



Illinois Soil Classifiers Association Newsletter

Spring-June 2017

Upcoming Events:

Soil Texture Sampling	On-going
Hydric Soils Class	TBD
Fall meeting	Tentative 10/7

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Message from the President

I had the opportunity to assist with the National Collegiate Soils Contest sponsored by Northern Illinois University in April. Mike Konen and his associates put on an admirable show despite conditions more conducive to aquaculture than soil classifying. Almost 200 participants from 25 universities took part, and their enthusiasm was a treat to witness.

Soil science career opportunities in private industry are more common than they were in 1989 when I started mapping soils for the Soil Conservation Service. Unfortunately, the availability of public sector positions has dropped considerably. Numerous collegiate soils programs have shrunk, and student concerns about future employment prospects discourage their pursuit of soil science as a career. Understanding soils and interpreting their behavior remains critical in agronomic, engineering, and resource management disciplines, however.

Who will make up the next generation of soil classifiers? What career paths will be available to them? How can we encourage young people, such as those at the Soils Contest, to make soil science their profession? In future messages I will share my thoughts on this topic, and invite you to share your views with me at the email address shown below. I want to thank my predecessor Brad for his great work in this office, and look forward to serving as your president.

Todd Soukup
soukup1920@gmail.com

2017 - 2018 ISCA Committees

The following ISCA members have agreed to serve on committees. Thank you for your service!

Finance	Rachel Welch (Chair), Josh Litwiller, Kristine Ryan
PR & Education	Josh Litwiller (Chair), Bill Teater, Rachel Welch
Certification Board	Sam Indorante (Chair), Pat Kelsey (Secretary), Ken Anderson, Scott Wegman, Galen Litwiller, Bob McCleese
Ethics, Certification, & Membership	Bruce Putman (Chair), Scott Wiesbrook, Mark Bramstedt, Mike Konen, Jenwei Tsai
Newsletter	Jenwei Tsai (Chair), Alicia Metzger, Dennis Keene
Constitution/Bylaws	Clayton Heffter (Chair)
Nominations	Brad Cate (Chair)

Ad-Hoc and Special Appointee Committees

State Advisory Commission for Private Sewage Disposal	Don Fehrenbacher (Chair)
Soils of Illinois Tour	Kristine Ryan (Chair)
Multi-year Plan	Kristine Ryan (Chair)
Soil Texture Sampling Project	Bill Teater (Chair), Bob Tegeler, Mark Bramstedt, Jenwei Tsai, and Bob McLeese
Webmaster	Mark Bramstedt
Historian	Bill Kreznor

Some photos from the Soil Judging Contest at NIU

Big shout out to Dr. Mike Konen for hosting the National Soil Judging Contest this April and for all those ISCA members who helped out at the contest! Congratulations to University of Maryland for winning the contest.



Photo credit:
Mike Konen &
Rachel Welch

Soil Texture Sampling Project

Submitted by Bill Teater, Bob Tegeler, Rick Francen, and Jenwei Tsai

Wanted: Motivated, hardworking, volunteering, Soil Classifiers!!!

Most of you have heard that ISCA has embarked on a project to obtain “known” soil samples to help with training and recalibration of texturing soil. Soils will be sampled from all the major parent materials, and all over the State. Future soil classifiers need this and experienced classifiers need to recalibrate in order not to stray from good texturing judgement.

The plan in the end is to supply both NRCS and ISCA with about 36 five gallon containers each, filled with soil samples that have texture data. We are collecting 12-14 gallons of material from a specific layer, drying them, and crushing the samples, and hopefully having 2 full five gallon buckets. As you can imagine, this will be a labor-intensive project.

We have already started to sample soils and ready them for lab analysis. A few of us visited South Farms at the University of Illinois and sampled out of the typical sites for Drummer, and Flanagan. We were able to collect 2 of the targeted samples on the Texture project “Hit List” (see the following page for the list and some photos from the sampling trip).

Please browse our ISCA web site and review the list for targeted textures in your area. The MLRA offices, joined with Resource Soil Scientists will also be looking for opportunities to sample pits, escarpments, etc. in order to collect as many of the different types on the “hit list” possible. All ISCA members can volunteer and work with them in the sampling or the processing to get the samples ready for the lab. As you, Certified Soil Scientist, do on-sites, may have especially easy sites to sample right under your noses. Most of you work with installers that also excavate basements. These may be very easy places to get access and permission for sampling. As we get samples of each targeted type, please notify me (Bill Teater) so we can take that targeted type off the Hit List. (we won't need 10 Silt loam loess surfaces)

So.... Please review the Hit List for what we are still after. Find something in your area and go for it!! We need 3 five gallon buckets of each sample type. You can pick up buckets from the Champaign NRCS office or purchase 5 gallon buckets at Menards or Home depot for \$2.97 each. If you decide to purchase the buckets, you can be reimbursed or decide to donate to the cause. Please DON'T let the sample dry into one big hard 5 gallon lump. We need the sample spread out, dried and crushed. If you have any questions or need clarification on the processing procedure, or just want to make sure you are not duplicating someone else's work, please call / text / email me.

Bill Teater

309-241-1367
soilsbybill@gmail.com

Soil Texture Sampling Project Hit List

Loess:

- * Silt
- * Silt Loam
- * Silty Clay Loam >35%
- * Silty Clay Loam <35%
- * Silty Clay

Eolian:

- * Fine Sand
- * Sand
- * Loamy Fine Sand
- * Loamy Sand
- * Fine Sandy Loam
- * Sandy Loam

Glacial Till: Samples from both illitic and mixed clay minerology, if it is common

- * Sandy loam
- * Loam
- * Silt Loam
- * Clay Loam
- * Silty Clay Loam >35%
- * Silty Clay Loam <35%
- * Silty Clay

Outwash & Alluvium:

- * Loam
- * Gravelly loam
- * Sandy Loam
- * Gravelly Sandy Loam
- * Loamy Sand
- * Gravelly Loamy Sand
- * Clay Loam
- * Gravelly Clay Loam
- * Silty Clay Loam
- * Sandy Clay Loam
- * Silt Loam >15%
- * Silt Loam <15%
- * Silty Clay

Residuum: The 2-3 most needed

- * Loam
- * Silt Loam
- * Clay Loam
- * Silty Clay Loam
- * Silty Clay
- * Clay

We obtained from the Loess group: SIL and SICL (<35%) from the Catlin pit at the University of Illinois South Farm. See the below photos from our trip.



Some Upcoming Events

Fall meeting is tentatively scheduled for 10/7 in Southern Illinois. More information will be advertised later via email.

Hydric Soils Class details is still being worked out. More information will also be advertised via email.

New Soil Survey Manual Now Available!

Submitted by Bob Tegeler

Please go to the following link to obtain the new Soil Survey Manual:
<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDANRCS/bulletins/19fbdb>

www.illinoissoils.org

ISCA Newsletter Staff

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Submissions

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

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

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

Publication Schedule

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



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

ISCA on Facebook

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



ISCA Newsletter Committee is looking for pictures of 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

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

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

Change of Address Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

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