



OHIO PEDOLOGIST

Professional Soil Scientists

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NCSS Conference in Ohio

All-day field trip to eastern Ohio scheduled for June 16



Ohio will host the North Central Regional Soil Survey Conference for the first time since 1986 on June 14 to 17 in Columbus. Information about the conference and registration details are at <http://soils.usda.gov/partnerships/ncss/conferences/2010/>

[north_central/index.html](http://soils.usda.gov/partnerships/ncss/conferences/2010/north_central/index.html). Pre-registration is \$135 through June 4; on-site registration will be \$175. Student registration is \$75. The North Appalachian Experimental Watershed in Coshocton County will be included on the field trip.

2010 Workshop

Plans are being made for AOP's annual workshop to be held sometime in August or early September, probably in central Ohio.

During the annual meeting, Dan Michael reported that soils information is currently mostly ignored in the siting of geo-thermal systems in SW Ohio.

However, soils have different heat transfer rates, which affect the length of piping needed to heat and cool homes economically. Environmental issues are also worthy of consideration.

Details on the workshop will be posted on the website in late June.



HOUSEHOLD SEWAGE LEGISLATION READY TO MOVE IN OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

A revised edition of Senate Bill 110 is expected to be voted upon in May. The bill's primary sponsor is Tom Niehaus, and it includes many of the recommendations of the commission on which Steve Miller served as AOP's representative in 2008. This bill and a bill introduced by primary sponsors Tim Grendell and Capri Cafaro



(SB 100) were assigned to the Environment and Natural Resources Committee in April 2009. The Dept. of Health has been involved in some of the recent negotiations between Niehaus and Grendell, to allow SB 110 to move forward in the committee. If signed into law, rule-making steps will follow.

OHIO SOIL SURVEY UPDATE



NRCS changes in 2009/2010

Rich Gehring has retired, and Mike Wigginton is the new state soil scientist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Gordon Gilmore has retired, and Brian Cooley is now the resource soil scientist for Area 5, in Chillicothe. Don Burgess resigned as the MLRA project leader in Findlay to accept a position with A & L Great Lakes Laboratories in Ft. Wayne. Neil Martin was selected to fill the position. This soil survey office is assigned to the areas in Ohio and Indiana where Blount soils are predominant. Rachael Stull resigned as wetland team leader in Findlay, and the position has been advertised. Jennifer Outcalt has been hired in a cartographer position in Findlay to support soil survey work statewide.

ODNR changes in 2009/2010

The Division of Soil & Water Conservation merged with the Div. of Water to become the Div. of Soil & Water Resources (DSWR). Neil Martin retired as the soil resources program administrator, and Matt Deaton has been selected to fill the role. Tim Gerber was hired to assist temporarily, on a part-time basis. Brian Cooley resigned as the conservation soil scientist based in Marietta. DSWR hopes to

advertise a field soil scientist position by this fall. Jim Svoboda was hired by the Div. of Mineral Resources Management in New Philadelphia.

OSU/OARDC changes in 2009/2010

Jerry Bigham has been succeeded by Ron Hendrick as the new Director for OSU's School of Environment & Natural Resources. Jerry and Don Eckert retired in January, and Frank Calhoun retired in February. Accounts of the retirement parties appeared in the March 8 edition of the School of Environment and Natural Resources' (SENR) online newsletter, the "BiWeek." (It and more recent reports on what's new in the School can be accessed at http://senr.osu.edu/Our_School/SENR_Newsletter.htm.)

Ohio Soil Inventory Board

Brian Slater is in his second year as Chair of the Soil Inventory Board. The Board hosted the annual state soil survey conference in April, and soil scientists from all eight NRCS soil survey offices that cover parts of Ohio participated.

More about the June conference

As OARDC's representative to the National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS), Brian is chair of the regional conference. (See p. 1.) The 12-state North Central Region includes Ohio and 11 states to the west, from Kansas to North Dakota. The NCSS' regional conferences are held in even-numbered years. Conference committees are assigned to discuss and make recommendations on NCSS issues for further consideration at national conferences, held in odd-numbered years.

Plea for information

Gathering information about what's new with NRCS, ODNR, and OSU/OARDC is relatively easy. Gathering information about what's new among AOP members who are private consultants is not.

How is business this spring - better, worse, the same? I don't know. Are there any new opportunities? Is anyone just now going into business or leaving it or scaling back on purpose? Let me know how I can serve our private sector members better. *-Editor*

Soil Survey History

50 YEARS AGO (1960)



Surveys were ongoing in Ashtabula, Champaign, Fayette, Hancock, Van Wert, and Warren Counties.

25 YEARS AGO (1985)



Mapping of Ohio's first soil survey "modernization" project (Huron) was 30% complete.

10 YEARS AGO (2000)



Soil survey publications for 14 different counties were in the pipeline, with field work already

completed. Field work for the last two county "update" projects was ongoing.

DERRINGER SUCCEEDS BURGESS AS AOP PRESIDENT AT ANNUAL MEETING

The Association’s annual meeting was held on February 5 at the Horace Collins Geology Center in Delaware County. Once again, attendance was affected by wintry weather. The following presentations were included on the program:

- By OSU School of Environment and Natural Resources graduate students or faculty,
 - Soil Erosion and Erodibility in Croplands (Ilan Savi)
 - Updating Soil-Based Yield and Productivity Data in Ohio (Jenette Goodman)
 - Carbon Sequestration and Soil Development in Iceland (Brian Slater)
 - The Effects of Glyphosate on Soil Microbial Community Structure (Matt Lane)
- By ODNR staff,
 - Soils and Stream Bank Restoration Data (Dan Mecklenburg, DSWR)
 - Bringing Back the Sandusky Plains: Success with a Hardin County Wetland Restoration (Jim McCormac, Div. of Wildlife)

About 30 members attended and participated in the election of officers for 2010. Treasurer Duane reported a balance of \$3,144.34 in the certification fund, \$3,123.37 in the state licensing fund, and \$7,203.67 in the general operating fund.

Those in attendance for the whole meeting can



claim 4 CEUs for renewal of SSSA certification.

WILMINGTON COLLEGE SOIL JUDGING TEAM AT NATIONAL CONTEST



The Wilmington College team placed 3rd in the regional contest held in Ohio last fall and qualified

to go to the national contest at Texas Tech in Lubbock, Texas this spring. The team placed 13th in the contest, but Coach Matt Deaton reported that fewer than 100 points separated them from the 5th place team. Virginia Tech’s team won 1st place in the contest.

Team member Alicia Jacquemin placed 14th, only about 70 points below the top individual’s score. Other members who competed as individuals were

Britt Barry, Andy Wagner, and Josh Ward. Mike McCullough, Thomas Bohrer, and Brandi Fornshell participated in the team part of the contest.

Many of the pedons seen had calcic or petrocalcic horizons. Most of them were Mollisols, but several of the pedons were Vertisols. The team witnessed dust storms that were minor compared with Dust Bowl storms, but they were still impressive.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION FOR 2010

AOP currently has 52 members, including six honorary members. This edition is being sent to 33 others who paid dues in 2008 or 2009, but have not yet done so this year. Secretary Jerry Bigham will be sending a reminder to members who were current through 2009 soon. Also, since reminders were not sent out to delinquent members a year ago, Jerry will be contacting those who did not pay dues in 2008 to see if they wish to be re-instated as members. Others whose membership lapsed before 2008 can submit a request to the Executive Council for re-instatement also.



Executive Council news



Contact information for members of the Executive Council are posted on the AOP website. Meetings were held on March 26 and May 14.

At the March meeting, Frank Gibbs reported that the Certification Board has prepared a presentation to be used as part of

AOP's marketing plan. Council approved the purchase of a projector for use with the presentation, with the understanding that the Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) will reimburse AOP for the purchase, to promote SSSA certification.

At the May meeting, Council approved the membership application of Jason Undercoffer as an Affiliate Member. Jason received his M.S. in soil science at OSU in 2009 and is an agronomic consultant for Integrated Ag Services.



Check it out



The second edition in 2010 of the Cuyahoga SWCD's

"Technical Quarterly" was published recently, and it is loaded with soils information. This is one of six editions that are available from the District's website, at <http://www.cuyahogawcd.org/services-stormwater-publications.html>. Todd Houser is a major contributor for the publication.

Tim Gerber, AOP Editor
570 Kenbrook Drive
Worthington, OH 43085-3712