



OHIO PEDOLOGIST

Professional Soil Scientists

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President's Message



By Steve Miller

It is mid-November and there is snow on the ground and the temperatures are well below normal. Soon we will be reading predictions about how bad the winter is going to be. Almost inevitably the predictions seem to evaluate the most recent weather, such as we are having now, and extent this weather pattern through the winter. It is like the Halloween nor'easter of 2011 when the east coast was covered with snow. The predictions of course called for a much colder than normal winter with high snow accumulations but it never came. The best thing to do is to prepare for the worst and hope for the best.

The Summer Workshop was a great success. We had a nearly full classroom on the first day and we had an even larger attendance on the field day. During the workshop Dr. David Lindbo of NCSU discussed soil physical factors that influence water movement, interpreting soil morphology to predict water movement, and soil conditions that influence wastewater

treatment. Tom Ashton presented on using different technics to predict and evaluate infiltration and Ksat in soils which then can be used to properly select and size a sewage treatment system. Thanks have to go to Steve Hamilton for presenting on the Teays Valley geomorphology and doing a great job selecting the site and organizing the workshop.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter Bob Parkinson will be looking for Executive Council volunteers. Please allow Bob to bend your ear and hopefully persuade you to volunteer.

The second draft of the sewage rules have been recently opened for a 30 day comment period. The draft rules can be found on the ODH Sewage Program website. There are also five regional meetings that will take place in the next 30 days to review and discuss this draft. The ODH took all the comments from the previous comment period and either incorporated the recommended changes or explained why the rule cannot be changed. These comments and answers can also be found on their website. Please try to attend one of these meetings if you are involved with soil testing for sewage treatment.

Best Regards,

Steve

Special and Spatial Critter Encounter

By Bob Parkinson

In the summer issue of the Ohio Pedologist, Duane Wood recounted some amusing run-ins with animals while doing field work and asked us to share some of our experiences. In 17 years of fieldwork on the Ohio Soil Survey – talking with at least several thousand farmers, landowners, homeowners and house renters, some of the more memorable fauna were definitely the two legged variety. People's acceptance of the Ohio Soil Survey was very high thanks to its cooperative nature with local, state and federal involvement, and its usefulness and practicality for powerful applications. During my time mapping in six Ohio counties, I can count only eight refusals to walk a farm. People's acceptance of soil survey was especially enhanced after Ohio voters approved the constitutional amendment in 1972 to create an "agricultural use" value for taxing farmland that was, in part, based on soil type. When implemented in Licking County, the systematic mapping was about half done, and we received over 100,000 acres of request mapping from landowners eager to receive their soil maps.

And then there were dogs, some welcoming and some not – like those protecting their turf or just out for a romp like the occasional pack of roaming wild dogs. But when it comes to recalling other critters, there were those I bumped into back in the '70s while working on the Geobotanical Atlas of the Prudhoe Bay Region, Alaska. I ran into marmots, ptarmigan, snowy owls at great distance, loons, arctic skuas, lots of caribou, tons of mosquitoes and even some wolves. An arctic fox that ran into me in 1974 on the

Arctic Coastal Plain was the most memorable.

That fox approached me one day very slowly and even more warily, probably having never before seen a human. I had never seen a live arctic fox before, so we were even. I fumbled deep down into my backpack for my Pentax 35mm camera while hoping this fox was not rabid, laying my clipboard down in front of me.



It held a handful of large scale aerial photographs that I needed that day. As I grabbed the camera, hurriedly setting its aperture and shutter speed while trying to focus, the fox came up to the clipboard at my feet. It stared at my aerial photo-soil map as if to double check my mapping, then repeatedly tried to pick it up in his mouth to run off with it!



It soon dawned on me that I might be chasing after this critter across the tundra just to get my day's-worth of soil mapping back! Luckily, the clipboard and photos were too bulky for it to handle easily, as the clipboard would flop out of his mouth every time he turned his head to run off with it. I guess this fox was just trying to liven up his day and have a little fun. He sure livened up mine! Musing afterward, the fox peering over my mapping seemed something akin to an official map inspection by State Office staff, but maybe he was only interested in knowing of the nearby bird mounds I had mapped that day for an easy meal. In any case, it was both a special and spatial encounter – one that I won't ever forget and is fun recalling. Experiences like these were among the many fringe benefits that helped make soil survey an adventure.



Larry Milliron also had the good fortune to work in Alaska in the mid '70s, and I recall his presentation at a Soil Scientist Workshop where he shared some pictures of animals he took along the ALCAN Highway in a most effective and efficient manner. I wonder if others remember this presentation, and if Larry would be willing to share some of his recollections if not pictures?!!?

Ethics Training Topics

Fellow AOP members, Steve Prebonick is requesting that you send him any ethics questions you would like answered. Steve would like to give Dawn Ferris some guidelines on what issues concern us. Please e-mail Steve at championsoils@aol.com

Other News

CFAES's Lal, world expert on sustainable land management, named UN Global Dryland Champion

Posted by Kurt Knebusch on September 12th, 2013

CFAES's [Rattan Lal](#), has been chosen as one of the first Global Dryland Champions by the [United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification](#). The honor, according to a letter by [Luc Gnacadja](#) of Benin, the convention's executive secretary, recognizes "those who have made outstanding contributions to our efforts for achieving a land-degradation-neutral world." Read the rest of the post at: <http://sustainability.cfaes.ohio-state.edu/uncategorized/cfaess-lal-world-expert-on-sustainable-land-management-named-un-global-dryland-champion/>

Check out photos from the Piketon Summer Workshop at: <http://ohiopedologist.com/photo-gallery/>



Erosion occurring at a faster rate than calculations show, By Jean Caspers-Simmet

<http://agrnews.com/erosion/occurring/at/a/faster/rate/than/calculations/show/story-5753.html>

Different type of 'healthcare' — for the soil — takes root in Iowa, By JAY T. MAR, Iowa Farmer Today

http://www.farmandranchguide.com/news/crop/different-type-of-healthcare-for-the-soil-takes-root-in/article_72627ed2-4e29-11e3-beab-0019bb2963f4.html