



# Illinois Soil Classifiers Association Newsletter

Summer-August 2014

## Message from the President

### Upcoming Events:

Joint Field Practicum and Fall Tour with Indiana Sept. 11-12  
Central States Forest Soils Workshop Oct. 14-16

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One topic that has received considerable discussion this year is the development of a field practicum to objectively assess the skills of current and prospective Soil Classifiers. Numerous states have similar programs in place and our organization has been reviewing these to see if implementation would be beneficial to ISCA. The benefits of a field practicum include helping members become more consistent with current methods of soil description and classification. We all have our own way of describing soils even though established standards exist. A practicum would address individual weaknesses and promote uniformity. Another benefit would be the ability to assess skills of prospective applicants who want to become Soil Classifiers. How this field practicum would be designed and implemented is open for discussion. This would be a voluntary program; there is no intention of making a practicum mandatory for anyone.

To better understand how this can work, we are holding a joint meeting this Summer/Fall with Indiana on September 11 and 12 to learn more about their utilization of a field practicum and if it might be something we can work into our organization. The details of the meeting location and dates are in the current newsletter and I encourage everyone to attend.

Regards,

Bruce Putman, President ISCA  
815-338-6218  
putman@mc.net

## ISCA Holds Advanced Hydric Soil Identification Course

On June 26 and 27, 2014, the Illinois Soil Classifiers Association offered an Advanced Hydric Soil Identification course at James “Pate” Philip State Park in Bartlett, IL. The class was intended for individuals responsible for hydric soil identification and/ or wetland delineations with previous experience in hydric soils. The course was co-sponsored by DuPage County Stormwater Management, Kane County Division of Environmental and Water Resources, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Northern Illinois University.

The course planning committee included ISCA members Ken Anderson, Mark Bramstedt, Mary Beth Falsey, Clayton Heffter, Mike Konen, and Jennifer Wollenweber who all contributed in organizing and coordinating the course. The planning committee wanted the class to have a more advanced component as well as covering basic hydric soil identification. We hoped to gear the class not only to those new to hydric soil identification, but also to more experienced delineators and soil scientists. Based on the attendees, we believe this was successful. The participants had all ranges of experience, from new delineators with little soils experience, to seasoned soil scientists with many years of experience. This enhanced the course with opportunities for discussion. Participants were not only able to learn from the instructors, but from one another as well.

The course included a classroom and field component on both days. ISCA member Ken Anderson moderated the course over the two day session. The first day consisted of classroom lectures in the morning at James “Pate” Philip State Park Visitors Center. Mike Konen, CPSC/CPSS and ISCA member presented on Basic Soil Properties and Formation of Redox Features. ISCA member Roger Windhorn, CPSC/CPSS presented on Soils, Landscape, and Water Flow. Mary Beth Falsey, ISCA member presented on the Hydric Soil Field Indicators Guide. Following the lectures, the class headed outside for a texturing exercise on the grounds of the Visitor Center. Participants practiced texturing from unlabeled buckets filled with different soils. In the afternoon there were field exercises in identifying hydric soils at the nearby Pratt’s Wayne Woods Forest Preserve. Instructors Bramstedt, Falsey, Heffter, Konen, Windhorn each manned soil pits along a transect from a wetland to an upland area. Course participants took turns at each pit classifying the soils and identifying hydric indicators with guidance from the instructors.

On day 2, ISCA member Mark Bramstedt recapped day 1 and presented on Problem Soils in the Visitor Center classroom. We then headed out again to Pratt’s Wayne Woods Forest Preserve for another field exercise in identifying hydric soils focusing on disturbed and sandy soils.

The course was a success with over 30 registered participants. We received a lot of positive feedback on the course evaluation forms. The course planning committee has already discussed holding similar courses every two years, with the next course planned for 2016. We encourage suggestions from ISCA members on future course topics relating to hydric soil identification. If you have any recommendations for future course topics, please send them to Mary Beth Falsey at [Falsey@dupageco.org](mailto:Falsey@dupageco.org).



Instructor Heffter and participants during the day 1 field exercise.

## Advanced Hydric Soil Identification Course (continued)



Above: Instructor Windhorn and participants during the day 1 field exercise.

Below: Instructors Falsey, Konen, and Bramstedt during the class summary at the end of day 2.



## ISCA Joins Indiana Association of Professional Soil Classifiers (IAPSC) for Fall Tour

### 2014 Fall Tour

Indiana Association of Professional Soil Classifiers (IAPSC)

#### Indiana Association of Professional Soil Classifiers Fall Tour

**Location:** John S. Wright Forestry Center  
1007 North 725 West in West Lafayette.

**Camping at Ross Camp**  
9225 W 75 S  
West Lafayette, IN 47906

UTM Zone 16, 496713.54E 447541.55N , NAD 83

**When:** September 12th, 2014

#### Agenda (Eastern Daylight Savings Time)

- 9:00 -10:00 -- **Registration:** Dena Marshall IAPSC Secretary/Treasurer
- 10:00-10:05 **Welcome and Introductions:** John Allen, IAPSC President
- 10:05-10:15 **Area Welcome:** Jane Hardisty, NRCS State Conservationist; Becky Ross, NRCS NW Area Conservationist
- 10:15-10:45 **Visualizing Soil Landscapes With iPads:** Darrell Schulze, Professor of Soil Science, Purdue University
- 10:45-11:05 **Wetland Reserve Program Field Visit Overview:** Jeff Cannaday, NRCS NW Area Engineer; Mike Wigginton, NRCS NW Area Resource Soil Scientist

- 11:05-12:15 **IAPSC Business Meeting**
- 12:15 - 1:00 **Lunch and Door Prizes**
- 1:00 - 1:20 **Tour Sewage Treatment Facility at Martell Forest/Wright Center:** David Ortel, Indiana State Department of Health
- 1:20 – 1:30 **Load Buses to go to WRP Site**
- 1:30 – 3:00 **Tour Wetland Reserve Program Field Sites:** Dean Craig, Landowner
- 3:00 **Adjourn**

**The Indiana Association of Professional Soil Classifiers (IAPSC)** is a not-for-profit organization of soil scientists who are interested in the field study and evaluation of soils.

John Allen, President  
Dr. Darrell Schulze, Past President  
Joanne Mosher, President Elect  
Dave Ortel, Vice President  
Dena Marshall, Secretary-Treasurer  
Norm Stephens, Pedestal Editor

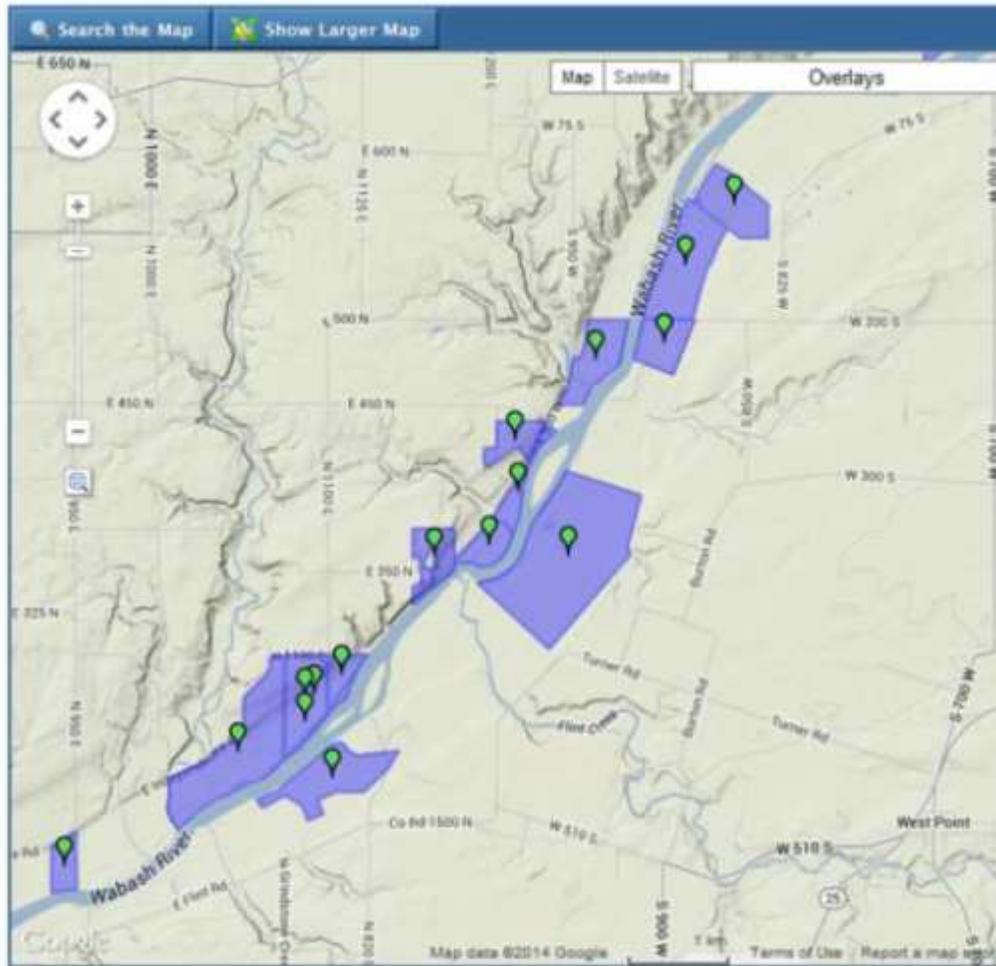
<http://www.isco.purdue.edu/irss/iapsc.html>

## IAPSC Fall Tour

September 12, 2014

The 2014 IAPSC Fall Tour will take place in the Wright Center at the Purdue Martell Forest. The tour highlights include presentations as well as viewing the onsite sewage treatment facility at Wright Center, and a field trip to a 500 acre Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) conservation easement. The Wabash and Erie Canal also ran through the area. There are quite a few WRP easements in this area. This particular WRP site was purchased as a conservation easement and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provided technical assistance for the design of several structures to control water for wildlife habitat. Soil investigations in the area included muck and other mineral soils as well as shallow to bedrock soils. We will discuss the soils at the site and the engineering design considerations needed on what some would consider "problem soils". Below is a map of easements in the area as well as a photo of the site we will be visiting.





[Martell Forest](#) is in the Central Till Plain in Tippecanoe County. It contains a total of 477 acres with 398 acres of forest. The property is 8.5 miles from the Purdue University, West Lafayette campus. Martell forest is used for research and teaching by forestry students, and the students from other disciplines. Martell Forest is the site of the [John S. Wright Forestry Center](#), a research, teaching, and conference facility located at **1007 N 725 W, West Lafayette, Indiana**. Built in 2002-2003 at a cost of \$4 million, the 17,000 sq. ft. Center is a state-of-the-art facility with teaching and research laboratories, office space for faculty and staff, two greenhouses, and a conference center. In addition to the Wright Center, Martell Forest is home to the John L. Van Camp Arboretum, a collection of 100 trees native to Indiana.



If we have enough people interested, on Thursday afternoon/early evening we can visit the onsite sewage system at Ross Camp. Dave Ortel is the contact.



A campout associated with the 2014 IAPSC Fall Tour will take place at [Ross Camp](#), located 11 miles west on South River Road (Division Street) from the intersection of State Road 26 and US 231 in West Lafayette. The 200 mostly wooded acres is adjacent to Ross Hills Park. A paved entrance brings you into the campground that has 15 modern sites with 20/30/50 amp electrical hookups at each site. A handicap accessible shower/restroom building is centrally located amid the modern sites. Five campsites (1, 2, 3, 14, and 15) which can accommodate 5 vehicles and up to 10 tents, have been reserved for Thursday night September 12 (see the website for additional camp rules). We will try to "claim" the 17'x33' picnic shelter located in the campground which is available on a first-come, first-served basis. If more campsites are needed or you plan to stay for additional nights, here is the necessary information: Fees: Modern - \$21.00/night. Primitive - \$5.25/night. Camping reservations cannot be made online or via email. For Ross Camp campsite reservation information and availability, telephone the Tippecanoe County Park Department administrative office at 765-463-2306. E-mail reservations not accepted.

# 2014 FALL TOUR REGISTRATION FORM For Friday September – 12th

**Registration fee includes lunch.  
Help us keep costs low by registering early.**

**Send in your check today!**

**Registration Fee \$15.00 postmarked before September 6th.**

**LATE FEE after 09/05/2014 - \$20.00**

**If at all possible register before September 5<sup>th</sup>.**

Make checks to I.A.P.S.C. Inc.  
Clip and mail to Dena Marshall:  
1451 E. Millstone Rd.  
Westport, IN 47283  
Questions, Call Dena at 812-525-6433, or 812-591-3770

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

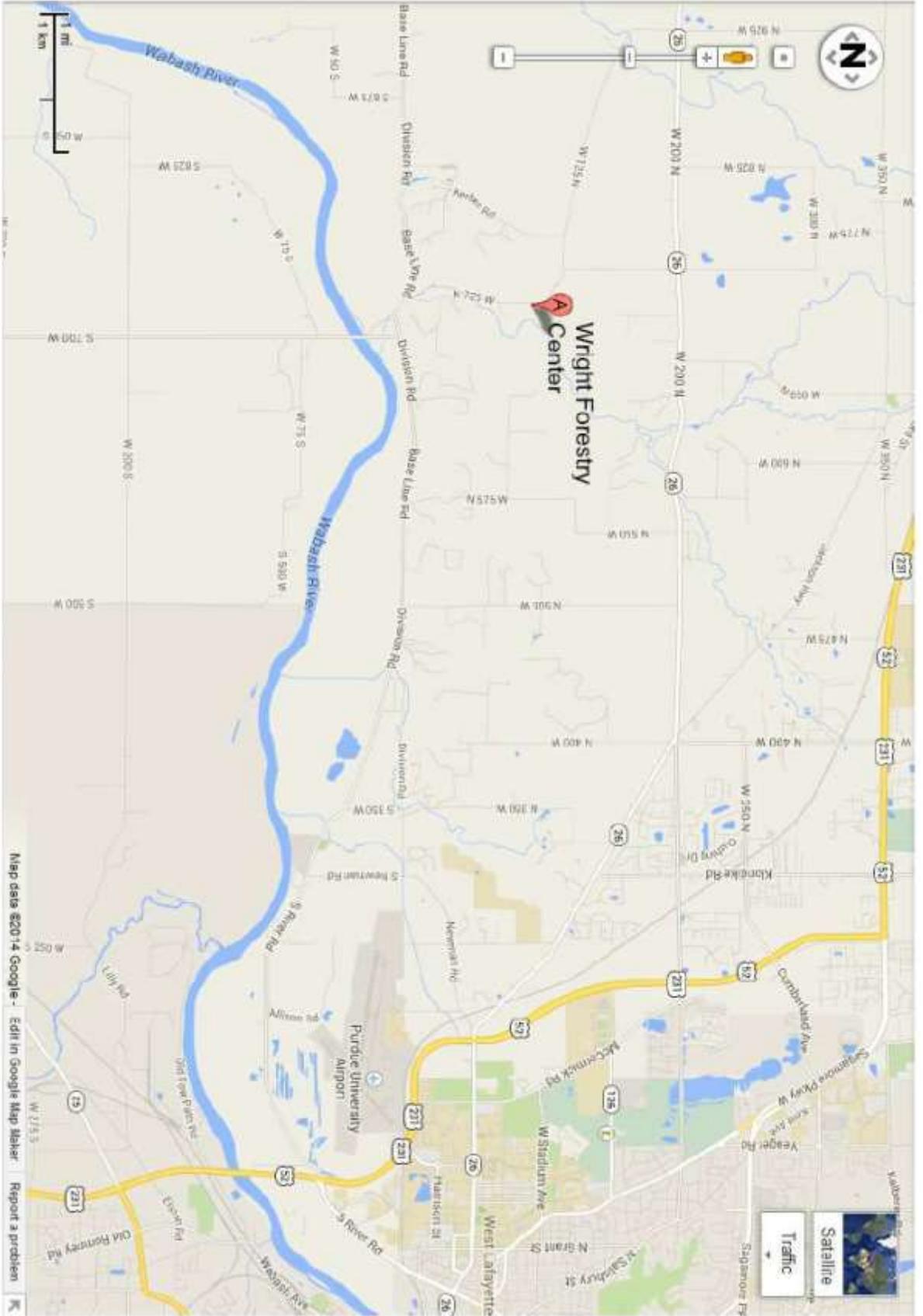
Members please update the following, if needed:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

## Field Practicum

A field practicum will be held on Sept. 11 in the same vicinity as the meeting on the 12th (see pages 4-9). ISCA members can participate in that as well, at no additional charge. The field practicum will be held at 9:00 and again at 1:00. More details will be available regarding the practicum in the near future. Details will also be available at the Indiana Registry of Soil Scientists web site: <http://www.isco.purdue.edu/irss/>, under current announcements.

This will be an excellent opportunity to hone your soil classifying skills. Please make plans to attend.



Map to John S. Wright Forestry Center—location of Fall Tour near West Lafayette, IN.

## 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Central States Forest Soils Workshop

### Background

The Central States Forest Soils Workshops came into existence during a Lake States Forest Soils Council Meeting at Bloomington, Indiana in the fall of 1979. Individuals from Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Missouri, and Kentucky met and decided to form their own group in order to focus more on the soils and forests of the Central States Region. The name "Central States Forest Soils Workshop" was chosen for the group as a means of identifying the geographic region and to signify the intent that the organization was to be a working group dedicated to field trips, on-site discussions, and learning experiences. Six states are involved: Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio, and Tennessee. As the conference moves from state to state, adjoining states are extended an invitation for Major Land Resource Areas in common.



### 2014 Trip Overview

The 2014 workshop will be hosted by Ohio on October 14-16 in the Wayne National Forest near Athens.

This conference will be concentrating on the following subjects:

- Ecological Site Descriptions in conjunction with the Forest Service (Wayne National Forest unit)
- Inherent soil properties of the region
- Forest management techniques and their relation to soil mapping/interpretations

These subjects will be covered over 2 days, with 2 field trips.

	Date	Time	Action
Tuesday	Oct. 14	3:00:00 PM	Business meeting - Round Table for Research needs, Current issues
		4:30:00 PM	Adjourn for day
		5:30:00 PM	Social Gathering
		6:00:00 PM	Dinner/Speakers on Area Soils, Geology and Forest Resources
Wednesday	Oct. 15	8:00:00 AM	Gather for field trip
			Vinton Furnace Tour, covers Ecological Site Descriptions, soils and forestry
			Soil Resources, Use and management
		5:00:00 PM	Return to Athens, OH
Thursday	Oct. 16	8:00:00 AM	Field Trip to wetland mitigation site, focus on forestry, ESD's and soils
		12:00:00 PM	Adjourn

## Forest Soils Workshop (continued)

### Logistics and Cost Overview

This conference has been planned with a minimum of overhead. The meeting spaces have been secured using state agency partnerships and have no cost associated with them. The main expense will be travel costs. Also, we will be collecting \$75 registration/person to provide dinner in conjunction with the Tuesday evening meeting, and lunch the following day. Also, the registration fees will be used to produce meeting materials such as maps, lab data, etc. Participants are asked to bring a high capacity vehicle, such as a mini or passenger van, as we opted not to use a charter bus. We will caravan from Athens to the Vinton Furnace and spend the first day there. The second day we will caravan to a **Wetland Mitigation site to discuss ESD's, soils, and forestry** implications in wetlands.

A block of rooms at the government rate (\$83/night) have been reserved at the Baymont Inn, Athens.  
 Baymont Inn & Suites Athens  
 20 Home Street, US 33 at US 50  
 Athens, OH 45701  
 740-594-3000

For questions, contact:  
 Steve Baker  
 O: 614-255-2483  
 C: 614-940-8227  
[steven.baker@oh.usda.gov](mailto:steven.baker@oh.usda.gov)



## Trading Post

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

## Days Gone By



Recognize any of these soil scientists from the 1979 Soil Scientist Workshop? This is just one half of the group. The other half will appear in our next newsletter!

*Voss*

DATE: 3/12-15/79 NO.  
 SUBJECT :SOIL SCIENTISTS WORKSHOP  
 PHOTOGRAPHER:  
 LOCATION :CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS  
 CAPTION :

1st Row: J. Fehrenbacher, B. Tegeler, L. Reinebach,  
 (L to R) M. Hodges, D. Calsyn, S. Felt

2nd Row: W. Scott, E. Voss, R. Harner, C. Miles, F. Awalt,  
 D. Grantham, H. Gehant, W. Fitzgerald, S. Elmer.

3rd Row: J. Paschke, J. Berning, D. Rahn, W. Andrews,  
 P. Youngstrum, D. Frey, D. Towery, P. O'Grady.

CREDIT: USDA-SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE  
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### Submissions

This is YOUR newsletter. If you wish to submit material, here are some preferences.

- Send information by the last week of the month before the newsletter is scheduled to be published.
- Digital copy in Microsoft Word
- Use as little formatting (indents, bullets, charts) as possible. This increases the work to get it into Publisher. It can be done, but increases work load for the committee.

The Newsletter Committee reserves the right to make edits/ corrections deemed appropriate

### Publication Schedule

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



The Illinois Soil Classifiers Association is an organization promoting the wise use of the soil resource. ISCA is made up of professional soil classifiers in public service, private industry, and education and includes students and others interested in preserving soil. A soil classifier maps, describes and interprets soils according to a national system of soil classification. ISCA was established in 1975 and is affiliated with the American Registry of Certified Professionals in Agronomy, Crops, and Soils.

## ISCA on Facebook

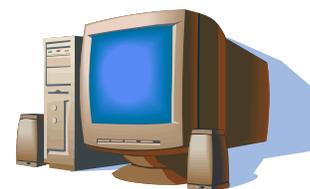
For those of you who want to keep in touch with ISCA members and others interested in soils in Illinois, join our group on Facebook. Search Facebook for “Illinois Soil Classifiers Association” and become a friend of ISCA. Anyone may post messages, announcements, pictures or events that may be of interest to our membership. This is a great venue for posting meetings of other associations or organizations who use soil information. This is also a great place to post pictures of recent projects, interesting soils, or maybe something unrelated to soils, but of general interest to the membership. **If you don’t have a Facebook account, it is easy to set up. Just go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and follow the instructions.** Unfortunately, the Facebook site is restricted on some government computers, so many of you will need to do this at home. Contact [webmaster@illinoissoils.org](mailto:webmaster@illinoissoils.org) if you have any difficulty in accessing the ISCA Group or if you have any questions or comments.



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](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!**



ISCA Newsletter  
148 E. Pleasant Hill Road  
Suite 105, Box #2  
Carbondale, IL 62903

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

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\*Mail to: Bob Tegeler, ISCA Secretary, 124 Joan Drive, Divernon, IL 62530