



PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTISTS ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

Texas Soil Profiles

2022 PSSAT Officers

President - Jamey Douglass, USDA-NRCS, retired, Temple **President-Elect** - Cole Patton, USDA-NRCS, Bryan
Vice-President - Dr. Richard Griffin, Prairie View A&M Univ., Prairie View
Treasurer - Travis Waiser, USDA-NRCS, Kerrville **Editor** - Jon Brandt, TerrEval Consulting, Corpus Christi
Past-President - Shanna Dunn, USDA-NRCS, Corpus Christi

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Minutes from the Professional Soil Scientists Association of Texas Annual Meeting

The following was compiled from minutes taken by Lauren Selph and Jamey Douglass, along with other details from the Zoom recording and meeting session statistics. Many thanks to Lauren and Jamey!

February 8, 2022

Meeting conducted online, via Zoom. Meeting called to order at 7:14 p.m.

Online statistics: 35 attendees (included one guest). Meeting duration: approximately 1-½ hours

Shanna Dunn, PSSAT President, thanked everyone for attending.

Attendees introduced themselves: Eddie Bearden; Amanda Bragg; Jon Brandt; Dennis Brezina; Susan Casby-Horton; Jamey Douglass; Shanna Dunn; Tom Feuerbacher; Wayne Gabriel; Ed Griffin; Ayush Gyawali; Chris Hobbs; Julie Howe; Ed Janak; Laurie Kiniry; Drew Kinney; Shelby Lain; Lindsay Lang; Conrad Neitsch; Jo Parsley; John Patton; Sidney Paulson; Charles Pehl; Paul Reynolds; Chance Robinson; John Sackett; Lauren Selph; Nicole Shigley; Lindsey Slaughter; Peyton Smith; Alan Stahnke; Carlos Villarreal; Richard W. Griffin; Travis Waiser; and Briana Wyatt.

Shanna asked Jamey Douglass for his presentation. He conducted a “Guess the Series” contest, where photos of 20 soil profiles were shown and the taxonomic information was provided. Participants were asked to identify the soil series in question and submit their answers via email by midnight that evening. Jamey told all interested a special gift would be hand delivered or sent in the mail.

Guess the Series Contest - conducted by Jamey Douglass

Serving in the role as President-Elect, I attempted to contact some representatives to be a speaker at our Annual Meeting. Unfortunately, no one was available for the topic. I previously was working on a Soil Profile presentation for my Master Naturalist Chapter. With the approval of the Executive Committee, I prepared a soil series contest.

Granted, knowing soil series is part of the job for USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA NRCS) soil scientists, but was hoping those outside the agency might be interested in looking at soil profiles. Some sixteen years ago, when I was promoted to the State Office of the USDA-NRCS in Temple, my job was Technical Editor. I prepared the manuscripts for county/parish soil surveys. At the time, we started using color photos, and all the manuscripts had soil profiles. During my time as Technical Editor, I had a chance to see lots of soil profiles. This is how I accumulated most of the photos used in the Guess the Series contest.

Twenty soil profiles were shown, with lots of hints. The taxonomic classification, MLRA, county/parish of origin, and land use clues were given. The deadline for submitting answers closed the night of the annual meeting, with the thought being if more time was given, folks could use other means to determine the series...

So, four brave NRCS Soil Scientists took the challenge. Chance Robinson, Texas Soil Scientist Staff, Temple, Texas; Dennis Brezina, State Soil Health Specialist, Temple, Texas; John L. Sackett III, Weatherford Zone Soil Scientist, Weatherford, Texas; and Sidney Paulson, MLRA 80-85 Staff, Stephenville, Texas were the contestants.

Of the four, only one gave 20 answers. One contestant got the first seven series correct. Dennis Brezina will be gifted a special item from closet of Jamey Douglass: a PSSAT cap (never used).

First Place: Dennis Brezina
Second Place: Chance Robinson
Third Place (Tie): John Sackett and Sidney Paulson

Shanna moved to the Annual Business meeting. She had Jon Brandt post the minutes from the 2021 Annual meeting on the screen. Jon advanced the pages so all could see. Shanna gave a brief overview of the minutes. Amanda Bragg motioned to approve the minutes and Sidney Paulson seconded. The minutes were approved by a “YES” from participants. Motion passed with no “NOs”.

Treasurer’s Report from Travis Waiser - see pages 6 to 8 for balance sheets

Shanna called on Travis Waiser to present the Treasurer’s report. Travis remarked some balances were a little off due to a deposit this year instead of last year. Other items of note:

- Some money was not transferred from previous year; bank balance decreased
- Scholarship and general funds increased

- Three checks written to reimburse for Zoom meeting purchase, web address reimbursement, and scholarship check
- Credits were dues and PayPal deposits
- Filed I90 for 2021

Travis also indicated that his branch of the Bank of America was closing. Travis said he would check with other financial institutions in the area. Travis replied adding signatures on the account was a problem with Bank of America. Chance Robinson is the other person to sign checks on the account. Travis said he and Chance are on the account and he will follow up about adding people to the account.

Shanna opened the floor for discussion. Amanda Bragg made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Ed Griffin seconded the motion. The motion was passed by acclamation.

Webmaster Report from Carlos Villarreal

Carlos mentioned Jamey and thanked him for writing a Soil Scientist Spotlight article for the organization (it was published on the PSSAT website and in the newsletter). Jamey Douglas is the spotlight on the website as a founding member of PSSAT. Carlos encouraged others to send in a spotlight description. He mentioned the following items:

- He's worked to modernize/update links on website and is continuing to update. He encountered some issues with the current edition of the Constitution and Bylaws, especially formatting as a .pdf file - this will be worked on.
- He said an updated list of committee chairs and members was in the works. He wants to include pictures of officers and add committee member names to website.
- Mentioned that PSSAT also has a Twitter and Facebook account

Shanna opened the floor for discussion. The website report does not require a vote.

Editor's Report from Jon Brandt

- Three issues of the newsletter were published last year. The goal for 2022 is to have at least four issues, to help commemorate the 40th anniversary of PSSAT
- If there is an anniversary-worthy topic that you'd like to see published, please let me know.
- As well as posting the Soil Scientist Spotlight articles on the website, I've started including them in the newsletter. It's one of the best additions we've had to our PR/Education mission. The next spotlight article is about Jon Wiedenfeld. You may be next soil scientist the PR/Education Committee asks to be highlighted...
- If you have photos from past annual meetings or field trips or have an interesting experience in the field (even better with photos), please submit them for publication in the newsletter.

Shanna opened the floor for questions. Ed Janak said that the 40th anniversary could bring up pictures from former years. Shanna said more comments on the 40th anniversary celebration could be shared later in the semester.

Scholarship Committee Report from Amanda Bragg

- Scholarship recipient this year was Shelby Lain from West Texas A&M University
- Shelby thanked the organization for the scholarship
- Jon Brandt asked about moving scholarship deadline up but committee will discuss. Travis Waiser said moving deadline up may hurt applications and suggested moving it later
 - o Shelby Lain was asked about her opinions on the deadline and she shared that final exams at WTAMU are normally the first week of December and first week of May. Nicole Shigley agreed with the finals schedule for TAMU. Shanna shared some brief history of the evolution of the PSSAT scholarship

Constitution and By-laws Committee Report from Jamey Douglass

Jamey had nothing to report. He will check with Carlos on the current version of this document on the PSSAT website. Carlos will send a Word to Jamey for the document that is currently on the PSSAT website. Jamey will get committee together to go through the constitution and bylaws and will be presented for vote at next year's meeting.

Finance Committee Report from Jon Wiedenfeld

Shanna next reported for Jon Wiedenfeld, Finance Committee, as Jon was not present. Jon said that the treasurer's report was reviewed by him and the committee and no errors were found -- "Everything looked fine."

Membership Committee Report from Jamey Douglass

Jamey thanked his committee members. Two new members were present tonight, Chris Hobbs, NRCS Resource Soil Scientist from Corpus Christi, and Brianna Wyatt, Texas A&M University (TAMU). Also, based on the earlier introduction, Ayush Gyawali (TAMU) joined this week. Total of 3 new members.

Public Relations and Education Committee Report from Dennis Brezina - see pages 8 to 10

for report

- Shared a history of PSSAT including the logo designed by Wayne's daughter Lindsey (see updated logo commemorating our 40th anniversary below).
- PR committee practiced social distancing throughout the pandemic, but discussed having a speaker's bureau made up of PSSAT members
- Showed a charter member roster shared by Laurie Kiniry and a few pictures from the 10th annual meeting in 1992



Committee reports concluded and Shanna opened the floor for discussion regarding any additions to old business -- No response! Shanna asked if there was any New Business? No response! Shanna did note there was hope for a PSSAT field tour in the fall.

Shanna called on Laurie Kiniry, Past President to conduct the elections. Laurie thanked the committee members for serving this past year. They were Alan Stahnke and Edward Griffin. The nominees presented for 2022 are:

- Vice President - Dr. Richard Griffin, Prairie View A&M University
- President-Elect - Cole Patton, USDA-NRCS, Zone 4 (Bryan) Resource Soil Scientist

Laurie asked if a ballot was presented in the newsletter, Jon Brandt replied yes. Laurie asked Travis Waiser if there were any ballots in the mail, Travis answered no. Laurie asked for a motion to accept the nominees. Ed Janak made a motion to accept the nominees. The motion was seconded. The nominees were accepted by acclamation.

Shanna, our outgoing President, had some concluding remarks. She thanked everyone for assisting her this past year. She said she could not thank everyone enough. The officers and members were great, and anytime she asked for help, all came through. She closed with thanking everyone for allowing her to serve as President.

At that time, Shanna passed the gavel to Jamey Douglass, virtually. Incoming President Jamey Douglass reminded everyone to send him their series guesses. Jamey then said he had nothing to say and entertained a motion to adjourn. The motion was made, seconded, and passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.

Annual Meeting Reports

Treasurer's Report

Summary of Financial Information									
BANK OF AMERICA CREDITS									
General	\$961.06								
Scholarship	\$1,790.00								
	Total Credits \$2,751.06								
BANK OF AMERICA DISBURSEMENTS									
General	\$80.53								
Scholarship	\$1,500.00								
	Total Disbursements \$1,580.53								
	Difference \$1,170.53								
Bank Balance 1/1/2021	\$7,563.30								
Bank Balance 12/31/2021	\$8,733.83								
	Difference \$1,170.53								
PAYPAL CREDITS	\$1,093.00								
PAYPAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$41.49								
	Difference \$1,051.51								
PayPal Balance 1/1/2021	\$1,292.77								
PayPal Balance 12/31/2021	\$0.00								
	Difference (\$1,292.77)								
CASH ON HAND AND IN BANK -- 1/1/2021	\$8,856.07								
CASH ON HAND AND IN BANK -- 12/31/2021	\$8,733.83								
	Difference (\$122.24)								
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tbody> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">General Fund at Beginning of Year</td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: right;">\$3,952.01</td> <td style="width: 25%;">Scholarship Fund Beginning of Year</td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: right;">\$3,611.29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>General Fund End of Year</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$4,832.54</td> <td>Scholarship Fund End of Year</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$3,901.29</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		General Fund at Beginning of Year	\$3,952.01	Scholarship Fund Beginning of Year	\$3,611.29	General Fund End of Year	\$4,832.54	Scholarship Fund End of Year	\$3,901.29
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General Fund End of Year	\$4,832.54	Scholarship Fund End of Year	\$3,901.29						

General Fund			
Date	Debits	Credits	Description
1/14/2021		\$547.77	PayPal deposit - dues/meals/merchandise
2/25/2021		\$80.00	deposit - dues/meals/merchandise
3/1/2021	\$15.98		check 1398
1/21/2021		\$0.06	interest
2/18/2021		\$0.07	interest
3/23/2021		\$0.07	interest
4/22/2021		\$0.06	interest
5/20/2021		\$0.06	interest
6/2/2021		\$10.00	deposit - dues/meals/merchandise
6/22/2021		\$0.07	interest
7/22/2021		\$0.06	interest
8/23/2021		\$0.07	interest
9/22/2021		\$0.06	interest
10/21/2021		\$0.06	interest
11/15/2021	\$64.55		check 1400 (Jon Brandt - website)
11/19/2021		\$0.06	interest
12/2/2021		\$322.51	PayPal deposit - dues/meals/merchandise
12/23/2021		\$0.08	interest
Total	\$80.53	\$961.06	
	\$880.53		

Scholarship Fund			
Date	Debits	Credits	Description
01/14/21		\$745.00	PayPal deposit
02/25/21		\$296.00	deposit
03/01/21	\$1,500.00		check 1399 (scholarship)
6/2/2021		\$20.00	deposit
12/2/2021		\$729.00	PayPal deposit
Total	\$1,500.00	\$1,790.00	
	\$290.00		

Public Relations & Education Committee Report

"Nature has endowed the earth with glorious wonders and vast resources that we may use for our own ends. Regardless of our tastes or our way of living, there are none that present more variations to tax our imagination than the soil, and certainly none so important to our ancestors, to ourselves, and to our children." --Charles E. Kellogg, Chief of Soil Survey Division, Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, "USDA Yearbook of Agriculture," 1938

- 1) The Professional Soil Scientists Association of Texas was formed in 1982. Wayne Gabriel won a contest that PSSAT set up to create a logo for the Association. Using inspiration from the ARCPACS logo, Wayne created a logo that went on to win the contest (and a \$100 prize). I'm not good at accounting, so I'll let some of y'all figure out how much money that would be with interest.

Creativity runs deep in the Gabriel family, and Wayne's daughter, Lindsay, used her training in graphics design to create a digital logo in 2007 for the 25th Anniversary. The letterhead above is part of her work. Wayne had received permission from the Association to have Lindsay develop an updated digital logo for our use on all documents and PSSAT paraphernalia. Wayne thinks it was her first paying job as a graphic designer. Lindsay has now created a 40-year logo.

- 2) The Public Relations Committee has maintained social distancing and has not had close relations with the public in the past year. Jon Brandt had an idea and had talked to Nathan about PSSAT possibly having a "speaker's bureau" comprised of PSSAT members. Each of us have likely given basic soils presentations for Master Naturalist, Texas State Envirothon and other groups. This certainly sounds like a reasonable thing to do, as we sometimes get requests that are logistically difficult for us to cover. As an example, Jim Aiken provided a soils presentation for the Texas Envirothon a few years ago that I was unable to provide.
- 3) Laurie Kiniry provided me a photo file of the Charter Members of PSSAT. I want to give a big thank you to Laurie for that. Within the list, it includes an asterisk (*) next to the names of those that were present and voting at the organizational meeting in February 1983.

There are some names that I have not thought about for some time, and some that I only knew by reputation (four syllable word for rumor). Far too many that have passed on from this world, and some that I did not know were soil scientists at one time. I have compiled the list into a word document that we will try to include in a future newsletter during this 40th Anniversary year? A list of the names is below:

* B.L. Allen	* Richard Drees	Harold W. Hyde	William M. Risinger
* John E. Allison	Harold <u>Dregne</u>	John S. Jacob	Jerry L. Rives
Paul <u>Askenasy</u>	Gordon B. Evans, Jr.	Jerry L. Jacobs	Kirtheil Roberts
Daniel Arriaga	* Thomas A.	* Edward F. Janak	* Catherine C.
* Charles D. Batte	Feuerbacher	* J. Keith Justice	Sherwood
* Eddie Bearden	Charles R. Fuchs	* Laurie Kiniry	Terrence M. <u>Sobecki</u>
W.F. Bennett, Sr.	* Dennis J. Gaber	* Ken Koehler	Levi Steptoe, Jr.
* Earl Blakley	* Wayne J. Gabriel	* Gaylon L. Lane	* Jack W. Stevens
Dan Blackstock	John M. Galbraith	* Kenneth W. Launius	Billy Ray Stringer
Eugene A. <u>Brams</u>	* James M. <u>Germann</u>	* Audrey C. Lowther	* Charles M.
* Lester C. Brockman	* C.L. Girdner	Charlie G. Meier	Thompson
Sam Brown	<u>Auline R. Goerdel</u>	Murray H. Milford	Rosendo Trevino III
Roy H.L. Bruns	<u>Micheal L. Golden</u>	* Glen Miller	Fred J. Turner
S.L. Carlisle	Lester Gordon	Wesley L. Miller	Kenneth E.
* Dee Carson	Carl Gray	* Fred W.	<u>Watterston</u>
Joseph J. Castille	Lynn D. Gray	<u>Minzenmayer</u>	* Leroy E. <u>Werchan</u>
* Glen Chervenka	* James M.	Ramiro Molina	* Larry West
* Rex A. Cochran	Greenwade	James Mulkey, Jr.	Larry Wilding
Dennis F. <u>Clover</u>	Edward L. Griffin	David D. <u>Neher</u>	Morris F. Wilhelm
Daniel R. Coffee	Kirby L. Griffith	Conrad L. <u>Neitsch</u>	John S. <u>Wilkey</u>
* Nat Conner	John A. Groves, III	* Allen Newman	DeWayne Williams
Gerald <u>Crenwelge</u>	* William J. <u>Guckian</u>	* Joe Nichols	Jack C. Williams
Wilfred <u>Crenwelge</u>	* Tom Hallmark	* Steven S. Park	Dennis L. Williamson
Jack <u>Crout</u>	* Billy L. Harris	Alan C. Peer	Jim Wyrick
* Thomas E. Cyprian	Don <u>Hatherly</u>	Fred Pringle	David <u>Zabeik</u>
Dwaine Daniels	H.P. Trey Herbert	Ivan Radcliff	Richard <u>Zartman</u>
James A. Dement	Stanley <u>Hitt</u>	* Robert N. Ramsey	
* Glenn W. Dittmar	Paul D. Holland	Joe L. Randall	
* James A. Douglass	Thomas H. Holt	* Dennis D. <u>Ressel</u>	

* Present and voting at organizational meeting, February 1983

4) I had a photo from the 10th Annual PSSAT meeting in College Station with eight of the past presidents: W. Glen Chervenka; Kirthell Roberts; Gaylon Lane; Wayne Gabriel; Charles Batte; Ed Janak; C.T. Hallmark; and Charlie Thompson.



5) I also have this photo from likely that same year at the College Station Hilton Hotel (although this may have been SCS only).

Front row: Dick Babcock, Sam Brown; Second row: Gaylon Lane, Mike Risinger, Levi Steptoe, Charles Batte; Third row: Alan Terrell, Wes Miller; Fourth row: Paul Holland?, Dennis Ressel, Joe Castille, Dennis Brezina; Back row(s): Dennis Faulk, Corey Moffet, Don Hatherly, Dave Wagner, Harold Hyde, Tommy Lovelace.



Soil Scientist Spotlight - Jon Wiedenfeld



I was born on New Year's Day in Fredericksburg in 1962. My family operated a farm/ranch about half-way between Comfort and Boerne along Big Joshua Creek. In 2011, our family's operation became a Century Farm. I joined 4H when I was 6 years old and my project from the start to end of high school was raising broilers. Broilers always turned a profit. As I recall, Kendall County did not have a soil judging contest but the SWCD held a plant ID contest each year. I won the contest in the junior division in 1971. (I followed our best high schooler and it seemed his answers were pretty accurate.) I chose Texas A&M because that is where you went for an ag-related degree and a good chunk of my uncles and cousins had gone there. Somewhere around '74, we took a trip to A&M to visit a cousin and he got us tickets to the A&M vs. TCU game. The Aggie Band was amazing so I decided when I went there, I would be in the Band. Upon graduating in '84, I was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant and that Fall I started at Ft Huachuca, AZ. It was a nice quiet Army post. In '85, I was transferred to Ft Bliss, El Paso, TX. The Army told me I could see the world, but they couldn't get me out of my home state. I was in Military Intelligence, and the most interesting assignment I had was a 6-month detail to Honduras. This was during the time of the Nicaraguan Sandinistas vs. Contras. The biggest benefit I received from that duty was having to give a briefing every day. That routine knocked out any fear of going up in front of an audience. Since I held a Reserve Officer commission, I was able to transition from active duty to the reserves in 1987. I stayed in the Army Reserve until I retired with 20 years of service in 2005.

In the fall of 1987, my uncle, Clarence Wiedenfeld, told me that the SCS was going to hire a bunch of soil scientists and suggested I fill out the paperwork to get on the list. There were several positions open for a soil scientist. I chose the initial soil survey of Karnes County. The other choices included East Texas or the Panhandle. I reported to work at the end of January 1988. I was supposed to work for 6 months or so with the DC but there was such a push for getting soils maps done for Food Security Act programs, that I never did the orientation with the conservationists. To this day, I don't know how to do a conservation plan. My first field day was a cold, windy overcast day in February. Ramiro Molina, GS 9 Soil Scientist, took me out for training. On one of the first uses of the push probe, the probe extension came apart from its connection with the probe. This left a one-inch diameter probe stuck some 2 or 3 feet below the soil surface. Mr Molina reached into the toolbox and grabbed two sharpshooters and told me start digging because the Area/State Office wasn't going to get us new probes any time soon. That was my first hole.

We finished the soil survey of Karnes County in 1991. At that time, Ramiro had become the Area Soil Scientist for the Alice Area, and there was no place for me to go right away; so I sat in the office and worked on maps. A few weeks into this routine, I was summoned to the Area Office in Victoria. Wes Miller, Area Soil Scientist, told me that I was to do a 2-week detail in Goliad County on the Gulf Coast Prairies MLRA to map about 20,000 acres. That was my first taste of MLRA 150A. When I completed that detail, I was transferred to Gonzales and was on the initial soil survey for that county for almost 3 years.

I worked on the Gonzales County initial soil survey until 1994. Gonzales County was difficult to grasp. It has something like 16 geologic formations, two soil temperature regimes and was almost in the udic moisture regime. My most memorable experience came one day in the Fall of 1991. Ed Griffin, party leader, wanted to have all the SWCD board members places mapped as one of the first things we did. The owner told me it was ok to be on the place and that he wasn't going to be there for several days. One afternoon, I noticed smoke coming up on a portion of the ranch that I had just worked. The grass was dry, and I jumped the conclusion that I had started a fire with a hot exhaust system. I drove toward the smoke and found a sizable fire. Since I was at the county road, I drove to the local service station to report the fire and I went back to the ranch. A few minutes after getting back, the owner showed up and I told him about the fire. He asked me to help him get a plow on his tractor and together we went up to the fire area. By that time, volunteer fire department had arrived. In about 3 hours the fire was subdued, and I went back to the house with the owner. I told him I may have been the one that started the fire and that I was very sorry for the loss of his pasture. He told me the firemen had already found a cigarette butt by the county road at the start of the burn area. At that point, he asked me if I knew why he was absent the past two mornings. I said I did not, and he told me that he and his wife had gone to Victoria to be interviewed by the newspaper. The man was a Pearl Harbor veteran and was being interviewed about his experience on that day. He told me the whole account of the day from his point of view and ended the story by waving his arm in the air and saying that everything on his ranch could've burned up, but that he had seen a lot worse on Dec 7, 1941.

From Gonzales, I went to Hardin County, deep in the flatwoods of southeast Texas. Every soil scientist from drier parts of the state should spend some time in an area that gets 60+ inches of rain per year. The first year I was there, we had over 80 inches with a few local rain gauges totaling over 100. You discover soon that you can't let a few raindrops chase you away from the field if you want to get anything done. In addition, the primary crop grown is the loblolly pine. In my opinion, the pine tree doesn't care too much about our drainage classes. If you want to see spodosols or soils with pH less than 4, head to the flatwoods.

My last stop was Rosenberg. I started as the MLRA 150 soil survey leader in 1996. It was supposed to be an office focused on updating soil surveys in MLRAs 150, 151, and 152B, but the first 12 years were spent on various initial soil surveys. It always seemed that every time we started to update an area, we got pulled away to do something else of higher importance. Nonetheless, we were able to completely update the Texas portion of MLRA 152B and the Katy Prairie west of Houston. In addition, we assisted in several studies. Lastly, we started in 2019 a Coastal Zone Soil Survey of West Galveston Bay. Trying to collect, describe and map subaqueous soils is a challenge. If you want to see a transformation of soils from completely reduced to oxidized, take a core out of the bay, and open it up. At first, all you see are neutral colors. Within a few minutes the transformation starts to occur, and you will see the colors change from neutral, to greens or blues. The oxidation process continues, and the soils become yellower to brown. In about a week or so, the profile looks almost like a subaerial one. At the time of opening the core, you see no redox features but after a week, you see manganese masses and iron oxides.

MLRA 150isms:

- 1) If you are working in the Gulf Coast Prairie MLRA and you are working inland; if you find a rock, turn around, you are no longer in MLRA 150.
- 2) If you are driving along and you see hydrophytic vegetation ahead, don't keep driving toward it.
- 3) It's a good idea to keep some boards, baling wire and chain handy in your truck.
- 4) The winch and 4-wheel drive only give you a false sense of security.
- 5) Know where the water goes or went, and you will know the soils.
- 6) Episaturation is the rule west of Houston; East of Houston can have epi and endo

- 7) Just a little sodium (an SAR of 6) in a soil can make it setup hard when dry and affect vegetation.
- 8) Redox boundaries don't seem to tell me much and are hard to describe.
- 9) "It's not that it is higher, it's more like everything else is lower." (I first heard this from Glen Chervenka)
- 10) Know your rivers. These are the key to parent material.

MLRA 152Bisms

- 1) Hydrophytic vegetation is everywhere
- 2) Settlers knew which areas did not flood or was on higher ground (homes & barns); start thinking about a well/mod well drained soil.
- 3) Sassafras and American Beautyberry don't like it wet and tend to be on sandier soils
- 4) Spodosols do exist in Texas
- 5) Just because the pine tree is crooked, doesn't mean it is growing in vertisols (salinity/sodicity)
- 6) Pine trees appear to not care much about most of our drainage classes.
- 7) Put away your acid bottle as a test for carbonates.
- 8) Alligators don't like 152B.

MLRA 150Bisms

- 1) Haven't seen a medium, coarse or very coarse sand grain on the barrier island, in the Bay, or estuary.
- 2) Subaqueous soils of West Galveston Bay typically have only 4 layers and you have to imagine one or two of those sometimes.
- 3) The same suite of soils you saw in 150A occur in 150B but now have salinity issues.
- 4) I've only seen young alligators in saltwater.
- 5) Cattails are in fresh water
- 6) Gulf Cordgrass is a good marker between the fresh and saltwater.

PSSAT 40th Anniversary - photos of prior meetings



Figure 1. Attendees at 2002 annual meeting, held at the College Station Holiday Inn



Figure 2. Attendees at 2002 annual meeting, held at the College Station Holiday Inn



Figure 3. Attendees at 2003 annual meeting, held at the G. Rollie White Visitor Center

Soils News

B.L. Allen Endowed Chair of Pedology

This tenured 9-month faculty appointment has not been filled yet. The primary responsibilities include leading an internationally recognized program in pedology at Texas Tech University. For more information on the position and to apply, click on the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/yc257xuk>

USDA-NRCS 2022 Soils Planner

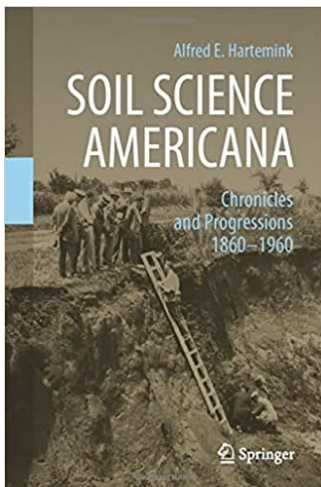
You can download the PDF here:

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/PA_NRCSConsumption/download?cid=nrcseprd1856835&ext=pdf

You can order paper copies here:

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New Book - History of Soil Science in the U.S.



Written by Dr. Alfred E. Hartemink (Univ. of Wisconsin, Dept. of Soil Science). Available in three versions: hardback (\$49.99); Kindle (\$39.99); and eBook rental (starting at \$15.00).

“This book narrates how the study of the soil became a science and institutionalized in the USA between 1860 and 1960. The story meanders through the activities, ideas, publications, and correspondence of people who influenced the progressions, that led to the budding and early blossoming of American and international soil science. Interwoven is a tale of two farm boys who grew up 900 km apart in the Midwest USA in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Emil Truog and Charles Kellogg met in the late 1920s and shared a natural connection to the soil.”

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