



PEDOLOGUE

• Winter/Spring 2008

Newsletter of:
Mid-Atlantic Association of Professional Soil Scientists
Edited by Del Fanning

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Editor's Comments.

As with past issues, this issue of Pedologue is again available from the MAPSS Web Site, <http://sawgal.umd.edu/mapss/>. Hard copies are not sent unless the editor, dsf@umd.edu or 301-405-1308, is informed of someone who needs one.

This is first 2008 Pedologue issue; see further ed. comments before calendar of events.

MAPSS Meeting, Feb. 13, 2008. edited from abbreviated minutes submitted by Secretary Jim Brewer.

MAPSS Business Meeting 2/13/08, at American Legion Hall,
Annapolis, Maryland

BRIEF HIGHLIGHTS OF MEETING

President Weismiller presided over the meeting
Attendance: 38 current, new members and guests

Minutes from the 3/17/07 business meeting. No corrections, approved

Weismiller led discussion on possible soil degradation symposium. **Fanning** mentioned that there is a Journal of Soil and Sediment Contamination, run out of the University of Massachusetts, that publishes papers in the soil degradation subject matter area and runs conferences about such things that perhaps should be looked into by MAPSS people who want to run a symposium about soil degradation.

State Soil Discussion: It was suggested that MAPSS should seek a governor's proclamation for Sassafras as the state soil as probably the best bet with the state budget problems. **Robinette** stated Gov. O'Malley mentioned soil in many of his addresses along with the Lieutenant Governor. **Rabenhorst**- Smithsonian Exhibit opening is a great opportunity to get state soil recognized.

Bagley motion – write a letter to Governor about proclamation

2nd by Rabenhorst

Voice Approved

Comment, 4/4/08, **Brewer is assembling comments into an overall MAPSS letter.**

Bagley – Suggested that this Spring MAPSS should do a MD wastewater two day workshop thing; could survey MDE and local health departments on what to do (“What do they want from soil scientists?”)

- Cliff Stein did a training session with MDE on soil morphology this past year.
- **Bagley, Weismiller and Jellick would be on a committee to find out needs and interest.**

Bagley led discussion on possible soil texture kits for sanitarians as a money-making venture for MAPSS – perhaps team up with UMD soil judging team to run analyses.

President Weismiller called for COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance – Chairperson **Effland** presented financial report on expenditures for 2007 – see financial report at the end of these minutes.

Membership and Ethics – Brewer informed the membership of three new members so far in 2008 George Geatz, Vera Jaffe, and Steven Krieg.

Education and Public Relations -Chairperson **Fanning** stated he tries to put out 4 newsletters a year, but has only managed to get out three the last couple of years, so three a year now seems to be what we are doing. He seldom, if ever, gets any feed back from members. He hopes all like them. By a show of hands, most attendees indicated that they do read the on-line Pedologue issues. He mentioned the ASMR, American Society of Mining and Reclamation, conference (combined with 10th meeting of International Affiliation Land Reclamationists) that will be held June 14-19, 2008 in Richmond, VA. He will be participating to help run a workshop and a field trip pertaining to acid sulfate soils and he encouraged MAPSS members to attend and participate in the conference. He feels that the reclamation area is a fruitful area for employment of soil scientists and he would like to see MAPSS become more involved in this area. For more details on the ASMR conference, see the web site on the conference that is listed in the Calendar of Coming Events at the end of this Pedologue issue.

Fanning suggested that MAPSS consider a symposium on sea-level rise as this is a hot topic for our region in regard to the impacts of global warming. He feels that MAPSS should be helping to provide documentation on this topic to legislators who are

developing (both state and national) legislation to help combat global warming. UMD has much info from graduate studies done on the subject. **Devereux** stated some county planners are looking at sea level rise in their local planning and that a symposium would be a good idea sometime in the future.

Constitution and By Laws – Council Members at Large are elected in alternate years and serve a two year term each. **Bagley made motion to approve this concept; Hill 2nd, voice approved.**

In regard to the establishment of a Board of Directors, the membership decided to have the three board members serve one, two, and three years to maintain consistency from BOD to BOD. **Motion by Brewer to accept this concept; Jellick 2nd; voice approved. Brewer will rewrite and enter into Constitution. Editors Comment:** subsequent to the meeting, Brewer called for nominations for the Board of Directors and he conducted an on-line election for the three members as follows: Del Fanning to serve 3 years, Jim Chaconas to serve 2 years, Carl Robinette to serve 1 year. All members of the Board must have previously served as a MAPSS officer, sometime during the history of the organization, but not be currently serving as a member of the Executive Council. The board members are eligible for reelection.

Nominations for Executive Council – Past President Needelman asked for nominations from the floor. Nominations were received from the floor. All were motioned, seconded, and approved as an election. Only one At Large Member will be voted next year now that they serve two alternate year terms.

Results of the election were:

President Elect – Gary Jellick

Vice President – Joe Kraft

Secretary – Jim Brewer

At Large Member 1 year term –Diane Shields

At Large Member 2 year term –Marty Rabenhorst

Editor's Comment: Previous President Elect, Bruce Bagley, became our current president at this meeting and Dick Weismiller became Past-President. Bill Effland continues to serve as Treasurer.

UMD Activities – Dr. **Rabenhorst** stated MAPSS played a big part in helping with the MD-hosted NE region Soil Judging Contest last Fall. The UM Team, which finished first in the contest is getting ready to go to RI for nationals this spring and appreciates any assistance from MAPSS and its members.

Dr. **Needelman** presented the MAPSS 2008 scholarship for \$1000 to George Geatz.

Brewer motioned for donations to UMD soil judging team (\$1000); MD and DE Envirothon teams (\$250 ea); MD State Land Judging Contest (\$225)

Bagley 2nd

Voice Approved

Recessed for Dinner 6:10 – 6:50 pm

Fanning – mentioned that our first Honorary Member Dr. Roy W. Simonson will be 100 years old Sept. 7, 2008.

Brewer motioned to have the MAPSS UMD scholarship award named after Dr. Simonson.

Bagley 2nd

Voice approved

Levine – led discussion on Smithsonian Exhibit opening and what associated activities would be allowed. Gala ball (the editor thinks this is for special invitees only) is July 17 Thursday; Official Opening to public is Saturday July 19th. Smithsonian doesn't want any activities to take away from opening so no other major competing activities will be allowed close to opening date. A couple of months after the opening will be best for a connected activity that MAPSS or other organizations may plan. Other groups of organizations will be offering their help.

Brewer – may want to have Governor proclamation of the MD state soil before opening.

Levine – Folk Life Festival is about agriculture this year, maybe MAPSS/NRCS could do something for it.

Levine will keep MAPSS informed.

Fanning – discussed having a MAPSS run a raffle lottery for participants who buy tickets to guess the ages of single samples of jarosite and glauconite from a depth of about 1 meter from the post-active acid sulfate soil from SERC, looked at on the WCSS acid sulfate soils tour in 2006; winners would share take 50/50 with MAPSS. The samples have been submitted by Fanning and Zurheide for argon isotope age dating for the right answers to the University of Queensland in Australia and results are expected sometime this spring. Fanning would like to have the money raised by MAPSS from such a lottery donated to UM to support research about the age of post-active acid sulfate soils in our region. He wonders about the legalities for MAPSS raising funds in this way for such a purpose and asks that the Executive Council look into this matter.

NOTE: Meeting was followed by a presentation by Dr. Daniel Wagner on soils related to archeology in the Mid-Atlantic Region.

2007 MAPSS Treasurer's Report
Prepared for the 2008 Annual Business Meeting

January 18,
2008
Submitted by Bill Effland, Treasurer

2008 Projected Budget

2007 MAPSS Project Workshop?

Income (Estimated)

Workshop	0.00	
Membership Dues	1,500.00	
		\$1,500.00

Expenses (Estimated)

2008 MAPSS Field Tour	300.00
Workshop Support	500.00
Soil Judging	1,000.00
Land Judging	225.00
Envirothons (MD and DE, \$250 each)	500.00
Soil Science Scholarship	1,000.00
Annual Business Meeting	400.00
	\$3,925.00

2007 Summary of Organization Account

Beginning Balance

Dec. 2006 \$6,674.65

Income (Actual)

Dues	1,060.00
Monoliths	5,000.00
ABM cash	363.00
Correction	8.00

Total Income \$6,431.00

Expenses (Actual)

Bank service charges	15.00
Soil Judging	2,200.00
Land Judging	225.00
Envirothon - MD	0.00
Envirothon - DE	250.00
Scholarship	1,000.00
Workshops	0.00
Smithsonian Soils Exhibit	0.00
Annual Business Meeting	804.00
Monoliths	341.78

Total Expenses \$4,835.78

End of Year Balance

Dec. 2007 \$8,269.87

**FOUR PICTURES FROM THE FEB. 13, 2008 MAPSS MEETING,
ARE PRESENTED ON THE NEXT TWO PAGES. THANKS JIM
BREWER FOR THESE PICTURES.**



(Above) Dr. Brian Needelman (left) presents the MAPSS Simonson UM scholarship for 08-09 to student and UM soil judging team member George Geatz (right) as some meeting attendees look on.



A general view of some meeting participants as Dr. Weismiller, back to camera in the foreground makes a point.



(Above) Fanning, jarosite yellow shirt and glauconite green jacket talks about something and apparently puts Sara Tangren, behind his paper, and probably others, to sleep.



Dan Wagner, after an interesting presentation, takes a question.

Ray Weil seek volunteers to show soil pit Maryland Day, Apr. 26.

Editor's Comment. The following blurb is from Ray's e-mail sent out to soils students and professors at UM. If you can give this soils education opportunity a hand, get in touch with Ray, his e-mail address is in his message.

Hey soils folks --so far I have had only **one single lonely** response about manning the soil pit for Md Day April 26th. That was Del Fanning - who apologized that he had another Earth Day commitment. You don't need to be an expert...anyone with even one soils course under their belt can do a great job explaining the soil to the public.

What better way to spend Earth's Day than explaining her to her children!

On Wed, Apr 2, 2008 at 8:42 PM, Ray Weil <rayrweil@gmail.com> wrote:

Calling all soil scientists!!

WINDOW ON THE WORLD BENEATH OUR FEET

The free t-shirts are in, the free lunches are ordered!

Maryland Day (April 26) is fast approaching and SOILS have a chance to be in the spotlight.

The campus soil pit is billed as "Window to the World Beneath Your Feet." This year, we are in the program and have arranged for a hayride shuttle from the AnSci courtyard to the pit above the greenhouse complex....so we are expecting waaay more visitors.

We have a nice hand out from past years, but we need SOIL SCIENTISTS TO MAN (OR WOMAN) THE PIT AND EXPLAIN THE SETTING, THE SOIL PROFILE (the unofficial State Soil) AND THE INSTRUMENTS TO ALL COMERS. Families with kids! The future of soils....

It would be great to have **at least one faculty member and one graduate student on hand at all times.**

So **please** SIGN UP FOR ONE OR TWO OF THE time slots listed below by replying to rweil@umd.edu. THANKS!! --Ray

We need at least two people for each of these four shifts.

Please provide your email and cell phone.

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM _____

12: 00 AM - 2:00 PM _____

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM _____



Ed. Comment: A picture of the soil pit near the greenhouses on the UM campus that will be shown on Maryland Day, as supplied by Ray Weil, is inserted here.

I am sure Ray would be pleased to have MAPSS members beyond those who are UMD students or in the professorial ranks volunteer to help show off this soil at one of the time slots listed above. If you can help get in touch with Ray.

Further Ed. Comments: The editor is pleased to announce that he has been invited, in his capacity as a member of the international scientific committee for the International Acid Sulfate Soils Conference (see conference announcement in calendar of coming events), by the conference organizers, to participate in the conference. With some trepidation about my body's ability to take the long plane trip, probably 20 hours or more one way, and concern about perceived Chinese human rights violations that have come to light in connection with the Olympic Games in China this summer, I plan to go and to present a paper, entitled "Acid sulfate soils classification issues raised by the 2006 WCSS (World Congress of Soil Science) a.s.s. (acid sulfate soils) tour in the U.S. Mid-Atlantic Region". My spouse, Emily, plans to go with me. As part of the paper, with Dr. Rabenhorst as co-author, we plan to present revised definitions of the *Soil Taxonomy* terms *sulfidic materials* and the *sulfuric horizon*. We hope to get preliminary "feed back" on our revised definitions from the Soil Taxonomy committee at the Northeast Soil

Survey Conference in Rhode Island, June 2-5 (see that conference announcement in calendar of coming events) and/or from anyone else who would care to advise us.

The time period to submit abstracts for the conference in China has been extended until June, although those who want to have their full papers published are supposed to have their papers submitted by May 16. I encourage others to participate. There are too few American soil scientists who are active in the international acid sulfate soils arena. It used to be the Dutch who dominated this field. Now, at least in numbers and in numbers of publications per year etc., it is the Australians who are doing the most. They have an on-line newsletter called ASSAY about acid sulfate soils issues etc. and the latest issue gives further information about the conference in China.

Calendar of coming events

June 2-5, 2008. Northeast Soil Survey Conference, University of Rhode Island, Coastal Institute, Narragansett, RI. http://www.ct.nrcs.usda.gov/soil_survey_conference.html
Contact: Kip Kolesthsias, 860-871-4047.

June 14-19, 2008. 25th Annual Meeting of American Society of Mining and Reclamation (ASMR) and 10th meeting of International Affiliation Land Reclamationists (IALR), Richmond, VA. Full information at:
http://www.cses.vt.edu/revegetation/ASMR_2008.html . Program Chair and Contact: wdaniels@vt.edu .

July 19, 2008. Opening of the soil exhibits at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC. MAPSS member, Dr. Patrick Megonigal, whose lab and research work are located at SERC, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, Edgewater, MD, is Chief Curator of the exhibits and he and his staff, advised by EAT (Extended Advisory Team, of which some other MAPSS folks are members) have been working very hard with the staff at the Museum to complete the exhibits. The title "Dig It" was selected for the exhibits. It was found that this title, of those tested, attracted the most attention from trial audiences of the kind of people who are expected to visit the Smithsonian.

Sept. 16-20, 2008. Joint Conference of the 6th International Acid Sulfate Soil Conference and the Acid Rock Drainage Symposium. South China Agricultural University, Guangzhou, China. The Conference is jointly organized by the South China Agricultural University and the Acid Sulfate Soils Working Group of the International Union of Soil Science. <http://www.6assard.org> .

Oct. 5-9, 2008. ASA-CSSA-SSSA Annual Meetings, joint with GSA (Geological Society of America and Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies and Gulf Coast Association of SEPM. Houston, TX. Check with SSSA for details.