

## *Ohio's Professional Soil Scientists*

### **2024 Summer Newsletter Volume 51, Issue 3 Part 1 Planning for the Fall Field Days**

**Message from our president – Joe Ringler**

#### **AOP President's Comments**

I thoroughly enjoy the fall season. As a soil scientist, I get to work outside during this time of year and it is an absolute joy to see the colors, feel the cool air, and smell the leaves. I also get a sense of nostalgia as I remember fond memories of the past. Many of my fond soil memories occurred during the months of September, October, and November. As we approach our fall workshop, I hope to gain another great memory in Ross County.

Thanks to the help of Brian Cooley, we will be traveling to the center of Ross County and observe the unique soils of the Illinoian Outwash. Such soils include Princeton, Pike, Rainsboro, Wyatt, and Negley. In addition, we hope to observe the unique Dry Run ephemeral stream, observe Mound City, and catch a glimpse of the history of Chillicothe. For geologists and soil scientists, Ross County is a fascinating area. We could spend two weeks in this region and still not see everything this diverse landscape can offer. I look forward to the education, reflection, and fellowship. I learn so much from everyone in this organization and the friendship is an absolute blessing. As we come together once again, let us put aside our busy schedule for a two-day reprieve. I hope to catch you in September.

#### **Current AOP Executive Council**

We are grateful to present our 2024 Council, which includes many continuing Council members:

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

President-elect: We don't have one, would you be interested in the position?

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

Secretary: Jessica Martin, [jessica.burns@usda.gov](mailto:jessica.burns@usda.gov)

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: Jason Sneed, [Jason.sneed513@gmail.com](mailto:Jason.sneed513@gmail.com)

Member At-Large: Steve Miller, [soilconsultant@gmail.com](mailto:soilconsultant@gmail.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 replaced several people on council at our annual meeting. We still need a new Incoming President. Finding new people to take over leadership positions is always a hard job but please know

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that you are not 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.

## News from our Treasurer, Rick Griffin

### Annual Dues for 2024, Have you paid yours yet?

**We still have some 2023 members who have not renewed and without your renewal, you will no longer receive the newsletter and/or remain on the AOP Soils Consultant list – please pay!**

**Mail a check to Rick or pay on line – it's easy and we are not very expensive for what services, outreach and continuing education credits we provide**

### Dues payments - 2024

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 2024 (and dues for 2023, 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

## Fall Field Days – Hold the Dates

We are set for Thursday-Friday September 26-27, 2024. See working Agenda below. Please see the review materials that Anna has posted on the web page. Much homework to review to get ready for our gathering but I think it will help

**Proposed Agenda**

Registration Form

2024 Association of Ohio Pedologists (AOP) Fall Workshop

*Exploring Soils in the Illinoian Outwash*

Region 7 & 10: Ross County, Ohio

**Notes:**

–College and High School students must register for the meeting so that we have a **lunch** count and adequate seating, but fees are waived.

– Speakers do not need to register unless they would like to for continuing education or other professional credits or plan to join us for **lunch**, but fees are waived.

– Vegetarian and some other options will be available for lunch. We trust that if you have dietary concerns, you will be able to pick and choose among lunch options, or will take responsibility for your own lunch separately.

**Pay online:**

<https://www.ohiopedologist.org/store/c1/Donations.html>

or

**Mail this page and payment to:**

Rick Griffin, AOP Treasurer,  
937 Laurel Ave., Zanesville, OH 43701  
2426

Questions, call: Rick Griffin 740-273-

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

**Street Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Affiliation/Employer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact phone number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Select your registration options:**

2 days \_\_\_ \$75

Thursday only, 1 day \_\_\_ \$40 (free for speakers and college students)

Friday only, 1 day \_\_\_ \$40 (free for speakers and college students)

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Please Note: \_\_\_\_ I am a student                      \_\_\_\_ I am a speaker

**Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Checks payable to AOP)**

## Hotel Accommodations

Finding hotel rooms for the event proved to be somewhat difficult. You should have had an email from me earlier in the week about the block of 15 rooms that I managed to get held for you.

They are at the Fairfield Inn and for some unknown reason they are being held under my name. They are being held for Wednesday Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> and Thursday Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> with checkout on Friday morning. The hold is good until September 2<sup>nd</sup> so if you need a room, please reserve it soon.

Fairfield Inn & Suites, Chillicothe

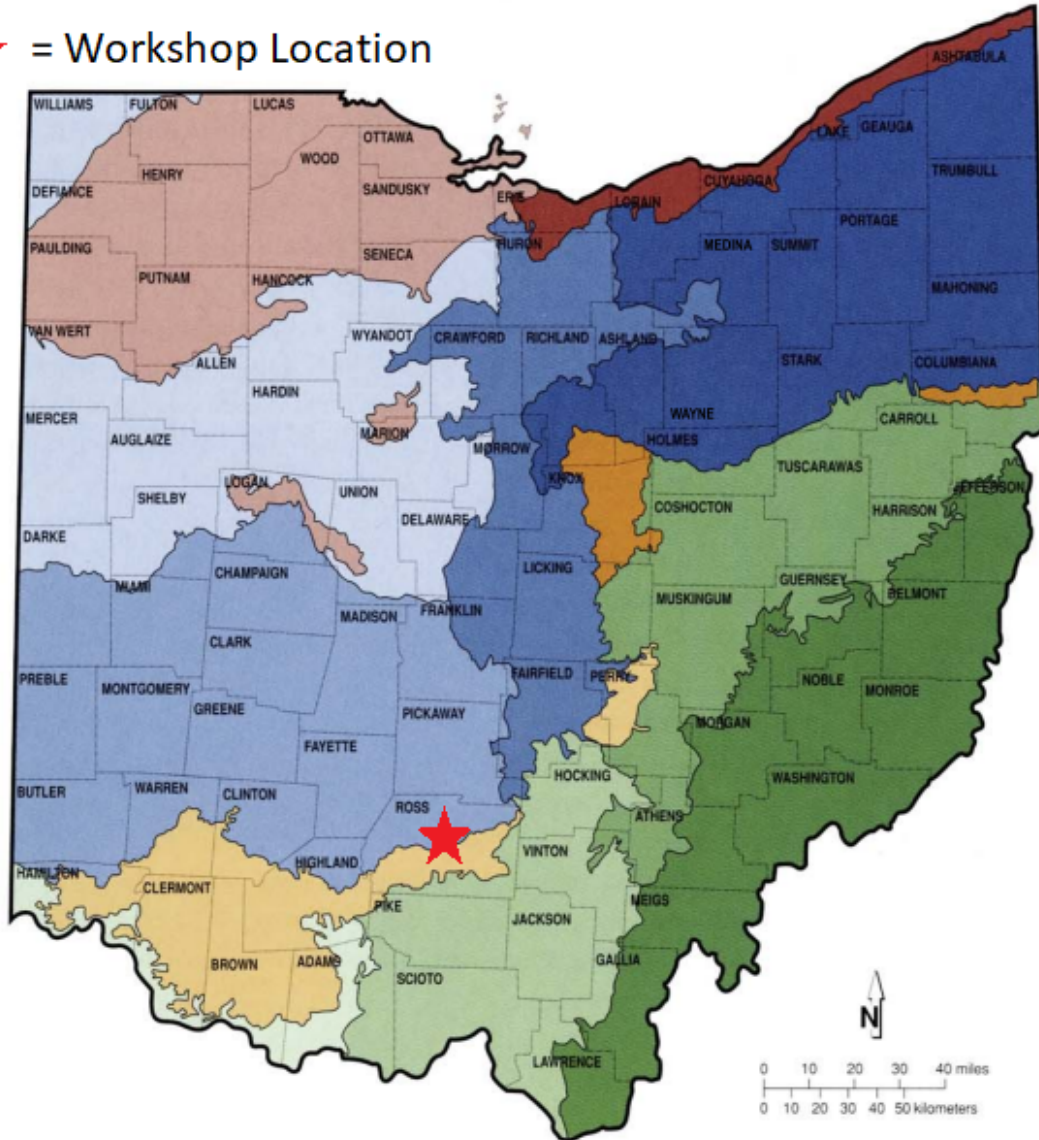
Phone 740-771-9090

Fax 740-771-9087

Arrangements were made through Tiffany Dingus

# Soil Regions of Ohio

★ = Workshop Location



LEGEND\*

- |                                      |  |   |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| 1 Hoytville-Nappanee-Paulding-Toledo | 5 Bennington-Cardington-Centerburg       | 9 Eden-Bratton-Brushcreek                 |
| 2 Conotton-Conneaut-Allis            | 6 Mahoning-Carfield-Rittman-Chili        | 10 Shelocta-Brownsville-Latham-Steinsburg |
| 3 Blount-Pewamo-Glynwood             | 7 Clermont-Rossmoyne-Avonburg-Cincinnati | 11 Coshocton-Westmoreland-Berks           |
| 4 Miamian-Kokomo-Eldean              | 8 Westmoreland-Homewood-Loudonville      | 12 Gilpin-Upshur-Lowell-Guernsey          |

\*Soil Regions are identified by the names of the soil series that are most common in each region

Map Courtesy of Ohio Department of Agriculture's Division of Soil and Water Conservation

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## 2024 Association of Ohio Pedologists (AOP) Fall Workshop *Exploring Soils of the Illinoian Outwash* Region 7 & 10: Ross County, Ohio

**Thursday, September 26, 2024**

Workshop Location: Ross County Service Center  
475 Western Avenue  
Chillicothe, OH 45601

- 8:00 - 9:00**                    **Registration, Fellowship, and Refreshments**
- 9:00 - 9:10**    **Joe Ringler – AOP President**  
Welcome and overview of the agenda
- 9:10 – 10:10**                **Ross County Historical Society**
- 10:30 – 11:30** **Andy Nash – ODNR Geologic Survey**  
Geology of the Region and Formation of the Area
- 11:30 – 12:00** **Brian Cooley – NRCS Resource Soil Scientist**  
Overview of soil of Ross County
- 12:00 – 1:00**                **Lunch**
- 1:00 – 1:30**                  **Travel to Field**
- 1:30 – 2:10**                  **Exploring Dry Run**
- 2:10 – 2:50**                  **Soil Pits – Princeton**
- 2:50 – 3:30**                  **Soil Pits – Pike**
- 3:30 – 5:00**                  **Mound City Tour**

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## 2024 Association of Ohio Pedologists (AOP) Fall Workshop *Exploring Soils of the Illinoian Outwash* Region 7 & 10: Ross County, Ohio

### Friday, September 27, 2024

Workshop Location: Ross County Service Center  
475 Western Avenue  
Chillicothe, OH 45601

- 8:00 – 9:00**                    **Registration and Fellowship and Refreshments**
- 9:00 – 9:10**                    **Joe Ringler – AOP President Elect**  
Welcome and overview of the agenda
- 9:10 – 10:00**                    **Papermill Byproduct Presentation**
- 10:00 – 10:30** **Travel to Field**
- 10:30 – 11:00** **Soil Pits – Rainsboro OSD Site**
- 11:00 – 11:30** **Soils Pits – Taggart**
- 11:30 – 12:30** **Lunch – Presentation of awards**
- 12:30 - 1:00**                    **Soil Pits – Libre OSD Site**
- 1:00 – 1:30**                    **Soil Pits – Negley (Ross County Type Location)**
- 1:30 – 2:00**                    **Soil Pits – Wyatt (Teays Age Silts/Clay)**
- 2:00 – 2:30**                    **Soil Pits – McGary**
- 2:30 – 4:00**                    **Adena Mansion and Garden Historic Site?**
- 4:00 – whenever**            **Travel home or Socialize in Downtown Chillicothe**



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## New AOP Members

We have yet another new member of AOP. Her name is Angel Bradford. I have not met her but Rick Griffin knows her. I think she works for NRCS. If she comes to the Fall Field Days, please make her feel welcome. I hope to have more to tell you about her next newsletter.

## Update on Newsletter mailings

This is the sixth mailing of the newsletter to a much-shortened list of recipients. If you did not pay your 2024 dues, this may be your last newsletter. If you are an honoree member or a contact person to a sister Agency or Association, you are covered. I am going over the list of paid 2024 members with Rick Griffin to make sure my mailing list is up to date. This has been a very hard decision to prune the mailing list as I removed a number of names of old, dear friends. If you were on the Consultants list and have not paid the 2024 AOP dues, you will also be removed from that list as membership in AOP is one of the criteria of remaining on the list.

## AOP Awards Committee Awards

Matt Sullivan and Kathy Sasowsky reactivated the Awards Committee. We have no awards scheduled for the Fall Field Days that I know of but Matt and Kathy are always eager to learn of new possible awardees. Joe Ringler joined that committee as our new President after the Winter meeting. Please contact any of them if you have nominations.

## Rep. Mary Lightbody's 2022 H.B. No. 579 Stopping Brine Spreading Bill, educating our Legislators and Justin Nobel's new book

So much to report on the oil and gas front. These will be particularly important for those of you working in eastern Ohio.

The Austin Master's "reclamation" plant in Martin's Ferry. My friend Bev Reed has been working on trying to shut down this radioactive filter sock "reclamation" facility for some time. It's located in an old steel mill down along the Ohio River sitting on the Source Water Protection Area for Martin's Ferry's well field. While there had been many complaints to the City and to ODNR Div. of Oil and Gas about this site, this last spring a whole host of factors came together to shut down the facility. The company stopped shipping out the processed waste and thousands of tons piled up in the facility, violating their permit.

The facility was ordered to move out the wastes. Instead they closed the facility, fired all the staff, filed for bankruptcy and walked away for the site. The Ohio Attorney General David Yost got involved as did the local court system ordering the facility cleaned up by the beginning of July of be in contempt of court with a daily fine. Meanwhile the Ohio River flooded this last spring and the river came into the facility, washing tracked highly radioactive wastes across the well field and into the Ohio River. When the few remaining contacts within the parent company refused to clean up the mess, ODNR took over and will be responsible for the clean-up. It will amount to several millions of dollars that we, as



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taxpayers, will eventually have to pay, but with luck, the well field has been saved. That is fortunate because the town of Bridgeport, right next door to Martin's Ferry lost their well field to contamination, I think it was PFAS, and they are also now getting all their public water from Martin's Ferry. To have lost both wellfields would have been extremely difficult for these river towns.

The oil and gas industry spokesperson claimed once too often that there is no record of contamination to the soil and water for Ohio from conventional or horizontal drilling on a public radio spot. My friend Jenny Morgan, a teacher and founder of the organization "Leave No Children Inside" decided to check with ODNR Div. of Oil and Gas to get a list of accident and incident reports. They sent her a list going back about 10 years to when they started collecting that data in an organized way and sent her almost 2000 reports. They are continuing at the rate of about 250 a year. Jenny is writing an Ohio Oil and Gas Daily Accident Report and posting it to Facebook. You can sign up to her daily post at "The Daily Accident Report-Ohio Oil & Gas".

They are all over eastern Ohio, from small to catastrophic. At the rate she is going, it will take her 6-8 years to write about all of them. By then, at approximately 250 +/- more a year, she will be busy probably for the rest of her productive life. Jenny is a member of the Buckeye Environmental Network Ohio Brine Task Force. We are writing grants to find help for her with this undertaking as it takes about 2 hours a day to prepare one report. Keep an eye on the FracTracker map I highlighted last newsletter to make sure you are not heading off to work in one of the contaminated sites as we are learning that many, if not most, of them never get adequately remediated.

Along with the several thousand accident and incident reports, we also got a list of 144 oil and gas production and injection wells that are under suspension by ODNR Oil & Gas Chief's orders. Roxanne Groff, former township trustee and County Commission for Athens County and Ohio Brine Task Force Member has taken over the review of these wells. Seven of the injection wells have been suspended because of migration of injection fluid into the surrounding oil and gas production wells. Six of them have been ordered shut down and grouted closed. These wells are in Washington, Athens and Noble Counties. There are currently six wells in litigation because of the damage that they caused to the historic producing oil and gas wells in the area, flooding them out and forcing them to be plugged, at the expense of the damaged well owners, not at the expense of the owners of the injection wells that caused the problems. Ohio EPA/ODNR/ODH have ordered private drinking water wells around the Frost well and the K&H wells in Athens County tested for contamination. The report on that project should be available soon. Given the information gathered from the failed injection wells, it should be possible to predict which injection wells could impact surrounding production wells. Roxanne and I hope to develop a review tool to map the production wells at risk.

### **Future meeting announcements and cancelations**

No new additional meetings beyond the Fall Field Days meeting are scheduled. BEN was unable to schedule an Ohio Statehouse presentation on the issues for this fall. We are hoping to get something on the books for a spring event. I will let the AOP members know when we get a date

### **AOP Scholarship Applications**

The AOP Education and Scholarship Committee are pleased to announce that we will again be awarding two AOP Continuing Education Scholarships for the 2025-26 school years. Scholarships are awarded

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each June 1<sup>st</sup> by the Education and Scholarship Committee. Currently the Committee includes Rachael Warren, Megan Conley, Anna DeFosset, Dan Michael, Susan Rice and myself. Anyone interested in joining is invited. Anyone working on an SSSA Certificate is automatically invited. More about the newly reorganized Committee later.

Scholarship applications must be received by June 1, 2025. Applications can be sent to [AOPEditor2020@gmail.com](mailto:AOPEditor2020@gmail.com).

The Ohio State University AOP scholarship. Matt Sullivan coordinates that scholarship.

## **AOP Bylaws Committee, changing the organization incorporation status to a 501C3 incorporation and the restructuring of the Education and Scholarship Committee**

The AOP Bylaws Committee is active again. After we thought we had everything sorted out, several additional issues were identified and as we got to talk other changes presented themselves. The current bylaws committee is Kathy Sasowsky, Jon Gerken, Anna DeFosset and myself. We are still working out details and will bring any new changes up to the membership for the Winter Meeting.

### **In Memoriam**

I am so very pleased to report that none of our members died since the last Newsletter. I have not received any more information on a schedule for Rachel Townsend's Memorial service yet. It may have passed without my getting notification.

### **Letters and Phone Calls 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.

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### **Part one of the Summer 2024 Newsletter**

This ends Part One of the Spring 2024 Newsletter. Part two shares highlights from AOP members.

