

Ohio Pedologist Newsletter
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George Hall - Editor

In the first newsletter I said the format was in the approximation stage and that there was no set publication schedule. This second publication is later than expected and the name has been changed so I guess I am still following those guidelines.

Pedologist is an elusive term that means different things to different people. Most of the other state organizations have avoided the name for one reason or another. Those of us on the steering committee for the Ohio organization have elected to go with the name Pedologist. The roots for the word pedology are from the Greek, pedon and logos meaning soil and science. My Webster's comes through with "The science which treats of soils." In actual usage the word has a limited meaning and relates more to the specific area of genesis and classification. Dijkerman seems to do a pretty good job on the meaning in a recent article in Geoderma: "Pedology is the science that studies the genesis, nature, distribution and use potentiality of soil resources. Both field and laboratory research are involved. Pedology is an empirical science in contrast to logic and mathematics which are formal sciences." (Geoderma 11:73-93, 1974)

Association of Ohio Pedologists

As reported in the first Newsletter the steering committee met January 29 and elected officers. They met again March 27 to work on a constitution and by-laws. The chairman of the group, Cecil Flesher, spent long hours at his typewriter putting together a draft which the committee hammered on at a December 3 meeting. Cecil is back at his typewriter again putting on the final touches and the steering committee hopes to have a copy of an acceptable draft in your hands by the first of the year.

A meeting of soil scientists and others interested in a state wide organization is scheduled for 1:00 PM, January 13 in the Windjammer Room following the All Ohio Chapter of the SCSA meeting. This pedologist meeting as well as the SCSA meeting will be held at the Hilton Inn, 3110 Olentangy River Road (East side of the Olentangy in the commercial area north of OSU campus). At the meeting the committee hopes to have the constitution and by-laws of the Association of Ohio Pedologists approved and officers elected for the year. The committee would like to have a good input from all soil scientists around the state so try to attend. If you are unable to attend but wish to make comments after reviewing the constitution and by-laws, send them to Cecil or other members of the steering committee. Addresses of the committee were listed in the first issue of the Newsletter.

ASA Meeting in Knoxville

The August meeting turned out to be partly vacation for some of us. L. P. Wilding, N. Smeck and G. Hall attended the preconvention field tour of western Tennessee where some theories on fragipan development in loess were discussed. Good to see Vaughn Siegenthaler and Joe Steiger at the sessions in Knoxville. Larry Wilding and Dave Van Doren (Wooster) were made fellows in the ASA at the meetings. There are only about 20 members make the grade each year so it is quite an honor.

Soil Survey Horizons

The publication of Soil Survey Horizons was taken over by the ASA this year. Most of you probably received the first issue published by the Society. They thought they needed 500 subscribers to make it a paying proposition and at last count (late November) they had 495. In case you forgot it is not too late to send in your money.

From the DLS Desk

The budget reduction imposed on the Department of Natural Resources in July by the 111th Ohio General Assembly resulted in the Division having to lay off two Soil Resource Specialists from the Pickaway County survey party and two part time students positions at the OSU laboratory being funded by the Division. Hopefully, funding can be obtained in the next biennial budget to reestablish these positions to advance the soil survey program.

The soil survey of Logan County was completed in August with the comprehensive field review being conducted September 29 - October 3. Dwain Waters, who was in charge of the Logan survey, has transferred to New Philadelphia to party chief the soil survey of Tuscarawas County. Linn Roth is assisting Dwain on this survey.

Cost-sharing agreements were recently executed by the Division and OARDC to begin soil surveys in Jackson and Athens Counties. Soil mapping of these counties will begin in the spring by Division of Lands and Soil personnel.

Soil Inventory Progress Reports most recently published by Lands and Soil included those for Crawford and Ashland Counties. Progress Reports for Logan, Pickaway and Shelby Counties are being prepared for publication by mid-summer 1976.

Notes from the SCS State Soils Office

We have just moved our offices in the Old Federal Building from Room 317 to Room 318. The distance moved wasn't much; however, we were able to pick up some much needed additional space. We hope to be able to provide better service now.

Bob Hendershot, a student trainee with the Service last summer, has now graduated and is a full fledged soil scientist at Upper Sandusky with Joe Steiger, Party Leader.

Agreements have been signed with the Licking and Darke County Commissioners to start their soil surveys in April 1977. Yes, 1977. It is necessary to firm up these arrangements early so we can obtain the necessary aerial flights early in the survey. It takes about two years from the time the decision is made to obtain a flight, until the useable atlas field sheets are received.

All indications are that all field parties have had a very good productive fall in terms of acres mapped. Probably much of this is due to the very excellent weather we have had.

We did have one casualty this fall. Tom Graham, soil scientist at Wooster, had the misfortune to break his leg while mapping. He is now back to work (office only) and on his way to recovery.

Glenn Kelly along with Bob Ritchie and Dick Christman have just completed a series of one-day training sessions throughout Ohio at which time the new procedure format for soil survey manuscripts was thoroughly discussed.

OSU Ivy Towers

Berlie Schmidt, formerly associate chairman located at Wooster was selected to replace Dr. Volk. He took over the position July 1 and moved his family to Columbus late in the summer. Merle Niehaus moved up from his crop research area into the position vacated by Berlie at Wooster.

The Agronomy-Natural Resources-Plant Pathology building is still off-on. The governor had an \$11 million dollar item in his capital improvements budget for the building but at the last minute that money was switched over to the medical complex at OSU. We did get funding to have architects draw up plans. Frank Himes is spending some of his time now working on the plans. Perhaps we have a foot in the door.

Extension work may be hazardous to your health. Gordon Ryder (soybeans) had a mild heart attack in June. Recovery seems to be nearly complete and he was out harvesting plots around the state in the fall. Ed Stroube (weed control) had a heart attack in November. He has just returned home and plans to be back on the job in a few months.

Larry Wilding got tired of the wet and cold soils of Ohio and has accepted a pedology position at Texas A & M. He will be moving in midsummer.

As mentioned in the earlier Newsletter, OSU had an early Autumn quarter to save energy. Classes were completed by Thanksgiving and students will not return until January.

Help the Editor

Up to now the Editor has determined what was newsworthy. That's not good. He would appreciate comments on the format as well as news (births, deaths, moves, meetings etc.) and perhaps short articles of interest. Also send in names of people who should be on our mailing list. Retirees somehow get misplaced.

The lateness of this Newsletter does have one advantage - it gives me an opportunity to wish all of you and your families a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

