



# Texas Soil Profiles

## 2017 PSSAT Annual Meeting Information

Date: February 1, 2017

Location: G. Rollie White Visitor Center, 7707 Raymond Stotzer Pkwy (TX Hwy 60), College Station

Time: Social – 5:30 PM

Time: Annual Meeting – 6:30 PM

Cost: TBD (Last year about \$20)

## 2016 PSSAT Officers

**President** – Jacob Eickstead, TRC, New Braunfels

**President-Elect** – Chance Robinson, USDA-NRCS, Stephenville

**Vice President** – Carlos Villarreal, USDA-NRCS, Temple

**Treasurer** – Chance Robinson, USDA-NRCS, Stephenville

**Editor** – Jamey Douglass, USDA-NRCS, Temple

**Past President** – Sidney Paulson, USDA-NRCS, Stephenville

## President's Message from PSSAT President Jacob Eickstead



Here we are again at a new year and a new annual meeting coming up. I hope everyone's had a good year and I certainly hope 2017 has much more in store for you. Our past president, Sidney Paulson, did a wonderful job of organizing the meetings and helping with the field trip in Erath County.

I'll be sending a notice out soon regarding our 2017 field trip. It will be at the TMPA Gibbons Creek Mine. We're planning on the field trip to be from 1-5 pm on Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup> before the meeting. It won't be an all day affair, but I know we can all enjoy a chance to get our hands dirty (soily?) before the annual meeting. We'll get a chance to look at two soil pits that Jan Horbaczewski has generously dug for us at the mine. I'd also like to thank Tom Feuerbacher and Dennis Brezina for helping us describe the soil profiles. I'm sure we'll all enjoy debating the different ways to describe these disturbed soil profiles, and the native soil profiles as well! Attendance is free of charge and you don't need a 4x4 to get there. The mine is located about 20 miles southwest of College Station in Carlos, TX so it is conveniently located near the meeting.

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### ***President's Message (cont.)***

This year's speaker for our meeting will be Dr. Cristine Morgan, who will be speaking on the ways that she teaches the Master Naturalist course. I know several of us teach this course among the various chapters of Master Naturalist and I think it can be a great way for us to learn about how to teach to eager naturalist in different areas of the state. I know that teaching those courses is one of my favorite things to do every year and if you haven't gotten a chance to teach these courses I recommend you try it, or even sign up and become a Master Naturalist yourself!

Just a reminder, our plans for future field trips are:

- August 2017 Marfa, Texas in the big bend region
- Fall of 2019 San Antonio, Texas paired with the SSSA meeting

I hope we have a productive meeting this year and I'm looking forward to enjoying each other's company once again. I hope to see everyone at the field trip, but if you can't make it, I hope to see you at the meeting afterward. The meeting will be at G Rollie White Visitor Center, 7707 Raymond Stotzer Parkway (TX Hwy 60, close to the TAMU Beef Science Center) College Station, TX.

## **Professional Soil Scientist Association of Texas February 3, 2016 Annual Meeting**

From 5:15 to 6:00 PM, the Social and Texturing Contest were done concurrently. About 6 PM the meal was served, a catered meal of chicken and beef fajitas with all the fixings.

During the meal, Jacob Eickstead gave a presentation.

**President Sidney Paulson** asked everyone in attendance to stand and introduce themselves. There were about 50 folks in attendance. The group consisted of students, Instructors and Professors, federal government soil scientists, consultants, family members, and retirees.

Next, Sidney did a presentation of the 2015 Fall Soils Review held at Stephenville, Texas.

At 7:45 PM, Sidney called the meeting to order. He had some information about the membership of PSSAT. Membership includes 22 active members, 56 full members, five (5) Sustaining members, eight (8) Honorary members, one (1) Associate member, and eight (8) new members.

Sidney reported the highlight of this past year was the 2015 Fall Soils Review. He was able to discuss membership and the scholarship with the attendees. Also he enlightened the crowd with information about the Photo Contest and soil profiles.

Sidney said PSSAT has added soil photos, and has encouraged folks to send in their photos from previous meetings. Ricky Lambert, Web Master, has added some Soils of Texas from the Soil ID contest from the previous meeting.

Sidney announced his goals as President;

1. Provide job announcements
2. Allow Ricky Lambert to revamp our PSSAT website
3. Promote soil science and PSSAT professional skills to state entities

He added that everyone's participation is critical, and input is valuable.

Sidney asked the crowd if they wished to continue with Field Meetings. Jacob Eickstead said we should have a tour next year. There was mention of Marfa, TX in 2017, and also, the 2019 SSSA meeting in San Antonio. There was discussion, but no motions made.

Sidney reminded all in attendance to purchase clothing, caps, and to please buy now, in order to purchase more.

**Chance Robinson, Treasurer** presented his report. Chance said he was presenting the Treasurer's report and the Finance committee. Overall, there was a \$416 loss last year, PSSAT lost about \$40 from merchandise, and lost a little from the 2015 Fall Soils Review.

Chance reported on the Scholarship Fund. He said it is currently in the red, there is no money for postage, money is accumulating, but he may have to transfer money from the General Fund to cover some costs.

Sidney accepted a motion to move funds from the General Fund to the Scholarship Fund. It was seconded, and passed.

**Jamey Douglass, Editor** reported on sending out two newsletters this past year. He is always in need of articles and photos.

At this point, Sidney motioned to accept the previous Annual Meeting Minutes submitted in the newsletter. It was seconded and passed.

**Ricky Lambert, Webmaster** presented his report as a handout.

Web Site History – the site has been active for 16 years. Ricky Lambert and Craig Byrd were the first to develop a web site. Jon Brandt joined the effort in 1999. Ricky became the Webmaster in 2009. The PSSAT web site has received **36,879** visits since February 1, 2015. The average visits per month are **3,073**.

The top five types of domains visiting our site are; US Commercial, Networks, US Government, US Educational and Organizations.

We received hits from 63 foreign countries with the most visits coming from Brazil, Peoples Republic of China, Germany, Italy, Ukraine, and Russia.

The five most popular search phrases used to find our site are;

1. Careers in Soil Science
2. PSSAT
3. Texas Soils / Soils of Texas
4. Texas Soil Map
5. Ask a Soil Scientist

Ricky reported on the "Ask a Soil Scientist" inquiry. Four inquires were received last year. Thanks to Dr. David Weindorf, Dr. Clay Robinson, Dr. Donald McGahan, Sidney Paulson, Travis Waiser, Dennis Brezina, and Dr. Ted Zobeck for assisting with the inquires. Dr. Weindorf and Dr. Robinson answered the most inquiries.

Ricky said there were some weird searches, for example "2 men, 1 horse" = PSSAT. He said as far as Future Business, the presentation made by Jamey Douglass which included clues and soil profiles were going to be made into a Soils of Texas presentation. Ricky hopes to put together soil profiles and landscapes, and make them available on the PSSAT web site.

Dr. Cristine Morgan mentioned a book for the coffee table, Soils of Arkansas.

Ricky added that during the first part of the year, the PSSAT web site will be refurbished. A digital soil slide project has begun, and your participation and critiques are appreciated. Ricky added that he needs photos for the soil profiles and landscapes, with just a minimal amount of information, and is requesting photos with 2 to 3K pixels.

Ricky hopes to revamp the web site, as it is 1990 vintage. If you have ideas, please route them to Ricky, just send an email to the Webmaster from the PSSAT.org homepage.

**Chance Robinson** reported on the **PSSAT Membership Directory**, he is in need of corrections. He would like to know the Past Presidents, the Charter members. Sidney asked the crowd if they thought the directory was useful. Tom Feuerbacher asked about our deceased members, and how do we handle that topic. Dr. Wilding suggested we create a list of "deceased members." Chance said he would work on that.

**Shanna Dunn, Scholarship Committee Chair** reported a slow start with only four (4) applicants. She did say there was an applicant from Abilene Christian University. However, this year's winner is a Junior from Texas Tech University, Delaina Pearson. Delaina wanted PSSAT to know, "[the scholarship] will go a long way towards becoming a soil scientist. Endorse fully to keep the scholarship going." Shanna thanked all the Professors at the Universities for keeping students informed.

There was some issues with dispersing the check, so John Sackett III attempted to entertain the crowd.

**Jon Weidenfeld, Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chair**, replied changes were needed to update the dues section.

**Wayne Gabriel, Ethics Committee Chair** said he read our PSSAT Code of Ethics on the web site. A negative report was presented from the Ethics committee.

**Carlos Villarreal, Photo Contest Chair** presented the top three photos from each of the categories.

The categories are:

<u>Soil Profiles</u>	<u>Flora/Fauna</u>	<u>Miscellaneous / Other</u>
1 <sup>st</sup> - Dr. Weindorf	1 <sup>st</sup> -Chance Robinson	1 <sup>st</sup> -Chance Robinson
2 <sup>nd</sup> -Chance Robinson	2 <sup>nd</sup> -Chance Robinson	2 <sup>nd</sup> -John Sackett III
3 <sup>rd</sup> -Chance Robinson	3 <sup>rd</sup> -Ricky Lambert	3 <sup>rd</sup> -Amanda Bragg

Carlos reminded those in attendance to send in photos, and he would award the "gifts"

Maxine Levin said the photos for the new Soils Planner were due to her next week. In 2017, the theme was beautiful soils.

Sidney called on **Dr. Cristine Morgan, Texture Contest Chair** to make her report. Dr. Morgan said there were some Honorable Mentions; Wayne Gabriel, Carlos Villarreal, and Sarah Vaughan, (freshman at TAMU). But the winner for both textures was Wade Bott.

Sidney asked if there was any old or new business. Maxine Levin said there would be a Acid Forming/ Acid Sulfate meeting on July 17-23, 2016 at University of Maryland, College Park, MD.

Sidney next began the election of new Officers. Two offices were up for this years election, President-Elect and Vice President.

Sidney asked if there were nominees for President-Elect, Chance Robinson's name was called. Sidney asked for a motion to cease nominations, it was seconded and passed. A vote was called for Chance, motion passed with Chance being the new President-Elect.

Sidney asked if there were nominations for Vice President, and Carlos Villarreal was nominated. A motion was made to cease the nominations, it was seconded and passed. Carlos was voted in as Vice President. Sidney added the Executive Council would appoint a Treasurer.

At the passing of the gavel from Sidney to Jacob Eickstead, a book on Wildflowers of Texas and a coffee mug inscribed with "Come and Take it" was passed to Sidney.

Jacob adjourned the meeting.

2016 PSSAT Annual Meeting Photos



Carlos Villarreal registering with Chance Robinson, PSSAT Treasurer.



PSSAT members and guests enjoying the Social Time.



PSSAT Social



Meal time at PSSAT Annual Meeting. Wow, are those Fajitas with all the trimmings?



PSSAT Annual Meeting, dinner anyone?



Jacob Eickstead giving his presentation.



Dennis Brezina giving the Texture Contest a go. How much sand is in there?



Chance Robinson, PSSAT Treasurer giving his report.



Ricky Lambert, PSSAT Webmaster giving his report. What was that search about two men and a horse?



Shanna Dunn, Scholarship Committee Chair making her presentation.



Delaina Pearson, Texas Tech University, 2016 PSSAT Scholarship recipient.



John Sackett doing his comedy routine. I think he needs a few more jokes.



Shanna Dunn presenting the check to Delaina Pearson.



Carlos Villarreal, Photo Contest Chair naming all the winners. Why did Chance win so much? Could there be an ethic violation here?



Photo Contest Winner, Chance Robinson



Photo Contest Winner, Dr. Weindorf

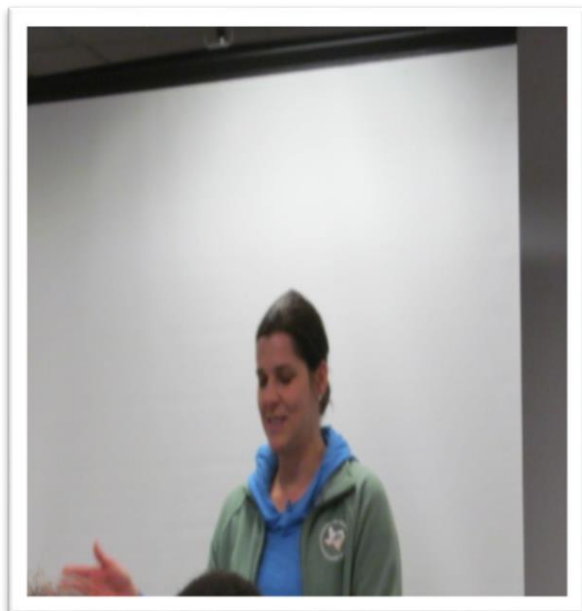




Photo Contest Winner, Ricky Lambert



Photo Contest Winner, Chance Robinson



Dr. Cristine Morgan presenting the results of the Texturing Contest.



2016 PSSAT President Jacob Eickstead, with his gavel.