



AWSS Newsletter

Association of Women Soil Scientists
www.awss.org

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Of Interest:

If you have not paid your yearly dues, please send your money to Kelly Counts along with your membership form on p. 6. ❖

Thank you to all of the wonderful ladies who submitted articles, I apologize for omissions in names ❖

Soil Map Dishes the Dirt on the State's Acres, by Nicole Jacques Lansing State Journal

Photo: Brian Buehler

East Lansing- - A bucket auger spins into the ground, revealing a small pile of earth.

To the scientists who gathered at Michigan State University's AG Expo this week, that bit of dirt represented a historic moment.

With this final sample, they finished a statewide soil map, a compilation of data on 36 million acres.

"This is a big deal," said Larry Carey, a Marquette soil researcher. "If you think about it, every activity man does is dependent on soil."

For decades state residents have sought such information as the depth of water tables and the percentage of clay in soil. Local governments, developers, conservation groups and foresters look at soil surveys for land-use planning.

Now, the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service can say the state has been surveyed at least once, a project that likely will never be repeated on the same scale.

The state's first published soil survey was completed in Allegan County in 1901.

State conservationist Jack Bricker said most states already have soil databases. Heavy books and maps are being replaced by CD-ROM and Web-based versions.

Soil scientists who have trudged through rough terrain and battled bugs to take samples say the data can mean the difference between a solid house and a flooded basement.

"It's very satisfying," Gaylynn Kinter, a NRCS area specialist from Flushing said of the survey. "And it's a great job. I get paid to play in the dirt."

Contact Nicole Jacques at 377-1066 or njacques@lsj.com. ❖



Photo: Brian Buehler

SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT

June 19, 2005
 Laura Craven

We have only 90 paid members right now. Thank you to those of you who have sent in your dues. We are now paying dues one year at a time. I sent an e-mail reminder in March to those of you who owe 2005 dues. That will be the only reminder for this year. Now that we are paying dues one year at a time, there is less of a need to send reminders; everyone should just send the dues for the year to the secretary/treasurer in **January** of that year. Also, when you change your e-mail address, please let us know. All of our correspondence and the newsletters are sent by e-mail. I want to say **thank you** to Kelly Counts for taking over this job for me.

Thanks. Laura ❖

Financial Status – March 22, 2005

Checking Account	\$2062.00
Money Market Account	\$8701.00
CD	\$5561.00

	\$16324.00

Expenses: postage

Income: dues, t-shirt sales, scholarship fund donations (\$55.00)

New Members (from the March 2004 report that was left out of the newsletter by mistake):

Trudy Pink	trudy.pink@ak.usda.gov
Joni Franklin	joni.franklin@mi.usda.gov
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David Howell	david.howell@ca.usda.gov
Kelly Counts	kelly.counts@wy.usda.gov
Catherine Waltham Sajdak	cwaltham@vt.edu

New Members:

Carrie Alexander
 John Rule
 Kathryn DesForge
 Candace Banners
 Sheila Gardner
 Jerri Munn
 Roop Kamal
 Gail Meads
 Lisa Palazzi
 Dennis Potter
 Rasanthi Wijesinghe
 Deanna Bobak
 David Weindorf
 Stephanie Garman
 Getie Yilma
 Carol Bronick
 Danielle Andrews
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A Message from Dena Marshall, Executive-Chair

Greetings from the Chair!

I hope that the summer is treating everyone well! It truly is amazing how quickly time gets away from us all it seems. One minute winter is breaking, spring flowers blooming and the next the wind down of summer and fall around the corner. Amazing!

I offer my apologies for failing to report back sooner on the outcome of the election of our new officers. Congrats go out to Jamie Patton and Kelly Counts, your new chair-elect and secretary-treasurer, respectively. I would strongly encourage others to consider running for an officer position some time. The job is a relatively easy one and takes very little time. Make it an opportunity to leave your personal mark on the organization!

We are constantly on the outlook for new members and ways to make our organization an exciting one. All suggestions are welcome!! Just send them to anyone on the executive committee. Suggestions for the website are also welcome, I'm sure that our webmistress, Donna Hulka, would love to hear from you. Any pictures folks would like to share are great too.

I would ask that folks consider writing a newsletter article some time too. Share a story from your work or personal experience. Good or bad, you never know when someone else out there may be having the same experience and can use yours to help them out. I would hope that we all have a few, I know I certainly do! It is all part of what our organization was established to do, to provide a mentoring and support avenue for others in the career field. Please submit them to the chair-elect any time and they will make sure it makes into a newsletter.

So enough of my begging for membership involvement, let me fill you in on life in general. Much to my relief I was blessed with (and I can truly say that) a new full time soil scientist and two student trainees this summer. Two of which are gals! We also had another gal student trainee in the soil survey project office in the northern part of the state. I came to the realization early this summer (much to my surprise) that I went from being the only woman in the field in Indiana to being the mentor for 3! That brings a definite sense of responsibility home to roost on my office doorstep.

Message from the Chair continued...

It is a bit scary in some sense that these young people are looking up to me. I just hope when I share my experiences and philosophies on working within the government that they can use that somewhere down the road. I suppose that's what it's all about, encouraging the younger generation of women in our chosen field.

I want to thank everyone who has had patience with me in sort of feeling my way through my term as chair. I hope that I can provide the same encouragement and advice to Jamie that Pat Farrell has given me. I also hope that several of you can make the annual meeting that will be held in conjunction with the Tri-Societies Meetings (ASA-CSA-SSSA) this fall in Salt Lake City, UT. We are planning on a Tuesday night meeting this year in hopes of generating more membership interest through the AWSS booth display. The meeting is scheduled for 6 PM, Tuesday, November 8 in the Hilton Hotel, Salon I. We will have a short business meeting and socialize. I'll look forward to seeing everyone there!

Yers in Dirt,

--Dena ❖

About the Editor

Cheers everyone! This is my first time editing and I hope I have served well! I have worked in association with USDA-NRCS since I graduated from Tennessee Technological University in 1997. I have been a soil scientist working for the agency since 2000. Wow, it is so amazing that time passes so quickly! But I am always excited about what the future has in store for the field of soil science and especially for AWSS. I too was thrilled to discover that an organization for women (and men) existed in the profession of soil science where we are few but growing strong. I am proud and grateful to be a member of a great organization.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Yaeger ❖

25th Annual Central States Forest Soils Workshop October 12th – 13th, 2005

Mt. Cammerer in the Great Smoky Mountains

The 25th Annual Forest Soils Workshop will be held at the Great Smokey Mountains National Park. The workshop is hosted by the Soil Scientist Association of Tennessee (SSAT) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Since 1998 the Natural Resources Conservation Service has been conducting a soil survey in the Great Smokey Mountains National park and has collected characterization data for 72 pedons. This data will be presented as well data that is being collected in the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI) which is being conducted by the non-profit organization Discover Life in America (<http://www.dlia.org>).

Early registration for the workshop is \$69.00 per person. The registration fee will cover the field tour and catered box lunch on Wednesday and the banquet that will be held Wednesday night.

For more information, registration forms, and hotel accommodations please visit the Central States Forest Soils Workshop website...

<http://www.tn.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/soils/CSFSWS/CSFSWS.html>

Additional Contacts:

David McMillen (615.446.2449 x. 102)

Anthony Khiel (865.453.4664 x. 106)

*A profile of the Chiltoskie Series, a Fine-loamy, isotic, frigid Typic Dystrudepts

NOTICE OF UPCOMING AWSS MEETING

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF AWSS WILL BE HELD TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH, AT THE HILTON HOTEL, SALON I.

MEETING TIME: 6-8 PM

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A CHANGE FROM OUR REGULAR MEETING TIME IN HOPES OF ENCOURAGING MORE MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES.

For more information concerning the ASA-CSSA-SSSA Meetings in Salt Lake City, Utah visit:

<http://www.asa-cssa-sssa.org/meetings/acs/index.html>

AWSS Scholarship Inaugurated

This year AWSS was finally able to bring our dream (and the reason we sell ALL those shirts) to reality. Through the very talented leadership of Heather Dion, our scholarship application requirements and form were completed and posted to the AWSS website. We also got a block advertisement in the CSA News. I feel we received an outstanding response for a new arrival. We currently have approximately 40 applications to be reviewed. The lucky recipient will be chosen in the next few weeks and announced at the Tri-Societies Meetings this fall. The scholarship is for \$500 to help defray the costs of attending the conference to present the results of their research. A **BIG** thanks once again to Heather for taking the bull by the horns and getting this up and going. Thanks Heather!

In the Market for a New Job??

Check out the new website <http://www.simplyhired.com>! My sister is involved with this new job website and it is great. If you are looking for a new job or know someone who is, give it a try.

Laura Craven ❖

AWSS Dirt Shirt Order Form – 2004 (Clip or photocopy.)

Make checks payable to AWSS and mail to Margie Faber, 331 Riley Mountain Road, Coventry, CT 06238. Questions? E-mail Margie at margie.faber@ct.nrcs.usda.gov

SOIL We Can't Grow Without It – Ash Gray

Gray sky, green trees, brown soil, gray script
 Short-sleeved adult tee • S-M-L-XL = **\$14** • XXL = **\$16**
 Short-sleeved youth tee • S(6-8)-M(10-12)-L(12-14) = **\$14**
 Long-sleeved adult tee • S-M-L-XL = **\$18** • XXL = **\$20**
 Sweatshirt, adult • S-M-L-XL = **\$24** • XXL = **\$26**
 Tank top, adult • M-L-XL = **\$14** • XXL = **\$16**

Clay-Dyed Ladies Tee – Henna with dark brown AWSS logo

Short-sleeved • These run a bit small so you may want to order up, check awss.org/shop for size chart • Unisex XL is next size up from ladies XL • Ladies S-M-L-XL-Unisex XL = **\$19**

Tote Bag – Natural canvas, black nylon handles, green AWSS logo. Bag is flat and measures 14 ½" wide by 11" tall. • **\$5**

Shipping:

- Up to \$11 order = **\$3** shipping
- \$11.01-\$31 = **\$4** • \$31.01-\$59 = **\$5** • \$59.01-\$72 = **\$6**
- Over \$72 - Please contact Tammy for cost.

Please list item(s), quantity, size, and cost:

Shipping: _____

Total: _____

Ship to name and address:

E-mail (in case we have a question about your order):

AWSS Executive Committee

Officers

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Association of Women Soil Scientists – AWSS – 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

Make checks payable to AWSS and mail to: Kelly Counts, 760 W. Fetterman St., Buffalo, WY 82834-2342.
Questions? E-mail Kelly Counts at thesoilscientist@yahoo.com.

We're on the Web!
www.awss.org