

# THE AUGER

*The newsletter of the Minnesota Association of Professional Soil Scientists*

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## **President's Message**

by Phil Nesse

Where has the year gone? As the old adage says "Time flies when you're having fun." Obviously we've had too much fun - perhaps not as much fun as Mark McGuire - but definitely more fun than Bill Clinton!

This is my last Auger column, as President of MAPSS. Gary Elsner, as President-elect, takes over the duties at the Annual Meeting in St. Cloud (Dec. 4, Radisson Hotel).

Gary is going to need our help. Licensing has created an expansion of duties for the President. Gary assumed several of those duties as President-elect, minimizing the time I spent in the Twin Cities. It hasn't always been fair to him and his family, though.

How can we help Gary in 1999? Members

can represent MAPSS at meetings of the Joint Professional Council (JPC) or the Geoscience Consortium or at agency meetings that have become more common with licensing. Members that enjoy writing might take responsibility for part of the newsletter - for example, perhaps a column like "Licensing Update" or "Legislative Update" or "Publications by Members."

Let your imagination wander. Let's talk about it at the Annual Meeting.

## **MAPSS Annual Meeting**

by Gary Elsner (President-elect)

The date for MAPSS Annual Meeting is fast approaching. The meeting is scheduled for Friday December 4, 1998, at 8:00 am, at the Radisson Hotel, St. Cloud. We have some excellent speakers lined up covering a number of different topics. Please see the meeting summary below, and the agenda and registration form in this newsletter. Also, **please take the time to pre-register**, by doing so, you get a discount on the fee and we can be sure we

have an accurate count for the meals and refreshments.

To start off the meeting, Al Giencke is going to give us a look at the future of the soil survey, including survey methods, standards and new publication methods. Jim Arndt and Darlene Dignen are going to follow with a demonstration of their wetland delineation and reporting methods, including the use of

### **DUES REMINDER!**

- Dues Notice included on page 7
- New member application included on page 5



GPS, GIS, STATSGO and geo-referenced digital photography.

Carrie Patterson is going to give us a look at mapping of glacial sediments that she has been doing in the Minnesota River Valley, which sheds some light on Des Moines lobe dynamics and why the this area is not uniform.

Greg Larson is going to provide some exciting news regarding the accelerated soil survey update and also update us on

the status of the discussions about soil science practice as part of wetland delineations.

After lunch Terresa Hirsch; from the Board of Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying, Landscape Architecture, Geoscience and Interior Design; will update us on changes to the licensing rule which adds continuing education requirements for Licensed Soil Scientists. **I'm excited about this program, hope to see you there!**

## Licensing of Soil Scientists in Wisconsin

Last summer the soil science licensing bill rose from the ashes of the 1997-98 Wisconsin legislative session. Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson signed the Wisconsin Geoscience Registry Bill on June 16, 1998. A coalition of soil scientists from private practice, academia, and government worked together to pass this bill. Tom Hall, executive vice-president of SSSA, coordinated and lead the effort. A summary of the process is presented on page 3 of the August issue of Agronomy News.

The Wisconsin Geoscience Registry Bill requires a license to practice soil science, hydrology, and geology in Wisconsin. Soil scientists interested in becoming licensed in Wisconsin

under the grandparenting provision **MUST** apply by December 31, 1998. To request an application, phone 608-266-5511 and follow the telephone prompts. The forms can be downloaded in the .pdf format from the SSSA web site at [www.soils.org](http://www.soils.org).

Anyone applying after December 31, 1998 must take the Soil Science Fundamentals and Professional Practice Examinations. Implementation of soil science licensing has been fast tracked, thus the limited grandparenting period. If you have questions about licensing, contact Tom Hall at [thall@agronomy.org](mailto:thall@agronomy.org).

## Soil Survey Updates

by Greg Larson

The LCMR has recommended \$500,000 for the 2 year period beginning July 1, 1999 to begin the update of outmoded soil surveys. Participating counties must provide a cash match. Significantly, the LCMR has committed to an eight year effort. Initially, efforts will focus on SE Minnesota, specifically in Fillmore County where a state funded update is underway. Final details about the project will be reflected in a forthcoming work plan, but the effort will likely feature an NRCS project leader, one or more BWSR -employed soil scientists, integration of orthorectification techniques under development by Jay Bell and funds to counties for --among other things--contracting with mappers from the private sector. Greg Larson is manager of this project and will be giving a presentation on this topic at the MAPSS annual meeting in December.

## Last Minute Soilers

by Phil Nesse

There are now (as of October 1) 55 licensed soil scientists with 73 additional applications awaiting approval at the Board of Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying, Landscape Architecture, Geoscience, and Interior Design. The grand-fathering period, as you should be aware, ended in early August of this year.

## Newsletter Editor Found

David Bauer, a recent University of Minnesota M.S. graduate, has agreed to be our newsletter editor. Any ideas for articles, suggestions, and comments should be directed to him at one of the following:

David Bauer  
1619 Carl Str. #1  
St. Paul, MN 55108

(612) 707-8568 evenings  
(651) 905-6133 days  
[savguy@gateway.net](mailto:savguy@gateway.net)

## Keys to Soil Taxonomy

by Gary Elsner (President-elect)

The Eighth Edition, 1998, of the Keys to Soil Taxonomy is out. If you are like me, you probably recall this as the readers digest pocket paperback version of Soil Taxonomy. If you do and you haven't seen a copy of this book recently, you will find that it is still a readers digest paperback version, but it would no longer fit in your pocket. In fact, it is starting to rival the size of the old hardcover. The change comes as a result of new information and the addition of many new classifications from the Order level on down.

If interested in obtaining a copy, write to:

Superintendent of Documents,  
U.S. Government Printing Office  
P.O. Box 371954  
Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954.

Stock Number: 001-000-04658-6

or phone - 202-512-1800, or Fax to - 202-512-2250.

The price is \$28.00 including shipping.

## U of M Third in Soil Judging

by Terry Cooper

The University of Minnesota finished third while George Morris finished 16<sup>th</sup> in the American Society of Agronomy Region V Soil Judging Contest. The contest, hosted by South Dakota State University, was held in the Brookings area of South Dakota in early October.

The contest started with individuals describing 2 pits on Thursday afternoon. Each contestant had 80 minutes to describe the horizons and determine the taxonomy for each site. Site 1 was a fine, mont., frigid, Typic Calcicquoll with horizons of A, Bk, Cg, C1 and C2. Site 2 was a fine, mont. Typic Argiboroll with horizons of Ap, BA, Bt, Bk1, Bk2 and 2C. The parent material of Site 1 was a lacustrine deposit while site 2 consisted of lacustrine over glacial till. George Morris lead the Gophers with 502 points, finishing 16th. The winner scored 566 points.

On Friday morning with a cold steady rain falling the team left for the South Dakota prairie. Site 1 was a creek bank with the water rising fast. The soil was a fine-loamy, mixed, Calciboroll, with horizons of A, Bk1, Bk2, Bk3, 2C, 3Ab. The parent material was alluvium. The team scored a 5th place 270 points on this site; the high score was 299. Minnesota did not

find the buried A.

Site 2 was a fine-loamy, mixed Typic Vermiboroll, (a few worms were present, doing some mixing) with horizons of Ap, Bw1, Bw2, Bk1, Bk2 and C. The parent material was glacial till. The team scored a 2<sup>nd</sup> place 325 points, just behind the top score of 327.

Textures on the first two sites were, loam, silt loam, silty clay loam, silty clay or clay loam. What this team needed was a good sand! Well site 3 was just that, a sandy, Typic Haploboroll on a sand dune. Horizons were Ap, Bw, Bk1, Bk2 and C. Textures were sandy loam and loamy sand. The team scored a leading 290 points in just 30 minutes.

Overall the team finished 3rd in team competition (a 1st a 2nd and a 5th) and 5th in total competition with the individual scores added in. First place this year went to Kansas State with Iowa State finishing 2nd. Other teams in the contest were Southwest Missouri State Univ., South Dakota State Univ. and Southwest State University from Marshall. Next year the contest will be at Kansas State University. The team thanks the Dept of Soil Water and Climate and the Minnesota Crop Production Retailers for their financial support.

Team members this year were as follows:

**George Morris (Senior)**,  
Env. Science from Buffalo, MN;  
**Tim Hansberger (Senior)**,  
Crops and Soils from Worthington, MN;  
**Matt Ruark (Senior)**,  
Env. Science from Burnsville, MN;  
**Joe Howe (Senior)**,  
Applied Economics from Texas;  
**Jane Byron (Senior)**,  
Env. Science from Faribault, MN

## U.S. Soil Survey Centennial

by Gary Elsner (President-elect)

The United States soil Survey program celebrates it's centennial in 1999. This note is a heads up to members that we will be discussing this topic during the annual meeting. Please give some thought to what, if anything MAPSS could or should be doing to celebrate this event.

Either forward your ideas to the executive committee or mention them at the meeting. Also, if there is a motion to do something, we are going to need volunteers to coordinate the effort, so please forward your interest as a volunteer as well.

## SOIL SCIENTIST OF THE YEAR NOMINATION

Not only is it time to elect new officers for MAPSS, it is also time to honor a colleague in our organization who has contributed or performed his or her duty for the enhancement or better understanding of soil science. A brief description to support the nomination is required. Please send your nominations to: Steve Stark, 6655 Fridley St. NE, Fridley MN 55432

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Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominees Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Attach a brief summary of the nominees contribution or performance as described below.

### MAPSS AWARDS

#### I. SOIL SCIENTIST OF THE YEAR

MAPSS will annually recognize a member as "Soil Scientist of the Year". The individual will be honored for some special achievement or accomplishment during the past year (Nov. 1- Oct. 31)

The awards committee will review all nominations and make the selection per the rules and guidelines with final approval by the executive committee. Full members may nominate any member of MAPSS for this award.

#### Rules and guidelines:

1. Eligibility - All MAPSS members - full and associate - in good standing with the exception of the Awards Committee and members named as Soil Scientist of the Year within the last five years.
2. Provide detailed information for items listed under Number 3 below and submit by November 20 of each year, to the chairperson of the Awards Committee.
3. Provide reasons and supporting documentation for award:
  - a) Candidate Name;
  - b) Job title;
  - c) Location;
  - d) Principle Duties;
  - e) special achievements or accomplishments (50 - 80 points). A statement of 300 words or less supporting candidate nominated should include achievements as a soil scientist in developing a better understanding of soil resources or enhancing better uses of soil resources or both;
  - f) Service to MAPSS (10 - 20 points);
  - g) Professional/technical society activities (0 - 10 points);
  - h) Continuing education (0 - 10 points);
  - i) Civil and humanitarian activities (0 - 10 points);
  - j) Awards and honors (0 - 5 points).

(numbers in parenthesis are a point guide used in reviewing nominees)
4. The candidate selected as soil Scientist of the Year will be honored at the Annual Meeting of MAPSS.