

TEXAS SOIL PROFILES

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2005 PSSAT OFFICERS

President - Eddie Bearden
President-Elect - David Weindorf
Vice President - Stacey Kloesel
Treasurer - Jamey Douglass
Editor - Susan Casby-Horton

President's Letter

Eddie Bearden

Boy has it ever been a busy spring! I know we are all busy, as evidenced by the fact that it's mid-summer and we're just now getting a newsletter out. What I want to talk with you about is our committee system.

We are an organization that has to run by committees because we are scattered so widely geographically. We only meet once a year for a couple of hours, so it is extremely important for our committees to function. Much of the job falls on the committee chairs, so I encourage each of you to contact the chair of your committee and volunteer your time and talents. The committee list is included in this newsletter. I tried my best to organize the committees according to the constitution and by-laws. Hopefully we can get organized with a rotation system so everyone serves on a committee for three years and then someone else can serve.

We have a very good organization, but it can be made better with all of our participation.

2005-2006 PSSAT Committees

Constitution and By-Laws

Nellie Frisbee, Chair
Levi Steptoe
Glen Chervenka

Finance

Dan Kowalski, Chair
Lindsay Lang
Rick Leopold

Public Relations and Education

Jan Horbaczewski, Chair
Lee Nordt
Jon Brandt

Membership

David Weindorf, Chair
Jerry Rives
Maurice Jurena
Richard Zartman
Alan Stahnke

Ethics

Willie Crenwelge, Chair
Don Sabo
Conrad Neitsch

Scholarship

Nathan Haile, Chair
Charles Thompson
Jon Brandt

Nominations

Ted Zobeck, Chair
Laurie Kiniry
Tom Feuerbacher

ANOTHER REMINDER !!!!!!!

We have a number of members that are delinquent in paying their PSSAT dues - a rather long list. Delinquent members will be removed from the mailing list if they do not pay up *muuy pronto*.

A membership renewal form is provided at the end of this newsletter.

So, stay current and please mail your dues to:

Jamey Douglass, PSSAT Treasurer
8703 Sage Meadow Drive
Temple, TX 76502

New Members

Brad Mueller
USDA-NRCS, Soil Survey
Lubbock, TX

Amanda Bragg
USDA-NRCS, Soil Survey
Victoria, TX

Sara Russell
USDA-NRCS, Soil Survey
Lubbock, TX

Dr. Andrea Kishne
TAMU
College Station, TX

Dr. Kevin McInnes
TAMU
College Station, TX

John Sackett
USDA-NRCS, Soil Survey
Graham, TX

Cherie Edwards
USDA-NRCS, Soil Survey
Nacogdoches, TX

Drew Kinney
USDA-NRCS, Soil Survey
Temple, TX

Congratulations, Doug Slabaugh!

Congratulations to an "old member" who has moved on to the hills of Tennessee. Doug Slabaugh was selected as the NRCS State Soil Scientist of Tennessee - a well-deserved promotion and position. He will (unfortunately) maintain membership in the Soil Scientist Association of Tennessee as a replacement for PSSAT. Doug commented that he "very much enjoyed being a part of PSSAT and learned a lot about what makes a group like that successful from attending the meetings". Congratulations, and remember us as we fondly remember you.

Member Profile

Jamey Douglass, USDA-NRCS-Soil Survey
Technical Editor, Temple, TX

Born in Modesto, California. As a child, I lived for eight years in two suburban areas of San Francisco, Walnut Creek and Concord, CA. My dad was transferred to Des Moines, IA. My family lived there four years. Des Moines had four seasons each year, unlike Texas, which usually has only two - hot and warm. In 1968, Des Moines had the worst blizzard in 20 years. After things thawed out, Dad decided it was time to move back to Texas.

I graduated from Klein High School in 1976. Enrolled at TAMU, starting as a Biology major. After the first year, changed major to Agronomy. During my years at TAMU, I was a student employee of Dr. Kirk W. Brown. I was a Brown's Clown. I actually got to do some soils mapping for the Texas Municipal Power Authority (TMPA) located east of Bryan. Drove Dr. Brown's VW Bus or his Chevrolet pickup, and used an auger quite a bit. Had some interesting things happen while I worked for Dr. Brown, but that's another novel. During my senior year, I filled out the paperwork to get on the Federal Register.

I had traveled home (Spring, TX) to check out a job as a Farm Manager near Houston. I called to check out the job, but it was filled. I checked out jobs in the Houston Chronicle, and found an engineering firm with a position for a Soils Technician. I called them and the following day had an interview. About two weeks later, I was offered a job with ATEC Associates, Inc. I accepted.

I ran the soils lab for ATEC Assoc, Inc., a geotechnical engineering firm. Basically, an architect would contact the firm and we would go out and drill to depths of up to 100 feet, taking cores to run in the soils lab. The engineers would take the soils lab data and design the piers for the buildings. I became very acquainted with the Unified System of soil classification. I did PSA using ASTM procedures, Atteburg limits, moisture tests, CBR, sieve analyses, etc.

After eight months, I started receiving paperwork from the Soil Conservation Service. They wanted me to get a physical, fingerprints, etc. I talked to David Meyers, SCS, District Conservationist in Houston. He advised me not to become a soil scientist, saying they spend all day by themselves. He thought I'd be better as a soil conservationist.

A tough decision, stay at ATEC or go to work for the SCS at much less money, and I'd have to move to Mt. Pleasant, TX. My parents offered no help. I accepted the SCS job.

I started in Mt. Pleasant. Kirthell Roberts was my supervisor. I spent about 2.5 years in Mt. Pleasant, working on the Camp-Franklin-Morris-Titus Soil Survey. Learned about soil mapping, interpretations, soil-woodland plots, writing map units and series, and measuring delineations using a grid. Upon completion, I was assigned to Fayette County, Texas.

I'd only been in La Grange a short time when an opportunity of a lifetime came up - a soils detail to Alaska. I was gone four months. I worked with the US Forest Service, in the Tongass National Forest, based out of Ketchikan, AK. We worked the old 5-4-9. The detail consisted of a USFS GS-

11 Dave Loggy, and a GS-9 Robert Griffith. There were four SCS soil scientist; David Kriz, FL (now State Soil Scientist in Virginia), myself, and two guys from eastern TN, Laurence Rochet and David McKinney. There were two seasonal (part-timers) and five volunteers, and we had a cook. Our living quarters consisted of a two story barge. The top floor had bedrooms and bathrooms. The main floor had a workroom, a living room, the kitchen and dining room, an office, and the cook's quarters. A diesel generator was below deck, and two 1000 gallon water tanks. We worked in teams of two. A helicopter would drop us off in the morning, and pick us up in the evening. We hiked all day. The steepest slope I climbed up was 92% and the steepest I climbed down was 120%. Laurence and I found a new soil, and setup a new series -- Isidor silt loam, a Placic Haplaquod.

After my return to La Grange, it was back to mapping in Fayette County, Texas. Dennis Ressel was my Party Leader. Roy Bruns joined our staff. Dennis moved on to Vernon. My next supervisor was Sam Brown, Jr. Roy retired, followed by J. David Wagner. Dave was a hard worker. I worked in Fayette County for 7.5 years. When we finished Fayette County, I was asked if I wanted to go somewhere else. I said I wanted to work in a square county, in the Hill Country, with 20 map units.

I was assigned to Mason, County. Auline R. "Bob" Goerdel was my supervisor. Mason wasn't entirely square, and it had more than 20 units, but it was in the Hill Country. Bob retired, and the Area Soil Scientist, Fred Coburn was semi-in-charge. I spent a little over two years in Mason County. On one of my days off, the DC called me to say that the State Soil Scientist (Dick Babcock) was looking for me. I called him, and he said he had good news and bad news. Basically, Mason County survey was being shut down, and I was moving to Colorado County.

I moved back to La Grange, only now I had a 27-mile commute to Columbus, TX. Sam and Dave were happy to see me again. They had moved to Columbus when Fayette County was finished. I spent about 2.3 years in Columbus. Sam got a job in Temple. Dave and I moved the Columbus Soil Survey Office to Rosenberg, and then moved me to Victoria.

My work in Victoria began as field checking Refugio County and Farm Plan mapping in Goliad County. Eventually, Jon Wiedenfeld became the MLRA 150 Project Leader, and I was his staff, along with Ricky Lambert in Beaumont. More and more of my time was spent in Goliad County. When Ramiro Molina got the MLRA 83 Project Leader job, the ASTC-FO Dexter Svetlik wanted an acting Zone Resource Soil Scientist. I was asked to take on this job and accepted. I spent the first year doing checks of the FOTG against the NASIS database. We were getting ready for the first NASIS and Access template downloads. After a year, I became a temporary GS-11. While acting RSS, the Goliad Party Leader job opened. I applied and got it. Eventually, Shanna Dunn got the RSS position in Corpus Christi.

I recently became a member of the MO-9 Staff in Temple. In the past, I was involved in completing technical edits starting with Wood County, then Llano, Hamilton, Colorado, and Brewster Counties while on survey staffs. I am now a Soil Data Quality Specialist - Technical Editor.

I've been on numerous details; one in Alaska, one in Minnesota; and in Texas - Hockley, Terry, Colorado, Duval, Kenedy-Kleberg, Carson, Lynn, and Zapata Counties. I'd guess about 15+ details in all.

As far as PSSAT, I served as Editor-Treasurer, Editor for about 17 years, and am currently serving as Treasurer.

Hobbies include aviation in the form of modeling, computers, photography, and working in the yard. In the past, I participated in church functions, mainly choir, Methodist Men, Bible Study leader, Sunday School Teacher, Single Adult Coordinator, and Youth Director. In Victoria, I sang with the Victoria Master Chorale.

I'm single again and live with two cats, Ed and Fred.

Smithsonian Soils Exhibit Committee Update

Ted M. Zobeck, PhD, USDA-ARS, Texas Smithsonian Soils Exhibit Liaison

We have some exciting news on the Smithsonian Soil Exhibit. The Texas Council of the Soil and Water Conservation Society recently contributed \$1000 towards the Texas soils monolith. This brings the total contributions from Texas to a little over \$14, 500! What great news. The only downside is that we are still behind California and Colorado in our giving. Please help us in raising awareness and contributions for this educational soils exhibit. The exhibit will include a display of state soil monoliths and an educational, interactive section to help the museum's 6-9 million visitors understand how soil is intricately linked to the health of humanity, the environment and the planet. Related publications and web activities will reach millions of additional people. Never before have we had such an opportunity to advance the understanding of soil.

Unfortunately, the opening date for the project has changed. The projected opening for the completed soils exhibit is now 2008 or earlier, depending on funding. Previously, the exhibit was tentatively slated to open in July, 2006, to coincide with the World Congress of Soil Science that will convene in Philadelphia. To date, more than \$800,000 has been raised towards the overall goal of \$4 million with fund raising efforts continuing through at least 2007. Concept design began in May with the selection of MFMDesign and final design is slated for 2006. Another 12-18 months is allotted for construction bidding, building and installing the exhibit.

For your information, SSSA has asked the Agronomic Science Foundation (ASF) to help raise the \$4 million needed for the exhibit. Soil Scientists and others interested in supporting the exhibit are asked to think about contacts they have with corporations and other potential funders and forward their ideas and contacts to the Agronomic Science Foundation. See the web site below for contact information. Soil Scientists and other interested parties are also asked to consider a personal gift to show their support for the project. To learn more about the project, volunteer or contribute, visit www.soils.org/smithsonian. A recent news release, from which much of this article is derived, can also be found via a link to this web site.

Special thanks to members of PSSAT for your continued support!

Tarleton State University Students Participate in Soil Field Tour in Alaska

TSU Participants:

- Dr. David C. Weindorf, Assistant Professor of Soil Science – TSU/TAES
- John Sackett, Graduate Student in Soil Science – TSU/NRCS
- Gary Harris, Undergraduate Student in Soil Science – TSU
- Diana Strycker, Undergraduate Student in Environmental Science – TSU

Dr. Chien Lu Ping of the University of Alaska at Fairbanks led the ten-day field tour that started in Fairbanks and proceeded 500 miles north to Deadhorse (Prudhoe Bay). The party included 15 people (2 from Germany, 1 from Rhode Island, 2 from Wisconsin, 4 from TSU, with the balance coming from Alaska).



John Sackett and Dr. Ping



Alaska Pipeline
(from left, Strycker, Weindorf, Sackett, Harris)

The group had the opportunity to work at 15 different sites and observe the unique features of Arctic soils (Gelisols) firsthand. Specifically, the group documented features such as cryoturbated landscapes, ice lenses & veins, polygon shaped landscapes, wetland features, frost boils, and vegetation associated with acidic and non-acidic tundra. Using a gas powered jack hammer, the group excavated ten soil pits for sampling, description, photography, etc. Each TSU student had the opportunity to define soil properties for the group, putting their soil morphological description experience to use.

In addition to the field tour, the group visited the Ft. Knox Gold Mine, the trans-Alaska oil pipeline, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Permafrost Research Tunnel.

After spending two days in Fairbanks, the group camped for three "nights" at Marion Creek, where they heard wolves howl at the setting 1AM sun. Heading north, they traversed Atigun Pass, shrouded in clouds and rain. The group spent three nights at the Arctic Oilfield Hotel in Deadhorse, while making day trips to view soil features nearby. Returning south, the group spent two nights at the University of Alaska's Toolik Lake Research Station. On their last day at Toolik Lake, the group was greeted with two hours of heavy snow in mid-July.



Diana Strycker describing soil



John Sackett describing soil

Dr. Weindorf collected hundreds of photos for use in class lectures. David said "Until now, I've only been able to discuss the concept of Gelisols in class. Now I can show my students extensive photographs and explain how the delicate interplay of climate, vegetation and geology come together to form these incredible soils." The students were equally enthused at the opportunity to go on the trip and see their class notes put to use.

The trip also solidified common research interests between Drs. Weindorf and Ping, who will look to develop a collaborative research project at some point in the future.

We normally include the Annual Meeting Minutes in a later newsletter, but decided to provide them at this time for your review – and to recall the items that were proposed and recommended.

**Minutes from PSSAT Annual Meeting
February 9th, 2005
G. Rollie White Visitor's Center, TAMU**

Officers Present:

Dr. Ted Zobeck
Dr. Richard Drees

Eddie Bearden
Kelly Attebury

Alan Stahnke
Dr. Susan Casby-Horton
Jon Brandt

Members:

Dr. B.L. Allen
Eric Anderson
Dennis Brezina
Joe Castille
Clarence Chavez
Willie Crenwelge
Jamey Douglass
Rusty Dowell
Shanna Dunn
Tom Feuerbacher

Nathan Haile
Gary Harris
Dr. Jan Horbaczewski
Dr. Wayne Hudnall
Harold Hyde
Ed Janak, Jr.
Bill Johnson
Maurice Jurena
Laurie Kiniry
Stacey Kloesel

Conrad & Marilyn Neitsch
Russ Pringle
Richard Reid
Paul Reynolds
Mike Risinger
Dr. Clay Robinson
Jerry Rives
Nelson Rolong
Dr. & Ms. Ed Runge
John Sackett

Wayne Gabriel
James Greenwade
Kirby Griffith
Edward Griffin
Kenny Hall
Dr. Charles T. Hallmark

Dan Kowalski
Ricky Lambert
Dr. Murray Milford
Wes Miller
Ramiro Molina
Dr. Cristine Morgan

Dr. Clyde Stahnke
Charles & Marty Thompson
Jon Wiedenfeld
Dr. David Weindorf
Dr. Norman White
Dr. & Ms. Larry Wilding
Dewayne Williams

New Members:

Amanda Bragg
Cherie Edwards

Andrea Kishne
Dr. Kevin McInnes

Brad Mueller
Sara Russell

Visitors and Guests:

Roel Guerra, Scholarship Recipient
Jerry Guerra
Maxine Levin, USDA
Three students from Tarleton State University
Amanda Moore, West Virginia
Frances Miller and son, Jess (Senior Corps member)

Maxine Levin, Guest Speaker

Maxine announced the National Cooperative Soil Survey Meeting in Corpus Christi, Texas in May, 2005. She explained there would be discussions on new issues in the soil survey program. Some of these issues include research, recruitment and retention (student participation is appreciated), Technical standards in Soil Taxonomy including subaqueous soils, and new technology.

She mentioned the budget. The President's budget for 2006 FY included 1.7 million dollars for soil survey. But as always, in soil survey, we are doing more with less. Our soil survey reports are going from a published and printed format to web-based products, which is the new soil survey.

Maxine also encouraged participation in the 2006 World Congress of Soil Scientists held in Philadelphia, PA. She asked how many folks had received a Soil Survey Planner. She thought next year would probably be the last year they were produced.

PSSAT BUSINESS MEETING

Dr. Zobeck called the meeting to order about 7:50 PM. Ted welcomed all in attendance. He offered his thanks to Maurice Jurena for arranging the meal, a round of applause followed. Ted also thanked Dr. Richard Drees for all his efforts. Ted reminded all, that due to health issues, Dr. Drees resigned as President. Ted, then serving as Vice President, stepped into the role of President. Ted also thanked all the Committees for their efforts. He said the work done by PSSAT, is mainly through active members and the committees they serve on.

At this time, Ted asked for those in attendance to review the minutes, and see if there were any corrections. Ted instructed Vice President Alan Stahnke to take the minutes. Russ Pringle moved that the minutes be approved as presented, Wes Miller seconded. The motion passed.

Kelly Attebury, Treasurer, presented his report. Kelly said at the beginning of the year there was about \$939 in the General Fund, and \$6,090 in the Scholarship Fund. We ended the year with \$1047 in the General Fund, and \$4,735 in the Scholarship Fund. Income received comes from t-shirt and cap sales. Also, last year there was a \$5 increase in the dues, so we are just now seeing how this will impact our funds. Kelly reminded all to check the Membership Roster for email and other information. Kelly asked if

there were any questions, there were none. Ed Janak moved the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented, it was seconded. The motion passed.

Nathan Haile, Scholarship Committee, presented the report. Nathan said they received several applications from Texas Tech University, Tarleton State University, Texas A&M University – Kingsville, and Texas A&M University.

This year's selection is a senior at Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Roel Guerra. Nathan added that NRCS runs in this family as his dad is a Soil Conservationist at Rio Grande City. Nathan commented on how quick Roel had learned soils as a summer employee with the NRCS, and was impressed with his work. At this time, Nathan presented a check for \$1,500 and a plaque to Roel, from PSSAT. Nathan also offered thanks to the Scholarship Committee.

Ted offered his thanks to all committee chairs for filing their reports with Alan Stahnke, Vice President.

Eddie Bearden, Membership Committee, presented his report. Eddie said there were 8 new members this year, 7 honorary members, 29 freeloaders, and 88 paid members.

Constitution and Bylaws, Dr. John Jacob was not present. Ted relayed that nothing was needed at this time.

Jan Horbaczewski, Public Relations and Education Committee, presented his report. Jan said he was working with the Brazos Valley League of Voters, to donate time on the radio for PSSAT. He said if we could develop about three pages of text, the League of Voters would donate air time on the radio for PSSAT to get our message out pertaining to soils. Jan was looking for volunteers to assist him, Dennis Brezina said yes.

Willie Crenwelge, Ethics Committee, presented his report. Willie said his committee had received no nasty emails or letters. So he concluded, "we're pretty ethical."

Jon Brandt, Webmaster, presented his report. Jon mentioned our website was now in its fifth year. Last year there were 12,000 visits and we averaged about 1,000 visits per month. Those 12,000 visits equal about 46,000 hits. The website is listed as educational, and non-profit. People from 58 countries visited our website last year. The top countries included Japan, United Kingdom, Poland and the Netherlands. There were 10 inquiries to "Ask a Soil Scientist." The person who answered the most questions was awarded the Top Answerer. This award was presented to Dr. David Weindorf, who has had this honor the past three years. Jon presented a plaque to Dr. Weindorf. Dennis Brezina was runner-up.

Dan Kowalski, Finance Committee, presented his report. Dan said that due to \$30 of expenditures, we were off between the Treasurer's report and the actual balance in the checking account. Dan's major issue is will the current dues keep up with the awarding of an annual \$1,500 scholarship. Kelly answered yes. Dan said if additional money is needed in the general account, it comes from the scholarship account.

Kelly added that several members do give more than just the dues, and he offered them thanks. Dan wanted the membership to consider raising dues to keep up with the annual scholarship. He suggested bumping the dues up another \$5 next year to keep pace with the scholarship. Mike Risinger suggested we increase the dues \$1 per year until perpetuity. Dan added the general fund is holding its own, but we really don't have \$500 for a special project. Dan said we currently collect \$20 for dues, of this half goes to the general fund, and half goes to the scholarship fund. He thinks we need an additional \$5

for the scholarship fund in order to present \$1,500 each year. Wayne Gabriel suggested we lower the amount of the scholarship to what we could afford. Dan said he disagreed, as we all know, the cost of college keeps rising.

Ted asked if there was a motion. Dr. Larry Wilding moved to increase the dues by \$5 for the scholarship fund, with \$10 going to the General Fund, and \$15 going to the Scholarship Fund in 2006. Dan asked if this was a permanent increase each year or just for 2006? The motion was seconded, and the question was called. The motion passed, with one nay vote.

Susan Casby-Horton, Editor, presented her report. Susan said most of the newsletters are being sent by email. They are still mailing out 27 newsletters. She asked those in attendance to sign up for email, thus reducing costs for postage. She is interested in having member profiles in future newsletters, so please let her know if you are interested. Because the newsletter is electronic, we have more options and room for more articles.

Ted encouraged PSSAT members to send in pictures and that the website and newsletter were the primary ways to stay in touch. There were some questions about pictures.

Dennis Brezina wanted to know of those receiving newsletters by mailing, how many were delinquent members. Susan said that she provided the newsletter electronically and that the list serve should contain only current members.

A discussion commenced about delinquent members. Dr. B.L. Allen suggested after two years, we cut those members off of our membership rolls. Alan Stahnke said after two years of delinquency, the members were dropped. Ted asked for any other comments. There were none.

Eddie Bearden, Nominations Committee, presented his report. The slate of candidates is as follows:

President-Elect - Dr. David Weindorf

Vice President - Stacey Kloesel

Treasurer - Jamey Douglass

Editor - Susan Casby-Horton

Eddie asked if there were any nominations from the floor, there were none. Dr. Drees moved that the nominees be accepted by acclamation, Russ Pringle seconded. The motion passed.

New Business, Dr. Ted Zobeck

Ted asked if there was any New Business. He then asked if any Committees that did not yet present their reports had any comments. Maurice Jurena had a question for the audience. Did they think this facility was a good place to hold the Annual Meeting? Maurice thought this was better than a restaurant. Most folks liked the current facility. Maurice offered to contact Dr. Hallmark to reserve for next year.

Ted commented on the Smithsonian Exhibit. He said since PSSAT donated \$1000, our name would go on a plaque for the State of Texas. He asked all of us to give, that currently the State of California is leading with donations. We're better than California, because we're Texas. Ted reminded all, that 20 PSSAT members donated about \$11,000. It is estimated that 6 million people will visit the Soils Exhibit. So he pleaded with those in attendance to give additional funds. Ted also asked if anyone was interested in assisting with the exhibit, to contact him.

Susan Casby-Horton called on Maxine Levin for a possible donor to the exhibit. Maxine said she had contacted her local Whole Foods Market, and they suggested we contact the national headquarters in Austin, Texas, to make a formal grant for a donation to the exhibit. Maxine added that the lady who did the paintings for the Soils Planner, had prints made for a raffle for the Association of Women Soil Scientists (AWSS). The raffle at their annual meeting raised \$1000.

Ted asked for anymore new business. Dr. Larry Wilding made some comments pertaining to the 18th World Congress of Soil Scientists, July 16-25, 2006 in Philadelphia, PA. Dr. Wilding stated the last time the World Congress was held in the USA was 1960 in Madison, WI. He said we were all members of the International Union of Soil Scientists, that the NSF pays the international dues. There are abundant family activities and 18 field trips all across the United States, and in China and Mexico. The theme is, "Frontiers in Soils Science." Our soil technology is a possible item to present. Dr. Wilding said Mike L. Golden will be a convener at the meetings. Dr. Wilding gave out three internet addresses; www.18wcoss.org, www.sssa.org and www.iuss.org. He encouraged us all to get registered now and save \$50 to \$100.

We are all invited to submit a paper, or a poster and we are all invited to present a symposium. All the publications will be put onto a CD-ROM, so we won't have to carry all the papers and books. Dr. Wilding added that one of our own PSSAT members, Dr. Ed Runge, was on the fund raising committee. They had raised about \$250,000. It is hoped that the Soils Exhibit will be up and running in time for the World Congress. Dr. Wilding expected about 3,000 soil scientists would participate at the World Congress.

At this time, Ted called on **Mike Risinger, MO-9 Leader** to make his presentations. Mike mentioned that the NRCS in Texas had its first ever All Employee Meeting in Fort Worth; however some folks were not able to attend. He called Maurice Jurena to the front. Maurice had back surgery during the meeting. Mike said he and Maurice could compare their scars. Mike presented Maurice a 30-Year Certificate of Service, and also a Certificate of Merit for his extra effort in EQIP Mapping in MLRA 42.

Ted invited all to participate in the Texturing Contest. He held up a pair of binoculars as the Big Prize.

Dr. Drees suggested that we put together a "Soils of Texas" presentation on our website. He was looking for soil profiles and landscapes. Please contact him.

Tom Feuerbacher, moved that Charlie Thompson be designated an Honorary Member, for all his work promoting soils and PSSAT. Dr. Larry Wilding and Dan Kowalski seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

Ted asked if there was anything else. Being none, he called Eddie Bearden up to the front for the "passing of the gavel."

Eddie presented Dr. Richard Drees with a plaque for his time as President. Dr. Drees commented that "I didn't do anything!" Eddie called Ted up to present him a plaque for his service as President. Eddie said that Ted was being recognized "for all the things Richard could not do."

Eddie reminded those in attendance that Committee assignments were forthcoming. He encouraged members to ask the Officers or expect arm-twisting.

Being no other business to attend to, Eddie moved the Annual Business meeting be adjourned. Russ Pringle seconded, and the motion passed.

Thanks to Ted Zobeck and Ricky Lambert for taking digital photo's at the annual meeting.

Submitted by Jamey Douglass, February 20, 2005

PSSAT Membership Form

Membership is on a calendar-year basis.

Dues are: **Professionals** - \$20 (1 year)

Make checks payable to PSSAT and mail to: Jamey Douglass, 8703 Sage Meadow Drive, Temple, TX 76502

Check all that apply: New Member _____ Renewal _____ Address Change _____ Volunteer _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Address:
(Home) _____

(Work) _____

Phone: (H) _____ (W) _____

FAX: _____

E-mail: _____

I would like to **Volunteer** (Check all that apply):

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| Committee: Membership _____ | Ethics _____ | Finance _____ |
| Constitution and By-Laws _____ | Public Relations and Education _____ | |
| Nominations _____ | Scholarship _____ | |
| I Will: Write a member profile _____ | Write a newsletter article _____ | |

Susan Casby-Horton
USDA-NRCS, Soil Survey
101 S. Main Street
Temple, TX 76501
(Address correction requested)