



# Illinois Soil Classifiers Association Newsletter

Spring-June 2018

## Upcoming Events:

Soils of Illinois TBD

## Inside this issue:

Message From the President	1-2
New Member Bio	3
ISCA on Facebook	4

## Message from the President

With recent national and local discussions and concerns about the future of the discipline of soils and careers in soil science, I thought back over my career in soil science and realized that there have been a few things that have been constant, since I started in 1977. One of those constants is "Time", one of the 5 soil forming factors. Time changes Entisols to Inceptisols to Alfisols. Time changes us, as well, allowing transformations, translocations, and the development of our own personal argillic horizon. I can see the impact of Time in the mirror; my personal "topsoil" eroding to a bare summit, and so on! Time allows change to happen and nothing stays the same.

The Illinois Soil Classifiers Association has been nearly as constant as Time, since its inception in 1975 with our values, mission, functions, and objectives. As stated in our brochure, the objectives of ISCA are; "to Protect the Public Welfare", "Advance the Profession of Soil Classifying", and "Promote the Wise Use and Conservation of the Soils of Illinois". Our Association continues to be steady. Even during the hey-days of mapping, ISCA was never larger than about 100-ish members, with under half of the membership certified. Even today, ISCA has 105 members with 46 certified. ISCA is also affected by Time, as members change, move on, or pass from life into soil. Are we older? Maybe. But I remember the day that ISCA was dominated by the likes of Joe Fehrenbacher, Burt Ray, Cliff Miles, Fred Awalt, and others from the previous generation. I wonder if that generation was concerned about the future of the discipline as they saw the discipline change? Rest assured, ISCA is still a relevant organization. We have founding members of the Association, we have members who joined in the 1980s - 2000s, and we have members who have joined in recent years and weren't part of the "once-over" mapping days. Members from all those generations are active and ISCA is alive and well.

Reading back through old Newsletters, there is also a constant reminder from the in-coming President to call for action and involvement by all ISCA members. I am excited that we have interested members offering to serve as committee chairs and as officers on the Council. This year we plan to accomplish the first segment of the Soils of Illinois Tour (future plans for a multi-day tour). We will host a Field Day for testing and honing our skills, helping members obtain experience with soil evaluations for septic systems. In addition, a soil/landscape manual is under development to help guide and define the process of describing soil, and to standardize technical terminology for our membership. To help with these activities, the Council will again, try to get input from our membership. Your input is vital for guiding the activities of the Council. Please watch for a Survey Monkey or some other method in the up-coming weeks, for you to easily give your "two cents' worth" of comments. If you are interested in helping with any of these activities, let your name be known. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Here are the names of the Executive Council and the 2018 Committee Chairs. Some of the committees may need more members, so if you are willing to help, send a note to:

[Council@illinoissoils.org](mailto:Council@illinoissoils.org)

### 2018 ISCA Council

President – Bramstedt

Vice President – Josh Litwiller

Secretary – Scott Wiesbrook

Treasurer – Charles Frazee

President Elect – Marybeth Falsey

Past President – Todd Soukup

## President's Message

### Committee Chairs and Special Appointments

Constitution, By-Laws, and Legislative Committee – Alicia Metzger, chair. Members: Ian Kenney and Patrick VerHalen  
Ethics, Certification, and Membership – Bruce Houghtby, chair. Members: Marybeth Falsey, Carol Latowski, and Dennis Keene

Nominations – Todd Soukup, chair. Members: Doug Gaines and Frank Heisner

Public Relations and Education – Jay Wise, chair. Members: TBD

Finance – Josh Litwiller, chair. Members: Galen Litwiller and Bill Teater

Newsletter – Jenwei Tsai, chair. Members: Rachel Welch, Dennis Keene, and Alicia Metzger

Technical Advisory Committee – Brad Cate, chair. Members: Don Fehrenbacher, Bruce Putman, and Clayton Heffter

Special Appointee to Advisory Commission – Don Fehrenbacher

Historian – William Kreznor

Webmaster – Bramstedt

Ad Hoc Soils of Illinois Tour committee – Sarah Smith

Ad Hoc Soil Texture committee – Bill Teater

### Certification Board

Kenneth Anderson '19

Patrick Kelsey '19

Robert McLeese '20

Galen Litwiller '20

Robert Tegeler '21

Roger Windhorn '21

—Mark Bramstedt



Todd handing off the gavel to Mark at the 2018 annual meeting. Thank you, Todd for your service as our fearless leader this past year! Congratulations, Mark and thank you for saying yes to serve us!

## New Member Bio

### Welcome to ISCA Dr. Clay Robinson!

I consider myself an ambassador for soil. It is this passion that spawned my alter-ego, Dr. Dirt, who has a web-page of soil science activities for teachers and students, and a social media presence (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube). Dr. Dirt has talked with hundreds of teachers and more than 20,000 K-12 students, sending them home with the message that without soil, everyone would be hungry, naked, and homeless. (Check out the YouTube video for the presentation and motions.) This passion led to his work on the Soil Science Society of America's K-12 committee, and to being a co-editor of the popular 2012 textbook, "Know Soil, Know Life", published by the Soil Science Society of America.

Clay earned a BS in Agriculture and an MS in Agronomy from West Texas State University, and a PhD in Soil Science from Iowa State University. He has worked in arid and semiarid regions for 25 years as a professor of soil science, and as an environmental consultant. He often has been invited to speak and write about the Dust Bowl, and the climatic factors, agricultural practices, and political policies that contributed to it, and was featured in the Dust Bowl documentary, "Black Blizzard". He also served as the Education Manager for the American Society of Agronomy and the Soil Science Society of America, and just completed his second year at Illinois State University where he has returned to his roots, studying the effects of management practices on soil properties. (He did research on soil health before it was cool.) Due to his consulting work and coaching teams for the collegiate soils contest, he has described soils in four countries on three continents, and in seventeen states. Illinois Mollisols and Alfisols are much different than those in other areas where he has worked.



[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.



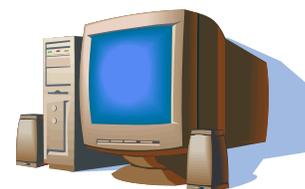
### ISCA Newsletter Committee is looking for pictures of its members, past or present, to include in future newsletters.

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!



**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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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