FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I hope that 1986 to date has found everyone in good health, good spirits, and in prosperity. The Board of Directors met recently and scheduled our annual meeting for December 12 and 13, 1986. More details will be enclosed with this issue of Penn Soil.

One of the aims of PAPSS is to make more people aware of the services and expertise that our members can provide and the resources that they have at their disposal. One means of promotion would be a display that could be shared at events like "Ag Progress Days," or that could be exhibited in Harrisburg. Keystone Chapter of SCSCA, for example, has constructed display cases which contain information materials about the Society and its members. If someone feels they have talents using a hammer, nails and a saw, please contact one of the board members perhaps we can come up with a nice PAPSS display.

We are always looking for contributions to our publication, and hope to hear from our membership in all the agencies and companies across the state. Don't worry if you don't have a lot to write. Please share information on workshops, meetings, and projects that you are involved with.

One board member received a note from one of the members suggesting we create an award to be given to a member whose activities, work, and ethics best exemplify a soil scientist's performance. People with ideas on criteria, and/or methods of selection should forward them to me and to the officers.

Well, enough ramblings from someone who "threw the cow over the fence some hay." Have a good fall and winter!

Sincerely yours,
Les Rothermel

PAPSS POSTMAN

A special thanks to Garland Lipscomb for volunteering to check the Post Office Box for PAPSS throughout the year!

PAPSS 1986 ANNUAL MEETING

The 1986 Annual Meeting will be held on Friday, December 12, in Harrisburg at the Harrisburg Civic Club, along the Susquehanna River. The meeting place is located at the corner of Front and Forster Streets across from the YMCA and City Island.

This year, PAPSS will provide a catered luncheon (at no cost to attendees) between the business meeting and the following technical session. In addition, an informal social dinner will be held Friday evening and a field trip exploring the varied soils of the Harrisburg area has also been planned.

The Harrisburg Area Soil Field Trip will be conducted Saturday morning and coordinated by several local soil and geologic experts. The trip will consist of examining several test pits throughout the area, with special emphasis on soil types which present various interpretation challenges to today's soil scientist.

Agenda

12/12
9:30 Friday, Annual Meeting, Harrisburg Civic Club
10:00 Coffee and Registration
10:00 Business Meeting and Elections
12:00 Luncheon on Premises
1:00 Technical Session
Topics will include: fill and septic disposal, wetland studies, soils and spray irrigation, sludge disposal, and updates on soil surveys, state regulations, and policies.

11/12
Friday, Social Dinner, Casa Rillo's in Camp Hill. Dining reservations have been made for PAPSS members (and their spouses/dates) at this local favorite for fine Italian cuisine. Members are responsible for their own meals. This is an informal social gathering.

11/13
Saturday, Field Trip, Soils of the Capital City Area
8:30-12:30 Examination of several local test pits. Participants are to meet in the parking lot of the Harrisburg East Mall outside Hess's. A $5.00 contribution is necessary to assist in transportation costs.

Mark S. Mills

American Registry of Certified Professionals in Agronomy, Crops and Soils
MINUTES OF THE 1985 ANNUAL MEETING

The meeting was held on November 8, 1985 at Penn State University. Alan Biltz chaired the meeting, handling the introductions, the Secretary's report by Larry Hopner, the Treasurer's report (Bill Parley reported our 10-year old fund to be at $3800), and election of new officers.

Alan summarized the feelings of the Board of Directors by stressing their goal was to get some new blood into the organization. Three-quarters of the organization is from the charter membership.

Elected as the new 1986 officers were:
- President: E. Lester Rothermel
- Vice President: Mark S. Mills
- Secretary: Laurel F. Mueller
- Treasurer: Ned B. Ellenberger

Members of the Board at Large:
- Bruce P. Willman
  P. Glade Loughry
  William H. Parley

It was resolved that the PAPSS Consultants List be updated shortly and that the next Penn Soil include a form for consultants who wish to be listed to mail in. (Secretary's note: The updated list has since been prepared and is enclosed.)

Annual dues of $5.00 were collected, with a reminder that dues paid after Jan. 1 are increased to $6.00.

Dan Fritton requested that PAPSS be represented on the Advisory Council to Penn State. It was resolved that PAPSS participate, with the Board to decide who would represent the organization.

Mark Mills stressed the importance of holding more technical meetings, especially in the field, to standardize our classifications and descriptions.

PAPSS resolved to donate $75.00 to the Penn State soil judging team to travel to nationals.

The technical portion of the meeting followed lunch. Dick Crone directed a group discussion on how sure and consistent we must be in making our field determinations, with an emphasis on mapping clay percentages. The discussion included definitions of mottling, our liability as SEDOs and soil scientists. Ed Ciolkosz removed all of our doubts and fears in making field determinations by closing the discussion with "A mottle is a mottle... on an Agricultural Advisory Council to Penn State. It was resolved that PAPSS participate, with the Board to decide who would represent the organization."

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Merrill started his career as a soil scientist in the summer of 1979 when he joined the Soil Conservation Service Crooked Creek Demonstration Project at Indiana. The next year he went to the Mobile Soil Survey Organization. Through his career, he worked in Missouri, Washington, and Oregon. After several years in the West, he came back east. He worked in several areas in West Virginia before returning to Pennsylvania as party chief for the Soil Survey in Chester County. He also worked in Dauphin and Lebanon Counties.

Merrill retired from SCS after 35 years of service and became consulting soil scientist in the lower Susquehanna Valley. His wife, Mrs. Martha Kunkle lives at Cornwall Manor, R34, Cornwall, PA 17016

Sincerely,
Glade Loughry

PAPSS TREASURER'S REPORT

BEGINNING BALANCE: NOV., 1985
*Certificate of Deposit at 11%, due 5/7/87 $3,000.00
Passbook Savings 722.87
Checking Account 60.98
Total $3,783.85

EXPENSES 1986:
US Postal Service $14.18
Printing dues notices 10.00
Earth Sciences Consultants (printing, postage 1985) 5.00
Dept. of Agronomy, PSU (donation, Soil J. Team) 75.00
Delaware Valley College (van rental, field trip) 160.00
Soil Services Co., Inc (copies, postage) 152.69
Total $546.27

INCOME 1986:
Dues, 1986 $365.00
Field Trip 100.00
Interest Income 32.00
(Savings) 80.00
Total $498.00

BALANCE: SEPT. 1986
Certificate of Deposit at 11.6%, due 5/7/87 $3,000.00
Savings Account 754.60
Checking Account 40.98
Total $3,795.58

IN REMEMBRANCE OF W. MERRILL KUNKLE

W. Merrill Kunkle, a charter member of PAPSS, died on March 18, 1986 at Cornwall Manor, in Lebanon County after an extended illness. He had celebrated his 82nd birthday, February 24th.

Merrill started his career as a soil scientist in the summer of 1979 when he joined the Soil Conservation Service Crooked Creek Demonstration Project at Indiana. The next year he went to the Mobile Soil Survey Organization. Through his career, he worked in Missouri, Washington, and Oregon. After several years in the West, he came back east. He worked in several areas in West Virginia before returning to Pennsylvania as party chief for the Soil Survey in Chester County. He also worked in Dauphin and Lebanon Counties.

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Glade Loughry

DER SOLID WASTE

The Department of Environmental Resources is currently working on revisions to the Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Section of the Solid Waste Management Rules and Regulations. Among the general concepts being discussed are the lime stabilization of sewage, and a requirement that all application information pertaining to soils be completed by a person knowledgeable in soil science.

The septage land management study completed by the Delaware Valley College of Science and Agriculture has been referenced in the lime stabilization concept under discussion. Completed and on-going research at Penn State University, among others, have been referenced in discussions of sludge management.

Requiring a soil scientist to complete the soils section of the application form would be a big step forward in ensuring accurate and standardized information.

Steve Socash

BUCKS COUNTY PAPSS FIELD TRIP

A PAPSS regional field trip was held June 27 and 28, 1986 at Delaware Valley College in Bucks County. The trip focused on soils common to the physiographic provinces: the Coastal Plain, the Piedmont, and the Reading Prong of the New England Province.

Joe Valentine, coordinator of the trip, reported that 22 people attended, 12 PAPSS members, 5 visitors from New Jersey, 3 from Delaware (1 PAPSS member), and 3 Pennsylvania non-PAPSS members.

A special thanks went out to Delaware Valley College for use of its facilities, to Bill Palkovics and Larry Hopner for their organizational efforts.

Joe Valentine did a commendable job of making this event happen! Thank you Joe!

Laurel F. Mueller

UPDATING CONSULTANTS LIST

Many thanks to Bruce Willman for compiling and printing the PAPSS Consultants List (enclosed with this issue). A very nice job, Bruce!

PENN STATE PUBLICATION LIST UPDATED

The Soil Genesis and Morphology Group in the Agronomy Department at Penn State has updated its publication listing through 1985. This listing gives the titles of all of the group's publications, including M.S. and Ph.D. dissertations, journal papers, and department publications of the group from 1970 to 1985. Copies of many of these publications are available. If you would like a copy of the listing, contact Ed Ciolkosz, 119 Tyson Building, University Park, PA 16802. (Phone 814-865-1530)
UPDATES FROM THE USDA
SOIL CONSERVATION
SERVICE
(3/13/86)

Recent Soil Survey Publications:
Cambrd, Jan, 1986
Warren & Forrest, Dec, 1985
Lancaster, Jun, 1985
Montour, May, 1985
Northumberland, Apr, 1985
Snyder, May, 1985
Union, Apr, 1985
Wayne, Dec, 1985

Acid Precipitation Study:
In cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as part of their Delayed Response Project of Acid Deposition on Surface Water, SCS in Pennsylvania remapped 14 watersheds totaling 15,040 acres. Thirty three soil pits were described and samples were taken out of each for characterization. The project was completed December, 1985.

Soil Mapping:
Soil mapping was completed last fall in Cameron and Elk Counties. One soil survey remains for the once-over mapping: Bedford County. To date 430,000 acres have been mapped in Bedford.

Manuscripts: Butler and McKean manuscripts have received final State edit and should be ready for publication soon.

Personnel:
Frank Kopas has indicated that he will retire around April 1, 1986
John Hudak transferred from Coudersport to York in January, 1986

Garland Lipscomb
State Soil Scientist

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Yes, it has been a long time between issues! My apologies for the delay in getting out the first issue of Penn Soil. Thank you for your patience, and for the many contributions. I look forward to seeing our Journal grow onto a predictable delivery schedule.

In our next issue, I would like to add a new section to Penn Soil, aimed at enhancing communication between Pennsylvania's soil scientists. While written articles will remain the most desirable form of contribution, I would like to dedicate a section for hand-scribbled and phone-in "shorties." This should encourage those who never find time to write articles to stay in touch.

There will be a 2-week phone-in period prior to each publication date. Through a "phone tree," (soon to be organized) you will be reminded to phone in your contribution by another PA/SSS member in your area. Our phone number is 215-375-6533.

Three planned categories for this section are:
1) Moving Up and On -- for transfers, promotions, etc.
2) Information Please -- for those needing advice or wanting to compare notes with others on a specific topic.
3) Projects/Discoveries -- for those who are working on soils projects or topics that they feel might be of interest to others.

Articles (typed or hand-written) should be sent to my attention at:
Soil Services Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 143
Penna Park, PA 18943

Look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,
Laurel F. Mueller
Editor

UPDATED MEMBERSHIP LIST
Our updated membership list was sent out with the information on the Bucks County field trip. Thanks to Ned Allenberger for assembling this! If you catch any mistakes, please notify Ned at SCS, 120 W. John Street, Bedford, PA 15522. (Phone 814-623-9616)

SMALL FLOW SPRAY IRRIGATION
DER is constantly requested to develop "solutions" to the "problem" of not allowing development of certain tracts of land into building lots. These areas are generally those made unsuitable for the use of the commonly utilized on-lot sewage disposal systems by soil limitations.

DER is now planning a "small flow" spray irrigation system for an otherwise "unsuitable" peice of property, a soil scientist should be able to emit a positive response for a small flow irrigation system. Taking into consideration the above referenced factors, a soil scientist could make the necessary site evaluations to justify a proposal to use this type of system.

In conclusion, while DER has no final strategy regarding these particular systems, DER realizes that they represent a technically sound sewage disposal technique for allowing the development of land that is otherwise unsuitable. The DER encourages the development of further proposals and justifications by the professional community for review and eventual implementation. Hopefully, the knowledge acquired through these will assist the Department in developing positive policies and/or regulations with regard to these systems.

Bob Hawley
DER, Williamsport

MEMBERSHIP STATUS IN PAPSS
Apprentice members are encouraged to update their membership status by submitting a new membership application form which provides a detailed listing and description of their professional soil science experience. Application forms can be obtained from any member of the Board of Directors, and returned to the President. The President will initially review the applications and approve full membership status or solicit comments from other Board members to determine if the experience qualifications are met. Professional experience is defined in Section 2.1 of the Bylaws of the PAPSS Constitution.

Bruce P. Willman
D.E.R. SOIL SCIENTISTS IN RESEARCH PROJECT

In the fall of 1983, the DER Water Quality Management Soil scientists (Dr. Bill Farley, Jay Weaver, E. Lester Rothermel, and Bob Hawley) were given the opportunity to participate in a research project sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This project was to study how well the various soil-dependent sewage treatment systems in Pennsylvania function. DER's Central Office divided the overall objective of the study into four categories:

1) Evaluate the soils' effectiveness in attenuating sewage effluent.
2) Evaluate community on-lot sewage disposal systems subsequently divided among the other staff members. Monitoring equipment was put into place in Spring of 1984, consisting of suction lysimeters and/or wells at various depths and locations in and around the chosen sites. Springs and wells were also used. Samples drawn at each site have been tested with respect to various chemical and biological parameters, and such testing continues. However, only those results submitted prior to September 1, 1985 were considered in the actual study.

The study report, entitled "Evaluation of Soil-Dependent Sewage Systems," was compiled and written in Dr. Farley's absence by Bob Hawley. This was completed for the EPA deadline of Oct. 1, 1985. The limited sampling enabled the researchers to identify some trends with respect to the chemical renovation of sewage effluent by various kinds and depths of soils, versus varying flow rates and pre-treatment technologies. However, detailed conclusions could not be drawn with the relatively small database due to the short timeframe of the study. Hopefully, further conclusions can be reached as the database and time period increase and sampling continues.

The study is in its final form, being readied for formal presentation to the EPA. When published, copies will be made available from EPA via mail order. If anyone wishes to discuss our findings and/or the recommendations that were made regarding regulations, policy and procedures, they may contact DER's Central Office, or myself.

Bob Hawley
DER, Williamsport

REGIONAL SOIL FIELD TRIPS

In an effort to strengthen our organization, PAFSS has agreed to sponsor a series of field trips designed to examine the many soils of Pennsylvania. The objective of the program is to provide a means for soil scientists to gather information in the field, to share knowledge, and to standardize the field characterization of our soils.

The individual field trips will primarily involve the examination of regional test pits that display characteristic or otherwise interesting soils. Trips will be voluntarily coordinated by PAFSS members, and may be held in conjunction with other organizations having similar interests.

Response to this proposal has been encouraging. The first of these trips was held last July at Delaware Valley College in Bucks County. Future trips include the Harrisburg Field trip, which is scheduled for September, and a trip to the Pocono region, with special emphasis on glacial soils; and reclaimed mine sites in the anthracite coal region.

Since this program is still very much in the formative stages, volunteers and suggestions are especially welcome. Please direct your comments to the Regional Soil Field Trip Committee, attention to Mark S. Mills. Hope to see you there!

Mark S. Mills

PA BOTTLE BILL

H.B. NO. 479

Hearings are currently being held throughout Pennsylvania by Senator Mike Fisher (R-Allegheny) of the Senate Environmental Committee to obtain feedback on HB No. 479, the Reusable Container Act. The bill would provide a five-cent mandatory deposit on bottles and cans in Pennsylvania, similar to state programs in the northeastern states.

Supporters of the proposal argue that the Act will conserve rapidly disappearing landfill space, reduce litter, impede damage to farm machinery and animals, and create new jobs. Opponents are concerned that many aluminum and glass production workers will lose jobs.

Write Senator Fisher and/or your local state representative, and let them know what you think about this controversial bill.

Mark S. Mills