

Soils Meeting

4/17/15 at 6:00 pm

The first meeting of the Soil Group was held at the home of Lolly Lewis. Members present were Katherine Bedrich, Gary and Cindy McDaniels, Lolly Lewis, Pamela Neeley and Nancy Adcock.

Katherine Bedrich asked the group for their individual interest in soils which included:

Testing of soils

Health of soils

Types of soils – there is actually a State Soil, it is Houston Black Clay

Geology of soils

Katherine also displayed and discussed the variety of soil samples taken on her property and the possibility of having someone from Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) take samples for each member in the soil group. There was a fun discussion on dirt, playing in a bucket of dirt (touching) and even tasting of soil samples. The discussion finally lead to top soil, the components of it, the various layers underneath it and the incredible length of time it takes to make one inch of top soil, **OVER 500 years!**

Nancy Adcock brought many different brochures from NRCS and was researching the availability of Soil Geology Maps for Milam County.

Additionally suggested reading:

1. ECOREGIONS OF TEXAS AS-199 (12/07). Attached is a link for this out of print publication.
http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assets/public/comm_exec/pubs/as/199.pdf
2. Soil Food Web, NRCS pdf document
http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/soils/health/biology/?cid=nrcs142p2_053868

Katherine Bedrich was attending the Intermediate Soil Class at the Blackland Research & Extension Center in Temple on April 23rd and will share with the group at the next meeting.

Pamela Neeley reported Betsy Ross will be presenting a program on Healthy Soils Saturday, June 13, 2015 at Apache Pass from 10 am to 12 pm. This is an Advanced Training opportunity.

It was decided the group did have a desire to learn more about soils and agreed to meet quarterly with the details of the next meeting to be decided at the Healthy Soil AT program on June 13, 2015.

Notes submitted by: Lolly Lewis