



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In my last message I said we finally had snow in Edmonton and were settling into winter. Today it is warm and spring is evident around the corner. I am reminded how quickly the seasons go around; how quickly each year flows into the next.

Council has finished winding up our affairs from our meetings in Seattle and getting ready for those in Halifax. Our current initiatives include a review and updating of the CSSS By-Laws which we hope to bring to our membership shortly. I am looking at consolidating our archives and our history as a society. It has been interesting discussing CSSS with some of our senior members who know all about us, where things reside, who remembers what. I am grateful to them for the history lesson as well as their support in updating our archives. Our website has been updated; take a look at it and give us some feedback on what you could benefit from having on it, what we need to send a clear message of who and what we are. We are in discussion with the Museum of Nature in Ottawa to determine what we might be able to do to highlight soils in our national collection; more on this in the future.

We will be replenishing Council soon and are looking for a new secretary, graduate student representative and eastern councillor. Of course our president-elect position will also be filled. Advertisements for those positions will be out shortly. Please consider joining our dynamic council where you will have an opportunity to pursue activities to benefit our membership and raise the profile of our society and our discipline.

Our Annual Meeting will take place in just a few months in Halifax from May 15 to 18. Although it comes quickly on the heels of the Seattle meetings, I hope many of you can be there. We have several sessions of specific interest and of timely topics to soil scientists. Our joint efforts with the Geological Association of Canada, the Mineralogical Association of Canada and the Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists will provide interesting opportunities to form new liaisons and explore areas peripheral to traditional soil science. Check out the website to get details on the sessions and activities.

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As I finished writing the few paragraphs above I thought it would be interesting to see what we focused on in previous February newsletters. The same themes surfaced in each of these, like a true orthic soil profile. We talked about the need to get a higher profile for soil science and/or soil scientists, the need to support and further the role of soil science in a local and global context, the need to get involved by serving on council, or even promoting soil science, the need to promote and attract students, the need to explore relationships with other organizations.

Which of course led me to ponder whether we are very good at articulating needs but not meeting them; whether we focus on the same things because that is what we really believe or because we think we should believe it. I believe all of these themes in previous February newsletters are important, but will we still be saying the same things again next year? Or, maybe, we can report on how well we aligned several initiatives to actually accomplish some of those objectives. Perhaps those issues are timeless and, in essence, are never 'done', requiring regular attention.

Maybe we can focus on what we can give to, instead of what we need from, our society. To that end...each of you can begin to lobby for filling our Council positions so we have an election... volunteer as a candidate for a position, or encourage a colleague to do so. I will personally contact our student members and potential student members to see what they want from the society and what they are willing to offer.

I grew up on a farm, and February was always a time to look at seed catalogues, think of working the fields, growing the crops, finding the first crocuses. Now February for me is a time to look ahead and with renewed energy move forward to those things that matter and will sustain that which I hold important, as a soil scientist and as an individual on this planet.

Anne Naeth, PAg, PBiol
President CSSS

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.

Student Travel to the CSSS Annual Meeting

The student travel award was established in 1991 to promote student attendance at the CSSS Annual Meetings and is available to any CSSS member graduate student. The award is \$500 and a maximum of 12 travel grants will be awarded. Please complete the enclosed form and send or FAX the completed form to Craig Drury, President-elect, by March 21st, 2005. The criteria used to judge the applications are:

1. Is the student a member of CSSS? (Students must be CSSS members to apply).
2. Will the student be presenting an oral paper or poster? (Preference will be given to students who will be giving either an oral or a poster presentation over students who are just planning to attend the conference without giving a presentation).
3. Is the research summary reasonable (rationale, hypothesis, objective) and clearly written?
4. Has the student received a previous travel award from CSSS? (Preference will be given to students who have not previously received a travel award).
5. Has the student informed his/her supervisor or department chair and had their application form signed?

Please send applications to:

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CSSS – Business Office

The CSSS Business Office is here to help with:

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

Contact: Steve Sheppard
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CSSS Awards for Distinguished Soil Scientists

CSSS Fellow Award

This is awarded to CSSS members with a distinguished record of accomplishment in Soil Science and service to the Society. The regulations covering the nomination procedure and documentation, and evaluation of nominees, are given below.

A. Regulations

1. Nominees must be members in good standing at the time of their nomination and must have been a CSSS member of at least a total of 10 (not necessarily continuous) years.
2. Up to two CSSS members can be awarded a Fellowship in any year. Persons wishing to nominate someone who was previously unsuccessful as a nominee may do so by submitting new, original nomination documentation.
3. Each nominee must have one nominator and three supporting sponsors.
4. Members of CSSS Council and the Awards Committee cannot serve as a nominator or sponsor.
5. Approval of this award shall be a unanimous decision by the Award Committee members.

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

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

C. Nomination Evaluation

Nominations are evaluated by the CSSS Awards Committee. A minimum of 60 points is required to consider the nominee for this award. The criteria for evaluating the nomination is (out of 100 points):

- Personal achievements (maximum of 20 points)
- Professional achievement (maximum of 35 points)
- Professional publications - both numbers and impact as indicated by the nominator (maximum of 15 points)
- Achievements as shown in sponsors or other letters of support (maximum of 10 points for each of the three letters).

All nominations must be submitted as e-mail attachments to the Craig Drury, chair of the Awards Committee at druryc@agr.gc.ca by **March 21, 2005**. Only the following formats will be accepted: Microsoft Word, Corel WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF.

CSSS Awards for Distinguished Soil Scientists

CSSS Soil Science for Society Award

This is awarded to a member or non-member who has made a contribution towards promoting soil science to the public. This is a non-monetary award consisting of a plaque or certificate recognizing the person's contribution.

All nominations, which are evaluated by the CSSS Awards Committee, must have the following documentation:

- Name, address, telephone number, email address of the candidate.
- One page letter briefly outlining the reasons for the nomination.
- A brief résumé (< 3 pages) of the candidate indicating their contribution(s) to promoting soil science to the public.
- One page letter from each of three individuals supporting the nomination.

All nominations must be submitted as e-mail attachments to the Craig Drury, chair of the Awards Committee at druryc@agr.gc.ca by **March 21, 2005**. Only the following formats will be accepted: Microsoft Word, Corel WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF.

Approval of this award must be a unanimous decision by the Awards Committee members.

CSSS Honorary Membership Award

This is awarded to non-members who have rendered valuable or special service to soil science. All nominations, which are evaluated by the Awards Committee, must have the following documentation:

- Name, address, telephone number, email address of the candidate.
- One page letter briefly outlining the reasons for the nomination.
- A brief résumé (< 3 pages) of the candidate indicating their service to soil science.
- One page letter from each of three individuals supporting the nomination.

All nominations must be submitted as e-mail attachments to the Craig Drury, chair of the Awards Committee at druryc@agr.gc.ca by **March 21, 2005**. Only the following formats will be accepted: Microsoft Word, Corel WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF.

Approval of this award must be a unanimous decision by the Awards Committee members.

The guidelines for these awards are also listed on the CSSS website at <http://www.csss.ca>

CSSS Member Travel Award Recipient

Dr. Umesh C. Gupta, Emeritus Research Scientist at the Crops and Livestock Research Centre of AAFC in Charlottetown received a CSSS Member Travel award to attend the 9th International Symposium on Soil and Plant Analysis in Cancun, Mexico. He sent us the following report:

The 9th International Symposium on Soil and Plant Analysis was held in Cancun, Mexico from January 31 to February 05, 2005. At the symposium I presented a paper "Residual Effect of Boron, Molybdenum, Copper and Zinc from Fertilizers on Plant Concentration, Phytotoxicity and Crop Yield Response." There I also chaired a session "Crop Responses to Nutrient Applications." This year the main theme of the symposium was "Soil, Plant and Water Analyses – Quality Analytical Tools for an Era of Ecological Awareness." The objective is to advance nutrient analysis of soil, plant, water and manure samples, and there were many interesting sessions on sampling and analytical methods, as well as techniques for modeling and managing nutrients.

There were a number of thought-provoking presentations at the symposium. In one presentation, the speaker, Dr. Ismail Cakmak, explained that soils in many regions of the world are very deficient in Zn and severe Zn deficiencies occur not only in crops but also in humans in many countries. Dr. Ryan discussed problems in the dry regions where 690 million people are malnourished and live in dire poverty. Water scarcity, salinity and over grazing are some of the serious problems in dry regions of the world. Manuscripts for most presentations at the symposium have been submitted to the editor and are under review. The Journal containing these scientific papers should be in print within about a year.

I participated in the mid-symposium tour, which I found to be informative and educational. The tour took place in the NE region of the Yucatan peninsula. Sedimentary rocks cover two thirds of the surface and are mainly composed of limestone, lutites, sandstone and conglomerates. This region has a warm sub-humid climate. There are serious limitations in the use and management of soils mainly because of their shallowness, abrupt slopes, high content of carbonates, drainage and salinity. In Mexico, agriculture accounts for only 4% of the GDP sector. The main crops grown include maize, wheat, soybeans, cotton, coffee, tomatoes and fruits.

I thank the CSSS Council for providing me with a CSSS Member Travel Award that covered some of my travel expenses to attend the symposium. It was a good meeting and provided some useful scientific information.

Visit the Updated CSSS Website!

See the CSSS web site homepage at <http://www.csss.ca> for Newsletters, Council, Business Office, Annual Report, Events Page, Careers, Student News, important links and much more. Be sure to check our our new CSSS CareerSite – just click on Job Postings.

News from the Third International Nitrogen Conference Nanjing, China

The Third International Nitrogen Conference was held at the Hilton Hotel in Nanjing, China, October 12-16, 2004, under the auspices of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. The theme of the conference was "*Impacts of Population Growth and Economic Development on the Nitrogen Cycle: Consequences and Mitigation at Local, Regional, and Global Scales*". There were more than 400 participants from about 40 countries. I had the pleasure of meeting the following fellow Canadians at the conference: Scott Chang, Craig Drury, S.S. Malhi, John W.B. Stewart, Y.K. Soon, Jingyi Yang, and Xueming Yang.

The goals of the conference were (1) Exchange and integrate scientific knowledge on sources, fates, and consequences of nitrogen at different scales, particularly in Asia, (2) stimulate discussions between scientists and policy makers, and explore a balanced strategy to increase food and energy production while protecting environmental quality and natural resources for future generations, and (3) suggest an action plan to increase food and energy production while decreasing detrimental effects of reactive nitrogen on the environment.

The cutting-edge nitrogen science and policy issues were explored through plenary presentations (keynote addresses and other invited presentations featuring scientists of national and international prominence), concurrent sessions, round-table discussions, and poster sessions. The following topics were discussed: (1) Centennial retrospect on the effects of increasing nitrogen at different scales and forecasting the future 30 years (2) Impacts of anthropogenic-altered nitrogen cycling on ecosystems at different scales and human health and forecasting the future 30 years (3) Mitigation options for the impact of nitrogen on the environment. The *Nanjing Declaration on Nitrogen Management* was presented at the conclusion of the conference on October 16.



Some of the Canadian delegates
(from l to r: Yash Kalra, Craig Drury, Jingyi Yang, S.S. Malhi, and Xueming Yang)
at the Xiaoling Tomb during the mid-conference tour of Nanjing.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Mar. 10-18, 2005

Global Soil Change: Time-Scales and Rates of Pedogenic Processes
Mexico City, Mexico
<http://geologia.igeolcu.unam.mx/Paleosuelos/edafologia/index.htm>

Mar. 16-18, 2005

Humic Science and Technology Conference VIII
Boston, MA
www.hagroup.neu.edu

April 3–7, 2005

8th International Conference on the Biogeochemistry of Trace Elements
Adelaide, Australia
www.clw.csiro.au/conferences/8thicobte/

Apr. 25–27, 2005

International Salinity Forum. Managing Saline Soils and Water: Science, Technology and Social Issues
Riverside, CA
www.waterresources.ucr.edu

May 18–19, 2005

First International Conference: Multifunctionality of Landscapes—Analysis, Evaluation and Decision Support
University Giessen, Germany
<http://www.sfb299.de/conference/>

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

May 22–25, 2005

Soil Ecology Society 10th Biennial International Conference
Argonne National Lab, IL
<http://www.atmos.anl.gov/SES/index.htm>

June 12–17, 2005

Acid Rain 2005, 7th International Conference on Acid Deposition
Prague, Czech Republic
www.acidrain2005.cz

June 15–18, 2005

Plant Canada 2005
Edmonton, Alberta
deyholos@ualberta.ca

June 26–July 1, 2005

International Grassland Congress
Dublin, Ireland
www.igc2005.com

Aug. 7-12, 2005

Ecological Society of America
90th Annual Meeting
Montreal, Canada
www.esa.org/meetings

Aug. 8–11, 2005

Earth System Processes 2
Calgary, AB
www.geosociety.org/meetings/esp2

Aug. 9–12, 2005

9th International Conference on Diffuse Pollution,
Johannesburg, South Africa
<http://www.iwa-wisa-2005.com/>

Aug. 22-27, 2005

3rd International Conference on Sustainable Agriculture for Food, Energy and Industry
St. Catherine's, Canada
www.icsagr-fei.org/conference

Sept. 12-16, 2005

International Conference on Human Impacts on Soil Quality Attributes (HISQA)
Isfahan University of Technology
Isfahan, Iran
www.iut.ac.ir/cesoil

Sept. 14–19, 2005

15th International Plant Nutrition Colloquium
Beijing, China
www.cau.edu.cn/ipnc
www.ipnc15.com

Nov. 6-10, 2005

ASA-CSSA-SSSA International Annual Meeting
Salt Lake City, UT
<http://www.asa-cssa-sssa.org/meetings/acs/>

Nov. 6-9, 2005

AIC Conference – Sustainable Agriculture
Quebec City, Canada
www.aic.ca/conferences

Nov. 10–12, 2005

World Science Forum—Budapest 2005
www.sciforum.hu

Plan to Attend the CSSS Annual Meeting!

A joint meeting of the Geological Association of Canada, Mineralogical Association of Canada, Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists and Canadian Society of Soil Science will be held at Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia from May 15-18, 2005. For more information, please visit the conference web site at www.halifax2005.ca or contact