



OHIO PEDOLOGIST

Professional Soil Scientists

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Annual Meeting Held

Meeting well attended in spite of worsening weather during day



About 45 members attended the morning session of the 2011 Annual Meeting on January 20, but driving home was a challenge for those who stayed for all of the afternoon session.

Presentations by Rich Gehring and Neil Smeck in the early

afternoon were enjoyed by all.

Those who attended the five 30-minute scientific presentations and the business meeting conducted between 4 and 5 can submit a total of 3.5 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) to SSSA for CPSS re-certification.

Executive Council

The 2011 Executive Council held their first meeting on April 4.

Members are President Danielle Balduff, Past President George Derringer, President-Elect Bob Parkinson, Treasurer Jeff Glanville, Secretary Jerry Bigham, Editor Tim Gerber, and the four representatives by "category of employment": Gordon Starr (federal agencies), Jim Svoboda (state agencies), Neil Smeck (academic institutions), and Steve Hamilton ("private practice, local government, or other").

Steve Miller, current Chair of AOP's Board of Certification, also participated in the meeting.



EIGHT MEMBERS RECEIVE RECOGNITION AT ANNUAL MEETING

The Awards Committee recognized Frank Gibbs and Brian Slater as recipients of the Pedologist Merit Award, which was instituted to "recognize exceptional contributions to the Association, the soil survey program, or pedology."

Frank also received a Certificate of Appreciation. Others receiving Certificates of Appreciation for specific contributions are the following members:

Danielle Balduff, Don Burgess, Dan Michael, Larry Milliron, and Tom Zimmerman. Hydrologist Jeff Parsons also received a Certificate of Appreciation for his contributions to the success of the Fall Workshop.

After the President's gavel was passed to Danielle Balduff, she presented the Executive Leadership Award to outgoing President George Derringer.

GENERAL NEWS

Annual Financial Report

Treasurer Jeff Glanville reported a balance of \$18,145.08 as of January 1 at the annual meeting.

Membership Update

The Executive Council approved Affiliate Membership applications of Jennifer Outcalt and Mike Patterson in January and of Jason Sneed and Delwyn Walker in April. Council also approved Pedologist applications of Charles and Melissa Hanner in January. Gordon Starr and Norris Williams responded to reminders in December, so the 2010 year-end membership was 77. Since only three 2010 members have not yet paid 2011 dues, current membership is $77 + 6 - 3 = 80$.



Committee Chair Needed

After many years of faithful service as Awards Committee Chair, Larry Milliron has resigned. Larry has maintained records of awards given and officers elected, dating back to 1976. Anyone interested in being appointed to this important position should contact President Balduff at danibalduff@yahoo.com.

Board of Certification Update

AOP's Board of Certification has three new members. Rick Wilson is the new OEPA representative, Matt Sullivan is

the new Academic representative, and Dan Michael is the new Private Practice representative.

Other members are Chair Steve Miller (Private), Matt Deaton (ODNR), Frank Gibbs (Federal), and Amy Mills (ODH). The Board held eight meetings in 2010.



Bylaws Update Needed

The Executive Committee voted to have President Balduff appoint a Bylaws Committee to recommend changes to the document, which was last amended in August 2001.

Soil Survey Horizons Paper

Todd Houser and Tim Gerber are among 13 co-authors of a paper in the Spring edition of *Horizons*. "Moving Beyond the Udorthent - A Proposed Protocol for Assessing Urban Soils to Service Data Needs for Contemporary Urban Ecosystem Management" reports on research initiated by USEPA in 2010 on 31 vacant lots in Cleveland. Steve Prebonick was a participant in the study.

Online Seminar Opportunity

Russell Losco, a co-author for the *Horizons* paper cited above, is presenting an online seminar on "Determination of the Seasonal High Water Table" on April 27. For more information, check out the SSSA online seminar website, at <https://www.soils.org/certifications/seminars>.

State Licensing News

In Virginia, a bill to license professional soil scientists was passed unanimously by both the House and Senate. Gov. McDonnell signed the bill into law in early April. Licensing will be effective in July 2013.

In Texas, Gov. Perry has proposed to eliminate the Board of Professional Geoscientists (BPG), which handles licensing for soil scientists. In March, a bill was introduced to combine the BPG with the Board of Professional Engineers.

SEWAGE RULES UPDATE

Steve Miller, AOP's representative on the Ohio Dept. of Health's (ODH) Sewage Treatment System Rules Advisory Committee (RAC), reports that the committee has discussed possible requirements for site and soil evaluators. It appears likely that CPSSs and any registered sanitarian employed by a board of health that acknowledges the employee's competence and the board's responsibility for doing so, will be considered qualified to conduct evaluations.

More information about RAC activity can be accessed at <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/eh/sewage/sewrules.aspx>. The original schedule, which called for soils topics to be discussed at May, June, and August meetings, has already been moved back by one month.

KEITH HUFFMAN APPROVED AS AOP'S 18TH HONORARY MEMBER AT ANNUAL MEETING

Members attending the annual meeting approved the nomination of Keith Huffman as an Honorary Member. Keith served as NRCS' State Soil Scientist from 1976 through 1993 and as Chair of the Ohio Soil Inventory Board (SIB) from 1983 through 1993, when he retired.

While he was State Soil Scientist, field work was completed for initial soil surveys in 44 counties and for update projects in five other counties. Cost-sharing agreements were signed for update projects with 14 counties, and USDA soil survey books were published for 46 counties during his 17-year tenure.

The National Cooperative Soil Survey went through tremendous changes during the last several years of Keith's career, and the Ohio SIB guided the state's soil survey program through many of those changes. The STATSGO geographic database for the state and the state's first county soil survey to meet SSURGO standards were digitized in those years. Ohio was one of the early adopters of a newly proposed approach to soil survey updating, by Major Land Resource Areas, during that time period.

Keith operated a soil consulting business in Central Ohio for four years, before moving to Southern Florida near the Gulf Coast. He has operated a home inspection and home watch business for the past six years. Last fall, he became a



substitute teacher at a charter school and was elected to a four-year term as a Supervisor on the Bay Creek Community Development District.

OHIO CERTIFIED CROP ADVISORS BOARD REQUESTS ASSISTANCE FROM AOP



Last fall, the Ohio Certified Crop Advisors (CCA) Board asked Matt Deaton to attend its

meeting, to make him aware of CCAs' need for more ways to earn CEUs in soil and water management for re-certification.

Matt reported to the Executive Council in January, and the Council voted in April to have President Balduff appoint a committee to make plans for offering a day-long course on soils to CCAs in 2011. Since there are about 500 CCAs in the state, AOP could be guaranteed to

generate income from a large number of registrants for any course that would qualify for CEUs in soil and water management.

Matt will chair the CCA Committee, which also includes George Derringer, Frank Gibbs, and Steve Miller. Matt suggested that the initial course be modeled after a course offered annually until 2008 to registered sanitarians by ODNR soil scientists.

AOP CO-SPONSORS CUYAHOGA SWCD WORKSHOP

For the past couple of years, Todd Houser has been planning a workshop on urban agriculture and landscaping that will be offered on May 24 near Cleveland. Steve Prebonick is one of ten speakers on the program, which is applicable for 5.5 CEUs. Registration is \$40. For more information, call 216-524-6580, ext. 12, or check out the following website: <http://www.cuyahogawcd.org/RediscoveringTheRhizosphere.htm>.



Meet Three New Members

The Executive Council approved applications for membership from six individuals in November and January. Three offered information for this edition.



Jennifer Outcalt is a new Affiliate Member. A native of Illinois, she graduated from Northern

Illinois University in 2009 with a degree in geography and a GIS certificate.

Jennifer was on the soil judging team during her senior

year, and she credits geography department faculty member and team coach Mike Konen for creating an interest in soils for her. (Dr. Konen received his MS in soil science at OSU in 1995.)

Jennifer completed a six-month internship as a GIS technician for Missouri's Dept. of Natural Resources. She was hired by NRCS in January 2010 to provide cartographic support to the MLRA soil survey offices in Ohio from her office in Findlay.

Besides being interested in soils and GIS, Jennifer is involved with the Young Birders Clubs in Illinois and Ohio. She and her brother participate in bird counts and events and co-write a blog on birding.

NRCS' New State Soil Scientist

Steve Baker was selected as NRCS' State Soil Scientist in January. He grew up just across the Ohio River from Steubenville and graduated from WVU. As a student, he served as a technician on soil studies under the direction of Dr. Sencindiver.

Steve worked briefly in retail in Wooster, before having the opportunity to become a member of project teams updating soil surveys in MLRA 127 in Southern and Eastern West Virginia. In 2007, he was selected as Leader of the Soil Survey Office in Huntington for the southern half of MLRAs 124 and 126, which includes part of Ohio.

Logan Welker was approved as a Student Member in November. He participated in land judging contests as a high school student in Van Wert and then served in the Marine Corps for four years. After returning, he worked for the local Soil & Water Conservation District and had the



opportunity to work with Frank Gibbs on wetland determinations. Meanwhile, he took classes at the University of Northwestern Ohio toward a career in agricultural business.

Immediately after graduating in June 2010, Logan was hired by NRCS as a Soil Conservation Technician. He enrolled in an online graduate program in soils through Iowa State

University during the winter and is taking two courses, including one in soil science, this semester.

Mike Patterson was approved as an Affiliate Member in January. He grew up in Columbus but graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1982 with a degree in natural resources. He mapped about 52,000 acres as a University of Nebraska staff member on the soil survey project team in Brown County in 1982 and 1983. He knew Larry Milliron when Larry was a project leader in Nebraska.

NRCS hired Mike to come to Ohio in 1984, and he was the District Conservationist in Huron County for 18 years before becoming Erie Basin RC&D Coordinator in 2007.

Mike developed a six-foot tall animatronic model of the NRCS mascot S.K. Worm to promote soil education to students and the general public. He also developed the clown character "Clod the Conservation Clown" to promote conservation.

