

April 2002

Mountain Profiles

A newsletter of the West Virginia Association of Professional Soil Scientists

ANNUAL MEETING - 2002

Our annual meeting promises to be a good one. With recent interest in the possible impacts of land use (mining and logging) on flooding in southern West Virginia, we have selected hydrology as our theme for the meeting.

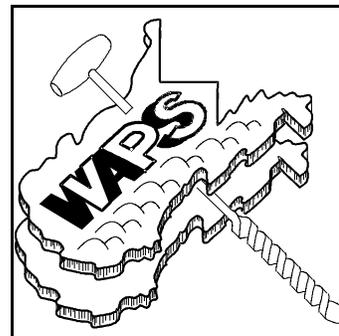
We plan to meet at 11:00 AM, June 14th, at Class VI Outfitters, located on Ames Height Road, which intersects Rt. 19 about 1/2 mile north of the New River Bridge. Signs are posted along Ames Heights Road to direct you to Class VI. We are planning to hear Jim Kochenderfer give his presentation on hydrology in West Virginia from a historic perspective. Jim is a research forester at the USFS Fernow Experimental Forest, located near Parsons, WV. We were hoping to have a second speaker, Jim Pearce, to discuss lidar imagery of some flood-affected areas. Jim works with the Division of Mining and Reclamation, and he also serves on the WV DEP Flood Advisory Technical Task Force. Lidar refers to light detection and ranging, and is reputed to have exceptional resolution. However, we have recently been informed that Jim may provide materials for our meeting, but may not be able to attend due to pending legal aspects of his work.

During lunch, Tony Jenkins is scheduled to present slides related to hydrology, flooding, and geomorphic processes of the flood-affected area. We can individually purchase a good lunch at Class VI. We have been promised a private meeting area and better acoustics than we had at a previous meeting at Class VI. At 2:00 PM, we hope to start a rafting trip down New River, where we can view more results of flood-related geomorphic processes. We plan to return to Class VI around 6:00 PM. Here, we can shower, eat, and have our annual business meeting. For those who wish to spend more time in the Fayetteville area, camping is available at Class VI Outfitters (1-800-classvi), or rustic cabins are available at Vanishing Creek Cabins (304-574-3226). Several other facilities can also be found in the vicinity.

Tony is trying to negotiate a reduced rafting fee, hopefully in the low-to-mid forty dollars range.

Where else can you get an education in hydrology and have so much fun on June 14th? Please plan to join us and enjoy the day. Appropriate clothing for the rafting trip includes quick-drying nylon or polyester shirts, windbreakers, and shorts or pants. Add some sun screen and a pair of sandals, and you will look like a regular on the river.

Ron Estep, VP



Attending the Annual Meeting? Please, Let us Know

When you receive this newsletter, the annual meeting may seem to be a long time away. However, in no time the weeks will have flown by. So I am going to ask that you do a simple task before it's too late. We (and Class VI Outfitters) need some advance notice from those planning to attend and, more importantly, how many plan to float the New. Please notify either Tony Jenkins or me by June 1st if you are coming and also tell us whether you plan to float. You can reach Tony by e-mail at Tony.Jenkins@wv.usda.gov or by mail at MLRA Soil Survey Office, C/O New River Gorge National River, P.O. Box 246, Glen Jean, WV 25846.

You can reach me by e-mail at ronestepp@yahoo.com or by mail at HC 86, Box 87A, Purgitsville, WV 26852.

Please mark your calendar now as a reminder to contact one of us by June 1st. I hope that you can attend and enjoy both the business and recreational aspects of this meeting. Some of your families may also like to attend. Hope to see you there.

Ron Estepp, VP

Join the WV Soils E-Mail List

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.). If assistance is needed contact Doug Boyer at dboyer@afsrc.ars.usda.gov

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Our organization is growing! We welcome the following new members:

***Sigrid Schumacher** - NRCS soil scientist with the soil survey office in Elkins.

***Kevin Thomas** - PhD candidate/graduate research assistant at WVU.

DUES NOTICE

Now is the time to bring your dues payments up to date. Annual dues (\$15 per year) should be sent to Skip Bell, Rt 7 Box 13325, Berkeley Springs, WV 25411.

SMITHSONIAN PROJECT

Planning continues on the proposed soil monolith display at the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. WVAPSS member Patrick Drohan is a member of the committee that is working on the project. Members of the committee represent USDA-NRCS, Soil Science Society of America, and the Smithsonian. Space for the display has already been reserved near the entrance to the IMAX theater, a coveted spot because of the heavy traffic in this area of the museum.

Nearly \$400,000 will need to be raised in order to make this display become a reality. WVAPSS should definitely play a role in the fundraising efforts. Its a chance for us to be heard on a national level. Therefore, WVAPSS council is soliciting ideas for fundraising projects. If you have an idea for a project, please bring it with you to the annual meeting or send it to a WVAPSS council member. We should not let this opportunity pass us by.

Official 2002 Ballot
West Virginia Association of Professional Soil Scientists

After marking your selections, please fold, staple, add postage and return to Larry Emerson, Rt 3 Box 150F, Hurricane, WV 25526 before the Annual Meeting.

Vice President:

- Patrick Drohan
- Write in candidate _____

Secretary-Treasurer:

- Skip Bell
- Write in candidate _____

Council Member (vote for one):

- Stephanie Connolly
- Write in candidate _____