



Illinois Soil Classifiers Association Newsletter

Fall - December 2015

Message from the President

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Message from the President

The turn out for our Fall Meeting at the U of I South Farms on October 30th was great. A field practicum was conducted at two pits and there were some very tricky textural samples that were also part of the "test." Individuals will receive their personal results and we will publish overall results when they are available.

Before the field session, we had a good discussion on the proposed changes to the certification standards and tentative experience scoring method. Again the changes to the standards make it possible for someone with very intensive and high quality experience to become certified with less than a four year period. You should of received an email with the proposed changes to the standards. Make sure and send in your comments.

Have a great Holiday season

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

Dr. Sam Indorante Retires from the NRCS

Sam Indorante, MLRA Soil Survey Project Leader in Carbondale, IL retired on November 27, 2015 after more than 35 years with NRCS

Sam first studied soils at Northern Illinois University and later received a BS in soil science from Iowa State University. He completed his MS in soils at the University of Illinois in 1979. He then began his career with NRCS as a soil scientist on the Perry County soil survey staff and later served on the Bureau County soil survey crew.

In 1986 he went on leave without pay to pursue a PhD at the University of Missouri. "Dr. Sam" (as he was called by many of his colleagues) returned to NRCS and soil survey in 1990 as the MLRA Soil Survey Project Leader in Belleville, IL.

"Dr. Sam" was unique to soil survey- a PhD in the field. Former State Soil Scientist, Bob McLeese, considered Sam to be one of Illinois' "creative geniuses". He helped keep the "science" in Illinois' Cooperative Soil Survey program. His influence and accomplishments were many and widespread-

- *He was one of the first MLRA Soil Survey Project Leaders in the USA

- *He was an early innovator of GIS technology in soil survey

- *He led the completion of the soil survey update/digitizing for all of southern Illinois

- *He cooperated with University cooperators from SIU, NIU, Uof I, Purdue, Kentucky, Missouri, UC-Riverside on dozens of special soil survey investigation projects.

- *With the help of many university and NRCS soil scientists, he helped solve the puzzle of the Sodium Affected Soils (SAS) patterns in south central Illinois and the mapping of soils on areas affected by surface mining for coal.

- *He was a mentor for many new employees, interns, and students

- *He was the first recipient, in 1999, selected as the national "Soil Scientist of the Year" by the National Cooperative Soil Survey!

Sam says the best professional compliment he ever received came from Gary Struben (Indiana State Soil Scientist) - "You don't act like you have a Ph.D.!"



Though he is retiring from NRCS, Sam will continue with his passion for soil science by teaching soils classes and turfgrass at SIU. He is not done.....

Hit 'em straight Sam!

Sam, celebrating retirement with Missouri State Soil Scientist Jorge Lugo-Camacho.

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
certificationboardsecretary@illinoissoils.org

Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago

All,

Volunteers are needed to be the "Scientist at the Field" at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago for the second Thursday of the month for December 2015 through June 2016. Plan a Winter/Spring trip to Chicago for you and a colleague/friend or for you and your family. Chicago is beautiful this time of year, the assignment is work related, and there is free parking for the "Scientist" right next to the door! You won't find that anywhere else in the City! We (NRCS) are occasionally listed in the Museum's publication "In The Field" in their schedule of events. One doesn't need to be a soil scientist, but one just needs an understanding of soils and natural resources – perfect for all of us.

The "Scientist" is usually located in the hall outside of the Underground Adventure (an exhibit about soil and life underground developed with input from NRCS in 1999), but also may be located in the actual UA exhibit, or sometimes we have a table in Stanley Hall (the main hall of the Museum). The Scientist(s) will interact with Museum visitors about SOIL; Soil Health, Life in the Soil, and other natural resources and will need to be on duty from 11:00-2:00. Props are available for you to use and you may bring your own, as well. On some days, it may be difficult for one person to handle the crowds, as there are school groups and camp groups that bring lots of kids during certain times of the year, especially in the late spring and summer. Two people are ideal, but a small group will work as well. While there, you may visit the other regular and special exhibits at the Museum at no charge. In addition, you may bring your family or a friend along with you to help and also to enjoy the exhibits at the Museum.

Exhibits to check out:

The Greeks – Agamemnon to Alexander the Great: Journey through 5,000 years of Greek history and culture and meet some of the earliest rulers, warriors, and heroes of the ancient world.

Lichens, the coolest thing you've never heard of: Get pulled into the beautiful world of lichens-organisms you may have never heard of.

Echoes of Stone-Age Greece: Explore the enormous cavern and secret lakes of a Neolithic Greek cave and learn how archaeologists study this site to uncover clues human settlement.

Galapagos 3D Special movie

Evolving Planet takes visitors on an awe-inspiring journey through 4 billion years of life on Earth, from single-celled organisms to towering dinosaurs and our extended human family.

See the Museum website for more information about current and future exhibits: fieldmuseum.org

If you are interested in volunteering for any of the dates listed below, **reply to me by e-mail** with a first and second choice of dates (**NRCS employees must consult with your supervisor, of course**). All dates are filled on a first-come basis and they sometimes fill up quickly. NRCS has been working with the Field Museum since 1997 and have provided a "Scientist" since 1999. We have had contact with thousands of visitors over that time. This is a great outreach opportunity for all of us, a great way to reach a new audience about Soil, Soil Health and other natural resources, and a fun way to provide Technical Soil Services to a diverse audience. Thanks to all who have helped.

Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago Dates to Volunteer

Dates to Volunteer as the "Scientist at the Field":

December 10, 2015

January 14, 2016

February 11

March 10

April 14

May 12

June 9

Mark W. Bramstedt, CPSS/CPSC

Resource Soil Scientist

3605 North Illinois Route 47, Suite C

Morris, Illinois 60450

Office: 815.942.0359 x106

Cell: 815.351.7845

FAX: 855.288.1478

Member Steve Elmer instructing students on the importance of soils.



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.



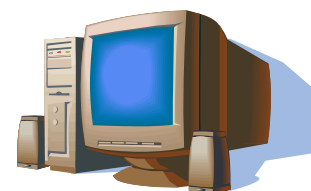
ISCA Newsletter Committee is looking for pictures of it's members, past or present, to include in future newsletters.

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
502 Comfort Drive
Marion, Illinois 62959

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: Scott Wiesbrook, 816 S. Oak St. Champaign, IL 61820