



Illinois Soil Classifiers Association Newsletter

Spring-May 2008

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Message from the President

Greetings from your new ISCA President and from slightly west of western Illinois! And congratulations to our new officers: Tom D'Avello (President-elect), Frank Heisner (Vice President), and Chuck Frazee (Secretary). I appreciate the opportunities I've had to work with several of you already, and look forward to working with more of you through ISCA the rest of this year.

In looking over several old "President's Column" articles from previous newsletters I didn't really see that there is a particular protocol for what should be written about, so I'd like to share some brief thoughts on two issues.

First, I believe this is a great time to be involved in soil science. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is in the process of revising their 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual by developing Regional Supplements for several regions of the U.S. As these Regional Supplements are implemented there will be a greater reliance on hydric soil indicators when wetlands are delineated. Personally, I hope this will do away with the delineations where soils were called hydric because they had a 10YR2/1 A horizon that was 12 inches thick!

Second, have you scheduled some time off? It sounds like a strange thing for the president of a professional organization to talk about, but relevant, I believe. A speaker recently talked about "margins", and explained that many people today have packed so much into their lives that there is little time for rest. This generates stress, and then when something comes along to complicate the routine, we have no time or energy left over to deal with it. There's a lot more good instruction regarding this topic, I can get it to you if you are interested.

But now I'm going to take my own advice, end this column and go take a nap!

Regards,
Scott
Scott Wegman
573-541-7645
ebsoil@marktwain.net

P.S. OK, I didn't really take a nap, but I will try to slow down some.

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



ISCA Membership News

ISCA Welcomes New Members

Joel Gruver-Associate Member
-biography to follow

Scott Wiesbrook-Full Member
-biography to follow

Jericho Winter - Student Member

My name is Jericho Winter and I am a native of Prophetstown in Whiteside County. In May of 2007 I received my B.S. degree in Geography from Northern Illinois University with a specialization in Natural Environmental Systems. In the fall of 2007 I started working on a master's degree in Geography at NIU. My research project involves hydric soil morphology and evaluating hydric soil identification methodology. In the fall of 2007 I was given the privilege of traveling to Marshall, IL as an assistant coach for NIU's first soil judging team and am looking forward to doing so again in the fall of 2008. I love to travel and have always wanted to learn a second language. I also enjoy running, biking, swimming, and spending time outdoors.



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

- ISCA ball caps available for \$9 (includes S&H). Contact Steve Elmer at torflagr@geneseo.net
- Drummer T-Shirts available in 2 colors (see front cover). Short sleeve - \$12 Long sleeve - \$14
- 2000 4100 4WD JD hydrostatic drive, low hours, with Giddings rear-mounted 5-TS soil probe, storage boxes, and many accessories. Call A&E Soil Consultants@ 309-945-9090.



Days Gone By...



1983 Ford County Soil Survey Crew. From L-R: Don Fehrenbacher, Bruce Putnam, Bill Teater, and Jon Stika
-submitted by Mark Bramstedt from Kent Sims



Field Review of the Winnebago-Boone Counties soil survey in 1973. From L-R: Steve Zwicker, Dana Grantham, Burt Ray, Henry Mount, George Huddleson, and Steve Higgins.
-photo taken by Earl Voss and submitted by Mark Bramstedt

ISCA 2008 Budget

	Budget	Actual
Income		
Annual / Joint Fall Meeting	\$1,000.00	
Dues, Membership	\$2,200.00	
Dues, Certification & App. For Cert.	\$1,200.00	
Interest	\$80.00	
Bookmarks	\$25.00	
Hats	\$25.00	
Shirts	\$50.00	
Soil Tubes (Drummer)	\$25.00	
Workshops	\$500.00	
Soil Cards	\$25.00	
TOTALS	\$5,130.00	
Expenses		
Administration	\$400.00	
Annual / Joint Fall Meetings	\$1,500.00	
Certification Board	\$100.00	
Awards (Burt Ray & Reg. 3 SS)	\$400.00	
Web Page (annual)	\$96.00	
Miscellaneous	\$100.00	
Public Relations	\$200.00	
Soil Judging (Support Illinois team)	\$500.00	
Soil Survey Horizons	\$1,600.00	
Workshops IDPH Statewide	\$500.00	
TOTALS	\$5,396.00	

submitted by Roger Windhorn

Soils Training Sessions for County Health Departments

ISCA, NRCS and the Illinois Department of Public Health sponsored five very successful training sessions around the state for county health department employees. Sessions were held at Springfield, Allerton Park, Du Quoin, Galesburg, and Wheaton with approximately 130 people attending. This training was conducted as a result of a need which was identified in the ISCA Multi-Year Plan. The Multi-Year Plan was developed by the Public Relations and Education Committee and approved by the Executive Council in 2007. The goal of the sessions was to educate health department employees, who are involved with private sewage disposal, about the importance of soil evaluations in the design of septic systems. We received many positive comments about each session from those who attended. Following, is an agenda with a list of the many soil classifiers who served as instructors. This training would not have been possible without their participation. A special thank you goes to Bob McLeese and Bill Gradle for allowing the NRCS soil scientists to help with these sessions.

Thanks to all who participated.

Mark Bramstedt and Roger Windhorn

Soil Evaluation in the Illinois Private Sewage Code

April 1, Springfield, April 8, Allerton Park, April 15, Du Quoin, April 22, Galesburg, April 29, Wheaton

9:00 AM	Introductions	<i>Chad Moorman, IDPH Program Director</i>
9:10	Soil and Site Characteristics	<i>Roger Windhorn</i>
10:30	Sewage Code Soil Key & Soil Evaluation Form	<i>Paul Brown, Springfield Session</i> <i>J. Wiley Scott, Allerton Park Session</i> <i>Scott Harding, Du Quoin Session</i> <i>Steven Zwicker, Galesburg Session</i> <i>William Kreznor, Wheaton Session</i>
11:00	Using the Soil Survey as a Guide	<i>Mark Bramstedt, (Bob McLeese, Allerton)</i>
11:20	How Water Moves Through the Soil .	<i>Mark Bramstedt, (Bob McLeese, Allerton)</i>
12:00	Lunch	
1:00	Private Sewage Disposal Code	<i>Chad Moorman</i>
1:15	Significant Regional Soil Characteristics	<i>Steven Suhl, Springfield Session</i> <i>Ken Gotsch, Allerton Park Session</i> <i>Jerry Berning, Du Quoin Session</i> <i>Stephen Higgins, Galesburg Session</i> <i>Dale Calsyn, Wheaton Session</i>
1:30	Soil Evaluation – Small Group Exercise	<i>Groups</i>
3:15	Question and Answer Session.....	<i>All</i>
3:30	Adjourn	
	Others who assisted with the soil evaluation exercises:.....	<i>Ron Collman (Allerton)</i> <i>Matt McCauley (Du Quoin)</i> <i>Frank Heisner (Galesburg)</i> <i>Jeff Deniger (Wheaton)</i>

ISCA/WSPSS/AWSS Joint Fall Meeting and Field Tour

Mark your calendars for the our fall meeting and field tour. This will be a joint meeting with the Wisconsin Society of Professional Soil Scientists and the Association of Women Soil Scientists – a great opportunity to mix with professionals from other areas. Plans are still being developed, but the tentative agenda is below.

Dates: October 15 and 16, 2008

Location: Illinois Beach State Park, Spring Bluff Forest Preserve, Lyons Woods Forest Preserve near Zion, IL.

Tentative Agenda

Wednesday 10/15 – Illinois Beach Resort and Conference Center

7:00-8:30 pm – Presentations by:

Jim Miner, ISGS geologist will discuss the history of Glacial Lake Chicago and the Lake Border Moraines and his study of the water table at Spring Bluff

Don Wilson, Steward of the Illinois Beach State Park will discuss the natural resources and human impact of the area

Representatives from each professional organization

Other guest speakers? to be determined

8:30 – ? pm

Social time to interact with our fellow soil scientists

Thursday 10/16 – 8:00 am – 1:00 pm

Start at Spring Bluff Forest Preserve to see soils formed in the deposits of Glacial Lake Chicago.

Mid-morning break which will include a Texturing Contest

Travel to Lyons Woods Forest Preserve to see till soils of the Lake Border Moraine

A block of 20 rooms have been reserved at the Illinois Beach Resort and Conference Center at the rate of \$89 + tax.

<http://www.ilresorts.com/> Call the resort at (847) 625-7300 before September 15 to guarantee a room. Camping facilities are available in the state park and other motels are in nearby Zion and Winthrop Harbor.

PR&E Committee: Karla Petges, Jennifer Wollenweber, Christy Sabdo, Bob McLeese, Mark Bramstedt, and Jesse Kurylo

Abstract Submission for Technical Session #143

Dear Colleagues:

We call your attention to Technical Session # 143, titled: The Origin of Mima (Pimple, Prairie) Mounds and Similar Microrelief Features: Multidisciplinary Perspectives, at the joint meeting of the Geological Society of America, Soil Science Society of America (SSSA), American Society of Agronomy (ASA), Crop Science Society of America (CSSA) and the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies (GCAGS) in Houston, Texas, October 5-9, 2008. We welcome abstracts submitted on this theme.

GSA Technical Sessions - Abstract submission deadline: 3 June.

For abstract submission details, go to: <http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2008/index.htm>

-submitted by Don Johnson (dljohns@uiuc.edu) and Rolfe Mandel (mandel@kgs.ku.edu).

Soil Scientists Get Their Kicks on Route 66

The 33rd ISCA Annual Meeting was held at the Route 66 Inn and Conference Center in Springfield on March 8 with President Ken Gotsch, presiding. About 30 members attended.

After a presentation and slide show of the successful 2007 Forest Soils Workshop by Matt McCauley we had a very nice buffet luncheon. Chad Moorman, Director for the Illinois Department of Public Health Private Sewage Disposal Program was our keynote speaker. Chad discussed issues with soils and septic and presented information about the proposed changes in the septic code. Chad was followed by a panel of four soil classifiers (Wiley Scott, Steve Zwicker, Jerry Berning, Bruce Putman) who discussed how some of the proposed changes in the code would impact the way soil classifiers do business. This was an excellent dialogue and some opportunity was given for the rest of the membership to participate in the discussion.

The business meeting had a full agenda. Changes were approved to the definition of "Out of State" members. Also approved was a major change in how ISCA will elect officers beginning in 2009. See the Membership Handbook on the ISCA web page for full details of these changes.

A presentation of the Burton W. Ray Award was made by Mark Bramstedt, chair of the Public Relations and Education Committee to Jenwei Tsai, the 2007 winner. Jenwei's advisor, Robert Darmody was also there for the presentation.

We had some great door prizes awarded and the Bent Auger award was given to Mark Bramstedt. (He was framed by Roger Windhorn, the 2007 winner).

For those who attended, it was an enjoyable and educational meeting. It's too bad more of our membership could not attend, especially when our keynote speaker was presenting information that could have a great impact on our profession. Remember, our meetings are an easy way to earn CEUs for certification renewal for both ISCA and ARCPACS.

Tom D'Avello was elected as the new President Elect, Frank Heisner as the Vice President, and Charles Frazee as the Treasurer. For full details of the meeting, watch for the Secretary's minutes.

-submitted by Mark Bramstedt

And the Award Goes to...

The Bent Auger Award started in 1977. The purpose of award is to recognize an individual who has distinguished himself or herself by some legendary gaffe worthy of recognition for posterity (whether real or imaginary). This years recipient of the Bent Auger award goes to Mark Bramstedt. Mark was nominated by last year's recipient, Roger Windhorn. Roger was asked to write up something for Mark's nomination and his comments are as follows: "Yes, I was the one that nominated Mark for this prestigious award.....but duly noted, AFTER Mark had nominated me for it (totally bogus, set up!) last year! So... I scanned my memory bank and came up with a couple flubs that Mark had committed over the years. One was for putting his mapboard on top of his vehicle and then driving off down the road. The mapboard blew off and was totally annihilated by a semi that was following Mark. Another incident had Mark backing into a tree at the 4-H camp in Allerton and putting a curl in his bumper. McLeese was standing right there! So....Mark wins!" I don't know about everyone else but this sounds like a plot for revenge! Congratulations Mark.



Annual Meeting Pics



ISCA Council Meeting prior to the Annual Meeting



Ken Gotsch addresses members one last time as President



Matt McCauley gives a summary about the Forest Soils Workshop in Carbondale which the ISCA helped host.



Keynote speaker Chad Moorman, Director for the Illinois Department of Public Health Private Sewage Disposal Program discusses issues with soils and septic.



Mark Bramstedt presents the Burton W. Ray Award to Jenwei Tsai, the 2007 winner. Pictured also is Jenwei's advisor, Robert Darmody.



Soil classifiers Wiley Scott, Steve Zwicker, Jerry Berning, and Bruce Putman discuss how some of the proposed changes in the septic code would impact the way soil classifiers do business.

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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.

1st Announcement: 54th Midwest Friends of the Pleistocene Field Conference May 16-18, De Kalb, Illinois

The deglacial history of northeastern Illinois

**Sponsored by the
Illinois State Geological Survey with contributions from Northern Illinois
University, University of Illinois-Chicago, and the Illinois State Museum**

Come discuss and see Illinois-style ice-walled lake plains, large-scale thin-skinned deformation of diamicton, gracefully folded outwash deposits, evidence of large floods, and the Aurora Mastodonts (among other things...)!

**Please e-mail Brandon Curry if you are interested in attending
(curry@isgs.uiuc.edu)**

We will send out the 2nd announcement (with the registration form attached) as soon as we have heard positive responses from about 100 people.

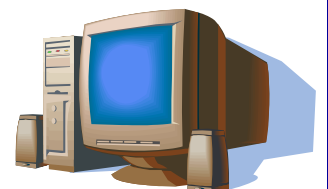


ISCA Newsletter Committee is looking for pictures of it's members, past or present, to include in future newsletters. Submissions can be sent electronically or hard copy to the staff address, see above and left. Please include a narrative for the caption! If hard copies are sent please indicate if they 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!



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

www.illinoissoils.org/news

.....Cut.....Cut.....

Change of Address Form

Name: _____

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