



PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTISTS ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

Texas Soil Profiles



President's Letter

I would like to start off by saying what an honor it is to serve as the Professional Soil Science Association of Texas President for 2012-2013. In 2002, Charlie Thompson presented me with the PSSAT scholarship. Ten years later, I now serve as the president of an organization that was so gracious in offering me a scholarship to obtain my soils degree. I would have never imagined that in 2002 I would meet people that would help me in my career choice of becoming a soil scientist. I would like to thank everyone who has had a part in making me the soil scientist I am today.

Travis Waiser, 2012-2013 PSSAT President

This year's meetings in College Station went well and everyone had a good time catching up with friends and colleagues. We did not have the ice and snow threats like 2011 which allowed a few more people to attend this year's meeting. We had about 60 members in attendance and Dr. David Weindorf gave a presentation on his trip Romania as a Fulbright Scholar. I would like to thank Dr. Weindorf for enlightening us with his experience.

The business meeting went smoothly this year. I will touch on a few items of concern. The main item of concern was that the organization spent more last year than we took in. This was attributed to the weather in 2011 did not allow a good turnout for the meetings resulting in fewer people paying their dues last year. Fundraising was discussed to overcome the loss of money last year but nothing was decided. Another issue was that we have not filed a tax return with the IRS in the past 5-years therefore losing our non-profit organization status. Richard Reid discussed this issue with an accountant and we are still working on getting other opinions. You will hear more about this subject in the future and it may require a vote from the members on how to handle this issue. The third issue I would like to inform everyone about is the photo contest. This year we had a very low number of photos submitted. It was decided to let those photos carry over for next year.

As the president, I have a few things I would like to improve this next year. I would like to see membership increase and for all members to get more involved with the organization. We currently have 133 listed members. If we all do our part, I see no reason for the organization to lose money. The membership dues have gone back to \$25 with \$15 going to the scholarship fund and \$10 to the general fund. Let us all make an effort this year to do more even though our schedules keep us busy. If you would like to serve on a committee please email me at travis.waiser@tx.usda.gov.

While trying to increase membership, I also thought it would be a good idea to evaluate who we are as an organization. Along with this newsletter, you will receive a web address to a PSSAT survey. Please take 5-minutes to complete the survey so that we know who makes up the organization. If the link below does not work, please copy and paste the web address into your browser.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/H6DPGQV>

Thanks for your time and continued support of PSSAT.

Travis Waiser

Remember to send your 2012 membership dues of \$25 to Richard Reid. If you owe dues from previous years, please contact Richard (Richard.reid@tx.usda.gov) to find out your balance.

Richard Reid
603 CR 136A
Burlington , TX 76519

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Meet the PSSAT 2012 Scholarship Winner

The scholarship committee was very pleased with the scholarship applicants this year. In total we had 6 applicants from 4 universities. The receipt of the 2012 PSSAT scholarship was Dianna Fisher from Texas A&M University (pictured to the right). Dianna has already started soils research as an undergraduate under the supervision of Dr. Cristine Morgan. Dianna presented her research at the 2011 Soil Science Society of America meetings and placed second in the student research competition. She hopes to continue working under Dr. Morgan in the future.



ANNOUNCEMENT OF 2012-13 SCHOLARSHIP

The scholarship in the amount of \$1,500.00, sponsored by the Professional Soil Scientist Association of Texas (PSSAT), is intended to recognize and support an outstanding undergraduate student studying to become a soil scientist at a college or university in Texas and to promote interest in careers in soil science.

At the time of application, the student must be enrolled in a college or university in Texas, and be a sophomore, junior, or senior in a program of study that can lead to a career as a soil scientist. The student must be an undergraduate in good standing at the time the scholarship is awarded. The minimum completed course work necessary for consideration includes 3 semester hours in soil science and 12 semester hours in the biological, physical, or earth sciences that support soil science.

The selection criteria will include relevance of course work to a career in soil science, difficulty and diversity of courses taken, grade point ratio, honors and awards for scholarship, and membership in honor societies. Participation in recognized clubs and organizations, soil judging teams and other judging teams, elected offices, committees, projects, and similar endeavors will also be considered. Other selection criteria include evidence reflecting personal traits such as excellence of character, ethics, dependability, a can-do attitude, and a strong work ethic.

Deadline for submission is December 21, 2012: This is an absolute deadline. Application forms and more detailed information concerning the scholarship may be obtained by contacting (by letter, telephone or e-mail):

Jessica Lene-Jobe, Chairman
PSSAT Scholarship Committee
420 Water Street, Suite 102
Kerrville, Tx 78028
(940) 550-5249
Jessica.Job@tx.usda.gov

2012-2013 Officers

President – Travis Waiser

Treasurer – Richard Reid

President-Elect – Mittie Muse

Editor – Amanda Bragg

Vice-President – Donald McGahan

Past-President – John Sackett

2012 PSSAT Meeting Minutes

5:30 – Social time

6:30 – Food was served

6:40 – Dr. David Weindorf gave presentation on his experience as a Fulbright Scholarship in Romania

7:21 – Meeting called to order

John Sackett proposed minutes be accepted. Membership voted to approve the minutes.

Richard Reid gave summary of the Treasurer’s Report. SEE ATTACHMENT

Income – \$1850.67

Expenses – \$2543.70

For 2011-2012, organization was in the hole by \$693.03. It was noted that the last year many people were not able to make to attend the meeting and had not paid dues.

John Sackett mentioned that Kelly Atterbury had gotten something from the IRS in the mail. We have not filed the correct forms for our Tax exemption status. Richard Reid said that he will discuss this with his CPA.

Amanda Bragg gave Editors report. 1 newsletter was sent out last year.

Ricky Lambert was not in attendance; John Sackett gave the Webmaster Report. SEE ATTACHMENT

Wayne Gabriel and Charles Pehl tied for 1st for answering the “Ask a Soil Scientist” inquiries.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chair of the scholarship committee - Jessica Jobe was unable to attend the meeting. Travis Waiser presented the scholarship. This year we had 6 applicants.

Dianna Fisher from Texas A&M was chosen as this year's \$1500 scholarship winner. She was not in attendance, but planned to pick up her award at the Soil Survey and Land Resource workshop on the following day..

Membership committee report update was given by John Sackett. There were 56 attendees at the 2012 PSSAT meeting. Five applications were received for new members in 2011.

Alan Stahnke represented the Ethics committee. There was nothing new to report

Constitution and bylaws representative Sidney Paulson was not in attendance, but the committee had nothing to report.

Public Relations committee- Jon Brandt mentioned soil card from Oklahoma – seems like a pretty nice way of presenting soils information. The card is the size of a bookmark and also included a small baggie of the state soil attached to it. Though we are still working on Houston black to become the official state soil this could give a little more visibility.

Ted Zobeck asked if it was a bookmark.

Jon Brandt said it could be anything; this was an example for a little more awareness.

Ted Zobeck mentioned that APHIS is pretty picky about sending soils across state lines because of fire-ant quarantine. “Is there a certain amount that we can ship without it being a problem?”

Larry West – answered that soil can be shipped after it is heat treated.

Jon Brandt said it was just something that he wanted to bring up.

John Sackett said that in the past that we used money for Public Relations and that money should be available for making cards like that.

PHOTO CONTEST

This year the photo contest ran out of steam – only 3 people submitted photos. The decision was made to shelve it for this year.

John Sackett mentioned that maybe we should suggest having better prizes.

David Weindorf suggested that we could do free dues for the year for the winner.

John Sackett mentioned fundraising ideas. He had looked into creating standard 12 month calendars from the pictures that were submitted in the contest and selling them.

Research would need to be done to estimate the cost to make and members could sell them maybe for \$16.

Dues have gone back down to \$25 since we did not see the advantage to putting more funds into Public Relations.

John Sackett asked Cristine Morgan about T-Shirts. She said that she just ran out of time...but does have some cute ideas for T-shirts.

Dennis Brezina mentioned having a Facebook page. Amanda Bragg volunteered to make a Facebook page for PSSAT.

NOMINATIONS

Vice-president is the only current opening for nominations. Donald McGahan was nominated for the position and confirmed by vote.

Current Vice-President Charlie Clark does not want to become president and withdrew his nomination for President.

John Sackett asked for volunteers for President-Elect. Richard Reid volunteered but John Sackett mentioned that you can't do that and be treasurer at the same time.

Mittie Muse volunteered to be president elect... Dan Kowalski moved to close nominations. Members present confirmed.

John Sackett passed the gavel to Travis Waiser.

Travis presented John with a pocket knife for his service as President.

Travis Waiser asked if there was any other business. No other business was brought up.

Motion made and confirmed to adjourn the meeting. 8:45 PM

2012 PSSAT Meeting Pictures by Jamey Douglass



PSSAT members socializing before the meeting.



Dr. David Weindorf talking on the Fullbright Scholarship



Travis Waiser delivering the Scholarship Committee report



Jon Brandt discussing the Oklahoma soil card



President John Sackett passing the gavel to 2012-2013 President Travis Waiser



Travis Waiser presenting John Sackett with pocket knife to thank him for his time as 2011-2012 President.



Membership applauding the announcement of scholarship winner Dianna Fisher.

PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTIST ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS
2011 Financial Report - by Richard Reid

INCOME

General	640.00
PR	465.00
Scholarship	<u>745.67</u>

Total Income 1,850.67

EXPENSES

General	1,043.70
PR	0.00
Scholarship	<u>1,500.00</u>

Total Expenses 2,543.70

Difference (693.03)

**Bank Balance at
Beginning of Year 7,529.23**

**Bank Balance at
End of Year 6,836.20**

Difference (693.03)

General Fund at Beginning of Year	776.10	Scholarship Fund Beginning of Year	5,489.75
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General Fund at End of Year	372.40	Scholarship Fund End of Year	4,735.42
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**PR Fund at
Beginning of Year 1,263.38**

**PR Fund at
End of Year 1,728.38**

**PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTIST ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS
2011 Financial Report -Detailed Sheets**

GENERAL FUND

Date	Income	Description	Expenses	Description
02/02/11			75.00	Liza Phillips (Security Officer for Annual Meeting)
02/03/11			46.70	Dennis Brezina (Reimbursement - Photos and Frames)
02/21/11			120.00	Soil Survey Workshop (Room Rental)
02/21/11			502.00	Buppys Catering (50 Meals for Annual Meeting)
05/06/11	310.00	Dues (Deposited 5/6/2011)		
05/06/11	330.00	Meals (Deposited 5/6/2011)		
12/15/11			300.00	State 4-H Soil Judging

Total Income 640.00

Total Expenses 1,043.70

**PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTIST ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS
2011 Financial Report -Detailed Sheets**

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Date	Income	Description	Expenses	Description
01/21/11	0.06	Interest Earned		
02/02/11			1,500.00	Heather Watson (Scholarship Winner)
02/17/11	0.05	Interest Earned		
03/23/11	0.05	Interest Earned		
04/21/11	0.04	Interest Earned		
05/06/11	745.00	Dues - Scholarship Fund (Deposited 05-06-2011)		
05/20/11	0.05	Interest Earned		
06/22/11	0.06	Interest Earned		
07/21/11	0.06	Interest Earned		
08/23/11	0.06	Interest Earned		
09/22/11	0.06	Interest Earned		
10/21/11	0.06	Interest Earned		
11/21/11	0.06	Interest Earned		
12/21/11	0.06	Interest Earned		

Total Income 745.67

Total Expenses 1,500.00

**PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTIST ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS
2011 Financial Report -Detailed Sheets**

PR Fund

Date	Income	Description	Expenses	Description
05/06/11	465.00	Dues - PR Fund (Deposited 05-06-11)		

Total Income 465.00

Total Expenses 0.00

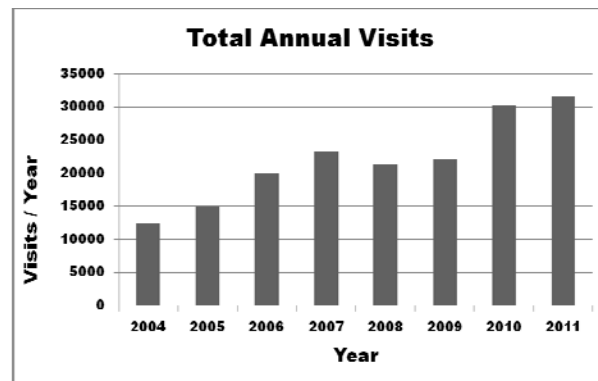
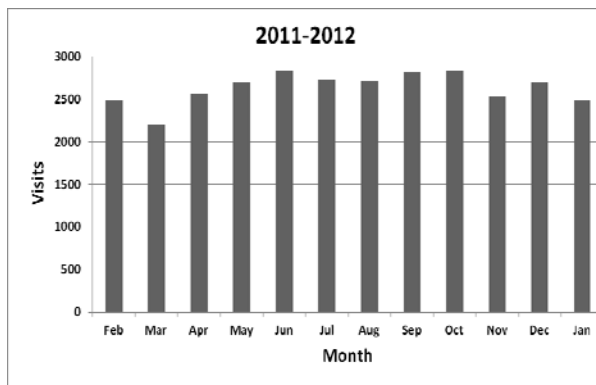
Webmaster's Annual Report for 2011-2012

By: Ricky Lambert

Web Site

The PSSAT web site has been on the Internet for approximately twelve years. Ricky Lambert and Craig Byrd first developed the web site. Jon Brandt joined the effort later in 1999. Ricky Lambert became Webmaster in 2009. The PSSAT web site first migrated from a free Geocities page to one located on an Austin server. In 2002, we obtained the *pssat.org* domain name and began using Datarealm, which has provided web hosting at a non-profit rate of \$134/year. The PSSAT site received **31594** visits (99265 hits) since last February (a 4% increase from 2010-2011). Our web site continues to be the first or second result that comes up with a "PSSAT" query on all of the major Internet search engines. The following provide the details of the web activity:

Average Visits per Month (since Jan. 2011): **2633**



1. The top five types of domains visiting the PSSAT web site: U.S. Commercial, Networks, Russia, U.S. Educational, and U.S. Government.
2. We received hits from fifty-eight countries. The most visits came from the following: Russia, Germany, Italy, Ukraine, Czech Republic, Tuvalu, Canada, and Australia.
3. There were six search phrases that were used the most to find our site (since February 2011):
 - *Texas soil(s) / soils of Texas*
 - *Texas Soil Map(s)*
 - *careers in soil science*
 - *PSSAT*
 - *Texas Soil Types*
 - *Texas soil survey*

4. The top five pages viewed within the PSSAT site:
- PSSAT.org index page
 - Texas Soils
 - Careers in Soil Science
 - PSSAT Member Page
 - Smithsonian Soils Exhibit

Ask a Soil Scientist

We received three inquiries from the "Ask a Soil Scientist" section on the web site. There were 10 unique PSSAT members that provided answers. Many thanks to all who participated. Charles Pehl and Wayne Gabriel tied for answering the most inquiries (2 each).

Committee Update

We have several openings on the committee assignment. If you would like to volunteer to be placed on a committee, please contact Travis Waiser (travis.waiser@tx.usda.gov).

2013 Photo Contest Reminder

The deadline for submitting photographs for next year's contest is **December 31st, 2012**. To find out more about the photo contest, please check the PSSAT website. Entries for the 2012 contest have been held over for 2013. Entries from other previous years can be viewed on Flickr at http://www.flickr.com/photos/pssat_photos/.

Note from Editor:

Special thanks to Jamey Douglass for taking pictures at this year's meeting. If anyone has any ideas, articles, or information regarding future issues of Texas Profiles, please contact me at braggal@yahoo.com. Your contributions are essential for putting together the newsletter. The Facebook page will be coming soon; if you have pictures of soil profiles or soil scientists at work that you would like to contribute, please send them to me.

Thank you,

Amanda Bragg