

**Table 9. Survey results from accepted papers (n = 71). SA = strongly agree, A = agree, D = disagree, SD = strongly disagree.†**

Query	SA	A	D	SD
—% of responses—				
My manuscript was edited in a timely fashion	43	46	9	1
The reviewers were technically competent	53	47	0	0
The reviewers' comments were helpful	66	34	0	0
The reviewers' comments were respectful	62	37	1	1
The AE or TE provided clear instructions for revisions	72	25	3	0
The quality of editing was comparable to non-society journals	56	40	1	3
Manuscript Tracker accommodated the review process	68	31	1	0
	Yes		No	
Would you recommend JEQ to a colleague?	98%		2%	

† Membership of corresponding authors: ASA 31%, CSSA 3%, SSSA 36%, none 58%.

equivalents, normality, and  $g/cm^3$ . Associate editors should work with authors to ensure use of SI units. See chapter 7 of the style manual for more information ([www.asa-cssa-ssa.org/publications/style/](http://www.asa-cssa-ssa.org/publications/style/)).

### Announcements

Gary Pierzynski reminded the Editorial Board that he is soliciting nominations for the Editor's Excellence in Review Awards. Six awards will be given out for 2006 in addition to the Outstanding Associate Editor Award.

### Other Items

#### Process for Selecting JEQ Editor.

Gary Pierzynski will finish his second three-year term at the end of 2007. Anyone interested should respond to the call for editor that will be published in *CSA News*.

#### JEQ Redesign.

Elizabeth Gebhardt, JEQ assistant editor, presented information on how we will implement a new design for the journal. She gave examples of various designs that demonstrated type fonts, two vs. three columns, running heads, cover designs, and so forth. The board discussed what they liked and now Headquarters can use the board's input when planning the redesign. The new look of JEQ will debut sometime in 2007.

#### JEQ Publishing Fee.

There is currently a flat publication fee for JEQ. A change may be necessary since page length of articles is becoming longer. We need a deterrent for long papers. The board discussed different pricing structures including a flat per-page charge, and a large charge for articles more than seven pages. Gary Pierzynski will continue discussion via email during the first part of 2007 to find a recommendation for the Budget and Finance committee at their spring meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

—Gary M. Pierzynski, Editor, and Susan Ernst, Managing Editor  
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## A335.1 JOURNAL OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND LIFE SCIENCES EDUCATION EDITORIAL BOARD

The *Journal of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Education* (JNRLSE) Editorial Board met on Sunday, 12 Nov. 2006 in Indianapolis, IN. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by the Editor and Chair, Dr. John Graveel. Retiring Editorial Board members were recognized (Al Turgeon, Jim

**Table 10. Survey results from rejected papers (n = 14). SA = strongly agree, A = agree, D = disagree, SD = strongly disagree.†**

Query	SA	A	D	SD
—% of responses—				
My manuscript was edited in a timely fashion	21	64	7	1
The reviewers were technically competent	29	50	14	7
The reviewers' comments were helpful	7	50	21	21
The reviewers' comments were respectful	21	50	14	14
The AE or TE provided clear instructions for revisions	50	21	21	7
The quality of editing was comparable to non-society journals	9	55	27	9
Manuscript Tracker accommodated the review process	21	64	7	7
	Yes		No	
Would you recommend JEQ to a colleague?	75%		25%	

† Membership of corresponding authors: ASA 3%, CSSA, 12%, SSSA 18%, none 62%.

Vorst, Rob Sanford, George Middendorf, Jonathan Neal, and Greg Thompson), new members were welcomed (Steve Simmons), and the introductions were made. Those present were:

John Graveel, Editor  
Ken Barbarick, ASA Editor-in-Chief  
Sally Logsdon, SSSA Editor-in-Chief  
Susan Ernst, Managing Editor  
Associate Editors:  
Ken Smiciklas  
Elizabeth Sulzman  
Al Turgeon  
Steve Simmons  
Robert Rhykerd  
Lee Burras

### Managing Editor's Report—Susan Ernst Production.

In 2006 the journal was again electronic with one issue published at year-end. Totals below are as of 17 Oct. 2005. A summary of papers published, total pages, etc. for 2000 to 2006 is shown in Table 1.

The number of pages published in 2006 will be 114 more than in 2005 (252 vs. 138). The number of articles submitted to JNRLSE in 2006 is at 27 papers compared with 44 at this time last year. The total submitted in 2005 was 50. The acceptance rate for the journal is averaging about 75%.

The 2006 issue was typeset in-house using InDesign. Printing of the journal will be in-house again this year.

### Manuscript Tracker.

We continue to accept online-only submissions and utilize Manuscript Tracker, our web-based online submission and review system: [www.manuscripttracker.com/jnrlse](http://www.manuscripttracker.com/jnrlse). We ask associate editors to

**Table 1. Published papers in JNRLSE, 2000 to 2006.**

Contribution	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Articles	23	15	27	16	19	16	19
Notes	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Editorials	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
Letters	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Profiles	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
Media Reviews	0	0	8	0	4	9	17
Newsfeatures	19	17	26	29	13	25	12
K-16 Science	6	2	3	4	5	1	3
Web Lessons	5	12	4	13			
Total pages†	252	138	200	152	168	152	188
	Average length per paper						
Articles†	7.7	5.2	5.1	6.2	5.7	6.5	6.3
Notes	--	--	--	--	4.0	--	7.0

† Note: For 2006, total pages and length per paper are not comparable with other years since we underwent a redesign causing the words per page to change.

input all actions and steps into the Manuscript Tracker system. We need to be able to track dates and see the history of each review. Your help is greatly appreciated.

### Time Analysis.

The Manuscript Tracker system lets us look at a time analysis report. We see the days with reviewer is averaging 35 days. Days in revision is averaging 55 days. Days with the AE is at 155 days. Total time to a decision is at 178 days, almost 6 months. The Editorial Board should be commended for improving times in review and should continue to strive for more time efficiency.

### Tables.

Author are sending in tables more and more often that are not usable. During review/revision please remind authors that we require tables created in Word using the table format. No tabs or spaces are allowed. If we receive manuscripts with unacceptable tables, they are held until the author provides new tables. Thank you for your help.

### Case Study Booklet.

We compiled several of the case study articles published in the journal. We sold a total of 119 booklets so far.

### Journal Website.

The 2006 volume is available on the website at [www.JNRLSE.org](http://www.JNRLSE.org). The site is updated throughout the year and one printed copy is published in December. The website is being handled in-house by our webmaster, Elizabeth Tucker, and the rest of our IT Department.

Web statistics for the dates 1 January to 4 October 2006 are as follows:

- 20,241 hits total via [jnrlse.org/index.html](http://jnrlse.org/index.html), 1,486 hits via [jnrlse.org/index.php](http://jnrlse.org/index.php) (new homepage after conversion, [index.html](http://index.html) now redirects)
- Approximately 2,024 hits per month on average for 2006. (For comparison, there were 4,315 hits per month on average for 2005, 2,019 hits per month on average for 2004, 2,117 hits per month on average for 2003, and 1,275 hits per month on average for 2002.)
- To date we have 890 subscribers to the JNRLSE email alert (603 in 2005, 377 in 2004, 195 in 2003). Anyone can subscribe to the email alert; you do not need to be a journal subscriber to receive the email alerts. The alerts provide notices that new materials have been posted to the website.
- Here are the top 10 PDF files. Note that the only article from 2006 is number 6:

1. The most requested paper with 2044 hits: "Laboratory Exercises to

- Demonstrate Effects of Salts on Plants and Soils" 2000 issue
- 1838 hits: The Nile River Basin: A Case Study in Surface Water Conflict Resolution" 2003 issue
- 1152 hits: Beaver Stadium: A Decision Case in Football Field Management" 1999 issue
- 1064 hits: "Overview of Plant Genetic Engineering" (web lesson) 2003 issue
- 974 hits: "Plant Pigments and Photosynthesis" (web lesson) 2003 issue
- 954 hits: "Using Scientific Visualization to Represent Soil Hydrology Dynamics" 2006 issue
- 732 hits: "Lessons Learned from Teaching an Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Course on Sustainable Agriculture Science and Policy" 2002 issue
- 713 hits: "The Midwest Oil Pipeline Lean: A Decision Case Study" 1998 issue
- 679 hits: "The Rancher's Dilemma: A Game Exploring the Implications of an Open Access System" 2003 issue
- 677 hits: "Evaluating Teaching Consistency and Equity across Multiple Laboratory Sections" 2002 issue

- The average visitor spends 5 minutes and 50 seconds on our page per visit (compared to 6 in 2005 and 9 in 2004) and visits our site 2.58 times per month.
- Search engine referrals:
  - Google – 7477
  - Yahoo – 735
  - MSN Search – 331
  - AOL Search – 67
  - Google.fr – 49
  - Altavista – 21
  - AOL Search - 16
  - AllTheWeb – 3
  - Overture – 2
  - Open Directory Project – 2
  - Lycos – 2
- 43.37% of visitors come in through an education (.edu) network (compared to 43.37 in 2005 and 36% in 2004), 19.54% come in from a network (.net) (compared to 13.91% in 2005 and 12% in 2004), 15.64% come in through a commercial (.com) network (compared to 12.96% in 2005 and 8% in 2004), 5.53% come in through a nonprofit (.org) network (compared to 3.07 in 2005 and 15% in 2004), 0% come in through a United Kingdom (.uk) network (compared to 3.02% in 2005 and 0% in 2004), 0% come in through the government (.gov) network (compared to 0% in 2005 and 4% in 2004), and 3.1% come in through a Mexico (.mx) network (compared to 0% in 2005 and 0% in 2004).
- 10:00 am to 11:00 am is our busiest hour (compared to 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm in 2005 and 11:00 am to 12:00 pm in 2004) and Monday is our busiest day on average (compared to Wednesday in 2005 and Friday in 2004).

### Circulation.

Circulation of JNRLSE as of October 2006 is 586 copies: 349 member and 237 nonmember subscribers. This is a loss of 27 from last year at this time. See Table 2 for circulation numbers.

Beginning in 2004 the journal subscriptions to nonmembers were offered in packages. Please recommend JNRLSE to your librarian by downloading the form found at website: [www.asa-cssa-sssa.org/publications/pdf/journal\\_insert.pdf](http://www.asa-cssa-sssa.org/publications/pdf/journal_insert.pdf).

### Journal/Research Promotion.

Sara Uttech, Program–Communications, is in charge of the journal production programs at our

**Table 2. Subscribers to JNRLSE, member and nonmember, for the years 1994 to 2006.**

Year	Total	Member	Nonmember	No. of CD subscribers	Comments
2006	586	349	237	69	Pages created with InDesign 2 multi-site licenses†
2005	613	348	265	3	Printed in-house CD offered for the first time
2004	623	379	244		Nonmember packages begin; net gain of 123 from 2003 total
2003	500	380	120		net loss of 42 from 2002 total
2002	542	413	129		website redesigned in August
2001	585	437	148		9 cooperators
2000	661	448	213		9 cooperators
1999	611	469	142		8 cooperators
1998	720	549	171		fully electronic; 8 cooperators
1997	848	609	239		limited articles on Web
1996	902	568	334		K-16 Science starts; 7 cooperators
1995	919	603	316		6 cooperators
1994	857	640	217		SSSA and CSSA cooperators

† Canadian Ag Library, Canada; USDA-ARS-AFM-APD-AB, USA.

office. She changed her methods and now pitches our research directly to the PIOs (public information officers at agencies/universities) who then develop the Press Releases and send it out to the media. Note that the Science in Action (SIA) program will end at the end of 2006.

These agencies/institutions all wrote press releases about our journal research: USDA-ARS, University of California-Riverside, Virginia Tech, Penn State, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Texas A&M University, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, University of Arizona. We had additional PIO and media pickups for our Press Releases related to the World Congress of Soil Science, our Annual Meetings, and Awards/Scholarships/Fellow. We submitted these through EurekAlert and Newswise.

Notices were sent through the Society NewsFlash regarding new articles available on the journal's website.

### Cooperators.

Cooperators include the following societies: American Association for Agricultural Education, American Institute of Biological Science, American Phytopathological Society, American Society for Horticultural Science, American Society of Plant Biologists, Crop Science Society of America, Ecological Society of America, Entomological Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America.

### Editorial Comments Manuscript Processing.

We appreciate the help from associate editors regarding technical aspects and style matters of manuscripts. Please refer authors to our *Publications Handbook and Style Manual*, which is available online at [www.asa-cssa-sssa.org/publications/style/](http://www.asa-cssa-sssa.org/publications/style/) and to the Instructions to Authors, available online at [www.jnrlse.org/pdf/instruct\\_author.pdf](http://www.jnrlse.org/pdf/instruct_author.pdf).

Associate editors should check their copies of the query letter to authors. The main editorial problems in each manuscript are listed in that letter; some of the questions can be cleared up during review/revision.

### Acknowledgments

Thank you to everyone who helps with production and publishing of the journal. John Graveel, editor of JNRLSE; the associate editors; Meg Ipsen, editorial assistant; Elizabeth Tucker, webmaster; and Keith Lovejoy, reprints.

### Editor's Report—John Graveel

The journal Editor reported that the average acceptance rate is averaging about 75% (2006). Also, the average length per paper published so far this year (2006) is 7.7 pages. Submissions are currently at 27 papers compared with 44 at this time last year. The total submitted in 2005 was 50.

### Other Items Special Reprint Booklets.

Based on the success of the Case Studies Booklet a compilation of JNRLSE articles from the lab and field study areas was discussed as a special edition of the JNRLSE.

### Media Reviews.

Media reviews were discussed at the meeting in Indianapolis and it was decided that the media review associate editor will continue to oversee the media review process. However, each of the associate editors will be responsible to solicit individuals to review media. The process will be announced in early 2007.

### Accept/Reject Survey.

The Managing Editor provided a summary of the survey that was completed by authors whose manuscripts were accepted.

Several responses were logged for the 2006 corresponding author survey for accepted manuscripts, which is available at: <http://www.zoomerang.com/survey.zgi?p=WEB224VVZTTWKB>. There were no survey results for rejected manuscript.

About 70% of the authors are members of ASA, CSSA, or SSSA, and 90% would recommend that a colleague submit a manuscript to and ASA-CSSA-SSSA journal.

In summary, the overall view is that the authors are pleased with how we are handling JNRLSE. The Editorial Board needs to strive for timely reviews and be sure to find outside reviewers. Otherwise, there is no trend that we need to address regarding the journal and we can continue with the current review process.

### Associate Editor Review of Journal Articles.

It was discussed to have submitted articles reviewed in house by two JNRLSE Associate Editors. This will require a more diverse editorial board and more Associate Editors. An attempt will be made to increase the Associate Editor numbers this coming year and to set up the review of manuscripts by two Associate Editors. For this process one Associate Editor will be designated the lead reviewer for the manuscript.

### Timeliness of Review.

The board discussed how the time in review is improving. The Associate Editors should be careful about time spent with reviewers and with authors.

### Manuscript Tracker.

The board discussed the online submission program, Manuscript Tracker. There was agreement that MT is working fine and there are no problems to report.

### Election of New Editor for 2008.

John Graveel will be ending his service as JNRLSE Editor at the end of 2007. Any Associate Editors who are interested in serving as Editor, a three-year term, should contact John with any questions. Anyone interested should respond to the call for editor that will be published in *CSA News*.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.  
doi: 10.2136/agronj2006.0129e.

## S303 VADOSE ZONE JOURNAL MANAGING EDITOR'S 2006 REPORT Lisa Al-Amoodi Production

A summary of papers published in Vol. 5 is presented in Table 1. The 2006 issues of VZJ contained the following total published pages: Feb.: 513 pages; May: 301 pages; Aug.: 175 pages; Nov.: est. 200 pages (est. total = 1189 pages). Average paper length (including notes, excluding book reviews and letters) in 2006 was 12.0 pages, which is a 2 page increase from 2005.

### Journal Redesign

The journal PDF page style will be updated in early 2007 as composition is brought in house. This will give an updated look to the