

May 2003

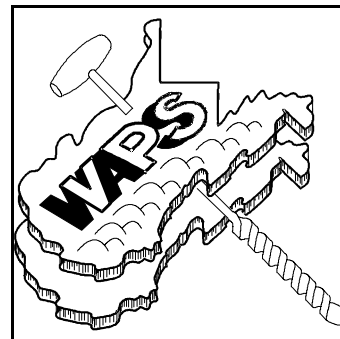
# Mountain Profiles

*A newsletter of the West Virginia Association of Professional Soil Scientists*

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## Show Your Support

Two main features in this issue of Mountain Profiles are the finalized announcement of our annual meeting plus the presentation of our ballot for the upcoming election. We hope that you will show your support and loyalty to WVAPSS by taking time to attend the meeting and to vote.



Lots of hard work has gone into the preparation for our June meeting. Our current Vice President, PhD Patrick Drohan, has played the major role in setting up the program. All who attend will surely benefit both educationally and by sharing some time with colleagues. Please come, and feel free to bring your families to West Virginia's eastern panhandle. You will see some beautiful scenery along the way and also get to see a rich agricultural valley when you arrive.

Much of West Virginia's prime farmland is found here. The Great Valley crosses through a couple of counties in eastern West Virginia. However, it is in places up to 50 miles wide, and it is around 1000 miles long. The Ordovician limestones of the valley are among the oldest exposed rocks in the State.

Come and see the area as you participate in our annual meeting.

*Ron Estep, President*

*Skip Bell, Secretary-Treasurer*

## Wear Your WVAPSS Colors

Thanks to the efforts of Wendy Noll, WVAPSS has a new supply of high quality, 100% cotton t-shirts for sale. These shirts have the WVAPSS logo over the left breast. Short sleeve T's cost \$9.50 and are available in medium, large and x-large. Long sleeve T's cost \$12.50 and are available in large and x-large. Colors are; white, gray, navy, and hunter green.

We also have some of our old style short sleeve t-shirts left in green (large only) and powder blue (x-large only). They are a 50/50 cotton/polyester blend and cost \$5.00.

You can place an order by calling or e-mailing Skip Bell (304-284-7587; [skip.bell@wv.usda.gov](mailto:skip.bell@wv.usda.gov) ).

# WVAPSS Annual Meeting 2003

**Focus:** A workshop on soils and archeology

**When:** June 6<sup>th</sup> (evening) June 7<sup>th</sup> 2003 (talks and field work)

**Where:** Shepherdstown, WV;

Clarion Hotel Banquet and Business meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. RSVP: Patrick Drohan at [pdrohan@shepherd.edu](mailto:pdrohan@shepherd.edu)

Talks will be given at Shepherd College on the morning of the 7<sup>th</sup>. The talks will be in Byrd Science Center, room 108. The afternoon will be spent at a field site receiving instruction.

## Speakers:

1. John Stiteler (Archeologist, Geo Decisions, a division of Gannett Fleming, Inc.): An overview of soils and archeology work.
2. John Wah (University of Maryland): Use of phytoliths in soils and archeology interpretation.
3. Mia Parsons: (Archeologist, Harpers Ferry National Park,): Use of soils interpretation in archeology in the National Park.
4. Rhett Herman (Radford University): Resistivity measurements in soils and their interpretation in Archeology. Dr. Herman will also discuss device construction to do such measurements for only \$50.

## Field School on Saturday afternoon:

We will be visiting a local dig in process for instruction on the sampling and technology use discussed in the morning session.

## Costs:

- Dinner Friday night \$25.00 (includes tax/tip)
- Menu includes
  - California Green salad or Marinated Vegetable Salad
    - Ranch or Raspberry vinaigrette
  - Grilled salmon, vegetable lasagna or carved roast top round of beef
  - Several sides
  - A wide assortment of deserts.
  - There is a bar that is not included in the price.

## Saturday lunch

You are responsible for lunch on Saturday. There are numerous places to eat in Shepherdstown.

## Lodging

15 rooms have been reserved at \$65.40 (includes tax) (June 6-8) at the Days Inn in Shepherdstown.

These will be held until May 6th.

The rooms are held under the WVAPSS name.

Days Inn phone number is 304-876-3160.

## Other Activities for family members

The Shepherdstown area provides numerous shopping activities on historic German St. This street is a minutes walk from where the talks are on Saturday morning. For those wishing something more exciting, there are also ample rafting and kayaking opportunities on the Potomac and Shenendoah Rivers. In addition, within a short drive is the Harpers Ferry National Park, Antietam National Battlefield, and C&O Canal National Park. All of these have great walking or biking opportunities. Here is a list of links to some of these locations.

### **Shepherdstown**

<http://www.lib.shepherdstown.wv.us/sin/shepin.html>

### **Harpers Ferry**

<http://www.nps.gov/hafe/index.htm>

### **Antietam National Battlefield**

<http://www.nps.gov/anti/>

### **C&O Canal National Park**

<http://www.nps.gov/choh/>

### **Rafting**

River Riders: <http://www.riverriders.com/>

River and Trail: <http://www.rivertrail.com/>

# WVAPSS Soil Scientist Registry Available On Line

The WVAPSS Soil Scientist Registry is now available on line and can be accessed at [http://webpages.shepherd.edu/PDROHAN/wvapss/Registry\\_2003\\_2.doc](http://webpages.shepherd.edu/PDROHAN/wvapss/Registry_2003_2.doc)

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

I have observed lots of comical moments in my work as a soil scientist in West Virginia. One event occurred years ago on a bridge connecting Berkeley and Jefferson Counties, near the location of our annual meeting.

An old, narrow, steel bridge provided the crossing for light traffic over Opequon Creek. The Department of Highways had erected overhead horizontal steel beams on either end, which were set low enough to block entrance by any large trucks.

Two ladies approached the bridge in a rental truck, not too large and not too small. One lady appeared to be elderly, perhaps a grandmother, and the other perhaps the granddaughter. Like Billy Packer, the younger driver was often wrong but never in doubt. She hardly slowed down for the upcoming bridge. The truck cab, plus about one-half of the cargo box, cleared the overhead beam. However, as the rear tires rolled up the incline onto the bridge, the back one-half of the cargo box was too tall. The rear parts of the truck struck the overhead horizontal beam, but momentum caused the truck springs to squat downward and allowed the truck to crush onward underneath the beam and onto the bridge.

The truck was now trapped, unable to proceed further under the next beam and unable to back up and exit via the way it came. I still remember the profound statement made by the grandmother. "Indeed, nothing like this has ever happened to us before." I also remember my quiet reply, "Lady, I sure hope not."

Well, obviously they are not still on the bridge. After much head scratching by the gathering crowd, someone wisely decided to let air from the tires to lower the truck.

I can still see the rental van limping away on flattened tires. I can still see the pieces of metal hanging from the top of the cargo box, now being supported only by dangling wires from the running lights rather than by the large rivets that once held the truck together. I think that I can still hear Grannie saying, "Indeed, nothing like this has ever happened to us before."

Girls, I sympathize with your temporary embarrassment and grief. However, I sincerely thank you for the memory.

*Ron Estepp*

2003 WVAPSS Ballot

**Vice President**

**Council Member**

Wendy Noll

Mary Beth Adams

Roy Pyle

Jared Beard

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**Write-in**

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Send ballot to: Skip Bell USDA-NRCS 75 High St. Room 301 Morgantown, WV 26505  
or e-mail selections to [skip.bell@wv.usda.gov](mailto:skip.bell@wv.usda.gov)