OHIO PEDOLOGIST

Professional Soil Scientists www.ohiopedologist.org

Annual Meeting Scheduled

Fall workshop attended by more than 1/3 of membership

The 2012 Annual Meeting will be held on March 9 at the Highbanks MetroPark Nature Center in Southern Delaware County, the location for many of the annual meetings in the past decade. Registration information and other details will be provided in the next newsletter.

The workshop on "Soil Spatial Variability and Its Effect on Wise Land Use - Beyond Pits and Points to Polygons" was held last month. President-Elect Bob Parkinson put together an excellent program, which included about 12 hours of educational activities in the field and in classrooms.

CCA Training

About 40 Certified Crop Advisors participated in Basic Soils training offered by AOP at the North Appalachian Experimental Watershed near Coshocton on August 18. Registration was $45, and participants earned seven continuing education credits.

Members Matt Deaton, Frank Gibbs, Rick Griffin and George Derringer were instructors, and Joe Steiger and Matthew Lane also contributed to making the event a success.

Over half of the training was done outside in the soil pits. Participants offered positive feedback about the training, which could become an annual revenue-generating and bridge-building event.

NORTH APPALACHIAN EXPERIMENTAL WATERSHED SCHEDULED TO BE CLOSED

The North Appalachian Experimental Watershed (NAEW) near Coshocton was one of 10 Agricultural Research Service (ARS) stations USDA targeted in February for closure in the FY2012 budget. Although the Senate offers more ARS funding than the House version of the FY2012 budget, it appears unlikely that funding for the NAEW will be restored in the current political climate.

ARS has offered retirement buyouts to employees, and nine of the 13 federal employees at the NAEW are eligible to participate. The deadline for taking advantage of the buyout is December 31.

ARS owns 600 acres, but another 400 acres are currently leased from the county. Efforts are being made to make research data collected in the past 70 years readily available for analysis in the future.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Why do we exist?

Perhaps not the proverbial "why are we here," but as an organization – "Why Do We Exist?" This question has been repeated over the past several AOP Executive Council meetings. Our organization was formed during a period when soils were being mapped across the state and soil scientist jobs were in abundance. This is the foundation of our group. But times have changed, all of the acres have been mapped in Ohio, and soil scientist jobs have dwindled. Have we outlived our function as a group?

I hope not, but we need help in order to keep our organization alive and motivated. I have been on Executive Council for the past three years. I have enjoyed my involvement and the ability to give back to our organization, but it is difficult to get more members involved. We need volunteers to support the organization through Executive Council, committees and workshops. Requests for volunteers to chair and participate in the Awards, Bylaws,

Nomination and Membership Committees have gone unanswered.

As I look at the Executive Council, I see members who have previously held positions in the council and only one new member. I know that many of our newer members do not yet have enough experience or soils coursework to become Soils Professionals or Pedologists, so they cannot be on the Executive Council, but they can still participate through committee work and workshop preparation activities.

I realize that we are busy - the Editor had to delay this edition for three days until I could find time to finish writing this important message. I hope that you will look at your involvement in the organization and see where you can help. That way, we can keep our organization alive and moving into the future.

With all of this in mind and as I finish up my presidential year and move into the role of Past President, I am volunteering to chair the Bylaws Committee in 2012. As President I have seen the need for several updates; the last changes made to the bylaws occurred in 2002. I will be calling on several of you to help me out on this committee, so if you want to volunteer please send me an email or give me call at 614-255-2574.

Thank you for allowing me to be the President of AOP this past year. It has been an enjoyable experience. Have a safe and wonderful holiday season, and I will see you all at the 2012 Annual Meeting.

Danielle Balduff

State Licensing News

At the Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists' (PAPSS) annual meeting last month, a state senator and the organization's lobbyist spoke about critical steps to having licensing for soil scientists enacted in the state.

A white paper on "The Case for Licensing of Soil Scientists in Pennsylvania" was written in June and can be viewed from the "Issues" tab on the PAPSS website, at http://papss.org/wordpress/?page_id=10.

MICHIGAN SOIL SCIENTISTS VOTE TO MAINTAIN "SCAM"

Soil Classifiers Association of Michigan (SCAM) members met in the U.P. this past summer to vote on whether or not to disband the organization. After two retirees volunteered to be nominated for President in 2012, members present voted not to disband.

According to current President Bill Anzalone, SCAM has about 35 members, and about half of them are retired. Only a few members had been willing to serve as officers in recent years, and none of those few were willing to be nominated for 2012.

SCAM has sustained a commitment to education and to promoting the soil science discipline since it began in 1974. Long-time members are close-knit and value social interaction, but few new members have been added.

SEWAGE RULES ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONTINUES TO MEET

Steve Miller, AOP's representative on the Dept. of Health's (ODH) Sewage Treatment System Rules Advisory Committee (RAC), reports that soil-related topics have been on the agenda at recent RAC meetings. He also serves on the "Ohio Table" workgroup, which was charged by the RAC with making adjustments to the "Tyler Table" to suit Ohio conditions, experiences and preferences.

The workgroup's recommended adjustments for applying soil infiltration loading rates and linear loading rates were discussed for a long time at the October 27 RAC meeting. While all differences among RAC members were not resolved, Steve reported that support for the recommendations seemed to build as the discussion went on.

Definitions for conditions with low, moderate and high risks of partially treated effluent reaching surface or ground water were also discussed at that meeting. High risk conditions were proposed as "conditions where 1) the soils are relatively permeable and are hydraulically connected to unconsolidated water table (unconfined) aquifers and 2) the soils are thin and directly over a fractured bedrock formation," with the presumption that all Ohio bedrock exhibits some level of fracturing.

Finally, a table with minimum vertical separation distances (VSD) based on risk level, effluent quality, and distribution methods was proposed for discussion. For low-risk soil conditions with highly treated effluent, the VSD could be 0 inches for some highly effective distribution methods. At the other extreme, the VSD was proposed as 36 inches for high-risk soil conditions with septic tank effluent distributed by gravity or in some mounds.

These topics are not listed on the agendas for monthly meetings scheduled through March. Perimeter drains are one item on the agenda for December 1, and land application is one item on the agenda for February 23. The other scheduled topics include many contentious issues unrelated to soils.

Steve has been making a huge investment of time representing AOP so that our positions can be heard among the divergent views taken by RAC members.

AN INVITATION TO SUBMIT AOP & OHIO SOIL SURVEY ARCHIVES, PLUS BIOGRAPHIES

Jeff Glanville has collected Ohio Soil Survey records previously stored at OSU from the past 60-plus years, along with AOP archives that had been stored there for the past 20 years. He is inviting members with AOP and Ohio Soil Survey records that may be in jeopardy of disposal or neglect, to forward those materials to him for secure storage. He can arrange to have materials picked up if necessary and can help with scanning, typing, copying or other processing steps. He can be contacted at 614-255-2507.

Jeff is also interested in collecting individual histories of Ohio Soil Survey personnel - short autobiographies, or biographies of colleagues, with recollections, observations or concerns. He cites the biographies of 37 soil scientists compiled in 1999 for Penn State's Agronomy Series #143 publication as examples. Those biographies can be viewed at http://cropsoil.psu.edu/research/pdf/as143.pdf

HIGH CROP PRICES CREATE A NEW MARKET FOR CONSULTING SOIL SCIENTISTS

At least two AOP members have responded to requests by agricultural producers wanting to expedite the process of expanding the land being farmed without losing conservation compliance certification. This year, a backlog has been created for NRCS staff responsible for reviewing the AD-1026 forms producers are required to submit before making changes. Steve Miller and Steve Hamilton have written reports for a few clients who then submitted the information with their AD-1026 forms. NRCS staff must still verify information in the report, so the producer's form may not be processed any sooner. SSSA's Code of Ethics restricts soil scientists without an extensive knowledge of wetland vegetation to accept this kind of work.

Meet Three New Members

The Executive Council approved applications for affiliate membership from three individuals in September. Of the 14 new members approved in 2010 and so far in 2011, nine are affiliate members.

Jeffrey Rice graduated from Ohio State in June with a B.S. degree in Environmental Science. He finished with 37 quarter credit hours in soil science and minored in crop science. He competed in land judging contests while in high school and was a member of OSU's soil judging teams in 2009 and 2010.

Jeff worked after graduation with Buckeye Mineral Services, Inc., in an intern position that involved wetland and stream delineations and soil and water sampling. He is currently an environmental scientist with Hammontree & Associates, LTD in North Canton. The position involves preparing wetland delineation reports and Section 404/401 permit applications.

Jeff grew up in the southern part of Wayne County near Fredericksburg and still resides there. His hobbies are hunting and fishing.

Regional Soil Judging Contest Results

Affiliate Member Jason Sneed served as coach of the two Wilmington College teams that competed in the contest held in Rhode Island last month. One of the teams finished seventh among the 11 teams from five different colleges. Ohio State did not send a team this year.

Andrew Wagner ranked 16th among the 45 contestants, and Thomas Bohrer ranked 17th. Wilmington College sent ten students for the contest. The soils observed were Inceptisols, Spodosols and Entisols.

Jason expressed his appreciation for the $250 AOP gave in support of the teams.

Kyle Baldwin graduated from Denison University in 1994 with a B.A. in geology and has completed the equivalent of 13 semester hours in soil science at Ohio State and North Carolina State since then. Dr. Tod Frolking,, who received his Ph.D. in soil science from the U. of Wisconsin in 1985, was one of his professors at Denison.

Kyle has been employed by ODNR's Div. of Mineral Resource Management since 2001 and has also been assisting Joe Steiger with soil consulting work in the eastern part of the state for the past five years. As a geologist for ODNR, he conducts water supply investigations and reviews permit applications for impacts of surface and underground coal mining on water.

Kyle grew up in Zanesville and resides there with his family. His hobbies include carpentry, real estate investment and business development.

Mark Flowers graduated from Ohio State in 1993 with a B.S. degree in civil engineering and served as Manager of Engineering for the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District from 1996 to 2003.

Mark started his business, Flowers Septic System Design in 2007. He then sought out Joe Steiger to help him learn more about soil properties affecting household sewage treatment system design. Joe has been providing him with soils training since 2008, and he has been writing site and soil evaluation reports for Joe's review and approval since February. He is interested in becoming qualified for certification as a soil scientist.

Mark grew up in Newark and resides there with his family. His hobbies include ministry, sports and camping.

GIBBS' "SOIL PIT" TALK CAPTURED ON VIDEO

Frank Gibbs' spoke at a soil pit on the Conservation Technology Information Center's "Conservation in Action Tour" on August 9, and the 13-minute talk can be viewed at http://agwired.com/2011/08/12/checking-out-the-soil-on-ohio-farm/. Canadian and U.S. participants from around the Great Lakes filled four buses for the two-day event in Northwest Ohio.

Membership Dues for 2012

Information about annual dues and deadlines from the Bylaws: Article V specifies that annual dues are "payable to the Treasurer by January 1st of each calendar year." Article II specifies that "all membership rights shall be withheld when annual dues are delinquent beyond three months after the due date."

Annual dues schedule set by the Executive Council in February 2007:
For members approved as Pedologists and Soils Professionals..... $40
For members approved as Affiliate Members and Student Members.... $20

Please complete the following form and mail it with your check for the appropriate amount made out to "AOP" to
Mr. Jeff Glanville
AOP Treasurer
107 Southwind Dr.
Gahanna, OH 43230-3147

Name of member_____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Email address _____

Phone number _____

Category of Membership (circle one):

Pedologist Soils Professional Affiliate Member Student Member

Honorary (No annual dues, but please provide current contact information above.)

Total amount enclosed: _____