



Illinois Soil Classifiers Association Newsletter

Fall 2005

Upcoming Events

- **ISCA Annual Meeting**
Details will be in the Winter Newsletter to be published in February.

Inside this issue:

2006 ISCA Dues Renewal Notice 2

Fall Soils Tour a Success 3

Trading Post 3

Fall Soils Tour Pictorial 4

Council Meeting Minutes, August 26th 6

Council Meeting Minutes, October 8

Nominations for 2006 Elections 9

NRCS / ISCA Field Exam, October 2005 9

2006 Annual Meeting Announcement 9

NRCS Illinois Soil Survey Institute 10

Message from the President

As the end of 2005 approaches, we can look back over the year with appreciation for the many accomplishments ISCA has experienced. We have updated and improved our ISCA newsletter. An ambitious committee is well on their way to revising our certification standards to be more achievable. Great opportunities for professional improvement and education were available throughout the year and throughout the state. The "Hydric Soils for Wetland Delineations" workshop and the ISCA Field Exam/Field Day are two examples where our membership could get hands on training in soils classification. The Summer/Fall Meeting in East Central Illinois had a strong turnout and offered another great opportunity for "getting a feel" for Illinois soils.

Most importantly, I feel we have an outstanding group of people willing to commit personal time to make these opportunities available. I extend my gratitude to them for making this year a success for ISCA. I hope to see you at the Annual Meeting in 2006. Have a great holiday season.

Regards,

Bruce Putman
815-338-6218
putman@mc.net

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 calling Chris Cochran (217) 345-6767

E-mail : chris_cochran@prodigy.net

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



2006 ISCA DUES NOTICE
for
Non-Certified Members

Dear ISCA Member,

November 14, 2005

ISCA dues for 2006 are due and payable on or before January 1, 2006.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ILLINOIS SOIL CLASSIFIERS ASSOCIATION

As stated in Article II of the ISCA Membership Handbook, any member shall be listed as "**delinquent**" if dues remain unpaid for **sixty (60) days after the due date**. He/she shall be **dropped** from the membership rolls of the Association if dues remain unpaid for **ninety (90) days after the due date**. The request of such person for readmission must be accompanied by the dues for the current year plus any reinstatement fee, which the ISCA Council shall prescribe.

Annual dues shall be as follows:

Full members	\$25.00	Associate members	\$25.00
Affiliate members	\$5.00	Out-of-State members	\$5.00
Retired members	\$5.00	Student members	\$5.00
Honorary members	Fee waived		

Dues postmarked after February 28, 2006 will be subject to a \$5.00 late fee for existing members (pending Executive Council decision).

Benefits of membership in the Illinois Soil Classifiers Association:

- Newsletter quarterly
- Attend Fall and Spring Meetings for fellowship, training, and CEUs
- Free lunch at the Fall meeting (a \$7-10 value)
- Free ISCA ball cap upon joining
- Membership in a professional organization
- A say in our organization's policy and direction
- Full and Associate members receive a subscription to "Soil Survey Horizons" (\$17 value)
- Web site access and listing

Detach address form on back page and mail dues and requested information to:

Charles Frazee, ISCA Treasurer
65 Gaffney Road
Divernon, IL 62530

****This will be the only renewal notice that will be sent out.****

A Change of Address Form is attached to the back page of this newsletter. Please return with your dues payment if changes have occurred with any of the categories listed. If you do not return the Change of Address form, please be sure it is clear who the renewal payment is for to help out the ISCA officers who process this information. (ex. company checks without the members name)

Thanks

Fall Soils Tour a Success

Nearly 40 ISCA members and guests showed up October 7 for the 2005 ISCA Fall Tour in Edgar/Clark Counties. Starting off cold and windy, it turned out to be a great day to show off the soils above, on, and below the Shelbyville Moraine in eastern Illinois.

The tour kicked off with registration at Mill Creek Park in Clark County. Everyone piled into the vans and cars to warm up on the way to the Dana pit, where the fun began. Greg Clark discussed the geographic location and soil properties, before opening it up for discussion. The pit was located just above the Shelbyville Moraine and the soil was developed in loess over Wisconsin till.

When everyone was done digging and debating, the tour proceeded to the Senachwine pit, located on the moraine. Clark briefly introduced the soil and the site location. Senachwine is a well drained soil formed in as much as 18 inches of loess and the underlying calcareous loamy till.

After much intelligent discussion, the crew returned to Mill Creek Park for a hot catered meal from Mill Creek Restaurant. Barbeque, beans, and coleslaw followed by “goopy” cake put a smile on every face. A brief council meeting was held immediately after, allowing some time to digest before the afternoon portion of the tour.

Upon arrival at the third site, Bob McLeese discussed the MLRA concept and the soil survey update process. He then handed it over to Troy Fehrenbacher, who introduced the Sexton silt loam and its geographic location just below the Shelbyville Moraine. This poorly drained soil, formed in loess and the underlying outwash, has a prominent E horizon. Again, much discussion followed.

The fourth and final site, also just below the moraine, was in a Blair-Atlas unit. The somewhat poorly drained Blair silt loam formed in silty deposits and the underlying till and strongly developed paleosol. After great debate, the group returned to the park and the tour was completed.

A big thanks to Greg Clark and Troy Fehrenbacher for making the 2005 ISCA Fall Tour a huge success. It provided a wonderful variety of soils and opportunity for good conversation with fellow ISCA members. Thanks to all those who attended and offered their opinions of the showcased soils.

Submitted by Zach Weber.

TRADING POST

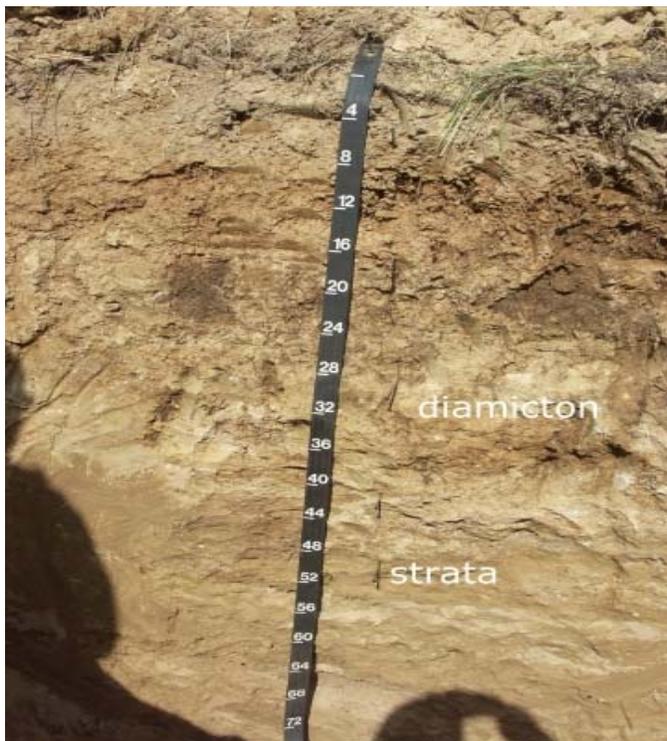
This spot is reserved for members who would like to buy, sell, trade, or announce an item, event, or activity in our newsletter. Please limit your classified ad to 25 words or less. Email your ad to the newsletter at greg.clark@il.usda.gov

- ISCA ball caps available for \$9 (includes S&H). Contact Chris Cochran at chris_cochran@prodigy.net

Fall Soils Tour Pictorial



Dana Pit — Photo courtesy of Leon Follmer



Senachwine Pit — Photo courtesy of Leon Follmer



Sexton Pit — Photo courtesy of Leon Follmer



Blair Pit — Photo courtesy of Leon Follmer

Fall Soils Tour Pictorial (Continued)



Bob McLeese, State Soil Scientist, explaining the current soil survey update process. Photo courtesy of Leon Follmer.



Digging the Blair Pit.



Tour attendees checking out the Dana Pit. Photo courtesy of Mark Bramstedt.



Preparing the pit face.



Introduction at Dana Pit. Photo courtesy of Mark Bramstedt.



It's hard to find good help these days!

ILLINOIS SOIL CLASSIFIERS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES
ISCA COUNCIL MEETING
August 26, 2005
Bloomington, Illinois

Present:

Bruce Putman, President
Clayton Heffter, President Elect
Mark Bramstedt, Past President
Bob Tegeler, Vice President
Chris Cochran, Secretary
Troy Fehrenbacher, Newsletter Committee
Ken Gotsch, Ethics, Certification, & Membership

President Bruce Putman called the Council Meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Putman called for a motion to approve the Agenda. Motion so made, seconded, and approved. Putman called for a motion to approve the minutes for the two previous Council Meetings and the Annual Meeting all held on May 6, 2005. Motion was made, seconded, and approved to approve the minutes as amended.

Secretary's Report – Cochran stated that he would like a digital copy of Council reports to help him with the minutes and increase accuracy.

Treasurer's Report – Copies of the treasurer's report were circulated. Opening balance as of May 5, 2005 was \$11,036.38; Income-\$4,389.18; Expenses-\$370.14; Closing Balance as of August 23, 2005 is \$15,055.42. Net income from the Hydric Soils Course was \$3910.27. Treasurer's Report for May 5, 2005 – August 23, 2005

Balance in Account – May 5, 2005	11036.38
Income:	
Dues	55.00
Interest	18.18
State Soil Shirts	28.00
Soil Survey Horizons Refund	13.00
Hydric Soils Course	4275.00

	4389.18
Expenses:	
Administration	5.41
Hydric Soils Course	364.73

	370.14
Ending Bank Balance – August 23, 2005	15055.42

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made, seconded and approved unanimously.

Certification Board – Bill Kreznor. Although the Board has held no formal meetings since 1 March 2005, it has conducted business via email, regular mail, and telephone. The Board reviewed and processed CEU submissions from 13 CPSCs. Some Board members had questions relative to CEU classification. An item will be prepared for the ISCA website and/or next newsletter reminding CPSCs to carefully consider the categorization/classification of submitted CEUs. The Board completed reviewing and processing one application for certification. Ken Gotsch successfully completed the requirements for certification effective 23 August 2005. Official notification has been sent. His certificate and membership card are being prepared.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Constitution, By-Laws and Legislative – Jaimee Hammitt. No report.

Ethics, Certification and Membership – Ken Gotsch. Notified Council that three individuals applied for membership. Kristine Ashpole – Associate Member, and Paul Youngstrum and Patrick Ver Halen for Affiliate Memberships. Motion was made, seconded and approved them as members.

Certification group met and provided Council copies of a Draft certification standard. (see below)

Finance – Bob Tegeler. No report.

Newsletter – Troy Fehrenbacher. Troy said most members are now getting the newsletter by email. Mark Bramstedt said he would include an Adobe download link on the ISCA web site so people having problems could get the latest version of Adobe. Putman congratulated the committee for their excellent work.

Nominations – Mark Bramstedt. No report.

Public Relations and Education – Doug Gaines. Submitted draft of brochure for review. Requested comments and mark-up. Previous brochure was last updated in mid-1980s. Council recommends that the brochure be reviewed by the Public Relations Committee.

AD-HOC AND SPECIAL APPOINTEE REPORTS

Program – Troy Fehrenbacher – see Old Business

Historian – Roger Windhorn. No report.

State Advisory Commission on Private Sewage Disposal – Mark Bramstedt. No report.

Smithsonian Project Coordinator – Bill Kreznor. No report

USCSSA Teleconference – Mark Bramstedt. They asked when and where we meet. Will provide link on their web site to our site.

OLD BUSINESS

Hydric Soils Course– Mark Bramstedt.. 27 attended. Clayton Heffter congratulated the instructors for putting on an excellent program. There is interest in putting this on again next year. Bob Tegeler recommended that ISCA budget \$500 next year for this program.

Recognition of those who worked on State Soil– Jim Hornickel is interested in pursuing this. The Council approved \$300 for plaques/awards for those involved. Presentation will be at winter meeting.

Certification Standards Work Group Report – Comments will be compiled and presented to the Council in a second draft in December. The final form will be presented in the newsletter at least 30 days before the Annual Meeting. It will then be submitted to the membership at the Annual Meeting for a vote

ISCA Field Exam – October 20, 2005 at Allerton Park. Texture, coarse fragments, soil color, etc will be evaluated. 3 hours in the morning and the afternoon. Lab data is available to help hone your skill. The hope is to move this around the state in future years.

ISCA Fall Tour – Greg Clark and Troy Fehrenbacher are organizing the tour. The tour will look at the Shelbyville moraine with soils in the Wisconsin till plain; outwash plain, and Illinois till plain. Meeting will commence w/registration at Mill Creek Park at 9:30am on October 7. Lunch will be provided by Mill Creek Restaurant. Pulled pork BBQ, baked beans, coleslaw, and cherry chocolate and butter pecan cake for dessert.. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to appropriate up to \$500.00 to cover food and other expenses of the Fall Tour and Meeting.

2005 ISCA Membership List – Sent to Council on July 4. An updated list will be sent by October 7. By-Laws require that we publish the list annually; names, addresses, and telephone numbers 1 month before the annual meeting. Privacy issues were discussed. It was decided that this has not been a problem and we will continue to publish the list until it becomes an issue.

NEW BUSINESS

Wayne Tomlinson – Voted to re-instate Wayne to Associate Membership.

Farm Progress Show – ISCA to cover the cost of Soil Monolith Campaign brochures.

Drummer T-shirts – North Cook SWCD requested t-shirts for their Northeastern Illinois Envirothon. Request was approved if the SWCD maintains the integrity of the shirt by working through the ISCA T-shirt committee. Due to the amount requested, the Council recommended that the SWCD work directly with the supplier.

David Krumwiede – Requested support for HS outreach programs. Bruce Putman will contact David to discuss his proposal.

Meeting adjourned at 12:24 pm. Next meeting will be October 7, 2005 at Noon in Mill Creek Park near Clarksville, Illinois.

Respectfully submitted
Chris Cochran, Secretary

ILLINOIS SOIL CLASSIFIERS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES ISCA COUNCIL MEETING

October 7, 2005
Mill Creek Park
Clarksville, Illinois

Present:

Bruce Putman, President
Mark Bramstedt, Past President
Bob Tegeler, Vice President
Chris Cochran, Secretary
Chuck Frazee, Treasurer
Troy Fehrenbacher, Program Chair
Greg Clark, Newsletter Chair
Ken Gotsch, Ethics, Certification, & Membership Chair
Doug Gaines, Public Relations and Education Chair
Wiley Scott, member
Earl Voss, member

President Bruce Putman called the Council Meeting to order at 1:15 pm.

New Business – Bramstedt notified the Council that the ISCA Web site domain name had expired the first week of October. Since this was unexpected and access to our web site was denied, Bramstedt renewed our domain name for 5 years at the cost of \$19.99/year or \$99.95 for the term. Bramstedt requested reimbursement. Cochran noted that this situation should and will fall under exigency rules and reimbursement made on that basis alone.

Bramstedt further noted that the Advisory Commission for the septic code is reviewing and will be submitting revisions to the code. The Commission requested comments on the proposed changes. Bramstedt sent out copies of the revisions to the original ISCA committee, which developed the original table. Specifics in the table were discussed. A lengthy discussion ensued. Scott brought up Bramstedt's suggestion that new requirements be tied to the table instead of rewording the requirements each time a change is required. The table could be updated as needed without rewording the requirements each and every time. Discussion ensued about the absorption rate value for soil group 5E in Exhibit B (The Key). As submitted that value is 0.57 g/d/sq.ft.. It is the only soil group in the table with that value, and would require a new line in Exhibit A and renumbering all subsequent design groups in the exhibit. The group agreed to submit the value for soil group 5E as 0.62 g/d/sq.ft.. Putman suggested that we, as ISCA, should stay out of the specific wording of the new requirements as it related to the separation distance between the bottom of the trench to any limiting layer. The current code says 'should', and the proposed changes used the word 'shall'. Bramstedt will bring this to the Commission. Gaines informed the Council that he was also approached for comments and will do so as an individual.

Motion to adjourn was made by Bramstedt, seconded by Cochran. Ayes have it.

The Council joined the rest of the membership on the Fall Soils Tour. Meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.

At the first stop after the meeting, Bruce Putman presented Kristine Ashpole her Associate member certificate and welcomed her into the Association. Bob McLeese, State Soil Scientist for Illinois, presented a discussion on the soil survey update that is ongoing in Illinois.

The President will determine the next meeting. Emails to that effect will be sent to the Executive Council.

Respectfully submitted
Chris Cochran, Secretary

ISCA Accepting Nominations for Officers

Nominations are currently being accepted for the Executive Council positions of President Elect, Vice President, and Secretary.

There is also a vacancy on the Nominations Committee which currently consists of Mark Bramstedt, Past President and Chair and Wiley Scott.

If you are interested in running for an office or filling the vacant position on the Nominations Committee, contact Mark (mark.bramstedt@il.usda.gov) or Wiley (jwscts@earthlink.net).

The committee says if you do not contact them, they will be contacting you.

If you have been looking for an opportunity to help out the ISCA in a bigger way than just your membership, here is your opportunity.

Submitted by Greg Clark based on information from the Nominations Committee.

NRCS / ISCA Field Exam Cancelled

The NRCS / ISCA Field Exam that was to be held on October 20, 2005 at Allerton Park (near Monticello, IL) was cancelled due to horrendous rain.

Instructors Wiley Scott, Roger Windhorn, Ken Gotsch, Steve Zwicker, Mark Bramstedt and Bob McLeese had prepared a great event complete with soil pits and lab data. The ISCA thanks the instructors for their hard work.

The Field Exam will be rescheduled for 2006. It may be held in connection with the NRCS Hydric Soils course in June 2006 (Northern Illinois) or October 2006 in connection with the NRCS Intro to Soils course (Monticello) or possibly both dates. Check future newsletters for information concerning the rescheduling of this event.

Submitted by Greg Clark based on information from Mark Bramstedt.

2006 ISCA Annual Meeting

Planning is underway for the 2006 Annual Meeting. The current plan is to have the meeting sometime in March. No specifics are available at this time. More details will be in the Winter Newsletter that will be published in February.

Regards,

Troy Fehrenbacher
Program Chair

ISCA Newsletter Staff
683 Castle Drive
Charleston, IL 61920

Phone: 217-345-6767
Fax: 217-345-7307
Email: greg.clark@il.usda.gov

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 for 2005-2006

- Summer (August)
- Fall (November)
- Winter (February)
- Spring (May)



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.

Soil Survey Institute Comes To Illinois

The first annual Illinois Soil Survey Institute was hosted on the Jim Killian Farm in Lexington, Illinois from October 31 to November 10. This two week institute was designed to provide newer NRCS soil scientists the opportunity to develop their soil mapping skills and apply soil-landscape relationships. Institute participants were under the guidance of "wise old sages", experienced ISCA Certified Professional Soil Classifiers, during their mapping exercise.

The current soil survey update process does not allow new soil scientists the opportunity to experience how a soil survey was performed from start to finish. Therefore, participants approached the mapping area in a project soil survey setting. The established mapping area was part of the Money Creek and Lexington townships. The instructors kicked off the institute with a geomorphology tour of the mapping area which focused on soils around the Bloomington Moraine. The remainder of the two weeks consisted of the new soil scientists mapping assigned sections of one of the townships. Participants had to take notes, locate possible taxonomic unit description sites, and more importantly, join each other with a seamless join.

In April there will be another two week session at the same location. Participants will have a field correlation, select taxonomic unit descriptions, be on their way to production mapping potential, and most importantly, using the tacit knowledge acquired through their mapping experience to apply the soil-landscape paradigm.

Submitted by Troy Fehrenbacher.



NRCS Soil Scientists at the 2005 session of the Illinois Soil Survey Institute. Photo Courtesy of Roger Windhorn

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

www.illinoissoils.org/news

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

Change of Address Form
Send in with dues payment.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Member Status (Full, Associate, Student, etc.): _____

