



Texas Soil Profiles

2020 PSSAT Officers

President - Laurie Kiniry, USDA-NRCS, ret., Moody President-Elect - Shanna Dunn, USDA-NRCS, Corpus Christi
Vice-President - Jamey Douglass, USDA-NRCS, Temple
Treasurer - Travis Waiser, USDA-NRCS, Kerrville Editor - Jon Brandt, TerrEval Consulting, Corpus Christi
Past-President - Dr. Donald McGahan, Tarleton State Univ, Stephenville

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PSSAT President's Message, from Laurie Kiniry

Greetings All!

I sincerely hope that you and yours are doing well during this unprecedented time in our lives. None of us know what life in February 2021 will look like, but at present we are planning as if we will have our annual meeting then. We will keep you informed through the newsletter.

For several years, Jon Brandt has faithfully served as our Webmaster. He stepped down this past spring in that role, but he continues his service as our editor. Thank you, Jon, for your dedication to PSSAT! Thank you, Carlos Villarreal, for volunteering to become our new Webmaster. Carlos will continue to serve in this position even as he moves to Lincoln, Nebraska, as the new NRCS State Soil Scientist at the end of September. Congratulations, Carlos!

If you haven't already done so, please check out our Soil Scientist Spotlight section on the website. There is a great write-up from Kelly Attebury about his journey to becoming a soil scientist. I hope that you will consider sharing your story with us in the future.

The Executive Council will be working on committee member and committee chair assignments in order to be ready for our next annual meeting. You can view the list of committees and members on our website. Thanks to those that agreed to continue on their committees until the end of the year. If

you would like to volunteer to become a member of a committee, please let me know. Also, I hope that when you are contacted for a position, you will seriously consider serving the organization in this way.

If you have not renewed your membership lately, please consider doing so. We need you! Our 40th Anniversary will be in 2022 and we hope that those who have been away from us for a while will join us, especially as we celebrate that milestone. Many thanks to those who already have their membership up to date.

If you have an idea that you think will help PSSAT in fulfilling our mission, please contact me or any of the other officers.

Take care and stay safe,

Best Regards,
Laurie Kiniry
President

Minutes from the Professional Soil Scientists Association of Texas Annual Meeting

February 5, 2020 - kindly provided by Amanda Bragg

Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Cole Patton, PSSAT Vice-President, thanked everyone for coming. President Dr. McGahan was not able to attend the meeting.

Minutes from the previous year were approved.

Chair reports announcement: there were 15 vacancies on most of our committees

- Membership - 1
- Finance - 3
- Constitution and Bylaws - 3
- Nominations - 3
- Ethics - 1
- Public Relations - 1
- Scholarship - 0
- Those currently serving on the committees will be asked if willing to serve again.
- Recommended new business: Discuss adjustments for committee requirements.

The treasurers report was given by Cole Patton.

- Travis has filed the 990 N with the IRS

Constitution and bylaws report was given by Jamey Douglass. All needed corrections have been taken care of.

Scholarship committee reported this year's winner - Cynthia Jordan, a Plant and Soil Science undergraduate at Texas Tech University.

Ethics committee report was given by Wayne Gabriel. In the history of PSSAT, there has not been a single ethics violation reported.

The membership committee, represented by chair Carlos Villarreal, announced two new members. Dr. A. Payton Smith and Kelsie Groove.

Webmaster report was given. Jon Brandt, current webmaster, would not be able to continue his duties and requested a volunteer to take it over.

New Business:

Carlos Villarreal motioned to set up a committee to reevaluate the organization structure such as the term limits and/or numbers required for each of our committees. This might include doing membership drives and combining some of the committees and/or chair positions. Motion was seconded by Alan Stahnke.

Lindsey Slaughter announced that there would be a Soil Health/Soil Biology Workshop at USDA ARS station, scheduled for March 24th in Lubbock.

Nicole Shigley announced that the Texas A&M Soils Judging Team was selling t-shirts as a fundraiser for their trip to Nationals.

Elections:

Jamey Douglass was on the ballot for Vice President and Shanna Dunn for President-Elect.

No motions to add additional candidates were made from the floor. Alan Stahnke made a motion to accept the candidates. Amanda Bragg seconded.

Passing of the Gavel to 2020-2021 President Laurie Kiniry who thanked Cole Patton and Carlos Villareal for helping to take over in Dr. McGahan's absence.

Motion to Adjourn made by Ed Janak and seconded by Eddie Bearden. All were in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Proposed Project to Compile Database/History of Texas Soil Survey Authors & Staff

Jamey Douglass has been compiling the names of all the Soil Survey authors and staff, mainly from our published soil survey reports.

He currently has two lists: 1. mainly comprised of soil survey authors, and staff; and 2. includes soil survey staff, years worked, and number of surveys worked. He seems to be missing Brewster County, Main Part, but is pretty sure he has a draft of this survey up at office.

Jamey writes: "Perhaps in retirement, I could setup an database of name, Agency, survey range, College, Hometown or birthplace, and any funny stories."

"Lots of retired SCS/NRCS soil scientists may have stories to tell. I started in 1981, and never had the chance to work with, or know those who preceded me. There might be some typos for names. Is Jack C. Williams the same as Jack W. Williams? There are two Steven Park, and Stephen S. Parks, is this the same person? Also, there is a Herbert C. Stoner and a Herbert W. Stoner (I think), not sure if it's the same person."

He would like to reach out to retired Soil Survey folks - including some who are not current PSSAT members. If anyone else would like to help Jamey with this worthwhile project, please contact him (npahap[at]gmail.com). It would be a fitting tribute to have an accurate and complete documentation of the people involved in Soil Survey activities in Texas.

Soils News

Researchers have devised an alternative method for determining soil density using smartphones:

<https://www.soils.org/news/science-news/smartphones-prove-be-time-saving-analytical-tools>

Personal note: I would have really appreciated this as a student worker in the Soil Characterization Lab at TAMU. It seems easier and much less odorous than coating peds (clods) in a mixture of methyl ethyl ketone (MEK) and saran resin...

More research using VIS-NIR spectroscopy as a tool to speed up the assessment of oil spills:

<https://www.soils.org/news/science-news/technology-can-help-speed-soil-recovery-after-oil-spills>

Call for Newsletter Articles

Please send articles, information, or photos that are suitable for future newsletters to: editor@pssat.org

Thank you!