



JANUARY 2015

The Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists
PO Box 871, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Annual Meeting Report - October 24, 2014 Cressona, PA

The PAPSS annual business meeting was held on October 24, 2014 in Cressona, PA in conjunction with tours of the Yuengling brewery in Pottsville and of the abandoned town of Centralia. Based in part on the success of a wetland training event in April, PAPSS showed a net income in 2014. The largest single expense continues to be our lobbyist, Phillips Associates, hired to assist in advancing licensing legislation. In 2015, PAPSS will work on developing a written records retention policy to protect members personal information. Those in attendance agreed to continue efforts related to soil science licensing. The 2015 PAPSS Board comprises:

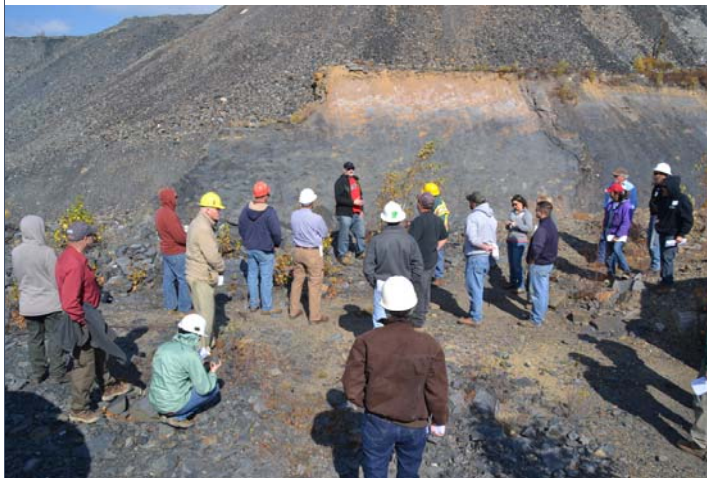
President Cathy Sorace
Vice President Matt Hostrander
Secretary Michael Callahan
Treasurer Michael Lane
Chris Whitman
Bill Davis
Patrick Drohan

Thank you to outgoing Board members, Yuri Plowden and Steve Dadio, for their service to the organization.

PAPSS members were given a group tour of the Yuengling Brewery in Pottsville, including a walk-through of the lagering caverns beneath the brewery and samples at the bar. Some caught a glimpse of Dick Yuengling, Jr., fifth-generation owner of the oldest brewery in the United States.



Mr. David DeKok, author of the books *Unseen Danger: A Tragedy of People, Government, and the Centralia Mine Fire* and *Fire Underground: The Ongoing Tragedy of the Centralia Mine Fire* led PAPSS members on a tour of the abandoned town of Centralia where underground coal seams have been burning since 1962. Mr. DeKok was a local reporter covering the Borough meetings during the early years of the fire, prior to the State invoking eminent domain and relocating residents. Most impressive was the buckled and broken remnants of a closed stretch of Route 61, known as Graffiti Highway. The population of Centralia in 1962 was about 1,400, down from a peak of 2,700 in 1890. Today there are fewer than 10 remaining residents.



The Centralia tour was followed by a visit to an active open pit mine between Centralia and neighboring Mt. Carmel that included a distant view of a Hazleton profile. The day was completed with a visit to the Pioneer Coal Mine in Ashland. ■

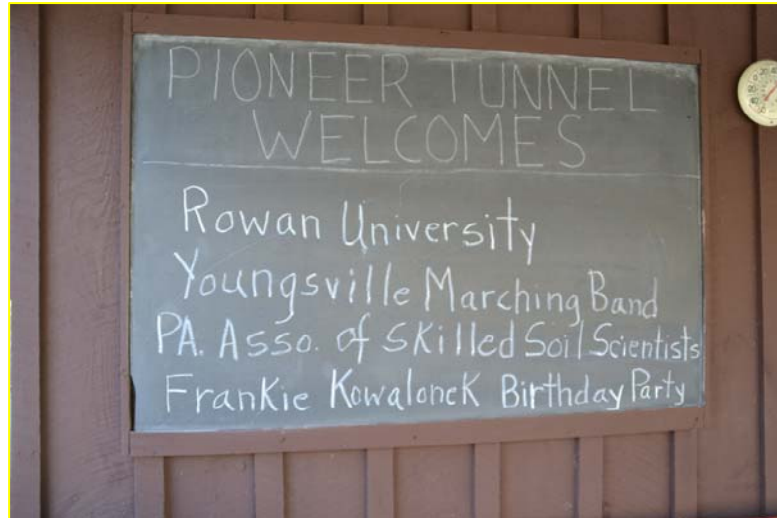
2015
International
Year of Soils



The Soil Science Society of America is coordinating with the Global Soil Partnership and other organizations around the world to celebrate the 2015 International Year of Soils and raise awareness and promote the sustainability of our limited soil resources.

Additional information and a year of soil activities can be found at the Soil Science Society of America webpage:

<https://www.soils.org/IYS>



Considering a name change?

I think I'll PASSS.

Message from the President Cathy Sorace

As you know, we met in October for the Annual Meeting and some great tours in the Centralia area (thanks to Steve and company for arranging!).

Going forward I would like to get into the practice of sending out a regular (maybe monthly or every other month) update of what is going on in committee or outcomes of Board meetings. I know that in the past when I wasn't on the Board I was not entirely sure what was going on and it is very easy for me to forget to do anything for PAPSS! Once we have committees together, one person can be the contact person and let the Board know if anything is happening in the committee. Looking forward to a productive 2015!

Committee sign-ups – PLEASE let the Board know what committee you would like to help with!

Constitution and Bylaws

Cathy Sorace

Program (Annual & Summer Mtgs)

Scholarship (\$500)

Charlie Klinger

Luke Smeltz

Cathy Sorace

Nominations

Russ Losco

Fund Raising

Laurel Mueller

Cathy Sorace

Editorial

PennSoil Editor - Michael Lane

Reporters - Yuri Plowden

Jackie Heint

Web Master - Mike Callahan

Stefan Weaver

Ed White

Legislative

Russ Losco

Mary Kay Lupton

Laurel Mueller

Ed White

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Sewage Advisory Committee Workgroup Meeting

The PADEP is attempting to revise the onlot sewage regulations, specifically related to the use of alternate technologies that have been approved for permitting but do not have design criteria spelled out in the approved Chapter 73. A PAPSS workgroup convened in Lancaster County on January 14, 2015 to address soil science-related issues pertaining to the proposed changes at the behest of the Sewage Advisory Committee. Continued thanks to Bruce Willman and Mark Mills for their involvement in the SAC committee. ■

SSSA Division S-12 Consulting Soil Scientists
2015 Soils Field Tour
Napa and Sonoma Valleys, California
March 11–13, 2015

The Consulting Soil Scientists Division of the SSSA is excited to host our Annual Soils Field Tour. Last year we had a terrific tour of soils in Puerto Rico. This year, we'll be exploring the soils of the wine country in California, and of the Ecological Staircase in Mendocino County. This promises to be another outstanding opportunity for continuing education, associating with fellow soil scientists, and learning about soils and viticulture.

Consulting soil scientists must understand and apply the principles of soil science in management of the environment for food production, natural resources, and within our communities. This trip is intended to provide a continuing education forum for soil scientists in private practice, government, and in



academia. The field trip is also open to students in soil science. Not only is continuing education a matter of learning of soils in new places and management strategies, but it is also resulting from the interaction of practicing professionals sharing experiences and information.

The following goals provide purpose of the 2015 Soils Field Tour:

1. Continuing Education of soil scientists, certified crop advisors, and agricultural and environmental professionals.
2. Developing and strengthening professional associations among professional soil scientists.
3. Increasing involvement of Consulting Soil Scientists and affiliated professionals in the SSSA and ASA.
4. Developing strong relationships and potential collaborations between soil scientists in expanding our professional opportunities and visibility.

Our itinerary includes the following highlights:

1. Stops at several wineries where soil, including soil properties, erosion protection, and management critical to grape production for making of fine wines will be showcased.
2. Soil morphology between the Pacific Coast and the San Andreas Fault will be observed to learn about soil formation in this unstable environment, including an opportunity for participants to visit and learn at the “ecological staircase” in Mendocino County, where Hans Jenny conducted extensive research on uplifted coastal terraces (chronosequence for pedologists).
3. Soil management for remediation of contaminated sites and for natural resource management will be explored with local soils experts.

We are in process of finalizing the fine details of the tour, including hotel information, social events, and details of the tour stops. For More Information Contact:

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