News from the Empire State Pedologists Society

Frederick L. Gilbert

On 5–6 May 1994, the Empire State Pedologists Society (ESP) met at the Herkimer County BOCES Center for combined business meeting and training sessions. Members that are employed by the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) gathered during the afternoon of May 5th to learn the basics in operating and maintaining their new truck-mounted backhoe.

The evening of May 5th, soil scientists from across the state and other friends of Will Hanna, SCS State Soil Scientist gathered to honor the occasion of his retirement from federal service. Will is well known within the soil survey fraternity throughout the country for his work on soil taxonomy and soil classification during his many years as the state soil correlator for New York. Will also made numerous friends in other countries by hosting visitors to New York and participating in soil classification development trips to Canada and the Philippines. The group enjoyed a nice dinner and an evening of remembering (and some roasting) with Will and his family. We wish him the best in his future life as a retiree and consultant.

Empire State Pedologists Society President, Renee Jacobson, conducted a brief business meeting on Friday morning, May 6. The members present decided to send a new membership brochure to New York State Department of Health (DOH) officials and local code enforcement officers promoting the use of soil scientists in evaluating sites for septic systems. This brochure will list all soil scientists certified as full members of ESP. The group also adopted a code of ethics relative to professional practice.

Following the brief business meeting, Larry Day (Delaware County SWCD) presented a program on currently accepted procedures for site analysis, and installation of on-site septic systems in New York state. Steve Smith (Montgomery County SWCD), presented their procedures for assisting the Health Department with septic system applications. Jack Cunnan, P.E. (Senior Sanitary Engineer, DOH), presented an overview of septic system design guidelines, construction and maintenance. Val Krawiecki reported on his recent consulting work in Georgia performing state approved site investigations. Roger Case described site evaluation procedures in southeastern New York. Brian Grisi discussed site investigations for septic systems for The Adirondack Park Agency. Fred Gilbert discussed recent meetings with DOH officials in Albany.

Empire State Pedologists Society members are attempting to become more involved in the process of site analysis for on-site septic systems in New York state.

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