

S-6 Newsletter

24 October 2007

This is the annual S-6 newsletter for 2007. It contains information regarding S-6 symposia, S-6 Awards for 2007, and S-6 Committee information.

2007 ANNUAL MEETINGS

The Division of Soil & Water Management and Conservation continues to make a significant contribution to the success of the annual meetings. The Division was the lead sponsor on 24 sessions that included two hundred nineteen papers (219) for the 2007 meetings in New Orleans. Of those 219 papers, 131 were poster papers and 88 were oral papers, which included 21 presentations by invited speakers. In addition, Division S6 joined other divisions in three symposia that attracted an additional 89 papers, which included 49 oral and 40 poster presentations.

S-6 SYMPOSIA OF INTEREST

This year, each division was limited to two (2) symposia. In addition, S-6 takes a lead role for SSSA in developing the SSSA-SWCS Joint Symposium, which is a society level symposium. We also sponsor the Howard M. Taylor Lectureship.

To view the full technical program, please visit:

<http://a-c-s.confex.com/a-c-s/2007am/techprogram/D1167.HTM>

Symposium 1: "Soil Erosion Processes and Modeling: Past, Present, and Future"

The special symposium titled 'Soil Erosion Processes and Modeling: Past, Present, and Future' will review the achievements of soil erosion science during the last several decades and explore what developments the future might bring. Soil erosion processes and modeling for natural and anthropogenic forces will be explored through invited and volunteered oral presentations as well as a poster session.

Time: Orals 9:25 AM – 3:40 PM, Tuesday, November 6th; Poster session Tuesday, November 6th 4:00-6:00 PM; and orals 9:25 AM – 11:55 AM, Wednesday, November 7th

Place: Orals in Conv. Center, Room 219, Second Floor and Posters in Exhibit Hall A

Organizers: R. Scott Van Pelt and Ted M. Zobeck

Details: <http://a-c-s.confex.com/a-c-s/2007am/techprogram/S3457.HTM>, <http://a-c-s.confex.com/a-c-s/2007am/techprogram/S3483.HTM> and <http://a-c-s.confex.com/a-c-s/2007am/techprogram/S3548.HTM>

Symposium 2: "Major Advances in Soil and Water Conservation: What Now?"

Symposium speakers will address Major Advances in Soil and Water Conservation from the perspective of several geographic regions of the United States. The session will include invited and volunteered papers.

Time: Orals 1:00 PM – 4:55 PM, Tuesday, November 6th; Poster session Tuesday, 4:00-6:00 PM, Wednesday November 7th; and orals 9:25 AM – 10:25 AM, Thursday, November 8th

Place: Orals in Conv. Center, Room 217 (Wednesday) and Room 222 (Thursday), Second Floor and Posters in Exhibit Hall A

Organizers: William Schillinger and Ted M. Zobeck

Details: <http://a-c-s.confex.com/a-c-s/2007am/techprogram/S3456.HTM>, <http://a-c-s.confex.com/a-c-s/2007am/techprogram/S3651.HTM> and <http://a-c-s.confex.com/a-c-s/2007am/techprogram/S3560.HTM>

Howard Taylor Lectureship

Dr. Peter Gregory, Chief Executive and Institute Director of the Scottish Crop Research Institute will present "Routes to Roots: Exploring the Growth and Activity of Roots in Soils" as the Howard M. Taylor Memorial Lecturer on Monday morning at 9:30 am in Room 224 of the Convention Center. Dr. Gregory's talk will contrast soil excavation methods of information gathering about root systems with newer noninvasive techniques, analogous to human body imaging, used to visualize roots. He will also cover some new techniques for investigating the competition for soil phosphate between roots and microbes. "Roots also modify the soil environment biologically, chemically, and physically to enhance plant growth," Gregory says. "Some pests take advantage of these changes to identify host plants." Gregory contributes to a range of research activities from root imaging to determining the impact of global environmental change on food systems. He studies the effects of *Sitona*, a weevil pest, on the production of grass and clover crops. Gregory is also involved in the development of a microfocuss X-ray that uses tomography, imaging by sections, to create a picture of roots and soils. Formerly the leader of the international research project GECAFS, Gregory is currently a member of the group that studies the effects of global environmental change on food systems and human societies as well as the adaptations of food systems in response to global change. Prior to joining the Scottish Crop Research Institute, Gregory taught in the University of Reading's Soil Science Department. He served as Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and Food for two years and then as Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Enterprise from 1998 onwards. He also spent six years working as a research scientist at CSIRO in Perth, Australia. The Howard M. Taylor Memorial Lecture honors the contributions of Dr. Taylor to the profession and is administered by SSSA. (Copied from CSA News)

Abstract: Routes to Roots: Exploring the Growth and Activity of Roots in Soils.

Roots are an essential component of soil biology, but their interactions with soils and other organisms are still poorly understood not least because they live in a complex, opaque medium. Excavation of roots, while time-consuming, still has practical value as a means of observing root types, their spatial distributions, and their location with respect to soil features. Recent measurements with field-grown potatoes demonstrate the variety of forms that exist and hint at how the efficiency of resource capture by the crop might be improved.

Tomographic imaging of the soil-root interface is a new and developing technique with the potential to quantify both the roots and the biophysical complexity at the root/soil interface. For example, a study with five barley genotypes showed that while the overall architecture, as measured by root growth angles, varied significantly between them, these differences were consistently detected using x-ray μ CT, gel chambers and soil sacs. Single images can be analysed to give information about, for example, the angles of lateral root branching or the position of a pathogen relative to the host, but it is the ability to repeatedly image organisms non-invasively that allows the dynamics of root-soil interactions to be studied for the first time. Current studies using wheat and barley containing different dwarfing genes will be discussed. Finally, the ability to genetically modify plants to give specified properties at the root surface is opening up new means to study chemical changes at the root/soil interface. Plants modified to produce phytase provide new insights into the processes of soil organic P transformations and, under appropriate conditions, may also enhance P uptake and yield. Combining appropriate root architecture with root surface properties opens up exciting possibilities for sustainable farming practices.

Time: 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM, Monday, November 5th

Place: Conv. Center, Room 224, Second Floor

Organizers: Bobbie McMichael and Tom Kaspar

2007 Lectureship Committee: Bobbie McMichael, Diane Stott, Tom Kaspar, Ken Van Rees, Kelly Morgan, Andres Quincke, and Ted Zobeck.

Details: <http://a-c-s.confex.com/a-c-s/2007am/techprogram/P31739.HTM>

SSSA – SWCS Joint Symposium

Implications of Bioenergy Production for Agricultural Development

Time: 12:55 PM – 3:45 PM, Monday, November 5th

Place: Conv. Center, Room R02, Second Floor

Organizing Committee: Warren Busscher, Jorge Delgado, Mike Lindstrom, Jeff Vonk

Details: <http://a-c-s.confex.com/a-c-s/2007am/techprogram/S3459.HTM>

DIVISION MEETING

S-6 DIVISION BUSINESS MEETING

11:00 AM-12:00 PM, Monday, November 5th, following the Howard M. Taylor Lectureship

Place: Conv. Center, Room 224, Second Floor (See agenda on last page)

S06 Listserv

To unsubscribe from s06 Listserv:

Send an email to Request-s06@acs-net.soils.org and put "unsubscribe" (just the word without quotes) in the Body of the message. Please do not type anything else in the Subject line or Body of the message. Also, be sure that your default signature is not included in the message.

To subscribe to the S06 Listserv:

Send an email to Request-s06@acs-net.soils.org and put "subscribe" (just the word without quotes) in the body of the message. Please do not type anything else in the Subject line or Body of the message. Also, be sure that your default signature is not included in the message.

AWARDS

2007 S-6 YOUNG SCHOLAR AWARD

2007 Recipient: Christian Renschler

The S06 Young Scholar Award recognizes scientists who have made an outstanding contribution in Soil and Water Management and Conservation within seven years of completing their Ph.D. The 2007 Young Scholar for Division S06 is Dr. Christian Renschler.

Dr. Renschler received his Ph.D. in 2000 at the University of Bonn, in Bonn, Germany, and was recently promoted to Associate Professor with tenure at the University at Buffalo, NY. He has authored or co-authored 26 refereed publications. He has been PI or co-PI on grants approaching \$770,000. His research has focused on geo-spatial modeling of natural resources, hydrology, and erosion. As part of his work, Dr. Renschler has developed and supported



a geo-spatial interface for WEPP, called GeoWEPP, for use with ArcGIS and ArcView. Dr. Renschler's GeoWEPP is being widely used by scientists and land managers in ARS, USDI, BLM, USDA Forest Service, and other land management agencies for land use planning, environmental analysis, and management practice evaluation. As a result, Dr. Renschler has had a major impact on the management and protection of public lands and water resources.

2007 Young Scholar Award Committee: Tom Kaspar (Chair), Diane Stott, Jorge Delgado

S-6 GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD

2007 Recipient: Pingping Jiang

The S6 Graduate Student Award is presented each year to a graduate student whose thesis research and graduate responsibilities utilize creative approaches to gain understanding and develop solutions for soil and water conservation and management problems. The recipient's research must be in soil and water management and conservation. The \$350 award is designed to assist the student with travel expenses associated with attending the annual SSSA meeting. The recipient will be recognized at the Division S6 Business Meeting.

The 2007 awardee is Pingping Jiang, a graduate student at the University of Missouri under the advisement of Drs. Newell Kitchen and Steve Anderson. In May 2007, she graduated with her Ph.D. in environmental soil science with an emphasis in applied soil physics. Her doctoral research was focused on soil hydraulic properties as affected by conservation management and landscape position, and estimating plant available water capacity for claypan soil landscapes using apparent soil electrical conductivity. Her research was focused on site-specific management regarding water use and management. Her research was also useful in providing input information for hydrologic models designed to work at the landscape and watershed scales.



2007 Graduate Student Award Committee: Clark Gantzer (chair), Tom Schumacher, Zhi (Luke) Wang.

2007 UNDERGRADUATE SPEECH CONTEST

S-6 will sponsor an undergraduate speech contest at the annual meetings in Indianapolis, IN. The S-6 contest will be done in conjunction with the ASA National Student Speech Contest and will serve to stimulate student interest in Division S-6 and to recognize the speech that best exemplifies the ideals of our division. The current chair of the committee is Neil Hansen, neil.hansen@colostate.edu. Neil will be rotating off this committee after the 2007 meetings and is looking for someone to participate as a judge in 2007 and learn the duties as chair-elect.

2007 BEST PAPER AWARD

The best paper award will not be awarded in 2007. Two years ago it was decided to let the technical editor and associate editors for S-6 make the selection from the papers they handled. This proved to be unworkable and the technical editor did not receive enough input from the associate editors to make this possible. We had considerable discussion on this topic at our business meeting last year and Dr. Diane Stott agreed to chair a committee to develop guidelines for making this award. Dr. Stott and Dr. Jeff Strock co-chaired this committee. The committee was composed of the following members: Diane Stott, Chair, Jeff Strock, Chair, Johan Six, Warren Busscher, Jorge Delgado, Madhi al-Kaisi, Bhupinder Singh, Jay Jabro, Peter

Shouse, David Lobb, Richard Maiers, and Xinhua Yin. The committee proposed guidelines and a scoring sheet for our comments. These documents are listed below. We will discuss how to now proceed at our Business Meeting on Monday, November 5th.

Best Research Paper for SSSA Division S-6 Guidelines

1. The Chair of the Division will appoint a Chair for the Best Research Paper Award Subcommittee (hereafter referred to as the Committee) who will serve for a three year term.
2. The Chair of the Division, will appoint 6 established scientists to form the Committee. Committee members will serve staggered three year terms.
3. During the first week of February, an indexing service such as 'Web of Science' or 'Scopus' will be searched to determine the number times each paper published in SSSAJ Division S-6 during the last seven years has been cited. Because all indexing services are not available to everyone, Web of Science, Scopus, or some other indexing service will used be at the discretion of the Chair of the Committee.
4. The top five 5 (or 6 if there is a tie) papers that have not previously won the award and that have the highest number of citations will be nominated for best paper.
5. Every member of the Committee will be sent citations for these selected papers and 'SSSA S-6 Best Research Paper Award - Criteria and Scoring Sheets'. The Criteria & Scoring Sheet is to be used to rate them the quality of the papers. Ratings from the scoring sheets will be collected and averaged for each paper by the Chair of the Committee.
6. The final score for rating papers will be based on the average score from #3 plus the number of citations normalized to 100 divided by 2. (Normalization will be calculated by giving the paper with the highest number of citations a rating of 100. Those with a lower number of citations will be given a value based on their number of citations divided by the highest number of citations times 100.)
7. The following rules will be observed because papers will be competing for the award for a number of years.
 - a. If a paper receives an award, it will not be eligible to win the award again.
 - b. If a paper receives an exceptionally high score during its period of eligibility for 'Best Research Paper' but it does not receive an award, it can be considered for an 'Honorable Mention' award in its last year of eligibility because it will not be able to compete again. "Honorable Mention" will not be considered for a paper that has a chance to win the award in a future year.
 - c. No author will be eligible to win the award more than two years in a row.
8. Once officially established, these rules will be reviewed for relevancy every 3 to 5 years and may be modified by the Committee, with the approval of the SSSA Division S-6 Executive committee. The Executive Committee has the option of sending extensive modifications to the Division as a whole for approval.

**SSSA DIVISION S-6 BEST RESEARCH PAPER AWARD
Criteria and Scoring Sheet**

Paper Title _____

Journal No/Page _____

Should this paper be considered for an award? _____

SCORE Max

I. Advancement of Knowledge, Literature and Profession (30 pts. possible)

- | | | | |
|-------|--------|----|---|
| _____ | 5 pts. | a) | Was a novel subject addressed? |
| _____ | 5 pts. | b) | Will findings benefit one or more end user groups? |
| _____ | 5 pts. | c) | Use of scientific approach apparent and relevant? |
| _____ | 5 pts. | d) | Latest techniques used? |
| _____ | 5 pts. | e) | Were the hypotheses answered or objectives met? |
| _____ | 5 pts. | f) | Were conclusions warranted and implications clearly stated? |

II. Communication (25 pts. possible)

- | | | | |
|-------|--------|----|---|
| _____ | 5 pts. | a) | Clarity of expression (e.g. Objectives well stated) |
| _____ | 5 pts. | b) | Completeness of presentation (e.g. References germane and complete) |
| _____ | 5 pts. | c) | Continuity |
| _____ | 5 pts. | d) | Conciseness (elimination of irrelevant aspects) |
| _____ | 5 pts. | e) | Stimulating to reader |

III. Originality (score a or b or c as applicable) (5 pts. possible)

- | | | | |
|-------|-------|----|--|
| _____ | | a) | Is subject matter original with author? |
| _____ | | b) | Is the approach original with author? |
| _____ | 5 pts | c) | Is viewpoint fresh and original with author? |

IV. Citations & Downloads (40 pts. possible)

- | | | | |
|-------|---------|----|--|
| _____ | 20 pts. | a) | Normalized score for relative number of downloads (see Best Research Paper protocol) |
| _____ | 20 pts. | b) | Normalized score for relative number of times cited (see Best Research Paper protocol) |

_____ **Total Score (0 to 100)**

* High-point score indicates excellence. Use full zero-to-maximum on individual items to obtain maximum point spread.

(This is a modification of forms used by the American Society of Agricultural Engineers and the Soil & Water Conservation Society)

DIVISION S-6 CONTACT INFORMATION

Chair (2007), Ted Zobeck tzobeck@lbk.ars.usda.gov
Chair-Elect (Chair, 2008), Brian Wienhold bwienhold1@unl.edu
Incoming Chair-Elect (Chair, 2009), Neil Hansen, neil.hansen@colostate.edu
Past Chair (Chair, 2006), Tom Kaspar, kaspar@nstl.gov
Board Representative (2006-2008), Diane Stott destott@purdue.edu
SSSA Journal S-6 Technical Editor, Seth Dabney sdabney@ars.usda.gov
SSSA Rapid Response Contact, Div S-06 (2007), Diane Stott destott@purdue.edu

S-6 COMMITTEES

2008 S-6 PROGRAM (HOUSTON, TX, OCT. 5-9)

SSSA Division S-6 2008 Chair, Brian Weinhold

Send Brian ideas for 2008 symposia and special sessions. Better yet, volunteer to organize a symposium for the next meeting. It's a great way to become involved. Topics will be discussed during the S-6 Division Business Meeting. Currently, we are allowed two symposia at the annual meeting. We can also organize non-funded oral or poster sessions around specific themes.

2008 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chair, 2008 (2010) Ted Zobeck tzobeck@lbk.ars.usda.gov
Member (2009) Tom Kaspar, kaspar@nstl.gov
Member (2008) Diane Stott, destott@purdue.edu

The internet run-off election for Chair-Elect and Board Rep (2009-2011). will close On Nov. 1, 2007 at 4:00 PM CST. The Run-off election is needed to narrow the field down to two candidates for each office. The results of the run-off election will be announced at the business meeting. Since only members of our Division vote for the position of SWCS Liaison (2009-2011), we will accept nominations until the business meeting for this office. We have four candidates for the office of Chair-Elect: R. Louis Baumhardt, Clark J. Gantzer, Harry H. Schomberg, and Brenton Sharratt. We have four candidates for the office of Board Rep (2009-2011): Tom Kaspar, Martin Locke, Jeff Strock, and Harold van Es. Please vote for one candidate for each office at: <https://www.soils.org/divisions/s06/elections/index.php>

We are also soliciting names for a new Liaison to the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS). Warren Busscher's term expires at the end of the Business meeting in 2008 and we need to refill this 3-year (2009-2011) position. The duties of the Liaison are to coordinate with the Chair and Past-Chair all joint activities between S6 and SWCS, including joint symposia at SSSA Annual Meetings and SWCS Annual Meetings. As with our previous nominations, please make sure that the person you nominate is willing to serve. In other words, ask them first. Send the name and email address of the nominee to the Nominations Committee Chair, Ted Zobeck at tzobeck@lbk.ars.usda.gov. Obtain a second for your nomination. The 'second' must email the Nominations Committee Chair, Ted Zobeck at tzobeck@lbk.ars.usda.gov to second the nomination. Please ensure the nominee is a member of SWCS. Since this is not a society-wide election, we will also take nominations at the business meeting and vote for only this position at the Business meeting.

2008 SSSA – SWCS JOINT SYMPOSIUM

Chair, Warren Busscher, busscher@florence.ars.usda.gov

Member, Jorge Delgado, jorge.delgado@ars.usda.gov

Member, SWCS Member, lindstrom@morris.ars.usda.gov

Member, SWCS Board Rep, jeff.vonk@dnr.state.ia.us

2008 HOWARD M. TAYLOR LECTURESHIP COMMITTEE S711.13

The membership of this committee is appointed in part by the SSSA President-Elect, but contact any of the following for information, interest in serving on the committee in the future, or for suggestions for next year's selection for lecturer.

2008 Chair, Ted Zobeck tzobeck@lbk.ars.usda.gov

2008 Chair-Elect, Brian Wienhold bwienhold1@unl.edu

2008 Member, Diane Stott, destott@purdue.edu

2008 Member, Bobbie McMichael, bmc michael@lbk.ars.usda.gov

2008 Member, Bob Stewart, bstewart@mail.wtamu.edu

2008 Member, Kelly Morgan, ktm@ifas.ufl.edu

2008 Member, Tom Kaspar, kaspar@nstl.gov

2008 YOUNG SCHOLAR AWARD COMMITTEE

Chair, Ted Zobeck tzobeck@lbk.ars.usda.gov

Member, Tom Kaspar, kaspar@nstl.gov

Member, Diane Stott, destott@purdue.edu

2008 GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD

Chair, Clark Gantzer, GantzerC@missouri.edu

Member, Zhi (Luke) Wang, zwang@csufresno.edu

Member, Tom Schumacher, Thomas_Schumacher@sdstate.edu

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

Welcome – Ted Zobeck, 2007 S6 Chair

Awards

S6 Young Scholar of the Year Award: Presented by Tom Kaspar

S6 Graduate Student Award: Presented by Clark Gantzer

S6 Undergraduate Student Speech Contest Award: Presented by Neil Hansen

Board of Directors Report - Diane Stott, S6 Board Rep

SWCS Liaison Report – Warren Busscher

Nominations/Election for SWCS Liaison 2009-2011

Division S06 Technical Editor's Comments – Seth Dabney

Best Paper Award Discussion – Jeff Strock

2007 Symposia Discussion – Brian Weinhold, S6 Chair-Elect

General Business, Announcements, and Discussion
Soil and Water Scholarship Fund – Jerry Lemunyon

Introduction of the New Chair and Chair-Elect

Adjourn