

Ohio Pedologist

www.ohiopedologist.org

Dear Members,

First, let me thank you for this opportunity to serve as your president for 2006. Second, now that I am the president, I must be “presidential” as I write articles for the newsletter.

I am excited to announce that your AOP has some important activities and projects planned for this year. Let me outline some of them here: (Hopefully, there will be others who will expand on these with more details in this newsletter.)

1. At our last Executive Council (EC) meeting, we met with the Certification Board (CB). The purpose was to iron out some problematic CEUs for some activities.
2. The CB will meet again in June, and I will attend as the EC representative. Frank Gibbs will attend EC meetings as the CB representative. It was suggested that we try to have a representative from each group attend each other's meetings to foster better communication between the two groups.
3. The EC will meet in June as we explore licensing or registration of soil scientists with some key members of the Indiana group and with Luther Smith (from ARCPACS) to see if we can benefit from their experiences. Licensing of soil scientists continues to be a “hot topic.” We want to investigate this more thoroughly.
4. Your President-Elect, Matt Deaton, is exploring a possible late summer/early fall meeting including field activities to help with earning CEUs. Stay tuned for more details.

5. The Mission Statement for the establishment of Certified Soil Scientists mentions an Ethics Panel to investigate complaints lodged against a Certified Soil Scientist. This panel has not been active (because of a lack of complaints – that is a good thing) and has no formal complaint procedures. The CB recommended to the EC that this panel be named the Standards and Ethics Panel and formulate complaint procedures. The panel is composed of the Private Practice rep. (Linn Roth), a rep. from the CB (Larry Milliron), and the President of AOP (myself). Watch for more details as we develop this important document.

We have been invited by the V-P of the West Virginia Association of Professional Soil Scientists to attend their annual meeting on the Ohio River. Keep June 9th and 10th (Friday & Saturday) open as their proposed dates. These dates may not be in concrete so again stay tuned for more details.

As you can see, we have some exciting things planned for this year. As I said in my first (like there will be more) inaugural address in January, this is your association and many of the above projects came from members like you. This association is for you. We haven't heard about a field day yet, but there probably will be one if someone (or a group) proposes one.

Tom Zimmerman

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2006 Directory of Officers

Tom Zimmerman, President
Matt Deaton, President-elect
Rick Buzard, Past President
Dan Benyei, Secretary
Jim Svoboda, Treasurer
Steve Miller, Newsletter editor
Tom Nash, Academic Rep.
Rick Griffin, Federal Rep.
Linn Roth, Private Rep.
Aaron Lantz, State Rep.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

WINTER MEETING

The winter meeting was well attended with approximately 50 members in attendance. Everyone was content with the large portions provided by City Barbeque. A small switcheroo was staged by the Honorary Member recipient, Scott Brockman, when he decided to change his presentation from 'Geology of Our Newest National Park, Cuyahoga Valley' to 'Pleistocene Landforms'. Fortunately most of us were intrigued by Scott's new topic but unfortunate for Scott there were some in attendance that made the trip for the discussion about Cuyahoga Valley NP.

AOP AWARDS PRESENTED AT WINTER MEETING

President Rick Buzard presented recipients with AOP awards for various achievements at the 2006 Winter Meeting. Rick Griffin and John Allen delighted in making Matt Deaton the custodian of the coveted traveling 'Golden Clod Award'. President Tom Zimmerman presented Past President Rick Buzard the Executive Leadership Award after President Rick Buzard passed the gavel to Tom.

Awards bestowed were:

C. Scott Brockman - Honorary Membership
Richard W. Buzard - Executive Leadership Award
Larry A. Tornes - Pedologist Merit Award
Todd A. Houser - Pedologist Merit Award
Frank G. Calhoun - Certificate of Appreciation
George D. Derringer - Certificate of Appreciation
Todd A. Houser - Certificate of Appreciation
Steve A. Miller - Certificate of Appreciation
Richard M. Gehring - Certificate of Appreciation
Dan R. Michael - Certificate of Appreciation
D. Rex Mapes - Certificate of Appreciation
Matt Deaton - Golden Clod Award

These were the most recognitions made at one time by AOP. Members are encouraged to be alert for worthy candidates and make nominations to continue this important spotlighting.

State Licensing Fund

A fund to help establish a state licensed soil science program has been established. As many of you are aware this could cost approximately \$20,000. Remember donations are welcomed anytime and are always tax deductible. Send donations to:

Jim Svoboda, AOP Treasurer
520 West Main Street, Suite 3

EVENTS

April 20-21, 2006—Geological Society of America Meeting—Akron

April 25th 2006 — Storm Water and Erosion Control Expo—Madison County <http://www.coe-sceexpo.org/>

June 9-10, 2006, WV Association of Professional Soil Scientists—Point Pleasant, WV—Annual Meeting and Terrace Tour

July 9-15, 2006—18th World congress of Soil Science—Philadelphia, PA

AOP Non-Profit Status Canceled

AOP's non-profit corporation status was cancelled on October 1st, 1985. After 20.5 years the current EC has decided to reinstate our non-profit status through the Secretary of State.

Donald Kent Musgrave, 82, of Port Charlotte, FL passed away March 6, 2006. He was the son of Ray and Verna (Wentling) Musgrave, born October 2, 1923 in Wharton, OH. Don served in the Army during WWII. He was a soil scientist for the State of Ohio before retiring; he came to Port Charlotte from Kenton, OH in 1981. Don was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church, Gideons International, and the Horticulture Club of Charlotte County, FL.



Don will be greatly missed by his wife of 7 years, Virginia; sons, James Lee (Mary) Musgrave of Grand Haven, MI and Randy Allan (Teresa) Musgrave of Severna Park, MD; stepchildren, Margaret (George) Collins of Port Charlotte and Kenneth (Lu Ann) Edwards of Hermitage, TN; nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild. He was preceded in death by his parents.

The family requests memorial donations be made to Gideon's International, P O Box 140800, Nashville, TN 37214-0800, TideWell Hospice and Palliative Care, 5955 Rand Blvd, Sarasota, FL 34238, or Trinity United Methodist Church, 23084 Seneca Ave, Port Charlotte, FL 33980. To express condolences to the family, please sign the online guest book.

Determining Reasonable Costs

Submitted by Steve Miller

Unfortunately I may bore some people with this but I just want to explain what may be involved to determine a reasonable cost. I have concerns that some people may be charging too little which can be detrimental to our profession. If you charge too much it probably is only detrimental to yourself.

First, let's remember why soil scientists are used. They provide a quick 'educated estimate' of what may be found at a particular location. There are many different specialties that a soil scientist can focus on which will require varying time investments and varying rates of liability insurance. The overall idea is that we can get a good estimate of what is at a site without costly or time consuming tests.

There are many things to consider for expenses. Everyone needs a roof over their heads so let's assume a mortgage of \$175,000 (annual tax of \$2500 and \$50/month PMI), which is the going rate for the Columbus area. For a 30 year fixed rate the monthly expense comes to \$1,345.83 or \$16,149.96/yr. Of this, approximately \$14,000 is tax deductible when itemized. Utilities, depending on the hurricane season, will run about \$225/mo or \$2,700/yr. Groceries and lunches should be around \$100/week or \$5,200/yr. Of course all of this is tax deductible through standard and itemized deductions. So our total is \$24,049.96/yr. and for simplicity sake let's call it all tax deductible (for federal, not state or local).

Now comes the fun part. All of us would like to retire before 69.5 even though there are many of us out there that are still strong and active at this age. To be able to retire at a decent age good investment strategy would be to contribute 25% of your income to a retirement plan. A SEP-IRA (Simplified Employer Pension-IRA) allows a self-employed individual to contribute 25% or \$44,000 of their salary, whichever is less. So there goes another chunk. But again this is tax deductible (both federal and state).

Another lump sum payment is health insurance, which runs about \$9,000/yr for a family plan. If this is set up correctly all payments should be tax deductible (both federal and state). Liability insurance can be an annual premium and can also have a percentage of income attached. It will also depend on what sort of work is being conducted. For simplicity sake \$3,000 will be used as a round figure. Business vehicle expense may be approximately 3,950.04/yr (to make a round number below) but depends on the amount of travel. So now including our home expenses of \$24,049.96 plus \$12,000 insurance plus \$3,950.04 equals \$40,000 (mostly all tax deductible).

Working full time there are 2,080 hours in a year. Most of us previously worked for the tough government sector where there are 10 holidays a year and up to 5 weeks paid vacation brings which brings our total working hours down to 1,840/yr. So using the following equation we arrive at 27.17/hr.

X = bear minimum hourly rate to charge $X * 1,840 \text{ hours} = \$40,000 * 1.25 \text{ (retirement)}$, so $X = \$50,000 / 1840 \text{ hr} = \$27.17/\text{hr}$ (omitting the state tax on the \$24,049.96)

This is pretty good right? Probably not considering the average hourly rate for a government soil scientist is close to \$45/hr including benefits.

What is even more difficult to calculate is the time you might not be able to work, i.e. winter, slow season, twisted knee. There must always be cushion for emergencies. Also, not all your time is going to be considered billable time. Time is going to be spent managing accounts, wrestling the computer, driving to the bank, attending training and workshops, networking, and marketing your business.

The idea of this article is to make this as informative as possible and not dictate what would be a good range. Here is an example on how to use the tax tables. A person makes \$50,000 after deductions files single. So the federal tax will be 10% on the first \$7,550 (= \$755), 15% on 7,551 to 30,650 (\$3,464.85), and 25% on 30,651 to 50,000 (\$4,837.25). So the total federal tax

Federal Income Tax Table

Single (\$)	Rate (%)	Joint (\$)	Rate (%)
0-7,550	10	0-15,100	10
7,551-30,650	15	15,101-61,300	15
30,651-74,200	25	61,301-123,700	25
74,201-154,800	28	123,701-188,450	28
154,801-336,550	33	188,451-336,550	33
336,551+	35	336,551+	35

OH State Tax Table (Not Deductible from Federal)

Single (\$)	Rate (%)
0-5000	0.681
5,000-10,001	1.361
10,001-15,001	2.722
15,001-20,001	3.403
20,001-40,001	4.083
40,001-80,001	4.764
80,001-100,001	5.444
100,001-200,000	6.320
200,000+	6.870

Local City and School District Income Tax

School District	0.5-2.0%
City	0.5-3.0%

Self Employment Tax

15%

Insurance

Health (family)	\$9,000
Liability	\$2-5,000

PROPOSAL TO CHANGE CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Submitted by Steve Miller

As we embark on establishing a state licensing program for Soil Scientists in Ohio we must consider how the certification requirements will be written and how it will hinder and/or assist in the development of the Soil Science profession in Ohio. We can learn from mistakes made by other states during their initiative to become licensed. Since Luther Smith, SSSA Executive Director of Certification Programs, is willing to assist and give advice on how to proceed we should take advantage of his generosity and probably will. The ideas presented below are not mine; the ideas have been formulated by combining (and omitting) ideas from many individuals.

ARCPACS has gone through the trouble of developing a great certification program. The largest concern I have heard is that their board does not understand our local issues, especially with ethical violations. This proposal should eliminate the separation between Ohio ARCPACS Certified Soil Scientists and the ARCPACS Board by placing the Board locally in Ohio.

The first task in accomplishing this is to maintain exactly what the ARCPACS requirement specifies for academic experience (B.S. with 23 quarter hours in soils in addition to other related course work), work related experience (5 years experience in soils w/ B.S., and 3 years w/ M.S. or PhD.), letters of reference, and the fundamentals and professional examinations.

There has been some discussion not make the professional exam a requirement. The fundamental and professional exams have been developed for more than twenty years and have been peer reviewed multiple times. Using both exams would be an easy way to test the applicant's base knowledge and insure that we are accepting people willing to learn the science. Yes, the professional exam tests the individual on soil chemistry, physics, biology, fertility, and pedology in much more detail than the fundamentals but a base knowledge of all these disciplines is necessary to competently practice pedology. Another bonus is that there is no addition cost or time being placed on our Certification Board or Executive Council (but the current fees for taking the exams is \$125 each paid by the test taker). (The tests are typically offered twice a year at The Ohio State University.) The State Licensing Board would ultimately be the responsible group to review the applicants and potentially review any ethical violations.

In addition, there has been much discussion on making a field examination in lieu of some work related field experience or maybe just in addition to the ARCPACS requirements. Since Indiana went through the trouble to develop a field exam for their state registry why couldn't we use their exam? It would mean that the test taker would have to travel further and potentially be tested on soils and landscapes they are not familiar with. Fortunately Indiana has similar 'Soil Regions', i.e. residuum hills, till plain, and lake plain. If we offered this exam in Ohio this would also be an issue for people traveling to different regions.

Two of our neighboring state, Indiana and Pennsylvania, have a high demand for soil scientists. When we work towards licensing we should consider making it as easy as possible for a Ohio Licensed Soil Scientist to become an Indiana Registered Soil Scientist (and vice versa) to eliminate political boundaries. By making the Indiana Field Exam a requirement along with the ARCPACS fundamental exam the individual should be able to become an Indiana Registered Soil Scientist (IRSS). The Pennsylvania legislation does not want to see anymore licensing programs pushed through so Pennsylvania may never see a state recognized program. Florida and Washington are in the process of developing a State Licensing Program and both have written their rules in a similar way by utilizing the ARCPACS exams and other requirements. At a minimum we should adopt reciprocity with other state licensing programs if we don't structure our credentials and exams similar to our neighboring states. Setting Ohio's program up similar to Florida's and Washington's will make it easier for AOP to pass a licensing program through the legislation because other state will have very similar programs. Currently the IRSS is not affiliated with ARCPACS because they don't require the ARCPACS Professional Exam so following the route Indiana took may not be the best solution.

ARCAPS maintains two professional soil scientist categories, Professional Soil Scientist and Professional Soil Classifier, and an associate profession category. A similar idea was proposed by the AOP Certification Board but was not accepted. I must admit I didn't vote for this at the time because I believed it would have complicated the certification process but I was wrong. By offering a Profession Soil Classifier category (in addition to the Professional Soil Scientist) it allows for our association and/or the licensing program to grow its membership. Structuring the program this way would allow soil physicists, chemists, fertility specialists, etc. to become an AOP Certified Professional Soil Scientist. Unfortunately, there are not many soil scientist in Ohio so the more we can attract to our organization and the certification program the more political clout we will have. Currently we have 26 ARCPACS soil scientists in Ohio and only 17 are AOP members. This might be because their specialty is not pedology but then how do you explain the one Professional Soil Classifier that is not a member? We have to market ourselves better to maintain our membership enrollment. Constitutions were made to be amended. Think of how Nationwide Insurance first started by providing insurance to farmers.

To attract individuals who do not yet qualify for AOP Certification we have to promote the AOP Affiliate or Student membership category (AOP will also retain the Student, Affiliate, Soils Profession, Pedologist, and Honorary Membership Categories). This way we can attract the individuals that are interested in the program but don't meet either the academic or work related experience. This idea leads in to another topic on how to develop a track for other professionals, ie. biologists, sanitarians, engineers, etc., to follow to become a soil scientist. By promoting and joining the membership they will have the benefit of at-

Selected Minutes From Consortium of Soil Science Associations Teleconference

State Certification, Licensing of soil scientist's progress and opportunities for certification of soil disciplines in planning/land use decisions. Luther Smith – SSSA and Tom Fenton – Professional Soil Classifiers of Iowa.

Luther Smith: We started a concerted effort in the fall. We have visited several states asking them to look at licensing and certification. We are helping them get started. Washington State started about a year and half ago. Georgia has made excellent progress but is now waiting for the governor to act. There is an SSSA grant program that will provide up to 5000 dollars for licensing as a way to get things started. Very political topic – states need to know when the political climate is right – may not be good this year but will be next year. Florida had the most interest in certification. Ohio is looking at the certification program - they don't currently use the exam. Iowa doesn't have that many soil scientists. Tom Fenton wanted to know if there were any other groups that might want to join them. The geologists in Iowa are not interested. Geologists in other states have assumed partnership with soil scientists. It was suggested that perhaps the Soil and Water Conservation District people might be interested. It takes time to get legislation through. The legislature in Pennsylvania does not want any more licensing bills entered.

Status of the Smithsonian Soils Exhibit and fund raising activities. Paul Kamps SSSA and All participants.

Paul Kamps: Approximately 1 million dollars has been raised thus far from individual contributions, society members and government agencies. The total cost for the entire project is about 4 million dollars. We need 2 ½ million dollars by December 2006. This will pay for the state soil monoliths and exhibits that occupy about 5,000 square feet of space.

States are making excellent progress on contribution toward the 10,000 dollars for their individual state soil monolith display. About 21 states have made or exceed their 10,000 dollars and 8 other states are over the 50 percent mark. Some areas such as Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands are presenting challenges in raising the 10,000 dollars.

Next big effort is to get significant contribution from private industry, foundations and major companies – mostly agr. related. We have had good initial meetings with several major companies – just beginning that phase.

Costs

is \$9,057. The state tax can be calculated in the same way except remember that the state deductions are much less than the federal deductions.

Obviously we can easily compete with the larger engineering firms on costs because of their extraordinary overhead but there is no reason for us not to be profiting. The retired individual can easily low bid others doing this full time but if they consistently do this they are doing a disservice to our profession. Currently we have problems interesting students to major in soils. The government jobs are few and far between so the only opportunity is the private sector. If the private sector is charging \$27/hr how much will the apprentice soil scientist be paid? It will not be worth it to the student to go through the science, chemistry, and math courses when they can major in Agriculture Education and get paid more. Also, the students willing to take these course will just go to the School of Engineering. Our future is determined by your actions.



A salute to our fearless Past President

Certification

tending AOP's Fall Workshop and Annual Meeting where there will be mapping exercises, known texture samples, open pits to describe, and plenty of heated discussion. This will hopefully give guidance to others willing to pursue soil science as a career path.

Currently AOP has been misrepresenting itself by stating that we are affiliate with ARCPACS. Luther Smith has no formal documentation of this. It was probably an honest mistake. Either way, we are going to have to fix this problem to maintain our credibility in the soil science profession and bring AOP up to par with the other state associations. I believe the aforementioned would be the best way to proceed.

Annual Winter Meeting at Highbanks Metro Park

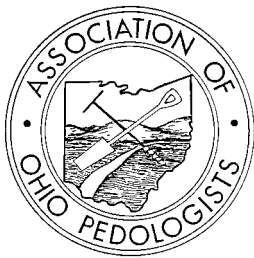


Rick Buzard, President, awards C. Scott Brockman with the Honorary Membership plaque at the Annual Meeting. Scott also presented on Pleistocene Landforms. Thanks and congratulations Scott!



Ohio Pedologist

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«Last Name», «First Name»
«Street»
«City, State, Zip»