

THE Auger



October, 2001

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The Newsletter of the Minnesota Association of Professional Soil Scientists

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President's Message

by James Arndt

This is my last president's message. I never realized how fast time would fly, or how diverse and challenging the position of MAPSS President would be. Many people have assisted me in my duties, including our present Board members Kelly Bopravay, Dan Comeau, Pat Burford, and Charlie Saari, and many committee members. Gary Elsner and Jim Balogh have been available to provide needed advice on several issues. I would like to thank these people and the entire membership for their support over the past year.

Our meetings have been successful: well attended, entertaining and informative. I believe that we have had an impact on both professional and social fronts. We matured as an organization over the past few years when dealing with our licensure issues. Though not entirely successful regarding soil science licensure and wetland delineation, we have several members who now know what is involved when dealing with the political process, and the responsibilities that come with profes-

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2001 Winter Meeting

by Charles Saari

We have an interesting group of speakers and topics planned for this year's annual meeting to be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites in St. Cloud, Minnesota, on December 7, 2001. Mr. Gary Wagner will discuss how new technology affects decision making for farm field management. Dr. Martin Rosek will discuss the roles of multi-layering of soils information in GIS for us in Precision Agriculture. Mr. Kenneth Matzdorf will discuss how to retrieve and use soils data from NASIS. Dr. Terry

Cooper is going to discuss the National Soils Judging Contest to be held in Minnesota, and a discussion on how do we attract more new students into the soil science field for future soil scientist. Ms. Doreen Frost, AELSLAGID Executive Director will bring us an update of activities and how that will effect the practice of soil science in Minnesota. We also hope to make the presentations of the Joseph Cummins Memorial Scholarships to the students. The Business Meeting will follow the presentations.

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

MAPSS WINTER MEETING
 December 7, 2001
 Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, St. Cloud Minnesota

AGENDA

- 8:30-9:00 **Registration and Social**
- 9:00 - 9:10 **Introductions**
 Charles Saari President Elect
- 9:10 - 10:00 **Decision making for Farm Field Management**
 Mr. Gary Wagner, Farmer Crookston, Minnesota
- 10:00 - 10:50 **Multi-Layering of Soils Information in GIS for Precision Agriculture**
 Dr. Martin Rosek, NRCS Virginia, Minnesota
- 11:00 - 12:00 **How to use Soils Data from NASIS**
 Mr. Kenneth Matzdorf Soil Specialist NRCS St. Paul, Minnesota
- 12:00 - 1:00 **Lunch**
- 1:00 - 1:30 **Soil Judging Contest - and - Student Recruitment**
 Dr. Terry Cooper Professor Soil Science University of Minnesota
- 1:30 - 2:00 **Update from the Board**
 Ms. Doreen Frost, AELSLAGID Executive Director
- 2:00 - 2:15 **Presentation of Joseph Cummins Memorial Scholarships**
- 2:15 - 4:00 **Business Meeting**
- 4:00 **Adjourn**

Directions: Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites is located at 75 South 37th Avenue (at the intersection of highways 23 & 15) St. Cloud, Minnesota. The easiest way in is to take the Hwy. 15 exit off I-94 when you enter St. Cloud.

Clip Here

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____

Make checks payable to **MAPSS**
 Mail registration to:
 Pat Burford, 84 Oak St., Mahtomedi, MN 55115

~ New members, first meeting is free ~

REGISTRATION FEES		
MAPSS Member (if registered by 11/28/01)	\$40.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
NON-member	\$45.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Register at door	\$55.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 Credits @ \$10/credit (Optional Fee for Cont. Ed. Credits)	\$40.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
TOTAL:	\$ _____	

(President's Message, continued from page 1)

ional licensure. We have an active, vocal, and professional AELSLAGID representative in Dawn Tracy. Our membership is informed and, judging by our meeting attendance and business meeting discussions, active.

I will hope that individuals among the membership will continue to step forward when needed, both to fill professional positions and to assist when important issues (whatever they may be) arise in the future. This newsletter includes biographies of soil science MAPSS professionals who have been nominated and are willing to run for office. Those Board members who are outgoing, and (those such as myself) who will remain will provide assistance to our new incoming officers. However, we still need an Executive Assistant, and this need would be an agenda item for this winter's meeting. Many of our officers have job responsibilities that preclude regular attendance at some important meetings. There are several organizations that we need to keep in contact with, including the Board AELSLAGID, the Professional Practice Committee, the Minnesota Chapter of the American Institute of Professional Geologists, and others. An Executive Assistant who is paid to perform this service is desperately needed to ensure continuity in providing "face-to-face" contact with these groups and to inform our membership of important issues.

We have had many changes in the last year. We have lost several old friends, and will be considering setting up a permanent MAPSS Scholarship Memorial fund at the Winter Business Meeting. I believe that this is an idea whose time has come, and this is another example of our maturation as an organization. It's hard to believe that so many of the individuals who were involved with the original soil survey and soil science in general are retiring and passing. The people who know them and the profession as a whole will sorely miss their character, organizational skills, and knowledge.

However, it is also important that we keep up with advances in technology and in the application of technology to soil science. The science is changing rapidly. I have been recently involved with projects on the periphery of information technology involving digital terrain modeling applications, GIS, GPS and

database use. These tools will only become more important in the coming years. The future is bright for people who keep abreast of this technology and are skilled in its use, incorporation into ever-more comprehensive land use plans, and dissemination of the information to the public. NASIS and SSURGO are prime examples of how the NRCS is adapting to increasing public needs for soils information. It is becoming increasingly important that we, as professional soil scientists maintain our knowledge in these areas and communicate and work with "multidisciplinary teams" that address natural resource issues. This will, I believe, be a new challenge over the coming decade.

I look forward to seeing many of you at this annual winter meeting in St. Cloud. Charlie Saari has put together an interesting, informative program emphasizing user applications of soil's data. I also believe that we will have a lively business meeting. I have enjoyed my tenure as president, and look forward to continuing involvement in MAPSS. See you in St. Cloud.

Soil Judges Needed

The Department of Soil, Water, and Climate will be hosting the 2002 National Soil Judging Contest in April, 2002. I would like to have MAPSS members serve as contest site monitors, time keepers, help with grading scorecards, and serve as resource soil scientists. Peter Hartman and Charles Sarri from NRCS and myself will be the official judges.

The contest is going to be the week of April 20-26, with the actual contest taking place on Thursday April 25 (3 individual pits in P.M.) and Friday April 26 (two team pits in A.M.).

Grading would take place Thursday night and Friday (as the cards are completed) .

The contest will be hosted out of Red Wing Mn, with practice and contest sites in Goodhue and Dakota County. It is expected that as many as 25 teams or 100 students will be participating.

If you are interested in being a volunteer, please contact Terry Cooper at tcooper@soils.umn.edu

IN MEMORIAM

William S. Nord



William S. Nord, of 2951 McKinley Street NE in Minneapolis, Minnesota, died in a bicycle accident on Monday August 13, 2001, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He was 45 years old.

Bill was born in Minneapolis on August 19, 1955. He graduated cum laude from Moorhead State University in 1977, where he gained experience working in a laboratory in plant physiology. He then worked for a private environmental engineering firm in St. Paul for two years before joining the University of Minnesota in 1979. He worked in the Soil Survey Laboratory for 15 years and became the Laboratory Manager. He was responsible for everything from digging soils pits with a Bobcat, to running a vast array of physical and

chemical analyses, to maintaining rigorous quality control protocols. He also developed a video library. It was during this time that many soil scientists associated with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the University of Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station worked with him on the National Cooperative Soil Survey and appreciated his high quality lab work and assistance.

Bill then worked with the USDA-ARS Plant Science Research Unit on the St. Paul Campus for a few years, where he very capably managed complex field experiments in Minnesota and Wisconsin to quantify nitrate leaching in pastures. He made critical observations that improved the results of these experiments. As this grant-funded project was ending, he moved to the Research Analytical Laboratory, where he calibrated and was responsible for the analyses from a new inductively coupled argon plasma optical emission spectrometer, devised improved data management strategies, and designed the laboratory's website.

Bill was a member of the Minnesota Association of Professional Soil Scientists for many years.

Bill loved solving problems and was good at it. He was an excellent and dedicated analyst with a keen analytical mind. He really enjoyed technology. His attention to detail meant that few things escaped his notice. He had a knack with instruments. They always seemed to run better in his presence. And when Bill gave you results of an analysis, you could count on them.

Bill married Pat on July 13, 1991, and they had just celebrated their 10th anniversary. Bill's contributions to the University and to his friends will be missed. We will also miss his warmth, humor and ready smile.

Bill is survived by his wife, Pat; his parents, Arne & Lois; sister, Jan Nord; brothers, Marck and wife Lil, Ron and Scott; nieces and nephews. His funeral service was on August 17, 2001, at the Washburn McReavy Northeast Chapel in Minneapolis. Burial was in Hillside Cemetery in Minneapolis.

**Minnesota Association of Professional Soil Scientists
(MAPSS)
SUMMER BUSINESS MEETING
July 27, 2001
Meeting Minutes, Subject to Approval**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Jim Arndt at 5:55 p.m.

Executive Committee members present: Jim Arndt, President, Kelly Bopray, Past-President, Charles Saari, President-Elect, Pat Burford, Treasurer, Dan Comeau, Secretary. Members absent: None

- Approval of Winter Business Meeting Minutes.

Comeau motioned to approve the minutes, second by Kelly. Motion carried.

- Treasurers Report

Pat gave the report; the current balance is \$11,312.24 as of July 26, 2001. Motion to approve the report by Tom Fait; second by Terry Bovee. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

- Membership Committee (Dennis Fuchs)

Dennis indicated he thought the joint tour (with the SWCS Association) was a great idea and would like to see it happen again (they have about 200 members). Mike Appel indicated a volunteer has stepped forward to help on next year's Summer Tour which will be in Southwestern Minnesota

- Education Committee (Peter Hartman)

Pete indicated that several MAPSS members participated this spring in Project Common Ground at Wilder Forrest. Presentations were given (Betsy Gillen, Peter Hartman, Howard Hobbs, Tom Jackson, Norm Mofjeld, Mike Walker and Laura Vogel) on soils, hydrology and geology to 5th, 6th and 7th graders from St. Paul and Stillwater school districts. Project Common Ground is on the verge of expanding to several school districts throughout the state and the Science Museum is going forward with its efforts on Project Soils.

- ISTS Committee (Tom Fait, Terry Bovee)

The committee is currently charged with developing standard operating procedures (SOPS). Terry Bovee discussed the ISTS report concerning MAPSS' involvement/role in ISTS training as a main player since the U of MN and the MPCA are short on money. (See below).

- Professional Practice Committee (Jim Arndt)

Jim indicated a charge of this group is to coordinate with the ISTS Committee on training and Jim wants to do a Web-based survey concerning what types of work MAPSS members do as a way of inventorying our professional resources.

- Election Committee (Kelly Bopray)

Kelly indicated Bob Anderson has stepped forward as a new volunteer and more volunteers are needed.

- Soil Scientist of the Year Nomination Committee (Kelly Bopray)

Kelly indicated this committee would look for candidates, review their qualifications and refer nominees to the MAPSS Executive Committee.

Old Business

- Wetland Delineator Status

Although funding was not provided this session, the consensus opinion remained that the proposed certification process was a good idea.

- Executive Assistant Status

This position is still not filled. Jim Arndt suggested the person in the position could spend time at JPC meetings and function as a set of MAPSS ears there.

- Lobbyist Fund – Extension of Legislative Committee?

There was discussion concerning the cost versus the worth of such a position at this time. Discussion also focused on what to do with CEU monies if not to be spent on lobbying efforts. Steve Stark motioned that the MAPSS Executive Committee develop a “War Chest” fund and develop criteria for how and when to spend the money. Bovee seconded. After more discussion, the motion was rescinded and withdrawn. The consensus was that CEU monies should be kept separate from dues and other income sources so that it would be there (and be identifiable) for use in the future

New Business

- Memorial Scholarship

Terry Cooper indicated that a fund of about \$10,000 would be needed in order to give out annual scholarships of \$500 to \$700. The U of MN could administer the fund. Joe’s wife is willing to give \$1500 but wants the money to have a local impact. It was thought that the Education Committee could lead this effort. After lengthy discussion, Steve Stark motioned (Bovee seconded) that the MAPSS Executive and Education Committees find a way to utilize the potential donation(s) and develop long-term solution(s) for direction of the fund. Motion carried.

- ISTS – MPCA – MAPSS training courses

Terry Bovee discussed the ISTS Committee’s report concerning MAPSS’ role in training. The U of MN would be the main player since MPCA is short on funding. This is a good opportunity to keep PSSs involved and professionally visible.

Bovee proposed a motion that the ISTS Committee develop a list of PSSs that are qualified to teach ISTS-related material. Second by Tom Fait. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Motion by Bovee to adjourn; second by Peter Hartman. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

MAPSS SUMMER MEETING MINUTES
July 27, 2001

Minutes submitted by Dan Comeau, Secretary

2002 MAPSS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION

CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT:

James Balogh, PSS:

I have both a M.S. and Ph.D. degree in soil science from the U of MN, am licensed to practice soil science in MN, WI, and NC; and am an ARCPACS Certified Professional Soil Scientist. With over 27 research publications, a book, and numerous technical reports, I have broad experience in soil science, environmental quality, turfgrass, agriculture, forestry, and am a MN ISTS Designer I. I presently administer a successful research and consulting company, Spectrum Research; have administrative and legislative experience as the soil science board member and chair of the MN Board of AELSLAGID; and am an active member of the CSSE, SSSA, ARCPACS, and ASA Board. I have previously served MAPSS as newsletter editor for 8 years, developed presentations for meetings, and organized the first CE workshop. I believe that MAPSS should serve the interests of its members as a professional organization in addition to the historical commitment to education and public service. If elected I will be committed to MAPSS as the representative of MAPSS members as professionals in government, private practice, and academia.

Tom Neuenfeldt, PSS:

I received a BS degree at the Univ. of Minn. in 1983. After graduation, I was hired as a soil scientist for the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station (MAES) to work on the soil survey of Lake of the Woods County. In 1987 I was hired as a soil scientist by SCS and worked as project member on the soil survey of Sibley County. From 1990 to 1998, I served as the project leader for the soil survey of Hubbard County. From 1998 to Feb 2001 I served as the NRCS soil scientist - map finishing team leader at the Center of Excellence in Soil Map Compilation at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College. At present, I am serving as a Soil Data Quality Specialist in St. Paul. I have been a member of MAPSS since 1984.

CANDIDATES FOR TREASURER:

Michael Walker:

I began my career as a soil scientist with NRCS in the mid-1970's, after graduating from the University of Illinois with a B.S. in Forestry (1973). I served as a soil scientist, survey leader, or MLRA subset leader in various locations in central or northeastern Illinois. Currently, I am a Soil Data Quality Specialist at NRCS Region 10 office member of the MLRA Region 10 staff. I have responsibilities in the Soil Survey Geographic (SSURGO) database program and in technical review of survey manuscripts.

Mark Wespetal, PSS (MN & WI):

I am a member of MAPSS, Wisc Society of Prof Soil Scientists, and American Society of Agronomy. Registered Designer for ISTS - MPCA and Certified Soil Tester for ISTS - State of Wisconsin. My employment history includes: Univ. of Wisc. River Falls - Research Assistant, Dorchester CO-OP - Fertilizer Plant, Natural Resource Conservation Service - Greene and Ringgold County's Soil Survey, and Minn. Pollution Control Agency - Land Application of Domestic Wastes and Individual Sewage Treatment Systems. I have authored or co-authored 3 papers for the American Society of Agricultural Engineers and The American Society of Testing and Materials and co-authored a Univ. of Minn. Extension Service training manual on site evaluations for individual sewage treatment systems.

ELECTION BALLOT

President:

James Balogh _____
Tom Neuenfeldt _____
Write-in: _____

Treasurer:

Michael Walker _____
Mark Wespetal _____
Write-in: _____

Mail Ballots To: MAPSS, c/o Robert Anderson, 1316 Martha Street N., Stillwater, MN 55082. **Ballots Must Be Received By 30 Nov 01.** Only Full or Honorary members may vote. Only ballots that have the member's signature on the outside of the envelope will be counted. Election results will be announced at Dec 2001 Winter Meeting.

University of Minnesota Soils team competes at Iowa Regional Contest.

The weather was the best ever for an ASA Region Five Soil Judging Contest. We are usually exposed to rain, snow, wind, and cold. This year Iowa State University hosted the contest in northeast Iowa. We stayed in Decorah and looked at practice sites in the surrounding areas. The weather was mild, sunny and not much wind. It was almost too good. Our practice sites got us exposed to Alfisols and Mollisols derived from loess, pedisements, alluvium, residuum, and glacial till. Most of the practice pits were in CRP land and had Ap horizons. Many profiles had additional A, AB or AE horizons. Many had Bt, and one had a 2Btb. We saw some Cr horizons on limestone while other soils had B or BC horizons to the pit bottom.

The day of the contest was just as nice as the rest. We did have frost in the early morning and lots of dew. The 2 pits for individuals to complete the description for were in the same field about 10 miles southwest of Decorah. The summit site was pedisement over till. Textures were Loam A horizons and clay loam Bt horizons. Horizons were Ap, A, BA, Bt1, 2Bt2, 2Bt3. The second pit was down the slope, but still on the back slope, though most students called it a footslope. Horizons were Ap, A, BE, BT, 2Btg, 2B't. Textures were loam for the A and clay loam for the Bt. This was a somewhat poorly drained soil. Both soils were Argiudolls.

In the afternoon the 3 soils were on the same farm but the distance was about 3/4 mile between the pits. We were about 15 miles north and east of Decorah, but not to Minnesota. The highest site (Pit 3) was on loess, was moderately well drained and was an-

other Argiudoll. Horizons were Ap, AE, BE, Bt1, Bt2 and BC. Textures were silt loam. Colors of the horizons were 3/2, 3/3, 4/3, 4/4, 5/4,5/4 top to bottom, all 10yr. Pit 4 was on loess and had horizons of Ap, E, BE, Bt, BC, Cg. Lots of redoximorphic features in the BC and Cg. Textures were all silt loam. The soil was moderately well drained. Colors were 10yr 4/3 to the Bt which was 4/4 and the BC and Cg were 2.5y 5/2. This pit was a Hapludalf. The last pit was a floodplain soil. Horizons were Ap, A, AC, Ab, ABb, Bwb. Textures were all silt loam, colors were all 10yr 3/2 through the AC, the Ab was 2/1 and the Bwb was 4/4. This soil was a Hapludoll. Even though the textures were silt loam, the judges thought it was fine-loamy and not fine-silty.

We learned a lot about northeast Iowa. Team members this year were Mike Gensmer ES senior, from Plainview, Minnesota. Mike finished in 5th place out of the 34 contestants. Jessica Wittwer finished in 13 place a junior in ES from Ely, MN. Other Team members were Liz Anderson, ES senior from Plymouth, Brandy Elf, ES Junior from Mc Gregor, MN, Beth McClure ES Junior from Minneapolis, and Diane Sander, an NRES senior from Clear Lake, WI.

Kansas State was the first place team this year. Followed by Iowa State and South Dakota State. These 3 teams are now eligible to attend the national contest in 2002. In April of 2002 the University of Minnesota will be hosting the 20 teams eligible for the National Soil Judging Contest. The contest will be in Goodhue County. Other teams competing in the regional this year were Southwest State University, Univ. of Nebraska, Univ. of Missouri, and Univ. of Minnesota, St. Paul. Next fall Southwest State University will be hosting the regional in southwest Minnesota.



Soil Scientist of the Year

By Kelly Bopray

It is time to honor a fellow soil scientist that has had a special achievement of accomplishment during the previous year. I don't mean to cheapen this important award but maybe a little fun might increase the participation in it. Below are a few hints as to who has been chosen as the Soil Scientist of the Year for 2001 (SSY). See if you can guess who our esteemed colleague is by the end of this article. At the end of this article you will find out how to enter your guess. You can find out if you are the winner of this contest at the Winter Meeting in St. Cloud. Before you read on, write down your guess for soil scientist of the year. You can change your answer as many times as you like as the clues below are revealed.

The Soil Scientist of the Year is... you didn't think I'd give it away already?

Clue 1: He/She is a member in good standing and is not a member of the SSY committee. (I hope your guess is still in the running.)

Clue 2: He/She has not been named SSY within the past 5 years. (Check the web site to see whom that eliminates.)

Clue 3: The SSY was nominated before November 20th by a full member of MAPSS (I can't give you the members name because that might give the contest away).

Clue 4: His/Her achievements in developing a better understanding of soil resources, enhancing better uses of soil resources, etc. can be summarized in less than 300 words (although it would take a lot more to recognize all of the SSY's contributions).

Clue 5: He/She has been involved with both MAPSS and other professional/technical society activities. (Did you change your original guess yet?)

Clue 6: The SSY has striven to improve his/herself through continuing education.

Clue 7: He/She has been involved in civil and humanitarian activities and may have even received

other awards or honor.

So did you change your guess? You know it's usually best to go with your first impression. Don't second-guess yourself.

The fact that someone you know meets the criteria (clues) for soil scientist of the year means you think that person should be a candidate for this honor. It is very important to recognize the achievements of our colleagues. If you don't nominate that person, who will? You can send your guess to the SSY chair; Kelly J Bopray, N7831 920th St., River Falls, WI, 54022, kbopray@pressenter.com. Your guess should include the candidate's name, Job title, address/location, principle duties and accomplishments outlined in the clues in the first part of this article. The rules and Guidelines can also be reviewed in the MAPSS constitution or on the MAPSS web page.

Again, I apologize to anyone who thinks I have cheapened the importance of this award or the real honors that are bestowed on the Soil Scientist of the Year. Just a small effort on your part can help honor one of your deserving colleagues. And think of all the things you could do with all the fabulous prizes and piles of money if you guessed the right SSY and your name is drawn from the list of nominators at the winter meeting.



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MAPSS Newsletter (David Kelley)
432 JRC Univ. of St. Thomas
2115 Summit Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55105
651-962-5569

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MAPSS Officers and Committees

2001 Officers

President: James Arndt
President Elect: Charlie Saari
Past President: Kelly Bopray
Secretary: Daniel Comeau
Treasurer: Pat Burford

Education Committee:

Thomas Jackson-chair, 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

Professional Practice Committee:

Jim Arndt-chair, Phil Nesse, Sabrina Cook

MAPSS Permanent Address:

MAPSS, 439 Borlaug Hall, 1991 Upper Buford Circle
St. Paul, MN 55108
