

SOIL AND PLANT SCIENCE DIVISION

Technical Soil Services

Northeast Soil Survey Region



Marietta, Ohio, Major Land Resource Area Soil Survey Office

Guest Lecture Given to Ohio State University

Purpose

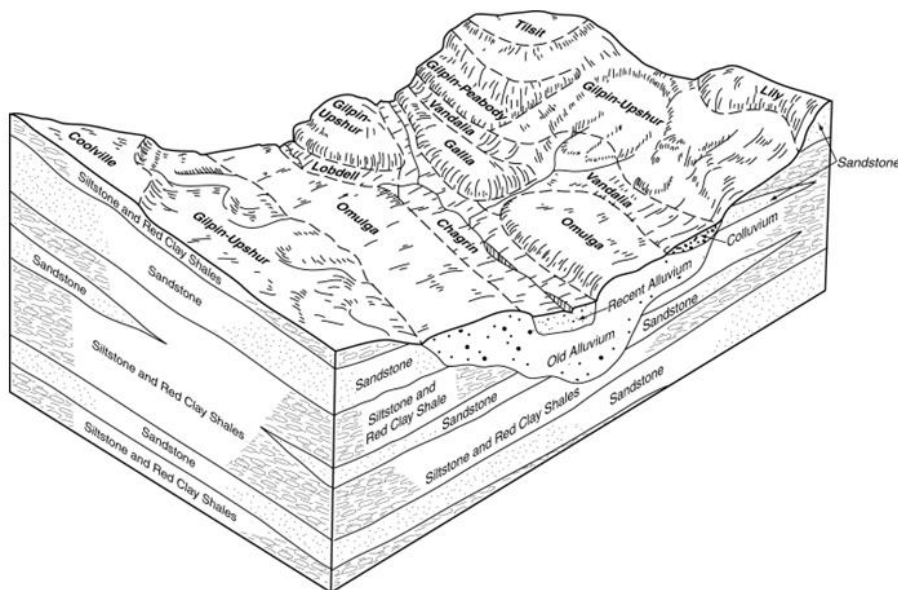
Dan Benyei, Soil Survey Leader in Marietta, Ohio, delivered a guest lecture via Zoom to Dr. Scott Demyan's Soil Resource Management course at Ohio State University (OSU) on March 31, 2023. The presentation titled "The NRCS SPSD Soil Scientist Life in MLRAs 124 (Western Allegheny Plateau) and 126 (Central Allegheny Plateau)" introduced students to typical work done by soil survey offices and show the unique soils and landscapes of southeast Ohio and beyond. The talk was given through the lens of "soil management" as Dan described how the Soil and Plant Science Division (SPSD) conducts soil survey by Major Land Resource Area (MLRA), what makes the MLRAs unique, and why the small selection of soils and landforms presented require differing approaches to management for wise use. Dan finished out the talk with a generous assortment of action photos (many taken by Debby Cunningham, Soil Scientist in Marietta) to give students examples of soil survey update fieldwork, Dynamic Soil Property data collection, and the various flavors of Technical Soil Services.

Key Outcomes

This was an opportunity to demonstrate to students in OSU's College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, who may end up in related professions, both how soil resources are inventoried and why it matters for appropriate management from the SPSD perspective. The talk was also an outreach event, as students closed the class period with questions about time spent in the field as an SPSD soil scientist and where to find potential Natural Resources Conservation Service job opportunities.

A Selection of MLRA 124 (Western Allegheny Plateau) and MLRA 126 (Central Allegheny Plateau) Soils

Residual uplands and Teays-age terraces



A slide from the presentation illustrating landforms, parent materials, and corresponding soils found in areas of MLRA 126 (Central Allegheny Plateau).