



MAY 2011

The Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists  
PO Box 871, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

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**Nominations for  
2012-2014 Board  
of Directors are  
now being  
accepted**

## PAPSS Board Approves Six-Month Lobbying Contract

by Michael Lane

At a meeting on March 26, 2001, the PAPSS Board of Directors voted unanimously to approve a six-month lobbying contract with Vince Phillips of Phillips Associates. The contract was approved for April 1 through September 30, 2011 for the purpose of drafting and submitting legislation to the Pennsylvania General Assembly to obtain state-wide licensing of professional soil scientists.

The contract fee is \$750 per month, plus a \$200 lobbying registration fee, and expenses. The six month contract will allow PAPSS to employ an active advocate to fully investigate the prospect of licensure. After six months, the Board will decide whether to continue its relationship with Phillips Associates. If so, the monthly retainer would increase to \$1,500.00.

Mr. Phillips represents a number of clients including the PA Association of Health Underwriters, PA Septage Management Association, Manufacturers Association of South Central PA, the PA Association for Safety Education, (Driver Education instructors), and the PA Christmas Tree Growers Association. He has represented three of the four major Pennsylvania insurance agents' associations, PAHU (health and employee benefits), the Independent Insurance Agents of PA, or Big I, (property/casualty insurance), and the former PA Association of Life Underwriters (PALU). He also provides services to the PA Forest Fire Museum Association (tourism, fund-raising). He is the former representative for the Association of Professional Landscape Designers.

Prior to his lobbying career in Pennsylvania, Vince Phillips worked in Washington, D. C., where he served as Press Secretary to the National American Wholesale Grocers Association, now part of the Food Marketing Institute. He was a Reagan-Bush Administration political appointee in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (Office of the Secretary, Office of Public Liaison, Office of Rural Development Policy). His DC tenure also included service for a U.S. Congressman and in the Office of the President-Elect (Transition Team) in 1980.

The goals that PAPSS and Mr. Phillips have agreed to are:

### First three months

Frame the issue

Identify key legislators in position to help/hinder and have Association leaders meet with them either in Harrisburg or in the district

Identify other actors such as competing professions that could hinder goal

Train association leaders on effective advocacy

Prepare progress reports to leadership on ongoing basis

### Second three months

Draft legislation (*Draft legislation will be distributed to PAPSS membership for comment*)

Introduce legislation

Attempt to have a hearing if appropriate

Train association members on effective advocacy

Day on Hill where members press case to legislators and staff relevant to committee action

Prepare progress reports to leadership on ongoing basis

We look forward to a productive six months and positive steps toward licensing of professional soil scientists in Pennsylvania. ■

## 2011 PAPSS Board

Pres. Michael Lane 11-13  
[mlane@brickhouse-environmental.com](mailto:mlane@brickhouse-environmental.com)

VP Chris Whitman 11-13  
[CWhitman@ebertengineering.com](mailto:CWhitman@ebertengineering.com)

Trea. Laurel Mueller 10-12  
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## SSSA Celebrates 75th Anniversary

contributed by Ed White

The Soil Science Society of America (SSSA), the international scientific Society that is the professional home to more than 6,000 soil scientists, celebrates its 75th Anniversary in 2011, and also the 75th anniversary of its peer-reviewed journal, the Soil Science Society of America Journal (SSSAJ).

Founded in 1936, SSSA supports peer-reviewed publications, an Annual Meeting, science policy activities, and the Certified Professional Soil Scientist Program. Today, SSSA continues to help its members advance the field of soil science through outreach to teachers, undergraduate and graduate students, and members around the world.



"During our 75-year history, the Soil Science Society of America has had many accomplishments. From our peer-reviewed journals, Annual Meeting, and educational outreach, we have much to celebrate," says SSSA President Charles W. Rice, Kansas State University. "We look forward to the next 75 years in SSSA history, as the importance of the soil ecosystem moves to the forefront of discussions about climate change, food security, water quantity and quality, contamination, and human health.

SSSA recently completed its assessment of the Grand Challenges facing the soil science discipline. SSSA identified the most critical future research needs in soil science, pointing to: Climate Change; Food and Energy Security; Waste Treatment and Water quality; Human and Ecosystem Health. For more information the Soil Grand Challenges, including the full list of short-, medium-, and long-term research goals, visit: [www.soils.org/about-society/grand-challenges](http://www.soils.org/about-society/grand-challenges).

The organization is planning several anniversary activities throughout 2011. A national outreach plan is being launched to increase awareness of the importance of soils and the soil science profession and will continue throughout 2011. Anniversary celebrations will culminate at the 2011 Annual Meeting, Oct. 16-19, 2011 in San Antonio, TX. For more information on the Annual Meeting, visit [www.acsmeetings.org](http://www.acsmeetings.org). To celebrate the anniversary of the journal, SSSAJ will publish historical perspectives throughout 2011. For more information on the journal, visit [www.soils.org/publications/ssaj](http://www.soils.org/publications/ssaj).

The Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) is a progressive, international scientific society that fosters the transfer of knowledge and practices to sustain global soils. Based in Madison, WI, SSSA is the professional home for 6,000+ members dedicated to advancing the field of soil science. It provides information about soils in relation to crop production, environmental quality, ecosystem sustainability, bioremediation, waste management, recycling, and wise land use.

SSSA supports its members by providing quality research-based publications, educational programs, certifications, and science policy initiatives via a Washington, DC, office. Founded in 1936, SSSA celebrates its 75th Anniversary this year (2011). For more information, visit [www.soils.org](http://www.soils.org) or follow @SSSA\_soils on Twitter. ■



### The Tri-Societies 2011 Annual Meetings

"Fundamental for Life:  
Soil, Crop, & Environmental Sciences"

**Oct. 16-19** San Antonio, TX.

SSSA celebrates their 75th Anniversary at the meetings.

## Welcome New Members

### Professional

C. Reese Berdanier                      Dina Brown  
John Buck                                      Michael Callahan  
Arthur Carlson                                Jason Fellon  
Sara Hayes                                      Jamie Sundermier  
Duane Truax                                    Jeremy Tyson  
Stefan Weaver

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*In light of Governor Corbett's proposed budget plan to cut funding to state universities by 52%, the PAPSS Board approved the following position paper. It was distributed to the House and Senate Committees on Agriculture and Rural Affairs, to state-wide agricultural organizations such as the PA Grange, the PA Farm Bureau, and the PA Association for Sustainable Agriculture, and to publications such as Lancaster Farming.* <http://thepartnership.psu.edu/index/>

## PAPSS POSITION PAPER ON PROPOSED CUTS TO PENN STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

The Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists (PAPSS) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering the profession of soil classification, mapping, and interpretations, and to increase and further the dissemination of information concerning soil science as it contributes to the protection of the environment and general human welfare.

We urge the General Assembly and the Governor's Office to re-consider the proposed cuts to the College of Agricultural Sciences at Penn State. If necessary, it may require that the College of Agricultural Sciences receive state funding separately from Penn State.

We realize that there is a difficult budget position in the Commonwealth and that difficult decisions need to be made. We also realize that there are no sacred cows and that higher education should not be exempt from budget cuts. However, the College of Agricultural Sciences is unlike any other institution in Pennsylvania; where they are designated for providing agricultural research and outreach throughout the Commonwealth. This research in the fields of agricultural and environmental science benefits millions of people throughout the Commonwealth.

The Morrill Act of 1862 was an authorization by Congress to establish institutions that taught agriculture and practical sciences. In Pennsylvania, the designated land grant university is Penn State, in particular the College of Agricultural Sciences. Subsequent Congressional Acts in 1887 and 1914 created the Agricultural Experiment Station and the Cooperative Extension Service, both of which are administered through the land grant university. The College of Agricultural Sciences maintains a unique position in Pennsylvania as it is the designated institution by Congress for providing agricultural research and outreach in the Commonwealth.

Today, the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences provides research, education, and extension services in the areas of agriculture and environmental sciences. From the perspective of our professional organization, Penn State provides technical support in the areas of nutrient management for concentrated agricultural operations, research in the areas of watershed management, Chesapeake Bay water issues, wetland biology, on-site sewage disposal, and stormwater management. Penn State has also been the leader in conducting research and providing extension information related to the impacts of natural gas exploration and extraction throughout Pennsylvania. In addition, many of our members attended Penn State at the undergraduate or graduate level, and have applied what they learned via service to residents of Pennsylvania as private consultants or at the municipal, county, state, and federal level.

In the proposed Pennsylvania 2011-2012 Budget, funding to the College of Agricultural Sciences would be reduced 52%, reverting funding levels commensurate to the 1987-1988 budget. A cut this dramatic would force the reduction and/or elimination of the valued agricultural and environmental research and extension education that impacts millions of Pennsylvanians. ■

### Place your ad in *Pennsoil*

**1/3 page    \$25**

**2/3 page    \$35**

**1 page      \$50**

contact a board member

## New Look for PAPSS.org

Chris Whitman has taken over as webmaster for PAPSS and has converted the PAPSS website to a new format. The site is still under construction but the new format and host will allow for more timely updates to content. Check it out. <http://www.papss.org/>



## Affordable Online Training and Professional Training Services

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**USDA/NRCS has released version 2.0 of the Laboratory Information Manual:**  
[ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/NSSC/Lab\\_Info\\_Manual/ssir45.pdf](ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/NSSC/Lab_Info_Manual/ssir45.pdf)

**Soil Mapping App**  
<http://casoilresource.lawr.ucdavis.edu/drupal/node/882>

**Soil Taxonomy 11th edition**  
[ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/NSSC/Soil\\_Taxonomy/keys/2010\\_Keys\\_to\\_Soil\\_Taxonomy.pdf](ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/NSSC/Soil_Taxonomy/keys/2010_Keys_to_Soil_Taxonomy.pdf)

**CSA News – Soil Scientists seek to grow the profession and bolster its image**  
[www.crops.org/files/publications/csa-news/reclaiming-our-turf.pdf](http://www.crops.org/files/publications/csa-news/reclaiming-our-turf.pdf)

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## SSSA to Phase Out Separate Soil Classifier Certification

The Soils Certifying Board of the Soil Science Society of America has decided to eliminate the Professional Soil Classifier certification program (CPSC). In recent correspondence from Dawn Ferris, Soil Science Program Coordinator, as seen in Crops & Soils <https://www.soils.org/publications/crops-and-soils>, she provides several reasons for the board's decision.

- There are no separate exams for CPSS vs. CPSC, so all certified individuals must show the same grasp of soil science and be conversant in all major areas of soils.
- Professional Soil Scientists must practice in their area of expertise, regardless of what certification title they hold.
- Keeping certifications under one title of Certified Professional Soil Scientists (CPSS), will enhance the public image of soil science.

Individuals currently holding the CPSC certification can continue to do so, but will still have to pay separately for annual renewal. No new applications for CPSC certification will be accepted after December 31, 2011.

If you have any questions about the changes please contact Dawn Ferris at [dferris@sciencesocieties.org](mailto:dferris@sciencesocieties.org).

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## Conferences and Events

**>>> PAPSS Education Event/Technical Session–  
Eastern Mountains and Piedmont Regional Supplement  
for Wetland Delineation**

June 27-28, 2011

Raystown Lake, Huntington County, PA

**One day and two day sign ups are available See the attached  
registration form for more information.**

**Annual Meeting**

  
October 28-29, 2011

**>>> PAPSS Annual Meeting, Licensing and the Legislative Process**  
October 28-29, 2011, Harrisburg/Lancaster, PA  
Featured Speaker: Senator Mike Brubaker

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Comments or contributions? [mlane@brickhouse-environmental.com](mailto:mlane@brickhouse-environmental.com)



## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

# **1-DAY SEMINAR ON REGIONAL SUPPLEMENT AND 1-DAY FIELD TECHNICAL SESSION ON HYDRIC SOIL INDICATORS AND NEW DATA FORMS**

**Interim Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers  
Wetland Delineation Manual**

***Eastern Mountains and Piedmont Region***

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers July 2010



**DATE:** Monday, June 27, 2011 Seminar on Regional Supplement (inside)  
*Room capacity is 85, so first-come, first-serve!*

Tuesday, June 28, 2011 Field Technical Session

**Participate in one or both days!**

**TIME:** June 27 8:00 AM to 8:30 AM Registration & Coffee

8:30 to 4PM seminar, lunch included

June 28 8 AM to 3PM – meet at Aitch pavilion

**WHERE:** Monday, June 27: Multipurpose Room of Visitors Center,  
Seven Points Recreation Area

Tuesday, June 28: Aitch pavilion - field attire & tools !

**PRICE:** Monday \$75 PAPSS MEMBERS / \$100 NON-PAPSS MEMBERS

Tuesday \$75 PAPSS MEMBERS / \$100 NON-PAPSS MEMBERS

Includes morning coffee, lunch, afternoon snacks

You may download & print Supplement and Hydric Soil Indicators  
from [www.papss.org](http://www.papss.org)

Or you may pre-order (bound & color laser-printed)

\$35 Supplement

\$25 Hydric Soil Indicators

## **SPEAKERS & LEADERS**

Frank Plewa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

USDA NRCS staff soil scientists

Mallory N. Gilbert, M.N. Gilbert Environmental





## Registration Form

Questions? Contact PAPSS training conference organizer:  
Laurel F. Mueller (570) 924-3694 [laurel@soilservicescompany.com](mailto:laurel@soilservicescompany.com)  
Or visit [www.papss.org](http://www.papss.org)

MONDAY, JUNE 27 SEMINAR, PAPSS MEMBERS \$75.00

MONDAY, JUNE 27 SEMINAR, NON-PAPSS MEMBERS \$100.00

TUESDAY, JUNE 28 FIELD, PAPSS MEMBERS \$75.00

TUESDAY, JUNE 28 FIELD, NON-PAPSS MEMBERS \$100.00

Pre-order a copy of the Regional Supplement (optional \$35)

Pre-order a copy of Field Indicators of Hydric Soils, 2010 (\$25)

Or you may download & print from [www.papss.org](http://www.papss.org)

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

If room capacity is exceeded, do you wish to be contacted regarding a possible repeat session in July?  YES  NO

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Address1: \_\_\_\_\_

Address2: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

*We will confirm your training date by email.*

Mail Registration and check (PAYABLE TO "PAPSS"):

Sue Miller/ PAPSS  
1130 Boiling Springs Road  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055  
email: [Sue6951@aol.com](mailto:Sue6951@aol.com)

*Directions and a list of nearby hotel rooms are attached.*