

Remembrance of Dr. Wayne Hudnall

Wayne Hudnall will be remembered for his contributions to pedology and production soil survey, his dedication to the soil science profession, and his enthusiasm and camaraderie with fellow soil scientists across academic, public, and private sectors. His commitment to the discipline of soil science spanned 36 years, and he lost his fight with pancreatic cancer on July 1, 2012.

Wayne Hudnall's interest in soils sparked while growing up on his family farm on the Southern High Plains near Lazbuddie, Texas. He completed his B.S. in soil science in 1969 and M.S. in soil science in 1971, both at Texas Tech University. He completed his Ph.D. in Soil Mineralogy, Soil Chemistry, Soil Genesis and Classification at the University of Hawaii in 1977.

Wayne began his professional career as an Assistant Professor at West Texas State University (now West Texas A & M University) in Canyon, Texas, from 1976 through 1979. His subsequent position at Louisiana State University (LSU) in Baton Rouge continued from 1979 through 2004 and initiated an ongoing research interest in soils of the Lower Mississippi River Valley. Wayne's contributions while at LSU included expanding our understanding of hydric soil morphology and hydrology, aquic soil moisture regime and aquic conditions, soil moisture and temperature regimes, wetlands, and clay mineralogy, and incorporating these concepts in discussions of soil morphology and classification. He was a key member of the national wetlands initiative, helping develop many of the early standards and assisting in proposing terminology currently used for defining hydric soils and wetlands. He also served as an advisor to the National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils.

In recognition of his contributions to the National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS) program, USDA-NRCS in Louisiana awarded Wayne the "True Spirit of Cooperation Award" in 1995. During the presentation, it was stated that "if the NRCS and NCSS could mold a person to demonstrate what the consummate NCSS cooperator would be like, they would have the figure of Dr. Wayne Hudnall." The plaque inscription reads "In appreciation for outstanding service in conducting the Louisiana Soil Survey and exemplifying the true spirit of cooperation intended for the National Cooperative Soil Survey".

In 2004, Wayne was selected for the B.L. Allen Endowed Professorship of Pedology at Texas Tech University (TTU) in Lubbock, Texas. He continued his involvement in contributions to soil formation and classification, expanding his endeavors from coastal plains and marshes to the arid and semi-arid environments of West Texas and New Mexico and beyond. Recent research topics included morphology and classification of gypsum soils and use of gypsum to ameliorate soil sodicity in irrigated cotton production on the Texas Southern High Plains.

Wayne's dedication to students pursuing soil science training also included his commitment to soil judging at both LSU and TTU, as he has continued as a coach for these collegiate soils teams since 1980 – over 30 years! In addition to training soil judging teams for regional and national contests, Wayne was also instrumental in hosting the 50th Anniversary of the National Collegiate Soils Contest at Texas Tech University in March 2010. His commitment to student involvement in soils contests likely stems from his personal participation in the 1969 Texas Tech soils team under the direction of Dr. B.L. Allen, where he placed fifth individual at the National Collegiate Soils Contest that year.

Wayne also maintained an active role in soil science professional activities with membership in the

Agronomy Society of America (ASA), Soil Science Society of America (SSSA), and the Clay Mineral Society. He served as an Associate Editor of Clays and Clay Minerals from 1988 to 1995 and as Editor-in-Chief from 1995 through 1997. Wayne was recognized as an SSSA Fellow in 2003. Recognition as an ASA Fellow followed in 2005. In addition, Wayne consistently contributed as a full partner in annual Soil Survey Conferences in both Louisiana and Texas.

Wayne's domestic research was complemented by his international work. His collaborations in Australia, Burundi, Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Spain, and Vietnam resulted in published research.

Wayne Hudnall stands out as a particularly responsible and determined soil scientist whose involvement in the soil science profession included field and laboratory research in soil genesis, morphology, and classification, collaboration with public- and private-sector participants in the soil survey program, and direction of graduate and undergraduate students in the field of pedology. He continually challenged himself and his students. His contributions during his 36-year career included academic training of 38 graduate students, including 20 students for Master's degrees and 18 doctoral students, along with significant technical input related to our understanding of soil morphology and hydrology of "wet soils". His boundless enthusiasm for his chosen profession continued throughout his career.

Wayne is survived by his wife, Callalya, and his son, Eric. His memorial service will take place at First Baptist Church in Lubbock on Friday, July 13, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. Notes of condolence can be sent to the family home:

10202 Nashville Avenue

Lubbock, TX 79423