

About the Editor

This month marks the beginning of my sixth year as NACDEP Newsletter Editor. I have truly enjoyed all the communication with the membership. It is a real privilege for me to serve in this position, and I appreciate all the support, contributions and submissions all of you have made over the years. I last published a bio about me when I had only served a year, and since then we have had many new members. So I am updating my bio for you in this edition. Here goes:

I was born and raised in northeastern Kentucky. In my youth I aspired to a career as a naval officer, and I attended the US Naval Academy as a midshipman in Annapolis, Maryland. Upon completion of my junior year however, I received a medical discharge and transferred to the University of Kentucky, where I earned a BS in Political Science, an MS in Marketing and a PhD in Environmental Economics.

I served in a teaching and research position at Texas A&M in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences before being drawn toward a career in Extension. I joined Ohio State University Extension in 1995, initially serving as a District Specialist in Community Development.

My first association with NACDEP came in 2006, when I presented a poster at the national meeting held in San Antonio. My poster was called “Applied Extension Research in an Era of Devolution.” In case you missed the poster, it’s okay because I published a Commentary on the topic with the same title in the *Journal of Extension* the previous year which you can read at this link: <http://www.joe.org/joe/2005april/index.php>.

As an environmental economist working in a college of agriculture, I have had the opportunity to address the human dimensions of many topics which my colleagues with backgrounds in biology have studied, including pesticide spray drift: <http://www.joe.org/joe/2008august/a8.php>, and <http://rd.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00267-012-9874-x>, recycling: <http://www.joe.org/joe/2001october/rb1.php>, and <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0301479705000496>, as well as preservation of farmland and other sensitive lands: <http://www.jswnonline.org/content/59/5/203.abstract>, <http://www.joe.org/joe/2006april/a7.php>, and <http://www.joe.org/joe/2003august/a3.php>.

I have worked with colleagues on exploring behavior of people who live in “food deserts.” A 2009-2010 study we did focused on urban community gardeners: <http://www.joe.org/joe/2010december/a6.php>. In 2012 we studied the behaviors of households living in rural food deserts. I shared a comparison of those studies with NACDEP members in Pittsburgh in 2013 at Galaxy IV.

In following the theme on local foods, I pursued something of an unconventional approach along with some colleagues by studying characteristics of Great Lakes shoreline anglers. We used a version of the travel cost method (TCM), a non-market valuation tool developed by environmental economists. We argued that most previous TCM models are flawed because of their failure to specify appropriate relationships between household income and travel cost, and this misspecification can prevent the move toward environmental justice. I first presented the results of that study to NACDEP in 2014 at Grand Rapids, and the full article was subsequently

published in the *Journal of Environmental Management* in 2015. I consider it to be the finest scholarly achievement of my career.

<http://comdev.osu.edu/sites/comdev/files/imce/Journal%20of%20Environmental%20Management%20article%202015-01-15%20-%20An%20examination%20of%20sources%20of%20sensitivity%20of%20consumer%20surpluss%20estimates%20in%20travel%20cost%20models.pdf>

I have also worked in the field of local economic development, including Retention and Expansion of Business and Industry (R&E): <http://www.joe.org/joe/1999december/a2.php>, input-output modeling at the county level: <http://www.joe.org/joe/2011february/a5.php> and microenterprise development (MED): <http://www.joe.org/joe/2015february/a7.php>.

I enjoy international travel, and taking applied Extension research not only beyond the walls of the university, but across the continents. I am fairly fluent in Russian, French, Spanish and Portuguese. I have made presentations at the National Economics Institute in Kiev, Ukraine (2008) and at the University of Sao Paulo (Piracicaba; 2006-2008). I have maintained my connections with the US Navy as well, and I was honored to be able to join the USS Ronald Reagan (CVN-76) on a return voyage from a surge deployment in 2007. While underway from Pearl Harbor to San Diego, I made presentations to the officers and crew on global climate change, about which I have been teaching and writing for 20 years.

You can read a three part blog I published on climate change at the following links. The first one is an update: <http://u.osu.edu/extensioncd/2015/03/12/global-climate-change-update-2015/>. The second initiates a discussion about uncertainty in climate change: <https://u.osu.edu/extensioncd/2016/01/28/global-warming-and-uncertainty/comment-page-1/>. The final installment, which was just published in July, explains the role of feedbacks in climate change and some predictions for the future: <https://u.osu.edu/extensioncd/author/-/?pseudonym=Tom+Blaine>.

I also recommend you read the fact sheet I published on climate change in 2015. It is an extensive treatment of the topic, and includes a link to a 1996 version so that you can see how the discussion has evolved over the years: <http://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/cdfs-203>.

I have an interest in the philosophy of science: <http://www.joe.org/joe/2000october/comm2.php>, as well as public issues education: <http://www.joe.org/joe/2001august/a2.php>. I have served as a peer reviewer for a number of academic journals, including *Journal of Extension* 2007 – present.

And for fun, I like to take groups out to stargaze with my binoculars and telescope, playing medieval and renaissance music, and powerlifting. I look forward to continuing work with NACDEP as newsletter editor.