

OHIO SOILS NEWSLETTER
Vol. 1 No. 1 February, 1975
George Hall - Editor

For a number of years those of you scattered about the state have expressed a concern about the lack of communication other than official memos. This is particularly true for those of you not employed by SCS or DLS. This newsletter is an outgrowth of your concerns.

At this time the Newsletter format is in the approximation stage. There is no set schedule for publication but time permitting it will probably appear quarterly. The budget will limit it to 3-4 pages in size. Content of the Newsletter will be informal with a goal of improving communication. It will be up to those of you out on the county lines to tell me what you think is newsworthy. Your comments will be appreciated.

Soil Scientists Organization

A soil scientists organizational meeting was held on January 14, at Scott's Inn, Columbus following the SCSA meeting. The minutes of the meeting as recorded by Jon Gerken are attached. My count showed 35-40 people in attendance.

The steering committee elected on January 14, met again on January 29 at Center of Tomorrow, OSU to discuss plans for the organization. At this meeting Cecil Flesher was elected as Chairman; Bob Roseler, Vice Chairman; Jon Gerken, Secretary; and George Hall, Editor. The charter, by-laws, name and dues were among the items discussed. It was agreed that the members of the steering committee would individually sort out the best portions of the various state charters and by-laws we have received and send them to Cecil Flesher. Cecil will then coordinate the various comments and write a first draft before the next steering committee meeting on March 27.

A subsequent rough draft will be discussed with soil scientists from around the state at a meeting held in conjunction with the All Ohio SCSA meetings in July. After the incorporation of comments, the final draft will be presented at a statewide meeting in December. If you have any comments send them to Cecil or any other member of the steering committee. We encourage your comments but you may want to wait until you see the first draft.

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Wyandot County Soil Survey

Joe Steiger will start preliminary mapping in Wyandot county sometime this spring although the official contract with the county does not take effect until July 1. A special feature of this survey will be the computerization of the soils and land use information on a 2.5 acre unit basis. This work, under the direction of Ken Wenner of the OSU School of Natural Resources, will allow retrieval of soils information and recommendation on any 2.5 acre unit in the county when completed. The first anticipated use will be by the county auditor for land appraisal.

Notes from the SCS State Soils Office

Travel restrictions have been placed on government workers because of our nation's continuing energy problems. This restriction has made it necessary to cancel many of the planned out-of-state training activities for the remainder of FY 1975. I believe all soil scientists scheduled for out-of-state training before July 1 have had this training delayed until a later time. Also, this restriction may require some schedule changes in our field activities later in the spring and summer.

Jon Gerken has moved over to the London soils office effective January 6. Jon will be quite busy getting prepared for his initial review of Madison County in April.

In the state office, Glenn Kelley is editing the Portage manuscript and expects to have it submitted to Upper Darby in February. He will then start on the Greene manuscript. George Schafer is preparing for the up coming correlation conferences for Crawford, Mercer and Lake Counties as well as checking with the party leaders that have comprehensive reviews scheduled this summer to be sure that they will have everything ready. Ralph Meeker is being sure that the map compilation program for Portage and Medina Counties stays on schedule. Gerald Post attended the National Soil Scientists' conference the last week in January.

From the DLS Desk

The cost-sharing agreement of Carroll County has been finalized with a starting date of January 1, 1975. Tim Gerber is the party chief and it is planned to assign additional personnel. The cost-sharing agreement of Tuscarawas County is being developed. Personnel will be assigned to begin the survey July 1, 1975.

General Soil Association maps have been released for Harrison and Coshocton Counties. Williams County Soil Inventory Report is expected to be received from the printer soon.

Two Land Reborn watershed projects are completed or nearly completed. Watershed 10 in the Jackson County area has been completed by Lyle Jones. Tim Gerber is nearing completion on Watershed 61 in the Jefferson-Carroll County area.

Population explosion: Ruth and Floyd McCleary in Trumbull County had a 6 lb. 14½ oz. son, Michael Douglas, on January 14, 1975. Linda and Terry Priest also had a boy, Timothy Carl, on October 18, 1974. Joyce and Tim Gerber in Carroll County had a baby girl, Wendy Diane, on October 31, 1974.

OSU Ivy Towers

The new Agronomy - Natural Resource - Plant Pathology building is still in the planning stages. Dean Kottman is very optimistic that we will have it approved this year.

As most of you know Dr. Volk will retire on June 30 or this year. The selection committee has brought in a number of candidates but at this writing we have not settled on a replacement.

The mild January saved the university from some severe cutbacks in heating. Anticipating similar shortages next winter, the administration has proposed that Autumn quarter start two weeks early (September 16). This would allow closing many classroom buildings during December.

Teaching in pedology this quarter includes Agron 650 (Advanced Soil Classification Morphology and Genesis) under the tripartite direction of Wilding, Smeck, and Hall and Agron 695 (Organic Soils) with Kaye Everett.

A new faculty member, Jay Johnson, joined the department in November. A Tennessean, Dr. Johnson received his Ph.D. from University of Illinois in soil chemistry and has been employed at that institution as an Agronomist for the past two years since receiving his degree.

Obituaries

C. J. Willard, Sept. 13, 1974. Many of you old timers had C. J. as an instructor in some of your crops courses. He was on the OSU staff from 1917 until he retired in 1959. C. J. and his wife moved to Florida in 1972 where his wife still resides at 2630 Pearce Drive, Apartment 110, Clearwater, Florida 335516.

H. Howe Morse, February 1, 1975. Howe worked for the SCS from 1934 to 1962. He was Ohio's State Soil Scientist from 1944 to 1962. He is survived by his wife, Betty, at 229 Bay Aristocrat, Clearwater, Florida 33516.

Coming Events

May 2-3. Symposium on geology, soils, land use and biology of Sandusky River Basin. Heidelberg College, Tiffin, Ohio.

July 18. Summer meeting, All Ohio Chapter SCSA. Cuyahoga Park (Tentative location).

August 24-29. American Society of Agronomy National Meeting, Knoxville, Tennessee.

