

The French Association of Soil Science: A meeting place for soil-aware persons



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Frédéric Darboux (Treasurer)

- Born in 1934
- Members = soil scientists, students, farm advisors, land managers, public offices and private companies

[M. Isambert]

- Statutes – article 2: Goals
 - Help in the development of soil studies
 - Link between soil studies and soil uses
 - Act for better soil uses and for soil protection
 - Raise awareness of soil users



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- In the past years, soils became a hotter issue:
 - Soil Directive
 - Year of planet Earth: “Earth Science for Society”
(member of the national committee)
- ➔ Boost in our activities
 - ➔ 1) Educating to soils
 - ➔ 2) Raising awareness
 - ➔ 3) Accompanying soil study
 - ➔ 4) Promoting the soil directive



Educating to soils



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- Soils in 40 schools (12-13 years old)
 - Soils = physics + chemistry + [biology + geology]
 - with the ministry of education
 - Programs and manual for teachers
- Exhibit promoting compost use by families
- Pedogenesis : animated movie on our website (www.afes.fr)
- Field training to soil description (2008, 2009)



- Booklet "Soils for the future of the planet Earth"
(30000 prints)
- "Soil and Art" - conference and exhibit
(21 Nov.)
- Book "Soils and Landscapes"
(2009)
- Day of the Earth
(18 Oct. 2009)

[M. Isambert]

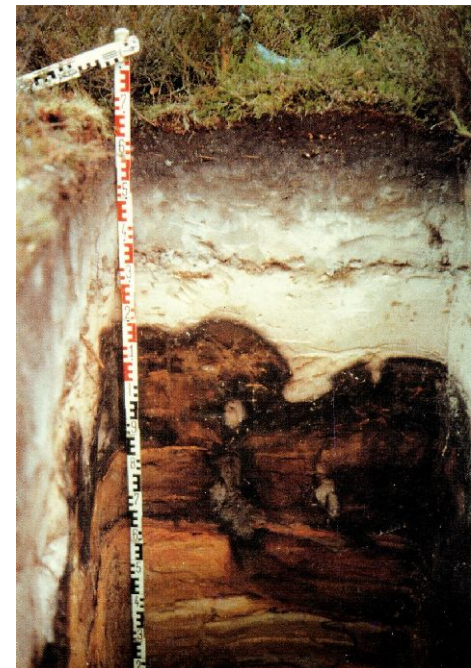




Accompanying soil study

- World IUSS Soil Congress 1998
- Co-founder of European Journal of Soil Science
- Journées d'Etude des Sols (= “*Soil-study meeting*”) (every 2 years) *with workshops*
- Funding for young scientists
- Référentiel Pédologique 2008 (=“*French soil reference base*”) → WRB
- French-speaking journal “*Etude et Gestion des Sols*” (=“*Study and Management of Soils*”)

[M. Isambert]



Specific actions toward a soil directive



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- Soils have to be protected (*obvious!*)
- Last draft lighter, but acceptable
- Information and stimulation of the French soil community (ex: consultation on the Soil Thematic Strategy – 2005)
- Contacts with other associations interested in soil protection
- Contacts with decision-makers (members of French and European parliaments, mayors)

[European Parliament]



Soils for society: Recent development and needs



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- Environmental associations
- Education
- Urban soils
- Soil specialist: a legal definition

