



Texas Soil Profiles

2017 PSSAT Officers

President - Chance Robinson, USDA-NRCS, Stephenville **President-Elect** - Carlos Villareal, USDA-NRCS, Temple
Vice-President - Shanna Dunn, USDA-NRCS, Robstown
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PSSAT President's Message, from Chance Robinson



Happy New Year! We have had an eventful 2017 as an organization, and I look forward to all that 2018 has in store for us!

I wish to extend special thanks to all of the officers, committee chairs and members for your work behind the scenes in making 2017 a success. Special thanks are also due to Lynn Loomis, Will Juett, David Jalali, and Shawna Graves of the Marfa Soil Survey Office for the many hours preparing and organizing the Green Valley Field Tour. I personally enjoyed the time spent with a great group in Alpine; I only wish it had been a few days longer.

The PSSAT Licensure Committee has been busy with an updated publication soon to be shared with our membership and the public at-large. Look for further communications and stand ready to assist the Licensure Committee in 2018 and 2019 as the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists works its way thru the Texas Sunset Review process.

As PSSAT enters its 36th year, it is with great confidence that I pass the gavel to our incoming President, Carlos Villarreal. I look forward to great things in 2018 with Carlos at the helm!

It has been an honor and privilege to serve such a great group of soil scientists. I hope to see you all in College Station on January 31st for our annual meeting.

Cheers,

Chance Robinson

PSSAT President

Upcoming Professional Soil Scientists Association of Texas Annual Meeting January 31, 2018

Location: G. Rollie White Visitors' Center, 7707 Raymond Stotzer Parkway (Hwy 60), College Station, TX

Map Link: <https://goo.gl/maps/Q6Udr7frXpG2>

Agenda:

3:30 pm Program - Texas NRCS Rainfall Simulator Demonstration (see details below)

5:00 pm Social (BYOB)

6:00 pm BBQ Meal (\$15)

6:30 pm Annual Meeting

The meal this year will be catered by J. Cody's, at a cost of \$15, and will consist of brisket, sausage, potato salad, corn casserole, beans, tea, cobbler, and all the fixings.

Demonstration - redesigned rainfall simulator trailer

Location: G. Rollie White Visitors' Center, 7707 Raymond Stotzer Parkway (Hwy 60), College Station, TX

Date/Time: January 31, 2018 @ 3:30 pm

Information provided by Carlos Villarreal:

“As topics regarding soil health and soil biology begin to dominate our industry, few things are as evident and sincere as a rainfall simulator demonstration. The purpose of the demonstration is to convey the importance of soil health management systems (SHMS) and their effects on soil erosion and infiltration; arguable two of the most important processes influencing the agricultural industry. A typical demonstration will compare the effects of tillage and the importance of residue management. If you are able to attend, NRCS soil scientists will perform a demonstration and give tours of the redesigned rainfall simulator trailer at the G. Rollie White Visitor's Center on Jan 31st, at 3:30 pm, preceding the PSSAT social hour.”

In Memoriam: Ricky Lambert

Very sad news received yesterday - Ricky Lambert, who has been serving as PSSAT's webmaster, passed away as this newsletter was being put together. Consequently, I can only include a photo of Ricky while he was giving his report at last year's meeting. Drew Kinney, NRCS' National Leader for Soil Business Systems in Lincoln, NE, sent out an announcement of Ricky's passing. I've taken the liberty to include his email in this newsletter.



Region 9 Staff,

It is with profound sadness that I must inform you of Ricky Lambert's passing. Ricky lost his battle with Cancer this morning. Ricky is survived by his wife Sharon and daughter Amy. Funeral arrangements are pending but right now we believe the services will be in Beaumont.

Ricky was a true character in Soil Survey and he will be sorely missed. Ricky came to Texas from Tennessee where he excelled in soils, geology and GIS but most importantly, as loving husband and father. He was a kind soul and always made you laugh.

Rest in peace Ricky, we'll miss you.

Drew Kinney

Soils Tour at Gibbons Creek Lignite Mine

Jacob Eickstead, PSSAT Past President, organized a soils tour held at the Texas Municipal Power Agency (TMPA) Gibbons Creek Mine, near Carlos, TX, on February 1, 2017. Jan Horbaczewski (TMPA Regulatory and Compliance Manager) and Tom Feuerbacher (H F & Associates, an environmental consulting firm) hosted the tour. A Field Guide was compiled for the tour by Dennis Brezina, Jacob Eickstead, Tom Feuerbacher, and Jan Horbaczewski - it is available as a PDF file on the PSSAT web page:

http://pssat.org/20170201_Gibbons_Creek_Field_guide_soils_tour.pdf

The purpose of the tour was a soils workshop to "compare and contrast" native soils and minesoils. Two sites were chosen for the soil pits. The "native soil" site was located in a wooded area, undisturbed by mining activities. The "minesoil" site was located a few hundred feet to the south, in an area that was mined in 1987 and reclaimed in the spring of 1988 - the minesoil was almost 29 years old.

Native soil info:

Soil Name as Described/Sampled: Elmina

Soil Name as Correlated: Burlewash

Classification: Fine, smectitic, thermic Udertic Paleustalfs

Minesoil info:

Soil Name as Described/Sampled: Gibbonscreek

Soil Name as Correlated: Gibbonscreek

Classification: Fine-loamy, mixed, semiactive, nonacid, thermic Anthroportic Ustorthents

Over a dozen PSSAT members attended the field tour - some of the photographs of the tour are included below.





Green Valley Soils Field Tour

(Synopsis and photos provided by Chance Robinson)

The Professional Soil Scientists Association of Texas (PSSAT) hosted a field tour in Green Valley, Trans-Pecos, Texas on August 4th and 5th, 2017. Green Valley is a 160,000 hectares (395,000 acres) area located about 35 miles south of Alpine, Texas in the Chihuahuah Desert ecoregion. Tour participants representing three states (Arkansas, California, and Texas) and at least five disciplines (archaeology, ecology, geology, hydrology, and soil science) enjoyed an eventful tour organized and led by Lynn Loomis (Photo 7). Guidebook for the field tour is available for download at: http://pssat.org/PSSAT_Green_Valley_2017.pdf.

The tour began Friday evening with presentations about the sites along the 66-mile tour. Participants were introduced to the area by Lynn Loomis (Geology, Soils, and Climate of the Big Bend Region); Andy Cloud (Archaeology of the Big Bend Region and Green Valley); David Jalali (Knowledge-based digital soil mapping in Green Valley); and Chris Jackson, (The Ecology of *Plateilema palmeri* in Brewster County, Texas). PSSAT members enjoyed hearty discussions with each presentation that lasted well into the evening.

Early Saturday morning the tour departed Alpine via transportation generously provided by the College of Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences of Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas. Topics discussed in the field included designing ecological sites as a tool for management and restoration efforts, water holding capacity and the sodicity of zeolitic soils, soil change in the human time scale, biological soil crusts, and pedoderm classes. The field tour proved especially eventful with summer monsoon storms filling one of the desert soil pits to the brim with run on water (Photo 8), and one vehicle stuck in the mud. For some reason, no one brought their rubber boots or waders to the desert with them!

Saturday evening, participants enjoyed a meal and social time as everyone cooled off from the day's activities in the high desert air of Alpine. On Sunday, everyone returned home, looking forward to the next trip across Texas!



Photo 7



Photo 8

“Blast from the Past” - list of PSSAT Charter Members from 1983

Chance Robinson thought it would be a good idea to include a list of PSSAT's 107 charter members in one of the newsletters. Chance forwarded the list to me, which had been provided to Dennis Brezina by Alan Peer at an NRCS meeting in Nacogdoches last month. Sounded like it would be interesting, so here is the list of folks we can thank for having the great idea of starting PSSAT. Forty-two people attended the organization meeting in February 1983. Following the list, I've included some statistics of the membership at that time.

B.L. Allen *	Glenn W. Dittmar *	Paul D. Holland	Robert N. Ramsey *
John E. Allison *	James A. Douglass *	Thomas H. Holt	Joe L. Randall
Paul Askenasy	Richard Drees *	Harold W. Hyde	Dennis D. Ressel *
Daniel Arriaga	Harold Dregne	John S. Jacob	William M. Risinger
Charles D. Batte *	Gordon B. Evans, Jr.	Jerry L. Jacobs	Jerry L. Rives
Eddie Bearden *	Thomas A. Feuerbacher *	Edward F. Janak *	Kirthell Roberts
W. F. Bennett, Sr.	Charles R. Fuchs	J. Keith Justice *	Catherine C. Sherwood *
Earl Blakley *	Dennis J. Gaber *	Laurie Kiniry *	Terrence M. Sobecki
Dan Blackstock	Wayne J. Gabriel *	Ken Koehler *	Levi Steptoe, Jr.
Eugene A. Brams	John M. Galbraith	Gaylon L. Lane *	Jack W. Stevens *
Lester C. Brockman *	James M. Germann *	Kenneth W. Launius *	Billy Ray Stringer
Sam Brown	C.L. Girdner *	Audrey C. Lowther *	Charles M. Thompson *
Roy H. L. Bruns	Auline R. Goerdel	Charlie G. Meier	Rosendo Trevino III
B. L. Carlisle	Micheal L. Golden	Murray H. Milford	Fred J. Turner
Dee Carson *	Lester Gordon	Glen Miller *	Kenneth E. Watterston
Joseph J. Castille	Carl Gray	Wesley L. Miller	Leroy E. Werchan *
Glen Chervenka *	Lynn D. Gray	Fred W. Minzenmayer *	Larry West *
Rex A. Cochran *	James M. Greenwade *	Ramiro Molina	Larry Wilding
Dennis F. Clower	Edward L. Griffin	James Mulkey, Jr.	Morris F. Wilhelm
Daniel R. Coffee	Kirby L. Griffith	David D. Neher	John S. Wilkey
Nat Conner *	John A. Groves, III	Conrad L. Neitsch	DeWayne Williams
Gerald Crenwelge	William J. Guckian *	Allen Newman *	Jack C. Williams
Wilfred Crenwelge	Tom Hallmark *	Joe Nichols *	Dennis L. Williamson
Jack Crout	Billy L. Harris *	Steven S. Park *	Jim Wyrick
Thomas E. Cyprian *	Don Hatherly	Alan C. Peer	David Zabeik
Dwayne Daniels	H. P. "Trey" Herbert	Fred Pringle	Richard Zartman
James A. Dement	Stanley Hitt	Ivan Radcliff	

* Present and voting at organizational meeting, Feb 1983

The majority of members at that time worked for the federal government (mostly with the USDA-SCS, at the time). The same probably holds true today. Most of the geographic regions in Texas were represented. Here are the statistics of PSSAT charter membership in 1983:

Consultant	6%
Federal Govt	70%
Retiree	4%
State Govt	6%
University	15%

Blackland Prairie	27%
Edwards Plateau	8%
Gulf Coast Prairies & Marshes	10%
High Plains	8%
Oak Woods & Prairies	14%
Piney Woods	12%
Rolling Plains	7%
South Texas Brush Country	8%
Trans Pecos	2%
Out-of-State	2%

Soils News

Soil Microbes in Antarctica: “What scientists have found is that these tiny organisms are able to survive by living in microscopic films of water that stick to soil particles (adherence). The bond energy between water molecules and soil particles is so great that it prevents the thin layer of water from freezing, even at extremely low temperatures. Microbes live in this unfrozen water, which allows them to stay alive even during the long deep freeze of winter.” Story found here: <https://soilsmatter.wordpress.com/2016/02/01/ive-heard-that-soil-microbes-are-living-in-antarctica-how-can-that-be/>

Call for Newsletter Articles

Please send articles, information, or photos that are suitable for future newsletters to: editor@pssat.org

Thank you!

PSSAT Absentee Ballot

January 31, 2018

Nominees:

President-Elect (2-year term): Dr. Donald McGahan, Assistant Professor
Environmental Soil Science, Tarleton State
University

Vice President (1-year term): Dr. David Ruppert, Assistant Professor,
Agriculture, Agribusiness and Environmental
Sciences, Texas A&M University - Kingsville

This ballot is for those PSSAT Members who are unable to attend the 2018 Annual Meeting. Please circle the nominees' names if you concur with the Nomination Committee's selections and return ballots to Travis Waiser. His address follows: **Travis Waiser, 406 Westway Dr., Kerrville, TX 78028.** Please mail ballots before January 21, so they will arrive in time for Travis to take them to the Annual Meeting on January 31st.