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the USDA gene bank has not been able to maintain seed collections or distribute seed to breeders. Now is the time to determine what type of seed collection will support the efforts of industrial hemp breeders.”

Looking to international scientists to report on their research may be part of the answers for the U.S., with CSSA and ASA leading the way in hemp meetings and scientific information. Creating spaces where discussions between researchers can happen is another, and the Science of Industrial Hemp meeting will have plenty of time for networking.

Why Now?

Why is now the time for a meeting on the science of hemp?

“There have been multiple meetings that have focused more on the fledgling business side of hemp products,” says Ellen Bergfeld, CEO of the Societies. “Yet, there has not been anything that has focused on the science of production here in the U.S. As perceptions are changing about hemp as a legitimate product, separate from marijuana, and there is growing interest in and support for the products themselves, we feel that it is very important to focus on the science of industrial hemp production to help lift it out of obscurity as well.”

According to Small, restarting the hemp industry in Canada didn’t happen overnight, and, so it won’t in the U.S., either. “As with any crop that hasn’t been grown for many years, progress was slow because of a lack of knowledge on the part of producers, product developers, marketers, and regulators,” Small says.

The Science of Industrial Hemp conference will hopefully increase the speed with which knowledge is shared, connections are made, and the industry rebuilds itself. For more information about the meeting, visit www.crops.org/meetings/hemp-meeting.

Cross-cutting Special Session Announced for Phoenix Meeting:
Manufactured, Blended, and Engineered Soils for Urban Applications

In urbanized and developed lands, custom-blended soils or soils engineered for a specific environmental function are increasingly common. These manufactured soils may be designed to ameliorate degraded land to support vegetation, filter stormwater, remove pollutants, or have physical characteristics—such as low weight for green roofs or stability for heavily trafficked areas—that allow them to serve specific functions in built or engineered environments.

At the Annual Meeting this November in Phoenix, you are invited to join us for a special session to discuss the state of the science of manufactured, blended, and engineered soils and articulate challenges and opportunities for research and practice in the context of environmental sustainability. This trend bridges a wide range of disciplines as society increasingly designs ecological systems in urbanized areas and creates new opportunities for soil scientists as well as posing novel challenges for science and practice.

Speakers include Dr. Pamela Hazelton, School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Technology, Sydney, Australia, co-author of Understanding Soils in Urban Environments, a comprehensive handbook for engineers working with soils; Dr. Bill Krueser, University of Nebraska–Lincoln, who will speak on the pedology of engineered turfgrass soils; Dr. Nick Basta of Ohio State University who will examine unique soil blends to remediate urban soil contamination; Dr. Scott B. Jones of Utah State University who will review the state of the art in sensing of soil properties and processes; and Dr. Susan D. Day of Virginia Tech who will introduce the session and give a perspective on manufactured soils for urban trees. The meeting will end with a moderated discussion with all panel members. For more information about the session, contact Dr. Susan D. Day, Chair of SSSA’s Urban and Anthropogenic Soils Division, at sdd@vt.edu.

Tentative program time: 1 to 2:45 pm, Tuesday, 8 Nov. 2016. Sponsoring Divisions and Sections: SSSA’s Urban and Anthropogenic Soils, Wetland Soils, Soils & Environmental Quality, and Soil Consulting Scientists Divisions; CSSA’s Turfgrass Science Division; and ASA’s Environmental Quality Section.

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