



Illinois Soil Classifiers Association Newsletter

Spring-May 2007

Upcoming Events

- 27th Annual Central States Forest Soils Workshop to be hosted in Carbondale, IL area October 9-11

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Message from the President

None of us have the precious commodity of excess time. So, I will make this story short. Last fall, I decided to replace some bad pieces of Masonite siding on my garage. I have no skills or experience of doing this whatsoever! I did some very careful planning, got all my supplies together, calculated the cost, and hoped for good weather. The night before, I told my wife, (who bravely offered to assist me) that I felt I was getting a sore throat. Sure enough, the next morning when we were to begin the project, I was dealt a big time fall cold. With no energy, feeling miserable along with a "wish I were in bed" attitude, we began the project (show must go on). By the end of the day, I was completely exhausted, with still several more days repeating the same rigorous schedule. Will I make it?

As it turned out, the garage is finished and the replacement looks as if a professional carpenter did it (all mistakes were hidden!). Now for the point of all this... All the planning in the world will not account for those unseen hurdles that are thrown at us no matter what we do. But, cooperation, persistence and follow through can sure be helpful attributes. In the end, it could spell the difference between being successful or just so so. But how's this connect with ISCA? Well, it's a new year for one thing...you have a new president for another. But with a little planning by all the committee chairs and their members, a little persistence and follow through, ISCA can have a great year! That is why I have asked for all committees to join the ISCA Council for a joint planning session. You all have great, innovative thoughts as to what you would like ISCA to accomplish. Let's capture all those ideas and have a vision for 07. Then without regret, we can look back and say, "Yep, it looks like a professional carpenter did that!"

Ken Gotsch, President
217-774-5564
Ken.gotsch@il.usda.gov

Illinois State Soil T-Shirts Still Available

Drummer T-Shirts are still available. Some size and color combinations are becoming limited in number. Be sure and order before your size and color are gone.

Short Sleeve -- \$12

Long Sleeve -- \$14

Shipping and

Handling \$5 per order

Order by contacting Steve Elmer

E-mail : torflagr@geneseo.net

Two navy blue ISCA collared shirts still available. XL and XXXL \$17



U of I Soil Judging Team Places 6th

The U of IL soil judging team placed 6th (one point shy of 5th place out of almost 4,000 points) out of 21 University teams at the National Soil Judging Contest hosted by Utah State University in Logan, UT this April. The U of IL's Garrett Rodgers placed 10th (one point shy of 9th place) out of 83 individuals. Students practiced in warm and sunny conditions early in the week followed by snow mixed with rain at 32F later and in the actual contest.

The ISCA donated \$100.00 per student to help defray their costs in representing our state at the contest.

-submitted by Robert Darmody



U of I Soil Judging Team pictured left to right: Garrett Rodgers, Jenwei Tsai, Patrick Baldwin, and Olivia Dorothy

ISCA Welcomes New Member

Alan Stone - Associate Member

I received my B.S. in Water Resources Management from UW-Stevens Point in 1991, M.S. in Earth Science from Western MI University in 1996, and M.S. in Environmental Engineering from Milwaukee School of Engineering in 2005. My experience includes hydrogeologic site investigations, contaminant fate and transport calculations for soil and groundwater contaminants, wastewater and stormwater infiltration, and environmental site assessments. I am currently a hydrogeologist/environmental engineer with Concord Engineering and Science in Bloomington, IL. My interests include hiking, fishing, church, and time with friends and family.

Welcome Alan!

Abraham Lincoln and Agriculture

A reception sponsored by the Illinois State Board of Education and Illinois Department of Agriculture was held recently at The Abraham Lincoln Museum. The title of the program was "Building Bridges For Career Pathways". Dr. Al Goldfarb, President WIU and Dr. Keith Miller, President of Black Hawk College were the speakers for this meeting. A Museum Actor presented Abraham Lincoln's Address to the Wisconsin State Agricultural Society in 1859. This address emphasized the need for Agricultural Education. His statement that "... no other occupation opens so wide a field for the profitable and agreeable combination of labor and cultivated thought as agriculture." To read the entire speech go to: http://www.nal.usda.gov/speccoll/exhibits/lincoln_wisconsin.html.

Questions were presented to the audience asking how agricultural information and exhibits could be integrated into museum presentations; how can the Abraham Lincoln/Agriculture connection be promoted especially to school children; and what types of projects could be targeted to students at all levels of education.

For those of you who may not remember, The Morrill Act and the Homestead Act were both passed during Lincoln's Presidency

Since moving to Springfield, Margaret and I have been volunteers at the Museum. I have been studying ways to integrate my background in soils into my volunteer work. A visit to the Museum is a rewarding experience and if any of you have not had the opportunity, I would urge you to make a trip to Springfield to see this wonderful addition to the State of Illinois.

Clifford C. Miles scruffybuttons@yahoo.com

ILLINOIS SOIL CLASSIFIERS ASSOCIATION

February 23, 2007
 Executive Council Meeting
 Bloomington Field Office
 Council members present: Calsyn, Elmer, Frazee, Gotsch, Heffter

Agenda

Meeting Call to Order – President Clayton Heffter

Approval of Agenda – motion made and accepted

Approval of Minutes: December 8, 2006 Council Meeting, Clinton Field Office – motion made and accepted

Reports:

Secretary – Steve Elmer

- Membership dues for 2007 have been received from all but 16 members to date. Besides the January notice, and the February newsletter notice, Steve will send out a third notice to any remaining unpaid members on 3/1/07, if necessary.
- Membership list discrepancies exist between Secretary, Treasurer, and Website rosters, due largely to uncommunicated transfers out of state, retirements, job change, etc. Steve has Treasurers 2/19 comments on (Steve's 1/07) member list, and has compared both against the website roster. Pending today's input from council members, Steve will insure that the 3 lists are identical. He will then re-route his list to Council members and to Mark Bramstedt for final review, prior to the Annual Meeting.
- Steve asks for any comments on 2006 Secretary Summary Report sent to Council members earlier in February. Copy attached. No comments received from Council members.
- One State Soil shirt was purchased in December.
- Steve also has certificates prepared for new members accepted in 2006. President Heffter signs and returns them to Steve for delivery.
- Steve also gives membership cards to President Heffter to sign and bring to Annual Meeting for distribution.

Treasurer Chuck Frazee

- Financial summaries for periods between the past two Council meetings and since the last Council Meeting (10-19-06 to 12-7-06 and 12-7-06 to 2-22-07) and for the calendar year 2006 were handed out to all council members. Reports were approved as read.

Certification Board

- One applicant is currently being processed

Standing Committee Reports:

Constitution, By-Laws and Legislative – No report

Ethics, Certification and Membership

- See above notes on certification and membership activity.
- Council moves and passes a motion to officially drop all 12 members who have not paid their 2006 dues to this date. Steve will follow up with Mark on one remaining member issue.

Finance

Unpaid dues and membership renewals – based upon the Councils review and concurrence of the 3 membership rosters, plus additional member dues that have been paid so far this month, there are currently only 16 of 106 members still unpaid.

Newsletter

The winter newsletter was mailed out Feb. 15 to all members. It contains registration forms for the Annual Meeting as well as ballots for the upcoming election. It is also posted on the web.

Nominations

- 2 nominees have been placed on the ballot for President-elect (Rahe, Wegman), and for Vice-President (Heisner, Windhorn). See February newsletter for details.
- Status of other Committee appointees:
 - Ethics Chair: Ron Collman
 - Public Relations and Education Chair: Mark Bramstedt
 - 2 Certification Board members: Matt McCauley and 1 to-be-announced
 - Constitution and By-Laws Committee Chair: to be named
 - Program Subcommittee (under Public Relations Committee): to-be-named

Public Relations and Education

President Heffter stated that the ISCA brochure has been drafted and final edits made. It has been sent back to Doug Gaines to obtain printing cost bids.

Ad-Hoc and Special Appointee Reports - No reports from any of the following:

- Program
- Historian
- State Advisory Commission on Private Sewage Disposal
- Smithsonian Project Coordinator
- USCSSA Teleconference

Old Business

- ISCA Brochure update – see note under Public Relations and Education
- Annual Meeting – Crown Plaza Hotel, Springfield, IL
 - Agenda – Chuck Frazee has a draft, and will send it to President Heffter, who will forward to Newsletter Committee for development for the Annual Meeting.
 - Election Procedure - Nominations Committee will count the ballots for President-Elect and Vice-President and announce results. Gavel to be passed by President Heffter to new President Gotsch at the appropriate time during the Annual Meeting in Springfield on 3/31/07.
 - General Business Procedure – Council moves and passes a motion to submit written reports for distribution at the Annual Meeting, in place of the oral reports of the past. Upon review by the membership present, the current officers can answer any questions from the floor.
 - 2007 Budget – The sole exception to the above General Business Procedure, the proposed budget will be voted upon by the members present at the Annual Meeting.
 - Door Prizes - Are being arranged by Chuck Frazee, Bob Tegeler, and others.
 - Adjournment – by new President, to be followed by a brief first meeting of the new Executive Council to discuss any follow up items from the Annual Meeting, and to set the next meeting date and location.

New Business

- 1) 2007 Forest Soils Workshop – scheduled for Carbondale, IL
 - a) will ISCA co-sponsor the workshop? – moved and passed by the Council
 - b) what will ISCA contribute in funding? – up to \$500 authorized
 - c) will ISCA pay for the lab analysis? – included in the above authorized amount
- 2) Other
 - a) Council discusses Annual Meeting speaker honorarium and moves and passes a motion to pay a \$200 honorarium plus mileage.

- b) Council reviews and comments on Calsyn's proposed budget for 2007. He will edit accordingly and re-route for final comments.
- c) ISCA polo shirt supply is down to last 2 shirts. Council moves not to make any purchase at this time, but to market the State Soil shirts currently in abundant supply instead.

Next meeting location and date: Springfield, IL at the ISCA Annual Meeting on March 31, prior to election results announcement and passing of the gavel. President Heffter will call an intermediate meeting, if one is needed prior to Annual Meeting.

Adjourn

Respectfully, Submitted
Steve Elmer, Secretary

ILLINOIS SOIL CLASSIFIERS ASSOCIATION
2006 Summary Notes from the Secretary
January, 2007 report, edited per 2/23/07 Executive Council meeting notes
 Current membership total = 106
 Certified members = 43

New Members in 2006:

Shae Birkey, Bill Craddock, Cassandra McKinney, Jason Warren

Dropped members in 2006 (unpaid for year, unless otherwise noted):

JD Alexander (deceased), **Richard Boniak, Darryl Einhorn, Jacey Jones, Patti Nomm, Don Phillips, John Tandarich, Patrick Ver Halen, Benny Weiss**

Dropped members by motion of 2/23/07 Executive Council vote:

Brad Boggess – Resigned from USDA late 2006 and transferred.

Greg Clark – Out-of-state transfer. Recommendation of Troy Fehrenbacher.

Jaimee Hammit – Transfer to Washington State. Recommendation of Council.

Catherine Swain – Resigned from USDA early 2006 and transferred. Recommendation of Dale Calsyn.

Members in Question:

Larry Gramm has moved from Plainfield to North Carolina.

Jennifer Wollenweber not on website membership list, has not paid either 06-07, but is still on Secretary membership roster, pending recent Bramstedt communications.

Change of Address:

Brad Cate, Gary Hankins, Christy Sabdo, Scott Wegman, David Zimmerman

Other Secretarial Activity

1. **State Soil shirt sold to Steve Zwicker in December, for reassigned employee. Additional shirt order processed earlier in the year.**
2. **2007 membership dues notice sent to all members in early January. Follow up notice placed in February Newsletter. If necessary, a follow up email or snail mail will be sent to remaining unpaid members on 3/1/07.**
3. **Receipts for dues notice postage and mailers submitted to Treasurer.**
4. **Certified Soil Classifiers list obtained from Doll.**
5. **Membership files updated in Excel spreadsheet. 1-24-07 copy, with 2007 dues current to date, prepared for and mailed to Treasurer.**
6. **Above membership total and membership list is subject to verification by the Executive Council members. There may be additions or deletions to the list, to be confirmed at the 2-23-07 Executive Council meeting. An updated copy of the membership list, including changes from 2006, will be generated before, and a summary presented at, the ISCA Annual meeting on 3/30/07.**

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Elmer, Secretary

ILLINOIS SOIL CLASSIFIERS ASSOCIATION

March 31, 2007

Executive Council Meeting, prior to the ISCA Annual Meeting that afternoon

Crown Plaza Hotel

Springfield, Illinois

Council members present: Calsyn, Elmer, Frazee, Gotsch, Heffter

Agenda

Meeting Called to Order – President Clayton Heffter at 11 AM

Approval of Agenda – motion made and accepted

Approval of Minutes: February 23, 2007 Council Meeting, Bloomington Field Office – motion made, accepted, carried

Reports:

Secretary – Steve Elmer

- Membership dues for 2007 have been received from all but 4 members to date. Besides the three notices already sent to members, Steve will follow up with phone calls or emails to the remaining 4.
- The ISCA membership list has been updated, with 4 new members added and 7 deleted. After the Annual Meeting, Steve will make any final updates and re-route his list to Council members and to Mark Bramstedt for final review and distribution.
- Steve has the signed certificates prepared for new members accepted in 2006, for presentation to those in attendance at the Annual Meeting. He will mail the remainder in coming weeks.
- Signed membership cards have been prepared for distribution at the Annual Meeting as well. Steve will also mail the remainder of these out within the month.

Treasurer Chuck Frazee

- Financial summaries for 2-23-07 to 3/31/07 and for calendar year 2006 were handed out to all council members.

Reports were approved as read.

Certification Board

-Matt McCauley and Steve Zwicker are the new committee members, approved by the Council, replacing Paul Brown and John Doll, whose terms expire.

Standing Committee Reports:

Constitution, By-Laws and Legislative – No report

Ethics, Certification and Membership -One new applicant (Alan Stone) is being recommended for Associate membership. Council approves the recommendation after reviewing his application.

Finance – The 2007 budget has been drafted for submittal to the membership for approval by members present at the Annual Meeting.

Newsletter – No report

Nominations – Nominees are on the ballot for President-Elect (Rahe, Wegman) and Vice-President (Heisner, Windhorn).

Public Relations and Education –

-Doug Gaines reports that the new ISCA promotional brochure is nearly complete. A draft is passed around for council members to view. Submission for printing should occur within the next 1-2 months.

-Doug also announces the 2007 Burt Ray award winner – Olivia Dorothy (U of IL), who will be participating in the National Soil Judging Competition at Logan, Utah on April 19-20, 2007. Bob McLeese, NRCS State Soil Scientist submitted a question about support for this year's national contest.

Ad-Hoc and Special Appointee Reports -

Program – no report

Historian – Roger Windhorn requested that he receive copies of current or updated membership information, as applicable, to be included in the ISCA History archives.

State Advisory Commission on Private Sewage Disposal – Mark Bramstedt reviews the status of recommendations made to changes in the State Department of Public Health code. Chuck Frazee proposes that ISCA re-establish an ad hoc committee to track progress on code updates within the legislature and to continue to have a voice on the soils-related aspects of them. No action was taken by the Council at this time.

Smithsonian Project Coordinator – Bill Kreznor reported on behalf of State Liaison Mike Konen that Illinois is currently at about 80% of goaled support. About 25% of the ISCA membership has contributed to date. Corporate sponsors are still being sought as well. Fund-raising concludes in 2007.

USCSSA Teleconference – No report

Old Business - None

New Business

Roger Windhorn reports that the NRCS Soils Key is on a link within the ISCA website, and confirms that part of Illinois' National Soils Display will be present at the 8/28-30 Farm progress Show in Decatur.

The Council passes a motion to provide \$500 to support the Illinois Soil Judging members trip to the national contest in Logan, Utah in April.

Next meeting location and date: Springfield, IL after the ISCA Annual Meeting on March 31, to be convened by new President Ken Gotsch.

Council moves to adjourn – 12 Noon

Respectfully, Submitted
Steve Elmer, Secretary

ISCA 32nd ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
March 31, 2007
Springfield, Illinois

Welcome, opening remarks and call for ballots by Clayton Heffter, ISCA President
 Meeting commenced at 12 noon with an invocation by Steve Elmer. Lunch followed.

Clayton Heffter introduced Brad Lee, Associate Professor in the Department of Agronomy at Purdue University. He discussed soils and septic systems.

35 members and guests were in attendance.

President Clayton Heffter called the business meeting to order at 1:45 PM.

Reports

Secretary's Report – Steve Elmer. As of March 31, there are 104 members of ISCA. 43 of these members are certified. Current membership includes 68 full; 14 associate; 8 affiliate; 9 out-of-state; 4 student; and 1 retired members. 4 non-certified members have not paid their dues for 2007. This past year, ISCA gained 5 new members. New member certificates were developed for presentation at the annual meeting. 8 members did not renew their membership. Hat and shirt inventory is as follows: hats – 176; ISCA polo shirts – 2; Drummer shirts – 67; magnets – 80. The value of the remaining inventory is \$2,682. Elmer prepared copies of the minutes from the last annual meeting held March 18, 2006 at Homer Lake for distribution to attendees of the March 31, 2007 annual meeting.

Treasurer's Report – Charles Frazee. Chuck provided a summary of income and expenses for the past year. Balance at the beginning of 2006 was \$15,738.74. Balance at the end of 2006 was \$15,020.30.
 Annual Treasurer's report for January 1, 2006 – December 31, 2006

Balance in Account - 01/01/06	\$ 15738.74
Income:	
Annual Meeting	\$ 645.00
Dues	2985.00
Interest	73.19
Fall Meeting	77.00
Bookmarks	120.00
State Soil Shirts	31.00
Soil Survey Horizons Refund	18.00

	\$ 3949.19
Expenses:	
Administration	\$ 409.20
Annual Meeting	1083.53
Fall Meeting	69.92
Soil Survey Horizons	1602.00
Soil Judging	700.00
State Soil	215.60
Internet	187.38
Awards	400.00

	\$ 4667.63
Ending Bank Balance - 12/31/06	\$ 15020.30

Certification Board Report – Chairman John Pearse, Vice-Chairman J. Wiley Scott, Secretary-Treasurer John Doll, members Paul Brown, Scott Wegman, Ken Anderson

2006 expenses:

Office Supplies	8.03	
Stamps/postage	<u>51.18</u>	
TOTAL		59.21

Total number of CPSC's as of March 1, 2007: 42 (43 in 2006)

New Certifications issued: None

New Applications: 1 approved, pending completion of written exam.

CPSC's submitting CEU's from 3/06 through 2/07: 19

Certification Board member terms expiring in 2007: Paul Brown and John Doll

Committee and Ad Hoc Reports:

Constitution, By-Laws & Legislative – Chairman Jeff Deniger.

Previously approved changes regarding Standards and Requirements for Certification (Sec. 5) and Procedures for Application (Sec. 6) were added into the ISCA Handbook and posted on the web by former Chairperson Jaimee Hammit and Mark Bramstedt. Hammit subsequently accepted a new position and moved out-of-state in July. Deniger was asked and agreed to assume the Committee Chair duties for the remainder of the year.

Ethics, Certification & Membership – Mark Bramstedt, Chair, and members Ken Gotsch, Karla Petges, Steve Suhl. New members for 2006-2007 include **Shae Birkey, Bill Craddock, Cassandra McKinney, Alan Stone, and Jason Warren.**

Finance – Dale Calsyn. The Finance Committee for 2006-2007 consisted of Dale Calsyn, Copies of the Illinois Soil Classifiers Association financial ledger and transaction and checking account reports for the period January 1 – December 31, 2006 were provided to the Finance Committee by Charles J. Frazee, ISCA Treasurer.

The Finance Committee audited the ISCA books for the calendar year 2006 and found the books to be in order. The bank account balance on hand as of December 31, 2006 was \$15,020.30.

Attached is the proposed 2007 Annual Budget prepared by the Finance Committee and approved by the Executive Council, and subsequently approved by the membership at the Annual Meeting on March 31, 2007.

**Illinois Soil Classifiers Association
2007 Annual Budget**

	Budget	Actual
Income		
Annual/Fall Meetings	800.00	
Dues, Membership	2000.00	
Dues, Certification	1200.00	
Interest	80.00	
Hats	25.00	
Shirts	50.00	
Soil Tubes	25.00	
Workshops	1500.00	
Totals	5680.00	
Expenses		
Administration	400.00	
Annual/Fall Meetings	1200.00	
Certification Board	100.00	
Awards	400.00	
Central States Forest Soils Workshop	500.00	
Farm Progress Show	500.00	
Miscellaneous	100.00	
Public Relations	200.00	
Smithsonian Soils Exhibit*	1700.00	
Soil Judging	500.00	
Soil Survey Horizons	1600.00	
Workshops	1000.00	
Totals	8200.00	

* The amount listed is the maximum contribution and is subject to change. Additional sources for donations have yet to be contacted.

Newsletter Committee – Chairman Zach Weber. Members Troy Fehrenbacher and Ron Collman:
Newsletters were published in May, August, and November, 2006, and in February, 2007. This newsletter schedule will be continued for 2007-2008. The Committee will distribute within 30 days of the Annual Meeting, minutes from the meeting, a membership roster, and list of all current organization officers. New member bios will be incorporated into future newsletters.

Nominations – Bruce Putman: Candidates for President-Elect are David Rahe and Scott Wegman; for Vice-President are Frank Heisner and Roger Windhorn.

Public Relations and Education – Doug Gaines

- Recognized several promoters of Illinois State Soil legislation
- Met with 2008 Illinois Septic Conference planners regarding possible ISCA “Detailed Soil Mapping for Subdivision Planning” presentation
- Sent a letter to local Congressmen and Senators in support of the Central Great Lakes mapping Coalition and ISGS involvement
- New ISCA promotional brochure is nearly complete and a draft was available for view at the Annual meeting
- Promoted the 2006 Midwestern Friends of the Pleistocene Field Conference in Bismarck, N.D. last June and is promoting the May, 2007 Conference in Oshkosh, WI
- ISCA held a Field Exam for Soil Classifiers and Soil Scientists at Shabbona Lake State Park in DeKalb County on June 23, 2006
- The Illinois Cooperative Soil Survey Planning Conference was held at Parkland College on September 14, 2006
- The Regional Soil Judging Contest was hosted by the University of Platteville on October 6-7, 2006. Olivia Dorothy (U of IL) had the highest individual score from an Illinois college and will receive the Burt Ray Award for 2006-2007. She is also on the national team competing in Logan, Utah on April 19-20, 2007
- The 26th annual Central States Forest Soils Workshop was held in Poplar Bluff, MO on October 10-12, 2006 and the 2007 conference will be held in October in Southern Illinois

Historian – Roger Windhorn:

Committee continues to solicit and maintain archives of organization activities yearly, as well as past and current membership and officer information (photos welcome).

State Advisory Commission on Private Sewage Disposal – Mark Bramstedt: ISCA submitted several comments and recommendations for revision of the soils part of the state sewage disposal code, but no changes to the current Illinois Department of Public Health code have been legislated at this time.

Smithsonian Soils Display – Bill Kreznor for State Liaison Mike Konen: As of 12/31/06, \$8,292.63 (80% of the \$10,000 goal) has been raised for the Illinois soil exhibit. About 25% of ISCA membership has contributed to this project and additional member support is encouraged. Corporate sponsorship is also being solicited. 2007 is the final year of fund-raising for this project. Visit www.soils/smithsonian/ for updated information on this nationwide project.

Old Business: None

New Business:

2007 budget - Dale Calsyn. See previous budget estimate. Motion was made and seconded to approve the budget for 2007. Motion passed.

Bent Auger Award – Roger Windhorn: Award started in 1977. 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). Two individuals were nominated: Ron Collman and Roger Windhorn. Roger was the unanimous winner, for having had some difficulty remembering where he placed his government truck keys, with resulting imposition on others to chauffeur him around to his duties the following week until the galloping keys were once again recovered (right where he had left them on the bed of the truck).

Election Results - Clayton Heffter. Scott Wegman as President-Elect; Roger Windhorn (In spite of himself) as Vice-President.

Presidents Perogative – Clayton Heffter thanked the Executive Council and Committee members and chairs for their efforts of the past year.

Passing the Gavel – Ken Gotsch accepted the gavel for 2007.

Closing comments – Ken Gotsch thanked Clayton Heffter for his service. Ken looks forward to the year as President of ISCA.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45. A short Executive Council meeting followed.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Elmer, Secretary

ILLINOIS SOIL CLASSIFIERS ASSOCIATION

March 31, 2007

Executive Council Meeting, immediately after the ISCA Annual Meeting

Crown Plaza Hotel

Springfield, Illinois

Council members present: Elmer, Frazee, Gotsch, Heffter, Windhorn

Agenda**Meeting Called to Order at 3 PM– President Ken Gotsch**

President Gotsch recommends an organization planning meeting with all committee chairs and members during the next Executive Council meeting, preferable during April.

The Executive Council members concur in a 9:30 AM meeting on Friday, April 27, at the Normal Field Office.

President Gotsch also encouraged Past-President Clayton Heffter, as Nominations Chairman, to engage the membership as to interests and qualifications for serving as officers, and to develop tools so that the nominations process does not solely consist of calling candidates from a list, prior to the April Executive Council meeting.

The Executive Council also approves the move of the Annual Meeting planning duties (former Program Subcommittee) to the responsibility of the Public Relations and Education Committee.

Meeting adjourned – 3:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Elmer, Secretary

**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

ILLINOIS SOIL CLASSIFIERS ASSOCIATION

April 27, 2007

Executive Council Meeting

NRCS Field Office, Normal, IL

Call to Order & Welcome
President Ken Gotsch – 9:30 AM

ISCA members present:

Executive Council: Steve Elmer, Chuck Frazee, Ken Gotsch, Clayton Heffter, Roger Windhorn.

Committee Chair and/or Members: Mark Bramstedt, Dale Calsyn, Ron Collman, Jesse Kurylo, Bob Tegeler, Ken Anderson

Minutes of March 31, 2007 Council Meeting/Annual Meeting, Springfield IL approved as read.

REPORTS

Secretary and Treasurer Reports approved as read.
Certification Board – no report.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Constitution & Bylaws - Dale Calsyn, Chair, named the remaining committee members: Ashpole, Deniger, and Heisner

Ethics, Certification & Membership - Ron Collman, Chair, presented new membership dues check to Treasurer, from WIU staff John and Alisa Gruven. Chuck has not yet received their membership application. Ron also confirmed that he is the ISCA weblink contact for new member applicants, forwarding applications on to Treasurer Chuck Frazee upon receipt.

Finance - Roger Windhorn, Chair, did not submit a report.

Newsletter - Zach Weber, Chair, did not submit a report.

Public Relations & Education - Mark Bramstedt, Chair. Mark reported that the new septic systems brochure is available, but needs to be more user friendly. The Committee will review and recommend upgrade options.

AD-HOC AND SPECIAL APPOINTEE REPORTS

Historian - Chair Roger Windhorn reported that there are some remaining gaps in the historical organization officers and committee members record that his committee continues to research.

State Advisory Commission on Private Sewage Disposal - Mark Bramstedt did not submit a report.

Smithsonian Project Coordinator - Mike Konen/Bill Kreznor did not submit a report.

USCSSA Teleconference – No report.

OLD BUSINESS

ISCA Brochure - PR&E Committee Chair Mark Bramstedt reported that the brochure has been developed, but will be reviewed by the current committee prior to submittal for publication.

Farm Progress Show – Roger Windhorn confirmed the scheduled Farm Progress Show dates of 8/28-30/07 in Decatur. He

Windhorn also updated the Council on the 10/9-11/07 scheduled Forest Soils Conference being held in the Carbondale area this fall. Missouri is providing contributing funds. NRCS's Matt McCauley and Sam Indorante are providing soil exhibits. Roger mentioned that it was a surprise to find that chartering buses for the event is the single largest cost involved. The ISCA Fall Tour is being held in conjunction with the Conference.

NEW BUSINESS

1. ISCA "Soil Regions of Illinois" Postcards & "Drummer" Bookmarks – Frazee confirmed that the last order was placed in 2001, and the supply is dwindling. Windhorn will confirm the original producer and cost of these and report back at the next meeting.

2. Illinois magnets were produced in Rock Falls, IL. Bob Tegeler will check on availability from original supplier and current cost and report back as well. Steve Elmer will inventory the current supply and inform Windhorn and Tegeler.

3. Mark Bramstedt sought Council input regarding the current policy of placing Certified Soil Classifiers on both the ISCA certified list and the interactive map on the website. Currently, only ISCA-certified members are on both. ARCPACS certified Soil Classifiers, who are also members of ISCA (but not ISCA-certified) are included on the interactive map, but not on the web list of certified members. After considerable discussion, it was approved to retain the present policy.

4. President Gotsch relayed a recommendation from Mike Konen that the ISCA certification exam be revisited and updated. No action was taken.

5. Steve requested confirmation of protocol regarding the official keeper of the membership record (Secretary), as the Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Chair, and WebMeister all had slightly different lists this past year, that have since been correlated. Official updates to the membership roster will be incorporated semi-annually. Any interim membership address changes will be posted in the ISCA Quarterly Newsletters.

6. New Officers, Chair & Committee Members – Duties:

President Gotsch distributed copies of ISCA current officers, committee chairs & members, as well as officer position descriptions from Article 7 of the organization By-Laws to all present.

The next Executive Council meeting will be held at the Normal Field Office at 10 AM on Friday, June 15.

The Executive Council meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM, and was immediately followed by a Planning Session called by President Gotsch, to identify, itemize, and review ISCA organization goals and direction. Jesse Kurylo served as Recorder. Many ideas and suggestions were received from those present. The following were many, but not necessarily a complete list, of the suggestions offered.

- Should organization provide formal training opportunities for prospective soil consultants (conducting investigations, creating a small business, wetlands, speakers, field tours, speakers, etc.)?
- What would a Nominations Process update look like?
- Review of Officer position descriptions.
- Educate members to broader Soil Classifier opportunities, per new regulations, etc.
- What would/should an ISCA 5-year plan contain?
- Coordinate and schedule inter-state Soil Scientist meetings with adjacent states.
- Think of ideas to promote ISCA membership, workshops, shirt sales, etc.
- How could the organization better publicize itself to other related disciplines (Agronomists, Educators, Engineers, Government Officials, others)?

President Gotsch thanked everyone for their input, and will summarize all comments and suggestions, and forward to Mark Bramstedt for posting on the website.

Planning Session adjourned at 12:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Elmer, Secretary

Illinois Hosts 27th Annual Central States Forest Soils Workshop

October 9th-11th, 2007

Carbondale, Illinois Area

Illinois is hosting the 27th Annual Central States Forest Soils Workshop

The focus of the workshop is to compare and contrast White Oak (the Illinois state tree) productivity across Southern Illinois. 1807 Land Survey notes and 1938 Aerial Photography will be used to gain a perspective on past land uses at these sites:

A White Oak Plantation planted in the early 1940's on a fragic inter-grade soil.
Comparison of White Oak growth at the end moraine of the Illinoian Glacier to nearby unglaciated soils.

Visit to a private White Oak Timber Sale site near Carbondale.

Site of 1995 timber sale on deep loess, Menfro soils, on the Shawnee National Forest.

State Nursery Black Walnut Seed Plantation---Comparison of growth from clones.

Dinner at Von Jakob Winery

Dixon Springs State Park Wheel---Comparison of management techniques.

Dixon Springs Agricultural Center---Fragipans with large old White Oak trees.

Garden of the Gods Recreation Area

More detailed information about the workshop will be available in July.

Hosted by:

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

Illinois Soil Classifiers Association

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Southern Illinois University-Carbondale

USDA-Forest Service

For More Information please contact Matt McCauley, USDA-NRCS, 502 Comfort Drive, Suite F, Marion, IL 62959, (618)-978-0814, matt.mccauley@il.usda.gov

Registration form and a detailed agenda will be distributed by late July 2007.

It will be available at <http://www.illinoissoils.org/>

-submitted by Matt McCauley

Congratulations - Bent Auger Award Winner!!

Roger Windhorn was nominated and unanimously voted the 2007 Bent-Auger Award recipient. This took place at the ISCA Annual Meeting in Springfield on March 31.

We are all very proud of you Roger!



Alright, who has my keys?

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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.

PEACH PRODUCING ASH TREE

I want to relate one of those incidents that assists in keeping me working in soils after 52 years. I even remember the date and place. In the month of July 2006, I had a job in the Northern part of Danville, Illinois. As a matter of fact, it was in an area west of Lowes. I don't want to pin down the location too closely. That is a part of Danville where the soils are usually formed in higher clay and thinner loess than farther south in the city of Danville. Septic systems don't work as well in these soils. I would rather work in the areas of lower clay.

I did notice while checking the county soils report, that lower clay soils were mapped nearby, in the area near the North Fork Vermilion River, so I was hoping. The home owner, I'll call him Bob, mentioned that his soils were sandy and he had to water his garden often so I assumed it was fine sand blown out of the low land from the nearby river. The afternoon work was looking up already. It was a hot day, but decent soils and moisture go a long way in improving the odds of having a good day.

Bob had lost a tree. The naked limbs of the unfortunate tree stood in stark contrast to his other leafy trees and the dark green lawn grass helped by recent rains. I sympathized with Bob for loosing such a large ash tree. Bob said he hadn't cut it down because he wanted to give it every chance to revive.

There was a younger tree nearby, full of life, looking vibrant and healthy, in contrast to the dead tree. I asked if it was an offspring from seed of the older tree-produced when the older tree was in its prime. Bob said no that the younger tree was a peach tree, but it hadn't produced peaches for sometime. Now I wasn't about to contradict him since he seemed so positive and since I wanted him to write me a check for my fee after the job was finished. I had learned in my earlier years that one needs to be careful about correcting people.

Several years ago I noticed that a neighbor had put white rock around his red maple tree. Red maple trees are acid loving and the white rock was limestone that reduces acid. When I informed my neighbor of his error I expected him to be grateful. I had failed to notice that his grandson was nearby and had heard that grandpa was less than brilliant, at least as far as trees go. The neighbor wasn't very friendly for a few days and the red maple continues to suffer from the limestone to this day.

Back to Bob's peach tree. I saw that it was getting rough bark, appearing like under-sized pale colored marbles from a distance that characterizes ash trees as they get older. It had a pinnate arrangement of leaves and opposite branching. Opposite branching in trees produces areas suitable for slingshots and were highly valued in my younger days. The number trees with opposite branching are limited and doesn't include peach trees. I swallowed my need to correct people in error and left him to wait for his green ash tree to produce peaches. By the way I did get my fee.

-submitted by Lester Bushue

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

www.illinoissoils.org/news

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

Change of Address Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

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