

PENN papss SOIL

Newsletter of the **Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists** Volume XXIV, No.2
P.O Box 61035, Harrisburg, PA 17106-1035
November 2000

Business Meeting and Urban Soils Technical Session

If you want to find out how urbanization effects soils, how this effects the environment, and how to urban soils are mapped and classified, **remember to register for the December 1, 2000 Annual Business Meeting and Urban Soils Technical Session** at Olewine Nature Center in Harrisburg, PA. Registrations are due by November 27, 2000 and the cost is \$20 for PAPSS members, \$25 for non-members, and \$15 for students. The cost includes the business meeting, luncheon, and Urban Soils Technical Session. Three featured speakers will discuss: "Urban Soil Properties and Problems, Urban Soil Classification, and Mapping Urban Soils." Registrations are to be sent to the PAPSS P.O. Box listed in the newsletter heading. For more information, contact Mark Mills or Ed White (717-237-2207) or email PAPSS at pennsoils@aol.com.

PAPSS Silver Anniversary Meeting is Exceptional

If you were unable to attend the 25th Anniversary Meeting this summer, you missed one of the best PAPSS meetings ever.

There was something for everyone. Starting from the displays during registration, which included the Soils of Alaska, PAPSS shirt and hat sales, the History of PAPSS photo albums and displays, and the 115 page "25th Anniversary Field Guide." There was plenty to see, do and

learn at the meeting.

Seventy-six people from 10 states attended the meeting with soil scientists from Ohio, Michigan, Delaware, New York, West Virginia, North Carolina, Massachusetts, Virginia, Maryland

and Pennsylvania all coming to see what Pennsylvania had to offer on the subject of Fragipan Soils.

One of the hits was the article in the Philadelphia Inquirer "Hazleton's soil rules, earthy scientists proclaim," by Sandy Bauers. It discussed the PAPSS Anniversary, the efforts to get Hazleton recognized as the state soil, raffling soil monoliths for the PAPSS scholarship and the technical session on fragipan soils.

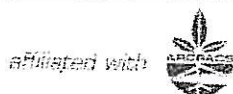
Jake Eckenrode was presented the PAPSS Outstanding Soil Scientist Award for his longstanding work to promote soil science throughout Pennsylvania. Jake developed the History of Pennsylvania Soil Survey display, archived soil survey historic records, books and tools, and coauthored some of the Pennsylvania Soil Survey History Agronomy monograph

collection with Dr. Ed Ciolkosz. Speakers at the

In This Issue:

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Group Photo from the Silver Anniversary Field Trip



affiliated with

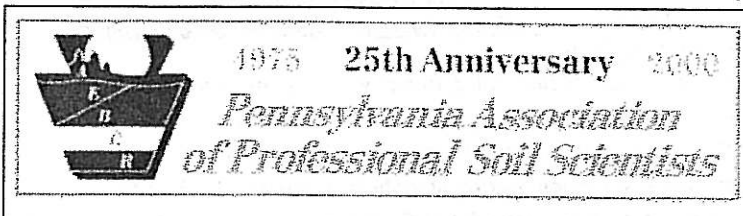
A Federation of Certifying Boards in Agriculture, Biology, Earth and Environmental Sciences

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meeting included Dr. Steven Fales, PSU Agronomy Department Head, Dr. Ed Ciolkosz, Panola Rivers, Dr. Gary Petersen, Steven Fisher, Brian Needelman, Dr. Neil Smeck and Dr. Rick Day. Everyone that attended the technical presentations enjoyed a Friday evening Social and Pig Roast, catered by Sharon Eckenrode, in Pine Grove, complete with a band, slide show of Alaska soils, raffles, great conversation, and horseshoes (don't challenge Garland). The Saturday field trip, attended by 60 people, included fragipan soils in different physiographic settings and the burial of a PAPSS Time Capsule.

25th Anniversary Bumper Stickers and Seals Still Available

PAPSS 25th Anniversary Bumper stickers and 25th Anniversary Seals are still available by contacting Bruce Willman. They can be used to promote soil science throughout Pennsylvania. The bumper stickers have blue lettering and a



brown logo and the seals are gold foil with a red background. Both items provide excellent advertising for the association and can be used in a variety of ways to promote PAPSS.



18th World Congress of Soil Science to be in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The 18th World Congress of Soil Science, sponsored by the Soil Science Society of America, the U.S. National Committee for Soil Science and the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, will be held **July 10-15, 2006 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**. The last time the U.S. hosted the congress was in 1960 in Madison, WI. The theme for the Congress is: "Frontiers of Soil Science: Technology and the Information Age." The congress will consist of plenary sessions, symposia, poster sessions, working sessions of the Divisions, Commissions, Working Groups and Standing Committees of the International Union of Soil Science, and scientific and technical sessions. Scientific and Cultural Tours will take place before, during and after the conference.

It is not too early for the Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists to begin planning how they would like to be involved with the conference. Any PAPSS member interested in serving on a PAPSS 2006 World Congress Committee should contact Ed White at 717-237-2207.

Maryland Farmers to Get Funds for Pollution Control

(Washington Post 11/13, Washington Times 11/10)

Maryland is increasing the amount it pays farmers to control pollution from their farms, which has been blamed for outbreaks of *Pfiesteria piscicida* in seafood. The state will reimburse farmers up to 87.5 percent of the cost of hiring a consultant to prepare a nutrient management plan.

NRCS PLANTS Wins "Best Feds" Recognition

The NRCS PLANTS web site <<http://plants.usda.gov>> was selected as one of 10 winners chosen from 55 nominations for this year's "Best Feds on the Web" by Government Executive magazine. The PLANTS site and the other winners of the third annual "Best Feds on the Web" competition were profiled in a Government Executive magazine story featured on November <http://www.govexec.com/bestfeds/00bestfeds.htm>

Virginia Soil Scientists Team Up With Students

Dr. John Galbraith, professor at Virginia Tech University, and David Kriz, NRCS State Soil Scientist recently led a 3-day trip through Virginia for 40 environmental studies and soil science students from "Tech." The purpose of the tour was to offer the students an opportunity to study different soils and to see what their lives might be like as scientists. The trip featured professional soil scientists from NRCS, Virginia Tech, and private consulting firms who provided opportunities to pair off with teams of students to study soils and talk about careers in conservation.

Your contact is David Kriz, NRCS State Soil Scientist, at 804/287-1646.

The National Soil Survey Center Soil Science Education Website

http://www.statlab.iastate.edu/soils/nssc/educ/edu_soc.htm

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Distance Learning

By Nancy Sansoni

North Carolina State University will offer several distance learning courses this spring including soil microbiology, soil fertility, wetland soils and GIS in Ag and Environment. It appears they will be via internet and credits will be given. The website is: <http://www.soil.ncsu.edu/academic/distance/>

In an effort to expand non-traditional student enrollment in for-credit courses they have recently created a Distance Learning Center and initiated a program to offer soil science coursework to off campus students. This spring they are offering five courses which are regularly taught on campus. Check the web site for progress. The first course, Soil Fertility and Fertilizers 341, will be taught as an Internet delivered, three credit hour course. Two other courses, Wetland Soils 470 and Wetland Soils 570, will be delivered over the Internet. For the first time, this spring, NC State will deliver GIS in Agriculture and the Environment 495G as a one credit, Internet course. The fifth course is Soil Microbiology 532. The current goal is to prepare one additional courses each semester as well as to maintain the previously offered courses.

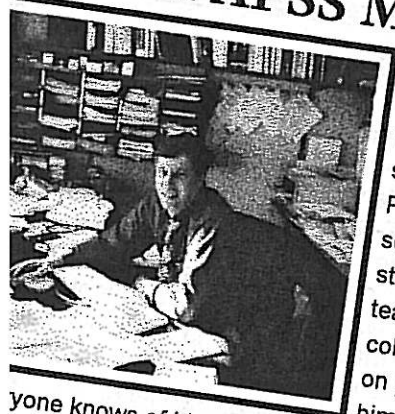
West Virginia Soil Scientists Create a Web Site

By Patrick Drohan

The West Virginia Association of Professional Soil Scientists is now online at: <http://webpages.shepherd.edu/PDROHAN/wvapss/>

As a part of this effort they have set up a new e-mail listserv for discussion of West Virginia soil science issues. This list provides a forum for professional soil scientists and interested individuals to exchange ideas and to discuss issues about soil resource management in West Virginia. To join the list send a message 'subscribe Wvsoils' to liscaster@afscr.ars.usda.

Meet A PAPSS Member



Larry Hepner is well known by many soil scientists in Pennsylvania. To some he's known as a student, to others, a teacher. Many have collaborated with him on projects, or met him through PAPSS.

Everyone knows of his numerous contributions to soils. All would agree that he holds a special insight into the multi-faceted world of soil science.

Larry was raised outside of Reading, Pa., and worked with his father growing sunflowers on a 15-20 acre parcel. In addition to producing a secondary income crop for the family, the farm also sprouted Larry's interest in agriculture. This led to a Bachelor of Science in Agronomy from Delaware Valley College, in 1974, and a Masters of Science in Agronomy from Penn State University, in 1977. Career interests were molded along the way by an undergraduate internship program on a thousand-acre farm and the subsequent sale of the farm for commercial development. As a result, Larry's graduate program focused on both traditional agricultural theories and land use planning- a vision of things to come.

Larry's professional career commenced in 1977 at Bucks County Health Department as a Soil Scientist. Thereafter, Larry was hired in 1979 as an instructor of Agronomy and Superintendent of Crop Production at Delaware Valley College. He now serves as an Associate Professor and Chair of the Agronomy and Environmental Science Department. The list of projects accomplished during his twenty-one year tenure at Delaware Valley College is extensive. Most PAPSS members are familiar with the recent on-site wastewater disposal project (phase one recently completed with results available to the public). But other projects span the spectrum including bio-solid land application, urban-rural interface, beef heifer grazing, and everything in between. Larry is currently working with NRCS implementing soil conservation plans at the college farms. His farm nutrient management project has resulted in a solid manure-composting program with product distribution to the suburban population. Also underway is phase two of the wastewater disposal project including system modification, monitoring, and an evaluation of community systems. It is clear that Larry works to improve the fine line of balance between the agricultural community and urban development.

Larry was at the root of our organization, attending PAPSS organizational meetings in the early seventies. Over the years, he has served as vice president, secretary, and board member. When asked for words of wisdom for the future of Pennsylvania soil science/scientists he points to "the critical importance of soils as they relate to increasing population and urban development. The challenge to all soil scientists is to reach out to a broader audience and help them understand the significance of soils in land use decisions."

Treasurer's Report

Bruce P. Willman, Treasurer

Income received through October 27, 2000, totals \$12,212. The major sources of income were from meetings and seminars (\$5,950), membership dues (\$2,645) and consultants list fees (\$1,998). Additional income for the remainder of 2000 is anticipated from the annual meeting registrations.

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Expenses incurred through October 27, 2000, total \$8,345.14. Major expenses were for meetings and seminars (\$4,125), consultants list publication and mailing (\$1,751.35) and PennSoil publication and mailing (\$280.89). Additional expenses for the remainder of 2000 are anticipated from the annual meeting, scholarship award, PennSoil publication, and miscellaneous and member expenses.

The following budget for 2001 has been prepared by the Treasurer and is based on historical budgets and anticipated activity for the upcoming year. The Board of Directors adopted this budget at their meeting on October 27, 2000. The proposed budget projects income to be \$7,940 and projects expenses to be \$11,019. With a projected carry over balance from 2000 of approximately \$8,000, no deficit will be incurred. Therefore, the Treasurer recommends maintaining the annual dues at \$25.00 for Professional Members, \$20.00 for Apprentice and Associate Members, and \$15.00 for Student Members. A late fee of \$10.00 is recommended for all dues received after March 1, 2001.

PAPSS BUDGET FOR 2001

(Adopted by the Board of Directors on October 27, 2000)

2001	Income	Budget
Membership Dues (\$25 for Professional, \$20 for Apprentice/Associate)(\$10 for Students)		\$2,890.00
Application Fees (\$30; \$15 for Students)		\$ 150.00
2001 Interest from Certificate of Deposit		\$ 0.00
2001 PAPSS Consultant's List Fees (\$60; project 40 consultants)		\$2,400.00
2001 Meeting Registration Fees		\$2,000.00
Miscellaneous - Fund Raising, Donations		\$ 500.00
Subtotal		\$7,940.00

2001	Expenses	Budget
Postal Service (post office box rental)		\$ 44.00
Board of Directors Expenses (Meeting, mailing, copies, etc.)		\$ 500.00
Administrative Assistant		\$2,500.00
Committees Expenses (\$50/each)		\$ 300.00
PennSoil Publication and Mailing Expenses (\$400 expenses/issue)		\$ 800.00
2001 Consultant's List - Design Revisions, Printing 3000		\$1,400.00
Postage, distribution		\$ 700.00
2001 Meeting Expenses		\$1,500.00
Awards - Student Scholarship "Outstanding in the Field" Award		\$ 500.00
Stationery supplies, membership cards, Constitution and Bylaws		\$ 75.00
Publicity - PAPSS Display/Supplies		\$ 500.00
Booths (PASEO, PSATS, etc.)		\$ 500.00
		\$1,200.00

Subtotal \$11,019.00

Year 2001 Balance (\$3079.00)
 Anticipated 2000 Carry Over Budget \$8,000.00
NET BALANCE/ASSOCIATION ASSETS \$4,921.00

Dallastown High School Wins National Envirothon

Congratulations to Dallastown High School's Envirothon Team for scoring highest in the Soils and Landuse category at the state competition held in Bedford county! Dallastown topped sixty-one other county teams in what many consider to be the most difficult category in the Envirothon. Team members are: Steve Chavez, Shauna Kniffen, Jess Neubaum, Seth Zeigler, Coach: Wendy Freyer. Master of Ceremonies Ted Retallack, Union County Conservation District Manager, announced that The Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists (PAPSS) was presenting an award to the highest scorer in the Soils and Landuse category. PAPSS member Joseph J. Eckenrode presented a plaque engraved with 2000 ENVIROTHON, FIRST PLACE, SOILS AND LANDUSE to the team.

The Dallastown Envirothon Team then went on to win the National Envirothon in Nova Scotia. Congratulations on a job well done!

New PAPSS Members in 2000

Professional: Michael Farbotnik, Dr. Walter Grube, Jr., Charles Klinger, Stephan Levitsky, Dr. Douglas Miller, Christopher Whitman, William Haffner.

Apprentice: Joseph Corona, Jacalyn Wolf Heint, Maureen Watson.

Student: Jaime Lynn Carson, Keith Goyne, Brian Needelman, Paul Reed.

Associate: Daniel Benyei, Richard Gleichsner, Paul Karcewski, Stanley Sadrozny.

25th Anniversary T-Shirts and Hats Available.

The demand for PAPSS Anniversary T-Shirts and Hats has not yet exhausted the supply. They are still available from Joe Valentine (phone 215-345-5545 or email jvalentine@delvalsoil.com). The light brown (about a 10YR 6/4) T-Shirts have the PAPSS logo on the front and the slogan "Soil Science has Unlimited Horizons" on the back. They are a great deal at \$12.00. The two color hats are available for \$8.00, or buy the matching set and really set a fashion statement for only \$20.00.

National Collegiate Soil Judging Contest

In April 2001, the Pennsylvania State University will host the National Collegiate Soil Judging Contest. Volunteer help is needed to prepare and assist with the contest. Work such as scoring, soil judging assistance, pit monitors, and field trip tour guides are needed. If you took part in Collegiate Soil Judging you are sure to want to take this opportunity to bring back some memories from your college days. If you did not compete, then this is an excellent training opportunity for you to see how soil judging is carried out on the collegiate scene. The contact is Brian Needelman.

Notice: Deadline for PAPSS Professional Consulting Soil Scientist List is December 1, 2000. Applications are to be submitted to Bruce Willman, 391 Nye Rd., Hummelstown, PA, 17036-9712

Dr. Robert Cunningham Elected to Honorary Membership

At the 25th Anniversary meeting, Dr. Robert Cunningham was elected to be the eighth Honorary Member of PAPSS. Dr. Robert (Bob) L. Cunningham is a retired Emeritus Professor of Soils at Penn State University. Dr. Cunningham graduated from the University of Nebraska with a B.S. in Soil Science, earned an M.S. in soils in 1959, and a Ph.D from Washington State University in 1964. In 1964 he started at Penn State as a Professor of Soil Genesis and Morphology, and taught Soil and Water Conservation and introductory soils courses. Dr. Cunningham was instrumental in the Pennsylvania Soil Characterization program and in computerizing soil survey data and GIS. Dr. Cunningham was a charter member of PAPSS and served on the Board in 1987-1989.

"Users of Soil Surveys should understand how the survey was made so that the patterns of soil lines will make additional sense in interpreting the relationship between the landscape and the soil characteristics." Dr. Cunningham in Pennsylvania Soil Survey Biographies.



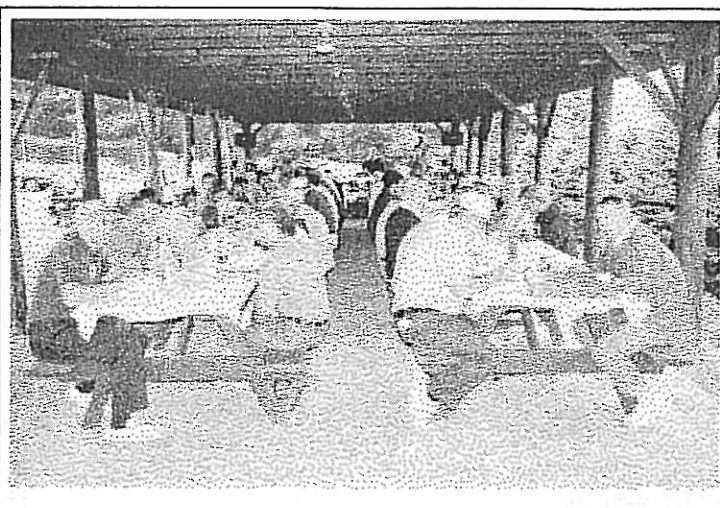
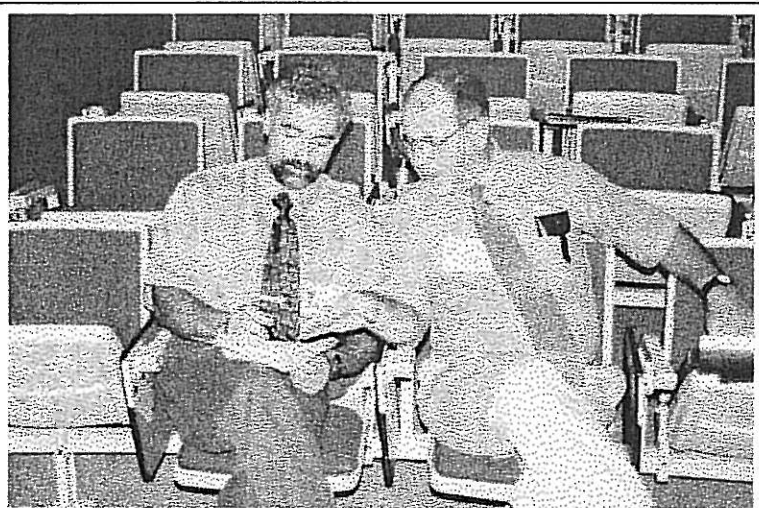
Examining Soils at a Field Trip Site



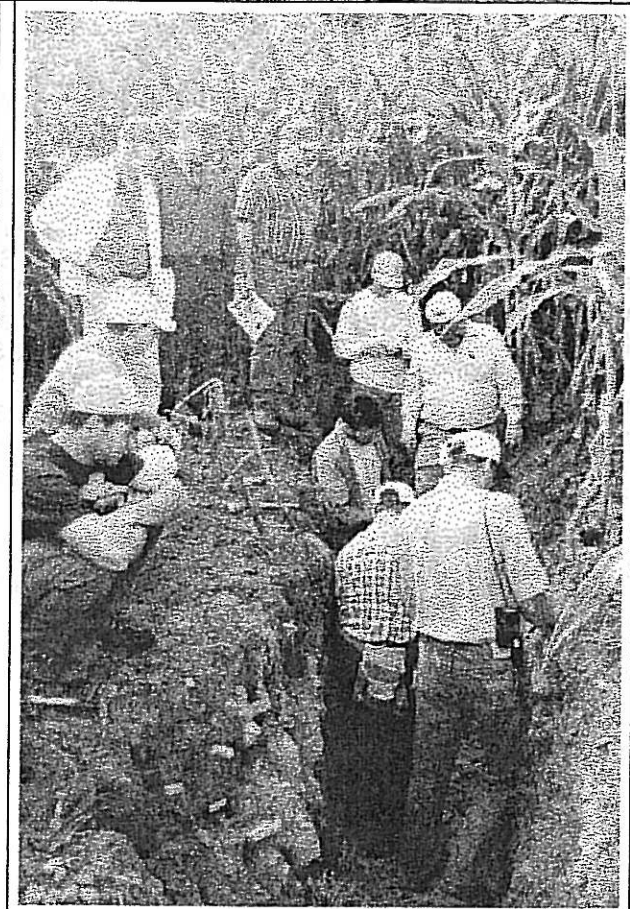
President John Chibirka with
Anniversary Newspaper Article

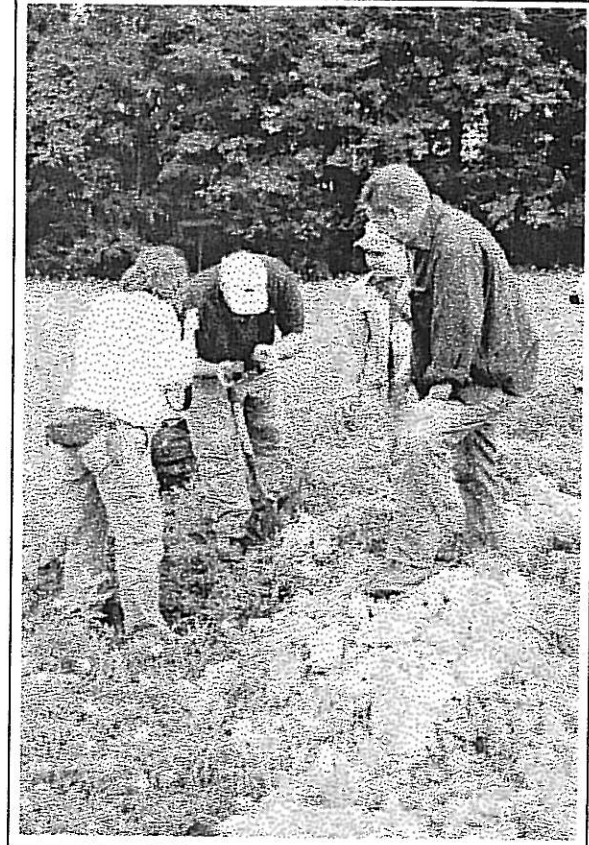
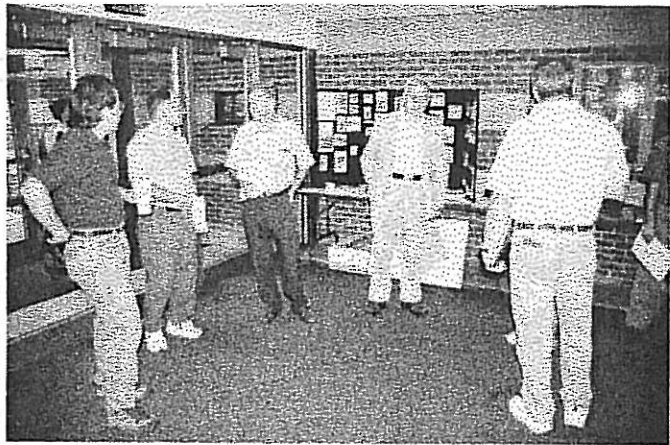


Jake Eckenrode (left)
receiving PAPSS Outstanding
Soil Scientist Award



Soil Science Has Unlimited Horizons
1975 25th Anniversary 2000
PAPSS







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