



# Illinois Soil Classifiers Association Newsletter

Winter-February 2009

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## Message from the President

Hello to all!

I'd like to spend part of this column thanking all of the people who have given time, often behind the scenes, serving in a variety of capacities within ISCA. As my term as President comes to a close I can definitely say that I've been impressed by the amount of work that the members of the various committees have done to help the society. Thanks to all of you, and keep up the good work!

Also, a special thanks to those of you who helped to develop ISCA's multi-year plan. It certainly helped the council make decisions regarding what priorities to pursue over this past year.

Following the multi-year plan, the council decided to schedule a hydric soils course in the Chicago area this winter. As we began planning for this course, we were unsure of how much demand there would be for this kind of training, and so scheduled one course with a target audience of approximately 50 people. After being bowled over by the interest in the course, we added a second day for the course and added capacity for an additional 10 people each day. As a result, we are now planning on instructing about 120 people in this training. This is great exposure for soil science and for the ISCA. So thanks again for those who worked on the multi-year plan, and thanks for all who have volunteered to help teach the courses.

Scott Wegman, President  
573-541-7645  
[scott.wegman@aecom.com](mailto:scott.wegman@aecom.com)

## Illinois State Soil T-Shirts Still Available

Short Sleeve -- \$12

Long Sleeve -- \$14

Shipping and Handling \$5 per order

Order by contacting Steve Elmer

E-mail : [torflagr@geneseo.net](mailto:torflagr@geneseo.net)



## ISCA Membership News

### New Member—Jenwei Tsai

My name is Jenwei Tsai, and I am a first year Master's student at the University of Illinois in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences. I am currently working with Dr. Mark David and Dr. Robert Darmody studying long-term changes in forest soils in Maine Spodosols and Illinois Alfisols and Mollisols.

I would like to thank the ISCA for sponsoring numerous soil judging competitions. I have been involved with the U of I soil judging team since my undergrad years and it is through these experiences that I have found my passion in studying soil science.

I am currently teaching a lab in Introduction to Soil Science for Dr. Darmody. I have a new found appreciation for teachers. I plan on collecting samples in Allerton and in Maine this summer to further my thesis research. In the fall, I'll be helping out with the U of I Soil Judging Team.

Photo: Taken by Dr. D. at a peat bog in Treehaven, WI during the 2008 ASA Region III soil judging contest.



### 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 [zach.weber@il.usda.gov](mailto:zach.weber@il.usda.gov)

- ISCA ball caps available for \$9 (includes S&H).  
Contact Steve Elmer at [torflagr@geneseo.net](mailto:torflagr@geneseo.net)
- Drummer T-Shirts available in 2 colors (see front cover).  
Short sleeve - \$12 Long sleeve - \$14



## Peoria Onsite Wastewater Treatment Conference 2009

### Sponsored by the Illinois Association of Local Environmental Health Administrators

The central Illinois IALEHA Conference was held in Peoria, Illinois on Jan. 15 and 16, 2009. This conference tends to focus on septic health officials and administrators. Some septic contractors are always included in the list of participants also. Reports say that approximately 120 folks attended this year's event on a very cold couple of days!

Roger Windhorn, representing ISCA, was a presenter at this session. He talked on general soils information, soil properties affecting leach field operation, and a little about how to "interpret" the soils information that may occur on a typical Soil Evaluation form.

The overall program was interesting and diverse and included speakers from different backgrounds and expertise. Chad Moorman, Program Manager for the Illinois Department of Public Health, gave a good update on what is current with the "revised" Code and what might be some changes to look for when draft copies are available.

These are good discussion sessions for all those involved in the public health issue of onsite waste disposal. If possible, I encourage all ISCA folks to attend one of these in the future if you are at all interested in conducting soil evaluations!

Submitted by Roger Windhorn

## ISCA Exhibits at 6th Annual OWPI Conference

ISCA had a booth at the 6th Annual Onsite Wastewater Professionals of Illinois (OWPI) Conference in Collinsville, Illinois at the Gateway Conference Center on January 26 & 27, 2009. We had a display with information about the state soil with other pictures of various landscapes, sampling methods and structure types, as well as the texture triangle. We had a computer to access the ISCA website and had soil core samples of different drainage types for hands-on. We had new ISCA brochures to hand out as well as some business cards from some of the consultants. There were approximately 150 - 200 people in attendance at the conference; made up of mostly regulators and contractors. The attendance was down from years past and there weren't as many "vendors" as in the past. The economic downturn was certainly noticeable here. We had quite a few people come to our booth. Most of those who came inspected the soil cores and had questions about "seasonal high groundwater". Most were not aware of our website, so that was good information to give out, along with our brochures.

Those who helped man the display were: Jerry Berning, Chuck Frazee, and Doug Gaines

Submitted by Doug Gaines



## 2009 Illinois Soil Classifiers Association 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

The 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Illinois Soil Classifiers Association will be held March 21, 2009 at the Route 66 Hotel and Conference Center located at 625 E. Saint Joseph St. in Springfield. The day will begin at 10:00 a.m. with a Business Seminar presented by Kevin Lust, Director of the Small Business Development Center. Advance registration is requested for the Business Seminar. (See the article below for more information about the seminar.) The meeting will begin with a luncheon at 12:30 p.m. followed by the ISCA business meeting. The Business Seminar and Annual Meeting will be on the first floor of the conference center in the room adjacent to the hotel restaurant. Please send your check and registration before March 5, 2009. See the registration form on page 9.

Directions: The Route 66 Hotel and Conference Center is located on the south side of Springfield on Business 55, 1.1 miles north of I-55 / I-72. From the north, east, or south take exit 92A onto Business 55. From the west take exit 97 onto Business 55. Please see map on page 7.

### Kevin Lust to Present a Business Seminar at the ISCA Annual Meeting

ISCA is honored to have Kevin Lust present a special business seminar for our members at the 2009 Annual Meeting. Kevin will discuss the pitfalls and tips on establishing and maintaining a small business, including issues on taxes, insurance, and marketing, as well as other topics. This is an excellent opportunity for all soil classifiers and especially for those who are already self-employed and for those who may consider private consulting in the future.

As a professional speaker and trainer since 1990, Kevin Lust has delivered over 1,800 presentations in 16 countries on four continents. He is the Founder and President of Lust Development Group, Inc., an organization dedicated to helping people live their lives more effectively, and General Partner of Smith-Miner Productions, a publishing firm specializing in unique resources that make people's lives easier. Prior to that, he began his career in the banking industry, starting as a teller in college, and eventually serving in roles as Credit Analyst, Commercial Lender, and, finally, as Director of Personnel & Training for a major regional bank holding company. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration from Illinois Wesleyan University and is a graduate of the National School of Human Resources of the American Bankers' Association at the University of Colorado.

Kevin has been named a Certified Speaking Professional, the highest earned designation of the National Speakers Association. Worldwide, less than nine percent of the more than 5000 members of the International Federation of Professional Speakers hold that designation. Kevin is the Senior Instructor for Roger Dawson's Power Negotiating Institute and recently was named the Director of the Illinois Small Business Development Center at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield.

ISCA is offering this seminar as one of the many benefits of membership in the association. The only requirement to attend the seminar is that each person pre-register so that we can make preparations accordingly. The two-hour seminar is on March 21<sup>st</sup> beginning at 10:00 AM at the Route 66 Inn and Conference Center in Springfield, IL. The seminar will precede the 2009 Annual Meeting and luncheon. Please indicate on your Annual Meeting registration form (page 9) if you plan to attend the seminar. There is no limit to the number who can attend, so take advantage of this opportunity to gain insights of running a small business from an excellent business professional.

Submitted by Mark Bramstedt

## 2009 Candidate Biographies

During last year's Annual Meeting held March 8, 2008, the ISCA membership voted and approved a by-law change regarding the process of nominating and electing officers. The nominating committee has completed selecting a slate of officers for 2009 to be voted on at the ISCA Annual Meeting (March 21, 2009). Only one candidate for each office is needed. However, the new process also allows for open nominations from the ISCA membership. No nominations were received from the ISCA Membership during the open nomination period.

The Nomination Committee presents the following slate of officers for nomination: Present Elect - Jennifer Wollenweber; Vice-President - Mark Bramstedt; and Secretary - Steve Elmer.

### President Elect

#### **Jennifer Wollenweber**

Jennifer earned a B.S. in biology and a M.S. in Geography with an emphasis in soils from Northern Illinois University. Jennifer joined ISCA as student member after attending an ISCA Fall Tour, then became an associate member, and is currently a full member working towards certification. She has been actively involved in ISCA by serving on the PR&E committee for the last two years. She has over 4 ½ years of experience as a soil scientist and wetland delineator with V3 Companies. She also taught Earth Science at Waubensee Community College and enjoys teaching others about soils and natural resources. Jennifer lives in Yorkville with her husband, two girls, and assortment of animals.

### Vice President

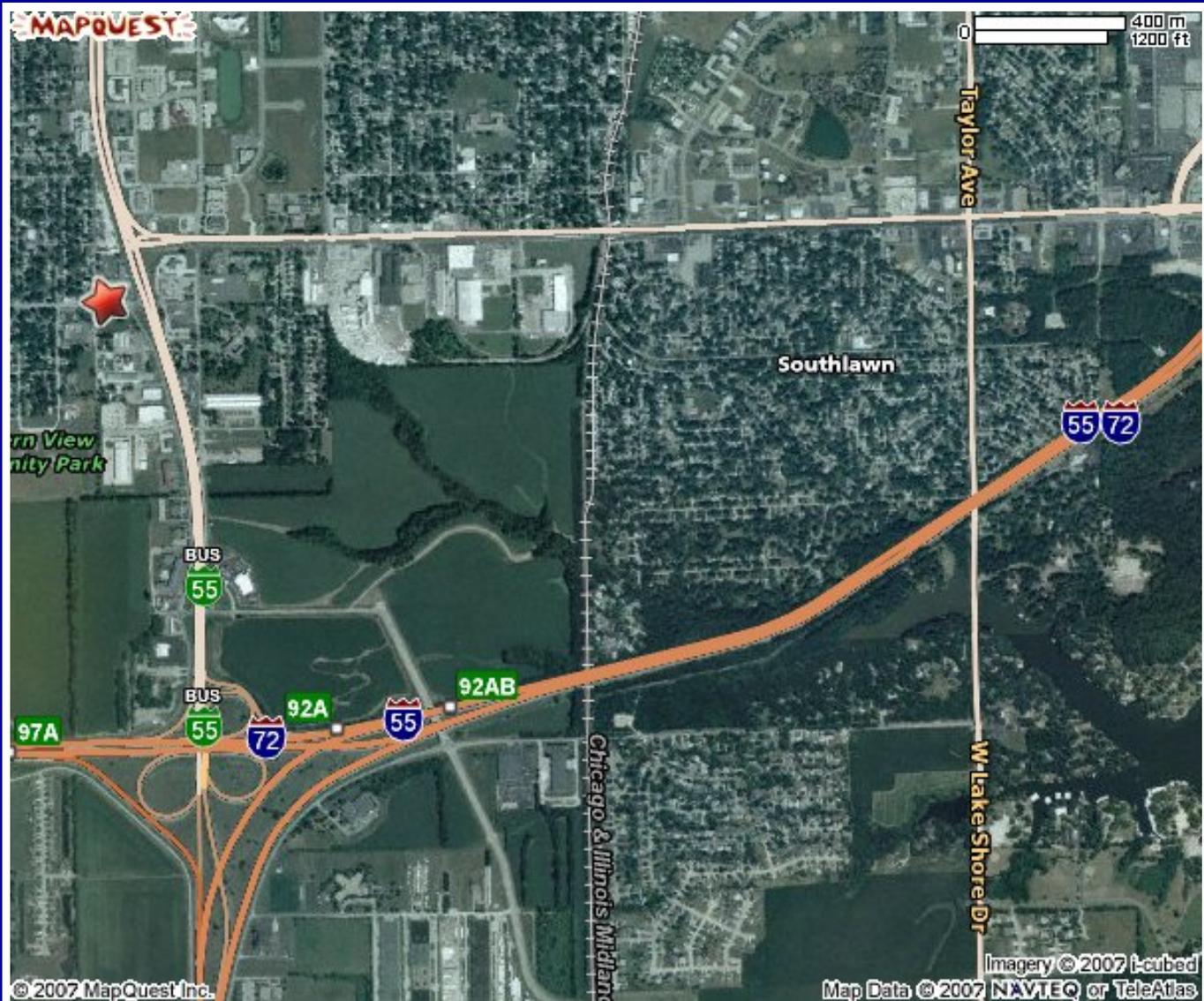
#### **Mark Bramstedt**

Mark graduated from the University of Montana with a BS degree in forestry with special emphasis on soils. He has been a soil scientist with SCS/NRCS for many years, and currently is the Area Resource Soil Scientist for NRCS Administrative Area 3. His duty station and home is located in Watseka, Illinois. He has been an active member of ISCA since 1978, serving on several committees, certification board, and two separate terms as ISCA president. He holds certification by both ISCA and ARCPACS.

### Secretary

#### **Steve Elmer**

Steve received his B.S. degree from UW-Stevens Point in 1969. After serving as the survey leader in Connecticut, he came to Illinois in 1977 to serve as survey leader for the Henry County soil survey. He also was the survey leader for Mercer and Warren Counties, as well the MLRA Soil Survey Project Leader in Rock Falls. Steve holds certification with both ISCA and ARCPACS and has served on various ISCA committees and boards. Steve retired from NRCS in 2006 and is now engaged in private consultant work.



### Route 66 Hotel and Conference Center Driving Directions for Annual Meeting

The hotel is located on the south side of Springfield on Business 55, 1.1 mile north of Interstate 55 - 72. From north, east, or south take exit 92A onto Business 55. From west take exit 97B onto Business 55. Hotel is on the west side at 2<sup>nd</sup> stoplight.

### 2009 Bent Auger Award

It is 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 2009, **please bring his/her nomination to the annual meeting** in Springfield on March 21.

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!

[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.

### 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.

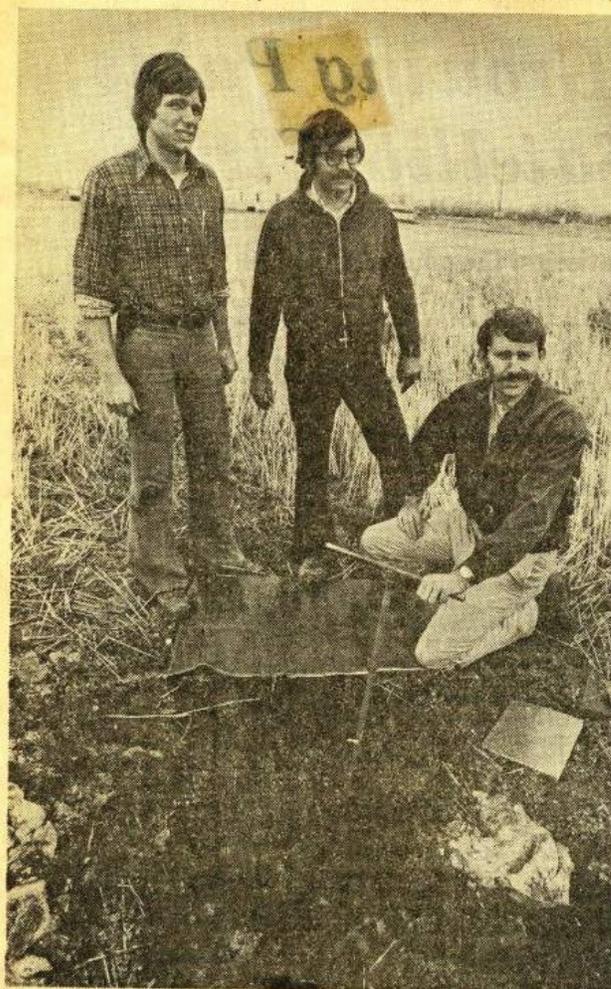
### Days Gone By...

Can you identify the ISCA member from this 1975 newspaper article?

Answer will be published in the Spring newsletter.

Clip courtesy of NRCS District Conservationist in Bay County Michigan, Gracie Moreno.

6-D THE BAY CITY TIMES WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 1975



**SOIL SAMPLING** — This team of soil scientists will be traveling the length and breadth of Bay County during the next three and a half years, sampling and mapping soils throughout the county. So don't be surprised if you see a man with an auger in the middle of a field. Currently working in Monitor and Williams townships, the

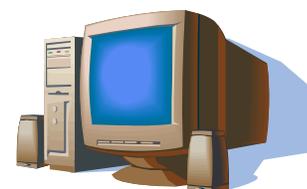
Answer to last newsletter's "Days Gone By...":

Roger Windhorn, standing  
Pete Weikle, kneeling  
McLean County Soil Survey

[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!



## 2009 ISCA 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Registration

Make checks payable to: Illinois Soil Classifiers Association

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_

Cost is \$15.00 / person.

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I will be attending the Business Seminar. (membership benefit, no additional fee)

\_\_\_\_\_ I will NOT be attending the Business Seminar.

Send to: Charles J. Frazee  
65 Gaffney Rd  
Divernon, IL 62530

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## 2009 ISCA BALLOT FOR OFFICERS

Voting privileges are for Full Members, Associate Members, and Honorary Members (Vote for one in each office by placing a check or an X next to the candidate's name )

### **President-Elect**

Jennifer Wollenweber \_\_\_\_\_

Nominations from ISCA Membership None Submitted

### **Vice President**

Mark Bramstedt \_\_\_\_\_

Nominations from ISCA Membership None Submitted

### **Secretary**

Steve Elmer \_\_\_\_\_

Nominations from ISCA Membership None Submitted

Return the ballot in a sealed envelop marked "ballot" to Steve Elmer, ISCA Secretary before the start of the 2009 ISCA Annual Meeting. You may also mail the ballot to Steve Elmer, 27560 Ebenezer Road, Geneseo, IL 61254. Please mark "ballot" on the outside of the envelope to ensure that the ballot remains sealed before it is counted at the Annual Meeting. In order to be counted, mailed ballots must be received before March 21, 2009.

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