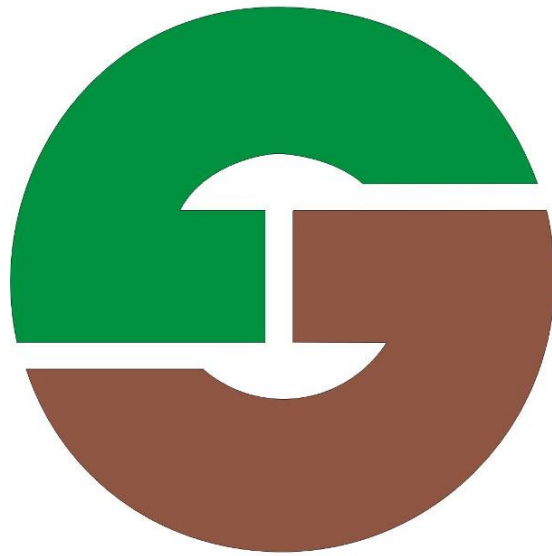


*SOIL SCIENCE
SOCIETY OF
SOUTH AFRICA*



NEWSLETTER

No. 94

November 2012

SSSSA COUNCIL/GVSA RAAD: 2011-13

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The SSSSA does not necessarily agree with opinions expressed in this newsletter.

Die GVSA onderskryf nie noodwendig die menings van bydraes tot sy nuusbrieff nie.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/ BOODSKAP VAN DIE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

This is my last message to SSSSA members, as my term as President ends at the Combined Congress in January next year. It has been a rewarding time, and I have enjoyed the opportunity to serve the Society, despite work-related pressures causing some stresses at times.

Some of the areas that I have tried to focus on during my term as President, and which still need attention, include:

- The quality of graduates coming in to soil science and associated fields from our universities and colleges. We need to ensure that they get the best possible training in order for them to make progress as the next generation of soil scientists.
- The need to ensure that applied soils research continues, and that soil science remains relevant in today's economy and society. This is not always easy, but every funding opportunity must be explored.
- The field of soil classification in South Africa, how it can progress and improve, and how the various significant soil data sources in South Africa can be optimally utilized to improve our soils knowledge.

Other Society matters include:

- The finances of the Society are sound and members are encouraged to contribute subscriptions on time. The finances are also supported by Congress income which may be variable, but has contributed significantly in recent years.
- You will be aware that your Council has supported the SACNASP legislation, and you will have received communications from the SACNASP office. As SSSSA President, I attended a SACNASP information session where various activities were discussed. One of these is the promotion under SACNASP of a culture of "Continuous Professional Development" (CPD) and the Societies dealing with Animal Science and Geology will be piloting an initial CPD programme.
- I am also pleased to report that the printed issues of the SA Journal for Plant and Soil have been distributed. Please continue your support of the Journal. May I as President also express my gratitude to the Editorial staff and soil scientists who have performed essential reviewing actions. Thank you to all concerned.

Finally, I would like to thank the SSSSA membership for their support, and to wish the incoming president, Dr Pieter le Roux, and the new Council, every success for their term of office.

I wish you and your families a blessed Christmas and a very happy New Year. If you are going away during the holidays, enjoy the time and travel safely.

Best wishes.

David Turner

(012 310-2597; dturner@arc.agric.za)

EDITORIAL/REDAKSIONEEL

A couple of articles elsewhere in this newsletter deal with the environment in which we live and the need to try and conserve and protect that environment as far as possible. The specific issues are the **wetlands**, which act as a filter, sponge and drainage system, and **agricultural land**, which will be a critical issue in food security and general well-being into the future. In both of these areas, soil scientists can play a vital role in contributing to the knowledge base and to provide information which will be of vital importance to our lives, and those of our children. I would urge you to contribute wherever you can.

Below is a report from the IUSS Newsletter about soil pages on Facebook, followed by an update from SSSSA Council Member Ailsa Hardie. The Society is constantly trying to improve and expand its profile – hopefully this is one way that can help us to achieve that goal.

Regards,

Garry Paterson

(012 310-2601; 083 556 2458; garry@arc.agric.za)

SOIL AS A SOCIAL MEDIA

From the IUSS Newsletter: This month the Facebook page for Nature.com has reached 101 000 ‘likes’. It seems to be great news that scientists are using social media. But how about “Soil Science” pages on Facebook? IUSS so far has 349 likes (created Dec 2011); Soil Science Society of America: 1884 likes (created 2009); British Society of Soil Science: 361 likes (created Dec 2010); New Zealand Society of Soil Science: 116 likes (created Feb 2010); Soil Science Australia ‘group’ has 229 members; Soil Science Society of South Africa: 129 likes (created March 2011). Well it doesn’t look that great really, comparing it to a musical band called ‘Soilwork’ which has 236 227 likes. So soil science societies probably need to do more work.

Some reasons why soil science societies won’t have that many followers in Facebook? Some scientists may not have a Facebook account and even if they do, they would probably never use it much. And for the younger generation, possibly they don’t care about the societies’ page. In general, social media for science has never been a success (http://www.labspace.net/blog/481/THE_FaceBook_for_science_is_dead__What_s_next_). The author of that article argued that the culture of scientific fields is different. Scientists don’t

like to share their data and can be secretive, one of the reasons may be that they are afraid that their ideas may got ripped off. Anyway, we shouldn't take social media seriously, and certainly not as a successful way to promote soil science. In the meantime please like us: <http://www.facebook.com/unionsoilsciences>

SSSSA on Facebook (by Ailsa Hardie, SSSSA Web site Co-ordinator)

The SSSSA Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Soil-Science-Society-of-South-Africa/169158869802363> has grown leaps and bounds in the last year; the number of likes (fans) has tripled to 161. Becoming a fan of the SSSSA Facebook page (by liking the page) enables one to automatically receive the news and information posted on the SSSSA Facebook page on your Facebook newsfeed. Information such as upcoming local and international soil conferences, awards given by the SSSSA, recent soil research, photos of local soil excursions and interesting soil profiles are posted on the SSSSA Facebook page. We invite SSSSA members to contribute to the Facebook page by adding interesting photos or news. Job advertisements can also be placed by first contacting the SSSSA Secretary Theo Dohse.



The most popular features posted on the SSSSA Facebook page have been the photos of soils and soil events. They receive the most attention and are reposted (shared) on many other organizational pages, including the Soil Science Society of America. This increases the level of exposure, as the Soil

Science Society of America has over 2300 fans (likes). Other organizations like the IUSS and British and Australian Soil Science Societies are also active on Facebook.

COUNCIL MATTERS/RAADSAANGELENTHED

New Members: we welcome the following new SSSSA members:

Full Members: M Pienaar, MS Mohlatlole, P Dongi, M Manjoro, SS Mthimkulu, M Papenfus, VM Kekana

Associate Members: J. Modiba

Student Members: LB Dinko, TD Nhlapo, MN Dama, HP Cloete, AA Smit, D Myburgh, PC Mashau, M Monkwe, MJ Ratlabala, M Tinnefeld, ME Ramaila, LN Mueelwa, LS Santho, CF Wessels, LC Nkoala, SG Jacobs, PV Nekhwalvhe, SM Maile, IP van der Westhuizen, JP Le Roux, KA Rapheela, I Mbakwe

Our membership is currently at 329 and remains relatively constant, which is good news for the future of the Society.

SSSSA General Meeting/GVSA Algemene Vergadering:

University of KwaZulu-Natal

Wednesday 23rd January 2013 (morning)

SOIL SCIENTISTS OVERSEAS/GRONDKUNDIGES OORSEE

Dr Danie Beukes, of ARC-ISCW, attended the 8th **International Symposium on Plant-Soil Interactions at Low pH (PSILPH)** held in Bengaluru, India, from 18-22 October. He joined over 200 delegates from 19 countries at this highly prestigious event where 21 plenary, keynote and special addresses, as well as 33 oral papers and 129 posters were presented in 8 sessions. Danie was invited to chair the session on “Sustainable Utilization and Management of Agricultural and Natural Ecosystems in Acid Soil”, as well as to present a keynote address entitled “An Overview of the Soil Acidity Problem in South Africa and Implications for a Soil Protection Strategy” (co-authored by Liesl Wiese and Dr Goodman Jezile). He reports that the paper was well received and stimulated questions and compliments.

The Symposium was hosted by the University of Agricultural Sciences which was established in 1953 and has 7 campuses and 21 research stations. Mid- and post-Symposium tours were conducted to view on-campus laboratory facilities and field research trials, as well as rural agriculture and cultural places of interest. Soil acidity is a worldwide problem and in India acid soils comprise 48 million ha or 33% of the cultivated land. The triennial PSILPH Symposia provide the opportunity for an international exchange of knowledge and ideas with peers. The International Steering Committee – of which Danie is a member – awarded the 9th PSILPH Symposium to Croatia, to be held in Osijek in 2015.

APPOINTMENTS/AANSTELLINGS

Dr. Hendrik Smith will leave ARC-ISCW at the end of November to take up a post as National Conservation Agriculture Co-ordinator at Grain SA. While we wish Hendrik every success in his new post, it leaves the ARC-Institute for Soil, Climate and Water in the position where, out of six Programme Manager posts, only one is filled by a permanent appointment, namely current SSSSA President Dr Dave Turner. It is to be hoped that other appointments can be made quickly, to help ARC-ISCW to progress as the premier natural resources research institution in South Africa.

AWARDS/TOEKENNINGS

At the recent Eskom Expo International Science Fair, held at Kempton Park, the Society again planned to award two prizes to the best school projects with a soils theme.

Unfortunately, it was the unanimous opinion of the judges that there were no projects that met the criteria and that, while a lot of effort had been put into all the exhibits, the prizes would be held over to next year, when it is hoped that there will again be deserving projects.

In other parts of the country, however, school projects with soil as a theme are being noticed and rewarded.

Gerhard Nortje (SA Subtropical Growers Association, Tzaneen) reports that a very successful Science Expo was held at the Merensky High School in the town (see the article on the right).

Hopefully, these and other initiatives will ensure that the next generation of soil scientists out there will be inspired to one day enter the profession and to make a real difference.



The fourth annual National Trittech Science and Technology Final was recently held at Merensky. Projects of an exceptional standard were presented by pupils from Gr 7 through to Gr 12 and 207 pupils qualified for this final. The Merensky entrants really did themselves proud. Anisca Croucamp won the overall best project with her project titled "Geen Grond – Geen Lewe".

DEGREES AWARDED/GRADE TOEGEKEN

Congratulations to Jay le Roux, of ARC-ISCW, who was awarded his PhD by the University of Pretoria for his thesis entitled "Water erosion risk assessment for South Africa: towards a methodological framework".

CONGRESSES/KONGRESSE

COMBINED CONGRESS

The next Combined Congress will be held at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Durban from 21st to 24th January 2013. Dr Albert Modi is be Chairman of the Congress Committee and it looks like being a very busy Congress with a good variety of presentations. If you haven't already registered, go to the Combined Congress web-site (www.combinedcongress.org.za) where you will find all the details.

Precision Farming Congress, 25 April 2013, Potchefstroom

The Precision Farming Congress will offer a unique insight into the most recent research and development in precision agriculture. At the same time, the latest scientific results from worldwide research and field studies, as well as practical applications of these important technologies will be presented.

Registration will open on 15 November 2012 and close on 30 January 2013 (or when fully booked). The registration fee is R250-00 per delegate. This amount is transferable but non-returnable. There are only 150 seats available, therefore interested persons are advised to register early. Company registrations will be limited to four representatives. More information on the programme, excursion, and guidelines for posters will be mailed to you as it becomes available.

Venue: North-West University. Potchefstroom Campus. JS van der Merwe building (E6).

Theme: *Precision farming: The future in agriculture.*

Speakers: Prof Herman van Schalkwyk (NWU Rector Potchefstroom Campus), Prof. David Lamb (Australia), Prof Sharon Clay (South Dakota State University), Mr Jozeph du Plessis (leading farmer, Schweizer Reneke), Dr Pieter Taljaart (Agricultural economist, NWK), Dr Pieter le Roux (Soil classification, University of the Free State). There will be an announcement about new SUMMIT software developed for precision farming, Trimble GPS-technology in precision agriculture and much more.

Braai 25 April 2013: A barbecue will be held at Christa Galli at an additional cost of R120-00 per person after the Congress. This amount is payable with registration.

Organising Committee:

Astrid Hattingh: 082 853 6228; e-mail: astridhattingh@yahoo.com

Martiens du Plessis: 072 285 5414; e-mail: martiens@nwk.co.za

Jasper Dreyer: 082 801 7622/018 299 1091; e-mail: Jasper.Dreyer@nwu.ac.za

Jan du Toit: 083 627 4402; e-mail jandutoit@omnia.co.za

Third Global Workshop on Proximal Soil Sensing: The increasing awareness of soil as a limited and degrading resource, the threats on soil and the challenge to increase soil productivity makes it evident that there is a need to better understand soil variability in space and time. Proximal soil sensing provides one answer to this need with the development of new methods to measure and quantify soils. Proximal soil sensing is a quickly evolving new discipline, which has been acknowledged with the establishment of a working group within the International Union of Soil Sciences under the Commission of Pedometrics and Soil Physics. Together with local organizers, the working group on proximal soil sensing (WG-PSS) is preparing for the Third Global Workshop on Proximal Soil Sensing in 2013. As with the previous workshops (held in Sydney and Montreal) this workshop will bring together researchers from various disciplines, including soil science, agricultural engineering, geophysics, spectroscopy, agronomy, spatial statistics, as well as commercial entities involved in the development and use of proximal sensors. The focus of the meeting will be on multi-sensor systems, sensor data fusion and new application of proximal soil sensing data. It will be held on May 26th to 29th 2013 in Potsdam, Germany. For more information see the WG-PSS website www.proximalsoilsensing.org and the specific workshop website www.atb-potsdam.de/gwpps2013, or contact Robbing Gebbers (rgebbers@atb-potsdam.de) or Raphael Viscarra Rossel (raphael.viscarra-rossel@csiro.au).

New IUSS President – Rainer Horn

Prof. Rainer Horn has been elected as the new IUSS President. Prof Horn is an international renowned soil physicist from the Christian-Albrechts Universität in Kiel, Germany. Since the start of the IUSS in 1924, the President was always from the country that organized the World Congress of Soil Science. In 2010 it was decided to decouple the President from the Congress – and Rainer Horn is the first elected IUSS President in that role. He will serve as President-Elect until the end of the 20th Congress in June 2014 at which stage he will assume the role of President until the end of 2016 and move into the position of Past President for 2017 and 2018. His term as President-Elect will commence on 1st January, 2013.

Predatory Open-access Journals

Do you regularly get emails asking for article submission in open-access journals? Jeffrey Beall, an academic librarian from University of

Colorado at Denver, has catalogued a list of what he called predatory, open-access publishers: <http://scholarlyoa.com/publishers/>

Predatory open-access journals exploit the author-pays model of open-access publishing for their own profit. These journals prey on young researchers with a promise of rapid articles publishing in exchange for a publishing fee. They usually have no transparency in the process with little or even no peer-review process. There are several soil science titles, e.g. Transnational Journal of Agriculture and Soil Sciences, Journal of Soil Science and Environmental Management (by Academic Journals). Soil scientists may wish to scrutinise this list and think hard whether to submit their work to these journals.

Soil Classification Newsletter

The IUSS Commission 1.4 Soil Classification has published their 3rd Newsletter with the following topics: 1) Greetings from the New Chair; 2) Report on the 4th IUSS Conference for Soil Classification, Lincoln, Nebraska, USA; June 12, 2012; 3) Abstracts presented at the Conference, 4) Guy Smith Medal: Hari Eswaran presented with second Guy Smith Medal, with an introductory slideshow and films by Amy, Chris, and Arthur Smith (granddaughter, grandson, and son of Guy Smith); 5) A review of "On the history of soil classification: Vladimir Fridland and Russian Soil Classification" (by Prof. Maria Gerasimova). The Newsletter is available on www.iuss.org under the tab <IUSS Newsletters>

SA Soil Classification Working Group

Under the convenorship of Freddie Ellis (fe@sun.ac.za), the Soil Classification Working Group has made steady progress towards a revised version of the SA Classification Book, and this has been helped by the news that funds have been allocated by both the ARC and University of Stellenbosch towards preparing the text of the book for publication.

A number of tasks have been allocated, and a two-day workshop will be held after the January 2013 Combined Congress to discuss the results. While funds

are not yet available for the printing of the revised edition, it is important to be able to progress as far as possible in this direction, and it seems that real can now be made.

NEWS FROM SASRI, MOUNT EDGECOMBE

Four members from SASRI attended the International Society for Sugarcane Technologists (ISSCT) workshop for agricultural engineers and agronomists in Townsville, Australia from the 10th to 14th of September 2012. They were Abraham Singels, Riekert van Heerden, Sanesh Ramburan and Rianto van Antwerpen. This visit had several highlights, one of which is shared here.

On the 13th the well-known Herbert region in northern Queensland was visited. Laurence di Bella (Head of Extension in Herbert region) gave an overview of the function of the Herbert Resource Information Centre (HRIC). He introduced the delegates to a web portal accessible to all growers that provides real-time data on the area harvested, monitoring yield, harvest tracking, harvest efficiency etc. They saw probably the most highly organised system for capturing and use of data in the sugarcane world. Farmers, extension, research organisations (including the local university), businesses (including banks), local and national government all agreed to share one platform for relevant data. The end result is a massive database that is used to monitor and to plan support to the sugar industry.

The most striking visual feature is the near real time sugarcane yield logging on the internet from cane harvesters fitted with GPS equipment and other sensors. Cane fields are thus mapped every year for yield and this information is used with variable rate fertiliser application. All soil related and other agronomic data is also captured on the system. Extension can for instance pick up Ca deficiencies as they develop and use this information to mobilise farmers to apply more Ca. When the farmer



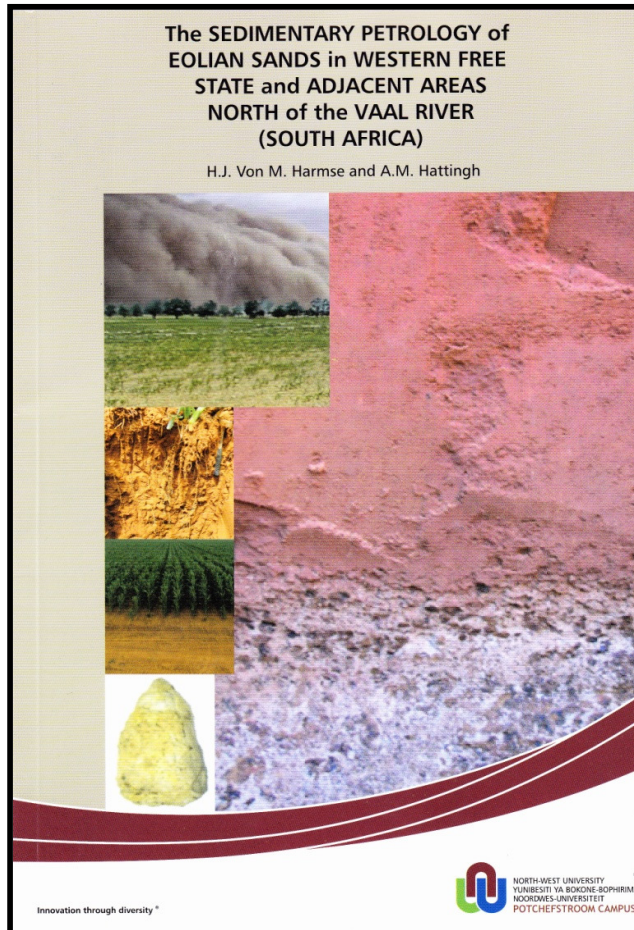
approaches the bank, the latter knows about the problem as well as the client's full financial records and know how much is needed for the prescribed amount of fertiliser, lime, herbicide, etc. In the case of a flood an estimate of the damage is made within 3 days and government provides the funds to repair infrastructure. The HRIC is maintained and run by just 3 people.

The harvester and tractor/trailer are all fitted with GPS equipment. The harvester was also fitted with yield monitoring sensors in four different places.

NORTH WEST UNIVERSITY

A new publication, entitled "The sedimentary petrology of eolian sands in the Western Free State and adjacent areas north of the Vaal River", by Hekkie Harmse and Astrid Hattingh, has been produced.

From the Preface of the book: Soils derived from eolian sand are exclusively utilized for dry land production and irrigation in the north-western Free State, the northern sector of the North West Province, and the western Limpopo Province, to a much wider extent than is popularly realized. The sands are mainly associated with layers of dichronous wind-blown sand, laid down in recurrent arid periods during the Pleistocene. The morphology of these soils and their arable potential, are mainly affected by the age of the various eolian deposits, their thickness, permeability, topographic position on pre-sand-surfaces, texture of the sand fractions, and not so obvious, the influence of underlying rocks (autochthonous) on soil climate.



Soils derived from eolian sand are exclusively utilized for dry land production and irrigation in the north-western Free State, the northern sector of the North West Province, and the western Limpopo Province, to a much wider extent than is popularly realized. The sands are mainly associated with layers of dichronous wind-blown sand, laid down in recurrent arid periods during the Pleistocene. The morphology of these soils and their arable potential, are mainly affected by the age of the various eolian deposits, their thickness, permeability, topographic position on pre-sand-surfaces, texture of the sand fractions, and not so obvious, the influence of underlying rocks (autochthonous) on soil climate.

Three ages of eolian sand can be identified, but there may be a fourth younger, active dune sand which covers a limited area along the Vaal River. The delineated and analysed types differ in age, texture, and mineralogy, as well as properties derived from admixture with underlying rocks, surface drift, distance of transport, colour and physical properties such as susceptibility to compaction, wind erosion and water logging, permeability, porosity, capillarity and leaching of applied fertilizers. Although the influence of the above mentioned physical properties are not equally critical throughout, there are extensive so-called "homogeneous" areas in which the differences in yields in cash crops are far too wide for comfort. These were brought to light by application and the practice of principles of precision farming, in an attempt to offset the unbridled increase in production costs and demand for food.

The principles of investigation of sediments of eolian origin are based on existing literature. Grain-size analyses, calculation such as statistical analysis parameters,

and the identification of heavy minerals, are inevitable procedures to characterize sediments. The most important of these being the use of a nest of sieves spaced at 1/4Ø intervals, after wet sieving through a 4Ø sieve to remove the silt and clay. A shaking machine with pronounced jarring motion yields satisfactory results. Although laborious, the use of grain-size-, heavy-mineral analysis and calculation of Folk and Ward's moment measures, supported by the inevitable study of field relations, remains useful for the comparison of eolian deposits in super- and juxtapositions.

Contrasting evidence with regard to the relative importance of obvious ectodynamic factors, especially soil type and climate, served the long overdue purpose of moving the emphasis from chemical and/or agronomical approaches, to explain the still inexplicable variations in yields on "homogeneous" soil units formed on eolian sand. Unsuspected low and high crop yields on the same soil types emphasized the need to look at the above mentioned physical properties imparted by the particulate or granular nature, of sand fractions on the characteristics of soils derived from eolian sands. Silt and clay in soils derived from eolian sand are usually not regarded in the literature as being the result of in situ weathering. This question would, however, have to remain unresolved.

The area covered by eolian sand is probably the most extensive, relatively homogeneous and under developed areas in the world and should warrant attention by sedimentologists, pedologists, farmers and civil engineers. Construction of highways and railway lines will require information about compactability and characteristics of subgrades. Confronted with these problems we decided to pay attention to popular requests by colleagues, advisors and former students, to prepare results of research on eolian sand, gathered over a long period by the Institute for Pedological Research at the Potchefstroom University, for publication.

Much of the contents have been based upon the author's background in geology, pedology and engineering geology, ably assisted by former students, especially the co-author. To determine the geological history of an area in Africa, within the time-span of soils derived from eolian sand, it is deemed warranted that studies of soils be supported by parallel sedimentary petrological and stratigraphic investigations. Eolian sands cover large tracts of undeveloped land in Africa, south of the Equator, and attention is warranted about age, mineralogy, permeability, drainage, water-holding capacity, erodibility, fertility and suitability as subgrade material.

Copies are available at a price of R150 from:

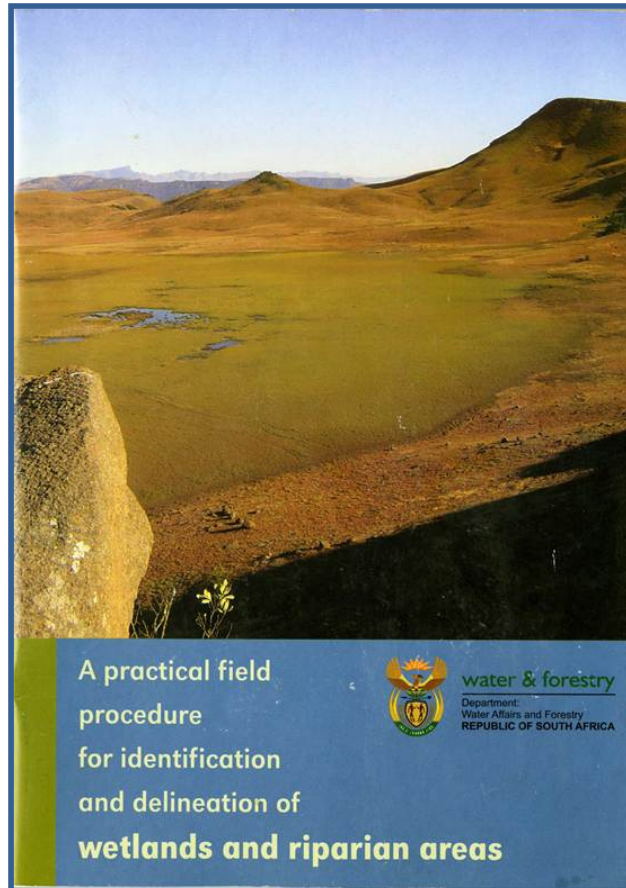
North West University,
Unit for Environmental Science and Management,
Internal Box 375,
Private Bag X6001,
Potchefstroom 2520

(Contact Anita du Plessis at Tel: 018 299 1573, Fax. 018 299 1344).

WETLAND GUIDELINES

An initiative has been launched by the Department of Water Affairs to consult with as many parties as possible concerning revisions to the current Guidelines for the Delineation of Wetland Areas, which were first published in 2005.

The conservation of wetlands, which is a vital component of a healthy environment, starts with the correct delineation of such areas. The two main inputs into the delineation process are soils and vegetation, but as vegetation is often seasonal, and may also be difficult to identify in drought periods or after a fire, the soil component becomes vital to the process. A workshop was held recently at DWA in Pretoria, and for those interested in the process to be followed, more details can be obtained from Naomi Fourie (FourieN@dwa.gov.za; 012 336 8094)



Interestingly, a new Society, the South African Wetland Society (SAWS) has been formed to try and cover all aspects of wetland science, and the newly-elected President, Piet-Louis Grundling (peatland@mweb.co.za; 072 793 8248), will be holding discussions with SACNASP to discuss how SAWS can contribute to the definition of fields of practice and expertise.

NEW AGRICULTURAL ACT

Another initiative which should be brought to the attention of all soil scientists is the proposed new legislation concerning, among others, the protection of high potential agricultural land in South Africa. South Africa is extremely limited in its stocks of high potential soils (less than 13% of the country) and the great tragedy is that much of it occurs in areas underlain by extensive coal deposits, or in areas close to cities where there is great pressure for urban (residential or industrial) development. The original Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act (Act 70 of 1970) is not valid in any of the former homelands, in trust land, state land or parastatal areas, so that

control over the incorrect and/or reckless use of good agricultural land is in many areas non-existent.

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has therefore initiated a project, in conjunction with ARC-ISCW, whereby a task team, under the leadership of Prof Robin Barnard, was asked to prepare a discussion document with proposals for new legislation (Preservation and Development of Agricultural Land Framework Act). This process has now at the stage where a series of stakeholder meetings were held to obtain comment and input from a wide range of organizations. The comments will be included in the final document which will be discussed with Provincial Departments within DAFF, following which a final document will be submitted to parliament in 2013.

NEWS FROM STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

Drs Andrei Rozanov and Ailsa Hardie, and PhD student, Makhosazana Sika, from Stellenbosch University’s Department of Soil Science in the Faculty of Agri Sciences, went to Germany in September 2012 to establish research collaboration with Prof Yakov Kuzyakov, at the Karl-August University in Göttingen. Prof. Kuzyakov is an expert in soil molecular tracer techniques, especially relating to soil organic matter turnover and plant nutrition. The collaboration will enable the Stellenbosch researchers to elucidate the molecular interactions of biochar with chemical fertiliser in soils. Prof. Kuzyakov will also visit Stellenbosch University next

year and give a plenary lecture at the Soil Carbon Day Symposium on 15 February 2013. The cooperation project is being funded by the National Research Foundation (NRF) and the Food Security Initiative, Stellenbosch University.



If you are in the vicinity and are interested in attending, the programme and relevant contact details are given below.

Programme

Time	Speaker	Topic
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09:00	Prof. T.E. Cloete , Vice Rector: Research, Stellenbosch University, South Africa	Opening address
09:15	Prof. M. Karaan , Dean: Agriculture, Stellenbosch University, South Africa	Recent trends in South African Agriculture
09:30	Prof. Y. Kuzyakov , Göttingen University,	Why soil carbon?
10:00	Dr. A. Mills , Stellenbosch University, South Africa	Soil carbon on the international market
10:30	Mr. M. Back , Backsberg wines	Carbon-Neutral farming
<i>11:00 Tea</i>		
11:15	Prof. B. Glaser , Univ of Halle, Germany	Biochar - the coolest of the hot soil amendments
12:00	Dr. A.G. Hardie , Stellenbosch University, South Africa	Biochar research in Stellenbosch: applications and prospects
12:30	Dr. M. Carrier , Stellenbosch University, South Africa	Co-engineering bioenergy and soil fertility
<i>13:00 Lunch</i>		
14:00	Prof. R. Sikora , Univ. of Bonn, Germany	Rhizosphere soil-microbial interactions and plant health in a hostile environment
14:30	Dr. A. Rozanov , Stellenbosch University, South Africa	Soils as a carbon sink - building reserves through sustainable agriculture
15:00	Dr. S. Malherbe , ZZ2, South Africa	Natural farming by ZZ2 and soil organic matter management
15:30	Mr. R. van der Merwe , Probiokashi, South Africa	SU Composting initiative
15:45	Ms. J. Harper , Stellenbosch University, South Africa	SU Food Security initiative
16:00	Dr. A. Rozanov	Closing remarks

Registration fee (includes morning and afternoon tea and full lunch):

R 660 before 15 December 2012

R 750 after 15 December 2012

Registration forms and additional information: <http://www.sun.ac.za/soil/socaday.html>

Contact: Mrs. M. De Clerq: soil.carbon.day@gmail.com

HUMOUR

From Prof Giel Laker: (Just goes to show how predictions can go wrong, in all fields, including technology, entertainment and medicine!):

"Who in their right mind would ever need more than 640k of RAM!?" -- Bill Gates, 1981

"Computers in the future may weigh no more than 1.5 tons." -- Popular Mechanics, forecasting the relentless march of science, 1949

"I think there is a world market for maybe five computers." -- Thomas Watson, chairman of IBM, 1943

"I have traveled the length and breadth of this country and talked with the best people, and I can assure you that data processing is a fad that won't last out the year." -- The editor in charge of business books for Prentice Hall, 1957

"But what ... is it good for?" -- Engineer at the Advanced Computing Systems Division of IBM, 1968, commenting on the microchip.

"There is no reason anyone would want a computer in their home." -- Ken Olson, president, chairman and founder of Digital Equipment Corp., 1977

"This 'telephone' has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication. The device is inherently of no value to us." -- Western Union internal memo, 1876.

"The wireless music box has no imaginable commercial value. Who would pay for a message sent to nobody in particular?" -- David Sarnoff's associates in response to his urgings for investment in the radio in the 1920s.

"The concept is interesting and well-formed, but in order to earn better than a 'C,' the idea must be feasible." -- A Yale University management professor in response to Fred Smith's paper proposing reliable overnight delivery service. (Smith went on to found Federal Express Corp.)

"Who the hell wants to hear actors talk?" --H.M. Warner, Warner Brothers, 1927.

"I'm just glad it'll be *Clark Gable* who's falling on his face and not *Gary Cooper*."
--*Gary Cooper* on his decision not to take the leading role in "*Gone with the Wind*."

"We don't like their sound, and guitar music is on the way out." -- *Decca Recording Co.* rejecting the *Beatles*, 1962.

"Heavier-than-air flying machines are impossible." -- *Lord Kelvin*, president, *Royal Society*, 1895.

"Drill for oil? You mean drill into the ground to try and find oil? You're crazy." -
- *Drillers* who *Edwin L. Drake* tried to enlist to his project to drill for oil in 1859.

"Stocks have reached what looks like a permanently high plateau." -- *Irving Fisher*, *Professor of Economics*, *Yale University*, 1929.

"Airplanes are interesting toys but of no military value." -- *Marecha Ferdinand Foch*, *Professor of Strategy*, *Ecole Superieure de Guerre*.

"Everything that can be invented has been invented." -- *Charles H. Duell*, *Commissioner*, *U.S. Office of Patents*, 1899.

"*Louis Pasteur's* theory of germs is ridiculous fiction". -- *Pierre Pachet*, *Professor of Physiology* at *Toulouse*, 1872

"The abdomen, the chest, and the brain will forever be shut from the intrusion of the wise and humane surgeon". -- *Sir John Eric Ericksen*, *British surgeon*, appointed *Surgeon-Extraordinary* to *Queen Victoria* 1873.

SOIL SCIENCE SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA: MISSION

The SSSSA is a scientific society, which, in the interest of its members, promotes the advancement of soil science and soil technology as well as the responsible practising thereof by its members with the view to the long-term sustainable utilization of the environment in the interest of the community.

Aims

1. Promotion and protection of the professional status and prestige of soil science as a science and career.
2. Promotion and extension of the society.
3. Promotion of the standard of training of soil scientists and technologists.
4. Creation of opportunities for the free exchange of ideas on soil science and technology.
5. The obtaining and dissemination of knowledge, information and ideas having relevance to soil science by means of discussion and publication.
6. Promotion of contact between the society and other bodies with common or similar interests, both within South Africa and overseas.

GRONDKUNDEVERENIGING VAN SUID-AFRIKA: MISSIE

Die GVSA is 'n wetenskaplike vereniging wat in belang van sy lede verbind is tot die bevordering van grondkundige wetenskap en tegnologie, en die verantwoordelike beoefening daarvan deur sy lede met die oog op die lang termyn volhoubare benutting van die omgewing in belang van die gemeenskap.

Doelstellings

1. Bevordering en beskerming van die professionele status en aansien van grondkunde as 'n wetenskaplike beroep.
2. Bevordering en uitbouing van die vereniging.
3. Bevordering van die standaard van opleiding van grondkundige wetenskaplikes en -tegnoloë.
4. Skepping van geleenthede vir vrye gedagtewisseling oor grondkundige wetenskap en tegnologie.
5. Die verkryging en verspreiding van kennis, inligting en idees wat op grondkunde betrekking het by wyse van samesprekings en publikasies.
6. Bevordering van skakeling tussen die vereniging en ander liggame met gemeenskaplike of soortgelyke belange, beide in Suid-Afrika en in die buiteland.