



2007 PSSAT Officers



Editor
Jamey Douglass

Treasurer
Lindsay Lang

President-Elect
Nathan Haile

President
Kelly Attebury

Vice President
Tom Hallmark

President's Letter

Kelly Attebury, USDA-NRCS

Hello to all my fellow soil scientists across the great state of Texas and beyond. First off, I'd like to thank outgoing President David Weindorf for his effective leadership in 2006. Also, it was a real pleasure seeing everyone at the annual meeting and this year marked a special event for the Professional Soil Scientists Association of Texas; our 25th Anniversary!

In 1982 the PSSAT was founded and has since grown to over 120 members. Our members are actively involved in the field of soil science in a variety of ways. Education and research, governmental concerns, environmental protection, and private business are all vital fields to which our members contribute.

The past twenty five years have brought some amazing changes. Through our work in research, our experience, and a desire for "a better way," our understanding of soil development, uses and limitations has grown. We have cooperated with other disciplines to approach problems with fresh ideas. Our world is constantly changing, and as professionals, we must change too.

Today we have tools available to us that were unheard of 25 years ago. While shovels and hand augers haven't changed, what we know, our ability to gather, record, and process information today is unparalleled. From electromagnetic imaging tools (em-38) to laser technology (LIDAR), from computer models (SoLIM) to new publication methods (Web Soil Survey), the way we do our jobs and deliver our products has changed dramatically.

On the legal front, PSSAT helped play a role in the passage of the Professional Geoscientist Act, thereby protecting soil science professionals and the citizens of Texas. While this legislation did not come quickly or easily, it established legal standards of competence for holders as sanctioned, legal practitioners of our profession.

Over the years, the names and faces of the PSSAT may change but our mission is still one of importance, "...to foster the profession of soil science and to further the increase and dissemination of information concerning all phases of soil science in order to contribute to the general human welfare (excerpt from PSSAT Constitution Preamble, 1982). I look forward to serving these principles in the coming year.

2007 Annual Meeting Minutes – January 31, 2007
G. Rollie White Visitor's Center, TAMU

Dr. Weindorf called the meeting to order. He introduced **Kari Sever**, President-Elect, National Society of Consulting Soil Scientists, Inc. as our Guest Speaker.



After Kari's presentation, Dr. Weindorf accepted a motion to approve the minutes from our previous Annual Meeting, as presented in our newsletter, Texas Soil Profiles. This motion was seconded, and passed.

Next, Dr. Weindorf called on **Jamey Douglass** for the Treasurer's Report, but he was busy taking minutes, so he called on **Nathan Haile**, *Scholarship Chairperson* to make his report instead.

Nathan said there were four applicants this year. Two applications were received from Tarleton State University and Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi. The winner of the 2007 PSSAT Scholarship Award is **Joseph Neal**, Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi. Joe is from Poteet, TX. He served four years in the U.S. Navy as a Rescue Diver. Nathan presented Joe with a plaque and a check for \$1,500.00.



Joe Neal, 2007 PSSAT Scholarship Winner, receiving plaque from Nathan Haile, Chair of Scholarship Committee.



Jamey Douglass, PSSAT Treasurer giving his annual report.

Dr. Weindorf called **Jamey Douglass**, *PSSAT Treasurer* to give his report. Jamey stated that about the same time last year we had about \$6,979.58 in the account. As of last night, we have \$49.18 more, for a balance of \$7,028.76. Jamey reported some figures for the previous year, as follows:

- ◆ Collected dues for the General Fund of \$1,080.00
- ◆ Collected for Scholarship Fund \$1,899.00
- ◆ Collected interest for Scholarship Fund \$5.44
- ◆ The current dues of \$25.00 seems to be supporting our current Scholarship amount of \$1,500.00

Last Year's Meal:

- Cost about \$630.00
- Collected \$532.00
- Lost about \$98.00

Expenses from previous year:

- Newsletter expenses -- \$56.10
- Web Domain fees -- \$154.55
- Plaques and Awards -- \$68.13
- State Land Judging Contest -- \$100.00
- Catering for 2007 Meal -- \$645.44
- L.G. Couture and Design (new logo) -- \$175.00

Total expenditures are \$1,199.22

Current balance as of 1/30/07

General Fund → \$1,405.75
Scholarship Fund → \$5,623.01

Dr. Weindorf asked for a motion to accept Jamey's Treasurer Report. It was seconded and the motion was passed.

Dr. Weindorf asked for the *Finance Committee* to give their report. **Dan Kowalski**, Chairperson, concurred with Jamey's statement, that the current dues of \$25 supports our Scholarship Fund. Dan stated no raise in dues.

Dr. Weindorf asked *President-Elect*, **Kelly Attebury**, to give the Membership Report. Kelly reported there are currently 120 members. There are six honorary members. Delinquent members consist of 29. Jamey added that six new members were present at this meeting.



Dr. Weindorf called on the *Ethics Committee* to make its presentation. No one was present to make a report. There seemed to be no ethics issues.

Dr. Weindorf called on the *Constitution and Bylaws Committee* to make their report. No one presented a report.

Dr. Weindorf called on the *Public Relations and Education Chairperson*, **Dennis Brezina** to give his report.

Dennis was applauded. Dennis thanked his wife, Laura, for procuring a 25th Anniversary cake for our Annual Meeting. Dennis also thanked Wayne Gabriel, for assistance in developing a new PSSAT logo, and 25th Anniversary PSSAT logo. Dennis said he ordered 4 dozen new caps, bucket hats, and white t-shirts with the 25th Anniversary PSSAT logo. Sales have been good. The caps and t-shirts are \$10.00, and the bucket hats are \$12.00. All proceeds go into the Scholarship Fund.



25th Anniversary PSSAT cake.

Dennis Brezina, Public Relations and Education Chair, showing off new Anniversary Caps, t-shirts, and other assorted materials.

Dennis stated that until recently, he had not made contact with Naomi Fackler and the League of Women Voters. They have a three-minute radio spot devoted to public interest on National Public Radio. Dennis has sent a news release concerning the USDA-NRCS Web Soil Survey, and Naomi is editing the release for their radio spot. Dennis said he was working on a news release concerning wetlands. Dennis added that he's taken some liberty in regard to items dealing with the NRCS. He said the Web Soil Survey is a new website tool and the radio spot seemed a good way to get the word out. Dennis reported the NRCS is experiencing a serious problem with wetland violations in the eastern part of the state. He is hoping the NPR radio spot will educate the public and program participants. Dennis asked if anyone had similar news releases for the NPR radio spots. He said he would forward to Naomi for future releases.

Dr. Weindorf asked *past-President*, **Eddie Bearden**, to begin the Nomination Committee report. Eddie announced this year's slate of PSSAT Officers;

- ❖ President-Elect – Nathan Haile
- ❖ Vice President – Tom Hallmark
- ❖ Treasurer – Lindsay Lang
- ❖ Editor – Jamey Douglass

Eddie was in the process of handing out ballots, when someone made the motion the current slate of Officers be accepted by acclamation. The motion was seconded, and passed unanimously.

Dr. Weindorf called on *Webmaster*, **Jon Brandt** to give his report. Jon reported the webpage had been up for more than seven years. Since last year, the webpage had 19,830 visits and over 104,000 hits. This is a 34 percent increase from 2005-2006. Our webpage is the first or second that comes up with "PSSAT" query on all the major Internet search engines. We average 1,648 visits per month. There have been hits from 55 countries; most came from Japan, Germany, Canada, India, and Israel.

Jon also reported that the six most popular phrases used to find our site include; (1) Texas soil(s) / soils of Texas, (2) PSSAT, (3) soil scientist(s), (4) Texas soil map(s), (5) soil profiles, and (6) careers in soil science.



Eddie Bearden, Past President, discussing the election of 2007 PSSAT Officers.



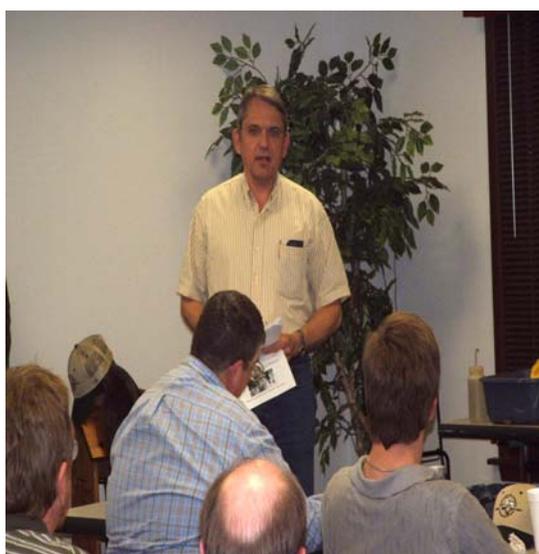
Jon Brandt, PSSAT Webmaster, giving his 2007 report.

This past year only one question was posted to “Ask a Soil Scientist” and no known replies were submitted. Jon said we’ve had a mailing list for sometime now, and with a lack of use, he suggested we terminate the mailing list. Email seems to be a more direct form of communication.

Dr. Weindorf asked *Editor*, **Susan Casby-Horton** to give her report. Susan said with newsletter being posted to our website, she mails about 22 newsletters. She said if anyone has a change of address, to provide that information to Jamey Douglass, incoming Editor.



Susan Casby-Horton, Editor, presenting her report.



Ted Zobeck, Texas Smithsonian Soil Liaison, Thanking all for giving to this effort. Texas soil scientists have given \$18,900.00 so far.

Dr. Weindorf called on **Ted Zobeck**, *Texas Smithsonian Soil Liaison*, to give his report. Ted told those in attendance, that he would be presenting this information at the Soil Survey and Land Resource Workshop. Ted said Texas should be proud; we are second on the list as states giving to the Smithsonian Soil Exhibit. North Carolina is number one. The budget for the exhibit is about \$4 million. The exhibit will show how soils have affected society, careers in soil science, and there will be a web-based education part as well. There will also be a traveling exhibit, and the National Science Foundation (NSF) has given \$1.5 million. Each state will have a monolith at the exhibit. He again congratulated Texas for giving 189% of the goal, or about \$18,900.00. Ted also mentioned that Dr. Larry and Gladys Wilding established the Dr. Richard Drees Memorial Fund, and all gifts up to \$25,000 would be matched. Ted added he had brochures if anyone was interested.

Dr. Weindorf asked the group if there was any New Business. There was none.

Dr. Tom Hallmark said the results of the Texture Contest would be announced during the Soil Survey and Land Resource Workshop.

Dr. Weindorf wanted to recognize the out-going Officers: President-Elect—Kelly Attebury, Vice President—Nathan Haile, Treasurer – Jamey Douglass, and Editor – Susan Casby-Horton.

Next, Dr. Weindorf presented the gavel to incoming President Kelly Attebury.



As Kelly's first act as new PSSAT President, he presented Dr. Weindorf with a plaque for his service as PSSAT President.



Kelly said he wanted to keep his message short and sweet. He thanked Dennis Brezina and Wayne Gabriel for their work on the new PSSAT logo and caps.

Kelly asked if all the previous PSSAT Presidents would come forward for a photo, along with the current Officers. Kelly offered congratulations to the new PSSAT Officers, thanked the new members and the rest of the members for coming tonight.



PSSAT Past-Presidents, from left: Kelly Attebury, Jon Brandt, Clyde Stahnke, Tom Hallmark, Dan Kowalski, Wayne Gabriel, Ted Zobeck, Eddie Bearden, David Weindorf, Charlie Thompson, Jon Wiedenfeld, and Maurice Jurena.

With that announcement, the meeting was adjourned.

Stacey Kloesel was the official PSSAT Photographer during the 2007 Annual Meetings. Thanks Stacey!!!

So who is Kelly Attebury? President Kelly Attebury provided this short biography.

Kelly Attebury

I was born in Lubbock, Texas, grew up around Hope, Arkansas then moved back to west Texas as a young man. Spent 10 years as a farmer in the Abernathy area then earned a couple of degrees from Texas Tech University and went to work for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service.

During my ten years in Soil Survey I worked all over the northwestern part of the state, as well as eastern New Mexico, the Oklahoma panhandle, and Stevens County, Kansas. Probably, the most fun was working on the western Kenai Peninsula, Alaska survey one year. There I found a few things you just don't see on the southern Great Plains like moose, halibut, glaciers...and trees. Since July 2005, I've greatly enjoyed being the Resource Soil Scientist for Zone 1 supporting 51 field offices in the northwestern one fifth of the state.

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



More 2007 PSSAT Annual Meeting Photos



March in Presidio
By
James L. Greenwade

Nelson called and said we should all go,
Pack our bags and map soils around Presidio.
Now Presidio was founded in 1683,
Often the hot spot of the Nation, A nice place to be!
In March the weather is dry, hot or cold,
A place where you soon look old.

Farming has been practiced here since 1500 BC,
That accounts for some of the salty soils you see.
The Spaniards came about 1535,
To evangelize the natives and help them survive.
And now more help is on the way,
They will have a Soil Survey from USDA.

Nelson, Jim and Michael provided the local support.
We also asked Susan, Laurie, Rusty, Jamey, Levi,
Dennis, and James to report.
The Presidio MOU is written to say,
Only SOB's and area staff can assist out this way.

We mapped along the Bolson and alluvial fans,
Gravelly loams, sandy loams, and sands
Gravelly soils in hot, hyperthermic, low rainfall
environment.
Not the best conditions to grow grass or
for retirement.

We separated all the soils we could see.
Have to remember that this survey is really Order 3.
Soils are mapped by Taxonomy, moisture, geology,
temperature, and elevation.
Too many separations for so little precipitation.

At Ruidosa Boot Hill we saw the grave of
William Blake.
In 1870 he was hung by mistake.
Also the grave of the famous gunfighter Mendosa,
The second fastest gun in Ruidosa.

Getting soil lines in the computer takes
me a little time.
And there is nothing to make this poem rhyme
The young kids all say, this is easy to do.
Let's get our goal and go home when we are through.

PSSAT Website:
<http://pssat.org/>

Texas Soil Profiles – The Last Page



The Chinnati Mountains outside of Presidio, Texas.



Where does one draw this soils line? Photos by Dennis Brezina.

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