



# Illinois Soil Classifiers Association Newsletter

Summer-August 2018

## Upcoming Events:

Soils of Illinois Oct. 19-20  
Tour

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## Message from the President

Soil Classifiers and Friends,

From our inception, ISCA has continued to provide learning opportunities to, not only our own membership, but to other Friends of the Soil. This year is no different. Check out the announcement for our Fall Meeting. Both the Soils of Illinois Tour - North Central Segment and the Seminar for Septic Evaluations provide opportunities for all of our membership to broaden their understanding of soils in our own backyard. In addition, the Soils of Illinois Tour is not only for soil classifiers, but we are encouraging restoration ecologists, CCAs, educators, public health department staff, master naturalists, and others who have an interest in the soils of Illinois to attend this event. On the second day of our fall meeting, the septic seminar will provide opportunities for both the experienced and the inexperienced soil classifier to hone their skills on evaluating and classifying soils and to compare results against other soil classifiers. Don't miss out!

Over the past several years, there has been interest from ISCA members in developing a state-wide tour of the major soils and landscapes in Illinois. A thought came to me recently, that over the years, ISCA has already developed a Soils of IL Tour. I remember summer and fall meetings over the past 40 years across the whole state on major landscapes, checking out the soils and learning about the major soils of Illinois. These meetings included the Central States Forest Soils workshops, as well as the fall meetings of ISCA. If you were part of the crews that led one of our summer/fall field trips, or if you saved the guidebook and reports from those meetings, let me know what you have. We may be able to re-create a Soils of Illinois Tour from all of our previous field trips! That would be an amazing tour!

Hope to see you in October in north-central Illinois!

—Mark

## Soils of Illinois Fall Tour

Submitted by Don Fehrenbacher

### **SAVE THE DATE** NORTHERN ILLINOIS SOILS FIELD WORKSHOP Friday, October 19th, 2018



**8:00 AM** Registration at DeKalb County Farm Bureau, 1350 W Prairie Dr., Sycamore, IL.

Coach Bus Transportation from Farm Bureau Parking Lot and Return will be provided.

**8:30 AM** Buses Depart

**Lunch** will also be provided. A **small fee** will be charged to cover costs.

CEU's for Septic Contractors

Speakers:

Dr. Michael Konen, Geography Dept., Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL

Mr. Bruce Putman, Putman Soil Testing Inc, Woodstock, IL

Mr. Tom Copenhaver, Coordinator for OWTS and Water Wells, Lake Co. Health Dept.

Mr. Brad Woodson, Natural Resource Manager, McHenry Co. Conservation Dist.

**Follow-up session on Soil Evaluations on Saturday, October 20th in Big Rock, IL area.**

Illinois Soil Classifiers Association: registration will be available soon at <http://www.illinoissoils.org/>

## More on Soils of Illinois Fall Tour and Field Seminar

Submitted by Sarah Smith, Alicia Metzger, and Brad Cate

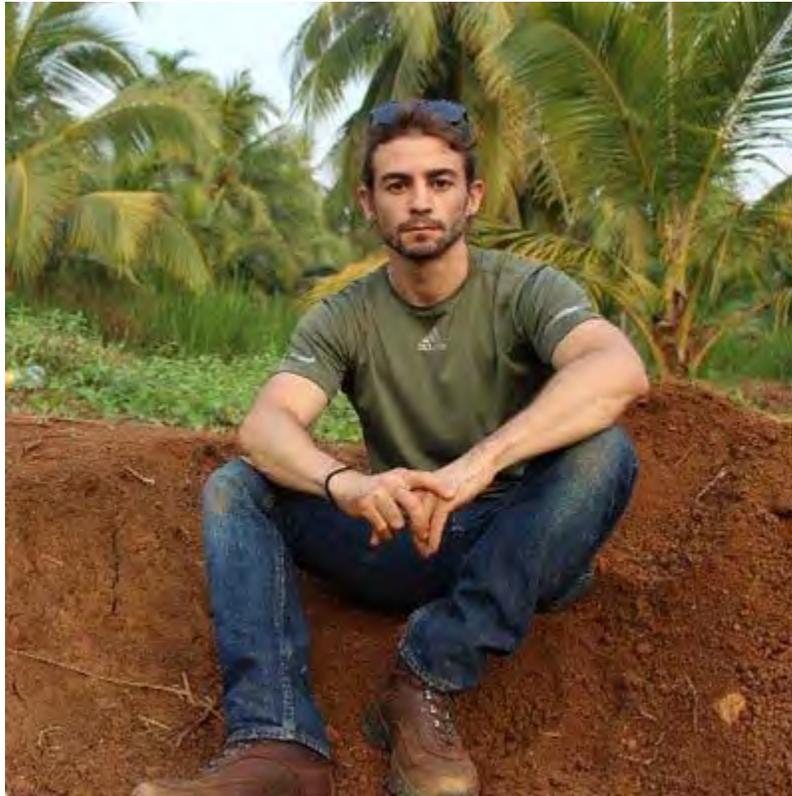
The tour, on Friday the 19<sup>th</sup>, will include three stops in DeKalb and McHenry counties to observe a variety of parent materials, landscapes, and land use among other things. We plan to include soil scientists, certified crop advisors (CCAs), local health department officials, Master Naturalists, and educators as tour participants. Presentations and group discussions will include topics of interest for each of these groups.

On Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup>, there will be a field seminar focused on providing instruction for septic site evaluations. Anyone is invited to participate, but the focus will be on consultants who conduct these evaluations on a daily basis. Topics of discussion will include how to locate and document soil borings, key components to be evaluated in a soil, how to assign loading rates, and what should be included in a soil evaluation report. Experienced evaluators will be on site to help guide the discussion and descriptions. There will also be a field exam held for certified members and those just wanting to practice their skills. One-on-one mentoring opportunities will be available for those seeking certification or brushing up. If you are eligible for a field practicum to finish the certification process, this may be a good opportunity to satisfy that need.

More information on registration and agendas will come soon. If anyone has questions or comments, please send them to [sarah.smith@il.usda.gov](mailto:sarah.smith@il.usda.gov).

## New Member Bio

### Welcome to ISCA Dr. Andrew Margenot!



Dr. Margenot began his journey in soils upon joining the graduate program in soil science at the University of California Davis. He conducted his doctoral research on phosphorus cycling, with an emphasis on weathered soils in East Africa. After graduating in 2016 with a PhD in Soils and Biogeochemistry, he was a postdoctoral researcher at UC Davis studying metal nanoparticle impacts on soil nutrient cycling.

In August 2017, he joined the Department of Crop Science at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign as Assistant Professor of Soil Science. Having survived the first Midwestern winter, he now leads the Soils Lab. His research team addresses the literal foundation of all cropping systems – soils – and seeks to advance how we monitor and manage soils as natural capital. Current lines of research include nutrient cycling and heavy metal contamination in the U.S. Midwest and the developing tropics.

## Rogation Weekend at Grace Lutheran Church

by Bill Kreznor

For the last several years, Grace Lutheran Church in Woodstock, Illinois has celebrated Rogation Weekend on the last weekend of April. Rogation is derived from the Latin word rogare, to ask. It is a special time during which prayers are offered for a bountiful harvest.

Senior Pastor Ken Gibson has been involved in agriculture most of his life. He worked on a farm as a boy and young man. He was active in Future Farmer of America and represented his region at national FFA conventions. He still takes an occasional "day off" from pastoral duties to help one of his parishioners or family members plant or harvest. His love of all things farming led him to establish the annual celebration of Rogation Weekend.

Grace Lutheran Church celebrates the Rogation with a weekend of events. Seed, water, and soil are brought to the altar by a congregation farm family during worship services and are blessed. The Saturday evening service is followed by a dinner and agriculture trivia contest. On Sunday, members of the congregation and guests are invited to display their antique tractors in the church yard. (Pastor Ken is the proud owner of a restored John Deere. He admits that Rogation Sunday can also be known as "Pastor-Gets-to-Drive-His-Tractor-to-Work Day"). A mini farmer's market is held with fresh produce, eggs, honey, and dairy items available for purchase. Hayrides for young and old are offered traversing the church's 20-acre campus that includes an outdoor sanctuary, picnic/bonfire area, prayer labyrinth, and small vineyard from which the grapes will be harvested to make communion wine.

I routinely participate in the Sunday activities. I park my drilling rig near the tractors and display an exhibit called "The Soils of Grace". The display includes the soil map of the Grace campus, brief descriptions of the soils and mapping units, and freshly-pulled cores of two or three of the soils occurring on the property. I hand out stickers, pencils, and rulers with the familiar "I (Heart) Soil" message. I usually have some Drummer State Soil bookmarks, ISCA refrigerator magnets and "Illinois Understanding Soil" brochures, and a few of the NRCS Soils Planner calendars to distribute as well.

Pastor Ken invites some of his Illinois Centennial Farm family friends from the region to attend worship services and be recognized by the congregation. One of these may also preach the Saturday and Sunday sermons. This past April, Brad Bremer, a longtime friend of Pastor Ken delivered the sermon. Mr. Bremer, a Metropolis, Illinois native, is a 1983 graduate of the University of Illinois with a BS in Agricultural Communications. He currently serves as vice-president of G & S Business Communications. His firm provides strategy, marketing, and public affairs support for clients in the agriculture and biotechnology industries. They have offices in New York, Chicago, and Raleigh, NC.

Mr. Bremer's sermon highlighted how Dr. Norman Borlaug embodied science and faith. Borlaug was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1971 for his work on plant breeding in the 1940s and 1950s that ushered in the Green Revolution. In his acceptance speech, Borlaug described how his work was inspired in part by the prophet Isaiah who spoke of the link between famine and social unrest. His calling was to put his knowledge and skills to work to break this link by addressing famine in the world.

Mr. Bremer continued his remarks by noting that Daniel Webster considered farmers as the founders of civilization. He went on to laud the providers of our food and fiber and their work to address the challenges of feeding a growing world population. Mr. Bremer concluded his message by suggesting that while farmers may have a unique connection with nature, all of us have a connection with the natural environment and should serve as stewards of it. When one loses that connection and is removed from that environment, one loses his or her sense of creation as a gift.

## Rogation Weekend Pictures



Figure 1. Antique tractors of all sizes are displayed on Rogation Sunday.

Figure 2. The Grace Knoll Vineyard.

Figure 3. "Soils of Grace" display includes soils information, give-away items, and an up-close look at a drilling rig.

Figure 4. The hay wagon waits to take parishioners on a hayride.

Figure 5. Pastor Ken Gibson poses with his restored tractor and preferred mode of transportation.

## LOOKING BACKWARD:

### An essay recalling events in the history of the Illinois Soil Classifiers Association

by Bill Kreznor, ISCA Historian

#### ASA-CSSA-SSSA Joint Meetings in Chicago, 1-5 December, 1985: ISCA Booth and Display

*“Many a small thing has been made large by the right kind of advertising.”* Mark Twain

The Illinois Soil Classifiers Association vigorously moved into its 11<sup>th</sup> year at the beginning of 1985. The Project Soil Survey program was still near its peak both in terms of the number of soil surveys underway and soil scientists employed. Almost 80 soil scientists held ISCA membership, 10 of which were newly accepted in 1984. The ISCA certification program was well established and had recently acquired formal affiliation with the national certification program for Soil Scientists and Soil Classifiers administered through the American Society of Agronomy (ASA) by the American Registry for Certified Professionals in Agronomy, Crops, and Soils (ARCPACS).

During the ISCA Executive Council meeting on 12 January 1985, President Sam Indorante observed that the joint national meeting of the ASA, Crop Science Society of America (CSSA), and Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) would be held on Chicago. He indicated that while Chicago had been a preferred meeting place due to its location and amenities, the cost to the joint societies to meet in Chicago was becoming prohibitive. It was unlikely that the societies would be returning to that venue any time soon. For several years the Council had issued a stipend for the ISCA President to attend the ASA-CSSA-SSSA annual meeting, but it had rarely been used. President Indorante suggested that the ISCA have an official presence in Chicago, aside from officers and members attending at their convenience. He volunteered to pursue the issue and report back to a newly-elected Council.

In his message to the membership in the May 1985 newsletter, ISCA President Mike Lilly urged members to advocate for their profession. He noted that the ISCA was planning to have an official presence at the ASA-CSSA-SSSA joint meetings and encouraged the membership to attend. On 8 June, now Past President Indorante reported to the Council that he was able to secure a booth in Chicago at no cost to the ISCA. The booth would be located next to the ARCPACS booth. Several ideas were floated concerning the type of display, including a slide show illustrating the history of soil survey in Illinois and a display of monoliths of some Illinois soils. In the August 1985 newsletter, President Lilly again called upon members to attend the meetings and staff the booth.

The theme of the display exhibit was finalized at the Council meeting of 21 September. A general soil map of Illinois would anchor the display. The locations of ISCA members would be indicated on it. The display would include photographs of members and their activities in the field, office, and classroom. A guest book would also be available for booth visitors to sign. The display would be staffed during much of the middle 3 days of the conference (2-4 December) by ISCA officers, committee chairs, and members. President-Elect Mark Bramstedt moved to fund the display and the Council voted its approval.

Laurie Bonnewell King had volunteered in June to fill the recently-vacated position as Chair of the Public Relations and Education (PR & E) Committee. She was immediately tasked to compose the exhibit. Past-President Indorante assisted her in this effort. King contacted members to send her photographs showing their activities and many did so.

In the February 1986 newsletter, President Lilly reported that the ISCA booth was a “major success,” receiving a host of visitors and many favorable comments. He also commended PR & E Chair King for “putting together an excellent display”.

The display was re-assembled and exhibited at the 11<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the ISCA on 15 March 1986 in DeKalb.

## Pictures of ASA-CSSA-SSSA Joint Meetings in Chicago, 1-5 December, 1985



Figure 1. The ISCA display on exhibit at the ASA-CSASA-SSSA joint meetings in Chicago.

Figure 2. ISCA President Mike Lilly welcomes visitors to the ISCA booth and display.

Figure 3. Past-President Sam Indorante (left) was largely responsible for securing the display location.

Figure 4. Laurie Bonnewell King, Chair of the PR & E Committee, the architect of the ISCA display.

## Pictures of ASA-CSSA-SSSA Joint Meetings in Chicago, 1-5 December, 1985



Figure 5. (left to right) ISCA members Mike Lilly, Tonie Endres, Chris Cochran, Wiley Scott, and Dave Rahe gather at the ISCA booth.

Figure 6. Albert Klingebiel (foreground, left) and Earl Voss shared a few stories at the ISCA booth.

[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.



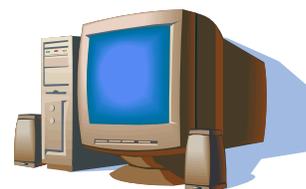
### ISCA Newsletter Committee is looking for pictures of its members, past or present, to include in future newsletters.

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

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