

AWSS Newsletter

Association of Women Soil Scientists

<http://www.awss.org>

Special points of interest:

- 2006 membership dues can be sent to Kelly Counts along with your membership form!
- Please send your e-mail and address updates to kelly.counts@wy.usda.gov
- Contact Dena Marshall ASAP if you are planning on attending the World Soil Congress and are willing to work the AWSS booth
- *Play in the dirt shirts* are now available in [adult sizes!](#) See product order form on Page 11



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An Interview with our First Scholarship Winner — Ms. Jennifer Krenz

Tell us a little about yourself

I grew up in West Bend, WI, which is a city located about 40 miles north of Milwaukee, WI. I received my B.S. degree in Natural Resource Management (minors: Water Resources, Soil Science, and Natural Science) from the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point in December of 2000. While at Point I was also a member of the varsity cross country and track and field teams.

After college I worked in Arkansas mapping soils for a private consulting company and in Washington State mapping soils on an NRCS soil survey. I am currently finishing up my M.S. degree in Agronomy at Purdue University.

My interests other than soil science include running, hiking, camping, traveling, and spending time with friends and family.



Executive Chair Dena Marshall presents Jennifer Krenz with certificate of recognition

What got you interested in the soil sciences?

I was always interested in nature and the environment while growing up; after taking environmental science classes in high school I decided to pursue a degree in natural resources in college. I enrolled in the College of Natural Resources at UWSP and began taking introductory classes. Point has a unique program where all CNR majors have to take introductory forestry, waters, soils, wildlife, and policy before taking upper level classes. Although I enjoyed all of the disciplines, I grew to love waters and soils, and ended up choosing them as my minors. When I got to the upper level classes, the soils classes were my favorite, especially Soil Genesis and Morphology. My last semester I got involved in soil judging and really enjoyed it.

What did you present at the ASA meeting?

I presented some of my master's research. The title of my poster was: "Layer Silicates in Illitic Soils of the Bluffton Till Plain: Northeastern Indiana". Basically, I am looking at the soil properties and clay mineralogy of a set of concentric moraines in northeastern Indiana. There is an increased amount of development going on in this area, and in some places new septic systems are failing prematurely. Through field and lab work, I am trying to determine what may be causing the premature septic system failure. The poster I presented covered some of the clay mineralogy work I have completed.

What did you gain personally and professionally by presenting at the meetings?

Presenting at the annual meetings was a great experience. The best part was being able to discuss my research with experts in the field. I also enjoyed meeting everyone that stopped by my poster, from other graduate students to people whose names I recognized from journal articles and books. It was a great exercise in explaining my research at different levels and fielding questions about it. The meetings were also a wonderful opportunity to make new contacts and talk with old ones. I met so many new people and got to catch up with old colleagues and even an old boss!

On a personal level, discussing and explaining my research during the poster presentation made me more confident in myself and the research I have done. Looking at the other posters and attending oral sessions gave me a better appreciation for the breadth of our science and the research that is occurring worldwide.

Where do you see yourself professionally in 5 years?

This is a tough one! I would like to be in a job I love, something that pairs soil science with education. I am not ruling out soil mapping, but I will hopefully find something with a little more opportunity for personal interaction and interdisciplinary cooperation than traditional soil mapping. A PhD is not out of the question, although I would like to work for a while before returning to school. I miss working outdoors!!

Anything else you would like to add...

I very much enjoyed meeting the AWSS members at the annual meetings and wish everyone a happy and successful 2006!

Encouraging and supporting women in soil science

Secretary/Treasurer Report—Kelly Counts

Hello Everyone!

This is my first report as Secretary/Treasurer since I took over for Laura Craven. I am realizing what a huge job Laura had! I had a lot of fun at the ASA-CSSA-SSSA/AWSS annual meeting. In three days we raised \$2,267 in AWSS t-shirt sales and recruited four new members. Since July 2005, the AWSS has had 18 new members join and currently has a total of 121 paid members. **Yes, now is the time to pay your annual dues!** For those of you who have already paid, thank you. If you have any questions regarding your dues or need to update your contact information let me know.

Sincerely,

Kelly

Financial Status—June 26, 2005 to January 20, 2006

Checking Account \$8,797.01

Expenses		Income	
AWSS T-Shirt Orders	\$2,733.65	Membership Dues	\$420.00
AWSS Travel Award	\$500.00	Scholarship Fund	\$30.00
Postage/Shipping	\$397.82	AWSS t-shirts	\$2,482.00
Website	\$190.00	Interest	\$7.09
Office Supplies	\$22.87	Miscellaneous	\$0.51
Smithsonian Soil Institute	\$1000.00		
Annual Meeting	\$190.24		
Total	\$5,034.58	Total	\$2,939.60



Annual Dues are due!

Professionals = \$15/year

Students = \$10/year

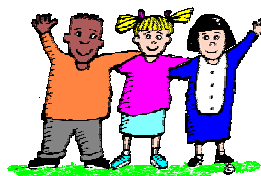
A membership form is found on page 10!

In three days (at the ASA-CSSA-SSSA/AWSS annual meeting), we raised \$2,267 in AWSS t-shirt sales!

Welcome!

Welcome New AWSS Members!

Christine Bliss	cmb1@mail.ifas.ufl.edu
Lee Burras	lburras@iastate.edu
Clare Brunner	perc4u@hotmail.com
Sarah Cathey	sarah@vraeden.com
Shannon Crossland	shannon.crossland@ttu.edu
Gilisa Gould	calsoon@excite.com
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Email Addresses Changes

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Roop Kamal	roop_kamal@hotmail.com

*I am sorry if I have forgotten someone!
If I forgot you, please let me know and I will post it the next newsletter.*

A Message from the Executive Chair

Greetings all!! Hopefully the new year is treating everyone well and those resolutions haven't been forgotten quite yet.

I have been busy this winter as it has been extremely mild here in Indiana. So I've working very hard to finish the fieldwork for my soil survey update that seems to have dragged on and on and on.

Highlight of the past few months has been being fortunate enough to attend the Annual Soil Science Society Meetings in Salt Lake City, Utah this past November and our annual AWSS meeting. We awarded our 1st Travel Award/Scholarship and have plans to do two more in the year to come. T-shirt sales were brisk, especially our new kids shirts. The sale of the shirts is what makes our organization able to do what we do. We were able to donate a substantial amount towards the Smithsonian exhibit again this year also. And I got to spend more time getting know my soil sisters Kelly Counts and Jamie Patton better and renewing friendships both old and new.

The AWSS is planning on trying to attend the 18th World Congress of Soil Science this coming July. It is our goal to acquire and raffle another Janis Lang soils print to help fund the Smithsonian Exhibit. And of course sell shirts! So if any of our members are making the trek to Philly, PA please, look for us and lend an hour or two of your time. If not hope to see you in Indianapolis in November.

Yers in Dirt!

Dena



Above: Dena checks out the salt affected soil near the Great Salt Lake..

Below: Our booth at the 2005 Tri-Society/AWSS Meetings.



The 18th World Congress of Soil Science – The chance of a lifetime

For the first time in over 40 (?) years the World Congress of Soil Science will be held in the USA. The Congress will be in Philadelphia, PA, July 9-15, 2006. For many folks this may be the chance of a lifetime to attend such an event.

The AWSS is planning on attending to represent our group to a broader, more global audience. We will be unable to sell shirts like we normally do at the ASA meetings but we're still hoping to have a booth, poster and "freebies" to promote AWSS. We're still hoping to raffle a Janis Lang soil painting for the Smithsonian Fund. Keep you eye on what's happening at <http://www.18wcsc.org> Hope to see you there!

NOTICE ON THE WCSS – PLEASE LET ME KNOW ASAP IF YOU ARE PLANNING ON ATTENDING – IF WE HAVE 2 PAID REGISTRATIONS WE CAN GET OUR EDUCATIONAL BOOTH SPACE FREE!!! A SAVINGS OF \$300!



2005 AWSS Annual Meeting Minutes

6:20 PM Meeting called to order by Dena Marshall. Introductions followed.

Treasurers report was given by Kelly Counts—

- At present we have 105 paid members (10% male, 20% students)
- ~\$10,000 in savings
- No debts
- T-shirts—Currently our inventory is unknown, need to figure out a system for tracking

Smithsonian Soils Exhibit—

- Paul Kamps, Development Officer, for the Smithsonian Soils Exhibit expressed his thanks for our previous donation and commended AWSS on their ingenuity in raffling off the donated painting last year. He estimates that the entire project will cost ~\$4 million and that they have raised \$900k from individuals.
- A traveling exhibit is in the works for after the 2-year Smithsonian Exhibit runs.
- Exhibit opening July 2008.
- Paul asked for an AWSS representative to attend the World Congress of Soils and will look into getting AWSS a booth at a reduced rate.
- AWSS will look into another painting raffle for the World Congress.

Old Business—

Website:

- A new company is handling the server responsibilities, Veeth Consulting, and we have just recently made the transition.
- The new website layout was sent out to the Executive Committee.
- This new site will allow for secure access to the membership database.
- Still looking for someone to help Donna manage the site.

Scholarship Committee:

- This was the first year of the scholarship and it was a resounding success
 - Over 50 applicants
- Award winner Jennifer Krenz, Purdue University was present and presented with an award certificate (check was sent prior to meeting)

Mentoring Committee:

- Looking for nominees

T-Shirt Committee:

- Margie Farber is still storing all T-shirts at her home in CT, and responding to all mail-order business.
- We need to figure out if a representative will be able to attend the World Congress and sell T-shirts.

New Business (Action Items)—

- Website Help: Always looking for someone to help out with the website
- Membership Certificates: Kelly is going to send out some samples
- Scholarship: 1st attempt successful, need to decide what to do next. Should we have an undergraduate award for \$500?
- Reach out to undergraduate clubs
- Have award winner present research at AWSS meeting
- Ask to have a minute at either the WIA or SSSA Luncheon to present scholarship award
- Fellows nomination: Maxine Levin suggested that AWSS try to nominate at least 1 woman for SSSA Fellow each year. She will organize a committee to begin this process. Sudan Gao and Heather Dion volunteered to help.
- Smithsonian: how can we help contribute in 2005-2006?
 - Another raffle?
 - Donate \$1000—motion to donate by Jamie Patton, seconded by Heather Dion, motion passed
- New Products to sell:
 - Kids "plays in the dirt"
 - Kids & Adults "I ♥ Dirt"
 - AWSS logo on arm of shirts
 - Magnets
 - Different color shirts?
 - Put "USA" on shirts for World Congress
 - Earrings—these have been available from the Soil Classifiers of New England and Margie has handled this in the past. They also have Tie tacks, perhaps we could contact them.
- Newsletter Articles—always looking for authors!
- Manning of booth at World Congress

Meeting adjourned.

Smithsonian Soils Exhibit



National Museum of Natural History



Soil Science Society of America

12/6/2005

Association of Women Soil Scientists
610 Apache Drive
Buffalo, WY 82834

Dear Soil Scientists:

Thank you for your support of the Smithsonian Soils Exhibit! Your receipt for your gift of \$1000.00 to the Smithsonian Soils Exhibit Fund, through the Agronomic Science Foundation, is enclosed.

With your help, Soil Scientists, almost \$1 million has been raised to date. This includes surpassing the recent \$40,000 Matching Challenge Grant for the annual meetings – more than \$50,000 was contributed towards this goal from September 1-Thanksgiving (plus the \$40,000 match)! I'm grateful for your gift and truly appreciate not only your generosity, but also your efforts to get the word out about this project.

Our next goal is to raise the remaining \$1.5 million for the on-site exhibit by December, 2006, so we can meet the targeted opening date of 2008. Particularly as we move into the corporate/foundation phase of our development efforts, I'd welcome your forwarding any names of contacts you or your colleagues may have at national and international businesses/corporations, organizations, or foundations who might be interested in supporting this project at the national level; of particular interest would be companies that have a national scope where you or your colleagues have an "in."

The 5,000 square foot "Soils: Worlds Underfoot" exhibit will occupy one entire hall of the most-visited natural history museum in the world and be viewed by more than six million visitors a year. The five take-home messages are that soils: are living; varied; change over time; link the Earth's land, air, and water; and are resources – renewable, but subject to misuse and overuse.

A small section of the exhibit will include a state soil monolith from each of the 50 states, plus three territories. The monoliths will remain on display for an additional 5-7 years after the main exhibit closes. The suggested \$10,000 state goal was originally intended as a benchmark only and only for the monolith portion. Thanks to these efforts, 18 states have reached that mark and seven others are halfway.

Thanks again for your commitment to this groundbreaking, once-in-a-lifetime project; please call or email me if you have additional questions or thoughts.

Merry Christmas,

Paul G. Kamps
Development Officer

Ellen G.M. Bergfeld
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

P.S. I deeply appreciate your continued support of this exhibit in so many ways – it was a pleasure meeting many of you in Salt Lake and I look forward to working with you now to promote and fund this project.

Please let me know if you have any ideas...

677 S. Segoe Rd. • Madison, WI 53711 • 608-268-4975 • pkamps@soils.org • www.soils.org/smithsonian



Agronomic Science Foundation

677 South Segoe Road, Madison, WI 53711 • (608) 273-8080 • FAX (608) 273-2021

December 22, 2005

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Executive Secretary-Treasurer
(Ex-officio)
Executive Vice President
ASA-CSSA-SSSA

Assoc of Women Soil Scientists
610 Apache Drive
Buffalo WY 82834

Dear Soil Scientists:

I have recently been informed by Dr. Ellen Bergfeld, our Executive Secretary-Treasurer, and Mr. Paul Kamps, Development Officer, of your Association's generous contribution to the Agronomic Science Foundation in support of the Smithsonian Soils Exhibit Fund. Your support is highly noteworthy, and we are most appreciative.

The Smithsonian Soils Exhibit is a most important project of the Soil Science Society, and it will acquaint thousands of people about the important role that soils play in our society. There are very few places available for an exhibit that would provide the Society better visibility than the Smithsonian.

At times when budgets are tight, it is especially meaningful to receive contributions like yours to assist in supporting this project. This exhibit will provide the Soil Science Society a wonderful opportunity for educating so many people about the significant part that soils contribute to our environment. Donations such as yours will help make those efforts possible and strengthen the societies for even greater contributions as we go forward.

Again, thanks so much for your Association's significant contribution to the Agronomic Science Foundation in support of the Smithsonian Exhibit.

Sincerely yours,

Martin A. Massengale
Chair

MM:js

Forest Soils Workshop Great Smokey Mountains National Park

By: Dena Marshall

The Smokeys hold a special place in my heart, as most every summer of my childhood was spent on that lovely winding drive through to Smokeys to Cherokee, North Carolina to spend a week's vacation at my great aunt's house. Back then the rocks were more fascinating than the soils, but as my appreciation grew I even braved the possibility of running into a black bear in the woods above her house to dig a small pit and extract a monolith. I still have that soil sample under my desk to this day.

So when the opportunity came to see and learn more about the soils I had been so close to so many times and never had the chance to poke at, I was **IN!** The NRCS and the Park Service have been working in a joint venture to map the Great Smokey Mountains National Park for Soils and the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory. This has been an incredible team effort for all the folks involved, different agencies, states and levels of government. They have done a great job! One of our stops was at the Purchase Knob Learning Center and you can check out the site too at the link below.

<http://www2.nature.nps.gov/air/webcams/parks/grsmmpkcam/grsmmpkcam.cfm>



Another of our stops was at the Visitors Center which has a working pioneer farm. It is a broad open floodplain and stream terrace that unfolds before as you are coming down off the mountain from Gatlinburg after driving for about an hour through mountains and forests. I've always wondered what was out in that field and I got my chance to find out—very nice soils actually, prime farmland for that part of the world. In addition, I also had a chance to educate one of the next generation of women in the field of soil science.



Remembering our Boys and Girls in Blue Or maybe more like tan these days...



By: Dena Marshall

I thought that I would drop in a short note about continuing to think about our folks in the military, where ever they are. Justin Bender, one of our soil scientists here in Indiana, is a member of the Air Force Reserves and he just went to serve a tour of duty in Iraq. He dutifully reported back that the soils there were more loamy than sandy and have a significant amount of small rock fragments in them. The wind is a significant factor kicking up dust storms that are mostly like loess, silt and very fine sands. He says also that it's kind of like Texas only uglier.

This picture is near the ruins of the ancient city of Ur, built by the Sumerians some 6-7 thousand years ago. The huge temple is called the ziggurat.



AWSS to Nominate SSSA Fellows

This year, AWSS is proud to take the opportunity to nominate two of its members to receive the honor of fellow within the Soil Science Society of America. Fellowship is the highest honor the society can bestow upon its members, with only 0.3 percent of the society's membership receiving this distinction each year.

To qualify for nomination, a per-

son must have been an active member in the SSSA for at least 10 years and made outstanding contributions in an area of specialization whether in research, teaching, extension, service, or administration and whether in public, commercial, or private service activities.

The nomination committee is in the process of identifying and

choosing qualifying members and the fellows nominees will be announced in the next newsletter.

Once nominated, the members will complete an extensive application package and submit them to the society. New fellows will be announced at the 2007 Tri-Societies meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana.



Meet our newest member...Miles Hulka!!

Thank you all for your congratulations and well wishes!

Miles, was born at 3:47 am, December 14th. He was 7 lbs 6 oz, 21 1/4 inches long, and is healthy and doing very well. We are gradually settling in to life as a mom and dad.

—Donna Scheungrab Hulka



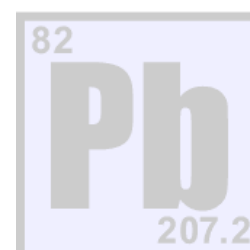
Current Soil Tidbits...

Post-Katrina: Lead in disturbed soil may pose heightened health risk

"Unsafe levels of lead have been found in soil and sediments left behind in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina and could pose a heightened health threat to returning residents, particularly children, according to a new study published in

the American Chemical Society's journal Environmental Science and Technology. In some soil samples collected from the area, lead levels were as much as two-thirds higher than what the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency considers safe, according to researcher at Texas Tech University... Although lead is the biggest health concern, the scientists also found

concentrations of aldrin (an insecticide), arsenic, and seven semivolatile organic compounds that exceeded EPA Region VI safe levels and are on EPA's list of known or suspected human carcinogens. In all, the researchers analyzed the sediment and soil samples for 26 metals and more than 90 semi-volatile compounds."



High blood lead levels in children can lead to:

- Damage to the brain and nervous system
- Behavior and learning problems
- Slowed growth
- Hearing problems
- Headaches

Taken from <http://acswebapplications.acs.org/applications/ccs/application/index.cfm?PressReleaseID=2573&categoryid=4>

Association of Women Soil Scientists Membership Form



Clip or photocopy. Required items are marked with an asterisk (*).

* **Dues:** Professional=\$15/year Student=\$10/year.

Membership is on a calendar year basis and includes three newsletters and access to the online directory of members. **New members** may join at any time during the year and will receive all three issues of the newsletter. **Renewals** are due the first business day of January. You may contribute to the AWSS scholarship fund when you pay your dues. Just designate amounts on the memo line of your check.

* **Please check all that apply:** New Member Renewal Address Change Volunteer

* **Name:** _____

E-mail: _____

* **Address:** _____

Phone (Work and/or Fax and/or Home): _____

Current Position: _____

Advisor's signature (* to verify student status for student members): _____

* **List me in the AWSS Member Directory:** yes no.

Note: The directory will be available online to **AWSS members only** by the second quarter of 2004. It will be secure, password-protected, and SSL encrypted. Each member will have a unique login ID and password.

I would like to volunteer (check all that apply):

Newsletter Editor: April August December

Committee: Membership Mentoring Scholarship T-Shirt

Newsletter: Write a profile Write a newsletter article

Completed membership forms and checks (payable to AWSS) can be mailed to:
Kelly Counts, USDA-NRCS Soil Survey, 760 W. Fetterman St., Buffalo, WY 82834-2342.

Questions? E-mail Kelly Counts at kelly.counts@wy.usda.gov

Association of Women Soil Scientists Directory Update Form



Include your profile in the AWSS Directory

Print and fill out form and mail it (along with your membership form, if applicable) to Kelly Counts. USDA-NRCS Soil Survey, 760 W. Fetterman Street, Buffalo, WY 82834-2342. Or you can email your responses to Kelly at Kelly.counts@wy.usda.gov

AWSS Directory Form

This form is entirely optional. Please fill out or update any or all of the following items for the AWSS Member Directory. The information you provide will be added to the information you listed on your AWSS membership application and published in the AWSS Member Directory.

Please indicate: ___New ___Update

Name:

E-mail:

Current Position:

Education:

Job Experience:

Association of Women Soil Scientists Product Order Form



Item	Size	Quantity	Price	Total
"Soil: We Can't Grow Without It", gray shirt, green trees, brown soil, gray script				
Short sleeve tee shirt, adult sizes S, M, L, XL			\$14	
Short sleeve tee shirt, adult size XXL			\$16	
Short sleeve tee shirt, youth sizes S, M, L			\$14	
Long sleeve tee shirt, adult sizes S, M, L, XL			\$18	
Long sleeve tee shirt, adult size XXL			\$20	
Tank top, adult sizes M, L, XL			\$14	
Tank top, adult size XXL			\$16	
Sweatshirt, adult sizes S, M, L, XL			\$24	
Sweatshirt, adult size XXL			\$26	
Clay dyed – henna shirt, dark brown AWSS logo				
Short sleeve, ladies cut, adult sizes S, M, L, XL (sizes run a bit small)			\$19	
Short sleeve, unisex, adult sizes S, M, L, XL			\$19	
Short sleeve, unisex, adult size XXL			\$20	
"Play in the Dirt" tee shirt – salmon shirt, dark brown words				
Short sleeve, youth sizes S, M, L			\$14	
Short sleeve, adult sizes S, M, L, XL NEW!!			\$19	
"I Love Dirt" tee shirt – salmon shirt with brown words				
Short sleeve, youth sizes S, M, L			\$14	
Tote bag – natural canvas, AWSS logo, black nylon handles (14.5" x 11")			\$5	
Shipping costs: Up to \$11 order, add \$3; \$11.01 to \$31.00 order, add \$4; \$31.01 to \$59.00 order, add \$5; \$59.01 to \$72.00 order, add \$6; over \$72 order, please contact Margie for cost.				
Total Amount Enclosed:				
Ship to:				
Phone number/email: (in case we have a question about your order)				



Make checks payable to AWSS and mail to:
Margie Faber, 331 Riley Mountain Road, Coventry, CT 06238

Questions: email Margie at mfaber@snet.net

The Association of Women Soil Scientists (AWSS) is a 501(c)(6) nonprofit organization of **women and men** in soil science who support these goals:

- To establish and maintain high standards for professional women soil scientists;
- To promote and enhance communication among professional soil scientists;
- To promote a dialogue of soil information and to encourage an interchange with other technical and scientific communities;
- To promote better understanding of the role of soil scientists;
- To provide assistance and encouragement for women in non-traditional fields and for women seeking employment in the field of soil science.

<p>Council of Soil Science Examiners National Test Exam Dates March 17, 2006 & October 20, 2006</p>	<p>Geological Society of America Annual Meetings Philadelphia, Pennsylvania October 22—25, 2006</p>	<p>Soil and Water Conservation Society International Conference Keystone, Colorado July 22—26, 2006</p>
<p>World Congress of Soil Science Philadelphia, Pennsylvania July 9—15, 2006 http://www.colostate.edu/programs/IUSS/18wcss/</p>	<p>AWSS is on the web! http://www.awss.org</p>	<p>Society of Wetland Scientists Annual Meeting Queensland, Australia July 9—14, 2006</p>
<p>ASA/CSSA/SSSA AWSS Annual Meetings Indianapolis, Indiana November 12—16, 2006</p>	<p>NACTA Annual Meeting June 7—10, 2006 Vancouver, British Columbia</p>	<p>National Society of Consulting Soil Scientists Annual Meeting Marietta, GA March 1—5, 2006</p>

AWSS Executive Committee



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