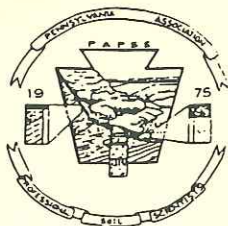


PENN



SOIL



AFFILIATED

NEWSLETTER OF THE

PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTISTS

VOLUME XIV No.1

FEBRUARY 1995

1995 Officers and Board of Directors

President	John Pollack	(Board 1993-1995)
Vice President	Laurel Mueller	(Board 1995-1997)
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Treasurer	Bruce Willman	(Board 1994-1996)
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20th ANNIVERSARY

Special Events

Special Publications

Special Programs

BE A PART OF IT ALL !!!

PAPSS CELEBRATES 20th ANNIVERSARY

The Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists (PAPSS) celebrates its 20th anniversary in 1995. One of the ideas suggested to commemorate this milestone is to publish a registry of the membership of the Association. To that end, your cooperation in completing the attached biographical information form is needed. Please restrict the "Experience" portion to twenty (20) words. The attached form must be returned by March 1, 1995 in order to publish this year. Thank you for your support.

A Brief History of PAPSS

by

Edward J. Ciolkosz

As we move into our 20th year of existence, it may be worthwhile to look back and reflect a little on our early history (our roots). A more extensive review which includes recent events will be reserved for our silver (25 year) anniversary in the year 2000.

In the early 1970's a distinctive movement started in the United States. This was the start of state-based soil scientist organizations. The impetus for this movement was the concern of field soil scientists that more and more people with minimal qualifications were getting involved in evaluating soils in the field for various land uses. These associations' major reason for organizing was to establish soil scientist registration laws for their respective states. Some of the first states in this effort were North Dakota and Maine. We in Pennsylvania also saw this need, and it was one of the major motivating factors for our organizational effort. This movement also sparked interest in the Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) to generate a professional registration through the SSSA. This effort grew into the ARCPACS (American Registry of Professionals in Agronomy, Crops, and Soils) certification program. The ARCPACS certification indicates a certain level of education and experience, but has no legal standing because professional certification is a state-based power. Although this is the case, an association with ARCPACS was deemed beneficial and we became affiliated with them as a chapter in 1981. An additional spin-off of this sequence has been the establishment of the National Society of Consulting Soil Scientists (NSCSS) of which Laurel Mueller of our association has served as president. At our fall meeting Laurel mentioned that the NSCSS will be launching an effort to establish a chapter in Pennsylvania; and, undoubtedly, she will be one of the main persons involved in this effort.

Our beginning started with a meeting in 1974 of soil scientists from Penn State, The USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS) and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources (PA DER). During this meeting it was decided to organize a state-based soil scientist association and Ed Ciolkosz was appointed chairman of an organizational committee. The committee gathered a number of copies of constitutions and by-laws from established associations and drafted a constitution and by-laws by taking various parts from different associations as well as original

material not included in other constitutions. When this was accomplished, an organizational meeting was called for and held in March of 1975. At that meeting, a constitution and by-laws was adopted, board members and officers were elected, dues were set at \$5/ year, an emblem contest was initiated, a newsletter (PennSoil) was established, and Roy Matelski was appointed to chair a legislative committee to draft a bill for the registration of soil scientists in Pennsylvania.

Our first annual meeting was held in Harrisburg at the William Penn Memorial Museum on November 15, 1975. The officers were Ed Ciolkosz-President; Lloyd Garland-Vice President; Leonard Tritt-Secretary; and Bill Farley-Treasurer. The remaining board members were Ivan Ratcliff; Merrill Kunkle; and Oliver Rice. The total membership was 63 (53 professional and 10 others). This compares with our present membership of 109 (80 professional and 29 others). In 1975, only two of the professional members (Bill Beers and Al Bilizi) were full-time consultants, although a few of the retired SCS members were doing part-time consulting. Today approximately half of our professional members are soil consultants. Thus, in the last 20 years, there has been a major shift in the type of work our membership does to earn a living. The shift has been from teaching-research-regulatory to on-the-ground applications of soil science (consulting). It appears that the trend will continue in the future with additional educational and government down-sizing.

At the first annual meeting in November of 1975, Roy Matelski submitted a draft bill for the registration of soil scientists in Pennsylvania to the membership. This draft bill was amended and then introduced into the Pennsylvania Senate as Senate Bill 1657 in June 1976 sponsored by Senators Ammerman, Stapleton, Sweeney, and Ross. The bill was referred to the Senate Agriculture Committee, but was not acted on by the committee and it died at the close of the legislative session. Since this effort, various legislation committees have considered this topic but no bill has been introduced in the state legislature. The enactment of the state's geologist registration bill may well generate a new drive for a soil scientist registration law in Pennsylvania. As a stop-gap to a registration law, our association initiated the PAPSS Consulting List in February 1978. The initial distribution of the list was to all members, to geology and engineering consulting firms in Pennsylvania, and to DER and SCS offices in the state.

This rather brief presentation has focused primarily on some aspects of our early history. I believe it is worthwhile to stop and reflect on our past before we sharpen our focus on the direction we should take in the future, and our 20th anniversary offers us, as an association, this opportunity.

Reminder

If you haven't yet paid your dues for 1995, it's not too late. Please send a check today (before you forget again) to

Bruce Willman c/o PAPSS
P.O. Box 223
Harrisburg, PA 17108

CONGRATULATIONS...

The results are in! Congratulations to the new Board members elected at the 1994 annual meeting:

Mark Mills
Laurel Mueller
Jim Spotts

We thank them for volunteering their time to work for the organization.

...and THANK YOU...

to out-going President John Hudak and out-going Secretary Mal Gilbert. Their many hours of work and their dedication have not gone unnoticed or unappreciated. Thanks, guys!

Summer Technical Session

Reserve June 9 & 10 1995 on your calender for the summer technical session and field trip. This summer's session will be held at the Hershey Convention Center in Hershey, PA. This year's focus is on soil & water relationships and will include the following partial list of presentations :

Michael J. Vepraskas: Redox Features for Identifying Aquic Conditions
Chris Smith: Hydric Soils: Developing Science-Based Indicators
Maurice J. Mausbach: Biogeochemical Processes in Hydric Soil Formation
Bill Kochanov: Solution Channels in Carbonate Soils

Arrangements are being made to visit one or more sites . Anyone interested in assisting in these plans should contact Mark Mills (717-652-4605); Jon Pollack (717-673-7211 x.2930) or Paul Golrick (215-345-5545).

Legislative Update

New legislation affecting soil scientists in Pennsylvania has been enacted. "House Bill 2146", as it was known, amends Act 537 - the on-site sewage disposal regulations. Among the provisions of the new law are: reestablishment of the "rural residence exemption" which exempts owner of 10 acre parcels to install septic systems without a permit; provides shorter time frames for testing and review by "local agencies" (SEOs); provides for local agencies to hire or contract with "qualified professional soil scientists" and; an allowance to disregard 'soil mottling' as a limiting condition when it is "the sole reason for a property not meeting the requirements for the installation of an individual residential sewage system...". This should prove interesting!

PAPSS Outstanding Soil Scientist Award

At the PAPSS 1993 Annual Meeting in Mifflintown, a motion was made and passed to establish an Outstanding Soil Scientist Award. The Board of Directors has accepted the recommendations developed by the committee of Ed White and Ed Ciolkosz. The award is to be given annually from candidates submitted to the Board of Directors. The following selection criteria have been established to determine prospective recipients.

The recipient must:

1. be a professional member of PAPSS
2. have contributed significantly to PAPSS
3. have contributed significantly to the profession of soil science at the local, state, or national level

The Board is currently accepting nominations for this award. Please send your nomination(s) and his/her qualifications based on the established criteria to :

PAPSS
P.O. Box 223
Harrisburg, PA 17108

"The Committee(s) Needs YOU"

Work is on-going on the various committees within the organization and volunteers are wanted and needed in all of them. If you are interested in contributing to the Association, please contact any of the following committee chairperson(s) or committee members:

Constitution/By-Laws: Paul Golrick (chair)

Program: Mark Mills (chair); Jim Spotts; Laurel Mueller

Scholarship: John Hudack; Larry Hepner (co-chairs)

Nominations: Les Rothermel (chair)

Editorial: Paul Golrick (chair); Jim Spotts

Legislative: Mark Mills (chair); Paul Golrick; Laurel Mueller

Promotional: Ed White (chair); Patty Peck

ps. The promotional committee is developing a display for upcoming events at various meetings at which PAPSS has an interest. Those interested in pursuing this project are asked to call Ed White @ (717)782-3439.

Dr. William H. Farley Honored

Dr. William H. Farley was recently named an Honorary Member of the Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists. Dr. Farley, of Lewistown, is a charter member of PAPSS and has been affiliated with the organization since 1975. He served

many years on the Board of Directors and held the offices of Treasurer and Secretary. He was employed by the Soil Conservation Service and the Department of Environmental Resources. Along with Gerald Yoder, he was responsible for soil survey work for Juniata and Mifflin Counties. He retired in 1983 and currently lives in Lewistown. Dr. Farley was presented with this honor at the December 9 Business Meeting of the Association. A photo of the presentation of a plaque to Dr. Farley by Bruce Willman commemorating the occasion appears below courtesy of the Juniata Sentinel and Ms. Carol Page.



Other Meetings of Interest

The Northeast Forest Soil Conference for 1995 is to be held from June 25-28, 1995 at Stockton State College in Pamona, New Jersey (located in the Pine Barrens). The conference is sponsored jointly by USDA-NRCS; NJAPSS; Stockton State College and Rutgers University. Tentative topics include : Atlantic White Cedars; Cultivated vs. Wooded Soils; Local Soils; Local Geology; and Local Culture and History. If you are intersted in attending or would like more info, plaese contact Seth Gladstone @ (609) 561-3223 or write to him at P.O. Box 1103, Hammonton NJ,08037 by Feb 15,1995. (Sorry for the short notice...you'd better call !)

The 58th field conference of the Northeast Friends of the Pliestocene will be hosted by the Maine Geological Survey on May 12-14 1995 in Portland, Maine. Field stops will examine late Wisconsinan glacial deposits between Portland and the New Hampshire border. Transportation for the field trips will be in chartered coaches. To recieve information or to register, please contact Woodrow Thompson, Maine Geological Survey @ (207) 287-7178 or by e-mail @ "thompson@mgsi.doc.state.me.us by March 15,1995.

News from the Natural Resources Conservation Service

(Formerly the Soil Conservation Service)

by Ed White, NRCS

If the title surprises you, you probably have not already heard that the Soil Conservation Service is now the NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE. This change took place last year as part of the USDA reorganization, and better reflects our agency mission to help people conserve all natural resources on private land. Under the reorganization SCS was abolished and NRCS was created. NRCS responsibilities include all those previously carried out by SCS plus some other programs that were under the old ASCS, offices such as the Wetlands Reserve Program. Under the plan some of the field offices will be closed, consolidated, and collated where possible. Forums are currently being held to set the structure of our new agency. We will be structured to cut red tape, put the customer first, empower employees and cut back to basics as per the National Performance Review objectives. It is obvious that the new agency and the soil survey program will have a different structure than the present one, but we do not yet know what that will be. Most of the talk has been about regional technical centers and ecosystem-based assistance.

Some of the big discussion and reorganization for the soil survey program focuses on soil surveys by Major Land Resource Areas (MLRA's). A lot of recent effort has been put into developing Memoranda of Understanding and work plans to improve and maintain soil surveys through MLRA teams. Soil survey areas will have coordinated, correlated, digitized soil surveys through systematic field studies, standardization of mapping and map unit design, correlation, and interpretations on a regional, instead of county-by-county basis, for ultimate integration into a national natural resources database. County soil surveys will be subsets of MLRA soil surveys. The just released National Soil Information System (NASIS 1.0) will be the database format used in the soil surveys. Some of the things that later versions of NASIS will do will be quite different. For instance, each soil property in the database with a current range will have a Representative Value (R.V.) i.e. pH with a range of 5.5-7.0 will have an R.V. of 6.8. If anything is obvious, it is that there will be change and improvement in soil surveys.

In Pennsylvania, Richard N. Duncan, State Conservationist, retired on January 3, 1995. He had also been the acting State Soil Scientist. William Hunt is now the Acting State Conservationist and Travis Neely is the Acting State Soil Scientist.

For those interested in wetlands, a very good summary "Biogeochemical Processes in Hydric Soil Formation" by M.J. Mausbach and J.L. Richardson, was published in Current Topics in Wetland Biogeochemistry, Vol. 1, 1994, pp. 68-127. I have a few extra copies if anyone is interested.

1995 Program Questionnaire

Once again, the Board of Directors and Program Committee is interested in obtaining YOUR input in developing programs for 1995 (and beyond). Included are topics which have been suggested to Board members at the most recent meetings along with some perennial favorites.

Please indicate on the questionnaire below any topic(s) which interest you and return it no later than March 1 so that your opinion can be considered.

Please check as many topics as you like.

TOPICS

- ☐ Problem Hydric Soils
- ☐ Composting and Soil Amendments
- ☐ Fragipans
- ☐ Ecological Land Classification
- ☐ Hydraulic Conductivity
- ☐ Wetland Construction
- ☐ Erosion + Sediment Control
- ☐ Disturbed/Reconstructed Soils
- ☐ Colluvium
- ☐ Saproelite
- ☐ Taxonomy Update
- ☐ Expert Testimony
- ☐ Floodplain soil

Are there any other topics which would interest you?

What area of the state would you like to see host a meeting?

To volunteer to assist (but not necessarily lead) any technical session, please provide your name, address, and phone number.

Please respond by March 1 to: P.O.Box 223, Harrisburg PA