MINUTES 2007
SOUTHERN BRANCH AMERICAN SOCIETY OF AGRONOMY BUSINESS MEETING
5 FEBRUARY 2007
MOBILE, AL CONVENTION CENTER

The meeting was called to order at 3:57 pm with President John Beasley, University of Georgia, presiding. A total of 29 people attended the 2007 business meeting - their names and institutions are listed on the last page of the minutes (Appendix 1).

John Beasley distributed an agenda and thanked everyone for attending the SBASA meetings as well as the business meeting during a busy time of year. He also encouraged everyone to get peer faculty involved in the regional SBASA meeting.

John reported that the 2007 meeting had a total of 62 registered oral and poster presentations with 4 presentations withdrawn by authors before the meeting and 4 (2 oral and 2 poster) no-shows. A total of 76 people attended the 2007 meetings including 66 pre-registrants, 8 late registrants, and 2 others that registered with both Agronomy and Animal Science divisions.

Kip Balkcom, USDA-ARS National Soil Dynamics Lab Auburn, AL, read the minutes from the 2006 meeting held in Orlando, FL. Wayne Ebelhar, Miss. State Univ., made the motion that the 2006 minutes be accepted as read. The motion was seconded by Wes Wood, Auburn, and the motion passed unanimously.

John Beasley reported that the bank account was steady at $3680 before any meeting registration fees or expenses. A full financial report will be included in the minutes and will need to be presented and voted on at the next meeting. [Treasures reports were later submitted for 31 Jan. 2006, 31 Jan. 2007 (pre SBASA meeting) and are included in these minutes (Appendices 3-4).]

Some discussion about the annual meeting followed concerning what SAAS provided for the meeting - the SAAS negotiates the use of a room with a lectern and screen for oral presentations and meetings plus an area to display posters. We, the SBASA, must provide the poster boards/stands, computer, and LCD projector.

John Beasley read a report provided by Susan Chapman, National ASA representative, who could not attend due to the high cost of airline tickets from Madison, WI to Mobile, AL. The report is attached to the end of the 2007 meeting minutes (Appendix 2). John added that cooperation and support from the ASA office in pre-registration, preparing the SBASA program, and abstracts has been outstanding. A few issues with people who claimed to pre-register but were not shown on the list of pre-registered attendees or did not receive receipts need to be resolved- John tried to call ASA Head Quarters today but the ASA office was closed due to inclement weather in Madison.

OLD BUSINESS

Daren Redfearn, Past President Oklahoma State Univ., reported that no nominations were submitted for SBASA awards in 2007. No nominations were received in 2006 either. Discussion concerning how to get nominations for these awards followed.
Daren Redfearn asked who present had 1) nominated another faculty member for such awards and 2) received SBASA awards. Several people (usually the same people) raised their hands in response. The question of ‘whether an easier submission process would help resolve this problem’ (e.g., on-line submission of nomination) was also asked. One member suggested that applicants/nominees for national awards also be considered for SBASA awards using the same package. John added that an effort is likely needed to make department heads aware of the awards well in advance of the meeting and to encourage them to submit deserving faculty names. The current due dates are near the years end or after the busy holiday season.

NEW BUSINESS

Issue: Member Involvement - need more people to attend the annual SBASA meeting: Wayne Ebelhar commented that involvement of other crop and soil management disciplines is needed to compliment the agronomic discipline since crop management is multi-faceted - need more networking with Entomology, Pathology, Weed Science, etc... John commented that the national Weed Science Society of America annual meeting often conflicts with our meeting. We will try and reestablish a joint session with Animal Science on forage management and livestock production for the 2008 meeting. This used to be an annual session at this meeting but was discontinued when we decided to hold the SBASA meeting separate from SAAS. Nathan Slaton will work with David Morrison, LSU-Baton Rouge, on this matter.

Issue: Future meetings and SBASA involvement - future SAAS meetings will be held in Dallas in 2008, Atlanta in 2009, and Orlando in 2010. The 2011 meeting site is still being researched with Corpus Christi, TX and Jackson, MS being considered as possible locations. SAAS is glad that we (SBASA) are participating in the annual SAAS meetings after a 2-year absence. The SAAS staff is working to ensure that room rates are reasonable and the location is desirable.

Student Presentation Awards were announced by Kip Balkcom, 2007 program chair. Cash awards of $200 and $100 were awarded for 1st and 2nd place, respectively, in each category.

Posters-Soils
1. Fernando Ducamp, Auburn Univ.

Posters-Crops
1. Shardendu Kumar Singh, Mississippi State Univ.
2. Satya Sai Kumar Matcha, Mississippi State Univ.

Oral-Soils
1. Michael Mulvaney, Auburn Univ.
2. Dexter Watts, Auburn Univ.
3. Ellen C. Knight, Auburn Univ. (Honorable Mention)

Oral-Crops
1. Monika Saini, Auburn Univ.
2. Leonard Githinji, Auburn Univ.
3. Bobby Golden, University of Arkansas (Honorable Mention)

Kip Balkcom reported that several students had requested that judges provide written feedback (evaluation) from the judging process to help students improve their oral presentation skills. Such efforts will be considered and initiated during the 2008 student competition.

John Beasley presented Daren Redfearn (Past President) with a plaque recognizing his service to the SBASA.

John Beasley then passed the gavel to incoming SBASA President Kip Balkcom (2007-2008) who introduced the new officers:

President                Kip Balkcom, USDA-ARS National Soil Dynamics Lab Auburn, AL
Vice President           Nathan Slaton, University of Arkansas - Fayetteville, AR
Past President           John Beasley, University of Georgia - Tifton, GA
Secretary                To be elected

An election will be upcoming to determine a new secretary. Nominations are being accepted at this time.

Kip encouraged everyone to attend Tuesday morning’s presentations and that posters should be removed by 11:30 am Tuesday.

A motion to adjourn was made by Wayne Ebelhar and seconded by Andy Price, USDA-ARS Auburn, AL. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nathan A. Slaton, Secretary (2006-2007)
Appendix I. Attending Members List.

1. John Beasley, President
2. Daren Redfearn, Past President
3. Kip Balkcom, Vice President
4. Nathan Slaton, Secretary
5. Bobby Golden, Univ. of Arkansas
8. Wayne Ebelhar, Miss. State Univ.
9. Andrew Price, USDA-ARS Auburn, AL
10. Dory Franklin, USDA-ARS Watkinsville, GA
11. S.K. Singh, Miss. State Univ.
13. David Brand, Miss. State Univ.
14. Shivendra Sahi, Western Kentucky Univ.
15. Ellen Knight, Auburn Univ.
16. Laura Sturgeon, Auburn Univ.
17. Francisco Arriaga, USDA-ARS Auburn, AL
18. Andre Biscaro, Auburn Univ.
19. Dexter Watts, Auburn Univ.
21. David Burner, USDA-ARS Booneville, AR
22. Michael Mulvaney, Auburn Univ.
23. John Jennings, Univ. of Arkansas CES (Little Rock, AR)
24. Rick Mascagni, LSU AgCenter (NE Research Station)
25. Don Boquet, LSU AgCenter (Winnsboro, LA)
26. William Evans, Miss. State Univ.
27. Sam Dennis, Tenn. State Univ.
28. Peter Newman, Univ. Florida (SW Florida Research Education Center)
29. Monte Rouquette, TAMU (Overton, TX)
Appendix II. Provided by Susan Chapman

ASA-CSSA-SSSA Report to Branch Meetings

Membership: At the end of 2006, total members in the three Societies was up by 20 from 11,338 to 11,358. Members may join one, two or all three Societies and the total number of membership was up 349, meaning that more members are selecting more Societies. ASA membership was down 62, CSSA membership was up 251 and SSSA membership was up 160. Journal subscriptions continue to fall, while authorship rises. Certification also remains steady, as does annual meeting attendance (3600 attendees at the Annual Meetings in Indianapolis)

Finances are stable: 2005 was in the black (2006 is in the process of being closed).

Board Activities: Each of the boards met this year in separate planning sessions. They analyzed trends, discussed the future of the professions and vision for the future. The boards then designed their strategic plans around the goals that need to be accomplished to make the vision a reality. Current priorities include enhancing the annual meeting, our communications and public relations, advocacy, publications and education activities. Each board will evaluate resulting business plans during their spring meetings and approved plans will be provided budget support in ’08. Complete Strategic Plans can be viewed at each of the Society websites under Society Info.

ASA Centennial: ASA celebrates its centennial this year. Activities include a series of articles in CSA News, a book to be published for the Annual Meetings on the history of ASA, displays of memorabilia at the meetings and special events during the meetings. The Annual Meetings are November 4-8 in New Orleans. The call for papers will open at the end of February – watch for announcements.

CSSA has launched The Plant Genome – a supplement to Crop Science. This new supplement is included with all Crop Science subscriptions.

SSSA continues its focus on the Smithsonian Soils Exhibit and an opening date of July, 2008 has been set! In conjunction, K-12 Soils Materials and a website (www.soils.org/lessons) has been developed with more materials to be included in the future. The 18th World Congress of Soil Science (WCSS) convened in Philadelphia in July with over 2000 attendees from 103 countries.

The 2007 Awards Call for Nominations is going out this week. Consider a nomination of a student or colleague – over $250,000 in awards, scholarships and fellowships are available.

Working with Congress and our “Citizen Scientist” members, we successfully launched the House Soils Caucus, held a kickoff education briefing on bioenergy, and built membership to 27 Representatives. For 2007, our Science Policy office will look to build that to 50 representatives and we will play a very active role in the development of the research, conservation and energy titles of the 2007 farm bill
The Societies will be further defining their relationships; continuing their independence with better financial accounting and growing certain programs, but continuing to cooperate more efficiently in 2007 in areas such as:

- Redesigning the job placement service on the web;
- Investigating and implementing online educational programs;
- Focusing on improving journal impact factors
- Continuing to implement user-friendly technology tools

The **membership renewal** period is coming to a close (March 15, 2007). If you haven’t renewed, please do so as soon as possible to retain all of your benefits.

See our web sites soils.org; crops.org or agronomy.org for details on any of these programs. Thank you for your membership and support of the profession.
Appendix 3. 31 Jan. 2006 treasures report.

Southern Branch American Society of Agronomy  
Treasurer’s Report  
January 31, 2006

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>6/15/05</td>
<td>Balance Brought Forward</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2005 Meeting Costs</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hotel/Food</td>
<td>(5,867.88)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Student/Professional Awards</td>
<td>(600.00)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Award Plaques</td>
<td>(227.50)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To ASA for Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/10/05</td>
<td>2005 Meeting Registrations</td>
<td>2,020.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/30/05 – 12/31/05</td>
<td>Monthly Bank Charges</td>
<td>(11.49)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/01/06</td>
<td>Balance Brought Forward</td>
<td>3,475.85</td>
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Respectfully Submitted:

February 1, 2006  
Dennis J. Osborne  
Treasurer, SBASA

NOTE: Treasurer Elizabeth Guertal’s term as Treasurer, SBASA ended June 30, 2005. After the 2005 Meeting final reconciliation of accounts the checking account balance was $3,475.85. That balance is shown as “Balance Brought Forward” on 01/01/06. The AuburnBank account was closed December 02, 2005 and that balance was transferred by Certified Check from AuburnBank in Auburn, AL to SunTrust Bank in Raleigh, NC. Funds were deposited to account of “Southern Branch American Society of Agronomy” in SunTrust bank on December 06, 2005. This change was made because Dennis Osborne of Raleigh, NC assumed responsibility as Treasurer, SBASA and Officers agreed to locate Branch funds close to the Treasurer’s home and work.
### Southern Branch American Society of Agronomy
#### Treasurer’s Report
January 31, 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01/01/06</td>
<td>Balance Brought Forward</td>
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<td>01/18/06 and 01/27/06</td>
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<td>Transfer, New Checks, No Fee Account and Business Debit Card</td>
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<td>01/31/06</td>
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<td>02/06/06</td>
<td>Hotel/Food Account Draft</td>
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<td>03/09/06</td>
<td>Ck 1001 to M. Legendre/SAAS</td>
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<tr>
<td>03/28/06 – 04/04/06</td>
<td>(Dates Cks 1002 – 1006 Cleared)</td>
<td>(900.00)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>For: Student/Professional Awards</td>
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<tr>
<td>04/20/06</td>
<td>Ck 1007: Reimburse Daren Redfearn Hotel Charge for Breakouts Day 2</td>
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<td>03/09/06</td>
<td>Deposit ASA Payment to SBASA for Our Share 2006 Meeting Registrations</td>
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<td>01/01/07</td>
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**NOTES:**
1. No account activity occurred from 05/01/06 through 01/31/07 and no charges or deposits other than those shown transpired.
2. Total breakout charges for 2006 meeting were sum of $1,269.97 and $748.71 = $2,018.68 for 73 registrants, or $27.65 a head. The 2005 cost for same item was $5,867.88.
3. Student Awards for 2006 were $900.00 in cash payments vs. 2005’s $600.00 in cash awards and $227.50 for plaques. Goals of cost reduction and stable account appear achieved.

Respectfully Submitted:
January 31, 2007
Dennis J. Osborne, Treasurer, SBASA