

# Ohio Pedologist

[www.ohiopedologist.org](http://www.ohiopedologist.org)

Dear Members,

You have to love Ohio. Where else can you go from fifty degrees and soaking wet to ninety degrees and dry as a desert. Oh well, to know Ohio is to love her in spite of the weather.



President Buzard

I am finding that serving as president of AOP, while being challenging and keeping me busy, has been enjoyable. This is due in large part to an excellent group of people we have serving on our Executive Council and various committees. The Executive council has been very engaged on a number of issues that I feel will help promote our organization and profession.

I was very pleased that AOP was able to convince the Ohio Department of Health to grant AOP a "seat at the table" of the newly formed Sewage Advisory Committee that will help guide the development of the new sewage rules pursuant to H.B. 231. Of course when you have two outstanding individuals like Larry Tornes and Rex Mapes to act as our representatives it makes the job much easier.

Tim Gerber has been representing ODNR on the SAC. Steve Miller has been serving as an alternate.

It is not my desire to go into a lot of detail here pertaining to what has been done to date. Ohio Department of Health is supposedly making meeting information available on their website at : <http://www.odh.state.oh.us/ODHPrograms/SEWAGE/sewrules.htm> but I have been experiencing trouble accessing it.

Larry has been acting as our representative at most of the meetings with Rex serving as an alternate. With their assistance a standardized form for soil site evaluation was developed and accepted. The Sewage Advisory Committee meets several times a month. This requires a

fair amount of time invested by these representatives.

I know I speak for everyone when I say that our organization is very fortunate that Larry and Rex agreed to serve in these roles and bring their considerable expertise and experience to the rule making process.

H.B. 231 also requires that a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) be formed and will consist of the Director's designee and ten appointed members. Once again at my request, these individuals have graciously agreed to represent AOP. I have drafted and sent a letter to Dr. J. Nick Baird, Director of ODH to request that Larry and Rex be considered for membership on the Sewage Technical Advisory Committee. We are waiting to hear if they will be granted membership. No matter what the outcome, on behalf of the Association of Ohio Pedologists I would again like to express our gratitude to these gentlemen for their dedication to our organization and their unselfish donation of their time.

Todd Houser deserves mega kudos for his work spearheading plans for the AOP sponsored field day which will be coming up on September 8<sup>th</sup>. The theme of this year's field day is "Soils and Post – Construction BMPs: The Overlooked Element". The emphasis will deal with soil information as it relates to proper location and design of post-construction water quality BMPs, such as storm water wetlands, bio-retention cells, etc. This is a cooperative effort between AOP and the Cuyahoga SWCD. He presented his plans and the arrangements made to date at the Executive Council meeting. The council was very impressed and pleased with Todd's efforts. It promises to be another excellent field day that will promote our organization and profession to the professionals in other disciplines while offering our membership the opportunity to earn CEU's for certification.

I hope everyone has had a great Summer.

*Rick*

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## 2005 Directory of Officers

*Rick Buzard, President*  
*Tom Zimmerman, President-elect*  
*Steve Prebonick, Past President*  
*Todd Houser, Secretary*  
*George Derringer, Treasurer*  
*Steve Miller, Newsletter editor*  
*Neil Smeck, Academic Rep.*  
*John Allen, Federal Rep.*  
*Lynn Roth, Private Rep.*  
*Matt Deaton, State Rep.*

## OSU Soil Judging

In early April, the OSU Soil Judging Team traveled to Alabama to participate in the 2005 National Collegiate Soil Judging Contest hosted by Auburn University. The red (2.5YR – 5YR) soils (primarily Kandiodults and Kanhapludults) of the piedmont and upper coastal plain of Alabama were quite different than any soils the OSU Team had encountered before and proved to be quite challenging. Determining textures of these soils was a particularly difficult task due to the high content of kaolinite and sesquioxides. Soils on the coastal plain commonly contained plinthite fragments and/or layers whereas the piedmont residuum contained an abundance of mica-like flakes that were most likely kaolinite.

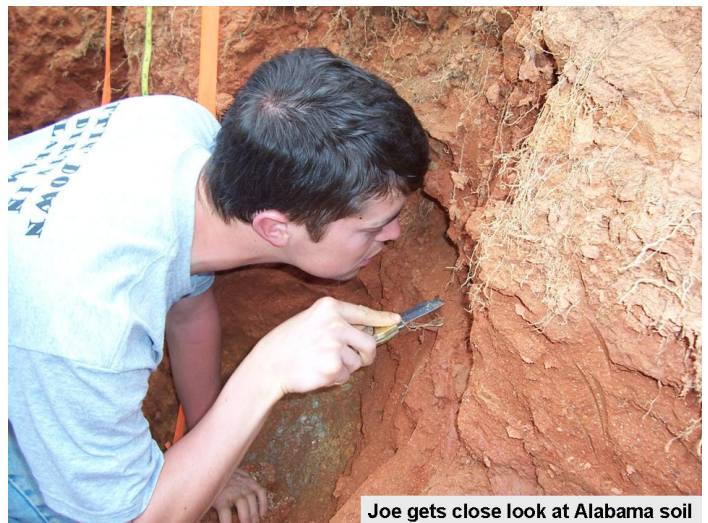
The team members wore T-shirts with the slogan “Getting down and dirty in Alabama” and they did during the three days of practice prior to the contest. The contest consisted of the description and classification of two soils as a team and three soils individually by each team member. Although the OSU team placed **1<sup>st</sup> in team judging**, the team did not fare as well in individual judging as none of the team members placed in the top twenty. In overall competition, the OSU team placed **8<sup>th</sup>** in the field of 23 teams that qualified for the National Contest. The scores among the top ten teams were extremely close: the OSU team was only 6 percentage points behind the first place team, Virginia Tech. Although the team had hoped for a better placing, the team greatly enjoyed visiting Auburn and socializing with students from the other 22 teams. The OSU team members were Joe Ringler, Jesse Dotterer, Roy Ulrich, Laura Stacklin, and Mike Derringer.

Neil Smeck, Coach

Coach Smeck providing guidance to Joe



Jesse hugging soil in Alabama



Joe gets close look at Alabama soil

## What Does a Certified Soil Scientist Do?

### Maps and Describes Soils



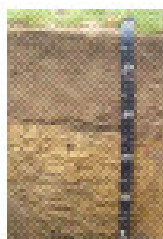
- Observes soils in the field
- Identifies soils based on an established set of morphological characteristics

### Samples and Analyzes Soils



- Performs field sampling and analysis
- Interprets laboratory chemical and engineering data obtained using standard methods

### Classifies Soils



#### Based on:

- Texture
- Color
- Horizonation
- Parent material
- Wetness
- Chemistry
- Temperature
- Mineralogy

### Interprets Soils for

- Urban Development
  - Septic tank filter fields
  - Dwellings
  - Roads and streets
- Farming
  - Prime agricultural land
- Recreation
  - Camp and picnic areas
  - Playgrounds
  - Hiking and riding trails
- Wetland preservation

## WHY CERTIFICATION?

1. To protect the public welfare.
2. To establish and maintain high standards of technical competence and ethical conduct in the profession of soil science.
3. To develop a widespread awareness of the profession and understanding of the technical information available.
4. To advance the profession of soil science by promoting high standards of education in soil science.
5. To promote the wise utilization and conservation of the soil resources of Ohio by encouraging the use of soil information in land use planning.

## AOP CERTIFIED SOIL SCIENTISTS

### Are qualified

### Are professional

Have earned one or more of these degrees with an emphasis in soil science:

- Bachelor of Science
- Master of Science
- Doctor of Philosophy

### Have field experience

Meet continuing education requirements



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## WHO CAN CERTIFIED SOIL SCIENTISTS HELP?

### FARMERS, FORESTERS



- Land use capability
- Wetland suitability
- Precision agriculture

### CITY and COUNTY PLANNERS



Photo courtesy of Ohio AOP

- Zoning
- Corridors of growth
- Prime agricultural land
- Tax valuation (CAUV)

### STUDENTS, EDUCATORS



- Information for high school and college soil judging contests
- Information for classroom use at all levels of education

### COMMERCIAL DEVELOPERS, HOME BUILDERS

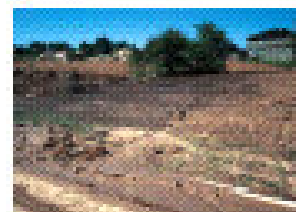
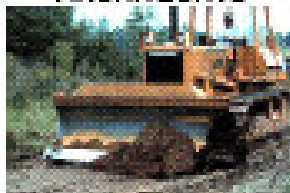


Photo courtesy of Ohio AOP

- Wetland identification
- Erosion control structures

### ENGINEERS and ARCHITECTS



- Road construction
- Agronomic structures
- Building design

### SANITARIANS



- Location of septic tank filter fields
- Location of sanitary landfills
- Household sewage system design

### OUTDOOR SPECIALISTS



Photo courtesy of Ohio AOP

- Recreation specialists
- Wildlife conservationists
- Resource conservationists
- Environmentalists
- Agronomists
- Soil conservationists
- Reclamation specialists

### REALTORS, HOME BUYERS



- Flooding hazard
- Soil and slope stability

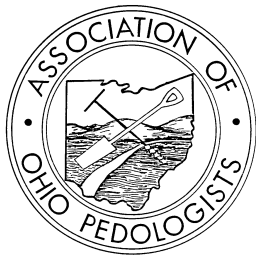
Mud, mud, mud.  
 What a glorious thing is mud!  
 Mud, mud, mud.  
 What a wonderful thing is mud!  
 Up to your elbows, up to your knees,  
 It slips and slips around.  
 It's easy to make a chocolate cake,  
 Take water and add some ground!  
 Mud, mud, mud.  
 What a glorious thing is mud!  
 Mud, mud, mud.  
 What a wonderful thing is mud!  
 Mud, mud, mud.  
 What a glorious thing is mud!  
 Of changing clean to dirt.  
 But after all, you tell them all,  
 What can a little dirt hurt?  
 Mud, mud, mud.  
 What a glorious thing is mud!  
 Mud, mud, mud.  
 What a wonderful thing is mud!  
 What a wonderful thing is mud!

Mud, mud, mud.  
 What a glorious thing is mud!  
 Mud, mud, mud.  
 What a wonderful thing is mud!  
 It sticks and stacks, it squeezes through cracks,  
 Between your toes goes mud.  
 It plops and drops, and oozes and goozes,  
 Thick or thin it's Mud!  
 Mud, mud, mud.  
 What a glorious thing is mud!  
 Mud, mud, mud.  
 What a wonderful thing is mud!  
 It covers your feet, it covers your face,  
 Stir it with both hands.

**Mud, Mud, Mud**  
 Dr. Francis Hole

## Ohio Pedologist

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 School of Natural Resources  
 Columbus, OH 43210



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