

The U.S. Consortium of Soil Science Associations (USCSSA) and Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) are co-sponsoring a meeting during the annual SSSA meeting in Denver, Colorado this fall. This joint roundtable session is scheduled for Tuesday, November 4th at 7:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. The theme is Meeting the Needs of the Professional Soil Scientists" with emphasis toward field soil scientists. We are encouraging a good participation of state soil societies/associations membership at this activity. More information about this session and recommended reduced registration cost for field soil scientists will be forthcoming.

The following Action Plan: Updated May 12, 2003 provides details for this excellent activity:

A Roundtable on Meeting the Needs of the Professional Soil Scientist

**Co-Sponsored by
U.S. Consortium of Soil Science Associations (USCSSA)
and
Soil Science Society of America (SSSA)**

Action Plan Updated May 12, 2003

Purposes

1. To conduct a roundtable meeting where the needs and interests of professional soil scientists will be shared and discussed.
2. To develop a coordinated effort between the USCSSA and the SSSA to provide improved services to professional soil scientists.
3. To strengthen the working relationships between the USCSSA and the SSSA in order to meet future needs of the members of both organizations.

Procedure and Responsible Individuals:

1. The roundtable is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 4th at 7:30 p.m.** The formal program will last one hour, but the room and "no-host, cash bar" will be available until 9:30 p.m. for those that wish to stay and talk.
2. The roundtable will be publicized by SSSA via the CSA News, the "Society News Flash", and by other means (e.g., our web site). The USCSSA will also publicize the roundtable by communicating directly to each of its member organizations by a direct mailing and by e-mail. Members of the planning committee are encouraged to communicate information about the

roundtable to others as well, such as by division list-serves, state or regional newsletters and websites. Responsible: Tom Sims and Sara Uttech, SSSA and Jim Culver, USCSSA).

3. SSSA will investigate the possibility of obtaining CEUs for those attending the roundtable. If possible, this will be included in all advertising. Responsible: Luther Smith, SSSA).
4. There will be short welcoming and overview remarks by Mike Singer for SSSA and Jim Culver for USCSSA. These remarks will address the efforts of both organizations to provide greater support for practicing soil scientists and to develop a stronger working relationship between SSSA and USCSSA. (Responsible: Mike Singer, SSSA and Jim Culver, USCSSA).
5. After the opening remarks, there will be a panel discussion on specific ideas and options by which SSSA and USCSSA could meet the needs of practicing soil scientists. The panel will consist of several individuals with input from others on the planning committee. Panel topics and panel members include: (Responsible: Planning committee to identify topics and speakers, Tom Sims and Jim Culver to follow-up with contacting them).
 - a. Needs and Opportunities for the Professional Soil Scientist: Margie Faber, Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England and Cliff Landers National Society of Consulting Soil Scientists.
 - b. SSSA's Role in Meeting the Needs of the Professional Soil Scientist - Certification, Education, and Technology Transfer: Tom Rice, SSSA S236.1 committee and Luther Smith, ASA-CSSA-SSSA
 - c. Enhancing Recognition of Soil Science as a Professional Discipline: Bob Kendall
 - d. Role of Professional Soil Scientists in the the Smithsonian Soils Exhibit and the 18th World Congress of Soil Science: Valerie Breunig, SSSA and John Kimble, SSS
6. After the panel discussion, there will be roundtables set up to address each topic covered by the panel. The panel members will coordinate discussion at the roundtable for their topic. There will be additional roundtables provided for others that wish to share information and obtain input at this meeting. Some possibilities discussed to date are:
 - a. Council of Soil Science Examiners (Dawn Tracy)
 - b. S236.1 Membership, Identity, and Visibility (Tom Rice, Chair)
 - c. ARCPACS (Luther Smith will identify someone for this)
 - d. Certification (Myra Peak??)

- e. Other ideas and potential contacts (Responsible: Tom Sims, SSSA, Jim Culver, USCSSA).
7. A reception will be held immediately after the roundtable discussion. (Responsible: Tom Sims and Keith Schlesinger, SSSA).
 8. Follow-up: After the meeting in Denver, we will schedule a conference call to discuss options and plans for future activities. (Responsible: Tom Sims and Tom Rice, SSSA and Jim Culver, USCSSA).