



PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTISTS ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

Texas Soil Profiles

2019 PSSAT Officers

President - Dr. Donald McGahan, Tarleton State Univ.

President-Elect - Laurie Kiniry

Vice-President - John "Cole" Patton, USDA-NRCS, Bryan

Treasurer - Travis Waiser, USDA-NRCS, Kerrville

Editor - Jon Brandt, TerrEval Consulting, Corpus Christi

Past-President - Carlos Villareal, USDA-NRCS, Temple

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PSSAT Message from the Vice President, Cole Patton

On behalf of PSSAT, we would like to wish everyone a Happy and Blessed New Year in 2020. As we wrap up the twenty-teens, we have plenty to be thankful for, including our members. And we want to encourage new soil scientists, either professional or academic, to become members of our group and experience the many benefits of involvement in the organization.

Involvement starts with attending our annual meetings to visit with other members and learn about the exciting activities that our members participate in. We host the PSSAT Annual Meeting to socialize, consume (mostly barbecue), and discuss a few business items. Please consider attending the meeting; see information below.

Date: February 5, 2020 Time: 5:00pm - 8:00pm

Cooper's Old Time Pit Bar-B-Que, 3055 Earl Rudder FWY S, College Station, Texas 77845

We hope you plan to attend!

*Regards,
Cole Patton*

Professional Soil Scientists Association of Texas Annual Meeting

February 5, 2020, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Location: Cooper's Old Time Pit Bar-B-Que (Llano Room), 3055 Earl Rudder Fwy., College Station, TX 77845

The meal will cost \$15/person and will be served buffet style. The meal will include either brisket or chicken, potato salad, beans, and a drink. There are two ways you can pay for the meal: in person, when you arrive at the meeting (pay at the door) or email Travis Waiser by January 31st (PSSAT Treasurer) that you will be attending (and he can send you a PayPal invoice).

Agenda:

- 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Social Hour
- 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Dinner Service and Speakers
- 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. PSSAT Business Meeting

Webmaster Report for 2019

Webmaster Position

Jon Brandt has been serving as the Interim Webmaster for the last two years. Previously, he was the Webmaster for approximately 10 years, starting around 1999/2000. We need someone to take over the Webmaster duties this Spring. More details will be provided at the Annual Meeting next month.

Website - Header Image

The current header image for the webpage is a road cut profile. We can change the header image periodically or have a number of different images that can appear. Please submit other images that can be uploaded. The images should be relevant to soil science, be of good quality, and have the following minimum dimensions: 1400 X 350 pixels. Feel free to submit larger files and they will be cropped to fit the header size.

Webpage Visits

Visitors from 153 countries viewed the webpage. There were more visits from people in the United States than from any other country. The top five countries visiting our webpage were:

- Ukraine
- Russian Federation
- Denmark
- Great Britain
- China

The webpage received approximately 76,000 visits in 2019, more than double the number in 2018. The site averaged 6,400 visits/month last year. That number had plateaued at approximately 3,100 visits/month in previous years. There is no discernible explanation for the increased visits.

The PSSAT newsletters and field guides continue to be very popular and have been accessed and downloaded many times.

Webpage Cost

- Annual domain registration is \$20
- Web hosting fees: \$45/year (Datarealm)
- Total cost: \$65/year

Ask a Soil Scientist

There were six requests for information/assistance submitted to the webpage in 2019. Five PSSAT members responded: Travis Waiser; Chance Robinson; Eddie Bearden; Clay Robinson; and David Weindorf. Travis assisted with three of the inquiries - **thank you to all who shared their time and expertise!!** The general topics of the inquiries were: soil management guidance; crop selection; drainage/flooding; septic system; pipeline reclamation; and climate change/soils.

Soils News

Soils Judging Team Take Top Honors at Regional Competition with the Help of NRCS

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/tx/newsroom/stories/?cid=NRCSEPRD1524620>

Soil Survey Region 9 Staff Assist with SSSA Field Tour

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/tx/newsroom/stories/?cid=nrcseprd1526024>

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

February 5, 2020

Nominees:

President-Elect (2-year term): Shanna Dunn, Resource Soil Scientist (USDA-NRCS), Corpus Christi

Vice President (1-year term): Jamey Douglass, Soil Scientist, (USDA-NRCS), Temple

Write-In Nominees: _____

This ballot is for those PSSAT Members who are unable to attend the 2020 Annual Meeting. Please circle the nominees' names if you concur with the Nomination Committee's selections. You can also nominate alternative members to the above positions. Return your ballot to Travis Waiser. His address follows: **Travis Waiser, 146 Deerpark Lane, Kerrville, TX 78028**. Please mail ballots before January 29th, so they will arrive in time for the ballots to be delivered to the Annual Meeting on February 5th.