

NEWSLETTER

The Pacific Regional Society of Soil Science

Number 10 - June 13, 1986

Highlights of the PRSSS Annual General Meeting, held in the MacMillan Building, University of British Columbia, on February 20, 1986.

The President's Report noted that four Directors Meetings were held since the last Annual General Meeting, that the presentations to honorary members, L. Farstad and J. Gardner, had been made at two of these meetings, and that a tradition of having a Student Chapter representative and the Newsletter editors attend the Directors Meetings had been established. Three issues of the Newsletter were produced this past year, under co-editors Paul Sanborn and Mike Curran. Paul has asked to be relieved of editorial duties; Bill Price and Coleen Hackinen will assist Mike. The Student Chapter has been active and organized a successful and interesting field tour of surficial geology in the Chilliwack Valley, led by geologist John Clague. Society membership currently is about 125 members.

In other business, the president solicited advice and suggestions about the best means of facilitating more communication among members.

Strong support (19 for, 3 against) was indicated for having brief oral reports on current activities by members as part of the annual meeting; there was also a strong support (15 for, 4 against) for soliciting brief written reports (perhaps at the wine and cheese party) for inclusion in the Newsletter. Other suggestions were that PRSSS consider organizing a summer field trip, that it become more visible at the Soil Science Workshop, that it be publicized at other educational institutions, and that it encourage inclusion of a Soil Science Workshop session for presentation of student papers.

In absence of the Nominating Committee Chairman, the President read the Committee's report listing the following nominees: Past President - Lawrence Lowe; President - Carol Jones; Vice-President - Dan Lousier; Secretary - John Jungen; Treasurer - Narender Nagpal. There being no further nominations from the floor, the above slate of nominees was elected by acclamation. The gavel was transferred to President Carol Jones, who adjourned the meeting.

Tenth B.C. Soil Science Workshop

"Forest Soils at Risk" was the theme of the Tenth British Columbia Soil Science Workshop held at UBC on February 20 and 21. Jointly sponsored by the Ministry of Forests, the B.C. Land Resource Science Lead Committee, and the B.C. Chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of America, the Workshop reviewed thirty-two presentations dealing with the degradation of forested land from research and operations personnel.

Attending the workshop were almost 200 representatives from the Ministry of Forests, the Canadian Forestry Service, The Alberta Forest Service, SFU, UVic, UBC, BCIT, The Ministry of Environment, Environment Canada, the forest industry, private consulting firms, and various agencies and universities in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana.

In a session dealing with the causes and effects of soil degradation, harvesting methods and construction of logging roads and skidroads were identified as major contributors to slope failure and surface erosion. The impact of poor road alignment and construction on watersheds, for example, was deemed to be severe. Mechanical site preparation was shown to have some negative as

well as positive impacts on soils, and the need for the use of aesthetic values in the location and management of logging roads was raised.

In assessing the relationships of soil degradation and site productivity, researchers agreed that predicting losses of productivity due to soil degradation is difficult, and that more attention must be paid to this topic. For example, they don't fully understand the effects on productivity caused by changes in nutrient availability resulting from the removal of plant cover, slash, soil organic matter, and mineral soil, or the disruption of soil water regimes.

The role of slash burning in removing nitrogen and other nutrients from the soil was identified as a prime area of concern, as was the consequences of mass wasting caused by logging on steep slopes. Not only are other resources impacted upon, such as fish, but we are only beginning to determine quantitatively the reduction in forest growth on landslides. Also discussed was the suggestion that, by their very nature, managed forests bring with them a number of implications for long-term soil productivity that are not yet well understood. One experimental method of predicting such implications might be through a computer simulation of impacts of forest nutrient cycling in relation to forest yield.

Other themes covered in the workshop included the prediction and control of forest soil degradation, the rehabilitation of degraded soil, the economics of soil degradation and soil degradation research needs. On the topic of economics, it was pointed out that calculations of short-term logging costs ignore the long-term costs of soil degradation. These long-term costs might include a decline in the annual allowable cut and future timber yields, a loss of the soil resource, a lowering of recreational and aesthetic values, and a loss of fish and wildlife habitat. A model was presented that weighs the immediate economic gains attained through harvesting with the long-term losses from reduced soil productivity caused by various harvesting practices and silvicultural regimes.

It was suggested that the alienation of forest land through the degradation of forest soils may exceed the alienation of forest land to other uses, and should be a cause of great concern. The workshop concluded that many areas of B.C. have incurred some massive costs and losses related to soil degradation. Concern was raised as to our level of understanding of the forest soil resource, particularly with regard to assessment of productivity, and to the availability of methodologies to responsibly quantify degradation effects. Concern was also directed to our existing legislation regulating forestry activities that may lead to degradation, and the apparent lack of enforcement capabilities. The most apparent and immediate needs overall are further research and expanded operational surveys and trials; expanded and improved efforts in extension activities; and improved attitudes with regard to respect for forest soil and respect for responsible land management objectives.

CONTACT: Dan Lousier, Research Branch, Ministry of Forests, 387-3338

Forester Receives Recognition for Past Research

At the end of the 10th B.C. Workshop, Mr. Tom Wright was presented with a "Rock on a Stump" by Mike Curran, in recognition of Tom's contributions and inspirations to current forest research. Mr. Grant Ainscough (Chief Forester, MacMillan Bloedel) presented Tom with the original field books from the 1942 research, and Bill Beese (M-B Woodlands Services, Nanaimo) presented Tom with the original copy of his 1941 report.

The Soil Conservation Society of America, B.C. Chapter, ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the B.C. Chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of America was held on February 19, 1986 at the University of British Columbia. Mr. Jack Steel, Director of the ARDSA Branch of the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food, and Mr. Bob Jones, Manager of Silviculture with the B.C. Ministry of Forests, spoke about the newly signed Agricultural and Rural Development Subsidiary Agreement (ARDSA) and Forest Resource Development Agreement (FRDA), respectively.

Mr. Steel outlined the history of the ARDSA program (formerly ARDA), its structure, and its present mandate in the province. The most recent agreement includes for the first time a section on soil conservation; proposals for applied research in this area were still being solicited. The total program funding is approximately \$40 million for the next five years. The mandate of the program includes all sectors of the agricultural infrastructure from the farm level to marketing commodity.

Mr. Jones similarly reviewed the history, structure, and mandate of the FRDA program. Although \$300 million has been granted for the next five years, this falls short of the funding needed for forestry by about a factor of 3. However, the recent agreement represents a significant improvement over the \$60 million granted for 1979-1986. The mandate of the program includes (i) the backlog in replanting, (ii) timber surveys, (iii) juvenile spacing and fertilizing, and (iv) education. A five year applied research program is being developed.

Both speakers responded to several excellent questions from the floor (approximately 50 were in attendance). The Chapter presented the speakers with SCSA posters in thanks for their time and effort. After a brief adjournment for refreshments the Annual Business Meeting took place. The Chapter's activities and accomplishments during the past year were reviewed through the various annual reports and by the outgoing President, Herb Luttmending, who then handed over the gavel to the incoming President, Mark Walmsley. The new executive has T. Lewis as President-elect and L. van Vliet, Rob Kline, and Bob Maxwell as Councillors.

M.D. Novak, Secretary/Treasurer.

Up-Coming Meetings

July 6-10, 1986. Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society of Soil Science. **Theme:** The Age of Information. **Location:** Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. **Contact:** Dr. E. de Jong, Department of Soil Science, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7N 0W0.

July 7-10, 1986 (4 days). Northwest Soils Council Summer Meeting, Alaska (includes field tours). **Location:** Alaska. **Contact:** Ed Packee, Agriculture and Forestry Experiment Station, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska 99475-0080 [Phone (907) 474-7188]. (Ed would like an estimate of required camping space or motel/dormitory space by late February).

August 3-6, 1986. Soil Conservation Society of America 41st Annual Meeting. **Location:** Winston-Salem, North Carolina. **Contact:** SCSA, 7515 N.E. Ankeny Road, Ankeny, Iowa 50021.

August 4-8, 1986. International Union of Forestry Research Organizations' Working Party on Root Physiology and Symbioses. **Theme:** Tree roots and

their symbionts. **Location:** University of Victoria, British Columbia.
Contact: J.A. Trofymow, Pacific Forestry Center, 506 Burnside W., Victoria, B.C., Canada V8Z 1M5 [Phone (604) 388-0600].

August 6-8, 1986. International Symposium 'Plant and Soil: Interfaces and Interactions'. **Location:** Wageningen, the Netherlands. **Contact:** Prof. Dr. V. van Diest, Department of Soil Science and Plant Nutrition, Agriculture University, De Dreyen 3, 6703 B C Wageningen, the Netherlands.

August 13-20, 1986. 13th International Congress of Soil Science.
Location: Hamburg, Fed. Rep. of Germany. **Contact:** Prof. Dr. K.H. Hartge, Inst. f. Bodenkunde, Univ. Hannover, Herrenhäuserstrasse 2, D-3000 Hannover, 21, F.R. Germany.

August 25-29, 1986. International Symposium on Remote Sensing for Resources Development and Environmental Management (ISPRS). **Location:** Enschede, the Netherlands. **Contact:** Symposium Secretariat Commission VII, ISPRS, c/o ITC, P.O. Box 6, 7500 AA Enschede, the Netherlands.

September, 1986. International Meeting on Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems. **Location:** Madrid, Spain. **Contact:** Dr. Duane F. Marble, Madrid Symposium, P.O. Box 571, Williamsville, New York 14221.

September 7-11, 1986. International Conference on the Management and Fertilization of Upland Soils. **Location:** Nanjing, China. **Contact:** Prof. Xie Jian-Chang, Institute of Soil Science, Academia Sinica, P.O. Box 821, Nanjing, People's Republic of China.

August 9-15, 1987. 11th North American Rhizobium Conference. **Location:** Laval University, Québec City, Québec. **Contact:** Dr. Hani Antoun, Département des Sols, FSAA, Pavillon Paul-Comtois, Université Laval, Québec, Canada G1K 7P4. (Note: this meeting was incorrectly listed for 1986 in the March 1986 Newsletter).

July 31 - August 9, 1987. International Union for Quaternary Research, XII International Congress. **Location:** Congress Centre, Ottawa, Canada. **Contact:** Dr. A.V. Morgan, Secretary-General XII INQUA Congress, Department of Earth Sciences, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G1.

Baker, Ted E.	Hope, Sharon	Rowles, C.
Ballard, Dr. T.M.	Hoyt, Paul B.	Runka, G. Gary
Bank, Gary	Husted, Lynn	Rutherford, P. Michael
Beaton, J.D.	Inselberg, Alex E.	Sanborn, Paul
Bentley, C. Fred	Jakoy, Andy	H.S. Schreier
Bertrand, Ronald A.	Jenvey, Stephen	Selby, Corine
Black, T.A.	Jones, Carol E. Ms.	Senyk, J.P.
Bomke, A.A.	Jungen, John	Singleton, Glen
Brownlee, C.H.	Kalra, Yash Pal	Slaco, Ric
Brown, Sandra	Keng, John C.W.	Slavinski, H.C.
Burton, Sandy	Kenk, E.	Smith, Richard B.
Cann, Dr. Bruce	Kennedy, Carol A.	Smith, Scott
Carson, Brian R.	Kline, Robert	Sondheim, Mark
Carter, Reid	Klinka, Karel Dr.	Spillsbury, Dick
Chang, S.C.	Korelus, V.	Spittlehouse, Dave
Chieng, Sie-tan	Kowall, R.C.	Sprout, Norman P.
Chuah, Hong-hee	Kowalenko, C. Grant	Stathers, Robert
Christie, Phil	Kuurne, Roxanna	Stevenson, David S.
Clarke, David C.	Krumlik, George	Still, Gerry
Coen, Gerald	Lavkulich, Dr. L.M.	Temple, Wayne
Cotic, Ivan	Lindeburgh, Scott	Timmenga, Hubert
Cross, Dr. Christine	Louie Robert H.	Trowbridge, Rick
Crudge, Steven	Lousier, J.D.	Ulansky, Sherry
Curran, Michael	Lowe, Dr. L.E.	Van Ryswyk, A.L.
Dangerfield, J.	Lord, Terence M.	Van Vliet, L.
Dawson, Alan B.	Luttmerding, Herbert A.	Vold, Terje
Dawson, Elaine	Macadam, Anne	Von Spindler, Bernie
de Vries, Jan	McLeod, A.J.	Wallis, Hu
Dobb, Mr. J.L.	Martin, Dale	Walmsley, M.
Douglas, Mary-Jane	Maynard, Doug	Wehr, Ray
Driehuyzen, M.G.	Maxwell, Bob	Weinberg, Naomi
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Embury, Lynn	Miller, Gary W.	Williams, Duncan
Epp, Philip	Mitchell, Walter Robert	Williams, Heather
Eriksen, Wayne	Monetta, Anna	Wittneben, U.
Farstad, Laurie	Moon, Dave	Wrede, Mike
Fenger, Mike	Murphy, Kevin	Yole, David
Fitzpatrick, J. Joseph	Nagpal, N.K.	Young, Gavin
Forest Technology School	Neilsen, Gerry	Zweck von Zweckenberg, E.
Fredericks, J.	Norman, E.B.	
Fyles, Ms. Helen	Norman, Susan A.	
Gardner, Dr. J.A.	Novak, M.D.	
Goldin, Alan	Omueti, John	
Goldstein, Michael	Otchere-Boateng, Jake	
Gu, Baohua	Pang, Patrick	
Hamlen, Catherine	Peterson, Michael	
Heinonen, John	Price, W.	
Henning, Arnold	Quesnel, Harold J.	
Hackinen, Coleen	Rollerson, Terry	

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