



Texas Soil Profiles



John Sackett, 2011 President

President's Letter

2011-2012 is shaping up to be a memorable year! I regret that I, along with many other members, could not attend this year's PSSAT meeting because of the poor road conditions. As a native of the Houston/Beaumont area, that particular spell of winter weather was the coldest I have ever experienced. Regardless of the slow start, I think this is going to be a fulfilling year.

Currently there are several committee vacancies, and volunteers are needed to serve. I encourage everyone to take a few minutes to reflect on their niche within the organization. Please contact any of the officers if you are interested and able to be on a committee. We are a diverse group with members from private industry, government agencies, and academia, and when we all work together, I'm confident we can solve any problem.

My number one priority this year is to resolve issues associated with the scholarship. With only a few students applying each year, many of our members have been disappointed with our scholarship turnout. Increasing scholarship participation has been a topic of discussion at the last few meetings. This year there were three applicants. Some suggestions to boost participation include promoting the scholarship more and lowering the requirements to qualify a larger number of students. If lackluster numbers regarding scholarship applicants continue, I think that our money could be better used elsewhere.

Another goal I have this year is to create a calendar with the pictures we have received from the Photo Contest. The funds generated from the calendar sales will help keep dues low, while still allowing us to be financially able to make contributions as needed. So far the Photo Contest has been a success, and while we are hovering near 10 percent member participation, I hope the contest will continue to grow.

I am honored to be President of this organization, and I look forward to having a successful and productive year.

John Sackett, III

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Thank You Letter from PSSAT 2011 Scholarship Winner

February 13, 2011

John Sackett
PSSAT Scholarship

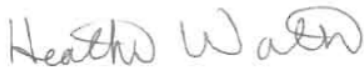
PSSAT Members,

I am writing to thank you for your generous \$1500 PSSAT scholarship. I was very happy and appreciative to learn that I was selected as the recipient of your scholarship.

I am a senior Agronomy major at Texas A&M University. I will graduate in December 2011 and then plan to pursue a Master of Science degree in soil science with an emphasis in Pedology. Soil science has been a passion of mine for most of my life, I have enthusiasm for the discipline and thanks to you, I am one step closer to that goal.

By awarding me the PSSAT Scholarship, you have lightened my financial burden which allows me to focus more on the most important aspect of school, learning. Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals just as you have helped me.

Sincerely,



Heather Watson
3202 Bahia Dr.
College Station, Tx 77845

Minutes for the PSSAT 2011 meeting

By: Haley Neely and Cristine Morgan

College Station Conference Center
Wednesday February 2, 2011
Dinner ticket \$15.00

The social began at 5:30, by 5:45 dinner was set up, and dinner was served around 6:10. At 6:30, Dr. Tracy Rutherford, Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications gave a presentation to aide in improving our amateur photography skills. At 7:10, the business meeting was called to order by President, Cristine Morgan. The editor and president-elect along with many other members were not able to attend due to snow and ice west and north of College Station.

Business Meeting Notes:

- I. 2010 minutes were approved
- II. Officers Reports
 - a. Treasurer Report by Lindsay Lang was approved. Attached. As a note for 2011, it cost \$120 to rent the Conference Center, \$25/hour for the police person, and \$9.65 per plate for dinner by Buppy's catering.
 - b. Editor Report was not presented because Amanda Bragg's travel was prevented by snow and icy roads. She called and said, "nothing to report."
 - c. Webmaster Report by Rickey Lambert was approved. Attached.
- III. Committee Reports
 - a. The scholarship committee was chaired by Jessica Jobe, who could not make it to the meeting. There were three applicants. Two from Texas A&M and one from Texas A&M Kingsville. The winner of the scholarship was Heather Watson from TAMU. Heather was present to accept the award from Travis Waiser.
 - b. Membership. There were two new members in 2010, Jacob Bushong (employed NRCS) and Justin Ewing (employed Luminant).
 - c. Constitution & Bylaws Committee, none
 - d. Public Relations Committee, none
- IV. Photo contest:
 - Best in Show** - Brewster County
 - Reserve Best in Show** - Manzanita Springs (Guadalupe Mts N.P.)
 - Plants:** #1 - Blue Curl on Sandsheet in area of Copia Soils (N. of Fort Hancock); #2 - Blooming Cactus in area of Chispa Soils (N. of Van Horn)
 - Soil Profiles:** #1 - Brownfield Series; #2 - Vertisol (Bosque Co.)
 - Landscapes:** #1 - Manzanita Springs (Guadalupe Mts N.P.); #2 - Brewster County

Wildlife: #1 – Longhorns; #2 - Horned Toad
Misc: #1 - Remnants of a Homestead; #2 - Snow & Water

- V. Nominations, newly nominated committee members included Treasurer and Vice-president. Both nominations are affirmed by majority voice vote. The executive committee includes: President, **John Sackett**; President-elect, **Travis Waiser**; Vice-President **Charlie Clark**; Treasurer, **Richard Reed**; and Editor **Amanda Bragg**.
- VI. T-Shirts, Cristine Morgan indicated the desire to make t-shirts that would appeal to a child and parent/grand-parent audience. Some suggestions for shirt logo design included, "Next to Mom, I like Soil best", "I dig Texas Dirt; "Soil, Can you dig it?".
 - a. Sponsorships, by affirmation members approved a \$300 contribution to TAMU for hosting the 2011 Regional Soil Judging contest in the fall. This money is to come from the PR fund.
- VII. The Gavel could not be passed to John Sackett, his travel was hindered by the snow. The gavel will be mailed.
- VIII. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40.

2011 PSSAT Meeting Pictures by Laurie Kiniry



Tracy Rutherford, guest speaker, giving a presentation about photography.



Lindsay Lang giving the Treasurer's Report.



Cristine Morgan taking up ballots.



Donald McGahon and Dennis Williamson looking over winning photographs.

Photo Contest – Winning Pictures



Brewster County



Manzanita Springs (Guadalupe Mtns. N.P.)



Blue curl on sandsheet in area of Copia soils, (north of Fort Hancock)



Blooming cactus in area of Chispa soils (north of Van Horn, TX)



Brownfield series profile (Cochran County, TX)



Vertisol (Bosque County, TX)



Longhorns (Cochran County, TX)



Horned Toad (Hudspeth County, TX)



Remnants of a homestead (North of Van Horn, TX)



Snow and Water (Mt. Pleasant)

2012 Photo Contest Update

The deadline for submitting photographs for next year's contest is **December 31st, 2011**. To find out more about the photo contest, please check the PSSAT website. Entries from previous years can be viewed on Flickr at http://www.flickr.com/photos/pssat_photos/.

**PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTIST ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS
2010 Financial Report**

INCOME

General	1,152.00
PR	810.00
Scholarship	<u>1,151.76</u>
 Total Income	 3,113.76

EXPENSES

General	2,760.78
PR	0.00
Scholarship	<u>1,500.00</u>
 Total Expenses	 4,260.78
 Difference	 (1,147.02)

Bank Balance at Beginning of Year	8,676.25
 Bank Balance at End of Year	 <u>7,529.23</u>
 Difference	 (1,147.02)

General Fund at Beginning of Year	2,384.88	Scholarship Fund Beginning of Year	5,837.99
 General Fund at End of Year	 776.10	 Scholarship Fund End of Year	 5,489.75
 PR Fund at Beginning of Year	 453.38		
 PR Fund at End of Year	 1,263.38		

**PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTIST ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS
2010 Financial Report -Detailed Sheets**

GENERAL FUND

Date	Income	Description	Expenses	Description
02/03/10			1,000.00	UTT Soil Judging
			111.23	John Sackett (Reimbursement - Photos and Frames)
			75.00	Daniel Leschber (Security Officer for Annual Meeting)
02/05/10	612.00	Meals (Deposited 03-22-10)		
	520.00	Dues (Deposited 03-22-10)		
03/18/10			815.00	Buppys Catering (80 Meals for Annual Meeting)
			105.00	Soil Survey Workshop (Room Rental)
05/21/10			500.00	State 4-H Soil Judging
08/27/10	10.00	Dues (Deposited 12-30-10)		
10/08/10	10.00	Dues (Deposited 12-30-10)		
10/18/10			154.55	Ricky Lambert (Reimbursement - Web Domain Registration and Web Hosting Services)

Total Income 1,152.00

Total Expenses 2,760.78

**PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTIST ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS
2009 Financial Report -Detailed Sheets**

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Date	Income	Description	Expenses	Description
01/22/10	0.07	Interest Earned		
02/03/10			1,500.00	Gaylen Roberts (Scholarship Winner)
02/05/10	1,007.00	Dues - Scholarship Fund (Deposited 03-22-10)		
	114.00	Caps & T-Shirts (Deposited 03-22-10)		
02/18/10	0.06	Interest Earned		
03/23/10	0.05	Interest Earned		
04/22/10	0.07	Interest Earned		
05/20/10	0.06	Interest Earned		
06/22/10	0.07	Interest Earned		
07/22/10	0.06	Interest Earned		
08/23/10	0.07	Interest Earned		
08/27/10	15.00	Dues - Scholarship Fund (Deposited 12-30-10)		
09/22/10	0.06	Interest Earned		
10/08/10	15.00	Dues - Scholarship Fund (Deposited 12-30-10)		
10/21/10	0.06	Interest Earned		
11/19/10	0.06	Interest Earned		
12/23/10	0.07			

Total Income 1,151.76

Total Expenses 1,500.00

**PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTIST ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS
2009 Financial Report -Detailed Sheets**

PR Fund

Date	Income	Description	Expenses	Description
02/05/10	780.00	Dues - PR Fund (Deposited 03-03-09)		
08/27/10	15.00	Dues - PR Fund (Deposited 12-30-10)		
10/08/10	15.00	Dues - PR Fund (Deposited 12-30-10)		

Total Income 810.00

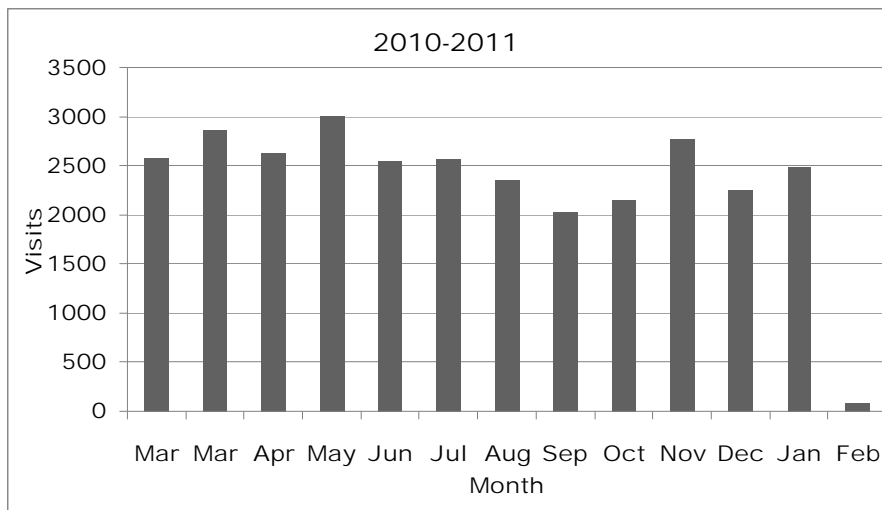
Total Expenses 0.00

Webmaster's Annual Report for 2010-2011

By: Ricky Lambert

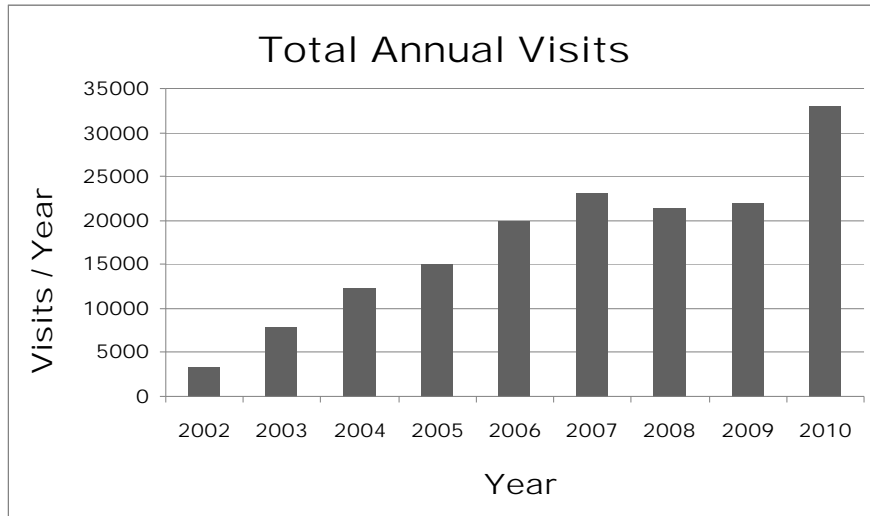
Web Site

The PSSAT web site has been on the Internet twelve years. Ricky Lambert and Craig Byrd first developed the web site. Jon Brandt joined the effort later in 1999. 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 plus a \$20/year domain fee. The PSSAT site received 30332 visits (105,000+ hits) since last year's PSSAT annual meeting (a 27% increase from 2009-2010). This was a major increase in yearly visitation! 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 March, 2010): **2527**

1. The top five types of domains visiting the PSSAT web site: Networks; Unresolved domains, U.S. Government; U.S. Educational; and Non-Profit Organizations.
2. We received hits from 49 countries. The most visits came from the following: Russia; the U.S., Japan, Italy and the Czech Republic.



3. There were six search phrases that were used the most to find our site (since March 2010):

- *Texas soil(s) / soils of Texas*
- *Texas Soil Map(s)*
- *PSSAT*
- *careers in soil science*
- *soil survey / SSURGO*
- *soil science / scientist*

4. The top five pages viewed within the PSSAT site:

- Texas Soils
- Careers in Soil Science
- PSSAT Member Page
- Upcoming Meetings
- Information on Soils

Ask a Soil Scientist

We received two inquiries from the "Ask a Soil Scientist" section on the web site. Two of the questions were forwarded to the PSSAT mailing list for the membership to answer. There were 2 PSSAT members that provided answers. Many, many thanks to all who participated: Wayne Gabriel and Clay Robinson.

For those who were unable to attend the meeting, don't forget to pay your dues to:

Richard Reid

603 County Road 136A

Burlington, Texas 76519

Richard.Reid@tx.usda.gov

Committee Update

We have several openings on the committee assignment. If you would like to volunteer to be placed on a committee, please contact John Sackett (john.sackett@tx.usda.gov).

Scholarship Reminder

The deadline for this year's PSSAT scholarship is **December 23rd, 2011**. Please encourage anyone whom you know that might be interested to apply.

Note from Editor:

As with many of the other members, for this year's meeting, I was snowed in. I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to Haley Neely and Cristine Morgan for taking and typing the minutes for the meeting and to Laurie Kiniry for taking photographs. Hopefully the weather will be more cooperative with our meeting next year.

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.

Thank you,

Amanda Bragg