



Texas Soil Profiles

2024 PSSAT Annual Meeting Information

Date: February 6, 2024

Location: C&J BBQ, Reville Rooms A&B, 2112 W. Briargate, Bryan, TX

Time: Social – 5:30 PM

Time: Annual Meeting – 6:30 PM

Cost: TBD (Last year about \$20)

2023 PSSAT Officers

President – Cole Patton, USDA-NRCS, Bryan

President-Elect – Dr. Richard Griffin, Prairie View A&M University

Vice President – Charles Pehl,

Treasurer – Travis Waiser, USDA-NRCS, Kerrville

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

Past President – Shanna Dunn, USDA-NRCS, Corpus Christi

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CTMN Soils Field Day](#)

President's Message from Cole Patton

First off, thank you all for your continued support and interest in PSSAT. There's something to be said about those who are committed. I especially want to thank those that have been committed to PSSAT for a long time. Your efforts and continued support are more appreciated than you know. Most of you have been part of the foundation and direction of PSSAT. To that, I am very grateful, and I know the newer soil scientists will be too.

I've enjoyed my service as President and encourage anyone slightly interested to make themselves known. Our Executive Council had several meetings where we were preparing a field trip but came up short due to some unforeseen circumstances. I want to thank them for putting things aside and jumping on meetings when called to address items.

I personally want to thank Jamey Douglas and Travis Waiser for their commitments to PSSAT. All our publications have always been precise and professional. Our money has always been spot on and never in question. Have ya'll met Travis? He's tighter than two coats of paint! There are many others who have always helped tremendously in the background to keep things afloat.

In 2024 we will be welcoming in Dr. Richard Griffin as the new PSSAT President. I know he will lead us in the right direction. If you are interested in serving or assisting PSSAT please reach out to him. If you have any students interested in the \$1500 scholarship, please direct them to our website for instruction.

Lastly, I look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting Feb 6th 2024, at C&J BBQ, (Bryan-Briargate Rd location) from 5:30 – 8:00 pm.



Professional Soil Scientist Association of Texas February 3, 2023 Annual Meeting

Members and Guest List

Dennis and Laura Brezina, Kelly Attebury, Jake Mowrer, Cole Patton, Chris Hobbs, Steven McGowan, Bryson Arnold (compliance w/ Geoscientists board), Ed Janak, Drew and Ann Kinney, Wayne Gabriel, Alex Sturm, Christine Morgan, Julie Howe, Peyton Smith, Charles Pehl, Tom Fuerbacher, Richard Griffin, Nicole Shigley, Ashley Anderson, Amanda Bragg, Laurie Kiniry, James Greenwade, Alan Stahnke, Jon Wiedenfeld, Conrad Neitsch, Jamey Douglass, Felipe Aburto, and Ayush Joshi Gyawali

Richard Griffith presented on special forensic soil science project in New Mexico at Holloman Air Force Base.



Meeting called to order at 7:05

Recognition of 2022-2023 Executive Council. Special caps were awarded to members of Executive Council.

Approval of last year's minutes. Motion by Wayne Gabriel and seconded by Ed Janak. Approved as presented.

Committee reports –

1. Cole Patton, President-Elect, Membership report - no new members
2. Finance committee - Travis is out. beginning \$4832, \$5177 at the end general fund
3. Amanda Bragg, Scholarship - no applications. Some discussion on this topic.
4. Jon Brandt, Editor, presented by Jamey; Soil scientist spotlight
Website report - soil scientist spotlight is a great addition. Less visits than last year. In 2022, about 8000 hits on website, this year about 800 hits. Cost for website \$65 a year. Only three requests for ask a soil scientist
5. Jamey Douglass, Constitution and Bylaws - went through and updated number issues after ethics committee was dissolved. Its available on the website
6. Shanna Dunn (not present), Nominations conducted by Jamey.

2023 Slate of Officers

President: Cole Patton
President-Elect - Dr Richard Griffin
Vice President - Charles Pehl
Jamey Douglass - Editor
Treasurer - Travis Waiser

No nominations from the floor. Acclamation of nominees accepted.

Discussion about treasurer duties... next term Travis is not willing to continue to serve.

Send current address and email to jameyd2@startmail.com to update the directory.

President Message

Jamey wanted to have a tour of Bastrop County. Shanna Dunn and the DC had contacts. He found a compost making site and thought the membership might be interested. Shanna had mentioned a High Tunnel with local produce. Wanted to visit the Lost Pines post fire. This was the goal, then he had bruised ribs and the local temperatures exceeded 100 deg F for 3 months, all fell apart. He said he let PSSAT down. PSSAT conducted a merchandise survey. Of the potential 40 PSSAT members, only 16 responded. There were too many choices and sizes with shirts. Jamey suggested to Dennis not to worry about the shirts. He did instruct Dennis to see about having 40th Year patches made. Jamey found a cap he liked and had the caps made. Then had to go to another vendor to get another embroidery on back of cap. Caps were on sale at Annual Meeting for whatever a member was willing to pay. Funds for Scholarship, hopefully get to Travis Waiser, PSSAT Treasurer.

Dennis Brezina, Public Relations, and Education report - last meeting Dennis became chair by default. He didn't have any committee members but needs a handful of people. Hesitant to spend PSSAT money without other voices.

Issues with shirts - mixes of sizes and colors. At least \$50 or more to sell the shirts. Caps are about \$15 each or more. Patches would be \$700 for 200.

Nicole Shigley suggested sticker decals for coffee mugs and cars.

Nicole Shigley volunteered to serve on the PR committee.

Jamey asked membership for old business.

Called on Ed Janak. How many worked for Charlie Thompson? Charlie is someone many remember and one of the reasons why this organization exists and why it has for as long as it has. Propose that we rename the scholarship the Charlie Thompson memorial scholarship. Ed would like to put something in the form of a presentation and certificate at next years workshop. All the reasons for the naming and invite family members to be present.

Cristine Morgan proposed that when this is done to put it on the website.

Alan Stahnke mentioned that in the 60 years of the workshop Charlie and Larry Wilding were active throughout.

Passing of the gavel to Cole Patton. Jamey mentioned that he needs a list of people serving on committees.

Cole Patton - mentioned that field trips that everyone expects or wants them but suggests that a committee be formed so that it is not always on the president.

Cristine mentioned to make sure that they send out for students. Nicole agreed that as a soil judging.

Meeting adjourned at 7:39pm.



PSSAT Members listen to Dr. Richard Griffin.



Ed Janak discusses renaming PSSAT Scholarship name.



President-Elect Cole Patton adjourns the 40th PSSAT Annual Meeting.

Announcement For 2023-2024 “Charlie Thompson Memorial” Scholarship

OBJECTIVE

The scholarship is intended to recognize and support an outstanding undergraduate student studying to become a soil scientist at a college or university in Texas and to promote interest in careers in soil science.

SPONSOR

Professional Soil Scientists Association of Texas (PSSAT)

ELIGIBILITY

At the time of application, the student must be enrolled in a college or university in Texas, and be a sophomore, junior, or senior in a program of study that can lead to a career as a soil scientist. The student must be an undergraduate in good standing at the time the scholarship is awarded.

Students seeking a second BS, BA, or equivalent degree are not eligible. The minimum completed course work necessary for consideration includes 3 semester hours in soil science and 12 semester hours in biological, physical, or earth sciences that support soil science.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Scholarship

Includes relevance of course work to a career in soil science, difficulty, and diversity of courses taken, grade point ratio, honors and awards for scholarship, and membership in honor societies.

Leadership and Extracurricular Activities

Participation in recognized clubs and organizations, soil judging teams and other judging teams, elected offices, committees, projects, and similar endeavors. Additionally, honors and awards for leadership and extracurricular activities will be considered.

Personal Traits

Evidence of personal traits such as character, ethics, dependability, a can-do spirit, and a strong work ethic. Work experience and honors, awards, or activities that reflect person traits will also be considered. These should be supported by letters of reference.

AMOUNT

One \$1500 scholarship will be awarded for the 2023-2024 school year.

APPLICATION

Applicants must submit the following materials to the PSSAT Scholarship Committee by January 22, 2024:

1. Completed application form (<http://www.pssat.org/college-scholarships/>)
2. A concise resume, no more than 2 pages
3. Two letters of support; to be mailed in separate, sealed envelopes by supporter to the
4. address below or emailed directly to the committee at scholarship@pssat.org.
5. A copy of a current official transcript
6. A letter addressing your background, educational programs, leadership qualities, and
7. career objectives.

To apply by mail, please forward documents to the following address:

Amanda Bragg
RE: PSSAT Scholarship Committee
3878 W Houston Harte Expy.
San Angelo, Texas 76901

To apply by email (preferred), send the application packet to: scholarship@pssat.org

Contact scholarship@pssat.org for any questions about the scholarship or application process.

The Professional Soil Scientists Association of Texas is a 501(c)(6) organization which promotes the profession of Soil Science. Visit our website at PSSAT.org for more information.

Three Past Presidents of PSSAT help with Central Texas Master Naturalist Soils Field Day By Jamey Douglass, PSSAT Editor

As a retired soil scientist, sharing my knowledge and expertise with Central Texas Master Naturalists has been a dream for a few years. In 2022, a date was set for a Soils Field Day, then an injury, and three months of 100-degree days postponed that event.

This year a soils field training event came together on May 9th on ag production land owned by Lynn and Robert Fleming. Lynn is a Master Naturalist and retired from FSA, but continues helping manage Fleming Grain & Cattle.

There were 11 field day participants from Central Texas, El Camino Real and Heart of Texas Master Naturalist Chapters. **Instructors were three NRCS Soil Scientists: Dr. Laurie Kiniry (retired), John Sackett III (NRCS based in Weatherford), and me (also retired).**

The Soils Field Day started off with Laurie discussing the progression of soil survey information from published paper soil surveys to CDs, and now the online Web Soil Survey. Jamey asked all participants to retrieve their phones, go to their Play Store, and upload the SoilWeb app. Some technical difficulties persisted, but most students were able to get the app up and running. Next John discussed soil series, and soil mapping units using trees as an example of grouping items. These are informational tools available to the public.

We broke into two groups, one with John and the other with Jamey and Laurie. We wanted to show the participants how to write a pedon (a 3-D soil sample) description using two different soils on the property—the Crockett and the Wilson series.

John's group had an advantage with his truck mounted hydraulic soil probe that he used to punch a soil core tube into the deep soil. The other group hand dug using a sharpshooter and a bucket auger in Crockett soils. We explained how to consistently describe soil color, soil texture, redox features, and calcium carbonate features. I made sure everyone turned the person-powered bucket auger. There was great feedback from participants and another Soils Field Day was planned.



Laurie Kiniry telling class about History of Soil Surveys



John Sackett III showing a core tube of the Wilson series to Soils Field Day Master Naturalists.



Jason Carrico and Alan Webster learn how to clean a bucket auger at the Soils Field Day Class from Jamey.

PSSAT Committees

Finance – Sidney Paulson (Chair), Eddie Bearden

Constitution and Bylaws – Jamey Douglass (Chair), Wayne Gabriel

Membership – Dr. Richard Griffin (Chair), Travis Waiser

Nominations – Jamey Douglass (Chair), Shanna Dunn

Public Relations and Education – Dennis Brezina (Chair), Jon Brandt, Nicole Shigley

Scholarship – Amanda Bragg

Reminder to PSSAT Committees, please be ready to give report at Feb 6th, 2024 Annual Meeting

Nomination Committee, 2024 Slate of Officers

President Elect: Alan Stahnke USDA-NRCS, Temple, TX

Vice President: Kelly Spencer, American Electric Power, Waskom, TX

Dr. Lindsey Slaughter, Texas Tech Univ, Lubbock. TX

Absentee ballots in Jan 2024 newsletter