

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

PENNSOIL

JULY 2004

The Newsletter of the
Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists
P.O. Box 61035, Harrisburg, PA 17106-1035

Want a State Soil in Pennsylvania? Take Action NOW!

The Pennsylvania State Legislature is close to determining if Pennsylvania should have Hazleton Soil as the Official State Soil Symbol for Pennsylvania. The Hazleton State Soil Bill HB747 overwhelmingly passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 177-22. As evidenced by many newspaper articles from throughout the state and even the country there is still much disagreement on the importance of a state soil.

The State Soil Bill needs your help now. You need to personally contact your state Senator and ask for their support on HB747 an Official State Soil Symbol for Pennsylvania. You need to express why it is important to have a Soil type as one of our state symbols.

The following web sites contain Senate contact information:

List of Senators:

http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/member_information/senators_alpha.cfm

Contents

- Hazleton State Soil ? Act Now
- SUMMER TECHNICAL SESSION-July 21
- New Pennsylvania Soil Web sites
- Pennsylvania Environment Results
- Smithsonian Soil Science Exhibit
- PAPSS Scholarship NEAAA/SSSA Meeting July 11-14, Rutgers, NJ
- 2002 Annual Meeting Minutes
- 9th Keys to Soil Taxonomy

PDF of Senate Districts:

http://www.dgs.state.pa.us/dgs/hb/dgs/pa_manual/section3/pennsylvania_senate_districts.pdf
Interactive Map of Senate Districts and Senators:
<http://bbs.vcsnet.com/PA/Sen/State.shtml>

As we have learned, the best contacts are personal contacts you make with your Senator. Have your friends and family contact Senators also.

It would be a shame to be this close, with so much support in the Pennsylvania House to not put in the extra effort to make the State Soil succeed. Bruce Willman can be contacted for any support information you may need or see the PAPSS web site

www.papss.org

HB 747 By Representatives LYNCH, McNAUGHTON, ARGALL, HORSEY, SANTONI, WASHINGTON, YOUNGBLOOD, HARRIS and REED. Printer's No. 874.

An Act selecting, designating and adopting the Hazleton soil series as the official soil of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Referred to STATE GOVERNMENT, March 6, 2003

Reported as committed, March 22, 2004

First consideration, March 22, 2004

Laid on the table, March 22, 2004

Removed from table, April 14, 2004

Second consideration, April 14, 2004

Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, April 14, 2004

Re-reported as committed, May 10, 2004

Third consideration and final passage, May 10, 2004 (177-22)

In the Senate

Referred to STATE GOVERNMENT, May 12, 2004

AS YOU CAN SEE NO ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN ON THE BILL SINCE MAY 12th.

The STATE SOIL Bill retains its House designation, HB 747. We got the State Soil Bill to pass through the PA House of Representatives (177-22) and the bill is now being considered in our Senate. The initial response I received indicates that the Senate may be more reluctant to adopt new state symbols. We would appreciate

everyone can send a letter to their Senator and include the Senate State Government Chairman, Senate Majority Leader and Senate *President Pro Tempore*. Their addresses are listed below.

Senate Leadership

Honorable Charles D. Lemmond, Chairman
Senate State Government Committee
178 Capitol Building
Senate Box 203020

Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120
(717) 787-7428
clermond@psen.gov

SENATE State Government

Majority

Lemmond, Charles,
Chair

Minority

Williams, Anthony,
Chair

Honorable Robert C. Jubelirer
President Pro Tempore
292 Capitol Building
Senate Box 203030

Pippy, John, Vice
Chair

Williams, Anthony,
Minority
Chair

Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120
(717) 787-5490
rjubelirer@psen.gov

Conti, Joe
Punt, Terry
Thompson, Robert
Wenger, Noah

Ferlo, Jim
Logan, Sean
Tartaglione, Christine

Honorable David J. Brightbill

Majority Leader

350 Capitol Building

Senate Box 203048

Main Capitol

Harrisburg, PA 17120

(717) 787-5708

dbrightbill@psen.gov

If any of the Senate State Government Committee persons are your State Senator, you DEFINITELY need to contact them and request they move it out of committee,

Thanks for your efforts. We cannot sit back and wait now!

Bruce P. Willman, CPSSc
2004 PAPSS President

NOTICE TO ALL PAPSS MEMBERS

YOU need to now contact your state Senator for support of the State Soil HB 747. The state Senators website is http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/member_information/senators_alpha.cfm.

There are many uninformed letters to the editors on people questioning the need to have a state soil. You can respond to these and MAKE sure you contact you State Senator on why having a STATE SOIL is important.

DO IT NOW –Call, email or visit your Senator

PAPSS SUMMER TECHNICAL SESSION

A Stormwater Best Management Practices Symposium-Soil Testing and Characterization for Stormwater Infiltration

REGISTRATION DEADLINE JULY 16, 2004

Wednesday July 21, 2004 Holiday Inn Harrisburg/Hershey Exit 80 of I-81 (Grantville, PA)

The purpose of the symposium is to advance the knowledge and understanding of soil properties necessary for successful implementation of Best Management Practices (BMP) utilizing stormwater infiltration.

This technical symposium will benefit consulting engineers, municipal engineers, soil scientists, geologists, conservation districts, municipal officials, Pa DEP personnel, and others working with soil infiltration of stormwater management.

Registration Fees: PAPSS Members: Students \$20, All Others \$50

Non-PAPSS Members: \$80

8:00am Registration (pre-registration required)
(Coffee, tea, assorted Danish, bagels, muffins)

9:00am **Randy Grear,** Delaware Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control
Delaware's Experience Stormwater Infiltration.

10:00am **Thomas Cahill,** Cahill Associates
Pennsylvania's Best Management Practices Manual

11:00am **Dr. Daniel Fritton,** Pennsylvania State University
Water Movement Through Soil and Permeability Testing Methodologies.

12:00 **New York Deli Lunch Buffet at Holiday Inn**

1:00pm **Ed White,** Natural Resources Conservation Service
Soil Morphological Indicators and Water Table Determination.

2:00pm **Field Sessions**

3:40-4:30pm **Open Forum Discussion – How Best to Achieve Stormwater Infiltration**

Visit www.papss.org upcoming events web page to download a registration form. **Registration deadline July 16, 2004.**

SOIL SURVEY INFORMATION FOR PENNSYLVANIA

Now Available in New Ways

The Pennsylvania Soil Survey Information is now available from two new sources serving different purposes. The first is a cooperative effort between the PSU-Land Analysis Lab, USDA-NRCS and PASDA. The web site

soilmap.psu.edu

allows users to zoom in and find the soil types in any area of Pennsylvania where digital soil data exists. The soil maps can be shown on either aerial photographs or topographic maps. When a soil map unit is identified, a second window shows some of the most

requested properties of the soil, such as map unit name, hydrologic group, land capability class, soil depth, drainage class, and permeability.

The second site, the Soil Data Mart,

<http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov>

is a site where users can download county soil survey data for use in Geographic Information System Software or view and download soil survey properties and interpretations in a variety of tables or download a MSAccess database of soil information.

Try them out, access soil information from the comfort of your home or office!!

New PAPSS Members

Matt Hostrander -Apprentice

Keith Valentine- Professional

Len Cornish-Professional

Problem soils- MAPSS symposium on acid sulfate soils

A workshop and field tour, "Environmental Hazards of Acid Sulfate Soils" will be held in Annapolis, Maryland on Sept. 15 and 16, 2004.

The symposium is sponsored by MAPSS, the Mid-Atlantic Association of Professional Soil Scientists.

Active acid sulfate soils can be formed through routine excavations during construction activities or dredging operations in the

Mid-Atlantic region. Extreme soil acidity with high corrosion potential

and unusually acid drainage water are common results of encounters with active acid sulfate soils. Learn how to recognize these materials

before they become problematic and how to anticipate and avoid creating serious environmental difficulties.

For a copy of the brochure and registration form, visit:

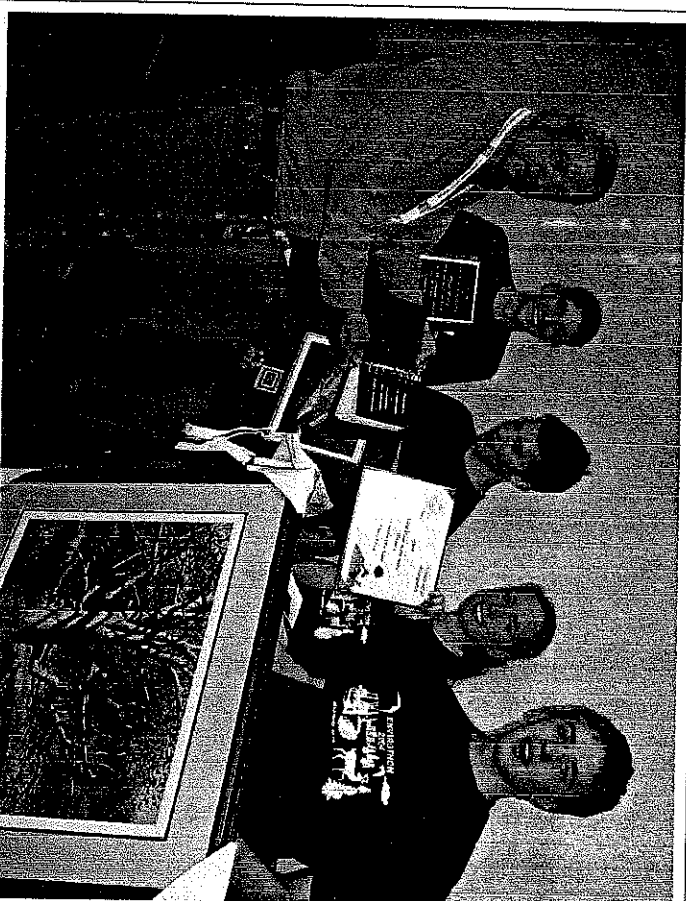
http://sawgal.umd.edu/mapss/Acid_Sulfate_Soils.pdf

Limited seats are available for the field tour, so make your reservation early!

Diane Shields

Dover, DE

302-678-4172



**Delaware County Envirothon Team
Accepting Their Many Awards Including
The PAPSS Award as Top Soil/Land Use
Team from John Hudak**

Delaware County High School Wins 2004 Pennsylvania State Envirothon

The team from Peimcrest High School in Delaware County took top honors at this year's State Envirothon competition. More than 320 students from all 64 Pennsylvania counties competed in the 21st annual Envirothon held May 26 on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown (UPJ).

NRCS Soil Scientists and PAPS Members prepared and staffed the Soils Station. They included **Jake Eckenrode** (leader), **John Hudak**, **Yuri Plowden**, **Chris Fabian**, and **Ned Ellenberger**. The Soil Scientists carried out a special training session in Soils for all the Envirothon Advisors.

The Envirothon is designed to give students an opportunity to acquire and demonstrate their knowledge of environmental resources and the interactive relationships between resources and human activities. The students are challenged in the areas of aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, and a current environmental issue. The 2004 current



environmental issue theme was "Natural Resource Management in the Urban Environment."

At the state level, the Envirothon is sponsored by Pennsylvania's 66 conservation districts, the State Conservation Commission, and the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts. The program is managed by a board of directors representing those sponsors.

Technical expertise is provided by the following agency partners: Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Game Commission, Fish & Boat Commission, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Penncrest High School team members included: Paul Scherer, Brad Potter, Cara McMahon, Joe Walker, and Roger Whittle. The team's advisors are Mark Samilenko and Chrissa Kuntz.

The team from Blue Mountain High School in Schuylkill County finished second, followed by North East High School in Erie County, Northern High School in York County, and tied for fifth were Conrad Weiser in Berks County and New Meadow Run High School, Fayette County.

The Delaware County team will represent Pennsylvania at the 2004 Canon Envirothon, which will take place in Buckhannon, W. Va., on July 26 - Aug. 1, at Wesleyan College.

Pennsylvania won the national event in 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1994, 1997, 2000, 2001 and 2003. More than 40 states and nine Canadian provinces have initiated Envirothon contests based on the program that was originally developed in 1979 by Pennsylvania's conservation districts.

For the third year, an oral component event was held on the Monday before the testing event. The oral component consists of a team presentation to a panel of judges taking part in a question/answer session based on the current issue theme. A timed event, the competition tests a team's ability to consider an environmental issue, discuss its likely ramifications and effects, develop possible solutions, and then make a presentation before a group of judges and answer their questions. This year's oral component scenario was based on how to manage and maintain donated property. Participation was voluntary and was not included in the overall competition score.

Listed below are the top five teams in the oral component: First Place - Lehigh County; Second Place - Monroe County; Third Place - Delaware County; Fourth Place - Berks County; and Fifth Place - Northampton County.

Pennsylvania's Envirothon is made possible through financial and in-kind contributions from Air Products & Chemicals Inc., Nestle Water North America, P/L, Pa. Outdoor Writers Association, Pa. Game Commission, Pa. Fish & Boat Commission, Department of

Conservation and Natural Resources Forest Stewardship Program, DEP, Growing Greener Program, the Canon Envirothon, the Izaak Walton League of York County, Pennsylvania Conservation Districts and Friends of the Envirothon.

To help with the Pennsylvania Envirothon next year, contact John Hudak or Jake Eckenrode. You can also help your local team in training or help with your county Envirothon

<> For more information contact Lorelle Steach, program coordinator, at 814-623-7900 ext.111 or e-mail paenvirothon@pennswoods.net.

Ninth Edition of Keys to Soil Taxonomy Released

The National Soil Survey Center Staff and the National Cooperative Soil Survey Regional Soil Taxonomy Committees have announced the release of the ninth edition of *Keys to Soil Taxonomy*. The new



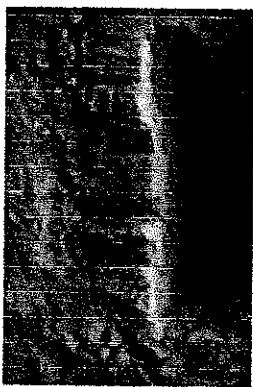
Keys to

Soil Taxonomy

Ninth Edition, 2003

publication comes as a result of a review of over 50 proposals for revising the *Keys to Soil Taxonomy*, published in 1998. The complete document is available at:

http://soils.usda.gov/technical/classification/tax_keys/



but will require Acrobat Reader for downloading and local printing. A CD-ROM containing the document, as well as a supply of hard copies of the ninth edition of *Keys to Soil Taxonomy* will soon be distributed to States.

Your contact is Craig A. Ditzler, NRCS National Leader, Soil

Classification and Standards, at 402-437-4009, or craig.ditzler@nssc.nrcs.usda.gov.

Soil Scientists -- WE Want to Hear From You!

Greetings,

This message is from the U.S. Consortium of Soil Science Associations, an organization to which represents the more than forty national, regional, and state soil science professional societies and Soil Science Society of America. A committee of soil scientists from these professional societies and from the Soil Science Society of America has developed an on-line survey to get feedback from professional soil scientists and others working in soils regarding their needs and opportunities.

We sent out email announcements about the survey earlier this spring to all official contacts of soil societies and associations of the USCSSA. We appreciate the excellent response from the soil science community across the country. To date more than 600 soil scientists completed the survey. We have decided to extend the survey deadline to allow even more soil scientists and others working in soils to participate. **The deadline is now July 31, 2004.**

Our goal is to have each soil society and association of the USCSSA made this information about the survey available to your membership through e-mail group list, your web sites, meetings and other means of communications. We appreciate the work and effort

**Email Postings of National Society of Consulting Soil Scientists
Yahoo! Groups Links**

**To visit your group on the web,
go to:**

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NSCSS_Members/

membership.

The goal of this survey is to help soil science organizations plan programs and services to better serve the needs of their professional soil scientist members. Individual answers are anonymous; the Consortium and SSSA will see only compiled results.

The final results will be presented at the USCSSA / SSSA Roundtable program at the SSSA Annual Meeting in Seattle this November. In addition, the results will be distributed to the more

than 40 national, regional, and state individual state soil scientist societies / associations represented by the Consortium.

If you have not had the opportunity to view this survey, please go online to complete this survey of 17 questions by July 31, 2004. The survey is at:

www.zoomerang.com/survey.zgi?p=WEB2GEUENKPO

If you have any questions about the survey, please feel free to contact Margie Faber at: margie.faber@ct.usda.gov (860) 688-7725 ext. 115

Thank you, Soil Science Society of America

<http://www.soils.org/>

U.S. Consortium of Soil Science Associations

<http://soilassociation.org/>

PAPSS 2004 Scholarship Awarded to Student Estelle Ruth, Delaware Valley College

Each year, PAPSS awards a \$500 scholarship to a student enrolled in a soils program or environmental undergraduate program containing soils courses in Pennsylvania. This year's scholarship was awarded to Estelle Ruth. Ms. Ruth is an Environmental Science and Agronomy student with a minor in chemistry at Delaware Valley College. Estelle comes from a dairy farm in Berlin PA, and has learned through her parents and neighboring farmers the importance of growing crops, preventing erosion, and caring for the land.

In her home town, Estelle was active in her church, local Red Cross, and volunteered by tutoring students in math, science and swimming. She currently plays field hockey for DelVal and is a member of the DelVal Agronomy Club, the Soil and Water Conservation Society, and the American Chemical Society. As part of the scholarship award, Estelle will be given a one year free membership to PAPSS. Estelle has completed her sophomore year at DelVal and plans to secure a job in soils upon graduation. In the future, she intends to continue her education in a graduate program.

Smithsonian Soil Exhibit

Are you aware of an exciting new way to explain the importance of a soil science to 12 million people a year? Would you support this kind of Soil Science effort?

A group of scientists is working with the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) to develop a Smithsonian Soils Exhibit. The goal is for Smithsonian visitors, educators and students around the country and the world to better understand why soil science is important, how it affects our world, and career opportunities in soils. Specific modules that will be included are:

- Monoliths of Each State Soil
- Soil as Life
- Role of Soil in the Environment
- Soil Supports Organisms
- Food from the Soil
- Medicine from Soil
- Careers in Soil
- Soil in Cultural History

PAPSS is working with the Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) and the Agronomic Science Foundation (ASF) to raise one to three million dollars to make the exhibit a reality. Enough funds have been raised to begin the exhibit, but more are needed to complete all of the units. If our state can collective raise \$10,000, our association name will be permanently displayed on the Hazleton Soil monolith along with other contributors of \$1,000 or more in the state.

This educational effort would begin with a multi-year museum exhibit at the Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC. The state monoliths would be permanent, and the educational component would later be loaned out to other museums across the country. The exhibit would include soil, environmental, crop and food displays, interactive computer games, perhaps even a soil petting zoo. The project will then expand internationally with educational materials being made available to schools, libraries and consumers.

Message from the President

The Smithsonian Soils Exhibit fund raising campaign needs to continue. The current funding towards Pennsylvania's State Soil Monolith display is at \$2,350. We need at least \$10,000 BY THE END OF 2005 to complete our minimum contribution. Plaque acknowledgements continue to be available for any association, company, organization or individuals who contribute \$1,000 or more, considered a Soil Science Friend donor. Payment and pledge forms are available from me. The following are examples of potential funding sources:

- ◆ Corporations, specifically those whose products/services are used on the soil or are perceived to be linked to the soil (environmental consulting organizations, ag inputs, equipment manufacturers/dealers, water testing labs or equipment). If available, review lists of University career fair exhibitors or state agri-business meeting sponsors/exhibitors (Farm Show).
- ◆ Soil and Water Conservation Districts. We need to have this group recognized in the Smithsonian Soils Exhibit.
- ◆ State or regional government agencies (inquire about year-end funding this year or the next year for a pledged amount).
- ◆ Associations such as state or county agri-business councils, fertilizer and chemical associations, certified crop advisor state group, state soil conservation associations (Keystone Soil and

To ARCPACS Registered Soil Scientists:

This is a reminder that you will need 40 CEUs on file for the current 2-year cycle which began January 1, 2003 and ends December 31, 2004.

You can submit and check CEUs on the web at:

<http://www.agronomy.org/certification/>

Water Conservation Society), producer groups such as commodity groups, Farm Bureau, NFO, etc.

- ◆ Successful student organizations sometimes have treasures, including undergraduate student soil associations, FFA chapters, graduate student organizations, etc.
- ◆ Wildlife, botanical or conservation groups.
- ◆ Retired soil scientists and their families (including estates and children) ◆ Personal ties - the Missouri group received \$5,000 from Mrs. Pat (Edward) D. Jones, the financial consultant, simply because a member knew Mrs. Jones had a soil science degree and told her about the project. While ties to soil science, ag or natural resources help you find your best prospects, don't overlook personal connections. Another state received \$1,000 from the daughter of a soil scientist who wanted to honor him, for example.

If everyone in PAPS can identify a sponsor of any amount, the funding would be easily obtained. If anyone needs forms, information or has any questions about how to contribute (tax-deductible), please do not hesitate to contact me or anyone else on the Smithsonian Fund Raising Committee.

Committee Members -

- State Soil Association Leader-**Bruce Willman**
- NRCS State Soil Scientist- **Ed White**
- NRCS employee-**John Chibirka**
- University Soil Scientist-**Larry Hepner**
- USDA-ARS Research Scientists-**Ray Bryant**
- Retired SSSA member(s), retired NRCS/SCS employees, Soils Science Consultant- **Charles Klinger**
- SWCS (Soil and Water Conservation Society) officers/members- ?

Bruce P. Willman, CPSSc

2004 PAPS President

Direct (717) 901-8838 Email bruce.p.willman@saic.com
Science Applications International Corporation
6310 Allentown Boulevard
Harrisburg, PA 17112-3377

**2004 ANNUAL MEETING
NORTHEASTERN BRANCH
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF AGRONOMY
AND**

SOIL SCIENCE SOCIETY OF AMERICA
July 11 to July 14

**Rutgers EcoComplex
Bordentown, New Jersey**

We invite you to attend the 2004 NEBASA and NEBSSSA Annual Meeting this year in Bordentown, New Jersey. The planning committee has organized an interesting symposium on "Harvesting Renewable Energy from Agriculture".

Afternoon tours around New Jersey will provide an overview of the crops and soils of the state. The conference will be held in the Rutgers EcoComplex in central New Jersey, near Bordentown. The EcoComplex is Rutgers University's Environmental Research and Extension Center. It is built on the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station mission to provide education, research, and outreach on environmental issues, specifically those related to water, solid waste, and land use. For more information:
<http://www.ecocomplex.rutgers.edu/nebasa/index.html>

**Recent additions to the NRCS Soil Quality Web
site <http://soils.usda.gov/sqi>**

The Thunderbook has been revised to include the updated glossary and bibliography, and a comprehensive list of Soil Quality Institute products and projects.

http://soils.usda.gov/sqi/soil_quality/what_is/thunderbook.html
"Soil Biology and Land Management" has been added to the soil biology page.

http://soils.usda.gov/sqi/soil_quality/soil_biology/index.html
Also, clipart from the Soil Biology Primer is now available.

Sincerely,
Ann M. Lewandowski, NRCS Soil Quality Institute

Department of Soil, Water, and Climate
1991 Upper Buford Circle, University of Minnesota
St. Paul, MN 55108-6028
alewand@umn.edu
612-624-6765

Need Information on Forensic Soil Science?

<http://www.forensicgeology.net/science.htm>

Above is a link to an interesting website a geologist sent about using geology and soils to solve criminal cases.

July 9-15, 2006

USA hosts the 2006 World Congress of Soil Science in Philadelphia, with the theme: "Frontiers of Soil Science: Technology and the Information Age." For more information visit their website:

www.18wcss.org

Pennsylvania Soil Tours and other WCSS tours should be available for viewing on this web site shortly.

INNOVATIVE TECHNIQUES IN SOIL SURVEY

(Edited by: H. Eswaran, P. Vijkarnorn, T. Yearasilp, and E. Padmanabhan). Proceedings of the Conference held in March 2004 in Thailand is now available for US\$40.00 from The Secretary, Soils and Fertilizer Society of Thailand, c/o Land Development Department, Chattuchak, Bangkok 10900, THAILAND

Urban Watershed Restoration Manual Series

The Center for Watersheds has published the first three of a series of eleven manuals through an EPA grant. The manuals: 1. An integrated Framework to Restore Small Urban Watersheds, 2. Methods to

Develop Restoration Plans for Small Urban Watersheds, and 3. Stormwater Retrofit Practices are available to download free from www.csp.org

SOILS EXAM

The next Council of Soil Science Examiners National Test will be held Oct. 8, 2004. Register by Aug. 27 at www.soils.org/csse/ or by contacting Kathie Nardi at 608/273-8090, ext. 311, knardi@agronomy.org

PAPSS MEMBERS NOTE:

The 2002 Annual Meeting Minutes were not voted upon by the membership. They are attached to this newsletter for your vote. Ballots can be returned to Bruce Willman at the Summer Technical Session or mailed to the PAPSS PO