



PEDOLOGUE

• Winter (first 2013 issue) 2013

Newsletter of:
Mid-Atlantic Association of Professional Soil Scientists
Edited by Del Fanning
DelvinDel@aol.com or dsf@umd.edu

Current MAPSS Officers – with brief description of some of their duties:

President: Barry Glotfelty --Ex-officio member of all committees except Nominations.

Past President: John Wah -- Chairperson of Nominations Committee

President Elect: Afton Sterling – To Develop Programs for her Presidential Year, 2013

Vice President: Brian Needelman -- Chairperson of Membership and Ethics Committee

Treasurer: Sara Roberts -- Ex-officio member of Finance Committee

Secretary: James Brewer -- Keeps accurate records of MAPSS membership etc.

Member at Large (1yr):– David Verdone -- Helps organize and promotes Assoc. meetings

Member at Large (2yr): Robert Bricker -- In Absence of secretary, record minutes etc.

Ex officio Member: Amanda Moore-(NRCS State Soil Scientist)—consultant to council

Board of Directors: Board ensures the Council executes duties, reviews actions of Council, meets with Executive Council at their board meetings etc.

Cliff Stein to serve 1 year

Susan Davis to serve 2 years

Del Fanning to serve 3 years

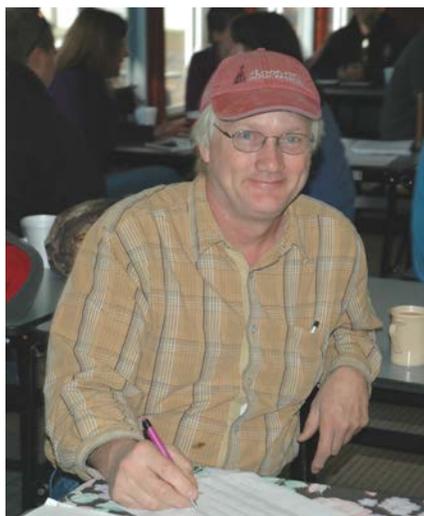
In this issue:

- **Editor's Comments. Page 2.**
- **Afton Sterling, MAPSS 2013 President-Elect introduces herself, by Afton Sterling. Page 3.**
- **2012 Meeting of the Pennsylvania Geographical Society and the Middle Atlantic Division of the Association of American Geographers, Salisbury, MD. November 2 and 3, 2012, by Susan Demas. Page 4.**
- **MAPSS FIELD DAYS, Nov. 8-9, 2012, RECAP, by MAPSS President Barry Glotfelty. Page 5.**
- **Summary of my presentation for the MAPSS, Nov. 8, 2012 program for sanitarians, by Steven Krieg. Page 6**
- **Some of what I told/showed the sanitarians workshop group at Camp Merrick, Nov. 8, 2012, by Del Fanning. Page 7.**
- **Field Indicators of Hydric Soils in the Atlantic Coastal Plain, by Mark Burchick. Page 9.**
- **Carl Robinette's and Diane Shields's Retirement Messages, by them. Page 14.**
- **Leslie William (Bill) Kick Obit, by Steve Carlisle. Page 16**
- **Calendar of coming events. Page 18. Call for future articles, etc., Page 18.**

Editor's Comments. I am thankful with this issue, the first for 2013, for contributions from several people -- MAPSS President-Elect Afton Sterling; MAPSS member Susan Demas; MAPSS President Barry Glotfelty; MAPSS member Steven Krieg; and Mark Burchick, who, although a MAPSS member, is a professional who enrolled in the program who took some great pictures and made some observations at the hydric soils indicators program on Nov. 9 that he is sharing with us. I'm also putting in a blurb on some of what I presented to the sanitarians group. It permits me to share some stuff from some old-time publications that many may have forgotten about or possibly never knew about. I decided, partly because I haven't yet put it together, to not have a second installment on my trip to the Seventh International Acid Sulfate Soils Conference in Finland in this issue. I remind readers that my first installment is in the last, Fall 2012, issue. President Glotfelty has let me know that he is pleased to let me have the floor to make an oral presentation on the acid sulfate soils conference at MAPSS membership meeting, which should be coming up in February, 2013. However, our officers have not yet let me know when or where the membership meeting will take place. Somebody needs to get busy to set up the membership meeting so it can be announced to MAPSS membership and others who MAPSS may want to invite to that event.

Pushing my acid sulfate soils agenda for 2013, I am announcing my intention, which has support from University of Maryland (UM) Department of Environmental Science and Technology (ENST), to teach a one-credit Acid Sulfate Soils course at UM in the Fall Semester 2013. This course is not yet officially on the books, but I am working with ENST folks to try to make it happen. I am hoping to have one a one-hour lecture/demonstration each week of the semester, possibly on each Friday morning, and at least one all day Saturday field trip, probably along the lines of the trip that was run for the MAPSS acid sulfate soils field trip that took place in November, 2011. My goal is to get students from beyond soil science, particularly ones from civil and environmental engineering and from geology and geography and perhaps also environmental law into this course. I am hoping for MAPSS support to promote this course. Perhaps MAPSS/VAPSS can run another symposium/field trip next fall that can utilize some of educational materials to be put together for the course and join forces for setting up and running the field trip.

I finish with a couple of pictures of heroes of the MAPSS programs at Camp Merrick, Nov. 8-9 -- on the left, MAPSS President Barry Glotfelty shown signing people in for the hydric soils indicators program on the morning of Nov. 9, and, on the right, Gary and Debbie Jellick in front of cliff face looking west into the sun in late afternoon after the conference was over on Nov. 9. Note late retirement messages from Diane and Carl.



**Happy 2013
EVERYONE -- from MAPSS, May we all have great soils experiences this year.**

Afton Sterling, MAPSS 2013 President-Elect introduces herself, by Afton Sterling,

I am a 2006 graduate of the Pennsylvania State University with a degree in Archaeological Sciences and a minor in Environmental Soil Science. While at Penn State I was an active member of the Penn State Soil Judging Team and served as an undergraduate soils field assistant for the 2006 Penn State Department of Anthropology Archaeological Field School in Huntington County, PA. I was initially drawn to soil science from an introductory course taught by Dr. Dan Fritton and was pleased to see the close connection soil scientists and archaeologists share.

I am currently employed as a Soil Scientist and Archaeologist at RETTEW Associates, Inc. out of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where I have worked since 2010. I recently started my Masters degree at Shippensburg University in Geoenvironmental Studies focusing on Geomorphology. I currently live in Lancaster with my husband Cole (another Penn State soil graduate), my new son George, and our two dogs Mason and Parker.

I am looking forward to my term as MAPSS president and hope that the 2013 year is a successful one. I am open to suggestions on activities and meetings and hope that all members of MAPSS feel comfortable communicating freely about things they'd like to see happen within our organization.



Editor's Comment: Thanks Afton for your introduction and the pictures. George is a cute guy, hope he joins his parents to become a great soil scientist -- maybe on the Maryland soil judging team? Maryland needs more recruits from PA.

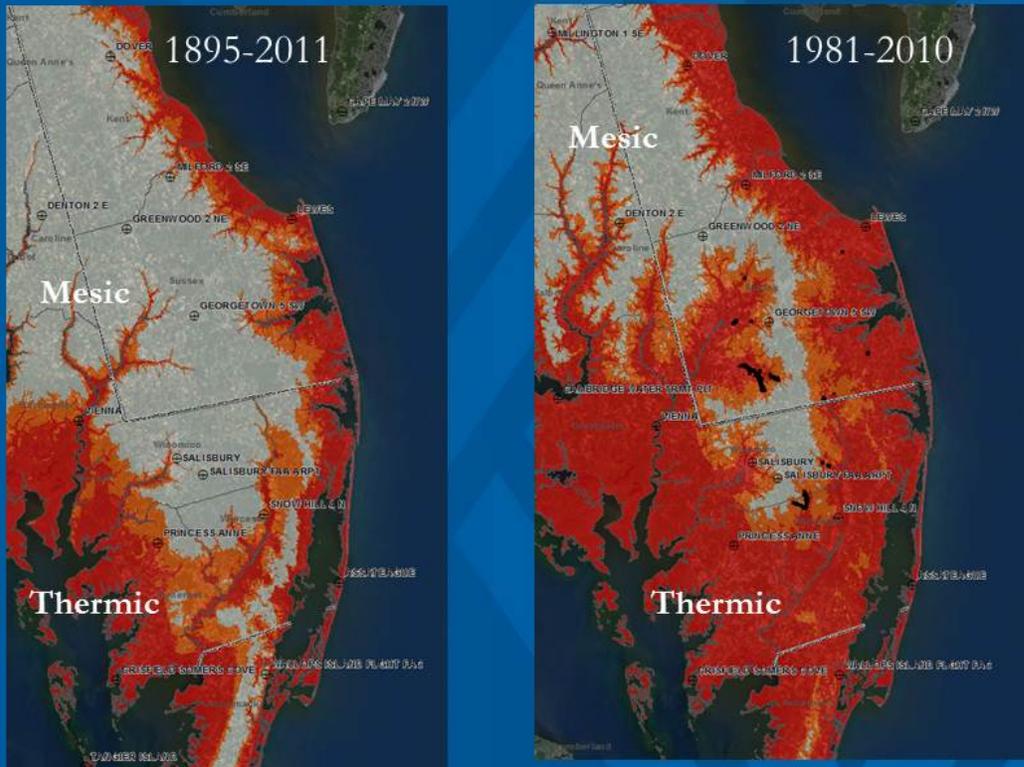
MAPSS hopes that your 2013 term as MAPSS President will be a successful one. The organization is standing by to help you in every way it can.

2012 Meeting of the Pennsylvania Geographical Society and the Middle Atlantic Division of the Association of American Geographers, Salisbury, MD. November 2 and 3, 2012. Brief overview by Susan Demas, MLRA Soil Scientist USDA (Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Hammonton, NJ.

On November 2nd and 3rd 2012, a joint meeting of the [Pennsylvania Geographical Society and the Middle Atlantic Division of the Association of American Geographers was held at Salisbury University in Salisbury, MD.](#) Several papers and presentations were given on such diverse topics as GIS and remote sensing, human geography, weather and climate, and geography education. In addition students actively participated as well as displayed posters and maps which were later judged as part of a student presentation competition. The event culminated in an awards banquet which was held at the Ward Museum of Waterfowl Art. The guest speaker, Dr. Michael Folkoff, 2012 Distinguished Pennsylvania Geographical Society Geographer and currently on staff at Salisbury University, spoke on the topic of “Legacy Mill Ponds on the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland, in Wicomico County, MD”. A post-meeting fieldtrip to Furnacetown provided the opportunity to visit a baldcypress remnant and learn more about the bog iron mining in Nassawango Swamp and its processing into pig iron from 1820-1850.

Of particular note, Dr. William Waltman, Research Associate, Division of Plant and Soil Sciences, West Virginia University, and Sharon Waltman, Soil Scientist-Geospatial Analyst, National Soil Survey Center Geospatial Research Unit (USDA NRCS) presented work on “Soil Climate Regimes across the Delmarva Peninsula”. Utilizing the new [Java Newhall Simulation Model](#), they were able to predict soil climate regimes on an annual basis and in 30 year increments from data as far back as 1895 for multiple weather stations across the Delmarva. These weather stations are part of [US Historical Climatology Network and National Weather Service Cooperative Network](#) stations. The Newhall model relates weather station (point) mean monthly air temperature and monthly total precipitation measurements and estimates soil climate regimes. Further by employing methods related to regression equation development, terrain mapping of the regression, they were able to graphically demonstrate with GIS where the Mesic, Thermic, and Mesic/Thermic tensional zones occur for the Delmarva. Results of this work indicate that soil climate regimes for the Delmarva Peninsula are not static and have been gradually becoming warmer and drier over time. In general, the Peninsula, at least at lower elevations, has been changing from Mesic to Thermic commencing during the latter part of the twentieth century. The work showed that soil climate is dynamic and presents an interesting challenge for soil scientists who are faced with classifying soil climate regimes into a single or static regime for soil family placement according to Soil Taxonomy. See Figure 1, from the Waltman’s Power Point presentation and used here with their permission.

Preliminary STR Terrain Modeling



USDA/NRCS Geospatial Research Unit

Figure 1. Preliminary Soil Temperature Regime Terrain Regression Surfaces. Red = Thermic; Orange = Thermic/Mesic tensional or oscillation zone; Grey = Mesic. 90m terrain model (NEDS source).

By all accounts the Meeting Arrangement Committee put together a great program and Salisbury University hosted an excellent meeting. It was evident from the student presentations that Geography students at Salisbury University have a keen awareness and interest in GIS, geomorphology, and climatology, as evidenced by the caliber of their projects. Salisbury University students are actively seeking student intern research topics that can include soil science. Given local expertise of the Salisbury Geography faculty, possible soil topics could include pollen studies to help identify and date various sediments (pollen analyses to estimate paleoclimates). Anyone who may be able to assist is asked to contact Susan Demas at susan.demas@nj.usda.gov or Diane Shields diane.shields@de.usda.gov, but now following her retirement at dash50@verizon.net (eds. note).

MAPSS FIELD DAYS, Nov. 8-9, 2012, RECAP by MAPSS President Barry Glotfelty

A little more than one week after Hurricane Sandy, and despite the chance of rain in early forecasts, a hearty thirty two were in attendance at the first of two MAPSS back to back field days at Lions Camp Merrick, a 300 acre site on the banks of the Potomac River in southern Charles County. The attending Soil Scientists, Registered Environmental Health Specialists – Sanitarians, Geologists and Engineers were rewarded with a breakfast of presentations on testing methods relating to the performance of onsite sewage disposal systems on soils with restrictive horizons, their identification, and identification of resultant perched water tables and other conditions that affect sewage disposal system interpretations. President Barry Glotfelty, R.S., Chief of MDE's Onsite Systems Division, welcomed the attendees with a review of basic factors and processes in soil formation

and the key morphological characteristics involved in determinations for onsite sewage disposal systems. Steven Krieg, REHS, R.S., Regional Consultant with MDE's Onsite Systems Division, presented a history of the percolation test, its use and limitations, and reviewed other permeability test methods used in Maryland. Dr. Del Fanning, Professor Emeritus, University of Maryland gave the final presentation of the morning and discussed water table relationships in soils, including some with restrictive horizons (particularly fragipans) and his personal research experience in developing methods of measuring water tables and percolation testing.. During the delicious lunch provided by Heidi Fick of the camp, old friends caught up with each other and new friendship were started. After a short hike to the field, the attendees split up into two groups to view four pits in a drainage catena, the examination of which showed the influence of slope as a determiner of a soil's drainage class. Redoximorphic features, masses, depletions, and an excellent example of manganese concretions could be readily viewed in the dry pits. Discussions centered on the description of the soil properties and their effect on the potential for approval and design of sewage disposal systems at each pit. The groups reunited to examine and discuss two additional pits with discussions lively enough to see dusk descend before the last of the participants departed. The day, as did the one to follow, provided an excellent networking opportunity for individuals representing government, academia, consulting and engineering fields, and an enjoyable day viewing interesting soils in a beautiful setting.

The second day's event was billed as Field Indicators of Hydric Soils in the Atlantic Coastal Plain. Gary Jellick welcomed the crowd of over 60 MAPSS members and wetland scientists. A morning of presentations followed with Jim Brewer, NRCS Resource Soil Scientist, presenting on the Web Soil Survey, Lenore Vasilis, NRCS National Resource Soil Scientist, presenting on Hydric Soil Indicators, and Dr. Martin Rabenhorst, Professor of Pedology at the University of Maryland, on Pedogenic processes of Hydric Soils and included some interesting innovations in the use of IRIS tubes in measurements of redoximorphic conditions in soils. After lunch, practical training in the field identification of hydric soil indicators occurred with the group able to utilize several of the same pits used in day one. In facilitating both of these training events MAPSS continues to enhance the public and the professional's understanding and appreciation of soils and soil scientists across the multiple disciplines that depend on them.

Thanks to Carl Robinette for bringing a pump, which happily wasn't needed, and to Carl, Dave Verdone, Susan Davis, Jim Brewer, Gary Jellick, Del Fanning, and Martin Rabenhorst for leading discussions at the pits.

Thanks also for the MAPSS members who lead the pit discussions for hydric soil indicators on day 2. Special thanks also to Gary Jellick for his behind the scene's work to make both days the successful field days they were. Also, thanks is due to the Lion's Camp Merrick for graciously allowing MAPSS the use of their property and for providing overnight accommodations. A good time was had by all.

Summary of my presentation for the MAPSS, Nov. 8, 2012 program for sanitarians, by Steven Krieg.

The history and limitations of using the percolation test as the primary screening tool to determine if a proposed site is suitable for on-site wastewater disposal via an on-site system was discussed. State regulations COMAR 26.04.02 and 26.04.03 require that local approving authorities (typically local health departments) have the primary responsibility to ensure that each proposed site can properly dispose and treat the wastewater from an on-site system. Registered Sanitarians evaluating sites, and performing percolation tests, must fully understand how much responsibility is placed upon them and recognize the impacts of their decisions in the field. A comprehensive site evaluation that includes soil descriptions and landscape evaluations should be stressed as being of primary importance, with the emphasis on the percolation test as a secondary site screening tool. As land with the most suitable soils for on-site systems becomes less available in MD, it is extremely important for anyone performing a site evaluation to properly evaluate the site so that the on-site system installed will not only protect the public health and the environment, but properly function as long as possible and effectively become part of the suburban and rural infrastructure. **Steven Krieg, Regional Consultant for Mid and Western Maryland, On-Site Systems Division, Maryland Department of Sanitation.**

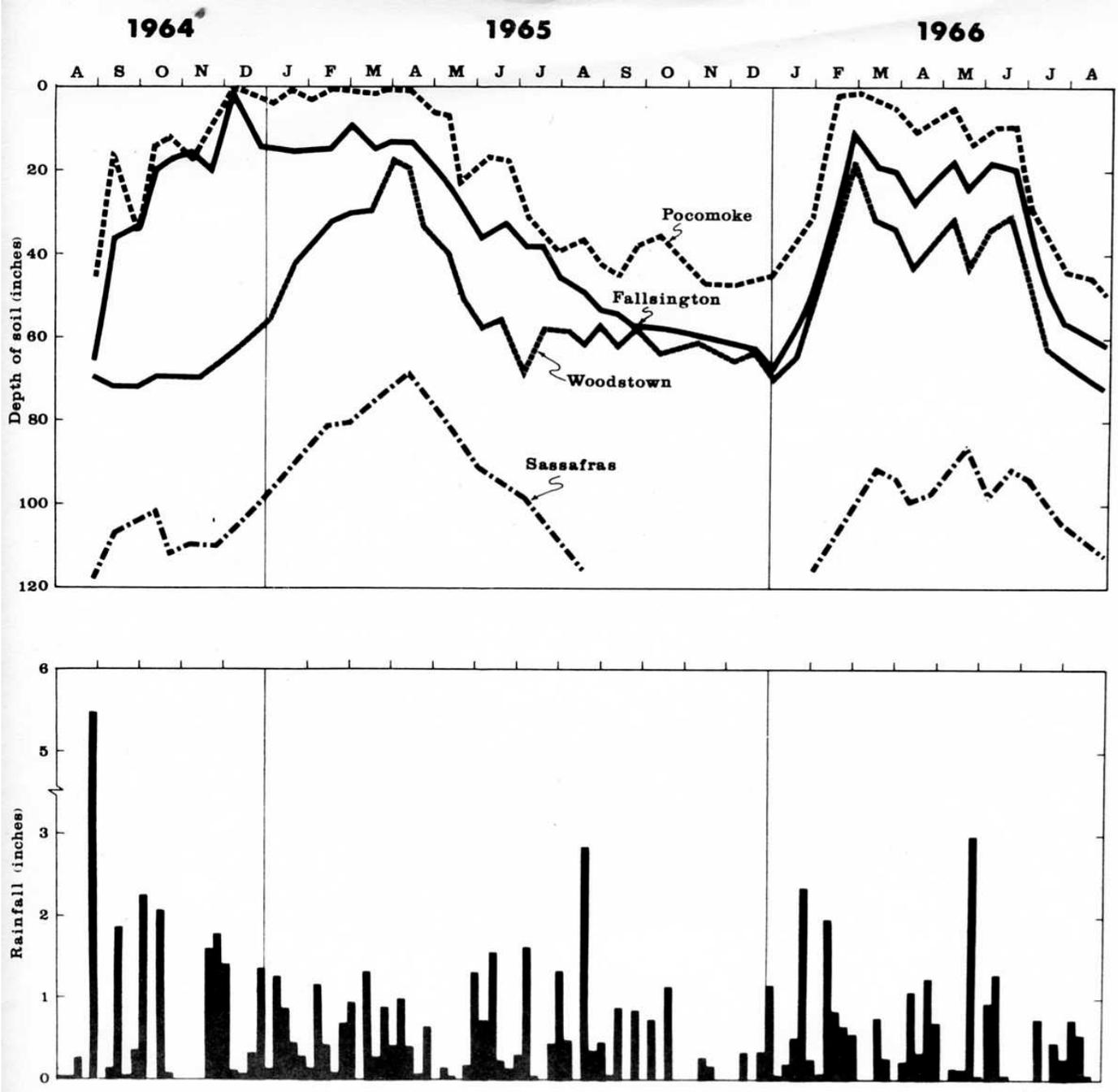
Some of what I told/showed the sanitarians workshop group at Camp Merrick, Nov. 8, 2012. by Del Fanning. MAPSS President Barry Glotfelty asked me to make a presentation on soil morphology pertaining to testing/rating soils by sanitarians to fill out the morning program for sanitarians on Nov. 8. I was pleased to do this as it gave me a chance to put together a Power Point presentation entitled "Soil Morphology/water tables in Coastal Plain Soils, for MAPSS sanitarians training session". I am putting a brief summary of what I presented in this document for Pedologue.



To document some of the reasons for restricting perc testing to wet seasons, I showed a slide of monoliths of soils representing the Sassafras drainage catena, scanned to give an electronic image from an old Kodachrome slide. These monoliths are still present, most of them made in the 1950's by Dr. G. A. Bourbeau and students, in the UM soil monoliths collection display cases, but the boards on which they are mounted are now painted black instead of "University green" as when the photograph was taken many years ago. They nicely show the brown B horizon of the well-drained Sassafras soil on the left ranging to the black surface with gray gleyed B horizon of the very poorly drained soil labeled Pocomoke on the right, with the moderately well-drained Woodstown and poorly drained Fallsington soils in between.

I called attention to the study (Fanning et al., 1973) for which Richard L. (Dick) Hall (USDA Soil Conservation Service, SCS, soil scientist, an honorary MAPSS member, now deceased) collected water table data using perforated pipes in wells in Worcester Co., MD, that documented that water tables in the soils of this drainage catena are much closer to the surface and for longer periods of time in the wetter, more poorly

drained, soils, but also the seasonal water table fluctuation patterns, such that one could very likely get passing perc tests even in the wetter soils if one did the testing in the dryer summer months when evapotranspiration lowers the water tables even in the wetter soils. I showed another slide, see next page, of the water table fluctuation patterns for two years for one of the three sites for which Hall measured the depth of the water tables every two weeks. The lower section of the graph shows rainfall data, in inches, for 5 day periods during the study. See the Fanning et al. (1973) paper for more details. The water table fluctuation patterns may also be found in Appendix 2, page 375 of Fanning and Fanning (1989).



I also showed water table data in my presentation for a study done in Talbot County, MD, (Fanning and Reybold, 1968) for which USDA SCS soil scientist Bill Reybold, a MAPSS member, collected the water table and soil morphology data for three poorly drained soils, Fallsington, Othello and Elkton. I am not showing data from that study in this report, but the annual patterns with low water tables in summer months, but high W.T.'s in winter and early spring months were similar to those for the Fallsington soil in the study for which Hall collected the data in Worcester County, however the patterns for the finer-textured Elkton soil were more erratic than for the coarser-textured Fallsington and Othello soils, probably because of more water table perching effects in the Elkton soils.

To talk about problems of perched water tables in soils with fragipans, which soils are extensive in Charles



County where the meeting was held, I showed a picture (slide) of a Beltsville soil with a strong fragipan taken by Roy Simonson (MAPSS first honorary member) near Perkins Chapel on Springfield Road in Prince George's Co. That picture (used for a color plate in the Fanning and Fanning, 1989 book) is inserted here. The depth scale is in feet and two inch intervals, with the top of the fragipan at a depth of 1.5 feet, 18 inches. I showed, employing data from some perforated and non-perforated pipes in water table wells, how water filled the perforated pipe wells after heavy rainfalls, but with tight fitting non-perforated pipes in wells into the fragipan no free water ever appeared in those wells throughout the short study period.

I also showed some perc test data from an M.S. thesis by R. M. (Bob) Kirby (Kirby, 1971), another SCS field soil scientist, who was one of my first graduate students at UM. Bob demonstrated consistent (in different holes tested) very slow perc rates in the Beltsville (Fragiudult) soils, but more variable rates in the Collington (now likely Annapolis) and Monmouth soils, but quite consistent rapid rates with the sandy Rumford soils. It interested me in looking Kirby's thesis that his personal data indicated that Bob, now long retired from government service after serving in the U.S. Navy in World War II and for many years as a soil scientist mapping soils in Maryland and

elsewhere, had his 90th birthday, Nov. 11, 2012.

References:

Fanning, D. S. and M. C. B. Fanning. 1989. Soil: Morphology, Genesis and Classification. John Wiley and Sons. New York.

Fanning, D. S., R. L. Hall, and J. E. Foss. 1973. Soil Morphology, Water Tables and Iron Relationships in Soils of the Sassafras Drainage Catena in Maryland. pp.71-79. In E. Schlichting and U. Schwertmann (Eds.), Gley and Pseudogley. (Transactions of Commissions V and VI of Int. Soc. Soil Sci.) Verlag Chemie, Weinheim, Germany.

Fanning, D. S. and W. U. Reybold, III. 1968. Water table fluctuations in poorly drained Coastal Plain soils. Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station Miscellaneous Publication 662. Univ. of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742.

Kirby, R. M. 1971. Determination of percolation rates for four (4) Coastal Plain Soils. M.S. Thesis, University of Maryland, College Park, MD. 20742.

Field Indicators of Hydric Soils in the Atlantic Coastal Plain, by Mark Burchick
(for Mid-Atlantic Association of Professional Soil Scientists, MAPSS)

The one-day soils class was held Nov. 9, 2012, at the Lions Club Camp Merrick, a waterfront property on the Potomac River near Nanjemoy, Charles County, MD.



The workshop concentrated on the development, application and identification of hydric soil indicators in the Coastal Plain. The instructors were Gary Jellick, Lenore Vasilas, Martin Rabenhorst and Jim Brewer.

Gary Jellick handed out his “*field cheat sheet*” entitled *Hydric Soil Boundary Indicators*, emphasizing that the most common hydric soil indicators as noted on the *Wetland Determination Data Form* are *F3*

Depleted Matrix for loamy and clayey soils and *S5 Sandy Redox* for sandy soils.





The morning technical session provided an overview of the development of the indicators, pedogenic processes associated with hydric soils and the interpretation of soil information related to hydric soils.

Editor's comment: Thanks Mark for your pictorial overview of some of the beautiful scenery at Camp Merrick.



MAPSS also handed out a booklet entitled *Field Indicators of Hydric Soils in the United States, A Guide for Identifying and Delineating Hydric Soils, Version 7*. An extracted guide for how to interpret soils analyzed for the purpose of wetland delineation can be found in the *Regional Supplements to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manuals* (for the Coastal Plain and Piedmont).

The afternoon session provided training in the field identification of hydric soil indicators in sandy, clayey and organic soils.



We looked at five pits that were excavated using a back hoe. Four of the five pits were along and/or near nontidal wetland boundaries and one (see the last two pictures of this report) was clearly well within a wetland, having obvious F3, depleted matrix conditions (a layer that has a depleted matrix with 60% or more chroma of 2 or less and has a minimum thickness of 2-inches within the upper 6-inches of soil, or 6-inches starting within 10-inches of the soil surface). **Editor's comment: I can't help noting that the hand protruding from red jacket in**

Mark's picture here was mine. I was pointing to redox depletions and concentrations in platy structure in what I interpreted to represent recent sediments at the surface of a soil pit where the depletions are in finer strata and concentrations are in coarser, sandier strata, fitting Mottling Model IB as illustrated in Fig. 16.2B on page 116 of the F&F (1989) textbook, but here the coarser strata are much thinner relative to the finer strata than in the book figure.



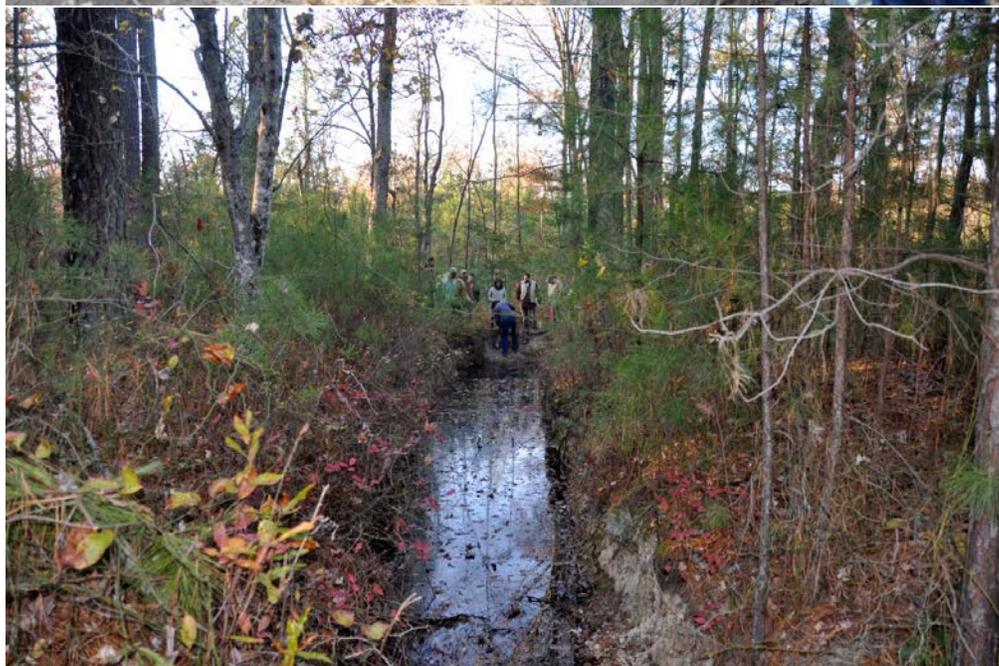
The four other pits were designed to be close-calls, questionable as to whether or not they would be considered wetland or upland soils.

At each pit we broke-up into teams and prepared a profile description, describing the depth needed to document the indicator(s) or confirm the absence of indicators. We were advised to be mindful that hydric soils usually extend a little further back from the wetland delineation line. When considering wetland vegetation and

hydrology, wetland soils should be overt and then transition toward upland soils as you move away from your flagged delineation line.



This exercise allowed us to be “calibrated” to the instructors and reduce subjectivity. It is important to carry a measuring tape and a small spray bottle container of water when doing soils work for profile descriptions. MAPSS strongly recommends that *Munsell Books* be updated at least every four years of use. Forestry Suppliers sell the book and also the heavily used 10YR and 7.5 YR page inserts, as they are amongst the most commonly used in our region.



MAPSS wanted us to know that F19 (*Piedmont Floodplain Soils*) has had a language change, taking out the word “active” in their floodplain description. A new hydric soil indicator has been added, which is known as F21 (*Red Parent Material Soils*), with all of this information being found at <http://soils.usda.gov/technical/>.



Remember also the few keys to soils that lack field indicators as a first-cut when investigating soils. Dig a hole to 6-inches, making sure to not include the fibric O-horizon. Do organic soil material or mucky modified layers exist? Does chroma of 2 or less exist? Do you see any distinct or prominent redox concentrations as soft masses (mottles) or pore linings? Is there a hydrogen sulfide odor of rotten eggs? Check the landscape position, are you in a depression, on a floodplain, near a marsh or close to mean high tide? If you answer no to these questions, then the soil will not meet an indicator.

Thank you Gary Jellick and MAPSS.

Mark Burchick
Environmental Systems Analysis, Inc. (ESA)

Carl Robinette's and Diane Shields's Retirement Messages, by them.

Editor's comment: Around the turn of the New 2013 Year, thru the electronic grapevine, I received messages from Diane Shields and Carl Robinette announcing their retirements from USDA NRCS on or about the day they did it. I liked their announcements, even though I, and I'm sure many other Pedologue readers, are a little sad to see them no longer at their former positions with NRCS. I have their permission I think to put their messages, for the record and for those who may have not previously seen them (with slight edits on my part) in this Winter 2013 issue. For MAPSS, I take this opportunity to congratulate Diane and Carl on their long and successful careers and thank them for their contributions to the National Cooperative Soil Survey program, to MAPSS and to USDA NRCS and previously to USDA SCS, and offer hopes for many happy years of life as official retirees, but still involved and still contributing, to the extent they wish to do so, to soil science/soil survey programs..

Diane's Message

Subject: Happy New Year!

Monday (Dec. 31, 2012) will be my last day on the job. I started working with the Soil Conservation Service over 34 years ago, and now I am retiring from NRCS!

It has been a pleasure to work with you all, and I've enjoyed being a part of the National Cooperative Soil Survey. I consider myself very fortunate to have found a career that has suited me so well.

But now I am looking forward to spending more time with family and friends, playing outdoors, traveling, pursuing hobbies and volunteer work, and catching up on many years of neglected house and yard work.

I hope that you will stay in touch. Happy New Year!

My contact information after December 31, 2012: 126 Price St.; Centreville, MD 21617; 410-758-4852 (home) 410-490-0492 (cell); dash50@verizon.net

Carl's Message

From: Robinette, Carl - NRCS, Cumberland, MD

Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 12:25 PM

To: McAfee, Robert - NRCS, Annapolis, MD

Subject: FINAL DAY- 1/3/2013

Rob, Please share with others if possible.

Hello Friends and colleagues,

Yes, believe it or not this is my final (official) day with NRCS. My career began with SCS on July 5th, 1966 and as I write this, it doesn't seem that long ago. I guess it is a testament to really being passionate over the years for soil survey work and for getting conservation on the ground for the last ten or so.

I want to thank all of you for your cooperation, assistance and just tolerating my idiosyncrasies. I feel like we accomplished a great deal and I had a lot of fun doing it.

My primary objective at this point is to be able to feed my cattle in the day- light.

I'll still be around since I have a mountain of "stuff" to remove from the office and from the van. I guess I'll need to build another storage building.

I have signed up as an earth team volunteer and I'm looking into ACES. I look forward to your calls and technical consultations and for the really fun things (holes in the ground).

My contact information is: 21201 Hout Ln. NE, Flintstone, MD 21530

Telephone: 301-478-3055, Cell: 717-830-5800

It has truly been a pleasure,

Carl

Editor's Note: A couple pictures of Diane and Carl taken at Diane's retirement party on Jan. 7, 2013 are inserted below. Thanks Diane for acquiring these photos for Pedologue.



Leslie William (Bill) Kick Obit, by Steve Carlisle

Editor's Comments: In early December, 2012, I was party to an e-mail Round Robin about Bill Kick (an old time soil scientist, soil surveyor, who worked on soil surveys mainly in New York State) on the occasion of Bill's death, December 8, 2012 at age 92; he was born March 13, 1920. Bill was famous with the field soil scientists of NRCS/SCS and some university and other people for stories of his service in the Army during World War II on the European front in the 1940's and subsequently in Korea in the 1950's. Bill was married twice and had two children by his first wife (Peggy died in 1976), four grandchildren (one of whom lives in Maryland) and 6 great grandchildren.

Several things have been written about Bill. I have chosen one by my friend and colleague Steve Carlisle, written after Bill died, reproduced below, to tell Pedologue readers more about Bill, who a few Pedologue readers may remember, I do.

About Bill Kick, by Steve Carlisle

I feel that I knew Bill Kick as much as anyone, although he retired from the SCS before I began my career. My friendship with him began in '80 when he saved my life on Cranberry Lake (Carlisle, 1994). I know that without him I would have drowned. After we had made shore during that incident, and as we were warming our hands in the cabin that we had broken into, he inquired as to whether I was married. I replied that not only was I married, but I had three kids. Bill responded something to the effect that he had been under the impression

that I had no dependents and my death would have been of minor concern, now knowing otherwise, he was real glad that I lived. Later, after being found by Frank Hutton, and delivered to Cranberry Lake by the rescue boat, Frank, Keith Wheeler, Bill and I celebrated by drinking a bottle of Jim Beam. Frank then bought dinner for us all, and Bill announced to fellow diners that he was so happy to be alive that he “felt like killing somebody”, we all laughed. Later that night, we faced death a second time when we careened down Rt. 3, back to our rooms in Wanakena.

Through today’s prism some may consider Bill a wild man, indeed one of Bill and Nora’s present day neighbors, when talking to John, called Bill “feral”. And by today’s somewhat insipid standards, so he was. But to the WWII generation that Bill grew up in, his conduct was just a bit more than noteworthy. You see this generation of Americans grew up in the depression in hungry, fractured families. They were accustomed to being self-sufficient. They fought WW II and then Korea. And Bill experienced every bit of that. As I understand it, like so many people in those times, his home life was not of the Ozzie and Harriet variety, and his independent spirit was manifested early on. As an example, how many 16 year old youths of today would hitch hike to the Adirondacks carrying bacon and a blanket in a gunny sack, and spend the summer, alone, hiking the high peaks.

Bill was in the Army before WWII, was discharged, entered the Canadian Army when the war started and then transferred to the 82nd Airborne division when the US entered the war. His experiences in the war gave support to the aphorism that “truth is stranger than fiction”.

He was deployed in North Africa prior to the invasion of Sicily. The troop train stopped at a village and a couple of the soldiers went into the village to get some “vin ordinaire”, and Bill was sent by the company commander to find them and bring them back. Bill eventually came back with the two wayward soldiers in tow. Bill had not done so as expeditiously as the officer had desired, so as a consequence Bill and the two foragers were left to guard a box car laden with supplies that had developed a hot box. As soon as the train left, throngs of local Arabs converged on the car bent on looting it. As Bill described it, the three soldiers would aim their guns at the heads of the Arabs, and then pull slightly off to the side before they squeezed the trigger. In that way they kept the throng of looters at bay until the next train arrived and hooked on to them. When the brakes overheated again the car would be dropped off at the next available siding. The whole scenario with the looters would be repeated again until the brakes cooled down and the next train arrived. Bill was proud to point out that after a week of being dropped off at sidings and fending looters off they finally caught up with their company. Their ammunition was depleted to the last few rounds and they had not shot one person.

Bill’s glider was hit by friendly fire during the invasion of Holland, the glider pilot held on long enough to land it before dying. He dropped into Normandy with the 82nd, fought through France, was in the Battle of the Bulge and in the final push through Germany. In that final push, Bill or one of his men noticed what appeared to be a newer masonry wall in the basement of a building. Suspicious, they broke through the wall and found a room full of wine and cognac. Huge problem, how to take the booze with them? They were a communications platoon and they had a truck, but it was filled with spools of communication wire. Solution-- throw out the wire, load the booze, fight the rest of the war with communication wire salvaged from overrun German positions. A nonpareil raconteur, Bill’s supply of equally interesting anecdotes from the war was inexhaustible. But with Bill, every place name where events occurred was included in the story and given the correct pronunciation. Rick Steves, with a little more blood in his veins, could hardly have done better.

After the war Bill used the GI Bill and got his Bachelors degree in Forestry at Syracuse University. He later fought in Korea, but maybe not on the front lines. He joined the SCS as a Soil Scientist and eventually became a correlator. By the time I met him in 1976 he had retired from the SCS. He left his mark though, as soil surveyors do, in the soil surveys that he worked on, and the soil series that he initiated or correlated. To my great satisfaction I still see Bill’s initials, along with Marlin Cline’s, in the heading of the Herkimer Series, and on others I am sure. One of his great ambitions was to name a soil after the red squirrel that sat on the prow of

Hiawatha's canoe in Longfellow's poem. He told me this sometime after our boating incident, and not long afterward I initiated the Adjidaumo series to honor Bill's wish.

People who knew Bill valued his élan, his positive outlook, and I do not know of anyone who ever heard him disparage another human being. Beyond that, he was a very smart man. One time Oliver Rice was visiting the St. Lawrence Co. Soil Survey Project from the regional office on a review. Bill was in town, working on a contract, and Luther Robinson was working on the project at the time. After work that day the group retired to Oliver's room in the Best Western and I still remember what ensued. I was just an audience captured by a virtuoso performance. Listening raptly to a wide ranging conversation to end all conversations, a Cirque Soleil of conversation, a stream of consciousness extraordinaire, a dizzying, gymnastic leap-frogging of topics. Subject matter varied from the marital rites of obscure Tibetan clans as they compared to the Taureg, to sub-atomic particles, to evidence of geothermal activity as found in Devonian Snail Fossils, and on and on—until there was nothing left to drink. I had nothing to contribute to the conversation, I am no genius, but I do have the not-so-rare ability of detecting that characteristic in others, and I could tell that these three aforementioned people were not only really smart, but they were so, in a casual way. Lute said that "Bill was truly one of the Great Generation". I would echo that—in spades.

Reference

Carlisle, S. C. 1994. An Accident Report. Soil Survey Horizons 35(4) 95-98.

Calendar of some coming events:

June 3-7, 2013. Northeast Regional Pedology Field Trip. This biennial field trip for graduate students and faculty of Northeast U.S. universities/colleges is being hosted this year by University of Maryland. Contact Dr. Martin Rabenhorst, mrabenho@umd.edu for further information.

June 16-21, 2013. National Cooperative Soil Survey Conference. Annapolis, MD. Hosted jointly by University of Maryland and USDA-NRCS. Contact Dr. Martin Rabenhorst, mrabenho@umd.edu for further information.

Northeast Collegiate Soil Judging Contest, Fall, 2013. To be hosted by University of Maryland. Date not yet set. Contact Dr. Brian Needelman for more information,

November 3-6, 2013. Soil Science Society of America and American Society of Agronomy Annual Meeting, Tampa, FL.

Future articles etc. Pedologue needs articles, pictures, poems, cartoons, letters to the editor or other things soil scientists and/or other readers of Pedologue may be inspired to submit. Please submit such items to the editor, preferably to DelvinDel@aol.com . Be an author, support your newsletter, it's a way to promote yourself and your work and things we all need to know about soils and the environment.