

PRSSS

PACIFIC REGIONAL SOCIETY OF SOIL SCIENCE

C/O DEPARTMENT OF SOIL SCIENCE
UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
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Message From the President

Another year has quickly passed us by as we will soon be coming together for our annual fall meeting. The PRSSS has undergone numerous changes over the past few years. The format of our newsletter has been updated. The date of the workshop has also been changed from February to the spring. This change reflects the results of our 1993 member survey as well as the needs and interests of the executive. Our executive has transformed from consisting of UBC graduate students to include students from SFU and individuals working in consulting and government. New executive members include: Maja Krzic, a UBC graduate student, as secretary and Markku Kostamo, who is a UBC graduate student as well as a consultant for Blackwell and Associates, as vice-president. Donna Dean continues as treasurer and Sandy Traichel as newsletter editor. The PRSSS executive would also like to see how our members have changed since our last survey was conducted in 1993. We

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President

Aynslic Ogden
Pottinger Gaherty Env. Consultants Ltd.
Department of Geography, SFU

Vice-President

Markku Kostamo
B.A. Blackwell and Associates Ltd.
Department of Soil Science, UBC

Secretary

Maja Krzic
Department of Soil Science, UBC

Treasurer

Donna Dean
Soileon Laboratories Ltd.

Newsletter Editor

Sandy Traichel
Department of Soil Science, UBC

Annual membership fees are \$10.00

Student membership fees are \$5.00



INSIDE

- ① Upcoming Events
- ② 18th Annual Workshop Synopsis
- ③ List of 95/96 UBC Graduate Theses
- ④ Who's Who in the PRSSS?
- ⑤ 1996 Fall Field Trip Notice

Message from the president continued...

encourage all of our members to participate in our survey, which will also assist the new executive in meeting the needs of our organization. We would appreciate your opinion on the changes the PRSSS has undergone, and the direction you would like to see the PRSSS head towards in the future. We welcome and encourage your feedback!

The PRSSS was founded to assist soil scientists in our region to become more cohesive and informed. Initially, these objectives were met using quarterly newsletters and bi-annual meetings as a forum for exchange. Last fall, members of the PRSSS and SWCS initiated an electronic mailing list to provide an opportunity for discussion on current issues in soil science. We hope to see this mailing list become more active in the upcoming year. Last spring, the PRSSS executive also distributed our membership directory to assist our members in keeping in touch with each other throughout the year. This year, the PRSSS executive is planning to create a PRSSS 'home page' on the world wide web to provide people across the world with access to the skills and knowledge of members of our organization. We plan to include copies of our newsletters and workshop proceedings and would welcome any suggestions or assistance with this project.

Last fall, for the first time, our fall evening session was held at SFU's Burnaby Mountain campus, which exposed many SFU students to the PRSSS. The topic of the evening session was 'Soils Issues within the Forest Practices Code and the Farm Practices Protection Act'. The presenters generated a lively discussion as participants discussed the differences between blanket regulations and those that are flexible to location. The merits of protecting normal farm practices over best management practices were also debated. For those of you who could not attend our workshop in the spring entitled 'New Approaches for Soil Scientists', you missed out! Our participants explored the World Wide Web, experienced how to set up a WEB site and learned how to construct effective presentations in Hypertext. The participants were also introduced to Geographical Information Systems (GIS), the new Land Analysis and Decision Making Model (LANDS) and an overview of the BOREAS project. This November, the PRSSS executive have decided to provide our members with a chance to get out into the field in place of our regular fall evening session. I look forward to seeing you all, rain or shine, at our field trip in early November.

Aynslie Ogden

President, PRSSS

Upcoming Events

Annual meetings of American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America. Indianapolis, Indiana. **November 3-8, 1996.**

Annual meeting of American Association for the Advancement of Science. Seattle, Washington. **February 13-18, 1997.** Contact: AAAS Meetings Office at (202) 326-6450, fax (202) 289-4021, e_mail amsie97@aaas.org. Abstracts must be received by October 15, 1996.

International Erosion Control Association Conference. Nashville, Tennessee. **February 25-28, 1997.** Contact: (970) 879-3010.

Cover Crops, Soil Quality, and Ecosystems. Sacramento, California. **March 12-14, 1997.** Contact: Nancy Herselius at (515) 289-2331, ext. 18 or 1-800- THE SOIL, ext. 18. Title summaries are due November 4, 1996.

Symposium on Beneficial Co-Use of Agricultural, Municipal, and Industrial By-Products. Beltsville, Maryland. **May 4-8, 1997.** Contact: Ron Korcak at barc97@asrr.arsusda.gov.

Annual meeting of American Society for Surface Mining and Reclamation. Austin, Texas. **May 10-16, 1997.** Contact: Lisa Kost at (214) 448-5489.

Global Warming Conference, New York, New York. **May 25-28, 1997.** Contact: Sinyan Shen at (630) 910-1551.

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Upcoming Events continued...

International Symposium on Physics, Chemistry and Ecology of Seasonally Frozen Soils. Fairbanks, Alaska. **June 10-12, 1997.** Contact: Brenton Sharrott at (612)589-3411.

International Grassland Congress, Winnipeg, MB and Saskatoon, SK. **June 8-19, 1997.** Contact: IGC, P.O. Box 4520, Station C, Calgary, AB T2T 5N3, phone (403) 244-4487, fax (403) 244-2340, e_mail amc@supernet.ab.ca.

International Clay Conference. Ottawa, Ontario. **June 15-21, 1997.** Contact: J.B. Percival at fax (613) 943-1286.

International Conference on Sustainable Agriculture for Food, Energy, and Industry. Federal Agricultural Research Center, Braunschweig, Germany. **June 22-28, 1997.** Contact at 0049-531-596-600.

International Conference on Urban Ecology, Leipzig, Germany. **June 25-29, 1997.** Contact: Hildegard Felmann at 0049-341-235-2534.

International Symposium on Use of Residuals as Soil Amendments in Forest Ecosystems. Seattle, Washington. **July 14-16, 1997.** Contact: Eric Vance, NCASIS Southern Regional Center at (352) 377-4708, ext. 228.

Annual conference of Soil and Water Conservation Society. Toronto, Ontario. **July 23-26, 1997.** Contact at (515) 289-2331 or 1-800- THE SOIL, fax (515) 289-1227. Submissions for oral presentations

are due November 29, 1996. Submissions for poster presentations are due January 6, 1997.

International Soil Tillage Research Organization Conference. Puwary, Poland. **July 27-August 1, 1997.** Contact: Aleja Krolewska at 0048-81-877-307.

The 5th International Soil and Plant Analysis Symposium. Bloomington, Minnesota. **August 2-7, 1997.** Contact: Ann Wolf at (814) 863-0841, fax (814) 863-4540, e_mail: AMW2@PSU.EDU.

Annual meeting of Canadian Society of Soil Science. Truro, Nova Scotia. **August 17-21, 1997.** Contact: Vernon Rodd (902) 667-3826.

World Water Congress. Montreal, Quebec. **September 1-6, 1997.** Contact: Aly M. Shady at (819) 994-4098.

Annual meeting of Canadian Society of Soil Science. Vancouver, B.C. **July 5-9, 1998.** Contact: Robert Blair at fax (604) 822-4400.

The 9th North American Forest Soil Conference. Lake Tahoe, California. **August 9-14, 1998.** The theme of the Conference is "Forest Soils and Ecosystem Stability". A first call announced is planned for February 1997. Contact: Neil Foster - fax (705) 759-5700, e_mail: nfoster@fcor.glf.forestry.ca.

World Congress of Soil Science. Montpellier, France. **August 20-26, 1998.** Contact: ISSS@agropolis.fr or ISSS@edvl.boku.ac.at.

The 18th Annual B.C. Soil Science Workshop Synopsis

The spring Workshop entitled "New Approaches for Soil Scientists," was held at UBC on April 20th. It was a great opportunity for members to re-evaluate how to approach their work, upgrade skills and learn about some of the best technology available to soil scientists.

The first session in the morning was presented by Kent Watson, a soil science/GIS instructor in the Natural Resource Science Degree Program at the University College of the Cariboo in Kamloops, B.C. He is also president of International Remote Sensing Surveys Ltd., which specializes in 35 mm aerial photography, soils and vegetation surveys, remote sensing, photo interpretation and mapping using GIS. He provided insights to the possibilities and challenges of applying Geographical Information Systems (GIS) to soils and other natural resource issues. GIS is used for soils and resource management evaluation, research, policy development and management. GIS also offers the soil scientist incredible opportunities for spatially organizing and processing soils and land-related information. Another attribute is that it enables one to relate soils and their attributes to places in the 'real world' and identify or link them to other phenomena and/or processes. Entering information from maps, field observations or measurements allows the soil scientist to search for relationships or trends, which are presented in over-lay maps, tables or figures. The biggest challenge is ensuring the data collected is appropriate and entered properly. It was clear that GIS will remain an important tool for developing resource management strategies throughout B.C.

Dr. Dave Moon, a soil scientist and head of the B.C. Land Resource Section for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, introduced us to the Land Analysis and Decision Making Model (LANDS). The LANDS model assists resource managers in soils-land evaluation, policy evaluation, and developing multiple goal, decision support systems. He emphasized the importance of having good quality data. To reduce errors, we need to

concentrate more on information management, the security and distribution of information and data, and how we can better structure the input process for our model/user interface.

Dr. David Price, a soil scientist and researcher in the Boreal Ecosystem Atmosphere Study (BOREAS) Project with the Canadian Forest Service in Edmonton, Alberta, gave a talk on scale dependent problems one should anticipate in developing and merging computer models. His research involves small scale studies such as carbon emissions from organic soils to regional and global scale carbon cycling in the boreal forest.

The afternoon sessions were held in the amazing multimedia facility (the Telecentre) at UBC Media Services. A series of presentations were given via a computer that was projected onto a wall-sized screen. We learned about presenting information (Hypertext), searching for and exchanging information (Internet and email) and making our own knowledge and skills available (Web site). Sandra Brown, a soil scientist and Ph.D. candidate in the UBC Soil Science Department, introduced "Hypertext" as a tool for interactive presentations. The capabilities of Hypertext allow the presenter to jump from topic to topic with no predetermined sequence. Hypertext offers a unique opportunity for the presenter to maneuver information quickly and effectively and redirect the presentation flow as deemed appropriate or necessary, depending on the audience.

Michael Goldstein, a soil scientist and president of Soilcon Laboratories Ltd., and Bill Denham, a UBC graduate student, presented the basics of email and the Internet. Michael surfed the 'Net' to show us some interesting (as well as some weird!) soils web sites. You are likely to find many other people just as interested as yourself on many soils-related (and other) topics. The down side to the Internet is the patience required to wade through lots of junk to find something interesting and even then it may not be critical, peer reviewed information.

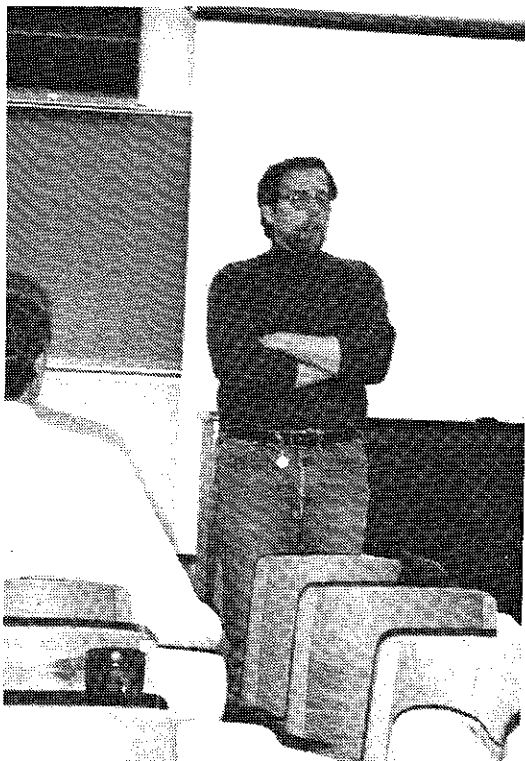
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Synopsis continued...

Brent Foote, owner of Foote Print Desktop Publishing & Design, ended the day with a presentation of how to set up a "Web site". He defined a Web site, described the language used to create one, as well as provided us with the six basic elements required to build one on the Internet.

All participants agreed that the Workshop was interesting and highly educational. It was regretful that more members were not able to attend and take advantage of the opportunity to develop some "New Approaches" in soil science. Any members who wish more information regarding the topics presented please contact our newsletter editor, Sandy Traichel (@ (604)822-2783 or traichel@unixg.ubc.ca). Thanks to all who helped make it happen.

Trevor Murrie
Past President, PRSSS



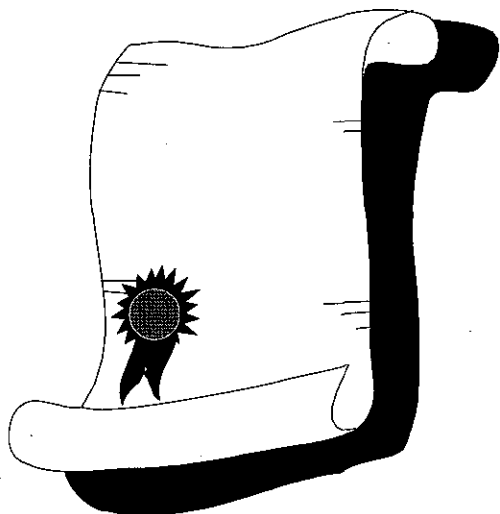
Dr. Dave Moon introducing the LANDS Model



Kent Watson speaking about GIS



Dr. David Price gesturing about carbon cycling



***List of Graduate Theses Defended at
the UBC Department of Soil Science
during the 1995-96 Period***

Ph.D degrees

Bandi Hermawan. November 1995. "Soil structure associated with cover crop and grass leys in degraded lowland soils of Delta". Supervisor: Dr. A.A. Bomke.

Barbara Cade-Menun. May 1996. "Phosphorous form of podzolic soils of northern Vancouver Island and their use by western red cedar". Supervisor: Dr. L.M. Lavkulich.

M.Sc. degrees

Aweis Issa. November 1995. "Establishment and evaluation of cover crops underseeded in sweet corn in Delta, British Columbia". Supervisor: Dr. A.A. Bomke.

Liu Ai Guo. November 1995. "Soil organic components and aggregation as influenced by cover and ley crops". Supervisor: Dr. A.A. Bomke.

Michael Shum. November 1995. "Review of weathering products in waste rock dumps" (Non-thesis essay). Supervisor: Dr. L.M. Lavkulich.

Katherine Wreford. May 1996. "An analysis of the factors affecting landfill gas composition and production and leachate characteristics at the Vancouver landfill site at Burns Bog". Supervisor: Dr. L.M. Lavkulich.

Arlan Frick. May 1996. "Behavior of Methylisothiocyanate under varying soil water regime and soil properties". Supervisor: Dr. B. Zebarth (Adjunct).

Keith Irwin. May 1996. "A model for the incongruent dissolution of pyrite". Supervisor: Dr. L.M. Lavkulich.

David Yole. May 1996. "Effect of alternative site preparation treatments on soil chemistry, physical properties, climate and seedling growth on a mesic site in the northern interior of British Columbia". Supervisor: Dr. T.M. Ballard.

Vera Top. May 1996. "Dissipation and mobility of atrazine, simazine, diazinon and chlorpyrifos in the ryder soil of the Lower Fraser Valley, British Columbia". Supervisor: Dr. L.M. Lavkulich.

Jon Warland. August 1996. "Turbulent air flow in forest stands: A wind tunnel study". Supervisor: Dr. M.D. Novak.

Compiled by Maja Krzic
Secretary, PRSSS

*Who's Who in the PRSSS?***Member Profile: Yash P. Kalra**

Educational Background: B.Sc.(Agric.) and M.Sc.(Agric.Chemistry), Government Agricultural College (Agra University), Kanpur, India. M.Sc.(Soil Science), University of Manitoba.

Region of Work: The focus of his work is the Northwest Region (Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Northwest Territories).

Employer: The Canadian Forest Service

Job Responsibilities: Yash has been the head, for the past 29 years, of the laboratory responsible for soil and plant analysis for the Northwest Region.

Professional interests and activities:

Yash is actively involved in numerous professional organizations as an editor and committee member. Yash is a member of the board of directors of the Soil and Plant Analysis Council. He is also a member of the Methods Committee on Environmental Quality of the Association of Official Analytical Chemists (AOAC). He is the editor of the Council's Plant Analysis Handbook, which will be published this year. His "Methods Manual for Forest Soil and Plant Analysis" (Y.P. Kalra and D.G. Maynard 1991) is widely used. He is also the Environmental Sciences editor of the Journal of Forest Research (Japan). Yash is currently the President of the Canadian Society of Soil Science.

His professional work has been recognized with two distinguished awards. For his work in coordinating the first soil analysis collaborative study for methods validating by the AOAC International, he was awarded the Methods Committee Associate Referee of the Year in 1995. The Soil and Plant Analysis Council presented him with the J. Benton Jones Jr. Award in 1993.

From the Editor's Desk...

Having spent two interesting years in the position of *PRSSS* Secretary, I am looking forward to my new position as Newsletter Editor. I consider our membership, the newsletter and member contact, through sessions and workshops, to be the three cornerstones of our organization and our executive is constantly seeking ways of improving our administration to maintain these cornerstones. We will continue our "Outreach" program, wherein members will be asked to share their professional activities - the result of which are published in the "Who's Who in the *PRSSS*?" articles. I hope to contact members regarding synopses of interesting conferences they have attended, interesting book reviews, interesting soils web sites etc. We have an interesting, diverse membership and I encourage all members to share their interests and knowledge so that the *PRSSS* will remain an active voice for soil scientists in our region.

Sandy Traichel
Editor

PRSSS ENROLMENT / MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL / CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Name: _____

Employer: _____

Title: _____

Professional Interests: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Telephone Work: _____

Fax #: _____

Home: _____

email address: _____

Comments/Suggestions: _____

Please Find Enclosed (check one):

1 Year Membership - \$102 Year Membership - \$20

\$ 5(Student) _____

\$10(Student) _____

Please include me in the *PRSSS* Directory: Yes: _____

No: _____