

AWSS Newsletter

Special points of interest:

- Remember to pay your 2007 membership dues! Dues are \$10 for verified students and \$15 for professionals. Checks and renewal forms can be sent to Kelly Counts.
- Consider serving AWSS as a committee chair or committee member!!
- Congratulations to Ms. Heidi Kelly and Ms. Jeanette Bradley our 2006 scholarship and mentor award winners!!



An Interview with our Second Scholarship Winner—Ms. Heidi Kelly

Ms. Heidi Kelly, a Master's student at Northern Illinois was presented the AWSS 2006 Travel Scholarship at the International Tri-Societies Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana. Ms. Kelly was chosen from an impressive pool of 30 applicants to receive our \$500 scholarship to support her travel to the meetings. This was Ms. Kelly's first presentation at a professional meeting.

In a paragraph or so, please tell us a little about yourself.

I am originally from Rockford, Illinois. I received my Associate's degree at Rock Valley College and a Bachelor's degree in Biological Science at Northern Illinois University (NIU). I am currently working towards a Master's degree in Soil Science, also at NIU. My husband, Sean and I are expecting our first child at the end of May.

In my free time outside of work and school, I love to read and spend time outdoors, when the weather permits.

What got you interested in the soil sciences?

When I was working towards my biology degree I became very interested in the health of the environment. I met a professor in the Geology and Environmental Geosciences Department who was studying the bioremediation of gasoline and gasoline constituents in soil. I was an undergraduate researcher in her lab for a few semesters and loved working with microbes and DNA. I now work in the same lab investigating the potential of microorganisms to biodegrade atrazine, a commonly used pesticide. Living in the Midwest, particularly in a heavy farming community, the degradation of pesticides quickly became a very important topic to me.

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AWSS Chair Dena Marshall congratulates Ms. Heidi Kelly, the 2006 AWSS Travel Scholarship

2006 Mentoring Award Winner—Ms. Jeanette Bradley

Ms. Jeanette Bradley was the 2006 winner of the AWSS Mentoring Award. Ms. Bradley was nominated by Brittany Kaufman, a NRCS Soil Scientist Trainee and student at the University of Arkansas—Fayetteville.

Ms. Bradley currently serves as the Director at the NRCS Central Remote Sensing Laboratory (CRSL) in Fort Worth, Texas. The CRSL is responsible for developing new technologies and training field employees to help landowners make the best use of their natural resources with a particular emphasis on grazing lands, wildlife and wetlands. The CRSL also provides technical assistance for Natural Resources Inventory data collection activities and serves 13 states in the Midwest

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AWSS Chair Dena Marshall congratulates Ms. Jeanette Bradley, the 2006 AWSS Mentoring Award Winner

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Secretary/Treasurer Report—Kelly Counts

Financial Status—September 1, 2006 to January 31, 2007

Income:		Expenses:	
2006 Janis Lang Raffle	291.00	2007 AWSS Scholarship	500.00
2006 Membership Dues	90.00	AWSS Misc	290.95
2006 Student Membership Dues	50.00	AWSS T-shirts Order	171.34
2007 Regular Membership	915.00	ASA-CSSA-SSSA Exhibit Space	750.00
2007 Student Membership	155.00	Postage	182.81
2008 Regular Membership	15.00	Smithsonian Soil Institute Donations	582.00
AWSS T-shirts	3,705.50	Website Service	305.40
Interest	25.63		
Scholarship Fund	133.23		
TOTAL INCOME	5,380.36	TOTAL EXPENSES	2,782.50

Have you paid your
2007 dues ??

Checking Account
Previous Balance: \$9701.42
Current Balance:
\$12,266.28

Welcome New AWSS Members!

Teri Balsler	tcbalsler@wisc.edu
Lori Biederman	lbied@lycos.com
Lynette Malecki Brown	lmalecki@ufl.edu
Mary Ann Bruns	mvblo@psu.edu
Kelli Coleman	Kellie@uga.edu
Alice J Enochs	ajenochs@iupui.edu
Ann-Marie Fortuna	ann-marie.fortuna@maine.edu
Sherry Fulk-Bringman	sherryfb@purdue.edu
Carrie-Ann Houdeshell	Carrie-Ann.Houdeshell@ca.usda.gov
Mary Jaehnig	Jaehnig@sbcglobal.net
Jessica R. Lene	jess_rutha@yahoo.com
Regine Mankolo	regine.mankolo@email.aamu.edu
Mfombep Priscilla Mebong	mfombep@yahoo.co.uk
Maria Murashkina	mmurashkina@yahoo.com
Amber Moore	amoore@pars.ars.usda.gov
Nithya Rajan	nithya.rajan@ttn.edu
Sara Rouse	rouse@wisc.edu
Reshmi Sarkar	sarkar@tarleton.edu
Cynthia Sheffield	Sheffield@ffsr.tamu.edu
Michelle Schuman	michelle.schuman@ak.usda.gov
Victoria S. Smith	Victoria.streib.smith@att.net
Victoria Nicole Termini	Victoria.termini@ttu.edu
Meiko M. Thompson	meikomthompson@yahoo.com
Rufina Ward	rufina.ward@aamu.edu
Tanja N. Williamson	tnwillia@usgs.gov



District FFA Soils Contests are just around the corner!!

A Message from the Executive Chair—Dena Marshall

Greetings All!

I am surprised at how quickly it passes by. Here it is a new year already! I have spent this past year building a new house, selling the old one, and moving. So, I've been a little busy to say the least. I'm looking forward to a big snow storm just so I can sit, enjoy the peace and quiet and do nothing for a day or so.

I want to say **THANK YOU!!** to everyone who helped out at the AWSS Exhibit at the Tri-Societies meeting this November. I really enjoy working with all the gals and meeting all the folks that stop by. I think we did pretty well in our new location with the "big dogs" in the Exhibit Hall. Having the opening reception in the hall was a good idea, as it got everyone exposed to what was offered in the exhibit arena. During the meetings, we sold almost all of our kids shirts and raised nearly \$300 more dollars for the Smithsonian Soils Exhibit through the proceeds of our Janis Lang print raffle.

Also, big **THANK YOU's** go out to Heather Dion for heading up our scholarship committee. Heather was responsible for getting our scholarship program off the ground and has seen us through for two years. She is handing the reins off to Sabine Goldberg. I will be looking to appoint another person to the scholarship committee, so if you get the call please consider serving our organization. Another **THANK YOU** goes out to Margie Faber for being our T-shirt Wrangler for the past couple of years. Genny Helt is taking over the T-shirt business.

Next year, the Tri-Societies will be in New Orleans. We are hoping to negotiate a more economical exhibit space, so that we can devote more of our money to scholarship opportunities. Wish us luck! Give some serious consideration on joining us down south; I'm sure we'll figure out how to have a good time. Speaking of which, for the past several years we have had our annual AWSS business meeting in conjunction with the Tri-Societies meetings. As most of you know, the meetings aren't the most exciting things to go to, more of a necessary evil in some cases. In light of that fact, we're looking for economical ways to lighten the mood and have more of a reception type of gathering along with the meeting. If you have any suggestions please contact Wendy Greenberg, bassoons@paulbunyan.net.

Talk to you in the spring!

Yers in Dirt,
Dena

Website Update!!

We are in the process of reorganizing and updating the website. As members, you will have access to a secure membership directory and list-serve capabilities. We are hoping our site will become an informative and comprehensive site for our members and all those interested in pursuing careers in the soil sciences.

If you have any suggestions, pictures or anecdotes you would like to share for use on the website, please e-mail Dena Marshall at dena.marshall@in.usda.gov or Jamie Patton at jamielp@nwmissouri.edu.



2006 AWSS Annual Meeting Minutes—Indianapolis, Indiana

Welcome

Dena Marshall, the Chair of Association of Women Soil Scientists (AWSS) welcomed the group to the 2006 Annual Meeting.

Sect./Treasurer Report

Read over the Report from the last newsletter.

By Tuesday, November 14:

Membership: 2 student and 8 Professionals Applications-- \$140

Raffle: \$155

AWSS T-shirts: \$2,273

Committee Reports

T-Shirts

Maxine Levine still has some AWSS T-shirts in her inventory. She asked for someone to take over. Genny Helt offered to take over this duty.

Kelly, Secretary/Treasurer, is going to set up an account with Earth Creations and Federal Express to simplify ordering T-shirts.

Scholarship

Heather Dion has done a wonderful job for the last two years organizing the AWSS Scholarship Travel Award. This year she received 50 applications.

Sabine Goldberg has offered to take over the Scholarship committee from Heather.

Mentoring

Jamie Patton currently is in charge of this committee.

Old Business

There was no old business reported.

New Business

Booth Space

This year we paid \$750 for booth space, discounted from the \$1,500 booth rental. (Educational booth was not available)

Do we sell enough T-shirts to cover the booth rental space? AWSS usually makes 3,000 dollars from the T-shirt sales.

Gaylynn Kinter stated the AWSS is for education and mentoring and that networking at this meeting is important.

Diane Stott is working with Headquarters regarding the cost of the booth rental

Sabine Goldberg asked about being associated with ASA

Janis Boettinger inquired we should ask the ASA to donate to the Scholarship fund.

Do we want to stay with ASA-CSSA-SSSA or move our meetings to SWCS?

Diane Stott moved to stay with Tri-Societies, Janis Boettinger 2nd the motion, motioned passed.

WebSite

Executive committee will address issues with outdated website.

Thank You's

Dena wanted to thank the following people for their dedication and work for AWSS.

Maxine Levine—Maxine has been responsible for obtaining the prints we raffle from Janis Lang.

Janis Lang—For her support in donating her soil prints to help raise money for the Smithsonian Exhibit.

Heather Dion—Heather has been instrumental for getting the scholarship up and running. She has spend a lot of time composing and advertising the applications and organizing the scholarship committee.

Margie Faber—Margie has been in charge of ordering and selling the AWSS T-shirts. It is a big job and needs a lot of time and organization.

Smithsonian Exhibit

Currently, Smithsonian has raised \$2.1 million of the \$2.5 million needed.

AWSS has held a raffle for the last three years.

Should AWSS match the raffle funds?

Wendy moved to match the funds, Sabine and Gaylynn second the motion, motion passes.

Diane asked how many AWSS individual donations were made and encouraged members to donate

To date AWSS has donated over \$3,500 to the exhibit..

Our next annual meeting will be held during the 2007 International Tri-Society Meetings
November 4–8, 2007 in New Orleans, Louisiana

An Interview with Ms. Heidi Kelly, Continued from Page One

Please explain in simple terms the research you presented at the ASA meetings.

The research I am working on involves a farm in Elburn, Illinois where atrazine has been used for many years. I am comparing the soil microbial communities of an agricultural field and those of an adjacent woodlot that has never been farmed. The main goal of my research is to investigate the land use impacts on soil microbes and to determine their potential for degrading atrazine. I am also looking at how landscape position impacts the communities.

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

The meetings in Indianapolis gave me my first opportunity to present my research to a scientific body and receive feedback. It was very exciting to read posters that involved similar research to mine and talk with people who also have an interest in bioremediation. I was able to identify areas where I could expand my research and am currently incorporating the new ideas into my design. I enjoyed receiving comments and questions regarding my poster and found myself gaining new perspectives towards my research. Also, I feel the meetings gave me insight into the attributes companies are looking for in researchers and other areas of interest I might want to pursue.

Where do you see yourself professionally in five years?

In five years, I would love to be working for an environmental firm. Ideally, I want to continue working with soil. While bioremediation fascinates me, I also love working with microbial DNA in general and hope I am able to continue along this path.

Thank you to all those who have helped support our scholarship endeavors!! It is with your support that we can honor deserving young soil scientists like Heidi

NIU graduate student's research hits pay dirt

Reprinted from Northern Illinois University December 6, 2006 News Release with Permission
<http://www.niu.edu/PubAffairs/RELEASES/2006/dec/paydirt.shtml>

DeKalb, Ill. — Heidi Kelly, a graduate student studying geography at Northern Illinois University, is working to advance her career from the ground up—quite literally.

Kelly's research on soil recently took top honors in a nationwide competition, earning for her a \$500 travel scholarship to a major conference in Indianapolis, where she presented her findings to an international audience of scholars and professionals.

The 25-year-old Sycamore native beat out 30 other applicants in winning the scholarship from the Association of Women's Soil Scientists.

"This was no small feat," said NIU Geology Professor Melissa Lenczewski, Kelly's co-adviser. "Heidi was competing against students from a number of major universities with large soil programs."

More than 3,500 people from 50 countries attended the Nov. 12-16 conference, which brought together members of the American Society of Agronomy, the Crop Science Society of America and the Soil Science Society of America.

"I think her award says something about the quality of research that our students are doing," said Geography Professor Michael Konen, who leads the soil science program at NIU and also is Kelly's co-adviser.

"Heidi is doing a lot of unique things with her research. She's been going to Argonne National Laboratory to work with scientists there and learn about new procedures they're using to examine microbes and pesticides," Konen said.

Microbes are microorganisms, such as bacteria and fungi, which are commonly found in soil. Kelly's research examined the effects of agriculture on soil microbes. More specifically, she studied the ability of agricultural soil to break down Atrazine, a commonly used herbicide in corn crops that can migrate to groundwater.

"I looked at the ability of microbes to break down contaminants in different types of soil," Kelly said. "Human activity is greatly altering the microbial communities, and we don't really know what the impact is. It hasn't been studied much."

Kelly earned her bachelor's degree in biology at NIU and is on course to graduate in May with a master's degree in geography, with an emphasis in soil science. She hopes to land a job with an environmental firm or laboratory where she can continue her research on microbial communities.



Heidi Kelly

2006 Mentoring Award Winner—Ms. Jeanette Bradley, Continued from Page One

Ms. Kaufman's nomination materials spoke in length about Jeanette's dedication to mentoring young adults in the soil sciences. "Jeanette was the first woman soil scientist I met and she offered to mentor me while I was still in high school... I have greatly benefited from Jeanette's courage, while I worked as a soil science trainee the past three years. I have received a letter telling me that upon graduation in May I can be a permanent student employee for the Natural Resources Conservation Service in the soil science division."

"My decision to pursue a career in soil science has been impacted by several things, but knowing Jeanette has been one of the major influences. Jeanette views her job as a way to care for the environment, help others, and as a career she loves." "Even though Jeanette now works in a different state, she remains only a phone call away. She continuously serves as one of my inspirations with what she has taught me. I treasure Jeanette's advice and her belief that I will touch the world. Jeanette has been an extraordinary mentor to me though her example of working hard to help others wherever she is. The most amazing quality is that she says all of this is her pleasure."

"Jeanette has been an extraordinary mentor to me though her example of working hard to help others wherever she is. The most amazing quality is that she says all of this is her pleasure."

Congratulations and thank you to Jeanette Bradley for being a positive influence on up-and-coming soil scientists!!

AWSS Member Interviews

As part of our drive for membership and organizational development, we will be "interviewing" members of the Association of Women Soil Scientists (AWSS) via e-mail. We will be publishing these interviews in upcoming AWSS newsletters, so to highlight individual members and the diversity of careers in the soil sciences. We believe such interviews can encourage and educate our younger scientists/students as to potential careers and opportunities in the soils discipline and will foster relationships and communications among our members.

If you would like to volunteer for an interview, please send your responses to the following questions to Jamie Patton at jamiejp@nwmissouri.edu. We will also be recruiting interviews from members via e-mail. Please consider sharing your soil story with us

Name
Job title
E-mail

In a paragraph or so, please tell us a little about yourself.

(Where you're from, family, hobbies, interests, or whatever you would like to share)

What got you interested in the soil sciences?

Please tell us about your current job and what you do there.

What is the best part of your job?

If you had it to do all over again, what would you change about your career?

What advice do you have for up-and-coming soil scientists?

Anything else you would like to add...

Position Announcement—University of California-Davis

The Department of Land, Air and Water Resources and the Agricultural Sustainability Institute of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences invites applications from outstanding scholars for a position appointable at the Associate Professor level. We seek an outstanding applicant with a Ph.D. in soil chemistry or closely related field to conduct soil chemistry research related to sustainable agriculture in California. The Boswell Endowed Chair will provide leadership in integrating application of soil chemical and physical principles to agriculture and natural resource challenges that span spatial scales from the molecular to landscape. The applicant is expected to develop major research initiatives and engage in cross-disciplinary research on topics related to agriculture sustainability, such as chemical aspects of nutrient and irrigation management, agricultural water reuse and disposal, land application of biosolids, fate and transport of contaminants along the soil-plant-groundwater-surface water continuum, and food quality and safety. The appointee is required to teach an undergraduate course in soil-water-environmental chemistry, a graduate course related to chemical aspects of environmental or agricultural sustainability, and to contribute to development of and teach in the planned undergraduate major in sustainable agriculture. Supervision of graduate students, student advising, curricular development, participation in outreach programs, and performance of University service are expected. This nine-month position, with eleven-month term employment with an appointment in the California Agricultural Experiment Station to be offered and continued based on academic personnel review, is available on or about October 1, 2007. For additional information concerning the position and to submit application materials, please visit <http://lawr.recruitments.ucdavis.edu/>. Applicants should submit cover letter, curriculum vitae, description of current and projected research, summary of teaching interests and experience, and up to three publications, all in PDF format. Applicants should arrange for three letters of reference to be submitted to Dr. Randy Dahlgren, Search Committee Chair, LAWR, University of California, Davis, 1 Shields Avenue, Davis, CA 95616. Letters may also be sent via e-mail to: kanders@ucdavis.edu. Closing Date: April 30, 2007. Open until filled, but all application materials, including letters of recommendation, must be received by April 30, 2007 to assure full consideration. UC Davis is an affirmative action/equal employment opportunity employer and is dedicated to recruiting a diverse faculty community. We welcome all qualified applicants to apply, including women, minorities, veterans, and individuals with disabilities.

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):

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, 621 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 the form below and mail it (along with your membership form, if applicable) to Kelly Counts. USDA-NRCS Soil Survey, 621 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			\$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:
Genny Helt, Hoosier Hills Soil Survey Project Office, 2006 N. State Hwy 7, North Vernon, IN 47265

Questions: email Genny at genny.helt@in.usda.gov

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.



AWSS Executive Committee

Officers

Dena Marshall, Chair
USDA-NRCS Soil Survey
2600 N State Highway 7
North Vernon, IN 47265
(W) 812-346-3411 ext. 5
(Fax) 812-346-4237
dena.marshall@in.usda.gov

Jamie Patton, Chair-Elect
Department of Agriculture
Northwest Missouri State University
Maryville, MO 64468
(W) 660-562-1659
(Fax) 660-566-1161
jamiejp@nwmissouri.edu

Pat Farrell, Past-Chair
Dept. of Geography, 329 Cina
University of Minnesota - Duluth
Duluth, MN 55812
(W) 218-726-7076
(Fax) 218-726-6386
pfarrell@d.umn.edu

Kelly Counts, Secretary/Treasurer
USDA-NRCS Soil Survey
621 W. Fetterman Street
Buffalo, WY 82834-2342
(W) 307-684-2526 ext. 119
(Fax) 307-684-5972
kelly.counts@wy.usda.gov

At-Large Members

Sarah Uttech
SSSA-ASA Contact
Program Manager, Communications
677 South Segoe Road
Madison, WI 53711
(W) 608-268-4948
suttech@agronomy.org

Cheryl Simmons
SWCS Representative
Central National Technology Support
Center
P.O. Box 6567
Fort Worth, TX 76115
(W) 817-509-3314
(Fax) 817-509-3337
cheryl.simmons@usda.gov

Ann M. Mason
Private Sector Representative
Strata Environmental
P.O. Box 1334
Lombard, IL 60515
(W)/(Fax) 630-627-9522
annmasson@aol.com

Additional Members

Margie Faber
Historian
331 Riley Mountain Road
Coventry, CT 06238
(H) 860-742-6770
(W) 860-688-7725, ext. 115
(Fax) 860-688-0083
margie.faber@ct.nrcs.usda.gov

Heather Dion
ASA-Women in Agronomy Rep.
Nuclear Nonproliferation Division
Los Alamos National Laboratory
P.O. Box 1663
MS B230
Los Alamos, NM 87545
hdion@lanl.gov

Genny Helt
T-shirts
USDA-NRCS Soil Survey
2600 N State Highway 7
North Vernon, IN 47265
(W) 812-346-3411 ext. 5
(Fax) 812-346-4237
genny.helt@in.usda.gov