



Illinois Soil Classifiers Association Newsletter

Spring - June 2015

Message from the President

Inside this issue:

Message from the President	1
Dr. Olson Receives ASA Fellows Award	2
Former ISCA President Appointed to National Committee	3
Hazards of Wetland Determinations	4-6
Tips to maximize your ISCA web experience	7
Trading Post	7
ISCA on Facebook	8

In 1986, I had the opportunity as an NRCS soil scientist to sit on a committee that was rewriting a county septic code. This followed an intensive effort to provide soils training to county staff. We visited numerous sites with septic failures, and it was clear that the percolation test needed to be replaced by the soil evaluation. One year later the code writing committee adopted the soil evaluation and the follow up question was, who was qualified to conduct these? I spoke up and said that there were 2 certifications for soil classifiers, ISCA and ARCPACS. I proudly stated that I held both certifications (back then the importance of these credentials was more limited than my fellow committee members knew.) The committee accepted the ISCA and ARCPACS standards.

After this victory, I thought I should inform the ISCA leadership to let them know what I had done. Much to my surprise, the executive council told me that they were not too sure that ISCA classifiers would want this responsibility and that ISCA did not want it either. I was mad as hell, but decided to keep the council's response to myself. I ploughed ahead with assistance to the county, and the idea grew that soil classifiers could provide soils information for septic design. I also became more involved in ISCA.

At the time, I didn't realize I was up against a fixed mindset; the "it is what it is" view of life. The opposite mindset, a growth mindset, encourages that things can change and that efforts to make things better are worth it even if they fail. ISCA has been through many challenges that we didn't create, but our responses to move forward have improved our organization and our science. The only price we paid was the time of our members that have spent countless professional hours writing new guidance, revising rules, and conducting fieldwork in the bitter cold. More change is on the way, but we need all of our members to be involved and to pay attention. Our strength is in your participation and your viewpoints. Stay active in ISCA!

(If you are interested in mindsets, look for Dr. Carol S. Dweck's research at Stanford University.)

Take it easy,

Don Fehrenbacher, ISCA President
815-546-5684
donfehrenbacher@comcast.net



5585 Guilford Road
Madison WI 53711-5801
Tel. 608-273-8080 • Fax 608-273-2021
www.agronomy.org • headquarters@agronomy.org

American Society of Agronomy Announces 2015 Award Recipient

MADISON, WI, Jun 15, 2015 – The American Society of Agronomy (ASA) announces the following 2015 award recipient to be formally presented at the ASA Awards Ceremony on 2015-11-16 during the scientific society's International Annual Meeting, Nov. 15-18, 2015, Minneapolis, MN. The annual awards are presented for outstanding contributions to agronomy through education, national and international service, and research.



Kenneth R. Olson, University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL – ASA Fellow: Kenneth Olson is professor emeritus of soil science at the University of Illinois, College of ACES and Department of NRES in Urbana, IL. Dr. Olson received a B.A. and M.S from Ohio State University and a Ph.D. from Cornell University in Agronomy. Ken is internationally recognized as an authority on protocol for determining soil organic carbon sequestration rates and the impact of levee breaches and subsequent flooding on public and private lands. He has authored 108 peer-reviewed and/or invited publications. Olson provides leadership at the international, national, state, and local levels. In addition to his work for the UIUC, he is active in the Soil Science Society of America, American Society of Agronomy, and Soil and Water Conservation Society. Olson has spoken at numerous invitations to present his research at national and international conferences.

ASA Fellow

Fellow is the highest recognition bestowed by the American Society of Agronomy. Members of the Society nominate worthy colleagues based on their professional achievements and meritorious service. Up to 0.3 percent of the Society's active and emeritus members may be elected Fellow.

Former ISCA President Wollenweber appointed to national committee

Jennifer Wollenweber (former 2010 ISCA President) has been selected to serve and represent the upper Midwest on the National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils (NTCHS). The functions of the NTCHS are to provide continuing technical leadership in the formulation, evaluation, and application of the hydric soil definition, criteria, indicators, and glossary; annually update and distribute a national list of hydric soils; refine and maintain the Field Indicators of Hydric Soils in the United States publication; communicate and respond to public comment regarding suggested changes in the hydric soils definition, criteria, lists, and field indicators' and determine soil, hydrologic, and climatic data necessary to more accurately define and determine hydric soils. The NTCHS is a committee of soil scientists and wetland specialists with diverse backgrounds to help assist in the functions of the committee.

Jennifer is a Certified Professional Soil Classifier with ISCA and is currently the NRCS Area Resource Soil Scientist in Fergus Falls, MN serving west-central Minnesota. Congratulations to Jennifer!



Hazards of Wetland Determinations Submitted by Mark Bramstedt



It was a beautiful Wednesday morning and I was eastbound on I-88 in DuPage County near the I-294 interchange on my way to do a wetland determination in Lake County. I was minding my own business, driving with the flow of traffic in the middle of the three-lane tollway, not changing lanes, not braking. Suddenly, for no good reason, there was a loud bang and force which knocked me from behind. Someone or something had taken control of my vehicle, reminding me of when T-Rex grabs one of the vehicles in Jurassic Park and flings it about. I was confused and perplexed why this was happening and what was going on! Looking in my rear-view mirror, I noticed that I was attached by the mast of the Giddings probe to the vehicle behind me who had taken control of my movements. The probe looked really strange in the horizontal position – a position for which it was never designed! We swerved back and forth across the two left lanes for a brief moment as we were co-joined with the probe. Fortunately, no one was in the left lane as we finally separated and pulled to the inside shoulder. Thank God, no one was hurt. We were both a bit shaken, but that was about it. The 20-something driver told me that his dad had just bought the truck/van for him so that he could help him distribute his realtor signs (It definitely was not a new truck). He also confessed to me that he was uninsured. His truck was totaled as well as his driving record. Parts of his grill are still in the bed of my truck. The state police arrived quickly after I called 911 and investigated the scene. The driver had told me that he was gawking and not watching the road (obvious) and just plowed into the back of my truck. He ended up with two traffic tickets and a court date – failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident and driving without insurance.

Hazards of Wetland Determinations Submitted by Mark Bramstedt cont.

It took me a bit (that probe is extremely heavy) to manipulate the probe into alignment with the truck so that I didn't knock out any windows of passing cars. The tow chain in the tool box helped me to secure it to the resting standard in the bed of the truck. The probe was torn completely from its mount and it was held on only by the hydraulic arm and a reinforcement bar. Once I had it realigned, it flagged it with ribbons to keep others back. It protruded from the bed of the truck more than 4 feet. Other than the damage to the probe, bumper and back toolbox, I couldn't find any other damage. The officer said that it was OK to drive, as is, so when we were all done, I pulled away. I then proceeded to Lake County and completed that @\$#** wetland determination!



Hazards of Wetland Determinations Submitted by Mark Bramstedt cont.



Thank you for the submission Mark and thank goodness no one was severely injured !!!!

Newsletter Committee

Tips to maximize your ISCA web experience

The ISCA web page is updated often with articles, announcements, and features. Some members have mentioned that they have not been able to access certain features (such as on-line payment or registration) or see the current articles on the ISCA web page. This may be a result of the settings that are used for the web browser (such as Internet Explorer). Some settings send the web browser to a cached or stored version of the web page. In order to make sure your browser is accessing the current page, here are some suggestions to change the settings for Internet Explorer (IE). If you use a browser other than IE, they probably have similar settings that you can change and adjust. The following instructions are for IE 11, but previous versions of IE will have similar choices.

To check or change your settings for IE, click or open the “Tools” menu on the toolbar at the top of the IE window and choose “Internet Options”. You can also access “Internet Properties” by going to the “Start Menu”, choosing “Control Panel”, then choose “Network and Internet” and finally “Internet Options”. Both ways will bring you to the same choices.

Once you have either “Internet Options” or “Internet Properties” open, you will notice a series of tabs at the top of the small window. Under the “General” tab there is a section for “Browsing history” and a button marked “Delete ...”. Click on that button (it will not delete anything until you choose what to delete). In order for your computer to look for the current version of the ISCA web page (and the current version of any other page, for that matter) you will need to remove old versions of the web page that your computer has stored. To do that, check the box “Temporary Internet files and website files”. Review the other boxes to make sure you agree with the settings and then click the “Delete” button at the bottom of the window. You may also need to delete the “Cookies and website data”, but you can do that later, if needed.

Once you have deleted the stored or cached versions of the web page, you will be returned to the “Internet Options” or “Internet Properties” window. Go back to “Browsing history” and choose “Settings”. When you choose “Settings” another window will open with the tab “Temporary Internet Files”. Under “Check for newer versions of stored pages:” click on the button “Every time I visit the webpage”. Making these changes should allow you to access the current ISCA web page every time you visit.

Submitted by:

Mark Bramstedt

TRADING POST

This spot is reserved for members who would like to buy, sell, trade, or announce an item, event, or activity in our newsletter. Please limit your classified ad to 25 words or less. Email your ad to the newsletter at newsletter@illinoissoils.org

www.illinoissoils.org

ISCA Newsletter Staff
502 Comfort Drive
Marion, IL 62959

Phone: 618-993-5396ext105
Email:
Newsletter@illinoissoils.org

Submissions

This is **YOUR** newsletter. If you wish to submit material, here are some preferences.

- Send information by the last week of the month before the newsletter is scheduled to be published.
- Digital copy in Microsoft Word
- Use as little formatting (indents, bullets, charts) as possible. This increases the work to get it into Publisher. It can be done, but increases work load for the committee.

The Newsletter Committee reserves the right to make edits/ corrections deemed appropriate

Publication Schedule

- Winter (February)
- Spring (May)
- Summer (August)
- Fall (November)



The Illinois Soil Classifiers Association is an organization promoting the wise use of the soil resource. ISCA is made up of professional soil classifiers in public service, private industry, and education and includes students and others interested in preserving soil. A soil classifier maps, describes and interprets soils according to a national system of soil classification. ISCA was established in 1975 and is affiliated with the American Registry of Certified Professionals in Agronomy, Crops, and Soils.

ISCA on Facebook

For those of you who want to keep in touch with ISCA members and others interested in soils in Illinois, join our group on Facebook. Search Facebook for "Illinois Soil Classifiers Association" and become a friend of ISCA. Anyone may post messages, announcements, pictures or events that may be of interest to our membership. This is a great venue for posting meetings of other associations or organizations who use soil information. This is also a great place to post pictures of recent projects, interesting soils, or maybe something unrelated to soils, but of general interest to the membership. If you don't have a Facebook account, it is easy to set up. Just go to www.facebook.com and follow the instructions. Unfortunately, the Facebook site is restricted on some government computers, so many of you will need to do this at home. Contact webmaster@illinoissoils.org if you have any difficulty in accessing the ISCA Group or if you have any questions or comments.



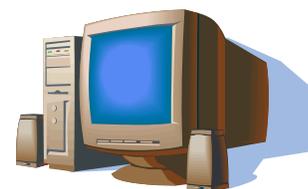
ISCA Newsletter Committee is looking for pictures of it's members, past or present, to include in future newsletters.

Submissions can be sent electronically or hard copy to the staff address, see above and left. Please include a narrative for the caption! If hard copies are sent please indicate if they are to be returned otherwise photographs will be retained in an archive photos file.

www.illinoissoils.org

New, exciting links have been added to the "announcements" page on our website. Be sure to bookmark this page. Its an excellent resource to keep you informed on the latest soils issues.

Better yet... make it your home page!



ISCA Newsletter
148 E. Pleasant Hill Road
Suite 105, Box #2
Carbondale, IL 62903

Visit the ISCA website to see the color version of this newsletter

www.illinoissoils.org/news

.....Cut.....Cut.....

Change of Address Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

*Mail to: Bob Tegeler, ISCA Secretary, 124 Joan Drive, Divernon, IL 62530