

May 2004

# Mountain Profiles

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

## WVAPSS 2004 Annual Meeting



This year's annual meeting and field trip are scheduled for Tuesday evening, June 22, 2004 and Wednesday, June 23, 2004, at Canaan Valley Resort and Conference Center. The events scheduled will coincide with the North East Regional National Cooperative Soil Survey Conference (NSSC), which is being held at the resort from Monday, June 21 through Friday, June 25, 2004.

WVAPSS members will have an opportunity to meet and visit with other members as well as old friends and colleagues who may be attending the NSSC.

The field trip will highlight Canaan Valley and the surrounding area. Discussions will focus on the latest forest soil research, red parent material hydric soils and the unique geologic formations and ecologic features of the area. Transportation will be provided to the field trip via chartered buses. The schedule of events for June 22 and 23 are:

**Dinner and Annual Business Meeting,**  
**Tuesday evening, June 22, 2004, 7:00 pm,**  
**in the Canaan Valley Resort Lodge**

We will be ordering dinner from the resort's dining room menu. A nice selection is available for all palates. Most entrees include salad, choice of potato, vegetable du jour, and roll. Dinner prices range from \$12.00 - \$25.00 (tax, tip and beverage are not included). A variety of sandwiches and salads are also available. To ensure a large enough meeting room, please RSVP Wendy Noll at [Wendy.Noll@wv.usda.gov](mailto:Wendy.Noll@wv.usda.gov) or by phone at 304-284-7582 by June 10, 2004.

**Field Trip, Wednesday,**  
**June 23, 2004,**  
**Registration 7:30 a.m. in the Lodge**

**Board chartered buses @ 8:00 am, in front of the Canaan Valley Resort Lodge.**

Arrangements are being made for a catered luncheon buffet to be served at one of the stops. The cost for the buffet will be \$8.95. The only other option for lunch is to bring one with you. If you choose to participate in the buffet lunch, please RSVP Wendy Noll at [Wendy.Noll@wv.usda.gov](mailto:Wendy.Noll@wv.usda.gov) or by phone at 304-284-7582 by June 10, 2004. The cost of the meal can be paid at registration on Wednesday morning.

*See next page for further Annual Meeting details*

## More details for the WVAPSS 2004 Annual Meeting

### Lodging:

10 rooms have been reserved at the Canaan Valley Resort Lodge at a reduced rate (\$55.00 single and \$62.00 double plus tax). The rooms will be held until June 10, 2004. This block of rooms is being held under **West Virginia Professional Soil Scientists**. The resort's reservation number is 304-866-4121.

Camping is also available adjacent to the lodge at a rate of \$25.00 per night. This is a nice camping area with restroom and shower facilities on site. Campground reservations can also be made at the above phone number.

### Other activities in the area:

Canaan Valley and Tucker County, WV is a beautiful region in West Virginia with many things to do and sights to see. Outdoor activities range from golf to biking, camping and hiking. The Monongahela National Forest, Otter Creek and Dolly Sods Wilderness Area and Blackwater Falls State Park are all within a short drive of the Conference Center. Here is a list of links to help you explore Tucker County, WV.

The Canaan Valley Resort and Conference Center      [www.canaanresort.com](http://www.canaanresort.com)

The Tucker County Convention and Visitors Bureau      [www.canaanvalley.org](http://www.canaanvalley.org)

MountainMade.com Artisan Gallery      [www.mountainmade.com](http://www.mountainmade.com)

## WVAPSS Soil Scientist Registry Available On Line

The WVAPSS Soil Scientist Registry is now available on line and can be accessed at The WVAPSS membership directory is available on-line at our new web address [www.wvapss.org](http://www.wvapss.org). Please take a minute and check your registry entry. Is your information up-to-date? If you have found errors or need to update your information, please send changes to Wendy Noll ([Wendy.Noll@wv.usda.gov](mailto:Wendy.Noll@wv.usda.gov))

## It's that time of year...

Just a quick reminder, it's time to pay your 2004-2005 dues. As in the past, dues are \$15.00 for the year and can be sent to Skip Bell, 14 Meadowlark Lane, Fairmont, WV 26554.

## **Wear Your WVAPSS Colors**

There is still a nice selection of the new style WVAPSS t-shirts left. These shirts are high quality 100% cotton and have the WVAPSS logo over the left breast. Short sleeve T's are \$9.50 and are available in medium, large and x-large. Long sleeve T's are \$10.50 and available in large and x-large. Colors available are white, gray, navy and hunter green. .

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

You can place you order for these items by contacting Skip Bell at (304-284-7562) or [Skip.Bell@wv.usda.gov](mailto:Skip.Bell@wv.usda.gov)). Shirts will also be available at the annual meeting in June.

## **Welcome new members**

We are pleased to welcome 3 new members into WVAPSS:

***Michael Jones*** is the District Conservationist in Princeton, WV serving the counties of McDowell, Mercer, and Summers. He lives in Princeton, WV with his wife Michele and daughter Sarah.

***Eileen O'Neill*** is a Soil Scientist with the USDA-NRCS Soil Survey Office in Oak Hill, WV. Eileen is a New Hampshire native and a graduate of the University of Maine. Eileen resides with her dog, Goose, in Hico, WV.

***Rebecca Flanagan*** is an NRCS Soil Conservationist at the Wheeling Service Center. She is a West Virginia University graduate, a Master Gardener and very active in her church. Rebecca and her husband Trevor live in the Wheeling area with their dog, Bean.

## **Time to Vote!**

It is time to vote for WVAPSS Executive Council. The next page lists candidate profiles and the following page is the ballot that should be mailed without delay.

# Candidate Profiles

Listed below are brief biographies for each of the candidates running for office. After reading about their qualifications, please turn to the next page and vote for the candidate of your choice.

## For the Office of Vice President:

**Roy E. Pyle** retired from the USDA –NRCS after more the 30 years of service. He received his B. S. degree in Agronomy from West Virginia University. During his term of federal service, Roy held a number of positions including field soil scientist, project leader, and Area resource soil scientist in the State of West Virginia. Roy was also a Soil Data Quality Specialist with MO-13 in Morgantown. Roy is a resident of Buckhannon WV.

**Dr. John Sencindiver** is a professor of Soil Science at The Davis School of Agriculture, West Virginia University. He received his B.S and Ph. D. in Soil Science from West Virginia University and is an ARCPACS certified professional soil scientist. Prior to joining the University's staff, he was employed as a Soil Scientist for both the then Soils Conservation Service and the Forest Service. John resides in French Creek, WV.

## For the Office of Secretary / Treasurer:

**Dr. Mary Beth Adams** is the Project Leader and Soil Scientist of watershed research at the Forest Service's Fernow Experimental Forest, in Parsons, WV. She received her BS and MS in Forestry from Purdue University and her Ph.D. in Soil Science and Forestry from North Carolina State. She completed her Post-doctoral research at the Oak Ridge National Lab in Tennessee. Mary Beth resides in Elkins, WV.

**Scott Hoover** is the District Conservationist for Calhoun and Gilmer Counties at the USDA-NRCS field office in Glenville, WV. Scott received his B. S. in Agriculture and M.S. Agronomy from West Virginia University. Prior to assuming his current duties, Scott was the project leader for the Northern Panhandle of WV Soil Survey Update. He is also a certified WV Nutrient Management Consultant. Scott is a resident of Elizabeth, WV.

## For the Executive Council Seat:

**Carlos Cole** is the USDA-NRCS Resource Soil Scientist for twenty counties in the West Area in West Virginia. He received his B.S. in Plant and Soil Science and M.S. in Soil Genesis and Soil Physics from West Virginia University and is an ARPACS Certified Professional Soil Scientist and Soil Classifier. Carlos has served as a field soil scientist and soil survey project leader in West Virginia. Carlos lives in Ripley, WV.

**Mark Van Lear** is a USDA-NRCS Soil Data Quality Specialist at the MO-13 in Morgantown WV. He received his BS in Crop and Soil Environmental Science from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Prior to coming to Morgantown he was a NRCS Soil Data Quality Specialist in Little Rock, Arkansas and a field soil scientist in Virginia. Mark lives in Flemington, WV

**Walter Winant** is soil scientist and GIS specialist for USDA – ARS in Beaver , WV. He received his B.S. and M. S. in Soil Science from the University of Maryland. Walter has also worked for the USDA-ARS in Burlington, VT and Morgantown, WV. Walter resides in the Beckley, WV area.

# **Ballot for 2004 / 2005 WVAPSS Executive Council Election**

(Please Choose only one for each office.)

## **Vice – President**

\_\_\_\_\_ - Roy Pyle

\_\_\_\_\_ - Dr. John Sencindiver

## **Secretary / Treasurer**

\_\_\_\_\_ - Dr. Mary Beth Adams

\_\_\_\_\_ - Scott Hoover

## **Board Member**

\_\_\_\_\_ - Carlos Cole

\_\_\_\_\_ - Mark Van Lear

\_\_\_\_\_ - Walter Winant

Voting can be done in one of three ways; by regular mail, by e-mail or in person prior to the business meeting at Canaan Valley Resort, on June 22, 2004.

If you are voting by regular mail, please return all ballots to Skip Bell, Secretary / Treasurer, WVAPSS, 14 Meadowlark Lane, Fairmont, WV 26554. Email ballots can be sent to [Skip.Bell@wv.usda.gov](mailto:Skip.Bell@wv.usda.gov)

# WVAPSS Launches Fund Drive to Support Smithsonian Soil Science Exhibit

From the Soil Science Society of America website (<http://www.soils.org/smithsonian/index.html>):

*The Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) is working with the Smithsonian Institution to plan a soils exhibit as part of their Global Links Gallery at the National Museum of Natural History. The museum, located in Washington, DC, charges no admission fee to view their exhibits. The exhibit will include a display of state soil monoliths and an educational, interactive section to help the museum's 6–9 million visitors understand how soil is intricately linked to the health of humanity, the environment and the planet. Related publications and web activities will reach millions of additional people. Never before have we had such an opportunity to advance the understanding of soil. This work will move forward our journey to sustain Earth and its people by educating visitors to the Smithsonian on the importance of soil and Earth sciences.*

## **\$10,000 FUND RAISING GOAL**

The centerpiece of this exhibit will be the state soil monoliths that were displayed on the Mall in Washington, D.C. in 1999 for the celebration of the US Soil Survey Centennial. This exhibit will include a monolith of West Virginia's state soil, Monongahela Silt Loam, if WVAPSS can raise the necessary funds.

SSSA is asking for a donation of \$10,000 to sponsor a state soil monolith. Our goal is to raise *at least* this amount by the end of 2004.

The professional soil scientist associations in Missouri and Florida have already met their \$10,000 goals. WE CAN DO IT!

This is probably the biggest project that WVAPSS has undertaken since we received our Charter in 1979. **We need participation from all our members for this fundraising project to be successful!**

## **Raffle to Launch Drive**

We will be launching our fundraising drive this June with a raffle. The prize will be a **Remington 700 BDL hunting rifle with scope**. One-thousand raffle tickets will be printed. The price of each ticket will be \$5. The winner will be determined by the WV Daily 3 lottery number drawn on October 27, 2004 and will be announced the same evening at the 2004 WV Conservation Partnership Meeting in Charleston, WV.

## **Member's Duty**

**Each WVAPSS member will receive a packet of 10 tickets to sell.** In addition to the tickets, each packet will include an addressed and stamped envelope to return ticket stubs and any unsold tickets, and a complete set of contest rules. The contest rules will also be posted on the WVAPSS website.

If you do not want to participate, please contact Skip Bell at [Skip.Bell@wv.usda.gov](mailto:Skip.Bell@wv.usda.gov) or 304-284-7564 by June 1. Otherwise, you *will* receive a packet of tickets.

**If you think you can sell more than 10 tickets** (now we're talkin'!), contact Skip and let him know how many tickets you need.

## **Ideas...Volunteers?**

The WVAPSS Executive Council is working some other fundraising ideas that will be announced at a later date. If you have an idea for raising funds, or if you simply want to volunteer to work on the Smithsonian Project committee, please contact Skip Bell.

# The Winds of Change

It's an election year and that means it is time we all vote our minds, for the good of the masses and not the few. To cast a vote for hope, even if it means change. To stop for a moment and take a look at the world and the people around us and wonder how just one vote, your vote, may help to remedy all the wrong that seems right in this world. To open the blind eyes of society. Yes, now is the time that many have anticipated but thought would never come. I'm not talking about the Presidential election, everyone knew that was coming. Nor the same sex marriage thingy. I'm talking about important stuff like, amending the WVAPSS Constitution and Bylaws. The WVAPSS Executive Council felt that with the ever changing pace and way of life, now is the time to address some critical issues. So this summer at the WVAPSS annual meeting to be held during the Northeast Soil Survey Planning Conference at Canaan Valley West Virginia, the attending members will be asked to vote on three amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws.

This all came about during the February 2004 Executive Council Meeting as the topic of candidates for this year's elections were being discussed. The observation was made that electronic voting is the way of the future, however, WVAPSS bylaws only allow for votes to be cast in a sealed envelope marked "Ballot". Nowadays, it seems impractical to vote through regular mail if email is available. After all instant gratification is what it's about, sending an email ballot is just as satisfying as dropping a ballot in the ballot box at polling place.

It was also observed that the annual pool of Full Members available to hold elected office and standing committee chairs was dwindling. The need for young fresh minds to continue maturing in the midst of politics seemed reasonable. I submit, to you the distinguished members of WVAPSS, for consideration the following amendments:

They shall read as:

## **Amendment 1:**

Article VII – Membership, Section 3c.

*All Full and Associate Members shall be permitted to hold elected office except that Associate Members shall not be elected to the offices of President and Vice-President. Eligibility shall be contingent upon employment and/or residence in the State of West Virginia.*

## **Amendment 2:**

Article VII – Membership, Section 3d.

*All Full and Associate Members shall be permitted to hold the office of Secretary-Treasurer and Standing Committee chairs.*

## **Amendment 3:**

Article X – Nomination and Election to the Executive Council, Section 7.

*The ballots must be returned to the Secretary-Treasurer in a sealed envelope or by email marked "Ballot", prior to – or at – the annual meeting. Ballots will be opened and counted prior to – or at – the annual meeting, and results will be announced at the annual meeting.*

*Jared Beard  
Chairman, Constitution and Bylaws Committee*

# Upcoming Events

(Submitted by Peg Reese)

May	National Wetlands Month
May 17-18	WV Farmland Protection Workshop, Canaan Valley State Park
May 20	Tri-District Landjudging Contest, Monongahela Conservation District
June 7	Volunteer/Worker Meeting for the Cannon Envirothon, WV Wesleyan College
June 12-16	Hands-on Summer Teacher's Workshop, Camp Mahonegan
June 14-19	WV Senior Conservation Camp, Camp Caesar
June 21-24	2004 NE National Cooperative Soil Survey Conference, Canaan Valley State Park
June 21-25	Junior Conservation Camp, Cedar Lakes
June 22-23	WAPSS Meeting, Canaan Valley State Park
June 28	Area II Partnership Conference, Parkersburg
July 12-13	West Virginia Association of Conservation Districts Meeting, Canaan Valley State Park
July 24-28	Soil & Water Conservation Society, St. Paul, MN
July 26-Aug. 1	Cannon Envirothon, WV Wesleyan College
August 13-22	West Virginia State Fair, Fairlea, WV
Sept. 1-3	Mid-Atlantic RC&D Council Meeting, Oglebay Park
Sept. 13-17	Soil Survey Field Week
Oct. 25-26	WV Association of Conservation District Meeting, Charleston
Oct. 26-29	WV Conservation Partnership Conference
Oct. 31-Nov. 4	ASA-CSSA-SSSA International Annual Meetings, Seattle, WA

# ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

## Bubba Understood Vector Forces

Skip and I were headed to one of those remote watersheds that was selected for data collection during the 'acid rain study'. We left Parsons early, because it took all available daylight hours to get into the headwaters, accomplish some work, and get back to the vehicle before dark. A mountain road would get us within a reasonable hiking distance of our watershed.

Our narrow access road hung precariously on a steep slope above the Dry Fork River. As I drove in, we encountered another vehicle parked on the down-slope edge of the road. A work crew was down by the river, either building or repairing some kind of a structure. I cannot remember what the structure was, and it is rather irrelevant to the rest of my story. What is relevant, however, is one of the crew members, whom I called Bubba. He was a mountain of a man. I was looking at Paul Bunyan in the flesh.

I did not want to disturb the workers below, so I decided that my considerable driving skills were adequate to navigate us around the parked vehicle. If I drove on the incline above his vehicle, I could just creep by.

As every good physicist knows, the law of vector forces dictates that an object which is being acted upon by two forces will take a path somewhere between the direction of those two forces. In my case, this meant that as the force of the engine tried to move me straight ahead while the force of gravity tried to move me straight down the hill, my route would be a compromise between straight ahead and straight down to the river. As I was slowly creeping along the slope above Bubba's vehicle, it soon became evident that this compromise route was through Bubba's passenger side door. I was being pulled closer and closer. I finally had to stop, because the vector force of gravity was overwhelming the vector force from my engine, and a vehicular sideswipe was imminent.

By now, Bubba was stomping up the hillside to investigate. My only hope was that he understood that this situation was not altogether my fault, but that laws of physics were equally to blame. Bubba hardly said a word. He analyzed the situation and walked straight to our truck. He turned around, placed his hands under the fender well, with his massive backside against the side of our truck. With one heave, he shoved the truck, with Skip and me inside, back up the slope and away from his vehicle. I realized that Bubba's understanding of vector forces almost exceeded my own. Who would have known that we would find such a physicist on a backwoods road near Parsons, West Virginia?

*Anonymous*