

VAPSS Newsletter

Virginia Association of Professional Soil Scientists Newsletter

Volume 31, Issue 2

Message From The VAPSS Board

As many of you know, your VAPSS 2009 Board has been working very diligently on legislation activities throughout the past year. The Board is currently gearing up for the 2010 Legislative Session for the Licensure of Professional Soil Scientists. As part of our preparation for the 2010 Legislative Session, the Board has elected to host a **Strategy Session on August 7, 2009 from 9am to 5pm** (lunch, snacks and beverages will be provided) at the Dept. of Forestry in Charlottesville, VA. We will leave this meeting with a clear course of action, decided on by the group in attendance. Most importantly, your VAPSS Board hopes to have a lobbyist retained for this meeting.

The Board is also seeking help from the VAPSS membership. The Board needs a minimum of 10 individuals to commit to assisting the Board during this 2010 legislative Session and the preparation months leading up to it. This commitment would include attendance at the Strategy Session on August 7 and attending some of the meetings with legislators. This commitment would carry through to mid-March 2010 (the end of the 2010 legislation session at the General Assembly).

However, PLEASE NOTE...If the Board does not receive commitments from at least 10 members at-large, the Board WILL NOT carry through with Licensure for 2010 (as this will be evidence that Licensure is not important to the VAPSS general membership). The VAPSS Board must receive 10 member commitments by JULY 24, 2009. If you ARE WILLING step forward and make a commitment for our profession, please email your contact information to Lexi Jones at dirt_rocks@yahoo.com or call 434-594-1390. Your VAPSS Board is very excited and enthusiastic about this upcoming legislative session. We know with the support of our membership, that VAPSS can do this!

This is our time...it is now or never, VAPSS. VAPSS realizes that we were behind the ball last year, but we now have the steam engine rolling and we ARE READY to take on Legislation for our profession. Last year was a great year for experience, the Board had the opportunity to spend several days at the General Assembly (GA), working with delegates and senators, and most importantly we have made some great contacts and NOW the GA knows who VAPSS is! So please give VAPSS your support!

Mini Editorial

Just about all of you should have seen the announcement above by now and many of you have volunteered your time to participate. **More are needed.** Some have offered support if no one else will do it. Others are on the fence. **This is not an issue to be left to others.** We have seen what happens when we leave it to others. We get walked on and the citizens of the commonwealth, in our opinion, are worse off for it. As more and more soils and natural science related government services are privatized there will be a growing need for professionals with a comprehensive understanding of natural systems as they relate to any proposed use or conservation model. We once called these interpretations. If the pigeon hole model of the AOSE program is followed again and again, **limited aspects of soil science will become merely skill sets to be employed** for each interpretation and soil science as a profession will be no more. The whole system will be "technicianized". If you are interested in the long term viability and sustainability of soil science as a profession and not just a skill set **you need to get involved.** I can assure you that the longer we wait, the more we will become marginalized ourselves as others beat on the doors of the General Assembly with ideas that will take our place. **Together we can make a difference,** otherwise we can only make a mess.

Inside this issue:

<i>Spring Session Update</i>	2
<i>VAPSS still on Facebook</i>	3
<i>Fall Meeting and Elections</i>	3
<i>Capital Campaign 2010</i>	4
<i>Soil Judging News</i>	5



Spring Technical Session

Soil scientists from across the state and beyond enjoyed an excellent two day spring session. The field trip to the Culpepper Basin led by Dave Stewart, Danny Hatch, and Jim Sawyer detailed the identification of, and unique challenges of, working with soils derived from thermally altered sediments. Sites around Warrenton and Fauquier Co. airport and industrial park were explored and interpretive differences in the wide range of soil conditions found in the Triassic Basins were really brought home by the trip leaders.



The next day's trip to the Smithsonian's Dig It! Exhibit, which included a private tour led by Pat Megonigal, provided many insights into what makes a good exhibit that can bring an understanding of the importance soils to the non soil scientist. The monoliths, from every state and seven US territories, displayed the wide variability of our nations soils. You could just about read the pedologic history of the US by studying all the monoliths. There were many more highlights and if you missed the field trip it's worth the trip to go and see the exhibit.

Thanks to the folks who spent their time planning and leading this trip. Your efforts are greatly appreciated. Thanks to Jeff Walker for the photos and Nan Gray for the input.

Jay Conta and Danny Hatch discuss life in the trenches.

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

Log onto www.facebook.com, set up your personal account, and join the VAPSS-Virginia Association of Professional Soil Scientists Group! VAPSS Group on facebook is our new form of communication. Come visit us to join discussions, learn about upcoming events, meet professionals within our Group, view photos, visit links, learn about related Groups, and much more! Visit us today! If you have any questions on setting up your account or how to access us, please contact Lexi Jones at dirt_rocks@yahoo.com!

facebook Home Profile Friends Inbox 3 Lexi Jones Settings Logout

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: reed@loudoun.gov



[View Discussion Board](#)
[Leave Group](#)

FALL MEETING UPDATE

Plans for the Fall Meeting are in the works. The timely topic for this years event is stormwater. The meeting will be held in Fredericksburg on October 8, 2009. We will also be having our annual business meeting and hope to elect a new slate of officers and directors at that time. Make plans now to attend.

VAPSS ELECTION NEWS

VAPSS is currently accepting nominations for Board. Nominate those whose permission you have or even yourself.

You are all probably asking, well, what do you do while you are the Board. We have 4-6 Board meetings each year (usually held in Charlottesville) and then conference calls on an as needed basis. We plan the Fall and Spring Sessions (with generous help from our friends at VT), we prepare for the State Fair, plan socials, we promote our profession, etc...We always have something to do. It is a great organization and its a great way to get involved and promote our profession as Soil Scientists! This year we are also working on Legislation for Licensure.

For the year 2010 Elections we have several positions up for election, including the following:

- President (3 year commitment)
- Board Member (2 year term)
- Board Member (2 year term)
- Secretary (1 year term)
- Treasurer (1 year term)

This year the elections will be held during our Fall Session. Contact Lexi @ (dirt_rocks@yahoo.com) or Sue Brown with the position you would like to run for and please provide a short (I mean short) biography and picture of yourself. This will be included in the election materials (so people can put a face with the name, or a name with face). Please return this information to dirt_rocks@yahoo.com by AUGUST 1, 2009. We urge to get involved this year...this is a BIG year for VAPSS...and we hope it will become a history maker for the profession of soil scientists!

Virginia Tech Soil Judging Team Wins First Place at National Contest By John Galbraith

On Saturday, April 18, 2009, the Virginia Tech Soil Judging team won first place at the North American College Teachers of Agriculture National Contest in Wooster, OH. Tech finished first out of 15 teams. Following Virginia Tech were Purdue, Northwest Missouri State University, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, and University of Wisconsin-River Falls. The team was coached by a combination of Dr. John Galbraith and CSES graduate student Nick Haus. The Hokies were well represented in the top 10 individual scores. Derik Cataldi, Senior CSES (Turf) major from Gordonsville, Virginia finished 3rd, followed by Junior CSES major Dan Johnson from Castlewood, Virginia in 4th place. In 7th place was Hannah Clayton, senior ENSC major from Virginia Beach. Junior CSES major Heather Taylor from Blacksburg finished 11th. Other team members included Randy Cosby, Nina O'Malley, and Keith Trent. Meagan Ormand was unable to attend, as was coach John Galbraith due to deaths in their families. According to coach Galbraith, "Nick Haus did an outstanding job of taking the students to a new area where they described soils and geology unlike any they had seen before. The majority of teams we competed against were experienced in describing glaciated areas, yet our team of new judges excelled and surpassed the home court favorites. This win is a testament to the quality of our soils program and the students in our department at Virginia Tech."

Virginia Tech team members were:

Derik Cataldi, senior Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences major from Gordonsville, Va.

Dan Johnson, junior Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences major from Castlewood, Va.

Hannah Clayton, senior Environmental Science major from Virginia Beach, Va.

Heather Taylor, junior Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences major from Blacksburg, Va.

Randy Cosby, sophomore Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences major from Glen Allen, Va.

Nina O'Malley sophomore Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences major from Arlington, Virginia

Keith Trent, senior Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences major from Keysville, Va.

Meagan Ormand, junior Environmental Science major from Chester Va., also is a member of the team, but unable to attend the contest.

Picture: L to right: Keith Trent, Randy Cosby, Dan Johnson, Coach Nick Haus, Derik Cataldi, Heather Taylor, Hannah Clayton, and Nina O'Malley.



**Virginia Association of
Professional Soil Scientists
Newsletter**

David Hall, CPSS, Editor
111 N Franklin St
Christiansburg VA 24073

Phone: 540 381-0309
Fax: 540 381-9430
Email: davidh@swva.net

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.

Special points of interest:

- *Strategy Session August 7th in C'ville*
- *Contribute to the Capital Campaign 2010*
- *Plan to attend the Fall Meeting*
- *Have a safe summer*
- *Check for ticks daily*

Important Announcement

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

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.