

# PENNSOIL

The Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists

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

November 2001

## Annual Business Meeting

The PAPSS 2001 Annual Business Meeting will be on Friday, November 9, 2001 at the DEP South Central Regional Office in Harrisburg, PA. Three issues to be discussed are the Hazleton State Soil Bill, Soil Scientist State Registration, and What do you want from PAPSS. In the afternoon, a technical session will focus on new frontiers of soil mapping. Dr. Marty Rabinhorst will discuss sub-aqueous soil mapping, Dr. Doug Miller will discuss digital soil data, and Dr. Larry Hepner will discuss the filming of a Mel Gibson movie on the Delaware Valley College corn fields. The Business Meeting begins with registration at 8:00 AM and the \$15.00 (\$20 at door) registration fee (which includes lunch) is to be paid to Joseph Valentine, DelVal Soil and Environmental Consulting, 4050 Skyron Drive, Suite A1, Doylestown, PA 18901. Joe can be reached at 215-350-7515 for further information.

## August Technical Meeting

The 2001 Summer PAPSS Technical Meeting was held in State College, PA on Friday August 3. The topic of the meeting was "Current Trends in Phosphorous and P Index Research," a timely subject with the current state and federal nutrient management laws and regulations. The five Penn State and



Summer Technical Meeting Speakers (Left to Right) Needelman, D. Beegle, M. Callahan, P. Kleinman, L. Lanyon

USDA-ARS speakers presented the current policies and research that are being conducted on Phosphorous movement in soils and watersheds. Dr. Les Lanyon presented a history of Phosphorous and explained phosphorous flows in modern agriculture. Dr. Doug Beegle explained the current policies and initiatives in Phosphorous and nutrient management. Dr. Peter Kleinman discussed phosphorous sources, Dr. Brian Needelman discussed the results of his research on phosphorous movement on the landscape, and Mike Callahan discussed phosphorous transport in soils.

On Saturday a PAPSS Soil Judging Contest was held, using the site and the official pits from the National Collegiate Soil Judging Contest. The PAPSS Soil Judging Winner was Mike Sowers (pictured below in the center) with judge Mike Callahan (left) and



organizer Brian Needelman (right). Hagerstown and Buchanan pits were used for the PAPSS Contest. (Note: Brian Needelman is taking a new job at the University of Maryland this winter. The PAPSS members and Board will miss all Dr. Needelman did for the organization.)



## In Memorium -PAPSS Member

### Cliff Kohler

Cliff Kohler, Retired SCS Soil Scientist and PAPSS Member, passed away on Friday, July 27, 2001. Cliff worked most of his years with SCS in Northcentral PA. and specifically in the Williamsport office. Cliff will be missed and his work remembered. His obituary is included below.

Clifford D. Kohler, 75, of 1350 Lose Ave., Wmspt., and formerly of the Linden area, died Friday, July 27, 2001, at Sycamore Manor. He and his wife, the former Joan K. Pfeiffer celebrated their 46th wedding anniversary on Sept. 11. He was a graduate of Williamsport High School in 1943 and he graduated from Penn State University with a degree in Agronomy. He was employed by the former Soil Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, as a Soil Scientist for over 30 years and retired in 1988. He was a member of the Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists, the Antlers Club, the Young Men's Republican Club and the Penn State Alumni Association. He was a World War II veteran of the Army. Born Oct. 11, 1925, in Linden, he was a son of Delbert and Mary E. Kohler. Surviving besides his wife are a daughter, Susan Lioni of Bernville; two sons, Jeffrey of Jersey Shore and Steven of Mt. Joy; six grandchildren, Alexis "A.J." Kohler and Jared Kohler, both of Jersey Shore, Nick and Kaitlin Lioni both of Bernville, and Alyssa and Tanner Kohler both of Mt. Joy. Contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, 1704 Warren Ave., Williamsport.

### Pennsylvania Team Wins National Envirothon

For the 8th time since 1988, Pennsylvania has taken top honors at the National Envirothon, now called the Canon Envirothon, held at Hinds Community College in Raymond, Mississippi. This year's team from **North East High School in Erie County** scored 554.5 points out of a possible 700—eight points ahead of second place Mississippi.

Carson Engelskirger, Jeremy Stempka, Justin Pierson, Markus Fish, and Doug Fynan were the best of 42 United States teams and 7 Canadian teams.

Three are Eagle Scouts and the other two are completing their Eagle Scout requirements. Each received a \$3,000 scholarship and products from Canon. Team advisors John Hallenburg and Patrick Coyne, and the sponsoring conservation district (Erie) each were honored with a digital camera. PAPSS Member John Hudak (USDA-NRCS) briefed the team on Mississippi soils and provide a soil survey from Mississippi prior to their trip to the Nationals. Congratulations to this fine team of young men!

Erie had won the Pennsylvania Envirothon with a total of 462 of a possible 500 points in the categories of Aquatics (92), Current Issues (88), Forestry (96), Soil (94), and Wildlife (92), besting second place Delaware by 43 points. Other top finishing teams were 3rd- Schuylkill, 4th- Berks, 5th Clarion, 6th- Lehigh. A total of 63 teams participated in this years Pennsylvania Envirothon. Jake Eckenrode and John Hudak, both of NRCS and PAPSS members, have been working with the PA Envirothon for many years and staffed the soils station. The PA Envirothon was held at Bald Eagle State Park on May 22.

### The Pennsylvania State University Hosts the 2001 National Collegiate Soil Judging Contest

Penn State hosted the 2001 National Collegiate Soil Judging Contest during the week of April 8-13, 2001. More than 120 students from twenty-one universities participated in both individual and team soil judging events. University of Wisconsin-Platteville won the soil judging, followed by the University of Maryland (2nd), North Carolina State (3rd), and Kansas State (4th). The top three individual judges were (1st) Josh Heitman, Kansas State; (2nd) Josh Massey, Clemson; (3rd) Josh Kamps, Wisconsin-Platteville. It was the year of the "Josh's." Practice and contest sites were located in both the Ridge and Valley and Allegheny Plateau physiographic provinces.

Brian Needelman, Penn State, was the event coordinator. Penn State could not defend their National Championship from last year, because the rules prevent the hosts from participating in the contest. The panel of official judges for the contest site exemplified the nature of the National Cooperative Soil Survey. It was lead by Jake



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Eckenrode, USDA-NRCS, who was assisted by soil scientists from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (Jason Fellon and Les Rothermel), Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (Bill Packer), Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists (Joe Valentine), SAIC (Charles Klinger), and other NRCS Soil Scientists (Alex Dado, John Chibirka, Vicki Wertz, Jennifer Condon, and Tim Craul).

## **Soil Survey Photography Principles and Techniques**

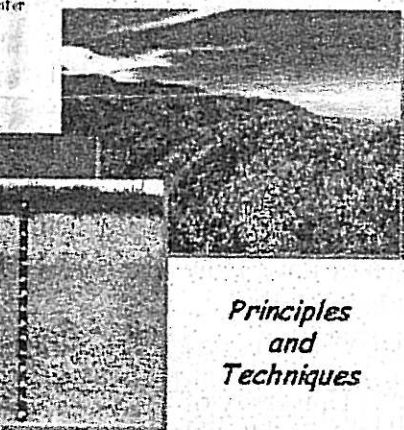
An instruction manual on how to take soil profile photography is available on line from the following web site:

<http://www.statlab.iastate.edu/soils/nssc/educ/photography/index.htm>

It can be either viewed on line or downloaded (28Mb). It covers such topics as Equipment, Common Problems, Understanding Camera Meters and Light, Understanding filters, Compostion,

USDA United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
National Soil Survey Center

### **Soil Survey Photography**



### **Principles and Techniques**

Preparing Profiles, How to improve lighting, Effects of various Film types, and many other very useful topics for anyone who takes soil profile and landscape photography. It was developed by the MO-14 Staff in Raleigh North Carolina.

## **How Could You Miss Earth Science Week - October 7-13, 2001**

Earth Science Week is an annual grassroots effort sponsored by the Americal Geological Institure (AGI) and its member societies. The aim is to increase public understanding of the earth sciences. This year, the general theme is "Evolution in Earth History." The

Earth Week information kit includes a variety of posters, bookmarks, and other materials that illustrate this concept. It contains a 32 page Ideas and Activities booklet the emphasizes evolution in earth history through an array of activities about rocks, fossils, and geologic time. Single copies of theEarth Science Week information kit are available at no cost from AGI. You may request a kit through the website: [www.earthsciweek.org](http://www.earthsciweek.org), (703)349-2480, or by fax: (703)349-7563.

## **Field Tours for the 2006 Meeting of the International Union of Soil Scientists (IUSS) in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

Now is the time to start planning for the 2006 Meeting of the IUSS, and one of the major items that needs to be addressed is the organizing of professional tours. There will need to be multiple pre-conference and post-conference tours as well as some one day mid-conference tours. Traditionally, most pre-conference and post-conference tours run for approximately one week (plus or minus a couple of days). The tours need to be soil-based but can be related to forestry, agriculture, urban development, etc. They should also contain sites of cultural interest. The tours could conceivably be run anywhere in or nearby to North America (including Canada, Mexico or any other areas where there is an interest in organizing tours.)

In general, expectations for these tours are high, meaning that considerable care needs to be given to such matters as planning a reasonable and interesting itinerary (including cultural components), development of a comprehensive tour guide, obtaining adequate data and site characterization, and arranging for scientists to lead discussions at sites. One should also consider that during such international meetings as this, a number of spouses may also attend the tours. NRCS has agreed to assist by providing soil characterization data for sites included in tour stops, but it is important that sampling and analysis be planned and coordinated well in advance.

Our goal is to find scientists interested in developing and leading the tours, but we hope that other logistical matters (such as arranging buses and housing) could

be handled by other professionals contracted by the congress. If you think you might be interested in developing a tour please contact either of the following persons: Marty Rabenhorst, Professor of Pedology, Dept. of Natural Resources Sciences, Room 1112, H.J. Patterson Hall, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742-5821  
Phone 301 405 1343 FAX 301 314 9041  
MR1@umail.umd.edu

John M. Kimble, USDA-NRCS-NSSC  
Fed. Bldg. RM 152 MS 33, 100 Centennial Mall  
North, Lincoln, NE 68508-3866  
Phone 402 437 5376 FAX 402 437-5336  
john.kimble@nssc.nrcs.usda.gov

**NOTE:** Ed White, State Soil Scientists, USDA-NRCS (717-237-2207 or ed.white@pa.usda.gov) is planning a Pennsylvania IUSS Tour Planning Conference- Contact him for Information.

## **New PAPSS On-line Membership List!**

The PAPSS website <http://www.papss.org> now offers an on-line membership list that includes each member's name, address, phone number, and e-mail address. This easily accessible list is intended to increase communication between members and offer accurate up-to-date information.

For security purposes, the list is available on the Members Page of the website by password only. To view the list, follow these four easy steps:

1. Visit <http://www.papss.org>
2. Click on the link to the members page
3. Click on the telephone picture.
4. A prompt box will ask you for a "User ID" and "Password". Call (610)278-9907 or email Nancy Sansoni (nsansoni@montcopa.org) to get the password and login for the PAPSS Member Page. Please take time to visit the website and review your current information including e-mail address! Changes to your information can be submitted to the PAPSS Secretary or Treasurer via the e-mail links on the website. Lately, several electronic announcements have been sent to members. If you have an e-mail address listed, but have not received any announcements, you may need to update your information!

## **Legislative Update**

Senate Bill No. 652 and House Bill 1102

Hazleton State Soil Senate Bill No. 652

Earlier this year, Senate Bill No. 652 was introduced to the Committee on State Government by Senator Rafael J. Musto (D) of Luzerne County. The Chairman of this Committee is Senator Charles D. Lemmond, Jr. (R) of Luzerne County. He may be reached at 717-787-7428. Contact Senator Lemmond, and request that this legislation be "reported out of Committee." Once the bill is out of Committee, we should each encourage our individual Senators to vote in favor of this legislation. Please contact the Chairman of the Senate Committee at:

*Senator Charles D. Lemmond, Jr.  
Chairman of State Government  
Senate Box 203020  
172 Capitol Building  
Harrisburg PA 17120-3020*

Cynthia Thurston, executive director of the State Government Committee, also suggests that individuals interested in supporting the bill should contact their local Senators at this time. The bill is presently "under study and review" right now. Presently, no Committee meetings have been scheduled. She indicates that it is not unusual for a bill submitted in March to have no action by now. However, by discussing the proposed legislation with your Senator, and generating interest in the bill, the issue could be brought to the forefront. To examine the legislative web site which posts the individual committee meetings, go to [www.legis.state.pa.us](http://www.legis.state.pa.us).

## **House Bill No. 1102**

Similar legislation was also submitted to the House of Representatives by Rep. Mark S. McNaughton (R) from Dauphin County. House Bill No. 1102 was referred to the Committee on State Government in March, 2001. There are two Representatives who presently serve as Chairman of this Committee, Rep. Paul Clymer (R) and Rep. Babette Josephs (D). Rep. Clymer of Bucks County may be reached at 717-783-3154, and Rep. Josephs of Philadelphia may be contacted at 717-787-8529. Rep. Josephs has replaced Rep. Preston, who was identified in an earlier PAPSS mailing, as Minority Chairperson. Those

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interested in passage of this bill should write to either or both Representatives, at the following address, and request that House Bill 1102 be reported out of Committee.

**Committee on State Government  
PA House of Representatives  
House Box 202020  
Harrisburg PA 17120-2020**

House Bill No. 1102 is "still in committee, and not scheduled for any meetings at this present time," according to the office for Susan Boyle, executive director of the State Government Committee. Once again, to stimulate interest in the bill, PAPSS members should contact "any and all Representatives." To date, Representative Clymer's office has received "some letters" from individuals interested in passage of the bill. More interest needs to be generated, for the State Government Committee to forward this legislation to the House for a vote.

The first year of the two-year legislative session is soon drawing to a close. It is important, in lieu of a lobbyist, that support for these bills comes from a grassroots movement. Letters and phone calls to legislators will certainly draw attention to this draft legislation at this time. Other necessary strategies will be further explored at the Annual Meeting in Harrisburg. To provide more input to this effort, plan to attend the meeting, or contact any Board Member with your ideas. Individual PAPSS members will need to put a lot of energy into this legislation, if the membership is to see the day when Hazleton soils are proclaimed the Official State Soil of Pennsylvania.

## **Soil Science Consulting**

**By Bob Kendall, Registered  
Professional Soil Scientist**

*From: The Coastal Plainer, Newsletter of MLRA-15 Auburn, AL.*

Soil scientists have been active in environmental consulting for many years. I took a consulting job 22 years ago straight out of graduate school at the University of Georgia. At that time the group I was working with at Law Environmental was doing soil and groundwater investigations for permitting land application of municipal and industrial wastewater. We mapped soils, performed field permeability tests, collected soil samples for chemical analyses, and supervised installation of shallow monitoring wells. Data analyses were performed to develop hydrologic and nutrient balances and to evaluate groundwater flow patterns. Soil science by its very nature is multidisciplinary. Physics, chemistry, biology, geology, geography, climatology, hydrology, engineering, and surveying each play an important part in the education and

training of soil scientists. With this kind of education, soil scientists are uniquely qualified to perform certain kinds of work and generally qualified to do many kinds of work. An excellent way for a soil scientist to get exposed to different specialties in consulting is to work for an environmental consulting firm. Opportunities often arise to work on interdisciplinary teams for a wide range of clients and to get to see how different types of projects are set up and run.

The consulting world has opened up tremendously for soil scientists in the past 20 years. Land application of wastes from Concentrated Feeding Operations (CFO<sup>TM</sup>s) is a relatively new area in which federal and state regulations have created opportunities for soil scientists. Sediment and erosion control is one of the hottest fields in which soil scientists are working due to the emphasis on Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) assessments. Onsite wastewater disposal continues to provide a large volume of work in some states. Wetland delineation and permitting has been an active area for the past 10 to 12 years. In addition to these areas, soil scientists have been involved in a wide array of environmental and natural resource management and planning activities that don't necessarily require expertise in soil science. One of the best ways to learn about opportunities in soil science consulting is to join a professional organization, such as the National Society of Consulting Soil

Scientists (NSCSS). I must admit I have a bias toward this particular organization due to the fact that I currently serve as the Chairman of the Board of Directors. Attending the annual meeting and serving on a committee are excellent ways to network with other soil science consultants who make their living providing consulting services to public, private, and institutional clients. I am always amazed at the scope of services that our members provide and the number of very large corporations that hire our members. I encourage anyone interested in soil consulting to check out NSCSS through our website at [www.nscss.org](http://www.nscss.org).

Consulting is a great way to use your knowledge, help solve problems, and make a good living.

**THE CONSULTING  
WORLD HAS OPENED  
UP TREMENDOUSLY  
FOR SOIL SCIENTISTS  
IN THE PAST 20 YEARS.**

**Remember: Articles for the PENNSOIL  
Newsletter can be submitted at any  
time to any PAPSS Board Member or  
by email to:  
[pennsoils@aol.com](mailto:pennsoils@aol.com)**

**Professional Member Consulting List  
Application Due to Bruce Willman,  
by December 1, 2001**





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