



Texas Soil Profiles



Amanda Bragg, President, Professional Soil Scientists Association of Texas (PSSAT)

Meeting Information

Date – February 4th, 2015

Time – Social @ 5:30pm; Meeting @ 6:30 pm

Location – C & J BBQ, 1010 S. Texas, Bryan, TX
(located just south of downtown Bryan, on west side of street)

Meals – Dutch treat, each person will go through line and pay for their own dinner

Other info – Personal checks are **NOT** accepted

In this issue:

President's message; Meeting Info; Last Year's Meeting Minutes; Committees

President's Message

Happy New Year! 2015 has been designated the first **'International Year of Soils.'** I am honored to begin this year as the President of the Professional Soil Scientist Association of Texas. There were several members at the 2014 meeting and we hope to see many more at the 2015 meeting.

After last year's meeting, I was approached by several members with suggestions for improving PSSAT and increasing member retention. I was delighted to hear everyone's feedback and impressed with your ideas. While many of these recommendations are worth further thought, my intention is to focus on a few ideas in particular to discuss at this year's meeting.

Poor scholarship participation has been a concern in past years and continues to be – last year we received no applicants. One of the graduate students recommends expanding the scholarship to non-funded graduate students. His or her major professor would certify that they are not receiving financial assistance. This may also encourage students to take advantage of our student membership status.

Another popular recommendation is incorporating a semi-annual field trip into our organization. President-Elect Sidney Paulson and Vice-President Jacob Eickstead are interested in continuing towards this goal. Field trips would offer members opportunities to see different parts and soils of the state along with networking. Fall would be ideal timing for a field trip so that it would not conflict with the PSSAT meeting or Texas Soil Survey and Land Resource Workshop. If field trips were held every other year, there is also potential to hold the PSSAT meeting in conjunction with the field trip.

Offering incentives to members for continued activity and participation includes a combination of suggestions. These suggestions include:

- 1) Locking in current dues with a pay for 4 years get the 5th year free,
- 2) Listing members in good standing who have professional certifications on our website for advertising, not endorsement, purposes, and
- 3) Listing job announcements on our website.

President – Amanda Bragg
President-Elect – Sidney Paulson

PSSAT 2014 Officers
Vice President—Jacob Eickstead
Treasurer – Chance Robinson

Editor – Jamey Douglass

President's Message (continued)

As my year of leadership comes to an end, I would like to thank our members, those who have served on our committees, and our officers. In particular, Chance Robinson has done an amazing job of fielding applicants and sifting through the paperwork necessary to for PSSAT to regain our tax-exempt status. Also, I would like to thank all the members who offered their feedback last year. I have been honored to serve as President and look forward to my continued participation with the organization.

Minutes of the PSSAT Annual Meeting, February 5th, 2014

About 65 persons were in attendance including retirees, University staff, NRCS personnel, Consultants, families, and many others.

The scheduled Guest Speaker had to cancel due to a family emergency.

Mittie Muse, PSSAT President called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM.



Mittie asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Mittie then entertained a motion to accept the previous Annual Meeting minutes, this motion was made, seconded, and passed.

Mittie called on Chance Robinson, Treasurer, to give his report

2013 President Mittie Muse, conducting the Annual Meeting



Chance had handouts for the meeting. He said this year we had a net loss of \$50, which is living up to our non-profit status. Everyone laughed. Chance added that some years we make money, and some we do not

Chance Robinson, PSSAT Treasurer,
presenting his report

General Fund

Income

Dues – Current members (48)	\$480.00
Dues – New members (5)	\$ 50.00
Dues – Reinstated (10)	\$200.00
Annual Mtg Fee (65 meals)	<u>\$975.00</u>
	\$1,705.00

Expenses

Annual Meeting (Catering)	\$836.00
User Fee – IRS	\$400.00
Website (Acct Fee/Domain)	\$155.00
2014 Photo Contest	<u>\$125.00</u>
	\$1,516.00

General Fund Balance \$893.38

Public Relations Fund Balance \$1,968.38

Total Liabilities \$7,282.86

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Income

Dues – Current members (48)	\$720.00
Dues – New members (5)	\$ 75.00
Dues – Reinstated (10)	\$300.00
Interest Income	<u>\$ 1.00</u>
	\$1,096.00

Expenses

Scholarship (no applicants)

SCHOLARSHIP FUND BALANCE \$4,221.88

Chance said for the 2014 Budget, there were some items to address. The IRS has revoked our tax-exempt status, and last year we did nothing. Chance suggested we use \$400 for the user fee, and apply for 501c6 status, so that we would be once again tax-exempt, but not a charitable organization.

At this time Mittie asked Chance to look into this, would need the approval of the group. Also, the incoming President could assist in this process.

Ted Zobeck said this was a good idea, several made large contributions to the Scholarship Fund.

Mittie asked for a motion, to use \$400 for the IRS Fee, and to do the paperwork to become a 501c6 organization. Motion was made, seconded and passed.

Mittie also entertained a motion to accept the 2014 budget, this too was seconded and passed.

Mittie asked Ricky Lambert, Webmaster, to give his report.

Ricky said we have made good ground this year. We have added two new items; 1) a PayPal portal to pay dues, and 2) Amanda setup a Facebook page, with a link to our website.

Ricky reported the statistics for our PSSAT webpage. The top four domains where folks link to our website are: Commercial, Network, Government, Other. Folks from 60 foreign countries have viewed our webpage. The top countries are Ukraine, Germany, China, Russia, and Brazil.

Travis Waiser reported on our Facebook page. About 17 persons have “liked”. It is apparent the retirees are not reading this site. We did have one question from a lady about PSSAT. The Facebook page has been used to announce our scholarship, and annual meeting.

Ricky reminded all in attendance to update their email address with Chance.

Mittie told Ricky, “Thanks” for his work.

Mittie called on Jamey Douglass, Editor, to give his report. Jamey said he would attempt to get the minutes and newsletter out in a timely fashion.

Mittie called on Jessica Jobe, Scholarship Chair, to present her report. Jessica reported there were no applicants this year. But next year might be better.

Mittie called on Alan Stahnke, Membership Committee, to present his report. This year we gained two new members. Mittie added that he tried contacting delinquent members. He had little success.

Mittie called on John Sackett III, Constitution & Bylaws Committee. John said there was nothing to report.

Mittie asked Carlos Villarreal, Public Relations & Education Committee to give his report. Carlos said the Photo Contest was postponed. His committee worked up some new rules for the Photo Contest. In brief, only for active members, three categories; soils, flora and fauna, miscellaneous. He is using Flickr to store photos, but would like to change this. He said everyone will vote next year, and it should be fun.

Amanda Bragg commented on using Facebook for storing photos. She added it would be pretty easy to do, and teachers are always looking for pretty photos. She wondered about the legality on the internet, and said she would work with Ricky.

Dr. Cristine Morgan suggested that PSSAT must be spelled out, not abbreviated.

Carlos added he wanted to try to develop a Membership Directory, and as far as his report, he was “all done.”

Mittie talked about the Photo Contest. Suspended or to reinstate? Dr. Meghan, said Facebook was up to 24 likes, and climbing.

Chance said it had been since 2007 that we had caps and t-shirts. He pointed out the 12 caps with our current logo.

Mittie entertained a motion to reinstate the Photo Contest, it was seconded and passed. Mittie told the group to use the Photo Contest this year, so it would not be suspended.

Travis Waiser, Immediate Past President conducted the Nominations. He had sent out a letter for nominees, but none were returned.

President-Elect: Sidney Paulson; motion made, seconded, motion passed.

Vice President: Jacob Eickstead; motion made, seconded, motion passed.

Travis asked for nominations from the floor, there were none.

Travis added the Committee assignments were the prerogative of the President.

2014 PSSAT Committee Assignments

Constitution and Bylaws (3 members – 2 year term)

1. John Sackett III (2013, 2014)
2. Jon Wiedenfeld (2013, 2014)
3. Jamey Douglass (2013, 2014)

Finance (3 members – 2 year term)

1. Eddie Bearden (2013, 2014)
2. Tom Feuerbacher (2013, 2014)
3. Chance Robinson (2014, 2015)

Scholarship (3 members – 2 year term)

1. Jessica Jobe (2013, 2014)
2. Stacey Kloesel (2013, 2014)
3. James Gordon (2013, 2014)

Public Relations & Education (3 members – 2 year terms)

1. Carlos Villarreal (2013, 2014)
2. Jon Brandt (2013, 2014)
3. Jacob Eickstead (2013, 2014)

Nominations (3 members – 1 year term)

1. Mittie Muse (Immed. Past President-2013)
2. Cristine Morgan
3. Lindsay Lang

Ethics (3 members – 2 year term)

1. Wayne Gabriel (2013, 2014)
2. Andrea Kishne (2013, 2014)
3. David Weindorf (2013, 2014)

Membership (5 members – 3 year term, with no more than 2 members expiring same year)

1. Alan Stahnke (2014, 2015, 2016)
2. Sidney Paulson (2014, 2015, 2016)
3. Travis Waiser (2013, 2014, 2015)
4. Chance Robinson (2013, 2014, 2015)
5. Lindsey Lang (2014)

Mittie asked if there was any New Business. Travis Waiser was recognized.

Travis said PSSAT had Honorary Members, and two of them are Dr. Larry Wilding, and Dr. Larry West. Travis added that two members come every year to PSSAT meetings. Travis nominated Dr. C.T. Hallmark and Charles Thompson, as Honorary Members. A motion was submitted, seconded, and passed.

The current list of PSSAT Honorary members is as follows:

Dr. James A. Dement

Arville Touchet

Dr. C.T. Hallmark

Dr. George Kunze

Dr. Larry Wilding

Charlie M. Thompson

Dr. Murray H. Milford

Dr. B.L. Allen

At this time, President-Elect Amanda Bragg stepped up to the front. She presented a gift to Mittie Muse, in appreciation of his tenure serving as President for this organization. Mittie passed the gavel to Amanda, as incoming President.



Amanda had some remarks. She admitted she was not prepared. She said while a student at TAMU, she shared an office Dr. Cristine Morgan. Amanda told the group she had 10 years' service with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, currently in role of Zone Resource Soil Scientist at San Angelo.

Amanda reminded all, the we can use PayPal to pay dues. She added, that hopefully the coming year will be as successful as the past year. She offered Regional Director Levi Steptoe, Jr., a big "Thanks."

She said tomorrow at the Soil Survey and Land Resource Workshop, there would be a big surprise. She added to see Chance Robinson, Treasurer, to pay dues and for the meal.

Amanda asked if there was any new business, being none a motion was made, seconded, and passed to adjourn the meeting.

Photos from the 2014 Annual Meeting



Dr. Charles T. Hallmark, preparing for the Annual Texture contest.



James Greenwade (front left) and Jerry Rives (front right) enjoy the catered meal and old times.



PSSAT Annual Meeting, G. Rollie White Visitor Center, some of the members at dinner.



PSSAT Annual Meeting, scenes from the back row. Who is hamming up the photo?



The serving line, Ed Griffin going for seconds. Is that allowed?



Travis Waiser (front left) and Shanna Dunn (front center) enjoy their brisket and trimmings.

Welcome 2015 - International Year of Soils

It's 2015, and IYS is officially here! What exactly is IYS? View the [IYS website](#) for much more information and find out why the Global Soil Partnership at the Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations [declared 2015 as the International Year of Soils](#). Learn more about the [FAO and Global Soil Partnership](#), the history behind the IYS designation, and their IYS objectives.

Monthly Themes

SSSA has developed 12 monthly themes that reflect the diverse value of soils to our natural environment and society. Each month includes an overview on the theme, a lesson plan, and other outreach activities. Click on the month below to see the activities created, and [continue to check the IYS website](#) as we will add new materials throughout 2015.

[January](#)- Soils Sustain Life

[February](#)- Soils Support Urban Life

[March](#) - Soils Support Agriculture

[April](#)- Soils Clean and Capture Water

[May](#)- Soils Support Buildings/Infrastructure

[June](#)- Soils Support Recreation

[July](#)- Soils are Living

[August](#)- Soils Support Health

[September](#)- Soils Protect the Natural Environment

[October](#)- Soils and the Products We Use

[November](#)- Soils and Climate

[December](#)- Soils, Culture, and People

View the Jan IYS Video: Soils Sustain Life

SSSA is working with Jim Toomey to create 12 two-minute videos based on the IYS monthly themes.

These videos make excellent additions to member presentations and for use in the classroom. View the [January IYS Soils Sustain Life video](#). We'll be providing updates when new ones are posted, so keep checking the [IYS website](#).

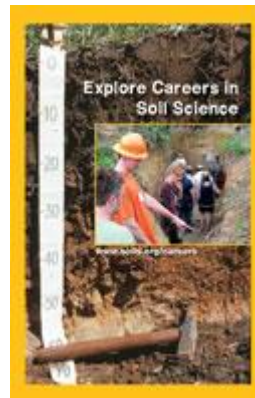


IYS and Careers in Soil Science

Inspired by all that is happening for IYS? Check out the many exciting professional opportunities and challenging careers in the field. Our [Careers in Soil Science webpage](#) contains a wealth of information.

View a list of [colleges and universities](#) with Soil Science and Environmental Science courses and/or degrees. Be sure to also check out our information for [prospective college students](#).

Ever wonder why a scientist decides to make soil a career focus? Who better to ask than the scientists themselves! In [A Day in the Life](#) you can read a series of interviews highlighting the breadth of experiences, challenges, and rewards found within the soil science profession.



Soil scientists explore and seek to understand the earth's land and water resources. Students of soil science learn to identify, interpret, and manage soils for agriculture, forestry, rangeland, ecosystems, urban uses, and mining and reclamation in an environmentally responsible way.

Graduates can choose from a range of excellent professional opportunities and challenging careers. Learn more and help spread the word with our [Explore Careers in Soil Science brochure](#) and [poster](#). You can also [contact us](#) for multiple copies.

Request a Classroom Visit

Educators of community groups can [request a classroom visit from soil scientists](#). Or, if you have a question about soils, soil science or careers in soil science, use our [Ask a Soil Scientist](#) program to get answers.

Activities for Members

Each month includes [member activities for soil scientists to download](#), including presentations and engaging lessons to use for outreach in your communities. You can help us take the soils message to the public.

Activities for Educators

Each month also includes activities appropriate for use in the classroom (grade level varies) that educators can [download and use](#). And don't forget the valuable information you'll find on our [soils4teachers](#) website.

Thank You to Our Monthly Leaders

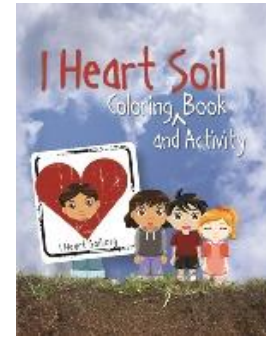
These SSSA members served as leaders for the following months, devoting much time and energy to developing engaging activities:

January: Kate Scow, David Lindbo
 February: Sally Brown
 March: Aaron de Joia, Matt Duncan
 April: Gary Pierzynski
 May: Larry Baldwin
 June: Mary Beth Adams
 July: Mary Stromberger
 August: Nick Comerford
 September: Tom Fox
 October: Tom Rice and Rob Fitzpatrick
 November: Eric Brevik
 December: Melanie Szulczewski

Download the IYS Coloring & Activity Book

Designed for a younger audience (K-2), the coloring and activity book demonstrates the themes of IYS and can help get kids thinking about soil.

[Download one to print and share](#) with a potential future soil scientist.



I "heart" Soil Stickers Now in 15 Languages



Of course IYS wouldn't be complete without our popular I "heart" Soil campaign. View all the different stickers in languages including Klingon; request and/or download stickers, upload

photos, view the photo map, and purchase I "heart" Soil clothing on the [I Heart Soil Sticker webpage](#).

2015
International
Year of Soils



**Seeking
IYS
Sponsorships**
To support the celebration of IYS and

the many educational and outreach activities we have planned, SSSA is seeking sponsorships from our members and organizations. [View the Sponsorship Form to learn more](#) about the various ways to show your support of IYS, or [donate directly to IYS](#).