

PAPSS Website Annual Report

Prepared by Nancy Sansoni for the December 12, 2003 Annual Meeting

The PAPSS website was created in March 2001 to disseminate soils information to a larger audience, provide greater accessibility to the organization, and increase communication. The PAPSS.org domain name and web host server (Network Solutions) is maintained each year within the allotted budget line item allowance. Information on the website is changed and updated frequently as events occur throughout the year.

A motion was made at the 2003 Annual Meeting to require submission of an annual website statistics report. As a result, the following information was prepared for the year 2003.

Statistics

Website usage by sessions for the year 2003 (to date)

Breakdown of Year		
Month	Total	% of Total
Month of Jan, 2003	1501	2.23%
Month of Feb, 2003	1722	2.56%
Month of Mar, 2003	1785	2.65%
Month of Apr, 2003	1914	2.85%
Month of May, 2003	1516	2.25%
Month of Jun, 2003	1110	1.65%
Month of Jul, 2003	1119	1.66%
Month of Aug, 2003	7096	10.55%
Month of Sep, 2003	15261	22.69%
Month of Oct, 2003	16952	25.21%
Month of Nov, 2003	17274	25.69%
Year Total	67250	n/a
Monthly Average	6113.64	n/a

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50,000

Top 10 commonly Accessed Pages: (for the period 9/1/03-11/30/03)

/index.htm (Home Page)	45815	page views	(90.85% of all traffic)
/Pennsylvania_soil_survey_archive+list.htm	578	page views	(1.15% of all traffic)
/consult.htm (Consultant's List)	407	page views	(0.81% of all traffic)
/Hazleton.htm (Hazleton Information Page)	375	page views	(0.74% of all traffic)
/penns302.htm	358	page views	(0.71% of all traffic)
/learn+about+pa+soils.htm	303	page views	(0.60% of all traffic)
/upcoming_events.htm	233	page views	(0.46% of all traffic)
/links+to+soil+websites.htm	223	page views	(0.44% of all traffic)
/members+page.htm	199	page views	(0.39% of all traffic)
/board+member+contact.htm	162	page views	(0.32% of all traffic)

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Website Uses in 2003

This year, periodic e-mails were sent to members to notify them of changes to the website and to increase website usage. Some highlights of the site were:

- Hazleton State Soil Member Survey Form- In January, PAPSS members were notified via email that Representative Lynch was willing to submit a Hazleton State Soil Bill to the House. Members were asked to contact their local representative to support the bill and complete a website survey form to track efforts across the State. Responding members included Steve Bason, John Hudak, Mike Brown, Walter Grube, Darryl Fritz, Len Cornish, John Chibirka, Jake Eckenrode, Harris Martin, and Vicki Meyers.
- Membership Applications- Several individuals downloaded membership applications and bylaws from the website.
- Consultants List- The 2003 PAPSS secretary received two email inquiries with soil questions, and both were referred to the on-line Soil Consultants List to obtain the services of a soil scientist. Discussions with regulatory and government professionals reveal that the on-line Consultants List is recommended frequently to individuals in need of the services provided by a soils scientist.
- Hazleton State Soil- John Chibirka and the other members attending Ag Progress Days encouraged visitors to access the PAPSS website for information regarding State Soil adoption. Website usage statistics appear to increase dramatically after the August Ag Progress Days event.
- Upcoming Events- A new meeting pre-registration feature was offered on the website for the Annual Meeting. Many members took advantage of this convenient on-line registration.

Members such as Dick Cronce, Russ Losco and Ed White submitted upcoming events information regarding non-PAPSS events, which were posted on the website.

Recommendations and Future Changes to the Website

Each year, it is anticipated that the website will grow in content and function. A content priority should be to increase the links provided to other soil websites and Pennsylvania soil information. The function of the website should be dictated by events, such as the upcoming 2006 World Congress of Soils and membership needs.

It is recommended that members become more involved with the website by visiting the site more often and directing others to visit also. Members are encouraged to submit ideas for changes, improvements, and content to the web administrator.

Members should review their currently listed email addresses to ensure prompt notification of important website changes.