



Soil Profiles

The Voice of the National Society of Consulting Soil Scientists, Inc.

Final Issue ■ December 2011



NSCSS Integration into SSSA



For several years, the soil science profession has been confronted with many challenges, internally and externally. The National Society of Consulting Soil Scientists, Inc. (NSCSS) has served as the vital organization in representing the professional practice of soil science as consultants. For over a year, the NSCSS Executive Committee and Board of Directors have been discussing with the Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) leadership a potential new relationship between NSCSS and SSSA.

At the May 21-24, 2011 NSCSS Annual Meeting in Asheville, North Carolina, it was recommended that NSCSS integrate into SSSA to unite and expand the soil science community and form a new Consulting Soil Scientists Division within SSSA. These discussions led to the proposal that was presented to the NSCSS Board of Directors that NSCSS integrate into SSSA and form the new Division with SSSA.

After further NSCSS/SSSA discussions regarding the merger, on July 21, 2011, the Board of Directors of the SSSA unanimously voted to create a new Division - S12, for Consulting Soil Scientists (CSS). On July 29, 2011, the NSCSS Board of Directors voted to recommend to the membership that we integrate our corporation and programs into SSSA.

In August, NSCSS members were given the opportunity to approve the merger by voting - the results were overwhelmingly (95%) in favor of integrating NSCSS into SSSA.

There are many positive aspects of this move. For example, SSSA has a corporate umbrella under which we can be included and we no longer need to have our own corporation, which will relieve us of the many legal and administrative responsibilities of being a corporate entity. Also, SSSA has an excellent website that we will use to integrate NSCSS into the new Division S12/CSS.

Another positive aspect of the merger is the potential to advocate the consulting community through the communications network of the SSSA—especially through the SSSA Science Policy Office in Washington, D.C. which keeps the Society informed of the political happenings that might affect soil and crop scientists. This will be play a key role in promoting our profession.

Many of you have expressed a desire to promote soil science as a profession and try to gain greater recognition as valuable professional consultants at the national level. The ASA, CSSA and SSSA Science Policy Office would be the vehicle to take the soil science profession up a level by working to develop legislation and increase funding for science programs. This will make NSCSS' most powerful tool, our grassroots advocacy activity, more effective due to increased resources and energy.

About the Soil Science Society of America...

SSSA is a progressive international scientific society that fosters the transfer of knowledge and practices to sustain global soils. Founded in 1936 - **SSSA celebrated its 75th Anniversary this year**—SSSA is the professional home for 6,000+ members dedicated to advancing the field of soil science.

Members may subscribe to [Society journals](#) at a reduced rate and receive member discounts on [books and publications](#), and on [Annual Meetings](#) registration fees. Go to : www.soils.org/ for more information about SSSA.

To add the S-12/CSS Division to your SSSA membership, log in at: www.soils.org/account/divisions/sssa.

Details of NSCSS Transition into the New SSSA S12 Consulting Soil Scientists Division

- **ADMINISTRATION** - The new division within SSSA - Division S12/CSS will be administered by the leadership of the current NSCSS Executive Committee with a leadership transition plan for the first three years of the division. Oren Reedy, NSCSS President-Elect for 2012 will chair the S-12/CSS Division during the first year, 2012; the S-12 Division Chair-Elect for 2013 is E. Philip Small; the S-12 Board Representative for 2012 and 2013 is Mark S. McClain Go to <https://www.soils.org/about-society/committees/> to see a list of all the SSSA Divisions; click on Current Committee Members List to get contact information for officers.
- **MEMBERSHIP** - There are approximately 150 NSCSS members in 2011, about half of whom are already members of SSSA. SSSA has invited the non-SSSA members to become SSSA members by offering a **one year free trial membership**. When you join, you can select Division S12 (CSS) as your primary interest and have the opportunity to interact with other soil consultants. Furthermore, members will no longer be required to pay annual dues of \$100 to NSCSS, so those of you who are already members of SSSA would cut your annual soil organizational dues by over half as SSSA annual dues are \$95.
- **RPSS** - The NSCSS Registered Professional Soil Scientist (RPSS) will be phased out in approximately one year. Those with a current RPSS certification who are not currently SSSA/Certified Professional Soil Scientist (CPSS) will need to be evaluated as to their eligibility, if they want to become CPSS. Since RPSS requires CPSS, CPSC, or a state license to become RPSS, the requirements for becoming CPSS are likely already to have been met. SSSA is currently working with several certified RPSS to convert them to CPSS status (pending SSSA Certification Board approval).
- **EDUCATION** - The SSSA is expanding its soil science educational programs. Courses currently offered by NSCSS would be evaluated and added to SSSA course offerings. Topics of interest and need for NSCSS members also would be considered for development and added to the SSSA course offerings within one to three years. Continuing Education programming for consulting soil scientists would be encouraged through the S-12/CSS Division at the SSSA annual meetings and field trips.
- **NEWSLETTER/JOURNAL** - Currently SSSA has the *Soil Science Society of America Journal* (SSSAJ) and is part of *CSA News* and *Crops and Soils* magazines. Consulting Soil Scientists are generally interested in a more practical publication that is focused on applied research. One possibility is a new journal and magazine, such as the *Journal of Applied Environmental Soil Science* (JAESS) which would provide practical applications of soil science and to present case studies/histories of soil science in action. This would not necessarily be a research journal, although research articles would be welcome, but the emphasis would be on the practice and application of soil science in the field. Stay tuned!
- **ETHICS** – It is essential that there be an emphasis on professional ethics for all soil scientists and not just consultants. The current NSCSS ethics seminar would be retained and greatly enhanced into a multi-media seminar that could be adapted to a live audience at the SSSA annual meetings as well as being available online, in order to maintain integrity within the soil science profession. There will be a valuation of the current NSCSS Code of Ethics for Professional Conduct and it will be integrated into SSSA's Ethics Code.
- **NSCSS ASSETS** - Remaining NSCSS funds, NSCSS would designate approximately half of the money we currently have on hand to soil science education, the remainder would be used to manage and promote the consulting soil science profession through informational presentations, field trips and related activities.
- **NSCSS ACTIVITIES** - The Division will continue to have annual field trips and related presentations to retain the camaraderie and the networking which have served NSCSS members for over 25 years. And we will have the opportunity to put together symposia, papers and posters at the SSSA Annual Meetings, which are held in the fall.

NOTE: See p. 3 for details re the First Annual S-12/CSS Field Trip planned for February, 2012.

JOIN US on the FIRST ANNUAL S-12/CSS FIELD TRIP!!

ANZA BORREGO STATE PARK in BORREGO SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

February 16, 17, and 18, 2011 (Thursday-Saturday)

To mark the inception of SSSA S-12 Division for Consulting Soil Scientists and to honor the tradition of the National Society of Consulting Soil Scientists for field training and lectures in fantastic locations, a special field trip has been planned for one and all to share and enjoy. The field trip is a two-day visit to Anza Borrego State Park in northeast San Diego County, California.

The trip is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity since it will coincide with ongoing NRCS soil mapping of California's largest and most rural state park. Anza Borrego State Park is a desert wonderland that is as unique as nearby Joshua Tree and Death Valley National Parks. The state park has hundred of miles of dirt road, as well as 12 wilderness areas that allow visitors to see areas that are off the beaten path – NRCS will be providing us with an opportunity to visit some great soil pits that they have logged during their mapping of the state park.

The geology and geomorphology of Anza Borrego State Park is almost limitless. There are badlands, overlapping alluvial fans, braided streams, steep mountains, flat valleys, fossil beds, mud caves, earthquake faults, depressions, outcrops, playas and much more. There's a story worth hearing around almost every corner! And even more stories when you add in the archaeological sites where ancient native peoples hunted and settled here.

One of the special aspects of this field trip is the tour guides. NRCS has offered to provide one of their soil scientists to be a guide for their ongoing soil mapping work. California State Parks has offered to provide their onsite paleontologist and naturalist as a guide as well. NSCSS members Roy Shlemon, Marie Davis and Roger Poff have each conducted research in Anza Borrego and have volunteered to be part of the tour. This is an all-star team that won't likely ever be assembled at this location again – that alone makes this the field trip you don't want to miss!

Borrego Springs is the rendezvous point for the field trip. It is about 2 hours from the San Diego and Ontario, California airports. Participants are encouraged to coordinate carpooling from these airports. NSCSS has arranged for a block of rooms at the Borrego Springs Resort and Spa for \$125+tax/night. This is an great rate for this venue, which also has a restaurant, bar and spa for those looking forward to some relaxation.

The working agenda for the field trip is an optional half-day excursion on Thursday, February 16 for those that arrive early. The main field trip will be on Friday, February 17, which will be followed by a banquet dinner to celebrate the establishment of the new S-12 Soil Consultants Division and to share memories of 25 years of NSCSS. And on Saturday February 18, there will be an additional field trip to see more of the state park. We'll wrap up around 3 PM and many will caravan to San Diego for a great dinner and night on the town. Sunday February 19 will be the departure date for those who choose to stay for the Saturday events.

Please pay attention to email notices about this field trip – space is limited, as well as hotel rooms. Be prepared to bring sunscreen and to hike around in shorts and Hawaiian shirts. Please contact Phil Scoles - pscoles@terrascience.com - or Oren Reedy - oren@ocreedy.net - to reserve a spot, or two for yourself and your spouse.



Officers SSSA Division S-12/Consulting Soil Scientists

2012 S-12 Division Chair: Oren Reedy, Jacksonville FL
2011-2013 S-12 Board Representative: Mark S. McClain, Canton GA
2013 S-12 Division Chair-Elect: E. Philip Small, Spokane WA



SSSA Division S-12/CSS Leadership

2011 Chair: Hal Owen

2012 Chair: Oren Reedy

2013 Chair-Elect: E. Philip Small

2011-2013 Board Representative: Mark S. McClain

Soil Profiles

Final Issue

Published by the
National Society of
Consulting Soil Scientists, Inc.

Website: <http://www.nscss.org>

© 2011 National Society of
Consulting Soil Scientists, Inc.

Printed on Recycled Paper



Soil Profiles

National Society of Consulting Soil Scientists, Inc.
Attn: Newsletter Staff
P.O. Box 1219
Sandpoint, ID 83864

Postmaster: Address Service Requested

