



**2009 PSSAT ANNUAL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2009  
COLLEGE STATION CONFERENCE CENTER  
1300 GEORGE BUSH PARKWAY  
5PM TO 10PM**

**Catering by Buppy's Catering - BBQ Brisket and Chicken, all the fixings, and tea \$10.00**

**President's Letter  
Nathan Haile, USDA-NRCS**

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Greetings and Happy New Year!

Wow!!!! Wasn't it just yesterday we were all attending our last annual meeting? I have been working on this President's letter since the week after the meeting. However, as you can see it kept finding its way to the bottom of the stack. I apologize for such procrastination, but what is the old saying "Better late than never."

I am amazed everyday with the demand for soil information from almost every industry you can imagine. Daily I receive request from Agriculture, Environmental, Engineering, and Industrial agencies or companies wanting soil information, not to mention the educational and public awareness needs. I am sure you all are experiencing the same demand.

With all that being said, I want to say I am proud of the PSSAT for their past achievements and honored to have served as the 2008 PSSAT president. I have enjoyed the year although it went by so fast, I look back and wonder what happen to it. I recall the first few weeks after our last annual meeting and reading the constitution and by laws thoroughly. I really recommend this to every member. I remember focusing on the objectives in the Constitution, Article II. The objectives I remember most are **stimulating cooperation and fellowship among members, promote high standards of education, enhance public appreciation and foster professionalism among soil scientists in Texas.** That has been my goal this year.

I want to thank the Executive Council and Committee's for their support and work this year. Together we have put together ideas that we wish to put before the membership for consideration. These ideas are suggested in order to strengthen PSSAT, and serve as the link between students, the general public, and members of other disciplines with professionals in the soil science field. **Please take the time to review all parts of this newsletter and help PSSAT achieve our goals and objectives. Each one of you has great talents that can help us educate people about the importance of soil. After all it is the "Foundation of Life."**

Sincerely,

Nathan Haile

**IN THIS EDITION**

- Minutes of 2008 PSSAT Annual Meeting
- Public Relations Flyer
- Absentee Ballot

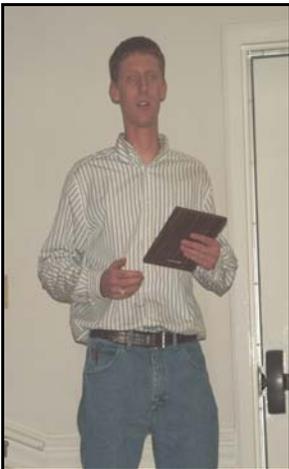
**Professional Soil Scientist Association of Texas  
February 6, 2008  
Annual Meeting — College Station Conference Center**



**PSSAT President Kelly Attebury moderating the 2008 PSSAT Annual Meeting.**

At 7:50 PM, President *Kelly Attebury* announced the Caterer had run out of food. If anyone had paid and did not receive a meal, to please see Lindsay Lange for a refund. Kelly called the meeting to order. Kelly informed the audience there would be a Texturing Contest following the meeting, and the winners would be announced during the Soil Survey and Land Resource Workshop (SSLRW). Kelly addressed the group, said the minutes from the previous meeting were printed in last year's Texas Soil Profiles, and asked for any corrections or additions to those minutes. Being none, a motion was accepted and seconded to approve last year's minutes.

Kelly called on *Lindsay Lang* to present the **Treasurer's Report**. Lindsay reported a balance of \$1,523.00 in the General Fund, and \$2,777.82 in the Scholarship Fund, for a total of \$4,300.82. Expenses from last year total \$511.51 in the General Fund, and \$2725.40 in the Scholarship Fund, totaling \$3,236.91, leaving a balance of \$1,063.91. The General Fund started with a total of \$1,294.91 and ended at \$2,305.50; the Scholarship Fund started with \$5,176.03, and ended at \$5,228.45. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report.



**PSSAT 2008 Scholarship recipient, Scott Stanislauf**

Kelly called on *John Sackett III* to give the **Scholarship Committee** report. John reported three applications were received. This year's winner is Scott Stanislauf, who is a Senior at Texas A&M University. Scott will graduate in May 2008. As a sophomore, he took Dr. Hallmark's class, and has since been working with Dr. Cristine Morgan. Scott plans to continue on to complete a Master of Science degree.

Kelly called on *Jon Wiedenfeld*, **Finance Committee** Chair to present his report. Jon said all things are in order, and at this time, it is suggested that the annual dues remain at current level.

Kelly called on *Nathan Haile*, President-Elect, to present the **Membership Committee** report. Nathan reported five applications received, 1 member was terminated, and if anyone ever complained about not receiving a Membership Card, he had them.

Kelly called on *Kirby Griffith*, **Ethics Committee** Chair, to present the committee report. Kirby reported that nothing unethical was reported to the committee. He went on to add, some criminal mischief had been observed. Audience laughed.

Kelly called on *Jamey Douglass*, **Constitution and Bylaws Committee**. Jamey and his committee, went through the existing Constitution and Bylaws and brought everything up-to-date. If any motions had been made that affected this document, they were included. The edited version was placed on the PSSAT website in January. Kelly accepted a motion and a second to approve this updated version of the Constitution and Bylaws. Motion passed.



**Dr. David Weindorf giving the Nominations Committee report.**

Kelly called on *Dr. David Weindorf, Past-President*, to present the **Nominations Committee** report. David said there were two slots open this year, Vice President, and President-Elect. The candidate for Vice President is Dr. Cristine Morgan, and for President-Elect, Dusten Russell. Kelly asked for other nominations, there were none. A motion was accepted and seconded to approve this slate of Officers as presented. Motion passed.

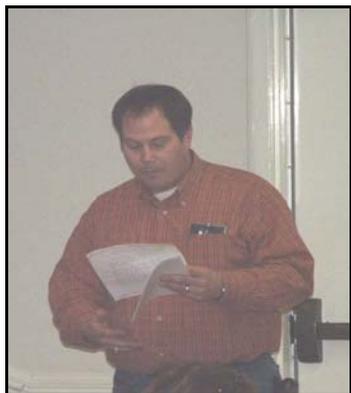
Kelly called on *Jon Brandt, Webmaster*, to present his report. Jon was not able to be here, so Dennis Brezina presented Jon's report. Dennis stated Jon has been doing this current job for the better part of 10 years and is seeking someone to take over. Jon will offer to assist the new webmaster. The PSSAT website has been on the internet for more than seven years. Last year we had 19,830 hits, and have had 104,000 hits since we started. Hits to our website last year is an increase of 34% from 2005-2006. Our webpage is the first or second result that comes up with a PSSAT query on all of the major Internet search engines. We average about 1,648 visits per month. The top five domains visiting the PSSAT website are; 1) US Commercial, 2) Networks, 3) US Educational, 4) US Government, and 5) Non-Profit Organizations. We've received visits from 55 countries, the most came from Japan, Germany, Canada, India, and Israel.

Jon also reported on the PSSAT Mailing List. Currently there are 64 subscribers, but 19 have incorrect addresses. This free service is provided by Yahoo!Groups; however, our current ISP provides the same service. So the List may be discontinued.

Kelly called on *Jamey Douglass, Editor*, to make some comments. Jamey asked the audience if they liked having a newsletter with lots of pictures. He also asked for articles.

Kelly called on *Dr. Ted Zobeck, Smithsonian Soils Exhibit Texas Liaison* to offer his report. Ted reported that the exhibit will be opening July 19, 2008. The theme, "Dig It – The Secrets of Soils". Texas currently ranks third in giving to this project. North Carolina is first, and Kentucky is second. Big contributors in Texas include Texas Crushed Stone, TAMU Agronomy Club, and Tarleton Students. Texas has only one SWCD that has contributed, several have in North Carolina. Ted could not thank those in attendance enough, for all their contributions to this project.

Kelly said that in years past, we had outgrown the other meeting place. A survey was conducted on the website to determine where to meet. About 50 percent responded, and agreed that the current facility was a good place to conduct our Annual Meeting. Since alcoholic beverages were permitted at this site, Kelly encouraged all who partook of said beverages to make a donation.



**Dennis Brezina presenting his report.**

Kelly called on *Dennis Brezina, Public Relations and Education Committee (PR&E) Chair*, to make his report. Dennis stated in past years Jan Horbacezski, discussed getting a spot on National Public Radio (NPR). Dennis said he made several attempts to contact the individual. The contact person also never returned his e-mails or telephone calls. This idea is looking bleak.

Jon Wiedenfeld suggested we add some grade-level content to our webpage, for K-6<sup>th</sup> grade, 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Middle School, and High School. There were some questions on the TASS Test that pertained to soils. Dennis mentioned our webpage could also provided information for Boy Scouts about the SWCD Merit Badge, State Environthon, or Texas Master Naturalist/Gardeners.

Kelly asked if there was any “other business.” Ted Zobeck suggested contacting NPR’s “Earth & Sky.” A one page article goes out to about 1,000 radio stations. Ted thought this might be a good idea for the PR&E committee.

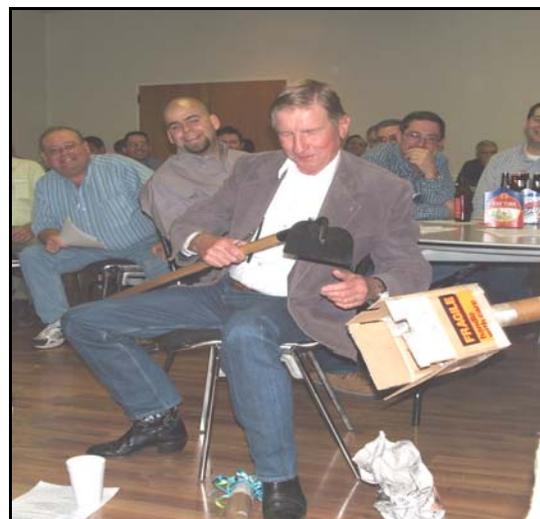


Jessica Lene presented a PowerPoint on her detail to Culberson County last year.

Dennis Brezina made a special presentation. He said, recently, a man retired from the USDA-SCS/NRCS. Dennis said this man worked as hard his first day as his last day. A collection was taken up to provide this gentleman a fitting retirement gift.



Dennis presented to Conrad L. Neitsch, a strange-shaped box.



Conrad unwrapped it to find a “hoe.”



At this time, President Kelly Attebury wanted to recognize the outgoing PSSAT Officers. Dr. Tom Hallmark, Vice President; Nathan Haile, President-Elect. At this moment, Kelly passed the gavel to Nathan.

Nathan Haile said Kelly left PSSAT in excellent shape. Kelly did a great job selecting Committee Chairs and members. Kelly has been a great leader for PSSAT. Nathan presented a plaque to Kelly for his service to PSSAT as President.

**President Nathan Haile,  
delivering his thoughts  
at the 2008 PSSAT Annual  
Meeting.**

Nathan announced the 2008 Committee Chairs:

Dusten Russell, President-Elect -- Membership  
John L. Sackett III -- Scholarship  
Jamey Douglass -- Constitution and Bylaws  
Kirby Griffith -- Ethics  
Jon Wiedenfeld -- Finance  
Dennis Brezina -- Public Relations and Education  
Kelly Attebury, Past-President -- Nominations

Nathan asked for a round of applause to these Committee Chairs and incoming Officers.

Nathan asked if there were any items of business, there were none.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded and passed.



**A meeting of the "Soils" minds!**

Stacey Kloesel was the official PSSAT Photographer during the 2008 Annual Meetings. Thanks Stacey!!!

**PSSAT Committees, Members, and Terms**

Constitution and Bylaws

**Chair** – Jamey Douglass 2007-2008  
 Member – Tom Cyprian 2007-2008  
 Member – Ted Zobeck 2007-2008

Finance

**Chair** – Jon Wiedenfeld 2007-2008  
 Member – Wayne Gabriel 2007-2008  
 Member – Sidney Paulson 2007-2008

Nominations

**Chair** – David Weindorf 2007  
 Member – Rusty Dowell 2007  
 Member – Wayne Hudnall 2007

Scholarship

**Chair** – John L. Sackett III 2007-2009  
 Member – Charles Thompson 2007-2009  
 Member – Ed Janak 2007-2009

Membership

**Chair** – Nathan Haile (President-Elect)  
 Member – Jerry Rives 2005-2007  
 Member – Alan Stahnke 2005-2007  
 Member – Susan Casby-Horton 2007-2009  
 Member – Shanna Dunn 2007-2009

Public Relations and Education

**Chair** – Dennis Brezina  
 Member – Cristine Morgan  
 Member – Jan Horbaczewski

Ethics

**Chair** – Kirby Griffith 2007-2009  
 Member – Julia McCormick 2007-2009  
 Member – Jessica Lene 2007-2009

**2009 PSSAT Absentee Ballot**

This ballot is for those PSSAT Members who are unable to attend the 2009 Annual Meeting. Please return ballots to Lindsay Lang. His address is listed below in the newsletter. Please circle your choice for each of the positions.

President-Elect (2 year term)	Wayne Hudnall	Treasurer (2 year term)	Lindsay Lang
	Christine Morgan		Richard Reid
Vice-President (1 year term)	John Sackett	Editor (2 year term)	Amanda Bragg
	Julia McCormick		

Accept **ALL** corrections and amendments to the PSSAT Constitution and Bylaws **EXCEPT** the increase in Annual Dues. YES NO

Accept the increase in Annual Dues from \$25 to \$40 and to replace the existing statement in the Bylaws, "Article IV. Dues" section with the following statement, "Annual Dues for membership and associate members shall be forty dollars (\$40). Fifteen dollars (\$15) for the Scholarship fund, fifteen dollars (\$15) for the Public Relations and Education Fund, and ten dollars (\$10) for Operations." **Please review the attached flyer to understand more about the use of the funds to purchase promotional items and cover event or conference fees.** YES NO

## Proposed Public Relation and Educational Fund

The Professional Soil Scientists Association of Texas currently uses caps and T-shirts as our main forms of promotional items. We maintain a website that receives many hits each year from a wide variety of users. It was suggested at the previous annual meeting that more outreach to students and young professionals be included in our organizational goals.

The 2008 PSSAT Executive Council discussed this item of business at length during our two teleconferences, January 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

The Executive Council agreed that a PSSAT display board used at soils conferences, contests, and similar events would provide information and outreach to the general public, professional colleagues, and students of all ages. The following is an example of the kind of display many agencies and organizations use at these events and the cost and benefits of the display:

### Display



### Benefits

- Provide professional photos and information about the association and our mission.
- Improve public relations by promoting awareness of soil importance.
- Promote PSSAT annual meeting and scholarship to increase membership and provide greater interest in the PSSAT scholarship program.
- Provide more members the ability to incorporate the association's goals into their areas across the state.

### Cost

- Varies due to size and style but professional units including shipping case, magnetic or Velcro™ fastening, and brochure holders.

6'	\$1,200.00-\$1,750.00
8'	\$1,750.00-\$2,100.00

- Pens or pencils, key chains, brochures, etc. will vary depending on quantity ordered.

### Public Relations and Education Fund

- Adoption of the PR and Education Fund would increase dues to \$40 annually.
- First years funds (2009) would be used to purchase the display board and promotional materials.
- Funds (not to exceed \$750 dollars) would be used from the General Fund if needed to complete the purchase of the materials.
- Following year funds will be used for event and shipping fees.

Other Announcements

- T-shirts for sale.
- RSVP for the meal to [Nathan.Haile@tx.usda.gov](mailto:Nathan.Haile@tx.usda.gov) by Jan 29th.
- Absentee Ballots send to Lindsay with any delinquent dues.

Items to Discuss at this Years Meeting

- Proposed PR and Education Fund.
- Proposed PSSAT Photo Contest.
- New Website Link for Education Presentations prepared by members, for members.

Please pay your dues to: Lindsay Lang  
22864 CR 4142  
Lindale, TX 75771  
[lindsay.lang@rrc.state.tx.us](mailto:lindsay.lang@rrc.state.tx.us)

Jamey Douglass, PSSAT Editor  
8703 Sage Meadow Dr.  
Temple, TX 76501-5075

(Return address requested)