



# Illinois Soil Classifiers Association Newsletter

## Upcoming Events:

37th Annual Meeting    March 17

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Winter- February 2012

## Message from the President

### Greetings

What a difference a year makes. I am writing this on February 1 (submittal deadline) it is 50 degrees and sunny. Last year at this time we had a blizzard with over a foot of snow and most roads closed. I remember driving on a state highway that was barely passable, with several sections of the road down to one lane because of the drifting. After driving about 6 miles on this highway, I noticed a barricade in the middle of the road stating that the road was closed; to bad there wasn't a sign at the other end.

It has been a busy year for ISCA. Printed elsewhere in this newsletter are some proposed changes to our constitution, by-laws, and the standards of certification. Please read through these and come to the annual meeting and place your vote on these changes.

The changes to the Standards of Certification are being made to accommodate the full/ associate membership changes and to separate membership from certification as recommended by the Illinois Department of Health. And also to better define what a years experience is.

I hope these changes bring about positive actions, which will make it easier for new members to join and to become active in our organization. Our profession has changed and we need to change in order to move forward.

Bruce Houghtby  
President ISCA  
815-344-4020  
bhoughtby@johnraber.com

## Charter Member Interviews

### Charter Member Steven E. Zwicker



#### 1. What is your educational background?

I received a B.S. degree in Animal Science from Iowa State University in 1969 (with equivalent of a minor in soils). I attended the Soil Science Institute at Texas A & M University in 1984.

#### 2. What states have you worked in during your career?

Illinois. I began my career as a Soil Scientist on the Winnebago-Boone County Soil Survey in 1970. I was the Soil Survey Leader in Lee County in 1975-81, Bureau-Putnam Counties 1981-86, and Stark County in 1987-89. I was selected for the Area Soil Scientist Position for Northwestern Illinois in 1990 (Rock Falls, IL) and retired in that position in 2007. I also had soil mapping details in Henderson, Marshall, Saline, and Rock Island Counties.

#### 3. What factor(s) led you to choose a career in Soil Science?

Soil science became more interesting to me than animal science after taking Dr. Wayne Scholte's course in Soil Genesis & Morphology at Iowa State University. Dr. Scholtes was a research associate of Dr. Robert V. Ruhe, whose research focused on explaining what effect the processes of landscape evolution have on the formation of soils distributed on the landscape. I became very interested in soils and worked with my college curriculum counselors to plan the additional soils courses needed before graduation. I was accepted into the summer SCS Student Trainee Program in Illinois in 1968, going to Henderson County as a Soil Conservationist Trainee (only position open to me in Illinois at the time). While there, I met Les Bushue, who spent time with me in soils orientation in nearby Adams County, where we visited a railroad cut described in his thesis, "Geomorphology & Properties of Paleosols and Till Soils in Western Illinois", advisor, J.B. Fehrenbacher, 1967. This experience was also instrumental in my decision to pursue a career in soil science.

#### 4. As a charter member of ISCA, what significant change(s) have you observed within Soil Science over the past 30+ years?

I started mapping soils in 1970 using The 7<sup>th</sup> Approximation. It was a challenge to keep up with all the amendments. From 1982 to 1996, 18 amendments were issued as directives as a part of the National Soil Taxonomy Handbook (NSTH). The 19<sup>th</sup> and final issue in NSTH (July 1998) canceled the previous 18 amendments and designated the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the keys to Soil Taxonomy as the official replacement which reflected all the changes in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Soil Taxonomy, published in 1999. There have been (3) more editions of the Keys to Soil Taxonomy since 1999. The 11<sup>th</sup> edition was published in 2010.

Fortunately, the development of web based soils information (i.e. Web Soil Survey (WSS)) has really helped organize and deliver ever expanding soils information. Digitized maps with the latest soil classifications, correlations, series & map unit descriptions, and interpretations can be retrieved with only a few strokes of the key board. The latest refinements to the WSS, includes the addition of a measurement tool, which adds to the utility of this technology for its users.

Automation and standardization in the publication of soils information has led to the loss of some important pieces of information (i.e. soil landscape block diagrams as done in the 50s-60s "era"), Indorante, S.J. 2011. The Art and Science of Soil-Landscape Block Diagrams: Examples of One Picture Being Worth More Than 1000 Words. Soil Survey Horizon. Vol. 52, No.3, 65-102.

The Field Indicators of Hydric Soils of the United States has evolved to Version 7.0 (2010). Prior to the development of the indicators, credibility in the identification and delineation of hydric soils was difficult. Criterion used in the 70's from soil taxonomy (1975) was not recognized by other agencies (i.e. 87 Corps Manual). In 1981, the National Technical Committee on Hydric Soils (NTCHS) began work on definitions and criteria. By July 1996, Ver. 3.2 (Hydric Soils Tech Note 2) became the official guide for USDA-NRCS. Since 1996, it has been more widely adopted by other agencies. Official changes to a few of the indicators, in later versions, were the result of proposed revisions made by Illinois soil scientists using field testing protocol documenting changes needed.

#### 5. What significant change(s) have you observed within the ISCA over that same period?

The move to a Microsoft Access data base for record keeping by ISCA about 1990, enabled the Certification Board to keep accurate, retrievable, and readily updated information on CEU's earned, dues and certification status mailings, certified member lists, and correspondence, efficiently, with very little cost. The Certification Board members approve CEU's, applications for certification, and make reports electronically, without having to travel to complete their responsibilities.

ISCA has a long history of outstanding annual meetings with informational programs. The addition of the summer or fall meetings, with focus on opportunity for field tours and training exercises, began on August 28<sup>th</sup> 1982, when Leon Follmer led a geologic field trip in the New Salem area. A wide variety of program ideas over the years has maintained continued interest in Fall Meetings. Summer/fall meetings were also held in all years from 1976-1981, except 1980. These meetings were mainly focused on the business of newly formed ISCA.

# 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Illinois Soil Classifiers Association

## Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012

### Champaign, IL

Where: Forbes Natural History Building, Champaign, IL

Registration: 11:00

Opening Remarks: 11:45

Lunch: 12:00

Guest Speaker: 1:00

Business Meeting: 1:45

The 37<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Illinois Soil Classifiers Association will be held Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at the Forbes Natural History Building, University of Illinois, same place as last year. The Forbes Natural History Building is located at 1816 South Oak St, Champaign, IL. This is within the Research Park southwest of the Assembly Hall. Parking is free.

Please use the registration form on the next page to make a reservation before March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The cost of the meal and registration is \$20.00. Please make checks payable to ISCA. Same day registrants cannot be guaranteed lunch.

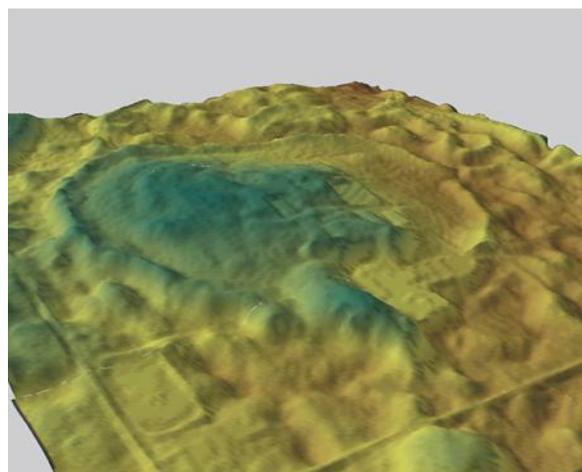
This year's guest speaker will be Dr. Mike Konen, an Associate Professor of Soil Science, Dept. of Geography at Northern Illinois University. His talk is titled *Soils and Geomorphology of Ice Walled Lake Plains in Illinois*.

**Driving Directions:** Find maps and directions on the Illinois Natural History Website at <http://www.inhs.illinois.edu/organization/maps.html>

Shaded relief map from LiDAR data showing an ice-walled lake plain.

See more at::

<http://www.isgs.uiuc.edu/nsdihome/webdocs/ilhmp/showcase/index.html>



ISCA 2012 Annual Spring Meeting Reservation  
 March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
 Illinois Natural History Survey, Champaign, IL

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_ (\$20/person)  
 Total Payment \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please indicate if you need vegetarian meal \_\_\_\_\_

Fill out above information and mail with a check (payable to ISCA) to the following address:

Steve Elmer  
 27892 Ebenezer Road  
 Geneseo, IL 61254

If you can make it, we'd like to hear from you by March 14, 2012. Thanks!

Sorry, PayPal is still not up and running, but check back in at the ISCA website to see if we get it up running in time for this event.

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### Ballot for 2011 ISCA Elections

Voting rights are for Full and Associate Members only.  
 Please vote for one for each office by placing an X next to the name.  
 See the biographies in this Newsletter for more information about the candidates.

#### President-Elect

Doug Gaines

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

Write-in candidates must have agreed to run for the office.

#### Vice-President

Rick Francen

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

Write-in candidates must have agreed prior to the election to run for the office.

#### Secretary

Bob Tegeler

(write-in candidate for Secretary) \_\_\_\_\_

Write-in candidates must have agreed prior to the election to run for the office.

#### Submit your ballot:

You may bring your ballot to the 2012 Annual Meeting or you may vote prior to the annual meeting by mailing your ballot to Steve Elmer, ISCA Secretary, 27892 Ebenezer Road, Geneseo, IL 61254. 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 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012 in order to be counted.

## 2012 Candidate Biographies

The Nomination Committee presents the following slate of officers for nomination: President Elect - Doug Gaines; Vice-President - Rick Francen; Secretary - Bob Tegeler.

Please see their biographies below and use the ballot on the previous page to cast your vote.

### President Elect

#### **Doug Gaines**

Doug received his bachelors in Agronomy Crops & Soils from the University of Illinois in 1983. He worked as a County Soil Scientist on the Marion and Clinton County Soil Surveys from December 1983 - 1990. From May 1990 - 1994 he worked for a geotechnical engineer as a Field Technician, Staff and Project Scientist. In August 1994 Doug began Gaines Soil Consulting specializing in on-site evaluations for septic systems and wetland studies. Doug is certified by SSSA as a Professional Soil Scientist and by ISCA as a Professional Soil Classifier. He is also licensed in Missouri as a Soil Evaluator. Doug has served ISCA in the past as Program Chair, President, Public Relations Chair and as Certification Board Sec/Treas.

### Vice President

#### **Rick Francen**

Rick received his B.S. in Plant and Soil Science from Texas A&M University. He attended Regis University in the Masters program for Database Management. He worked as a soils lab technician for an environmental company in Denver, Colorado for 3 years. He started with NRCS in 2003 as a Soil Conservation Tech in Montana and transferred to the Springfield Illinois MLRA Project Office in 2004 as a Soil Scientist. Rick has been a member of ISCA for 7 years, and served on the Public Relations and Education Committee.

### Secretary

#### **Bob Tegeler**

**Education-** BS Degree from University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point - 1976

Major- Resource Management      Minor- Soils

**Experience-** Employed by the Soil Conservation Service/Natural Resources Conservation Service for 35+ years. Mapped and Classified soils in Illinois for 33 years as part of the National Cooperative Soil Survey. Currently the Soil Survey Leader of the Springfield MLRA Soil Survey Office, in Springfield, Illinois.

**ISCA involvement-** Member of ISCA for 34+ years. Currently serving on Ethics, Certification and Membership Committee. Served as ISCA Secretary on 2 separate occasions, and Vice President for one term.

## CPSC Notes

Thanks to those of you who have submitted CEUs in the past few months. Current accepted CEUs for each CPSC will be updated and available at the ISCA Annual Meeting, along with your 2012 CPSC wallet cards. If those of you who have not submitted CEUs for awhile have a moment, I would encourage you to utilize the electronic submittal form available on the ISCA website while things are a little quieter this winter. Remember to include details for each CEU, particularly in regard to the amount and location of soil evaluations performed when using them for CEUs. Also, be careful to note the maximum number of CEUs allowed for any given category. The renewal notice this year included an informal question asking if CPSCs would rather receive their renewal notice via email. Of those with a preference, about 40 percent wanted to retain mailed notices. Given this result, I will again mail notices next year. Winter time is also an excellent chance for those of you thinking of certification to get the ball rolling. General requirements for certification can be found within the Handbook on the ISCA website. If you have any questions pertaining to certification or CEUs, please don't hesitate to contact me at [tasoukup@earthlink.net](mailto:tasoukup@earthlink.net).  
Todd Soukup, ISCA Certification Board Secretary/Treasurer

## Proposed Amendments

As mentioned in our Message From the President,, the following pages list some proposed changes. Pages 6-8 list the proposed amendments to our Code of Ethics, Constitution, and By-Laws. Pages 9-11 list the proposed amendments to our Standards for Certification. Please read through them and come to the annual meeting and place your vote on these changes.

### Code of Ethics, Constitution, and By-Laws Revisions Notice

Notice is hereby given that discussion and a subsequent vote to amend the following will take place at the Annual Meeting to be held at the Forbes Natural History Building (I-Building), Champaign, IL on March 17, 2012.

#### Reasons for proposed revisions:

1. Discussions have taken place for some time now at Executive Council meetings regarding the lack of opportunities for Associate Members to get the four years of soil mapping and/or classifying experience in order to qualify as Full Members. The Council is proposing to eliminate the four year experience from the requirements for Full Membership and thereby eliminating the Associate Member class.
2. Delete the reference to issuance of membership cards. Only Full Members who are ISCA CPSC certified are issued membership cards.
3. Further clarify the duties of the Ethics, Certification, and Membership Committee chairperson

**Proposed Revisions:** (deleted text is red and struck-through, and added text is green.)

#### Page 3: Code of Ethics, Article I Section 2 – delete Associate member

2. Each Member ~~or Associate member (hereafter called Member)~~ agrees to be guided by the highest standards of business ethics, personal honor, and professional conduct.

#### Page 11: Constitution, Article IV Section 2 – delete Associate Member and re-letter membership categories

Section 2. There shall be classes of membership as follows:

- a. Full Member
- ~~b. Associate Member~~
- ~~e-b.~~ Student Member
- ~~e-c.~~ Affiliate Member
- ~~e-d.~~ Honorary Member
- ~~f-e.~~ Out-of-State Member
- ~~g-f.~~ Retired Member

Page 11 and 12: Constitution, Article IV Section 3a. – adjust membership qualifications of Full Member

- a. Full Member shall be one who meets the following qualifications:
1. ~~M~~minimum Federal Civil Service requirement for Soil Scientist (Classification and Mapping). A Bachelor's degree and at least 15 semester credit hours in soil courses or closely related courses are required. Related courses can account for only 20% of the required 15 credit hours.
  2. ~~A minimum of 4 years experience in soil mapping and/or classification. A Masters degree in soil genesis and classification (pedology) shall be equivalent of 1 year of experience; a Ph.D. degree in those disciplines shall constitute an additional one year of experience. Summer employment in field soil mapping and/or classification investigations shall count as experience time. Apprenticeship programs such as NRCS trainees will count as experience time.~~
  3. ~~Teaching soil classification and genesis in an accredited university by an Assistant Professor or higher rank will count as one year of experience.~~

Page 12 and 13: Constitution, Article IV Section 3. – delete Associate member, re-letter membership categories, and adjust definitions of Affiliate and Out-of-State Members

- ~~b. Associate Member shall meet all the requirements of Full Member except for the four years of experience.~~
- e-b. Student Member shall be any undergraduate or graduate student pursuing a Soil Science curriculum approved by the Executive Council.
- ~~d-c.~~ Affiliate Member shall be one who does not qualify under a- or b-~~or e~~ but who desires to participate in the advancement of the profession.
- e-d. Honorary Member shall be one whom the Association desires to honor because of outstanding contributions to the profession, state, or nation.
1. Honorary Full Member shall be an Honorary Member who meets the qualifications of a Full Member and to whom is granted all the rights and privileges of a Full Member.
  2. Honorary Affiliate Member shall be an Honorary Member who is not a soil classifier as defined in Article II, Section 1.
- f-e. Out-of-State Member is any member who resides in a state other than Illinois, who qualifies under a-~~or b~~, and who does not practice soil classifying in Illinois.
- g-f. Retired Member is any member who has retired from the occupation and practice of soil classifying and has been a Full Member of the Illinois Soil Classifiers Association for the last five years.

**Page 13: Constitution, Article IV Section 4b. and 4d. – delete Associate Member**

- b. Voting privileges are limited to Full Members; ~~and~~ **and** Honorary Full Members; ~~and Associate Members.~~
- d. Only a Full Member, Honorary Full Member, ~~Associate Member,~~ or Retired Member shall serve as a committee chairperson.

**Page 21: By-Laws, Article II Section 1a. and 1b. – delete membership card text and adjust notification phrase**

- a. Candidates for membership in the Association shall submit an application to the Association. This application shall be processed at a Council meeting. ~~If approved-Following processing,~~ the chairperson of the Ethics, Certification, and Membership Committee shall notify the candidate of his/her ~~acceptance status. Upon receipt of dues by the Treasurer, the Secretary shall issue a membership card.~~
- b. A candidate for Honorary membership shall be nominated by any Full Member of the Association in good standing at a regular or special meeting of the Association. If the nominee is approved by a majority vote of a legal quorum, the Secretary shall complete the processing and ~~issuance of a membership card notification.~~ An Honorary Member shall be elected for life, or until such time as the membership is revoked for just and sufficient cause by a majority vote at a regular meeting of a legal quorum.

**Page 23: By-Laws, Article IV Section 1a. – delete Associate Members**

- a. Annual dues for Full Members ~~and Associate Members~~ shall be \$25.00 payable by January 1 to the Treasurer upon receipt of dues notice. These dues may be changed by the Council (Article V of the Constitution).

**Page 26: By-Laws, Article VIII Section 4a. – delete Associate Members**

- a. The Constitution, By-Laws, and Legislative Committee shall consist of not less than three Full Members; ~~or~~ **or** Honorary Full Members; ~~or Associate Members.~~

**Page 28: By-Laws, Article VIII Section 5b(3). – add duty to Ethics, Certification, and Membership Committee**

- 3. To determine the qualifications of applicants for class of membership ~~and notify applicants of their membership status following the council vote.~~

**Page 43: ISCA Application for Membership, Section II Membership Class – delete Associate Member as option**

*Respectfully submitted,  
Constitution, By-Laws, and Legislative Committee*

Reasons for the proposed revisions to the Standards and Requirements for Certification:

1. Add the 4-year experience requirement, since it will be removed from the Full Membership requirement.
2. To better define what a years experience is.
3. To separate membership in ISCA from Certification as requested by IDPH.
4. To "streamline" conversion from SSSA CPSC into ISCA CPSC.

## STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION

In order to be eligible for certification as a professional soil classifier in Illinois, applicants must ~~(a) subscribe to the Code of Ethics of the Illinois Soil Classifiers Association, (b) be a Full Member or Honorary Full Member of the Illinois Soil Classifiers Association, (c) submit a written application to the Certification Board containing such information as required in Section 6, (d) have actively practiced soil classifying in a responsible position at least three (3) of the preceding four (4) years with supervision under or collaboration with a Certified Professional Soil Classifier (CPSC) within the last year of the date of application; or have more than six (6) years total soil classifying experience with supervision under or in collaboration with a Certified Professional Soil Classifier within the last year of the date of application, and, (e) have successfully passed a written and/or oral examination designed to determine the proficiency and qualifications of the applicant to engage in the practice of soil classifying.~~

~~Applicants shall have one (1) year from the date of application to take the examination. Applicants that do not take the examination within one (1) year must reapply following the procedures described in Section 6, and pay the application fee as described in Section 7.~~

~~All applicants shall receive ten (10) sample questions at least two weeks prior to examination. Written examinations shall be monitored by a Board member. A passing grade on an examination shall be a score of seventy (70) percent or higher. Applicants may be re-examined once within two years of first applying for certification without submitting an additional fee, and meet the following.~~

### a. Education requirements

1. Possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution and at least 15 semester credit hours in soil courses or closely related courses. Related courses can account for only 20% (3 hours) of the required 15 credit hours. Have 4 years of professional experience working in soil classification. Or.
2. Possess a master's degree from an accredited institution and at least 15 semester credit hours in soil courses or closely related courses. Related courses can account for only 20% (3 hours) of the required 15 credit hours. Have 3 years of professional experience working in soil classification. Or.
3. Possess a doctoral degree from an accredited institution and at least 15 semester credit hours in soil courses or closely related courses. Related courses can account for only 20% (3 hours) of the required 15 credit hours. Have 2 years of professional experience working in soil classification.

### b. Professional Experience

1. The practice of soil surveying and classification shall mean the practice of a professional soil classifier in any service, work, or educational endeavor, the adequate performance of which requires the use and understanding of the physical, chemical, mineralogical, and biological properties that apply to pedology. Pedology is the science of soils, their origin, character, and utilization.
2. This practice shall include proficiency in the application of the principals of pedology to soil classification, investigation, education, and consultation, on the effect of measured, observed, and inferred soil properties and their use. It shall include the preparation of soil descriptions, maps, reports, and interpretations, any of which apply to either private or public work.
3. A person shall be construed to practice or offer to practice pedology when they advertise their proficiency and willingness to practice either verbally, in writing by job description, or by some other title that represents a professional soil classifier. This does not include the work performed by persons who sample and test the soil only for agricultural purposes, engineering activities, or environmental contamination.

c. Work Experience

- I. Applicants are required to demonstrate the percentage of work experience in the area of soil classification.
  - A. Activities such as soil consulting, soil mapping, soil survey, on-site evaluation of soil properties or behavior, extension, and teaching require a minimum of 70% of the applicant's time working directly with the area of soil classification.
  - B. Work experience less than 70% will be prorated.
  - C. A work experience summary will be attached to any application submitted by the applicant.
  - D. The applicant shall not have less than 4 years (or as required in Sec. a ) of cumulative professional experience in the practice of soil survey and classification and a portion of these 4 years must be in a position that indicates to the Board that the applicant is competent to practice soil classification without direct supervision.
  - E. The Board reserves the right to request copies of the applicants work to review.

d. References

- I. You must submit three references that are familiar with your work and professional experience. References must be familiar with your work experience used to meet certification requirements and be knowledgeable of soils. The applicant will need to designate the time period for which the reference has personal knowledge of his or her work experience history.
  - A. At least one individual must be associated with your employment; an immediate supervisor, collaborator, or coworker.

e. Core Requirements

- I. Applicants must meet the minimum core requirements as outlined in this document.

f. Exam Requirements

- I. Certifications are exam based and all applicants for Certified Professional Soil Classifier are required to pass either;
  - A. The Illinois Soil Classifiers exam.
    1. Applicants shall have one year from the date of application to take the examination. Applicants that do not take the examination within one (1) year must reapply following the procedures described in Section 6, and pay the application fee as described in Section 7.
    2. All applicants shall receive ten (10) sample questions at least two (2) weeks prior to examination. A Board member shall monitor written examinations. A passing grade on an examination shall be a score of seventy (70) percent or higher. Applicants may be re-examined once within two years of first applying for certification without submitting an additional fee.
  - B. The Soil Science Society of America's Fundamentals and Professional Practice Soil Science Examinations.

g. Reciprocal Certification

- I. Persons whom are currently certified, registered, or licensed as a soil classifier by a state or national professional organization having equal or higher requirements for certification, registry, or licensure than those prescribed in these standards shall be approved for certification. The applicant must provide evidence of the standards and provide evidence of current good standing.
2. Persons whom are currently certified, registered or licensed as a soil scientist by a state or national professional organization having equal or higher requirements for certification, registry, or licensure than those prescribed in these standards shall be exempt from the exam requirement but must meet the professional and work experiences of this Section.

## ISCA - Application for Certification - Page 3

NARRATIVE SUMMARY OF SOIL CLASSIFYING EXPERIENCE [Sec. 6 (e)]. Attach narrative describing soil classifying experience.

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REFERENCES [Sec. 6 (d)]. List three (3) individuals that will supply reference information on the applicant's current soil classifying abilities upon request. At least one of the references shall be a supervisor or collaborator as specified in Section 5 (d) of the Standards for Certification of Professional Soil Classifiers. Check box when applicable.

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: (opt) \_\_\_\_\_ Supervisor/collaborator [ ]

2. Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: (opt) \_\_\_\_\_ Supervisor/collaborator [ ]

3. Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: (opt) \_\_\_\_\_ Supervisor/collaborator [ ]

Application fee enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, understand that the application fee will not be returned regardless of the action of the Certification Board.

I understand that I have the right to review the contents of my confidential file.

I certify that the information stated above is true to the best of my knowledge, and I request to be considered promptly for certification in the category indicated above. I have read and fully subscribe to the Illinois Soil Classifiers Association Code of Ethics.



## 55<sup>th</sup> Annual ASA Region 3 Soil Judging Contest

The 55<sup>th</sup> annual ASA Region 3 Soil Judging Contest took place near Richland Center, Wisconsin on October 28 and 29, 2011. The contest was hosted by the University of Wisconsin-Madison and organized by Dr. Fred Madison. Fifty-one individuals from six teams (Northern Illinois University, Purdue University, University of Illinois, University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Wisconsin-Platteville, and University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point) participated in the contest. Seventeen students represented the two Illinois Universities.

Richland Center is located in southwestern Wisconsin in the heart of the unglaciated area. Students described Argiudolls and Hapludalfs developed in loess, colluvium, residuum, and alluvium. The contest consisted of two group judged pits on Friday afternoon and four individually judged pits Saturday morning.



Northern Illinois University Soil Judging Team (L to R - Jacob Kruse, Mike Sherry, Kurt Norman, Kris Osterloh, Clint Bailey, Wes Brinkman, Sara Halm).



Hapludalf in loess, colluvium, and residuum.



Argiudoll in loess and colluvium.

Overall team scores.

School	Score
<b>Purdue University</b>	<b>3314</b>
<b>Northern Illinois University</b>	<b>3133</b>
<b>UW-Platteville</b>	<b>3073</b>
UW-Madison	3046
University of Illinois	3038
UW-Stevens Point	2872

Top 5 individual scores.

Student	School	Score
Jeff Fischer	Purdue University	975
Aaron Englert	Purdue University	941
<b>Jacob Kruse</b>	<b>Northern Illinois University</b>	<b>937</b>
Daniel Bechman	Purdue University	936
Lori Nussbaum	Purdue University	927

Group judging scores.

School	Score
Purdue University	472
UW-Platteville	453
UW-Madison	439
Northern Illinois University	429
University of Illinois	405
UW-Stevens Point	360

The top three teams are eligible to participate in the 2012 national contest that will be hosted by West Virginia University in Morgantown. The highest scoring Illinois individual and winner of the Burton W. Ray Scholarship Award this year is Jacob Kruse from Northern Illinois University. Members may know Jacob from his summer internship with the Aurora MLRA office. The 2012 Region 3 contest will be hosted by UW-Platteville.



Jacob Kruse, NIU, winner of the 2011 Burton W. Ray Scholarship Award.

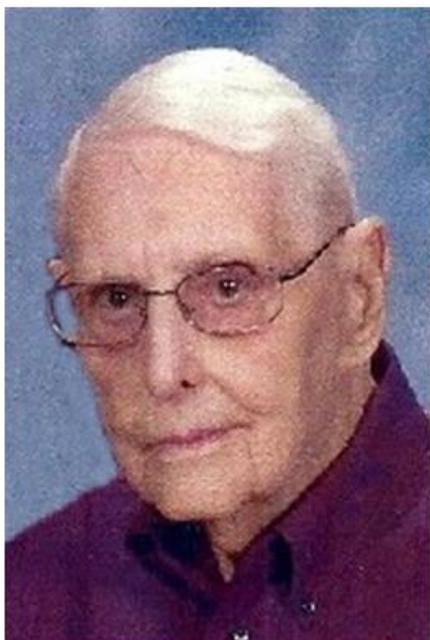
I think I can speak for everyone involved in thanking our hosts for all their hard work and hospitality and as usual everyone learned a great deal about soils, landscapes, hydrology, vegetation, and land-use and had fun while participating in the contest.

Thanks to all of you that have supported and continue to support Soil Judging,  
Mike Konen, Coach of the Northern Illinois University Soil Judging Team

## Walter Parks Obituary

Walter Donald Parks, 92, of Anna died at 2:55AM on Thursday, October 06, 2011 at Southeast Missouri Hospital in Cape Girardeau. He was born on November 20, 1918 in Moweaqua, IL the son of Oscar and Eva Sterling Parks. He married Mary Ada Pope on January 1, 1945 in Yorkville, IL. They have lived in Anna 56 years. He graduated from the University of Illinois and was one of five founders of Nabor House Fraternity. He was a member of the United Methodist Church, Soil Science Society of America, Illinois Public Health Association and a former member of the Anna Kiwanis Club. In World War II he served 3 years with the U.S. Army in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations, where he received the Bronze Star and the Oak Leaf Medal from the British Army. Both medals were for activity with Engineer Intelligence in support of combat operations. Mr. Parks was a Soil Scientist with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service for 25 years and was author of Soil Survey Reports covering the five southernmost Illinois counties. He also worked with Southern Seven Health Department for 17 years, in capacities ranging from Environmental Health Inspector to Health Department Administrator. He is survived by his wife, and by four children, W. David (Linda) of Jonesboro, Floyd W. (Carole) of Ironbridge, England, Darryl W. of Anna and Diane M. Ward of Jacksonville, Florida; five grandchildren, Maria J. (Jamie) Bridgeman of Frisco, Texas, John D. Parks of Anna, Rebekah S. (Allen) Plott of Anna, Charles F. (Natalie) Ward III of High Springs, Florida and Allison D. (Garrett) Courville of Loveland, Colorado; nine great-grandchildren, Clayton Bridgeman; Erikah, Emeliah, Esten, Evan Parks; Curtis, Amanda, Timothy Plott and Nathan Benson. He is also survived by three brothers: John R. (Donna) of Lincoln, Nebraska; Daniel W. (Wenona) of Florence, Montana; and Roger W. (Mary) of Moweaqua, IL and by 13 nephews and nieces. He was preceded in death by his parents and stepmother, Mabel Parks. Friends may call from 12-2PM on Sunday, October 9, 2011 at First United Methodist Church in Anna. Memorial services will be held on Sunday, October 9, 2011 at 2PM at First United Methodist Church of Anna. Memorial contributions may be made to 1st United Methodist Church and will be accepted by the church. Crain Funeral Home in Anna-Jonesboro is in charge of arrangements.

Walt's Obituary was sent to us by Margaret Miles, wife of the late Cliff Miles. In her email she wrote, "Several of the older soil scientists will remember Walt. He worked with Cliff, Lester Bushue and Ray Herman and I'm sure others too. Walt and Mary Ada were talented artists as well as good teachers and wonderful friends to Cliff and to me. The following was written by Walt. I thought you might want to use it in the next newsletter."



### Psalm 23 A Paraphrase

The Lord is my leader.  
 He makes a place for me in His world of nature  
 And I am comfortable in it.  
 I ask and He gives me confidence in my choice of work  
 And leads me to do that which helps Him manage it.  
 For the good of the earth and the people in it.  
 Even though I feel lost in technicalities,  
 I feel that if I ask Him He guides me  
 For I am trying to help Him  
 In the wise use of His gifts of nature.  
 He prepares an agenda for me even though  
 It may run counter to the desires of others.  
 Surely His guidance will follow me all the days of my labor,  
 And I will be recognized by St. Peter.  
 Walter Parks - Soil Scientist

## Governor Quinn Highlights Growing Enrollment at Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences

### *Legislation Boosts Enrollment; Increases Agricultural Exposure to Urban Communities*

**CHICAGO** – February 6, 2012. As part of his commitment to strengthening education in Illinois, Governor Pat Quinn today visited Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences (CHSAS) to discuss recently adopted legislation that will allow more students in urban areas to pursue opportunities in Illinois' vital agricultural economy.

"One of Illinois' biggest economic engines is our mighty agriculture," Governor Quinn said. "Our urban students and those who live in rural communities should have the educational opportunities to prepare them for jobs in an industry that keeps food on our tables and makes our state more competitive in the global economy."

The Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences is a public magnet school that was opened by the Chicago Public Schools in 1985 with the goal of bringing agricultural education to urban students. The 72-acre campus includes a 40-acre working farm that allows students to get hands-on experience as well as summer internships in agricultural-related fields, which leads to many entering college to pursue agricultural and food science fields. Students are selected for the school via a lottery that chooses 150 students out roughly 1,000 applicants each year for the freshman class.

Senate Bill 1226, sponsored by Sen. Ed Maloney (D-Chicago) and Rep. Bill Cunningham (D-Chicago) changes the enrollment cap for the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences from 600 to 720 students and requires that 50% of enrollment reside within a 2.5 mile radius of the school, which is located on a 72-acre campus on the far South Side.

As highlighted by Governor Quinn in his State of the State Address, Illinois exports rose 30 percent in 2010 and the state is on track to double its exports by 2014. In 2010, Illinois' farm economy had total cash receipts of \$15 billion, supporting for tens of thousands of jobs. Agriculture exports alone supported nearly 50,000 jobs in 2010.

Source: <http://www.illinois.gov>

## 2012 Bent Auger Award

It is once again time to select a new winner of the prestigious Bent Auger Award. As its name suggests, this award is given each year to an individual or group of individuals who displays "excellence" in the field. Qualifying events/situations are numerous and unrestricted. Stories do not have to be true, but are preferably based on partial truth. If you know anyone who is deserving of this award for 2012, **please bring his/her nomination to the annual meeting** in Champaign on March 17.

Competition can be fierce, so make sure your story is well prepared and fully exaggerated. This award has been held by many of the leaders and founders of the ISCA. It is a great honor and looks good on any resume.

Good luck!



Answer to Fall Newsletter "Days Gone By":

From left to right (not including the horse): Lester Bushue, Burke Davies, Tonie Endres, Cliff Miles, Mark Matusiak, Bruce Currie, Doug Gaines, and Earl Voss. 1986 Progress Field Review in Marion County, Illinois.

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ISCA Newsletter Staff  
148 E Pleasant Hill Road  
Suite 105  
Carbondale, IL 62903

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

Phone: (618) 453-5579

Fax: (618) 453-5578

### 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.

### 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.

### Days Gone By



Can you identify the soil scientists taken in this 1975 ISCA organizational meeting? Answer to Fall "Days Gone By" can be found on page 17.

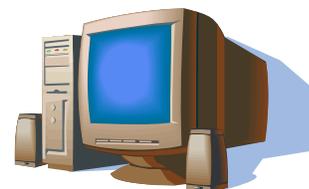


### ISCA Newsletter Committee is looking for pictures of it's members, past or present, to include in future newsletters.

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  
148 E Pleasant Hill Road  
Suite 105  
Carbondale, IL 62903

**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: Steve Elmer, ISCA Secretary, 27892 Ebenezer Road, Geneseo, IL 61254