San Joaquin Valley, California, Soil Scientists

Carl H. Anderson (standing) works on soil description with Dan Vaughn. Carl H. Anderson (1923–2003) began working with the Soil Conservation Service in Pomona, CA in 1952, following six years of service in the U.S. Navy. In 1954 he transferred to Hanford, CA as a soil scientist with the SCS, where he worked until his retirement in 1980. During his career in Hanford, he worked as a Soil Survey Project Leader and was coauthor of the Kings County Soil Survey. He also served as an Area Soil Specialist and later as a soil consultant with expertise in soil chemistry, drainage, and salinity.

Information and photo courtesy of Kerry Arroues, USDA-NRCS (retired), Hanford, CA.

1975

Logo of the Florida Association of Environmental Soil Scientists

Founded in 1975, the Florida Association of Environmental Soil Scientists (FAESS) is an organization of like-minded individuals who have a passion for soil. Originally known as the Florida Association of Professional Soil Classifiers, the organization was renamed in 1993. The mission of FAESS is to operate as a charitable and educational association, to foster the wise use of soils and the understanding and importance of soils to the environment and humankind.

Each year the organization assists with the Florida State Land Judging Contest as well as school Envirothons. FAESS hosts hydric soils workshops annually as a means of educating and training individuals, such as consultants, engineers, and other professionals who make land use decisions based on soils. FAESS supports scholarships for students of soil science and is also a sponsor of the University of Florida’s Department of Soil and Water Science Annual Research Forum.

Source: Florida Association of Environmental Soil Scientists. [http://www.faess.org](http://www.faess.org)

2011

FAESS members describe and sample a Myakka soil.

On May 17, 2011, members of the Florida Association of Environmental Soil Scientists, with support of University of Florida and USDA-NRCS soil scientists, converged in Okeechobee County to describe, sample, and photograph the state soil, Myakka. Professionally photographed, high resolution images were acquired for FAESS’ state soil publications.

Myakka is a Spodosol and is classified in Soil Taxonomy as sandy, siliceous, hyperthermic Aeric Alaquods. The State of Florida has the largest total acreage of Aquods (wet, sandy Spodosols) in the nation. Although Spodosols are extensive in the some southeastern states, the Myakka soil series occurs only in the State of Florida. The Myakka soils, along with the other Spodosols, are probably the most frequently photographed soils in Florida.

For information about how Myakka became the official state soil of Florida, refer to the article by Frank Watts and Howard Yamataki, retired USDA-NRCS soil scientists, published in the summer 1990 issue of Soil Survey Horizons. A link to this article and more information on Myakka can be found at [http://faess.org/florida-state-soil-myakka-fine-sand/](http://faess.org/florida-state-soil-myakka-fine-sand/)

Source: Florida Association of Environmental Soil Scientists. UF/IFAS photo by Tyler Jones.