

Applying and Creating Knowledge to Enhance and Protect Private and Public Forests

Dr. James Burger, Garland Gray Professor of Forestry and Professor of Forestry and Soil Science in the Department of Forestry at Virginia Tech, will give the 2008 Sergei A. Wilde Distinguished Lectureship on Forest Soils on Monday, 6 October at 11:05 am in Room 362C of the George R. Brown Convention Center. The title of his presentation is "Are We Obligated to Help Apply as Well as Create Knowledge to Enhance and Protect Our Private and Public Forests?"

Burger writes, "S.A. Wilde pioneered forest soil science in the U.S. during the 1940s and 1950s, a time when forestry was more a process of hunting and gathering wood than the application of research results for forest land management. The last two chapters of Wilde's 1958 textbook condensed his research for forest management applications, but it was decades later before these principles were applied to any degree. Our generation of scientists has had the pleasure



James Burger

of seeing the public benefit from applied forest soils research, but most of us spend little time concerned about the potential application of our own work. With pressing national sustainability issues, governments, trustees, donors, and the public are encouraging us to become more engaged in meeting immediate public needs. How can we help apply as well as create knowledge and be as relevant as possible?" Burger recommends that we:

- be experts at something and good at lots of things;
- be accessible and responsive to all clientele individually and as groups;

- encourage joint definition of problems and questions;
- develop partnerships with stakeholders rather than conveying an impression of higher authority;
- include young scientists and students in outreach as well as research activity;
- use powerful experimental designs that can be demonstrated to the public;
- pursue both short- and long-term relevant questions;
- stay neutral and maintain our objectivity and integrity;
- simultaneously discover, integrate, apply, and transfer knowledge;
- make sure we are helping our sponsors with their agenda, not ours; and
- always give credit to our partners and thank our donors.

Burger's research interests include forest soil productivity and quality, plantation silviculture, restoration ecology, and agroforestry. He has done extensive research on the reclamation of mining lands and restoration of sustainable forests. He received his B.S. in agronomy and M.S. in forestry from Purdue University, and then continued his education at the University of Florida where he received his Ph.D. in soil science. He has received numerous awards and distinctions throughout his career, including SSSA Fellow in 1996, President of the American Society for Mining and Reclamation, and the William T. Plass Award for career contributions to reclamation and restoration science.

The Sergei A. Wilde Distinguished Lectureship on Forest Soils was established as a memorial to S.A. Wilde to honor his leadership role in the evolution of forest soil science in the 20th century. The program is administered by SSSA.



Training for Manuscript Tracking Systems

Attention all journal editorial board members: There will be two training sessions for Manuscript Central on Monday, 6 October and one for Manuscript Tracker on Wednesday, 8 October. Please try to attend if you have questions about using these tracking systems.

Manuscript Central Training

Agronomy Journal: Monday, 6 October, 10:00 am–12:00 pm, Room 352C of the Convention Center.

Crop Science, *Journal of Plant Registrations*, and *The Plant Genome*: Monday, 6 October, 3:00–4:00 pm, Room 213 of the Convention Center by appointment only. Contact Managing Editor Kevin Ducey to reserve a time at kducey@agronomy.org.

Manuscript Tracker Training

Journal of Environmental Quality, *Soil Science Society of America Journal*, *Vadose Zone Journal*, and the *Journal of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Education*: Wednesday, 8 October, 12:00–1:00 pm, Room 382C of the Convention Center.

Visit the HALL OF FAME

Stop by and check out the 2008 SSSA–ASA–CSSA award, scholarship, and fellow recipients in our new Hall of Fame on the third floor of the Convention Center. Past recipients are also listed.