



President's Message

Michael Whited

The last President's Message of my term and I have writers block, and I don't know how to deal with it. Never at a loss for words, except now. What the heck?

Thanks to the 2010 MAPSS EC for helping keep the ship afloat. Barb lending her Presidential experience, Peter keeping a record and keeping us organized, Larissa for balancing the checkbook, David for keeping us on task while he learns how not to do it, and Suzanne for, well, being herself. Also thanks to the Committee Chairs and members, when called to action, they have been on the spot to respond.

There were many folks who helped put the 2010 tour together and I thank all of them. I want to make special note of Janine Anderson's assistance. Little did we know when I volunteered the NRCS Pine County crew to help with the tour that the 'crew' would end up being Janine. And we did not even have time to go to her site. Lesson learned, plan for ALL contingencies, including bus break down!

I have now been living in Minnesota for 3 years. Although I knew a few of the SCS/NRCS crowd (and BWSR too) from my years in the SCS Regional Technical Center and as an NRCS National wetland soil scientist, it has been (and continues to be) a real pleasure meeting and interacting with all of you. It has been especially fun to work with you in the field and to see new dirt. And yes, I have no problem with the word dirt – derived from an old Norse word, *dritten*, meaning (politely) manure. As they would say back home, Ay yuh, that's some wicked good black dirt ya got heah. My standard line: would you rather have dirty pants or soiled pants? I say dirty!

Hope to see you all at the 2010 Winter Technical and Business Meeting, and getting dirty in the field next season.



The Executive Committee meetings are public. Email Michael if you want to join in at president@mnsoilscientist.org! These are typically held via conference calls.



Peter Miller, PSS, is the soil science member on the Board of AELSLAGID.

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Mark Your Calendars!

- October 31-November 4—ASA/CSSA/SSSA annual meeting in Long Beach, CA
- December 3, 2010—MAPSS Winter Technical event in St. Cloud, MN.
- More events on page 3.

MAPSS Summer Tour

Michael Whited and Suzanne D'Souza, PSS

Fun was had by all at the MAPSS Summer Tour that began in Franconia, Minnesota on August 6, 2010. This event was a partnered by MAPSS and the Wisconsin Society of Professional Soil Scientists (WSPSS). Attendees were from Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota and Illinois! We toured four different locations in Wisconsin and Minnesota showing the soils and surficial geology of the St. Croix River Valley, featuring ancient Glacial Lakes Grantsburg and Lind. Food was abundant along with sunshine and good spirits. MAPSS would like to show their appreciation to: WSPSS, NRCS, Caryl Radatz, Spectrum Research, Historical Information Gatherers, Larissa Schmitt, Keith Zygowicz, NRCS Polk County staff, Blair Klein, Scott Hansen, Scott Eversoll, Mark Krupinski, Janine Anderson, Royce Johnson, Barbara Walther and the Minnesota DNR.



Upcoming Events

October 31-November 4, 2010

ASA-CSSA-SSSA International Annual Meeting “Green Green Revolution 2.0: Food + Energy and Environmental Security”

Long Beach, California

www.acsmeetings.org

November 7-10, 2010

ICSE-5 5th International Conference on Scour and Erosion

San Francisco, California

<http://content.asce.org/conferences/icse-5>

December 3, 2010

MAPSS Winter Technical Event

St. Cloud, Minnesota

www.mnsoilscientist.org

January 10-14, 2011

12th Multidisciplinary Conference on Sinkholes

St. Louis, Missouri

<http://www.pela.com/sinkholeconference2011.htm>

Don't forget to nominate someone for Soil Scientist of the Year (2010) and VOTE for MAPSS president and MAPSS secretary for 2011!

Register for the next fundamental or professional soil science exams by at <http://www.aelslagid.state.mn.us/>

Keep an eye on these for 2011!

<https://www.soils.org/awards/award/>

Articles for the Winter issue of the Auger will be accepted through

January 15, 2011

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Executive Director Update

Board of AELSLAGID

PSS licenses had to be renewed by **June 30, 2010**. If you have not renewed your PSS license, you cannot practice soil science. If you renew, please make sure you have your CEUs before renewing and that you keep supporting information for those CEUs. If you check the box and don't have your CEUs, then you are committing fraud. If you have questions about your CEUs, please read Minnesota Statutes 326.107 (https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bin/getpub.php?pub-type=STAT_CHAP&year=current&chapter=326#st.at.326.107.0).

Everything you need to know is there.

The dates for the next fundamentals and

professional soil science exam have not yet been posted on the Board of AELSLAGID website.

The Board continues to review the model law for geoscientists to determine if any changes are needed. Geoscientists do not have a provision for “work under direct supervision.” The remaining board meeting for 2010 is on December 13 (full board only).

There are 90 professional soil scientists licensed in the State of Minnesota in June, 2009. Other professions licensed by the Board of AELSLAGID consist of: architects (3,352), professional engineers (11,721), professional land surveyors (586), landscape architects (412), professional geologists (560) and certified inte-

rior designers (758).

Legislature—2011 Session

The Minnesota State legislative session begins on January 4, 2011. The website for the state legislature is: www.leg.state.mn.us.

Joint Professional Committee

Do you know that the JPC, which is made of up people representing the groups that make up the Board of AELSLAGID, has been around for over 35 years? The next JPC meeting is in August, 2010 at the AIA offices in the International Market Square building in Minneapolis.

Soil Judging In Nebraska—Autumn 2010

Terence H. Cooper
U of M, Department of Soil, Water
and Climate

Nebraska Soil Judging Trip - September
26 to October 1, 2010.

The University of Minnesota Soil Judging Team competed at the Region V Soil Judging Contest in North Platte, Nebraska from September 26 to October 1, 2010. The team members this fall were Stephanie Fish, Pang Yang, Melissa Rutter and Laura Bellomo. They all are from Minnesota with connections from other places. Stephanie Fish is from Woodbury, Minnesota and previously was born and raised in southwest Michigan. Stephanie is an ESPM major in Conservation Resource Management (CRM). Last summer she worked for the USGS collecting soil samples from the Midwest for a mineralogy study they were conducting. Stephanie was on the team last year that went to Missouri to judge soils in the rain. Pang Yang is from north Minneapolis and previously was born and raised in Fresno, California. She is an ESPM major in CRM like Stephanie. Melissa Rutter is from Minneapolis but was born and raised, like her husband, in Nebraska. She has some relatives in North Platte where the contest is being held and her Dad lives in Omaha. Melissa is a Global Studies major with a minor in sustainable agriculture. Laura Bellomo is from Minneapolis but was originally from south of London, England. She was in the UK this last spring visiting relatives when I was also there on sabbatical leave. Laura is planning to go to graduate school to further study soils and geology. She is a physical geography major. All students were previously in the Soil 4511, field studies class.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning were practice days on the 12 practice sites that were around the area. The textures of the soil in the region are a very fine sandy loam or silt loam and loamy fine sands in the Sand Hills. We struggled with the textures at first but as the week progressed they became accustomed to them.

The practice soils were a Fluvent in a floodplain where we could not find a river; a Mollisol with mollic colors to 150 cm in depth and textures of very fine sandy loam (which we determine is the state soil texture); and an Alfisol with a calcareous siltstone Cr at 78cm; the argillic horizon was 10yr 5/2 with calcareous lime threads evi-

dent throughout. The students were having a difficult time and were trying to make the adjustments necessary.

Monday—On Monday we went to an area near Wellfleet, which was 25 miles south of town and to the Dancing Leaf Cultural Learning Center. This is a museum of Native American culture and fossils from the ice age. Wellfleet has a population of 67 Nebraskans so we doubled the population while there. We saw fossils of the animals that lived in the region during the Pleistocene. Their bones were preserved in the silt of the area and exposed along creek banks as the rivers downcut through the silt. We then toured a Native American earthen lodge from the time when people lived in the area 1,000 years ago. Archeologists call these people the Upper Republican Culture. They farmed along the Medicine Creek and are thought to be ancestors of the Arapaho and Pawnee. They had the ability to live as one with nature and had a spiritual outlook on life. The outdoor museum has captured this feeling of closeness to nature. The name Dancing Leaves comes from the dancing leaves of the cotton wood tree as the breeze moves the leaves. Voices of the Spirits live in the wind and when the spirit voices are strong, the leaves of all trees rustle. When the spirit voices whisper, only the cottonwood listens, the leaves dance with the slightest breeze.

We stooped low and entered the tunnel to the earthen lodge and into the round living area. There were many examples of the tools and items used by the people. After the tour we had our dinner of buffalo stew that contained beans and corn, a thousand year old stew recipe. The meal came with fresh fruit, raw vegetables, and blue corn muffins with local honey. We roasted marshmallows after dinner, then went for a walk up to the top of a hill that had a stone circle that represented the phases of the moon and sun and seasons. Lee explained how the circle worked and lined up with the North Star and how the when the summer solstice and winter solstice suns rose, it aligned with the rocks. I want to build one of these on my land up north; of course I might have to build a pyramid to be able to see the sun on the horizon. We left Dancing Leaf at 8:00 pm after watching an incredible sunset with a red sky in the west and Nebraskan mosquitoes finding any bare skin to bite.

Tuesday—Tuesday we practiced in the deep loess soils near Wellfleet; the soils

being Mollisols with cambic horizons or Inceptisols if the epipedon was ochric. The third site before lunch was a soil that was buried by a later loess deposit. It was more confusing due to the way the very dark colored B horizons were described. Our last site in this area was a sand dune, the typical Entisol of the Nebraska Sand Hills. We did one more site in the afternoon that was the State Soil of Nebraska, Holdridge. This soil has a Bt horizons of silt loams under a vfls surface.

Wednesday— We practice one site in the morning and at 12:30 were headed out to the sites for the individual contest. We drove to Sutherland (20 miles west of North Platte), where we were on Monday and then headed north another 20 miles into the Sand Hills. We went to the end of the road and onto Buckboard Ranch, which is owned by the county. With the 80 people present on the ranch for soil judging, that was more people than live in the county. The temperature was 78 and the wind was gusty at 20-30, which did pick up the sand and blow it around and into all cracks and crevices and eyes.

Individual Site 1 was an Argiustoll that was in a low area of a field. The textures were loamy fine sand with a sandy clay loam argillic. Minnesota found the mollic and argillic but not the sandy clay loam texture. Pang had the high score with 226. Site two was the typical Sand Hill's Entisol with horizons of Ap-A-AC-E&B. Upper textures were loamy fine sand over fine sand. The lamellae horizon was below 75 cm and while the coach thought it was obvious, the Minnesota judges missed it and so did most other teams. Minnesota also found a mollic epipedon when they went 3/2 where the color on the official card was 4/2. Stephanie had the high score of 194 when she recognized the Ustipsamment.

Team judging started at 9:00 am near Curtis which was 50 miles southeast of North Platte near Wellfleet. We were on the Nebraska Agricultural Technical College Campus. The three soils were on their farm. Site 1 was a buried Mollisol similar to the practice site. The team struggled with the surface color and finally made a decision of 4/2 and were incorrect. The rest of their description was right on however and they had a score of 236. Site two was an Inceptisol with a 4/2 surface. This time Minnesota

(Continued on page 5)

Soil Judging In Nebraska—continued

found a slight clay increase and went with an argillic instead of cambic. However that was about their only error and they had a score of 265. Site three was on the floodplain of the creek, however the creek has incised into the floodplain about 20 feet and now the former floodplain was called a terrace. The soil had definite deposits of light and dark soil. The team found this to be their most difficult site but did score 229.

Their total of 730 was good for third place and a plaque in the team judging. They were very excited about their placing and so was their coach. Individually Pang was 16th, Stephanie 18th, Melissa 22nd, and Laura 32nd, out of the 59 contestants. When the individual and team scores were added for the overall competition; Iowa State finished in first place, Kansas State was second, South Dakota State was third and Nebraska was fourth. Minnesota finished 6th out of the 8 schools. Next year South Dakota will host the regional contest near Pierre South Dakota.

For more photos and information go to:
http://www.espm.umn.edu/ESPM_soiljudgNEBR2010.pdf

For a news video of this story go to:

<http://www.knopnews2.com/modules/news/article.php?storyid=9282>



2010 University of Minnesota Soils Team - from left to right – Melissa Rutter, Stephanie Fish, Coach Cooper, Pang Yang and Laura Bellomo.



University of Minnesota - 3rd Place Group Judging - Region V Soil Judging @ North Platte Nebraska- LtoR - Melissa Rutter, Stephanie Fish, Laura Bellomo, & Pang Yang

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MAPSS promotes the understanding and wise use of Minnesota's soil resources.

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If you want to contribute articles or announcements contact the editor, Suzanne D'Souza, at 612-741-1365 or newsletter@mnsoilscientist.org.

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Advertise in the Auger

Classified - first 40 words \$5.00, then \$0.20/additional word. Position (free to MAPSS members) – same as a classified ad. Ad copy MS Word ready format is \$15.00/column or non-standard \$25.00.

MAPSS Representation – 2010

Board of AELSLAGID and the Joint Professional Committee – Suzanne D'Souza, PSS

Your advertisement will also be added to the MAPSS website for the duration of one issue of the Auger. Contact the editor: mapss@mnsoilscientist.org

Soil Science Board Member on the Board of AELSLAGID – Peter Miller, PSS

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