



# Illinois Soil Classifiers Association Newsletter

Winter-February 2017

## Upcoming Events:

42nd Annual Meeting    March 25

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## Message from the President

This year as president of ISCA has been a year of both satisfaction and regrets. I regret that we did not get our "Soils of Illinois Tour" off the ground nor implement on-line PDH reporting. It was satisfying to attend so many quality workshops and activities in the knowledge that research and interest in soil science is alive and well.

There are many unresolved items in the to-do hopper. Some consultants have shared practices required by local health departments that are at odds with the practices intended by state code. Some of these are real eyebrow raisers. Don Fehrenbacher has volunteered to try to open a channel with IDPH for ISCA to comment on some of these policies. If you are practicing soil investigations and encounter questionable policies enforced by specific counties, please share them with the ISCA Council. It may (or may not) be more productive to tackle them en masse thru ISCA and the IDPH rather than wage individual campaigns. We are more than technicians. In our areas of expertise we should try to lead whenever possible.

Speaking of items on our to do list, soon you will receive an online or print and mail questionnaire to assess our member's availability to stand for office, committees, mentoring, or just help with projects and workshops. Another section will ask for information such as if you've served in any of the above capacities in the past. We seem to have too many of the same people being tapped repeatedly. Another anonymous survey will ask what you do or don't value in your ISCA membership and how we can be more relevant to your interests and needs. The organization is in its 42<sup>nd</sup> year of existence. Let's put the pieces in place to observe and celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup>!

Thanks for letting me serve as president this year and best wishes to Todd Soukup as he takes over at our annual meeting. I'd like to extend another big thank you to the council, committees, and certification board, an amazing group of some very dedicated and smart people.

Brad

## 42nd ISCA Annual Meeting

March 25<sup>th</sup> in Champaign, Illinois

Register On-line at the ISCA Website by March 18th, 2017

\*\*This meeting will provide **PDH** for **category 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.\*\*

## Speaker for the Annual Meeting

Speaker Biography: Kevin Dominick is General Manager at Carl's Septic Service, Inc., located in Lemont, IL. He is a third generation family member in the nearly 60-year-old septic service and installation business. Kevin began his formal career at Carl's in 1981 after working part-time through high school and college. A combined interest in science, engineering, and design has led him to a fulfilling career in the on-site wastewater industry.

The title of the presentation: A Contractor's Perspective on Utilizing Soil Information

## ISCA 2017 Election Ballot

\*\* 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 this and 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

Jenwei Tsai

Kristine Ryan

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

### Vice President

Rachel Welch

Joshua Litwiller

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

Submit your ballot: You may bring your ballot to the 2017 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 23rd, 2017 in order to be counted.

## Officer Nomination Biographies

### President Elect

#### Kristine Ryan

Kristine received a B.S. in Plant and Soil Science with an emphasis on soils from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in 2003. She accepted a soil scientist position with the Illinois NRCS in 2004. She worked on soil survey update projects in Northeastern Illinois, Order 1 soil survey mapping projects for the Lake County Forest Preserve District, and was also on the crew that completed the Cook County initial urban soil survey. Kristine also detailed to Georgia in 2009 and Wyoming in 2012 to help in their completion of their initial soil surveys. Currently her office is involved with Drummer and Catlin MLRA field projects identified from the Soil Data Join Re-correlation initiative (SDJR) as well as a handful of map unit consolidation projects. Kristine also received a Masters of Public Health (MPH) from Benedictine University in Lisle, Illinois, in 2010 with studies focused on community gardens and soil contamination. She has become increasingly interested in these topics and has been a shareholder of a Naperville Community Supported Agriculture (CSAs) for many years. Kristine hopes that in the future she can merge her love of soils and natural resources and her MPH to become more involved in community gardening and the local food movement.

#### Jenwei Tsai

Jenwei received her B.S. and M.S. in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences with an emphasis in soils from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2008 and 2011. She is currently working as a Wetland Soil Scientist in the Wetland Science Program at the Illinois Natural History Survey. Jenwei has been involved in soil judging since 2006 both as a judge and as an assistant coach and is currently serving as the Newsletter Committee Chair for ISCA and is the faculty advisor for the Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Society Student Chapter. She has been a member with ISCA since her undergraduate years and is looking forward to become more involved and giving back in the future to this organization.

## Officer Nominations Biographies

### Vice President

#### Rachel Welch

Rachel Welch received her Bachelor's in Natural Resources and Environmental Science with a Minor in Spatial and Quantitative Methods from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 2013 and received her Master's in Crop Science with a concentration in agronomy also from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 2015. Currently, Rachel is a Soil Conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). She started with the NRCS in June 2015 in the Champaign State Office and is now working out of the Normal Field Office in McLean County.

#### Joshua Litwiller

Josh Litwiller graduated from Illinois State University in May 2015. He works full-time with his father-in-law Bill Teater doing on-site soil investigations. Josh became an ISCA member a year ago and hopes to become certified in the near future. He has served in various leadership capacities in the past and is currently involved in a leadership role at his church as a mentor to high school students. Josh lives in Tremont, IL with his wife, Gabrielle.

### ISCA Apparel is now available!!!

Submitted by Mark Bramstedt



A quantity of ISCA sandwich bill caps from Lands' End are available for purchase for a special price of \$10. Caps will be available at the March 25, 2017 ISCA Annual Meeting.

There are three cap colors (Earth, Navy, Red) with the ISCA logo in coordinating colors on the cap front and [illinoissoils.org](http://illinoissoils.org) on the back of the cap. The Earth-colored caps are so appropriate for any Soil Classifier. The Navy caps with orange and white logo will look great on Illini and Bears fans and the Red caps with the B&V logo will appease NIU and ISU alumni. Pick your color before they are gone, because the quantity is limited. We received a special deal on these caps, so the cost won't get any lower.

The ISCA Secretary, Scott Wiesbrook, is holding the caps, so contact the [secretary@illinoissoils.org](mailto:secretary@illinoissoils.org) if you have questions.

## ISCA Apparel is now available!!!

In addition, ISCA now has their own storefront with Lands' End Business Outfitters. The ISCA store is at <https://business.landsend.com/store/ISCA>. Create your own account and order any apparel that you desire. It will be shipped directly to you. You may order any item in the current catalog and have Lands' End add the ISCA logo (\$5.95). You also have the option to choose the location of the logo and change the colors in the logo to coordinate with the item that you are purchasing. Occasionally, Lands' End will have a special offer and not charge to add the embroidered logo, so watch for those specials. Catalog "promotional" items and "silk-screened" items usually have a minimum quantity, so be aware when you are placing your order.

If you have questions concerning the operation of the ISCA Lands' End store, contact [webmaster@illinoissoils.org](mailto:webmaster@illinoissoils.org). If you have specific questions regarding merchandise and ordering, contact Lands' End for assistance.

## Update from Roger

Wiley Scott and Roger Windhorn were on the program and made presentations at the recent Onsite Wastewater Treatment Conference 2017 held in Bloomington. Wiley's presentation was on Soil Classification Reports and Roger's was on Illinois Soils. There was a good crowd of more than 145 folks present. County Health Administrators were present along with contractors and folks from the State Health Department, including Chad Moorman. Lots of good discussion.

## Version 8 Hydric Soil Indicators now available!!!

Submitted by Mark Bramstedt

The long-anticipated release of version 8 of the Hydric Soil Indicators is now here!!!! Thanks to Jen Wollenweber for getting the word out (She's on the NTCHS and an ISCA member). You can also go here: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/soils/use/hydric/> and order hard-copies for you, your friends, and family. Happy reading and pass the word!!!

## National Soil Judging Contest, excerpted from an email from Mike Konen

"I am hosting the national soils contest April 23 - 28 based out of DeKalb. The contest and practice will be in the Bloomington Ridged Plain, Green River Lowlands, and Rock River Hill Country. There are 25 teams from across the country participating.

I would also like to invite ISCA members to attend the contest, especially the individual contest on the Thursday, April 27. Anyone that wants to volunteer is welcome! Especially grading scorecards on Thursday. Members are also invited to attend the banquet on the Sunday at the DeKalb County Farm Bureau Center in Sycamore. Costs for that are yet to be determined but probably about \$20 per attendee. I am still locating practice and contest pits so if anyone has any interesting sites within 45 minutes of DeKalb I'm all ears! Contact me!

Information for the national contest can be found at: <http://2017ncsc.weebly.com/> Please share the website address with ISCA members."

In addition to our members helping out at the contest, ISCA is providing some financial support. If you are able to attend and help Mike out, contact him at: [mkonen@niu.edu](mailto:mkonen@niu.edu)

or by mail: Mike Konen, Associate Professor  
Northern Illinois University, Department of Geography  
212 Davis Hall, DeKalb, Illinois 60115

## ISCA 2016 Fall Tour Summary

Submitted by Bill Kreznor, Doug Gaines, Todd Soukup, and Brad Cate

ISCA Fall Meeting: 11-12 November, 2016

by Bill Kreznor

The dedication of the recently published book *Managing Mississippi and Ohio River Landscapes* by Kenneth R. Olson and Lois Wright Morton states: “To the next generation of soil, water, and social scientists as they seek to understand the complexities of the ever-changing human-natural system”. The program and tour, ably led by Dr. Ken Olson, highlighted land management issues from the perspectives of both natural and social science in the dynamic environment near the confluence of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers.

The pre-tour program in Cape Girardeau, Missouri Friday evening and the Saturday tour was a refreshing change of pace from the usual examination of road cuts and soil pits (although there was a single opportunity to study the sidewall of a recently-incised channel into floodplain sediments). Among the items on which Dr. Olson focused were:

- a natural history of the region;
- a history of flooding and floodplain management in the region;
- damage to and repair of flood management structures;
- reclamation and restoration of farmland;
- impact of flooding on infrastructure and small communities;
- river management and commerce; and
- need for new soil surveys in areas significantly altered by recent (post-1992) flooding.

These and other issues are presented in the form of case studies by Drs. Olson and Morton in their very readable book. Topics are well-documented with a host of photographs, maps, and figures that compliment the text. The program and tour

served to illustrate the authors’ observation: “... these stories reveal that change is the only certainty in river systems”.



Figure 1. Railroad bridge over the Mississippi River at Thebes, Illinois. The bridge was built in 1905. The river valley is narrow (about 2000 feet wide) and the channel is lined with bedrock at this location: an excellent spot for a bridge.

Of particular interest was the last item listed above: the need for updated soil surveys in areas significantly altered by flood events. Drs. Olson and Morton have written about areas damaged by sedimentation, land scouring, and gully formation. A good portion of the tour featured stops illustrating the damage and reclamation efforts (Figures 2, 3, and 4). Dr. Olson suggested a need for detailed soil mapping in order to characterize the type of damages and their extent. Mapping would provide valuable information for prioritizing reclamation projects and developing reconstruction and management plans. Detailed soil maps may also offer a basis for determining land valuation as landowners seek settlement for flood damage and re-assessment of damaged and reclaimed lands for equitable taxation.



Figure 2. Sidewall of recently-incised channel through floodplain sediments at the Dogtooth Bend peninsula. The channel was formed as a result of a levee breach in January 2016. The breach was still open on the tour date and the nearly 7,000-foot long channel still connected to the Mississippi River. Dr. Olson pointed out that subsequent flood events may lengthen the channel and cause more damage. Ultimately, it could enter an older meander scar and re-connect with the river, making the peninsula an island.



Figure 3. Tour leader Dr. Ken Olson strolls over sediments deposited as a result of a breach in the levee (background). Dr. Olson is an advocate for new soil surveys in areas that have been scoured, gullied, or buried in sediments as a result of recent flooding.



Figure 4. Breached levee. This breach occurred in January 2016 and is about one mile in length. Rip rap to the right of the levee breach was subsequently placed as a “repair”, but only covers a portion of the breach.



Figure 5. The Olmstead Lock and Dam on the Ohio River. This \$2.9 billion project was started in 1995 and is scheduled for a 2020 opening. Completion of this structure along with the removal of two sets of locks and dams upstream will reduce navigation time on the lower Ohio River by 3 hours.



Figure 6. The Cairo, Illinois floodwall, built after the Great Flood of 1927, protects this city along its east side from the Ohio River.



Figure 7. Tour participants stretch their legs and observe barge traffic on the Ohio River at the Cairo floodwall.



Figure 8. Observation tower at Fort Defiance Park in Cairo. The park is at the southern tip of Illinois at the confluence of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers. Dr. Ken Olson (right) stands near the level attained by floodwaters in the spring of 2011.

By Todd Soukup

The ISCA Fall Workshop was held on November 11 and 12, 2016. The workshop began in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, on Friday evening, where Dr. Kenneth Olson presented some of his research and observations concerning historic drainage and diking efforts along and near the Mississippi River, recent flooding and levee failures in the vicinity, and subsequent property damage that occurred in Alexander County, Illinois. Saturday dawned clear and crisp, making for good conditions to visit some of the areas he described the evening before. Participants viewed the relatively narrow, bedrock-controlled Mississippi River channel near Thebes, levee breaches and associated property damage near Miller City, and river diversions and drainage efforts made in the past to allow farming in the region. After lunching near the bald cypress trees at Horseshoe Lake spillway, the group continued on to visit the large Olmstead Lock and Dam construction project on the Ohio River near Mounds. The tour ended with a visit to the floodwall in Cairo, along with viewing the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers from Fort Defiance State Park.

The workshop was very informative and well organized, giving participants a glimpse of an area rarely seen by many members of our Association. These workshops are excellent opportunities to learn something new and get to know other members better. Please consider attending one in the future!

Please see next page for more photos submitted by Brad Cate and Doug Gaines.



## 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](mailto:newsletter@illinoissoils.org)

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



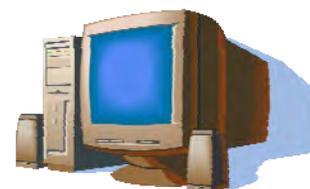
### ISCA Newsletter Committee is looking for pictures of its members, past or present, to include in future newsletters.

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)**

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### Change of Address Form

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

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

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