

TEXAS SOIL PROFILES

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2006 PSSAT OFFICERS

President - David Weindorf
President-Elect - Kelly Attebury
Vice President - Nathan Haile
Treasurer - Jamey Douglass
Editor - Susan Casby-Horton

President's Letter

Dr. David Weindorf, Tarleton State University

A greeting to all PSSAT members as the end of the year draws near. I hope this note finds each of you reflecting on a successful 2006 and looking forward to a brilliant 2007.

It was a pleasure to see many of you at the 2006 ASA-CSSA-SSSA meetings in Indianapolis, IN. I attended several sessions on newly proposed mapping and classification of sub aqueous soils, presented research on high resolution soil surveys in North Central Texas, and went on the agronomy field tour to look at agricultural production and soils of the area. Following the meeting, I had the chance to consider the state of the soils program across Texas and how we fit into the national soil science scene.

As I look around our state, I see the NRCS and universities collaborating on research, internships and soil surveys like never before. I see Texas on the cutting edge of many new soil technologies such as Windows Pedon, LIDAR data, and its developing soils characterization database. I see students at universities excited about soils and the future they will have in our discipline. I see soil science being recognized by our nation with important soils issues in the spotlight on NPR and Earth and Sky.

So what's next? Will Keys to Soil Taxonomy 10th Ed. become a New York Times Best Seller? Probably not, but we can all be proud of the fact that the field of soil science is tackling some of the world's most pressing issues: carbon sequestration, global food production, etc. We are seamlessly merging technology with field experience to produce soils information that is relevant, timely and useful to all people. And, we are promoting stewardship of one of our most precious resources: the soil of this great nation.

I wish to convey my heartfelt thanks to each of you for allowing me to lead this organization over the past year. I will leave you in good hands, with Kelly Attebury at the helm for a wonderful year ahead. I look forward to greeting each of you at this year's 2007 PSSAT meeting in College Station, TX on January 31st.

ANOTHER REMINDER!

Dues for the 2007 fiscal year are **\$25.00** and are due at the 2007 Annual Meeting. **A membership renewal form is provided at the end of this newsletter.** So, if you do not plan to attend the Annual Meeting in January 2007, please stay current and mail your dues to:

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

2007 PSSAT Annual Meeting Information

The 2007 PSSAT Annual Meeting will be held at the **G. Rollie White Visitor Center** located at the Texas A & M Animal Science Complex on **Wednesday, January 31, 2007**. This facility is located 5 miles west of the main Texas A & M campus on Texas Highway 60 (west of College Station). Enter the complex and turn towards the flags. Follow the road around and turn at the first right into the parking lot.

The Visitor Center is across from the parking lot.

As in the past, a social hour will begin at 6:00 p.m., and PSSAT will provide soft drinks and ice. Also, the Soil Texturing Contest will begin during the social hour. A catered dinner (\$9.00/person plus tax) will be served at 6:30 p.m. and will include beef and chicken fajitas, beans, rice, tortillas, guacamole, chips and salsa, and all the fixings. 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. Please refer to the following agenda for more specifics on our Annual Meeting.

The minutes for the 2006 PSSAT Annual Meeting were posted in the March 2006 edition of the PSSAT Newsletter – if you would like to review them prior to this year’s meeting. The meeting agenda follows on the next page of this newsletter. **Remember your committee reports!**

Soil Survey and Land Resource Workshop February 1-2, 2007 Texas A & M University, College Station

Registration and other information on the Soil Survey and Land Resource Workshop are available at <http://soilcrop.tamu.edu/research/pedology/sslrw2007.htm>.

Early registration is available through January 5, 2007.

Currently, the program for the 2007 meeting is under development.

National Society of Consulting Soil Scientists Annual Meeting in San Antonio

The NSCSS Annual Meeting is scheduled for March 1- 3, 2007 and will be headquartered at the historic Menger Hotel in San Antonio. The meeting agenda is available on the NSCSS web site at <http://www.nscss.org/>. Friday (March 2nd) is reserved for technical sessions with an emphasis on professional ethics on Friday afternoon.

The field tour on “Soils and Geology of the San Antonio Area” will take place on Saturday

2006-2007 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

Dennis Brezina, Chair
Lee Nordt
Jon Brandt

Membership

Kelly Attebury, Chair
Jerry Rives
Maurice Jurena
Richard Zartman
Alan Stahnke

Ethics

Willie Crenwelge, Chair
Don Sabo
Conrad Neitsch

Scholarship

Nathan Haile, Chair
Charles Thompson
Ed Janak

Nominations

Eddie Bearden, Chair
Laurie Kiniry
Tom Feuerbacher



**Professional Soil Scientists
Association of Texas
2006 Annual Meeting Agenda
G. Rollie White Visitor's Center, College Station, TX**

- 6:00 - 6:30** **Social Time, Committee Check-In, Soil Texturing Contest**
- 6:30 - 7:30** **Buffet Meal**
- 7:30 - 9:00** **Presentation on the 2007 Annual Meeting of the National Society of Consulting Soil Scientists, March 1-3, 2007, in San Antonio, TX by Kari Sever, President-elect of NSCSS**

Annual PSSAT Business Meeting

- ☞ Call meeting to order
- ☞ Approval of Minutes
- ☞ Treasurer's Report - Jamey Douglass, Treasurer
- ☞ Scholarship Committee - Nathan Haile, Chairperson
 - Report and Award of Scholarship
- ☞ Finance Committee - Dan Kowalski, Chairperson
- ☞ Membership Committee - Kelly Attebury, President Elect
- ☞ Ethics Committee - Willie Crenwelge, Chairperson
- ☞ Constitution and By-Laws Committee - Nellie Frisbee, Chairperson
- ☞ Public Relations and Education - Dennis Brezina, Chairperson
- ☞ Nominations Committee - Eddie Bearden, Chairperson
- ☞ Webmaster Comments - Jon Brandt, PSSAT Webmaster
- ☞ Newsletter Comments - Susan Casby-Horton, Editor
 - Election of Officers
 - ▶ Further Nominations
 - ▶ Hand out ballots and vote

New Business

- Smithsonian Soil Exhibit Update
- Other Business

Announcements and Presentations

- USDA-NRCS - Mike Risinger, State Soil Scientist/MLRA Office Leader

- 9:00 - 9:15** **Break and Texturing Contest Wrap-up**
- 9:15 - 9:30** **Election Results**
Results from Texturing Contest
Passing of the Gavel
Adjourn

PSSAT Silver Anniversary - 25 Years and Still Going Strong



PSSAT Picture from the Past - 1992

Eight of the ten PSSAT Presidents (prior to 1992) "cutting" an anniversary cake with a sharpshooter at the 1992 PSSAT Annual Meeting at Tom's BBQ. They include (left to right) Glen Chervenka, Kirthell Roberts, Gaylon L. Lane, Wayne Gabriel, Charles Batte, Ed Janak, Tom Hallmark, and Charlie Thompson. (picture submitted by Dennis Brezina).

The following article appeared in the ASA-CSSA-SSSA Newsflash dated November 28, 2006:

SMITHSONIAN MATCHING GIFT

"A generous donation from Gladys and Dr. Larry Wilding establishes the Dr. L. Richard Drees Smithsonian Memorial Fund and will match any size gift made to the fund, up to a total of \$25,000. To make a donation, specify the Drees Memorial Fund when mailing a check or submitting an online payment. For donation information, visit the "[Donate Now](#)" page."

Please consider recognizing Dr. Drees with a contribution to this fund - and special thanks to Gladys and Larry Wilding for their generosity and remembrance of Richard Drees.

The full text of the following article can be accessed at
http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/news/Highlights/gypsum_soils.html

Gypsum Soils Expert Visits Southwest TTU and USDA-NRCS Host Soil Symposium in Lubbock

By Quenna Terry, Public Affairs Specialist

Texas Tech University's Plant and Soil Science department and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Cooperative Soil Survey Program recently invited Dr. Juan Herrero, scientist and gypsiferous soil expert from Zaragoza, Spain, to speak at the Texas-New Mexico Gypsum Soils Symposium and Tour. Dr. Herrero works at the Aragon Agri-Research Center Soils and Irrigation Department. He is a world-acknowledged expert of gypsum soils and traveled to Lubbock to address soil scientists who map and classify these types of soils.

Forty-two individuals from California, Nevada, Arizona, Nebraska, New Mexico, and Texas were present at the week-long session. Soil scientists, geologists, professors, conservationists and others attended the symposium at Texas Tech and participated in the field trip, traveling to Culberson County, Texas, and

Otero County, New Mexico, to examine and analyze gypsum soils. "Gypsum soils occupy more than 1.4 million acres in west Texas and southern New Mexico. Land use of these soils is predominately rangeland," said Dr. Wayne Hudnall, Texas Tech soil science professor. Generally, he said, gypsum soils are located in dry climates and are relatively unproductive. They are considered marginal for crop production and are primarily used for livestock grazing, wildlife habitat, oil and gas extraction, and military operations.

Dr. Herrero's insights resulted in the clarification of certain gypsum-rich soils. "Gypsum pushes," he explained. "Expansion of gypsum crystals causes force to be applied to the adjacent crystals, fracturing and milling them to silt (flour) size particles. This process explains the dominance of silty apparent field textures of many gypsum-rich soils."



Dr. Juan Herrero is standing, 6th from the right.
His wife and fellow scientist (botanist),
Carman Herrero, is kneeling, 2nd from left.

Treasurer's Report

Jamey Douglass, USDA-NRCS, Soil Survey

December 7, 2006

Since our last Annual Meeting;

Collected	\$1,631.00 for Scholarship Fund from dues
Collected	\$ 85.00 for Scholarship Fund from cap sales
Collected	\$ 13.00 for Scholarship Fund from t-shirt sales
Earned	\$ 6.46 for Scholarship Fund from interest on account

As of 12-8-06, we have: \$ 5,355.74 in the Scholarship Fund
 \$ 1,338.94 in the General Fund

Currently, 26 PSSAT members are delinquent in 2006, several of whom have unknown addresses or whereabouts.

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 _____
