

# OHIO PEDOLOGIST

Professional Soil Scientists

[www.ohiopedologist.org](http://www.ohiopedologist.org)

## March 9 Annual Meeting

*Business Meeting and a Variety of Presentations Scheduled*

Meeting information is provided throughout this edition of the newsletter.

### **Nominees for 2012 Election**

**President-Elect (1 nominee):**

**Steve Miller** - Consultant, based in Delaware County.

**Treasurer (1): Jeff Glanville** - Soil Database Manager for NRCS, based in state office.

**Secretary (1): Gordon Starr** - Wetland Team Leader for NRCS in SW Ohio.

**Editor (1): Duane Wood** - Consultant & Wayne SWCD Program Administrator

**State Representative (1): Steve Prebonick** - Soil scientist for ODNR Div. of Soil & Water Resources, based in Trumbull County

**Academic Representative (1):**

**Matt Sullivan** - Assistant Manager, Farm Science Review

**Private Practice Rep. (2):**

**Dan Michael** - Consultant, based in Warren County. Resigned from NRCS in 1985 after serving on soil

survey project teams in three Ohio counties and one Florida county; began career as soil scientist with NRCS in 1975.

**Joe Steiger** - Consultant, based in Muskingum County. Retired from NRCS in 1996 after serving as soil survey project leader in four Ohio counties; began career as soil scientist with NRCS in 1963; received M.S. from OSU in 1967.

**Federal Representative (2):**

**Rick Griffin** - Resource Soil Scientist for NRCS in East-central and SE Ohio. Served on SE Ohio soil survey staff from 1997 to 2005; began career as soil scientist with NRCS after graduating from OSU in 1986.

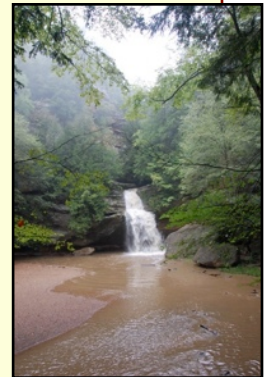
**Charlie Hanner** - Wetland Team Leader for NRCS in NW Ohio. Served as Soil Scientist/Regulatory Project Manager for USACE in Oregon from 2008 to 2010; served as NRCS soil scientist on soil survey project teams in Maryland from 2000 to 2008; member of U. of Maryland soil judging team.

### Changes Coming to SSSA's *Horizons*

*Soil Survey Horizons (SSH)* will be replaced by *Soil Horizons* this year. Six issues are to be published online annually, and they will include the "Tales from the Pits" column that had appeared in issues of *Crops & Soils*. The new publication will be tailored to broaden the focus and readership

*SSH* has had in recent years. SSSA members and CPSSs will be able to view editions of the new publication online free.

Incidentally, the Winter 2011 edition of *Soil Survey Horizons (SSH)* includes an interesting historical paper with an OSU connection: "Alfred P. Dachnowski and the Scientific Study of Peats."



### DELAWARE CONSERVATION DISTRICT PURCHASING LARGE PORTABLE SOIL DISPLAY

The Delaware SWCD was awarded a grant from the Ohio Environmental Education Fund to purchase an inflatable "Soil Tunnel" developed by the Association of Conservation Districts in New Jersey. The SWCD's tunnel, the second one of its kind in the nation, will be 16' long, 16' wide, and 12' high.



Two other portable soil exhibits, Franklin SWCD's soil tunnel (a painted canvas tent) and Butler SWCD's soil trailer, are currently available for events in the state. AOP member Frank Gibbs has advised the Delaware SWCD on tailoring the displays inside the tunnel for Ohio audiences.

## 2011 MEMBER LIST

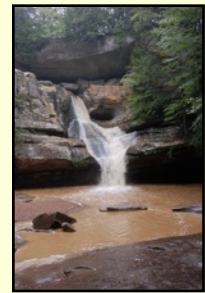
Treasurer Jeff Glanville's records indicate that the individuals listed below have paid their dues for 2011. Membership categories are Honorary (H), Pedologist (P), Soils Professional (SP), Affiliate (A), and Student (S).

By early February, 64 of them had paid dues for 2012. The bylaws call for membership rights to be withheld if dues are not paid by March 31.

1. Mike Angle (A)
2. Danielle Balduff (SP)
3. Kyle Baldwin (A)
4. Jim Bauder (P)
5. Jerry Bigham (P)
6. Scott Brockman (H)
7. Bill Brug (P)
8. Greg Buckingham (SP)
9. Marvin Bureau (P)
10. Don Burgess (SP)
11. Ray Burns (A)
12. Rick Buzard (P)
13. Mitch Cattrell (SP)
14. Barry Cavanna (SP)
15. Dick Christman (H)
16. Brian Cooley (SP)
17. Alex Dado (SP)
18. Matt Deaton (P)
19. Scott Demyan (A)
20. George Derringer (P)
21. Cecil Flesher (H)
22. Mark Flowers (A)
23. Rich Gehring (P)
24. Tim Gerber (P)
25. Jon Gerken (P)
26. Frank Gibbs (P)
27. Jeff Glanville (P)
28. Rick Griffin (P)
29. Steve Grubbs (A)
30. George Hall (H)
31. Steve Hamilton (P)
32. Charles Hanner (P)
33. Melissa Hanner (P)
34. Marty Hemminger (A)
35. Todd Houser (SP)
36. Keith Huffman (H)
37. Craig Kauffman (SP)
38. Glenn Kelley (P)
39. Jim Kerr (P)
40. Matthew Lane (S)
41. Aaron Lantz (P)
42. Rex Mapes (P)
43. Neil Martin (P)
44. Floyd McCleary (P)
45. Don McClure (P)
46. Dan Michael (P)
47. Steve Miller (SP)
48. Larry Milliron (P)
49. Amy Mills (A)
50. Tom Nash (SP)
51. Jennifer Outcalt (A)
52. Bob Parkinson (P)
53. Michael Patterson (A)
54. Mike Plunkett (P)
55. Steve Prebonick (P)
56. Terry Priest (SP)
57. Ed Redmond (H)
58. Jeffrey Rice (A)
59. Joe Ringler (A)
60. Bob Ritchie (H)
61. Bob Roseler (P)
62. Neil Rubel (P)
63. Margaret Sams (P)
64. Kathy Sasowsky (SP)
65. Bill Schumacher (SP)
66. Neil Smeck (H)
67. Jason Sneed (A)
68. Gordon Starr (SP)
69. Joe Steiger (P)
70. Matt Sullivan (SP)
71. Jim Svoboda (P)
72. Larry Tornes (P)
73. Jason Undercoffer (A)
74. Mitch Valerio (S)
75. Delwyn Walker (A)
76. Dwain Waters (P)
77. Julie Weatherington-Rice (SP)
78. Nathan Weber (A)
79. Logan Welker (S)
80. Norris Williams (P)
81. Mark Wilson (SP)
82. Duane Wood (SP)
83. Tom Zimmerman (P)

## Closing of Some Soil Survey Offices Planned

On January 9, USDA announced plans to close 24 soil survey offices in 21 states while maintaining 2,800 other NRCS offices. Although none of those 24 offices are in Ohio, five currently serve parts of the Ohio Soil Survey. They are the MLRA Soil Survey Regional Office #18 (MO-18) in Lexington, Kentucky, and the MLRA Soil Survey Area Offices in Plymouth, Indiana; Frankfort, Kentucky; Mercer, Pennsylvania; and Huntington, West Virginia.



The soil survey areas currently assigned to these offices are shown on a map at [www.oh.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/soils/images/officemap.jpg](http://www.oh.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/soils/images/officemap.jpg). (Note that the Plymouth and Frankfort offices are shown on the map at Fort Wayne and Lawrenceburg, respectively.) The area served by MO-18 is represented on a map at [soils.usda.gov/contact/mlra\\_offices/](http://soils.usda.gov/contact/mlra_offices/).

A fact sheet for USDA's "Blueprint For Stronger Service," at [www.usda.gov/documents/BPSS-Factsheet-NRE.pdf](http://www.usda.gov/documents/BPSS-Factsheet-NRE.pdf), lists all of the offices planned for closing.

# 2012 Annual Meeting Program - March 9

## Morning Program

- 9:25 Welcome - Danielle Balduff, AOP President  
 9:30 "Establishing an Environmental Professionals Network"  
 -David Hanselmann, OSU-SENR  
 10:00 "Research Contributions of the North Appalachian Experimental Watershed"  
 - Dr. Martin Shipitalo, USDA-ARS  
 10:30-10:45 Break  
 10:45 "A Soil Scientist in Tibet"  
 - Frank Gibbs, USDA-NRCS  
 11:15 "Origin and Distribution of Argillic Horizons Across Iowa - Novel Hypothesis"  
 - Dr. Mostafa Ibrahim, Post Doctoral Student, The Ohio State University)  
 12:00 Lunch - Catered by City Barbeque

## Afternoon Program

- 1:00 AOP Membership Survey Results and Discussion/Reflections  
 (See pages 4 to 6.)  
 2:15 Business Meeting and Committee Updates  
 -Nomination and Election of 2012 Officers  
 -Minutes from the Annual Meeting of 2011  
 -Treasurers Report  
 - Reports  
 - Old Business  
 -Audit Report  
 -New Business  
 -Call for New Committees  
 -Awards  
 -Election Results  
 -Passing of the Gavel  
 3:00 Adjourn 2012 Annual Meeting

### Instructions for Absentee Voting

According to the bylaws, absentee ballots must be requested by February 18 from Secretary Jerry Bigham, at [bigham.1@osu.edu](mailto:bigham.1@osu.edu) or 614-292-9066. Marked ballots must be received by Dr. Bigham by March 2, at OSU-SENR, 210 Kottman Hall, 2021 Coffee Rd., Columbus, OH 43210.



## Social Gathering

**Starting at 9:00 AM**

### Meeting Location

The meeting will be held at the Highbanks Metro Park Nature Center, as it has been for most years in the past decade. The address is 9466 Columbus Pike (U.S. Rt 23 N), Lewis Center, OH 43035-9414.

Information about Highbanks Metro Park can be viewed at [www.metroparks.net/ParksHighbanks.aspx](http://www.metroparks.net/ParksHighbanks.aspx). The parking lot for the Nature Center is on the right, a short distance from U.S. Rt. 23.

**Directions from the west, south, and east:** From I-270 north of Columbus, take U.S. 23 north about 3 miles. The park entrance is on the left, just south of Powell Road.

**Directions from the northeast:** From the Gemini Place exit (Exit 121) on I-71 north of Columbus, take Gemini Place west about 1 mile to Polaris Parkway. Turn right on Polaris Parkway, also identified as Ohio Rt. 750. Take Rt. 750 1.8 miles west to U.S. Rt. 23 and turn left. The park entrance is on the right, about a quarter-mile south of this intersection.

**Directions from the north and northwest:** From Delaware, take U.S. Rt. 23 south about 11 miles. The park entrance is on the right, about a quarter-mile south of the intersection with Ohio Rt. 750.



## MEMBER NEWS

Norris Williams has moved to Ocala, Florida.

Affiliate member Jason Sneed was one of ten individuals listed in the most recent edition of *Crops & Soils* as new Certified Crop Advisors (CCA) in the state. The ASA website lists 392 CCAs in Ohio, including Jason and four other AOP members.

Affiliate member Mike Patterson was recently selected as NRCS' Wetland Team Leader for the eastern part of the state. His office is in Ashland.

## PERSONNEL CHANGES AT ODNR-DSWR &amp; OSU-SENR

Gov. Kasich named Jim Zehringer as ODNR's Director in November, and about a month later Karl Gebhardt was appointed as the new Chief of the Div. of Soil and Water Resources (DSWR), replacing Ted Lozier.

Former DSWR Chief David Hanselmann was hired by OSU's School of Environment and Natural Resources as a Lecturer and charged with developing and coordinating the Environmental Professionals Network for the school.

## BACKGROUND FOR 2012 MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

The Association of Ohio Pedologists (AOP) was founded in 1976 to specifically promote the profession of pedology by technically strengthening the membership, by setting standards for professional conduct and by involving itself in other matters as needed.

Pedology -- the scientific study of soils, including their origins, characteristics, mapping, differentiation, classification and uses -- is an integrative subset of soil science, the foundation of soil survey, and was part of the soil science curriculum at Ohio State's Agronomy Department when AOP was formed.

The "modern" soil survey of Ohio was about half complete when AOP was created, and AOP is deeply rooted in soil survey. The 54 charter members were overwhelmingly Pedologist members and were mostly soil surveyors and collaborators employed by agencies of the Ohio Cooperative Soil Survey: the USDA- Soil Conservation Service, ODNR Division of Lands and Soil, and the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (with OSU and the Cooperative Extension Service).

In 1976, there were 44 Pedologist members (81%), seven affiliate (13%) and three student members (6%). There was a total of five soil scientists either retired, self-employed or employed by a county unit of government. Since then, the membership has inevitably changed to a considerable extent, but the stated mission of AOP has not. Reflecting this relatively minor change, the AOP Constitution and Bylaws have been amended two and four times respectively, adding, among other things, a certification board and new membership categories to help compensate for an anticipated decline in Pedologist membership.

The changes have resulted in an increased and more diverse membership. Of today's 83

members, there are: Pedologist - 49%; Honorary - 6%; Affiliate - 19%; Soils Professional - 22%; and Student - 4%.

In 1976, nearly 100% of the Pedologist members were engaged in the Ohio Soil Survey. Today, only about 7% of the membership is actively working on the Ohio Soil Survey. Retired agency soil surveyors currently make up 1/3 of AOP membership. And at Ohio State, the Agronomy Department was disbanded years ago and its soil science faculty and program reduced.

Considering the difficulty today of obtaining sufficient experience to qualify Pedologists, this overall increase in non-Pedologist membership reflects the need for an organization that promotes professionals in soils against what is a demographic and thematic shift away from Pedology -- which was the original purpose of AOP.

This leads to some sorely needed soul searching for AOP. Given these facts, should AOP largely "stay the course", or should it morph into something else soil-science related, and, if so, what!!!?

The charter members created an organization of professionals in pedology, and AOP was a successful organization that filled an important mission during the "completion" of the Ohio Soil Survey. Now, it needs your input to help determine its future.

Please fill out and return the 2012 AOP Membership Survey by March 2. The 2012 Executive Council needs your ideas to help determine future directions for the organization.

-President-Elect Bob Parkinson

ASSOCIATION OF OHIO PEDOLOGISTS

2012 MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

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

AOP Membership Status: \_\_\_\_\_ (Hon; Ped; Soils Pro; Affil; Stu)

Year of Joining: \_\_\_\_\_ Charter Member? (Y/N) \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ (Self; Fed; State; Local Gov't; Univ; Retired; Other)

College degree(s) received: \_\_\_\_\_ (BA, BS, MA, MS, PhD)

Academic Training Undergraduate Major: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduate Degree Coursework: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of years working on soil survey: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of years working with land and soil resources: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Work: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Years: \_\_\_\_\_

1. If you're not a Pedologist member, would you become one, if possible? (Y/N or NA) \_\_\_\_\_
2. If you answered "Y" to the above, what main restriction(s) are keeping you from becoming one?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. If you answered "N" to the above, why not?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What kind of soils-related work do you anticipate doing
  - a. 5 years from now? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. 10 years from now? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Who do you anticipate as your employer
  - a. 5 years from now? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. 10 years from now? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What additional soils-related training do you need to advance in your soils-related profession?  
\_\_\_\_\_

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For questions 7-14, please mark your response: SA = Strongly Agree; A=Agree; N=Neutral; D=Disagree; SD= Strongly Disagree

7. AOP should stay Pedology-based and not change its emphasis. \_\_\_\_\_
8. If AOP cannot maintain a Pedology-based organization, it should be dissolved per the AOP Constitution. \_\_\_\_\_
9. AOP should reexamine its Pedologist membership criteria. \_\_\_\_\_
10. AOP should de-emphasize Pedology and include other soil science related disciplines.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- a. If so, what soil science disciplines should it include?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b. Who might become prospective new members?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- c. If so, what would you suggest as the organization's name?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. AOP should be more proactive promoting pedology as an academic course of study to Ohio's colleges. \_\_\_\_\_
12. AOP should become more proactive promoting pedology and soils related issues to natural resource agencies. \_\_\_\_\_
13. AOP does a great job with its current services, activities, and training sessions. \_\_\_\_\_
- a. I want to become more involved with AOP activities and management. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. I want to serve on the AOP Executive Council in the future. \_\_\_\_\_
14. I plan to remain an AOP member a. five years from now. \_\_\_\_\_ b. ten years from now. \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Mailing Address for Completed Surveys and Annual Meeting Registration**

Completed surveys should be mailed by March 2 to

Mr. Jeff Glanville  
AOP Treasurer  
107 Southwind Dr.  
Gahanna, OH 43230-3147

**The registration fee for the 2012 annual meeting is \$25, regardless of when it is received. The check can be made out to "AOP" and mailed to Jeff Glanville at the address above. Registration can also be paid at the registration table before the meeting.**

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