



## *Ohio's Professional Soil Scientists*

### **2023 Fall Newsletter Volume 50, Issue 4 Part 1 Fall Field Days Summary**

**Message from our president – Kathy Sasowsky**

Greetings fellow Soil Scientists,

I hope that you joined in on the Fall Field Workshop. It was a wonderful chance to see soils in Northern Central Ohio, Region 5: the Bennington-Cardington-Centerburg catena. Many thanks to Joe Ringler who planned and organized this great experience! I think he did a great job of explaining his local soils. Please see his summary in this newsletter of this workshop if you missed it.

It's important that we continue to learn and interact with each other, but it's equally important that we interact with and teach others outside our field about the importance of soils. AOP has a category of membership called "Partner" which includes organizations and agencies that support our mission. If you know of such a Partner group, please let our newsletter editor, Julie Weatherington-Rice know so that she can send the group our newsletters and notices about our meetings.

We frequently don't appreciate the unique knowledge that we possess and that others could benefit from. Recent articles in CSA (Crop Soils and Agronomy) News reinforced this for me (*Professional Civic Engagement at the Local Level* by Todd Higgins and *Communicating Our Successes and Needs to Elected Officials* by Joann Whalen, both in CSA News, May 2023).

Engaging locally could mean serving on community, county, or even state level boards. We are trained to think collectively about geology, hydrology, and climate. Soil Scientists are analytical and critical thinkers who can think about process and cause and effect. We think in longer time frames than the general public, understand the synergy of nature, and human's interaction with the landscape. The general public does not have this perspective. Sharing our perspective can only improve decision-making for organizations and produce positive societal futures. Pay attention to and apply to serve on citizen committees in your area, and serving when opening arise. Consider offering advice to local groups or offering consultation (paid or not). Even unpaid service may lead to paid employment in the future.

Maybe you don't think you have the time or energy to commit to continued service on a board. Just as you could consult on a periodic basis, you could seek out connection by offering yourself as a speaker to local meetings. Even social or service associations that may not have natural

## Association of Ohio Pedologists Newsletter Volume 50 Issue 4 Part 1

resources as their focus (e.g. Rotary, Kiwanas, etc.), may welcome speakers on a variety of topics. Perhaps you are not comfortable with public speaking, even in a small group; you can still spread your soils knowledge.

Share your opinions by responding or reaching out to local media: write that letter to the editor of your local paper, offer an article on a specific topic that may be of general or seasonal interest, respond to misinformation (not based on facts) and disinformation (misleading on purpose). Local journalism has been squeezed by financial constraints and needs content, especially quality content. You can do this when you have time, or when the opportunity presents itself.

Even if you are not politically motivated, let your value of the natural world spur you on to write your representatives (local, state, or national) about issues that you care about. Many of us lament the current state of affairs in government. Do not throw up your hands in defeat. We are not powerless! What our world needs is educated, passionate environmentalists communicating with leaders who do not have knowledge of soils, water, agriculture, and the environment. Make a difference.

Kathy Sasowsky (AOP President)

### Current AOP Executive Council

We are grateful to present our 2023 Council, which includes many continuing Council members:

President: Kathy Sasowsky, [kathryn@sasowsky.com](mailto:kathryn@sasowsky.com), (330)-670-0455.

President-elect: Joe Ringler, [joeringler@yahoo.com](mailto:joeringler@yahoo.com)

Past President: Matt Sullivan, [Sullivan.64@osu.edu](mailto:Sullivan.64@osu.edu)

Secretary: M. Scott Demyan, [demyan.4@osu.edu](mailto:demyan.4@osu.edu)

Treasurer: Rick Griffin, [rgriffin1741@gmail.edu](mailto:rgriffin1741@gmail.edu)

Newsletter Editor: Julie Weatherington-Rice, [aopeditor2020@gmail.com](mailto:aopeditor2020@gmail.com)

Member At-Large: Jessica Martin, [jessica.burns@usda.gov](mailto:jessica.burns@usda.gov)

Member At-Large: Anna DeFosset, [anna@clearcreekseptic.com](mailto:anna@clearcreekseptic.com)

Member At-Large: Reed Johnson, [Reed.Johnson@usda.gov](mailto:Reed.Johnson@usda.gov)

Digital Information Manager: Anna DeFosset, [anna@clearcreekseptic.com](mailto:anna@clearcreekseptic.com).

Your AOP Executive Council works to help all soils professionals in Ohio. If there are topics that you'd like to learn more about at our Field or Annual Meetings, please contact any Council member.

We will be replacing several people on council at our annual meeting. We need a new Incoming President and several other positions are also opening up. Would you be willing to serve? If so, please contact Matt Sullivan and let him know you are interested. Finding new people to take over leadership positions is always a hard job but please know that you will not be alone if you chose to answer the call. We work as a cooperative council and there is a lot of support, help and encouragement from the other council members.

# Association of Ohio Pedologists Newsletter Volume 50 Issue 4 Part 1

## News from our Treasurer, Rick Griffin Annual Dues for 2023, Have you paid yours yet?

### Dues payments - 2023

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Do we have your correct contact information? Please provide contact information (only if there are changes to your previous contact information or if you are not getting the AOP newsletter by e-mail):

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Association of Ohio Pedologists Membership Dues starting 2023 (and dues for 2022, if you haven't paid)

For members approved as Professional.....\$40

For members approved as Affiliate Members and Student Members.... \$20

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

Honorary (No annual dues)

AOP Dues Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Contributions to Scholarship Fund: \_\_\_\_\_

Continuing Education Fund: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to AOP and send to:

Rick Griffin, AOP Treasurer

937 Laurel Ave.

Zanesville, OH 43701

You can also pay on line.

In addition, we would like to hear from you regarding membership and meeting topic ideas.

Dues can also be paid on line at the AOP web site <http://www.ohiopedologist.org> under the more....

Store heading

## Highlights from our Fall Field Days Workshop

The 2023 AOP Fall Workshop at the OSU Muck Research Farm and OSU Mansfield Campus was an eventful and enjoyable experience. We had a large turnout. 51 people joined us over the two days including four students, eight people from health departments and two SWCD employees. The planning for the workshop began several months ago with an adventure of excavating two pits at OSU Mansfield campus. Thanks to Kathy Smith and Gabe Carnes from OSU, we were able to dig a pit on the trail and in the woods. On May 22, Dr. Scott Demyan, Tom Doohan, and I had two pits excavated and we described the profile in detail. Soil samples were collected from each horizon and Tom Doohan conducted laboratory analysis for particle size, carbon, and general fertility.

Four days before the workshop, a small group of us took the adventure to the Willard Marsh Wildlife Area to collect a core sample of the rare Pinnebog soil. Getting access to the Pinnebog soil was not an easy task as the wildlife area is very thick. In addition, the distance from a public road to the typical

## Association of Ohio Pedologists Newsletter Volume 50 Issue 4 Part 1

pedon site was a great distance. Thanks to Wiers Farm, we had permission to access one of their private roads and drive to the east side of the wildlife area. The journey to the site was a great experience as we were surrounded by dark rich organic soil and the smell of onions filled the air.

Andy Nash, Tyler Norris, and Tom Valochovics from the ODNR Geologic Survey brought their vibracore to extract a core of the Pinnebog. Tom Doohan, Dr. Scott Demyan, and I came to assist in the collection process, and Neil Martin brought his knowledge and experience. At first, it was difficult to collect a core as the top two feet was too dry for the vibracore. The mosquitos were hungry and the temperature was a surprising 85 degrees. Not the expected conditions for October 2. Neil Martin decided to use the good old spade to dig an area open through the Fibric and Hemic horizons of the Pinnebog. Then, the vibracore was used to collect the remaining 6 feet of wet Sapric organic material. We accomplished what we set out to do and that was to bring home a sample of the Pinnebog soil. It wasn't a smooth collection process but it was an enjoyable time and we all learned from the experience.

On October 5, 2023, we all gathered at the OSU Muck Research Station for fellowship and coffee. President of AOP, Kathy Sawsosky welcomed the attendance and we introduced our first speaker, Bob Filbrun, who was the farm manager at the research station. He provided a great talk on the history of the area, shared stories of original settlers and their disdain for marsh area, and provided insight on the future challenges for extension education.

The next presentation was from Tom Valochovics from the ODNR Geologic Survey. Tom provided a great presentation on the uniqueness of the marsh area from the geologic perspective. It was interesting to see the many different geologic convergences which helped shape the landscape of the now productive and fruitful marsh area.

We then headed to the research farm field to observe a Linwood Muck soil pit. The pit was enjoyable as many soil scientists observed the 2 feet deep organic material over lacustrine sediment. A demonstration of the vibracore was conducted in the moist lacustrine sediment material which generated a very interesting sample of the material under the organic horizons. It contained stratification of coarse sands at the bottom and finer materials as the profile drew closer to the surface. It was great to hear the discussion on the lacustrine sediment.

After lunch, we heard a presentation about the Willard Marsh Wildlife Area from Justin Harrington, Division of Wildlife for ODNR. Justin provided information on the extensive management practices that are conducted in the wildlife area and elaborated on the uniqueness of this particular area.

Everyone got in their vehicle and headed just up the road to visit the Wiers Farm Packing Plant. The tour was conducted by a 5<sup>th</sup> generation produce farmer, named Tyler Wiers. Tyler was very knowledgeable and articulated the complexities of growing, processing, packaging, and delivering produce to the consumer. While on the tour, we observed packaging of parsley, green onions, and peppers.

After the Wiers Farm tour, we headed 7 miles east to a small farm which was owned by Nick Laferty. We observed the Cardington soil pit and discussed the characteristics that make up the Cardington and Bennington soil. The rain started to fall but some of us took a chance to observe the Bennington soil pit. We never made it as it poured and drove us to the shed. We decided it wasn't going to let up so we called it a day.

# Association of Ohio Pedologists Newsletter Volume 50 Issue 4 Part 1

On October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, we gathered together at Reidl Hall at OSU Mansfield Campus. The morning session involved a presentation from Kathy Smith of the Woodland Stewards of OSU extension. Kathy provided an overview of the woodland at OSU Mansfield Campus and the various teaching and research projects. Tom Valochovics provided an overview of the geology for the Mansfield Area.

We headed to the woods to observe a profile of the Rittman soil and Wadsworth soil in which both had a good fragipan. Discussion was great and it was good to see people in the pit talking about the profile. When we announce that we had lab data for the pits, there was a noticeable excitement in some of the guests.

We walked west for lunch and then took a tour of the Sugarbush that OSU extension uses for teaching, learning, and research. We observed the elaborate set up of the sap collection process and Kathy answered several questions about maple sugar.

Our last stop was a trip into downtown Mansfield at the Hudson and Essex Restaurant. We were given a tour of the beer cavern 30 feet below the restaurant. It was an impressive structure as we saw a 19<sup>th</sup> century beer cavern that contained sandstone arches in multiple directions. We were in awe of the craftsmanship, the beauty, and the history of the manmade cave and it was a good conclusion to a great workshop.

Again, I want to thank everyone for attending the workshop and I want to thank those who helped make the workshop a success. As usual, we had a great time.  
Joe Ringler, Incoming President

Photographs and more information from the field days are included in Part 2 of this newsletter.

## Update on Newsletter mailings

This is the third mailing of the newsletter to a much shortened list of recipients. Unless you paid 2022 dues, or are an honoree member or a contact person to a sister Agency or Association, you have been taken off the list. This has been a very hard decision as I removed a number of names of old, dear friends. If you were on the Consultants list and have not paid the 2022 AOP dues, you also were removed from that list.

## AOP Awards Committee Awards

Matt Sullivan and Kathy Sasowsky reactivated the Awards Committee. Matt made two presentations, one in person and one by mail at the Fall meeting. Awards were issued to Susan Rice and Rachel Warren in thanks for their countless hours in establishing our Continuing Education Audio/Video program and updates of the AOP web page. As of this year, they are joined by Anna DeFosset who is now our acting Digital Information Manager. Special thanks to these talented women from our rising generation. They are exhibiting technical and computer skills that go far beyond what many of the rest of us have. As we continue to move into this new century and attract new members, much of that success will be because of their skill sets and dedication to our AOP efforts.

## Association of Ohio Pedologists Newsletter Volume 50 Issue 4 Part 1

The picture below is of Matt Sullivan presenting the award to Susan Rice. I should add that Matt first met Susan in 1997 when she had just finished the 7<sup>th</sup> grade and we were holding a field day at Molly Caren Farm Science Review. Matt was a MS student at OSU at the time, working for ARS. Everyone was helping to prep the site. Now he manages Farm Science Review and Susan is an Affiliate AOP member.



### Rep. Mary Lightbody's H.B. No. 579 and educating our Legislators

As we have noted in earlier newsletters, Rep. Lightbody, now Ohio House District 4, presented her H.B. No. 579 during the last weeks of the 2021-22 Ohio Legislative Session. The bill bans the use of oil and gas waste "brine" production fluids on Ohio's roads for ice and dust control. ODNR Oil and Gas Management have been trying to ban this application since the 1980s. As we were in the waning hours of the Lame Duck Session, no further testimony was scheduled. However, Rep. Lightbody is planning to introduce her bill again this session as soon as it fits into the Legislative schedule.

Members of the Buckeye Environmental Network Ohio Stop Brine Spreading Task Force have scheduled an Ohio Legislators Education Day on November 15<sup>th</sup> to familiarize the Senate and House members of the two committees who would be hearing the reintroduced bill. Susan Rice and I will be part of the team meeting with members of the House and Senate committees or their aides to explain the

# Association of Ohio Pedologists Newsletter Volume 50 Issue 4 Part 1

importance of banning this practice on Ohio roads for dust and ice control. We are including information on how many barrels of the oil and gas waste brine has been spread in their districts from 2012-22, a time line of efforts to stop the spreading, information from ODNR, ODH and ODOT about why it should not be used and an example of the current legislation and how easily it can be amended to halt the brine spreading. Some of the educational handouts are included in Part 2 of this newsletter.

Rep. Lightbody is looking for a Republican Co-Sponsor in the Ohio House and for sponsors of both parties for the Ohio Senate. If any of you have representatives or senators who have demonstrated concerns about the health and safety of all Ohioans and concern for preventing environmental contamination, please let me know and I will forward possible contact information.

## Future meeting announcements and cancelations

### Hold the date and place, AOP Annual meeting scheduled for Thursday Feb. 22, 2024 at Highbanks Metropark

The ODNR Core Warehouse is still being remodeled so we will be meeting at Highbanks MetroPark again. We are currently working on presentations. Is there a topic or speaker you would like to hear from? Please let Joe Ringler know, thanks.

## AOP Scholarships Announcements

Megan Conklin won our 2023-24 AOP scholarship. She is finishing her core courses. That means we have two unclaimed AOP scholarships available of 2024-25 for anyone not attending OSU. The scholarships are awarded annually to anyone studying soil science at Wilmington, Central State or out of state on line in preparation to becoming a certified professional soil scientist. Each scholarship is worth \$500.00 a year and students can apply for multiple years. Contributions made to the AOP scholarship fund underwrite this effort.

Application is easy. The applicant simply needs to write a 1-2 page letter telling us something about them, why they are interested in the field of soil science and why they are applying for the scholarship. We need to know which college or university they are attending/planning to attend, that they have been accepted and where they are in their set of courses. We need for them to be AOP members, plan to stay in Ohio to work here after they finish their core courses, training with AOP members and working towards their CPSS registration. The scholarship is open to anyone, an incoming freshman, a student partway through or someone training for a second career. Scholarship applications must be received by June 1, 2024. Applications can be sent to [AOPEditor2020@gmail.com](mailto:AOPEditor2020@gmail.com). The scholarship committee consists of Matt Sullivan, Kathy Sasowsky, Dan Michael and me.

AOP awarded small scholarships for the Ohio Academy of Science Jr. and Sr. High School Science Fair applicants. There is a new category of soil science that students can choose when preparing their projects. We are open to all topics but they must actually be studying soils. Our number of applicants grew last years and we are hoping for more applicants in the coming years. The time to get interested in soils is in Jr. and Sr. high school so that you can make college choices that support that major.

# Association of Ohio Pedologists Newsletter Volume 50 Issue 4 Part 1

As we work on our outreach of younger students, we would like to consider small scholarships for FFA soil judging teams or Envirothon teams if anyone has contacts with those organizations.

The Ohio State University AOP scholarship. Matt Sullivan coordinates that scholarship. Currently there is \$7167.00 in that fund. Ohio State typically awards 1-2 scholarships from that fund annually. The amount is typically \$500 to \$1,000. If you are interested in funding that scholarship effort, please donate directly to the Ohio State AOP Soil Science Scholarship fund. I understand those contributions count towards football tickets.

## **AOP Web Page Consultants List and Education PowerPoints/Videos - Updates**

### **Consultants List Updates**

Rachel Warren has developed a statewide map and a new consultant listing form to update that old and badly out of date Consultants list that existed on the AOP web site. I think all the corrections have been made. If you are an AOP member in good standing and also a CPSS, you should be on the list. Please check that we have you correctly listed.

If you go to the Consultant spread sheet and you see two \*\* listed next to your name, that means that we do not have an update for you. This system should now be self-policing and the web/education committee is going to expect you to periodically check your information and update it. Our consultant list is only as good as the accuracy of our information. This is also the only way we are going to find out if we have areas of the state with no coverage. **Now that I have the final 2022 paid dues list from Rick Griffin, we have removed anyone from the list who is no longer an AOP members.**

### **New Equipment for the Continuing Education Committee**

Thanks to some unexpected contributions, the AOP Education Committee was able to purchase a new laptop computer, three years of technical support, software and additional peripheral equipment. We broke out the new equipment for the Fall Field Days and found it was so much easier to set up for the programs. Currently, there is enough money in the fund to cover a few more years of annual software licensing. This means that AOP has a computer that we can update as needed! We still do not have a projector so will need to borrow one from one of the members for the Annual Meeting and into the near future. Plans are to transfer all the AOP equipment to Anna DeFosset so that she can use it in her role of Digital Information Officer.

### **Contacts for the Continuing Education production team if you need to reach them**

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# Association of Ohio Pedologists Newsletter Volume 50 Issue 4 Part 1

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## In Memoriam

This is, for me, the hardest part of this newsletter to write. It's especially hard this issue because we lost Dr. Tom Zimmerman who was retired from OSU ATI.

Wooster Daily Record 9/20/2023

Dr. Tommy L. "Tom" Zimmerman, PhD  
"TOGETHER AGAIN"

Dr. Tommy L. "Tom" Zimmerman, PhD, age 80, of Wooster, was reunited with his wife, Susan E. Zimmerman in heaven, on Wednesday September 13, 2023, at Smithville-Western Care Center in Wooster where he was surrounded by his loving family.

Tommy was born on July 23, 1943, in Lima, Ohio to Stanley P. and Vienna C. (Wright) Zimmerman. He married Susan Hover on June 3, 1967, in Lima, Ohio. She entered heaven on September 27, 2019. Tommy and family moved from Souderton, PA to Wooster in 1975 where he taught as a professor at The Ohio State University,

ATI in Wooster; was a member of Church Of The Cross United Methodist Church in Wooster; Owner and Founder of Zimmerman Soil Consultants, LLC where he served as a soil scientist; was a member of Westwood Ruritan Club, Ohio Farm Bureau, American Society of Agronomy, Soil Science Society of America, Soil Water Conservation Society, Association of Ohio Pedologists, and the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers.



## Association of Ohio Pedologists Newsletter Volume 50 Issue 4 Part 1

Tom and Susan dedicated their lives to service in Christ, especially singing in church choirs, which is also where they met. In the autumn of their years, Tom and Susan enjoyed traveling with family and spending time with children and grandchildren. Tom was an avid reader and enjoyed being challenged by word games, solitaire, and playing euchre with newfound friends at the Gilcrest Center.

He is survived by his daughter, Cheryl (Jerry) Botkin, Jr., and son, Craig (Jennifer) Zimmerman, all of Wooster, Ohio, and grandchildren: Olivia, Trevor, Hannah, Krista, Zachary, and Mallory; a great granddaughter, Eulalia (Lula), along with another great-grandchild on the way; a brother, Clair (Karen) Zimmerman of Marion, Ohio; a sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Ken and Marie Kimble of Manchester, Tennessee and numerous nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents and beloved wife.

Services will take place on Saturday, September 23, 2023, 11:00 am at Custer-Glenn Funeral Home in Wooster. A private interment will take place at a later time at Wooster Cemetery at the convenience of the family. Visitation for family and friends will be Friday, September 22, 2023, from 4:00 - 7:00 pm at Custer-Glenn Funeral Home. Memorial contributions may be made in lieu of flowers to either: Church of The Cross United Methodist Church, 5100 Cleveland Rd., Wooster, Ohio 44691 or Gilcrest, 2375 Benden Dr., Wooster, Ohio 44691. Private or public condolences may be shared with the family at: [www.custerglenn.com](http://www.custerglenn.com).

I asked Jeff Glanville to check to see if Tom was a founding AOP member. Jeff did not find him on the original list but he was on the Executive Council by 1982 so he must have joined shortly after we were founded.

Duane Wood offers the following memories and photographs.

I can't exactly remember when I first met Dr. Tommy Zimmerman, but he had a big impact on my life. He impacted others too. Surprisingly a number of my SWCD co-workers were graduates of Dr. Z's program and he had been their advisor.

Over the years he served as the official judge for our county Vo-Ag. Land judging contests. I worked for the Wayne Soil and Water Conservation District and we helped set up the event. As time progressed Dr. Z and I did more of the setup and scoring of the pits prior to the contest.

Back in the 90's the Wayne SWCD was experimenting with treatment wetlands for small dairy milkhouse waste. Prior to the wetland at a dairy, the milk house waste generally went straight to the creek. Dr. Z. and Dr. David Munn were our go to guys to pull samples and run the results over a period of time to see if the wetlands were improving water quality like we hoped.

The Wayne SWCD allowed me to take Dr. Z's soil course at the Ag. Technical Institute as a refresher. I was developing nutrient management plans at the time and thought it couldn't hurt. After completing the course, I approached Dr. Z about consulting with him to earn extra money and to work towards certification. He was cool to the idea in the beginning. I think he had a bad experience previously. Eventually I either won him over or just wore him down. We consulted evenings, weekends, and days off from 1997 to 2006. In 2006 my life changed with the birth of my son. Scheduling became difficult and we parted ways to consult on our own. I enjoyed my time working with Tom and learned a lot along the way.

# Association of Ohio Pedologists Newsletter Volume 50 Issue 4 Part 1

Dr. Z had a gift with math. He could do math in his head accurately much quicker than I could with a calculator. That came in pretty handy pre-GPS when mapping things on paper maps with a scale. If we had a big job with lots of test holes I could count on him at the last test hole to say “We should have started with that one.”

Tom wasn't super nimble in the field and took a number of spills. One spectacular fall was in the winter on a steep slope with snow. He had just exited a test pit and tripped and proceeded to roll down the hill leaving a trail of screw drivers, pencils, and a clinometer. After making sure he didn't get hurt, we collected the gear and had a great laugh.

Remember the clam shell phones? Some will not. Dr. Z left his on the bumper of his truck at one of our jobs. He realized it was missing after we had been driving for a while. I convinced him to go back and maybe we would see it. Sure enough it was lying on the State Route we had just turned onto with very bad sight distance for oncoming traffic. He parked on the cross road and I proceeded to play Frogger running back and forth grabbing the phone and then the battery as I went, avoiding oncoming cars. We put the battery back in the phone and it fired up, amazing!

Tom and his wife Susan were both active in their church and civic minded. Susan was a volunteer for Hospice for a number of years. Tom always helped with the Wooster Township Fire Department Pancake Day. He could be found serving food or taking money and made sure we knew the date of the event.

A fun civic project we did together after he retired was for the Triway Baseball program. Triway has fields scattered all over the countryside and they decided they wanted to know the texture of their infields. We proceeded to collect samples and then use ATI's soil lab to run the percent sand silt and clay. We gave them an Excel sheet with the results that they could then use to modify their infield soil textures if needed.

Tom, thank you for being a part of my life, being a mentor, and taking a chance with me. I look forward to seeing you and Susan on the other side.



## Association of Ohio Pedologists Newsletter Volume 50 Issue 4 Part 1



Photos are thanks to Duane Wood and the Wayne SWCD files. Tom is in the center of the last picture, kneeling down.

I have been trying to remember when I first met Tom. He is someone I feel like I have always known. Rereading his obituary, I see that he came to ATI in 1975. That means I met him in the winter or spring of 1980. I had just gone to work for the Franklin SWCD and Kyle Moran took me up to Wooster to be part of a new training class for new District employees across the state. That was my first taste of learning about soils pits, taking soil samples the soil scientist way (yes it is different when geologists take them) and learning how to calibrate a corn planter. After that week, we would run into each other at Soil and Water Conservation Society meetings. He loved to tell me stories about the Miami-Erie Canal which he knew well. I had worked on a project for Ohio Dept. of Administrative Services under Joe Sommer, who owned the canal at the time, inventorying all 111 structures between Lake Loramie and Delphos for structural integrity and repair. Tom knew the route very well and the story about the war between Minster and New Bremen over the dumping of beer brewery wastes into the canal.

When George Hall organized the Ohio Fracture Flow Working Group, he recruited Tom who became an active member. In the mid-1990s, Bob Gustafson, then Chair of the Dept. of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering established an Industrial and Professional Advisory Group for the Dept. Tom and I were both appointed, Tom for his ATI ties and me because I was serving as the Technical Committee Co-Chair of the Inter-Agency Ground Water Advisory Council. Bob already knew me through Soil and Water Conservation Society and the fact that our sons were in the same Cub Scout Troop and went to the same grade school so I was an easy recruit.

Tom and I worked on a number of projects together over the years. In 2003, Frank Calhoun, Tom and I organized a big field day at OARDC for the Fracture Flow Group. Everyone was there, the USGS team dyed the side of the pit, Frank Gibbs and Martin Shipitalo smoked the field tiles and dyed the worm holes. Jim Bauder and Mike Angle led the field trip to a nearby sand and gravel quarry. Susan came up to help as well. We probably still have the ATI T-Shirt she bought at the student book store. But the day almost did not happen. For some reason I planned a back-up rain date just in case. It had been a really dry summer and those don't last forever. Sometimes it rains in August. Earlier that week a hurricane hit

# Association of Ohio Pedologists Newsletter Volume 50 Issue 4 Part 1

New Orleans and we watched that front come up the Mississippi River Valley. That Tuesday we postponed the field day to the following week and we broke a 90 day drought in Wooster.

As time went on, Tom and I both suffered from failing joints. He used to challenge me to cane races in the halls at AOP meetings. He was such a sweet guy. I miss him deeply.

## 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](mailto:AOPEditor2020@gmail.com) and I will include them in upcoming issues of the Newsletter which is developed and disseminated quarterly. There are no letters this issue.

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## Part one of the Fall 2023 Newsletter

This ends Part One of the Fall 2023 Newsletter. Part two shares highlights of the Fall Field Days and much more.

