



American Geophysical Union

Message from the Biogeosciences Section President

This spring, the nominations committee was busy with handling nominations for both the Sulzman Award and AGU fellow nominations. Many thanks to everyone involved, from those of you who nominated your outstanding colleagues to the committee who reviewed each and every submission. As the summer field season begins, it's not too early to begin thinking about the 2013 Fall Meeting. The abstract deadline is 6 August this year. Thanks to the efforts of several B-section members, "Global Soils" will be one of five "Swirls" offered at the Fall Meeting this year:

Global Soils SWIRL: "Soils are part of the Critical Zone, and are both responders and drivers of the most critical environmental changes facing the earth during the Anthropocene. Controls on soil organic matter and C-cycling processes have dominated these discipline-specific sessions. The soils SWIRL accounts for all aspects of the complexity of the soil system including erosion, dust production, soils in water transport and chemistry, isotopic analyses, pedogenic processes affected by volcanism, physical, chemical and biological composition, fertility, greenhouse gas production, and weathering. The soils SWIRL theme will provide bridges of interdisciplinarity and communication across the AGU membership to characterize and quantify soil processes from microbial to pedogenic scales."

In addition to soils-related sessions from other AGU sections and focus groups, the B-section sessions included in this SWIRL will be:

- Data-Model Integration for Improving Biogeochemistry-Climate Feedbacks in Earth System Models with Explicit Microbial Mechanisms
- Soil Organic Matter Dynamics in the Anthropocene
- Role of Soil Erosion on Biogeochemical Cycling of Essential Elements
- Linking Geochemical and Microbial Effects on Organic Matter Dynamics in Cold Ecosystems
- Stability of Deep Soil Organic Carbon and its Vulnerability to Global Change
- Bridging Time Scales by Invoking Natural Gradients in the Study of Soil Change
- Vulnerability of Permafrost Carbon to Climate Change
- Mechanistic Representations of the Temperature Sensitivity of Soil Organic Matter Decomposition
- Linking Geomorphology to Biogeochemistry and Nutrient Cycles

In addition to the Fall Meeting, check out the upcoming Chapman Conference this October:

"Soil mediated drivers of coupled biogeochemical and hydrological processes across scales"
21-25 October 2013; Biosphere II, Oracle, Arizona (**abstract submission 20 June**)

This AGU Chapman conference will bring together scientists from soil system sciences, hydrology, and biogeochemistry to discuss recent findings dealing with soil-mediated drivers of hydrological and biogeochemical processes.

For more information, please visit the [AGU Chapman Conference](#) Web site.

On another front, AGU is cosponsoring a meeting on Nitrogen Use Efficiency:

"Improving Nitrogen Use Efficiency in Crop & Livestock Production Systems: Existing Technical,

Economic, & Social Impediments and Future Opportunities"

13-15 August 2013; Marriott Country Club Plaza, Kansas City, MO

This conference will bring together agronomists, biogeochemists, farmers, economists, sociologists, extension agents, educators, and policy experts from both public and private sectors to identify the major impediments to improved nutrient management and to make recommendations for overcoming those impediments.

For agenda, registration, and poster submission and agenda, please visit the [Soil Science Society of America](#) Web site.

Lastly, congratulations to Eliane Alves for her Outstanding Student Paper Award.

One of five student paper awards at the recent AGU Meeting of the Americas went to B-section member, Eliane Alves, Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas Espaciais, Brazil, for her paper entitled: "Seasonal isoprene emission from a primary forest in central Amazon." Our section is proud of you, Eliane, and all who represented the section at this meeting.

Finally, please contact [Marilyn](#), [Scotty](#), or [Eric](#) if you have suggestions or would like to volunteer for the section. Wish you all a safe and productive summer.

—Eric A. Davidson
AGU Section President, Biogeosciences

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