



Illinois Soil Classifiers Association Newsletter

Summer - August 2015

Message from the President

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Message from the President

Several exciting changes and opportunities are on the horizon for ISCA. First the Ethics, Certification and Membership Committee headed up by our President Elect, Brad Cate is working with the Certification Board (specifically Bill Kreznor and Bruce Houghtby) to develop proposed changes to our certification standards that will make pathways to certification more transparent and equitable.

A point system to rate a certification candidate's quality of experience as well as the quantity is part of the proposal. If the proposal is adopted, the experience standard will no longer be 4 years with 70% of an applicant's time in soil classifying activities. High quality and diversity of experience will be rated and total points will become the gateway to our written test and a final field practicum. Also individuals with certification or license as a soil classifier or pedologist with other state or national organizations will be eligible for the written test and field practicum.

The Certification Board is proposing changes to the CEU structure to bring the units of credit to be more in line with the actual time spent and not the present fractional point system. The CEUs will also be renamed as Professional Development Hours (PDHs.) Look for these proposals in the near future and express your opinions when these are published.

Jerry Berning, Public Relations and Education Committee along with the Brad Cate's committee are planning a sample field practicum to be conducted this fall. This will allow you to test your field skills and be scored on your performance. The practicum is tentatively planned for Friday, October 30th at the University of Illinois South Farms. Look for more concrete details soon.

Finally, this is a friendly reminder to submit your CEU's to the Certification Board on a regular basis. Don't wait until December 31st to submit your 5 years worth of CEU documentation. In other words, do not follow my rotten example. I am one of the worst offenders in this way and I am convinced to change my pattern of waiting until the last minute to submit CEUs. Thanks to all of you for your continued support to our profession!

Don Fehrenbacher, ISCA President
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A note from the Certification Board

Kindly Support Your Certification Board – Renew Early

Urgent necessity prompts many to do things. Miguel de Cervantes

The cohort of ISCA Certified Professional Soil Classifiers (CPSCs) that must earn nine Continuing Education Units (CEUs) by the end of 2015 is by far the largest. Of the 48 CPSCs, 30 must report CEUs earned over the period 1 January 2011 through 31 December 2015. Currently, 12 of this group have submitted CEUs to the Certification Board and have met the continuing education requirement. They are ready to begin their next 5-year cycle on 1 January 2016. Of the 18 who still need to report CEUs, only 4 have submitted any CEUs. That leaves 14 CPSCs who wait for prompting by “urgent necessity”.

The Certification Board urges each CPSC to review his or her CEU statement that was sent with your renewal notice last November. If you have misplaced your statement, contact the Secretary-Treasurer of the Certification Board to see where you stand. Don't wait until you receive the CEU statement that will be sent this November to begin submitting your CEUs. Do it now and avoid scrambling at the last minute to provide additional documentation if your submission is unclear or doesn't meet the 9-CEU requirement. Note that while each CEU Category has a maximum allowed, you are encouraged to submit **all** your continuing education activities. The Certification Board may re-categorize some reported activities during the course of their review. This could help you. Better to exceed the limit than fall short. You've already completed the activity – why not report it?

Use the Re-Certification Worksheet to help you document your continuing education activities. It can be accessed on the ISCA website at: www.illinoissoils.org/certification.html. The worksheet can be completed and sent electronically to the Certification Board. You can also download the form, complete it, and send via email or the US Postal Service. Please don't hesitate to contact the Secretary-Treasurer of the Certification Board if you have any questions.

Bill Kreznor, Secretary-Treasurer
ISCA Certification Board
904 Powers Road
Woodstock, IL 60098
815-236-5633
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Bureau County hosts conservation expo

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(BCR photo/Goldie Rapp)

Caption +

By Goldie Rapp - grapp@bcrnews.com

OHIO — The first-ever Bureau County conservation expo was hosted this week at Thacker Farms, just outside of Ohio.

The three-day event allowed area farmers to explore conservation and land improvement practices including cover crops, grassed waterway, tile drainage, filter strips and more.

The expo was organized by the Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association (ILICA), the Wetlands Initiative (TWI) and other partners.

Janet Doubet, ILICA's executive director, said being able to have the chance to host the expo to allow farmers to see some of the conservation practices now being done helps rid their hesitance on the ideas they may have about the new applications.

The highlight of the event was watching the construction of a CP39 wetland on the Thacker property, which will be used to naturally capture and remove excess nutrients from tile drainage.

Doubet said with the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy now being the buzz in the farming industry, many farmers are being directed to look at more conservation practices like the constructed wetland.

The Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy is a state effort to improve water quality at home and downstream by reducing nitrogen and phosphorus levels in lakes, streams and rivers.

The strategy lays out a comprehensive suite of best management practices for reducing nutrient loads from wastewater treatment plants and urban and agricultural runoff.

"With these shows, when you get the volunteers and grants, it provides the opportunity to install the wetland at a minimum cost to the landowner, to participating agencies and you have the ability to do the monitoring and come up with the real hard data that's going to drive promoting the practice down the road," Doubet said.

Jill Kostel, TWI senior environmental engineer, further explained everyone — from urban activities to rural activities — have to do their part with the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy.

"What we're trying to say is nutrient run-off is a success. Productivity is a great success and it's just a side effect of that success," she said.

While there are three practices that aid in removing excess nutrients, a constructed wetland is just one practice that can help manage what's coming through the tile.

"We realize when people hear wetlands they have a whole different picture of what we're talking about," she said. "They are thinking 1,000-acre wetland that takes farming operations out. We're saying, 'no this is a constructed wetland. It's tiny and compacted. It's shallow with only being about 18-inches deep. You want to average about one foot so it's not like a restored wetland.'"

The wetland area at the Thacker farm is about 4.2-acres in size, which includes the surrounding buffer. The cost to construct the wetland is estimated to be anywhere between \$20,000 and \$25,000, but the price of a constructed wetland is based on size.

The wetland practice is available for reimbursement under the Conservation Reserve Program (CPR) or the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) of the Farm Bill.

Farm Progress Show

Dear ISCA Member,

Roger is still in need of volunteers for the Farm Progress Show if anyone is available to help. Thanks!

A request from Roger Windhorn:

Morning! We will be having our traditional soil pit at the Farm Progress Show this year. The dates are Tuesday, Sept. 1 through Thursday Sept. 3. We will need ISCA folks to work in the pit, if at all possible. I have set up two work times for each day. Very simply, a morning shift from 8 to 12 and afternoon shift from 12 to 4. We need at least two other folks there, beside myself. If you would like to volunteer, please let Roger Windhorn know which days and times you are interested in at 217-433-5293 or best, roger.windhorn@il.usda.gov.

We will have tickets and/or a switching of vest pins available for each worker. I will start out trying to fill each slot, with two folks, on kind of a "first come, first serve" time frame. This could be adjusted at a later time. The folks at the pit will be discussing soil properties, Soil Health, properties relating to leach fields, etc. We will have thousands of people stop at the pit over a period of three days!

Thanks in advance for your help!!

Roger Windhorn

Bureau County hosts conservation expo

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"We would like to show over time your return investment is very good because this is not something that you try one year, and then you're not interested in it. This is a commitment. It's a big decision for a landowner to give up this much acreage for 50 to 70 years," she said.

Kostel said constructed wetlands are not put on prime farmland. The goal of a wetland is to intercept tile drainage and let natural processes in the wetland remove the nitrogen.

Kostel said she hopes to do a few more wetland demonstrations in the area, so more farmers can see it's about what works and fits into their landscape.

"I'd like to show it's not a cookie cutter," she said. "We're just interested in getting it in the top of people's mind when they're thinking what can I do, because no one in this area has seen this practice before."

Comment on this story at www.bernews.com.

In the Pit



Mark Bramstedt at a Soil Health Demonstration south of Erie, IL in Henry County



2015 Fall Tour

Indiana Association of Professional Soil Classifiers (IAPSC)

Indiana Association of Professional Soil Classifiers Fall Tour

Location: SWPAC/VU John Deere Tech Center 4200-4368 Purdue Rd Vincennes, IN 47591

UTM Zone 16, 458091E 4287788N , NAD 83

When: September 18th, 2015

Agenda (Eastern Daylight Savings Time)

9:00 -10:00 -- **Registration:** Dena Marshall IAPSC Secretary/Treasurer (coffee and donuts)

10:00-10:10 **Welcome and Introductions:** Joanne Mosher, IAPSC President

10:10 -10:30 **Overview/History of the Farm –** Research - Dennis Nowaskie

10:30 -11:00 **Agribusiness Topic –** Susan Brocksmith

11:00 -11:45 **John Deere Center/Diesel Shop** Talk and Tour- Tim Hale

11:45 - 12:30 **Hot Lunch** by SODEXO

12:30 - 1:15 **Business Meeting and Door Prices**

1:15 -1:45 **Septic System at SWPAC-** Mark Hacker and Dave Ortel

1:45-2:30 **Tour of Farm –** Dennis Nowaskie

2:30-3:00 **Soil Pits** (Gary Steinhardt indicated he wants to have this as the site for the VU Invitational Soil Judging Contest, so we will have at least 5 soil pits available)

3:00 **Adjourn**

The Indiana Association of Professional Soil Classifiers (IAPSC) is a not-for-profit organization of soil scientists who are interested in the field study and evaluation of soils.

Joanne Mosher, President
John Allen, Past President
Dave Ortel, President Elect
Becky Langford, Vice President
Dena Marshall, Secretary-Treasurer
Norm Stephens, Pedestal Editor

<http://www.oisc.purdue.edu/irss/iapsc.html>

<http://www.iapsc-in.com>

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

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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.



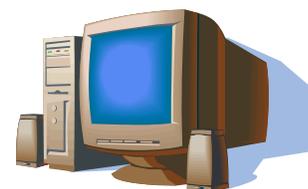
ISCA Newsletter Committee is looking for pictures of it's members, past or present, to include in future newsletters.

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