



# Illinois Soil Classifiers Association Newsletter

Winter-March 2016

## Upcoming Events:

41st Annual Meeting	March 19, 2016
Loessfest	September 22-25, 2016

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## Message from the President

Our upcoming Annual Meeting will continue the tradition of inviting the best technical minds to be our program speakers; this year we welcome Dr. Bruce Vasilas from the University of Delaware. As a side note, we even considered inviting Dr. Vasilas' spouse as a co-speaker, Lenore Matula Vasilas. She is the chair of the NRCS National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils and is a soil scientist at NRCS' National Headquarters. By reaching out to professionals of the highest order we hope to expand ISCA's network with leaders in soil science research.

Please review the proposed changes to the certification standards in this newsletter. In my opinion these are an improvement to our present requirements by not only looking at the quantity of professional experience but also the quality and in a more objective manner. Also the proposal adds a new requirement of a field practicum to insure that candidates can perform the basic tasks of soil classification. It also creates the potential for more interaction between experienced classifiers and newer classifiers. There are also changes to the renewal process of recording CEUs (proposed to be called Professional Development Hours PDHs) to align the credit for an activity to the actual time spent.

I want to thank the Executive Council, the Committees, and the Membership as a whole during the last year. It was gratifying to see the high number of you who turned out at the fall meeting/ field practicum and I want to encourage you to stay engaged, young and old. If you're young, step up and express your opinion and don't back down to a fixed mindset. If you're old like me, stay involved and at the very least encourage younger members.

On a personal note, when I retired a few years ago, I was ready to spend my days drinking craft beer, watching old movies, and playing chess with my oldest grandson. While I still enjoy these activities, two people kicked me in the rear and said I still had something to contribute to our profession (a debatable opinion.) I want to thank Mark Bramstedt and Bruce Putman for their double boot. My wife Linda thanks them too!

Don Fehrenbacher

## 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Working Group on Soils in Urban, Industrial, Traffic, Military, and Mining Areas (SUITMA)



Left to Right): Randy Riddle, Luis Hernandez, Kristine Ryan, Maxine Levin on a playa at the former Lake Texcoco. Draining former Lake Texcoco has led to severe subsidence problems in Mexico City (up to 40 cm/year in places), dust storms and water and air quality problems.

The 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Working Group on Soils in Urban, Industrial, Traffic, Military and Mining Areas (SUITMA) was held from September 20<sup>th</sup> -25<sup>th</sup>, 2015, in Mexico City, Mexico, with pre and post conference tour options available. Countries represented at this congress included the United States, Australia, Japan, Singapore, South Africa, Kenya, Niger, Syria (France), China, Russia, Estonia, Belgium, France, Germany, Poland, Italy, Chile, Brazil, and Korea.

The objective of this international group is to bring together professionals, students, and academics from the field of urban, industrial, traffic, military and mining soils to exchange and share ideas. In the United States and worldwide, anthropogenic and human affected soils are often overlooked as being “living” ecosystems. The goal of this working group is to change that perception through education, emphasizing and supporting research in cities all over the world, and to connect people for collaboration purposes. An emerging concept in soils is the term ‘Ecosystem Services’. This term is now universally accepted and refers to the ability of soils to provide essential functions in the ecosystem. The key points are that anthropogenic and human affected soils **can** provide essential functions and play a role in the ecosystem, but we have to learn to work with them. SUITMA emphasizes soils as a vital component to our infrastructure and ecosystems while working in harmony with engineering needs. This viewpoint is critical for policy makers to improve ecological systems in the urban environment.

The *Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM)* hosted the week-long conference which consisted of field tours, (which showcased the restoration and reclamation work being done with urban soils in Mexico City), poster sessions, and lectures (highlighting research being done all over the world). The delegates from the university and the organizing committee did a thorough job of highlighting the resource concerns in Mexico City as well as research currently underway that addresses these issues. The resource and environmental concerns in Mexico City are vast-subsidence, from overdrawing the aquifer that supplies the drinking water, dust storms, water contamination, composting, landfill reclamation, farmland and wetland creation and protection, and reclaiming industrial urban soils, etc. The international research that was presented by the delegates provided data that can help formulate solutions. With an abundance of studies being conducted throughout the world, the goal is to influence policy change at the local and national level.

The NRCS Soil Scientists that represented the U.S. Delegation included Maxine Levin (SSRA-SSD), Luis Hernandez (SSR-12), Randy Riddle (SSRO 2-TEM) and Kristine Ryan (SSRO 11-AUR). Topics presented included a national soil interpretation and map developed for ground mounted solar array panels; the New York City soil survey and its partnerships; Soil Taxonomy for anthropogenic soils (Los Angeles, CA examples); and the soil survey methods used for the Chicago soil survey. The United States’ work and expertise in Soil Taxonomy and Soil Survey was highlighted to an international audience which was recognized by members of the congress. The Soil Science Division of the NRCS is recognized as a world leader in soil survey and technical expertise. We have the skill set, technology, and knowledge to provide soils information for urban areas and cities. We have soil mapped cities such as Los Angeles, Chicago, Detroit, Washington D.C., Baltimore, and New York. Having a presence at these SUITMA conferences allows our agency to be the example of how to conduct a technically sound and useful urban soil survey and to offer our methods and assistance to others that might need guidance. We can emphasize the important interpretations that are developed for our customers and encourage professional collaboration with academics and field staff. Because the NRCS delegation attended this conference we were able to network with soil scientists, researchers, professors, and students from other countries and give them insight into the work NRCS is doing within the United States.



Profile of a soil formed in human transported material (rubble from the 1985 Mexico City earthquake)

\*\*Submitted by Kristine Ryan, Aurora, IL; Maxine Levin, Beltsville, MD; Luis Hernandez, Amherst, MA; Randy Riddle, Oxnard, CA.

## Roger Windhorn Retires!



Good morning! I wanted to take a minute to inform folks that as of January 2, 2016 I retired from NRCS. I began this career in June of 1970 as a Soil Conservationist trainee in the Kankakee Field Office. After 46+ years it is time for me to step away and concentrate on a few other things! To say this has been fun would be a gross understatement! I have thoroughly enjoyed my career and cannot imagine a better life! The friends I have been able to work with touched my life in so many ways that I will never be able to thank them enough! For those that know me, realize that computers and I never really got along well..... I like to think I'm not necessarily stupid, but just always felt that computers somehow kept me from being in the field.....which has always been my first priority. I wish you all well and stay in touch (at [43soiltech@gmail.com](mailto:43soiltech@gmail.com) or 217-433-5293) !

Roger Windhorn

\*\*special thank you to Mark Bramstedt for providing these pictures!

# 41st ISCA Annual Meeting

When: Scheduled for **March 19th, 2016**

Where: Room 1005, Forbes building at **1816 S. Oak St.,  
Champaign, IL**

Registration Fee: **\$20.00 for members** and **\$30.00 for non-members**

(**online** via PayPal @ <http://www.illinoissoils.org/>  
or via **mail** to Chuck Frazee @ 65 Gaffney Road, Divernon,  
IL 62530

Registered by **March 12th!!!**

## Agenda

Council Meeting: 10:30 am

Registration: 11:00 am

Opening Remarks: 11:45 am

Invocation

Lunch: 12:00 pm

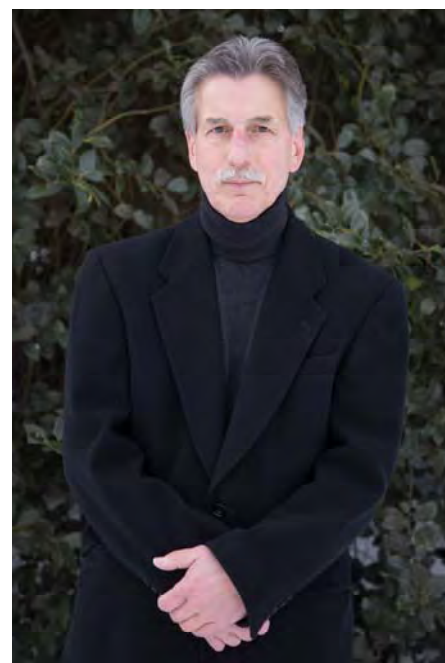
Guest Speaker: 1:00 pm

Business Meeting: 2:30 pm

## Speaker for the Annual Meeting

Dr. Bruce Vasilas is a professor of Agronomy and Soil Science at the University of Delaware. He received a B.S. in Agronomy -Soil Science from the University of Maryland, an M.S. in Soil Microbiology from the University of Maryland, and a Ph.D. in Soil Microbiology from the University of Minnesota. From 1981 to 1987 he was an assistant professor of Agronomy at the University of Illinois. He has been on the faculty at the University of Delaware since 1987. His recent research areas include biogeochemical cycling and carbon sequestration in wetlands, environmental impact assessment of anthropogenic disturbance to wetlands, hydric soil identification, rapid characterization of wetland hydrology with soil morphology, and hydrologic monitoring of freshwater wetlands.

He teaches classes in agronomy, soil science, and wetlands. He is a frequent contributor to short courses on wetland identification and delineation. He was the 2015 chair of the Wetland Soils Division of the Soil Science Society of America. He is chair of the Mid-Atlantic Hydric Soils Committee, a member of the Northeast Hydric and Subaqueous Soils Committee, and the University of Delaware liaison to the Cooperative Soil Survey. He is co-editor of *A Guide to Hydric Soils in the Mid-Atlantic Region*. His publications include book chapters on wetland biogeochemistry techniques, identification of hydric soils, hydric soils and wetland regulation, microbiology of hydric soils, hydrology of hydric soils, hydric soils and wetland functions, and monitoring hydric soils.



**ISCA 2016 Annual Spring Meeting  
March 19th, 2016  
Illinois Natural History Building, Champaign, IL**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_ (\$20/member; \$30/nonmember)

Total Payment \_\_\_\_\_

Fill out the above information and mail with a check (payable to ISCA to the following address)

Chuck Frazee

65 Gaffney Road  
Divernon, IL 62530

Or register online at [illinoissoils.org](http://illinoissoils.org) and pay using PayPal

### Ballot for 2016 ISCA Elections

Voting rights are for Full Members only.

Please vote for one for each office by placing an X next to the name.

See the candidate biographies on the next page for more information about the candidates.

Write-in candidates must have agreed prior to the election to run for that office.

#### President-Elect

Todd Soukup

Scott Wegman

(write-in candidate for President-Elect) \_\_\_\_\_

#### Vice President

Pat Kelsey

Bill Teater

(write-in candidate for Vice President) \_\_\_\_\_

#### Treasurer

Charles Frazee

Ken Anderson

(write-in candidate for Treasurer) \_\_\_\_\_

Submit your ballot:

You may bring your ballot to the 2016 ISCA Annual Meeting or you may vote prior to the Annual meeting by mailing your ballot to Scott Wiesbrook at 1816 S. Oak St., Champaign, IL 61820. Please seal your ballot in a separate envelope and mark it with "Ballot" on the outside of that envelope. Mailed ballots must be received by March 18th, 2016 in order to be counted.

## Officer Nominations Biographies

### **President-Elect**

#### **Todd Soukup:**

Todd began his career in 1989 as a soil scientist with the SCS in North Dakota. He moved to Illinois in 1994, where he worked in private industry primarily performing wetland delineation and permitting services. He started his own business in 1997 providing soil evaluation and ecological management services, and continues in this capacity today. Todd has been a member of ISCA since 1995.

#### **Scott Wegman:**

Scott has worked in the field of Soil Science since 1988. After graduating from the University of Illinois with a B.S. in Soil Science, he began his career as a county soil scientist with Pike County, Illinois Soil Survey. He also worked for Tazewell and Woodford County Soil Surveys. With the soil surveys ending, he took a job as a soil scientist with the Lake County Health Department. From there he went into consulting and worked for a small engineering consulting firm in the Chicago area and after that a large international engineering consulting firm. After moving to Quincy, Illinois to work for a local engineering firm he began his own soils consulting business in 2004. He currently provides soil morphology services for clients in Illinois and Missouri. Scott is married to Dawn, they have six children, three cats and a varying number of rabbits. He has an M.A. in Counseling and is a part-time marriage counselor as well as being a soil scientist.

### **Vice President**

#### **Pat Kelsey:**

Pat has more than 30 years of experience as a project manager in the fields of soil science and environmental resource management at WVK. Pat is the firm principal for all natural resource design, site development, stormwater management, and regulatory services including permitting and compliance activities. Pat serves as the principal scientist and provides scientific and environmental survey for soils, water resources, sediments, and vegetation. He has previously served as the ISCA President, Newsletter Editor (10 yrs) and on the Certification Board. Pat enjoys camping, photography and single malt, not necessarily in that order.

#### **Bill Teater:**

Bill received his Bachelors in Science from the University of Illinois in December of 1978. Upon graduation, he worked a full time assistantship in the University of Illinois soils lab doing mechanical analysis for 8 months. He then served as the Ford County Soil Scientist for a few months. He then moved onto to be a USDA Soil Scientist at: Ford, Mason, Tazewell, Woodford, and Marshall Counties. Bill was in the Springfield MLRA Update Office until his retirement in 2014 and is currently doing onsite soil investigations for septic systems.

### **Treasurer**

#### **Charles J. Frazee:**

Chuck is a charter member of ISCA and has been the Treasurer since 1993. He has both a MS and a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois. He mapped in 6 different counties in IL and was an Assistant Professor at the South Dakota State University from 1969-1975. His research was in remote sensing using soil maps for taxation and taught soil genesis, classification, and morphology. Chuck returned to his family farm in 1975. He is a Professional Soil Classifier (Certificate #10) and has been consulting in Sangamon and surrounding counties since 1996.

#### **Ken Anderson:**

Ken is the Director of the Kane County Division of Environmental and Water Resources. He is a ISCA member and has held the position of President and Vice President of the Association. He is a graduate of the University of Stevens Point. He is married to his beautiful wife Julie and is blessed with three wonderful daughters. He enjoys God's creation, fishing and golfing.

## 2015 Treasurer's Report

ISCA - 2015

January 25, 2016

Treasurer's Report for Jan. 1, 2015 - December 31, 2015

Balance in Account - 1/1/15 \$ 21724.07

Income:

Administration	
Paypal Transfer	\$ 135.05
Donation	175.00
Annual Meeting	1267.25
Certification Application Fees	119.51
Dues	3083.76
Interest	31.55
T-Shirts and Caps	87.50
	-----
	\$ 4899.62

Expenses:

Administration	
Paypal	\$ 200.00
Corporation Fee	10.00
Spanish Translation	300.00
Internet	184.95
Annual Meeting	2012.22
Certification Board Exp	123.23
Adams Co. Report	612.10
Fall Meeting	229.95
Farm Progress Show	433.40
Soil Judging	750.00
	-----
	\$ 4855.85

Ending Bank Balance - 12/31/15 \$ 21767.84

Submitted by:

Charles J. Frazee, CPSC  
Treasurer

## Changes to the Certification Standards and CEUs

For nearly two years now, you have probably been hearing about ISCA's proposed changes to our certification standards. With generous input from the membership, the Ethics, Certification, and Membership Committee, and the Council, we have nearly arrived at the final draft. The major changes involve elimination of the specific requirements that 70% of an applicant's time be spent doing soil classification activities. Now, applicants will be required to simply have 4 years of experience in soil classification. They are expected to provide examples of their work to the board on request. A point system has been developed that allows an applicant to accumulate points that may substitute for up to 2 years of experience based on certain types of activities. All applicants meeting the requirements will sit for the written exam, and passing that, will take the field practicum.

There has been much discussion about requiring certain numbers of reports, acres mapped, profiles described, etc. per year to meet experience requirements. In the end, it was clear that many applicants will come from non-traditional avenues (read soil survey) that any quota requirements would tend to exclude talented and qualified people. Instead, the intent is to let them be evaluated on the quality of their work rather than quantity. This, in conjunction with the written exam and the field practicum will insure we continue to certify competent individuals practicing soil classification in non-traditional professional positions.

Also proposed are changes to our CEU structure. The new structure will implement Professional Development Hours (PDH's) that are based on actual time spent on activities rather than the number of activities. Under the old system, a person attending a multi-day seminar or workshop could only claim the same number of CEU's as one attending a short meeting. Most of the categories have been retained with some modification and total PDH's must be from a number of categories. This should simplify reporting and make it more equitable. We also hope to implement on-line CEU reporting in the future.

We will be bringing the changes to a vote on March 19<sup>th</sup>. We have a distinguished speaker and big changes to our standards so I hope to see a lot of you there.

\*\* Submitted by Brad Cate

The proposed certification process changes are included at the end of this newsletter.  
Thank you!

\*\* Newsletter Committee

### 2016 Bent Auger Award - Call for Nominations!!!!

It is once again time to select a new winner of the prestigious Bent Auger Award. As its name suggests, this award is given each year to an individual or group of individuals who displays "excellence" in the field. Qualifying events/situations are numerous and unrestricted. Stories do not have to be true, but are preferably based on partial truth. If you know anyone who is deserving of this award for 2016, please bring her nomination to the annual meeting in Champaign on March 19. Competition can be fierce, so make sure your story is well prepared and fully exaggerated. This award has been held by many of the leaders and founders of the ISCA. It is a great honor and looks good on any resume.





## Fall Meeting Update

We held our fall meeting on October 30<sup>th</sup> at the Natural History Survey Building in Champaign. The main focus of the meeting was to conduct somewhat of a trial run of our proposed field practicum. As many of you know, ISCA is contemplating implementation of a field practicum as a requirement of our certification process.

The morning held an update, discussion, and question and answer period regarding the proposed changes to our certification requirements. Following another great catered lunch, we fought an inclination to nap and headed for the university farms to examine and describe parts of a Catlin - Drummer hydrosequence (or maybe I meant to say catena). Three groups were formed to rotate through two test pits and a soil texturing exercise. Congratulations to Ken AKA "Magic Fingers" Anderson who was the top scorer in texturing. Evaluation of the pit scoring is still under study to provide information on consistency and uniformity as it relates to describing morphology and using descriptors. Ultimately, it will be up to the certification board to fine tune or develop its own protocol for assessing applicant skills fairly and consistently.

Fortunately we were treated to a warm sunny day, especially for the end of October, and a good attendance by our members. A few members provided some mentoring in the pits. We hope to provide opportunities for more of that in the future. Thanks to Scott, Jenwei (esp. for the baked goodies), and Ian at the survey for making this happen!

\*\* Submitted by Brad Cate

## SSSA to Review Viability of CPSS Program

In the Jan-Feb Crops & Soils Magazine, you may have missed the article on page 17. The CPSS Board is forming a task force to evaluate the viability of the soil scientist certification and review the requirements. As an alternative, they are considering a new category to include "soil professionals" with "less education and experience" or individuals with "more diverse degrees"... "working in soil science." You may want to express your opinion to the CPSS Board.

ISCA will continue to improve and strengthen our certification standards and we will protect Article 1 Item 3 of our Code of Ethics that reads "A member shall not perform beyond the scope of his/her education and experience."

\*\* Submitted by Don Fehrenbacher

**Save the Date!**

**LOESS FEST 2016  
EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN, USA**



Randall Schaetzl,  
**Conference Host and Organizer**

**September 22-25, 2016**

2 days of papers/posters (Thursday - Friday)  
2 days of field trips (Saturday - Sunday)

For more information, see:  
<http://www.loessfest2016.msu.edu/>

Or contact Dr. Randall Schaetzl at [soils@msu.edu](mailto:soils@msu.edu)

## Days Gone By



Photo from Soil Conservation Service, Champaign, IL (Old Post Office Building on Church) Conservation for New Employees in the Fall of 1974.

**FRONT ROW (left to right):**

Barry Kintzer, Proj. Eng.; Steven Hollister, SC; William Kuentsler, SC; Tom Collins, DC; Richard Miller, SC; Ed Delbrook, DC.

**SECOND ROW (left to right):**

Charles Nelson, SS; Mark LaVan, SS; Steven Brady, Biol.; Dan Holmes, State Conservationist; William Miller, SC; Robert Cline, SC; Mike Martin, Geol.

**THIRD ROW (left to right):**

William Dickerson, SS; Jerry Berning, SS; Mark Bolton, SC; Loran Davis, SC; Chris Cochran, SS; Mike Walker, SS

\*\*Submitted by Chris Cochran

## 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 staff at [newsletter@illinoissoils.org](mailto:newsletter@illinoissoils.org)



### FOR SALE!!!

1981 Giddings rear-mount Model SR truck probe, w/ rotary head and clean out brush, mounted on 1/4" x 46"x60" steel plate, w/ electric start ONAN Performer 24 engine, battery and tool box. \$4,000. All in good condition.

Reason for selling: purchased a replacement. Contact Tom or Steve at **309-945-9090**.

[www.illinoissoils.org](http://www.illinoissoils.org)

ILLINOIS  
NATURAL HISTORY

ISCA Newsletter Staff  
1816 S. Oak St.,  
Champaign, IL 61820

Phone: 217-300-1930  
E-mail:  
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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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  
1816 S. Oak St.,  
Champaign, IL 61820

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

**[www.illinoissoils.org/news](http://www.illinoissoils.org/news)**

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

### Change of Address Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Mail to: Scott Wiesbrook, ISCA Secretary, 1816 S. Oak. St., Champaign, IL 61820

**STANDARDS FOR CERTIFICATION OF PROFESSIONAL SOIL  
CLASSIFIERS  
BY  
ILLINOIS SOIL CLASSIFIERS ASSOCIATION (ISCA)**

**SECTIONS 1 and 2. – No proposed changes.**

**SECTION 3.  
APPOINTMENT AND COMPOSITION OF THE CERTIFICATION  
BOARD**

- a. A Certification Board is hereby created within the Illinois Soil Classifiers Association. The Board shall consist of six (6) members nominated by the President and approved by the Council to serve staggered three (3) year terms.
- b. Eligible nominees must be citizens of the United States, and must perform the practice of professional soil classifying primarily in Illinois. Nominees must ~~have a minimum of four (4) years of experience in a responsible soil classifying position and must~~ be ISCA Certified Professional Soil Classifiers. Any member of the Board who ceases to perform the practice of professional soil classifying primarily in Illinois shall be deemed to have resigned from membership on the Board as of the last date of their professional practice in Illinois.
- c. Members of the Board shall be Certified Professional Soil Classifiers and shall serve a term of three (3) years and until a successor has been appointed. Unfilled terms on the Board shall be filled within thirty (30) days by nomination by the President and approval by the Council at their next scheduled meeting. New members of the Board shall assume duties after being approved by the Council.
- d. The membership of the Board should represent governmental agencies, private sector and academic interests in approximately the same proportions as the certified membership of ISCA.
- e. The Board members shall receive reimbursement for necessary and reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their duties to the Board, but shall not receive other compensation.

**SECTION 4. – No proposed changes.**

**SECTION 5.  
STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION**

In order to be eligible for certification as a professional soil classifier in Illinois, applicants must subscribe to the Code of Ethics of the Illinois Soil Classifiers Association and meet the following.

- a. Education Requirements  
Possess a **minimum of a** bachelor's, degree from an accredited institution and at least 15 semester credit hours in soil courses or closely related courses. Related courses can account for only 20% (3 hours) of the required 15 credit hours. ~~Have 4 years of professional experience working in soil classification. Or.~~  
~~2. Possess a master's degree from an accredited institution and at least 15 semester credit hours in soil courses or closely related courses. Related courses can account for only 20% (3 hours) of the required 15 credit hours. Have 3 years of professional experience working in soil classification. Or.~~

~~3. Possess a doctoral degree from an accredited institution and at least 15 semester credit hours in soil courses or closely related courses. Related courses can account for only 20% (3 hours) of the required 15 credit hours. Have 2 years of professional experience working in soil classification. Or.~~

b. Professional Experience

1. Must ~~meet the requirements~~ be or have been engaged in the practice of Soil Classifying set forth in Section 2.05.

~~e. Work Experience~~

~~A. A minimum of 70% of the applicant's time working directly with the area of soil classification Professional experience will be evaluated by the Board.~~

~~B. Work Experience less than 70% will be prorated. Work experience will be summarized on the ISCA application for certification form. The applicant will provide examples of soil classification work to the board for evaluation upon request.~~

~~C. A work experience summary will be attached to any application submitted by the applicant. Professional experience should enable the applicant to practice soil classification competently without supervision.~~

~~D. The applicant shall not have less than 4 years (or as required in Sec. a) of cumulative professional experience in the practice of soil classification. The applicant must be competent to practice soil classification without direct supervision.~~

~~E. The Board reserves the right to request copies of the applicants work to review.~~

2. Applicants are required to demonstrate soil classifying experience over a 4 year period, or:

3. Possess a master's degree from an accredited institution and at least 15 semester credit hours in soil courses or closely related courses. Related courses can account for only 20% (3 hours) of the required 15 credit hours. Have 3 years of professional experience working in soil classification, or:

4. Possess a doctoral degree from an accredited institution and at least 15 semester credit hours in soil courses or closely related courses. Related courses can account for only 20% (3 hours) of the required 15 credit hours. Have 2 years of professional experience working in soil classification, or:

5. Be certified or licensed by a state, regional, or national association as a soil classifier or pedologist, or:

6. Have 2 years of professional experience working in soil classification and accumulate 250 experience points or 3 years of professional experience and accumulate 125 experience points. Experience activities and associated points are determined by the Ethics, Certification, and Membership Committee in conjunction with the Certification Board, and are subject to approval by the Council. See the Application for Certification of Professional Soil Classifiers for the list of activities and associated points.

~~d. c.~~ References

~~You Applicant must submit three references that are familiar with your work and professional experience in soil classifying. References must be familiar with your work experience used to meet certification requirements and be~~



~~knowledgeable of soils. The applicant will need to designate the time period for which the reference has personal knowledge of his or her work experience history.~~

~~A. At least one individual must be associated with your employment; an immediate supervisor, collaborator, or coworker.~~

e.d. Core Requirements

Applicants must meet the minimum ~~core requirements as outlined in this document~~ education and experience requirements set forth to be eligible to take the Illinois Soil Classifier's written exam.

f. e. Exam Requirements

1. ~~Certifications are exam based and all Applicants for Certified Professional Soil Classifier~~ are required to pass:

A. The Illinois Soil Classifiers ~~written~~ exam.

1. Applicants shall have one year from the date of ~~application determination by the board that the requirements for education and experience have been met~~ to take the examination. Applicants that do not take the examination within one (1) year must reapply following the procedures described in Section 6, and pay the application fee as described in Section 7.

2. ~~All a~~ Applicants shall receive ten (10) sample questions at least two (2) weeks prior to examination. A Board member shall monitor written examinations. A passing grade on an examination shall be a score of seventy (70) percent or higher. Applicants ~~failing the written exam~~ may be re-examined once within two years ~~of first applying for certification~~ without submitting an additional fee.

B. The ISCA Field Practicum

1. Applicants passing the written exam are eligible to take the ISCA field practicum.

2. Applicants shall have one year from the date of passing the written examination to take the field practicum. This deadline will be extended in the event that the field practicum is not administered within the deadline period to the next date the practicum is administered. Applicants that do not take the examination within one year or at the earliest date after must reapply following the procedures described in Section 6, and pay the application fee as described in Section 7.

## SECTION 6.

### PROCEDURES FOR APPLICATION

Applications for certification may be submitted at any time and shall be of a format prescribed and furnished by the Board. Such application shall contain ~~(a)~~ a statement of the applicant's formal education, ~~(b)~~ a copy of all transcripts of formal academic studies, ~~(c)~~ a detailed summary of his or her work experience, ~~(d)~~ the names and addresses of three (3) references who have personal knowledge of the applicant's classifying experience and shall provide a written statement of the technical skill level of the applicant. ~~At least one of the references shall be a supervisor or collaborator as specified in Section 5 (d), (e)~~ The application shall also include a narrative summary of soil classifying experience

showing the type, dates and amounts of experience, i.e. soil mapping, soil descriptions, on-site investigations or other related work as defined under the practice of soil classifying, and (e) the proper fee as prescribed in Section 7.

**SECTION 7.  
FEES**

To pay the expenses of the operation of the certification process, the Board shall, at the time an application for certification is submitted, collect from the applicant a fee of forty dollars (\$40.00). If the applicant fails to qualify, such fee shall not be returned, ~~but such~~ Such applicant is eligible ~~for re-examination to re-apply once within two (2) years after one (1) year of failing the written exam twice or failing the field practicum.~~

The fee for annual renewal of the certificate shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).

The fee for restoration of a certificate which has lapsed shall be fifteen dollars (\$15.00).

The fee to be paid for a duplicate certificate shall be five dollars (\$5.00).

These fees may be adjusted as necessary by action of the Council of the Illinois Soil Classifiers Association.

**SECTION 8.  
RENEWAL, EXPIRATION, AND RESTORATION OF CERTIFICATION**

**a. Introduction**

Each Professional Soil Classifier who continues in active practice shall renew certification annually for five (5) years by the payment of the required renewal fee on or before January 1. At the end of five (5) years, renewal requires the payment of the required fee, and meeting the specified requirements for re-certification, ~~and submission of the re-certification application form.~~ Including submission of documentation of continuing professional education meeting the requirements of this Section. ~~Specified requirements for re-certification are:~~

~~1. In each five (5) year period, acquire continuing education units in at least two (2) of the following categories, with a minimum of nine (9) CEUs required.~~

No.	Activity	CEU	Per	Maximum Allowed
<b>Category A: Continuing Education and Training</b>				
1.	Germane college courses	1.0	course	5.0
2.	Short courses	0.5	course	2.0
3.	Workshops, clinics, field days, conferences	0.5	activity	2.0
4.	Symposia	0.5	symposia	2.0
5.	Seminar series (non-course)	0.5	series	2.0
6.	Technical field mapping; soil investigation	0.25	3-mo. period	5.0

**Category B: Professional Publications, Reports, or Presentations**

1.	Soil survey report, book writing, editing	1.0	book	2.0
2.	Refereed publication, book, or soil survey report chapter	0.5	publication	3.0
3.	Non-refereed publication, legal deposition	0.5	publication	1.5
4.	Soil correlation, generalized soil maps, interpretations, series descriptions	0.5	publication	2.0
5.	Formal employer/project reports	0.5	report	1.5
6.	Publication or grant reviewer	0.25	review	1.0
7.	Popular article	0.25	article	1.0
8.	Paper presentation, exhibit	0.5	presentation	1.0
9.	National scientific committee or board membership	0.5	item	1.0

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**Category C: Professional Activity**

1.	National or international scientific meeting	0.5	meeting	2.0
2.	Regional or state scientific meeting	0.5	meeting	1.5
3.	Local or county scientific meeting	0.25	meeting	1.5
4.	National, regional, or state committee membership	0.5	membership/ term	1.0

No.	Activity	CEU	Per	Maximum-Allowed
5.	Elected office (local, state, national, or international)	0.5	office/year	2.0
6.	Appointed office (local, state, national, or international)	0.5	office/year	2.0

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**Category D: Other Professional Activity**

1.	Self-training (journal or book reading)	0.5	item	1.0
2.	Awards and recognition	0.5	award	2.0
3.	Community scientific involvement (land judging, advisory boards, school programs, etc.)	0.5	event	2.0

4.	<del>Develop new lecture notes or new training materials or new techniques</del>	0.5	item	2.0
5.	<del>Other</del>	0.25	item	1.5

~~Any Professional Soil Classifier shall be listed as “delinquent” if fees remain unpaid after the due date of January 1 of the current year. His/her certificate shall expire if fees remain unpaid for sixty (60) days after the due date. A Professional Soil Classifier whose certificate has expired may have his or her certificate restored only by making application to the Board and upon payment of all lapsed renewal fees and payment of the required restoration fee provided that he or she has engaged in the practice of soil classifying three (3) of the preceding four (4) years, or have more than six (6) years of total soil classifying experience and have actively practiced soil classifying during the preceding year. If certification has lapsed for more than four (4) years, the applicant shall again be required to pass an examination as described in Section 5(e).~~

~~a. Any Professional Soil Classifier whose certificate expires while he or she is engaged in active duty with the armed forces of the United States may have his or her certificate restored without paying any lapsed renewal fees or restoration fee or passing any examination if, within one (1) year after termination of such service, he or she furnishes the Board with an affidavit to the effect that he or she was so engaged, and if the Board finds that he or she is of good character and reputation, and if not more than four (4) years has lapsed since he or she last engaged in the practice of soil classifying. If more than four (4) years has lapsed, the Professional Soil Classifier shall be required to successfully pass an examination to determine his or her proficiency.~~

~~b. The Board shall notify every Certified Professional Soil Classifier of the date of expiration and the amount of the fee required for renewal. The notice will also include the ending date of the five (5) year certification period and a listing by category, of the CEUs accepted to date. The notice shall be mailed at least thirty (30) days in advance of the expiration of the certificate.~~

b. Definition of Terms.

1. Professional Development Hour (PDH) – Contact hour consisting of not less than 50 minutes each of instruction, presentation, composition, participation, or service.
2. College/Unit Semester/Quarter Hour – Credit assigned by a college or university for a completed course.
3. Activity – Any activity or course with a clear purpose and objective that maintains, improves, or expands the skills, knowledge, and abilities of the Professional Soil Classifier.
4. Sponsor – An organization or individual that has supplied a course or activity.
5. Certification Renewal Period – The period for accumulating the required PDHs shall be five (5) years.
6. Activity Category – A generalized classification of the type of activity satisfying the PDH requirement.

c. Requirements

Every Professional Soil Classifier shall meet both of the following requirements:

1. Participate in an ISCA-sponsored field exercise or practicum at least once during each of their respective 5-year certification renewal periods.
2. Obtain sixty (60) PDHs during each 5-year certification renewal period. Selection of courses and activities which meet the requirements of this Section shall be the responsibility of the Professional Soil Classifier. PDHs shall be earned in at least three (3) different categories with a maximum of 30 PDHs being earned in any individual category. Continuing education activities for which PDHs may be earned include, but are not limited to, the following activity categories:
  - A. Completing or auditing college or college-sponsored courses. One (1) college or unit semester hour shall be equivalent to fifteen (15) PDHs. One (1) college or unit quarter hour shall be equivalent to ten (10) PDHs.
  - B. Completing self-study college or professional society sponsored courses, seminars, or symposia presented by correspondence, internet, television, video, or audio, and ending with examination or other verification processes. PDHs shall be earned for the actual time of each program with a maximum of fifteen (15) PDHs for a given activity.
  - C. Attendance or participation in seminars, tutorials, clinics, workshops, symposia, in-house courses, field tours/exercises, or technical presentations made at meetings, conventions, or conferences. PDHs shall be earned for the actual time of each program with a maximum of fifteen (15) PDHs for a given meeting.
  - D. Teaching of or providing instruction in Items (a) through (c), above. PDHs shall be doubled for this activity, and shall be applied for the initial presentation only.
  - E. Technical field mapping, onsite investigations, formal reports of investigations, soil correlation and interpretation of properties, legal depositions, and expert witness testimony. A maximum of thirty (30) PDHs shall be applied for this activity.
  - F. Authoring published papers, articles, blogs, books, or book chapters. PDHs earned may equal preparation time spent and shall be claimed only following publication. A maximum of twelve (12) PDHs shall be applied per paper, article, blog, book, or book chapter for this activity.
  - G. Active participation in professional or technical societies as an officer, committee chair, or committee member. A maximum of four (4) PDHs per year in each office or committee shall be applied for this activity, and PDHs shall not be earned until the end of each year.
  - H. Participation in professional examination grading or writing. A maximum of twelve (12) PDHs shall be applied for this activity.
  - I. Providing professional service to the public on boards, commissions, committees, school programs or non-work related volunteer service which draws upon their professional expertise. A maximum of twenty-four (24) PDHs shall be applied for this activity.
  - J. Self-training such as book or journal reading. A maximum of six (6) PDHs shall be earned for this activity.
  - K. Patents, after they are granted. A maximum of twenty (20) PDHs per patent shall be applied for this activity.

d. Criteria

Continuing education activities shall meet the following criteria:

1. There must be a clear purpose and objective for each activity which will maintain, improve, or expand skills, knowledge, and abilities prior to the initial certification or develop new and relevant skills, knowledge, and abilities.
2. The content of each presentation must be well organized and presented in a sequential manner.
3. There must be evidence of pre-planning which must include the opportunity for input by the target group to be served.
4. The activity must be led by persons who are well qualified by education or experience.
5. There must be provision for documentation of the participation of the CPSC in the activity.

e. **Determination of Credit**

The Board shall have the final authority with respect to approval of activities, sponsors, credit, PDH value for courses, and other methods of earning credit. PDH credit shall not be considered earned until the activity is completed or until the end of each year of service is completed.

f. **Record Keeping**

Each Professional Soil Classifier shall maintain records to be used to support credits claimed. Records shall include, but are not limited to:

1. A log showing the type of activity claimed, date or duration, sponsoring organization, name of speaker or instructor, location, and PDHs earned.
2. Attendance verification records in the form of completion certificates or other documents supporting evidence of attendance.

g. **Reporting**

Each Professional Soil Classifier shall submit a written record or log of continuing education activities to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Board prior to the end of their certification renewal period. The Board may request supplemental documentation such as registration receipts, meeting agendas, participation rosters, or certificates of completion in order to verify proper classification of an activity or compliance with these standards.

h. **Noncompliance and Reinstatement**

Any Professional Soil Classifier shall be listed as “delinquent” if fees remain unpaid after the due date of January 1 of the current year. His/her certificate shall expire if fees remain unpaid for sixty (60) days after the due date. A Professional Soil Classifier whose certificate has expired may have his or her certificate restored only by making application to the Board and upon payment of all lapsed renewal fees and payment of the required restoration fee provided that he or she has engaged in the practice of soil classifying three (3) of the preceding four (4) years, or have more than six (6) years of total soil classifying experience and have actively practiced soil classifying during the preceding year. If certification has lapsed for more than four (4) years, the applicant shall again be required to pass examinations as described in Section 5.

i. **Exemptions**

Any Professional Soil Classifier whose certificate expires while he or she is engaged in active duty with the armed forces of the United States may have his or her certificate restored without paying any lapsed renewal fees or restoration fee or taking any examination if, within one (1) year after termination of such service, he or she furnishes the Board with an affidavit to the effect that he or she was so engaged, and if the Board finds that he or she is of good character and reputation, and if not more than

four (4) years has lapsed since he or she last engaged in the practice of soil classifying. If more than four (4) years has lapsed, the Professional Soil Classifier shall be required to successfully pass examinations to determine his or her proficiency as described in section 5.

j. Notification

The Board shall notify every Certified Professional Soil Classifier of the date of expiration and the amount of the fee required for renewal. The notice will also include the ending date of the five (5) year certification period and a listing by category, of the PDHs accepted to date. The notice shall be mailed at least thirty (30) days in advance of the expiration of the certificate.

**SECTIONS 9 and 10. – No proposed changes.**

Approved at the annual meeting, March 1, 1980.

J. Wiley Scott, Chairman

Ethics, Registration and Membership Committee

Linus M. Kiefer, President, ISCA

Amended March 1982

Amended October 1987

Amended March 1989

Amended March 1991

Amended March 1992

Amended March 1997

Amended March 1999

Amended March 2006

Amended March 2012

**ILLINOIS SOIL CLASSIFIERS ASSOCIATION  
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP  
– No proposed changes**

**APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION OF PROFESSIONAL SOIL CLASSIFIERS BY THE ILLINOIS SOIL CLASSIFIERS ASSOCIATION**

Please Print or Type

Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name to be printed on certificate)

Residence Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Employer or Business \_\_\_\_\_

Office phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a Full or Honorary Full Member of the Illinois Soil Classifiers Association?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Certification applied for:

\_\_\_\_\_ Professional Soil Classifier in Illinois

\_\_\_\_\_ Restoration of certificate which has lapsed

\_\_\_\_\_ Duplicate certificate

STATEMENT OF FORMAL EDUCATION [Sec. 6 (a)]: year degree conferred, name and location of institution

BS \_\_\_\_\_

MS \_\_\_\_\_

PhD \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Education beyond listed degrees \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

TRANSCRIPTS OF FORMAL ACADEMIC STUDY [Sec. 6 (b)]. Attach transcripts that list soils courses, number of credits (differentiate semester and quarter credits), and grades earned.



## ISCA Application for Certification Page 2

SUMMARY OF WORK EXPERIENCE [Sec. 6 (c)]. Describe your capacity and activities as defined in Section 2.05 of the Standards for Certification. (Attach additional sheets if necessary.)

Job Title

Name and address of employer:

_____	_____
_____	_____
Dates of employment:	
_____ to _____	Hours per week: _____
Experience: _____	
_____	
_____	
_____	
_____	
_____	
_____	
_____	

Job Title

Name and address of employer:

_____	_____
_____	_____
Dates of employment:	
_____ to _____	Hours per week: _____
Experience: _____	
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Job Title

Name and address of employer:

_____	_____
_____	_____
Dates of employment:	
_____ to _____	Hours per week: _____
Experience: _____	
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**ISCA Application for Certification Page 3**

NARRATIVE SUMMARY OF SOIL CLASSIFYING EXPERIENCE [Sec. 6 (e)]. Attach narrative describing soil classifying experience.

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REFERENCES [Sec. 6 (d)]. List three (3) individuals that will supply reference information on the applicant's current soil classifying abilities upon request. ~~At least one of the references shall be a supervisor or collaborator as specified in Section 5 (d) of the Standards for Certification of Professional Soil Classifiers.~~ Check box when applicable.

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: (opt) \_\_\_\_\_ Supervisor/collaborator [  ]

2. Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: (opt) \_\_\_\_\_ Supervisor/collaborator [  ]

3. Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: (opt) Supervisor/collaborator [  ] Application fee

enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, understand that the application fee will not be returned regardless of the action of the Certification Board.

I understand that I have the right to review the contents of my confidential file.

I certify that the information stated above is true to the best of my knowledge, and I request to be considered promptly for certification in the category indicated above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**ISCA Application for Certification Page 4**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Maximum Points</b>
<b>ISCA Member</b> .....	10 points

**Education**

A. BS degree, unrelated field.....	10 points
B. MS degree, unrelated field .....	10 points
C. PhD, unrelated field.....	20 points

**Soil Classification Experience** <sup>1</sup>

A. Soil profile descriptions -1 point per description <sup>2</sup> .....	100 points
B. Wetland Soil Determinations – 1 point per description <sup>2</sup> .....	100 points
C. Judge of Collegiate Soil Judging Contest – 5 points per contest .....	50 points
D. Soil Reports for Waste Water treatment systems – 3 points per report <sup>2</sup> .....	50 points
E. Classify soils per Keys to Soil Taxonomy – 1 point per description <sup>2</sup> .....	50 points
F. Order 1 Soil Survey Map (1) – 1 point per acre mapped <sup>2</sup> .....	25 points
G. Order 2 Soil Survey Map (1) – 1 point per acre mapped <sup>2</sup> .....	25 points
H. Soil interpretations provided – 1 point per instance <sup>2</sup> .....	25 points
I. Judge of High School Soil Judging Contest – 1 point per contest .....	10 points
J. Soil Reports for Stormwater Management – 3 points per report <sup>2</sup> .....	50 points

At least 50 points must be derived from items A or B in the Experience section. Fifty percent of the total points must have occurred within 4 years of the application date for certification.

<sup>1</sup> Soil Classification must meet applicable standards

<sup>2</sup> Double points apply if work was under the supervision of an ISCA certified Soil Classifier