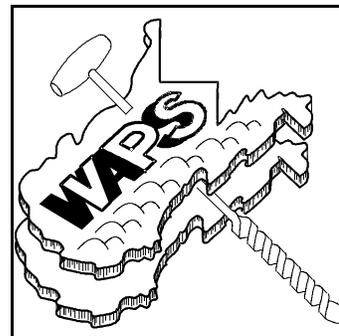


April 2000

Mountain Profiles

A newsletter of the West Virginia Association of Professional Soil Scientists

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hello everyone. As we approach the end of another business year for WVAPSS I wonder “where has all the time gone.” Seems like just last week we were standing on top of the ridge marveling the view Canaan Valley offered at our annual meeting. West Virginia truly is ‘God’s Country’! This year’s annual meeting will be held on the rim of the New River Canyon offering each of us another prime opportunity to bask in natural beauty that we West Virginian’s come to expect, but never take for granted. More annual meeting details appear later.

All of you should have received a mailing recently giving you the opportunity to be listed on a Professional Soil Science Consultants List for West Virginia. This list will be professionally printed on high quality paper and listing is limited to full members of WVAPSS. The list will be distributed to Soil Conservation District offices and development offices throughout the state. New legislation requiring the services of professional soil scientists on many developmental projects and land use areas appears to be on the horizon and this brochure will be one way to make sure the public has a tool for securing the services of dedicated professionals. The application for inclusion on the list is reproduced in this newsletter along with the original letter that accompanied the first mailing. We have set a deadline of June 15, 2000 for the applications in order to assure publication in time for the Partnership Meeting being held in Charleston the first week of October.

Also appearing in this newsletter is a ballot for election of vice president, secretary-treasurer, and one board member. Tim Dilliplane is our outgoing secretary-treasurer. Tim has served two terms in that position and has done a magnificent job of keeping our organization running. I hope each of you will join me in congratulating Tim for a job well done.

I hope to see each one of you at the annual meeting and join with me as I hand the gavel over to Jason Teets, who will have the honor of serving as president in the next year.

Doug Boyer

Dues Notice

Now is the time to bring your dues payments up to date. Remember, dues will be increasing to \$15 per year starting with this year’s annual meeting. Annual dues can be sent to Tim Dilliplane at USDA-NRCS; 224-C First St.; Point Pleasant, WV 25550.

We currently have plenty of WVAPSS hats and T-shirts bearing our logo. Hats are in green, light blue, and tan, while T-shirts are in green, gold, and light blue. Prices are \$5 for hats and \$10 for shirts. Besides dues, this is our only other fund-raising activity.

WVAPSS Annual Meeting

Friday June 2, 2000

The annual meeting this year will consist of a raft trip on the lower New River followed by a buffet dinner seated on the rim of the New River canyon and then our business meeting. The raft trip has been arranged by Tony Jenkins and promises to be a fun-filled afternoon. We will meet at Class VI River Runners at noon on Friday, June 2nd. Dinner will be held at the same location starting about 5:00 pm that evening. The dinner is described as a 'gourmet buffet' and rumor has it that the food is excellent. Cost of the dinner runs between \$10 and \$15. A map and driving instructions are included below. The trip costs \$40, which represents a discount of more than 50% off the regular price. Members may want to take advantage of this great deal for friends and family. **In order to secure your places on the trip send a \$10 deposit to Doug Boyer, 1224 Airport Rd, Beaver, WV 25813 before May 26th.** If you have any questions feel free to contact Doug Boyer at 304-256-2833 or dboyer@afsrc.ars.usda.gov. More details about Class VI River Runners can be viewed at <http://www.raftwv.com/>

Driving Directions:

From the North: take I-79S to route 19 South/Summersville Exit, travel about 60 miles and turn right onto Ames Heights Road, left at the fork, then left into the second parking area (if you cross the New River Gorge Bridge headed south, you've gone too far); or take I-77S to North Beckley/Exit 48.

From the South: I-77N to Beckley, WV; take North Beckley/Exit 48. See "From North Beckley/Exit 48" directions below.

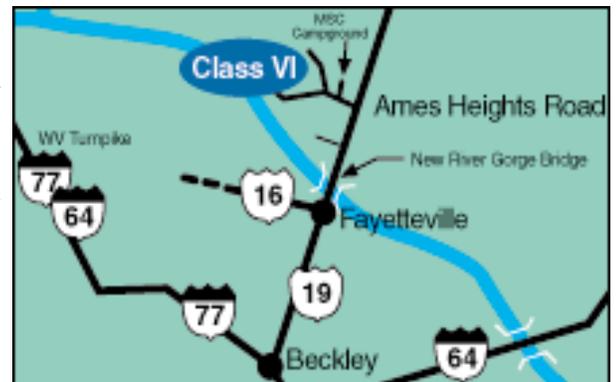
From the East: I-64W or I-66W to I-81S, then back to I-64W at Lexington, VA; follow I-64W to I-77N; I-77N to North Beckley/Exit 48. See "From North Beckley/Exit 48" directions below.

From the West: I-64E to Charleston, WV; take I-77S & I-64E about 50 miles to North Beckley/Exit 48. See "From North Beckley/Exit 48" directions below. (If traveling from the Cincinnati area, we like traveling on the "AA" Highway through Northern Kentucky, picking up I-64E at Grayson, KY/Exit 172).

From North Beckley/Exit 48: Follow US 19N about 20 miles to Ames Heights Road (second road to the left after crossing New River Gorge Bridge); follow Ames Heights Road bearing left at the fork in the road, Class VI is on the left (about 1 mile total); pull into second parking area.

For Those Who Would Like To Camp:

Directions to Mountain State Campground/Breezy Hill Cottage: After you turn off of US Route 19 and onto Ames Heights Road, the first road (looks more like a driveway!) to the right leads to the campground, Mountain State Campground. If the yellow line isn't in the center of Ames Heights Road anymore, you've gone too far.



Professional Soil Science

Consultants List

We recently mailed to each WVAPSS member a letter and information sheet for the new Professional Soil Science Consultants List. In case you have misplaced yours, they are reproduced here. Remember, the deadline for this year's listing is July 15th. Send your completed form and payment to Tim Dilliplane, USDA-NRCS; 224-C First St.; Point Pleasant, WV 25550. Sorry, only full members of WVAPSS are eligible for this important listing.

During the WVAPSS executive board meeting, held in November 1999 (during the Conservation Partnership Meeting) in Charleston, the issue of providing soil services to the public was discussed. After the meeting was adjourned, this topic was continued at an impromptu WVAPSS general meeting.

In the past there has generally not been a great demand for these services in most of West Virginia. At the same time, USDA-NRCS (and formerly SCS) soil scientists usually provided on-site evaluation services (commonly known as I&E's) for such uses as homesite construction, individual subsurface waste disposal systems, pond sites and wetland identification to the public. This was due partly to the general lack of consulting soil scientists available and a rather broad interpretation of what a soil conservation district cooperater was.

The demand for on-site soil services, however, has been on the rise for several years now, particularly in areas experiencing rapid urban and suburban growth. Following a national review and evaluation of the USDA-NRCS Soil Survey Program in West Virginia in the fall of 1999, the on-site soil services policy (I&E policy) in West Virginia was revised, and clearer guidelines on available services from NRCS soil scientists were issued. One of the main concerns among NRCS field soil scientists (Soil Survey Project Leaders and Resource Soil Scientists) was the lack of private consulting soil scientists available to provide these services, particularly in rural areas.

It was decided that WVAPSS could improve the situation by developing a list of members that provide consulting soil services (i.e. a consultant list or directory). During the WVAPSS executive board meeting on February 4, 2000 a motion was passed to proceed with the development of the list. Since several WVAPSS members currently provide these services, we would like to poll the entire membership to develop this list so we can include all those that wish to be on the list. A directory will be developed and made available to the public. Mailings to entities such as health department officials, planning boards, conservation districts and District Conservationists can also be made.

By becoming more proactive in this way, WVAPSS may accomplish several goals. First, the association increases its public visibility and position as a leader in the soil science profession in West Virginia. Second, it will help provide necessary services to the public. Third, it will promote the use of soil professionals for these services so that less qualified professions or individuals would be less likely to provide the services. This will help to protect public health and the environment in general. Fourth, it may increase membership in the professional organization, which will help insure that professional conduct and a code of ethics are adhered to.

If you would like to be included on the list, please fill out the attached form. There will be a fee of \$25.00 for inclusion on the list. This is to cover costs of printing and mailing the list. Since those individuals included on the list stand to gain most financially and professionally from this service, it was decided to assess this fee to cover the cost separately from regular WVAPSS dues.

Please send completed form to: **WVAPSS**
Secretary/Treasurer
224-C First St.
Pt. Pleasant, WV 25550

*Make checks (or other payment...please no credit cards) payable to: **WVAPSS***

Remember: Deadline is July 15, 2000

Information form for WVPSS Consultant List- Year 2000

Name: _____
(please write how the name should appear...i.e. Dr. Joseph Schmoe, Joe Schmoe or Joseph E. Schmoe)

Company (if any): _____

Certifications, licenses: _____

(i.e. ARCP ACS Certified Professional Soil Scientist, WV Class 1 & 2 Septic Installer, etc.)

Address: _____

Phone: _____

FAX: _____

E-mail address: _____

Academic Degrees Received: _____
(i.e. B.S. or B.S., M.S. or B.A., M.S., Ph.D., etc.)

Years professional experience: _____

Services provided (check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soil mapping and classification | <input type="checkbox"/> Homesite evaluation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Erosion and sedimentation control | <input type="checkbox"/> Land reclamation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nutrient management planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Site evaluation for sewage sludge disposal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> On-site sewage disposal evaluation | <input type="checkbox"/> Site evaluation for solid waste disposal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Site evaluation for hazardous and toxic waste disposal | <input type="checkbox"/> Site evaluation for archeological resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands identification, delineation and mitigation | <input type="checkbox"/> Forest soil site assessment |

OTHER: _____

(Depending on length of list, these may be coded or listed separately for each person)

Send completed form and payment of \$25.00 to: **WVPSS
Secretary/Treasurer
224-C First St.
Pt. Pleasant, WV 25550**

Make checks (or other payment...please no credit cards) payable to **WVPSS**.

New Application for Membership in WVPSS Form

It was decided at the April board meeting of WVPSS that the current Application for Membership in WVPSS is extremely outdated. Jason Teets has volunteered to chair a committee to redesign the form. Committee members will be chosen by the annual meeting. If any of you would like to serve on that committee please contact Jason. We also decided that decisions on admittance of new members will be postponed until the new form is ready.

Doug Boyer, President

New E-mail Listserv for WV Soils

A new e-mail listserv has been set up for discussion of West Virginia soil science issues. This list provides a forum for professional soil scientists and interested individuals to exchange ideas and to discuss issues about soil resource issues and management in West Virginia. To join the list send the message 'subscribe Wvsoils' to listcaster@afsrc.ars.usda.gov. (Note: there is no space in the word Wvsoils).

1999-2000 WVPSS Executive Council Members

President - Dr. Doug Boyer
USDA-ARS
1224 Airport Rd.
Beaver, WV 25813
(304) 256-2833, FAX (304) 256-2921
E-mail dboyer@afsrc.ars.usda.gov

Past President - Dr. David Cremeens
GAI Consultants, Inc.
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Monroeville, PA 15146
(412) 856-6400 x3234, FAX (412) 856-4970
E-mail dcremeens@aol.com

Vice President - Jason Teets
USDA-NRCS
Rt. 2 Box 92
Ronceverte, WV 24970
(304) 645-7836
E-mail Jason.Teets@wvbeckley.fsc.usda.gov

Secretary-Treasurer - Tim Dilliplane
USDA-NRCS
224-C F first St.
Point Pleasant, WV 25550
(304) 675-4170, FAX (304) 675-7787
E-mail Tim.Dilliplane@wvpointple.fsc.usda.gov

Executive Council Member - Wendy Noll
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16B Chalfant Alley
Morgantown, WV 26149
(304) 291-3535
E-mail Wendy.Noll@wv.usda.gov

Executive Council Member - Dave Kingsbury
USDA-NRCS
75 High St.
Morgantown, WV 26505
(304) 291-4152 x181, FAX (304) 291-4628
E-mail David.Kingsbury@wv.usda.gov

Executive Council Member - Dr. D. K. Bhumbra
Professor of Soils
West Virginia University
P. O. Box 6108
Morgantown, WV 26506-6108
(304) 293-2219 x4212, FAX (304) 293-6954
E-mail dbhumbra@wvu.edu

Soils on the WEB

WEB sites that contain soils related information. These sites may be of interest to WVAPSS members:

Keys to Soil Taxonomy	http://www.statlab.iastate.edu:80/soils/keytax
Official Series Descriptions of the U.S.	http://www.statlab.iastate.edu:80/soils/osd
Hydric Soils of U.S.	http://www.statlab.iastate.edu:80/soils/hydric
USDA/NRCS National Soil Survey Center	http://www.statlab.iastate.edu:80/soils/nssc
NRCS National Wetlands Science Institute	http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/WLI/
Soil Science Society of America	http://www.soils.org/
The Eleven Soil Orders	http://soils.ag.uidaho.edu/soilorders/
MLRA Region 12 Amherst MA	http://www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov/mo/index.htm
Soil Texture AutoLookup (TAL) Calculator	http://members.xoom.com/drsoil/talcalc.html
Soil Hydraulic Properties Calculator	http://www.bsyse.wsu.edu/~saxton/soilwatr/soilwatr.htm

Local West Virginia Area sites that may be of interest:

WV NRCS Personnel Directory Links	http://www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov/wvpers.htm
USDA/ARS Lab, Beaver, WV	http://www.arserrc.gov/Beckley/
WVU College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Consumer Sciences	http://www.caf.wvu.edu/academics.html
WVU Extension Service	http://www.wvu.edu/~exten/
WV Dept. of Agriculture	http://www.state.wv.us/agriculture/
WV Soil Conservation Agency	http://www.wvsca.org/
Member Jeff Skousen Home Page	http://www.caf.wvu.edu/faculty/skousen/index.html
Member Doug Boyer Home Page	http://www.citynet.net/personal/sspride/Doug.htm

Send other Cyberspace links to Doug Boyer at dboyer@afsrc.ars.usda.gov