

ROUNDTABLE ON MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTISTS

There was an excellent attendance of over 100 participants at the “Roundtable on Meeting the Needs of the Professional Soil Scientist” held on Tuesday, Nov. 4 in the Colorado Convention Center, room A209 from 7:30 -9:30pm, during the ASA-CSSA-SSSA Annual Meetings.

Welcoming Remarks:

Mike Singer, Soil Science Society of America and Jim Culver, United States Consortium of Soil Science Associations provided the welcoming remarks for this well attended meeting. This was especially true as this meeting was at the end of a very busy long day of many professional technical presentations, poster sessions, SSSA annual awards luncheon and competition with a good number of other special activities scheduled during this special evening.

The excellent individual presentations from all panel members were timely and informative. The panel members and their subject topic are included on several of the informational bulletins and material provided to all meeting participants prior to this session.

PANEL AND DISCUSSION ON THE NEEDS OF THE PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTIST

- *Needs and Opportunities for the Professional Soil Scientist*, Margie Faber, Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England and USDA-NRCS.
- *SSSA's Role in Meeting the Needs of the Professional Soil Scientist - Certification, Education, and Technology Transfer*, Deborah Soukup, SSSA Membership Identity and Visibility committee, Luther Smith, Executive Director, ICCA program.
- *Enhancing Recognition of Soil Science as a Professional Discipline*, Bob Kendall, National Society of Consulting Soil Scientists.
- *Role of Professional Soil Scientists in the Smithsonian Soils Exhibit*, Patrick Drohan, Smithsonian Exhibit.

ROUNDTABLES AND RECEPTION

A reception in the general area included an excellent complimentary snack table provided by SSSA and a no-host cash bar was available to all participants. All participants were encouraged to become involved with one or more of the several roundtables on specific topics led by discussion leaders.

The fellowship and discussions around the snack table and no-host cash bar were outstanding. However this impromptu fellowship and small group discussion on a wide variety of topics was somewhat the expense of the number of participants who took the time to become involved in the specific roundtable discussions.

ROUNDTABLE TOPICS INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING:

- *Council of Soil Science Examiners, Dawn Tracy*
- *SSSA Membership, Identity, and Visibility, Deborah Soukup*
- *ARCPACS, Luther Smith, Myra Peak and John Zupancic*
- *Uniting Soil Science Organizations Unite to Promote Common Goals in Affecting Local, State, Regional and National Policy, Tom Fenton - Professional Soil Classifiers of Iowa*
- *Association of Women Soil Scientists, Margie Faber*

GENERAL COMMENTS:

The SSSA-USCSSA planning group was very pleased with the large attendance and excellent number of positive comments received from those attending this session. The excellent presentations by each of the panel participants were appreciated by all. Overall a very positive and productive session.