



Texas Soil Profiles

President's Letter



Dusten Russell, 2009 President

Hello to everyone! It's hard to believe another year has gone by and it is already 2009! It seems that the time flies by and each year is busier than the last. In 2009 PSSAT and its members will be busier than ever, especially since our organization is growing and evolving more and more with each passing year.

First, I need to give credit to several people. I would like to extend thanks to Nathan Haile for his hard work as president in 2009. Thanks, Nathan, for all you have done and continue to do! I also

thank all the dedicated officers and committee members who have donated many hours to ensuring that everything runs smoothly. And last, but certainly not least, I would like to thank each of the members. To the new members, we are glad to have you! To the existing members, thank you for continuing to remain with us throughout the years. You are the driving force behind PSSAT and your support is invaluable. Without you, there would be no Professional Soil Scientists Association of Texas!

This upcoming year finds us gearing up for exciting new changes. One main focus we will concentrate on is new member recruitment, not only for the sake of our organization, but also for the field of soil science as a whole. This can be accomplished by making other professionals in our field aware of our existence and sparking interest in the next generation. By introducing a new membership category (student membership, which will be open to students at a lower rate) we hope to reach high school and college students, thereby educating the upcoming generation about careers in soil science. We plan to vigorously campaign to these groups about the existence and benefits of joining PSSAT. Needless to say, 2009 will find a decided increase in PSSAT promotion!

Another goal of PSSAT this year is to increase existing member participation in our organization. We want everyone to be excited about being a PSSAT member and to not only use our organization as a professional forum, but also as a means of having fun and gaining camaraderie! This year PSSAT will introduce its first annual photo contest. There are a few other projects along this line that we are working on and hope to introduce to you during the next few months.

I look forward to serving as president and hope this letter finds everyone in great spirits.

Dusten Russell

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2009 PSSAT Meeting Minutes

By Jamey Douglass

Photos by Stacey Kloesel

At 7:04 PM, President **Nathan Haile** called the meeting to order. He said he hated to have everyone RSVP for the meal, but at last year's meeting, we ran out of food.

Nathan said the minutes from the previous meeting were published on the PSSAT web site. He asked if there were any additions or corrections to those minutes. Being none, Nathan accepted a motion and a second to accept the minutes as published. Motion passed.



Left: Nathan Haile calling the meeting to order



Right: Lindsay Lang giving the Treasurer's report

Nathan called on **Lindsay Lang, Treasurer**, to give his report. Handouts were given to those in attendance for the 2008 Financial Report). Please refer to this handout. Lindsay reviewed the report. Nathan then asked for a motion, which was seconded, to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion passed.

Nathan called **Jon Wiedenfeld, Finance Committee** Chair, to make his report. Jon said there was nothing to report. Comments from the peanut gallery alluded to a possible buyout/bailout from the new administration.

Nathan called on **Dusten Russell, President-Elect, Membership Committee** Chair, to make his report. Dusten informed the group that there was one (1) new member, and one (1) member who chose not to renew.

Nathan called for the **Ethics Committee** to make their report. Chair **Kirby Griffith** was not present, so **Jessica Jobe** was asked to give the report. She said there was nothing to report.

Nathan called for the **Public Relations and Education Committee** to give their report. Chair **Dennis Brezina** was not in attendance, so Nathan presented the report for that committee. Nathan said it was hard to do anything without funding, but there would be more on this topic later. He did strongly indicate that PSSAT *does not* do anything to promote itself at the high school, and college levels.



Jon Brandt with the Webmaster's report

website up and running.

Nathan called on **Jon Brandt, Webmaster**, to present his report (See handout). Jon reported a nine percent (9%) decrease from last year, as far as hits to our website. There were about 21,395 hits last year, which averages about 1,700 hits per month. There were hits from 60 countries. There were about 10 hits per month related to "Careers in Soil Science." Jon announced that this was really his last year to serve in this position and that **Ricky Lambert** would be taking over. Jon did say that there are about 16 incorrect email addresses, and there are still 27 PSSAT members without email addresses. Please check out your information with Lindsay. Nathan added that more hits to our website came in December and January, he assumed it was PSSAT members checking for information about the Annual Meeting. He suggested placing K-12 and college level information on the website as well. A round of applause was given to Jon for his dedication and service to keeping the

Nathan called on **John Sackett, Scholarship Committee** Chair, to present his report. John said there was only one applicant this year, but he was a good one. The 2009 PSSAT Scholarship was awarded to **Gaylen Roberts**, Texas Tech University. Gaylen was presented a check for \$1,500.00, a leather sheath stamped with PSSAT, and a pocketknife.



2009 PSSAT Scholarship winner Gaylen Roberts with John Sackett

Kelly Attebury reporting the 2009 Nominees



Kelly Attebury, Past-President, was called on to handle *the Nominations and Elections*. Kelly informed the group that four Offices were to be filled: President-Elect and Vice President (1 year terms), and Treasurer and Editor (2 year terms). Kelly thanked all those members he contacted and said he appreciated their enthusiasm. Ballots were not handed out. Instead, blank pieces of paper were given to all who were present. The nominees are as follows:

President-Elect: Cristine Morgan, Wayne Hudnall

Vice President: John Sackett, Julia McCormick

Treasurer: Richard Reid, Lindsay Lang

Editor: Amanda Bragg

NEW BUSINESS

Nathan asked if there was any New Business.

Photo Contest

John Sackett announced the plans for a PSSAT Photo Contest. He presented a Power Point presentation. The purpose of the Photo Contest is to have a fun competition amongst field soil scientists, increase member participation, and add an extra incentive to attend annual meetings.

The contest will be available to current members. He said, "You have got to pay to play!" Pictures are to be in jpeg format and limited to 4MB in size. Pictures from Texas only. This is a way to spruce up the website. Photographers will be given credit. There will be four or five categories such as Plants (crops and native vegetation), Soil Profiles (pit faces and road cuts), Landscapes, Animals (domestic and wild), and a Miscellaneous category. Each person will be limited to two photographs per category, with a maximum of 10 photos. It's free, and prizes will be awarded. John added that he is looking for Judges, but Judges will not be allowed to enter any photos. Suggested prizes are First Place—Framed 11 X 17 photo; Second Place—Framed 8 X 10 photo; and a Best in Show. John instructed the group to vote for the Photo Contest on the ballot.

Education and Outreach

Cristine Morgan took the floor to discuss information currently lacking on our website. She said she gets asked all the time for soils information for K-12 levels. How many of us have outreach at the K-12 level? How many of us present soils information for the Master Naturalist or Master Gardener? She suggested posting links on our website for the folks taking these classes. She suggested having a Power Point presentation available on our PSSAT Website. She asked the group to place a vote for this on the ballot. Nathan added he has received three requests to do Web Soil Survey training in the last couple of weeks. He added that a Power Point Presentations section would be something we would want to add to the website.

Nathan asked the group to vote yes or no, to changes made to the Constitution and Bylaws that updated the way the Executive Council conducts business meetings. He added that the changes were sent out with the meeting announcement and newsletter for the membership to review. Nathan asked the group to place this on the ballot, yes or no.

Nathan then took the floor to discuss Public Relations and Education. Nathan mentioned that this year PSSAT had a chance of outreach at the Soil Science Society of America Meeting in Houston, and also at the local and state Envirothon. PSSAT currently has no money dedicated to outreach. Nathan and the Executive Council met over teleconferences and discussed having booths, handouts, brochures, etc. Nathan suggested investing in a Display Board members could use at outreach events. He suggested using these display boards at universities, meetings with Society of Range Management, Texas American Society of Agronomy meetings, and High School Ag or Environmental events.

Charlie Thompson asked about a brochure. Nathan said he liked the idea of a brochure, and it would allow the PSSAT name to be located at several places. Nathan said the Display Board would be kept

small for shipping purposes and would hopefully involve participation of PSSAT members. Nathan said how much would it cost. He added our dues are currently \$25.00. (See PR&E flyer)

Nathan called on **Jon Wiedenfeld** to give a report on other state associations, dues, and meetings. Jon did a Google search for professional soil scientist associations. He said common dues are about \$20 to \$25 per year. His results are:

California PSSAC—nice website, \$35 dues, one weekend meeting per year that moves around the state, includes a tour of some kind

Missouri—nice website, \$10 dues, \$100 lifetime membership fee, have items for Silent Auction on website, t-shirts for sale, member lists, annual meeting and tour

Wisconsin—fair website, \$20 dues, award two \$200 scholarships per year, have annual meetings with tours that move around the state

Alabama—primitive website, list of members and speakers, membership application on website, no photographs or links

Oklahoma—primitive website, \$25 dues, list of members, annual meetings include a speaker

At this time, Nathan opened the floor for discussion. *(I might add that there was a lot of it!!!!)*

Wayne Gabriel said he was not excited about the potential dues increase, but he might pay more for good PR. He added the website is 24/7, and if we purchased posters they would have to be carried around, and money would be needed for mailing or shipping. **Dennis Williamson** commented at stock shows there might be more recruiting than having a booth at a convention, and you could do 17 posters for the price of a display board. **Wayne Hudnall** offered Texas Tech University to make the posters for free. Wayne Gabriel added that he was not opposed to the increase in dues, but we needed to use something where more people could view it.

Nathan, in trying to discuss what we could get with a dues increase, stated that for a \$5 increase in dues, with 80 active PSSAT members, this would net \$400.

Cristine Morgan suggested having the posters on file and emailing them to Kinko's, where they could print them. That way there would be no reason to ship anything. **Gary Harris** added the files could be "pdf'd". Wayne Gabriel said a poster would be nice, especially if it was professionally made.

Nathan added we could use the money for the promotion of the scholarship. Wayne Gabriel asked if we got enough promotion of PSSAT from scholarship recipients. Nathan added that those members who gave additional monies to the Scholarship Fund and probably intended that money be used for the scholarship. Do we take some money from the Scholarship Fund to create a Public Relations and Education Fund? If so, we need to amend the Constitution and Bylaws for this change in dues.

Moye Rutledge commented that the Extension Service is charged with educating folks about soil surveys. He said he had only seen it once in his life. We need to ask them if they want to join us in this endeavor. Nathan said it was a good idea to work jointly with NRCS, PSSAT, and the Extension Service. Moye Rutledge said the NRCS, University of Arkansas, and Arkansas State already work together.

Eddie Bearden said he always wrote a check for additional money to the Scholarship Fund, and was not ashamed to do so. A motion was made and seconded, "to use excess funds from the Scholarship Fund to fund a Public Relations and Education Fund". Motion passed.



Jon Wiedenfeld
summarized other soils organizations

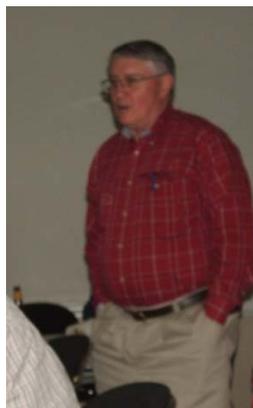
Ed Janak asked if we should rename the Scholarship Fund to the Scholarship Fund-Public Relations and Education Fund. Wayne Gabriel said if we were not careful, the Scholarship Fund might dry up.

Mike Risinger said he thought our dues were too low and that he had no problem using Scholarship Fund monies to fund other projects. He said there were many generous donors in this group. **Sidney Paulson** asked if we were bringing in more money than we were spending. Nathan said if we do not use the money, we are okay. Sidney Paulson offered to let the Public Relations and Education Committee do this for a trial period of one year, and see what happens after that time period.

Dan Kowalski suggested using \$2,000 of the Scholarship Fund, and to transfer it to the Public Relations and Education Fund. **Dennis Williamson** commented that travel costs, per diem costs, etc. might be involved. Also, \$2,000 would cover booth space at two events.

Travis Waiser said meetings of the SSSA and other meetings where professional soils scientists were not the intent of our outreach. He suggested attending stock shows, where young kids in ag were located, and use this event as a recruitment for interest in soils. **James Gordon** said High School visits were free. Dennis Williamson added the NRCS had six summer soil scientist positions with currently no applicants. **Susan Casby-Horton** offered that other professions, like Engineers etc. might join with us.

Mitte Muse suggested of the new \$40 dues, we dedicate \$15 for a period of two years for the Public Relations and Education Committee to use, and revisit this in two years. Someone called the question. Jon Brandt said we could survey the membership online, using the website. Nathan asked if there was a second, the motion passed. There were several nay votes!



Wayne Hudnall
announced Texas Tech will
host the National Soils
contest in 2010

Travis Waiser said enough money was given to the Scholarship Fund, why not reduce the amount of money going to Scholarship Fund from \$15 to \$10 from our dues. A motion was made "to increase dues for two years, from \$25 to \$40, and revisit the dues increase in two years, that the Public Relations and Education Committee use this money for outreach.

Wayne Hudnall asked to speak. He said in 2010, the National Collegiate Soil Judging Contest would be held at Texas Tech University. In the past PSSAT had contributed money for soil judging. He asked if PSSAT would be willing to contribute to this contest. A motion was made, and seconded, "that PSSAT contribute \$1,000 to the National Collegiate Soil Judging Contest in 2010 at Texas Tech University." Motion passed. One nay vote by Wayne Gabriel, an Aggie.

At 8:15 PM, **Jamie Pitchford**, an Environmental Specialist with Luminant Mining LCC, gave her presentation on Post Mine Soils at several Luminant Mines in Texas. After her presentation, she added that, in May, soil pits will be open at Monticello Mine and to contact her if anyone was interested.



Jamie Pitchford
during her
presentation

Election Results and Closing

Kelly Attebury announced the winners of the PSSAT Officer elections.

President-Elect – Cristine Morgan

Treasurer – Lindsay Lang

Vice President – John Sackett

Editor – Amanda Bragg

Yes for corrections to the Constitution and Bylaws

Yes for Photo Contest

At this time, President Nathan Haile asked Jon Brandt to come forward. Nathan said Jon had worked hard over the last 8 years and made great advances for PSSAT and it's website. Nathan presented Jon with the PSSAT Achievement Award, which included one 8 GB and one 4 GB zip drive and a PSSAT case to hold 6 zip drives.

Gaylen Roberts, Scholarship Recipient, said "Thanks", to all in attendance.

Nathan handed the gavel over to Dusten Russell. Dusten presented to Nathan, an awesome custom-made plaque in the shape of Texas. Nathan reminded everyone of the two items up for Silent Auction.



Nathan Haile passing the gavel to Dusten Russell



Dusten Russell presenting Nathan Haile with plaque to thank him for his year as President

John Sackett reminded folks he was seeking Judges for the Photo Contest.

Dusten asked if there was anything else to discuss. **Andrea Kishne** asked to have our Scholarship information posted to the website and several answered that the information is there. Dusten added that Committee assignments will be coming out soon.

At 8:45 PM, a motion was made and seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

Other Pictures from the Meeting



**PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTIST ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS
2008 Financial Report**

As Prepared by Lindsay Lang, PSSAT Treasurer

INCOME

General	1,570.00
Scholarship	<u>2,025.42</u>
Total Income	3,595.42

EXPENSES

General	1,164.94
Scholarship	<u>1,500.00</u>
Total Expenses	<u>2,664.94</u>

Difference 930.48

**Bank Balance at
Beginning of Year 7,533.95**

**Bank Balance at
End of Year 8,464.43**

Difference 930.48

General Fund at Beginning of Year	2,305.50	Scholarship Fund Beginning of Year	5,228.45
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General Fund at End of Year	2,710.56	Scholarship Fund End of Year	5,753.87
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**PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTIST ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS
2008 Financial Report -Detailed Sheets**

GENERAL FUND

Date	Income	Description	Expenses	Description
02/06/08			21.21	Sav-On (Receipt Book)
			15.56	Jamie Douglas (Reimbursement - Postage and Printing)
02/07/08			41.14	Nathan Haile (Reimbursement - Plaque for Outgoing President)
			47.48	Jon Sackett (Reimbursement - Plaque for Scholarship Recipient)
02/06/08	780.00	Meals (Deposited 02-19-08)		
02/08/08	750.00	Dues (Deposited 02-19-08)		
02/12/08			541.79	Ken Martins Saferi Grill (77 Meals)
			238.21	Transfer of Excess Meal Funds to Scholarship Fund
05/04/08			105.00	Soil Survey Conference (Room Rental)
07/02/08	10.00	Dues		
08/29/08	30.00	Dues		
12/12/08			154.55	Jon Brandt (Reimbursement - Web Domain Registration and Web Hosting Services)

Total Income 1,570.00

Total Expenses 1,164.94

**PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTIST ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS
2008 Financial Report -Detailed Sheets**

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Date	Income	Description	Expenses	Description
01/23/08	0.35	Interest Earned		
02/06/08			1,500.00	Scott Stanislav (Scholarship Winner)
02/08/08	1,510.00	Dues - Scholarship Fund (Deposited 02-19-08)		
	213.00	Caps & T-Shirts (Deposited 02-19-08)		
02/12/08	238.21	Transfer of Excess Meal Funds From General Fund		
02/21/08	0.28	Interest Earned		
03/21/08	0.34	Interest Earned		
04/22/08	0.38	Interest Earned		
05/21/08	0.34	Interest Earned		
06/20/08	0.35	Interest Earned		
07/02/08	15.00	Dues - Scholarship Fund		
07/23/08	0.38	Interest Earned		
08/21/08	0.34	Interest Earned		
08/29/08	45.00	Dues - Scholarship Fund		
09/22/08	0.38	Interest Earned		
10/22/08	0.36	Interest Earned		
11/19/08	0.32	Interest Earned		
12/22/08	0.39	Interest Earned		

Total Income 2,025.42

Total Expenses 1,500.00

Annual Report for 2008-2009

PSSAT Web Site

http://pssat.org

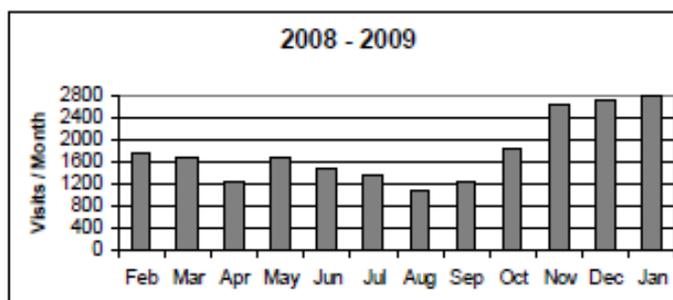
As Prepared by Jon Brandt, PSSAT Webmaster

Web Site

The PSSAT web site has been on the Internet for approximately ten years. Ricky Lambert and Craig Byrd first developed the web site. Jon Brandt joined the effort later in 1999. The PSSAT web site first migrated from a free Geocities page to one located on an Austin server. In 2002, we obtained the *pssat.org* domain name and began using Datarealm, which has provided web hosting at a non-profit rate of \$134/year. The PSSAT site received **21,395** visits (99,000+ hits) since last year's PSSAT annual meeting (a 9% decrease from 2007-2008). This was our first drop in yearly visitation, as we had experienced annual increases since 2001. Our web site continues to be the first or second result that comes up with a "PSSAT" query on all of the major Internet search engines. The following provide the details of the web activity:

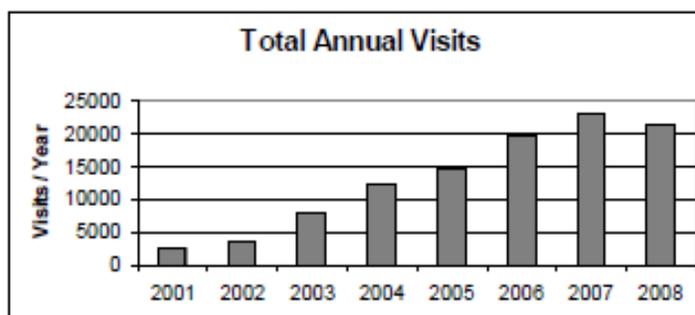
Average Visits per Month (since Jan. 2008): **1,783**

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



2. We received hits from sixty countries, the same as last year. The most visits came from the following: Ireland; the Russian Federation; Canada; Germany; and Mexico.
3. There were six search phrases that were used the most to find our site (since January 2008):
 - *Texas soil(s) / soils of Texas*
 - *Texas Soil Map(s)*
 - *PSSAT*
 - *careers in soil science*
 - *soil survey / SSURGO*
 - *soil science / scientist*

4. The top five pages viewed within the PSSAT site:
 - Texas Soils
 - Careers in Soil Science
 - PSSAT Member Page
 - Upcoming Meetings
 - Information on Soils



Ask a Soil Scientist

We received five inquiries from the "Ask a Soil Scientist" section on the web site. Four of the questions were forwarded to the PSSAT mailing list for the membership to answer. There were 13 PSSAT members that provided answers. Many, many thanks to all who participated: Dennis Brezina (answered the most, with 3 replies); Clay Robinson; Travis Waiser; Wayne Gabriel; Christine Morgan; Nelson Rolong; Tom Hallmark; Conrad Neitsch; Moye Rutledge; Rusty Dowell; Jon Wiedenfeld; James Gordon; and Charles Pehl.

CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

The following are impending changes to PSSAT that have been suggested. A survey was completed and the members were in agreement that a student membership was needed, the amendments of which are in red below. These modifications need to be reviewed and voted on by the members. It is very important that each member reads the suggested changes below and votes, as this will determine the outcome of several structural transformations to PSSAT.

The deadline to vote is May 15th, so please go to

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=49Z_2fGdIE0VZ243QECumhZw_3d_3d to vote today!

ARTICLE III.—MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in the Association may be accepted or terminated as provided in the Bylaws.

Section 2. There shall be classes of membership as follows:

- a. Member
- b. Associate Member
- c. Student Member
- d. Honorary Member
- e. Sustaining Member

Section 3. Membership Qualification

a. **Member** – Eligibility for membership consists of a B.S. degree in Soil Science or other four-year degree program and 15 semester hours (23 quarter hours) credit in soil science. All members must be approved by the membership committee.

b. **Associate Member** – Professionals interested in the aims and goals of the Association may be considered qualified to become associate members upon the approval of the membership committee.

c. **Student Member** – Students (high school through senior in college) interested in the aims and goals of the Association may be considered qualified to become student members upon the approval of the membership committee.

d. **Honorary Member** – Shall be one whom the Association desires to honor because of outstanding contribution to the profession, state or nation.

e. **Sustaining Member** – Shall be an individual or organization wishing to support the aims and goals of the Association in a special way by making a contribution to the Association of \$50.00 or more.

Section 4. Membership Privileges

a. All classes of membership shall be permitted to attend meetings of the Association and to take part in the discussion of all business matters.

b. Only a Member shall hold the office of President, President-Elect, Vice President, Treasurer, or Editor.

c. All classes of membership, except student members, may serve on committees, but only Members may chair committees.

Section 5. Voting Privileges

Only members as defined in Section 3a above shall have voting privileges in matters pertaining to the affairs of the Association, including the election of officers.

CHANGES TO THE BYLAWS OF THE PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTISTS ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

ARTICLE IV.—DUES

Section 1. Dues are payable to the Treasurer upon receipt of a dues statement by the date of the annual meeting. Annual dues for members and associate members shall be forty dollars (\$40.00). Fifteen dollars (\$15.00) for the Scholarship Fund, ten (\$10.00) dollars for operations, and fifteen dollars (\$15.00) for Public Relations and Education for 2009 and 2010. **Dues for student members shall be ten dollars (\$10.00).**

Section 2. Honorary members will not be assessed dues.

**FY 2009 Committee Assignments
Committees (# Members)**

Constitution & By-Laws (3)		Term (2-yrs)
Riley Dayberry (Chair)		2009-2010
Rusty Dowell		2009-2010
Stacey Kloesel		2009-2010
Finance (3)		Term (2-yrs)
James Gordon (Chair)		2009-2010
Joe Neal		2009-2010
Jo Parsley		2009-2010
Membership (5)		Term (3-yrs)
Cristine Morgan (Chair)		Pres. Elect
Maurice Jurena		2008-2010
Richard Reid		2008-2010
Susan Casby-Horton		2007-2009
Shanna Dunn		2007-2009
Public Relations & Education (3)		Term (2-yrs)
Dennis Brezina		2008-2009
Kelly Attebury		2009-2010
Sara Russell		2009-2010
Nominations (3)		Term (1-yr)
Nathan Haile (Chair)		Imm. Past Pres.
Garry Harris		2009
Laurie Kiniry		2009
Scholarship (3)		Term (2-yrs)
Jessica Jobe (Chair)		2009-2010
Bryon Lorenz		2009-2010
Deanna Faubon		2009-2010
Ethics (3)		Term (2-yrs)
Alan Stahnke (Chair)		2009-2010
Wayne Gabriel		2009-2010
Clyde Stahnke		2009-2010

Luminant Mining 2009 Soils Tour

Luminant Mining Company invites you to *Soil Tour 2009* at Monticello Mine in Mount Pleasant, Texas on **May 21 and 22, 2009**. The two-day event will focus on post-mine soils of the Monticello-North area and the successful reclamation of the mine, including pastureland, forestry, and wildlife habitat land uses. The visit will also include a tour of the active mining operation as well as the Monticello Power Plant. Lunch will be provided on both days.

For more information and to RSVP please contact Dusten Russell at 903.577.5125 or dusten.russell@luminant.com. **Deadline for notice of participation is May 13th**.



Soils Tour 2009

<u>Hotels</u>	<u>Single</u>	<u>Double</u>
Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites (877)863-4780	\$100	\$108
Days Inn Hotel (903)577-0152	\$55	\$60
Super 8 (903)572-9808	\$60	\$60
Best Western (903)577-7377	\$67	\$80
Comfort Inn (903)577-7553	\$80	\$80
Executive Inn (903)572-6611	Call for Room Rates	
Hampton Inn & Suites (903)572-7100	\$109	\$130
La Quinta Inn & Suites (903)572-5514	\$100	\$110

Photo Contest

If the old adage, April showers bring May flowers, then get the cameras ready! This is just a reminder that PSSAT is sponsoring the 1st Annual Photo Contest. If you enjoy taking pictures, then this contest is for you. Is there a person in the neighboring MLRA that has been acting hubristically? What better way to put them in their place, than by demonstrating your superior camera skills!

The first place prize for each category is a framed 11 X17 inch print, and second place prize is a framed 8 X 10 print. The five categories are Plants (including crops), Soil Profiles (from pits or road-cuts), Landscapes, Wildlife, and finally a miscellaneous category (people, buildings, etc). Don't forget, your dues have to be paid to win a prize! For full contest rules, see the PSSAT website. To submit a photo email the attached jpeg or tif file to pssat_photo_submit@yahoo.com.

I hope to see your pictures soon!

~John Sackett

From the Editor:

This year we have some new and exciting things happening in PSSAT. For everyone who could not make it to the meeting this year, the first annual PSSAT Photo Contest has begun. Individuals who are interested in participating can find out more information about it on our website or can contact John Sackett directly.

There is some interest in having more regular newsletters; to accomplish this task, I will need your input. If you have ideas, pictures, events, trips, or anything of any interest for the newsletter, please let me know.

Thanks,

Amanda Bragg, PSSAT Editor
115 Plaza Dr. #706
Kerrville, TX 78028

(Return address requested)

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