



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to announce that Anne Naeth is our new president-elect. As Associate Dean and Chair of Environmental and Conservation Sciences at the University of Alberta, Anne brings to CSSS Council a wealth of experience in, and knowledge of, soils-related matters. We look forward to working with you, Anne!

Planning is now under way for the CSSS annual meeting to be held in conjunction with that of the Soil Science Society of America in Seattle from Oct 31 to Nov 4, 2004. The SSSA meets annually with the Crop Science Society of America and the American Agronomy Society, bringing together more than 4,000 people from 40 countries. The theme of this year's meeting is "Science to Secure Food and the Environment." This will be CSSS's first time to meet outside of Canada, and the first time that a society from outside the U.S. has become involved in these annual scientific meetings. CSSS is honoured to be accepted as a fourth society at the meetings. These meetings offer us a unique opportunity to showcase Canadian science and to address important scientific issues that span our national boundaries. The CSSS meetings will have the same events as usual, with the student competition for the Bentley award (best oral presentation) and the President's Award (best poster presentation). We will also have our business meeting and the usual luncheon or dinner together.

The Canadian System of Soil Classification has a long history, dating back more than 50 years. Despite this legacy, there was a significant loss in pedological and soil classification expertise when the Expert Committee on Soil Survey of Agriculture Canada was dissolved with the federal government downsizing of the mid-1990s. It is important that CSSS help to fill some of the gaps by helping to organize and sponsor a new working group on Canadian soil classification. Look for an article in this newsletter that gives some background on the Canadian System of Soil Classification and describes the new committee that will be formed for maintaining work in this important area of soil science.

The well-known CSSS book *Soil Sampling and Methods of Analysis* is now 10 years old and is ready for an update. In this issue, Martin Carter describes this endeavour and issues a call for ideas and material for this book.

The CSSS business office has added a new service to make it easier to sign up and pay for membership, vote, and register for conferences. A secure, online Internet service is now up and running. You can try this service out by logging on through the CSSS website and registering your membership. Please help us, and Steve Sheppard at the business office, by offering your suggestions and comments about this online service; they will be appreciated.

The Agriculture Institute of Canada is planning to restructure its organization. Various models of this restructuring have been distributed to CSSS members, and now we need to examine whether this new structure will serve the promotion of soil science in Canada and abroad. Council would like to know whether you consider this relationship with AIC beneficial to the CSSS. As a soil science society should we remain embedded in an agricultural society or should we follow an independent path with links to various societies? Currently 25% of your membership fees goes directly to AIC to pay for CSSS membership in AIC. The AIC is planning to increase this fee in 2005, making an increase in CSSS fees necessary were we to remain AIC members. Council would like to know whether you support such an increase in your membership dues. Council also invites your suggestions on the option of creating stronger ties between CSSS and other science societies. You can respond by contacting any Council member or by answering the questions on the online registration when you renew your CSSS membership online. We look forward to hearing from you.

Ed Gregorich
President, CSSS



CSSS Council

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In Memoriam

Dr. Donald J. Pluth, Ph.D., P.Ag.

The Soil Science community was shocked when Dr. Don Pluth died suddenly and very unexpectedly on January 12, 2004. Everyone who knew him said he was the picture of good health. His immediate survivors are his wife Fern, his daughter Beth, and two sons Jeff and Jerod.

Don received all his post-secondary education at the University of Minnesota: B.Sc. in agriculture (soils) in 1958, M.Sc. in forest soils in 1962, and Ph.D. in forest soils in 1965. He was then a research associate in soil science at the same University for 1965-1967. Don came to a new position, applied pedology, in the Department of Soil Science at the University of Alberta in 1967.

Don taught a course in applied pedology for about 10 years. When the Forest Science program was initiated at the University of Alberta he was assigned to assist with *Introduction to Soil Science*, and to introduce *Forest Soils* for the forestry students. He taught nearly all the forestry students from the inception of that program in 1971 until his retirement in 2001. At the request of forestry students he introduced *Advanced Forest Soils*. He also developed *Advanced Soil Classification* which involved a marathon 10 to 12 day field trip in western United States. Don was particularly well known for his teaching around a soil pit; he made the soil come alive. Don's research interests were in forest land classification, forest soil productivity, and nutrient cycling in forest ecosystems. He spent two sabbatical leaves at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, and as a result was asked to be the external examiner ("opponent") for a Ph.D. defence there. He was associate editor of the Canadian Journal of Soil Science for several years and was complimented for his careful and thoughtful reviews.

Don's legacy is the many students, both undergraduate and graduate, who learned to appreciate soil as an integral part of our natural environment. He will be remembered as a friend and colleague who was friendly, approachable, humble, collegial, energetic, caring, moderate, a steadying influence in the Department. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family and friends.

*Jim Robertson,
University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB,
Past President, Canadian Society of Soil Science*

The CSSS Newsletter is published three times a year (Fall, Winter and Spring). Contributions from members are most welcome. Please send contributions by email to the Eastern Councillor.

News from CJSS

The Canadian Journal of Soil Science (CJSS) continues to serve as an important science arm for the CSSS and provides an excellent showcase for Soil Science conducted in Canada and elsewhere. Some recent developments and changes for CJSS are as follows.

- At the end of 2003, Dr. Caroline Preston (soil organic matter; forest soils) concluded her role as Associate Editor. I would like to thank Caroline for her dedicated editorial work and contribution to CJSS.
- Dr. Cynthia Grant (soil fertility) and Dr. Craig Drury (soil nitrogen management) kindly agreed to serve a second term as Associate Editor.
- To alleviate the editorial workload and raise the international profile of the CJSS, the number of Associate Editor positions was increased to 20. This development allows the appointment of a few Associate Editors from outside Canada. The latter development, possible due to manuscript consignment and transference by electronic means, will further the international profile of CJSS.
- In 2004 several new Associate Editors were appointed: Dr. Henry Janzen (soil biochemistry and organic matter) from Alberta, Dr. Cameron Grant (soil physics) from Australia, Dr. Marga-

ret Schmidt (forest soils) from British Columbia, and Dr. Denis Angers (soil structure) from Québec.

- A Special Section of CJSS on soil mycorrhizae, composed of four keynote papers from CSSS 2003 in Montreal, will be published latter this year. Thank you to Dr. Chantal Hamel for serving as special editor.
- A special issue of CJSS will be published latter this year on Soil Carbon Measurement, based on papers given at a recent OECD meeting in Ottawa. Thank you to Guest Editor Scott Smith with editorial help provided by Dr. David Lobb and Dr. Carlos Monreal.

As Editor, I welcome input from CSSS members on any aspect of CJSS. Short review papers are an important means of scientific communication - if you have an idea or specific topic for a short review please let me know. The business of scientific paper publication cannot function without the work of editors and reviewers - if you would like to serve as a manuscript reviewer or Associate Editor please let me know.

Please visit the CJSS web site (www.nrc.gc.ca/aic-journals/cjss).

Martin Carter

In Memoriam

**Dr. Wim Sombroek, Secretary-General
(1978-1990)
International Society of Soil Science**

I had the privilege of meeting Dr. Wim Sombroek during 1986 at the International Soil Reference and Information Centre (ISRIC), Wageningen, the Netherlands and at several international meetings around the world during the last 25 years. I was shocked to learn that he passed away on December 19, 2003. The world has lost a great soil scientist and we have lost a good friend.

*Yash P. Kalra,
Canadian Forest Service, Edmonton, AB,
Past President, Canadian Society of Soil Science*

CSSS – Business Office

The CSSS Business Office:

- membership concerns
- updated CSSS membership list
- CJSS journal subscriptions
- society publications

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CSSS President Elect M. Anne Naeth, Ph.D., P.Ag. P.Biol.



Anne is currently a Professor and Associate Dean (Academic) at the University of Alberta in the Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry and Home Economics, holding joint appointments with the Departments of Renewable Resources and Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Science. She previously worked with both government and industry. She holds a B.Sc. in biology, a double M.Sc. in soil science and plant science and a Ph.D. in plant science. Her areas of research include applied ecology, land reclamation, revegetation and environmental assessment.

Anne has received numerous awards for her teaching, research and community service including: Killam Annual Professorship, Teaching Wall of Fame, Rutherford Award of Excellence for Undergraduate Teaching, NACTA Teaching Award, Faculty Teaching Award, 3M Teaching Fellowship (top 10 professors in Canada), Distinguished Agrologist Award, Environmental Sustainability Award (Knowledge Builder) and the Canadian Land Reclamation Association Noranda Land Reclamation Award for outstanding contributions to the field of land reclamation. Anne has served on the executives of numerous professional organizations, editorial boards and expert advisory boards. She is currently Past President of the Canadian Land Reclamation Association, an Associate Editor for the Journal of Range Management and a member of the Alberta Environmental Appeal Board.

Anne's major research areas are plant ecology, reclamation and revegetation of disturbed ecosystems (mines, pipelines, wellsites, grazing lands) and plant community development in disturbed ecosystems. This includes research on the impacts of disturbance on soil and vegetation, reclamation, remediation and revegetation techniques, species selection and establishment and environmental monitoring. Current research projects include pipeline revegetation in various ecoregions, gravel pit reclamation in Jasper N.P., diamond mine reclamation in the north, the use of native species in revegetation, the impacts of introduced agronomic species on plant communities, and the effects of grazing on soil and vegetation in rangelands. Other areas of research are slope stabilization, the importance of mycorrhizae in native plant establishment, soil microorganisms in soil remediation and phytoremediation. She has authored over 200 publications and supervised over 40 graduate students.

Happy Birthday to Fred Bentley!

Dr. C.F. (Fred) Bentley, former CSSS president and long-time CSSS member, will celebrate his 90th birthday on March 14, 2004. The Alberta Institute of Agrologists and University of Alberta are planning an event for Fred Bentley at the Edmonton Branch meeting on March 16, 2004. One of the plans is to have groups and individuals write congratulatory letters, which will be bound into a book. Any CSSS members who would like to contribute such a letter (one page maximum on 8.5 by 11 inch paper, mailed flat) should send their contribution to: Myrna Snart, Dean's Office, 2-14 Agfor Centre, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, T6G 2P5

Plan now to attend the next CSSS Annual General Meeting in Seattle!

The Canadian Society of Soil Science will hold its 2004 Annual Meeting in Seattle, Washington, October 31-November 4, 2004 with the American Society of Agronomy, the Crop Science Society of America and the Soil Science Society of America. The theme of the meeting is “**Science to Secure Food and the Environment**”.

A number of Canada/U.S. Symposia will be convened. So far, CSSS are co-sponsoring Symposia on:

- Precision Conservation in North America
- Carbon Cycling in Cold Soils
- Assessment of the Effectiveness of Conservation Practices in North America, including Watershed Case Studies
- Estrogenic Chemicals in Soils and Water

CSSS and Division S-5 (Pedology) are also planning a Symposium ‘Changing Paradigms in Pedology’ for Seattle which will explore how the changing paradigms of pedology are being felt on each side of the border. The idea is that originally Canadian and American pedology may have appeared quite different because the old paradigm was based on soil classification systems and soil survey, which were significantly different. However, as pedology has moved into a new

paradigm of biogeochemistry and landscape processes, Canadian and American pedology must begin to look quite similar. The Symposium will include the "whole" of pedology meaning the education, training, research, and service of pedologists to society. And perhaps a historical perspective could lead the session. Please contact Alain Plante (plante@nrel.colostate.edu) with your ideas about where to take the symposium, potential speakers, topics, etc. Any input that you can provide would be very useful. In addition, please consider submitting your talk for this symposium.

CSSS members should use the ASA-CSSS-SSSA on-line system for submission of oral and poster papers and registration. All the necessary information can be found at: <http://www.asa-cssa-sssa.org/anmeet/>

Important Dates to Remember!

May 3, 2004: Title-Summary Form Deadline

July 28, 2004: Abstract Deadline

If you want to present (oral or poster) in Seattle, you must submit a Title Summary Form and an Abstract by the above deadlines.

Soil Sampling and Methods of Analysis 2nd Edition

The 1st Edition of *Soil Sampling and Methods of Analysis*, sponsored by CSSS and published by CRC Press in 1993, has been a great success. Besides generating royalties for CSSS's Publication Fund, it has advertised the soil science expertise that resides in our society. This year we are initiating the 2nd Edition. Chapters will be updated, some chapters will be removed and some new methods added. If you have ideas, material, or methods that would be suitable for the new addition, please contact Ed Gregorich (gregoriche@agr.gc.ca) or myself.

Martin Carter (carterm@@agr.gc.ca)

The Future of the Canadian System of Soil Classification

The first taxonomic system of soil classification was developed by the federal Department of Agriculture (National Soil Survey Committee) in 1955 and is still the basis of the soil classification system used today. This system of classification has been considerably revised as additional soil information has become available, resulting in both more precise definitions to the taxa at all levels and increasing emphasis on soil properties as taxonomic criteria.

Although the Canada Soil Survey Committee (CSSC), the successor to the National Soil Survey Committee, was responsible for updating and revising the Canadian system of soil classification, the task of keeping soil classification up-to-date was carried out by the Soil Classification Working Group (SCWG). Members of this working group were drawn from federal and provincial soil survey staffs and university soil science departments. The revisions suggested by this working group were presented to the CSSC for final approval. The Expert Committee on Soil Survey (ECSS) of Agriculture Canada was established in 1980 and took over responsibility from the CSSC. The SCWG maintained its mandate, however, but reported to the ECSS.

During the federal government downsizing in the mid-1990s, the ECSS was dissolved and the reporting structure disappeared. The SCWG, which continued to operate for a while on an *ad hoc* basis, published the 3rd edition of *The Canadian System of Soil Classification* in 1998. Much of the initiative for the soil classification work has been lost to the point where now only one person in Agriculture Canada is responsible for soil classification matters. That person is responsible for keeping up with international activities on soil classification and identifying possible revisions to the classification system, primarily from advances made inter-

nationally, since little pedological work is being carried out in Canada. In the last several years Canada has provided significant input into international soil classification systems. For example, the Gelisol Order in the U.S. Soil Taxonomy was based on the Canadian Cryosolic Order, and the Cryosol major soil group was developed for the World Reference Base for Soil Resources under the leadership of a Canadian pedologist.

Although some activities related to the Canadian System of Soil Classification are still carried out by Agriculture Canada, there is still only one person responsible for this work. In order to ensure that Canada's soil classification system is maintained in the future, it has been suggested that a group with national expertise be formed under the umbrella of the Canadian Society of Soil Science.

The purpose of this note is to inform CSSS members of this proposal and to invite those pedologists who are interested in this work to become members of the Canadian Soil Classification Committee of CSSS. This committee would be led by Charles Tarnocai of Agriculture Canada (email: tarnocai@agr.gc.ca) and Dan Pennock of the University of Saskatchewan (email: pennock@skyway.usask.ca). Please contact either of them or me for more information about how you can become involved in this Committee.

Ed Gregorich
President, CSSS

CSSS Online

See the CSSS web site homepage <http://www.csss.ca> for Newsletters, Council, Business Office, Annual Report, Events Page, Careers, Student News, important links and much more.

AWARDS

CSSS Fellow Award

Awarded to CSSS members, of at least 10 years standing, with a distinguished record of accomplishment in Soil Science and service to CSSS. Information on the regulations covering candidate evaluation, nomination procedure, and nomination documentation are given below. Four copies of the nomination must be received by the President-Elect, Chair of the Awards Committee by **April 15, 2004**.

Nomination Documentation (maximum 8 pages, 2-3 cm margins, 12pt. type)

1. One page introductory letter signed by the nominator and three sponsors including :
 - a) Name, address, telephone number, email address of the candidate.
 - b) Name, address, telephone number, email address of the nominator and three sponsors.
2. One page summary by nominator outlining achievements of the nominee.
3. Nomination documents :
 - a) Personal achievements (e.g., degrees, memberships, service to CSSS)
 - b) Professional achievement (e.g., research, teaching, service to Soil Science)
 - c) Professional publications (number of books, papers, patents, products. etc.)
 - d) A list of the 10 most significant publications, products, achievements, etc.

CSSS Honorary Membership Award

Awarded to non-member who have rendered valuable or special service to Soil Science. All nominations, which are evaluated by a three member CSSS Awards Committee, must have the following documentation. Four copies of the nomination must be received by the President-Elect, Chair of the Awards Committee by **April 15 2004**.

1. Name, address, telephone number, email address of the candidate.
2. One page letter briefly outlining the reasons for the nomination.
3. A brief resume (< 3 pages) of the candidate indicating their service to Soil Science.
4. One page letter from each of three individuals supporting the nomination.

Send to :

Dr. Anne Naeth , President Elect
Chair of the Awards Committee
University of Alberta
Edmonton, AB
T6G 2P5
Phone : (780) 492-2908
Fax : (780) 492-0097
Email : anne.naeth@ualberta.ca

Call for Nominations – CSSS Council

Nominations are required by **April 16, 2004** to fill the following positions on Council:

- **President-Elect.** The elected member serves a one-year term as President-Elect, followed by one year as President and then one year as Past-President for a total of 3 years. Nominations are open to all CSSS members across Canada
- **Western Councillor** (2-yr term). Nominations are open to CSSS members in Western Canada only.

The positions will take effect immediately after our Annual General Meeting in Seattle in November 2004. Job descriptions for these positions are posted on our web site at: <http://www.csss.ca/jobdescription.html> As usual, all CSSS members are eligible to vote for the two positions.

Nomination materials required:

1. A letter of nomination signed by three CSSS members. The nomination must have the consent of the nominee.
2. A statement (maximum 250 words), prepared by the nominee, containing a brief biography and reasons for his or her interest in the position. This may be submitted by e-mail.

Nomination materials should be sent by **April 16, 2004** to:

Dr. Ed Gregorich
CSSS President
Eastern Cereal and Oilseed Research Centre
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Central Experimental Farm
Ottawa, ON, Canada, K1A 0C6
Phone: (613) 759-1909 ; Fax: (613) 759-1926
Email: gregoriche@agr.gc.ca

CSSS Student Travel and Presentation Awards

CSSS Student Travel Awards

To support student travel to Seattle (2004), CSSS is offering a number of travel awards of approx. \$500 each. Available to any CSSS member graduate student. Membership in CSSS for students (i.e. Canadian students both in and outside Canada, and non-Canadian students studying in Canada) is free. The student must be prepared to present a paper/poster. Nominations should be sent by the student's Supervisor or Department Chair. Nominations should briefly summarize the student's academic and research achievements, and provide confirmation that she/he will be presenting a poster/paper at the conference.

Applications must be received by the President-Elect, Dr. Anne Naeth, anne.naeth@ualberta.ca, Chair of the CSSS Awards Committee, by **May 15, 2004**.

CSSS Bentley Student Presentation Award

The C.F. Bentley Award was established to encourage and recognize excellence in oral presentations by student at the CSSS annual meeting. Students must be first author and indicate when they submit their abstract that they are competing for this award. The award consists of \$500 for the best presentation, \$300 for the first runner-up, and \$200 for the second runner-up.

CSSS President's Student Poster Award

The C.F. Bentley Award was established to encourage and recognize excellence in poster presentations by student at the CSSS annual meeting. Students must be first author and indicate when they submit their abstract that they are competing for this award. The award consists of \$500 for the best presentation, \$300 for the first runner-up, and \$200 for the second runner-up.

STUDENT NEWS

HUMAIRA DADFAR defended her PhD thesis in early December. She conducted her research at the University of Guelph and has been an active student member at the annual CSSS conferences. In Banff, Humaira was awarded 1st place in the poster competition and this past year in Montreal, she continued her success and received 2nd place in the poster competition.

The focus of Humaira's research was "Nitrate Leaching in a Clay Loam Soil after 44 Years of Consistent Fertilization and Crop Rotation." The objectives of the study were to establish the partitioning of the predicted water and nitrate leaching out of the root zone into tile-drainage and deep-drainage water, and to quantify baseline nitrate leaching from tile-drained plots on a Brookston clay loam soil (Orthic Humic Gleysol). She used LEACHN a sub-model of LEACHM (Leaching Estimation And Chemistry Model), to predict nitrate leaching below the rooting zone (70 cm depth) in corn agroecosystems with varying N fertilizer inputs and rotational practices.

I would like to encourage all student members to stay in touch and be active in the society. Enjoy the winter semester.

Vimy Glass

VIETCANSOL: Vietnam – Canada Soils Project

Approximately 10 years ago, Julian Dumanski received a letter from Thai Phien requesting assistance for a soil conservation project in Vietnam. Prof. Phien had become aware of the outstanding work of some CSSS members in assisting hill-tribe farmers in northern Thailand to develop sustainable farming systems. While the National Institute of Soils and Fertilizers (NISF) in Vietnam had identified practices that could lead to more sustainable farming on sloping lands in Vietnam, this information wasn't being conveyed effectively to farmers. It was agreed that farmer acceptance and adoption of the recommended farming practices would be enhanced if members of the Vietnam Society of Soil Science received financial support for on-farm research and demonstrations, workshops and field days.

The first phase of a 10-year project was launched in 1995 under the International Twinning Partnership Program (ITPP) of the IADP. Don Acton served as Canadian project leader and Prof. Thai Phien as his counterpart in Vietnam. Within the first three years, on-farm research and demonstration sites were established in three villages in the mountainous zone of northern Vietnam. The main objective was to encourage farmers to change their practices from 'slash-and-burn' agriculture (low inputs, low value crops and no erosion control) to systems that used contour hedgerows, intercropping, improved seed and varieties, more legumes and artificial fertilizers, and selected crops with higher market value. After 3 years, *Tephrosia candida* hedgerows were a landmark at all sites. Peanuts and beans were widely used as intercrops with taro and cassava, and Lichee and other fruit trees were planted. The farmers participating in the project were able to compare their traditional practices with the recommended practices, and appreciated the workshops held in their villages. Farmers from neighboring villages came in the hundreds to observe the research and demonstration sites.

For the next three years, the ITTP continued to support work at the three villages to encourage farmer acceptance and adoption of the recommended practices. At the end of this time, a new

project was funded by the IADP to assist farmers in two villages in the high mountainous region of northern Thailand. Many farmers in this area were growing paddy rice on very narrow terraces constructed along the hillslope (much the same as in the Loess Plateau region of China). These farmers required training and access to credit to switch to more sustainable farming systems, and this work is currently in progress.

In addition to these major field research-demonstration activities, the project has fostered an exchange of scientists between Canada and Thailand. Prof. Thai Phien presented a paper at the CSSS meeting in Truro (1997), and a poster at the CSSS meeting in Winnipeg (2000). Drs Gus MacKenzie, Thi Sen Trang, Marie Boehm, Darwin Anderson, Warren Eilers, Bob Eilers, Julian Dumanski and Louise Nelson have attended workshops, conducted seminars and provided advice in Vietnam. The project has also provided financial support to the Vietnamese Journal of Soil Science and paid for several monographs on soil science in Vietnam.

Anyone wishing to learn more about the project or soil science in Vietnam should contact Don Acton by email at rosewood201@sastel.net

Soil and Environmental Science Dictionary

The Soil and Environmental Science Dictionary, published by CRC Press in conjunction with the Canadian Society of Soil Science, is available to CSSS members at a 50% discount off the cover price (\$69.95 USD). To ensure you receive the discount, please mention the promotional code 281 BC.

To order, contact: CRC Press, Tel: 1-800-272-7737; Fax: 1-800-374-3401; email: orders@crcpress.com

AgriWeek ... good thing or bad thing? Steve Sheppard

AgriWeek is a weekly email news bulletin available as a subscription for a fee. I've been looking for a regular jobs or information source to provide to CSSS members as a service. AgriWeek offered a volume discount, so I decided to give it a try, offering it to both CSA and CSSS members. As you know, I've been sending sample versions by email weekly since December (this has now stopped). AgriWeek causes mixed reactions, to say the least. I assumed (but really have no proof) that the news items were at least moderately accurate. Personally, I do not support the views expressed in the editorial on the last page. I've spoken to AgriWeek staff about this, they know it is controversial, and that people either love it or hate it. My background is in the nuclear industry, and I always made a point of reading the 'anti' literature, just to know what they listen to. I thought of AgriWeek along the same lines: perhaps not something to agree with, but something to know about. We've had some reactions, and your comments are most welcome:

Comments from David Chanasyk:

I know your intentions are good but frankly I am getting tired of receiving Agri-Week. You gave the group an unbelievable exposure but as a member of CSSS I did not ask for this service so why am I getting it?

Comments from Barrie Webster:

I am somewhat concerned that CSSS is circulating Agriweek. Quite apart from the fact that some of the "news" items themselves contain far too much political/economic "pre-digestion", the Backgrounder by the publisher at the end of the January 26, 2004 issue should immediately indicate that Agriweek is little more than a diatribe from the extreme political right wing. I would like to request that CSSS cease providing this publication with any assistance or endorsement. As a publication, it is far from professional, let alone scientific. Mr. Dorosh is welcome to his views (and has every right to them), but they do not deserve to be distributed by a scientific society and thus given undeserved respectability. Agriweek does contain some useful factual infor-

mation, but if the interpretation of that information cannot be justified on a scientific basis, or if important facts are omitted to ensure that the reader gets a distorted view of reality, then this publication falls well short of being balanced, reliable, or authoritative. There surely must be more deserving material to pass on to members. Agriculture gets a bad name when views and judgements such as those expressed in Agriweek are made known to the general population. It is no wonder that folks with responsible environmental views and with concerns for broader society often take a dim view of agricultural development when interpretations and distortions such as those in Agriweek are seen on a regular basis.

Online, Searchable Version Canadian System of Soil Classification Third Edition

In collaboration with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the NRC Research Press, I have reproduced The Canadian System of Soil Classification, Third Edition, 1998 in a searchable format. The information for each Soil Order, Great Group and Subgroup is embedded within the outline of the whole system. Other information is provided in HTML format. The interactive portion works as follows: The Key to Soil Orders, Great Groups, and Subgroups is accessible on-line and is enriched with information from Chapters 4 through 13. This allows the user to browse through the hierarchy for detailed information, or use a search form to find a specific subgroup. Submitting a partial or full name of a soil Subgroup will return detailed information about it. Please access this and other Soil Science educational and reference materials through my personal website.

Noorallah Juma, Ph.D, P.Ag.
Professor of Soil Microbiology & Biochemistry
University of Alberta
<http://www.rr.ualberta.ca/people/njuma/>

AIC Moves Forward On Change

January 20, 2004

AIC has issued a concept paper outlining the proposed changes to be made to the by-laws that will configure a new AIC. The Board of Directors have endorsed the proposed changes to AIC that would see both individual and organizational membership categories in AIC— something that some people have requested since the move to a federation in 1995. The next step is having by-laws re-written and the amendments approved at the upcoming board meeting in Truro, NS in April.

“AIC has consulted with the member organizations over and over again,” said David Chanaysk, PAg, AIC President. “The member organizations are telling us to get on with it – to make the changes that they want,” he said.

“We hope that we can count on the support of the current member organizations as AIC transforms itself, and we are very aware that value and concrete action are top priorities.”

The board is proposing the changes that will move AIC beyond the current structural and governance issues that have plagued the organization for a number of years. The member organizations have said that they support a national organization; this was reiterated in January of 2003 in Winnipeg. The board changes will help to make the national organization stronger and more effective.

For AIC to be effective, Tom Beach, PAg, AIC Executive Director says AIC needs to take action - to take a leadership role on national issues. By adding individual members back into the mix, there will be more potential for individual leadership and involvement - and more individual communication.

“We can’t afford to lose touch with the professional agrologists and agricultural scientists,” said Beach. Through issues-based

conferences, increased communication tools, issue papers and through a stepped up marketing initiative, we’ll be reaching out to those who will benefit from membership in AIC.

The Concept Paper outlines a transition period of 2004-2006 when the change can occur. The AIC board is promoting a concept where AIC will move from the current federated model to an organization made up of individual members, as well as organizations. AIC will promote benefits to individuals, but at the same time will be prepared to offer contract services that meet the needs of organizations. The paper lists representation on national committees, publishing journals, international program and organized meetings with policy and government officials on Parliament Hill as some of the appeal to the potential membership. The board hopes to attract the current member organizations back to the AIC, in addition to other associations who have an interest in pursuing the vision outlined by the Board.

New AIC Vision: AIC nationally leads as the common voice of individuals and organizations responsible for the creation, production and delivery of safe food while ensuring sustainable use of related natural resources.

New Mission Statement: AIC; through leadership, collaboration, partnership and support of individuals, organizations and government, provides the voice for the national knowledge and expertise that allows for the creation, production and delivery of safe food and the sustainable use of related natural resources in Canada and beyond.

For more, go to <http://www.aic.ca/whatsnew/change.html>

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

March 17-19, 2004

Humic Substances Seminar VII
Northeastern Univ., Boston, MA
www.hagroup.neu.edu

March 18-19, 2004

10th International Congress Soil Science,
Hyderabad, Pakistan
soilchem@fsd.paknet.com.pk

April 18-24, 2004

International Symposium on Impacts of Soil Biodiversity on Biogeochemical Processes in Ecosystems & International Workshop on Molecular Methods in Soil Biological and Biochemical Diversity in Terrestrial Ecosystems
Taipei, Taiwan
<http://botany.sinica.edu.tw/soil/index.html>

April 20-22, 2004

15th Global Warming International Conference and Expo
San Francisco, CA
www.globalwarming.net

April 25-28, 2004

European Symposium on Environmental Biotechnology,
Oostende, Belgium
www.eseb2004.be

April 25-30, 2004

European Geosciences Union, 1st General Assembly
Nice, France
www.copernicus.org/EGU/ga/egu04/index.html

June 7-10, 2004

International Soil Congress on Natural Resource Management for Sustainable Development
Erzurum, Turkey
www.toprak.org.tr

June 12-16, 2004

American Forage and Grassland

Council Conference
Roanoke, VA

<http://www.conted.vt.edu/afgc/>

June 14-18, 2004

Sustainable Agriculture on Tropical Steeplands,
Merida, Venezuela
www.cidiat.ing.ula.ve/sats2004

June 19-24, 2004

Gorges, Clays and Coulees, 41st Annual Meeting of The Clay Minerals Society
Richland, WA
<http://www.pnl.gov/cms>

June 24-25, 2004

Agriculture as a Producer and Consumer of Energy Conference
Arlington, VA
www.farmfoundation.org/projects/0335AgAsEnergy ProducerAndConsumer.htm

June 24-25, 2004

Annual Meeting of AOAC (Assoc. of Analytical Communities) Pacific Northwest Section
Tacoma, WA
www.aoacpacnw.com

June 27-July 2, 2004

First World Congress of Agroforestry
Orlando, FL
<http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/wca>

June 28-30, 2004

Riparian Ecosystems and Buffers: Multi-scale structure, function, and management
Squaw Creek, Olympic Valley, CA
www.awra.org

July 4-9, 2004

ISCO 2004: 13th International Soil Conservation Organization Conference

Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

July 5-9, 2004

12th International Conference and Exhibition Mechanization of Field Experiments
St. Petersburg/Pushkin, Russia
www.iamfe.org

July 11-15, 2004

European Society of Agronomy Congress
Copenhagen, Denmark
www.esacopenhagen2004.kvl.dk

July 18-21, 2004

North American Alfalfa Improvement Conference and the Clover Conference,
Quebec City, QC
www.naaic.org

July 19-23, 2004

The Science of Changing Climates—Impact on Agriculture, Forestry and Wetlands
University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB,
claytong@agr.gc.ca

July 19-23, 2004

The Canadian Society of Agronomy Annual Meeting
Edmonton, AB
Patricia.juskiw@gov.ab.ca

July 20-23, 2004

The Canadian Societies of Agronomy, Animal, and Soil Science
Edmonton, AB
news@aic.ca

For more conferences, visit our website at <http://www.csss.ca>