

## **S774 KIRKHAM CONFERENCES**

Kirkham Conferences are topical meetings in which an off-the-record forum encourages scientists to make organized, in-depth explorations of disciplinary and interdisciplinary subjects of soil physics in ways seldom possible at national or international meetings. These conferences, which can be held almost anywhere in the world, each focus on a special topic and provide timely development of newly emerging research ideas and inquiries. Attendance is generally less than 50 people.

### **Conference Committee Composition**

Following the year of the Kirkham Conference, the SSSA President shall appoint the committee for the next conference.

The Committee shall consist of interested soil physicists.

### **Goals of a Kirkham Conference**

1. To provide timely impetus to the development of newly emerging research.
2. To bring together active researchers in soil physics and related sciences to promote communication and interaction.
3. To inspire graduate students by providing opportunities for them to meet and discuss their ideas with leaders in soil physics in an informal setting.
4. To enable participants to exchange ideas during the course of the meeting regarding the continued evolution of educational programs that enhance and develop knowledge in soil physics and its application to the global environment.

### **Topics for Kirkham Conferences**

Topics for Kirkham Conferences are narrowly defined to appeal to a limited audience, to allow for thorough in-depth coverage, and to provide generous opportunity for participant discussion to define and analyze important problems and opportunities, and to stimulate those attending to suggest possible solutions. The topic of each Kirkham Conference will be derived from one or more of the seminal research findings of the immediately preceding four recipients of the Don and Betty Kirkham Soil Physics Award. During the annual meeting of the SSSA preceding the year of the next Kirkham Conference, the Conference Committee shall recommend the topic title, a general description of the meeting with tentative dates and location, and an outline of the meeting format as well as the name of a person willing to serve as Chair of the forthcoming Kirkham Conference. The Executive Committee of the SSSA has final approval authority for each Kirkham Conference proposal recommended by the Special Awards Committee of SSSA. The Kirkham Conference Chair and selected personnel of SSSA Headquarters are responsible for promoting, administering and carrying out each Conference.

### **Guidelines for Kirkham Conferences**

Kirkham Conferences are completely "off-the-record". Written papers shall not be required; speakers shall not be quoted; and the recording of lectures by tapes, etc., and the photography of slides are prohibited. All steps possible should be taken to promote completely free discussion among participants.

Conferences should be planned to serve a real and valid need not now filled by other technical meetings. Reporting new, unpublished, and even incomplete results should be encouraged.

Scheduled speakers should be limited to a maximum of 3 speakers in the morning and 2 in the afternoon. Speakers should be informed as to the length of the talk and the time and day of presentation.

Conferences should be devoted to soil physics in which both experimental and theoretical concepts are of major importance, and they should not only educate but also stimulate further discussion and innovation.

### **Responsibility of Speakers**

1. Presentations are at the cutting edge of soil physics. If they are not, the value of the Conference is compromised.
2. Presentations clearly and carefully define emerging research ideas and inquiries.
3. Presentations are consistent with the stated goals and objectives of the Conference.
4. Speakers are readily accessible before and after their presentations.
5. One month before the conference, provide a concisely written summary of the speaker's presentation to the appropriate Discussion Leader and Chair.

### **Responsibility of Discussion Leaders and Conferees**

1. As a result of extensive preparations, Discussion Leaders lead, not simply manage the discussions, and conferees all actively participate during the entire Conference.
2. Discussions evoke and explore new research directions not just clarify presentations. Questions and comments should aim at placing the topic in the context of total understanding
3. Discussions involve a fully representative group of conferees and are not dominated by a few individuals.

### **Responsibility of the Chair**

1. Clearly communicate objectives, themes, and goals to conferees. This is normally done by written communication prior to the Conference, and emphasized during the Conference.
2. Conduct all aspects of the Conference in an open and democratic fashion encouraging equal opportunity for everyone to participate.
3. Provide adequate and truly significant time for formal and informal discussion of formal presentations.
4. Lead and inspire all conferees to work diligently and collectively during the Conference to realize as fully as possible the stated objectives, themes, and goals.
5. Encourage subordination of self-interest to communal interest to achieve an atmosphere of trust and sharing - not antagonism, confrontation, or discomfort.

6. Subject to final approval of the SSSA Executive committee, and recognizing that the scientific community is heterogeneous (with respect to ethnic origin, race, sex, geography and workplace), select the conferees, speakers and discussion leaders of the Conference.

7. Within a month after the Conference, submit a summary (the topic, goals, newly emerging research ideas, developments, and expected achievements and benefits) and a list of participants to be published on not more than 1 printed page of an appropriate SSSA publication in a timely fashion.