

S733 SSSA SPECIALIZED CONFERENCES COMMITTEE

The SSSA Board merged the S773 Bouyoucos Conferences Committee into the S733 SSSA Conference Committee per board action on Dec. 20, 2012.

A. Status: Special Committee

B. Composition and Tenure:

The Committee is composed of SSSA Members and the number of members shall be appointed as needed. Committee members will initially serve two year terms and the Chair a two year term. This appointment format will be evaluated as needed.

C. Background

The idea of SSSA holding an independent meeting of some type has been discussed for years. Typically this is given in the context of having an annual meeting separate from the American Society of Agronomy and the Crop Science Society of America. Some progress has been made such as the recent joint meeting of ASA, CSSA, SSSA, and the Canadian Society of Soil Science in 2011, but this was clearly not a conference designed to promote the SSSA brand and independent identity. In addition, recent member input obtained by the SSSA Reorganization Task Force indicates that the majority of our members favor continuing the current joint annual meeting format. Discussions of the SSSA Board have focused on developing small, single-topic conferences that would promote the SSSA brand and independent identity. Such conferences would be in addition to our participation in the joint annual meeting and could be sponsored by SSSA alone or in cooperation with one or more scientific or professional societies. The general purpose of the committee would be to target the organization of such a conference in 2013 and to develop a process for topic selection and organization for future conferences (2014 and beyond).

D. Committee Charge:

1. Survey SSSA membership for topic ideas for a SSSA conference in 2013.
2. Recommend conference topic to the SSSA Board
3. Recommend membership of a task force whose purpose would be to develop the scientific program for the selected topic.
4. Identify and solicit co-sponsorship from other scientific or professional societies as appropriate.
5. Work with headquarters staff to locate and organize the 2013 conference.
6. Coordinate and align activities with S237 Membership and Society Identity Committee
7. Develop a process for topic selection and organization for conferences in 2014 and beyond.
8. Proceedings arising out of a SSSA Specialized Conference will be owned by the Soil Science Society of America and will be published and archived in the ACSESS Digital Library.
9. Annually, review the SSSA Specialized Conference proposals, and select one or more to receive Bouyoucos Funds through the Agronomic Science Foundation that meets the Bouyoucos Conference Award description. Currently, the amount is \$15,000 annually or \$30,000 every two years. Those conferences selected will use "a Bouyoucos Conference" on all promotional

material. The S733 Soils Conferences Committee will have final determination as to how to appropriate the Bouyoucos Funds in any given year. The number of conferences supported is at this Committee's discretion, as restricted by available funds. The Committee may award partial funding, full funding, or no funding for a proposal.

Bouyoucos Conference Awards

The Bouyoucos Conference Award was initiated by the SSSA Board of Directors to establish personal relationships among scientists and to promote the discussion and free exchange of ideas at the frontiers of soil science. Scientists with common goals and interests are brought together for an intense, highly focused examination of a topic of critical importance to soil science. A Bouyoucos Conference provides a forum for an exchange of information that is not typically achieved through publications or presentations at large scientific meetings. The Bouyoucos Conference Series was established in 1992 and named in recognition of George Bouyoucos and his commitment to advancing soil science. Bouyoucos Funds are made available through the Agronomic Science Foundation and administered by the Soil Science Society of America.

E. Presidential Responsibilities:

The SSSA President:

1. Appoints new members to replace those whose terms expire.