



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our Annual Meetings with the Manitoba Soil Science Society in Winnipeg in July were a resounding success (see reports in this newsletter). I would like to say a huge “thank-you” to Don Flaten, the Conference Chair, and his Organizing Committee. The thing that struck me most was the large number of student presenters which bodes well for the future of our Society. Our next Annual Meeting will be with CGU in Banff, May 4-8, 2014. Just imagine springtime in the Rockies... and plan on attending next year's conference! The abstract deadline has been set for February 14, 2014, so watch out for the “Call for Abstracts” coming soon.

As of December 31, we will be saying farewell to the following members of CSSS Council: Denis Angers (Past-President), Isabelle Royer (Eastern Councillor) and Joann Whalen (CJSS Editor In Chief). I would like to thank all of them for their time and devotion to CSSS. Elections to fill the President-Elect and Eastern Councillor positions are now open with a voting deadline of December 18. We have two excellent nominees for each position: Barbara Cade-Menun and Scott Chang for President-Elect, and Athyna Cambouris and Richard Heck for Eastern Councillor. All members received an email from the CSSS Business Office (EcoMatters) with a link to ballots on *SurveyMonkey*, so please remember to vote!

In September, CSSS was issued a “Certificate of Continuance” by Corporations Canada which means we have successfully transitioned to comply with the new Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act. The next step in this process will be a vote by members on our new by-laws document which Steve Sheppard is currently developing. Stay tuned... Speaking of Steve, he and Barbara Sanipelli in the CSSS Business Office do so much work ‘behind the scenes’ that members may not be aware of their contributions to the smooth running of our Society. Thanks guys!

December 5 is World Soil Day. It was created by the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) to celebrate soil and advocate its sustainable use for human survival. It honours His Majesty, Bhumibol Adulyadej, King of Thailand (December 5 is his birthday) and his promotion of soil science. The government of Thailand also proposed that 2015 would be The International Year of Soils, within the framework of the FAO's Global Soil Partnership. Since we are just over a year away from 2015, we should start planning activities to raise awareness on the role of “Healthy soils for a healthy life” in The International Year of Soils

Word of the Day: phosphorous, *adj.* of, relating to, or containing phosphorus. Usually, if I see ‘phosphorous’ when reviewing a manuscript I delete that last ‘o’ to make it a noun. However, I recently searched ‘phosphorous’ on scopus.com and found lots of hits. While a few were valid, the vast majority used the adjective in place of the noun, which further research on grammarist.com told me “happens so often that we should probably just consider *phosphorous* an alternative spelling of *phosphorus*”. However, among the dozen or so dictionaries they checked, not one noted this. So much for picky reviewing...

December 31 marks the end of my tenure as CSSS President. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve our Society. Wishing you a joyful Christmas season and all the best for 2014!

Sincerely,

Frank Larney
President, CSSS



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Greetings on behalf of the Editors, Associate Editors and staff at the Journals Office of CJSS!

I'd like to start by giving you an update on the manuscripts that were submitted to CJSS in 2012.

There were 136 papers submitted to CJSS in 2012 of which 112 were regular papers, 13 were Special Issue papers, 9 were short communications and there were 2 review papers. Forty-three percent of our submissions were sent to us from Canadian authors and the rest came from 26 countries outside of Canada. Many of those submissions were from China, followed by the United States, India and Iran. We received more submissions from outside of Canada in 2012 (i.e. 57% of total submissions) than in 2011, when we had 53% of our total submissions coming from 20 countries outside of Canada.

In 2012, 43% of the papers submitted to CJSS were accepted, 51% were rejected and about 6% were withdrawn. These numbers are consistent with the acceptance/rejection rates for 2011.

Our Associate Editors have been working hard, each handling between 4 and 5 papers per year. They do their job efficiently, as the average length of time for authors of regular papers to be contacted about the status of their paper that would ultimately be accepted was 74 days in 2012, which is faster than the 81 days it took in 2011. The average amount of time taken to make the final decision (including all revisions) in 2012 was 189 days for accepted regular issue papers, 212 days for Special Issue papers and 48 days for rejected papers.

Thus far in 2013, we have received 112 submissions, which include 88 regular papers, 8 short communications, 15 special issue papers and 1 review. We also published a book review in the August 2013 issue of CJSS. Submissions have come from Canada (i.e. 36% of total submissions) and 18 other countries. It is notable that 41% of our total submissions in 2013 have originated from China, with an additional 7% of total submissions coming from Egypt, India and Pakistan.

I really encourage you to consider CJSS as the venue for your next manuscript.

Special Issues/Sections

In 2013, the following Special Issues were published:

1. Freeze-Thaw Processes and Frozen Soils (Guest Editors: Barbara Cade-Menun, Martin Chantigny and Ymène Fouli – 11 papers published).

Issues in Progress/Proposed:

1. Long-term field sites: past, present and future importance (Guest Editors: Craig Drury, Dan Reynolds and Jeff Schoenau – 15 submissions).
2. Soil remediation research at the HudBay smelter site in Flin Flon (Guest Editor: Derek Peak and collaborators).
3. Sustainable management of pastures (Guest Editor: Sina Adl).

Special Issues are an excellent forum for disseminating “hot topics” in soil science that may come from conferences, workshops and working groups. If you have any suggestions for future Special Issues, please contact Dr. Marie Boehm, the Special Issues Editor.

Publicity Initiative with Canadian Science Publishing

The Agricultural Institute of Canada (AIC) is taking steps to boost the profile of CJSS and other scientific journals (e.g., Canadian Journal of Plant Science, Canadian Journal of Animal Science). We received a report prepared by Ms. Kelly Bogh on the status of CJSS from Canadian Science Publishing, which was presented at the CJSS Annual Meeting in Winnipeg and is available from the CSSS website.

In response to this report, the CJSS Editors (myself, Dr. Martin Chantigny and Dr. Francis Zvomuya) have prepared a survey to gather feedback about the perceptions of our CJSS authors and readers, so we can act upon the recommendations from Ms. Bogh’s report and make our journal better in the future.

AIC has actively sought to bring more attention to CJSS by preparing media releases for articles that would be of broad interest to scientists and the general public. Articles published in the May 2013 and August 2013 issues of CJSS, as well as the September 2013 Special Issue on Biological, Chemical and Physical Processes in Seasonally Frozen Soils, were selected for wider publicity and made Open Access. They were:

Impact of climate change scenarios on Canadian agroclimatic indices by Budong Qian, Reinder De Jong, Sam Gameda, Ted Huffman, Denise Neilsen, Raymond Desjardins, Hong Wang, and Brian McConkey. Canadian Journal of Soil Science, 2013, 93(2): 243-259, 10.4141/cjss2012-053

Shifts in soil microbial community biomass and resource utilization along a Canadian glacier chronosequence by Aria S. Hahn and Sylvie A. Quideau. Canadian Journal of Soil Science, 2013, 93(3): 305-318, 10.4141/cjss2012-133

Nutrient loss from Saskatchewan cropland and pasture in spring snowmelt runoff by Barbara J. Cade-Menun, Gordon Bell, Samar Baker-Ismail, Ymène Fouli, Kyle Hodder, Dena W. McMartin, Cesar Perez-Valdivia, Kangsheng Wu. Canadian Journal of Soil Science, 2013, 93(4): 445-458, 10.4141/cjss2012-042

We will continue to identify interesting articles to popularize soil science and our journal. Stay tuned!

Final Words

This is my last report as CJSS Editor-in-Chief, as Dr. Martin Chantigny will be taking over the position in January 2014. I started with CJSS as an Associate Editor in 2007, was the Special Issues Editor from 2009-2011 and then became an Editor (2012) and the Editor-in-Chief (2013). It has been a great experience and an opportunity to learn more about scientific writing, editing and publishing. I would encourage anyone to get more involved with the CJSS as a reader, an author and peer reviewer. If you get solicited for the position of Associate Editor or Editor of the CJSS, I hope you’ll say yes!

Thank you to my fellow Editors for their support and initiatives to make CJSS even better: Dr. Martin Chantigny (CJSS Editor), Dr. Francis Zvomuya (CJSS Editor) and Dr. Marie Boehm (Special Issues Editor).

I really appreciate the dedication of our Associate Editors who devote many hours to editorial tasks (Drs. Lito Arocena, Nathan Basiliko, Angela Bedard-Haughn, Nicolas Belanger, J.P. Bellenger, David Burton, Jean Caron, Miles Dyck, Richard Engel, Claudia Goyer, Bobbi Helgason, Richard Heck, Newton Lupwayi, Yong Sik Ok, Paul Sanborn, Bing Si, Steve Siciliano, Myrna Simpson, Mario Tenuta, Claudia Wagner-Riddle, Xueming Yang and Noura Ziadi).

I am very grateful for the expertise provided by Tim Fenton and Laurie Scott in the journals office, and for their hard work to promote CJSS by linking our articles to electronic databases, handling open access requests and subscriptions.

Joann Whalen (CJSS Editor-in-Chief)

Fort Garry Hotel and Conference Centre, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Thanks! On behalf of the organizing committee for the 2013 Joint Annual Meeting for the Canadian Society of Soil Science, the Manitoba Soil Science Society, and the Canadian Society of Agricultural and Forest Meteorology, we would like to thank members of the CSSS for contributing to a very successful conference in Winnipeg last summer.

The plenary conference theme ... "Soil Science: The Centre of It All" ... and many of the technical sessions focused on the connections between soil, water and air that play a huge role in the sustainability of human civilization as well as local and global ecosystems. In total, 272 soil scientists and other conference, workshop and tour participants (including 91 students) shared 103 oral presentations (including 43 student presentations) and 92 posters (including 45 student posters) that addressed the challenges of increasing food, fibre and bio-fuel production, while minimizing greenhouse gas emissions, maximizing carbon sequestration, and protecting soil and water quality.

In addition to the conference participants, we also want to thank the large number of colleagues that have worked so hard to organize and support this conference, including the following.

Other members of the organizing committee:

Paul Bullock	Amanda Taylor	Aaron Glenn	Wara Chiyoka
Mario Tenuta	Francis Zvomuya	Brian Miller	David Hay
Selena Randall	Brian Amiro	Jolene Rutter	Jason Voog
Karin Rose	David Lobb	Amanda Taylor	

Plenary speakers:

April Leytem	Henry Janzen	Phil Haygarth	Satish Gupta
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Special session chairs:

Brian Amiro	Sina Adl	Maja Krzic	David Hopkins
Scott Chang	Tom Yates	Krista Hannis	David Lobb
Elyn Humphreys	Fran Walley	Paul Bartlett	

Sponsors:

Hoskin Scientific	Agrium	Canadian Fertilizer Institute
Stantec	Campbell Scientific	Agricultural Institute of Canada
Maxxam	Manitoba Pork	Manitoba Institute of Agrologists

Manitoba Agriculture Food and Rural Development
Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Manitoba

We would not have a successful conference without you, so thank you!

Don Flaten, Conference Chair
Marla Riekman, Vice-Chair (Local Arrangements)
Darshani Kumaragamage, Vice-Chair (Program)

CSSS Awards – 2013

In 2013, CSSS made Dr. Craig Drury a Fellow of the Society and Dr. Jeff Schoenau was honoured with a Soil Science for Society Award.

A total of 49 students competed for the C.F. Bentley oral presentation awards and 43 posters were entered for the President's Award. The Awards Committee reviewed 28 applications for Student Travel Awards and granted the maximum number of 12. Ten undergraduate Student Book Awards were presented. All 2013 Award winners are listed below.

I would like to thank everyone who was involved in any way with the Awards, especially the members of the Awards Committee: Ed Gregorich and Gordon Price and the 42 members of the CSSS and MSSS that helped to judge the oral and poster presentations. Your efforts are appreciated.

Our annual awards are an important part of the CSSS commitment to honouring distinguished members and promoting student participation at our Annual Meetings. It fosters a healthy Society and highlights achievement and the commitment to excellence by our members both young and old.

Congratulations to all our 2013 CSSS Award winners!

David Burton

Chair, Awards Committee, 2013; President-Elect, CSSS

Student Presentation Awards

Oral Presentations – C.F. Bentley Award: Initiated in 1983 to encourage and recognize excellence in oral presentations by students at the CSSS Annual Meetings. The award honours [Dr. Fred Bentley](#) who was CSSS President in 1956-57 and inducted as a CSSS Fellow in 1973.



1st (\$500)

Tandra Fraser
University of Guelph



2nd (\$300)

Dru Yates
University of British Columbia



3rd (\$200)

Sally Parsonage
University of Manitoba

Poster Presentations – President's Award: Established in 1992 to foster excellence in student poster presentations as a means of disseminating research results at the CSSS Annual Meetings.



1st (\$500)

Katelyn Congreves
University of Guelph



2nd (\$300)

Mervin St. Luce
McGill University



3rd (\$200)

Tandra Fraser
University of Guelph

CSSS Awards – 2013 (continued)

Student Travel Awards

Established in 1991 to encourage graduate student participation at the CSSS Annual Meetings. Each award is worth \$600 with a maximum of 12 awarded annually.

Chukuwudi Amadi	University of Saskatchewan
Scott Baker	Trent University
Brent Ewen	University of Saskatchewan
Tandra Fraser	University of Guelph
Brandon Heung	Simon Fraser University
Elliot Hildebrand	University of Saskatchewan
Nazrul Islam	University of Saskatchewan
David Poon	McGill University
Weixi Shu	Dalhousie University
Ben Thomas	McGill University
Brian Wallace	University of Saskatchewan/Dalhousie University
Dru Yates	University of British Columbia



Photo Credits, all awards photos: Amanda Taylor, Dan Cruikshank

Student Book Awards

Recognizes students at Canadian universities who demonstrate excellence in soil science at the undergraduate level. Soil science faculty nominate students (one per university) who receive a complimentary copy of [Soil Sampling and Methods of Analysis](#) (2nd Ed., 2007), published jointly by CSSS and CRC Press.

Emma Avery	University of British Columbia
Evan Bracken	University of Guelph
Thomas Foss	University of Alberta
Olivia Lund	University of Toronto, Mississauga
Edward MacDonell	Dalhousie University
Jonathan Messerli	McGill University
Marie-Élise Samson	Université Laval
Katherine Stanley	University of Manitoba
Lucy Swank	University of Northern British Columbia
Blake Weiseth	University of Saskatchewan

2013 Canadian Society of Soil Science Fellow

This is awarded to CSSS members with a distinguished record of accomplishment in Soil Science and service to the Society.

Dr. Craig F. Drury

Dr. Drury's service to CSSS and Soil Science has been truly exemplary and far-reaching. He has variously served as President and Secretary of CSSS; Editor, Guest Editor and Associate Editor for CJSS; member and Chair of the AIC Scientific Journals Committee; Plenary Speaker at a joint CSSS-AIC conference; Session Chair and Student Judge at many CSSS Conferences; and contributor to the 2nd edition of the CSSS methods manual. He has served on and chaired several Ontario soils research committees; and he has been co-lead researcher on two major national programs - one focused on characterizing nitrogen dynamics, and the other on developing Canadian agri-environmental indicators. Dr. Drury's extensive work in tillage systems and soil, water and air quality has attracted considerable national and international attention, as evidenced by extensive supervision of graduate students and PhDs, numerous invited talks, and many requests to serve as reviewer of manuscripts, theses and research programs. Craig has an outstanding publication record, co-authoring over 136 peer reviewed articles and 16 book chapters in just 25 years. He has also collaborated in the acquisition of over \$14 million in research funding. Craig is a highly effective and ethical collaborator, a skilled and competent researcher, and a very pleasant person to work with.



Frank Larney (left) presenting the CSSS Fellow Award to Craig Drury.

2013 CSSS Soil Science For Society Award

Honours a member or non-member who has made a significant contribution towards promoting soil science to the general public.

Dr. Jeff Schoenau

As a Professor in the Department of Soil Science, University of Saskatchewan, Dr. Schoenau has had an outstanding record of performance in teaching, research and outreach.

From a teaching perspective, Jeff received the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union Teaching Excellence Award in 2010, was recognized as Professor of the Year three times by the Agriculture Students' Association, and was the recipient of the National Association of Colleges and Teachers Agriculture Award of Excellence in 2001.

Dr. Schoenau's outstanding research accomplishments have also led to many awards, including the Agriculture Institute of Canada's Outstanding Young Agrologist Award in 1998, the Robert E. Wagner Young Scientist Award from the Potash and Phosphate Institute in 2000, the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists' Outstanding Young Agrologist Award in 2002 and the Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association Award of Merit in 2011. He received the NSERC Synergy Award for Innovation in 2004 for the development of the Plant Root Simulator (PRSTM) system, a cost-effective, exchange membrane-based soil testing system to provide nutrient management recommendations for farmers and agronomists.

Dr. Schoenau excels in communicating the results of his own research as well as other knowledge in soil science to farmers, school students or their teachers, and the general public. As a result of these outstanding extension efforts, Jeff received the University of Saskatchewan's Award for Distinction in Outreach and Engagement in 2007.



Frank Larney (left) presenting the CSSS Soil Science for Society Award to Jeffrey Schoenau.



Canadian Geophysical Union
Union Géophysique Canadienne
www.cgu-ugc.ca



Canadian Society of Soil Science
Société Canadienne de la Science du Sol
www.csss.ca

ANNUAL MEETING / RENCONTRE ANNUELLE
under the theme
ADVANCES IN GEOPHYSICAL & SOIL SCIENCES
May 4-8, 2014
Banff Park Lodge, Banff, Alberta

CGU / UGC SESSIONS ...

Geodesy & Geodynamics
Hydrology & Cryosphere
Seismo-Tectonics & Imaging
Biogeosciences & Applications
Environmental Considerations
General Geophysics & more ...

... CSSS/SCSS SESSIONS

Pedology
Organic Amendments
Meta-Analysis & Scaling-Up
Climate Change & Soil Function
Land Reclamation & Remediation
General Soil Science & more ...

jointly with the

2014 Mantle Convection and Lithosphere Dynamics Workshop
Sponsored by Computational Infrastructure for Geodynamics

www.geodynamics.org



New/Joint Sessions: contact Rod Blais at blais@ucalgary.ca
Field Trip to the Columbia Icefields on 4 May / Mai 2014
ABSTRACTS / RESUMES: 14 February / Février 2014

www.ucalgary.ca/~cguconf

Canadian Society of Soil Science 2013 Treasurers' Report

Canadian Society of Soil Science Annual General Meeting, July 23 – 25, 2013
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Financial Reports for 2012

The first task I undertook was to convert the books from the spreadsheet format that has been used for the past number of years to Sage Pro Accounting. I kept the account names the same as previously used in the spreadsheet format. I did break down some expenses into further categories such as postage, bank service charges and royalties. There will be some adjustment of account locations in the 2013 report at the auditor's suggestions.

The CSSS 2012 income expense statement shows the society continues to be very healthy financially, mainly as a result of unprecedented levels of income from conferences and a higher than anticipated revenue for our Wood Gundy Investment Accounts.

CSSS Operating Funds Income and Expenses

Total income in 2012 was much more than budgeted as a result of two unanticipated income sources. The 2012 Quebec conference generated a record \$12,629 of revenue which came through in 2012. The Wood Gundy Investments generated \$18,376 in revenue. A \$20,000 transfer of funds from the Trust Account was made to rebalance the amount owing to the operating account from previous years in 2011. However, these funds were put into 36 and 84 month term deposits that generated \$1284 in interest. Expenses in 2012 were close to budget publication. Our net income in 2012 was \$18,895.64

CSSS Balance Sheet for Trust and Operating Accounts

Equity in the CSSS Trust Fund increased in 2012 to its highest level since 2009. The trust fund increased in value from \$316,501 from December 31, 2011 to \$334,877 by December 21, 2012, an increase of \$18,376 which nearly covered the \$20,000 transferred into term deposits in 2011. As of December 2012, the Trust fund held approximately 56% in income investments, approximately 15% of its assets in equity funds and approximately 28% in mutual funds. The majority of the Trust Fund (74%) is held as a series of different types of bonds with interest rates ranging between 4.16% and 5.53% and staggered maturity dates from September 2011 through December 2020.

The combination of funds in the CSSS savings account and term deposits provides a healthy buffer in case of large and unanticipated CSSS expenses. The CSSS remains financially healthy. Our overall equity from CSSS Trust Funds and Operating Accounts was \$423,887.11 as of December 31, 2012.

Budget Proposed for 2014

There are no major changes anticipated for the 2014 financial year. The term deposits in the operating accounts will increase interest earnings. Membership revenue is expected to remain at levels similar to 2011 and 2012. Potential conference revenues from the 2013 meeting in Manitoba are difficult to forecast and has been estimated at \$2000 to balance the proposed budget.

Currently, there are no special projects anticipated for the Trust Fund. However, CSSS certainly is in a financial position to fund a special project if an appropriate initiative is identified.

The small surplus forecast for 2014 will not create any financial problems for CSSS.

Kent Watson
Treasurer

Report on Inaugural Meeting of the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils

Background

The Global Soil Partnership (GSP) is a new body formed under the leadership of the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization. The long-term objective of the GSP is to ensure that soil is included in any discussions of global issues such as food security, climate change, and sustainable development. The GSP includes a very wide range of government and non-governmental partners, including the Canadian Society of Soil Science. The first plenary of the GSP was held in June 2013 and at the plenary session the GSP formalized the five pillars that it will focus on: 1] to promote sustainable management of soil resources; 2] to encourage investment, technical cooperation, policy, education awareness and extension in soils; 3] to promote targeted soil research and development; 4] to enhance the quantity and quality of soil data and information and integration with other disciplines; 5] harmonization of methods, measurements and indicators.

The plenary also established the membership and mandate of the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils, which provides scientific and technical support for the GSP. The 27 members of the panel are drawn from seven regions and represent a wide range of scientific and administrative expertise (short biographies available at <http://www.fao.org/globalsoilpartnership/intergovernmental-technical-panel-on-soils/itps-experts/en/>). The ITPS is supported by a Secretariat from the FAO. Ideally the ITPS will achieve the status of its much better known equivalent, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, but much work needs to be done to earn that level of respect.

The CSSS was allowed to nominate the Canadian representative to the ITPS, and I was very happy to be selected as the Canadian representative for a two-year term. The initial meeting of the ITPS was held in Rome, Italy, at FAO headquarters on July 21 to 26 2013.

At the meeting the FAO staff informed the panel that **2015 will be designated as the International Year of Soils** by the FAO (it may have escaped your notice that 2013 was the International Year of Quinoa). Ideally several of the initiatives discussed over the course of the week will be completed in or before 2015 so that they can be released in that year.

The work of the panel during the week focused on several major tasks that had been assigned to the panel by the GSP.

Task 1: Support for the five pillars of the GSP

For each of these pillars a working group has or will be formed to develop a plan of action. These will be reviewed and ultimately endorsed by the ITPS before being forwarded to the GSP.

The working group for pillar 4 was struck some time ago, and had developed a draft plan of action that was reviewed and endorsed by the panel. Scott Smith of AAFC was involved in the development of this plan. The key element of this plan is to establish a global soil information system that will, in the short term, be built on information submitted by national governments. Ideally future developments will draw on the tools of digital mapping to provide more spatially resolved soil information.

Task 2: Support for development of Rio+20 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

Task 3: Re-drafting 1981 world soil charter

The World Soil Charter is a legally binding Charter for FAO member states and a key component of the GSP Roadmap. The current Charter (http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/GSP/docs/WSCharter/World_Soil_Charter.pdf) was endorsed in 1981. After review by the ITPS it became clear it is out-dated and requires a major revision. A process was adopted by the ITPS to meet these deadlines, and the chair of the working group (Dr. [Milkha Singh Aulakh](#), a U. of S. Ph.D. grad from 1982) and I were charged with producing a first draft of a charter.

Report on Inaugural Meeting of the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (cont'd)

Task 4: Production of a State of the World Soil Resources report

The ITPS is modeled on the very well-known Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and the ITPS is planning on producing a definitive statement on the state of the global soil resources based on syntheses developed by leading soil scientists, similar to the IPCC reports. The panel endorsed this concept, and will work with the FAO secretariat to produce the first report for release on World Soil Day (December 5th) in 2015.

Task 5: Links between ITPS and existing technical and scientific advisory bodies

The FAO secretariat was very interested in the ITPS working with existing UN agencies such as the IPCC, the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (ITBES) of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Committee on Science and Technology of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

The ITPS and the GSP hold the promise of providing unprecedented exposure for soils at the international level and ensuring that soils are considered in a wide range of discussions about global issues (e.g. food security, climate change, biodiversity). It was stressed throughout the week that the work of the panel has to be policy relevant such that the decisions that flow from these discussions include sound soil management recommendations. As well, there will be tangible benefits to Canada and especially Canadian agriculture that will flow from our participation. I hope that both AAFC and the Canadian Society of Soil Science will remain strongly committed to this process and participate fully in the work of the panel and the GSP.

For more information on the GSP visit: <http://www.fao.org/globalsoilpartnership/en/>.

For the complete report, visit: <http://csss.ca/>

Dan Pennock

Member of the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS)

LAND RECLAMATION INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE SCHOOL (LRIGS)

The Land Reclamation International Graduate School (LRIGS) featured in the June 2013 CSSS newsletter is an interdisciplinary program housed at the University of Alberta and funded by the Natural Sciences Research Council of Canada (NSERC) Collaborative Research and Training Experience (CREATE) program. The school provides learning and training opportunities in various aspects of land reclamation science such as natural sciences, economics and social sciences for Master's and Doctoral students and Post Doctoral Fellows. The program links individuals and groups from government, industry and academia.

In September 2013, the ten current LRIGS graduate students, LRIGS coordinator Michal Guzowski, and a graduate student from Germany travelled to the Yukon and Northwest Territories for a ten day tour. The students attended the Canadian Land Reclamation Association (CLRA) Annual Meeting and visited various mining and reclamation sites such as the Whitehorse Copper Tailings Reprocessing and Reclamation Project, Yukon College research sites, the Keno Hill mining area, and Giant Mine. While at the CLRA Annual Meeting, Dr. M. Anne Naeth, Mr. Michal Guzowski, and the LRIGS students had the great honour of receiving the Dr. Edward M. Watkin award for significant contributions to furthering land reclamation practice in Canada from CLRA president Andrea Granger.

For more information on LRIGS, please visit <http://www.ualberta.ca/~lrigs/> or contact michal.guzowski@ualberta.ca or anne.naeth@ualberta.ca.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

The Carbon Management, Technology and Trade Conference

April 4-6, 2014, Istanbul, Turkey

www.Carbonmeetings.com

Canadian Geophysical Union (CGU) and the Canadian Society of Soil Science (CSSS)

May 4-8, 2014, Banff, Alberta

20th World Congress of Soil Science

June 8-13, 2014, Jeju, Korea

www.20wcss.org

18th Nitrogen Workshop

June 30-July 3, 2014, Lisbon, Portugal

www.nitrogenworkshop.com

Canadian Society of Agronomy (CSA) and the Canadian Society of Horticultural Science (CSHS)

July 10-12, 2014, Lethbridge, Alberta

Eurasian Soil Congress

October 14-16, 2014, Side, Antalya, Turkey

www.soil2014.com

ASA, CSSA, SSSA Annual Meetings

November 2-5, 2014, Long Beach, CA, USA

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