

# VAPSS NEWSLETTER

Virginia Association of Professional  
Soil Scientists

## SPRING SESSION—05.19-20.2011—BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA Soil Science Needs and Issues in Nutrient Management Planning

Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs) have historically been required for agricultural lands receiving animal manures and biosolids and for participation in certain federal/state cost-share programs. However, recent changes in state regulations and policies now require NMPs for all state and local government owned lands and require commercial turfgrass applicators to follow NMP principles. New regulations this year will likely further restrict how nutrients can be applied on home lawns and in other urban settings. Additionally, all agricultural enterprises are being strongly encouraged to develop and follow voluntary NMPs. This two-day technical program will focus on essential principals of soil science and applied hydrology that underpin many of the assumption and algorithms used in the preparation of NMPs. The program will be further enhanced by presentations by Virginia agency personnel directly involved with implementation and oversight of these varied programs. While this program is not designed as training for NMP certification by DCR, the nature and requirements of current certification programs (agricultural and urban) will be covered in detail.

CEU's (1.5) will be provided by Virginia Tech for all registrants *who attend both days* and are included in the registration fee. Registration will cover lunch both days, refreshment breaks, handouts and field trip development/support. A block of rooms has been reserved at \$80/night at the Hawthorn Suites, 1020 Plantation Road; [www.hawthorn.com](http://www.hawthorn.com); Blacksburg, VA 24060; Phone: (540)552-5636 (NOTE: reservations are held under 'VAPSS'). *You must reserve by May 4 to retain this rate guarantee.* Parking passes will be mailed to all pre-registered guests and the daily fee (\$3) is covered in your registration. If you don't register before May 12, parking passes will be available at registration. Check the large campus maps as you enter Virginia Tech to locate Smyth Hall and nearest parking lots. This program serves as the 2011 Spring Technical Session for VAPSS and a separate schedule for the business meeting and social functions will be forwarded to VAPSS members.

### REGISTRATION INFORMATION INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE OF THE VAPSS NEWSLETTER!!

#### INCLUDED THIS ISSUE:

- Welcome to 2011 NEW members AND lifetime members
- Virginia Tech Soil Judging Team Competes at Nationals
  - We are LICENSED Professional Soil Scientists
    - VAPSS Fall Session
    - August Camp/Canoe Trip
    - Upcoming Events

## VAPSS Welcomes our 2011 **NEW** Members and **LIFETIME** Members!

**NEW Members for 2011:** Timothy Thomas, Jay Raymond

**NEW Lifetime Members for 2011:** Kevin Seaford, John Galbraith, Matt Tolley, Ryan Reed, Alexis Jones, Nan Gray, Bill Keeling, Ronald Robison

## Virginia Tech Soil Judging Team Competes at 2011 National Championship

Submitted by: Dr. John Galbraith

The Virginia Tech Soil Judging Team placed 11th in overall score at the 51st ASA National Soil Judging Contest hosted by Oregon State University in Bend, Oregon on April 26-30, 2011. There were 21 teams present from across the nation that had qualified at regional contests last fall. In the group judging event, Virginia Tech finished 9<sup>th</sup> out of 21 teams. High scorer for Virginia Tech was Nina O'Malley (Sr., CSES, Arlington, VA) in 13<sup>th</sup> place. Also on the team were James Currie (Sr., ENSC, Toms Brook, VA), W. Randy Cosby (Sr., CSES, Glen Allen, VA), Kelly McMillen, (Jr., ENSC, Chesapeake, VA), Chris Heltzel (Jr., CSES, Maurertown, VA), and Melanie Letalik (Jr., ENSC, Fairfax, VA). CSES graduate student Charles Cox was Asst. Coach.

During the contest week the teams spent three days travelling one hour in every compass direction away from Bend to observe 18 practice sites and prepare for the contest. "The students saw a variety of soils from the snowline down to the desert. The soils ranged from dark volcanic ash to red cinder cones to beige ash sand dunes. The vegetation ranged from dense forest to open sage and juniper grassland, and the learning experience was outstanding" said coach John Galbraith of the Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences (CSES) department. "This first-hand experience broadens their ability to work as professional agricultural and environmental soil scientists after graduating."

According to Professor Galbraith, "The contest was challenging, with snow on three practice days and during the contest. The soils were different than any we had ever seen." The team made side trips to study the geology, vegetation, and animals. Hiking, immense vistas, a drive to see glaciated terrain and to timberline on Mt. Hood highlighted the trip.



### Your VAPSS 2011 Board

#### Officers :

Ann Ruff (ALRuffSoilMom@aol.com)—Past President  
Lexi Jones (dirt\_rocks@yahoo.com)— President  
Kevin Seaford (Kevin\_Seaford@golder.com) - President Elect  
Matt Tolley (Matt.Tolley@loudoun.gov)— Treasurer  
Joe Felton (joe.felton@timmons.com) -Secretary

#### Board Members:

Bruce Legge (blegge@marshandlegge.com)  
Alex Blackburn (ablackbu@loudoun.gov)  
Greg Monnett (greg@enviro-utilities.com)  
Mark Smith (mark.smith@soilconsultants.net)  
Sue Brown (suebrown@vt.edu)—Executive Secre-

Contact a board member with questions, suggestions, or comments about VAPSS. Or email [vapss@vapss.org](mailto:vapss@vapss.org)!

## We are **LICENSED** Professional Soil Scientists *{a letter from your President}*

It is TRUE...on April 8, 2011 our bill for LICENSING Professional Soil Scientists was signed by Governor Bob McDonnell. What a fine accomplishment to add to our books! I am very proud of our groups—YOUR support both physically (attending sessions/hearings, writing letters and making phone calls in many 11th hour situations), mentally AND financially (we raised over \$11,000) made it ALL happen. Also a huge THANK YOU to the Hillbridge Group (Aimee Perron Siebert and assistant Lauren Bull) for their amazing support and guidance through the whole process...I will tell you...a lobbyist is WELL worth their time AND expertise! You can view our final bill, as adopted into law, at: <http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?111+ful+HB1734ER2>.

Here is a SHORT overview of our efforts in the General Assembly 2011. In September and November 2010 {wow...that seems like a long time ago already} the Board members spent countless hours arranging meeting times/locations and attending meetings with delegates and senators that would be on our Committees (General Laws). We met with delegates/senators from all places...Chesapeake, Manassas, Petersburg, Galax ...you name it WE were there making our NAME known. By mid-November we had commitments from Senator Jill Holtzman Vogel and Delegate Charles Carrico as our sponsors for GA 2011! And the bill drafting began and was ready for review on January 7, 2011...only days before the start of GA 2011. Oh, BUT what about all of the potential opposition out there {Professional Engineers, AOSE's, Virginia Health Department., the Home Builders...the list goes on AND on}.

So where to start...we first met, in Late November, with the Professional Engineering Association's legislation liaison to explain our efforts AND make them aware that we were not against them. Our goal was to raise the level of professionalism within the Commonwealth of Virginia AND to maintain a field of qualified, LICENSED experts—Professionals that can interpret and characterize soils for the protection of life, property, health and public welfare of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Engineer's Liaison 'seemed' to understand, but offered a few tips and pointers. He then took our information to the BIG engineering/architect legislation round-table...AND that's where we found our first MAJOR opposition. Their opposition you ask? It was not about the bill CONTENT, but that they felt we MUST go through a 1-year Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR) review. Hmm...let's ask DPOR. So off to DPOR we go. It was found that the DPOR study period was ONLY a tool that the GA could utilize if found necessary NOT mandatory (within hours DPOR relayed that message to the Engineers...HAHA!). BUT they were still opposing us! So on we went, we met with the Home Builders of Virginia (no opposition there); wrote letters to the VDH (they had some clarifying amendments to our bill), NRCS (no support or opposition received), VOWRA (voiced some concern, but was quickly clarified by our EXCELLENT VAPSS response team), DPOR (added clarifying amendments)...there were more, BUT my memory has faded those laborious/nerve cracking hours away. So here is was the eve of GA 2011 (January 12)...we have our patrons, our lobbyist, everyone seems to be in support (except the darn engineers) and happy...AND THEN...we hear HOURS before our first hearing that the engineers have decided to NOT OPPOSE us! WHAT?! Yes, you heard me, NO opposition from ANYONE!!!

So we were heard first by the House of Delegates—General Law subcommittee (HB 1734)—AND OMG...we passed uncontested 8-0...AND then by the FULL COMMITTEE days later uncontested AGAIN 22-0! WOW...talk about utter shock and disbelief. Now to the senate (SB 1265). AGAIN, we went through the Senate—General Laws subcommittee (15-0) and full committee (38-0) uncontested!! HERE WE GO!

Oh wait though, the Govern has to review and sign it...but it went through uncontested...shouldn't be a problem right? NOT! Soon ACTION ALERT messages were flooding the Governor's office...we had heard...HE was going to VETO our bill because he is not suppose to LIKE more regulation. WHAT?! But it went through YOUR system UNCONTESTED! So HE, the Governor, decided he needed to add a few words to our bill (i.e. the maintenance and, acceptable to, set by) to make it seem as though he had reason to question our bill—possibly veto it. Those are GREAT amendments...haha?! Well after an amazing response from our members and our affiliates (SSSA—THANK YOU)...HE decided after-all to SIGN our bill into LAW on APRIL 8, 2011. SOOOO....as of June 30 1, 2013 all current CPSS's will become LICENSED PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTISTS ON JULY 1, 2013.

Again, a HUGE thank you to everyone who helped out in the countless 11th hours with calls, writing letters, researching responses to the DPOR 10 questions, making visits to the GA (some make 2-3 hours drives to be there, EVERYTHING. It was a completely AMAZING experience AND NOW we ARE LICENSED!

**Virginia Association of Professional  
Soil Scientists ...since 1978**

Alexis Jones, CPSS, Editor  
Jarratt, Virginia  
Phone: 434.594.1390  
Email: dirt\_rocks@yahoo.com

To VAPSS members everywhere

If you know someone else who  
would be interested in VAPSS  
please forward this to them.

**VAPSS Summer Canoe + Camp Trip**

**August 6-7, 2011 on the James River {home of Bill Kitchel; near Appomattox, Virginia}. Planning has begun....so STAYED TUNED...information will be coming to you via email!**

For more information please contact Nan Gray at [soilwork@pemt.net](mailto:soilwork@pemt.net).

**Important Announcement**

Submit your articles or announcements for the next NEWSLETTER via email to [dirt\\_rocks@yahoo.com](mailto:dirt_rocks@yahoo.com)!

Thanks to those who contributed to this issue. There wouldn't be a newsletter without you.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**VAPSS Spring Technical Session :: May 19-20, 2011 in Blacksburg, Virginia. See this newsletter for MORE details and registration information.**

**VAPSS Fall Technical Session + Annual Meeting :: November 3-4, 2011 in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Stay TUNED for more information in the upcoming months!**

**VAPSS 2011 BOARD MEETINGS :: September 8, 2011 AND December 8, 2011.**

**VAPSS Summer Canoe + Camp Trip :: August 6-7, 2011 on the James River {home of Bill Kitchel}. Planning has begun, for more information please contact Nan Gray at [soilwork@pemt.net](mailto:soilwork@pemt.net).**

**VOWRA Annual Meeting :: October 2-4, 2011 Koger Center, Richmond, Virginia. Contact Mark Smith {[mark.smith@soilconsultants.net](mailto:mark.smith@soilconsultants.net) for more information.**

**NSCSS 24th Annual Meeting :: May 22-26, 2011 in Asheville, NC. See [www.nscss.org](http://www.nscss.org) for more information.**

**ASA—CSSA—SSSA Annual Meeting :: October 14-20, 2011 in San Antonio, Texas. For more information visit [www.acsmeetings.org](http://www.acsmeetings.org).**

## VAPSS 2011 Spring Technical Session

# Soil Science Needs and Issues in Nutrient Management Planning

May 19 and 20, 2011

*146 Smyth Hall, Virginia Tech (5/19)  
and Local Field Trip (5/20)*

Sponsored by:

**Virginia Association of Professional Soil Scientists (VAPSS)  
Virginia Tech Dept. of Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences**

### Program Overview and Logistics

Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs) have historically been required for agricultural lands receiving animal manures and biosolids and for participation in certain federal/state cost-share programs. However, recent changes in state regulations and policies now require NMPs for all state and local government owned lands and require commercial turfgrass applicators to follow NMP principles. New regulations this year will likely further restrict how nutrients can be applied on home lawns and in other urban settings. Additionally, all agricultural enterprises are being strongly encouraged to develop and follow voluntary NMPs. This two-day technical program will focus on essential principals of soil science and applied hydrology that underpin many of the assumption and algorithms used in the preparation of NMPs. The program will be further enhanced by presentations by Virginia agency personnel directly involved with implementation and oversight of these varied programs. While this program is not designed as training for NMP certification by DCR, the nature and requirements of current certification programs (agricultural and urban) will be covered in detail.

CEU's (1.5) will be provided by Virginia Tech for all registrants who attend both days and are included in the registration fee. Registration will cover lunch both days, refreshment breaks, handouts and field trip development/support. A block of rooms has been reserved at \$80/night at the Hawthorn Suites, 1020 Plantation Road; [www.hawthorn.com](http://www.hawthorn.com); Blacksburg, VA 24060; Phone: (540)552-5636. You must reserve by May 4 to retain this rate guarantee. Parking passes will be mailed to all pre-registered guests and the daily fee (\$3) is covered in your registration. If you don't register before May 12, parking passes will be available at registration. Check the large campus maps as you enter Virginia Tech to locate Smyth Hall and nearest parking lots. This program serves as the 2011 Spring Technical Session for VAPSS and a separate schedule for the business meeting and social functions will be forwarded to VAPSS members.

# Soil Science Needs and Issues in Nutrient Management Planning

**Location: 146 Smyth Hall, Virginia Tech – Blacksburg**

## **Thursday, May 19**

- 9:30 – 10:00 am Registration and coffee
- 10:00 – 10:15 Overview and Introduction  
*Dr. W. Lee Daniels – Virginia Tech-- CSES*
- 10:15 – 10:45 New Developments in Statewide Regulatory Programs  
*Mr. Neil Zahradka – Virginia DEQ -- Richmond*
- 10:45 – 11:15 Components and Soil Based Requirements of NMP's  
*Mr. Robert Habel -- Virginia DCR -- Richmond*
- 11:15 – 11:45 Estimating N Mineralization Rates and Leaching  
*Dr. Greg Evanylo -- Virginia Tech -- CSES*
- 11:45 – 12:15 Estimating P Mineralization Rates and Runoff Losses  
*Dr. Rory Maguire. – Virginia Tech -- CSES*
- 12:15 – 1:15 Lunch served on-site (Fill at order form at check-in)
- 1:15 -- 1:45 Minimizing N and P Losses from Managed Turfgrass  
*Dr. Mike Goatley – Virginia Tech -- CSES*
- 1:45 – 2:15 Soil-Geologic-Groundwater Relationships in Karst Landscapes  
*Dr. Madeline Schreiber – Virginia Tech Geosciences*
- 2:15 – 2:45 Nutrient Management Plan Compliance Assessments  
*Mr. Jim Scott, Virginia DEQ – Roanoke*
- 2:45 – 3:00 Afternoon Break with refreshments
- 3:00 – 3:30 Open Question and Wrap-Up Session with All Speakers
- 4:00 – 6:00 VAPSS Business Meeting followed by Mixer/BBQ at Turf Center  
*(both functions open to all attendees)*

## **Friday, May 20**

- 8:00 am to 3:00 pm Field Trip to Local NMP Sites with Soil Pits and Program  
(Maps, schedule and rotation sequence passed out on May 19)

# **Registration Form**

**May 19 and 20, 2011**

**1.5 CEUs (Must attend both full days)**

**PLEASE PRINT/TYPE CLEARLY:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Firm/Org. \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount enclosed: \$135.00 for VAPSS members and Public Sector Employees  
\$175.00 for the General Public  
(Add \$25 after May 12)**

Registration deadline is May 12. Registration is limited to 65 attendees.

**Contact Sue Brown (540-231-5741; Fax: -7630; [suebrown@vt.edu](mailto:suebrown@vt.edu)) for registration information or for credit card payments (Mastercard or Visa only).**

If Ms. Brown is not available, contact W. Lee Daniels ([wdaniels@vt.edu](mailto:wdaniels@vt.edu) or 540-231-7175)

Payment must be made prior to the meeting to assure box lunch and seating space.

**No cancellations/refunds after May 12. Cancellations are subject to a \$25 processing fee.**

**Make checks payable to VAPSS**

**Mail check with registration form to:**

**Sue Brown, VAPSS  
Virginia Tech/CSES  
238 Smyth Hall - 0404  
Blacksburg VA 24061**

Interested in joining/information on VAPSS?

Go to: [www.vapss.org](http://www.vapss.org)

