

Subject: News from VAPSS! {February 2012}

From: Virginia Association of Professional Soil Scientists (vapss@vapss.org)

To: dirt_rocks@yahoo.com;

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Virginia Association of Professional Soil Scientists (VAPSS)

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**SPRING SESSION
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VAPSS Spring
Technical Session
will be held March
22 and 23. Topic
will be "Stormwater

FEBRUARY 2012 NEWSLETTER

VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTISTS

A letter from your president >> Kevin

I would like to thank everyone that helped make 2011 such a successful year for VAPSS: planning, organizing, and putting on the Technical Sessions; newsletters; cookouts; and meeting with members of the Virginia House and Senate and attending countless meetings to get the licensure bill passed.

We are very hopeful that 2012 will be another successful year for VAPSS, both for the Association as a whole and for our individual members. The pursuit of licensure has required your Board to take an all-hands-on-deck approach for the past few years. As a result of this cooperation, licensure for Soil Scientists has been successful. However, as we move forward, soil science related bills in the General Assembly continue to require the majority of the Board's attention and resources. We have also been advised that additional effort will be required of VAPSS in 2013, when the licensure bill takes effect.

Due to the time and energy required for licensure, the work remaining for the regular standing committees has been overlooked for some time. We have a severe need to revive these committees and ensure that their important work is completed. The Board cannot do it without the help of our members. I really want to see VAPSS succeed in its mission and be the official voice representing soil science in Virginia. I am confident that those reading this newsletter feel the same. It is time to regroup, regain our focus as an Association, and recruit volunteers for these committees!

Regulations and LID Applications in the Field". The Thursday session will be at the WSSI building in Gainesville with a Friday field trip in the region. SESSION DETAILS WILL BE EMAILED SOON!

IMPORTANT DATES for 2012



BOARD MEETINGS

March 1

June 7

September 6

December 6

FALL TECHNICAL SESSION/ANNUAL MEETING

November 1-2

OR

November 8-9

{stay tuned}

VAPSS to Sponsor Edmonds Scholarship

VAPSS is putting together a scholarship in honor of the contributions Dr. William J. Edmonds made to the profession of Soil

New members or returning members - this is a great opportunity for you to get involved, make professional connections and learn more about VAPSS. For veteran members, it gives you an opportunity to use your wisdom, time, and talents to further our goals, while mentoring our new members. Our committees also provide VAPSS with an excellent training ground for future Board Members; I encourage you to jump in and get your hands dirty.

You can find more details in the **Constitution (Article V)** posted on the VAPSS **website**, but please note that this is only a starting point. The committees are what we make of them, so let's get involved and make VAPSS great! Below is a brief overview of our committees and the Board Members responsible for heading them up, where applicable.

- Membership - help recruit and welcome new members, recoup lost members, and increase affiliation
- Public Relations and Education - plan training sessions/speakers, conduct multimedia PR campaign and educate others on the profession of soil science
- Budget and Finance - work with the Board to develop the annual budget and complete financial audit
- Technical Advisory - to report on best practices, techniques and advanced technology and serve as our technical arbitrator and advisor (internally) and technical liaison
- Ethics - uphold the Code of Ethics, investigate any charges of unethical conduct, and serve as liaison in matters pertaining to ethics
- Newsletter - prepare and layout the quarterly newsletter

If you are interested in joining one of the above committees, or if you have an idea to benefit VAPSS, please contact me directly. Committee members serve on a three-year rotating basis. We need at least three volunteers for each committee, aside from the board member in charge of each committee.

Should you have any other questions or concerns, please contact me at 804-387-0869 or by e-mail at Kevin_Seaford@golder.com. I hope you all have a rewarding year and make time to play in the dirt!

-Kevin

Science. Dr. Edmonds (Bill) mentored and personally influenced many in our profession as well as many in other professions. Even many of those that did not know Bill probably have used the Soil Profile Description Manual that he developed for teaching Soil Survey and Taxonomy class at Virginia Tech.

Bill was actively involved in the National Cooperative Soil Survey Program, research through the Virginia Tech soil survey program and as a professor in the Crop and Soil Environmental Science department at Virginia Tech for the best part of 50 years. It was this combination of his humble beginning, education and experience that made him unique. Bill understood, better than most, the real world and fieldwork. He was able to make the study of soil science exciting even for those who thought it could never be.

2011 FALL TECHNICAL SESSION REVIEW

Acid Sulfate Soils
Recognition, Remediation and Impact Prevention
MAPSS/VAPSS Technical Session
Fredericksburg, Virginia
Nov. 3-4, 2011



The fall 2011 Technical Session was a great success! The event was well attended by members of VAPSS and Mid-Atlantic Association of Professional Soil Scientists (MAPSS), with a high percentage of attendees reporting that they enjoyed it and learned a lot. The session was held at the Courtyard by Marriott in historic downtown Fredericksburg, Virginia. The event was sponsored by MAPSS and VAPSS, and cosponsored by the University of Maryland Department of Environmental Science & Technology, Tri-County/City Soil & Water Conservation District, and the Virginia Tech Department of Crop & Soil Environmental Sciences.

As usual, Lee Daniels went out of his way to make the Fall Technical Session a meaningful and educational event: developed a pertinent lesson plan, invited engaging guest-speakers, set up field trips, lining up excellent hotel accommodations at a discount, gaining access to a working airport and a Potomac River beach, lined up delicious food, and way more work behind the scenes than I can list. There was entirely too much information to summarize in this newsletter, but those of you who weren't able to attend should check out the **Virginia State Sulfide Hazard Risk Map**. We certainly hope to see you at the next event.

We hope to have this scholarship set up and in place so that starting this fall we can help students in the soils program get fired up about our great profession. As a part of initiating this scholarship VAPSS will be expecting to get more student involvement in our organization. Guidelines and procedures for applying for this scholarship should be available and distributed this summer to universities in the Commonwealth that have a soils program.

Funding for this scholarship is expected to come partly from VAPSS moneys and partly from contributions collected specifically for this scholarship. Anyone or any company interested in donating to this scholarship fund is encouraged to do so by sending checks made out to VAPSS and specify that it is to go toward the Dr. W. J.

The one-day technical program was intensive, focusing on the genesis, distribution, recognition, prediction, and remediation of the adverse effects of acid sulfate weathering processes on soil and water quality and construction materials. The field trip started at the Stafford Regional Airport where the full range of pre-, active- and post-sulfurization soil conditions were observed. Attendees learned of the site's unique remediation history and ongoing remediation efforts. The group then traveled to Popes Creek, MD to view a large vertical exposure of sulfidic sediments and associated soil weathering conditions and an ancient Native American kitchen-midden deposit. The field trip moved on to a residential subdivision in the Fredericksburg area to look at acid-S impacts to landscape plantings, sidewalks, and building materials.

We certainly hope to see you at the next event. As most of our Technical Sessions offer training that is applicable to other professions and regular citizens, we encourage you to spread the word, invite your coworkers and friends.

Speakers included:

W. Lee Daniels, Virginia Tech
Marty Rabenhorst, University of Maryland
Del Fanning, University of Maryland
Zenah Orndorff, Virginia Tech
Homeowner Susan Chaney, Falmouth

WHERE has your YOUR MONEY GONE?

In mid-2009, the VAPSS Board began strategy planning for the ordeal of seeking licensure. Several paths were chosen: raising dues, offering lifetime membership and seeking matching funds from the Soil Science Society of America (SSSA). A lot of discussion was consumed over raising dues, because many thought that the cost of membership dues would cause some members to quit. The dues were raised, temporarily to \$100 with the promise to offer more to our members! We are revisiting our membership fee this year with hopes to bring it back down a bit, after we have achieved our lifetime goal of licensure!!

Lifetime membership was offered at a cost of \$750 - slight increase from the original lifetime price tag in 1976 of \$250. BUT several members decided to take the plunge and support VAPSS in our efforts to gain licensure! A total of \$3400 was raised from four lifetime memberships. In addition, we had

Edmonds scholarship.

Would you like to submit an article or announcement to THIS newsletter?

If you are interested in submitting an article or announcement to the VAPSS newsletter, please

EMAIL

Alexis Jones!

Newsletters are sent out quarterly - our next newsletter will be out in June 2012!

VAPSS to Implement PayPal for Annual Membership Dues

PayPal

VAPSS is currently working on setting up an account with PayPal for the collection of annual membership dues! We feel that this will be a much more user friendly method of collecting dues for our members AND will allow us to have a more

three members make generous donations to make our efforts feasible.

We still needed more money!! Well, our Board then decided to move \$5,000 from our mutual fund into our "capital campaign fund" in order to qualify for matching funds from SSSA. Lexi and Matt had a lot of communication with the Certification folks at SSSA who were very helpful and supportive. They asked that DPOR start to use the national exam in order to standardize the certification program from state to state. SSSA then matched our \$5000, giving us a huge boost. So in total, VAPSS raised nearly \$15,000 for our "capital campaign" fund for licensure efforts!

To date, about \$1700 remains in the lobbyist account. Of that money, most has been used this year in our lobbying efforts on several bills this session....MORE to come as we are currently working on capitol hill!!

A huge thanks to EVERYONE who has contributed time and/or money to help make our dreams come true! This is a very exciting time for VAPSS!

USDA NRCS and Louisa Officials Unveiled a Historic Marker

RICHMOND, VA, June 28, 2011 - USDA NRCS Chief Dave White served as the keynote speaker for a dedication ceremony in Louisa, VA, on July 15 to commemorate Hugh Hammond Bennett's pioneering soil survey and conservation work there in 1905. NRCS also celebrated the once-over mapping of Virginia soils completed last year.

Known as the father of soil conservation, Bennett characterized the Louisa County survey as an epiphany about erosion processes and referred to that study throughout his career as he campaigned nationally for soil conservation. Congress created the Soil Conservation Service (renamed the Natural Resources Conservation Service in 1994) within the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1935 and named Bennett as its first chief.

One hundred and six years after that first fieldwork began, Virginia's initial soil survey mapping is now concluded. Surveying 26 million acres required a huge federal/state/local

up-to-date
bookkeeping
method. More
details to come
soon!!

partnership. Today, this soils information can be easily accessed online at websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov.

A few of our own members attended this ceremony honoring one of our greatest Soil Scientists!



Pictured above: Mary Ellen Cook, Nan Gray and Jay Conta.

2012 VAPSS Executive Board Contact Information

President: Kevin Seaford (Kevin_Seaford@golder.com)

Past President: Alexis Jones (dirt_rocks@yahoo.com)

President Elect: Alexis Jones (dirt_rocks@yahoo.com)

Secretary: Joe Felton (joe.felton@timmons.com)

Treasurer: Matt Tolley (Matt.Tolley@loudoun.gov)

Board Members:

Alex Blackburn (moosecaller@aol.com) - 2013

Bob Melby (valleysoils@verizon.net) - 2013

Greg Monnett (greg@enviro-utilities.com) - 2012

Mark Smith (mark.smith@soilconsultants.net) - 2012

Nan Gray (soilwork@pemtel.net) - 2012

NRCS Liaison:

Rachael Stull (rachael.stull@va.usda.gov)

Virginia Tech Liaison:

Lee Daniels (wdaniels@vt.edu)

Executive Secretary:

Sue Brown (suebrown@vt.edu)

VAPSS@VAPSS.ORG

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