

VAPSS NEWSLETTER

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Happy Holidays! The VAPSS Fall meeting at Barren Ridge Vineyards was a great lesson on site, aspect, soil pH and nutrition of grapevines and how grapes respond in wine production and taste quality to those variables. We also found other ways to find grape happiness variability with ground penetrating radar. There were 70 participants at the Fall meeting, including speakers.

If you are shy of the necessary professional development classes, you may get additional ceu's from the SSSA website class offerings, including Professional Ethics. Should remember that VA program requires 8 ceu's per year. Opportunity if folks don't have them yet.

2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (link below) is worth reading. We are all going to have to follow the guidelines to reduce greenhouse gases.

<http://www.ipcc.ch/report/sr15/>

HB888 Onsite sewage systems; evaluation and design services. Directs the Department of Health to take steps to eliminate evaluation and design services for onsite sewage systems and private wells provided by the Department. The bill provides specific requirements and a timeline for such elimination.

Per House Bill 888, VDH is required to post the draft hardship guidelines by **November 1, 2018**. You can find a copy of the initial draft hardship guidelines below. It is important to note that final hardship guidelines will not be published until **July 1, 2019**. VDH realizes there is significant interest in the development of these guidelines, and we would greatly appreciate your feedback on this initial draft. You can submit your comments on the initial draft at <https://redcap.vdh.virginia.gov/redcap/surveys/?s=EHTPXL4AP>.

<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/20/2018/11/First-Draft-Hardship-Guidelines-11-1-18.pdf>

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.*

VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTISTS

VAPSS News: Farewell to Bob Hodges



Robert Lee Hodges
Charter Member
of VAPSS

Bob Hodges was born June 6, 1926, in Halifax County, Virginia, to Walter and Ora Hodges. He went to his Heavenly reward on December 1, 2018.

After high school he joined the United States Navy where he proudly served in World War II and the Korean War for six years. When he was discharged from the Navy, he married Edith Norris, the love of his life, and graduated from Virginia Tech (then known as Virginia Polytechnic Institute). He served Virginia Tech and the State of Virginia for thirty-five years as a Soil Scientist. Bob was a Charter Member of VAPSS. Thanks, Bob.

Robert was a devoted Christian serving in various positions in his church. He was ordained a Deacon in 1958 and served in that capacity until 1993. He organized Young Adult Sunday School Classes in two churches – First Baptist Church of Ashland, Virginia, and Grace Baptist Church of Williamsburg, Virginia. He also served as a volunteer missionary to Mali testing their soils for food crops.

Virginia Tech Captures Third Regional Soil Judging Title in Four Years, Has Top Two Students

The Virginia Tech soil judging team has once again qualified for the national championship contest by finishing first at the Southeast Region soil judging contest on October 11, 2018 near Bowling Green, KY.

The Soil Judging Team appreciates your support.
John M. Galbraith 540-231-9784 john.galbraith@vt.edu
239 Smyth Hall, 185 Ag Quad Lane, Blacksburg, VA 24061

VAPSS Soil Texturing Contest - Congratulations and Fabulous Prizes Awarded to
First Place Jacolyn...Second Place Tmobile (only you know who you are)
Third Place Alexandra

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.

Help us keep you connected! It's that time of year when we ask you to verify that the information we have for you is up-to-date... dues notices will be going out in the next week for 2019 VAPSS dues.

The VAPSS board is on the website at <http://vapss.org/ExecutiveBoard.html> and attached below.

Thank you for your Service to VAPSS and Congratulations to new Officers and Board of Director Members!

2019 VAPSS Executive Board Contact Information for the Virginia Association of Professional Soil Scientists

Past President (2018): Bob Melby, President (2019): Nan Gray, President Elect (2020): David Hall

Secretary: Alexis Jones - 2016, Treasurer: Greg Monnett - 2016 (year joined the VAPSS Board)

Board Members: George Swecker - 2017, Bill Sledjeski - 2017, Alexandra Schmidt- 2018, Roy Hunter - 2018

Bryan Layman - 2018, At Large: Matt Tolley - 2018, Executive Secretary: Jeff Miller (vapss@vapss.org) Thanks!

VAPSS Officers discussed at the Fall meeting, JLARC has published the recommendations in the attached report which may affect many of our members, link below. The study requires that the Board for Professional and Occupational Regulation (BPOR) to begin reporting its findings to the General Assembly by **December 31, 2019** and to complete the evaluations by **December 31, 2020**. This corresponds with the timeframe for the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR) to reduce regulations in the two pilot study boards, one of which is the PSSWPG Board. The VAPSS Officers will keep you posted. Here is the link: jlarc.virginia.gov/2018-dpor.asp