

## **S-6 Newsletter**

### **12 September, 2008**

This is the annual S-6 newsletter for 2008. It contains information regarding S-6 symposia, S-6 Awards for 2008, and S-6 Committee information.

#### **2008 ANNUAL MEETINGS**

The Soil & Water Management and Conservation Division is a lead or co-sponsor for 24 sessions at this year's annual meeting. These sessions included 185 papers. Of these 110 were poster presentations and 75 were oral presentations. The number of papers for the division is a little lower than in recent years largely due to the number of papers division members are contributing to symposia being Co-sponsored by the Geological Society of America and the Tri-Societies.

#### **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. In 2008 we will sponsor the Howard M. Taylor Lectureship for the last time.

To view the full technical program, please visit:  
<http://a-c-s.confex.com/crops/2008am/webprogram/S67.HTML>

#### **Symposium 1: "Pedology, Soil Change, and Management Effects on Soil Quality"**

Time: Orals 7:55 AM Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>; Poster session 4-6 PM, Wednesday October 8<sup>th</sup>.  
Place: Orals in Conv. Center, Room 361F, Posters in Exhibit Hall E  
Organizers: Larry West, Susan Andrews, and Arlene Tugel

#### **Symposium 2: "Research Needs to Improve Soil Conservation Models"**

Time: Orals 1:25 PM Monday October 6<sup>th</sup>.  
Place: Orals in Conv. Center, Room 361F  
Organizer: Brian Wienhold

#### **Howard Taylor Lectureship**

The 2008 Howard M. Taylor Memorial Lectureship will be given by Dr. David M. Eissenstat, professor of woody plant physiology at Penn State University, on Monday, 6 October at 8:30 am in Room 362DE of the George R. Brown Convention Center. The title of his presentation is "An Ecological Perspective on Root Physiology and Dynamics." Eissenstat says many aspects of root physiology, growth, and turnover can be better understood by using ecological principles. This includes optimization to minimize costs and maximize benefits and trade-offs associated with a particular growth strategy. For example, root construction to produce surface area varies widely among species. This may lead to trade-offs in mycorrhizal colonization or in the ability to proliferate in resource-rich patches. Roots also may be constructed to be well defended and live a long time, which may influence how they expend carbon for maintenance and defense. And this may influence resources expended to enhance specific nutrient and water absorption rates relative to that expended for defense against herbivores and pathogens. Eissenstat says an ecological perspective is not only useful in understanding variation in root traits in wild species, but in many of our crop cultivars as well. Eissenstat has

research sites throughout the United States and the world, with projects in Greenland, Poland, and China. His research areas include climate change; ecosystems ecology; physiology of fruit crops including apples, grapes, and blueberries; and root biology and ecology. He is currently the associate director of the Northeast Regional Center of the Department of Energy National Institute for Climatic Change and chair of the Intercollege Graduate Degree Program in Ecology at Penn State. Eissenstat completed his undergraduate studies in agriculture at Cornell University before receiving his M.S. in range science from the University of Idaho. He then attended Utah State University, where he was awarded a Ph.D. in plant physiological ecology. The Howard M. Taylor Memorial Lectureship honors the contributions of Dr. Taylor to the profession and was established to focus attention on soil-root relationships. The program is administered by SSSA. (Copied from CSA News)

**Abstract:** An Ecological Perspective on Root Physiology and Dynamics.

Many aspects of root physiology, growth and turnover can be better understood by using ecological principles, including optimization to minimize costs and maximize benefits and trade-offs associated with a particular growth strategy. For example, root construction to produce surface area varies widely among species. This may lead to trade-offs in mycorrhizal colonization or in the ability to proliferate in resource-rich patches. Evidence for this trade-off can be found in citrus rootstocks, grape rootstocks and native tree species in the forest. Roots also may be constructed to be well defended and live a long time, which may influence how these roots expend carbon for maintenance and defense. This may influence resources expended to enhance specific nutrient and water absorption rates relative to that expended for defense against herbivores and pathogens. Such patterns of resource expenditure can be studied as a function of root age. Short-lived roots may have high nutrient absorption rates initially, but decline rapidly with age. Longer-lived roots may exhibit a lower, more stable pattern of nutrient absorption. An ecological perspective is not only useful in understanding variation in root traits in wild species, but in many of our crop cultivars as well.

Time: 8:25 am Monday, October 6

Place: Conv. Center, Room 362DE

Organizers: Bobbie McMichael and Tom Kaspar

2008 Lectureship Committee: Bobbie McMichael, Diane Stott, Tom Kaspar, Bob Stewart, Brian Wienhold, and Ted Zobeck.

### **SSSA – SWCS Joint Symposium**

#### **Water Availability and Use for Crop Feedstock and Biofuel Production**

Time: 1:00 PM Monday, October 6<sup>th</sup>.

Place: Conv. Center, Room 361F

Liaison: Warren Busscher (2008), Jorge Delgado (2011)

### **DIVISION MEETING**

#### **S-6 DIVISION BUSINESS MEETING**

9:45 AM, Monday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, following the Howard M. Taylor Lectureship

Place: Conv. Center, Room 362DE (See agenda on last page)

### **S06 Listserv**

To unsubscribe from s06 Listserv:

Send an email to [Request-s06@acs-net.soils.org](mailto: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](mailto: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**

Additional information on S-6 awards is available at <http://www.soils.org/divisions/s6/award/>

### **2008 S-6 YOUNG SCHOLAR AWARD**

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 selection process for the 2008 Young Scholar for Division S06 is ongoing and the winner will be announced during the S-6 Business Meeting on Monday October 6<sup>th</sup>.

2009 Young Scholar Award Committee: Brian Wienhold (Chair), Ted Zobeck, and Tom Kaspar

### **S-6 GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD**

2008 Recipient: Mr. Michael Mulvaney, Agronomy, and Soils, Auburn University.

Michael Mulvaney is a doctoral candidate in Agronomy and Soils at Auburn University under the advisement of Professor Charles Wesley Wood. His research areas focus on finding sustainable methods to feed an expanding population. This research includes study of organic mulches and high-residue cover crops in no-till systems; peanut residue decomposition and nutrient release rates under conservation tillage; and alley cropping for soil conservation.

Mulvaney's research on organic mulches and cover crops in no-till systems explores ways to reduce herbicide use in no-till farming and is testing the weed-control potential of an annual rotation of winter rye followed by a high-biomass summer cover crop and organic mulches. His research on residue management and plant residue nitrogen (N) from peanut to succeeding crops suggests that N is released quickly after peanut harvest if residue is left in the field. His work on alley cropping includes use of beneficial crops as hedgerows for production and improved soil quality.

Prior to working at Auburn, Mr. Mulvaney served for U.S. Peace Corps, as an agricultural extension volunteer, in Bolivia where he managed and implemented community agriculture programs in rural Quechua villages.

Mr. Mulvaney received his B.Sc. in Chemistry from the University of Connecticut in 1995.

2009 Graduate Student Award Committee: Clark Gantzer (chair), Tom Schumacher, Zhi (Luke) Wang.

### **2008 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 Steve Green, [sgreen@astate.edu](mailto:sgreen@astate.edu). Contact Steve if you are interested in participating as a judge.

### **2008 BEST PAPER AWARD**

Tristram O. West and Wilfred M. Post were selected to receive the best paper award for their paper titled "Soil Organic Carbon Sequestration Rates by Tillage and Crop Rotation: A Global Data Analysis".

Best Paper Committee is chaired by Jeff Strock (2010) with the following members: Mahdi Al Kaisi (2010), Kris Brye (2010), Ken Potter (2009), Upendra Sainju (2009), Dana Sullivan (2008), and Eleanor Milne (2008).

### **DIVISION S-6 CONTACT INFORMATION**

Chair (2008), Brian Wienhold, [brian.wienhold@ars.usda.gov](mailto:brian.wienhold@ars.usda.gov)  
Chair-Elect (Chair, 2009), Neil Hansen, [neil.hansen@colostate.edu](mailto:neil.hansen@colostate.edu)  
Incoming Chair-Elect (Chair, 2010), Harry Schomberg, [harry.schomberg@ars.usda.gov](mailto:harry.schomberg@ars.usda.gov)  
Past Chair (Chair, 2007), Ted Zobeck, [ted.zobeck@ars.usda.gov](mailto:ted.zobeck@ars.usda.gov)  
Board Representative (2009-2011), Howard van Es, [hmv1@cornell.edu](mailto:hmv1@cornell.edu)  
SSSA Journal S-6 Technical Editor, Seth Dabney, [sdabney@ars.usda.gov](mailto:sdabney@ars.usda.gov)  
SSSA Rapid Response Contact, Div S-06 (2009), Diane Stott, [diane.stott@ars.usda.gov](mailto:diane.stott@ars.usda.gov)

### **S-6 COMMITTEES**

#### **2009 S-6 PROGRAM (PITTSBURGH, PA, NOVEMBER 1-5)**

SSSA Division S-6 2009 Chair, Neil Hansen

Send Neil ideas for 2009 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.

#### **2009 NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Chair, 2009 (2011) Brian Wienhold, [brian.wienhold@ars.usda.gov](mailto:brian.wienhold@ars.usda.gov)  
Member (2010) Ted Zobeck, [ted.zobeck@ars.usda.gov](mailto:ted.zobeck@ars.usda.gov)  
Member (2009) Tom Kaspar, [tom.kaspar@ars.usda.gov](mailto:tom.kaspar@ars.usda.gov)

The internet run-off election for Chair-Elect (2011) will close On Oct. 1, 2008 at 4:00 PM CST. The Run-off election is needed to narrow the field down to two candidates. The results of the run-off election will be announced at the business meeting. We have five candidates for the office of Chair-Elect: R. Louis Baumhardt, Clark J. Gantzer, Teferi Tsegaye, Mark Liebig, and Jeff Strock.

#### **2009 SSSA – SWCS JOINT SYMPOSIUM**

Chair, Jorge Delgado, [jorge.delgado@ars.usda.gov](mailto:jorge.delgado@ars.usda.gov)  
Member, SSSA Member, open  
Member, SWCS Member, [lindstrom@morris.ars.usda.gov](mailto:lindstrom@morris.ars.usda.gov)  
Member, SWCS Board Rep, [jeff.vonk@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:jeff.vonk@dnr.state.ia.us)

There is an opportunity for a S-6 division member to serve on the SSSA – SWCS Joint Symposium committee. If you are interested contact Jorge Delgado.

## **2009 YOUNG SCHOLAR AWARD COMMITTEE**

Chair, Brian Wienhold, [brian.wienhold@ars.usda.gov](mailto:brian.wienhold@ars.usda.gov)  
Member, Ted Zobeck, [ted.zobeck@ars.usda.gov](mailto:ted.zobeck@ars.usda.gov)  
Member, Tom Kaspar, [tom.kaspar@ars.usda.gov](mailto:tom.kaspar@ars.usda.gov)

## **2009 GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD**

Chair, Clark Gantzer, [GantzerC@missouri.edu](mailto:GantzerC@missouri.edu)  
Member, Zhi (Luke) Wang, [zwang@csufresno.edu](mailto:zwang@csufresno.edu)  
Member, Tom Schumacher, [Thomas\\_Schumacher@sdstate.edu](mailto:Thomas_Schumacher@sdstate.edu)

## **BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA**

Welcome – Brian Wienhold, 2008 S6 Chair

### Awards

S6 Young Scholar of the Year Award: Presented by Ted Zobeck  
S6 Graduate Student Award: Presented by Clark Gantzer  
S6 Undergraduate Student Speech Contest Award: Presented by Neil Hansen  
Best Paper Award Presented by Jeff Strock

Board of Directors Report - Diane Stott, S6 Board Rep

SWCS Liaison Report and introduction of incoming SWCS Liaison – Warren Busscher

Division S06 Technical Editor's Comments – Seth Dabney

General Business, Announcements, and Discussion

Introduction of the New Chair and Chair-Elect

2007 Symposia Discussion – Neil Hanson, S6 Chair-Elect

Adjourn