



Illinois Soil Classifiers Association Newsletter

Summer-September 2017

Upcoming Events:

Hydric Soils Class 9/27-9/28

Fall meeting 10/7

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Message from the President

In my last message I posed several questions about future careers in soil science. A key component, in my view, is creating awareness among young people that careers in natural resources are available. Not too many ten-year-olds want to grow up to be a soil classifier, but they can be encouraged to get outdoors and experience nature. This is not always an easy task in our technological age, I know, but avenues to accomplish this do exist. Get involved with 4H and FFA programs in your area; their leaders are often looking for volunteers to help with judging or student projects. If your surroundings are more urban, lend your knowledge to local nature centers or forest preserve districts that sponsor youth programs. Most kids (and adults too) enjoy finding out how the landscapes they live on formed. Conversations about soils on those landscapes can take off from there.

We are equipped to be the best evangelists for our occupation, and should take advantage of that fact. My hat is off to the many of you already sharing your time and knowledge. We must engage and encourage a new generation to follow in our footsteps. Our profession's future depends upon it.

Todd Soukup
soukup1920@gmail.com

2017 Hydric Soils Class

ISCA is sponsoring a two-day "Hydric Soils for Wetland Delineation" course in northeastern Illinois on **September 27 - 28, 2017**. Participants may choose to attend the complete course or may choose single day attendance.

Day One will be held at the DuPage County Government Complex in Wheaton, IL and Day Two will be held at the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, IL. Registration for the course may be made on the illinoissoils.org homepage. All participants must pre-register. The registration deadline is **September 24**. No on-site registration will be accepted.

Payment may be made on-line with a credit card or PayPal or may be paid by check on-site (no on-site credit card payments). Checks should be made payable to "Illinois Soil Classifiers Association". Class is limited to 30 participants.

Contact Mark Bramstedt at webmaster@illinoissoils.org for questions.

Please find an abbreviated agenda for the course in the following page.



Hydric Soil Indicators for Wetland Delineation

Wednesday, September 27, 2017 — Soil Properties and the Hydric Soil Indicators DuPage County Government Complex 421 N. County Farm Road, Wheaton, IL 60187

8:00-8:30

- Registration/Check-in – \$100 (\$50 for ISCA Full Members); \$75 for single day attendance payable to Illinois Soil Classifiers Association

8:30-12:00

- Introduction
- Basic Properties of Hydric Soils - Mary Beth Falsey
- Formation of Redoximorphic Features - Mark Bramstedt
- Soils, Landscapes, and Water Flow - Roger Windhorn
- Introduction to Hydric Soil Indicators - Mark Bramstedt
- Hydric Soil Indicators of the Midwest Supplement and how to describe them - Alicia Metzger
- Soil Texture Exercise - Mary Beth Falsey/Instructors

12:00-1:00

- Lunch (on your own)

1:00-3:30

- Hydric Soils in the Field

Thursday, September 28, 2017—Field Application of Hydric Soil Indicators The Morton Arboretum 4100 Illinois Route 53, Lisle, IL 60532

8:00-8:30

- Registration – \$75 for single day attendance payable to Illinois Soil Classifiers Association

8:30-8:45

- Recap of Day I - Ken Anderson

8:45-9:15

- Disturbed and Problem Soils - Mark Bramstedt

9:15-12:30

- Field Identification of Indicators
- Hydric Soils in the Field

12:30-12:45

- Review of the field activity - Instructors

Instructors—All instructors are members/soil classifiers of the Illinois Soil Classifiers Association:

- Kenneth N. Anderson, Jr., Director, Kane County Division of Environmental & Water Resources
- Mark Bramstedt, Soil Scientist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Mary Beth Falsey, Water Quality Supervisor, DuPage County Stormwater Management
- Clayton Heffter, Stormwater Permitting Manager, DuPage County
- Alicia Metzger, Professional Wetland Scientist/Soil Scientist, V3 Companies
- Roger Windhorn, Soil Scientist/NRCS State Geologist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (retired)

Fall Meeting Information

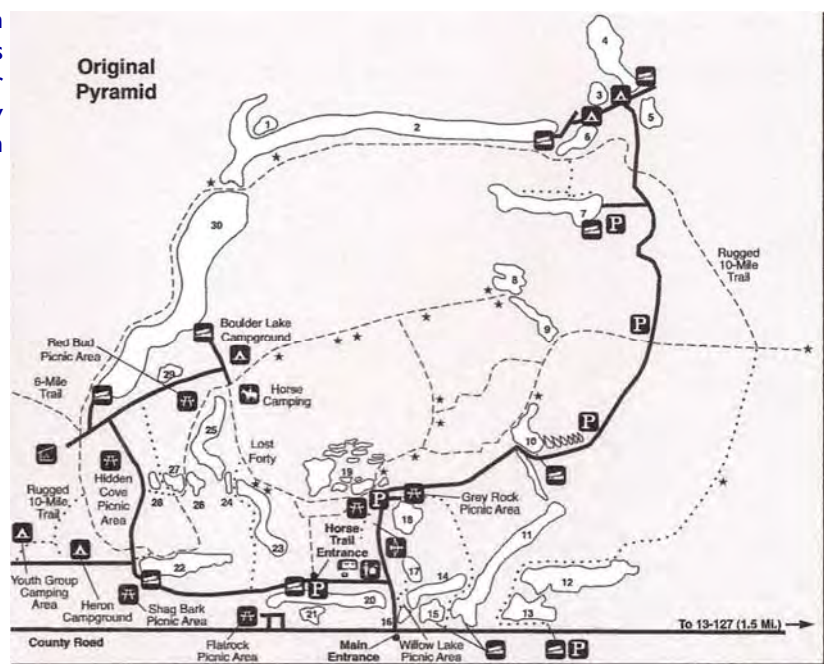
The 2017 ISCA Fall Meeting will take place on **October 7, 2017** at **Pyramid State Park** south of Pinckneyville in Perry County. Sam Indorante and Kristine Ryan are coordinating this year's meeting, which is themed **Anthropogenic Soils**. Sam helped sample and describe mined and reclaimed research sites over 30 years in age last fall with Dr. Kevin McSweeney, Bob Dunker, and Stan Sipp of the University of Illinois, and Ron Collman of the NRCS. The tour is anticipated to include stops to view soils not mined, soils mined for coal but not reclaimed, and soils that have been mined and reclaimed. Kristine has offered to give a presentation during lunch that will discuss Soil Taxonomy as applied to anthropogenic soils.



The meeting will begin at **11am** at the park's new meeting building, with a catered box lunch. Field sites will be visited following lunch, with the tour concluding at about 3 pm. The main entrance for Pyramid State Park is located on a county road 1.5 miles west of Illinois Routes 13-127 in Pyatts.

The closest lodging available is located in Pinckneyville, with one option being America's Best Value Inn & Suites (618-357-5600). Other lodging options are located in Sparta (Holiday Inn Express and Briarwood Inn) and Du Quoin (Fairgrounds Inn, Super 8).

Planning is still in progress, so please watch our website for updates on registering for the meeting. October in southern Illinois is a beautiful time of year, so please make plans to attend!



2017 Farm Progress Show

Submitted by Roger Windhorn

We had another successful ISCA Soil Pit Display at this year's Farm Progress Show!! Thanks very much to the participants that were at the pit for the show!!

Those individuals are: John Ford, Bob McLeese, Wiley Scott, Bill Gradle, Jenwei Tsai, Scott Wiesbrook, Dave Rahe, Ron Coleman, Rick Francine, Mark Bramstedt, Bob Tegeler

Troy Fehrenbacher and myself were there the entire time.

These folks not only did a great job discussing the Flanagan soil on display but also general soil development of Illinois Soils. We visited with literally thousands of folks and talked soils with folks from eleven different countries! Good discussion between the ISCA members is always great!!

Thanks again!!
— Roger



Photo credit:
Jenwei Tsai

Looking Backward

by Bill Kreznor, ISCA Historian

“The effect of change in surroundings is like that of lapse of time in making the past seem remote.”

—Edward Bellamy from his novel *Looking Backward*

Greetings and welcome to the beginning of what I hope will be a regular feature in our Newsletter: an essay exploring an event and people of the ISCA. Our Association will officially begin its 43rd year in September, and we have a lot of history behind us. I've just begun to look over the archives that were ceremoniously conveyed to me via President Soukup's pickup truck earlier this year upon my appointment as the 4th Historian of the ISCA. I'd like to acknowledge the fine work of my predecessors, Les Bushue (1993-2000), Roger Windhorn (2001-2009), and Steve Zwicker (2010-2016), in collecting, preserving, and organizing our Association's documents, photos, and memorabilia. I'd also tip my hat to Mark Bramstedt who has kept the past alive with his "Days Gone By" photo gallery that has become a regular feature in this medium.

So, what's the deal with Edward Bellamy? Some of you may know that I began my post-high school education as a student of American history. It took me two years to figure out that such a path was not for me. My calling would take me on the less-travelled path of forestry and soil science. I still have a fondness for history which I think will serve me well as ISCA Historian. In the course of my studies of history, I became quite interested in Utopian Socialism and the writings of its founders Henri-de Saint-Simon, Charles Fourier, and Robert Owen. I was particularly fascinated with the Utopian communities established in the USA beginning in the early 19th century. Most of these communities were short-lived, their inhabitants long gone. Some of the physical trappings they left behind has been preserved and can be seen at such locations as New Harmony, Indiana and the Amana Colonies of Iowa County, Iowa. Edward Bellamy was a Christian socialist born in Massachusetts. In 1888, he published a novel *Looking Backward* that tells the story of a middle-age Bostonian who is mysteriously transported from 1887 to a utopian community in the year 2000. Maybe Bellamy's spirit will accompany us on a series of what I hope will be interesting and enjoyable journeys "looking backward" into the history of ISCA.

The ISCA Logo

The original ISCA logo (Figure 1) was developed in early 1976 by a Symbols and Letterhead Committee chaired by Walt Parks. It was approved by the Executive Council and submitted to the general membership for a vote of approval. Upon its approval, it was put into use on ISCA stationery and an informational brochure later that year. The logo attempts to convey many aspects of land use and management: residential development, agriculture, transportation, and urban/industrial development. A stylized soil profile with the tools of the Soil Classifier (probe and spade) forms the base upon which soil use and management rest. An embroidered patch (Figure 2) was soon made available for purchase and began appearing on the hats of many of our members. The official selection of the new and current logo (Figure 6) was announced and published in the Spring 1993 edition of the Newsletter. It appears to combine features of two or three of what might have been the more popular choices from 1990, and is perhaps an appropriate compromise among the preferences of the members of our Association.

Looking Backward continued

by Bill Kreznor, ISCA Historian

In June of 1989, Mark Matusiak suggested to the Council that the logo be updated. He and others believed the logo was too “busy” in its attempt to cover the many aspects of soils and land use. When reduced in size for printing on stationery, many of the features were unrecognizable. A cleaner and clearer logo was needed. The Council agreed and solicited suggestions for a new logo from the membership. In November of 1990, eight possible logo designs (Figure 3) were published in the Newsletter and members were asked to “vote” their preference. There was no clear winner and the effort was put on the back burner. Some members may not have been pleased with the direction and pace of the adoption of a new logo. A “renegade” logo (Figure 4 and Logo No. 1 in Figure 3) appeared on the handbooks published for the ISCA Fall Meeting in both 1990 and 1992. Its use had not been officially sanctioned by the Council. Another logo candidate (No. 5 of Figure 3) has found its way into current use. Note its similarity to the ISCA “refrigerator” magnet (Figure 5).

The official selection of the new and current logo (Figure 6) was announced and published in the Spring 1993 edition of the Newsletter. It appears to combine features of two or three of what might have been the more popular choices from 1990, and is perhaps an appropriate compromise among the preferences of the members of our Association.

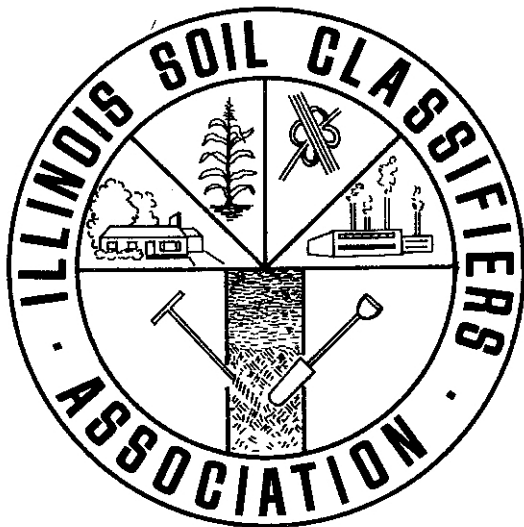


Figure 1. The first ISCA logo developed by the Symbols and Letterhead Committee made its debut in November of 1976.



Figure 2. The ISCA logo embroidered patch was available for purchase. Size (2.5-inches in diameter) and colors were standard; no option available.

Looking Backward continued

by Bill Kreznor, ISCA Historian

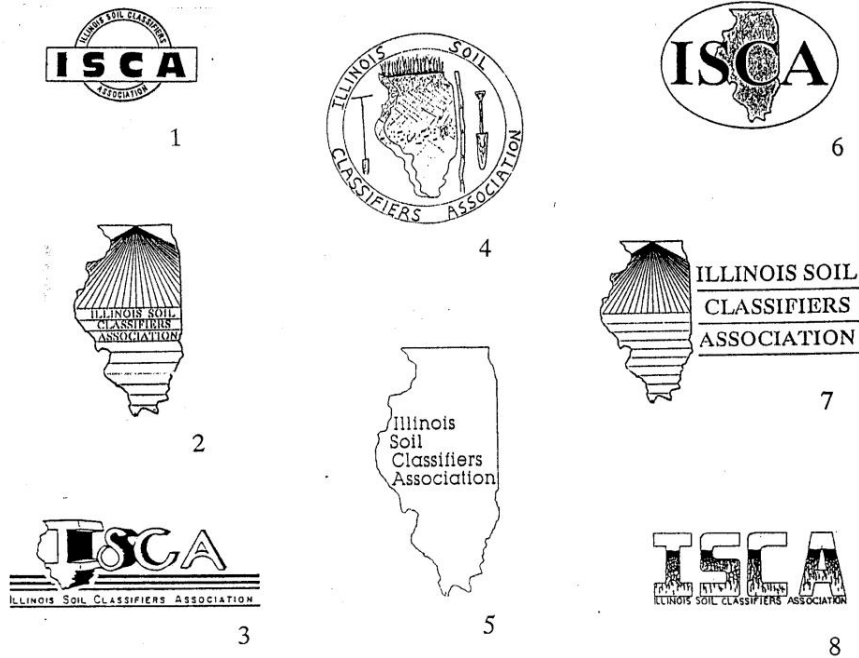


Figure 3. The proposed logo design candidates submitted to the membership in 1990 to replace the 1976 logo.



Figure 4. This "renegade" logo saw limited use from late 1990 through late 1992.



Figure 5. The ISCA refrigerator magnet: a descendant of the one of the 1990 logo proposals.



Figure 6. Our current logo, adopted in the spring of 1993, appears to be a hybrid of several of the designs submitted in 1990.

Catlin MLRA Field Project—MLRA 108B (Lee and Ogle Counties)

Submitted by Kristine Ryan

The **Catlin** series is a benchmark soil mapped predominantly in MLRA 108A but with some acreage occurring in MLRA's 108B, 110, and 115C. The Catlin Series occurs in loess and the underlying calcareous till and has a water table of 2 to 3.5 feet, usually occurring on the Wisconsin till plain. The series concept had been previously correlated in similar positions on the Illinois till plain, but it appeared to be better drained. At one time, the Catlin series allowed for a "dual" drainage classes. The former Rock Falls MLRA office established the Parkway Series in Henry County (MLRA 108B) in 2001, reflecting a seasonal high water table at a depth of 4 to 6 feet. Parkway has a similar parent material sequence when compared to Catlin, with the difference being that it occurs on the Illinois till plain rather than the Wisconsin till plain. The difference in these till plains is the age of parent material, with the Wisconsin till plain being younger geology. Soils that had been mapped as Catlin on the Illinois till plain-which should correlate strongly with MLRA 108B-have been correlated to the Parkway series as a result of soil survey update activity in northwest Illinois.

The Catlin type location (OSD) occurs in MLRA 108B even though the distribution reflects the Wisconsin Glacial advance in MLRA 108A. The series was established in Vermilion County and it's uncertain why the OSD location was moved to Ogle County. When McLean and Champaign Counties survey areas were updated the representative pedon for Catlin that was chosen came from Champaign County. It was later moved to McLean County. There are no notes documenting why the Champaign pedon was initially used, but it is assumed it was because Ogle is dominantly in 108B and likely loess over Illinoisan till. Additionally, in 2011, the McLean County data map unit became the representative data map unit for Catlin (2 to 5 percent slopes) in all of MLRA 108A. The Aurora soil survey office will investigate the Catlin series in MLRA 108B in Lee and Ogle Counties, re-correlate the series in these survey areas if necessary, and relocate the Catlin OSD location from Ogle County (MLRA 108B) to McLean County (MLRA 108A). The area better fits the central concept for the Catlin series. The new OSD type location will be sampled and sent to the Kellogg Soil Survey Laboratory (KSSL) for a full characterization. The new data collected will updated in NASIS.

During the fall 2017 and spring 2018 (potentially), the Aurora office would like to open up soil pits in Lee and Ogle Counties to obtain better observation points. Our goal is to gain a better understanding of the geology of the parent material in which Catlin formed. We will find suitable Catlin locations through spatial analysis, pedons/transect descriptions in NASIS, reviewing historical pedon descriptions from the Lee/Ogle survey areas, and talking with soil scientists with knowledge of the area. Our office will need help from the field office staff in reaching out to landowners who would be willing to help us in our investigation by allowing us access to their property. Staff from the regional office, state office, field offices, consultants and retired soil scientists will attend.

Data will be updated including new field observations and the OSD type location sampled. Some map line work will be modified and all data associated with the data map units will be updated.

ISCA Gear Ordering

ISCA Gear - ISCA now has our 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. Current "free logo" offer (Code=EMFLFS) ends 9/15. Catalog "promotional" items and "silkscreened" 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. If you have specific questions regarding merchandise and ordering, contact Lands' End for assistance.

www.illinoissoils.org

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Submissions

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

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

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

Publication Schedule

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



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

ISCA on Facebook

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



ISCA Newsletter Committee is looking for pictures of 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!



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: _____

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E-Mail: _____

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