

## **PAMELA J. THOMAS**

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### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- USDA-NRCS, State Office, Columbia, SC, State Soil Scientist, 2006-Present
- Adjunct Professor, Virginia Tech, Crop & Soil Environmental Sciences Dept., 2001-Present (concurrent with USDA-NRCS positions)
- USDA-NRCS, State Office, Richmond, VA, Soil Scientist, 2000-2006
- Virginia Tech, Crop & Soil Environmental Sciences Dept., Blacksburg, Research Associate/Soil Scientist, 1992-2000
- Virginia Tech, Soil Survey, Charles City and Surry Counties, VA, Soil Scientist, 1987-1992

### **EDUCATION**

- Ph.D. Virginia Tech, Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences. 1998. Dissertation: Quantifying Properties and Variability of Expansive Soils in Selected Map Units.
- M.S. Virginia Tech, Agronomy. 1987. Thesis: Characterization, Classification, and Productivity Studies of Typic Hapludult Mapping Units in the Southern Piedmont of Virginia
- B.S. Virginia Tech, Agronomy – Soil Science Option. 1983.

### **CURRENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

Serves as the program manager for the Soil Survey Program, Technical Soil Services, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and Major Land Resource Areas (MLRA) Program for the state. Provide leadership for technical soil science services and the integration of soils information into all Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) programs in the state. Provides a state level leadership role to interdisciplinary technical and resource application teams (Soil Survey, GIS, MLRA, etc.) through technology transfer of soils information; developing and maintaining technical guides (i.e. hydric soils list, HEL list, etc.), and provides state level support for Farm Service Agency (FSA) appeals. Serves as leader in providing and coordinating soils training for all disciplines in NRCS, state agencies, and other users of soil survey information in the state. Encourages NRCS front-line soils staff to educate others on the importance of soil surveys in land use planning and decision-making. Directs the dissemination of soil survey data to external and internal customers and obtains customer feedback. Works with MLRA office team leaders, NCSS cooperators, state agencies, units of government, and others within the state as a participant of a MLRA Steering Team in evaluation of priorities, schedules, mapping intensity, data collection, and user needs, and in determining the kinds of products to be produced within the MLRA to maintain quality soil surveys for all customers.

### **SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

Newhouse, M.E. and P.J. Thomas. 2007. Soil survey of King William County, Virginia.  
[http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov/Manuscripts/VA101/0/King\\_William\\_VA.pdf](http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov/Manuscripts/VA101/0/King_William_VA.pdf)

- Hodges, R.L. and P.J. Thomas. 2006. Soil survey of Charles City County, Virginia. <http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov/Manuscripts/VA036/0/CharlesCity.pdf>
- Zelazny, L.W., P.J. Thomas, and C.L. Lawrence. 2002. Pyrophyllite-talc minerals. p. 415-430. In J.B. Dixon et al. (ed.) Soil mineralogy with environmental applications. Soil Sci. Soc. Am. Book Series 7. Madison, WI.
- Thomas, P.J., J.C. Baker, and L.W. Zelazny. 2000. An expansive soil index for predicting shrink-swell potential. Soil Sci. Soc. Am. J. 64:268-274.
- Thomas, P.J., J.C. Baker, L.W. Zelazny, and D.R. Hatch. 2000. The relationship of map unit variability to shrink-swell indicators. Soil Sci. Soc. Am. J. 64:262-268.
- Genthner, M.H., W.L. Daniels, R.L. Hodges, and P.J. Thomas. 1998. Redoximorphic features and seasonal water table relations. p. 43-60. In Quantifying soil hydromorphology. Soil Sci. Soc. Am. Spec. Publ. 54. Madison, WI.
- Thomas, P.J., T.W. Simpson, and J.C. Baker. 1989. Erosion effects on productivity of Cecil soils in the Virginia Piedmont. Soil Sci. Soc. Am. J. 53:928-933.
- Thomas, P.J., J.C. Baker, and T.W. Simpson. 1989. Variability of the Cecil map unit in Appomattox County, Virginia. Soil Sci. Soc. Am. J. 53:1470-1474.
- Thomas, Pamela J., James C. Baker, and Thomas W. Simpson. 1993. Characterization and composition of selected Cecil map units in the Virginia Piedmont. Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin 93-2. Blacksburg, VA.
- Hodges, R.L., P.J. Thomas, and W.J. Edmonds. 1990. Supplemental data for soil survey of Charles City County, Virginia. Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin 90-3. Blacksburg, VA.

## **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS/CERTIFICATIONS**

- Soil Science Society of America.
- Soil and Water Conservation Society.
- Certified Professional Soil Scientist. Soil Science Society of America.

## **RECENT HONORS AND AWARDS**

- Virginia Tech. Outstanding Departmental Recent Alumni Award, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences. 2007-08.
- USDA-NRCS. Columbia, VA. Performance Award for providing outstanding leadership and management in soil survey and technical soil services program. 2006-07.
- USDA-NRCS. Richmond, VA. Extra Effort Award for preparing twelve soil survey manuscripts for publication. 2004-05.
- USDA-NRCS. Richmond, VA. Group Special Act/Certificate of Appreciation for developing Common Resource Area map and Statewide Important Farmland list for Virginia. 2003-04.
- USDA-NRCS. Richmond, VA. Performance Award for maintaining Virginia soils website, preparing and placing information in Virginia eFOTG site and developing procedures and tools for data population in NASIS . 2002-03.
- USDA-NRCS. Richmond, VA. Certificate of Appreciation for Web Modernization Team. 2002-03.
- USDA-NRCS. Raleigh, NC. Certificate of Appreciation for developing tools and procedures in NASIS that enhance data quality and speed data population in MLRA Region 14. 2000-01.

## **PERSONAL ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS**

Home improvement, traveling, reading, imbibing beverages brewed by Eick, Evanylo, etc.