Is he scratching his head and trying to decide is it CB, BC, R or Cr? **Paul Golrick** seems to have found the answer in his corner of the pit, but is he willing to share what he knows with the group?



PAPSS Celebrates 25th Anniversary in 2000

That's right, on **March 25, 1975** the Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists Adopted their Constitution and By-laws. Did you know that in 1976 Senate Bill 1657 to "Establish the profession and regulation of professional soil scientists, creating a board of professional soil scientists, and providing for penalties" was introduced by Senators Ammerman, Stapleton, Sweeney and Ross (June 30, 1967) and referred to the Agriculture Committee?

What can we do to celebrate this historic occasion and further the purposes of the Association? Your ideas and help are needed. Please contact any of the Board Members to give them your ideas or to volunteer your time. Keep your PAPSS membership list handy this year and when you come up with an idea that will promote Soil Science in Pennsylvania, just call a friend and DO IT.

The following are some of the items of interest from the **1976 Pennsoil Newsletter**. From the Membership News- New Member Art Kuhl (just started as SCS State Soil Scientist), Jay Weaver was on an IPA with Bill Pounds of DER, Larry Hepner was a Soil Scientist with the Bucks County Health Dept., Mike Hoover left his job as soil scientist with the Centre County planning commission to enter PSU graduate school, Dave Van Houten(SCS-NETSC) was a new member, **John**

Greenawalt got married and spent the summer on a mapping detail in Beaver-Lawrence Counties, **George Martin** and Chuck Dennis finished soil mapping in Wayne County, Ed Merkel finished the soil manuscript for Huntingdon County and Roy Matelski will retire from Penn State as of the end of August. Also in the 1976 PENNSOIL newsletter, **Leonard Tritt** (DER) reported there are 1055 certified SEO's, Bill Pounds(DER) reported on the Solid Waste Program and setting up guidelines for sewage sludge, and **Doug Lorenzen** (DER) reported on the new DER Laboratory in the Evangelical Press Building. The Annual Meeting speakers included Don Hoskins, Art Kuhl, Glade Loughry, Gary Petersen and Bob Cunningham. If anyone has a list of the **Original Charter Members of PAPSS**, please call Bruce Willman (717)944-5501.

PAPSS REGISTRY

Due the continued underwhelming response from PAPSS members to the latest attempt at publishing a Registry of Soil Scientists in Pennsylvania (9 % of PAPSS Members returned the latest request for information), the PAPSS Board of Directors decided to suspend indefinitely any publication of a Registry. Our sincere thanks to those who took the time to fill out the form (in some cases multiple times) and to those who offered to provide follow-up support to get information from those who had not responded.

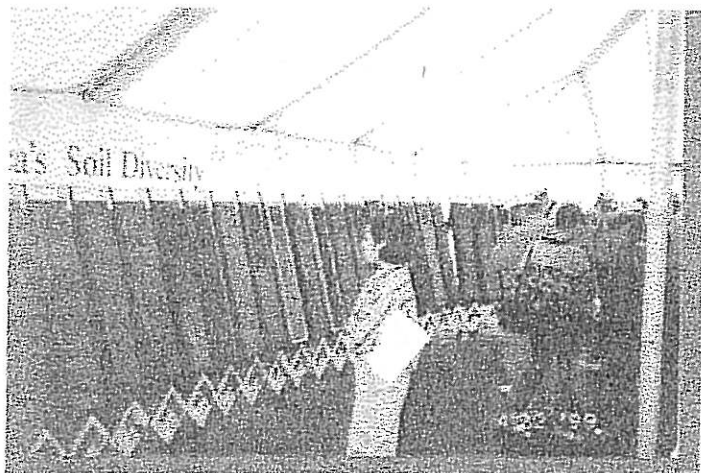
PAPSS will have a Display Booth at the PA-SEO Conference, March 6-8, 2000 and needs YOUR help in staffing the booth. Contact Paul Golrich (215)234-4562, Mark Mills (717)652-4605, or Joe Valentine (215)345-5545 to assist.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND TO HOLD FIELD SOIL MORPHOLOGY COURSE

From May 30-June 16, 2000, University of Maryland will hold a "Field Soil Morphology" course (AGRO 308/608B, 4 credits) with 5 days lecture and 9 days in the field." The purpose is to equip students to become competent in making soil profile descriptions in the field, using standard NCSS techniques, terminology, and abbreviations. Students will also learn how to classify soils they have described, and make interpretations concerning suitability for various agricultural and environmental uses. Contact the instructor, Dr. Marty Rabenhorst, Professor of Pedology, Rm. 0208 H.J. Patterson Hall, Univ. of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742 or phone (301)405-1343; email MR1@umail.umd.edu for information.

GET READY FOR A NEW PAPSS WEB ADDRESS

The board of directors voted to approve PAPSS getting our own domain name registered. Look for the new domain name in future PAPSS announcements.



Visitors ponder America's Soil Diversity at the State Soil Monolith Display, Earth Day on the Mall, Washington, D.C., April 1999

PAPSS DISPLAY GOES ON THE ROAD

In April of 1999, PAPSS was asked to present its display at the Aqua Fair held in Montgomery County. This environmental fair is geared towards school-age

children. At the PAPSS display booth, students could create their own Hazleton soil profile. This was done utilizing materials supplied by NRCS. Students could obtain A, E, B and C horizon soil samples from the Hazleton soil and create their own monolith in plastic tubes. This was done previously by NRCS staff at the Farm Show and Ag Progress Days. The PAPSS display was well attended and certainly promoted our organization.

In September of 1999, the PAPSS display made another trip to the Marlborough Township Environmental Day, which was a community day with an environmental aspect in Montgomery County. The PAPSS display also made it to Ag Progress Days in August and the Northeast Collegiate Soil Judging Contest at Delaware Valley College.

The display will be loaned to any PAPSS member and is a great tool to promote our organization. You will have fun using it. It is adjustable and expandable, so with a little work, it can be adapted to any type of audience. If you would like to use or add to the display materials (Photos, text, etc) contact president-elect **John Chibirka**.

REMEMBER

The PAPSS Board has approved advertising within the PAPSS newsletter, so if you want to advertise your business, contact a board member with the details. We would also like to provide information on upcoming events for our members, if you know of an event, which would be of interest to PAPSS members, please contact Ed White, Secretary, at pennsoils@aol.com.

*The Pennsylvania Association of
 Professional Soil Scientists Board of
 Directors wishes all of our members and
 partners our sincere thanks for a
 successful year and best wishes for a
 happy, joyous, Holiday Season and a
 healthy and prosperous New Year.*

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



Governor's Office

PROCLAMATION

PENNSYLVANIA SOIL STEWARDSHIP WEEK

April 26 - May 2, 1999

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania soil resources are critical to the health and prosperity of Pennsylvania and the foundation for our infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, it is our Commonwealth's soils, through the farmers, landowners, professionals, and agencies that care for them, that provide productivity and rich natural diversity throughout Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, 1999 is the Centennial of the Soil Survey in the United States, and marks 100 years of producing and publishing soil surveys that include soil maps and reports that contain information on the distribution, properties, management practices, and interpretations of soils. These surveys are used by landowners, managers, farmers, planning commissions, counties, educators, state and federal agencies; and

WHEREAS, the care, stewardship, conservation, and improvement of our soil resources is vital to the long term health and welfare of our citizens and our environment; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists has selected the Hazleton soil series as the Pennsylvania State Soil for its many diverse uses, its value to forestry and the environment, its occurrence throughout much of the state, its relationship to state flora and fauna, and its association with "Penn's Woods"; and

WHEREAS, every citizen of Pennsylvania needs to recognize the value of our soils to be involved in the care of our soil resources.

THEREFORE, In special recognition of the soil resources within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the need to educate citizens and agencies on the value, conservation, care and improvement of the soil resources I, Tom Ridge, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim the week of April 26 - May 2, 1999 as PENNSYLVANIA SOIL STEWARDSHIP WEEK and hereby proclaim Hazleton as the state soil of Pennsylvania.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, in the City of Harrisburg this twenty-first day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred ninety-nine, and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and twenty-third.

Tom Ridge
TOM RIDGE
Governor



papss

Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists

P.O. Box 61035
Harrisburg, PA
17106-1035



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