

VAPSS Newsletter

Virginia Association of Professional Soil Scientists Newsletter

Volume 31, Issue 3

Fall Meeting Focuses on LID

The VAPSS Annual Meeting was held October 8th and 9th at the offices of Wetland Studies and Solutions Inc. (WSSI) in Gainesville VA. The business meeting included an update on the recently held strategy session by VAPSS President Ryan Reed. John Harper presented an overview of the proposed VDH emergency regulations. Several changes to the by-laws were also presented.

The educational session focused on low impact development (LID). The basic principal of LID is to reduce the impact of stormwater runoff generated from developed areas. The WSSI facility provided an excellent venue because many different LID techniques were used in the development of the facility. Rainwater harvesting for irrigation and toilet flushing, a “green” roof with a vibrant plant community, pervious parking areas, a rain garden, and other measures were designed to mimic the predevelopment hydrology of the site and minimize impact on an adjacent stream.

Ved “Wade” Malhorta from DCR gave a presentation on LID practice and requirements in VA. Allen Davis of the U of Md. presented studies of bioretention facilities. David Sample of VT discussed rainwater harvesting and irrigation management. Susan Day of VT Forestry Dept. talked about structural soils (basically specially constructed soils areas in urban areas for promoting normal tree growth). Bethany Bezack of WSSI gave an overview of the WSSI facility. It was an excellent professional program and VAPSS appreciates the time and hard work of the folks who made it happen, especially the presenters, David Sample who put it together, and Mike Rolband of WSSI for the use and tour of their facilities.



Mike Rolband of WSSI discusses the rain garden design and function with conference participants. (photo by Jeff Walker)

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VAPSS Board Votes to Change Bylaws

The VAPSS Board at their last meeting voted to recommend to the membership the elimination of the affiliate member designation and elimination of the current requirements (except for majority board approval) for regular membership. Current affiliate members would become regular voting members. Lifetime, honorary, and student member classes will not be affected by the change.

The board also voted to change the requirements for holding office to those regular members who are CPSS's or are qualified to sit for the CPSS exam.

These are changes to article II of the bylaws.

Sec 1.1 definition of regular member: a person interested in the purposes and objectives of VAPSS receiving approval of the majority of the board.

Sec 2.2 only a regular member who is also a CPSS or qualified to sit for the CPSS exam may hold elective office.

The board also voted to change the membership time limits for holding office. Candidates for office will be required to be VAPSS members for the preceding 12 months. Board members at large will be eligible with membership (no time requirement).

These change requires a 2/3 majority of the voting members to be adopted. Votes on this change must be submitted before Dec 31, 2009. Members will receive an e ballot on these measures soon.

Strategy Session Held in August

The strategy session was attended by about 24 VAPSS members and focused on developing a plan of action for obtaining licensure for soil scientists in VA. The group decided that 2011 would be a more advantageous time for a major legislative push and that 2010 would be spent laying firmer groundwork for that push. The following mission statement is part of the strategy document prepared by the group.

“Soils must be recognized as a non renewable natural resource and the practice of soil science as an interpretive science. Licensure is needed to ensure that a class of professionals exists that can **properly** utilize the large investment the Commonwealth of Virginia has made in the Soil Survey and to ensure that the practice of soil science and evaluation meets minimum standards of education, experience, ethical conduct and professional responsibility, and to prevent abuses in the practice of soil science by untrained or unprincipled individuals.”

VAPSS ELECTION NEWS

Officers for the upcoming year are:

Ryan Reed-Past President

Ann Ruff –President

Lexi Jones– President Elect

Matt Tolley– Treasurer

David Hall-Secretary

Board Members

Bruce Legge

Alex Blackburn

Greg Monnett

Kevin Seaford

Sue Brown –Executive Secretary

Dues for 2010

Pay your 2010 dues by Dec 31, 2009 and get a \$25 discount. Dues for 2010 will be \$75. 2010 dues paid before the end of 2009 are only \$50. A VAPSS membership renewal form is attached in a separate file.

VAPSS is still on facebook...Come be a part of our Group

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VAPSS - Virginia Association of Professional Soil Scientists
Global

Basic Info
Type: Organizations - Professional Organizations
Description: VAPSS (VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTISTS) is comprised of specialists in soil survey, soil classification, soil/site evaluation for onsite sewage disposal, land use planning and other related disciplines. Its members consist of federal, state, county and private consulting soil scientists and other professionals in closely related fields. Within its membership resides the greatest body of soils expertise in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Contact Info
Email: rreed@loudoun.gov



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VT Soil Judging News

The Virginia Tech Soil Judging Hokies finished 2nd out of 12 schools at the Southeast Region Soil Judging Contest Oct. 18th at Crossville, TN. The contest was hosted by Tennessee-Knoxville. Finishing ahead of Tech by 7 points was West Virginia. Finishing 50 or more points behind Tech were Auburn, Clemson, Georgia, and Tennessee-Martin. The high individual of 71 students was Dan Johnson of Virginia Tech. Tied for 5th was Randy Cosby of Tech. James Currie was 12th and Heather Taylor was 18th. This qualified the Hokies for the National Championship in Lubbock Texas, hosted by Texas Tech.



2009 Virginia Tech Soil Judging Team: Left to Right (front row): James Currie, Melanie Latalik, Chris Heltzel, Katie Wooten, Dan Johnson, Randy Cosby. Left to Right (back row): Tim Talley, Coach John Galbraith, Cori Reisch, Heather Taylor, Meagan Ormand, Trevor Simmons, Nina O'Malley, and Asst. Coach Nicholas Bonzey.

**Virginia Association of
Professional Soil Scientists
Newsletter**

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Since 1978.



VAPSS is currently soliciting donations for Capital Campaign 2010 as we move forward to seek Licensure of Professional Soil Scientists! The Capital Campaign 2010 donations will be used to offset lobbyist costs, which may include, but is not limited to, visits or meetings with officials (i.e. senators, delegates) in local/district offices; discussions with officials at inter-governmental meetings (i.e. Commonwealth gatherings) and trips or excursions organized for officials; letters, petitions and other forms of contact with decision makers; etc.

If you wish to make a donation to the VAPSS Capital Campaign 2010, please complete the form below and mail along with your donation to:

Sue Brown
VAPSS
Virginia Tech/CSES
238 Smyth Hall – 0404
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061



Help VAPSS in their Capital Campaign 2010:

<input type="checkbox"/> Titanium \$1,000	Name:	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Platinum \$500	Address:	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Gold \$250		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Silver \$100	Phone:	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Bronze \$50	Email:	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____		

Please denote 'Capital Campaign 2010' in the memo line on your donation.

To VAPSS members everywhere

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

Important Announcement

Submit your articles or announcements for the next Newsletter by the end of January via email to davidh@swva.net or by fax to 540 381-9430.