

VAPSS Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 35, number 4
 September, 2013
 VAPSS was founded 1978

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Advertisements:
 \$20 for Members,
 \$100 for non-members

2013 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: Ryan Reed (13)
 (703) 737-8426
 PRES. ELECT: Jeff Walker (13)
 (540) 239-9131
 PAST PRES: Kevin Seaford (13)
 (804) 934-1786
 TREASURER: Matt Tolley (14)
 (703) 771-5248
 SECRETARY: Nan Gray (13)
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 (540) 539-1307
 Member: Bob Melby (13)
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 Member: David Hall (14)
 (540) 381-0309
 Member: Shannon Hill (14)
 (804) 264-2228
 NRCS Liaison: Rachael Stull
 VPISU Liaison: Lee Daniels
 and John Galbraith
 Exec. Sec.: Jeff Miller
 (540) 382-7310

VAPSS 2013 Annual Meeting Onsite in the Fall Zone of Virginia October 17 and 18, 2013

Geomorphology	Doubletree Hotel by Hilton
Soil mapping	1021 Koger Center Blvd,
Alluvial fans	North Chesterfield, VA 23235
Onsite soil interpretation & design	http://www.vapss.org/

LOST & FOUND :

We're missing some folks, and look forward to visiting and welcome back anyone who has gotten lost in the various transitions. For those who missed spring renewal we offer a great bargain, membership w/ registration for the Fall meeting, this also applies to new members.

Next time someone tells you OSE's are expensive you can look up PSA connection fees at Draper Aden Engineering's site: <http://www.daa.com/publications/dashboard/>

A sewer connection is analogous to a design & permit to construct an onsite system, and the cost depends on the services required. Onsite systems are custom designed; there are similarities between classes of systems. But the design and construction cost reflects the goals of the client, and compliance with regulation and site restrictions. Without accurate site & soil interpretation and experienced designers onsite disposal would be unreliable.

**CALL for NOMINATIONS:
 2014 VAPSS Officers and Board Members**

Dear Members: It's that time of year again to hold elections for The Board of Directors of the Virginia Association of Professional Soil Scientists (VAPSS). Please consider running for office and reply to Jeff Miller with a short biography and photograph. The elections will be held, votes tallied, and the officers will be sworn in at the [Fall Meeting](#) on October 17th

These duties allow us to develop as professionals, work with others and advance our field of interests. Call any of the Board members if you'd like to consider volunteering.

VAPSS Mission: *To recognize soils as a non-renewable natural resource and the practice of soil science as an interpretive science; to ensure 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 the practice of soil science and evaluation meets established 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 2013 Annual Meeting: *SOIL SCIENCE AT WORK*

Onsite in the Fall Zone of Virginia, October 17 and 18, 2013

Doubletree Hotel by Hilton: *1021 Koger Center Blvd, North Chesterfield, VA 23235*

Program Focus: Soil Science at Work builds upon the traditional role of the professional, interpreting the site and soil conditions; and integrating our knowledge with our client's goals and the Regulation. Our program builds upon the experiences of Dr. Mathews a founding member of VAPSS (est. 1978), with other professionals who share their unique perspectives through interpretation of the environmental, regulatory and professional responsibilities of our craft.

Speaker Biographies:

Dr. Harold Mathews, LPSS/OSE Mathews Soil Consultants, Inc. (founded 1973); identifying, mapping, and interpreting soil characteristics for urban, suburban, and rural land uses.

Dr. Rich Whittecar, ODU, Research Interests: Wetland hydrology, stratigraphy, and sedimentation; Quaternary landscape evolution of Virginia and North Carolina

Dr. John M Galbraith, VT, Extension & Research Interests: digital wetland mapping, wetland hydrology and morphology of hydric soils, hydric soil indicator research, soil carbon measurement, and soil sampling/classification. VT Soil Judging Team Coach

Mr. Dwayne Roadcap, VDH, Acting Division Director Office of Onsite Sewage and Water Services

Mr. Mike Craun, P.E. Interested in decentralized wastewater treatment. Designing wastewater systems, and storm water treatment facilities using natural plant and soil based technologies.

Mr. Jeff Walker, LPSS/OSE VAPSS President-elect & Technical Committee Chairman, SHIFT and HB1726 Committee Representative; Blue Ridge Site & Soil, LLC (founded 2004)

Lodging Details

Doubletree Hotel by Hilton (*formerly the Koger Center*)

1021 Koger Center Blvd, North Chesterfield, VA 23235

804-379-3800

(Phone hotel and ask for "VAPSS meeting") **Rooms are available for \$92.00**

Important: Room Rate Cutoff Date is October 4, 2013!

Rooms may be available after this date, but availability is not guaranteed.

VAPSS CEU's (1.2) will be provided for all who attend both days.

Registration Fees: VAPSS/VAWP Members \$165

Registration Fees Include: Meeting and field trip development costs, Thursday coffee/soda breaks, buffet lunches on Thursday and Friday, Thursday evening campfire at Pocahontas State Park Campground, and credentialing with VAPSS Continuing Education Units (CEU's). Continuing Education Units (CEU's).

Go to www.vapss.org/ for more details **Mail check (payable to VAPSS) and registration form to: Jeff Miller, VAPSS; 383 Coal Hollow Rd; Christiansburg, VA 24073-6721**

Jeff Miller, VAPSS Exec Secretary, vapss@vapss.org. 540-382-0943

Membership Application Form

Application ***** Renewal ***** Information Change
 (Please circle one of the above)

Jeff Miller, VAPSS, 383 Coal Hollow Rd, Christiansburg, VA 24073-6721
PH: 540.382.0943 FAX: 540.382.2716 Email: vapps@vapps.org

Please type or print clearly, and mail with payment to the address above. Please use the address where you would like to receive VAPSS mailings. All members are responsible for updating his/her contact information with the Executive Secretary.

Name: _____ Date: _____
 Business: _____
 Address: _____

Is your information to be held in confidence? _____ Yes _____ No
 Telephone numbers: (W) _____ (H) _____
 Cell phone number: _____
 Email address: (W or H) _____ @ _____
 Specialties: _____ General practice (PSS), _____ OSE, _____ Wetlands, _____ E&S _____ Storm water, _____ Geology/Hydrogeology, _____ Nutrient Management/Cropping, _____ PE, _____ Regulatory, _____ Academic/Teaching
 County(s) or regions where you work? _____

VAPSS membership class and dues:
 Dues are to be paid on an annual basis for each calendar year. VAPSS dues are not pro-rated.
 _____ **Regular** - A person interested in the purposes and objectives of VAPSS, and receiving approval by majority of the Board. Eligible to vote. There are separate requirements for holding office. Dues are \$100/year.
 _____ **Student** - A person pursuing a college degree in soil science or related field. May not vote or hold office. \$20/yr.
 License/Certification:
 _____ Virginia Certified/Licensed Professional Soil Scientist (C/LPSS).
 _____ Virginia Alternative/Conventional On-site Soil Evaluator (AOSE/COSE).
 _____ Other _____

Members who pay Regular dues in 2013 or 2014 may receive one VAPSS t-shirt. Only one t-shirt will be given to each Regular member during that two-year period. The t-shirts will be available for pickup at the Spring or Fall Meeting. Conference Registrants paying full fees become members for duration of 2013.

Make your checks payable to VAPSS. Mail to the address shown at the top of this form. Receipts are available upon request. Note: Paypal may be utilized at VAPSS.org. Donations to VAPSS including the Bill Edmunds Scholarship Fund, may also post via Paypal.

Onsite Soil Evaluator News and Notes: by Jeff T. Walker, LPSS/OSE

VDH's CBEP* Technical Advisory Committee was charged with participating in revisions to the Sewage Handling and Disposal Regulations under HB 1726. These measures were presented to the Board of Health. (* Chamber, Bundle and Extruded Polystyrene)

Amongst our comments addressing proposed regulations have been: requirement for design changes to be specified and endorsed by OSE/PE, provisions for selecting loading rates for soil textures, organic loading calculation for soil structure or pore space, energy dispersal for dosed systems, additional restrictions on use in special situations.

SHIFT report: having participated in three of a series of seven meetings administered by the Institute for Environmental Negotiation under contract with the VDH. You may wish to follow our progress here: <http://www.vdh.state.va.us/EnvironmentalHealth/Onsite/SHIFT/>

We have come to consensus over the two primary roles, regulatory oversight, and design. Increasing private sector participation may require Legislation; however there are areas which can be addressed under existing VDH authority. Legislative issues are primarily fees, budgetary impact or delegated authorities. Recently VDH was given authority to issue fines and penalties against citizens who are not compliant with Sewage Handling Regulations. Thereby clarifying who's responsible for "sewage on the ground," it's homeowners. There is resistance from localities and builders reluctant to give up subsidized services, estimated at 80% tax funded.

Regulatory considerations are being identified and segregated from further SHIFT discussions; VDH has staff capable of forging the required language, and policy bodies to identify issues.

DPOR OSE licensure has been harder to discuss since defining the scope of work product expectations is not complete, and relies upon continuing evolution of our regulatory body's policies and regulations. Other DPOR Boards have experience in the technical, ethical and procedural requirements including PE and PSS. Mark Courtney, Director of Enforcement; explains that VDH employs code officials who bear responsibilities, which cannot be assigned to DPOR.

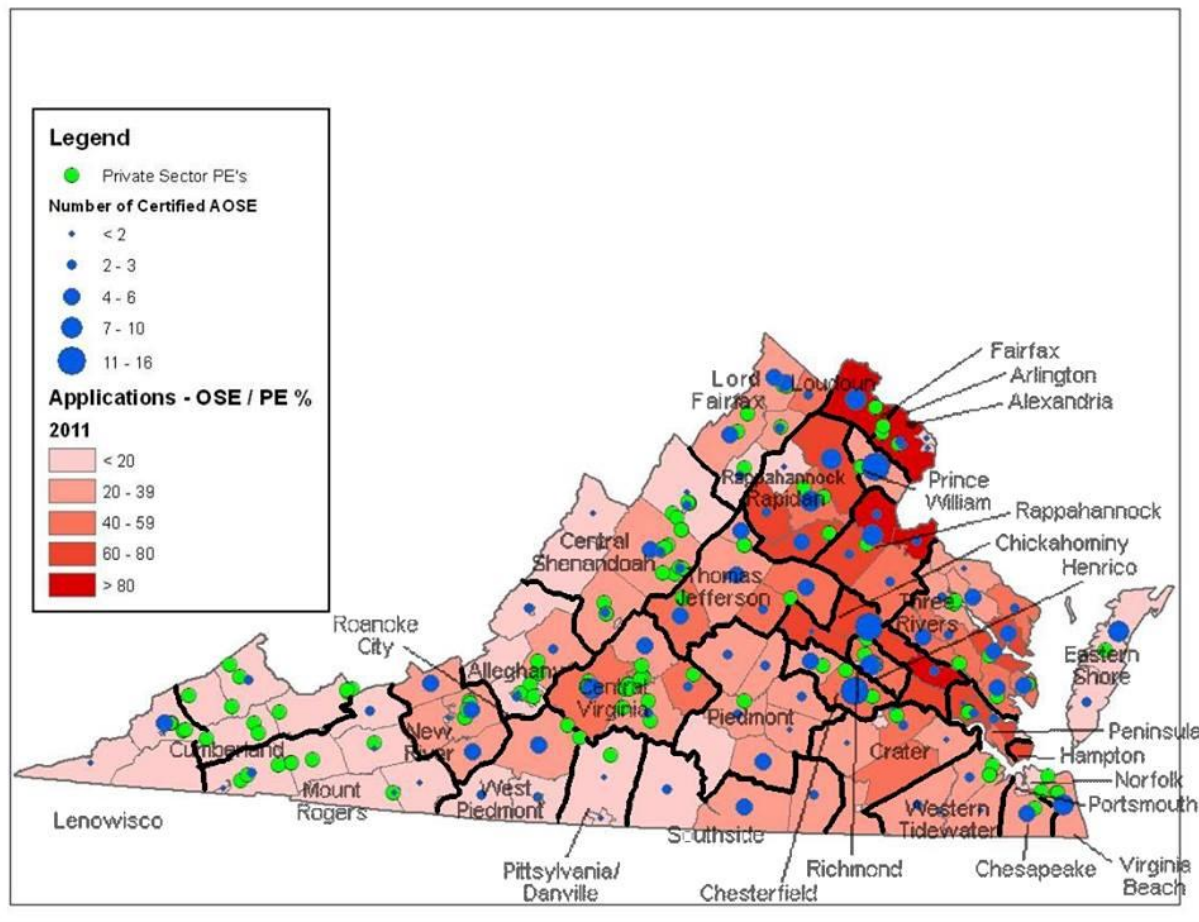
"Oversight of DPOR licensees—in terms of their performance of services that are controlled by other entities such as VDH—is not reserved solely to DPOR. DPOR's role in regulating professional standards of practice does not extend to interpreting or enforcing statutes, regulations, policies, or procedures under the purview of other agencies."

"In the case of licensed Onsite Sewage System Professionals (OSSPs), VDH is indeed authorized to provide oversight or to require continuing education in exercising its mandate to protect public health and groundwater supplies in the Commonwealth. Complaints processed by DPOR are limited to those involving alleged regulatory violations of standards of practice and minimum professional competency."

continued

Consequently the potential conflict of interest is broader than originally debated. Code officials have duties which may conflict with design and site evaluation responsibilities for a private landowner. Never-the-less we understand that the design authority is vested in all licensed OSE, provided their work bears identification.

Data sets which VDH has delivered to the SHIFT have been informative. During the past year only 58% of permits statewide were delivered within the 15 working day expectation. Ironically the newest backlog data shows that some low participation regions experience backlog, which by law (SB415 of 1994) was meant to establish priorities, and trigger sub-contracting of services through OSE designers. (SB415 was also an early mention of CPSS' role in site evaluation.)



2011 Distribution & private sector participation in onsite design; credit D. Roadcap (Presented during SHIFT July 18th, note: District overlay added)

Regarding Town Hall Comment on rescission of 12 VAC 615 (AOSE Regulations); congratulations, and thank you to those who considered these issues and offered comments; the Fast Track action failed; VDH & DPOR will need to give due consideration to the standards of our work product expectations. <http://townhall.virginia.gov/L/viewstage.cfm?stageid=6592>

OTHER NOTES

Soil Science Society of America offers a webinar called “Ethics or That Little Grey Area You Need to Pay Attention To ” The seminar is available 24/7, cost is \$25. Found on SSSA website <https://www.soils.org/certifications/cpss-cpsc/self-study/>

VAPSS Board of Directors and Officers have been busy charting our course into the future, pre-planning the Plan. Here are some of the highlights:

VAPSS celebrates 35 years as a Professional organization. That’s pretty good!

The BOD hired Jeff Miller as VAPSS’ Executive Secretary, we’re grateful to have his experience, GREAT!

Fall Meeting will be 17 & 18 October 2013 in the Fall Zone of Chesterfield. VAPSS’ first President, Harold Mathews will run the fieldtrip and “papery” sessions. The fieldtrip is to include geomorphology, soil mapping, alluvial fans and why some drainfields fail based on those things and more.

VAPSS field caps will be available at the Fall Meeting, short supply get’em while hot \$20.

Licensure has the Governor’s signature. Feel free to write Governor McDonnell and let him know you appreciate his recognition of our profession. Our members need to stay involved in political discourse.

DPOR PSS Board meeting was cancelled due to lack of a quorum, rescheduled to December.

The State Fair was put on hold again this year so that the BOD can concentrate on Licensure. The Farm Bureau now owns the State Fair

VAPSS hopes to increase Membership, so let everyone know that they can join VAPSS. VAPSS plans to distribute the Newsletter more widely, too. VAPSS BOD is committed to funding scholarship for students, and continued support for VT Soil Judging.

VAPSS is active with our Lobbyist; Ryan, Jeff & Lexi review & advise our BOD concerning legislative issues affecting our Membership. VAPSS BOD is constantly updating our Legislative priorities so that we can advise you and spend your money wisely. We rely on your support to act with one voice.

VAPSS is seated on the SHADAC Board to debate and offer recommendations to policy. We are also seated upon the SHIFT Committee to educate and offer insight from a Professional Soils Scientist’s vantage point. Participating during opportunities to influence and inform debate are priorities.

VAPSS BOD is interested in Community Outreach and encourages all of its Members to let other folks know how important soils are. Talk to Garden Clubs, Schools, Civic organizations, your County’s Board of Supervisors or Planning Commission

BOD discussed a Professional Soil Scientist Directory, are you in or not?

Training opportunities for membership, coming up is Storm water, also Ethics training.

VAPSS Technical Advisory Committee, needs volunteers contact Jeff Walker (walker@swva.net)

Next VAPSS Board meeting to be announced

The VPI Soil Judging Team always needs your support. They work hard and bring home the trophies. Their next excursion is in October for the Regional Collegiate Competition. Donations may be sent to John Galbraith, 239 Smyth Hall (0404), Blacksburg, VA 24061.

From Barbmhall1@juno.com

Hi Nan: I was going through some papers and found a VAPSS Newsletter. Ralph was a charter member, state president of VAPSS and active for certification of professional soil scientists. This along with his soils work for VA Tech were very enjoyable for him. Ralph began working in Chesterfield County May 1974 so four years later VAPSS was organized. Sincerely, Barbara Mendenhall

If you want more work:

Soil Scientists have a lot to offer. Remember, there is opportunity for work in education, health care (hospitals) and highway departments. You may need to learn new skills or regulations, but the jobs for folks with our unique training and qualifications are out there. Tip for the wise, invest in storm water.

Parting shot: VAPSS Fall Meeting 2008; rim-dams of Shawsville



<p>Virginia Association of Professional Soil Scientists Nan Gray, Editor Email: soilwork@pemt.net P.O. Box 3 Newport, VA 24128 Phone: (540) 544-779</p> <p>Remember to call Miss Utilities (811 or 800-552-7001) before you dig and get a ticket number to protect you and everyone on the project. Safety first.</p>	<p><i>Postmaster: Address Service Requested</i></p>
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2013 ADVERTISING AND ARTICLE DEADLINES

SPRING 2014 (March) due February 15 FALL 2013 (September) due August 15
 SUMMER 2014 (June) due May 15 WINTER 2013 (December) due November 15-

Save the date!

VAPSS Fall Technical Session- October 17 &18th Soil interpretation and OSE design issues at Fall Zone, and thought provoking programs; more information inside this Newsletter.

Other events:

State Fair of Virginia is sponsored by the Virginia Farm Bureau.
 The Fair is Sept 27-Oct. 6 in Doswell, Caroline County, VA.
 Find out more at StateFairVA.org

2013 Virginia Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association Annual Conference (VOWRA)
 Sunday, October 6, 2013 - Tuesday, October 8, 2013 Roanoke, VA 24017

Forum much?

Go to our VAPSS.org website, send Jeff Miller an email and he'll set up your access to the forum.

VAPSS (spell it all out) has a Facebook page, with photos, announcements, friendly banter and information of newsworthy topics. Knock on door and administrator will let you in.

We want to learn about you, and these social media are great tools to interact amongst the field of professionals; if anyone would like to create a Linked-in page we could use your help. There are useful technical and professional exchanges there-in.