

TEXAS SOIL PROFILES

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2006 PSSAT OFFICERS

President - David Weindorf
President-Elect - Kelly Attebury
Vice President - Nathan Haile
Treasurer - Jamey Douglass
Editor - Susan Casby-Horton

President's Letter

Dr. David Weindorf, Tarleton State University

Warm greetings to each of you! What a pleasure it was to see such a robust turnout for the PSSAT annual meeting in College Station in February. After an extended drought, I was starting to wonder if we all might be washed away by the heavy rains that night.

First, let me extend a heartfelt thanks to outgoing President Eddie Bearden for productive 2005. Due to his leadership and hard work from all PSSAT members, the PSSAT is stronger than ever and we're looking forward to a fruitful 2006.

If you have not yet heard the news: I am pleased to report that Texas is out in front with regard to fundraising for the Smithsonian Soils Exhibit. The PSSAT and its individual members have played a crucial role in earning that distinction. PSSAT board members have also started contacting potential corporate donors in an effort to raise even more money.

At a time when the NRCS and other agencies will have a strong need for the hiring of new graduates to replace retirements, etc. please do all you can to continue raising awareness of the important work of soil scientists. Whether doing radio spots for on a local show, answering questions off of the PSSAT website, contacting legislators, or simply talking around the coffee pot, spread the word as to who we are and what we do.

One challenge of particular importance to me is to stress the important role soil science coursework should play in university agricultural degrees. It seems as though everywhere you look, universities are dropping soils courses as requirements and re-listing them as "optional" for a range of agricultural-related degrees. I call on each of you to do what you can to keep the standards high.

In the coming year, if any of you have ideas for improving PSSAT, please contact me at your convenience. I leave you with best wishes for a productive and rewarding 2006...



Good News for Contributions to the Smithsonian Exhibit from Texas!

David also reported that Texas Crushed Stone has agreed to donate \$1,000 to the Smithsonian Soils Exhibit. He plans on contacting other similar mining operations over the summer for similar donations...
Great work, David!

2006-2007 PSSAT Committees

Constitution and By-Laws

Nellie Frisbee, Chair
Levi Steptoe
Glen Chervenka

Finance

Dan Kowalski, Chair
Lindsay Lang
Rick Leopold

Public Relations and Education

Dennis Brezina, Chair
Lee Nordt
Jon Brandt

Membership

Kelly Attebury, Chair
Jerry Rives
Maurice Jurena
Richard Zartman
Alan Stahnke

Ethics

Willie Crenwelge, Chair
Don Sabo
Conrad Neitsch

Scholarship

Nathan Haile, Chair
Charles Thompson
Ed Janak

Nominations

Eddie Bearden, Chair
Laurie Kiniry
Tom Feuerbacher

New Members

Wade Bott
113 DB Wood Road
Georgetown, TX 78628

Charlie Clark
4830 7th Street
Lubbock, TX 79416

Julia McCormick
212 3rd Street
Kerrville, TX 78205

USDA-NRCS, Soil Survey
Soil Data Quality Specialist

USDA-NRCS, Soil Survey
Soil Scientist

USDA-NRCS, Soil Survey
MLRA 81/82 Project Leader

**PSSAT received a wonderful note of thanks from our 2006 scholarship recipient, Charlie Clark.
It is always nice to be appreciated for giving.**

Dr. Weindorf,

I am very grateful for the scholarship money I received this year. It will be very beneficial to me, and my education. Thank you for the opportunity to attend the annual PSSAT meeting and meet future colleagues. I am looking forward to working with you in the upcoming years.

Again, thank you for your generous contribution.

Sincerely,



Charlie Clark

FUTURE OF SOIL SURVEY

Russ Kelsea, National Leader, Soil Survey Technical Services
NRCS, National Soil Survey Center, Lincoln, NE

(Reprinted from NCSS Newsletter, Issue 28, August 2004 and related to his presentation at the Soil Survey and Land Resource Workshop, February 2-3, 2006)

I can't predict the future of course, but we might gain some perspective on the future of soil survey by examining its history.

The soil survey program of the United States is conducted under several statutory authorities, the least ambiguous of which is Public Law 89560, enacted in 1966 and codified under Title 42 of the United States Code, the Public Health and Welfare, in Sections 3271-3274. Taken together, the statutory authorities direct the Secretary of Agriculture to

- (1) make an inventory of the soil resources of the United States,
- (2) keep the inventory current to meet contemporary needs,
- (3) make the information available in a useful form by preparing reports and interpretations, and
- (4) provide technical assistance and consulting services to promote the use and application of soil survey information. These four parts are the core mission of the soil survey program.

We have been mapping soils in the United States, the first part of the core mission, for more than a century. We have extensive policies and elaborate procedures for conducting the initial survey. Nearly all of the United States has been mapped at least once at some level of detail, and the job of initial mapping is nearly complete.

The second part of the core mission, update mapping and soil survey maintenance, has been underway for more than 40 years and will never end so long as we continue to use soil surveys. Policies and procedures for update and maintenance activities are still evolving. Currently, update mapping far exceeds initial mapping, and update activities are the main focus of the soil survey program.

We have made interpretations and delivered reports, the third part of the core mission, but many of these interpretations and reports are long-term standard products that may not meet contemporary needs in all cases. New capabilities in NASIS have given us the opportunity to customize interpretations, and the Web has provided new opportunities to deliver soil survey information, but we have not developed this part of the core mission to the same extent as we have the first two parts.

Finally, nearly 40 years after Congress directed the Secretary of Agriculture to do so in 1966, we have still done relatively little in providing technical assistance, the fourth part of the core mission. There are, of course, many notable exceptions. But again by comparison, we have not developed the policies, procedures, career path, staffing structure, and budget to the same extent as we have for the other parts of the core soil survey mission.

So what does this perspective suggest for the future of soil survey? Clearly, initial mapping is decreasing. However, we will not abandon the inventory and update process. We will always need to keep the inventory up-to-date to meet ever-changing land uses, new agricultural programs, and new environmental technologies. Mapping, updating, and maintenance are part of what we are charged to do, and we must maintain and even enhance our capability to conduct these parts of our mission. Nevertheless, statutory authorities direct the soil survey program to make interpretations, deliver soil survey information that meets public needs, and provide technical assistance to promote the use of soil survey and understanding of soils. To achieve a more evenly balanced soil survey program, we must strive to grow in these areas.

What does it take to meet the challenges of rebalancing the soil survey program?

First of all, soil scientists. Scientists who are technically competent, can see soil-landscape relationships, visualize stratigraphy, imagine processes working in soils, and understand the evolution of soils and landscapes over time. Scientists who are politically astute, who know that public policy is about decision making and conflict resolution, understand the adversarial process we use to make decisions, and

are not intimidated by the process. Scientists who can communicate effectively, who can assimilate new information, participate effectively in the political process, and advocate for the role of soils and soil survey in land use management and public policy.

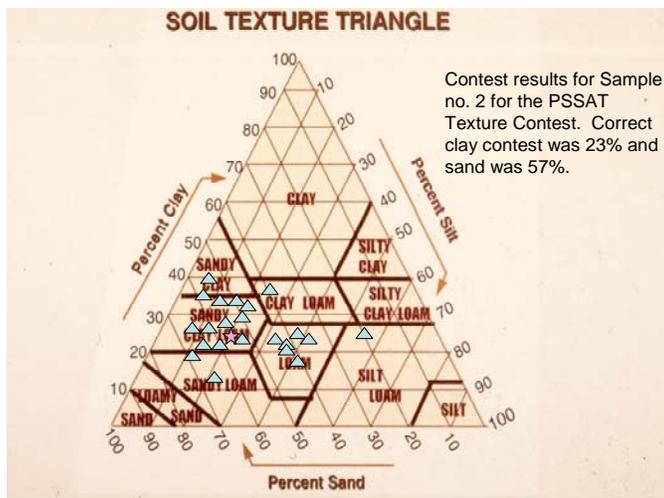
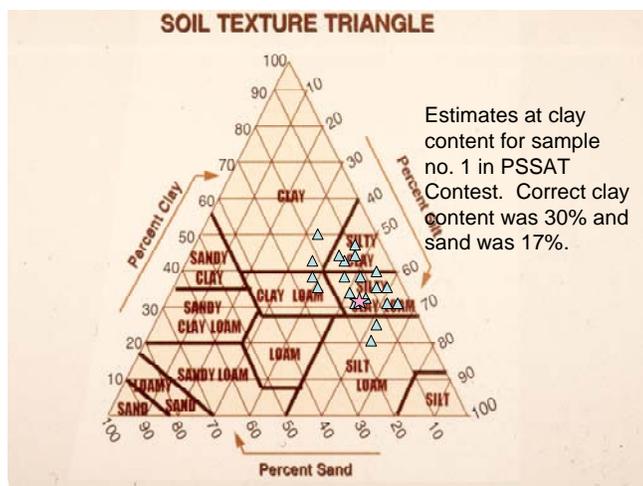
Second, change in our agency and in the soil survey in general. Like any large, long-standing organization, we find it difficult to change course. Change is likely to be slow and incremental. We have made some changes in the delivery of soil survey information through the Web, but these are mostly traditional business approaches in a new medium, an example of incremental change. We will also need performance measures that make us accountable for more than just acres mapped, so we can measure the parts of the soil survey mission beyond mapping.

Third, we must recognize that we are professionals in soil science, not just employees of an agency or institution. We must also recognize that our colleagues in other agencies and the private sector are our professional peers and allies, not our competition. As professionals in soil science, we have a compatible mission across agency, institution, and corporate boundaries a mission to serve the public interest with regard to the soil resource.

Finally, we must continue to institutionalize soils and soil survey in law, regulation, and the public conscience a main theme in Public Law 89-560.

The future is full of opportunity and challenge. It will demand much from us.

For those soil scientists who attended the PSSAT Annual Meeting, Dr. Tom Hallmark provided the approximate texture estimates from the entries that we had in the texture contest.



Annual Report for 2005-2006

PSSAT Web Page and Mailing List

(Submitted at 2006 PSSAT Annual Meeting by Jon Brandt, Webmaster)

Web Page

The PSSAT web page has been on the Internet for more than six years. The web page has received over **14,700** visits (90,000+ hits) since last year's PSSAT annual meeting (an 18% increase from 2004-2005). The following statistics provide the details of the web page activity:

Average Visits per Month (since Feb. 2005):

1227

1. The top five types of domains visiting the PSSAT web site: U.S. Commercial; Networks; U.S. Educational; U.S. Government; and Non-Profit Organizations.

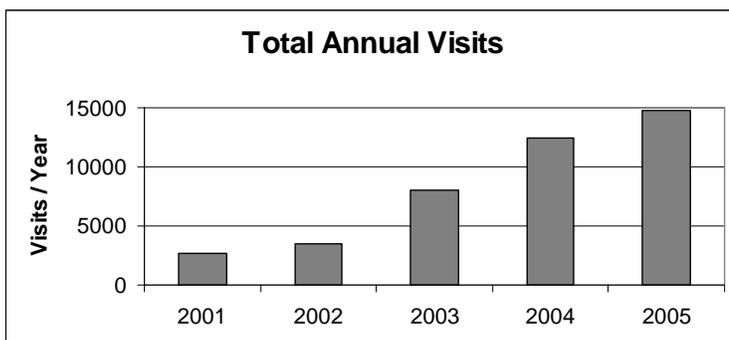
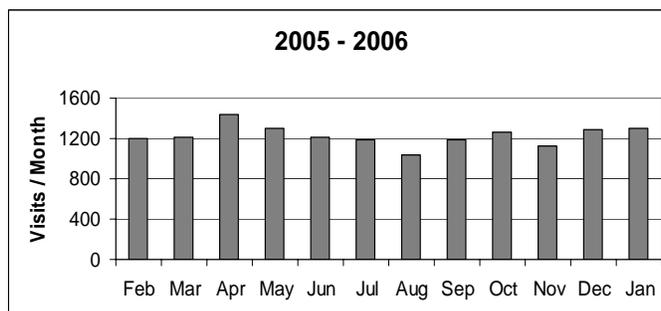
2. We received hits from sixty-eight countries. The most visits came from the following: Canada; the United Kingdom; Japan; Poland; and the Netherlands.

3. There were five search phrases that were used the most to find our site (since January 2005):

- *Texas soil(s)*
- *pssat*
- *soil scientist*
- *Texas soil map*
- *soil profiles*

4. The top five pages viewed within the PSSAT site:

- Texas Soils
- PSSAT Newsletter
- Careers in Soil Science
- PSSAT Member Page
- Information on Soils



We received 6 inquiries from the "Ask a Soil Scientist" section on the web page (four fewer than last year). The questions were posted on the PSSAT mailing list for the membership to answer. There were 10 PSSAT members that answered at least one question (one more than last year). Dennis Brezina finally overtook David Weindorf (by one question) and was the top responder last year. Many thanks to all of the members that helped answer the questions.

Mailing List

- The PSSAT mailing list has 64 subscribers (fifteen more than last year). This free service is provided by Yahoo!Groups. You do not need to have web access in order to use this service.

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Post Message | Send message to pssat@yahoogroups.com |
| Subscribe | Send a blank message to pssat-subscribe@yahoogroups.com |
| Unsubscribe | Send a blank message to pssat-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com |

**Minutes from PSSAT Annual Meeting
February 1st, 2006
C & J Barbeque, Bryan, TX
(Submitted by Jamey Douglass, Treasurer)**

Professional Soil Scientist Association of Texas – 2006 Annual Meeting

Prior to the meeting officially starting, some awards were distributed. Conrad Neitsch and James Greenwade, USDA-NRCS passed out several awards to NRCS employees.

Certificate of Merit – Amanda Bragg
Certificate of Merit – Nathan Haile
Certificate of Merit (Leadership for Brewster County soil survey) – Lynn Loomis
Certificate of Merit (Extra effort and High Quality Surveys) – Joe Castille
Certificate of Merit (Extra effort and High Quality Surveys) – Lynn Gray
Certificate of Merit (Extra effort and High Quality Surveys) – Cherie Edwards
Certificate of Merit – Abilene Soil Survey Staff
Certificate of Merit – Rosenberg Soil Survey Staff
Certificate of Merit – Nacogdoches Soil Survey Staff
Certificate of Merit – Graham Soil Survey Staff
Certificate of Merit – Lubbock Soil Survey Staff

Also, the following awards were presented:

A hardbound copy and big Thank You for Burleson County Soil Survey – Maurice Jurena

Length of Service Awards

15 yrs. Service --- Ricky Lambert

15 yrs. Service --- Sidney Paulson

25 yrs. Service --- Joel Bolin

35 yrs. Service --- Kirby Griffith

35 yrs. Service --- Gerald Crenwelge

At this time, **President Eddie Bearden** called the Annual Meeting to order. Eddie stated the minutes were presented in a newsletter from the previous year. He asked Susan Casby-Horton, Editor, if she had received any corrections to the minutes, she stated no. A motion was made and seconded that the minutes from last year's meeting be approved as presented in the newsletter.

Next, Eddie called on Nathan Haile, **Scholarship Committee**, to make his report. Nathan reported there were two applications this year, one from Texas Tech University and one from Tarleton State University.

The winner of the 2006 PSSAT Scholarship was Charlie Clark. He is from Amarillo and attending Texas Tech University.

Charlie received very high marks from Dr. Wayne Hudnall. Charlie is a member of the TTU Soil Judging Team. In 2004, during the Collegiate Soil Judging, he placed 4th in the Regional Contest

and 20th at the National Contest. He currently works part-time for the USDA-NRCS in Lubbock and is a Lab Teacher at TTU.

At this time Nathan presented Charlie Clark a check for \$1,500.00.

Eddie called for the **Ethics Committee** Chair, Willie Crenwelge to make his report. Willie admitted he did not hear much. Willie concluded his report by stating, "We're in good standing."

Eddie next recognized the **Constitution and Bylaws Committee**. Nellie Frisbee, Chair was not present. Levi Steptoe, was informed he was on the committee and gave a negative report, with no improvements being made to our constitution and bylaws.

Eddie called on Jan Horbaczewski, **Public Relations and Education Committee** Chair to present his report. Jan stated that at last year's meeting, he had discussed with the local PBS radio station about promoting soils. They had agreed to give our organization a three-minute spot at no charge. Jan discussed this radio spot with new chair, Dennis Brezina. Dennis will be responsible for getting this up and running. Jan added, if anyone was interested in assisting with this project, that he had information.

Eddie recognized, Jon Brandt, **Webmaster** to make his report. (See handout). Jon reported that the number of hits was up from last year, and the total number of visits to the webpage was about 14,700 times in the previous year. This is about 1250 per month. There were 10 questions directed to the "Ask a Soil Scientist", and this year Dr. David Weindorf was not the winner. Dennis Brezina answered the most questions. Jon presented Dennis a plaque for his efforts.

Eddie asked Susan Casby-Horton, **Editor**, for her report. Susan said she sent out two newsletters this past year. She still continues to mail about 27 newsletters. Also, she asked for volunteers to write member profiles or other articles.

Eddie recognized Jamey Douglass, **Treasurer**, to present his report. Jamey gave the starting balance for the General Fund, as of 2-8-05 was \$1,262.74. Income received for the General Fund up to 2-1-06 was \$1,149.74, expenditures to the General Fund was \$1,365.85 leaving a balance of \$1,052.63.

The Scholarship Fund had a balance of \$5,323.40 as of 2-08-05. Income received was about \$1,838.00 and expenditures were \$1,500.00 leaving a balance on 2-1-06 of \$5,551.40. He stated that we are in good shape. Jamey thanked Stacey Kloesel, Vice President, for her aggressive campaign to collect back dues.

Eddie next called on Dan Kowalski, **Finance Committee** Chair to deliver his report. Dan discussed raising dues. Last year we voted to raise dues from \$20.00 to \$25.00. He stated that due to the income to the scholarship fund, he felt dues did not to be raised at this time, and that we are in good shape. He will view the progress for this coming year, and make a

recommendation at next year's meeting. Dan said Jamey was doing a good job as Treasurer, and the books were good.

Eddie asked Ted Zobeck, **Past President**, to make the Nominations Committee report. Ted offered thanks to the members of his committee Laurie Kiniry and Tom Feuerbacher. The slate of candidates this year is only for offices of Vice President and President-Elect. Ted mentioned that the current President-Elect will move to the office of President, and the offices of Editor and Treasurer are elected in odd numbered years.

The nominee for President-Elect is Kelly Attebury, and Vice President is Nathan Haile. Ted asked for any additional nominations from the floor, there were none. A motion was made and seconded to accept the slate of officers by acclamation. This motion passed.

Ted also delivered a report on the Smithsonian Exhibit. He stated we could always use more donations, but at this time, Texas is the #1 state for raising funds. He asked us all to give a hand. Currently, Texas has raised \$18,866.00 as of 11/05. California, the #2 state for raising funds had raised \$16,947.00. Ted said there plans to be five major themes in the exhibit. Currently a total of \$900,000 has been raised, and they need a minimum of \$3 million. Ted added there are posters available in the Poster Room.

Dr. Wilding added that we are a long ways away. Dr. Wilding added they need about \$2 million to start construction of the exhibit. It is hoped the exhibit will be viewed by thousands of visitors, and is geared for K-12 students. Ted asked if we could give him contacts for large donors such as Whole Earth Foods, etc.

Eddie reminded members of the cap sales, and the proceeds go to the Scholarship Fund. Eddie read an email discussing the International Union of Soil Scientists (IUSS). He also discussed a teleconference scheduled for 2/12/06 by the United States Consortium of Soil Science Associations (USCSSA).

Dr. Wilding made some comments about the upcoming meeting of the World Congress slated for July 9-15th, 2006 in Philadelphia, PA. Dr. Wilding said the last time the World Congress met in the United States, was 1960 in Madison, Wisconsin. He added there will be special events and good things to do. He asked for a show of hands from the group on who planned on attending, and was pleased with the number of members who planned to go.

Dr. B.L. Allen said if a person had a choice to attend either the SSSA meetings or the IUSS meetings, they should choose to travel to Philadelphia, PA.

In other business, Eddie recognized Dr. David Weindorf, incoming President to say a few words. Dr. Weindorf said he ran for a seat on the City Council in Stephenville, and was swiftly defeated, by a margin of 75% to 25%. He felt good in his element, with other soil scientists.

The meeting was adjourned.

ANOTHER REMINDER!

Dues for the 2006 fiscal year were **increased to \$25.00** at the 2005 Annual Meeting and will be due at the 2006 Annual Meeting. **A membership renewal form is provided at the end of this newsletter.** So, if you did not attend the Annual Meeting in February 2006, please stay current and mail your dues to:

Jamey Douglass, PSSAT Treasurer
8703 Sage Meadow Drive
Temple, TX 76502

Treasurer's Report

Jamey Douglass, USDA-NRCS, Soil Survey
February 1, 2006

GENERAL FUND

Beginning Balance 02/08/05 \$1,262.74

Income

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| Dues (2004, 2005) from Annual Meeting | \$ 940.00 |
| Dues (2003) collected from members | \$ 28.00 |
| Dues (2004) collected from members | \$ 67.00 |
| Dues (2005) | \$ 10.00 |
| Dues (2006) | \$ 100.00 |
| Interest 04/21 | \$ 0.48 |
| Interest 05/20 | \$ 0.48 |
| Interest 06/22 | \$ 0.55 |
| Interest 07/21 | \$ 0.49 |
| Interest 08/22 | \$ 0.58 |
| Interest 09/22 | \$ 0.54 |
| Interest 10/21 | \$ 0.52 |
| Interest 11/21 | \$ 0.56 |
| Interest 12/21 | \$ 0.54 |
| Subtotal | \$1,149.74 |

Income Balance Subtotal \$2,412.48

Disbursements

| | |
|---|-----------|
| 02/09 Jon Brandt (website domain fees) | \$ 154.44 |
| 02/09 Susan Casby-Horton (newsletter exp) | \$ 22.30 |
| 02/09 Susan Casby-Horton (newsletter exp) | \$ 16.95 |
| 02/09 Jon Brandt (reimbursements) | \$ 14.97 |
| 02/09 Quality Meats (catering) | \$ 630.00 |
| 02/09 Eddie Bearden (plaques) | \$ 120.59 |
| 05/05 Bank of America (new checks) | \$ 14.00 |
| 05/30 State 4-H Soil Judging | \$ 100.00 |
| 07/26 Stacey Kloesel (postage) | \$ 22.20 |
| 07/26 Sam Brown (refund of dues) | \$ 32.00 |

Treasurer's Report (cont'd)

| | | | |
|-------|--------------------------------------|----|--------|
| 10/21 | Susan Casby-Horton (newsletter exp) | \$ | 42.80 |
| 01/19 | Susan Casby-Horton (newsletter exp) | \$ | 21.05 |
| 01/30 | Jon Brandt - Datealarm Int. Services | \$ | 20.00 |
| 01/30 | Jon Brandt - Domain name regist. | \$ | 154.55 |

Disbursement Balance Subtotal \$ 1,365.85

GENERAL FUND CURRENT BALANCE \$1,052.63

SCHOLARSHIP

Beginning Balance 02/08/05 \$5,323.40

Income

| | | |
|---|------------|--------|
| Scholarship 2003 collected from members | \$ | 20.00 |
| Scholarship 2004 collected from members | \$ | 60.00 |
| Scholarship (including cap and t-shirt sales) | \$1,513.00 | |
| Scholarship 2005 | \$ | 20.00 |
| Scholarship 2006 | \$ | 225.00 |
| Subtotal | \$1,838.00 | |

Income Balance Subtotal \$7,161.40

Disbursements

02/09 Roel Guerra, Jr. (Scholarship recipient) \$1,500.00

SCHOLARSHIP CURRENT BALANCE \$5,661.40

TOTAL ACCOUNT CURRENT BALANCE \$6,805.03

From Winter 2006 edition of the Association of Women Soil Scientists Newsletter:

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p align="center">Council of Soil Science Examiners National Test Exam Dates March 17, 2006 & October 20, 2006</p> | <p align="center">Geological Society of America Annual Meetings Philadelphia, Pennsylvania October 22—25, 2006</p> | <p align="center">Soil and Water Conservation Society International Conference Keystone, Colorado July 22—26, 2006</p> |
| <p align="center">World Congress of Soil Science Philadelphia, Pennsylvania July 9—15, 2006 http://www.colostate.edu/programs/AUSS/18wcss/</p> | <p align="center">AWSS is on the web! http://www.awss.org</p> | <p align="center">Society of Wetland Scientists Annual Meeting Queensland, Australia July 9—14, 2006</p> |
| <p align="center">ASA/CSSA/SSSA AWSS Annual Meetings Indianapolis, Indiana November 12—16, 2006</p> | <p align="center">NACTA Annual Meeting June 7—10, 2006 Vancouver, British Columbia</p> | <p align="center">National Society of Consulting Soil Scientists Annual Meeting Marietta, GA March 1—5, 2006</p> |

PSSAT Membership Form

Membership is on a calendar-year basis.

Dues are: **Professionals** - \$25 (1 year)

Make checks payable to PSSAT and mail to: Jamey Douglass, 8703 Sage Meadow Drive, Temple, TX 76502

Check all that apply: New Member _____ Renewal _____ Address Change _____ Volunteer _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Address:
(Home) _____

(Work) _____

Phone: (H) _____ (W) _____

FAX: _____

E-mail: _____

I would like to **Volunteer** (Check all that apply):

Committee: Membership _____ Ethics _____ Finance _____
Constitution and By-Laws _____ Public Relations and Education _____
Nominations _____ Scholarship _____

I Will: Write a member profile _____ Write a newsletter article _____
