

OHIO PEDOLOGIST

Spring 2001

VOLUME 28, NUMBER 1

PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTISTS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SOIL RELATIONSHIPS

Dear AOP Members,

Unexpected events can shape our lives in ways we've never imagined possible. In the past couple of months, I've been diverted from AOP activities by a stroke my mother suffered in January. Three times, during over a month stay in the hospital, we thought she might die due to complications. We got her home just last week and she is now doing well with rehabilitation and we are checking in on her each day.

Driving back and forth every night to the hospital and not knowing what to expect next, sapped most of my energy physically, let alone emotionally. Add on top of this, the fact that I have just walked away from two potentially fatal auto accidents during this same period, unscathed, has me pondering my own mortality and what's really important in my life. (I have a lot to get done before I get recalled!).

There is so much to do at work for all of us. By the very nature of our work as soil scientists, we have to pay attention to details. Editing databases, developing tables, drawing up maps, or certifying digital layers for GIS require hours and hours of checking and rechecking. No two sites or customers are exactly alike, let alone the questions that are posed to us, or the programs that we administer. Our life is so full of details that sometimes we lose track of why we are even doing them.

January's Executive Council Meeting was full of details regarding the Certification Program. I was caught up in the meeting, agonizing over all those details. At this point it's too soon to tell you how everything will shape up, but I can tell you this: Your AOP Executive Council is full of detail people who have



the desire to make sure the Certification Program reflects the same high standards and respect that the Ohio Soil Survey Program has earned since its inception. The By-Laws Committee is working on the necessary revisions to allow a Certification Program. A list of respected potential candidates to contact was drafted to get the Certification Board up and running.

And how have we earned all this respect? It's been through the relationships we've developed to get the work done. For example: That look of relief that passes over a new sanitarian's face as they realize you really know your stuff and you really can see something tangible in that test pit. Or when that "deer in the head light" glaze vanishes from a new employee's face and they no longer worry what they will tell an important customer. Or the heart felt thanks one of our coworkers gives us when we provide them with a crucial value for a model they are running. Our lives are full of relationships with people dependent on our data. Some we know personally, some professionally, some through a one time phone call, and some only know us by the product we produced. Check out the technical workshop on water table instrumentation we have planned for May 4th in Toledo, Ohio, you may meet some new people interested in how we develop our data.

Our real mission here is to weave a giant web of relationships. Where as, all the people making decisions with this wonderful miracle of a resource that God gave to us, the soil, (and we have studied so hard), have access to our expertise about it.

Don't miss the big picture. Don't forget some necessary details. But most of all, don't forget the fun of explaining this stuff to people! We are all tied to the soil somehow!

God Bless you all!

Pres Frank

In this issue:

Excerpts from Executive Council Mtg-	2
Committee and Financial Report-----	2
Tools for Locating Soil Boundaries--	3
AOC-SWCS Announcement-----	3
Membership List-----	4
Workshop Registration	

2000 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
John Allen, Federal Rep
Joe Steiger, Private Rep
Neil Martin, State Rep

Excerpts from the February 1, 2001 AOP Executive Council Meeting

By Mark Feusner, Secretary

Old Business

Executive Council suggested to John Allen, By-laws Committee Chairperson, some guidelines for changes to the AOP By-laws:

- Add fees to be assessed by the Board of Certification to By-laws.
- The Board will submit an operating budget to the Exec. Council annually.
- The Board Chairman will attend Exec. Council meetings to keep Council aware of Board activities.
- A reference to the Administrative document is needed in the By-laws, not the entire document.

President Frank Gibbs will move forward with plans for a workshop featuring a technical program on hydric soils at Oak Openings near Toledo.

Executive Council discussed terms of office and candidates to serve on the Board of Certification, features of the Application form to become a Certified Soil Scientist, and liability insurance for AOP.

New Business

The operating budget for AOP in 2001 is approximately \$3735 including a one-time start-up cost of \$1125 for the Board of Certification.

Editor's Desk

This issue of the *Ohio Pedologist* is the first ever to go through a professional printer. I hope you find the quality to your liking. This quality improvement was approved last year by the Executive Council. Time constraints on my part prevented me from implementation at that time. Please respond with your comments (favorable or not) as to whether the time and expense is worth the effort. Note - the newsletter budget is printed in this Spring edition. The budget includes, paper, printing, and postage.

Please note:

- 1) The deadline for submitting articles to the newsletter is 2 weeks before issue date.
- 2) The editor reserves the right to condense letters and make routine changes in grammar.
- 3) Newsletter items should be brief, legible, and in good taste.
- 4) Articles submitted for publication in the *Ohio Pedologist* should be sent to: Ed Miller, 4730 Beard Road, Sunbury, OH. 43074, FAX (614) 262-2064, or E-Mail ed.miller@dnr.state.oh.us



2001 Budget at a Glance

<i>AOP Summer Mtg./Workshop/Picnic</i>	
Speaker Honorarium	\$150
Speaker Travel	550
Per diem	75
<i>AOP Summer Meeting</i>	350
<i>Certification Start-up Cost</i>	1125*
AOP Liability Insurance	150
<i>Newsletter</i>	535
Soil Judging	
OSU	100
Wilmington	100
Nationals	200
<i>Awards</i>	150
<i>2002 AOP Annual Meeting</i>	150
<i>Secretary's Expenses</i>	100
Total	\$3735

* one-time expense for *Certification Start-up*

** Registration should recoup the Summer Workshop costs



2001 Committee Chairpersons

Archives.....	George Hall
Awards.....	Larry Milliron
Certification.....	Dan Michael
Education/Exhibits.....	Steve Lewis
Finance/Audit.....	Frank Calhoun
Membership.....	Ed Miller
Regulatory/Legislative...	Tim Gerber
Nominations.....	Joe Steiger
Scholarship.....	Linda Barrett
By-laws.....	John Allen
Publicity.....	Vacant

Location, Location, Location (Tools for locating soil boundaries on multiple tracts)

By Dan Michael

When doing detailed on site investigations, very accurate boundaries are often crucial. When investigating a proposed subdivision, hundreds of thousands of dollars can swing around boundary locations.

Before discussing tools I've used, please consider first that boundary line maps showing good vs. bad areas are typically **not** performed by most people doing soil investigations. Soil Scientists have a unique skill in figuring out where soil changes occur.

Total Station - the Backbone

Total stations are essentially electronic transits with a built in computer which records location and elevation data for later down loading to a CAD program. They work by taking readings off a prism pole at various locations. A signal is sent out measuring angles, distances, and elevations. Distances are typically compared against a previously measured point such as an iron rod at the property corner. The soil scientist is radioed the coordinates so he can plot his location on the pre-gridded plat. The prism man(or soil scientist) can be directed to quickly plot out special features such as a flood plain to upland border, without need for extra sampling.

These instruments are extremely accurate, within an inch if needed. However, they do cost. Our low end model cost about \$6,000 (with attachments) . Unless you have a lot of work for it, arrange a firm to supply an operator and machine. Typically, the owner has already hired a firm that has this tool.

GPS - Hand Helds - Recently, signals have been descrambled !

These small units record latitude and longitude locations from satellite signals. I've done a few checks and found them to be accurate within 30 feet, usually better. Recently, I used one for a preliminary neighborhood investigation on complex topography. There was no plat or aerial photo available. It worked like a charm.

These units are cheap ~\$125. They have one serious drawback. They give readings in latitude and longitude. So, it is necessary to write a simple program which converts the readings to feet from a known point (typically point #1). Readings are compared to point #1 on a relative basis.

Miscellaneous Hand Tools

Laser Range Finder. These are handy little instruments which look like a pair of binoculars. You simply point to an object (e.g. phone pole), a signal is sent out and measures the distance to within 1 yard. They act as a long tape measure for distance measurements that don't have to be exact. Triangulation can be used if two separated objects are used. Results are usable for soil work. Distances are limited however, typically 400 yards. Price ~ \$250.

Wheel . A simple wheel with a counter is an invaluable tool. Cost is about \$125 for a large diameter wheel. It replaces the tape measure in most cases, but a tape measure is still needed for rough ground.

Numbered Flags. Pre-printed professional looking numbered flags which show soil sample locations for later location by yourself or another engineer. They are cheap. Also, a group of un-numbered colored flags are great for delineating an important boundary directly in the field.

The All Ohio Chapter - Soil and Water Conservation Society Announces the 2001 Summer Meeting

The 2001 Summer Meeting of the All Ohio Chapter - SWCS will be held at Indian Lake State Park, near Bellefontaine, on June 21. With the strong support of the Indian Lake Watershed Project (ILWP) Board of Directors, the topic of the meeting will center on "How local citizens have successfully implemented watershed management".

A program has been planned to appeal to the entire family. In the morning there will be speakers presenting different aspects of the value of the ILWP and its accomplishments. Concurrently, there will be a program with the State Park naturalist at the Nature Center for family members of all ages. Following lunch, there will be a choice of tours. Options will include visiting constructed wetlands in urban and rural settings for sediment and nutrient abatement, as well as examples of stream bank restoration for sediment reduction. There will be an option to take a pontoon ride on the lake (weather permitting) to see a suction dredge in operation.

More details will be available as the meeting date approaches, but mark your calendars for June 21 for the AOC -SWCS Summer Meeting at Indian Lake State Park.

Membership List

Allen, John
Angle, Mike
Balduff, Danielle
Barret, Linda
Bauder, James
Benyei, Daniel
Bigham, Jerry
Bone, Sam
Browning, Sean
Brug, Bill
Bureau, Marvin
Buzard, Rick
Calhoun, Frank
Christman, Richard
Derringer, George
Dotson, Ken
Ernst, Jim
Fausey, Norm
Feusner, Mark

Flesher, Cecil
Forsythe, Jane
Gehring, Rich
Gerber, Tim
Gerken, Jon
Gibbs, Frank
Gilmore, Gordon
Glanville, Jeff
Griffin, Rick
Hall, George
Hamilton, Steve
Hendershot, Bob
Herbst, Raymond
Holowaychuck, Nick
Houser, Todd
Huffman, Keith
Jenny, Paul
Jersak, Joseph
Kelley, Glenn
Kerr, Jim
Lantz, Aaron

Lehman, Sam
Lemaster, Danny
Lerch, Norb
Lewis, Steve
Lucht, Terry
Mapes, Rex
Martin, Neil
McCleary, Floyd
McClure, Don
Mehlo, Noel
Micheal, Dan
Miller, Ed
Miller, Fred
Miller, Steve
Milliron, Larry
Nash, Tom
Parkinson, Bob
Perales, Anna
Plunkett, Mike
Powell, Ken
Prebonick, Steve

Redmond, Doc
Reedstrom, Jon
Ritchie, Bob
Robbins, Rick
Roseler, Robert
Roth, Linn
Rubel, Neil
Sasowsky, Kathy
Schumacher, Bill
Scott, John
Simonson, Roy
Smeck, Neil
Steiger, Joe
Sullivan, Mathew
Svoboda, Jim
Tornes, Larry
Urban, Donald
Weathington-Rice, J.
Williams, Norris
Zimmerman, Tom

Editor's Note: The membership list includes only paid members for 2001 and honorary members. Please contact Matt Sullivan, Treasurer, if you have any questions about your membership status. Receipt of this issue of the Ohio Pedologist does not imply any individuals dues is current. Your name must appear on the list above or mailing of the newsletter will be discontinued.

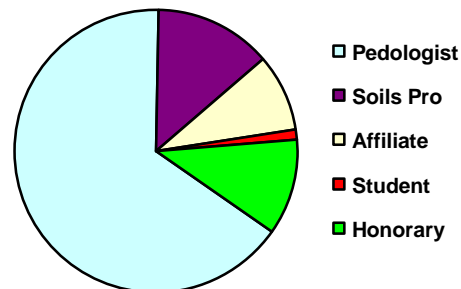
Membership Committee

from Ed Miller, Chair

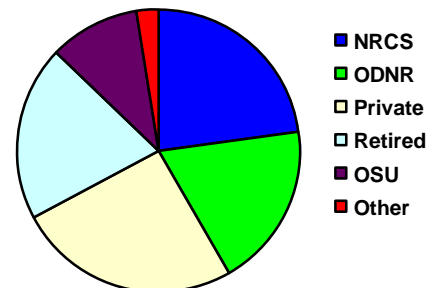
It is important for members to keep their personal information current with the Association. Of primary importance is the address where you wish to receive mailings. Other pertinent information, e.g. phone, fax, and e-mail are kept on file by officers of the Association. Consultants may want to review their reference information in the 2001 *Consultant Listing*. As always, it is each member's responsibility to keep the officers of the Association informed of changes to personal information.

Included with my report in this issue are charts indicating the distribution of our membership by various categories. The charts were developed using membership figures compiled just prior to the winter meetings. As usual, the Association suffers a decline in membership immediately following the Annual Business Meeting. This is due mainly to oversight by those who were unable to attend the meeting failing to send in their annual dues payment. Delinquent members are reminded in this issue of their status. Those individuals not renewing membership within 90 days of the due date will receive written notification from the secretary.

Membership at a Glance



Distribution of members by category of membership



Distribution of members by employment. Some members may be included in more than one category, i.e. retired and private consulting or teaching and consulting.



Distribution of members by location in Ohio. There are additional members in AZ, IN, KY, FL, and Canada.

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

