



The Dirt Dauber

WSPSS



Wisconsin Society of Professional Soil Scientists

<http://www.wspss.org>

Volume 5 Issue 5

Fall/Winter 2011

The Prez Sez

Another year is rapidly coming to a close. The year has flown by quickly and it seems like I as many of us at WSPSS did not accomplish anywhere near what we had planned to get done. One area, I am hoping WSPSS can have some valuable input in the future is in helping the DNR develop their land application program. They have asked for help in developing soils criteria that can be used in defining suitability of soil mapping units for land application approvals. They are asking for WSPSS members to participate on a soils sub-team. Hopefully we can our soils experts to participate on the sub-team and contribute to make the soil survey a valuable tool in the land application approval program.

Weather wise it seems like only yesterday that I was about ready to put winter to rest and to begin enjoying summer and all the outdoor activities (swimming, canoeing kayaking, fishing, hiking, hunting, etc.) that we have available in Wisconsin. Wisconsin has much to offer and enjoy with all the great lakes and natural resources available in the State. The job that the NRCS and DNR can do to protect and enhance these valuable resources is something we all care about.. The work that is being done is important to all of us and is widely recognized by all who visit , enjoy and vacation in this wonderful state. WSPSS is and can be part of this process in the future.

If you are a sports fan it also was a great year to enjoy several of our sporting teams. The Packers had just won the super bowl and their was great anticipation for the Milwaukee Brewers and Wisconsin Badgers. It was fun and I always hate to see it end but hopefully some of it will continue at least for the Packers.

Hopefully our soils experts will participate or contribute something important this year, whether it is professional or personal. If not you still have some time left to get it done. Good Luck.

Ken Denow, WSPSS President, 2011.

Ballots for President 2013 and Secretary 2012-2013 are due to be received by COB December 31, 2011.

This is to ensure that the ballots can be counted and the new officers can take office on January 1, 2012. On January 1, 2012, Chris Miller, President-Elect for 2011, will begin his duties as WSPSS President 2012 and the person you elect as President for 2013 will take over as President-Elect for 2012. The person you select as Secretary 2012-2013 will also take office on January, 1, 2012.

Renew Your Dues Today!

Regular Membership \$20.00 Scholarship Fund Donation \$_____

Associate Membership \$5.00 Student Membership \$2.00 Amount Enclosed \$_____

Member's Name: _____

Please place a check next to the WSPSS activities you want to participate in!

Newsletter Educational Promotional Historical Website Nominations Scholarship Other: _____

Have you moved? Got a new e-mail? Got a new phone?

If so, please send us your updated info!

Send your dues and your completed ballot to:

Karla Petges

451 West North Street

Juneau, WI 53039

OFFICIAL WSPSS OFFICER BALLOT 2011

Ballots are due to be received by **December 31, 2011**

Your vote does count, so please vote!

Vote for President 2013

_____ Jeremy Ziegler

_____ Steve Frings

Vote for Secretary 2012-2013

_____ Samantha Lawien

_____ David Gundlach

President 2014

Jeremy Ziegler

I grew up my whole life in West Bend WI. After graduating from high school, I spent two years at UW-Washington County and finished up at UW-SP in 2004 with a degree in Soils and Land Management. I started my career in soils with the NRCS in 2004 as a soil scientist mapping soils in Wyoming. In 2007, I transferred to NRCS in Minnesota as a soil scientist. The lure of cheese was too great and in 2010 I accepted my current position as the Area Resource Soil Scientist in Juneau. I have been a WSPSS member since coming to Wisconsin.



Steve Frings

I started as a USDA Soil Scientist in 1971 stationed in the old area office in Wausau; I eventually worked on Soil Surveys of Outagamie, Kewaunee and Waupaca Counties. We decided that 4 moves in 9 years was enough. I quit and started 2 businesses. One business installs fire protection and detection equipment in dairy barns and other ag buildings. The second is my soil consulting business. In the consulting field I have done soil mapping and vegetative cover typing for the US Forest Service, soil testing for underground fuel tanks, soil testing for septic systems and subdivision layouts and a limited amount of wetland work. I still run both businesses with the bulk of the work being soil testing for septic systems. This past year I worked on a contract basis with the WI DNR and the US EPA on the National Wetland Condition Assessment. I have been a member of WSPSS for approximately 40 years. I am married with two grown children.



Secretary 2012-2013

Samantha Lawien

I grew up in Jackson, WI, a small village south of West Bend. During my undergraduate career at UW-La Crosse, I traveled to Australia for a semester where I took a soil science course. After I came back to the states I decided that Soil Science was a field that I wanted to pursue. I graduated from UW-La Crosse with a B.S. in Geography and then from the University of Wisconsin- Stevens Point with an MS in Soil Science.

I started working for the NRCS as a summer intern and then in 2007 I was hired as a STEP/SCEP with the NRCS in Stevens Point. I continued to work out of Stevens Point during the academic year while earning my masters degree. During my first summer as a STEP/SCEP, I worked out of Juneau MLRA Office and the following summer I worked out of the Rhinelander MLRA Office. After graduating in May 2011, I began working for NRCS full-time in the Juneau MLRA Office. This past summer, I went on an initial mapping detail to the Arrowhead of Minnesota. I have been a member of WSPSS since 2008 and very much look forward to each of the meetings that are held. As school has come to a close, I would like to be more involved in the soil science community and I think that WSPSS is a great place to start!



Dave Gundlach

David is currently Acting District Conservationist for the Waukesha County NRCS office and a Soil Conservationist at the Jefferson County NRCS office where he has worked since August 2010.

For three years he was a Project Soil Scientist at the NRCS MLRA Soil Survey office in Atlantic, Iowa. During that time he completed two four-month soil mapping details to Soil Survey Area 621, Western Aroostook County, Maine, in 2007 and Pine County, Minnesota in 2008. He was a member of the Iowa Association of Professional Soil Classifiers from 2005 to 2008.

David graduated from UW-Madison in 2005 with a B.S. in Soil Science and a Certificate in Environmental Studies from the Nelson Institute. There he was Treasurer of the UW Soils Club for four semesters and a starting center for the UW Men's Rugby Club for four years.

David lives in Madison with his girlfriend Jessica and dog Tucker where he enjoys spring, summer, fall, and winter. Well, maybe not winter.



Meet the Nominees!



Meet the Nominees!

WSPSS Fall Tour

Wild Rose Fish Hatchery

Ken Denow, WSPSS President

The fall meeting of the Wisconsin Society of Professional Soil Scientists was held on October 21, 2011 at the beautiful Wild Rose Fish Hatchery Educational Center just outside of Wild Rose. The Fish Hatchery is located at N5871 State Hwy 22, and is operated by the Bureau of Fisheries and Habitat Protection of the DNR. The fish hatchery is the largest cold water fish hatchery in the Midwest and raises a variety of cold water fish including musky, sturgeon, coho, salmon and trout which are planted in various streams and lakes in Wisconsin. They also have donated fish to other great lakes states as Michigan. The fish hatchery is a state of the art hatchery that was recently renovated. They tour also visited the historic village where large brown trout are kept. The facility tour and presentation was coordinated by Joan Voigt, the Hatchery Naturalist.

Steve Warrner, the new DNR Land Application Coordinator presented an excellent program and update on the new DNR 's land application program, Steve has asked for WSPSS help in developing soils criteria for evaluating sites that will be used for land applying Industrial and Municipal sludge in Wisconsin. Wastewater and sludge generated municipal and industrial facilities in Wisconsin and surrounding states may be applied to suitable soils (recycling) in Wisconsin. The sites must be that can be applied to agricultural fields in Wisconsin.



For more photos visit:
[Facebook.com/wspss](https://www.facebook.com/wspss)
[Flickr.com/photos/wspss](https://www.flickr.com/photos/wspss/)

Do you have photos to share?
Submit your photos to us on Facebook or send them to wspss@yahoo.com!

The Department of Natural Resources
“New Land Application Program”

Steve Warrner, Wisconsin DNR

I want to send a quick thanks to the WSPSS organization for inviting me last week to discuss the framework for the Department's new land spreading program. The initial discussion and feedback has been fantastic. I believe this organization can provide valuable feedback in the development of this project and its implementation.

At the meeting, it was suggested that a sub-team of WSPSS members meet with Department staff to develop the soils criteria. I would like 3-5 WSPSS members on the team.

We would like feedback from WSPSS members in response to the following questions:

1. What rules/criteria should be used to evaluate whether or not soil map units meet code requirements for wastewater application? Based on your suggestions, a set of rules will be developed and applied to all soil map units in Wisconsin. For the later part of the project, we will be working with the NRCS and utilizing their massive soil database to identify which soil map units do/do not meet code requirements. The finished soils list will then be distributed to WDNR staff for utilization.
2. What needs to be considered when developing a standard land application site variance policy? Any soil map unit that does not meet code requirements will need to be field verified to confirm that the soil(s) can meet code requirements. What factors need to be considered (i.e. waste type, application rate, sampling frequency, etc.)? Who needs to collect and verify actual field conditions (licensed soil scientists, certified soil tester, etc.)?

Want to Join the Land Application Sub-team?

Anyone interested in joining and/or participating on the land application sub-team should contact Ken Denow (kendenow@hotmail.com).

Class Project a Success, Thanks to Wisconsin Soil Scientists & Enthusiasts

Brooke Frusher
GeoEnvironmental Science Major at Hocking College in Nelsonville, Ohio
Spring Quarter 2011

When it came time to pick a state soil to research and prepare a presentation on for my Soils class, I immediately knew I wanted Wisconsin. It is a state I have not yet been to, but one that has always held my interest for its vast array of history, natural beauty & recreation opportunities that I hope to one day experience myself. Thankfully, no one else in my class made a bid for Wisconsin and I was free to start my research. I would soon find out, the people of Wisconsin were not only passionate about their native soils, but were also eager to help and share their knowledge.

The main focus of my project was to be on Wisconsin's Antigo Silt Loam, but I also felt it was very important to spend some time covering the rich history of Wisconsin's Geology, Agriculture and Conservation Practices. With the wealth of information I was finding online my PowerPoint presentation was shaping up nicely, so I began my search for physical props, such as maps, soil samples and anything else I could get my hands on. Being in Ohio meant I was going to have to locate some willing participants to help me with some of my requests, which meant sending emails...lots of emails.

I sent requests for soil samples to the University of Wisconsin, UW Extension and various USDA offices. While I waited for replies, my good luck continued as I came across some other great material. The Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey found my weakness for maps (especially large maps), and I had soon amassed a beautiful collection of Wisconsin maps on everything from bedrock & glacial deposits, to forest vegetation & groundwater susceptibility.

It was a pleasant surprise when I came across information on pioneering soil scientist Francis D. Hole and the roles he played in helping Antigo Silt Loam become the official state soil of Wisconsin. I found his unorthodox teaching methods and passion for soil & nature in general to be refreshing and inspirational. I could have done an entire presentation on him and I hope to have the chance to revisit him and his work on some future project or writing assignment. While looking for audio clips of his songs and poems, I stumbled across a young lady by the name of Erika Strandjord. Erika, a musical Wisconsinite, had created her own version of the Antigo Silt Loam Song and was kind enough to send me the music file to use in my presentation.

I was also lucky enough to come across the WSPSS and Shaunna Repking, who was more than happy to help me obtain a couple Antigo t-shirts and promotional stickers sporting the Antigo logo designed by Francis Hole. I kept one shirt





for myself and raffled off the other to my classmates. They were such a hit, that I probably should have ordered a couple more.

Everything was coming together, but I was starting to think obtaining soil samples might be too much to hope for. Then, after 2 weeks of many helpful replies, referrals and forwarded emails, I received a reply from Scott Eversoll, MLRA Soil Survey Project Leader out of the Rhinelander Service Center. Scott had found a gentleman by the name of Mark Krupinski, that was willing to collect soil samples for me...I was thrilled! I was even more excited when the samples arrived. Mark had collected 6 large, beautiful samples and even clearly marked the depth and horizon for each...just what I was looking for.

Overall, this was a really fun project and I had a great time learning more about Wisconsin history

and the Antigo soil you are all so fond of. On the day of our presentations we were only required to speak for 10 minutes, but I found myself entertaining my classmates for nearly 25, and I couldn't be happier with how it turned out. However, it would not have been possible without the generous contributions of so many from within Wisconsin's network of soil scientists & enthusiasts, and I want to say thank you for giving me the opportunity to give all those involved the recognition they deserve. And Shaunna, you were right; I definitely did pick the funnest state soil. J

Special thanks to: Erika Strandjord for her musical rendition (erika.strandjord@gmail.com), Mark Krupinski for his time and soil, Shaunna Repking, and the WSPSS for some great shirts, The Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey for some beautiful maps, Francis D. Hole for his passion, and to my Soils Instructor Chuck Simmons for a fun and educational quarter.

Also, Dan Kenny (Ohio Department of Agriculture), John Michael Burch (State Plant Health Director (OH)--USDA APHIS PPQ), Susan Y. Emmert (Plant Health Safeguarding Specialist (WI)--USDA APHIS PPQ), Dick Wolkowski (Extension Soil Scientist—University of WI Madison), Steve Pernsteiner (Baldwin WI USDA), Carl Wacker (State Soil Scientist--WI LPSS #177-112--USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service), Jesse Turk (Stevens Point WI USDA), J Scott Eversoll (MLRA Soil Survey Project Leader--Rhinelander WI Service Center)...I hope I did not forget anyone.

WSPSS Spring Meeting Minutes

June 3, 2011- Montello, WI

Shaunna Repking – Secretary

President Ken Denow called the meeting to order at 9:30am on June 3, 2011. Secretary Shaunna Repking reported that the meeting minutes were released in a previous newsletter. Steve Frings moved to accept the secretary's report and the minutes, Mike Havlik seconded the motion. Treasurer Karla Petges reported that the checking account balance was at \$6,366.03 and the scholarship fund was at \$1,852.86. She also submitted the WSPSS tax forms in May. WSPSS currently has 66 paid members. Karla is still waiting for dues from some people but it is the same people that usually seem to pay late. Leroy Jansky moved to accept the treasurer's report, John Handler seconded the motion.

Historical Committee: John Campbell reported that 99% of the historical documents are scanned. Shaunna posted all of the past newsletters to the website and the WSPSS Skydrive for sharing with the membership. Pictures are also being processed and will be posted soon to the Facebook and Flickr accounts for sharing with the membership. Anyone with additional past newsletters and pictures should submit them to John or Shaunna through mail, e-mail, or submit them to the Facebook page. John and Shaunna announced to the group that this year marks WSPSS's 40th Anniversary.

Awards Committee: Ken Denow Presented Kevin Traastad with the past president award.

Scholarship Committee: Donna Ferren Guy reported that a dozen applications were received. There was a better response this year because the committee contacted professors directly to have them let their students know about the scholarship. This year's winners are Kyle Reedy from UW-Stevens Point and Dustin Burnow from UW-Madison.

Education Committee: Leroy Jansky discussed Symposium planning and topics. The committee for the Symposium isn't up and running just yet but should be soon. Dick Wolkowski may be able to help plan the event given his similar experience. Leroy suggested that WSPSS resurrect the speaker's registry with WSPSS members willing to give presentations at various events. Steve Frings suggested the use of webinars.

Promotions Committee: Orders were filled for apparel this winter. The committee will try to get more t-shirts. Mark Krupinski will create a display for FTD, he shared a prototype with the membership. John Campbell proposed \$50 be used for expanding the display and additional promotional items for FTD. John Handler Seconded the motion. Leroy proposed an additional \$300 to be used for the FTD Pit and display. John Campbell seconded the motion. Mark reported that the staffing for the booth looked OK but volunteers should sign up to participate soon. Volunteers get a free pass and a free WSPSS shirt if they do not have one to wear already.

Website Committee: The website has moved to a new service provider. A show of hands indicated that most of the membership in attendance uses the website.

Nominations: Kevin reported that nominations are needed for Secretary 2012-2013 and President 2013

Old Business

ArcPacs was discussed. Leroy said that years ago certification was done through WSPSS and later by the State Code. Karla asked the membership how many people were Professional Classifiers, only 8 raised their hand. Ken Denow said that DNR is making rules and WSPSS members should submit comments on those rules. Mark Krupinski said that ASA basically wants to roll certified soil testers into Professional Soil Scientists. Leroy suggested that WSPSS have a legislative committee however SSSA is now monitoring legislation nationwide so this may not be needed if we get the info from SSSA.

New Business

Steve Frings reported that he is a part of a national wetlands review team. Steve found it interesting that a person needed a masters degree to be botanist on the team but a student could be a soil scientist on the team. In Wisconsin, Bob Weihroch insisted an experienced soil scientist should be on the team. Steve is enjoying learning new skills and refining old skills.

Kevin Traastad shared the results of the membership survey conducted last fall. A survey form was available in the newsletter and on Survey Monkey. Twelve responses were received. Among those responses members indicated they wanted more CEUs, a rideshare program, name tags, more education, and more people to get involved so a few don't have to do all the work.

Steve Frings moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:12AM, Kevin Traastad seconded the motion.

WSPSS Fall Meeting Minutes
Wild Rose State Fish Hatchery
October 21, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 9:45AM by President Ken Denow. Introductions and the agenda for the day were discussed. Twenty-three people were in attendance.

Treasurer Report- Karla Petges reported \$6,449.47 in the general fund and \$905.93 in the scholarship fund. Karla also mentioned dues would be accepted for 2012 at this time. *Motion*: Jeremy Ziegler moved to approve the treasurer's report. Tim Meyer seconded. Motion carried.

Secretary Report- Karla mentioned for Shaunna that items for the newsletter should be into Shaunna by Dec. 1st.

Scholarship Committee- Ken reported that Donna would like to continue with 2 scholarships at \$500.00 for 2012. *Motion*: Ken Lubich moved to continue with the 2 scholarships at \$500.00 a piece. Howard Gundlach seconded. Motion carried.

Historical Committee- John Campbell stated all old documents and newsletters have been scanned and are available on the website. John will check the scanning progress for the year 1973 and later.

Promotions Committee-Tim Miland said that Shaunna is still looking into some promotional items. Donna would like to order some more Antigo Silt Loam shirts. Hats were also discussed. 12 members at the meeting stated they would order a hat. *Motion*: Steve Frings moved to spend \$500.00 on shirts and up to \$350.00 on hats. Mike Havlik seconded. Motion carried. Tim Miland also mentioned Farm Tech Days had a really good turnout. Would like to see more non-NRCS WSPSS members volunteer in the future. Which lead to new business.....

New Business-Tim Miland discussed how to get more people involved with Farm Tech Days. One idea was to get college students to enter a contest to design a display for WSPSS. Maybe there could be some prize money? A mascot was mentioned, maybe Mr. or Ms. Clod? We need to find ways to get more WSPSS members involved with FT Days. Next year the event will be held in Outagamie County.

Ken Denow asked how many members were using the WSPSS website. Milo made the suggestions we bring a laptop and look at the site together. After the business meeting Tim Miland will bring up the website so members could see the new and improved WSPSS site.

Ken Denow asked the members if anyone would be interested in running for either Secretary or President-elect. Thus far we have Steve Frings for President-elect. Samantha Lawien and David Gundlach have agreed to run for Secretary. Jeremy Ziegler volunteered to run for Pres-elect. *Motion*: Tim Meyer moved to put Steve Frings and Jeremy Ziegler for Pres-elect on the ballot and Samantha Lawien and David Gundlach for Secretary. Howard Gundlach seconded. Motion carried.

John Campbell wanted the members to know if any awards are to be given we need to contact him.

Ken Denow made a suggestion to have members send articles to committee members and then they would gather information to pass onto an Editor for our newsletter.

10:21Am. *Motion*: Ken Lubich moved to adjourn. Tim Meyer seconded. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted, Karla D. Petges WSPSS Treasurer

Stories from the Field

In this issue, Kyle Reedy tells us about his 2011 summer internship with the NRCS. Kyle is a UW-SP student and a recipient of the 2011 WSPSS Scholarship.

For the summer I worked out of the Powell, WY office. I wanted to get some initial mapping experience this past summer before I would graduate and that is exactly what I got to experience. I had a blast doing it also! I was able to work in a variety of different terrains and elevations. Most of all I got to experience soils different from what we see in our beautiful state. When it came time to classify the soils I was mapping I got real used to writing *Fine-Loamy, Mixed, Super Active, Frigid Ustic Haplargid*.

Soils where I was mapping in the Bighorn Basin were very fine in particle size. This was a surprise, but I wasn't really sure what to expect when I arrived.

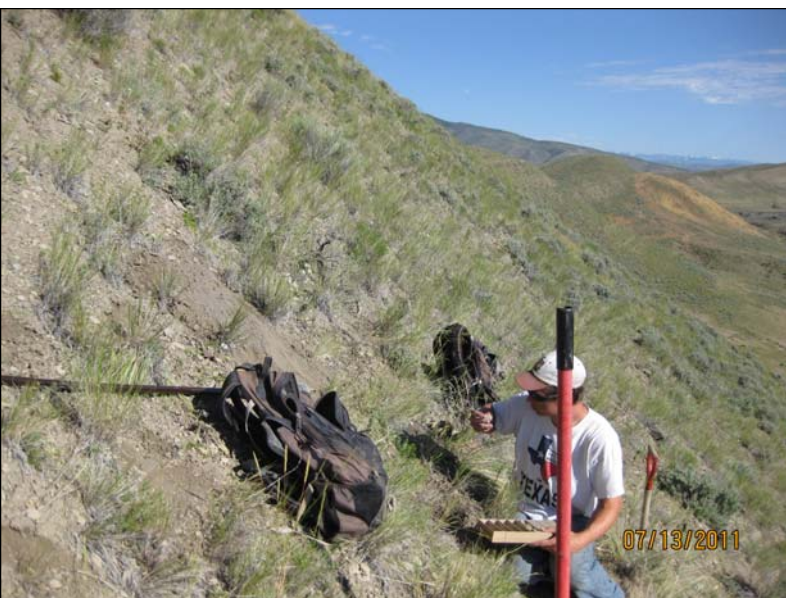
While I was in WY, I helped collect samples for the Rapid Carbon Assessment (RaCA). I said I got to work in a variety of elevations and



that's no lie because one of our RaCA points was in the Big Horn Mountains. We weren't able to get to the site until August because the snow was still present. That site was at about 10,000 ft elevation and this flat lander wasn't in shape for that hike

up and down the mountain. It was truly a pleasure being allowed the chance to map with great people in the Powell, WY NRCS office. I learned a lot and made some great friends.

Outside of work I was able to experience Yellowstone with my parents, ride by Harley on the Bear Tooth Highway, witness the Buffalo Bill Historical Center, and view a variety of wildlife.



Start thinking of who you want to run for President 2014 and Treasurer 2013-2014! **All** full-members are welcome to run for office. This is a great opportunity to become more involved, meet new people, and add to your resume!

Nominations for next year's ballot can be sent to Ken Denow, at any time throughout the year.

Submit your nominations by e-mail or phone to:

Kenneth Denow - President 2011

Kendenow@hotmail.com

Scholarship fund is running low!

Our Scholarship fund is running very low. Please consider a contribution to the account to continue our present two \$500 scholarships. Without your donations, this next round of scholarships may drain the fund!

A Note of Thanks

Scholarship Committee Chairperson, Donna Ferren Guy, received thank you notes from our 2011 Scholarship Winners; Dustin Bernau from UW-Madison and Kyle Reedy from UW-Stevens Point.

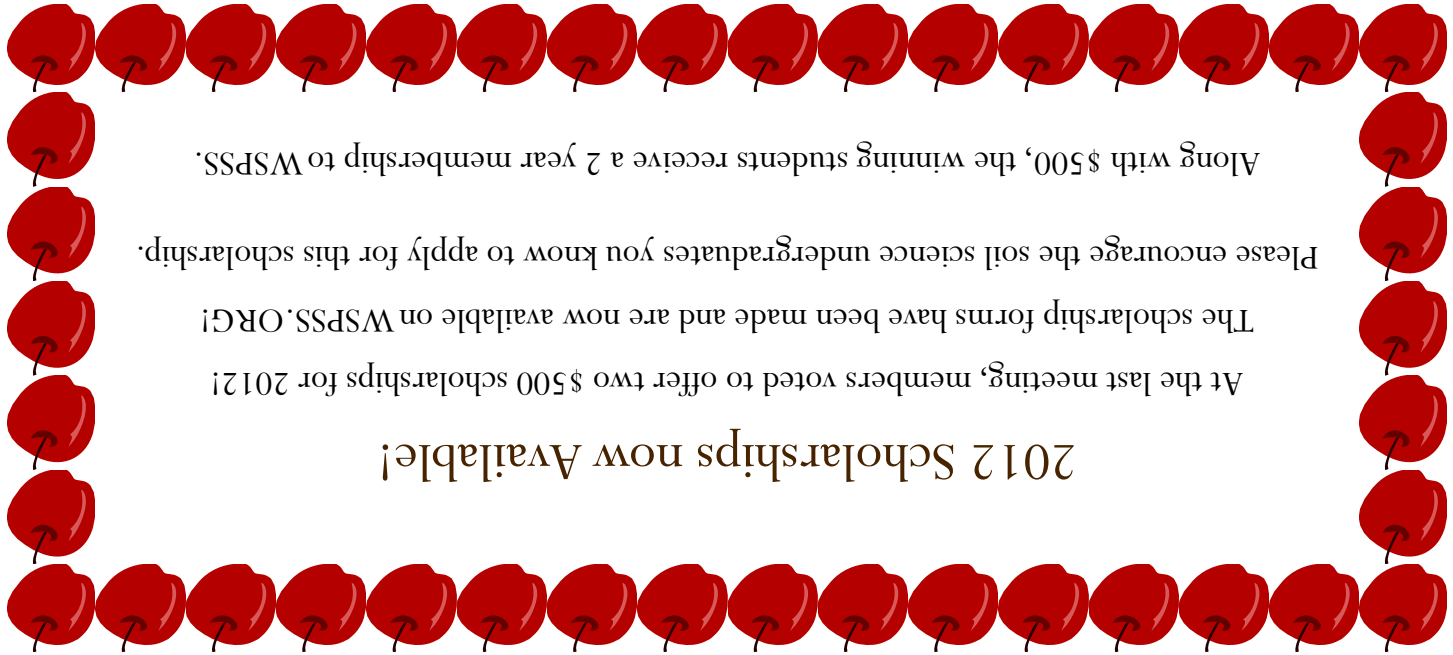
Kyle Reedy is a member of the UW-Stevens Point Soil Judging Team; see the Spring 2011 newsletter for an article written by Kyle about soil judging in California. This past summer, Kyle had an internship with the USDA-NRCS in Wyoming where he participated in an initial soil survey.

Dustin's letter will be archived online in our Skydrive Document Archive where members can read it. Here are excerpts from his letter:

"I want to thank you so very much for helping support my education... I want to particularly thank those who are responsible for funding this scholarship and those who have sacrificed part of their own earnings to benefit me..."

"From this fund, it's evident that the Wisconsin Society of Professional Soil Scientists values the importance of providing others with opportunities to pursue their dreams."

While Dustin is not studying, he works at Erin Hills Golf Course and University Ridge Golf Course. He is also President of the Badger Turf and Grounds Club. He will be graduating in Spring 2012.



2012 Scholarships now Available!

At the last meeting, members voted to offer two \$500 scholarships for 2012! The scholarship forms have been made and are now available on WSPSS.ORG! Please encourage the soil science undergraduates you know to apply for this scholarship. Along with \$500, the winning students receive a 2 year membership to WSPSS.

Karla Petges
451 West North Street
Juneau, WI 53039-1120

2011 WSPSS Officers

President - Ken Denow
Treasurer - Karla Petges
Secretary - Shauna Repling
President-Elect - Chris Miller
Past President - Kevin Traastad

2011 Committee Chairpersons

Education: Leroy Jansky ljansky@hotmail.com
Historical: John Campbell jecampbell51@hotmail.com
Nominations: Kevin Traastad kevin-maggie@mwr.net
Promotions: Tim Miland tim.miland@wi.usda.gov
Scholarship: Donna Ferren Guy donna.ferren@wi.usda.gov
Website: Leroy Jansky ljansky@hotmail.com