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PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTISTS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear fellow AOP Members,

As my term draws to a close, I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for giving me this opportunity to serve as president. It has been my honor to hold this office, and it has been a pleasure to serve with the dedicated people on the executive council and the various committees that make this organization work.

Thanks to the efforts of many of our members, the AOP has done many good things to benefit not only its membership, but also the people of Ohio. The efforts of the certification committee have ensured that we are certifying the best soil scientists and promoting the merits of only the most qualified professionals. This group has also done much to ensure that certified professionals stay current with the latest techniques and tools to help them do their job better. In addition, they have worked diligently to build the relationship with the national CPSS program and make our certification program even better.

There have also been a number of individuals that have put a lot of work into making AOP better. I particularly want to extend my appreciation to George Derringer for putting together a very informative fall workshop, Matt Deaton for his work on the national CPSS board, and Dr. Brian Slater for his work putting on the northeast regional collegiate soils judging contest. All of these gentlemen have put

forth tremendous personal effort to promote our profession here in Ohio, as well as nationally.

We have just finished putting together our ballot for officer elections for next year, and I am pleased with the individuals that have agreed to serve as officers for the upcoming year. They will do a great job leading this organization into the future. There are many challenges and opportunities ahead for our profession. Our society today is more concerned with environmental and social issues than ever before, and we as soil scientists have knowledge that is critical to helping to improve our society. It may be cliché, but knowledge is power, and if we all take every opportunity to educate the public about what we know and why it is important for them, we will all benefit.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Burgess

Soil Inventory and Evaluation Section Administrator Retires

Submitted by Brian Cooley

After nearly four decades of working in the Ohio Soils Program, Tim Gerber (Soil Inventory and Evaluation Section Administrator with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Soil and Water Conservation) retired on November 30, 2008. Colleagues, co-workers, friends and family honored Tim at a retirement celebration held at the ODNR Fountain Square Assembly Center on November 24th.

Gerber began with the ODNR Division of Lands and Soils in 1973 as a field soil scientist after obtaining his B.S. in Agriculture and M.S. in Soil Science from The Ohio State University. Within two years, he was named soil survey project leader in Carroll County. As a field soil scientist, Gerber mapped 260,259 acres across four Ohio counties. In 1986 he moved to Columbus when he was named Soil Survey Coordinator with the Division of Soil and Water Conservation. Gerber became the administrator of the Soil Inventory and Evaluation Section in 1991 and served in that position until his retirement on November 30, 2008.

Gerber has had many accomplishments throughout his career including his greatest accomplishment, the Statewide Digital Soils Information Project. He was instrumental in creation of the six-year project to digitize the soils information and maps for each of the 88 counties in Ohio.

Gerber has held multiple professional organization memberships, received numerous awards and served on many boards and committees including the Association of Ohio Pedologists. He was the President of the AOP in 1981 and 1988, served on the AOP Executive Council

multiple times and served two terms on the AOP Board of Certification from 2001-2006.

Tim Gerber has been an advocate for the soil science profession and promoting the wise use of soils information in land use decision making, and will likely continue to do so even in retirement.

Tim is looking forward to spending more time with his wife Joyce, their children and grandchildren. So the next time you see Tim, wish him the best in his next endeavor - retirement.



Tim Gerber discussing tales from the past



Tim Gerber, fashionista.

In case you have not seen or heard, there is a new award for soil scientists who have achieved the one million acre milestone. Check it out.
<http://soils.usda.gov/survey/mappers/index.html>

A few weeks ago I began teaching a 3-credit introductory class in soil formation to anthropology/archaeology students at Pitt - it has been more of a challenge to get together suitable materials than I thought it would be. They are basically humanities majors, and just need the basics of horizon development and how to describe a soil properly. I've been calling it "Soils for Dummies." We will be getting into a bit of landscape evolution, the preservation of archaeological sites, and the links between soil productivity and site development of Native Americans who were staying in one place and growing crops. If anyone in Ohio has experience teaching such topics and wants to give me any direction or pass on materials, that would be great! Margaret Sams
 [margaretsams@gmail.com]

MEMBERSHIP DUES AND WINTER MEETING REGISTRATION

Membership Dues (Add 50% late fee for dues received after 2/15/10). Individuals sending dues in after 3/31/10 will have to reapply for membership and pay appropriate fees.

Print Name _____

Soils Professional & Pedologist-\$40 \$ _____

Affiliate-\$20 \$ _____

Student Member-\$10 \$ _____

Winter Meeting Registration- Friday, February 5th, 2010 from 10:00 to 3:30 at the Horace Collins Laboratory, Alum Creek State Park. See attachment for directions. \$25
 Registration includes City BBQ lunch.

Meeting Registration-\$25 \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Send Payment To

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 c/o Duane Woods
 8830 James Road
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 Thanks for your support!

Absentee Ballot

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