

April 3, 2003, USCSSA April 3, 2003 Teleconference Announcements and Agenda

- 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
- Mike Singer - President of SSSA
- Jim Ware - Soil Scientists - National Soils Staff - NRCS-USDA

Subject : April 3rd Teleconference---United States Consortium of Soil Science Associations (USCSSA) and Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) activities.

As per recent positive telephone and e-mail correspondence, we will have a teleconference on April 3rd (Thursday), 2003 at 10:00 Central time as discussed. Planned length of this teleconference is one hour.

Call in telephone number is 712-247-1904.
Participants Passcode is 294521.

One of the purposes of this teleconference is to discuss the opportunity of the USCSSA-SSSA to jointly host an evening meeting during the annual SSSA meeting in Denver this fall. The Smithsonian soils exhibit and assistance with Field Tours of the 2006 International Union of Soil Scientists (IUSS) meetings in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania are examples of potential items for discussion.

Agenda:

1. General background information on organization of the USCSSA----Jim Culver
2. General information in the interest of the SSSA to make society membership valuable to non-academic soil scientists----Mike Singer
3. USDA-NRCS support of Smithsonian soils exhibit----Jim Ware
4. SSSA support of Smithsonian soils exhibit----Valerie Breunig
5. Recommended agenda items and logistics of a joint USCSSA-SSSA sponsored evening meeting-spacerun----All participants
6. Actions, follow up and involvement of people----All participants
7. Thanks for your interest and willingness to participate in this teleconference !! Jim Culver, Advisory Group - USCSSA

Minutes of USCSSA April 3, 2003 Teleconference

USCSSA Teleconference
April 3, 2003

Participants:

- Jim Culver, Advisory Group -USCSSA
- Valerie Breunig, Director of Development-SSSA
- Tom Fenton, Professional Soil Classifiers of Iowa
- Mike Singer, President of SSSA
- Jim Ware, Soil Scientist, National Soils Staff, NRCS
- Tom Sims, President-Elect-SSSA
- Margie Faber, Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England
- Linda Bouc, recorder

Jim: Received note from Kari Sever who was unable to join the teleconference due to having to meet a client on a land application site. Jim read her excellent notes highlighting interest and concern in SSSA activities from her private consultants perspective to those in attendance. Overview of background of how the Organization was started. Organization is an outgrowth of Soil Survey Centennial Activities. During a meeting of the Nebraska Society of Professional Soil Scientists to distribute a publication on the "History of Nebraska Soil Survey" there was discussion that there wasn't a linkage between the State Societies and Associations. Needed some umbrella organization to provide information to all organizations. Concept discussed with NCSS members during the SSSA annual meetings in 1999. In 2000 sent out letter to all state soil societies and associations on interest of having common communications. There was a positive response. Subsequent teleconferences, e-mail, telephone calls, questionnaires, and active working groups followed during the past two years have been very productive.

The By-Laws of the USCSSA organization includes two groups - Advisory Group and Council. The Council meets with their respective regional societies/associations during each biannual Regional National Cooperative Soil Survey Work Planning Conference in even years. i.e.; West Region, Southern Region, Midwest Region and Northeast Region. All council members and Advisory Group meets on odd years at the SSSA annual meeting.

Question raised on total membership. Estimate 1200 to 2000 active members of the state organizations however as yet no work done toward getting a more definite number. We have an e-mail list and an official contact for each society/association.

Mike: Member of Professional Soil Scientists Association of California. Interested in seeing colleagues' professional opportunities advance. As

President of SSSA dealing with change in profession as number of Ph.D's and soil scientists decline. Membership numbers in SSSA have declined. Journal subscriptions have decreased. This is main revenue. Trying to serve soil scientists better. Put statement in CSA news. Investigated collaboration with Plant Health Network to start a Journal called Health & Plant Journal. Would like to have a web-site with information that would bring value to current members. Hopefully increase activities and membership in SSSA. Created a liaison with SSSA and Soil & Water Conservation Society.

Tom Fenton: Journals will be on CD-ROM and will be searchable.

Mike: Possibly create a web-site and will discuss with the Consortium and the Society. Case studies and other information that will be useful to other practitioners. Have committee made up of field people. Make this a membership site that will be of value to other practitioners. Discussed with Consortium on utilizing a site like this and contributing to it. Will be accessible through the SSSA homepage. Need practicing soil scientists to let us know what they want on this web-site.

Jim Culver: A Chat-line is an excellent way to search for information.

Tom Simms: Have a rapid response team for SSSA to provide technical information to Carl Glasser. If he received a question, he would contact this rapid response team and they would provide him an answer within 24-48 hours. This team could also be used for soil scientists. Could set up a link on the web-site to this.

Jim Ware: Soils Exhibit goes back to Centennial in 1999 celebrating 100 years of soil survey in the country. Asked all states to prepare a soil monolith for the earth day event. At that time we thought we would like to have this on display and open to the public. Two years ago the Smithsonian was contacted and was presented this opportunity. SSSA got involved and had a brainstorming session for a display at the Smithsonian. State soil monoliths will serve as a foundation for a theme. Will depend on the public acceptance of the exhibit and the financial support. Moving forward - good progress made. The NRCS had an agreement with the Smithsonian and there was a \$50,000 contribution to get this project started. Trying to get NHQ to provide additional support to get the monoliths over to the Smithsonian so they could get started on this and prepare them for this exhibit. Working on a brochure. Presentation was made in Indianapolis and this generated a lot of interest.

Valerie: Doing a two-phase approach. Asking state groups to sponsor their state monolith. Have contacted 28 so far. General campaign starting with larger

foundations nationally. Organizing subcommittees. They would be looking at developing materials for grades K-12, librarians, etc. Asking them to submit samples of educational materials they have used that have been successful. Also asking for a state contact to work with on this.

Jim Culver: Discussion on recommended agenda items for a joint USCSSA-SSSA sponsored evening meeting at the SSSA meeting in Denver, Colorado. Smithsonian soil exhibit would be one item of high interest.

Tom Simms: Presentations, discussions, round-table discussions. Currently working on scheduling a time for this. Organize a time for these groups to talk with each other. Have a chance for everyone to get together who has this common interest. Possible panel discussion -informal panel. From this come up with a plan of work to move forward with this. Need a small planning group from both organizations to organize this.

Valerie: Start out with panel – 20-25 minutes, then tables with defined topics (speakers bureau, Smithsonian Soils Exhibit, how to get more members, web-site). Have a discussion leader. They could meet at table of interest and discuss topic. 20-25 minutes for table topics. Wrap-up. Valerie indicated Keith Schlesinger, SSSA, recommended Monday at 5:30 in the Convention Center for soils and the Smithsonian.

General discussion by all participants on options for a joint USCSSA-SSSA evening meeting. Recommended: Planning group consisting of Mike Singer, Tom Sims, Margie Faber, Jim Ware, Jim Culver, Tom Fenton, Kari Sever, Clifford Landers, Valerie Breunig and Chad McGrath work together in this planning process.

ACTION: Tom Sims will send email to those listed for this teleconference to get started on planning this.

Mike: Did request that web-master put on SSSA homepage in prominent page a link to the USCSSA web-page.

Jim: Working on brochure for Consortium. Listed SSSA in this brochure. Do we need to list on Consortium home-page and who should be listed. Mike plans to send Jim a list of SSSA contacts to include on the USCSSA web site for the Membership section.

Planning and coordination for this joint meeting during the annual SSSA meeting will be done by largely e-mail and teleconference. Will need to plan another teleconference in late spring or early summer.

Teleconference adjourned at 11:00 a.m. Central Time.