

TEXAS SOIL PROFILES

Volume 23
Number 2
December 2005

Published by the Professional Soil Scientist Association of Texas
(<http://pssat.org>)

2005 PSSAT OFFICERS

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

2006 PSSAT Annual Meeting Information

The 2006 PSSAT Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 1st, in the Big Pow Wow Room at C & J Barbeque, 1010 Texas Avenue in Bryan. From the edge of campus, travel three miles on Texas Avenue toward downtown Bryan and it will be on your left just past the "big bend" in Texas Avenue. As in the past, a social hour will begin at 6:00 p.m. The Soil Texturing Contest will be available during the social hour. A barbeque buffet supper (\$7.00/person plus tax) will be served at 6:30 p.m., consisting of brisket, sausage, beans, potato salad, bread, sauce, pickles, onions, and jalapenos. The Annual Business Meeting will commence at approximately 7:30 p.m. The election of officers, awarding of our annual scholarship, and committee reports will be the topics of discussion.

REMINDER!

Committee Chairpersons please remember to send Vice-President Stacey Kloesel a copy of your annual report prior to the meeting!

In Memory of a Friend and Colleague

We are saddened to say that Dr. Richard Drees, Past President of PSSAT, passed away recently.

His funeral was held on November 4, 2005, at Parkway Baptist Church in College Station.

Richard had a powerful, positive impact on his community, his profession, and his family. He was always enthusiastic and creative in his professional dealings, and he handled so many details with ease. We will miss him dearly.

Many have asked about honoring Richard through a memorial. The family has requested that memorials be directed to the Building Fund of Parkway Baptist Church where Richard and Janice have been members since 1980 and Richard served as deacon. The mailing address is: Parkway Baptist Church, 1501 Southwest Parkway, College Station, TX 77840.

Janice and Richard were married for 40 years and have a son (David) and two daughters (Karen and Cheryl). Janice's address is 3800 Woodmere Drive, Bryan, TX 77802

President's Letter

Eddie Bearden

Well here it is Christmas, and we're getting out a second newsletter. Our 2006 annual meeting will be held February 1, 2006, at the C & J Barbeque on Texas Avenue in Bryan. Tom Hallmark graciously made the arrangements.

Committee chairs, please make sure your committee is functioning as it should to make our organization what it should be. I know some committees are hard at work because I have heard from the chairs. If you are on a committee but haven't heard from your chair, contact them to see what needs to be done prior to our meeting.

See you in February!

Change of Address

David Carty
504 S. Parkway
El Dorado, AR 71730

Frontiers in Exploration of the Critical Zone Workshop Frontiers in Soil Science Research Workshop

Two workshops of importance to soil scientists were held during the past three months. "Frontiers in Exploration of the Critical Zone", a workshop sponsored by the National Science Foundation, was held at the University of Delaware (Newark) in October 2005. The "critical zone" is defined as all fluid, mineral, gaseous, and biotic components, from the outer envelope of vegetation down to the lower limits of groundwater, that support all life on Earth. The Critical Zone Exploration Network (CZEN) is a proposed network of people, sites, tools, and ideas to investigate processes within this critical zone. For more information, including a Draft Science Plan for CZEN and presentations from the Delaware workshop, visit the Weather System Science Consortium website at <http://www.wssc.psu.edu/>.

The "Frontiers in Soil Science Research" workshop was convened by the National Academies on December 12-14, 2005, in Washington, DC. Experts in soil science and associated disciplines addressed the emerging research opportunities in soil science and integration of the biological, physical, geological, and chemical sciences within soil science. Discussions centered on addressing the need for interdisciplinary research involving classical soil science sub-disciplines, namely soil chemistry, soil physics, soil biology, soil mineralogy, and pedology, and tackling major research needs through collaborative efforts both among soil scientists and with scientists in related disciplines. For more information, including workshop agenda and presentations, visit the website at <http://www7.nationalacademies.org/soilfrontiers/>. Of particular interest is a presentation by Dr. Larry Wilding, TAMU, entitled "Soil Architecture".

More detailed information on the topics discussed in these two workshops will be available in upcoming articles in the PSSAT newsletter.

ANOTHER REMINDER!

Dues for the 2006 fiscal year were **increased to \$25.00** at the 2005 Annual Meeting and will be due at the 2006 Annual Meeting. **A membership renewal form is provided at the end of this newsletter.** So, if you will not be attending the Annual Meeting in February 2006, please stay

current and mail your dues to:

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

Treasurer's Report

Jamey Douglass, USDA-NRCS, Soil Survey
December 2005

GENERAL FUND

Beginning Balance 2-8-05 \$1,262.74

Income

Dues (2004, 2005) from Annual Meeting	\$ 940.00	
Dues (2003) collected from members	\$ 28.00	
Dues (2004) collected from members	\$ 61.00	
Dues (2006)	\$ 40.00	
Interest 04/21	\$ 0.48	
Interest 05/20	\$ 0.48	
Interest 06/22	\$ 0.55	
Interest 07/21	\$ 0.49	
Interest 08/22	\$ 0.58	
Interest 09/22	\$ 0.54	
Interest 10/21	\$ 0.52	
Interest 11/21	<u>\$ 0.56</u>	
Subtotal	\$1,073.20	
Income Balance Subtotal		\$2,335.94

Disbursements

02/09 Jon Brandt (website domain fees)	\$ 154.44
02/09 Susan Casby-Horton (newsletter exp)	\$ 22.30
02/09 Susan Casby-Horton (newsletter exp)	\$ 16.95
02/09 Jon Brandt (reimbursements)	\$ 14.97
02/09 Quality Meats (catering)	\$ 630.00
02/09 Eddie Bearden (plaques)	\$ 120.59
05/05 Bank of America (new checks)	\$ 14.00
05/30 State 4-H Soil Judging	\$ 100.00
07/26 Stacey Kloesel (postage)	\$ 22.20
07/26 Sam Brown (refund of dues)	\$ 32.00
10/21 Susan Casby-Horton (newsletter exp)	<u>\$ 42.80</u>
Subtotal	\$1,170.25

GENERAL FUND CURRENT BALANCE

\$1,165.69

Treasurer's Report (cont'd)

SCHOLARSHIP

Beginning Balance 2-8-05 \$5,323.40

Income

Scholarship 2003 collected from members \$ 20.00

Scholarship 2004 collected from members \$ 60.00

Scholarship (including cap and t-shirt sales) \$1,513.00

Scholarship 2006 \$ 150.00

Subtotal \$1,743.00

Scholarship Balance Subtotal \$7,066.40

Disbursements

02/09 Roel Guerra, Jr. (Scholarship recipient) \$1,500.00

SCHOLARSHIP CURRENT BALANCE \$5,455.40

TOTAL ACCOUNT CURRENT BALANCE \$6,732.09

Tarleton Participates in Chinese Academy of Sciences Agreement

Lycrecia Atkins, TSU Public Information Specialist (edited by Susan Casby-Horton)

As the staple for most of the food and fiber we grow, most of us take for granted that soil holds the earth together, providing the major necessities for most life on the planet. David C. Weindorf, Ph.D., assistant professor of soil science, has had the opportunity to use his knowledge of soil and soil science to bond two countries.

Weindorf traveled to Nanjing, China, on May 13-21, 2005, at the invitation of the Institute of Soil Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences (ISSCAS). During his visit, Weindorf addressed the ISSCAS regarding the soils research he has conducted jointly between Tarleton State University (TSU) and the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station. Weindorf has been collaborating with ISSCAS on manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed journals. Three are under active development and two others have been accepted for publication in *Soil Survey Horizons* and *Pedosphere*.

The visit resulted in a signed memorandum of agreement between TSU and ISSCAS to provide for future student and faculty exchange. Weindorf anticipates the ISSCAS will be sending a student to TSU to conduct research for one year, as well as a TSU student traveling to Nanjing for studies. They will have the chance to work with professionals from a different continent, experience new cultures, traditions and gain an appreciation first hand of strength in diversity."

The ISSCAS, which was founded in 1953, serves agricultural development and ecological and environmental protection in China. Their research focuses on soil resources and their management, soil fertility and its regulation, and the soil environment and health. The institute's research goals include providing a scientific basis for decision-making and functional techniques for guaranteeing food safety, for increasing soil productivity, and for improving environmental quality, while at the same time striving to be proactive in developing progressive concepts of soil science. Weindorf had the opportunity to tour the ISSCAS Soils Museum, the historical archive of the ISSCAS, and took part in a 200-km field tour to visit their field research station and lab facilities.

PSSAT Membership Form

Membership is on a calendar-year basis.

Dues are: **Professionals** - \$25 (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 _____

If you are unable to attend the Annual Meeting and would like to cast an absentee vote, please return the Absentee Ballot to Jamey Douglass, PSSAT Treasurer, 8703 Sage Meadow Drive Temple, TX 76502, in a sealed envelope marked "BALLOT" prior to the Annual Meeting. Please make sure that you indicate your name on the return address of the mailing envelope for ballot verification.

ABSENTEE BALLOT

President-Elect	<input type="checkbox"/> Kelly Attebury
	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Vice President	<input type="checkbox"/> Nathan Haile
	<input type="checkbox"/> _____