

Ohio's Professional Soil Scientists

2022 Spring-Summer Newsletter Volume 49, Issues 2-3 Part 1

Getting ready for the Fall Field Days

Message from our president – Matt Sullivan

Hope everyone is enjoying the start of summer and coming off of a wet spring. It is challenging for folks like us who are outside mapping soils along with trying plant spring crops. From a cropping standpoint, there were just a handful of days to get the crops planted and in the central Ohio area; the crops are now starting to show water stress. (Hopefully last week's rains helped.)

Since our annual meeting, there have been some exciting times for AOP. We were able to help host the Collegiate National Soils Judging Contest near Union and Logan Counties. This was an exciting time for those college students who enjoyed some of that wet and cold spring weather.

The AOP Council is also working on several videos and presentations to host on the AOP website. This is a big endeavor and as time goes, it will be worth all the hard work to help current and future Pedologists receive the education credits and information needed to map and classify soils.

The AOP council is again planning a late summer field day in the same area as the National Soils Judging Contest. Similar pits will be utilized to get good data for the field day.

I was able to spend some time this spring in Oklahoma driving around the countryside. It was good to see the different types of soils and how the farmers utilized the soil for their cropping/grassland practices.

I look forward to serving the association over the next year and hope to see you at our annual field day.

Thanks,
Matt Sullivan, AOP President

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News from our Treasurer, Rick Griffin Annual Dues for 2022, Have you paid yours yet?

Dues payments - 2022

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 2022 (and dues for 2021, 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.

Results of the Annual Meeting Election The Current Executive Council

Dan Michael, Past President

Matt Sullivan, President

Kathy Sasowsky Incoming President

Scott Demyan, Secretary

Rick Griffin, Treasurer

Julie Weatherington-Rice, Newsletter Editor

Jessica Burns, Member at large

Reed Johnston, Member at Large

Anna DeForest, Member at Large

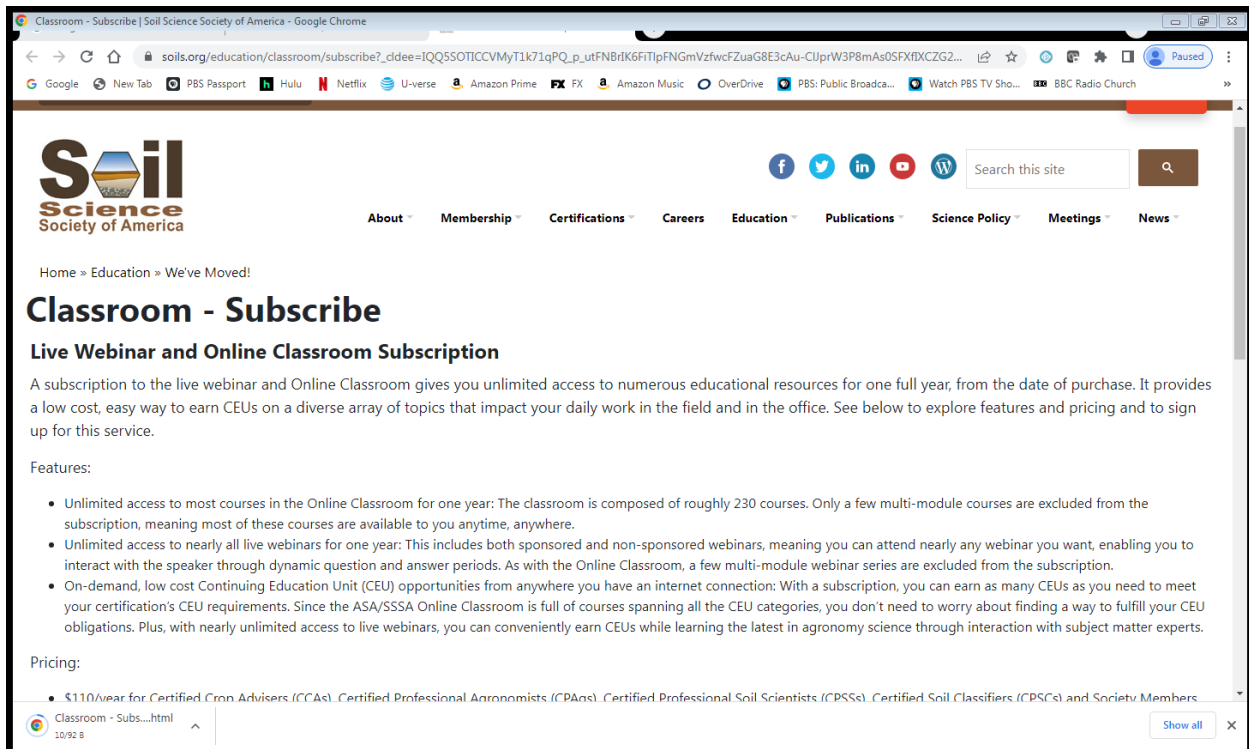
Plans for the Fall Field Days – Hold the Dates September 29-30, 2022

We are pleased to announce that we will be returning to some of the soils pits opened this last spring for the Collegiate National Soils Judging Contest in Logan and Union counties. The Contest only comes

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to Ohio once every 40 years so it is an honor to host it. Much work has been developed for the contest and we get to benefit from all that research. We will also learn about Ohio's Native Prairies and the upper reaches of Darby Creek, a state and nationally designated Scenic River. Details for the program are still being worked out. We will hold hotel rooms for Wednesday night September 28th and Thursday September 29th in Bellefontaine, Ohio. The meeting will be held at the Myerah Nature Reserve near Bellefontaine and at selected pit locations and stops in the area. This newsletter is late because we wanted to make sure we had a workable date that all could hold. We owe you a write up on the Collegiate Contest so you know what to expect. I hope to have obtained that in time to go out with the registration materials by next month.

Future meeting announcements and cancelations



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Classroom - Subscribe

Live Webinar and Online Classroom Subscription

A subscription to the live webinar and Online Classroom gives you unlimited access to numerous educational resources for one full year, from the date of purchase. It provides a low cost, easy way to earn CEUs on a diverse array of topics that impact your daily work in the field and in the office. See below to explore features and pricing and to sign up for this service.

Features:

- Unlimited access to most courses in the Online Classroom for one year: The classroom is composed of roughly 230 courses. Only a few multi-module courses are excluded from the subscription, meaning most of these courses are available to you anytime, anywhere.
- Unlimited access to nearly all live webinars for one year: This includes both sponsored and non-sponsored webinars, meaning you can attend nearly any webinar you want, enabling you to interact with the speaker through dynamic question and answer periods. As with the Online Classroom, a few multi-module webinar series are excluded from the subscription.
- On-demand, low cost Continuing Education Unit (CEU) opportunities from anywhere you have an internet connection: With a subscription, you can earn as many CEUs as you need to meet your certification's CEU requirements. Since the ASA/SSSA Online Classroom is full of courses spanning all the CEU categories, you don't need to worry about finding a way to fulfill your CEU obligations. Plus, with nearly unlimited access to live webinars, you can conveniently earn CEUs while learning the latest in agronomy science through interaction with subject matter experts.

Pricing:

- \$110/year for Certified Crop Advisers (CCAs), Certified Professional Agronomists (CPAs), Certified Professional Soil Scientists (CPSSs), Certified Soil Classifiers (CSPCs) and Society Members

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**ANNOUNCEMENT – SAVE THE DATE!
2-DAY CLASSROOM AND FIELD SEMINAR ON
REGIONAL SUPPLEMENT, HYDRIC SOIL INDICATORS AND WETLAND
DELINEATION DATA FORMS**

**Hydric Soil Indicators and
Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers
Wetland Delineation Manual**

Eastern Mountains and Piedmont Region v2.0

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

DATE: Thursday August 18, 2022 AND Friday August 19, 2022

TIME: Thursday 8:00 AM to – Registration, Seminar till 4:00 PM

Friday - 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM – Class and Field

WHERE: Carlisle (class tbd) SGL 230

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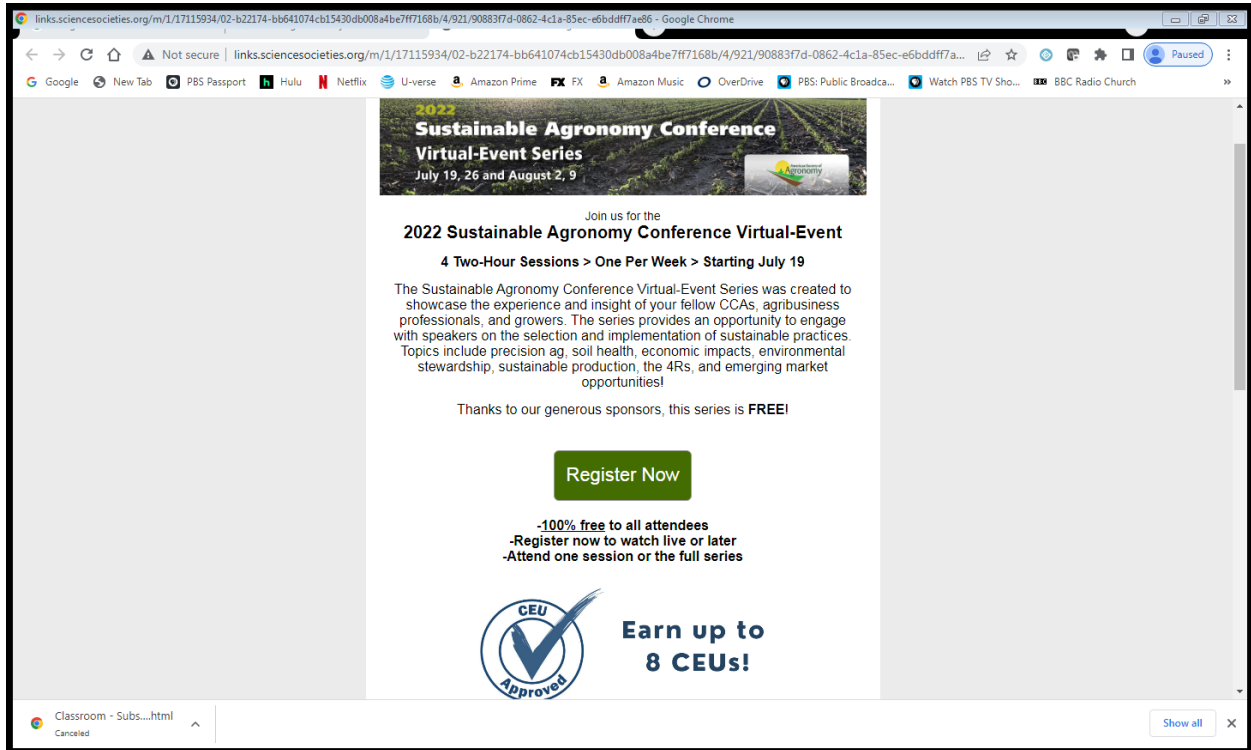
PRICE: \$150 PAPSS MEMBERS / \$200 NON-PAPSS MEMBERS

Includes:

“Soil-Field Indicators of Hydric Soils in U.S.” Ver 8.0

SPEAKERS: Frank Plewa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

USDA NRCS staff soil scientists, PAPSS soil scientists



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2022 Sustainable Agronomy Conference
Virtual-Event Series
July 19, 26 and August 2, 9


Join us for the
2022 Sustainable Agronomy Conference Virtual-Event
4 Two-Hour Sessions > One Per Week > Starting July 19

The Sustainable Agronomy Conference Virtual-Event Series was created to showcase the experience and insight of your fellow CCAs, agribusiness professionals, and growers. The series provides an opportunity to engage with speakers on the selection and implementation of sustainable practices. Topics include precision ag, soil health, economic impacts, environmental stewardship, sustainable production, the 4Rs, and emerging market opportunities

Thanks to our generous sponsors, this series is **FREE!**

[Register Now](#)

100% free to all attendees
Register now to watch live or later
Attend one session or the full series

 **Earn up to 8 CEUs!**

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AOP Scholarships Announcements

The AOP Executive Committee is pleased to announce that we have awarded recognition awards to three State Level Junior Science Fair presenters for the Ohio Academy of Science. We had budgeted \$300.00 for this outreach effort, both Senior and Junior levels. After reviewing 18 possible projects, I determined that none of the Senior Level projects qualified (they did not use soils, much work with hydroponics, etc.) but three of the Junior level projects qualified. The winners are:

Jack Coch, 8th grade, for a study on how various soils can affect the pH of distilled water after 48 hours of soaking. Jack used a typical potting soil, soil from his family's garden and soil from a local creek bank. The soil from his family's garden lowered the soil pH the most. We awarded him \$75.00

Ryan Zand, 6th grade, for a study that looked at the effect of soil compaction on seed germination. He created a series of conditions for compacting the soil, including having his father place a board over a pile of potting soil and jump up and down on it. Of course, the more compact the soil, the poorer the seed generation but he did not know that when he started. His was a delightful video. We awarded him \$50.00.

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Our third winner was Nicholas Funk, 8th grade, who used a series of “soils” to determine which one was the most successful for seed germination. He used a soilless seed starting mixture, a potting soil, soil from his yard and sand. Interestingly, he got the best germination from the soil from his yard. He also figured out that the reason he got no germination from his sand pot was because the water ran through it and the seeds did not stay wet long enough to germinate. We awarded him \$25.00

For a first try, we felt reasonably successful and hope that next year, when we say that we are considering awards for soils studies, the students are not including water solutions or soilless potting mixes. We mean real soils.

The AOP Executive Committee is pleased to announce two winners of the first non-OSU soils scholarships. The 2022-2023 awards went to Jonathan Bair who is interning with Geophyta, Inc. and Megan Conklin with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health. Both young people are exactly the group of folks we were hoping to reach.

Jonathan has a BS in Geology and an MS in Applied Geospatial Science from Bowling Green State University before exploring the field of soil science. He is currently attending the online courses from North Carolina State University.

Megan’s undergrad and graduate studies had centered on environmental health but when she took over the Sewage Program Manager position at CCBH, she soon found that there was much to learn about soils. She is also taking her soils courses through North Carolina State University, has now completed three of the required five classes and hopes to be finished by next spring.

These are two more up and coming soil scientists who have had to go out of state for their soils training because The Ohio State University does not offer an on-line program for working Ohioans who live outside the Columbus area. Dan Michael’s daughter Anna also got her soils training through the program as did Mark Flowers, Kyle Baldwin and probably other younger folks I don’t know about. With these \$500.00 awards, we hope we have given them the encouragement to continue. These young people, beginning to mid-career, are most likely going to stay in Ohio and replace those of us who are on our way out. We are pleased to have started this program and hope to continue it on an annual basis. We also contacted Wilmington College and Central State University but they did not have any student apply this year. We will continue to build a relationship with those students as well. Thanks to all of you who donated to the AOP scholarship fund. If you want your scholarship donations to only go to Ohio State students, please donate directly to their funds. Matt Sullivan can provide that contact information.

We Need Your Help for On-Line Training Modules - Updates

Additional On-Line Training Opportunities and Materials Development

Our Education Committee continues to work on getting continuing education materials developed and hopefully soon, into your hands. We have the Zoom files from the Winter Annual meeting as well as several videos and PowerPoints completed, ready for viewing. The challenge has been figuring out how to make them available to all of you from the web site. We are working on that and hope to have the

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technical challenges solved soon. Meanwhile, we continue to work on editing videos already captured and recording more field demonstrations.

Clearly funding this effort on an ongoing basis is going to prove to be a challenge that is beyond the funds of AOP and our members, especially if we can ramp up the speed by paying our now volunteer video crew so they don't have to work other jobs for their livelihood. Imagine having funds to support a few graduate students as well. To that extent, Kathy Sasowsky and I are exploring potential granting opportunities to pay for equipment and travel but also for staff support if we can find anything that is a good fit. AOP can apply for and administer grants. In the meantime, I gave a lecture by Zoom to Kenyon College during Earth Month and was given the option of donating my honoraria to any charitable organization I wished. I never take payment for my lectures but here was a chance to direct funds to the AOP Continuing Education Program. Rick Griffin and I are working with Kenyon College to make that fund transfer happen. I was excited to discover this possible small funding source that can help until we get something better in place. It is exciting to be in on the ground floor of a project that should continue long beyond my lifetime.

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.

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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.

From Rick Robbins

Hi Julie,

I would like to make a comment about Matt Sullivan's Field Trip Report. The Wingston Cemetery is not on a beach ridge. It is an eolian dune. There are no rock fragments, the sand size sorting is identical and the soil has lamellae.

When I was MLRA Project Leader in Findlay, we updated the Wood County soil survey. During the update we had soil scientists and geomorphologists from all of the Midwest. We visited the Wingston cemetery, and the unanimous conclusion was that it was an eolian dune. Many of the Wisconsin scientists thought it was an esker (due to its sinuous shape), but upon looking at the soil material....agreed that it was a dune.

Best,
Rick Robbins
Soil Scientist

From Kathy Sasowsky

Hi:

I thought of another thing for the newsletter:

Please ask if anyone wants to work on the revision of the Constitution and Bylaws, last updated 2013.

Thanks, have them contact me if so.

-Kathy

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Part one of the Spring-Summer 2022 Newsletter

This ends Part One of the Spring-Summer 2022 Newsletter.