

Ohio Pedologist

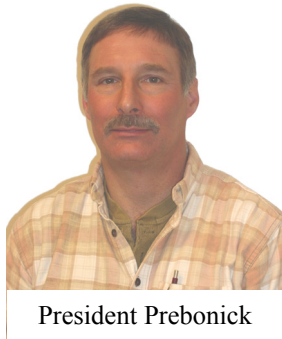
[Http://www3.uakron.edu/geology/aop/](http://www3.uakron.edu/geology/aop/)

President's Message

Dear AOP members,

I believe everyone who accepts the nomination for president on the Executive Council has certain goals he would like to see accomplished during his time in office. This usually comes about sometime after the numbness accompanying election wears off. The president and council have to strike a balance between ambition and what can be reasonably accomplished. And so it is with this year's tasks. At the top of the list is trying to promote field days and presentations at the annual meeting with the accompanying all-important CEU. We are also looking at ways to bring soils professions into the forefront with those involved in making land use management decisions. Efforts to make the AOP more visible are under way.

As AOP membership grows in numbers it also grows in professional diversity. The organization is no longer made up of mostly agency employees. We all do not interact regularly on a professional basis. We only see some of our fellow members at field days and annual meetings. Therefore, I anticipate our newsletter becoming a more important means of communication. If you have information of interest you are encouraged to submit an article for publication. Committee chairpersons have agreed to submit articles on the progress of their projects. I hope you will not only be informed by the information but also encouraged to offer suggestions and help to the members work-



President Prebonick

ing on these important projects. If you are asked to help or want to be a part of a committee project please do all you can to achieve success. This organization cannot reach its potential without membership participation. Private, academic, state, and federal representatives really do want to hear from the membership.

With the next issue of the newsletter a "My Point of View" section will become a regular feature. The council would like members to submit letters to the editor commenting on whatever issues involving the AOP and the soil science profession they think are important. There are many opinions out there so I encourage you to use this as a means to improve the organization and our professions. Everyone benefits from a public expression and discussion of ideas. Hopefully this will become a must read section of the newsletter.

As you may know, the Smithsonian Institute in Washington will soon establish an exhibit that will include soil monoliths from all fifty states. A large number of visitors to the area are expected. This is a great opportunity for public exposure to soil as a natural resource and to the professionals with careers in soils related fields to be presented on the international level. Contributions to cover expenses have been solicited by the Smithsonian staff. Support shown by the generosity of the AOP membership in donations received has been very encouraging. Over the next few months the Executive Council will be discussing to what extent the organization will contribute to this effort.

Thank you for your vote of confidence in electing me to the office of president and my fellow council members to their respective offices. We all look forward to serving the AOP membership in the year 2004.

Steve Prebonick

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2003 Directory of Officers

Steve Prebonick, President
Steve Prebonick, President-elect
Dan Lemaster, Past President
Todd Houser, Secretary
George Derringer, Treasurer
Steve Miller, Newsletter editor
George Hall, Academic Rep.
Rick Griffin, Federal Rep.
Lawrence Tornes, Private Rep.
Neil Martin, State Rep.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Events

The Summer Picnic is tentatively scheduled for August at Sippo Lake in Stark County. More information will be available in the next newsletter.

Frank Calhoun broke his hip while attending a university trip to the Dominican Republic. We hope he has a quick and healthy recovery.

What is a Pedologist?

At our recent winter meeting, there was a spirited discussion on the merits of changing our association's name. I feel that Bob Parkinson did an outstanding job in defining the differences between a Pedologist and a Soil Scientist, and left the meeting feeling a renewed sense of pride in being a Pedologist. If Bob is ever caught in a RIF, he has a promising career as a used car salesman.

Now the rub. As currently defined, in order for an individual to be included in the Pedologist membership category, mapping experience is required. If this criterion is interpreted as doing "new" mapping, then we have not been able to provide that experience in Ohio since 1992 (the year of our threshold ceremony). It appears the best we can offer incoming Soil Scientists, is the Soils Professional category of membership. I feel we need to revise our membership category requirements or we will need to change our name to ANOP (Ain't No Ohio Pedologists).

As chairperson of the Membership Category committee, I am asking the membership for two things. First, I would like to have one volunteer from each representative agency to be committee members, as well as from the academic sector. As Gordon would say, "trust me", we can do this via e-mail. I will make calls if no one volunteers.

My second request is your input. I need to know how you, as Pedologists, Soils Professional, etc. feel. Do we need to retain the Pedologist category? Do you feel the requirements for Pedologist needs to be changed? If so, how would you change it? Do we need to develop a field test for the Pedologist category? If so, what would it include? Would the test be open to all membership categories?

Any and all non-personal comments will be accepted, reviewed, digested, and discussed. Updates will be made via newsletters.

You may send your comments via e-mail to: tlucht@woh.rr.com or terry-lucht@oh.nacdnet.org

For those who rely on snail mail, my address is:
Terry Lucht
40 Robinglen Court
Springboro, Ohio 45066

Categories of Membership, *Revised 2/18/98*

Pedologist- presently or formerly engaged in USDA taxonomic classification of soil resources, with at least 3 years experience, and able to identify soils as natural units on the landscape; map their location; describe their characteristics and properties; determine their interpretations and limitations; and promote their wise utilization and management. Has Bachelor of Science degree with minimum of 15 semester hours or 23 quarter hours of course work in soil science as well as related subjects that meet the qualifications for a professional Pedologist under the standards established by the Executive Council.

Soils Professional- presently or formerly engaged in soil resource related profession, with at least 3 years experience, and promotes the wise utilization and management of soil resources. Has Bachelor of Science degree, with minimum of 15 semester hours or 23 quarter hours of course work in soil science as well as related subjects that meet the qualifications for a soils professional under the standards established by the Executive Council.

AOP Display Update

At their last board meeting the AOP Executive Council voted to appropriate up to \$500 to purchase a new portable display case to promote our organization. I have volunteered to research the various designs of portable display cases available, to make a purchase recommendation to the council, and to update the contents of our display. The purpose of the display case is to inform its viewers of the objectives, activities, and programs of the AOP, and to attract the interest of potential new members. I would like to solicit the support and assistance of all of our members to update the contents of the display. Please take a little time to review your AOP files and archives, and send me any photographs, items of historical significance, graphics, or promotional materials that support the objectives of this display. I also invite you to offer any ideas or suggestions you have for making our new display the best it can be. You can reach me at:

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Smithsonian Soil Exhibit

Jon Gerken has been charge with chairing the fund raising for the Smithsonian Soil Exhibit. The goal is \$10,000 per state. Through donation from AOP members we are at approximately \$2,000. There still is a long way to go.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Hats

The popular AOP hats will be available for purchase in the near future. The Executive Council is in the process of locating a good manufacturer. If you have any suggestion feel free to contact your representative.

ARCPACS Update

ARCPACS, the soil scientist certification program, may be changing the ARCPACS acronym in the near future to better represent all the disciplines involved. ARCPACS certified members received notification from the board.



Speakers for Winter Meeting

There has some discussion about offering more CEU's for the AOP Winter Meeting. To accomplish this it was proposed that we provide two speakers during the meeting to meet the criteria for CEUs. If you have any speaker or topic that will be of interest please contact your representative.

MY POINT OF VIEW

This section of the newsletter is used to encourage people to state their views and opinions. Please feel free to send any comments or suggestions you may have. The topic should be about any issues or concerns you have with our association or the discipline.

Pedology Society of America???

United States Consortium of Pedology Associations???

United States Society of Consulting Pedologists???

Pedon Conservation Service???

Pedon and Water Conservation Districts???

Now that the association has successfully squashed the opportunity to change the name of the association I believe we should enlist each and every one that voted no to change the name to step forward. I know Bob Parkinson is one, so I am going to single him out. During Mr. Parkinson's eloquent address to the association he stated many things that I hope he has begun doing, because it will take some time to accomplish.

First, he and his cronies should begin contacting each of the 40 or so 'Soil Science' associations and convince them to change their names to include Pedologist or Pedology.

Second, once all the state associations have changed their names the posse should go to Madison, Wisconsin and tell those ignorant Nimrods to change the name of the Soil Science Society of American to the Pedology Society of America.

Finally, once the Madison fools are educated, the Ohio cadre shall go to each university with a soil science program and have them change their department's name to the Pedology Department. After all, soil physics, soil chemistry, soil microbiology, and soil mineralogy are all subsets of pedology, correct?

STOP THE IDIOCY!!!

How about we get real and see the writing on the wall???

Our membership is not growing and soil science is struggling in many areas. Wasting our time talking to our peers about changing the way they view the definition of soil science is

asinine. Discussing the importance of soil science with people that can influence and promote the use of soil science IS where we should be focusing our energy.

It concerned me greatly to see that almost all the people that supported to keep the name the same were either federal and state employees (very near retirement) or they were retired. These people do not depend on the existence of the soil science profession to feed their children and pay the bills in the future. They are almost guaranteed a career till the end. How about the civil servants pop their heads out of their protective (gov't) bubble and look to how we can promote the use of soil science?

I am afraid the association is going the direction of an ol' boys club with their motto being, "Why change now it has been perfect all along." Fortunately our forefathers realized our constitution is not perfect and amendments are necessary to move forward.

Anyway, my main point is that we need to market ourselves better and open our association up for more members. An agronomist, soil chemist, or fertility specialist will be more likely to join an association that will represent his entire field rather than an association that will only represent a small part of his profession.

Let's continue to look at ways to increase our membership and promote the use of soil science.

Respectfully submitted,

Young Bucks who would like to see soil scientists have a future in Ohio!

Ohio State Soil Judging 2003 - a profile of success

Soil Judging teams from Ohio State had a very successful year, doing well at National and Regional contests.

National Contest:

At the National Soil Judging Contest, held at Texas A&M University during the first week of April, the OSU team scored a third place finish (out of 22 invited teams in the National final). While Dr. Neil Smeck was in Argentina, Brian Slater coached the team, which included Joe Ringler (Agricultural Education), Bryan Ford (Agricultural Education), Libby Yocum (Agricultural Education), Carrie Mahl (Forestry). Our other team member, Scott Demyan, (Environmental Science/Soil Science) was called up for military service in the Middle East shortly before the contest, and could not make the trip.

We rented a minivan and drove to College Station via the wilds of Kentucky, Tennessee and Arkansas.

Many of the other teams had arrived earlier and had spent Sunday at the practice pits. They had twenty sites set up (14 full pits, 4 road cut sites and a set of about 12 practice texture samples). The organization of the contest was excellent, and the practice sites were very interesting and varied. We saw mostly alluvium of various ages, many Paleustalfs, Mollisols, a Vertisol (and many vertic features in a number of the pits). The team worked hard to visit assigned pits and also did extra time after each practice day and into lunch hour to catch up and describe all the sites. The weather was excellent, and the landscapes very attractive following recent good rain; the wildflowers were especially attractive.

The contest pits were quite challenging, presenting a number of features that the students had not encountered in practice, including terrace landscapes (accompanied by much grumbling from various coaches), an Argiaquoll, and various other details that our students managed to miss.

Individual contest scores were:

Joe Ringler	14th
Brian Ford	19th
Libby Yocum	24th
Carrie Mahl	29th

There were only 14 points separating our team members. All did very well on at least one of the pits, resulting in an excellent aggregate score. The team judging was also very successful - we ranked 10th.

The top ten overall teams were:

1. Auburn 1999
2. Cal Poly 1980
3. Ohio State 1961
4. UW-Platteville 1955
5. Georgia 1949
6. Purdue 1926
7. Maryland 1908
8. Virginia Tech 1900
9. Iowa State 1895
10. Idaho 1892

The team was presented with a Texas-sized plaque.

Everyone seemed pleased that we had done well, especially Tom Hallmark (TAMU Professor of Soil Science and contest organizer), who is a closet Buckeye.

Regional Contest:

This fall, Joe Ringler teamed with three fresh student soil judges to participate in the Northeast Regional Contest hosted by the University of Rhode Island at Kingston, RI. Seven universities participated in this contest held on October 17 at an URI ecological center in west central Rhode Island (President Eisenhower's retreat during his presidency) and on October 18 on the turf farm at the university's main campus in Kingston.

All of the soils in Rhode Island formed in sand and/or gravel with the dominant parent materials being sandy till, outwash, and ice-contact stratified drift commonly with a thin loamy mantle they called "loess". The only soil orders present are Entisols, Inceptisols, and an occasional Spodosol. Although we soon tired of trying to distinguish one sandy site from another, the landscape was much more rolling and wooded than I anticipated. The beautiful weather, landscape, and fall foliage at peak color made for an enjoyable trip. We also managed to sample the ample supply of fresh seafood.

The best news of all is that this team dominated by first timers did very well in the contest. The team placed first in the group judging (two pits judged as a team) and second in the overall contest. The contest was dominated by the OSU and Maryland teams which combined to place 8 students in the top 10 individuals. The OSU team members individually placed: 1st- Joe Ringler; 4th- Jesse Dotterer; 10th- Scott Demyan; and 12th- Eric Dapra. This team showed tremendous potential for future events and is looking forward to the National Contest this spring in central Illinois. Neil Smeck-Coach

Will Soil Science Have A Future In Ohio? Perhaps "You" Should Become A Mentor!

Submitted by Frank Gibbs

I was recently privileged to attend a Retreat that discussed the Future of Soil Science at Ohio State. The numbers of Undergrads & Grads enrolled with Soil Science Majors is dismal at best. While many good ideas were expressed and some new PhD's are being recruited to reinvigorate the program along with the existing dedicated faculty, the big question still looms, "How do we get potential students interested enough to enroll in this career path?"

I think the answer falls back to each and every one of us as Professionals. We need to get our candles out from under the baskets and let them shine!

I discussed with AOP the possibility of forwarding the results of the FFA State Soil Judging Contest to an "AOP Mentor Committee". This Committee could in turn assign a Mentor from pool of Volunteers within our Membership. The Mentor would invite the potential student to "shadow" him for a day on some sort of interesting project, site investigation, or workshop.

OSU could invite the prospective students to Campus for a day and give them a tour of the Dept and Labs.

I was told that The Indiana Assoc. of Prof. Soil Classifiers provides a scholarship to the top individual at their State Soil Judging Contest to pursue a degree in Soil Science at Purdue. With all the money AOP has in it's treasury, why don't we start a similar program for OSU?

If AOP Exec. Council decides to follow through with these ideas, I urge each and everyone of you: Private Consultants, University or Govt. Employees to step up to the plate and agree to become a Mentor.

Let your Light Shine Bright for Ohio's Future!!!

Sincerely,

Frank



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Mailing label