


June 2022



PENNSOIL
Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Association of
Professional Soil Scientists

Welcome back!

The past couple of years have been trying for everyone, to say the least. Many of been struggling to make ends meet and keep our home lives as "normal" as possible while maintaining our own sanity in a world that seems increasingly less so.

We in the soil science world have been lucky that people have needed our services throughout.. Whether doing evaluations for repairs to existing systems, teaching, soil testing for agricultural producers or enforcement soil scientists are group fortunate in many ways. Do we suffer the same anxiety, highs and lows is everyone? Absolutely.

I believe, however, that our profession affords us the opportunity to look around and see that despite all that the world is going through it is still a place of beauty that we cannot only help to keep it that way but help people at the same time.

With this edition of PENNSOIL I invite each of you to submit a story either of highs or lows, those of someone you have worked with or just to relay a work experience either good or bad. I am also asking that if anyone wishes to submit an opinion article on a subject related to soil science please do so.

Thank you for making PAPSS the primary source for soil information in the field in the past, today and in the future.

2022 Board of Directors

President

Michael Farbotnik



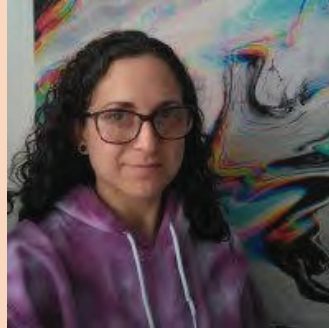
Vice President

Robert Bressler



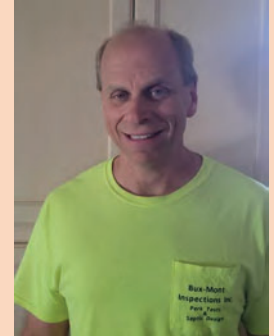
Secretary

Rebecca Borgault



Treasurer

Rob Bowie



Members at Large

Joseph Valentine



Mike Brown



Mary Kay Lupton



Administrator

Sue Miller

A former student of a Geology professor at a major University returned one day to give the professor a gift of a unique soil sample he had collected from a river while on a trip....

To which the professor replied, "I appreciate the sediment"

ANNOUNCEMENT – SAVE THE DATE!
2-DAY CLASSROOM AND FIELD SEMINAR ON
REGIONAL SUPPLEMENT, HYDRIC SOIL INDICATORS AND WET-
LAND DELINEATION DATA FORMS

Hydric Soil Indicators and
Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers
Wetland Delineation Manual

Eastern Mountains and Piedmont Region v2.0

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

DATE: Thursday August 18, 2022 **AND** Friday August 19, 2022

TIME: Thursday 8:00 AM to – Registration, Seminar till 4:00 PM
Friday - 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM – Class and Field

WHERE: Carlisle (class tbd) SGL 230

April 20, 2022 PAPSS Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Call to Order, Mike Farbotnik, 7:38 PM

Board Members Present:

Mike Farbotnik

Mike Brown

Mary Kay Lupton

Rebecca Bourgault

Rob Bowie

Bob Bressler

Joe Valentine

Minutes from Feb meeting: Rob made a motion to approve; Mike F seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Mike F made a motion to approve. Mike B seconded. Motion carried.

PNC Bank: PNC bank recommended to open a savings account to keep the bulk of the money in a safer location that's less vulnerable to fraud. Rob said we would need a maximum of \$5,000 in the checking account for monthly expenses. Additional recommendations sent via email from the bank VP:

Open a second checking account to pay all expenses through if the organization will continue to write paper checks and use the attached debit.

Open a business credit card to run all expenses through that you can pay electronically or in person and earn rewards for the organization such as 1.5% cash back every day.

Utilize Remote Deposit for member dues paid by check. It gives you the ability to skip going to the bank and make

April 20, 2022 PAPSS Board of Directors Meeting Minutes continued

Mike B asked if committees were filled. Mike F was unsure which committees still needed members. He said he would look into it before next meeting. Mike B emailed the committee list from last year.

Roll up banners for conferences: Rebecca said that Bloomsburg University Duplicating Services could print each banner for \$125. PAPSS would need to set up a billing account first. Bob said that he looked around online and BU's pricing was better than what he found. Mike B said that the posters are mainly used to catch people's attention. Discussion over what would be on the poster. Rebecca recommended to have mostly photos; she offered to ask students to help design. Mike F suggested showing all aspects of what soil scientists do. Bob asked who is our audience and we should keep it broad with little information. Bob offered to help design. Joe made a motion to spend \$250 for two banners and have Bob and himself work on the design; Mike F seconded. Motion carried. Rebecca said she would help facilitate setting up the billing account and find out the dimensions of the banners.

Tech sessions: Program Committee update from Rebecca and Joe. Reviewed emails from Yuri.

Hydric Soils Training Aug. 18-19, with Frank Plewa, in south-central PA, possibly State Game Lands near Carlisle.

Annual meeting, Eckenrode Farm, Oct. 22. Joe recommended asking Yuri to ask Sharon Eckenrode to have some pits opened.

Mid-September Zoom session on redox features with Dave Lindbo and others. Could offer SEO credits. Probably on a Thursday.

Joe made a motion to approve dates and locations for tech sessions. Bob seconded. Motion carried.

Soil survey conference: hosted by University of Delaware in mid-June. Joe said that the field trips are usually good, but the content isn't always of interest to PAPSS members.

Northeast Regional Manure Exposition: Mike F said that PAPSS should make an appearance

By Laws changes: Mike B said that he, Charlie, Bruce and Joe (2021 By-laws committee) had been working on changing the wording about education because no PA university offers a soil science major anymore. Soil scientists usually have a degree in environmental science nowadays. In the revised by-laws, we plan to follow the NRCS definition of a soil scien-

**2022 ASA-CSSA-SSSA International Annual Meeting
November 6-9 | Baltimore, MD**

2022 Annual Meeting Theme: "Communication and Public Engagement for Healthy People and a Healthy Planet"

Society			Professional	Member
By	Oct.	3		\$575
After	Oct	3		\$655
After	Oct. 14			\$714
One			Day	Member
By	Oct.	3		\$415
After	Oct.	3		\$415
After Oct. 14				\$714

I apologize for the formatting problems. While this may seem pricey, the meeting is close enough that it is possible to drive for a single day.

Guest Editorial

Hello PAPSS Members:

I became an apprentice PAPSS member in 2007 and a professional member in 2011. Since becoming a professional member, my career has continually expanded with work, associates, project challenges and financial security.

I attribute my modest success specifically to becoming associated with PAPSS and the value it brings. Since I never worked for any soil science firm or any consulting company, I greatly relied on long term PAPSS members for help. Laurel Mueller's drive has always been a motivation for me, trying to compete with Joe Valentine has surely made me work harder each day and working with and learning from our current President Mike Farbotnik from his days as Bucks County Health Department Soil Scientist proved to be invaluable.

In 2020 I decided to volunteer and give back to PAPSS and became a board member. This experience has also been enlightening to see how a state association functions. While working alongside Bruce Willman, Charlie Kline and Mike Brown, I got to see firsthand how much these individuals really care about the PAPSS association.

I believe many of our members, especially in the sewage realm owe our professional credential connection to PAPSS. The term "soil scientist" is a loose one, and vaguely connected thru the PaDEP alternate guidance. However, this credential has given many of us the opportunity to make a good living and provide a valuable service to our local community.

I often think it would be spectacular for more members to become proactive in our association. Maybe state licensure is a relic thought, but it does not keep us from promoting our trade and association to fellow professionals and the general public, If any members have a special talent, please consider offering your time to our great association. It could be technology, academia & education, public speaking, connections for promotion, or simply helping with daily business. An association is only as good as its members, and I know we have many great members.

Rob bowie 2020 – 2022 PAPSS treasurer.

Below are some articles that I found interesting. They may, in some cases be, review but I believe that a little review is a good thing and can pique our interest to persue subjects further.

1. An interesting article on Glomalin

<https://agresearchmag.ars.usda.gov/2002/sep/soil>

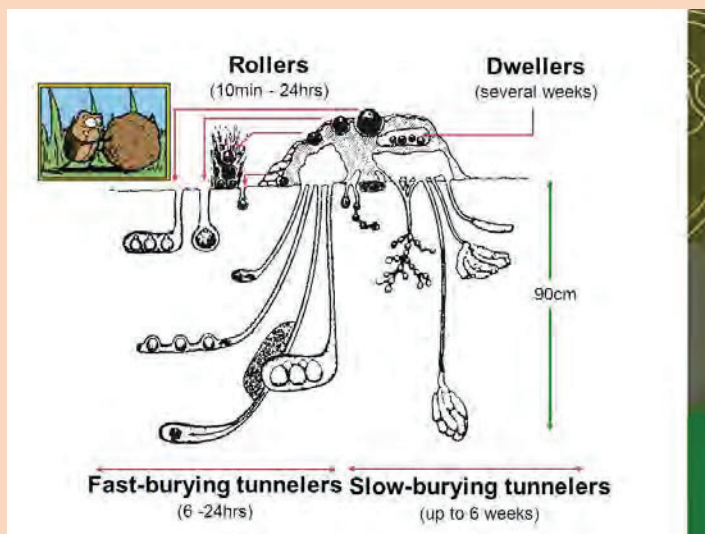
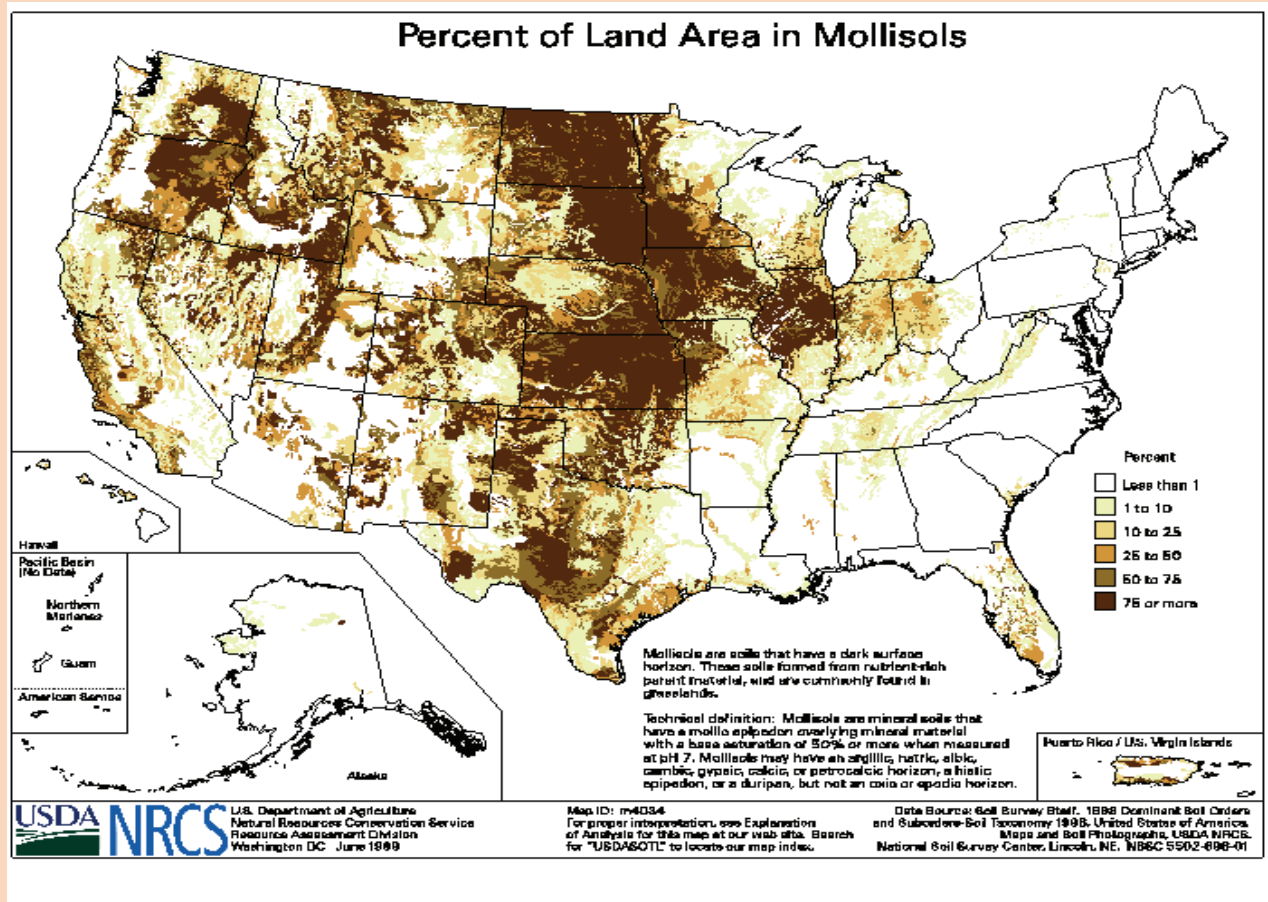
2. The possible origins of soil in the Washington / Oregon valleys

<https://www.glaciallakemissoula.org/>

3. <https://tallgrassontario.org/wp-site/carbon-sequestration/>

Featured Soil

Mollisol



Not something we normally associate with soil but species of dung beetles in Pa. both aerate the soil and mix nutrients up to 18" deep while breaking down piles to prevent fly formation. Unfortunately, many of our common dewormers also pass through the animal to kill these important insects.