

Ohio Pedologist

President's Message

Indiana "Mouse Roulette" and Certification Board Gears Up!

I recently had the good fortune to attend a field day on problem soils and failed septic systems held near Decatur, Indiana. What I saw and heard that day gave me a greater appreciation for how we organize and do things in Ohio (See Jeff Glanville's article).

First of all, the only information that was sent out, was an email with vague instructions to meet at a "greasy spoon" restaurant out in "No-wheresville," Indiana (no agenda, no descriptions, no maps, no nothing!). Riding with Dan Benyei, we had a hard time deciding which corn field to turn at and we were 20 minutes late. In spite of both our Ohio and Indiana companions knowing that we were coming, everyone was gone and they left no notes. After calling both the local SWCD and the Health Dept. offices ("Yeah, they're all out in the field somewhere. But they never told us where!") I was getting so mad, I was ready to bite someone's head off. If I could just find them!

I finally "squeezed" a private cell phone number out of the Health Dept. Secretary by threatening to come over to her office ("This is a private cell phone. I'll probably get in trouble for giving it out!"). Upon calling, I got a surprised Sanitarian who thought at first I was her son. More vague directions to turn at corn and soybean fields and then we found them.

This didn't resemble a field day. It wasn't even a Circus! It was more like "Monty Python's Flying Circus"!

There was a backhoe pit open on a unit mapped Glynwood. The consultant in charge was asserting that he had lab data showing this was 48% clay in the surface and 78% in the "B" horizon. Mark Feusner was texturing the horizons and he said...Well, we all know

what he would say. It turns out the consultant was using the hydrometer method so that the clay was over estimated by 20%! Mark even pulled a sample of the "B" and sent it in to OSU, which came back later at 50.2% clay.

Then I heard another consultant explaining to a bewildered State Health Dept. Official that the platy dense structure she had in her hand, was caused by a mile thick sheet of glacial ice stalling out and smashing the soil. It didn't look anything like till, so I asked her where she got it in the pit. She showed a plowpan at 6-12" between the bottom of the A and top of the B horizon! This was getting very strange indeed!

On to another site, with only verbal directions and gesturing (I wish I could have given some of my own!). This time we didn't get lost, but others did. I watched someone else from Indiana run a red light in a Dodge "Horizon" (not exactly an intimidating vehicle to play "chicken" in!) so they wouldn't get lost. At this site, dense till was identified as the limiting layer by hearing the acid "buzz" on carbonates. I couldn't contain myself any longer. I dared challenge this by asserting that structure was a more important consideration to restricting leachate than the mere presence of carbonates. That stirred up a "Hornets Nest" of "Indiana Buzzing" all around me. It seems all the Sanitarians were told to use only the reaction to acid, since they'd be less likely to make a mistake that way!



The Prez

Inside this issue:

Collegiate Soil Judging Results	2
Indiana Septic Failure Field Day	3
AOP Election 2002	4
AOP Board of Certification	4
Proposed Revisions to Sewage Rules	5
Annual Meeting	5
On-Site Waste Management Seminar	
Absentee ballot	

2001 Directory of Officers

Frank Gibbs, President
Jeff Glanville, President-elect
Robert Parkinson, Past President
Mark Feusner, Secretary
Matt Sullivan, Treasurer
Ed Miller, Newsletter editor
Neil Smeck, Academic Rep.
George Derringer, Federal Rep.
Joe Steiger, Private Rep.
Neil Martin, State Rep.

Prez's Message (Cont.)

Lunch was an hour late, which made it 2:00 Ohio time (These people can't even keep their time straight with the rest of the world!). Dan and I went to eat at the Bluffton, Indiana Street Fair so we could walk off some of the stress. While walking around shoving giant Italian sausages into our faces, we saw the "Carnies" spinning these big 6' diameter circular tables. The edges of the tables were lined with little holes about the size of "Ping-pong" balls. Each hole had a number and people were placing their bets. As we watched with amazement, the "Carnie" picked up a box spinning in the middle and dumped out a mouse, who immediately ran down a hole! I couldn't believe it! Where were the "PETA" people?!

Well, that put everything we saw in Indiana that day in the proper perspective!

As the Certification Committee begins taking applications next year, we will also offer technical training:

How to write a soil investigation report pertaining to on-site septic systems. This training will stress writing a report that the Health Dept Sanitarians can actually understand and will clearly identify the limiting layers. Rest assured that there will be no Monty Python Flying Circus's in Ohio!

Well, it's been really fun being your President this last year and a half. We have gone through a lot of changes as an Organization. Thank you for all your help and please lend your hand when AOP calls upon you!

I'll look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting on January 24th!

Prez Frank

Northeast Region Collegiate Soil Judging Contest

The 2001 Northeast Region Collegiate Soil Judging Contest was hosted by the University of Connecticut located in Storrs (about 30 miles east of Hartford) during the week of October 8 - 13. The weather during that week was absolutely perfect and the fall foliage was at its peak. The Uconn campus is located in a very tranquil "rural" setting (homes in wooded lots line the roads, but no subdivisions and plenty of open spaces and a few dairy farms). Forty-two students from eight schools participated in the contest.



Coach

This region of Connecticut is mantled by acid, stony, sandy tills derived from the underlying metamorphically-altered granitic rocks. The landscape is covered by multiple, thin till sheets with some qualifying as dense whereas others are friable. The nature of the tills provide differentiating criteria for many of the soil toposequences in the area. The landscape is very hummocky with many kame and kettle fields and numerous drumlins. The upland soils are essentially all Dystrudepts with a few Humaquepts. Under natural conditions, dark-colored epipedons qualify as umbric, but some that have been limed qualify as mollic. The soils do not contain argillic horizons, as soils on similarly aged tills in Ohio do, because the tills are very resistant to weathering and weathering of the silica-rich parent materials will not yield clay minerals.

On Tuesday through Thursday, the students examined, described, and classified the soils at eleven practice sites. Competition began on Friday morning with each student individually scoring three pedons. Although the OSU contingent did not know it at the time, the OSU team was well ahead of any other team after the individual judging. The OSU team members and their placings in individual competition follow: Don Burgess- 2nd; Bryan Ford- 3rd; Carrie Mahl- 7th; and Libby Yocum- 18th. On Saturday morning each team judged two pedons as a team. In this activity, the OSU team placed well down in the pack due to their failure to recognize that both soils occurred on a drumlin and that both soils were underlain by dense till. Team placing in the contest is calculated by summing the three highest individual scores from each of the three Friday sites and the two team sites judged on Saturday. Based on the team sites, Maryland overcame our lead to take first place, OSU was second, and the University of Rhode Island was third. Overall, the OSU team was very pleased with their performance (as well they should be since it was the first contest for both Libby and Carrie), but also disappointed by missing first by such a narrow margin.

The team members are now looking forward to the 2002 National Contest to be held in Red Wing, Minnesota during the third week in April. Any AOP members who are considering a donation to OSU to ease their tax burden can specify that their financial gift be used to support the OSU Soil Judging Team by designating that the donation be credited to the OSU Development Fund Account **531413**. Your support of this activity is truly appreciated.

Neil E. Smeck

Indiana Septic Failure Field Day

The Northwest Ohio Soil Survey Project, Frank Gibbs, Rich Gehring, and Dan Benyei attended a field day in northwest Indiana. This field day was held to address problems with septic system installations on some areas of Blount and Glynwood soils. The problem areas were said to be failing almost immediately after installation. What apparently was intended as a small informal field day had quite a large turnout, with us, Indiana NRCS soil scientists, health department employees, Don Franzmeier from Purdue University, and others.

Samples from the first pit, a Glynwood, had been sent to a private lab. Results showed clay content of about 50% in the Ap, and about 75% in the Bt horizon. All of us in the Ohio delegation questioned these results. We estimated maybe 50-55% in the Bt. Upon questioning the lab data, Dr Franzmeier explained that a consultant sent the samples to a private lab in Columbus, Ohio that used the hydrometer method instead of the pipet method used by NRCS. We took a sample from the Bt horizon at this Glynwood pit. Results from The Ohio State University Soil Characterization Laboratory shows 50.2% total clay. Both sites we visited in the morning had good stress cutans in the Bt horizons.



Funeral for a ped? Thoughtful Ohio soil scientists, left to right: Mike Wigginton (former Ohio soil scientist-obscured by clod hand Luke); Jeff Glanville (massive biceps); Rich Gehring (AOP hat); Mark Feusner (black hat-but not a bad guy all the time)



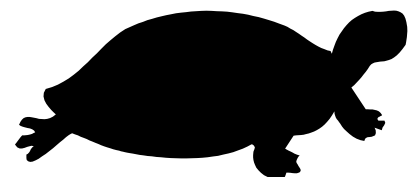
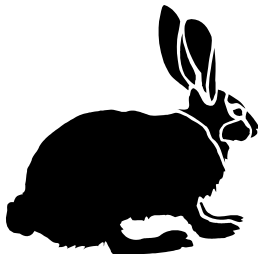
Stress Cutans in a Glynwood Bt horizon

There was no consensus as to why these sites were failing so soon after installation. Some felt that smearing the calcareous

soil material with a backhoe bucket could cause these materials to set up pretty hard after being disturbed. There may be chemical as well as physical reasons for reduced subsoil permeability. Maybe some of the sites are on moraines or morainic remnants where the till is more dense and/or shallower, or maybe erosion on these sites has resulted in a thinner profile. The depth to dense till also brought up another argument. The Indiana folks judged the depth based on the reaction of acid to carbonates. Where upon, Frank Gibbs asked what carbonates had to do with identifying limiting layers and why structure isn't considered more important? This created a large up-roar amongst the Indiana delegation and the good Dr. Franzmeier launched into a lengthy dissertation into the probability of a direct relationship between carbonates and till parent material. He summed up the discussion with an assertion that while structure is more important, it's easier for sanitarians and other non-soil scientists to squirt acid on the soil and they'll probably make less mistakes. Thus vindicated, Frank shut up and quit agitating the poor Indiana folks. Both of the pits we observed seemed to have thick compacted zones in the upper subsoil. There are apparently some homesites in these same areas where septic systems are working adequately.

We left after lunch because of the long driving time.

Jeff Glanville



Association News

AOP ELECTION 2002

The nominating committee for the AOP-election of 2002 included Joe Steiger, Robert Parkinson, Rick Buzard and Rick Griffin. There are eight positions on the executive council to be filled which presented a challenge for the committee since we wanted to have two candidates for each opening.

The telephoning campaign began in mid-November and resulted in over 30 pedologists and soils professionals being contacted to serve in the coming years. The officer positions are a multi-year commitment and the representatives serve for one year. As a result we have thirteen well-qualified candidates for the eight openings. Additional nominations can be made from the floor at the annual meeting

in January.

On the ballot are the following candidates. For President-elect, Dan Lemaster is NRCS Resource Soil Scientist in Chillicothe, Ohio. For Secretary are Kathryn Sasowsky, Consulting Soil Scientist in Akron, Ohio and William Schumacher, Environmental Specialist with Ohio EPA in Columbus, Ohio. For Treasurer are George Derringer, NRCS Resource Soil Scientist in Troy, Ohio, and Robert Hendershot, NRCS Resource Conservationist for Ohio Grazing Lands Initiative in Lancaster, Ohio. For Editor is Steve Miller, ODNr Division of Soil and Water Conservation, Soil Survey Assistant in Columbus, Ohio.

For state agency representative are Terry Lucht, ODNr-DSWC Soil Survey Project Leader in Wilmington, Ohio, and Steve Prebonick, ODNr-DSWC Soil Scientist in Cortland, Ohio. For federal agency representative are Paul Jenny, NRCS, SSURGO Project Leader in Newark, Ohio, and Jon Reedstrom, NRCS Resource Soil Scientist in Canton, Ohio. For academic representative is Tom Zimmerman, OSU Associate Professor at Agricultural Technical Institute in Wooster, Ohio. For private consulting representative are Bill Brug, Soils Consultant in New Philadelphia, Ohio, and Norris Williams, Soils Consultant in Middlefield, Ohio.

Joe Steiger

AOP Board of Certification Report

The Board has had two meetings so far. Officers are Dan Michael, chair; Rich Gehring, chair-elect; and Tim Gerber, secretary. Other members are Jerry Bigham and Rex Mapes.

The Board will be accepting applications for certification beginning January 1, 2002. Application forms will be distributed at the Annual Meeting and mailed on request. For the first year, the application form for AOP members in the Pedologist or Soils Professional membership categories is only one page long. The initial application fee has been set at \$20 for applicants who are already certified by ARCPACS as Certified Professional Soil Scientists (CPSS) and \$40 for others. The annual fees to renew AOP certification will be \$10 for those who are ARCPACS-certified as CPSS and \$20 for others.



Proposed stamp design



Those who are approved as AOP Certified Soil Scientists will receive a certificate and a card, both numbered. Certified Soil Scientists will be able to purchase a stamp through the Board of Certification. The Board will develop a brochure to promote the certification program to individuals and agencies that rely on consultants for soil investigations and interpretations.

The Board is scheduled to meet again on June 1, 2002.

Tim Gerber

Proposed Revisions to Household Sewage Rules Being Reviewed

The third version of proposed revisions to the Household Sewage Rules in the Ohio Administrative Code were distributed for review in November. They are accessible from the Ohio Dept. of Health's (ODH) web site at www.odh.state.oh.us under "Rules and Regulations – Draft Rules – Chapter 3701-29." The web site includes a summary of changes, as well as "The WHY of Some Changes,

based on comments on the First Statewide Draft of Proposed HSTS Rules," and guidelines for comments. The deadline for comments is December 28. Section 3701-29-02.1(B) clarifies that the local department decides who can conduct site evaluations, and may specify a third party, including soil scientists certified by the AOP, ARCPACS, and others. Sections 3701-29-12 and -13 include

changes in design requirements for the soil absorption component.

Following the review of comments, ODH will prepare a final draft for the Public Health Council and the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review ("JCARR") by February.

Tim Gerber

Soil Scientists, Food, Fun, and Awards!

Please make plans to attend the annual meeting of the Association of Ohio Pedologists Thursday, January 24, 2002 at the Columbus Marriott North. Lunch will be at 12:00 noon, and the meeting will start at 1:00.

The Marriott is on Doubletree Avenue between Schrock Ave. and OH 161, east of Busch Blvd.

Several awards will be given out this

year, including the prestigious "Golden Clod Award".

The speaker will be Dr. Scott Moody, Ohio University. He will talk about using soil surveys to find endangered species.

A registration form and absentee ballot are also in this newsletter.

Come see your friends and colleagues and have a great time!

Directions:

1. Take I-71 to OH-161, exit number 117.
2. Go west on OH-161 about 0.5 miles
3. Turn right (north) onto Busch Boulevard.
4. Follow Busch Boulevard for 0.9 miles.
5. Turn right onto Kingsmill Parkway.
6. Go straight at stop sign into Marriott parking lot.

Fausey Receives Award

Norman Fausey received the 2001 Distinguished Service Award from the Water Management Association of Ohio. The award was presented at their

The 14th Annual **On-Site Waste Management Seminar** sponsored by the Ohio Land Improvement Contractors Association will be held in Dayton on January 7-8, 2001. For more information contact Dale Arnold.

Our sympathies go out to Dick and Mary Ann Christman whose daughter Linda Logsdon passed away, on November 15 at Kobacker House, a hospice facility in Columbus. She had been battling pancreatic cancer. The family requested that any memorial gifts be sent to the Kobacker House, 3595 Olentangy River Road, Columbus, OH 43214-4034. Dick's address is 4259 Rowanne Road, Columbus, OH 43221-

WINTER MEETING 2002

Come join your fellow pedologists at AOP's 2002 winter meeting Thursday, January 24, 2002, and the Marriott North, 6500 Doubletree Avenue, Columbus.

Featured speaker is Dr. Scott Moody, Ohio University, who will discuss using soil surveys to find endangered species.

Lunch will be at 12:00, and the meeting will start at 1:00.

Cost for lunch is \$25.

lunch entrees:

_____ LONDON BROIL
tender flank steak grilled and topped with a mushroom demi-sauce

_____ PENNE TUSCANO with chicken
penne pasta and chicken tossed with capers, sun-dried tomatoes, tri color peppers and purple onion

NAME

Do you need a receipt? YES _____ NO _____

Send the above registration form, with menu item selected, along with a check made payable to AOP, to:
Matt Sullivan, 6250 Biggert Rd., London, OH 43140-8521

2002 Membership Renewal

name: _____

address: _____

city: _____ state: _____ zip: _____

email: _____

work phone: _____ home phone: _____

membership category

Pedologist \$20 _____

Professional \$20 _____

Affiliate \$10 _____

Student \$10 _____

Send the above renewal form, along with a check made payable to AOP, to:
Matt Sullivan, 6250 Biggert Rd., London, OH 43140-8521

ABSENTEE BALLOT - AOP EXECUTIVE COUNCIL – 2002

President-elect (3 year term)

☐ Dan Lemaster

☐

Secretary (2 year term)

☐ Kathryn Sasowsky

☐ William Schumacher

Treasurer (2 year term)

☐ George Derringer

☐ Robert Hendershot

Editor

☐ Steve Miller

☐

State Agency Representative (1 year term)

☐ Terry Lucht

☐ Steve Prebonick

Federal Agency Representative (1 year term)

☐ Paul Jenny

☐ Jon Reedstrom

Academic Representative

☐ Tom Zimmerman

Private Consulting Representative

☐ Bill Brug

☐ Norris Williams

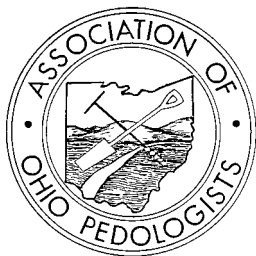
If you are not going to attend the winter meeting please send above ballot to:

Matt Sullivan, 6250 Biggert Rd., London, OH 43140-8521

Due January 23, 2002

Ohio Pedologist

**The Ohio State University
School of Natural Resources
Columbus, OH 43210**



Mailing label