



PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTISTS ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

Texas Soil Profiles

2018 PSSAT Officers

President - Carlos Villareal, USDA-NRCS, Temple

President-Elect - Dr. Donald McGahan, Tarleton State Univ.

Vice-President - Dr. David Ruppert, Texas A&M University - Kingsville

Treasurer - Travis Waiser, USDA-NRCS, Kerrville

Editor - Jon Brandt, TerrEval Consulting, Corpus Christi

Past-President - Chance Robinson, USDA-NRCS, Stephenville

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PSSAT President's Message, from Carlos Villareal



Let me begin by offering blessings to our PSSAT members and their families as we enter the Holiday Season! Please be safe on the roads if you are traveling and don't text and drive!

As many of you are aware, the PSSAT Licensure Committee spent the beginning part of the year updating the justification document for the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists in preparation of the Sunset Committee Review. A special appreciation should be extended to the licensure committee as well as our members who provided input comments. Although the ultimate decision is yet to be determined by the Sunset Committee Review Board, we are confident that our members' efforts were significant. Thank you, members!

Also, take a few moments to browse our freshly designed website! Jon has done a tremendous job with the redesign. We often take for granted the website as a source for soil resources; however, the functionality and information are outstanding, and we should be promoting the website to customers, cooperators, and other folks who ask about soils. Thank you, Jon!

On a personal note, I'm obligated to thank YOU for the opportunity to serve as your President. This year, I was asked to share some statistics about the organization and it forced me to acknowledge PSSAT's great history.

PSSAT has always been a place where friendships begin, stories are shared, and occasionally someone mentions soils. I take pride in representing this group and I hope you do too. If you are a newer member, I would encourage you to get involved in a committee, meet other members, ask questions, and be an advocate for the soil resource.

It about that time of year to make plans for the meeting in a few months. We will send out information once it becomes settled.

*Cheers!
Carlos J. Villarreal
PSSAT President*

Minutes from the Professional Soil Scientists Association of Texas Annual Meeting

January 31, 2018 - kindly provided by **Jamey Douglass**

Held at the G. Rollie White Visitors Center, TAMU Farm, College Station

During the social time two announcements were made. Dr. Cristine Morgan reminded all in attendance about the Soil Texturing Contest. Dr. Tom Hallmark asked if anyone was interested in joining a listserve, Soil Talk. If anyone was interested, they needed to proceed to the table to add their email address.

Prior to the start of the meal, Chance asked Tom Cyprian to offer an opening prayer.

Around 6:15 pm, Chance Robinson, PSSAT President thanked Tom and Kristin Feuerbacher for providing the photos from this past summers, Green Valley Tour. Chance had a slide show going on the Green Valley Tour.

At 7:07 pm, Chance Robinson, PSSAT President, called the 2018 PSSAT Annual Meeting to order. He thanked all in attendance for coming. Chance then asked each person to stand up and introduce themselves with name, title, and location. There were about 46 introductions made.

Chance stated the minutes of the previous meeting were printed in the December edition of Texas Soil Profiles. He asked for a motion to approve and a second. Motion passed.

Next, Chance went thru a summary of the Executive Council meetings during his term as president.

1. February 20, 2017 - The Executive Council met to create a special committee, to develop material for the upcoming Sunset Review of the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists. The name of the committee is the Licensure Committee. Members were appointed for 2017 to 2019, ie. three-year terms. Any upcoming emails will be sent using Soil Talk or by PSSAT email. The committee will draft a letter about the public comment period, track the status of the review, and report to the membership. The members are: Ed Janak (chair); Susan Casby-Horton; Kelly Attebury; Paul Reynolds; and Jon Brandt.

2. May 1, 2017 - Jim Culver, affiliated with the US Consortium of Soil Science Association, the Association of Women Soil Scientists, and the Soil Science Society of America; wanted to add PSSAT to be part of this consortium, and to lump our organization with SSSA. The Executive Council is considering this offer, versus leaving PSSAT out of this consortium. Currently the Executive Council is not in favor of joining this consortium.

Dr. Cristine Morgan added that SSSA was trying to add soil scientists from other organizations, not just academia. SSSA has seen a decline in membership, and is reminding other organizations about the benefits of SSSA membership.

3. August 4, 2017 - Green Valley Tour, thanks for all who drove out to west Texas.

4. September 5, 2017 - Executive Council met, to purchase and provide plaques for the Collegiate Soil Judging Contest winners in San Marcos.

At this time, Chance called on Travis Waiser, PSSAT Treasurer, to give his report. Travis said we actually gained \$104 this past year. He stated the IRS form for 2017 was submitted, but for some reason the 2016 form is pending. He said he would look into this. Travis discussed the 2018 budget

There was some discussion about funding Regional Collegiate Soil Contests. Dr. Cristine made a motion for PSSAT to continue to provide some funding for Regional Collegiate Soil Contests in Texas. It was seconded, and passed. Travis stated this money comes out of the PR Fund. He asked if we really needed a Public Relations (PR) Fund and a General Fund? For the treasurer, it would be easier if we had one fund, instead of two. Dr. Morgan asked about having a PR fund. Dr. Donald McGahan offered if a person wanted to donate to the PR fund, combining the two would make the request null and void. Chance added that if a donation was made to a specific project, the money would be allocated for that request.

Travis stated when PSSAT had 100 members, we could afford to present a \$1,500 Scholarship. Currently with about 45 members, we do not have enough funds coming in to support the scholarship. A motion was made to combine the PR Fund and the General Fund. It was seconded, and motion passed.

Someone asked about PSSAT merchandise. Travis said he has not purchased caps, fleece vests, etc. He was waiting to sell off current stock. Murmurs were heard from the crowd.

Chance, said the Web Master report would not be the same without Ricky Lambert presenting it. Chance added Ricky always had funny stories about who visited the website, what countries searched, etc. Chance told the audience of Ricky Lambert's passing away. Letters were sent in about Ricky Lambert, and would be read by Chance and Carlos Villarreal, PSSAT President-Elect.

A letter from Kenny Hall, NRCS Soil Scientist-Rosenberg, told of Ricky and him being out mapping, and Ricky driving thru very thick brush to get somewhere. Kenny said Ricky liked driving fast on bumpy country roads, and when the passengers hit their heads on the roof, Ricky would say, "Wheeeeeeee"

A letter was read from Tyson Hart, NRCS Range Management Specialist- Nacogdoches

A letter was read from Sara Russell, NRCS Soil Scientist-Gilmer. She added that Ricky was not a perfect person, but was “perfectly our Ricky”

A letter was read from Jon Wiedenfeld, NRCS Soil Scientist-Rosenberg, a former supervisor of Ricky, about Psammaquerts, trying to play a joke on Conrad Neitsch, NRCS Soil Correlator–Temple

A letter was read from Stacey Kloesel, NRCS Soil Scientist-Rosenberg, about a place in Liberty County, called “Dever’s Woods”, Ricky always thought it was a scary place. Tom Feuerbacher agreed that it was spooky with mosquitoes, snakes, and alligators

Alan Stahnke, Texas State Soil Scientist, told of a sampling of the Evadale soil. Ricky was using posthole diggers to dig a small pit. Jon Wiedenfeld told Ricky to stop. Jon bent over to look at the pit, but Ricky continued with the posthole digger catching Jon on the back of his neck. Alan thought Jon was going to kill Ricky, but Jon was not injured.

Edward Griffin told some stories about Ricky on a Jefferson-Orange Counties soils detail.

Someone asked why Ricky was called the Duke of Batson. Alan Stahnke said Ricky was mapping on the Batson Prairie. Jon Wiedenfeld told the audience that the Governor of Tennessee had awarded Ricky, an Aide de Camp of the Governor’s Office. Ricky placed that certificate in his office. Jon and Ricky were mapping on the Baston Prairie, and come to an old home site, Jon found an old Mercedes-Benz medallion. Jon got creative with that medallion and presented it to Ricky as the “Duke of Batson”

John Sackett III, NRCS Resource Soil Scientist-Weatherford added Ricky was a “Wildman”, but he always quit at 4:30 pm, and made everyone else in the office quit at 4:30 pm

Dennis Brezina, NRCS Resource Soil Scientist-Bryan, told of both he and Ricky driving through Kountze. a country store had a marquis that was supposed to be Now Open, but the “w” was next to open, Ricky always said the store was “No Wopen”..

Ricky Lambert will be missed by all who worked with him.

Chance called on Sidney Paulson, PSSAT Finance Chair to make his report. Sidney added Travis gave a very good Treasurer’s Report.

Chance called on Jamey Douglass, PSSAT Constitution and Bylaws Chair to give his report. Jamey said there were some typos in the current Constitution and Bylaws.

Constitution

1. Article VIII - Section 3. The Council shall hold at least two meetings each year. Jamey wondered with travel funds being what they are, does this still need to be here, meetings now are done over the phone, would this still qualify?

2. Article IX. Section 1. The location of the headquarters of the Association shall be determined **but** (by) the Council.

Bylaws

1. Article 1. Section 1. The fiscal year of the organization shall be from January 1 to December 31. Jamey wondered if this should be changed to Annual Meeting to Annual Meeting. We usually have our Annual Meeting in February.
2. Section 8. Following 3b (3) To encourage continuation of membership. **Section**
3. Article IX. Section 1. **Soil Survey Horizons** shall be the official publication This publication no longer exists

Suggestions from Chance Robinson, PSSAT President

1. Constitution -Article VI. Officers, Section 1 d. The **Secretary-Treasurer**; considering changing the title of Treasurer to Secretary-Treasurer
2. Constitution - Article X. Committees, Section 3. "The remaining of the standing committees shall be appointed to the following [conclusion of the annual meeting, ending at the term of office], **instead of being assigned prior to the Annual Meeting.**
3. Bylaws - Article VII. Duties of Officers, Section 3, b - The Vice President will inform the President and the Council from time to time, of duties to be performed at stated times or at stated intervals. The Vice President will issue all calls and notices as instructed by the President of the Council.
4. Bylaws - Article VII. Duties of Officers, Section 4, b - The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep accurate records of the Association Membership and proceedings of the Association and Council meetings. The Secretary-Treasurer shall have custody of all books, papers, and documents. The Secretary-Treasurer will maintain a complete record of past members of the Council and officers for the purpose of establishing information for appointment or election.

Since these errors or proposed changes were not available to the membership 30 days prior to the annual meeting, they could not be voted on tonight. These will be discussed further by the committee, and presented at next year's Annual Meeting.

Chance called on Wayne Gabriel, PSSAT Ethics Chair to give his report. Wayne asked if anyone had used the VIZ NIR equipment to determine soil texture for the Soil Texture Contest. No one replied, Wayne had no report.

Chance called on Carlos Villarreal, PSSAT Membership Chair to give his report. Carlos said a new member, Jake Mowyer is the only new member, and he was not present tonight.

Chance reported for the Public Relations and Education Committee. Chance asked if there were any questions about our current website. Our PSSAT Editor Jon Brandt, is doing a survey, please participate.

Amanda Bragg, Scholarship Committee Chair, announced the 2018 PSSAT Scholarship Winner as Nicole Shipley, TAMU. Nicole was the High Individual at the Region Land Judging Contest, and a member of the winning TAMU team. She grew up in the suburbs, but has many awards from land judging contests in college.

Kelly Attebury spoke about the Licensure Committee. They are currently working on a document to renew the Licensure Act. They reduced the number of photos in the document, but want one or two good quality photos for each topic. They are mainly looking for photos pertaining to Waste Management.

Another need of photos is for hazardous, nonhazardous or radioactive waste management or mitigation. They currently have good quality photos for other categories. If you have any, please send to Kelly Attebury or Carlos Villarreal.

The committees have good supporting documents.

Dr. Tom Hallmark says the Sunset Commission reviews this year will meet with staff in April. Then there will be a period for comments until August. Comments are related to the licensure. Once the public comment period has ended, the Sunset Commission will have a few more meetings. During the next state legislative session, there will be testimony.

Chance Robinson announced with the passing of Ricky Lambert, there is a need for a Web Master, and also an Assistant Web Master. The Executive Council will make the final decision for these positions. Jon Brandt, Editor, said he will help the new person(s), but will not serve as Web Master.

Chance asked if there was any new business. There was none.

Chance said the floor was now open for election of new officers.

For the position of President-Elect, Dr. Donald McGahan is the nominee. He was asked if elected, would he serve in this capacity. Dr. McGahan said he was willing to serve. James Greenwade moved the nominations cease. There was a round of applause. Travis Waiser said there was one absentee ballot.

For the position of Vice President, Dr. David Rupert is the nominee. There were no nominations from the floor, all in favor responded with an "aye". Motion passed.

Chance announced the Committee Chairs for this upcoming year:

- Finance - Sidney Paulson
- Ethics - Wayne Gabriel
- Constitution and Bylaws - Jamey Douglass
- Membership - Dr. Donald McGahan
- Nominations - Chance Robinson
- Public Relations and Education - Nathan Haile

At this time, incoming President Carlos Villarreal was invited to the front. Chance said he enjoyed his time serving as PSSAT President. The gavel was passed. Carlos said some nice words about Chance. A large box

was handed to Chance from Carlos. After unwrapping the box, a state of Texas plaque was presented to Chance for his service as president.

Carlos thanked everyone in attendance. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The ayes have it. Meeting adjourned.

PSSAT Website Redesign

A survey regarding the PSSAT website (pssat.org) was handed out during the annual meeting. Twenty members returned completed surveys - thank you! A redesign of the PSSAT website was undertaken, using guidance provided by information compiled with the survey. A streamlined design, using WordPress and some of the web tools available from our web hosting company, Datarealm, was published in April this year.

Texas Sunset Advisory Commission Update

The PCTSR (PSSAT Committee for the TBPG Sunset Review) held several conference calls from the spring of 2017 until March 2018. The committee edited a support document that had been used in helping justify the creation of the TBPG (Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists). Text, revised maps, and some illustrative photographs were added to the document as part of PSSAT's effort to provide input supporting the continuation of the TBPG. The support document was finalized and provided to the PSSAT President on March 20, 2018.

The PSSAT's support document and input provided by other organizations, agencies, and individuals were compiled by the Sunset Advisory Commission in April 2018. Presumably, the Sunset Advisory Commission reviewed that input, along with their own evaluation, and produced a recommendation in August 2018. Below are the salient points of their evaluation:

- Public protection not the primary reason to initiate regulation.
- Far-reaching exemptions mean much geoscience remains unregulated, without a negative effect on the public.
- The public is not the primary consumer of most direct geoscience services.
- The board takes no significant enforcement action.
- The licensee population is steadily declining.
- Other state agencies (TX Commission on Environmental Quality and the Railroad Commission of TX) provide more direct and robust evaluation of geoscience work than the board.
- Less restrictive means exist to ensure safe practice of geoscience.

Their recommendation, based on the above findings is a change in statute: "Abolish the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists and repeal the Texas Geoscience Practice Act." Modified recommendations were made on November 14, 2018.

A summary of the Sunset Advisory Advisory recommendation and the proposed modifications follow. Both modifications recommend that the regulation of geoscientists continue. The second modification has the Texas Board of Professional Engineers taking over in two years. The final decision(s) have not been published yet. Links to documents from the Sunset Advisory Commission and the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists can be found here: <https://www.sunset.texas.gov/reviews-and-reports/agencies/texas-board-professional-geoscientists-tbpg>

Recommendation 1.1: Abolish the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists and repeal the Texas Geoscience Practice Act.

Chairman Birdwell and Representative Thompson Proposed Modification In lieu of Recommendation 1.1: continue the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists and the Texas Geoscience Practice Act for six years, until September 1, 2025.

Vice Chair Paddie Proposed Modification: Modify Recommendation 1.1 to continue the Texas Geoscience Practice Act, but abolish the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists and transfer the regulation of geoscientists to the Texas Board of Professional Engineers by September 1, 2020.

Soils News

The Texas Tech Soil Judging Team placed second and Texas A&M University - Kingsville placed third in the Region IV Collegiate Soils Contest (hosted by Oklahoma State University October 22-26 in Stillwater, OK - the University of Arkansas placed first). Stories found here:

https://www.depts.ttu.edu/pss/Turnrow/RegionalSoilsJudging_2018/csc2018.php
<http://www.tamuk.edu/news/2018/10/soiljudging.html>

Possible New Way to Combat Tuberculosis - Rockefeller scientists have been working on the problem of antibiotic-resistant tuberculosis strains. The researchers have discovered another group of natural antibiotics: kanglemycins. Further research is aiming to harness some of the features of antibiotics to combat constantly mutating tuberculosis bacteria. Story found here: <https://www.rockefeller.edu/news/24159-searching-soil-scientists-find-new-way-combat-tuberculosis/>

Call for Newsletter Articles

Please send articles, information, or photos that are suitable for future newsletters to: editor@pssat.org

Thank you!