

Virginia Association of Professional Soil Scientists, Est. 1978

2006 Board of Directors

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804-796-3911

PRESIDENT-ELECT: Neal Spiers
804-733-7000

PAST-PRESIDENT: Greg Monnett
804-796-3911

TREASURER: Matt Tolley
703-771-5248

SECRETARY: Dave Harper
703-324-1428

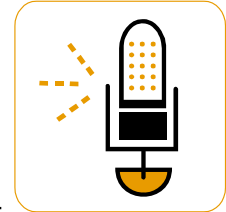
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777-0520

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434-352-2435

EXEC. SECRETARY: Sue Brown
540-231-5741



Message from the President

It's hard to believe another year is coming to a close. As I prepare to end my term as VAPSS president (and begin my role as first-time parent) I wanted take a moment to reflect on what VAPSS has accomplished over the past year and touch on future goals for the organization. Taking what we learned during our Strategic Planning Session in 2005, goals need to be **specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely**. During the Fall of 2005, the VAPSS board has

worked diligently to develop a memorandum-of-understanding (MOU) between VAPSS and Virginia Tech. With the assistance of our executive secretary, Sue Brown, VAPSS has been able to establish a central point of contact that facilitates the smooth operation of our organization.

Dave Harper's coordination efforts have directed the re-development of the VAPSS website www.vapss.org. It is our hope that this site is

recognized as a reliable reference for training opportunities and professional exchange among Virginia soil scientists.

The Board has sought to enhance the effectiveness of VAPSS leadership. Recent changes to the Bylaws enable VA Tech to support VAPSS, clarify Board members' responsibilities, and have opened regular membership to a wider body of soil science professionals. (Continued Page 7)

Individual Highlights

| | |
|---|---|
| VT Soil Judging Hosts 1 st Annual Training Session | 2 |
| VT Soil Judging Competes at Regional Contest | 3 |
| State Fair Wrap-Up | 4 |
| Who's On the Ballot | 5 |
| VAPSS Ballot | 6 |
| Trench Safety | 7 |



Much Ado About CEUs

In recent months, VAPSS has hosted several technical sessions, offering Continuing Education Units (CEUs). Virginia Tech's Dept. of Continuing and Professional Education is responsible for the administration of CEUs. The following guidelines are provided on the Department's website:

1. The decision to award CEUs is made on a program-by-program basis, before a program begins. Therefore, CEUs will not be awarded retroactively.

2. CEUs may be awarded for conferences with concurrent sessions, as long as all sessions meet the CEU requirements. We will no longer require each conference participant to participate in the same sessions to receive CEUs for the event.

3. **CEUs for partial attendance at a program will not be awarded. CEUs will be awarded on an "all or none basis."**

4. If CEUs are awarded in a fee-based program, the registration fee will include

separate costs for CEU recording and a certificate. The CEU fees will be in addition to the conference service fee.

All participants in the program will earn CEUs and will pay the CEU recording fee. A separate certificate cost will be assessed, if requested by the participant.

5. Virginia Tech will not charge individuals for transcript requests following a program. (Continued page 2)



Much Ado About CEUs (con't)

6. All CEU programs must be evaluated with either the standard Continuing Education evaluation form or one approved by the program developers prior to the program. Evaluations or copies must be stored in the permanent program file in accounting.

7. All other CEU guidelines and rules (e.g., academic approval and need for assessment) still apply.

CEUs must be awarded for all participants in an approved learning program, (i.e., the decision to receive CEUs is not left

up to the individual learner). Therefore, **a per-person fee will be assessed for each individual who enrolls in the class whether or not they wish to receive CEU credit.**

When CEUs are provided to an external organization, such as VAPSS, **all participants will be charged for and awarded CEUs. Individual participants will not have the option to choose whether they wish to be awarded CEUs.**

Currently, CEU program fees are:

\$40 per participant when CEUs are awarded

\$50 per participant when CEUs are awarded with a certificate

In either of these cases the minimum fee collected by the CPE department is \$300.

Please contact Ann A. Brown for more detailed information. browna@vt.edu, Assistant Director, Continuing and Professional Education
Ph: 540-231-7966

VT Soil Judging Team Conducts 1st Annual Training Day

On September 27th, Dr. John Galbraith and the Virginia Tech Soil Judging Team offered their first annual intermediate level classroom and field-training course for soil profile and redoximorphic feature description. The 2006 training was held in Buckingham Courthouse and on the farm of Paul and Martha Louis, who generously hosted the field tour and dug the soil pits. The course offered an opportunity to earn 0.75 CEU for soil science. Dr. Galbraith began the day with three hours of seminars on describing soils and identifying redoximorphic features. The training was followed by a field tour of three soil pits.

The Soil Judges interacted with the trainees at all pit sites and provided a soil

description at 10 locations in three pits. The soils were variable. The first pit was in a saddle and had a buried A horizon under about 50 cm of post-settlement deposition. The parent material was colluvium over older colluvium over residuum from schist bedrock. The second pit was thick colluvium over residuum from schist bedrock, with a restrictive layer above the contact point. The layer had weakly expressed and faint redoximorphic features throughout the horizon. This soil was on a lower sideslope below an old drainfield, which may have provided the extra moisture and carbon source for redox feature development. The third pit was residuum from gneiss and schist and was moderately-deep to deep

over bedrock.

The event was conducted as a fundraiser for the Soil Judging team expenses. So far, we have collected about half as much as is needed to go to the contests in Kentucky and Utah in 2006-2007. The Team and Dr. Galbraith wish to thank the Louis family and everyone who came and who donated to the cause, to Sue Brown of Virginia Tech for doing all of the paperwork required, and to VAPSS for endorsing the event. Next year, the event may be offered without requiring CEUs for all trainees.

Continued Page 3

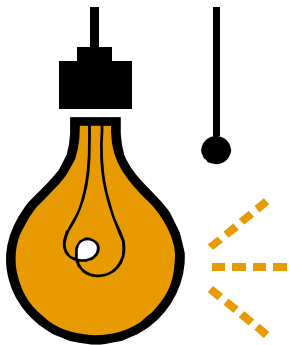
VT Soil Judging Team Conducts 1st Annual Training Day (con't)

The current Soil Judging Team and Soil Description class consists of:

Nicholas Haus, nhaus@vt.edu; Dylan Walker, insect@vt.edu; Joe Marshall, jomارش1@vt.edu; Tim Woodward, trwood04@vt.edu; Amy Fannon, afannon@vt.edu; Jason Mitchell, mitchell@vt.edu; Luke Petre, lpetre@vt.edu

The Soil Judging Team was joined by Soil Judging alumni members Caroline Park cpark@wetlandstudies.com and Erik Severson erik.severson@gmail.com

Right: A Soil Judger prepares a pit for the training session



VT Soil Judging Competes at Regional Contest

The Virginia Tech Soil Judging Team finished third overall at the 2006 Regional Championship Contest hosted by Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, KY on October 16-20. Virginia Tech finished third out of 13 teams, 36 points behind the University of Kentucky and 33 points behind Auburn University. The placement qualifies Virginia Tech for the National Championship to be held April 15-20, 2007, hosted by Utah State University in Logan, UT. The Hokies finished 3 points ahead of Clemson University and 18 points ahead of defending

national champion West Virginia University. Virginia Tech placed first in the team-judging portion of last year's national contest.

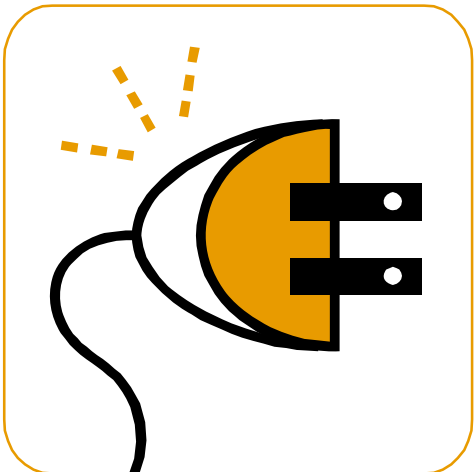
"The competition at the Southeast Regional is very strong, because we have more teams than any other region." This year, there were 13 teams entered. "Most regions have only three to 8 teams that compete," added coach John Galbraith, associate professor of soil science in the Department of Crop and Soil Environmental Science in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. "The soils of western Kentucky are quite different than our soils in Virginia. The entire area is covered with silty (loess) particles blown from the Mississippi, Tennessee, and Kentucky Rivers during the

last ice-age. The soils are very clayey (up to 80% clay) with deep red colors on the 10R page," he added.

According Galbraith, "soil judging teaches students to go to unfamiliar places, study the resources, investigate the soil, hydrology, and land use, and then describe the soil horizons and properties. Student answers are compared to those of official judges who are experienced soil scientists. Soil judging teaches the students to perform as individuals and to work together to make group decisions under stressful and time-constrained conditions."

Continued Page 4

Regional Contest (con't)



Virginia Tech also had two students place in the top-ten out of 81 competitors. Tim Woodward, a sophomore majoring in crop and soil environmental sciences (CSES) from Madison, Va., placed eighth and Nick Haus, a senior majoring in CSES from Rice Lake, WI placed tenth.

Placing 12th was Joe Marshall, a senior majoring in CSES from Louisa, VA, and Dylan Walker, a senior

majoring in CSES from Christiansburg, VA.

The Soil Judging Team conducts fundraisers and accepts donations to pay for their trips to regional and national contests. This year, the team would like to thank all those who have donated to the Team through VAPSS and by participating in the Soil Training Day fundraiser held on September 27th at the Martha and Paul Louis farm in Buckingham, VA.

State Fair Wrap-Up

The State Fair of Virginia was held September 28-October 8, 2006. VAPSS returned to our booth location in the Virginia World Building. Our booth included the perennial favorite "Buzz Board" Soil Quiz, NRCS soil monoliths, interpretive state soil maps, and new this year – "Soil Art". Fair-goers were encouraged to build their own soil profile with the various soil samples provided from the A, E, Bt, and C Horizons. Very

special thanks to those dedicated members who helped set-up and staff the booth:

Matt Tolley, Morgan Kash, Greg Monnett, Ann Ruff, BJ Valentine, Chuck Nelson, Gary Renger, Craig Paul, Dave Harper, Bill Sledjeski, Rachael Stull, Eric Smither, Bruce Legge, Roger Nelson, Anne Durica, Bill Keeling, Larry Madison, Jr., Paul Louis, Harold Bradley, Spiers Soil Consulting, and SES Onsite.

Fall Field Trip Dodges the Rain

With a little shuffling of the schedule, the VAPSS Fall Technical Session dodged the raindrops and went off without a hitch. On the afternoon of Monday, October 16, we toured the Old Hickory area observing a range of prime farmland natural soils and associated

geologic conditions. The tour included a review of Iluka Resources' active mining operations. On Tuesday, October 17, the technical presentations focused on Fall Zone soil geomorphology with an emphasis on recent discoveries of how

extensive faulting through both the Upper Coastal Plain and Piedmont basement saprolites may have affected soil and landscape development processes. This geologic history of heavy mineral sands (ilmenite, rutile and zircon) deposition in the

region were discussed and related to the region's geomorphic history. Finally, the current mineral sands mining and reclamation technologies employed at Old Hickory were detailed. The day concluded with a tour of the mineral concentrator.

Who's On the Ballot

**President-Elect
(un-opposed):
Rachael Stull,
CPSS 197/AOSE
217**

- President, Soils, Inc., 2005-present
 - Environmental Specialist Sr., VDH-Bedford, 2000-2005
 - Asst. Soil Scientist, SETEC Soil Environmental Technology, 2000
- B.S., CSES Virginia Tech 2000
Big Island, VA

**Secretary (un-opposed):
David Hall, CPSS
140/AOSE 230**

- SETEC Soil Environmental Technology Christiansburg, VA

**Treasurer (un-opposed):
Matt Tolley, CPSS
41**

- Math teacher, part-time 1999-2004 (GED)
- Employed 1988-present VDH (Loudoun Co.):
BS 1981 Horticulture
MS 1985 Soils
Past VAPSS secretary (6 yrs)

Past VAPSS Board Member
Past CPSS Board Member
Sterling, VA

**Board Members (select three):
Bob Holmes**

- Soil Scientist, Greenway Engineering Winchester, VA

**Chuck Nelson, CPSS
97/AOSE 15**

- SETEC Soil Environmental Technology Christiansburg, VA

**Regis Rehanek, CPSS
151/AOSE 50**

- President, Rappahannock Environmental, Inc. 2005-Present
- Environmental Specialist Sr., VDH-King George 1985-2005
- Environmental Technician, Dewberry & Davis, Inc. 1974-1985

Certificate in Mechanical Design, Woodbridge Design School
King George, VA

**Ann Ruff, CPSS
91/AOSE 261**

- Private Soil Consultant
B.S., Agronomy Virginia

Tech
Lightfoot, VA

Board Members will be expected to:

- 1) Serve three-year terms,
- 2) Participate in the annual meeting and all quarterly Board meetings,
- 3) Serve on a committee and conduct outreach to others,
- 4) Participate in scheduled monthly conference calls; and
- 5) Provide an update of committee activities at each Board meeting.

Terms of office for the President, President-elect, and Secretary shall be one year. Term of office for Treasurer shall be two years.

A ballot has been included on Page 6. Please return your ballot selection to Sue Brown by December 1, 2006.



Please return your ballot selection to Sue Brown by December 1, 2006.



VAPSS Ballot - 2007

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| President-Elect | Rachael Stull | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Write-in _____ | |
| Treasurer | Matt Tolley | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Write-in _____ | |
| Secretary | David Hall | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Write-in _____ | |
| Board Member | (vote for three) | |
| | Bob Holmes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Chuck Nelson | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Regis Rehanek | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Ann Ruff | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Write-in _____ | |

Please submit ballots by December 1, 2006

Virginia Association of Professional Soil Scientists

C/O Sue brown, exec. secretary

238 Smyth Hall – 0404

Blacksburg, VA 24061

Fax (540) 231-7630

suebrown@vt.edu

Trench Safety – Protect Yourself

On Wednesday, October 4, a septic system installer working in Mecklenburg County, VA lost an employee when a 7-ft deep drainfield trench collapsed. Trench collapses cause dozens of fatalities and hundreds of injuries each year.

Trenches 5 ft deep or greater require a protective system.
(www.trenchsafety.org)

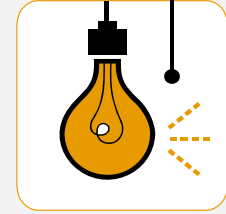
Protective Systems for Trenches:

- Sloping protects workers by cutting back the trench wall at an angle inclined away from the excavation.
- Shoring protects workers by installing aluminum hydraulic or other types of supports to prevent soil movement.
- Shielding protects workers by using trench boxes or other types of supports to

prevent soil cave-ins.

Safety Tips:

- Inspect trenches at the start of each shift, following a rainstorm or after any other hazardous event.
- Keep heavy equipment and excavation spoils at least two feet away from the trench edge.
- Provide stairways, ladders, ramps or other safe means of access in all trenches 4 feet or deeper.



Excavation cave-ins are a major source of fatalities within the construction industry. Trenching accidents on U.S. construction sites account for an estimated 100 fatalities per year, with at least 11 times as many workers injured.

Message from the President (con't)

As the need for qualified soil scientists continues to grow, VAPSS is working to expand its membership and enhance membership services. Something as simple as an accurate and current membership directory allows for better communication and participation. If you know of a veteran VAPSS member who has gone "MIA", encourage them to become active again. Membership applications are available at www.vapss.org or by calling Sue Brown at 540-231-5741.

By resuming our participation in the Virginia State Fair, citizens have an opportunity to learn about our profession and the diverse area of expertise we represent. VAPSS plans

to continue this annual event – so if you missed this year's fair, we look forward to your participation in the years to come.

With the assistance of VA Tech, the VAPSS Board is striving to offer high-quality training opportunities that cover a diverse body of soil knowledge throughout the state of Virginia. On the 2007 membership renewal form we will be asking for your training interests – please be sure to provide your comments so that the VAPSS organization can better serve your needs.

As the VAPSS membership shifts from a community of soil survey professionals to a more diverse group of soil and environmental consultants, the VAPSS Board would like to explore

new opportunities for the scope and function of the organization. A committee is being formed to set the groundwork to investigate the steps necessary for licensure.

VAPSS has been organized to promote the highest standards among soil science professionals. Our members set the very foundation by which this goal can be reached and we encourage you to become actively involved.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the VAPSS president. I look forward to many more years as an active member of a organization that is filled not only with my professional colleagues, but my personal friends.

Editor:

Angela Whitehead
C/O Soil Horizons, LLC
16940 Arabian Drive
Amelia, VA 23002

Phone

(804) 561-0587

Fax

(804) 561-0587

E-mail

soilmapper@yahoo.com.

Editor's Note:

Beginning with the next issue, **Aris Mandoudis** will be assuming the duties of VAPSS Newsletter Editor.

C/O Aris the Soil Man, Inc.
6 Atkins Ct.
Fredericksburg, VA 22405

Phone

540.372.4402

Fax

540.372.4402

E-mail

aristhesoilman@cox.net



We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.vapss.org

Upcoming Events

Nov 10-11, 2006 – VOWRA
A to Z Of Onsite Wastewater
Big Stone Gap, VA
vowra.nowra.org/

Brown
suebrown@vt.edu

Nov 15-16, 2006 --
VA Center for Onsite
Wastewater Training -
Wastewater 101
Fort Pickett, VA
www.sv.vccs.edu/acad/vcowt/

Jan 19, 2006 –
VAPSS Quarterly Board Mtg.
Open to all members
Charlottesville, VA
soilmapper@yahoo.com

Dec 1, 2006 –
Return VAPSS Ballot to Sue

About Our Organization

The purpose of VAPSS is to:

- ✓ Provide a forum for soil scientists
- ✓ Promote and enhance communication with other

- technical disciplines
- ✓ Serve as a body of opinion on matters relating to soil properties (pedology) including mapping,

- ✓ Classification, and interpretation of soils
- ✓ Promote certification as a C.P.S.S. to any qualified individual

VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTISTS
C/O SUE BROWN, EXEC. SECRETARY
238 SMYTH HALL – 0404
BLACKSBURG, VA 24061
(540) 231-5741

