



OHIO PEDOLOGIST

Professional Soil Scientists

www.ohiopedologist.org

Our Presidents Message—



Bob Parkinson

Well here it is! Here comes my customary, but not perfunctory, last presidential address.

It's true, but it's still hard to believe my third term as President – the job you entrusted to me -- is rapidly coming to an end. Whoever first proclaimed that time goes by faster as you get older sure was right. The year 2012 just seemed to fly by. And I look back over it with mostly gladness but also with some sadness.

First, recalling the sad part. In 2012, four active or former AOP members passed away: Cecil Flesher, Dick Christman, Danny Lemaster and Bill Brug. I never worked directly with Cecil, but, judging by some of his early scattered farm mapping he had done in southwestern Franklin County, he was a good soil surveyor and a very good "splitter". He really nailed that small Fox terrace remnant down by Darbydale, so I figured his attention to detail bode well for his counties up in northwest Ohio. Cecil was an AOP Charter Member, served on its first Constitution and bylaws committee and, as I recall, its first president.

I did have the pleasure and good fortune to work with the others on the Ohio Soil Survey, and all were really good guys. Dick Christman would attend our field reviews and

map inspections as administrator of the soils section of the ODNR-DSWC. He was a fun-loving guy who always took "copious notes". When it came time to correlate the Sphagnofibrists of Cranberry Island in Buckeye Lake, he would not hazard the cold trip via canoe, as we had done initially, but pulled rank having ODNR deliver the field review team in style by power boat, much to the relief of state office review team member Rex Mapes! And one year when I was selling Lions Club light bulbs door to door in Dick's neighborhood, he made this sale for charity contingent on my providing him a written guarantee on the life of the bulbs he was about to buy – taking soil scientist frugality to new heights!

Danny Lemaster and Bill Brug were both field soil scientists working with Joe Steiger as "party leader" in Crawford County, and I was the fourth soil survey party member, back in the days before "party" was officially changed to "project". We all became friends, making it like a party with a lot of hard work and some horseplay. Joe and Bill were both great trainers for Danny and me, as fledgling field soil scientists learning the art and science of soil survey. Danny, with his banjo, and I, with my guitar, would play Bluegrass and performed as "The Mud-dobbers" at the Crawford SWCD annual banquet back in 1973. (Danny never said it out loud, but I know he had to slow his pickin' down some so I could keep up with my strumming.) Danny served AOP various times as federal agency rep and as President.

And Bill was the artist of the group taking great pride from his unmatched artistic soil map compilation to his intricate mushroom carvings made of fused foundry sand.

And working with Bill in the field on a warm sunny day, you could always look forward to a picnic lunch resting in some field corner on his PBY flying boat tarpaulin he got in the Navy. Bill transferred to Minnesota to work as soil survey project leader in a couple counties before returning to Ohio in the 1990's where he served AOP as private practice rep.

Now the glad part: Notwithstanding the loss of these four individuals, 2012 was a good year for AOP, and I would refer the reader to our quarterly newsletters for a summary of activities and accomplishments. Our accomplishments in promoting the profession of pedology and soil science are the result of your collective involvement and participation, and I would ask for your continued commitment and support in increased levels to help make pedology and soil science more relevant to the people of Ohio. Accordingly, I would like to humbly thank members of the Executive Council for the excellent work they did and their good judgment and counsel: Danielle Balduff, Steve Miller, Duane Wood, Jeff Glanville, Joe Steiger, Matt Sullivan, Rick Griffin, Steve Prebonick, and Gordon Starr.

Rounding out AOP's accomplishments for this year, the Bylaws Committee, chaired by Danielle Balduff, has reviewed our current Constitution and Bylaws and drafted a new version that will address the needed changes to keep AOP a vibrant and growing organization well into the future. We will be putting the proposal to an up or down vote at our winter meeting in March, and the AOP Executive Council favors its adoption. You can read more about it in this issue of the newsletter.

A brighter future for our profession and AOP will largely result from our work to inform the people of Ohio -- from the average citizen to the college student looking to major in earth sciences to potential clients to agency administrators -- of the relevance of land and soil to Ohio's economy and environment and by continuing to do high quality work providing soil services from high

intensity soil surveys and interpretations to on-site evaluations for a wide range of land uses.

After all, how can Ohio adequately support all the initiatives of its "Third Frontier" while ignoring its Second Frontier -- the sustainable and wise use of its land and soil resource base -- as demonstrated at the ultimate conservation field day October 2, 1947 just west of Brownsville, Ohio along US-40?!!?

And at a May 2012 speech given by Gordon Gee, President of the Ohio State University entitled "A Blueprint for the 21st-Century University", he focused on three "Discovery Themes" for concentration at OSU: Health & Wellness, Food Production & Security, and Energy & Environment. Which of these three discovery areas do pedology, edaphology and other soil sciences not pertain?!?!? Hopefully, the soils program at OSU will benefit from this emphasis.

So here are my hopes for AOP for 2013 and beyond: for university or government sector soil scientists who use or maintain the soil survey of Ohio, 100% membership and active involvement in AOP; for members who are consulting soil scientists, to grow and diversify their businesses -- from agricultural to urban; and for all other members, continued relevance in furthering an appreciation of soil as a natural resource as part of their career development and advancement. And for all AOP members, let's actively promote and market pedology and soil science to the betterment of all segments of society for the soil scientists of today and tomorrow and to do our part for a sustainable future in Ohio.

Have a great, safe, productive and profitable 2013, and please be ready to say "yes" to run for office next fall when the Nominations Committee comes calling because we will be calling. ☺

I hope to see you at our Winter Annual Meeting on Thursday, March 7!

Memorial to Bill Brug, Dick Christman, Cecil Flesher, and Danny Lemaster

Larry Tornes

It is disheartening to think that a number of the Soil Scientists that prepared much of the second order soil surveys of Ohio are no longer with us. Their names are no longer on the list of Soil Scientists. You miss them at AOP meetings and workshops. Their dedication and hard work will always be appreciated by users of soil surveys if they have an understanding of how soil surveys are made.

Three of these Soil Scientists – Dick Christman, Cecil Flesher, and Danny Lemaster spent their entire career in Ohio. Bill Brug's career was split between Ohio and Minnesota. It is interesting to note how these Soil Scientists moved around during their careers and worked on the following projects:

Bill Brug – Graduated from Ohio State in 1959

- Worked for SCS in the following locations:
- Area Soil Scientist in Central Ohio
- Soil Survey Party in Richland and Crawford Counties, Ohio
- Soil Survey Project leader in Chippewa and Morrison Counties, Minnesota
- Died September 2, 2012

Dick Christman – Graduated from Ohio State in 1949

- Worked for ODNR-Division of Lands and Soil and the Division of Soil and Water Conservation in the following locations in Ohio:
- Soil Survey Party in Allen and Van Wert Counties
- Soil Survey Project Leader in Stark County
- State Office in Columbus – retired as Administrator, Soil Inventory and Evaluation Section
- Died September 18, 2012

Cecil Flesher – Graduated from West Virginia University in 1950 and did graduate

studies there from 1953 to 1955

- Graduate Assistant, West Virginia Soil Testing Laboratory
- Worked for SCS in the following locations in Ohio:
- Area Soil Scientist in Central Ohio
- Soil Survey Project Leader in Henry, Williams, and Defiance Counties
- Area Resource Soil Scientist in Northwest Ohio
- Died February 24, 2012
-

Danny Lemaster – Graduated from Ohio State in 1972

- Worked for OARDC in the Soil Characterization Laboratory at Ohio State
- Worked for SCS and NRCS in the following locations in Ohio:
- Soil Survey Party in Crawford, Hamilton, and Butler Counties
- Soil Survey Project Leader in Hocking and Vinton Counties
- Mapped the Threshold Acre in the Ohio Soil Survey
- Area Resource Soil Scientist in South Central Ohio
- Died August 8, 2012

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE AOP CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Danielle Balduff

The Bylaws Committee, with the approval of the Executive Council, is proposing some changes to the Constitution and Bylaws that are deemed necessary to keep AOP a vibrant, relevant and growing organization of Ohio soil science professionals. The Bylaws were most recently amended on August 11, 2001. As you will read, we have tried to open our organization to all soil science professions and partners who support our mission. The AOP Executive Council recommends approval of these proposed revisions.

An overview of the proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws is enclosed with the newsletter. Proposed changes are outlined in red; items that would be removed contain a strikethrough; and additions are underlined.

1. There are several edits pertaining to format and using consistent terminology.
2. The membership categories would be changed as follows: Pedologist and Soils Professional categories would be combined into the "Professional" category, and a new category "Partner" added to allow for other entities that support the mission of AOP and want to be recognized as a contributor to the organization.
3. Executive Council positions would be changed. The Federal Representative, State Representative, Academic Institution Representative, and Private Representative categories would be dissolved and replaced by three members at large who would be elected for a one-year term.
4. The Dissolution section of the Constitution was updated to reflect the new AOP

Scholarship that was set up at The Ohio State University.

5. In the Bylaws, redundancy of the Nomination to Office and Elections was eliminated.
6. The Committees section was updated to reflect the current needs of the organization.
7. The Code of Ethics section was updated with a website link to SSSA, allowing for the ethics section to be automatically kept current with the SSSA Code of Ethics without future amendments to the Bylaws.

Please read the enclosed proposed changes and be prepared to vote at our next Annual Meeting on March 7, 2013, at Highbanks Metro Park.

Danielle Balduff, Chair of the Bylaws Committee

**Executive Council
Officer Nominations for
2013**

President – Steve Hamilton

Federal Representative – Rick Griffin

State Representative – Steve Prebonick

Academic Representative – Matt Sullivan

**Private Representative – Joe Steiger,
Michael Plunkett**

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://ecosystems.psu.edu/research/pdf/as143.pdf> .

Building a pond? Better see if the idea holds water first



Check out an article in the Youngstown Vindicator about Steve Prebonick looking at soil suitability for a pond, 1-14-2013.

<http://www.vindy.com/news/2013/jan/14/the-hole-truth/?newswatch>

A Map of the United States out of real Soil!

Les Gregor, 85, makes maps of the United States with soil from each state. Read the article at:

http://www.slate.com/articles/arts/design/2012/12/u_s_soil_map_a_map_made_with_dirt_samples_from_each_state.html



(Les Gregor photo)

Coal Plant Byproduct, If Spread on Farms, Could Fight Lake Erie Algae

Ohio State scientist Warren Dick, says a byproduct of coal-burning power plants called FGD gypsum, can be used to improve farm soils, crop yields and Lake Erie.

<http://cfaes.osu.edu/news/articles/coal-plant-byproduct-if-spread-farms-could-fight-lake-erie-algae>

Ray the Soil Guy - Soil Health Lessons in a Minute, Soil Health Theater

NRCS’s soil evangelist, Ray the Soil Guy, inspires many to learn more about soil. Will he inspire you?

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/soils/health/?cid=stelprdb1048858>

To submit future newsletter material contact Duane Wood at woosterwoods@embarqmail.com or 330-464-4722.

2013 AOP Annual Meeting Program – March 7

Highbanks Metro Parks, 9466 Columbus Pike (Route 23 N), Lewis Center, OH 43035-9414

MORNING PROGRAM

8:00 Social Gathering

8:25 Welcome – Bob Parkinson, AOP President

8:30 Larry Brown, OSU Professor, Food, Agr & Biological Eng – Modeling Water-Table Elevations with Variable Drainage Depths and Spacing on Selected Ohio Soils including Hoytville, Kokomo, Crosby, Centerburg, Clermont, Mahoning, Paulding, and Wooster

9:30 Jared Shaffer MS student, "The effects of spatial resolution of landform data on digital soil attribute mapping"

10:00 Dawn Ferris, SSSA Soil Science Program Coordinator – Ethics Updates for SSSA Certified Soil Scientists

11:00 Rebecca Fugitt – Ohio Department of Health – Update of Draft Sewage Rules

12:00 Lunch – Catered by City Barbeque

AFTERNOON PROGRAM

1:00 Daneille Balduff – Results of the AOP Bylaw Committee

2:00 Business Meeting and Committee Updates

Nomination and Election of 2013 Officers

Minutes from the Annual Meeting 2012

Treasurers Report

Reports

Old Business

New Business

Call for New Committees

Awards

Election Results

Passing of the Gavel

3:00 Adjourn 2013 Annual Meeting

Registration Form for 2013 AOP Annual Meeting (and 2013 Dues Form)

The registration fee is \$25.

Name of member: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zipcode: _____

Email address: _____

Membership Category (circle one): Pedologist, Soils Professional, Affiliate Member, Student Member

Employment category: circle one Federal State Academic Private Practice Local Gov't Other ()

Number of registrations: _____

Amount enclosed for registrations: (number of reservations X \$25) \$ _____

I would like to make a donation to the AOP Scholarship Fund. **(Thank You!!!)** Amount: \$ _____

This section is for those who have NOT yet paid dues for 2013, which are payable to the AOP Treasurer.

The annual dues schedule is: For Pedologist and Soils Professionals \$40

For Affiliate and Student Members \$20

Amount enclosed for 2013 dues: \$ _____

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Please make check payable to "AOP" and mail it with this entire form to:

Mr. Jeff Glanville, AOP Treasurer

107 Southwind Dr.

Gahanna, OH 43230-3147