



Illinois Soil Classifiers Association Newsletter

Winter-February 2017

Upcoming Events:

42nd Annual Meeting March 25

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Message from the President

This year as president of ISCA has been a year of both satisfaction and regrets. I regret that we did not get our "Soils of Illinois Tour" off the ground nor implement on-line PDH reporting. It was satisfying to attend so many quality workshops and activities in the knowledge that research and interest in soil science is alive and well.

There are many unresolved items in the to-do hopper. Some consultants have shared practices required by local health departments that are at odds with the practices intended by state code. Some of these are real eyebrow raisers. Don Fehrenbacher has volunteered to try to open a channel with IDPH for ISCA to comment on some of these policies. If you are practicing soil investigations and encounter questionable policies enforced by specific counties, please share them with the ISCA Council. It may (or may not) be more productive to tackle them en masse thru ISCA and the IDPH rather than wage individual campaigns. We are more than technicians. In our areas of expertise we should try to lead whenever possible.

Speaking of items on our to do list, soon you will receive an online or print and mail questionnaire to assess our member's availability to stand for office, committees, mentoring, or just help with projects and workshops. Another section will ask for information such as if you've served in any of the above capacities in the past. We seem to have too many of the same people being tapped repeatedly. Another anonymous survey will ask what you do or don't value in your ISCA membership and how we can be more relevant to your interests and needs. The organization is in its 42nd year of existence. Let's put the pieces in place to observe and celebrate our 50th!

Thanks for letting me serve as president this year and best wishes to Todd Soukup as he takes over at our annual meeting. I'd like to extend another big thank you to the council, committees, and certification board, an amazing group of some very dedicated and smart people.

Brad

42nd ISCA Annual Meeting

March 25th in Champaign, Illinois

Register On-line at the ISCA Website by March 18th, 2017

This meeting will provide **PDH for **category C**—attendance or participation in seminars, tutorials, clinics, workshops, symposia, in-house courses, field tours/ exercises, or technical presentations made at meetings, conventions, or conferences.**

Speaker for the Annual Meeting

Speaker Biography: Kevin Dominick is General Manager at Carl's Septic Service, Inc., located in Lemont, IL. He is a third generation family member in the nearly 60-year-old septic service and installation business. Kevin began his formal career at Carl's in 1981 after working part-time through high school and college. A combined interest in science, engineering, and design has led him to a fulfilling career in the on-site wastewater industry.

The title of the presentation: A Contractor's Perspective on Utilizing Soil Information

ISCA 2017 Election Ballot

** Voting rights are for Full Members only. Please vote for one for each office by placing an X next to the name. See the candidate biographies on this and the next page for more information about the candidates. Write-in candidates must have agreed prior to the election to run for that office.**

President-Elect

Jenwei Tsai

Kristine Ryan

(write-in candidate for President-Elect) _____

Vice President

Rachel Welch

Joshua Litwiller

(write-in candidate for Vice President) _____

Submit your ballot: You may bring your ballot to the 2017 ISCA Annual Meeting or you may vote prior to the Annual meeting by mailing your ballot to Scott Wiesbrook at 1816 S. Oak St., Champaign, IL 61820. Please seal your ballot in a separate envelope and mark it with "Ballot" on the outside of that envelope. Mailed ballots must be received by March 23rd, 2017 in order to be counted.

Officer Nomination Biographies

President Elect

Kristine Ryan

Kristine received a B.S. in Plant and Soil Science with an emphasis on soils from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in 2003. She accepted a soil scientist position with the Illinois NRCS in 2004. She worked on soil survey update projects in Northeastern Illinois, Order 1 soil survey mapping projects for the Lake County Forest Preserve District, and was also on the crew that completed the Cook County initial urban soil survey. Kristine also detailed to Georgia in 2009 and Wyoming in 2012 to help in their completion of their initial soil surveys. Currently her office is involved with Drummer and Catlin MLRA field projects identified from the Soil Data Join Re-correlation initiative (SDJR) as well as a handful of map unit consolidation projects. Kristine also received a Masters of Public Health (MPH) from Benedictine University in Lisle, Illinois, in 2010 with studies focused on community gardens and soil contamination. She has become increasingly interested in these topics and has been a shareholder of a Naperville Community Supported Agriculture (CSAs) for many years. Kristine hopes that in the future she can merge her love of soils and natural resources and her MPH to become more involved in community gardening and the local food movement.

Jenwei Tsai

Jenwei received her B.S. and M.S. in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences with an emphasis in soils from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2008 and 2011. She is currently working as a Wetland Soil Scientist in the Wetland Science Program at the Illinois Natural History Survey. Jenwei has been involved in soil judging since 2006 both as a judge and as an assistant coach and is currently serving as the Newsletter Committee Chair for ISCA and is the faculty advisor for the Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Society Student Chapter. She has been a member with ISCA since her undergraduate years and is looking forward to become more involved and giving back in the future to this organization.

Officer Nominations Biographies

Vice President

Rachel Welch

Rachel Welch received her Bachelor's in Natural Resources and Environmental Science with a Minor in Spatial and Quantitative Methods from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 2013 and received her Master's in Crop Science with a concentration in agronomy also from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 2015. Currently, Rachel is a Soil Conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). She started with the NRCS in June 2015 in the Champaign State Office and is now working out of the Normal Field Office in McLean County.

Joshua Litwiller

Josh Litwiller graduated from Illinois State University in May 2015. He works full-time with his father-in-law Bill Teater doing on-site soil investigations. Josh became an ISCA member a year ago and hopes to become certified in the near future. He has served in various leadership capacities in the past and is currently involved in a leadership role at his church as a mentor to high school students. Josh lives in Tremont, IL with his wife, Gabrielle.

ISCA Apparel is now available!!!

Submitted by Mark Bramstedt



A quantity of ISCA sandwich bill caps from Lands' End are available for purchase for a special price of \$10. Caps will be available at the March 25, 2017 ISCA Annual Meeting.

There are three cap colors (Earth, Navy, Red) with the ISCA logo in coordinating colors on the cap front and illinoissoils.org on the back of the cap. The Earth-colored caps are so appropriate for any Soil Classifier. The Navy caps with orange and white logo will look great on Illini and Bears fans and the Red caps with the B&V logo will appease NIU and ISU alumni. Pick your color before they are gone, because the quantity is limited. We received a special deal on these caps, so the cost won't get any lower.

The ISCA Secretary, Scott Wiesbrook, is holding the caps, so contact the secretary@illinoissoils.org if you have questions.

ISCA Apparel is now available!!!

In addition, ISCA now has their own storefront with Lands' End Business Outfitters. The ISCA store is at <https://business.landsend.com/store/ISCA>. Create your own account and order any apparel that you desire. It will be shipped directly to you. You may order any item in the current catalog and have Lands' End add the ISCA logo (\$5.95). You also have the option to choose the location of the logo and change the colors in the logo to coordinate with the item that you are purchasing. Occasionally, Lands' End will have a special offer and not charge to add the embroidered logo, so watch for those specials. Catalog "promotional" items and "silk-screened" items usually have a minimum quantity, so be aware when you are placing your order.

If you have questions concerning the operation of the ISCA Lands' End store, contact webmaster@illinoissoils.org. If you have specific questions regarding merchandise and ordering, contact Lands' End for assistance.

Update from Roger

Wiley Scott and Roger Windhorn were on the program and made presentations at the recent Onsite Wastewater Treatment Conference 2017 held in Bloomington. Wiley's presentation was on Soil Classification Reports and Roger's was on Illinois Soils. There was a good crowd of more than 145 folks present. County Health Administrators were present along with contractors and folks from the State Health Department, including Chad Moorman. Lots of good discussion.

Version 8 Hydric Soil Indicators now available!!!

Submitted by Mark Bramstedt

The long-anticipated release of version 8 of the Hydric Soil Indicators is now here!!!! Thanks to Jen Wollenweber for getting the word out (She's on the NTCHS and an ISCA member). You can also go here: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/soils/use/hydric/> and order hard-copies for you, your friends, and family. Happy reading and pass the word!!!

National Soil Judging Contest, excerpted from an email from Mike Konen

"I am hosting the national soils contest April 23 - 28 based out of DeKalb. The contest and practice will be in the Bloomington Ridged Plain, Green River Lowlands, and Rock River Hill Country. There are 25 teams from across the country participating.

I would also like to invite ISCA members to attend the contest, especially the individual contest on the Thursday, April 27. Anyone that wants to volunteer is welcome! Especially grading scorecards on Thursday. Members are also invited to attend the banquet on the Sunday at the DeKalb County Farm Bureau Center in Sycamore. Costs for that are yet to be determined but probably about \$20 per attendee. I am still locating practice and contest pits so if anyone has any interesting sites within 45 minutes of DeKalb I'm all ears! Contact me!

Information for the national contest can be found at: <http://2017ncsc.weebly.com/> Please share the website address with ISCA members."

In addition to our members helping out at the contest, ISCA is providing some financial support. If you are able to attend and help Mike out, contact him at: mkonen@niu.edu

or by mail: Mike Konen, Associate Professor
Northern Illinois University, Department of Geography
212 Davis Hall, DeKalb, Illinois 60115

ISCA 2016 Fall Tour Summary

Submitted by Bill Kreznor, Doug Gaines, Todd Soukup, and Brad Cate

ISCA Fall Meeting: 11-12 November, 2016

by Bill Kreznor

The dedication of the recently published book *Managing Mississippi and Ohio River Landscapes* by Kenneth R. Olson and Lois Wright Morton states: “To the next generation of soil, water, and social scientists as they seek to understand the complexities of the ever-changing human-natural system”. The program and tour, ably led by Dr. Ken Olson, highlighted land management issues from the perspectives of both natural and social science in the dynamic environment near the confluence of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers.

The pre-tour program in Cape Girardeau, Missouri Friday evening and the Saturday tour was a refreshing change of pace from the usual examination of road cuts and soil pits (although there was a single opportunity to study the sidewall of a recently-incised channel into floodplain sediments). Among the items on which Dr. Olson focused were:

- a natural history of the region;
- a history of flooding and floodplain management in the region;
- damage to and repair of flood management structures;
- reclamation and restoration of farmland;
- impact of flooding on infrastructure and small communities;
- river management and commerce; and
- need for new soil surveys in areas significantly altered by recent (post-1992) flooding.

These and other issues are presented in the form of case studies by Drs. Olson and Morton in their very readable book. Topics are well-documented with a host of photographs, maps, and figures that compliment the text. The program and tour

served to illustrate the authors’ observation: “... these stories reveal that change is the only certainty in river systems”.



Figure 1. Railroad bridge over the Mississippi River at Thebes, Illinois. The bridge was built in 1905. The river valley is narrow (about 2000 feet wide) and the channel is lined with bedrock at this location: an excellent spot for a bridge.

Of particular interest was the last item listed above: the need for updated soil surveys in areas significantly altered by flood events. Drs. Olson and Morton have written about areas damaged by sedimentation, land scouring, and gully formation. A good portion of the tour featured stops illustrating the damage and reclamation efforts (Figures 2, 3, and 4). Dr. Olson suggested a need for detailed soil mapping in order to characterize the type of damages and their extent. Mapping would provide valuable information for prioritizing reclamation projects and developing reconstruction and management plans. Detailed soil maps may also offer a basis for determining land valuation as landowners seek settlement for flood damage and re-assessment of damaged and reclaimed lands for equitable taxation.



Figure 2. Sidewall of recently-incised channel through floodplain sediments at the Dogtooth Bend peninsula. The channel was formed as a result of a levee breach in January 2016. The breach was still open on the tour date and the nearly 7,000-foot long channel still connected to the Mississippi River. Dr. Olson pointed out that subsequent flood events may lengthen the channel and cause more damage. Ultimately, it could enter an older meander scar and re-connect with the river, making the peninsula an island.



Figure 3. Tour leader Dr. Ken Olson strolls over sediments deposited as a result of a breach in the levee (background). Dr. Olson is an advocate for new soil surveys in areas that have been scoured, gullied, or buried in sediments as a result of recent flooding.



Figure 4. Breached levee. This breach occurred in January 2016 and is about one mile in length. Rip rap to the right of the levee breach was subsequently placed as a “repair”, but only covers a portion of the breach.



Figure 5. The Olmstead Lock and Dam on the Ohio River. This \$2.9 billion project was started in 1995 and is scheduled for a 2020 opening. Completion of this structure along with the removal of two sets of locks and dams upstream will reduce navigation time on the lower Ohio River by 3 hours.



Figure 6. The Cairo, Illinois floodwall, built after the Great Flood of 1927, protects this city along its east side from the Ohio River.



Figure 7. Tour participants stretch their legs and observe barge traffic on the Ohio River at the Cairo floodwall.



Figure 8. Observation tower at Fort Defiance Park in Cairo. The park is at the southern tip of Illinois at the confluence of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers. Dr. Ken Olson (right) stands near the level attained by floodwaters in the spring of 2011.

By Todd Soukup

The ISCA Fall Workshop was held on November 11 and 12, 2016. The workshop began in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, on Friday evening, where Dr. Kenneth Olson presented some of his research and observations concerning historic drainage and diking efforts along and near the Mississippi River, recent flooding and levee failures in the vicinity, and subsequent property damage that occurred in Alexander County, Illinois. Saturday dawned clear and crisp, making for good conditions to visit some of the areas he described the evening before. Participants viewed the relatively narrow, bedrock-controlled Mississippi River channel near Thebes, levee breaches and associated property damage near Miller City, and river diversions and drainage efforts made in the past to allow farming in the region. After lunching near the bald cypress trees at Horseshoe Lake spillway, the group continued on to visit the large Olmstead Lock and Dam construction project on the Ohio River near Mounds. The tour ended with a visit to the floodwall in Cairo, along with viewing the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers from Fort Defiance State Park.

The workshop was very informative and well organized, giving participants a glimpse of an area rarely seen by many members of our Association. These workshops are excellent opportunities to learn something new and get to know other members better. Please consider attending one in the future!

Please see next page for more photos submitted by Brad Cate and Doug Gaines.



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

www.illinoissoils.org

ISCA Newsletter Staff

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Champaign, IL 61820

Phone: 217-300-1930
Email:
Newsletter@illinoissoils.org

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.

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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 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 if you have any difficulty in accessing the ISCA Group or if you have any questions or comments.



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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!



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E-Mail: _____

*Mail to: Scott Wiesbrook, ISCA Secretary, 1816 S. Oak St., IL 61820



Illinois Soil Classifiers Association Newsletter

Spring-June 2017

Upcoming Events:

Soil Texture Sampling	On-going
Hydric Soils Class	TBD
Fall meeting	Tentative 10/7

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Message from the President

I had the opportunity to assist with the National Collegiate Soils Contest sponsored by Northern Illinois University in April. Mike Konen and his associates put on an admirable show despite conditions more conducive to aquaculture than soil classifying. Almost 200 participants from 25 universities took part, and their enthusiasm was a treat to witness.

Soil science career opportunities in private industry are more common than they were in 1989 when I started mapping soils for the Soil Conservation Service. Unfortunately, the availability of public sector positions has dropped considerably. Numerous collegiate soils programs have shrunk, and student concerns about future employment prospects discourage their pursuit of soil science as a career. Understanding soils and interpreting their behavior remains critical in agronomic, engineering, and resource management disciplines, however.

Who will make up the next generation of soil classifiers? What career paths will be available to them? How can we encourage young people, such as those at the Soils Contest, to make soil science their profession? In future messages I will share my thoughts on this topic, and invite you to share your views with me at the email address shown below. I want to thank my predecessor Brad for his great work in this office, and look forward to serving as your president.

Todd Soukup
soukup1920@gmail.com

2017 - 2018 ISCA Committees

The following ISCA members have agreed to serve on committees. Thank you for your service!

Finance	Rachel Welch (Chair), Josh Litwiller, Kristine Ryan
PR & Education	Josh Litwiller (Chair), Bill Teater, Rachel Welch
Certification Board	Sam Indorante (Chair), Pat Kelsey (Secretary), Ken Anderson, Scott Wegman, Galen Litwiller, Bob McCleese
Ethics, Certification, & Membership	Bruce Putman (Chair), Scott Wiesbrook, Mark Bramstedt, Mike Konen, Jenwei Tsai
Newsletter	Jenwei Tsai (Chair), Alicia Metzger, Dennis Keene
Constitution/Bylaws	Clayton Heffter (Chair)
Nominations	Brad Cate (Chair)

Ad-Hoc and Special Appointee Committees

State Advisory Commission for Private Sewage Disposal	Don Fehrenbacher (Chair)
Soils of Illinois Tour	Kristine Ryan (Chair)
Multi-year Plan	Kristine Ryan (Chair)
Soil Texture Sampling Project	Bill Teater (Chair), Bob Tegeler, Mark Bramstedt, Jenwei Tsai, and Bob McLeese
Webmaster	Mark Bramstedt
Historian	Bill Kreznor

Some photos from the Soil Judging Contest at NIU

Big shout out to Dr. Mike Konen for hosting the National Soil Judging Contest this April and for all those ISCA members who helped out at the contest! Congratulations to University of Maryland for winning the contest.



Photo credit:
Mike Konen &
Rachel Welch

Soil Texture Sampling Project

Submitted by Bill Teater, Bob Tegeler, Rick Francen, and Jenwei Tsai

Wanted: Motivated, hardworking, volunteering, Soil Classifiers!!!

Most of you have heard that ISCA has embarked on a project to obtain “known” soil samples to help with training and recalibration of texturing soil. Soils will be sampled from all the major parent materials, and all over the State. Future soil classifiers need this and experienced classifiers need to recalibrate in order not to stray from good texturing judgement.

The plan in the end is to supply both NRCS and ISCA with about 36 five gallon containers each, filled with soil samples that have texture data. We are collecting 12-14 gallons of material from a specific layer, drying them, and crushing the samples, and hopefully having 2 full five gallon buckets. As you can imagine, this will be a labor-intensive project.

We have already started to sample soils and ready them for lab analysis. A few of us visited South Farms at the University of Illinois and sampled out of the typical sites for Drummer, and Flanagan. We were able to collect 2 of the targeted samples on the Texture project “Hit List” (see the following page for the list and some photos from the sampling trip).

Please browse our ISCA web site and review the list for targeted textures in your area. The MLRA offices, joined with Resource Soil Scientists will also be looking for opportunities to sample pits, escarpments, etc. in order to collect as many of the different types on the “hit list” possible. All ISCA members can volunteer and work with them in the sampling or the processing to get the samples ready for the lab. As you, Certified Soil Scientist, do on-sites, may have especially easy sites to sample right under your noses. Most of you work with installers that also excavate basements. These may be very easy places to get access and permission for sampling. As we get samples of each targeted type, please notify me (Bill Teater) so we can take that targeted type off the Hit List. (we won't need 10 Silt loam loess surfaces)

So.... Please review the Hit List for what we are still after. Find something in your area and go for it!! We need 3 five gallon buckets of each sample type. You can pick up buckets from the Champaign NRCS office or purchase 5 gallon buckets at Menards or Home depot for \$2.97 each. If you decide to purchase the buckets, you can be reimbursed or decide to donate to the cause. Please DON'T let the sample dry into one big hard 5 gallon lump. We need the sample spread out, dried and crushed. If you have any questions or need clarification on the processing procedure, or just want to make sure you are not duplicating someone else's work, please call / text / email me.

Bill Teater

309-241-1367
soilsbybill@gmail.com

Soil Texture Sampling Project Hit List

Loess:

- * Silt
- * Silt Loam
- * Silty Clay Loam >35%
- * Silty Clay Loam <35%
- * Silty Clay

Eolian:

- * Fine Sand
- * Sand
- * Loamy Fine Sand
- * Loamy Sand
- * Fine Sandy Loam
- * Sandy Loam

Glacial Till: Samples from both illitic and mixed clay minerology, if it is common

- * Sandy loam
- * Loam
- * Silt Loam
- * Clay Loam
- * Silty Clay Loam >35%
- * Silty Clay Loam <35%
- * Silty Clay

Outwash & Alluvium:

- * Loam
- * Gravelly loam
- * Sandy Loam
- * Gravelly Sandy Loam
- * Loamy Sand
- * Gravelly Loamy Sand
- * Clay Loam
- * Gravelly Clay Loam
- * Silty Clay Loam
- * Sandy Clay Loam
- * Silt Loam >15%
- * Silt Loam <15%
- * Silty Clay

Residuum: The 2-3 most needed

- * Loam
- * Silt Loam
- * Clay Loam
- * Silty Clay Loam
- * Silty Clay
- * Clay

We obtained from the Loess group: SIL and SICL (<35%) from the Catlin pit at the University of Illinois South Farm. See the below photos from our trip.



Some Upcoming Events

Fall meeting is tentatively scheduled for 10/7 in Southern Illinois. More information will be advertised later via email.

Hydric Soils Class details is still being worked out. More information will also be advertised via email.

New Soil Survey Manual Now Available!

Submitted by Bob Tegeler

Please go to the following link to obtain the new Soil Survey Manual:
<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDANRCS/bulletins/19fbfdb>

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Summer-September 2017

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Hydric Soils Class 9/27-9/28

Fall meeting 10/7

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Message from the President

In my last message I posed several questions about future careers in soil science. A key component, in my view, is creating awareness among young people that careers in natural resources are available. Not too many ten-year-olds want to grow up to be a soil classifier, but they can be encouraged to get outdoors and experience nature. This is not always an easy task in our technological age, I know, but avenues to accomplish this do exist. Get involved with 4H and FFA programs in your area; their leaders are often looking for volunteers to help with judging or student projects. If your surroundings are more urban, lend your knowledge to local nature centers or forest preserve districts that sponsor youth programs. Most kids (and adults too) enjoy finding out how the landscapes they live on formed. Conversations about soils on those landscapes can take off from there.

We are equipped to be the best evangelists for our occupation, and should take advantage of that fact. My hat is off to the many of you already sharing your time and knowledge. We must engage and encourage a new generation to follow in our footsteps. Our profession's future depends upon it.

Todd Soukup
soukup1920@gmail.com

2017 Hydric Soils Class

ISCA is sponsoring a two-day "Hydric Soils for Wetland Delineation" course in northeastern Illinois on **September 27 - 28, 2017**. Participants may choose to attend the complete course or may choose single day attendance.

Day One will be held at the DuPage County Government Complex in Wheaton, IL and Day Two will be held at the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, IL. Registration for the course may be made on the illinoissoils.org homepage. All participants must pre-register. The registration deadline is **September 24**. No on-site registration will be accepted.

Payment may be made on-line with a credit card or PayPal or may be paid by check on-site (no on-site credit card payments). Checks should be made payable to "Illinois Soil Classifiers Association". Class is limited to 30 participants.

Contact Mark Bramstedt at webmaster@illinoissoils.org for questions.

Please find an abbreviated agenda for the course in the following page.



Hydric Soil Indicators for Wetland Delineation

Wednesday, September 27, 2017 — Soil Properties and the Hydric Soil Indicators DuPage County Government Complex 421 N. County Farm Road, Wheaton, IL 60187

8:00-8:30

- Registration/Check-in – \$100 (\$50 for ISCA Full Members); \$75 for single day attendance payable to Illinois Soil Classifiers Association

8:30-12:00

- Introduction
- Basic Properties of Hydric Soils - Mary Beth Falsey
- Formation of Redoximorphic Features - Mark Bramstedt
- Soils, Landscapes, and Water Flow - Roger Windhorn
- Introduction to Hydric Soil Indicators - Mark Bramstedt
- Hydric Soil Indicators of the Midwest Supplement and how to describe them - Alicia Metzger
- Soil Texture Exercise - Mary Beth Falsey/Instructors

12:00-1:00

- Lunch (on your own)

1:00-3:30

- Hydric Soils in the Field

Thursday, September 28, 2017—Field Application of Hydric Soil Indicators The Morton Arboretum 4100 Illinois Route 53, Lisle, IL 60532

8:00-8:30

- Registration – \$75 for single day attendance payable to Illinois Soil Classifiers Association

8:30-8:45

- Recap of Day I - Ken Anderson

8:45-9:15

- Disturbed and Problem Soils - Mark Bramstedt

9:15-12:30

- Field Identification of Indicators
- Hydric Soils in the Field

12:30-12:45

- Review of the field activity - Instructors

Instructors—All instructors are members/soil classifiers of the Illinois Soil Classifiers Association:

- Kenneth N. Anderson, Jr., Director, Kane County Division of Environmental & Water Resources
- Mark Bramstedt, Soil Scientist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Mary Beth Falsey, Water Quality Supervisor, DuPage County Stormwater Management
- Clayton Heffter, Stormwater Permitting Manager, DuPage County
- Alicia Metzger, Professional Wetland Scientist/Soil Scientist, V3 Companies
- Roger Windhorn, Soil Scientist/NRCS State Geologist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (retired)

Fall Meeting Information

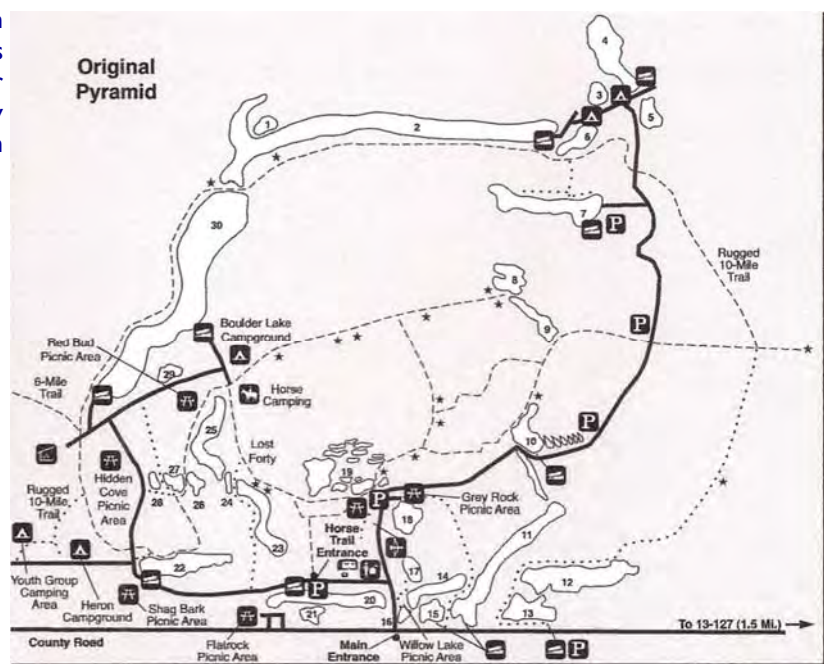
The 2017 ISCA Fall Meeting will take place on **October 7, 2017** at **Pyramid State Park** south of Pinckneyville in Perry County. Sam Indorante and Kristine Ryan are coordinating this year's meeting, which is themed **Anthropogenic Soils**. Sam helped sample and describe mined and reclaimed research sites over 30 years in age last fall with Dr. Kevin McSweeney, Bob Dunker, and Stan Sipp of the University of Illinois, and Ron Collman of the NRCS. The tour is anticipated to include stops to view soils not mined, soils mined for coal but not reclaimed, and soils that have been mined and reclaimed. Kristine has offered to give a presentation during lunch that will discuss Soil Taxonomy as applied to anthropogenic soils.



The meeting will begin at **11am** at the park's new meeting building, with a catered box lunch. Field sites will be visited following lunch, with the tour concluding at about 3 pm. The main entrance for Pyramid State Park is located on a county road 1.5 miles west of Illinois Routes 13-127 in Pyatts.

The closest lodging available is located in Pinckneyville, with one option being America's Best Value Inn & Suites (618-357-5600). Other lodging options are located in Sparta (Holiday Inn Express and Briarwood Inn) and Du Quoin (Fairgrounds Inn, Super 8).

Planning is still in progress, so please watch our website for updates on registering for the meeting. October in southern Illinois is a beautiful time of year, so please make plans to attend!



2017 Farm Progress Show

Submitted by Roger Windhorn

We had another successful ISCA Soil Pit Display at this year's Farm Progress Show!! Thanks very much to the participants that were at the pit for the show!!

Those individuals are: John Ford, Bob McLeese, Wiley Scott, Bill Gradle, Jenwei Tsai, Scott Wiesbrook, Dave Rahe, Ron Coleman, Rick Francine, Mark Bramstedt, Bob Tegeler

Troy Fehrenbacher and myself were there the entire time.

These folks not only did a great job discussing the Flanagan soil on display but also general soil development of Illinois Soils. We visited with literally thousands of folks and talked soils with folks from eleven different countries! Good discussion between the ISCA members is always great!!

Thanks again!!
— Roger



Photo credit:
Jenwei Tsai

Looking Backward

by Bill Kreznor, ISCA Historian

“The effect of change in surroundings is like that of lapse of time in making the past seem remote.”

—Edward Bellamy from his novel *Looking Backward*

Greetings and welcome to the beginning of what I hope will be a regular feature in our Newsletter: an essay exploring an event and people of the ISCA. Our Association will officially begin its 43rd year in September, and we have a lot of history behind us. I’ve just begun to look over the archives that were ceremoniously conveyed to me via President Soukup’s pickup truck earlier this year upon my appointment as the 4th Historian of the ISCA. I’d like to acknowledge the fine work of my predecessors, Les Bushue (1993-2000), Roger Windhorn (2001-2009), and Steve Zwicker (2010-2016), in collecting, preserving, and organizing our Association’s documents, photos, and memorabilia. I’d also tip my hat to Mark Bramstedt who has kept the past alive with his “Days Gone By” photo gallery that has become a regular feature in this medium.

So, what’s the deal with Edward Bellamy? Some of you may know that I began my post-high school education as a student of American history. It took me two years to figure out that such a path was not for me. My calling would take me on the less-travelled path of forestry and soil science. I still have a fondness for history which I think will serve me well as ISCA Historian. In the course of my studies of history, I became quite interested in Utopian Socialism and the writings of its founders Henri-de Saint-Simon, Charles Fourier, and Robert Owen. I was particularly fascinated with the Utopian communities established in the USA beginning in the early 19th century. Most of these communities were short-lived, their inhabitants long gone. Some of the physical trappings they left behind has been preserved and can be seen at such locations as New Harmony, Indiana and the Amana Colonies of Iowa County, Iowa. Edward Bellamy was a Christian socialist born in Massachusetts. In 1888, he published a novel *Looking Backward* that tells the story of a middle-age Bostonian who is mysteriously transported from 1887 to a utopian community in the year 2000. Maybe Bellamy’s spirit will accompany us on a series of what I hope will be interesting and enjoyable journeys “looking backward” into the history of ISCA.

The ISCA Logo

The original ISCA logo (Figure 1) was developed in early 1976 by a Symbols and Letterhead Committee chaired by Walt Parks. It was approved by the Executive Council and submitted to the general membership for a vote of approval. Upon its approval, it was put into use on ISCA stationery and an informational brochure later that year. The logo attempts to convey many aspects of land use and management: residential development, agriculture, transportation, and urban/industrial development. A stylized soil profile with the tools of the Soil Classifier (probe and spade) forms the base upon which soil use and management rest. An embroidered patch (Figure 2) was soon made available for purchase and began appearing on the hats of many of our members. The official selection of the new and current logo (Figure 6) was announced and published in the Spring 1993 edition of the Newsletter. It appears to combine features of two or three of what might have been the more popular choices from 1990, and is perhaps an appropriate compromise among the preferences of the members of our Association.

Looking Backward continued

by Bill Kreznor, ISCA Historian

In June of 1989, Mark Matusiak suggested to the Council that the logo be updated. He and others believed the logo was too “busy” in its attempt to cover the many aspects of soils and land use. When reduced in size for printing on stationery, many of the features were unrecognizable. A cleaner and clearer logo was needed. The Council agreed and solicited suggestions for a new logo from the membership. In November of 1990, eight possible logo designs (Figure 3) were published in the Newsletter and members were asked to “vote” their preference. There was no clear winner and the effort was put on the back burner. Some members may not have been pleased with the direction and pace of the adoption of a new logo. A “renegade” logo (Figure 4 and Logo No. 1 in Figure 3) appeared on the handbooks published for the ISCA Fall Meeting in both 1990 and 1992. Its use had not been officially sanctioned by the Council. Another logo candidate (No. 5 of Figure 3) has found its way into current use. Note its similarity to the ISCA “refrigerator” magnet (Figure 5).

The official selection of the new and current logo (Figure 6) was announced and published in the Spring 1993 edition of the Newsletter. It appears to combine features of two or three of what might have been the more popular choices from 1990, and is perhaps an appropriate compromise among the preferences of the members of our Association.

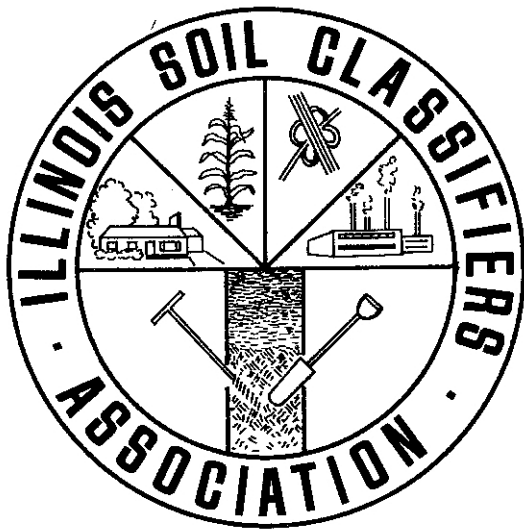


Figure 1. The first ISCA logo developed by the Symbols and Letterhead Committee made its debut in November of 1976.



Figure 2. The ISCA logo embroidered patch was available for purchase. Size (2.5-inches in diameter) and colors were standard; no option available.

Looking Backward continued

by Bill Kreznor, ISCA Historian

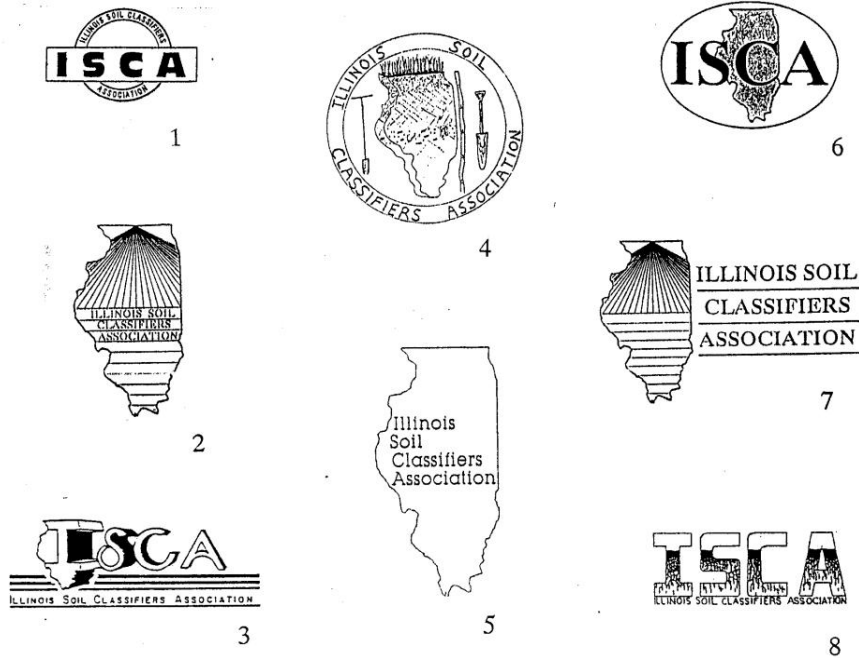


Figure 3. The proposed logo design candidates submitted to the membership in 1990 to replace the 1976 logo.



Figure 4. This "renegade" logo saw limited use from late 1990 through late 1992.



Figure 5. The ISCA refrigerator magnet: a descendant of the one of the 1990 logo proposals.



Figure 6. Our current logo, adopted in the spring of 1993, appears to be a hybrid of several of the designs submitted in 1990.

Catlin MLRA Field Project—MLRA 108B (Lee and Ogle Counties)

Submitted by Kristine Ryan

The **Catlin** series is a benchmark soil mapped predominantly in MLRA 108A but with some acreage occurring in MLRA's 108B, 110, and 115C. The Catlin Series occurs in loess and the underlying calcareous till and has a water table of 2 to 3.5 feet, usually occurring on the Wisconsin till plain. The series concept had been previously correlated in similar positions on the Illinois till plain, but it appeared to be better drained. At one time, the Catlin series allowed for a "dual" drainage classes. The former Rock Falls MLRA office established the Parkway Series in Henry County (MLRA 108B) in 2001, reflecting a seasonal high water table at a depth of 4 to 6 feet. Parkway has a similar parent material sequence when compared to Catlin, with the difference being that it occurs on the Illinois till plain rather than the Wisconsin till plain. The difference in these till plains is the age of parent material, with the Wisconsin till plain being younger geology. Soils that had been mapped as Catlin on the Illinois till plain-which should correlate strongly with MLRA 108B-have been correlated to the Parkway series as a result of soil survey update activity in northwest Illinois.

The Catlin type location (OSD) occurs in MLRA 108B even though the distribution reflects the Wisconsin Glacial advance in MLRA 108A. The series was established in Vermilion County and it's uncertain why the OSD location was moved to Ogle County. When McLean and Champaign Counties survey areas were updated the representative pedon for Catlin that was chosen came from Champaign County. It was later moved to McLean County. There are no notes documenting why the Champaign pedon was initially used, but it is assumed it was because Ogle is dominantly in 108B and likely loess over Illinoisan till. Additionally, in 2011, the McLean County data map unit became the representative data map unit for Catlin (2 to 5 percent slopes) in all of MLRA 108A. The Aurora soil survey office will investigate the Catlin series in MLRA 108B in Lee and Ogle Counties, re-correlate the series in these survey areas if necessary, and relocate the Catlin OSD location from Ogle County (MLRA 108B) to McLean County (MLRA 108A). The area better fits the central concept for the Catlin series. The new OSD type location will be sampled and sent to the Kellogg Soil Survey Laboratory (KSSL) for a full characterization. The new data collected will updated in NASIS.

During the fall 2017 and spring 2018 (potentially), the Aurora office would like to open up soil pits in Lee and Ogle Counties to obtain better observation points. Our goal is to gain a better understanding of the geology of the parent material in which Catlin formed. We will find suitable Catlin locations through spatial analysis, pedons/transect descriptions in NASIS, reviewing historical pedon descriptions from the Lee/Ogle survey areas, and talking with soil scientists with knowledge of the area. Our office will need help from the field office staff in reaching out to landowners who would be willing to help us in our investigation by allowing us access to their property. Staff from the regional office, state office, field offices, consultants and retired soil scientists will attend.

Data will be updated including new field observations and the OSD type location sampled. Some map line work will be modified and all data associated with the data map units will be updated.

ISCA Gear Ordering

ISCA Gear - ISCA now has our own storefront with Lands' End Business Outfitters. The ISCA store is at: <https://business.landsend.com/store/ISCA>. Create your own account and order any apparel that you desire. It will be shipped directly to you. You may order any item in the current catalog and have Lands' End add the ISCA logo (\$5.95). You also have the option to choose the location of the logo and change the colors in the logo to coordinate with the item that you are purchasing. Occasionally, Lands' End will have a special offer and not charge to add the embroidered logo, so watch for those specials. Current "free logo" offer (Code=EMFLFS) ends 9/15. Catalog "promotional" items and "silkscreened" items usually have a minimum quantity, so be aware when you are placing your order. If you have questions concerning the operation of the ISCA Lands' End store, contact webmaster@illinoissoils.org. If you have specific questions regarding merchandise and ordering, contact Lands' End for assistance.

www.illinoissoils.org

ISCA Newsletter Staff

1816 S. Oak St.
Champaign, IL 61820

Phone: 217-300-1930
Email:
Newsletter@illinoissoils.org

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- 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.

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Publication Schedule

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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 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 if you have any difficulty in accessing the ISCA Group or if you have any questions or comments.



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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
1816 S. Oak St.
Champaign, IL 61820

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

www.illinoissoils.org/news

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*Mail to: Scott Wiesbrook, ISCA Secretary, 1816 S. Oak St., IL 61820



Illinois Soil Classifiers Association Newsletter

Fall-November 2017

Upcoming Events:

Special Election	By 1/1/2018
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Name that ISCA member!	8
ISCA on Facebook	9

Message from the President

Thanks to everyone who participated in and organized our excellent fall meeting in Perry County. Visiting with Sam Indorante and Scott Wiesbrook at the meeting reminded me how much time and effort educators put into instructing the next generation of soil scientists. How can we guide prospective students of soil along a path to gainful employment? Hands-on experience is crucial to learning our craft, but many of today's entry level jobs provide only limited opportunities for extended field work. Students must be encouraged to maximize field experience, be it soil judging, class lab exercises, or part-time employment, in order to build the tacit knowledge we use every day. GIS and GPS proficiency is of great use, and can be utilized across many disciplines. Communication skills are imperative; often the data we collect is not "good news", so you must be able to convey to the end user what the problematic issue is and how it should be handled. Bookkeeping skills for future entrepreneurs are extremely useful, and much better learned early rather than "on the fly" while trying to run a business. Changing times have also affected the demographic interested in earth sciences. Gender is much less of a barrier than it used to be. Fortunately, it is no longer unusual to encounter a female soil scientist, and young women should be encouraged to explore careers in our field. The more diversified we are, the more effectively we can communicate our information to the public.

Todd Soukup (soukup1920@gmail.com)

2017 Fall Meeting and Tour

Submitted by Bill Kreznor

On 7 October 2017, eighteen Soil Classifiers and guests met at Pyramid State Recreation Area (PSRA) near Pinckneyville in southern Illinois. The meeting featured two themes: the properties and classification of soils reconstructed from the surface mining of coal, and taxonomic classification of human-altered/human-transported (HA/HT) materials. The meeting began with an informal, picnic-style lunch and conversation among tour leaders, participants, and guests (Figures 1 and 2).

After lunch, tour organizers Dr. Sam Indorante and Kristine Ryan acknowledged those who had assisted with preparations and guidebooks: Ron Collman (USDA-NRCS), Dr. Kevin McSweeney University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), Dean Spindler (Illinois Department of Mines and Minerals), Cha Hill (Site Supervisor, PSRA, Illinois Department of Natural Resources), Erik Gerhard USDA-NRCS, and Dwayne Williams (USDA-NRCS). Those present were introduced and tour books were distributed.

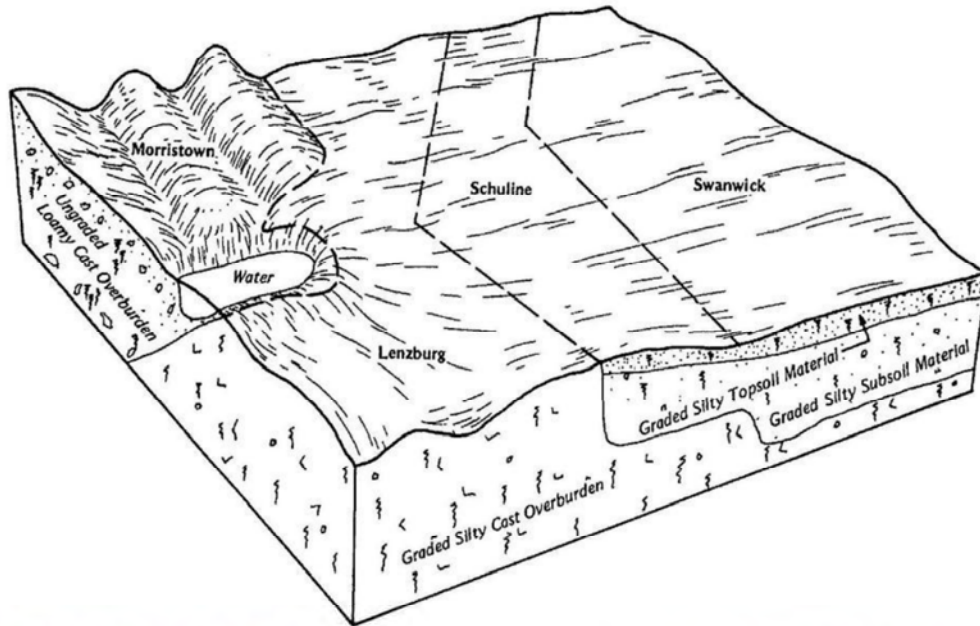
Indorante (Figure 3, on left) and Spindler (Figure 4, standing) briefly discussed the history of how characterization of the landscapes and soils materials evolved into a framework through which these reconstructed soils could be classified taxonomically at the soil series level. That framework integrated age of reconstructed soil, i.e. date and method of mining, whether the overburden materials (A, B, and C horizons) were segregated or mixed as they were removed, and how those overburden materials were replaced after mining. The block diagram (Figure 5, from the tour guidebook) illustrates this conceptual framework. One interesting aspect of the discussion was the initial degree of skepticism from some of the soil correlation staff in Lincoln as to the relevance or necessity of establishing soil series for soils reconstructed from surface mined materials.

The tour then moved by car-caravan into the field to examine soil pits in these reclaimed areas (Figures 6 and 7). The dry conditions and delightful weather allowed tour participants to get a look at the soils and engage in discussion. Indorante and Spindler (Figure 8) also discussed research conducted by Drs. Ivan Jansen, Kevin McSweeney and others at the University of Illinois during the 1970s and 1980s. This research examined the physical and chemical properties of the mine soils, and their productivity. Some of these original test plots have been protected and “monumented” (Figure 9). They will be maintained into the foreseeable future to allow for any follow-up research.

Ryan (Figure 10, on right) presented an overview of updates to Soil Taxonomy (“Keys to Soil Taxonomy”, 12th edition, 2014) relative to the taxa for anthropogenic soils. Her synopsis of these updates is included in the tour guidebook. Some important additions to the “Keys” include updates to the definition of the anthropic epipedon, definitions for HA/HT materials and the addition of those materials to soil classification at the family level, the impact of HA/HT materials on control section depth, and horizon designation and nomenclature. Many of us working in urban and suburban areas HA/HT materials are common will find it useful to review those sections of the “Keys” dealing with the anthropic epipedon, buried soils, family differentiae, and designations for horizons and layers.



Fall Meeting and Tour



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Notice of Special Election

Our President-Elect, Jenwei Tsai, has accepted a new job position in Delaware. We want to congratulate her and wish her best of luck in this new venture. Since our bylaws require that Executive Council members actively practice soil classifying in Illinois, Jenwei will be unable to assume the role of ISCA president at our next annual meeting. As a result, a special election will be held to fill the president's position for the next term. Mark Bramstedt and Scott Wegman have agreed to run, and a biography of each follows:

Mark Bramstedt earned his BS in Forestry (soils emphasis) from the University of Montana in 1976. He has been an active member of ISCA since 1978 and has been a CPSC since 1982. Throughout that time, he has served on and chaired various committees, served on the Certification Board, and served as President of ISCA for two separate terms. Currently, he serves as Webmaster and maintains the ISCA web page. Mark is still amazed that as he continues to learn more about soil, that there is still so much more to learn than what he already knows.

Scott Wegman has a B.S. in Soil Science and an M.S. in Geology. He began his career as a county soil scientist in Pike, Tazewell and Woodford Counties, Illinois. He then moved to a soil scientist position with the Lake County Illinois Health Department. From there he became a soil scientist for a sequence of engineering consulting firms: V3 Consultants, ENSR/AECOM and Klingner Associates. In 2004 he formed Elijah's Brook, Inc., doing soils for septic work, and has continued there to the present. He has also earned an M.A. in Professional Counseling, and works with couples and individuals on a variety of issues.

We want to thank Mark and Scott for agreeing to run on short notice. Please vote for the candidate of your choice using the ballot shown below. Detach the ballot and fold closed to preserve anonymity. The ballot can be returned along with submittal of your membership and/or certification dues, or can be sent directly to ISCA Secretary Scott Wiesbrook, 1816 S. Oak Street, Champaign, IL 61820. **Ballots must be received by January 1, 2018.** Ballots will be tabulated and a winner determined at the next ISCA Executive Council meeting in January.

Special Election for ISCA President, 2018-2019

indicate your choice with a mark next to the candidate of your choice

_____ Mark Bramstedt

_____ Scott Wegman

Please seal or fold and return to ISCA Secretary Scott Wiesbrook, 1816 S. Oak Street, Champaign, IL 61820 by 1/1/2018

2017 Forest Soils Writeup

Submitted by Frank Heisner

The 37th Annual Central States Forest Soils Workshop was held October 10-12 at Sewanee University of the South. A variety of topics were presented, along with some spectacular scenery. We tip our hats to the Soil Scientist Association of Tennessee (and partners) for providing an interesting and educational program.

The Tuesday evening program began on the Sewanee campus with a welcome from NRCS State Scientist, Dave McMillen, who also introduced the presenters and Dr. Jon Evans (Professor of Biology), Sewanee University, provided a background of the university and local ecology of the southern Cumberland Plateau. Dr. Don Byerly, Emeritus Professor from the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, followed with a presentation on the geologic history of the area. Dr. Belinda Ferro, NRCS Ecological Site Description Specialist concluded the evening with a presentation on ecological sites for the area. Between speakers, participants had opportunity to review poster presentations and engage Dr. Evans' students regarding past land use and subsequent changes to forest ecology and soil dynamics.

The first day's field tour focused on several stops in the Monteagle/Sewanee area and covered a variety of topics: deer browsing research, vernal pools, white pine invasion, ecological sites and soil survey update needs, chestnut oak regeneration, agricultural legacies and forest change dynamics. Soils typically observed were Ultisols developed from the underlying sandstone which is prevalent on the southern Cumberland Plateau. The day concluded with a banquet at the DuBose Conference center, followed by presentations by Brian Chandler of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency who discussed use and management changes on TWRA owned lands on the Cumberland Plateau. Bobby Fulcher of Tennessee State Parks gave a presentation of the Natural and Cultural History of the Cumberland Trail. The evening ended after a short business meeting in which Missouri accepted to host next year's Forest Soils Workshop (which means it will be back in Illinois in 2019).

The tour concluded on day 2 at Savage Gulf State Natural Area. Park rangers gave an overview of the geology, ecology, and management issues regarding the area. Issues of importance were with regard to woolly adelgid treatment in hemlocks, and the importance of partnerships in battling invasive species. The tour ended with spectacular views at Laurel Overlook.

ISCA attendees at this year's workshop were: Bryan Fitch, Troy Fehrenbacher, and Frank Heisner.

In partnership with the Soil Scientist Association of Tennessee were:

Sewanee University of the South

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Tennessee State Parks

University of Tennessee Experiment Stations

USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service

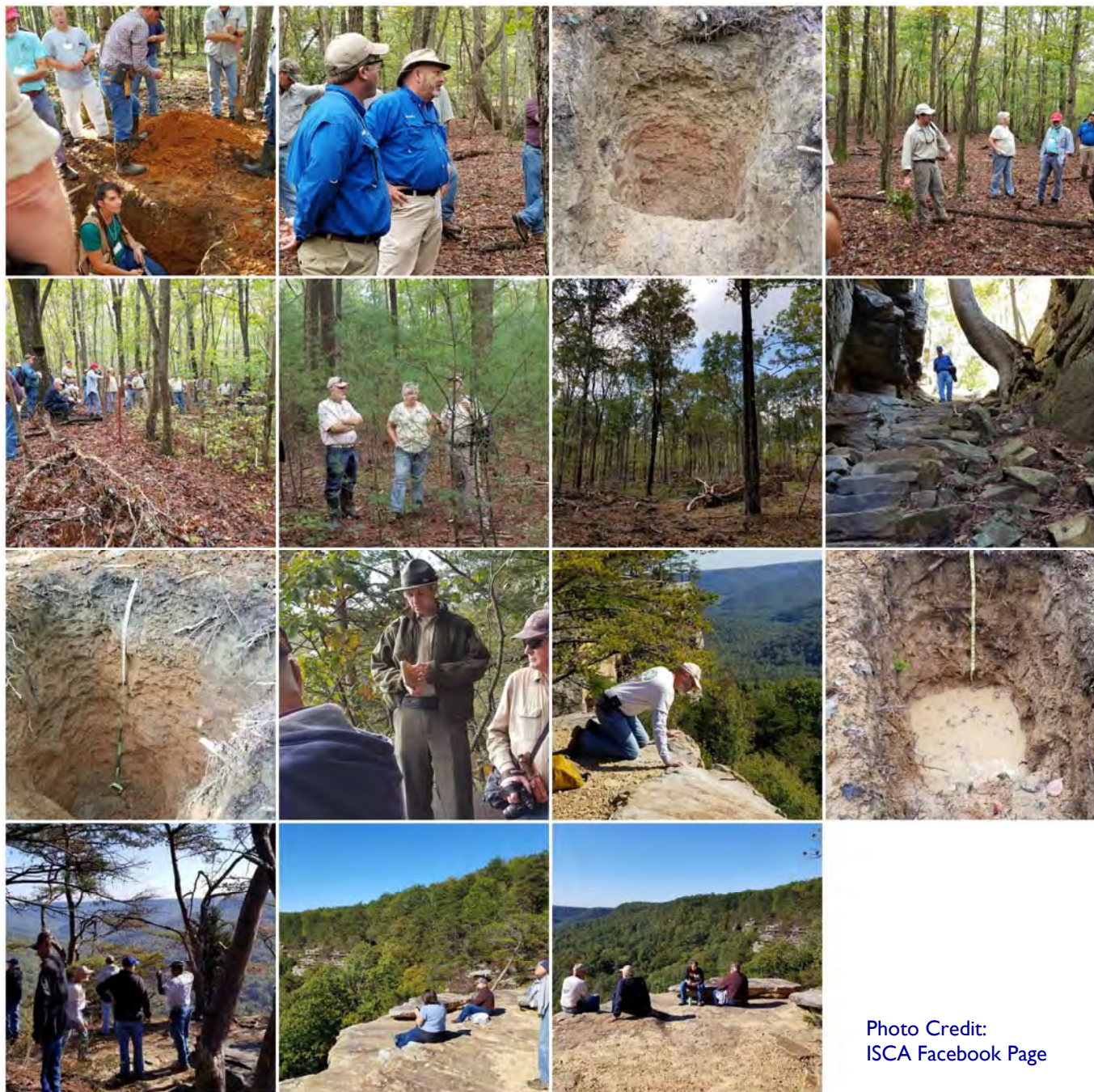


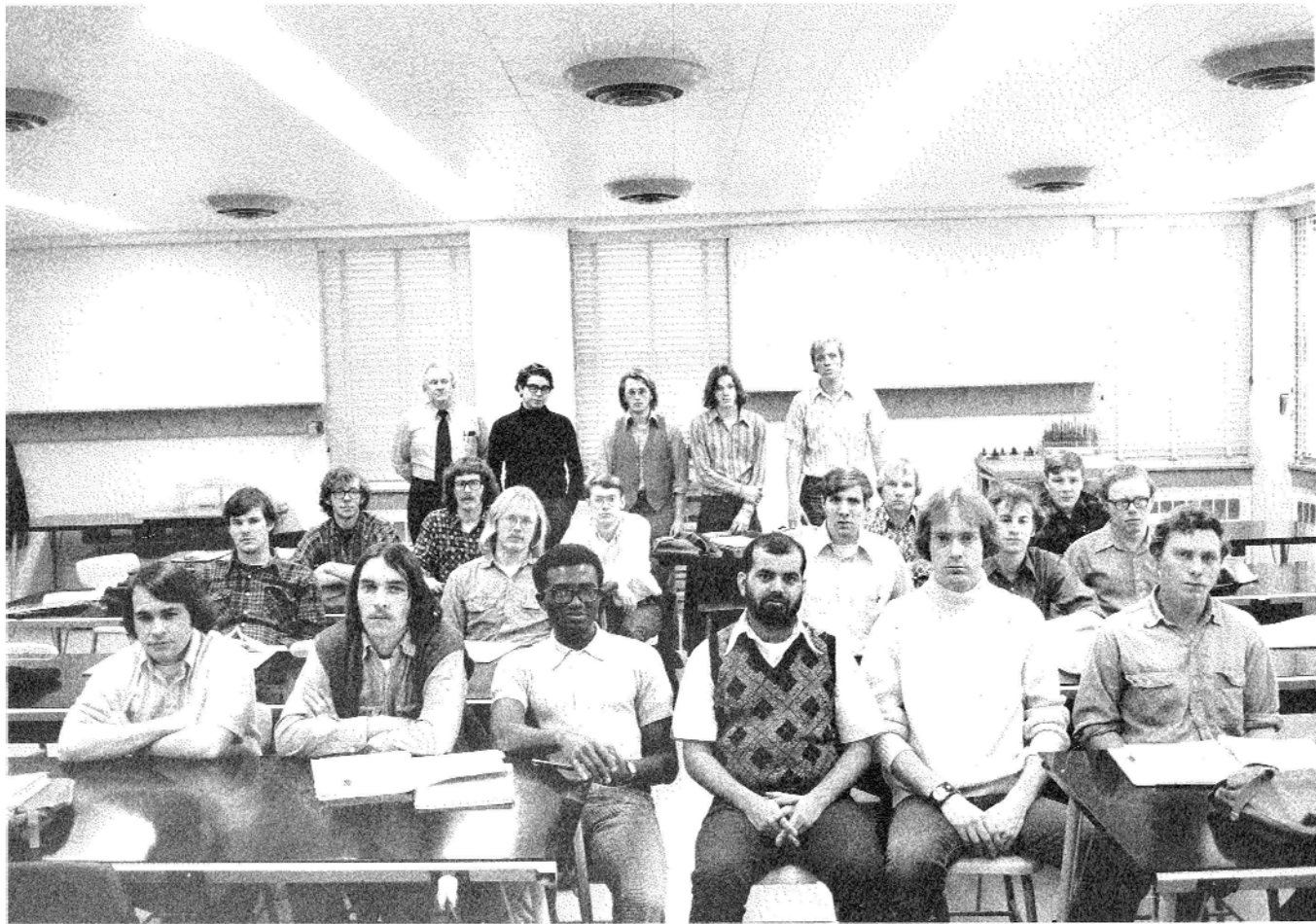
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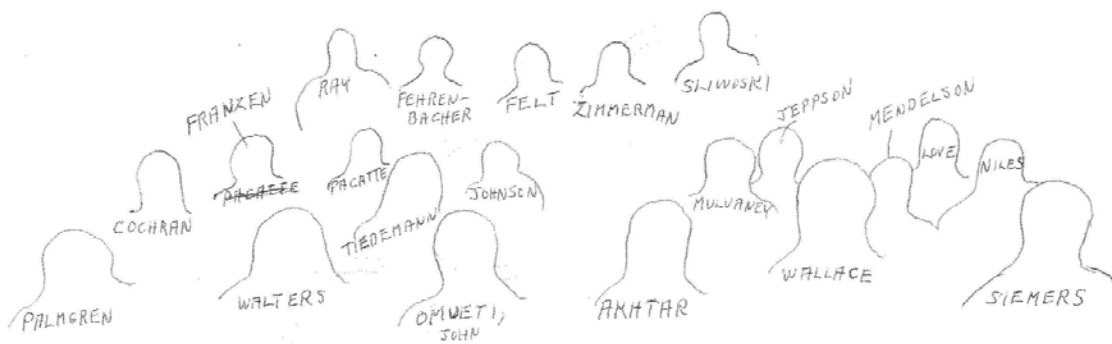
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Name that ISCA member in Agronomy 301 Class in 1974

Photo submitted by Robert Darmody



AGRON-301 1974



JOAN BARTZ - NOT PRESENT

AGRON. 301

1974

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www.illinoissoils.org

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Better yet... make it your home page!



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