



Illinois Soil Classifiers Association Newsletter

Fall-November 2013

Message from the President

From the President

We are into November and it's still dry down south. Those sampling by hand may need to move up to a larger hammer; I know I'm considering it. Even the mounted probes let you know how dry & hard the ground is. I'm not used to carrying water with me this time of year to wet my samples. A couple of mornings the thermos had ice in it; anyhow, happy sampling. We had a nice turnout at the 33 Central States Forest Soils Workshop considering the furlough. There were about 40 in attendance. Unfortunately, Frank Heisner (the brains behind the workshop) was not allowed to attend until the last morning due the furlough. "Thank you Frank for what you did." We "cobbled" through the workshop without you; but it would have been much better had you been there. We've had good reviews; so apparently you set it up well for us.

It looks like the new sewage code is official for Illinois. From what I am hearing it will be implemented in most counties in January 2014. As of writing this I am **not aware that the EPA's NPDES permit rules have been finalized yet, so I'm not sure where that stands.** The new sewage code is supposed to parallel this ruling. We are looking at a probable new work arena for soil classifiers when the EPA finalizes their ruling. An evaluation (or call) will be necessary on **"Waters of the US" to determine whether or not an NPDES permit is necessary.** This said; who better to make this call than soil classifiers (especially as they are on site already for the soil evaluation)? A plan is in effect to have a **workshop (or two) to give us the tools we need and make sure we're all on the same page when it comes to making the "Waters of the US" call.** In the mean-time I hope all have a Happy Thanksgiving.

Doug Gaines,
President

Upcoming Events:

Happy Holidays

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2013 FARM PROGRESS SHOW

ISCA SOIL PIT

We had great help at the soil pit all three days! The weather was hot and dry but we visited with literally hundreds of folks about soil, geology, crops, farming systems, etc.! Great way to share and learn! We had visitors from Germany, Brazil, Argentina, South Africa, Europe, New Zealand, Australia, China, Ontario, Mexico and dozens of surrounding states!

Those helping at the Show were Mark Bramstedt, Lester Bushue, Ron Collman, Troy Fehrenbacher, Galen Litweiller, Bob McLeese, Dave Rahe, Wiley Scott, Earl Voss, Scott Wiesbrook, and Roger Windhorn. Thanks very much!

We handed out our Soils of Illinois ISCA pamphlet as well as our ISCA Membership pamphlet. NRCS provided us with posters, maps and Spanish-speaking pamphlets on Web Soil Survey. We also had a few selection of Spanish Soil Health handouts.

Overall, I believe these opportunities are a great way to spread the word of Soil but also make the public aware of who we are and what services we can provide to them!!

The pit was filled in, compacted as best we could, fertilized, and seeded with grass on Friday, August 30. I wrote a letter thanking the Farm Progress folks and also Richland Community College, as landowners, for letting us have the pit display and for being able to show one of the most productive soils in the state and the predominant soil at the Farm Progress Show site.

Final cost to ISCA has yet to be determined, but will be similar to last show in 2011. If there are any suggestions for future shows (next here will be 2015), please let me know! Thanks again!

Roger Windhorn

2013 Farm Progress Show Soil Exhibit



2013 Farm Progress Show

ISCA Soil Pit



33rd Annual Central States Forest Soils Workshop

The 33rd Annual Central States Forest Soils Workshop was held at Eagle Ridge Resort and Spa near Galena Illinois from October 15th-17, 2013. The workshop focused on sustainable practices relating to conservation, preservation and restoration for private and local forest tracts with an appreciation for



Driftless Area – View from Misek Tree Farm

soil-landscape relationships. LIDAR maps and several generations of earlier vintage maps for each site were included in the workshop field books.

Hosted by the Illinois Soils Classifiers Association, this year's workshop was additionally sponsored by Jerry and Marge Misek, Owners of Acorn Acres; Bill Handel and Vicki Stretton, who shared their private property and experience in restoration; Duck's Misery- water fowl refuge; IDNR-Mississippi

Palisades State Park; Northern Illinois University, Department of Geography; Woodland Forestry Consulting; and the University of Missouri – Columbia, Department of Civil Engineering.

Those on the workshop planning committee were Frank Heisner, Chairman, Illinois Soil Classifiers Association; Brad Cate, Co-Chair, Eastern Shore Soil Services, Illinois Soil Classifiers Association; Mark Bramstedt, Illinois Soil classifiers Association; Wade Conn, Illinois Forestry Association; Jeff Harris, Illinois DNR Division of Forestry, Illinois Forestry Association; Roger Windhorn, Illinois Soil Classifiers Association; and Jennifer Wollenweber, Illinois Soil Classifiers Association. The federal government shutdown required many significant changes to the agenda Tuesday night through Wednesday night, which were handled by non-federal participants who stepped up to the plate to see that the "show went on". All workshop participants are to be commended for their understanding and tremendous flexibility, evidenced by the way everyone pulled together to bring about discussion and make things "happen" all along the way.

An introductory session on **Tuesday night** included presentations on the Soils and Geology of Northwest Illinois by Doug Gaines and Mark Konen, who stepped in for Dr. Dave Grimley, Quaternary Geologist, Illinois State Survey, after Dave was unable to participate. The next speaker, Bill Handel, Plant Ecologist, Illinois Natural History Survey, described the forest ecology and the plant communities that were to be observed over the next couple of days. Finally, Dr. David Hammer, Professor of Soil Genesis, University of Missouri-Columbia, finished out our evening with a very informative discussion of subdivision planning using an environmental matrix in Wildwood, Missouri.

After the opening night orientation, the workshop was entirely in the field. On **Wednesday** morning our bus departed at 8:00 A.M. for the Misek tree farm, where we were welcomed Jerry Misek, owner of Acorn Acres, followed by speaker Kevin Oetken, Woodland Forestry Consulting. We were briefed on farm history, forestry goals and challenges in forest management. Next, a transect through the forest with stops at 4 soil pits led by Steve Elmer and Steve Zwicker NRCS Soil Scientists (retired) set the stage for the discussion of soil properties influencing tree growth and open discussion of forestry with many perspectives regarding options for



Kevin Oetken discussing Red Oak management – Misek Tree Farm



Newglarus soil pit – LTR: Jenwei Tsai, INHS, Scott Weisbrook, INHS, Doug Gains, President, ISCA
Loess over residuum on limestone at 20-40 inches



Dr. David Hammer, Soil Genesis, University of Missouri-Columbia, leads discussion on soil health At the Rozetta soil pit.
LTR: Bill Handel, INHS, Jerry Misek, Acorn Acres, Dr. Hammer, MU, Dr. Mike Konen, NIU, Dr. Charles Frazee, ISCA

management, including insects and diseases. The soils were Fayette, Lamoille, Newglarus and Rozetta. Soils descriptions and lab data accompanied each site. Soil features and land forms were introduced, then, Kevin Oetken, consulting forester, and Bill Handel, ecologist, led discussion on forestry management on these soils.



Newglarus Soil pit
Foreground – Iowa State University undergrads
LTR: Catherine DeLong and Mary Tiedeman
_ Northern Illinois University grad students
Jacob Kruse and John Reynolds

By late morning, the bus headed for Sentinel Trail Nature Preserve to observe "old growth" red oak stands by discussion leader, Ed Anderson, Biologist (retired), IDNR Heritage Division, and Seaton soils were examined from soil cores with Brad

Cate, Private Soil Consultant, Eastern Shore Soil Services leading soil discussions.

A catered lunch was enjoyed by all in the Sentinel Nature Preserve shelter, before busing to Louis Point on the bluff overlooking the Mississippi River floodplain. Bill Handel, Plant Ecologist, INHS, led discussion on prairie remnant- forest ecology. Steve Felt, District Forester, IDNR, led a red oak aspect discussion and Brad Cate, Private Soil consultant, Eastern Shore Soil Services, discussed Timula Soils.

The lock system on the Mississippi River has made a tremendous impact on the tree species that now grow on the floodplain. Most of the nut producing tree species were lost years ago because of the increase in water levels behind dams. The low water and high water elevations are much higher than historical levels when trees established under natural floodplain hydrology.



Mississippi Palisades State Park – Louis Point
Bill Handel, Plant Ecologist, INHS, discusses plant ecology and Mississippi floodplain management



Palisades State Park – giant puff ball
Iowa State University Students
LTR: Jenny Richter, Catherine DeLong, Mary Tiedeman, and Ethan Dahlhauser

The remaining time on Wednesday was spent at the Handel family private property near the Palisades State Park, observing forest restoration on sites with and without prescribed burns. Bill Handel, Plant Ecologist, provided historical perspectives on how forest communities have changed over time in the understory as well as the tree stratum.



Bill Handel, Plant Ecologist- discusses forest restoration on the Handel property.

The Wednesday evening banquet at Eagle Ridge Resort and Spa was a great time to socialize and enjoy sumptuous food from the resort's kitchens. After the meal, Richard Mattas, Galena-Jo Daviess Historical Society presented highlights of the area's rich history.

Thursday morning's session took place at Duck's Misery, a private waterfowl refuge near Freeport. It was a continuation of discussions on forest management and soil properties influencing tree growth. Kevin Oetken, Forester, Woodland Forestry Consulting, led discussions on forest

succession and prescriptions for management. Scott Schaeffer, Biologist, IDNR and Dave Harrison, Resource Technician, Whiteside County SWCD, discussed oxbow plant communities, water regulation, floodplain management and wetland functions. With the announcement that the government shutdown was over Wednesday night, Frank Heisner, Forest Soils Workshop Chairman, USDA-NRCS, Soil Scientist, was on deck to take charge of soils stops, Dubuque, woodbine, and Sawmill soils. A light rain all morning long failed to dampen the spirits of participants, who came dressed accordingly.

The long hours of planning and preparation by the workshop committee, led by chairman, Frank Heisner, were greatly appreciated by all.

Steven E. Zwicker
Certified Professional Soil Classifier
Illinois Soil Classifiers Association
Historian

Members Move On

Jesse Kurylo heads to the Land Down Under

After several years as a soil classifier and wetland specialist with the Illinois Natural History Survey, Jesse Kurylo has taken on a new adventure in Melbourne, Australia. She is working on her PhD in Urban Ecology at the Burnley campus at the University of Melbourne. Jesse has been an active member of ISCA, serving on different committees. For the last few years, she has been the organizer for programs, fall meetings and our Annual Meetings. Jesse, originally a New Jersey girl, came to Illinois after her time as a Hokie at Virginia Tech. While in Illinois, Jesse completed her Master's degree at the University of Illinois. When she joined ISCA in 2002, the ISCA Newsletter reported "Jesse gets so excited about the soil that she sometimes wears it as 'warpaint' or makeup and feels that a clean field soil scientist is almost a disgrace!" We will miss Jesse's enthusiasm and exuberance as well as the fresh-baked goods that she would bring to ISCA events. Good luck Jesse! Let us know what a Vegemite Sandwich is all about when you taste the local fare.



Jesse usually has something to say



Jesse loves to serve

Members Move On

Jennifer Wollenweber Heads to the Land of Many Waters

Say farewell to Jennifer Wollenweber as she heads to Minnesota in November for a Resource Soil Scientist position with NRCS. Jennifer will be located in the Fergus Falls, MN office and will have responsibility for providing soil information to the NRCS offices in the west-central part of the state (Area 2). Because of other vacancies and possible administrative re-organization of NRCS in MN, her territory will also overlap into other NRCS Areas, extending her coverage area to the east. Jennifer has been a very active member of ISCA having served as President, committee chair, and committee member. She is certified with ISCA and is currently Chair of the Ethics, Certification and Membership Committee. Jennifer was

also part of the planning cadre for the first ISCA Hydric Soils course in 2005 and served as an instructor for the ISCA courses in 2009 and 2011. Jennifer has been part of the NRCS Soil Survey office in Aurora since 2010 and helped to complete the 'once-over' soil survey of Chicago and Cook County. Prior to NRCS, she had experience as a soil classifier in the private sector working in several states, with most of her workload in Illinois and Indiana. We will miss her dedication to ISCA, her realistic outlook and her hard-work ethic. We wish her all the best in her new position.



Jen loves soils!



Jennifer mapping in Cook County



Ken Gotsch and Jennifer, 2010 NRCS Hydric Soils Instructors

KEY CHANGES TO THE REVISED ILLINOIS PRIVATE SEWAGE DISPOSAL CODE, effective August 28, 2013.

(control and mouse click for links)

<http://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/077/07700905sections.html>

1. Under the definition of Soil Classifiers, Certified Professional Soil Scientists with SSSA (ARCPACS) are **not** included as previously proposed. Only CPSC's with ISCA or SSSA are in the definition. Wording remains to include ISCA full members and associate members supervised by Certified Soil Classifiers (Section 905.10 Definitions).

<http://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/077/077009050000100R.html>

2. Separation distances from the seasonal water table and other limiting layers listed **are required** and are no longer only a recommendation (2 feet for many soils.) See wording in Section 905.60(a)(7) and Section 905.190(b)(3). This will have an impact in counties that did not require separation distances and includes a requirement for the sewage contractor or homeowner to submit information with the plan approval application that a limiting layer does not exist within the (separation distance.)

<http://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/077/077009050000600R.html>

<http://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/077/077009050001900R.html>

3. After Jan 1, 2014 percolation tests **will no longer be accepted** (Section 905.55.) "...when designing a subsurface system, the absorption capacity shall be determined by subsection (a) [soil investigations].... subsection (b) [percolation tests] shall not be used..."

<http://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/077/077009050000550R.html>

4. **Appendix A, Illustration M, Exhibit B- Key for Determining Sewage Loading Rates has a number of typographic errors** in the headings and a pair of loading rate numbers are transposed. These corrections have been provided to IDPH and will eventually be incorporated. A correct version of the loading rate table is available on the ISCA website under Soil Information (technical and educational). **This revised loading rate table should be used immediately.**

KEY CHANGES TO THE REVISED ILLINOIS PRIVATE SEWAGE DISPOSAL CODE, effective August 28, 2013. (cont.)

In a related area, **surface discharges of wastewater** from homes or businesses not connected to a municipal sewer system **will require an application** (notice of intent NOI) **for an NPDES** (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System) **permit from USEPA Region 5**. The draft permit- **Illinois Surface Discharge Permit (ILG62)** requires the submission of a written determination that concludes that all soil based systems (this includes mound systems referred to as "Illinois Raised Filter Beds" in the Private Sewage Disposal Code) are technically infeasible and/or economically infeasible (the economic infeasibility does not apply to businesses.) The technical feasibility part requires a soils investigation be performed by a CPSCs or CPSSs with SSSA. This inconsistency with the IL Private Sewage Disposal Code is being addressed by ISCA (Jerry Berning is leading this effort.) Also there is a requirement for a "Site Evaluator" for Technical Feasibility to provide additional information beyond the soil investigation including a determination that the proposed surface discharge system will discharge to the Waters of the United States or conveyances to the Waters of the U.S. This requires the "Site Evaluator" to identify/ delineate Waters of the U.S. and conveyances to Waters of the U.S. Presently the proposed definition of "Site Evaluator" does not include Soil Classifiers, but does include IL Licensed Environmental Health Practitioners and Engineers. The ISCA Council feels that we should be included in this definition as we provide the Soil Investigation and many of our members are very knowledgeable about the Waters of the U.S., wetlands, prior converted cropland, etc. We are pursuing the inclusion of Soil Classifiers in the definition of "Site Evaluators." ISCA is already in the initial planning stages to provide training to our members.

ISCA on Facebook

Ans

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.



Trading Post

This spot is reserved for members who would like to buy, sell, trade, or announce an item, event, or activity in our newsletter. Please limit your classified ad to 25 words or less. Email your ad to the newsletter at newsletter@illinoissoils.org

Days Gone By



Can you identify the soil scientists taken in this 1980 Soil Survey Workshop
Answer on Page 13

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.

Answer to the “Days Gone By” photograph on page 12

SOIL SCIENTISTS WORKSHOP
CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS
MARCH 10-13, 1980

PICTURE #1

Left to Right

1st Row - Kneeling: Randy Moore, Fred Await, Steve Fischer, Dan Fielding, Earl Voss

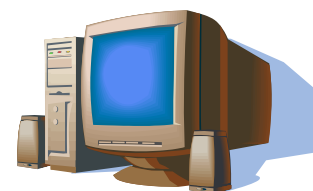
2nd Row - Seated: Mike Stout, Warren Fitzgerald, Bruce Houghtby, Laurie Bonnewell, Roger Windhorn, Don McCormack

3rd Row - Standing: Don Fehrenbacher, Wiley Scott, Jim Steinkamp, Chris Cochran, Mark Bramstedt, Mike Lilly, Scott Martin, Leonard Lewis, Steve Suhl, Mike Walker, Irene Watterson, Monty Martin, Bill Krezner, Dana Grantham, Dale Caley, Lester Bushue, John Pearse, Jack Paschke, Richard Sims



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
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!



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148 E. Pleasant Hill Road
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Carbondale, IL 62903

Visit the ISCA website to see the color version of this newsletter

www.illinoissoils.org/news

.....**Cut**.....**Cut**.....

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