



Ohio's Professional Soil Scientists

2021 Summer Newsletter Volume 48, Issue 3

Message from our president – Dan Michael

Hello to all lovers of soil. Plans are coming along for the fall meeting. Hopefully, the weather will be pleasant as the hot summer should be at an end by then. It will be good to see each other in person as the COVID situation hopefully winds down. But be sure to bring masks and hand sanitizers with you.

This year's field meeting will be in Northwest Ohio based at the Hoytville Research Station in Wood County. Many people are working hard to create a successful session. Many thanks are due to Matt Sullivan for managing the creation of the two day meeting.

Northwest Ohio has a rather fascinating array of soils. After being glaciated, much of the area was under water. The changing lake created numerous features such as old beach ridges which rise suddenly out of the nearly level till plains. There are large lake plains with lacustrine sediments as well as massive till plains that have been wave modified. Soil types and surface textures can change quickly in short distances on only mildly changing elevations.

Drainage of fields is a major management practice which has transformed the area into a highly productive agricultural region. I'm looking forward to learning more about the area at the meeting. I know you will enjoy the session.

An exciting new development is now beginning at AOP. The Executive Council is initiating an effort to offer Continuing Education on line. The dream is to create educational material available for viewing by our members and others which will include actual videos. There will be recordings made at the Fall Meeting. Hopefully, this idea will grow into a reality that many will take advantage of in the future. Thank you, Julie, for launching this idea into a reality.

See you all at the meeting!

Dan Michael, CPSC

Registration for the Fall Workshop Sept 30-Oct 1

Registration materials have been sent out under separate email so that you would not miss them in the newsletter. If for some reason you did not receive them or have deleted them, please notify me and I will send again. Thanks, Julie Weatherington-Rice at AOPeditor2020@gmail.com.

News from our Treasurer, Rick Griffin

Dues:

About your dues. Our paid membership total to date is 57. This includes all of our categories; Honorary, Soil Professional, Associate and Student. One of these categories is right for you. Your dues for membership are a small price to pay, for such a great organization. So, if you haven't paid your dues this year, 2021, please pay! You will want to continue to receive our informative newsletter and participate in our summer meetings. Also, consider asking other professionals if they would be interested in joining the AOP. If you have questions about your dues or membership, you can contact Rick Griffin, AOP Treasurer at: rgriffin1741@gmail.com or other Council members.

Also, you can easily pay on line by logging onto the AOP website: <https://www.ohiopedologist.org/>

Have a good day, Rick

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Future meeting announcements and cancelations

Eun Kyoung Kim (one of my past graduate students) has notified us that Dr. Mancl and Dr. Slater at The Ohio State University have been offering on-line continuing education classes for registered sanitarians that appear to also be available for soil scientists. There is a charge for each on-line course of \$200.00, it is worth 6 hours of continuing education credits from the Ohio Department of Health. You have until October 30th to complete either the first module or all three modules if you are interested in taking the course(s). I have no idea why AOP was not notified but if they were, this is the first that I have seen on these on-line courses. I have absolutely no idea if these on-line classes could be used to satisfy SSSA for the five core classes required for CPSS certification. Clearly, we need to do more research on this opportunity. Here is the information. "Soil & Site evaluation for onsite wastewater treatment" on Oct. 29, 2021. Here is the hyperlinked <https://setll.osu.edu/events/soil-site-evaluation-onsite-wastewater-treatment-online-workshop>.

An Equipment Scholarship opportunity

Jeff Rice has picked up his scholarship equipment. Rick Griffin, will be retiring soon and will be joining the ranks of consulting soil scientists in southeast Ohio. He is planning to head up and pick up the rest of the equipment. He will keep what he needs and bring the rest to me.

I am pleased to announce that I am beginning the training of three highly qualified young women and so need to equip them from scratch. Like Joe Steiger, this will be a part time training effort so it's going to take several years at least, but I'm going to be training my two former graduate students, Dr. Eun Kyoung Kim, Rachel Warren and my daughter Susan Rice. More about this effort later in the newsletter.

If you find that you have equipment that you no longer need that you are looking to repurpose or rehome, I would deeply appreciate your contributions as we are going into this on a shoestring. But the need is so great and the only way to get the next generation of soil scientists is to train them ourselves.

AOP Scholarships

As you know from previous newsletters, the Executive Committee has been discussing the ways that we can reach more Ohio college students interested in soils, including outreach to high school students who might consider a soil major when deciding on where to go to college. Dr. Lynn Elfner, who many of you know from his days as the Executive Director of the Ohio Academy of Science, has asked if we would consider small stipends for high school students participating in the Ohio Sr. Science Fair. Matt Sullivan has mentioned there are also awards given through FFA. To that end, The Executive Committee has passed a resolution that states:

"Motion to expand the students that AOP considers for scholarships/educational support to include current Ohio residents at universities other than Ohio State University and also high school students studying, working on, or participating in soils or soils related activities, projects, and or contests."

Of course, anyone wanting to assure that their scholarship support goes directly to Ohio State is welcome to contribute directly to the University. We have published the account number in previous issues. We will be glad to discuss this at the fall gathering but having heard no negative comments from the postings in the last newsletters, we are hoping the membership are as supportive as we are in trying to widen the pool.

We Need Your Help for the new AOP Display & On-Line Training Modules

New AOP Promotional Display

We all got an opportunity to see Kathy's "Beta" version of her digital AOP Display at the Winter meeting. She continues to have a call out for ideas and Ohio photos as she finalizes this version of the promotional display. Plans are to hang it on the AOP web site so that any of us who need it, can download it for our event.

Send input and files to kathryn@sasowsky.com

Additional On-Line Training Opportunities and Materials Development

As we have begun exploring the options of creating training modules for AOP members and beyond, we are reminded that SSSA offers short training videos and PowerPoint programs that can be downloaded and taken for continuing education credit. In fact, this has been a source of revenue for the Society.

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Our organization is blessed with some gifted educators who have the ability to create short presentations that we can make available on the AOP web site.

As you will see in Part 2 of this newsletter, the effort has already begun. One set of PowerPoints from Barry Allred, USDA ARS and I have been hung. More are on their way. We will be videoing the Fall Workshop to hang on the site. The topics and opportunities are limitless.

If you are interested in participating, interested in being interviewed or just have topics that you think we should be covering, please let Kathy Sasowsky, kathryn@sasowsky.com or I, AOPEditor2020@gmail.com know so we can get you scheduled.

Interns in Search of Training

Currently, we are blessed with **four** young women seeking to undertake their one-year field training required by SSSA for CPSS accreditation. While we know it's a one year, 2,000 hour experience, we also know it does not have to be completed in one year. Further, it does not need to be completed under just one person nor does it absolutely have to be just in the field. Clearly, parts of it are in the office and other parts can be from the short courses we are starting to work on. Most of you have met or know two of the perspective trainees and some of you know them all.

You met Megan Conklin at our Winter meeting. She is currently the Program Manager of the Environmental Public Health Service at the Cuyahoga County Board of Health. That's her day job and she intends to keep it, but as a CPSS, she will be able to do her job better and it will allow her to develop a second career later in life when she retires. Megan is excited about working with others in northeast Ohio, both with the soil scientists and with other health departments. She has the abilities to form a nucleus of exceptionally qualified staff in health departments in the northeast as well as helping to build even better working relationships between the two groups. She is currently in her first soils course on line from South Carolina. She is available evenings and weekends for field experiences. **We are still looking for someone to help train Megan.** You can reach her at:

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We are Getting the Band back Together, My Daughters from various Mothers are coming back together to Train together again under My Guidance

For a number of years, I have felt unsafe venturing out into the field on my own; I have too many rebuilt and replaced parts. I wanted to train my daughter Susan but I just did not see how I could expect her to make sure I was safe in the field, have her do all the driving and transporting of me

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and all the equipment and do all the soils investigation work as well. It was far, far too much to ask. The answer came simply; I will train all my “daughters” at once. That way they can share the burden of transporting me, all the equipment and all the field work. If I fall or get stuck, as my friend Linda Aller who many of you know says, one can stay with me, one can go to the highway to wait for the squad and one can run back and forth with messages. No stranding of one person with too large a burden. Now, all things are possible.

Our second interested trainee is Rachel Warren. Rachel completed her BS in Food, Agricultural & Biological Engineering at Ohio State and a double MS in Civil Engineering and Engineering Education where Dr. Ann Christy was her advisor and I oversaw her Senior Project and MS Thesis. I featured her thesis in an earlier newsletter. She has recently returned to Ohio, to the Cleveland area for now, where she continues to work part time for an engineering firm. This is the Cleveland Office of the national firm where she has been employed in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Her special work for that firm is storm water management. She has most of her hours needed to take the PE exam. She will be dedicating Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays towards our efforts. She will come to Columbus for group training and will accomplish her specific tasks on her own in Cleveland.

While a master’s student at Ohio State, she either took or audited four of the five core soils courses. She has had some limited field experience with Larry Tornes and several other soil scientists here in central Ohio. She has reduced her work load here in Ohio to part-time so she can devote parts of her week in the field training with our team. You can reach her at:

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The third interested trainee is my daughter, Susan Rice. Many of you have known her just about all of her life. As we are transitioning from being full-time care givers from my husband and her father to the next stage of our lives, she finds that she is more and more drawn to the field experiences of soil science. Susan was half way through a degree in Materials (Ceramic) Engineering when her father needed more help. She will be heading back to school shortly to complete that degree. However Susan also has more than 25 years training and experience in ceramics that go back to summer classes while in grade school. She has interned in two different ceramic manufacturing facilities here in central Ohio and in the Canton area where one of her assignments was to prove out a new clay/shale deposit near Bolivar, Ohio. She has worked for a year in a glaze manufacturing facility here in central Ohio and ran the McConnell’s Art Center open ceramic studio for five years where she was responsible for all aspects of studio materials, equipment and firing schedules of the kilns. She also taught ceramics. We like to say she just takes my dirt and bakes it. She is a very gifted potter.

As we are in the process of setting up a full ceramic studio here at the house, it has become clear that a part time career in soil science would fit very nicely into a career in ceramic research and production. She has had the opportunity to spend some time training with Larry Tornes. Her special skill set will be to manage a basic soils lab that can easily fit in with her ceramics lab that we are building here at the house. She will also be in charge of all the office administration that we will need if we make this effort a success. She can be reached at:

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Our fourth member of this new endeavor is Dr. Eun Kyoung Kim who many of you know from her amazing dissertational work of making what seems like thousands of mud pies and watching them crack. I featured her dissertation in an earlier newsletter. Eun Kyoung, who undertook her PhD work with Dr. Ann Christy and me also holds a BS in Engineering which she obtained in South Korea before she came to Ohio State to study wastewater treatment for a MS in Civil Engineering and then her PhD in Food, Ag. & Bio. Engineering. She spends her time between Columbus and South Korea where she is helping to care for aging parents. She is married to Dr. Young Kang who undertook his PhD with Dr. Karen Mancl where he researched and developed ways to create on-site sand filtration treatment systems for turkey production waste products, https://etd.ohiolink.edu/apexprod/rws_olink/r/1501/10?p10_etd_subid=62961&clear=10. Between the two of them, they have a great wealth of knowledge related to modifications of on-site systems for all types of limitations. Both Eun Kyoung and Young hold Ohio PE licenses as well. Eun Kyoung will take over the engineering design requirements for the septic systems recommended. Eun Kyoung can be reached easiest at her on-line address as she is not always in the US at:

Eun Kyoung Kim, PhD, PE
Email: eunkim0901@yahoo.com

We will do what we do best, problem solve, research, teach and develop educational materials. We will train each other. The goal is to have us ready to take on onsite soils evaluation clients by late winter or early spring. We are starting with Franklin County but expect that we may need to service further northwest and west until other soil scientists are trained to fill those areas.

I am developing a field course for the basic soils training. We are going to study the geology and soils of Franklin County's MetroParks. Our text books will be ODNR Div. of Geological Survey publications, MetroParks publications and the Soil Survey of Franklin County, Ohio (and overlapping counties where needed). We will video these field trips and lectures and develop YouTube lessons that we will hang on the AOP website. We will also create a series of stand along PowerPoints and videos that support each aspect of onsite systems, from the laws that govern them to the investigative tools needed to understand them. These field studies will be free of charge and open to anyone who wants to join us, the more the merrier. We all learn from each other. I will notify the group when the field courses are scheduled if others want to join us.

Letters to the Editor

This section of the Newsletter belongs to you, our members and future members, in the hopes that if we communicate with each other, we can find pathways to move forward to train the next generation. Please send your letters and/or responses to the Editor at AOPEditor2020@gmail.com and I will include them in upcoming issues of the Newsletter which is developed and disseminated quarterly.

There are no letters to the editor this issue.

Part one of the Summer Newsletter

This ends Part One of the Summer 2021 Newsletter. I will be completing the second part shortly and sending it out to all the members.