Potpourri

DeWayne Williams, Soil Scientist, South National Technical Center says “Bye”

Wade Hurt and George Martin

Hard headed as the day is long, Correlations, interpretations; taxonomy, investigations. On these and other subjects DeWayne is hard headed as the day is long.

Hydric soils, k-factors, r-factors too; Vertisols, Ultisols, Alfisols, Mollisols; Ya’ll know there’s more. His thoughts become words in the blink of an eye.

Words that, albeit, ring true But truth never softens the blows of, “now, you know better than that” “where did you get that idea,” and “creepy-crud.”

No wool over his eyes, He sees clear through. Right is right and wrong is wronger. Don’t forget that.

“Position, position, position” shush, we here it now. As he tries to teach us his skills; observation of and location on the landscape.

Aquerts, Cryerts, Xererts, Torrerts, Usterts, and Uderts. From Alabama to California and Texas to the Dakotas DeWayne has chased that elusive bowl.

It’s fun to watch his incredulous search for wedge-shaped aggregates and intersecting slickensides that result in microrelief.

No one expends more energies than he to put right the estimated properties of k and r factors. Thirteen states must agree; and that’s as hard as it seems.

Sloshing through wetlands searching for morphologies that indicate hydric soils or the lack of; his goal during the past several years.

Muck, depleted matrix, gley colors, umbric surface, iron and manganese; these and more he has seen and helped us all understand the processes that created them.

Six, twelve, and six; we all know are times to eat when Mr. Williams is in town. Then it’s time for a chew and back to work if you want.

Much as we hate to say DeWayne is right more often than not. Now, since he is leaving, we could possibly state this; but we really shouldn’t.

For, even if agreement is reached it’s best not to assert. He might expect it again. And, as we all know, whatever the subject might be, DeWayne is hard headed as the day is long.

DeWayne Williams, Soil Scientist, South NTC says “bye.”

1 This poem was dedicated to DeWayne Williams by Wade Hurt and George Martin. Hurt also wrote, “DeWayne Williams is a Soil Scientist. His experiences with the NRCS (formerly SCS) include almost twenty years as a field soil scientist in Texas, three and one-half years as a state staff soil scientist in Indiana, and more than sixteen years as a soil scientist on the South National Technical Center staff in Fort Worth. His expertise will be missed.”

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