



OHIO PEDOLOGIST

Professional Soil Scientists

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President's Message



By Steve Miller

Is it that time of year again? The children are going back to school, the nights are getting cooler and the days are starting to get noticeable shorter. It also means that the AOP Workshop will be here soon. This year AOP is again collaborating with AOC-SWCS. The AOP is focusing on the proposed state sewage regulations and the SWCS will focus on conservation aspects of hydraulic fracturing. The OSU South Centers at Piketon will also have discussions at research plots on soil & water bioenergy, horticulture, specialty crops, and aquaculture. I hope everyone will find something that will provide training for their jobs.

Some of the AOP Bylaws changes that were voted on during the winter meeting will take affect soon. Bob Parkinson has the task of finding members interested in volunteering for a term on the AOP-Executive Council. The Private, State, Federal, and Academic Representative positions have been abolished and three at-

large positions have been created. This should make Bob's task easier in some respects, but please, still try to feel sympathetic if he contacts you.

I hope everyone will enjoy the camaraderie at the summer workshop. Although it is going to a longer travel for many of us, I know the topics and soils and geomorphology of the Teays River Valley will keep everyone interested. Also, be sure to keep in mind how we can improve our organization, profession, certification and training programs.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Miller

Thoughts on the Upcoming Summer Workshop

By Joe Steiger, Soil Scientist, Zanesville, Ohio

The upcoming workshop at the Piketon Research Center will offer great opportunities for evaluating site and soil conditions that affect design of onsite wastewater systems. I have been reviewing the comments on the Ohio Department of Health web site on the proposed STS rules. It is obvious that a great divide exists on who is or who is not qualified to make soil evaluations. The workshop on August 26 and 27 is specifically planned for training on the soils of

southern Ohio. I encourage all who are involved in the on-site STS process to attend since not only the soil scientists are recognized by the new ODH rules but local health department sanitarians can also complete the evaluations.

Some of the topics that will be covered are soil profile descriptions at four soil pits, including soil indicators of wetness; design options such as types of systems; engineered drainage; vertical separation and risk factors.

Other topics on the first day include current research on soils and sewage, status of the new Ohio STS rules and open discussion of the impact of these changes in rules. Here are some questions I have:

- Can we form a better working relationship between sanitarians and soil scientists?
- Should soil scientists assign the loading rates for each soil horizon?
- What loading rates apply when the separation distance is less than eight inches?
- Can we assess the size of suitable area without some judgment of the type of STS to be used?
- On the (Tyler) Ohio Table the sand and loamy sand texture are assigned loading rates, but they are also considered limiting layers.
- Marking of the suitable area for leaching should also be fenced before a permit is issued.

I encourage you to bring your questions and comments as well.

Consulting Can be Interesting...

By Duane Wood

I live in southern Wayne County. A short country drive reveals an amazing number of businesses, small grocery stores, produce stands, lumber mills, hardwares, small engine shops, furniture shops, bakeries, metal fabricators, plumbers, builders, not to mention farms--you name it we can probably find it. The Amish are definitely entrepreneurs. The only downside is that my garage often smells like a stable and I don't have a horse. Drive down any of our county or township roads and you'll be bobbing and weaving to avoid the road apples, not always successfully. With all of this Amish activity I have the great fortune to do soil evaluations for many of them. I do a lot of work for a plot planner that is only one generation removed from Amish, can speak Dutch, and is the primary designer for the Amish. With all of this variety of Amish enterprise you never know what you're going to get into.

One such event happened on a fall Saturday morning. Just getting to the site was a challenge. I was driving east and started to notice a lot more Amish out on the road than normal. The more I traveled the worse it got. I also began to see lots of Amish on horseback, which is fairly unusual too. Eventually after a long stretch of slow travel the horses, buggies, walkers, and bikers turned off down a farm lane. I'd inadvertently chosen the morning of an annual Amish horseback ride that goes cross county over farms and back roads. Once I passed the lane for the farm that was the rallying point travel became much easier. My destination was a lumber mill with deer pens beside it. I met the Amish landowner and the system designer at the site. After some small

talk we got down to business. I asked where we were going to take a look at the soil for a possible system. Turns out I was going to be working in one of the deer pens, which was a bit of a surprise for me. The first thing I wanted to know was this going to be the buck or the doe pen. The owner relieved my anxiety when he said the doe pen. As we entered the doe pen most of the deer kept a wide berth. There was one doe much less afraid than the others. She trailed along behind us 10 or 15 feet. After I got to a likely spot to auger a hole I set to work and kind of forgot about the doe. That was until I felt my GPS unit come out of my waist pack that I carry my soil tools and color book. I was able to get hold of the GPS unit and retrieve it but it took a little effort to retrieve the lanyard that was still in the doe's mouth. It was a little soggy with doe spit but otherwise OK. At one point I scratched her head, eventually she became bored (like most of my clients that stick around) and moved giving me some space to work.



Most of the Amish have horses for the "horse power" needed for pulling the family buggy or for farming. Not surprisingly I sometimes need to do work in horse pastures. Here's a photo of one of the curious horses that I've had the pleasure of meeting.



Animal encounters haven't been restricted to just Wayne County. Here's an overly friendly mule in Medina Co. that we found out later loves to be fed peppermints.



What kind of interesting stories do you have? Ever consider writing an article for an upcoming AOP Newsletter?

Ethics Training Topics

Fellow AOP members, Steve Prebonick is requesting that you send him any ethics questions you would like answered. Steve would like to give Dawn Ferris some guidelines on what issues concern us. Please e-mail Steve at championsoils@aol.com

Check out a "Violent Soil Video" Frank discovered at: <http://youtu.be/ChzFQ-hhQnQ>