

## 1999 PAPSS Board of Directors and December 4, 1998 Annual Meeting

The 1999 Board of Directors were elected at the December 4, 1998 meeting attended by 40 people.

Mark Mills	President	(1998-2000)
Paul Golrick	Vice President	(1997-1999)
Bruce Willman	Treasurer	(1997-1999)
Ed White	Secretary	(1998-2000)
John Chibirka	Board Member	(1999-2001)
Patricia Peck-Olenick	Board Member	(1998-2000)
Joe Valentine	Board Member	(1999-2001)

At the start of the meeting, Heidi Brown gave an introduction to the facilities and SAIC Programs. Mark Mills summarized the PAPSS activities and field trips held during 1998 and Ed Ciolkosz displayed some of the recent Agronomy publications from PSU. During the Treasurers report, Bruce Willman mentioned that we did not lose any members due to the increase in membership dues in 1998 and that only about 50 percent of members on the consultants list has responded to date to the mailing in the last news letter. He also stated that we do not, as yet, have any student members, so it was suggested that all PAPSS members, especially those working with students, try to get students interested in joining PAPSS. Ed White showed a short video on how California had legislation passed for a state soil by making the project an educational effort of some of the middle and high schools in the state. He also passed out a draft "State Soil Proclamation" and asked for review comments so it could be forwarded to the Governors office in early 1999 to coincide with the Soil Survey Centennial. The PAPSS \$300.00 student scholarship was awarded to Michael Callahan from Penn State University (see associated article in this news letter). Delval Soil and Environmental Consultants donated \$500.00 to PAPSS to help defray the cost of the PAPSS display, which was shown at the meeting. Creating a

registry of PAPSS Members, that includes biographical information was discussed and voted upon. A form for each member to completed and mail back is in this newsletter. The new PAPSS Board was elected at the end of the business meeting.

The technical session, organized by Joe Valentine, featured speakers from other states. The session's topics were "Determining the Hydraulic Capacity of Soils by Morphological Properties" and

"Experiences in States with Soil Scientist Registration." Michael Hoover, NC State University discussed the National Learning Center for Land Based Technology and North Carolina's comprehensive soil and site classification. Rodney Wyatt and Jack Hayes from Delaware DNREC discussed the significance of the waste problem in Delaware, the Delaware approach in licensing and the permits database that is maintained within the state. Tom Ashton of American Manufacturing and former VAPSS president, discussed the need to characterize the entire

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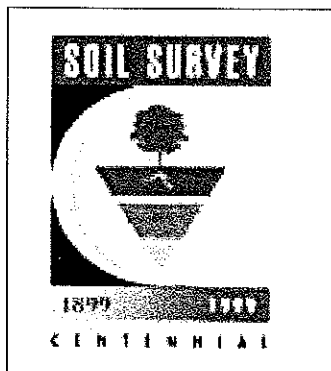


Tom Ashton                      Jack Hayes                      Michael Hoover  
Presentations at the 1998 PAPSS Annual Meeting

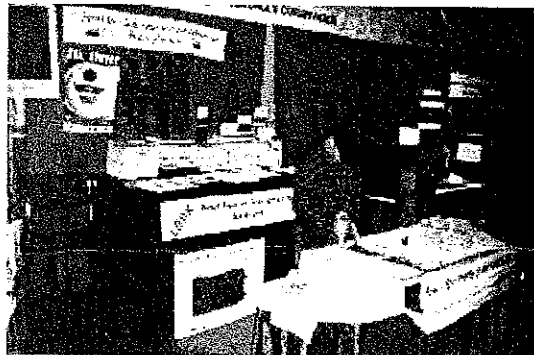
receiving environment and the programs in Missouri and in Virginia. All of the presentations gave those that attended technical information and "food for thought."

**Soil Survey Centennial is Here!**

Its here! The Soil Survey Centennial is being celebrated this year to recognize 100 years of the Soil Survey Program in the United States. The soil scientists of the USDA-NRCS staff in Pennsylvania started the Centennial Year with a "Make a Hazleton Soil



Profile" booth at the Pennsylvania Farm Show during the week of January 9-13. More than 2,800 people stopped at the booth to make a mini-profile of Hazleton, the state soil, to take home with them. While children were making



their soil profile, the soil scientists had the opportunity to help people find the soil types where they lived,

and discuss the purposes of the soil survey program and its benefit to Pennsylvania. People stopped to look at the soil monoliths on display and try out the computer program that displayed a representative soil profile and landscape photograph of different areas in the state.

Many NRCS Soil Scientists and staff helped set up and staff the booth during the entire week. Jake Eckenrode, John Hudak and John Chibirka had a large part in the set



up and staffing of the booth, along with many other NRCS staff and helpers.

Some of the national

activities planned for the Soil Survey Centennial can be found on the web site at: <http://www.nssc.nrcs.usda.gov>

**Penn State Agronomy Scholarship  
 Supported with \$150,000 from PAPSS  
 Member Alan Bilzi and Mary Bilzi**

From the January 1999 PSU-Agriculture99

Alan and Mary Bilzi, of Venice, FL have pledged \$150,000 in new support for a scholarship benefiting undergraduate students in the Department of Agronomy who are interested in pursuing environmental-related careers. The couple established an endowment for the Alan F. Bilzi Scholarship in Environmental Science with an initial gift in 199 for students majoring in soil science or agronomy. Their contributions so far total \$210,000. PAPSS member Alan Bilzi is president of the Environmental Venture Group, Inc., a management consulting firm with offices in State College and Florida that he founded in 1991. He earlier helped found Earth Sciences Consultants, Inc., an environmental and engineering consulting company head quartered in Murrysville, PA, which he sold in 1990. He earned his bachelor's degree in 1974 and his master's degree in 1976, both in agronomy from Penn State. He is active in the College of Agricultural Sciences' Agronomy Alumni Group.

**1999 Northeast Friends of the  
 Pleistocene Trip**

Initial Announcement - (submitted by Dr. Edward Ciolkosz)  
 The 1999 Northeastern Friends of the Pleistocene trip will focus on paleo-periglacial features and landscapes near the glacial margin in the Ridge and Valley, in central Pennsylvania.

It is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, May 22 & 23, with introductory activities at Bucknell University on the evening of May 21. The trip will begin in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania - near the center of the state, at the intersection of I-80 and the West Branch of the Susquehanna River. The trip will be entirely beyond the Wisconsin limit, but repeatedly crossing the complex pre-Wisconsin limits.

We will

-- visit good examples of familiar periglacial features - sorted patterned ground, boulder fields, tors, debris fans and ancient fan fragments, dunes, loess, and shale chip colluvium;

-- examine some periglacial features not previously seen on a FOP trip- ground ice scars, wind-transverse nivation welts, and associated thermokarst? features; and

-- review the relative positions of Pre-Wisconsin till bodies, outwash surfaces, stream derangements, and terraces. These features have been mapped carefully enough that assertions can be made about their temporal and spatial relationships; that is we can tentatively

-- reconstruct units of landscape back to late Wisconsin times;

-- understand the local circumstances - soil, drainage, slope, aspect - under which different periglacial features developed,

failed to develop, or were destroyed during deicing; and

-- establish pieces of relative chronology - showing which events must have preceded which other ones.

The first day's trip will travel west from the river into the high sandstone ridges to view the vigorously deformed slopes and upland valley floors.

Then we'll go south into the broad lowlands to visit: high fan remnants, periglacially deformed pre-Wisconsin moraine and outwash features, boulder colluvium and shale-chip colluvium of Wisconsin and earlier age, and complex outwash and terrace surfaces. The briefer second day will follow the Susquehanna north, looking at aeolian sand and silt deposits, classic levels of Susquehanna terraces, and thick pre-Wisconsin tills including some punctured by karst.

For registration materials (to be sent in the Spring) or for more information contact:

Ben Marsh, Department of Geography  
Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA 17837  
(570)524-1381 marsh@bucknell.edu

## PAPSS Scholarship Awarded to Michael P. Callahan

Michael P. Callahan, a sophomore majoring in Soil Science at the Pennsylvania State University, was awarded the \$300.00 PAPSS scholarship at the annual meeting along with a student membership for 1999. Michael has a 3.7 GPA and is from Schnecksville, PA presently living in State College. At Penn State, Michael hopes to gain the experience and knowledge necessary for a career in soil science and Geographic Information Systems. Along with his bachelor in soils, Michael is also working on a minor in geoscience and is a member of

Penn State's soil judging team. His ultimate career goal is to open a consulting firm of his own some day. PAPSS is actively seeking new student members, so anyone who has contacts with college students should make them aware of the benefits of joining PAPSS during their college careers.

## PAPSS Newsletter Now Accepting Advertising

At the February Board Meeting the PAPSS Board agreed to allow ads in the Newsletter that are related to the interests and purposes of the Association. The board will approve the ads and the rates will be based on \$200 for a full page. Anyone who wants to put an add in the PAPSS Newsletter should submit a copy of the add to President Mark Mills.

## NRCS Hiring Students

The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service is seeking to hire four coop (Student Career Experience Program -SCEP) students. The positions that NRCS is seeking are an Agricultural Engineer, Soil Scientist, Agronomist and Soil Conservationist. Students can alternate periods of work and study, or work on a part-time schedule while attending school. They work for, and learn from, NRCS professionals in their field of study. They learn by doing and earn while they learn. For more information on NRCS positions and how to apply, call Lisa Bonafede, Human Resources Manager, Harrisburg, PA (717) 237- 2229.

## Old Soil Surveys Needed

In order to complete a set of old historical Soil Surveys of Pennsylvania that are being archived at the Patee Library, Penn State University, through an arrangement initiated by Jake Eckenrode and Dr. Ed Ciolkosz, Jake Eckenrode is looking for the following soil survey reports.

1904 Adams	1909 Berks	1911 Bradford
1905 Chester	1910 Erie	1907 Johnstown Area
1900 Lancaster	1901 Lebanon	1905 Montgomery

Look through your basement, office, garage, old papers and see if you have any of the needed soil surveys. If you find one, contact Jake Eckenrode or Dr. Ed Ciolkosz. Keeping an archive of the Pennsylvania Soil Surveys will insure that they are available for future scientists and generations.

## Soil Survey Centennial Planning Guide With This Issue.

A copy of the 1999 Soil Survey Centennial Planning Guide is included with this PAPSS newsletter, courtesy of Janet L. Oertly, State Conservationist, USDA-NRCS (mailing courtesy of PAPSS). If you have already received a Calendar from another source, please share one with a colleague. Two versions of the Calendar were produced, both with the assistance of the Soil Science Society of America. Ed Ciolkosz still has a few copies of the first calendar, which has the soil taxonomic orders from youngest to oldest in each month, his remaining supply is available free of charge by calling Dr. Ed Ciolkosz (814) 865-1530 or by email: f8i@psu.edu The rumored reason for the reprinting was that the Secretary of Agriculture was so impressed, he wanted to include an introduction, as did the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture and the Undersecretary for Natural Resources and Environment. Read what they had to say about the importance of the soil survey program. A school year poster (August 1999-August 2000) with the same theme will also be produced for educational institutions and should be available in late spring. NRCS in Pennsylvania distributed 2,500 copies of the calendar to legislators and through field offices and conservation districts.

## DeVal Soil and Environmental Consultants, Inc. Donates \$500 to PAPSS

At the 1998 Annual Meeting, Joe Valentine of DeVal Soil and Environmental Consultants, Inc. presented a check to PAPSS president Mark Mills to help



PAPSS President Mark Mills accepting \$500.00 donation from Joe Valentine of DeVal Soil and Environmental Consultants, Inc.

PAPSS with the expense of the Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists display. Joe Valentine is the chairman of the fund raising committee of PAPSS and is a current board member. DeVal Soil and

Environmental Consultants has six PAPSS members on their staff. Joe sees the potential of the PAPSS display for publicizing the expertise and benefits of using soil science to the many agencies and public that would benefit by effectively incorporating Soil Science into their decision making.

## PAPSS Display

As those who attended the Annual Meeting already know, the PAPSS Display is now available for use by our members at any function which they feel it would be appropriate. The display fits on a 3X6 foot table top and was designed to be easily adapted to fit many different needs. It can be supplemented with additional information and we are still looking for ways to improve the display. The display can be seen in the photo above that accompanies the article on the DeVal Soil and Environmental Consultants donation to PAPSS. Members who want to use the display should contact, Bruce Willman at (717)944-5501 email: bruce.p.willman@cpmx.saic.com to schedule the display. All members now have an opportunity to use the PAPSS display to promote the organization and profession of Soil Scientists.

## NRCS Collecting Hazleton Soil Monoliths for National Soil Survey Centennial Displays

Jake Eckenrode, John Hudak and John Chibirka are in the process of collecting and making two Hazleton soil profile monoliths from Clinton County, Pennsylvania to be used at national displays. Mike Waker of the Clinton County Conservation District is not only helping with the monoliths, but gave permission to have them taken from land that is owned by his hunting group. The first display of the monoliths will be on the Mall in Washington, D.C. on Earth Day 1999. Every state, including Puerto Rico and Guam, is collecting a monolith of their state soil to be displayed in Washington, D.C.

Rocks do not recommend the land to the tiller of the soil, but they recommend it to those who reap a harvest of another sort, the artist, the poet, the walker, the student, the lover of all primitive things. - The Friendly Rocks. John Burroughs 1837-1903

## 1999 PAPSS Committee Chairpersons Selected by Board

The Chairpersons for the 1999 PAPSS standing committees were selected by the Board at the February Meeting.

<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>CHAIRPERSON</u>
Constitution and By-laws	Bruce Willman
Program	Mark Mills
Scholarship	John Chibirka
Nominations	Paul Golrick
Editorial	Ed White
Legislative	Patricia Peck-Olineck
Fund Raising	Joe Valentine

The Committees need PAPSS members to serve on them. The Chairperson of each committee has been charged with recruiting three members to serve on the committee and developing an mission statement for the coming year. If you want to serve on any of the committees, contact the chairperson.

## Meet a PAPSS Board Member



John Chibirka is a newly elected PAPSS Board Member in 1999. John grew up in Dalton, PA in Lackawanna County on a dairy farm that also grew tomatoes, potatoes and hay. He graduated with a B.S. in Agronomy from the Pennsylvania State University in 1987 and worked in the Soil Characterization Lab with Dick Crouce and Dr. Ed Ciolkosz. He also

worked as a Crop Scout for the Crop Improvement Association in Columbia and Centre Counties. In July of 1988, John started with USDA-NRCS (then SCS) on the EPA-Direct -Delayed Response Project (Acid Rain effects), mapping and sampling soils throughout Pennsylvania. He has done soil mapping and updating in Berks, Bucks (project leader), Lehigh, Northampton, Montgomery and Chester Counties and is currently the Soil Survey Project Leader for Major Land Resource Areas 148 and part of 147 stationed in Leesport, PA. John served on mapping details in Minnesota, Florida,

and North Carolina. John Chibirka is married, has hobbies that include hunting, fishing, cooking and all outdoor activities. He has been a PAPSS member since 1988 and is an ARCPACS Certified Professional Soil Scientist and Soil Classifier, and a SEO. John says, "I am excited to be serving on the PAPSS Board, especially during the Soil Survey Centennial year of 1999." Anyone wanting to be a part of the Ag Progress Days Soil Display should contact John for information."

## Spring Technical Session and Field Trip "Understanding Saprolite"

York, Pennsylvania -April 23, 1999

A one-day Technical Session and Field Trip will be held Friday April 23 at the Springwood Country Club Banquet Facility in York PA, to address saprolite as it occurs within the Piedmont province of south-central PA. Following several brief informative presentations beginning at 9:00 am, and a short bus trip to the field, a box lunch will be served. Soil test probe excavations will be reviewed, and evaluated with regard to field interpretation challenges and contemporary taxonomic classification.

Featured speakers from Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia will address the formation and development of saprolitic soils, methods for establishing separate horizons, the evaluation of solum thickness, and related issues associated with this weathered schist parent material. Several sites will be investigated during the afternoon field trip, where the following soils will probably be available for review: Chester; Glenelg; Manor;

## For Sale

**Soil Consulting Business**  
Northwestern Pennsylvania Location  
Excellent Financial Opportunity  
Nominal Salary During Transition Period  
Owner Financing  
For Interview Write:  
P.O. Box 161  
Warren, PA 16365

Glenville and Worsham. This field study will expand on the joint VAPSS, MAPSS, PAPSS field session on saprolite held last year and look at the conclusions and recommendations made in that field study, reviewing the Proposals made in relation to Pennsylvania soils and policy. Some of the proposals include: when to use a "t" subscript on BC or CB horizons, defining solum thickness, when to use CB vs. BC horizon designation, and defining the bottom of the argillic horizon.

**Look for an announcement and registration form in a separate mailing, in mid-March. Plan now to attend.**

## Pennsylvania, Growing Greener

Pennsylvania will spend over 5 billion dollars for environmental protection and sewer and water investments over the next five years. Governor Tom Ridge has proposed to change the current way this money is spent. It is proposed that 1.3 billion dollars be redirected to fund three initiatives: Create a special Environmental Stewardship fund, provide more money for county level environmental projects and change the criteria for water and sewer financing. These initiatives are aimed at restoring and protecting Pennsylvania on a watershed level, preservation of open space and farmland, reclaiming minelands, and giving communities incentive to adopt sound land use planning practices. The Growing Greener Initiative will shift dollars from the state to the local level communities, conservation districts, watershed groups, and citizens groups. The focus of environmental protection will shift to watershed protection, investment in restoring public lands and land use planning. These initiatives were recommended by the Governor's 21st Century Commission. For further information go to the PADEP website at [www.dep.state.pa.us](http://www.dep.state.pa.us)

Comments, Articles and Suggestions may be sent to:  
PAPSS Editor, P.O. Box 61035,  
Harrisburg, PA 17106-1035  
or by email to: [pennsoils@aol.com](mailto:pennsoils@aol.com)  
Scientific Articles, Stories, Field Experiences, and  
Upcoming events are particularly needed for future  
newsletters.

## Ag. Progress Days Planning

The Natural Resources Conservation Service recently received permission to expand the Soils Exhibit, begun last year, at the Ag Progress Days at the Rock Springs

Research Farm near Boalsburg, PA. This year, all under a tent, there will be very large, walk through pit for the soils exhibit. It will be a 25 feet per side, or longer, L-shaped or U-shaped soil excavation, similar to the examples seen in Wisconsin, that will give NRSC, PAPSS, Penn State, and other soil related agencies or organizations a chance to exhibit the uses and properties of soils, for the thousands of people that attend Ag Progress Days. Since the exhibit will be all under tent, we will also have the opportunity to set up many other above ground displays. **WHAT IS NEEDED is a commitment from PAPSS members to help set up a PAPSS portion of the soils pit and some creative Soil Scientists to make the exhibit an effective display that attracts the attention we deserve.** Some of the ideas so far include a soil mapping and soil description section that point out soil properties how they are described and what they mean, a use section that shows cut away views of soil uses such as different types of adsorption fields, house footers, drainage tile, and road base; a soil quality and health section; and soil testing section and some others. The pit area will in all likelihood be in a Buchanan Soil so we will have a good opportunity to display wetness and permeability features. **ANYONE who wants to help, or has some ideas on other potential partners for the soil pit exhibit, should immediately contact John Chibirka at 610-736-3220 or Jake Eckenrode.**

## A MUST DO for ALL PAPSS Members

At the Annual Meeting in December it was decided that we should publish a registry of PAPSS Soil Scientists. As many of you recall this project was originally going to be accomplished to coincide with the 20th anniversary of the Association. Due to a number of factors - the main one being low response - the project floundered and

## Upcoming Events Calendar

Be sure to mark these events on your calendar:

March 1, 2	PA SEO Conference
April 23	Saprolite Field Trip, York, PA
April 22	Earth Day
August 16, 17, 18	Ag. Progress Days, Rock Springs, PA
April 26	Soil Stewardship Week
May 22, 23	NE Friends of Pleistocene, Lewisburg, PA
Late June	Morphological Indicators Part II
October 13-16	NE Collegiate Soil Judging, Doylestown, PA
October 30-11/4	ASA, SSSA Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT

eventually was neglected. Until now! With renewed enthusiasm and dedication, we will once again start - and this time finish - the process of acquiring the necessary info to put together this Registry. What we need from each member is for you to fill out the Registry form attached to this newsletter; complete it ; and return it to the address on the form. Do it today so you won't forget. (Please note that the maximum length for describing experience is limited to twenty (20) words. Editorial discretion will be exercised to limit those submissions which do not conform to this requirement). In order for this to get completed, we need ALL PAPSS members to fill out the form and return it. The form is attached as the last page of the newsletter. Please **DO IT NOW**.

## Check Your Mailing Label for a PAPSS Red Dot Special

For our special, extremely busy members, we have included a special reminder on the mailing label of this newsletter. If you are one of these people with a red dot on your mailing label, your PAPSS dues have not yet been received. Please mail your dues today. (In case you have forgotten, dues are \$ 25.00 for Professional Members, \$ 20.00 for Apprentice and Associate Members). Dues can be mailed to the address on the first page of the newsletter.

## Jim Spotts Retires and Moves to Atlanta

Jim Spotts has retired from the federal government. His final assignment was a series of lectures in Melbourne, Australia for the International Erosion Control Association, after which his wife and he made a round-the-world trip. In November, they moved to Atlanta and Jim found immediate employment as a soil scientist with a premier engineering consulting firm, W.L. Jordan & Co., Inc.. "There is lots of work to do in the red clay state" according to Jim. He will join the Georgia Soil Classifier Association and maintain his PAPSS membership. "With the explosion of growth and development, there is plenty of need for both SEO and sediment and erosion control work in the area," says Jim. Jim also thanks sends his "thanks to the PAPSS officers and members, who push the image of professionalism, in an area most people do not appreciate. Time is on our side though, and I am proud to

say that I am still a part of PAPSS." Jim can be reached at 3733 Pin Oak Circle, Doraville, GA 330340-2517. We'll miss Jim as an active participant in PAPSS. He served us all well with his hard work for the organization over the years and we wish him well in his new endeavors and post government work.

## PAPSS Budget for 1999

The Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists Board approved the budget at the last meeting. The current budget includes \$5,400 in estimated income and \$4,317 in estimated expenses. Money is in the budget for improvements to the PAPSS display, the publication of the 1999 consultants list, meeting expenses and PENNSOIL mailings. Income includes Membership dues, application fees, and Consultant's List fees

## Quotes of the Month

**When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth.** The Sign of Four. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle 1859-1930.

**The true scientist never loses the faculty of amazement. It is the essence of his being.** Newsweek, March 31, 1958, Hans Selye (b1907)

**Touch the earth, love the earth, honor the earth.....** The Outermost House. Henry Beston 1888-1968.

**Observe always that everything is the result of change, and get used to thinking that there is nothing Nature loves so well as to change existing forms and to make new ones like them.** Meditations. Marcus Aurelius. 121-180. Roman Emperor devoted to Stoic Philosophy.

**Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists**  
**Registry Form to be completed by all members for inclusion in the**  
**membership registry listing.**

From: Paul Golrick pagolrick@nni.com

Return form to: PAPSS Registry, P.O. Box 61035, Harrisburg, PA 17016-1035

By: May 1, 1999 (or by email to the above address)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree and major: \_\_\_\_\_ College/University: \_\_\_\_\_

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Experience (20 words max, please print) :

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