



The Auger



June, 2005

Volume 21, No. 2

The Newsletter of the Minnesota Association of Professional Soil Scientists

President's Message

**By Dennis Fuchs, PSS, MAPSS
President**

As the president of MAPSS and also the chairperson of the Membership Committee, I would like to see the organization maintain or hopefully expand our membership. Unfortunately however, the MAPSS membership continues to decline. At the last MAPSS Executive Committee (MAPSS EC) meeting, we took action to hopefully encourage professionals and students to become a member of MAPSS. The first year membership fee will be waived for all new members. The past policy of providing a free first meeting to new members was revoked. After listening to some of the concerns from MAPSS members, we felt this would be a better approach. Also, we are looking into the possibility of registering for meetings and membership online. There may be a small charge to provide this service, but in the long run it will benefit MAPSS by providing the opportunity to reach a larger audience. The MAPSS EC decided that any MAPSS member that recruits a new member, or is able to convince a previous member in arrears to renew their membership, will receive a MAPSS baseball cap (limit one per person). These baseball caps will also be available for purchase at the MAPSS Summer Research Conference in Duluth, Thursday, July 14 and Friday, July 15, 2005.

Students and young professionals are the future of MAPSS. We need to continue to find ways to encourage students to become members of MAPSS. I think part of the solution is to increase the number of members that are professors and professionals, especially ones who teach and conduct research in soil science. These professors can encourage their students to become members of MAPSS. MAPSS can provide their students the opportunity to network with practicing soils scientists, learning first hand what types of jobs and skills are required in the working world. The MAPSS EC felt that a student representative should be appointed to MAPSS EC as a non-voting member. The student representative could provide input to the MAPSS organization that may encourage other students to participate in MAPSS.

Please forward this newsletter to a colleague and encourage them to become a member today. The membership application can be accessed online at <http://www.mnsoilscientist.org/pages/3/index.htm>

At the EC meeting we discussed including member's business websites as links on the MAPSS site. A disclaimer will be added that MAPSS does not endorse any particular business. The business may or may not be charged a fee. Members, what do you think? Should we develop a new membership fee for a business/corporate membership? The EC feels that including these links will help promote the profession of soil science. Brad Wenz will include a line on the membership renewal form for a business website address.

Brad Wenz also mentioned that we have discussed the list for the Southern New England Soil Scientist Association, and their infamous "directory" located at: <http://members.aol.com/ssssne/registry.html>.

In the last President's message, I wrote about developing a standard operating procedure to address the request for funds from various organizations that meet the goals and objectives of MAPSS. The MAPSS EC is continuing discussions to develop a simple streamlined process to address these funds. We also received some information about developing a non-profit foundation that could accept donations. The non-profit MAPSS foundation would have all the IRS tax advantages of a non-profit organization. However, after reviewing information received in developing a foundation, we felt that it would be administratively cumbersome and inefficient for an organization the size of MAPSS to develop. The MAPSS EC felt that we could coordinate and partner with an established foundation, such as the Agronomic Science Foundation, if we had a specific fund raising goal in mind. Please provide any feedback you may have on this topic. The MAPSS website is <http://www.mnsoilscientist.org>. I can be contacted at 320-251-7800 extension #3 or dennis.fuchs@mn.nacdnet.net.



**Dennis Fuchs at the
2004 winter meeting.**

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For income and expenses see the attached Treasurer's Report.

Motion by Al Geinke, second by Gary Elsner to accept the Treasurer's Report, motion approved.

Executive Secretary's Report: Dawn Tracy will be retiring from her Board position and we need a Soil Scientist to replace her in this position. Dawn will serve until the Governor appoints a new Board member.

The make up of licensees in Minnesota is as follows:

96 Soil Scientists
9099 Engineers
2066 Architects
689 Interior Designers (certificate)
517 Geologists
480 Land Surveyors
341 Landscape Architects

The MAPSS website management will be taken over by Peter Geinke.

Motion by Bob Anderson, second by Terry Cooper to accept Executive Secretary's Report, motion approved.

Committee Reports:

Scholarship and Funding (Jim Balogh): Nothing to report until the Executive Committee has a chance to review and digest the membership survey results. As Past President, the new chair of this committee will be Roger Berggren.

Professional Development (Jim Arndt): Survey results were handed out and described as "constructive." The Professional Development Committee will discuss the survey results with the Executive Committee at its next meeting. The next issue of the Auger will have a copy of the survey results and recommendations from the Professional Development and Executive Committees.

ISTS (Bob Whitmyer): The Senate and House bills were going to ignore Redox in their changes to the ISTS rules, however, MAPSS and the U of MN helped them to realize this would be a mistake.

(Terry Bovey): The Preponderance Test: The committee had a field day with some follow-up to test the form that was developed in July, 2004. There was also a workshop in Wilmar in which the form was tested (Dan Wheeler was also involved). They wanted to get to Duluth and try out some red clay soils, but it didn't happen. In September it was tested in the Anoka Sand Plain. The committee still needs to get back together and work out some issues associated with the form such as, who is the form for? If

Newsletter Editor Found!

The Auger has an official newsletter editor! Suzanne D'Souza, the former interim newsletter editor, accepted this annual position last month. If you have any questions or comments about the format of the Auger (the content is up to you), please feel free to contact Suzanne at 612-824-4507 or suzdsouza@hotmail.com. New section to begin in the next issue: Letters to the Editor.

Minutes of the MAPSS Winter Business Meeting – December 3, 2004

Call to order at 1:00 p.m. by President Roger Berggren with a special thanks to Dennis Fuchs for organizing and hosting the winter workshop.

Summer Business Meeting Minutes (7-30-04) were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Checking balance as of 12-2-2004 is \$12,530.64 plus CD of \$9000.00 at First National Bank St. Peter (1.37% annual) equals a total balance of \$21,530.64.

Minutes - continued

it is to be used by the general public, then it will need to be reworded with fewer technical terms.

In March 2004 there will be a one day workshop with the experts on redox features. More information will be available in the near future.

(Al Geinke): The preponderance test was sent to other states for feedback. Things to consider are: is the soil saturated or not when looking for redox features, the frequency of saturation, and the saturation potential, i.e. rare, occasionally, frequently.

(Mary West): The ISTS code is being rewritten by the MPCA, the MAPSS ISTS Committee is involved. Currently the recommendation is to remove the language that requires a PSS to do the soil analysis for mid-size to large ISTS systems due to a lack of individuals who can do the work. MAPSS does not agree with this recommendation and is working on the issue with the MPCA.

It was stressed that the ISTS and Education committees need to collaborate to educate the public, developers and engineers on the kind of work PSS do.

Membership (Dennis Fuchs): Five (5) new MAPSS members were introduced.

Newsletter: We still need a volunteer to put the Auger together. (No one volunteered.)

Wetland Certification: Certification is a voluntary program at this time. In May 2005 a test will be out for certification. It is believed that at some time in the future (no one knows when) certification will eventually lead to licensing. There will be training and review materials on the website that can be used prior to testing. There will be a request for sample test questions coming out soon.

New Business: Bill Haugen is working with the West Central Landscape Planning Committee. Their goals are to protect forest development and protect forest resources while preserving jobs. Anyone interested in getting involved should contact Bill.

There was a discussion regarding putting together a directory of PSS for Minnesota, similar to the one developed by the Society of Soil Scientists of New England. Dawn Tracy pointed out that you must be licensed in the areas you plan to work in, ARCPACS certification alone doesn't work in Minnesota. Such a directory will help increase visibility of PSS, promote licensure and promote the profession. There was a discussion on having a list on the website, instead of a

directory. Eventually it was agreed that a two-pronged approach should be taken. First, have a paper directory available and meet face to face with individuals who will use it to let them know what it is all about. Second, have a current website link that will update the information in the directory.

Al Geinke and Jim Arndt volunteered to work on a form to put in the next newsletter soliciting information from members for the directory. A draft will be sent to local government unit employees and others for review before the final draft goes out.

A motion was made by Gary Elsner, second by Jim Arndt to direct the Executive Committee to begin preparation of this directory. Motion approved.

It was pointed out that the wetland delineators have such a list at the counties at this time.

There was a request from the Three Rivers RC&D (Resources Conservation and Development) (Mankato area) for \$2,500.00 to buy a trailer for the Ney Living Soil Tunnel. The soil tunnel is up and running but they need a trailer to haul it around. The tunnel features the Lester loam soil and is used to educate students and adults. SWCS has committed to help fund the permanent tunnel. The trailer will work for the prototype as well as the permanent tunnel.

A motion was made by Jim Balogh, second by Terry Cooper to discontinue discussion of the Ney soil tunnel trailer until MAPSS protocol is in place to prioritize funding. Requests for donations will need to be made in advance of MAPSS meetings, so all members can be notified. Then members will be prepared to vote on the issues at the annual meetings. Motion approved.

Summer Meeting Update: Dates will be announced soon, sometime in July. The meeting will focus on wetland issues and may be a joint meeting with the Society of Wetland Scientists.

Election Results: President Elect: Roger Risley
Secretary: Brad Wenz

Soil Scientist of the Year: Jorja DuFresne awarded Dawn Tracy with the Soil Scientist of the Year Award.

The gavel was passed to Dennis Fuchs.
The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.
Submitted by Secretary Laurie Brown

Visit the MAPSS website!

www.mnsoilscientist.org

Congratulations!

On Friday May 6, 2005, John Beck, PSS received a Civil Servant of the Year Award for his dedication, service and outreach with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Minnesota. John is an Area Resource Soil Scientist in Rochester, Minnesota.



John Beck at work.

2005 SWCS Annual International Conference - Environmental Management Conference

By Dennis Fuchs, PSS, MAPSS President

The Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) has a multidisciplinary membership of more than 7,000 individuals and business leaders throughout the world. Members of SWCS are educated and trained natural resource conservationists, practicing primarily in the United States and Canada.

The SWCS Annual Conference brings together researchers, practitioners, and policymakers at all levels of government, along with a broad cross-section of other interested groups, to explore current issues in natural resource management and planning. This year's conference will be from Saturday, July 30 to Thursday, August 4, 2005 at the Hyatt Regency and Riverside Convention Center, Rochester, New York.

Plenary, concurrent sessions and symposia will be held on Monday and Tuesday. Tours and workshops will be offered on Saturday, Sunday, and Wednesday. Posters and exhibits will be displayed on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday. The conference will focus on four key topics of concern for professionals working to conserve natural resources locally and globally:

- ? Managing Landscapes for Environmental Quality
- ? Assessing and Communicating the Effectiveness of Conservation and Environmental Programs
- ? The Growing Debate Around Water Use
- ? Consumer Demand and Policy Effects on Agricultural Resources

For more information please go online at:

http://swcs.org/en/swcs_international_conference/2005_annual_conference/.

The Auger is the newsletter of the Minnesota Association of Professional Soil Scientists. It is composed of articles by or submitted by the MAPSS membership and is published three times each year (February/March, June and October). The Auger is available in PDF format on our website, www.mnsoilscientist.org.

If you want to contribute articles, contact the editor: Suzanne D'Souza at 612-824-4507, suzdsouza@hotmail.com or mapss@mnsoilscientist.org

Green Lands, Blue Waters

The Green Lands, Blue Waters Initiative brings the emerging discipline of sustainability science and the considerable resources of the land-grant institutions of the Upper Mississippi Basin to bear on big challenges: developing and implementing perennial-based agricultural systems and better understanding of their impact on the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico.

The goals of this 10-year regional initiative are to improve water quality and habitat diversity, reduce the size of the hypoxic zone in the northern Gulf of Mexico, while simultaneously increasing rural economic vitality. The approach is to develop the technical, financial, market, social, human, and policy infrastructure necessary to support perennial systems.

The initiative will first focus on two watersheds that disproportionately contribute nutrients and sediments to the Mississippi River and its tributaries, and will lay the foundation for widespread adoption of perennial systems throughout the Upper Mississippi Basin. "This concept is percolating throughout the whole Midwest. We're taking all of the activities and knitting them into a larger version," said Steve Morse senior fellow, College of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences. In Louisiana, work will focus on the northern Gulf of Mexico coastal zone. For more information please visit our web site. Or, contact Steve Morse, 612-625-7278 or morse033@umn.edu.

MAPSS Officers - 2005

President	Dennis Fuchs, PSS
President Elect	Roger Risley, PSS
Past President	Roger Berggren, PSS
Secretary	Brad Wenz, PSS
Treasurer	Douglas Miller, PSS
Exec. Secretary	Suzanne D'Souza, PSS (<i>ex officio</i>)
Student Rep.	position open (<i>ex officio</i>)

Events, Meetings and Conferences

July 14 & 15, 2005 - Thursday & Friday

The MAPSS 2005 Summer Tour to be held in conjunction with the Lake Superior Basin Wetlands Management and Research Conference at the University of Minnesota, Duluth. Thursday includes: speakers, concurrent sessions and a two-hour boat cruise with dinner. Friday includes: the MAPSS business meeting, presentation of papers and field trips. The cost for this two-day event is only \$70 and includes: conference, lunches on both days, field trips and the Thursday night dinner cruise! This cost **does not** including lodging or CEUs. Bring along an extra \$10.00 if you want CEUs. Not a bad deal! You **MUST** register for this as space is limited for the boat cruise and field trips. The following link will take you to the agenda (from there you can access the list of field trips, information about the cruise, accommodations and the registration form): <http://www.seagrant.umn.edu/wetlandsconference/agenda.html>. Our official MAPSS contact is Laurie Brown, PSS at 218-384-9931 or brownfox@cpinternet.com.

December 2, 2005 - Friday

MAPSS Winter Technical Meeting to be held in St. Cloud, Minnesota. Keep your eye on the website for information as it becomes available.

Legislative Update

By Suzanne D'Souza, PSS

The following are Senate and House bills that appear to have relevance to soil scientists (out of the over 3,000 bills introduced this 84th Legislative session and special session to date). To view the status or text of a bill go to <http://www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/legis.asp> and type in the Senate file number (SF) or House file number (HF).

SF0063 / HF0731 - Individual sewage treatment systems inspection conflicts of interest prohibition. May 3 HF passed. May 5 HF0731 substituted on General Orders Rule 47. See also: SF2276, Art. 1, Sec. 116.

SF0161 / no companion - Individual sewage treatment systems rulemaking requirements expansion and options restriction. This has direct relevance to soil scientist working with ISTS. Check out lines 2.22-2.25.

SF0282 / HF0428 - Local government units wastewater treatment projects grant program, bond issue and appropriation. See HF3, Art. 1, Sec. 23, Sub. 3-4 & Sec. 32 & 39.

SF0748 / HF0749 - Individual sewage treatment systems installation tank fee limit. See SF2276, Art.1, Sec. 118.

SF0762 / HF0826 - Clean Water Legacy Act established providing authority, direction and funding to achieve and maintain water quality standards for surface waters in accordance with the Federal Clean Water Act. This file discusses total maximum daily loads and Clean Water fees to be assessed for ISTS (lines 15.7- 15.25. See also SF2206, Art.6, Sec. 12.

SF0797 / no companion - Individual sewage treatment systems groundwater protection requirements modification. Lines 2.23-2.32 were added discussing unsaturated zones of at least two feet below the bottom of the drain field.

SF0876 / HF1019 - A bill relating to an act of drainage, requiring a study. BWSR shall conduct an implementation assessment of public drainage systems buffers and their use, maintenance, and benefits. But be in consultation with farm groups, watershed districts, soil and water conservation districts, counties and conservation organizations as well as federal agencies implementing voluntary buffer programs. BWSR must report results to the senate and house by Jan 15, 2006. See SF2276, Art. 1, Sec. 6

SF1048 / HF1248 - Restricting use of Atrazine or Atrazine active ingredients (2-chloro-4-ethylamine-6-isopropylamin-1,3,5 trazine.

SF1050 / no companion - Creating the Clean Water Legacy Act. Water quality standards for surface waters. See SF762, see also SF2206, Art. 6, Sec. 12.

SF1085 / HF0830 - Modifying elections for the soil and water conservation district supervisors.

Legislative Update - continued

SF1132 / HF1181 - Soil and water conservation district defined as a special tax district – modification. See SF1683, Art. 4, Sec. 1-2, 49.

SF1187 / HF1246 - Prohibition of sale, application and use of Atrazine.

SF1214 / HF0702 - Crow Wing County sewer district pilot project. Delegating authority with respect to ISTS. See HF2498, Art.1, Sec 40.

SF1313 / HF1422 - Health care policy. Relevant lines 138.17-144.8. Primarily raising costs of anything related to borings and wells. Lines 143.32-144.8 define who can be responsible individual to supervise and oversee exploratory borings. You must have an explorer's license to make an exploratory boring (line 143.16). See SF1879, Art. 11 and 13 and SF2278. HF2448, Art. 3.

SF1442 / HF1547 - Off highway vehicles operations restriction modifications. See SF2276, Art.1, Sec. 63.

SF1579 / HF1619 – Health Department provisions modifications and clarifications. Includes modifying provision for wells, boring and underground uses (Lines 9.36-10.10 define a limited well/boring contractor, lines 15.12-15.16 a geoscientist may repair, construct or seal a monitoring well (a separate license may be needed) and lines 16-29 covers fees and licenses). SF passed on May 18, HF passed May 20. **Governor signed May 26 (Session Law Chapter 106). Effective date: various.**

SF1712 / HF1590 - Transportation project and funding modifications. Develops a process for early coordination and involvement by the DNR & MPCA regarding permits for highway projects (wetland replacement). Lines 19.34-22.1. See SF1980, Art. 6, Sec. 8-10.

SF1773 / HF1842 - Clarifying restrictions for wetland development in Scott County. See SF814, Sec. 3.

SF2244 / HF1075 – Establishing the Fertilizer Research Council (research in soil fertility and fertilizer management).

SF2302 / HF2516 – State fruit designation – honeycrisp apple.

The House-Senate working group on the omnibus agriculture, environment and jobs bill is reviewing proposals reforming the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources.

Proposed changes to Minnesota Rules Chapter 7080

The ISTS committee is tracking and commenting on the proposed changes to this rule. Please contact the chair of the ISTS committee for further information, if you have any questions or comments, or if you want to become involved.

MPCA ISTS Guidance Document

The MPCA drafted a guidance document for small and large ISTS. This document is currently under review by various organizations, including our ISTS committee.

Website Update

By Suzanne D'Souza, PSS

As all of you know, the website address for MAPSS is www.mnsoilscientist.org. The website is updated periodically to keep you abreast of MAPSS and other information. If you see anything askew, know of an event or job opening you would like posted, hired a new employee, or have any ideas, please send it to mapss@mnsoilscientist.org.

Linksky will be the new web host. Not to worry, the domain name will remain the same. Peter Gienke is creating the new website for MAPSS. We will likely offer on-line payment of registration for the winter meeting through the website via Pay Pal. The posted membership list will include a column for your business website address. We will add a disclaimer stating that MAPSS does not endorse any particular company. Lastly, any advertising in the Auger will also be placed on the website until the printing of the next issue of the Auger.

Board of AELSLAGID Update

By Suzanne D'Souza, PSS

The Board of AELSLAGID will be closed (on July 1st) if the State of Minnesota closes down at the end of June due to a failure to obtain a balanced budget. No new licenses will be issued during that time.

Looking for an event?

www.mnsoilscientist.org

MAPSS Committees - 2005

Membership Committee

Dennis Fuchs, PSS – Chair
Al Giencke, PSS

Election Committee – 2004 (yet to be chosen for 2005)

Al Giencke, PSS – Chair
Tom Neuenfeld, PSS

Professional Practice Committee

Jim Arndt, PSS – Chair
Kelley Bopray, PSS
Tom Fait, PSS

Scholarship & Funding Committee

Roger Berggren, PSS – Chair
Jim Anderson, PSS
Al Giencke, PSS

ISTS Committee

Robert Whitmyer, PSS – Chair
Terry Bovee, PSS
Peter Miller, PSS
Mike Rutten, PSS
Mark Wespetal, PSS
Mary West, PSS

Education Committee

Peter Hartman, PSS – Chair
Jorja DuFresne, PSS
Howard Hobbs, PG
Thomas Jackson, PSS
Kim Steffan, PSS

Award Committee – 2004 (yet to be chosen for 2005)

Steve Stark, PSS – Chair
Jorja DuFresne, PSS

Advertise in the Auger!

Ad Type	Amount	Cost
classified	first 40 words	\$5.00
	additional words	\$0.20/word
position*	first 40 words	\$5.00
	additional words	\$0.20/word
ad copy	Word ready format	\$15.00/column in
business card	standard size	\$25.00

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

*free to members and website

Have you registered? It is only
\$70.00!

Wetlands Conference

(this includes the MAPSS 2005 Summer
Business Meeting on Friday morning)

Duluth, Minnesota
July 14 & 15, 2005 - Thurs & Fri

[http://www.seagrant.umn.edu/
wetlandsconference/](http://www.seagrant.umn.edu/wetlandsconference/)

Name This Soil!



Can you name this Southern Minnesota soil? It is on limestone bedrock controlled terraces. Be the first MAPSS member to e-mail Doug Miller at douglas.miller@mn.usda.gov, with the correct series, and get a free MAPSS hat!

Registration Open for Wetland Delineation Certification Exam

By Rachel Roszina

Registration is now open for the first examination to be offered through Minnesota's Wetland Delineator Certification Program (WDCP), offered jointly by the University of Minnesota; Department of Soil, Water, and Climate and the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR).

This program seeks to encourage professionals involved with wetland delineations to become certified in order to enhance the reputability of their work and increase consumer confidence. The program provides stability to the local implementation of the Wetland Conservation Act and other wetland regulations by formally recognizing individuals uniquely qualified to perform wetland delineations. Greg Larson, BWSR soil scientist believes "Certification will establish standards for education, experience, and performance for completing and reviewing delineations in Minnesota,"

The program is open to persons who have successfully completed a wetland delineation training course or have broad course work related to wetland delineations and have had at least three years of experience working in the field. Professionals interested must first apply to the program and once their application has been accepted they are then able to register for an exam date and time of their choice. The program will require a minimum score on a comprehensive exam to become certified. The fees associated with being certified are \$200 to take the initial exam and then \$75/year after to maintain the certifications.

The first examination is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 11, 2005, at the U of M St. Paul campus, with additional exams set for Rochester on Aug. 16, 2005 and Duluth on Aug. 18, 2005. For the St. Paul location there will be two sessions—one from 9-11 a.m. and the other from 1-3 p.m.

For more information, contact Rachel Roszina at wcdp@umn.edu. Additional information related to the program is also available on the web at: www.mnwetlands.umn.edu/cert/.

Editor's Thoughts

By Suzanne D'Souza, PSS

Should MAPSS become an organization that distributes scholarships? It couldn't hurt. Why? We have the reserves in which to do so and we could also use the publicity to obtain new members. However, this should be done as simply as possible. The scholarship and executive committees could determine a total dollar amount to be used, the dollar value of each scholarship and the number of scholarships to be awarded (the number could go up or down, in lean years we may not offer one). For example: \$1,000 for a total of two \$500.00 scholarships, or maybe five \$200.00 scholarships. There, that wasn't so difficult. Now, how would we determine who would receive these scholarships. Well, why not set some criteria: must be an undergrad in a soils, natural resource, agricultural or science related field at a Minnesota college or university. How would we pick who receives the scholarship? Why not just pick names out of a hat. That is the easiest way to do it. The notification for scholarships could go out in early fall and chosen/notified before the winter meeting. The recipients would then be given their scholarships at the winter meeting. Pretty simple!

The topic of gift giving came up at the last executive committee meeting. We are going to open a separate account in order to keep gift contributions separate from regular dues and meeting registration fees. We will shortly have an additional line on the renewal form that incorporates donations. On that same note, we will also be creating a new form for organizations requesting funds from MAPSS.

Something to think about: MAPSS is a professional organization, an Association of Professionals Soil Scientists. How can we focus on the protection of our professional members?

Editor's question: How many of you participated in soil judging while at a university? Send your reply to suzdsouza@hotmail.com.

The next issue of the Auger will be sent out at the end of October 2005.

Articles will be accepted up until October 14th.