However, we feel that useful mapping and classification at the family level can be accomplished. The Marion-Monongalia Counties Soil Survey Party in West Virginia recently field tested this proposed classification system. Seven mapping units were defined by descriptive phase names. It was found that mapping minesoils was no more difficult than mapping other soils. Mapping and classifying these soils also allows general management and land use decisions to be made. Soil scientists in many areas in West Virginia are being asked by landowners and land users to evaluate minesoils for various kinds of potential development. We feel that by mapping and classifying these soils we can provide good, general information on minesoil use and management.

The preceding article is only a part of the total information available on minesoils. Over the past few years, several theses, dissertations, technical bulletins, and articles have been published on minesoils at West Virginia University. For more complete information on this subject, write to the Plant Sciences Division, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV 26506.

REFERENCE


Information on Soils and Environment in Australia

Gerald W. Olson

Oh! there once was a swagman camped in a billabong,
   Under the shade of a coolibah tree;
And he sang as he looked at his old billy boiling,
   “Who'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me?”

—From the song “Waltzing Matilda”

Recently I had the opportunity to work for two months in Australia as a consultant in soil survey interpretations to the Soil Conservation Authority of Victoria. Because the “tyranny of distance” separates Australia from the United States by a considerable span, there is still relatively little