

VAPSS Newsletter

Virginia Association of Professional Soil Scientists Newsletter

Volume 32, Issue 1

Spring Technical Session Focuses on Soils and Stormwater

The VAPSS Spring Technical Session will be held May 20 and 21 at the Fairfax County Government Center in Fairfax. The session will focus on characterizing site suitability for storm water structures. A heavy emphasis on using soil morphology to estimate depth to a water table along with several field visits makes this an excellent hands on soils training opportunity. This is also an excellent extension of our fall meeting where we were introduced to low impact development and a wide array of stormwater solutions. You should have received an email about the particulars already but registration info is also available at vapss.org.

VAPSS will also hold a board meeting, general business meeting, followed by a social with a w/cash bar from 6:30-10:00 at the Fairfax Marriott at Fair Oaks, 11787 Lee Jackson Mem. Hwy, in Fairfax. There will be a legislative committee meeting in conjunction with this session (see the capital campaign article) and members are encouraged to participate in planning for the upcoming year (and years to come). It's bound to be a good time!

Win This AUGER

An AMS Signature Series Soil Auger with a 3 1/4 inch regular auger bucket, rubber-coated handle, and 5-foot extension will be raffled off at the Spring Meeting. The auger is worth \$267.00 and all proceeds from the raffle will benefit the Capital Campaign in support of licensure in 2011. Raffle tickets are being sold for \$20.00 each ticket. Make sure you buy several tickets to increase your chances of winning this awesome new auger and to support VAPSS. The raffle will be held at the VAPSS Spring Technical Session May 20 and 21, 2010 at the Fairfax County Government Center. Be sure to attend the VAPSS Spring Technical Session to learn about Using Soil Morphology for Correct Placement of Stormwater Structures, support VAPSS, and try your luck at winning a new auger!



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Lifetime memberships are back! See inside for details.

Capital Campaign 2011 Update

The VAPSS Board is currently soliciting funds for the Capital Campaign 2011. The VAPSS Board retained a lobbyist during the 2010 General Assembly on an hourly basis to track bills related to our profession and lobby on behalf of our group. We have included a 2010 General Assembly update in this newsletter.

VAPSS is planning to retain our lobbyist again for a year, starting this fall, for our licensure efforts in 2011. In order to retain our lobbyist we must raise approximately \$25,000. The VAPSS Capital Campaign account to date has a balance of \$800. We need your support. The VAPSS Board has contacted the Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) for funds to support our licensure efforts. If VAPSS raises \$5,000, they will match it! In addition, VAPSS has purchased an auger that will be raffled off at the 2010 Spring Session; all proceeds will be given to the Capital Campaign account. Raffle tickets will be \$20 – more information is included in this newsletter.

In addition, as posted in this newsletter, the VAPSS Board has voted to offer, for a limited time, Lifetime Memberships for \$750. This offer will be available only until October 2010 and will be valid beginning for the year of 2011. Again, all proceeds raised from the Lifetime Membership will be allocated to the Capital Campaign account. The Lifetime Membership is a great offer; dues are scheduled to increase to \$100 in 2011! Your VAPSS Board is hard at work raising funds for our Capital Campaign efforts – SO PLEASE consider a donation to this cause; this is our year for licensure! Please support our profession!

The next Legislation Committee Meeting will be held at the Spring Session on May 20, 2010. This meeting will be conducted immediately after closure of the session on Thursday (May 20). Dinner and beverages will be provided. Please contact Lexi Jones at dirt_rocks@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

VAPSS.org now online

Check out VAPSS new redesigned website at www.vapss.org. After many trials and tribulations the new website is up and running and it looks great. Thanks to President–elect Lexi Jones for the tremendous effort in getting the website switched over from the old system and redoing just about the whole thing. Constitution and bylaws, T Shirts, mission statement, membership info, newsletters, and a new discussion forum are all there. Contact Lexi about logging on to the discussion forum.

VAPSS Board

Officers for this year are;

Ryan Reed (rreed@loudoun.gov)-Past President
Ann Ruff (ALRuffSoilMom@aol.com)-President
Lexi Jones (dirt_rocks@yahoo.com)- President Elect
Matt Tolley (Matt.Tolley@loudoun.gov)- Treasurer
David Hall (davidh@swva.net)-Secretary

Board Members

Bruce Legge (blegge@marshandlegge.com)
Alex Blackburn (ablackbu@loudoun.gov)
Greg Monnett (greg@enviro-utilities.com)
Kevin Seaford (kevin.seaford@timmons.com)
Sue Brown (suebrown@vt.edu)-Executive Secretary

Contact a board member with questions, suggestions, or comments about VAPSS.

Stay Safe this Season– Jobsite safety is critical at all times but as business slowly returns and field hours increase remember to be on alert for danger. Always make sure someone knows where you're going. Stay hydrated and check for ticks every day. Stay visible when working with equipment. Mark your location well when in a backhoe pit. Don't be a victim of carelessness.

Capitol Round Up- 2010 General Assembly Update

The Virginia Association of Professional Soil Scientists monitored and lobbied on a half dozen bills during the 2010 legislative session. This is the first year they employed a professional lobbyist to help them identify their priorities, visit legislators on their behalf and testify when necessary. It was a successful first step as VAPSS continues to plan their strategy and build their resources toward licensure.

[HB 132](#) – Pollard. *Onsite sewage systems; prohibits VDH from issuing permits that are located in a wetland.* VAPSS opposed this bill because they do not support localities exceeding the established statewide standards. VAPSS provided information to the patron on their concerns, as well testimony in the House Health, Welfare and Institutions subcommittee where it was defeated. DEAD.

[HB 332](#) - Marshall, R.G. *Alternative onsite sewage systems; routine testing.* VAPSS opposed this bill because it delayed necessary maintenance on alternative sewage systems and removed the requirement for sampling. VAPSS let the patron know their concerns, as well members of the subcommittee. They provided testimony and the bill was killed in the House Health, Welfare and Institutions subcommittee. DEAD.

[HB 515](#) – Rust. *Wetlands and stream mitigation; prohibits localities from regulating location of projects.* VAPSS did not support this bill because it did not meet the goals of water quality and would have a disproportionate on certain localities. VAPSS monitored this bill, but did not take an active position against it. The bill passed both the House and the Senate and is expected to be signed by the Governor. PASSED.

[HB 552](#) - Marshall, D.W. *Vested rights; includes right to replace existing on-site sewage system.* As introduced, VAPSS had concerns about the bill and considered seeking an amendment. During the subcommittee and committee process in the House Counties, Cities and Towns, the bill was re-drafted and VAPSS' concerns were ameliorated. VAPSS continued to monitor the bill. PASSED.

[HB 634](#) – Scott, E. *Board for Architects, Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, Certified Interior Designers and Landscape Architects; exceptions from licensure.* VAPSS supported this bill because it provided an exemption from licensure for certain conduct related to the design of alternative onsite sewage systems receiving residential wastewater. It was a bill that impacted many in the VAPSS community. Unfortunately, after passing the House with opposition from the engineers, it fell prey to politics and never got a hearing in the Senate. DEAD.

[HB 1082](#) - Crockett-Stark. *State soil; designates Pamunkey soil as official soil of State.* VAPSS supported this bill and has supported similar bills in the past. Unfortunately, it didn't even get a chance for a full hearing and was killed in the first two weeks of session. DEAD.

[SB 448](#) – Stuart. *Onsite sewage systems, alternative; locality to enact an ordinance prohibiting use thereof.* VAPSS strongly opposed this bill because it would we do not support allowing localities to determine the standards. Two years ago, VAPSS participated in the highly contentious conversation that adopted statewide standards for sewage regulations. VAPSS was very active on this bill, letting the patron know our concerns, individually lobbying the committee member, collaborating with allies and finally, providing testimony on the bill. This bill was soundly defeated. DEAD.

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME!

Your VAPSS Board is offering, for a limited time, LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS! This limited time offer is for sole purpose of raising funds for our Licensure effort - Capital Campaign 2011! Help support our future!

Lifetime memberships are available NOW until October 8, 2010. These memberships will activate starting in 2011 year.

Lifetime membership are \$750 (reminder that dues are scheduled to increase to \$100 in 2011).

Please fill out the attached form and mail with your payment to Sue Brown (contact information provided above). Please note 'Lifetime Membership' on memo line of check. Application is on page 5 of this newsletter.

Hokies Storm Through the High Plains to Win 3rd National Championship in Soil Judging

The Virginia Tech Soil Judging Team won first place in overall score at the 50th ASA National Soil Judging Contest hosted by Texas Tech in Lubbock, Texas on March 20-27, 2010. There were 21 teams present from across the nation that had qualified at regional contests last fall. Dan Johnson was 3rd, Heather Taylor was 10th, James Currie was 14th, and Randy Cosby 18th out of the top 84 judges in the nation in the individual event. Nina O'Malley and Katie Wooten joined in for the team judging event and led the Hokies to 5th place out of 21 teams. The combined score comfortably left Virginia Tech in 1st place ahead of University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Rhode Island, University of Maryland, and Northern Illinois. During the contest week the teams travelled over one hour in every compass direction away from Lubbock to observe practice sites and prepare for the contest. "The students saw more flat farmland and circle pivots than they ever knew existed. They saw calcics, petrocalcics, Vertisols, Slickensides, gilgai, and lacustrine deposits. They also saw Tertiary-aged gravel deposits and multiple-petrocalcic/paleosol sequences. They also saw their first tumbleweeds, prairie dogs, sand storms, cactus, playas, dunes, and desert badlands. On top of that, they also met some of the friendliest people on earth" said coach John Galbraith of the Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences (CSES) department. This is the Hokie's second national title since 2005 and sixth consecutive national contest with a finish in the top four teams.

Dan Johnson is a senior CSES major from Castlewood, Virginia; Heather Taylor is a senior CSES and Philosophy major from Blacksburg, VA; James Currie is a senior Environmental Science (ENSC) major from Toms Brook, VA; William "Randy" Cosby is a Junior CSES major from Glen Allen, VA; Nina O'Malley is a Junior CSES major from Arlington, VA; and Katie Wooten is a senior ENSC major from Orange, VA. "We were not the favorites, and only one of our students had been west of the Mississippi, so every soil was new to them. It was an 8-day contest, getting up at 5:45 AM and sometimes getting in after 6:30 PM. But the team put in lots of hard work before and during the practice week, and that effort led these excellent students to success in a very challenging contest."



2010 National Champion Virginia Tech Soil Judging Team: Left to Right (front row): Coach John Galbraith and Nina O'Malley (CSES-Jr.). Left to Right (back row): James Currie (CSES-Sr.), Dan Johnson (CSES-Sr. – 3rd high individual), Randy Cosby (CSES-Jr.), Heather Taylor (CSES and Philosophy-Sr. – 10th high individual), and Katie Wooten (ENSC-Sr.).

VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTISTS

Tax I.D. # 54-1640416

VAPSS LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP DRIVE – limited availability

Funds will be put toward the CAPITAL CAMPAIGN 2011
To Seek Licensure for Virginia Professional Soil Scientists

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP begins with calendar year 2011

Lifetime Membership Cost \$750

(Regular Member Annual Dues will increase to \$100 beginning in 2011)

Lifetime Membership Drive Ends October 8, 2010

Please type or print clearly

Name: _____ Date: _____

Business: _____

Address: _____

Telephone numbers: (W) _____ (H) _____

FAX number(s): (W) _____ (H) _____

Cell phone number: _____

Email address: _____

Visa & MasterCard are accepted by phone. Make your checks payable to VAPSS and mail with this completed form to the address below. Receipts are available upon request.

**Sue Brown, Virginia Tech/CSES, 238 Smyth Hall - 0404, Blacksburg VA 24061
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**Virginia Association of
Professional Soil Scientists
Newsletter**

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www.VAPSS.org

Since 1978.



To VAPSS members everywhere

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

Important Announcement

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

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

VAPSS is currently soliciting donations for Capital Campaign 2011 as we move forward to seek Licensure of Professional Soil Scientists! The Capital Campaign 2011 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 2011, 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.