

Ohio Pedologist Newsletter
Vol. 3, No. 1 April 1977
George Hall - Editor

The Association of Ohio Pedologists enters its second year with an approved Constitution and By-Laws and some new officers. The first year showed a good response from the field soil scientists as well as support from administration. A great deal of credit for this early success has to go to Cecil Flesher who not only gave us guidance as President but also spent long hours writing and rewriting the Constitution and By-Laws. Due to budgetary considerations, this and future Newsletters will be limited to members of AOP; therefore, it is necessary for active members to keep "beating the bushes" to increase membership.

Annual Winter Meeting - January 18, 1977 - Joe Steiger

The winter meeting of the Association of Ohio Pedologists was attended by over 40 members and guests. Featured speaker was Mr. Gene Johnson, geologist with the Ohio Division of Highways. An honorary lifetime membership was presented to Dr. Nicholas Holowaychuk, Professor of Agronomy at Ohio State University. Dr. Holowaychuk has been active in teaching and science since the 1950's. New officers and Executive Council members were elected following approval of the Constitution and By-laws. Joe Steiger, President, Lyle Jones, President Elect, Jon Gerken, Secretary-Treasurer, George Hall, Editor, are the officers for 1977. Council members elected are Norbert Lerch, James Petro, Nicholas Holowaychuk and James Bauder. Cecil Flesher remained on the Council as immediate Past President. Jon Gerken gave a financial report and encouraged all members to renew early in the year.

Executive Council Meeting - Joe Steiger

The Executive Council met at Townshend Hall, OSU on February 18, 1977 to plan the program of AOP for the year. Reports were received on 1) availability of business cards with the official logo, 2) annual meeting expenses, 3) plans for a summer meeting to be held at Buckeye Furnace Historical site, 4) costs, format and content of the newsletter. The issue of how best to seek official recognition by the state was discussed. A committee will be appointed by the president to seek answers to a number of questions. A committee on finances is also appointed to audit treasurers books and make report on current and long run budget requirements. The editor reported on costs and circulation of the newsletter.

1976 Financial Statement

	Dist.	Rec.
Receipts from dues		547.00
Bank charges	15.30	
Postage, paper, envelopes	30.47	
Reproducing Const. & By-Laws	5.00	
Three newsletters	108.80	
Printing Memb. Cards & Stationery	88.14	
	<u>247.71</u>	<u>547.00</u>
Balance 12-31-76		299.29

Submitted by Jon Gerken

AOP SUMMER FAMILY PICNIC - JULY 9

From the DLS Desk

Neil E. Reeder, a 24-year veteran employee of the Division, was granted a disability retirement effective March 1, 1977. We all wish Neil the very best and success in any future endeavor.

Cost-sharing agreements for soil surveys of Sandusky and Scioto Counties were recently signed. The surveys will be started in the spring of 1978 by DLS field parties.

The new high-level photography for mapping of Athens and Jackson Counties has been received and delivered to the field. A meeting was held in February with DLS and SCS personnel who will be involved in using the photography to acquaint them with the use of this new photography. Comments from the field are that it is the best photography they have ever had for soil survey work. We hope this will make it easier to attain our mapping goals and objectives:

Recent publications - ODLS

Pickaway County	- Soil Inventory Progress Report
Muskingum County &) - General Soil Association Map
Franklin County)

Plans are to have the Soil Inventory Progress Report for Franklin County printed and available for distribution at the "Last Acre" ceremony scheduled for April 22, 1977.

"Old Timers" receive 20-year pins in ODLS - At the annual staff meeting of ODLS in December, 1976, Chief R. B. Jones presented service pins for 20 years or more of duty to Neil Reeder, Norris Williams, Bob Ritchie and Dick Christman.

Cheerful cherub born to Carroll County couple - Mr. and Mrs. Tim Gerber are adding another face to the annual Christmas card in 1977. An 8-pound, 3 oz. baby boy was born to Tim and Joyce on February 28. His name is Timothy Patrick and we believe Tim and his wife will probably call him Pat as that name was in parentheses in Tim's news. We'll bet Heather and Wendy appreciate a baby brother. Congratulations!

At this writing, all personnel are itching to get back to the field and dig in the soil after spending one of the most severe winters on record working on manuscripts and descriptive legends.

Notes from the SCS State Office

We moved into the new Federal Building March 19, 1977. We are getting unpacked and trying to find everything. The move provided a good opportunity to clean out the files and remove old materials.

As most of you know our new address is:

Federal Building
200 North High Street, Room 522
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Phone - Comm. (614) 469-6915
FTS 8-943-6915

February 25, 1977 was the last day on the job for Dr. Schafer. After some forty years, the last twenty-three in Ohio, George stepped over into a new career - one of travel, leisure, and pursuing hobbies. An appreciation dinner was given in honor of the Schafers on March 4, 1977. Nearly sixty people from all cooperating agencies as well as many friends attended and wished George and Lou the very best. We all shall miss George. We hope he can join a field review occasionally.

Donald R. (Rex) Mapes will assume the position of Soil Specialist (Classification and Correlation) on March 28, 1977. Rex, his wife, and four children are moving from Illinois. A graduate of the University of Illinois, Rex has a good background in soil classification as well as interpretations and manuscripts. Among other positions, he has been a party leader in Northeastern Illinois and served as a trainer for new soil scientists. We welcome Rex and his family to Ohio and wish them the best.

Richard M. Gehring reported for duty as a Soil Scientist trainee to St. Clairsville in January. Richard is a 1976 graduate of Ohio State University and originates from Garfield Heights - a suburb of Cleveland. Richard is single. Good luck to Richard as he studies soils while, at the same time, dealing with dogs and an occasional irate citizen.

Larry E. Milliron accepted a GS-11 Soil Survey Party Leader position in NE Nebraska in December 1976. We hated to lose Larry and wish him luck. Larry did a fine job on a summer detail to Alaska in 1976. His address is Box 46, Soil Survey Office, Hartington, Nebraska 68739.
OSU Ivy Towers

Latest word from Texas A & M indicates that both Larry Wilding and Dick Drees are adjusting well. Larry and family have moved into their new house they had built on a ranch (5 acres) outside Bryan.

Jerry Bigham has accepted the Soil Mineralogist position in the department. Jerry is finishing his Ph.D. at North Carolina State with Stan Buol. He will join the faculty about June 1.

The Soil Testing Lab, long an institution in the basement of Townshend Hall has moved to Wooster. Some time ago a decision was made to combine all of the OARDC testing facilities under one roof. These included soil testing, plant tissue testing and the new sludge testing. The new combined lab goes by the title Research Extension Analytical Laboratory (REAL). The director of the lab is Dr. Maurice Watson who has an appointment with the Agronomy Department.

1976 SUMMER SOIL SURVEY DETAIL - ALASKA
By Larry Milliron

This past summer I was privileged to work on the soil survey in the Totchaket Area, Alaska. The general location is midway between Mount McKinley and Fairbanks in Interior Alaska. On clear days Mr. McKinley was a beautiful sight to the southwest.

I reported to the Soil Conservation Service State Office at Anchorage on June 1. After being briefed on the arrangements for the work to be done I left for Palmer with supplies being sent to the field. At Palmer I met Sam Reiger, State Soil Scientist, who had just returned from establishing the first base camp for the Totchaket soil survey activities of the summer. We drove on to Nenana that afternoon. There we transferred our gear to a riverboat and went several miles down the Tanana River to our rendezvous point with one of the two Canadair-Nodwell ATV's used by the survey party. We waited about an hour for the track to arrive and got well acquainted with the ever hungry mosquito population.

The 12 mile trip to camp gave us a prelude to operations. Supplies were brought in by riverboat and ATV. Transportation to mapping locations was by ATV -- later helicopter and float planes were used. We observed floodplains and shallow depressions, low terraces, and nearly level and undulating uplands with their characteristic contrasting vegetations.

At camp everyone pitched in to make the best of it. The base camp was a collection of tents and tarps hung over pole frames. A radio transmitter-receiver was used to contact a commercial station at Fairbanks which would connect you with a land line so that supplies could be ordered, arrangements for air support made, etc. Trash cans were used as refrigerators by being

set into the permafrost in pits dug into the earth. Plastic bags filled with moss were laid on top to keep the temperature at about 38° F. Coleman camping stoves, heaters, and lanterns were used. The crew of 4 scientists and 5 aides made quarters in 8' X 10' tents. Cooking, dishwashing, cutting firewood, pulling maintenance on gear and equipment, etc. were shared among all members of the camp; but of course, the main obligation of the soil scientists was to accomplish the soil mapping tasks.

The Tochaket Soil Survey area is about 455,000 acres of public land. The main interests in this survey are to provide resource information in making native Indian claim settlements and for planning and developing a virgin wilderness into productive farmlands. The field work began in 1975 and likely will conclude in 1977. Another area, the Yukon Flats, will soon be surveyed as well. The Tochaket area is an extensive Wisconsinian age glacial outwash plains North from the Alaska Mountain Range. The soils of the area are those of floodplains, terraces, and uplands. There is very little gravel or clay in the parent materials. Soils are mostly medium to coarse textured.

The soils were in three orders and six suborders: Entisols, Fluvents and Psammments; Histosols, Fibrists and Hemists; and Inceptisols, Aquepts and Ochrepts. We mapped about 15 series and 30 mapping units. The dominant vegetations were black spruce climax forest on the uplands, high sedge tussocks on the low terraces, and grasses and sedges on depressions and floodplains.

Permafrost in the survey area was somewhat intermittent. It is at variable depths; occassionally within two inches of the surface but usually 18 to 30 inches. It is usually associated in the soils of high silt content rather than the coarser textured profiles.

The annual rainfall in the area is about 12 inches. The snows had just melted as we began fieldwork and by the 10th of September fall snows had already fallen in the area. The highest air temperatures of about 80° F occurred during mid-July.

Field mapping was mostly done as 2-men soil scientist-aide teams for three or four days around a remote field camp. Soil profiles were examined by using hand probes and sharpshooters. Photo bases were mostly 1968 and 1970 photography. Stereoscopes were quite useful in placing some mapping lines and to plan traverses. Traverses were made by time and azimuths. There were times when we didn't know exactly where we had been, where we were, or where we were going -- but we were never lost. Notes and profile descriptions were maintained as the work progressed. Inking was usually done in the office tent at base camp during turn-around interims between shuttles to the field camps.

I gained a better appreciation of the delicate ecosystem of much of Alaska. Most of the wildlife was somewhat unfamiliar to me. From the game manager who visited our base camp I learned that the few small lakes in the Totchaket Soil Survey area did not support a fish population because they froze over and were so small that by March there was not enough oxygen to sustain fish even though the water abounded with larvae, leaches, and bugs in the summer.

I became a victim of the high living cost, a vehicle fire, and the ever present mosquitoes, no-seeums, black fly, "moose" fly (horse fly), and occasionally a survival meal called "Chef's Desperation"!

I enjoyed a number of personal adventures in driving the Alcan Highway to Alaska, having my family join me and return via the Inside Passage ferry system. It was good to work with party members of various backgrounds and to experience the adventures of camping-out all summer in a remote wilderness.

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Miscellaneous Notes

Bob Hendershot and Connie Criswell became Mr. & Mrs. on April 2, 1977. They will reside at 210 E. Walker St., Upper Sandusky, Ohio.

Joe Steiger, Jon Gerken, Ken Stone and Ed Redmond attended a one week training session in Columbus on the topic of Management during the week of March 7-11.

Jon Gerken reported seeing an article in "Drainage Contractor" Vol. 3, No. 1, by Dr. George S. Taylor entitled "Ochre is the Ogre". It discusses the problem of iron sludge plugging plastic tubing in Willard Marsh near Celeryville. There was a similar article in the same issue about iron sludge problems in draining bog soils in England.

After the discussion about tax status at the annual meeting in January and the decision not to file for tax exempt status, Jon checked with IRS to see what we needed to do for filing our income tax statement. Since our only income is from dues and no profit income (interest, sales receipts, etc.) we do not owe any income tax and don't have to file anything.

New members since last newsletter (as of February 18, 1977)

Larry Milliron
Dwain Waters
James Kerr
Michael Thompson
Paul Reese
Bill Shumate

Keith Huffman
Tom Zimmerman
Neil Reeder
Larry Tornes
Don Urban

Don Musgrave's name was inadvertently missed on the membership list printed in Newsletter Vol. 2, No. 3 (Dec. 1976). Please add it to your list. Sorry Don!

Just came across the Periyanaickenpalayam soil series in some foreign literature. That would put the entire Lincoln correlation group on hold for a couple of days.

Set aside the second Saturday in July - the 9th for our AOP summer picnic. This year it will be held at Buckeye Furnace in Jackson County. Lyle Jones promises a soil tour for those interested. More details in the next Newsletter.