

January 2, 2004

TO:

- Mike Singer, Past-President, Soil Science Society of America (SSSA)
- John Havlin, Incoming President-elect, SSSA
- Jim Culver, U.S. Consortium of Soil Science Associations(USCSSA)
- Tom Fenton, Professional Soil Classifiers of Iowa
- Kari Sever, Association of Women Soil Scientists
- Margie Faber, Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England
- Chad McGrath, Oregon Society of Soil Scientists
- Valerie Breunig, Director of Development, SSSA
- Clifford Landers, National Society of Consulting Soil Scientists
- Jim Ware, Soil Scientist, National Soils Staff, NRCS-USDA
- Tom Rice, SSSA, Past-Chair, S236.1 Membership, Identity, and Visibility Committee
- Deborah Soukup, Chair, S236.1 Membership, Identity, & Visibility Committee
- Luther Smith, ICCA
- Robert Kendall, National Society of Consulting Soil Scientists
- Dawn Tracey, Council of Soil Science Examiners
- Myra Peak, Peak Environmental
- John Zupancic, Agronomy Solutions
- Lee Sommers, 18th World Congress of Soil Science
- John Kimble, 18th World Congress of Soil Science
- Patrick Drohan, Smithsonian Exhibit

- Karl Glasener, Director of Science Policy, ASA-CSSA-SSSA
- Sara Uttech, Manager, Marketing/Communications, SSSA
- Ellen Bergfeld, Executive Vice-President, ASA-CSSA-SSSA

FROM: Tom Sims, President, SSSA

SUBJECT: Continued cooperation between SSSA and USCSSA on "Meeting the Needs of the Professional Soil Scientist"

On December 22, 2003 several of those involved in planning the "Roundtable on Meeting the Needs of the Professional Soil Scientist" (co-sponsored by SSSA and USCSSA the at the 2003 Annual Meetings of ASA-CSSA-SSSA in Denver, Colorado) held a conference call to discuss continuing our cooperative efforts in 2004. We propose the following activities and welcome your input in the near future:

1. Conduct a national survey of professional soil scientists to determine their interests and professional needs that can be addressed by SSSA and USCSSA. This survey will follow-up on the preliminary survey conducted by Margie Faber (attached). Please review this and send any comments or additional questions to Margie by January 12th, 2004. She will work with Jim Culver (USCSSA), Tom Fenton and Tom Sims (SSSA) to finalize the survey and have it distributed by February of 2004.
2. Organize several programs for the 2004 ASA-CSSA-SSSA meetings in Seattle, Washington (October 31st to November 4th, 2004). Suggestions to date include:
 - a. A "second annual" evening "Roundtable" that will again provide a forum for topics of specific interest to the professional soil scientist. Please send suggested topics and speakers to Tom Sims (jtsims@udel.edu)
 - b. A field trip focusing on consulting in soil science is being planned for Seattle. If you would like to participate in the planning and implementation of this field trip, please contact John Havlin, 2004 SSSA Program Planning chair (havlin@ncsu.edu).
 - c. A poster session specifically organized by professional soil scientists, focusing on topics such as certification and licensing, the Smithsonian exhibit, consulting projects, the 18th World Congress of Soil Science, the Council of Soil Science Examiners, etc. If you are

interested in leading the development of this symposium please contact either Tom Sims or John Havlin.

- d. The development of a SSSA and/or USCSSA web site focusing on meeting the needs of the professional soil scientist. This could feature short articles, answers to frequently asked questions, updates on meetings that provide CEUs, and a bulletin board to exchange information on issues of interest and professional opportunities. If you have ideas for this, please contact either Mike Singer (mjsinger@ucdavis.edu) or Jim Culver (J4CULVER@aol.com).

Please send me any comments you have on the above suggestions by mid-January. I will be organizing a follow-up conference call in late January or early February and will contact everyone in advance to let them know how to participate.

Thanks again and all the best for the holidays and the New Year!

Dr. Tom Sims

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