

A significant step in the growth of Ohio Pedology was made in January when a group of soil scientists approved the Constitution and By-Laws for the Association of Ohio Pedologists. The approval was a tentative one and allows for changes to be made easily in the draft for one year. Therefore, you may want to dig up that ten page epistle that was sent out in December and make sure it says what you want it to say. The Executive Committee would like to have your comments in early so they can be incorporated into revisions to be voted on at a December or January meeting. If anyone needs another copy of the Constitution and By-Laws let the editor know.

To bring everyone up to date Cecil Flesher has written the following note about the organization process and where we are headed.

A Note From the Association President -- Cecil Flesher

As the thirty-five who were present during the founding session at the Hilton Inn in Columbus, know, and I expect many more have since heard, we now have an Association of Ohio Pedologists.

The assignment that we of the executive committee have is unusual. On us will rest both the challenge and accountability of setting the direction of our new organization. With your help we believe that what comes out of our efforts will be something of which each of us can be proud.

Your newsletter editor has requested that I put some of the highlights of events in the formation of the association.

I would place the beginnings into the period of three to four years ago. A few started talking about a need. Some mentioned what was happening in other states. Probably the first formal discussions were at our soil scientist workshop a couple years ago. George Hall, Gerald Post, Ralph Meeker and others presented details on what was happening with organizational efforts around the country. Nothing happened.

De December 1974, in Columbus, at another soil scientist workshop, Dr. Hall again reported on "Whats New" in soils organizational efforts. After considerable discussion George offered offered to assist with organizational efforts if this was our wish. A call for those who would help was answered by Bob Roseler, Joe Steiger, Dwain Waters, Jim Bauder, Cecil Flesher, Jon Gerken and Lyle Jones.

At a meeting of this newly formed committee it was decided to push forward toward forming an association. A call for a meeting was presented to all who would be interested to be held after the All Ohio Chapter meeting on January 14, 1975. More than forty soil scientists were present to hear a panel present "Why Organize". After discussion, the vote was in favor of establishment of a steering committee to lay the groundwork for an organization. A steering committee was elected by those present.

The committee met at the Fawcett Center on the afternoon of January 29th, 1975. Members were George Hall, Jon Gerken, Joe Steiger, Lyle Jones, Bob Roseler, Cecil Flesher and Richard Christman. Cecil was selected to serve as chairman, Bob was vice chairman, and Jon won the rough job of secretary. George was named editor for any newsletters that we might have. Constitutions and by-laws of several states that have organizations were reviewed. Ideas. Committee members went home with responsibilities to select the best for Ohio. The ideas were sent to Cecil and he put together the first draft.

On March 27, 1975 at Bucyrus a second meeting of the steering committee devoted some five hours to an in-depth review and rewrite of the draft constitution and by-laws. One decision was to name the organization the Ohio Association of Professional Soil Scientists.

Though plans were made to meet at the All Ohio Chapter SCSA summer meeting, we were not ready so postponed that session.

The next meeting was at Upper Sandusky on December 3rd. A rather complete draft was drastically revised during another five hour session. With a complete about face, the committee choose the name of Association of Ohio Pedologists. It is interesting to note that as far as I know we are the only state with this type of name.

After Cecil rewrote the changes into the two documents, they were widely distributed and a founding meeting was called for the January 13th date, after the 1976 All Ohio Chapter meeting. There were some thirty-five soil scientists at the meeting at the Hilton Inn, when chairman Flesher called the meeting to order. After some remarks about the work of the steering committee, Jim Bauder at about 1:45 PM moved the adoption of the proposed constitution and by-laws. Norb Lerch seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously in favor. Those present selected officers for the newly formed association from a slate of candidates presented by the steering committee and floor nominations. Elected were Cecil Flesher, president, Joe Steiger, vice-president, Bob Roseler, secretary-treasurer and George Hall, editor. The executive committee members elected in addition to the officers were, Ernie Hayhurst, Lyle Jones, Neil Smeck and Jim Bauder.

With the founding completed, the Association of Ohio Pedologists became a reality. To start things moving the President called the first Executive Committee meeting on January 29, 1976 at Townshend Hall at Ohio State University.

On January 23, I received a letter from Bob Roseler. After much thought about his office he felt he would not be able to serve well at this time. He asked to resign and cast his vote for Jon Gerken. Bob said he would gladly serve at a later time. The committee filled the vacated office by unanimous vote and Jon accepted.

Membership

The Executive Committee met on January 29 and set the following dues schedule: Pedologist- \$12.00, Affiliate - \$7.00 and Student - \$2.00. It was agreed to follow the membership requirements that are listed in Article II of the By-Laws (page 2). An application blank is attached to this Newsletter. Just tear it off and send it along with your check to Jon Gerken. The Executive Committee plans to have membership cards available within the next few months. We hope that all the soil scientists in Ohio will consider becoming charter members of the organization.

Notes from the SCS State Soils Office

Allow me (G. Post) to thank all of you for the excellent help and cooperation I have received from all of you over the nearly five years that I have been back here in Ohio. The family and I have enjoyed Columbus; however, we are also looking forward to the new challenge that Lincoln will offer. I am also sure you will all extend your help and cooperation to Keith Huffman when he arrives on the job April 11.

Ed Redmond and Jerry Post spent the week of February 23-27 with correlator Bob Turner holding a correlation conference for the Ashland County, Ohio soil survey. We were well pleased with the correlation.

Glenn Kelley is EEO (Equal Employment Opportunity) counselor for SCS in Ohio. In conjunction with this activity, Glenn attended a training session in Broomall, PA February 23-26.

A number of SCS soil scientists have attended out-of-state training sessions this winter. Est Hayhurst and Vaughn Siegenthaler took part in the Soil Survey Report Writing session in Lincoln early in December. Jon Gerken and Mike Plunkett attended the Soil Correlation session the first two weeks in February. Niles McLoda attended the training session dealing with the interpretation of Laboratory Data the last week in February. Joe Steiger just returned from a six-week Soil Science Institute at Cornell.

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Soil scientists Ed McConoughey and Jom Forshey have requested that they be reassigned as soil conservationists. This has been done, and Ed reported to his new job in the Chillicothe Field Office the first of February and Jim to the Coshocton Field Office the middle of February. We in Soils are always sorry to lose good soil scientists, but at the same time, we realize that their soils training and experience provides an excellent background for their work as soil conservationists. We all wish them well. Ron Scherzinger, Soils Scientist at Columbus, will be transferred to the London Soil Survey about the middle of March. Ron has just completed his year's training and will be the second soil scientist on the Madison survey.

From the DLS Desk

Dwain Waters of the Division of Lands and Soil, has been selected to receive the Department of Natural Resources Outstanding Employee Service Award for March. A senior soil survey party leader, Dwain finished Logan County last year and is currently working on the Tuscarawas County soil survey.

The Division of Lands and Soil has initiated soil surveys in Athens and Jackson Counties. Ken Olson, party chief, Terry Lucht and Dan Brown, party members will staff Athens County. Lyle Jones, party chief will staff Jackson County.

Ken Olson has finished the course requirements for the Master of Science degree at Ohio State. He will receive his degree in June on the completion of his thesis.

The Ashland County progress report has been published and the Logan County progress report is due in June. General soil maps have been published for Hocking and Perry Counties.

The Logan County correlation conference was held March 8-12. Bob Turner was the representative from the Lincoln Staff attending the conference.

Pedologists Know Their Way Around (R. Christman)

Two pedologists, Jeffery P. Hahn (Carroll Co.) and Dennis M. Holloran (Cuyahoga Co.), competed in an orienteering meet Nov. 15 and 16, 1975 at the U.S. Marine Corps Base in Quantico, Virginia. Jeff returned with a first place medal for the novice course (his first orienteering meet) while Dennis captured second place at the advanced level, having run in two previous meets.

Participants, armed only with a compass, are given a topographic map of the area 60 seconds before their starting time with certain marked checkpoints which they must locate before they reach the finish line. The meet consisted of two separate courses, approximately 3 km for the novice and 8 km for the advanced, with combined times calculated to determine the winners.

The Battle of Shawnee Forest (A. Ritchie)

A week long soil survey basic training workshop was held at the Environmental Resource Center in Shawnee State Forest in Scioto County on August 18-22, 1975. Eighteen soil scientists from the Soil Conservation Service and Ohio Division of Lands and Soil, with two months to two years experience, attended the workshop. Instructors at the workshop were G. J. Post, R. B. Jones, and A. Ritchie.

The workshop was designed to furnish basic policy and procedures used by the Cooperative Soil Survey in the soil survey program. Application of Soil Taxonomy, Soil-geomorphology relationships, base maps, and field soil mapping techniques were emphasized. A field mapping exercise was conducted on the Southern Ohio Correctional Institute farm at Lucasville and a field soil describing exercise was conducted in Shawnee Forest.

The comments back from the participants indicate the workshop to be a success. How could they indicate any differently with good food, good facilities, and good recreation? In fact, the comments were so favorable, that the party chiefs feel they should get their turn at the next training workshop. (Basic training?)

OSU Ivy Towers

Yes Larry Wilding is leaving for the south. He will be heading up the Pedology group at Texas A & M starting late in the summer. He and Gladys have purchased a "ranch" and are in the process of having a house built. They and their family will be leaving Columbus the first part of August.

Norm Hopper on the faculty in the Crops area has also accepted a Texas position. He and his family will be moving to Texas Tech about July first.

Enrollment figures in January 1976 showed that we had 227 undergraduates majoring in Agronomy, This was broken down to 163 in Crops (54 of these in turf), 41 in Soils, 21 in the International program and 2 with dual majors. Looks like we need to push soils a little harder in high school.

Editor Notes

The two preceeding articles give you an idea of some interesting things that are going on around Ohio. I'm sure that there are others who may have newsworthy items for the Newsletter. The editor has the final say on what is to be printed.

We could use some comments on the activities and experiences of some of you who are no longer getting the acres.

I note that there has been nothing in the population explosion area in over a year. Gerry and Dick may have pushed acre quotas too hard.