



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to announce the acclamation of Craig Drury as president-elect and Xiyang Hao as Western Councilor for the CSSS. They will begin their terms later this year, and you can read their biographies elsewhere in this newsletter.

The CSSS will be holding its annual science meeting in conjunction with the Soil Science Society of America from Oct. 31 to Nov. 4 in Seattle. The theme of this year's meeting is: "Changing Sciences for a Changing World: Building a Broader Vision". This meeting will be a good opportunity to showcase Canadian research and to participate in meetings and discussions to promote Canadian soil science. CSSS members are actively involved in organizing, planning and participating in this meeting, and about 180 papers will be presented by Canadians. Our Society is co-sponsoring eight symposia in six SSSA Divisions, as well as a pre-conference tour into British Columbia. CSSS members will also represent the Society at the Professional Soil Scientists Roundtable Discussion and the SSSA luncheon. Look for the article in this newsletter providing more details about the symposia and tour.

In late spring, I traveled as president of CSSS with a Canadian team to Vietnam to review the VIETCANSOL project. Led by Dr. Don Acton, Canadian coordinator of the project, and Prof. Thai Phien of Vietnam, we visited six field sites in the northern mountainous region. This project is one of three related to soils in AIC's International Twinning Partnership Program in which Society members participate (the others are in Costa Rica and Sri Lanka). At a personal level, this trip introduced me to some remarkable researchers and to some remote, rugged landscape of northern Vietnam. Professionally, this experience illustrated the key role that Canadian soil science plays internationally, sharing resources and expertise in regions of the world where soil degradation is severe and conservation efforts make such a difference in the lives of local farmers. An article by two members of the visiting team appears in this newsletter.

Since traveling to Vietnam I've been thinking a good deal about the value of soil. It seems to me that in Vietnam, soil is not always highly valued because of cultural/social perspectives or the dire economics of farming in a poor mountainous area. Here in Canada

## **CSSS Council**

### **President**

Ed Gregorich  
Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0C6  
Tel: (613) 759-1909  
Fax: (613) 759-1926  
Email: gregoriche@agr.gc.ca

### **Past President**

Ahmet Mermut  
University of Saskatchewan  
Saskatoon, SK S7N 0W0  
Tel: (306) 966-6839  
Fax: (306) 966-6881  
Email: mermut@sask.usask.ca

### **President-Elect**

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

### **Secretary**

Gary Parkin  
University of Guelph  
Guelph, ON N1G 2W1  
Tel: (519) 824-4120  
Fax: (519) 824-5730  
Email: gparkin@lrs.uoguelph.ca

### **Treasurer**

Don Flaten  
University of Manitoba  
Winnipeg, MB, R3T 2N2  
Tel: (204) 474-6257  
Fax: (204) 474-7642  
Email: don\_flaten@umanitoba.ca

### **Eastern Councillor**

Joann Whalen  
McGill University  
Montreal, QC H9X 3V9  
Tel: (514) 398-7943  
Fax: (514) 398-7990  
Email: whalenj@nrs.mcgill.ca

### **Western Councillor**

Frank Larney  
Agriculture & Food Canada  
Lethbridge, AB T1J 4B1  
Tel: (403) 317-2216  
Fax: (403) 317-2187  
Email: larney@agr.gc.ca

### **Graduate Student**

#### **Representative**

Vimy Glass  
University of Guelph  
Guelph, ON N1G 2W1  
Tel: (519) 824-4120 ext.6671  
Fax: (519) 824-5730  
Email: vglass@lrs.uoguelph.ca

### **CJSS Editor**

Martin Carter  
Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada  
Charlottetown, PE C1A 7M8  
Tel: (902) 566-6869  
Fax: (902) 566-6821  
Email: carterm@agr.gc.ca

we are not nearly so impoverished, yet many Canadians are unaware of the value of soil, having little idea of the natural costs of producing the food and fibre they depend on. Wouldn't it be great if there was a way to educate the public about this incredible resource? This could become a reality after the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa completes its renovations in a few years. Bert VandenBygaart, a CSSS member, has initiated some discussions with Museum staff about the possibility of developing a soils display. We've learned that the Museum is very interested in tapping into the diverse range of expertise and knowledge of Society members to create a soils exhibit. This proposal opens up the potential for CSSS to work with the Museum to help design and contribute to feature on soils that would help to change people's view of soil; something that could furnish their minds with a new perspective of the natural beauty and complexity of soil. If you've got any ideas about such a soils display, contact Bert (email: vandenbygaartaj@agr.gc.ca) or myself.

Ed Gregorich  
President, CSSS

## **News from CJSS**

The Canadian Journal of Soil Science (CJSS) is an important science arm for the CSSS and provides a showcase for both Canadian and international Soil Science. Some recent developments for CJSS are as follows:

- In 2004 a further three Associate Editors were appointed: Dr. Eric Blanchart (soil biology) from Montpellier, France; Dr. Sean McGinn (agrometeorology) from Lethbridge, Alberta; and Dr. Guy Richard (soil physics) from Laon, France.
- A Special Section on 'Soil Mycorrhizae and Soil Quality' is now 'in press' (thank you to Guest Editors Chantal Hamel and Denis Angers).
- Two Special Issues of CJSS are in progress: 'Soil Carbon Measurement' (with Guest Editors Scott Smith, David Lobb, and Carlos Monreal), and 'Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Agriculture' (with Guest Editors Bert VandenBygaart, Henry Janzen, and Sean McGinn).
- Some other topics for Special Issues/Sections are in the planning stage: 'Below Ground Productivity in Soil Ecosystems' and 'Recycling Nutrients from Wastes'.

The CJSS is interested in publishing more review papers, especially short review papers. These serve as an important means of scientific communication. If you have an idea or specific topic for a short review please let me know.

Martin Carter (carterm@agr.gc.ca)  
Editor, CJSS (www.nrc.gc.ca/aic-journals/cjss)

## Congratulations to Dr. Fred Bentley!

Dr. Fred Bentley celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 14 and was honoured with a dinner and birthday party by the Alberta Institute of Agrologists and Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. This is a significant milestone that deserves some recognition.

The Canadian Society of Soil Science has benefited greatly from Dr. Bentley's tremendous contributions over the years. His involvement with the Society dates back to his work as a founding member, first helping to establish it and then becoming its third president in 1957. Since those early days, the Society has benefited from his tireless and dedicated support of soil science and the part it plays in the welfare of humanity.

The CSSS called on Dr. Bentley to be the president of ISSS at the Edmonton meetings in 1978. The financial success of that conference helped to establish an endowment for annual CSSS awards that have helped to promote soil science in Canada and around the world. Dr. Bentley has always had particular interest in high-calibre oral presentations and this interest helped to bring about the C.F. Bentley Student Presentation Award, established by CSSS to recognize excellence in the presentation of scientific papers at our annual meetings. The keenness with which students continue to compete for this award today is a testament to the interest he always maintained in both public speaking and raising up new generations of able soil scientists.

Dr. Bentley has been received as a Fellow of CSSS, AIC, SSSA, and ASA and as an Officer of the Order of Canada. These honours point clearly to his personal accomplishments as a scientist, and have served to raise international awareness of Canadian work in soil science and enhanced the reputation of our

Society abroad. His role as a founder of the International Board for Soil Research and Management and Chairman of the Board of The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-arid Tropics is further evidence of his scientific stature, helping Canada to make a significant contribution to soil science worldwide.

Dr. Bentley, we congratulate you on passing this very special milestone and extend our very deep thanks for your part in laying a firm foundation for Canadian soil science. We salute you as a valued colleague, mentor, and friend.

Ed Gregorich  
President, CSSS

### CSSS – Business Office

The CSSS Business Office:

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

Contact Steve Sheppard  
CSSS

P.O. Box 637  
Pinawa, Manitoba  
R0E 1L0  
Canada

Telephone: (204) 753-2747

Fax: (204) 753-8478

Email: [sheppards@ecomatters.com](mailto:sheppards@ecomatters.com)

## **CSSS President Elect Craig Drury, Ph.D.**



Craig has been employed as a Soil Biochemist with Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) in Harrow, Ontario since 1991. His research program focuses on developing soil and crop management technologies which enhance nitrogen utilization efficiency and reduce nitrogen losses to the environment through leaching and denitrification. He has also examined the impact of soil management practices (conservation tillage, crop rotation, fertilization, compost addition, water table management, etc.) on soil and environmental quality. He holds a B.Sc. (1980) in microbiology and an M.Sc. (1983) in soil fertility from McGill University, and a Ph.D. (1988) in soil fertility (N cycling) from the University of Guelph. Craig worked as a postdoctoral fellow at AAFC from 1988 to 1991 where he studied factors contributing to nitric oxide and nitrous oxide emissions from soils. In 2003, he was appointed lead for the Residual Soil Nitrogen Indicator (RSN) study and the Indicator for the Risk of Water Contamination by Nitrogen (IROWCN) study which are part of the National Agri-Environmental Health and Reporting Program (NAHARP).

Craig joined CSSS in 1980 and has been active in the society serving as Secretary from 1999 to 2003. He is in his second term as an Associate Editor for the CJSS and he serves on the AIC policy subcommittee for the AIC journals. Craig has also served for four years as an Associate Editor for Agriculture Ecosystems & Environment Journal, he is a member of 3 Ontario soil and water management committees, and he is the chair of the Ontario Soil, Water and Air Research and Services Committee.

Craig is an adjunct professor at the Universities of Windsor and Guelph. He has supervised several post doctoral fellows, co-supervised PhD and MSc students, and has served on numerous graduate student committees at the University of Guelph, Queens University and the University of Windsor. Thus far, Craig has co-authored 65 refereed papers, 6 book chapters and 1 review article.

As president of CSSS, Craig will work with council, CSSS members, and related societies to promote our Society and our Science. He encourages members to contact him to share their ideas for ways to maintain a dynamic and growing society.

## **CSSS Western Councillor Xiyong Hao, Ph.D.**



Dr. Xiyong Hao grew up near Beijing, China and obtained her B.Sc. from the China (formerly Beijing) Agricultural University (Soil Science & Agro-Chemistry 1982), her M.Sc. from the University of Saskatchewan (Soil Physics 1986) and her Ph.D. from the University of Manitoba (Soil Chemistry 1998). Since completing her Ph.D., Xiyong has been employed by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada at the Lethbridge Research Centre as a Research Scientist in agricultural and environmental chemistry. Her main research interest is N and P nutrients cycling with particular emphasis on livestock manure management, and she has published 18 papers in refereed journals in the last 5 years. She is an adjunct professor at the University of Lethbridge, the technical editor for the Asian Journal of Plant Sciences, and a member of the Alberta Soil Science Workshop Organizing Committee.



## Symposia Co-Sponsored by CSSS

ASA/CSSA/SSSA/CSSS Annual Meetings, Seattle, WA  
Oct. 31-Nov. 4, 2004

### **Division S-3 (Soil Biology & Biochemistry)**

#### ***Field-to-Region Links of Soil Carbon Dynamics, Greenhouse Gas Fluxes, and Agricultural Mitigation Practices***

*Date:* November 1, 2004

*Background:* The objective of this Symposium is to foster international communication and co-operation on methods for merging process-level understanding into regional estimates of the net emissions of greenhouse gases (including soil carbon dynamics) and the effectiveness of mitigation practices. The symposium includes a half-day of invited oral presentations from Canada, USA, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, and Europe followed by a volunteer poster session in the afternoon.

*Further Information:* Carlos Monreal ([monrealc@agr.gc.ca](mailto:monrealc@agr.gc.ca)) or Cesar Izaurralde ([cesar.izaurralde@pnl.gov](mailto:cesar.izaurralde@pnl.gov)).

#### ***Meaningful Pools in Determining Soil C and N Dynamics***

*Date:* November 3, 2004.

*Background:* The purpose of the symposium is to explore how various methods used to extract and fractionate soil organic matter help us understand the functions of soil organic matter. The symposium includes a full day of invited oral presentations from the US, Canada, Australia, Denmark, and Ireland, and with a volunteer poster session. Presentations will discuss the pros and cons of a procedure - when does it work and when not, with regard to research objectives and soil type.

*Further Information:* Dan Olk ([olk@nsl.gov](mailto:olk@nsl.gov)) or Ed Gregorich ([gregoriche@agr.gc.ca](mailto:gregoriche@agr.gc.ca))

### **Division S-4 (Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrition)**

#### ***Recycling Nutrients: From Waste to Resource***

*Date:* November 1, 2004

*Background:* This symposium will review the utilization of agricultural and industrial by-products as nutrient resources. Sources include manures, composts, biosolids, crop- and animal-food processing and pulp/papermill by-products. Nutrient contents, forms, dynamics, crop responses; handling, environmental, health and regulatory issues, and new technologies in each system will be addressed. A half-day oral session of invited papers with a companion volunteer poster session is planned. For the oral session, all six papers will have dual Canadian and American authorship. It is hoped to publish the symposium papers in the Canadian J. Soil Science.

*Further Information:* Frank Larney ([larney@agr.gc.ca](mailto:larney@agr.gc.ca)) or Bill Pan ([wlp@wsu.edu](mailto:wlp@wsu.edu)).

## Symposia Co-Sponsored by CSSS

ASA/CSSA/SSSA/CSSS Annual Meetings, Seattle, WA  
Oct. 31-Nov. 4, 2004

### **Division S-5 (Pedology)**

#### ***Pedology Across the Border: Changing Paradigms in Canadian and American Concepts in Pedology***

*Background:* This symposium will consider how the collection, interpretation and dissemination of pedological information is changing and what forces are at work in this change.

*Further Information:* Alain Plante (plante@nrel.colostate.edu.).

### **Division S-6 (Soil & Water Management and Conservation)**

#### ***Precision Conservation in North America***

*Date:* November 1, 2004.

*Background:* Precision conservation is defined as a set of spatial technologies and procedures linked to mapped variables directed to implement conservation management practices that take into account spatial and temporal variability across natural and agricultural systems. The symposium will include presentations on studies in the field of precision conservation practice and/or development of new concepts and ideas in this field for the advancement of soil and water conservation practices. The Soil Science Society of America (SSSA), Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) and Canadian Society of Soil Science (CSSS) are jointly sponsoring this Symposium.

*Further Information:* Jorge Delgado (jdelgado@lamar.colostate.edu) or Frank Larney (larney@agr.gc.ca)

#### ***Assessment of the Effectiveness of Conservation Practices in North America.***

*Date:* November 2, 2004.

*Background:* The symposium will include presentations on the current status of the Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) and other assessment projects. This symposium will present the status of measuring effectiveness of conservation practices across several long-term watershed studies in the United States and Canada. This Symposium is also co-sponsored with the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

*Further Information:* Jorge Delgado (jdelgado@lamar.colostate.edu) or Frank Larney (larney@agr.gc.ca)

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.

## Symposia Co-Sponsored by CSSS

ASA/CSSA/SSSA/CSSS Annual Meetings, Seattle, WA  
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### **Division S-7 (Forest and Range Soils)**

#### ***Soil and Dissolved Organic Matter Cycling in Northern Ecosystems: I.***

*Date:* November 2, 2004

*Background:* This Symposium will examine interactive hydrologic and biogeochemical controls on soil solution dissolved organic matter and look at sources, sinks and fluxes of dissolved organic carbon in Canadian and US soils. Application of fluorescence spectroscopy to elucidate links between soil and aquatic dissolved organic matter will also be discussed as well as greenhouse gas emissions from flooded boreal forest soils.

*Further Information:* Ken Van Rees (vanrees@skyway.usask.ca).

### **Division S-11 (Soils and Environmental Quality)**

#### ***Pharmaceuticals and Hormones in the Environment***

*Date:* November 2, 2004.

*Background:* Human and veterinary drugs have recently been widely detected in surface waters in North America and Europe. Hormonal substances, natural or synthetic, are being detected in areas subject to intensive livestock or poultry production. Agriculture may be a source of environmental exposure to these chemicals, through the use of municipal biosolids or animal manures as fertilizer. The potential impact of these extremely bioactive organic contaminants on wildlife and humans, and their environmental fate, is now the subject of significant scientific and regulatory concern. Speakers from the US, Canada and the UK will address this topic.

*Further Information:* Ed Topp (toppe@agr.gc.ca).

## CSSS Annual Meeting 2005

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. The conference theme is "*Building Bridges – across science, through time, around the world*". For more information, please visit the conference web site at [www.halifax2005.ca](http://www.halifax2005.ca) or contact the organizers at [hfx2005@gov.ns.ca](mailto:hfx2005@gov.ns.ca)

## Professional Tour Sponsored by CSSS

ASA/CSSA/SSSA/CSSS Annual Meetings, Seattle, WA  
Oct. 31-Nov. 4, 2004

### Soils and Land Use in the Georgia Strait/Puget Sound Bioregion of British Columbia and Washington-Premeeting Tour

*Date/Time:* Friday, October 29 through Saturday, October 30, 2004. **Arrive in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada on Thursday, October 28.** The tour will depart from the Plaza 500 Hotel in Vancouver at 7:45 am on Friday, October 29 and will arrive in Seattle, Washington at approximately 5:30 pm on Saturday, October 30.

*Where:* On the first day of this two-day tour the group will depart from the Plaza 500 Hotel with the first stop in Abbotsford, BC to meet with a representative of British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture. From the Ministry the group will drive to Sumas Prairie where it will be met by a representative from the Abbotsford Soil Conservation Association. Lunch will be served at the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada facility in Agassiz. From Agassiz the tour will proceed to the University of British Columbia Malcom Knapp Research Forest in Maple Ridge. The group will return to the Plaza 500 Hotel in Vancouver. The first stop on the second day of the tour will be at the Delta Farmland and Wildlife Trust in Delta. From Delta the group will proceed to the Canada-U.S. border with the first stop on the U.S. side in the Skagit Valley; representatives from Western Washington University and Washington State Cooperative Extension Service will meet with the group. Various forest soils stops will take place along the way with arrival in Seattle at approximately 5:30 pm; the arrival site will be the Washington State Convention & Trade Center.

*Number of Participants:* Limited to 45 people.

*Cost:* \$200.00 includes tour development, transportation, two lunches, and refreshments en-route.

*Reservation Deadline:* Monday, Sept. 20, 2004.

*Tour Contact:* Maja Krzic; University of British Columbia; Faculty of Agricultural Sciences/ Faculty of Forestry; 227-2357 Main Hall; Vancouver, BC, Canada V6T 1Z4. Phone: (604) 822-0252. Email: [krzic@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:krzic@interchange.ubc.ca).

## CSSS CareerSite

The CSSS has launched a new service on its website ([www.csss.ca](http://www.csss.ca)) to provide employers and career seekers with an electronic recruitment tool specifically for the professional soil science industry. For more information, please visit the CSSS web site at [www.csss.ca](http://www.csss.ca) and click on the Job Postings link.



## **Soil Sampling and Methods of Analysis 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of *Soil Sampling and Methods of Analysis* is now well underway. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition of SSMA was published by CRC Press in 1993. The new edition will have seven subject sections plus several appendices. Each section has two editors. Similar to the 1993 book, a contract with CRC Press has been initiated that directs all royalties to CSSS and provides a 50% discount on book purchase for CSSS members.

Sections, with editors in parentheses, covered in the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition are as follows: Collection and Preparation of Soil Samples (Gary Patterson and Charles Tarnocai); Soil Test Analyses (Jeff Schoenau and Ivan O'Halloran); Soil Chemical Analyses (Yoong Soon and Will Hendershot); Soil Biological and Ecological Analyses (Ed Topp and Cathy Fox); Soil Organic Matter Analyses (Ed Gregorich and Mike Beare); Soil Physical Analyses (Denis Angers and Frank Larney); and Soil Water Analyses (Dan Reynolds and Clarke Topp).

If you have ideas, material, or methods that would be suitable for the new edition, please contact Martin Carter ([carterm@agr.gc.ca](mailto:carterm@agr.gc.ca)) or Ed Gregorich ([gregoriche@agr.gc.ca](mailto:gregoriche@agr.gc.ca)).

### **CSSS Members Get Discounts on AIC Journal Subscriptions**

CSSS members receive a discount (about 60% off the full rate) when they subscribe to any of the following journals:

- ◆ Canadian Journal of Soil Science ([www.nrc.gc.ca/aic-journals/cjss](http://www.nrc.gc.ca/aic-journals/cjss))
- ◆ Canadian Journal of Plant Science ([www.nrc.gc.ca/aic-journals/cjps](http://www.nrc.gc.ca/aic-journals/cjps))
- ◆ Canadian Journal of Animal Science ([www.nrc.gc.ca/aic-journals/cjas](http://www.nrc.gc.ca/aic-journals/cjas))

A CSSS member can subscribe to receive each of the three journals in paper format, in paper format plus electronic access, by electronic access only, or any combination thereof. An electronic-only subscription to all three journals costs less than \$90.00 (plus tax) per year. For more information, contact Steve Sheppard ([sheppards@ecomatters.com](mailto:sheppards@ecomatters.com)).

### **CSSS Online**

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 out our new CSSS CareerSite – just click on Job Postings.

## VIETCANSOL: Vietnam – Canada Soils Project

### VIETCANSOL Visit and Project Review

At the end of May I traveled to Vietnam to participate in a review of the VIETCANSOL project with the Canadian coordinator, Dr. Don Acton, and a group of people that included Dr. Darwin Anderson, Monique Wismer, and Mitchell Japp from the University of Saskatchewan, and Pat Flaten of the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology.

Upon arriving in Hanoi we went to the National Institute for Soils and Fertilizers (NISF) for a welcoming reception, a quick tour of the facilities, and a ceremony to present an award to Prof. Thai Phien. (Earlier this year Prof. Thai received the AIC International Partners award; it was presented at a ceremony in Ottawa, but Prof. Thien was unable to attend.) The NISF has a staff of 165 people in six research and three administrative departments and houses an impressive soils museum featuring more than 35 soil monoliths from all the major soil groups in the country.

The VIETCANSOL project ([www.aic.ca/international/vietcansol.html](http://www.aic.ca/international/vietcansol.html)) began in 1995, with a focus on promoting on-farm adoption of practical soil and water conservation methods and introducing high-value crops in the mountainous zone of northern Vietnam. The approach has been to strengthen the capacity of the NISF to work with farmers and regional extension groups to demonstrate more sustainable agricultural production systems. VIETCANSOL is one of three soils-related projects in AIC's International Twinning Partnership Program in which CSSS members participate (the others are in Costa Rica and Sri Lanka). Projects in this program establish long-term relationships with partners in developing countries, and work to strengthen their institutional capacity to maintain advances achieved through the project.

The day after arriving we began our visits to field demonstration sites which are part of the VIETCANSOL. The journey took us west of Hanoi into some rolling terrain and then headed

north, to within about 60 km of the Chinese border where the terrain was mountainous and terrace farming was prevalent. Over the next six days we travelled several hundred kilometres and visited six demonstration sites. At each site we were graciously and enthusiastically received by the staff and local farmers.

Vietnam is an agrarian society, with about two-thirds of the population engaged in agriculture.



Terraces near Ban Peo, North Vietnam. (near Chinese border). Height of terrace is about 3 m.

Sloping land makes up more than 75% of the country, and the natural potential for erosion is aggravated by massive deforestation. Forests covered 48% of the land area 40 years ago, but comprise only 28% of the area today, largely because of conversion to agriculture. Traditional slash-and-burn methods are still being used, leading to widespread and severe land degradation, especially due to erosion.

A prime focus of any soil conservation effort is to reduce erosion and conserve and improve soil fertility, aimed at increasing crop yields and therefore farm profitability. On-farm experimental sites are set up to demonstrate conservation farming practices to the North Vietnamese farmers.

## VIETCANSOL, continued

These sites are established in conjunction with communes and villages, fostering a farmer-to-farmer extension approach. For example, plots at one local farm demonstrate the effectiveness of hedgerows, intercropping, fertilization, and different varieties of crops in reducing erosion. The farmers are invited to field days at these farms, with NISF scientists and extension personnel in attendance to support on-farm training.

The VIETCANSOL approach appears to be successful, both in delivering valuable conservation information and in targeting it to where it is most needed – the grass-roots farming level. I was also impressed with the integrated nature of the demonstration sites, in that they also support ongoing soils and agronomy research. For example, research is being carried out on the ability of various crop varieties and sequences to reduce erosion.

Ed Gregorich  
President, CSSS

### **Our (not-so-lonely) Trip to Viet Nam**

Viet Nam. At least one of the thoughts crossing your mind right now is going to be about the war with the Americans. Viet Nam is much more to these two travelers from Saskatchewan. We have traversed the globe to find out first hand what Vietnam is really about. Our excursion took us from cool, arid Saskatoon, Canada to hot, humid Ha Noi, Viet Nam in a mere 18 h of travel. The first steps off the plane met us with overwhelming heat which we acclimatized to... eventually.

What can we say? The people were unbelievably generous, hospitable, and very happy and made every effort to ensure our stay was fantastic. The food was amazing: shrimp, squid, tuna, frog legs, bananas, dragon fruit, pineapple, and mango. And noodle soup for breakfast! Eating was truly an experience there. We learned customs like using a moist towel to cool your face and hands off before eating, which was very refreshing! We even became adept at chopsticks!

The scenery was diverse and always breathtaking: mountains, rainforest, waterfalls, and flowers. Wondrous flowers that Canadians could only grow in a greenhouse. We can't forget to mention the vast array of (huge) insects that roamed freely and the geckos in every hotel to eat the smaller ones. The vibrant, rich colors everywhere caused sensory overload.

What were we doing in Vietnam? We were student delegates sent to offer advice and appreciate what the VIETCANSOL project has accomplished along with fellow Canadians Dr. Don Acton, Dr. Darwin Anderson, Dr. Ed Gregorich, and Pat Flaten. VIETCANSOL is a joint project in which Canada is helping Viet Nam through funding and expertise to develop sustainable agriculture systems. This was completed through having local farmers' volunteer land and labour to demonstrate farming practices such as intercropping, terracing, hedgerows, and crop rotation. Other local farmers were then brought in to observe that the practices would increase crop yield, decrease topsoil erosion and were realistic to implement. We feel that this was a very effective demonstration method and that the project has done an amazing job.

The importance of the project is undeniable when you gain an understanding of the ethnic groups and when you speak with the farmers. Tradition is very important in Viet Nam. The hill-tribe farmers want to maintain their customs and in doing so have been reluctant to adopt new farming practices. The project is an opportunity to showcase newer practices, cultivars and fertilizers and prove to the farmers that science can aid production. The farmers we spoke with were all enthusiastic about the project. They didn't want the project to end because they see it as a way to help feed the people.

We've been in university for about six years each and we've both learnt a great deal about the world we live in. Our trip to Viet Nam opened the door to a whole new world that we knew nothing about. Now we know a little. We look

## **VIETCANSOL, continued**

world we live in. Our trip to Viet Nam opened the door to a whole new world that we knew nothing about. Now we know a little. We look forward to sharing our new found knowledge about another corner of the world and remembering what we saw as we come up with ideas and solutions to problems.

Viet Nam was a fantastic learning experience, both culturally and educationally. Four enthusiastic thumbs-up from these two travelers!

Monique Wismer  
Mitchell Japp  
CSSS Student Members



A patchwork of rice paddy fields nestled into a valley in North Vietnam.

**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.

**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, Soil Microbiology & Biochemistry  
University of Alberta  
<http://www.rr.ualberta.ca/people/njuma/>

**SCOPE Environmental Books**

SCOPE, the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment, was established by the International Council of Science in 1969. Several of their recent environmental books cover topics potentially of interest to CSSS members, such as global biogeochemical cycles, and are priced for the student and postdoctorate pocketbook. More information is available at [www.islandpress.org/books/SCOPE.html](http://www.islandpress.org/books/SCOPE.html) or contact John W.B. Stewart, SCOPE Editor-in-Chief at [jwbstew@island.net](mailto:jwbstew@island.net)

## News from the AIC

### **From the AIC President**

Kim Shukla, PAg, CAC

It is my pleasure to provide an update to you on AIC's progress toward our new membership structure and identity.

First of all, thank you for your participation and feedback into the proposed changes to AIC over the past few months. With your input, your national board and staff have been working hard to make changes to ensure AIC is more responsive to your individual needs at the national level and to help provide information and services that you value in your work.

### **You wanted to maintain a strong national organization: AIC is your national organization**

We heard that a national connection is important to professional agrologists and scientists across Canada. With your support as individual members, you can continue to rely on AIC as your connection to national issues. In addition AIC will be developing opportunities for our members to better reach elected officials and bureaucrats to be able to communicate on issues of national importance. AIC's focus will be to have a positive impact on public policy affecting the agri-food sector – in particular in the areas of environment, food sufficiency and food safety.

### **AIC membership offers value for money**

For only \$100 annually - less than \$2.00 per week, AIC offers you connection, as well as credible and current information. You will have:

- Direct input as a voting member;
- The opportunity to identify key issues for action; and
- Access to all the national member services...including special registration rates for the AIC Conference coming in 2005!

### **AIC encourages organizational membership**

Even with the shift to direct individual membership, AIC will continue to welcome and encourage organizational memberships. Organizations play a critical role in international development initiatives as well as national regulatory and accreditation programs. We look forward to CSSS being an organizational member of AIC. CSSS will have the opportunity to develop additional service agreement with AIC under contract.

### **AIC Journals play an important role in AIC's future**

AIC will continue to publish world-class journals – and now, AIC membership will entitle you to even more access to AIC Journals than ever before.

### **You want Progress: International Conference, Issues Summit, New Image**

AIC is focusing our activities and energy to reflect our member's needs. We're working with CSSS to avoid duplication, and partnering with other national and provincial organizations to bring you greater access to federal policy makers and bureaucrats so that you can have your say. Look for our new image, redesigned website, AIC Issues Summit, and opportunities to get involved and have a say in your national organization.

### **Communication and Privacy are Key:**

To respect your privacy and the CSSS privacy policies, we ask that you consider providing your email or mailing address to the AIC national office so that we can keep you better informed about our progress.

Please contact Jean Sullivan, PAg at [news@aic.ca](mailto:news@aic.ca) or by phone 613-232-9459 ext 303 to add your contact information to the mailing list to receive updates directly to your inbox or mailbox

We received Ministerial approval in May to change our bylaw to allow new membership categories and board structure, making AIC a direct membership-based organization focusing on the needs of individual and organizational members.

Our next steps include finalizing the new AIC membership categories and outlining the details of board size and representation, membership fees and entitlements. Draft regulations have been circulated and are posted on the AIC website at [http://www.aic.ca/whatsnew/draft\\_regs\\_june\\_2004.pdf](http://www.aic.ca/whatsnew/draft_regs_june_2004.pdf)

AIC is your organization. Watch for our membership packages coming soon. We know that our strength is in our membership and we are working hard to meet and exceed your expectations.

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

**Aug. 23–27, 2004**

26th Conference on Agricultural and Forest Meteorology, Vancouver, BC, Canada; dave.spittlehouse@gems4.gov.bc.ca.

**Aug. 29–Sept. 2, 2004**

10th Congress on Anaerobic Digestion, Montreal, QC  
www.ad2004montreal.org.

**September 4–12, 2004**

Eurosoil  
Freiburg, Germany  
www.forst.uni-de/eurosoil/

**September 5-9, 2004**

Seventh International Conference on Greenhouse Gas Control Technologies (GHGT-7), Vancouver, BC

**September 12-17, 2004**

4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Land Degradation  
Cartagena, Murcia, Spain

**September 15-17, 2004**

14<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference, Composting Council of Canada  
Gatineau, QC  
www.compost.org

**September 19–22, 2004**

8th International Congress on Applied Mineralogy, Aguas de Lindoia, Brazil  
www.icam2004.org

**Sept. 20–22, 2004**

Environmental and Subsurface Science Symposium, Spokane, WA  
www.b-there.com/breg/esss04.

**September 26–October 1, 2004**

4th International Crop Science Congress (4ICSC), Brisbane, Australia

**October 11–12, 2004**

geoENV 2004: Fifth European Conference Geostatistics for Environmental Applications, Univ. of Neuchatel, Switzerland  
www.unine.ch/chyn/geoenv.

**October 11–14, 2004**

Industrial Applications of Renewable Resources: Conference on Sustainable Technologies, Chicago, IL  
www.aocs.org/meetings/ia.

**October 12-16, 2004**

The Third International Nitrogen Conference  
Nanjing, China

**October 20–24, 2004**

Agro Environ 2004: Role of Multi-Purpose Agriculture in Sustaining Global Environment  
Udine, Italy

**October 25–29, 2004**

8th International Conference on Diffuse Pollution  
Kyoto, Japan  
www.jswe.or.jp/difpol04

**October 27–29, 2004**

International Conference on Pesticide Application and Drift Management  
Kona, Hawaii  
http://pep.wsu.edu/drift04/

**Oct. 31–Nov. 4, 2004**

Canadian Society of Soil Science Annual Meetings with ASA-CSSA-SSSA  
Seattle, WA  
www.csss.ca

**Nov. 14–18, 2004**

4th Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry World Congress  
Portland, OR  
www.setac.org/portland.html.

**Nov. 22-24, 2004**

The IASTED International Conference on Environmental Modeling and Simulation - EMS 2004  
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

**January 30–February 4, 2005**

9<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Soil and Plant Analysis  
Cancun, Mexico  
www.spcouncil.com

**Feb. 5–11, 2005**

Society for Range Management 58th Annual Meeting,  
Fort Worth, TX  
www.rangelands.org.

**Feb. 17–21, 2005**

American Association for the Advancement of Science Annual Meeting  
Washington, DC  
www.aaas.org.

**Apr. 25–27, 2005**

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

**May 15-18, 2005**

Canadian Society of Soil Science Annual Meeting with GAC, MAC and CSPG  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
www.halifax2005.ca

**June 26–July 1, 2005**

International Grassland Congress  
Dublin, Ireland  
www.igc2005.com.

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