

THE Auger



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The Newsletter of the Minnesota Association of Professional Soil Scientists

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President's Message

by Charles Saari

As I start this year as the new president of MAPSS I would like to thank all of the members for their efforts and interest in assisting the organization through their attendance at meetings, involvement on committees, and promotion of the Profession of Soil Science. I would also like to thank very much the outgoing member of the executive board. Past-president Kelly Bopray and Treasurer Patricia Buford who have put in many hours to make MAPSS work. Their regular in-

put will be missed. However, several members have stepped up to help the committee. I would like to formally acknowledge and welcome James Balogh as President-elect and Michael Walker as Treasurer. I look forward to working with them this coming year.

Its well into the second month of being President and many things seem to be happening in our profession, some good and

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A Call For Soil Scientists Interested In Providing ISTS Soils Training

by Terry Bovee

Dave Gustafson, Extension Specialist with the University of Minnesota Onsite Sewage Treatment Program has been conducting soils workshops aimed at individuals who design, install and inspect individual sewage treatment systems (ISTS).

The soils portion of the ISTS training program is organized into two parts, a Soils I and a

Soils II Workshop. The Soils I Workshop is a required class for all designers and inspectors. The workshop lasts two days, the first day in class and the second day at a site to examine soil pits and other site evaluation procedures. Dan Wheeler (a University of Minnesota soil scientist) conducts the site evaluations at the soil pits.

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The Auger is made up of volunteered articles from the MAPSS membership. If you would like to contribute, please contact me at the following:
David Kelley
 432 JRC
 Univ. of St. Thomas
 2115 Summit Ave.
 St. Paul, MN 55105

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some not so good. There will be many new challenges that are going to occur in the future, that will take up our time and energy. We are getting more visibility and acceptance with time, and as practitioners of soil science in Minnesota will increasingly be relied upon to provide data, opinions and interpretations that have to do with land-use issues. Our work is becoming more technologically oriented, forcing us to be better trained and be able to do more complicated jobs for our clients. There are other groups in our State that want to limit the amount of work we do. For example as part of the budget bill sent to the Governor there is language that would put a State Moratorium on All Professional Contracts. This could affect many of members and the jobs we do. "See another article in the news letter"

An issue that has come up, there have been request from the public. That along with the names and address that are listed on the MAPSS web page, something about the types of work that you do on should listed, if this is something you desire. So when someone is looking for a practicing Soil Scientist, they can have an idea of who to contact. At this time we are looking at collecting the data and what you would want listed, in the form of check boxes on the membership renewal form. This is something that we need to consider at the next summer business meeting.

As of now the summer tour is being planed to be in the southwest part of the State in the Marshal area, it is going to be held Friday July 26, 2002. At this point in time we are working on a joint tour with the Minnesota Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. Some of the things we are planning for tour stops at Pipestone National Monument, Sioux Nations Fen, Buffalo Ridge Wind Farm and other points of interest are possibilities.

I am looking forward to the rest of the year as MAPSS president. If any of the members have comments or issues that they want myself or

the MAPSS Executive Committee to consider, you can contact me via e-mail at charles.saari@mn.usda.gov. or ctsaari@juno.com

Legislative Alert! State Moratorium on All Professional Contacts in Budget Bill Sent to Governor.

In an example of the worst of backroom politics, the budget bill passed by the Minnesota Legislature and sent to the governor will place a moratorium on all state contracts for professional and technical services through July 2003. According to what I have been told, this would include all professional and technical contracts with state agencies. This also includes U of M, MnSCU and projects that would go through the Designer Selection Board. The effect on the Department of Transportation is less clear, though if the legislation is taken literally, there would be no new professional or service contracts with this agency as well. The restrictions would also not allow the renewal of existing contracts. In addition to the moratorium, there would be a \$35 million reduction in planned professional and consulting contracts.

The language was lifted from a bill that was originated by State Representative Barb Goodwin (HF 2752, SF2911) and has the strong support of the state employee unions. The legislation is seen as an unbridled attempt by state employees to freeze out the use of consultants by the state. Until a few days ago, we felt that this legislation was bottled up and wouldn't see the light of day. Some quick maneuvering in the House brought the bill into play and up for consideration in the budget bill. There was never a chance to organize any effective opposition to the bill, since everything was kept behind closed doors.

Though this would have a significant effect on the design community, it would have an enormous effect down the line on contractors by

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significantly delaying a multitude of building and transportation projects. If there is no new design, there is no new construction.

What can you do about it? First of all, hope the Governor vetoes the bill or modifies it in negotiations with House and Senate leaders. In the meantime you can call or write your legislators and express your outrage with the way this has been handled and the effect it will have on your business and the citizens of the state. Remember, you are voting, tax paying citizens just like the state employees. The only way to counter the powerful lobbies of state employee unions is to show that there is a strong, vibrant, and politically involved design community out there.

We have been painted by state employees as overpriced, incompetent and just short of criminal, with incestuous relations between firms and state employees lining up to go to work with consulting firms after they have retired.

Some points you could make regarding the services members provide to the state:

- The number of state employees would increase by hundreds, and perhaps even thousands and will be paid indefinitely. Consultants are no longer a financial burden to the state once they complete their contracts.
- Consultants are paid to perform. If they do not, they will not receive more work.
- A moratorium will have a significant impact on firms providing services to the state. The loss of this work would force firms to eliminate services that are not only provided to state government, but is exported to other states and brings money into the state.

If you would like to look at the legislation (HF 351) go to: <http://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/cgi-bin/getbill.pl?session=ls82&version=latest&number=hf351> and review lines 90.58 through 91.31

(ISTS Trainers, Continued from page 1)

The Soils II workshops are a continuing education effort aimed at those ISTS professionals interested in furthering their understanding of soils in a particular region. The Soils II class is a one day field event beginning with an introduction to the history of the soils in the region being visited, followed by a tour to several different soil landscape sites. Interested soil scientists would coordinate with local units of government in selecting soil landscapes of interest and providing assistance to workshop staff as needed. Dave is requesting any professional soil scientist interested in assisting with these Soils II workshops around the state to contact Dave Gustafson or Terry Bovee. Compensation can be provided. Dave would like to have a list of those interested by April 24, 2002.

Please contact Dave Gustafson at 612-625-7733, gusta002@tc.umn.edu, or Terry Bovee at 507-389-6597 terry.bovee@health.state.mn.us and provide your name, address, telephone number, email address and region of the state you would be interested in helping out in.



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**Minnesota Association of Professional Soil Scientists
(MAPSS)**

Winter 2001 Meeting Minutes
December 7, 2001
St. Cloud, MN

Meeting Minutes, Subject to Approval

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Jim Arndt at 2:45 p.m.

Executive Committee (EC) members present: Jim Arndt, President, Kelly Bopray, past-President, Charles Saari, President-elect, Dan Comeau, Secretary, Pat Burford, Treasurer; members absent, none.

- Approval of Summer Meeting Minutes. Motion by Dennis Fuchs to approve; second by David Kelley. Motion approved.
- Treasurers Report (Patricia Burford). Pat reported that there is a balance of \$15,311.09 as of December 1, 2001. There is currently \$2,202.40 in the Legislative fund and the funding sources were from Summer and Winter Meetings (\$1,360) and individual contributions (\$1,000.00). Income for the year was \$7,725.00 and expenses totaled \$3020.28

Joe Cummins Scholarship Award

The awards were presented by family members to one graduate student (Matt Ruark) and to two undergraduate students (Brandy Elf and Mike Gensmer).

Committee Reports

- **Membership Committee** (Dennis Fuchs). Dennis indicated he will work with Terry Cooper to encourage students to join MAPSS.
- **ISTS Committee** (Tom Fait, Terry Bovee). Tom provided and discussed the November 29, 2001 draft ISTS Committee SOP. The SOP indicates the Committee will function as a liaison between MAPSS, governmental units and other groups affected by ISTS standards; assist in providing training and education to regulators and those who service the industry; and, coordinate with other committees and the Board of AELSLAGID regarding soil properties, uses and morphology relative to ISTS.

Mary West and Terry Bovee are working on a list of qualified soil scientists for upcoming ISTS training needs. Hope to have list arranged by geographic area. Potential concern (challenges) and want direction from EC and the membership to proceed in that direction. Discussion indicated the ISTS Committee should provide an article for the next newsletter seeking comments and potential persons to be included on the list. Soils 2 training will be held in Alexandria (end of June) and Carver County (August). Motion by Gary Elsner, second by Bovee to direct the subcommittee to prepare a Newsletter article. Motion carried.

Terry Bovee thinks the U of MN may be able to assist with compensation to the trainers. Discussion indicated the rumor about BWSR wanting to take over ISTS authorities is unfounded.

- **Education Committee** (Peter Hartman, Tom Jackson). Tom reported that the Science Museum is still looking for funding and input. For Project Common Ground (Wilder Foundation) members pro-

(Winter Meeting Minutes, Continued from page 4)

vided soils information to 5th, 6th and 7th graders from the St. Paul public school system. Additionally, three scholarships were provided.

- **Professional Practice Committee** (Jim Arndt). Jim indicated more members are needed on the committee.

Old Business

Jim indicated the Executive Assistant position is still open. Pay is \$250 per month and involves attending two meetings each month and reporting back to the EC.

New Business

Soil Judging Contest. Terry Cooper asked for a \$500 donation for the upcoming soil judging contest. Motion by Tom Neuenfeldt; second by Bovee. Motion approved.

2002 Summer Tour. It is taking shape for the Marshall area and it will be a joint tour with the Soil and Water Conservation Society. Other groups (such as geologists) have conducted joint tours and are interested in having more joint opportunities to do so. This year's Tour Coordinators are Ray Genrich and Joe Kristoff.

License Renewals. Also a reminder that licenses are due to expire in June and all need to have documentation for 24 PDHs.

Soil Scientist of the Year. Kelly Bopray announced that this year's recipient was Al Giencke.

Endowed/Memorial Scholarship Fund. There is membership support for the concept. Questions remain concerning MAPSS' administrative responsibilities, whether we should establish a search and review Committee, and how much money MAPSS can/would contribute. Gary Elsner indicated MAPSS Constitution would need to be revised to include establishment and administration of such a fund. By motion (Elsner; second by Tom Jackson), the EC was directed to develop draft Constitutional language changes to be placed in an upcoming newsletter. Motion carried.

Election Results. Bob Anderson announced that James Balogh is the new President-elect and Mike Walker is the new Treasurer for 2002.

Jim Arndt officially passed the gavel to Charles Saari, MAPSS' 2002 President.

Adjournment

Motion by Bovee to adjourn; second by Gary Elsner. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Daniel Comeau, MAPSS Secretary.

JOE CUMMINS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

By Terry Cooper

At the December MAPSS meeting, three \$500 scholarships were awarded to students from the University of Minnesota, St. Paul campus, who have indicated an interest in field soils. Brandy Elf and Mike Gensmer were undergraduate students in the Environmental Science Major and Matt Ruark was a masters student in Soils. These scholarships were given my Mrs. Joe Cummins in honor of her husband. Joe Cummins was a dedicated field soil scientist who helped many of us better understand the complexities of soils in Minnesota. Later an additional \$500 scholarship was also awarded in February to Matt Baumgartner, a senior in Environmental Science.

Photos of award recipients:



Mike Gensmer accepting the award
at the 2001 MAPSS Winter Meeting



Brandy Elf accepting the award at the
2001 MAPSS Winter Meeting



Matt Ruark accepting the award at
the 2001 MAPSS Winter Meeting



Matt Baumgartner accepting the
award in February from Terry Cooper

Conferences sponsored by U of M : CEU Opportunities

submitted by Steven Stark

1. There is a national conference on on-site wastewater treatment systems that the UofM-NRRI is sponsoring in Duluth on April 9 to 11, called "Head of the Watersheds Decentralized Wastewater Conference." Visit the following website for info: <http://www.nrri.umn.edu/default/conferences/index.htm>

- a. This is an opportunity for licensed soil scientist to earn CEUs.
- b. This is an opportunity for MAPSS to "advertise" our profession with the new exhibit. Exhibitors will be displaying services, equipment, products, etc at this conference. Perhaps MAPSS can get a reduction in the exhibitors rate since we are non-profit and have connections with NRRI.

2. The U of M is sponsoring another conference in May sometime. As far as I know, this will be a 1.5-day conference specifically on the beneficial use of industrial and municipal by-products. This conference will be at the "forestry campus" in Cloquet. Again, this is another rare opportunity for licensed soil scientists to earn CEUs.

Last Chance for Soil Judges to Volunteer

The UM will host the National Soil Judging Contest on April 25 and 26, 2002. The contest will be headquartered out of Red Wing, Minnesota. The organizer of the event, Dr. Terry Cooper, is looking for MAPSS members to volunteer some time in being pit monitors, graders, and gophers. Most of the activity will take place Thursday afternoon, Thursday evening, and Friday. It's not too late to sign up to be a helper. Contact Terry Cooper at tcooper@soils.umn.edu or (612) 625-7747.

Food for Health Conference, May 19-21



From "edible vaccines" to nutritionally enhanced items designed to prevent disease, agriculture today promises a healthier future for everyone. Integrating medicine with

food will be the focus of the Foods for Health conference May 19-21, 2002, in Minneapolis. Hosted by the University of Minnesota's College of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences, and the Academic Health Center, this National Agricultural Biotechnology Conference brings together nationally renowned food and health scientists with ethicists and consumer experts. To register, or for details on the conference, program, and speakers, go to the Web site (www.coafes.umn.edu/nabc2002) or call (612) 625-6710.

REMINDER: License Renewals.

The Minnesota Board of Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying, Landscape Architecture, Geoscience, and Interior Design has established that licensees must obtain 24 professional development hours (PDHs) during each two-year period of licensure or certification as identified in section 326.105. Current licenses are due to expire in June, 2002, and all licensees need to have documentation for 24 PDHs. Professional development hours means contact hours consisting of not less than 50 minutes each of instruction or presentation meeting the continuing education courses and activities criteria as outlined by the Board. A Continuing Education information packet can be downloaded from their website at <http://www.aelslagid.state.mn.us/CEPacket.pdf>.

Questions regarding licensure and the Continuing Education requirement can be directed to:

The Board of AELSLAGID
85 East 7th Place, Suite 160
Saint Paul, MN 55101
Phone: 651.296.2388
Fax: 651.297.5310

MAPSS Newsletter (David Kelley)
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651-962-5569

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

MAPSS Officers and Committees

2002 Officers

President: Charlie Saari
President Elect: James Balogh
Past President: James Arndt
Secretary: Daniel Comeau
Treasurer: Michael Walker

Education Committee:

Peter Hartman-chair, Thomas Jackson, Kim Steffan, Becky Sovde, Howard Hobbs, Jorja Dufresne

Membership Committee:

Dennis Fuchs-chair, Al Giencke, Greg Larson

ISTS Committee:

Tom Fait-chair, Mary West, Terry Bovee, Norm Kuhlman, Mike Rutten, Mark Wespetal

Professional Practice Committee:

Jim Arndt-chair, Phil Nesse, Sabrina Cook

MAPSS Permanent Address:

MAPSS, 439 Borlaug Hall, 1991 Upper Buford Circle
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