



Illinois Soil Classifiers Association Newsletter

Upcoming Events:

36th Annual Meeting	March 26
Friends of Pleistocene	May 20-22

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Winter- February 2011

Message from the President

As predicted in my last letter, we are definitely digging ourselves out of the immense snow that hit last week. Unfortunately (or maybe fortunately), I did not get to experience Snowageddon 2011 first hand, as I was in Nebraska for training. While I did experience some nasty cold, wind, and horizontal snow, it was nothing compared to the blizzard in northeastern Illinois.

As I sat attentively in my classroom, swarms of emails regarding office closures inundated my inbox; followed by phone calls from my daughter's school cancelling classes. While much of the U.S. endured the big snow storm and found themselves with a snow day or two, I was away from it all, becoming educated about soil correlation decisions and procedures. It was then when I realized how fortunate I really am. Not only do I love the field I am in, but I am also involved in such a terrific organization like ISCA!

ISCA gives us all an opportunity to meet and interact with other soil scientists in Illinois. Through our meetings and field trips, we also have the opportunity to connect with many professionals in other states. Many of us have different academic backgrounds, employers, and life experiences. What an excellent way to connect and learn from one another. So many times soil scientists are out on their own, "the lone wolf." However, our field is dynamic. We should take advantage of every opportunity we have to learn and interact with others in our profession.

As I looked around my classroom, the U.S. was pretty well represented. Yes, I learned a lot from the instructors, but I also learned so much interacting with my fellow soil scientists. Although our time to chat was somewhat limited, in those brief moments I learned so much about the soils in other parts of the U.S. I can also say the same for the ISCA meetings and tours. Although we have an agenda we must adhere to, I have often times learned so much in-between sites or speakers. I have also formed many relationships with fellow soil scientists as a result of these opportunities. When I need a second, third, or fourth opinion, that person is only a phone call or email away!

Please continue to be passionate about soils. Don't be afraid to reach out and ask for another opinion or approach. Don't be afraid to be a mentor. Continue to be active in our field. As my term comes to an end, I want to thank all of you for what you do. Thank you for your dedication and hard work. I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting.

It has truly been a great year,

Jennifer Wollenweber, CPSC

ISCA Membership News

Welcome New Member

My name is Amber Andrade and I live in Schaumburg, IL. I am a student at Oregon State University working on my degree in Agriculture which I should graduate in Summer 2011. I grew up in Indiana then moved to Kentucky when I married my husband in 2007. I was a ranch manager in Kentucky but sadly had to leave when my husband took a job in Schaumburg in 2008. I am still trying to adjust to city life when all I have known is country life but I am glad I can still find agriculture related activities around Chicago land.

I have a lot of hobbies because I love being outdoors. I mainly love to run long distance, swim, play Frisbee golf and anything dealing with farming, animals and gardening. When I am not outdoors I am usually stuck in my books, playing Mario Cart on the Wii with my husband, fantasy football or rooting for the New England Patriots and Milwaukee Bucks.

I have a true passion for agriculture and when I started taking soil classes I loved it even more. I have done my own soil testing, observations, profiles, small surveys, measurements, classifying soil types and I love learning it all. I enjoy learning all aspects of agriculture but I am more intrigued by the soil and livestock perspective of it. I am glad I have become a member of ISCA and look forward getting to meet new people at upcoming events.



TRADING POST

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

- 2000 4100 4WD JD hydrostatic drive, low hours, with Giddings rear-mounted 5-TS soil probe, storage boxes, and many accessories. Call A&E Soil Consultants@ 309-945-9090.



Cochran Retires

After a career spanning 36 ½ years, Chris Cochran, soil scientist, retired on December 31, 2010.

Chris, a native of Illinois, began his career as a soil scientist with the Soil Conservation Service in June, 1974 one month after graduating from the University of Illinois with a Bachelor of Science in Forestry degree. His first assignment was in Batavia, Illinois working for Tyrone Goddard on the Kane County soil survey.

In 1976 he moved to Champaign, Illinois and worked for Henry Mount on the Champaign County soil survey. While there, Chris went to Silver City, New Mexico on detail and worked for Tommie Parham on the Grant County, N.M. soil survey.

Chris moved to Macomb, Illinois in 1979 and worked on Bill Hartman's area staff conducting watershed surveys, resource assessments for the Rural Abandoned Mine Program, and reviewing strip mine permits of coal operations for the Prime Farmland Preservation Act.

In 1981, Chris moved to Tucson, Arizona to work on the Eastern Pima County and the Tohono O'Odham, Arizona soil surveys on Joe Knisley's area staff. While there, Chris was detailed to Crosby, North Dakota and worked for Jerry Schaar on the Divide County, ND soil survey. Chris completed advanced studies at the Soil Science Institute-Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa in 1989. In 1991, Chris mapped and supervised the soil survey of the U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground, Arizona.

Chris accepted an assignment as Integrated Training Area Management coordinator at Fort Huachuca, Arizona in 1992 under an Intergovernmental Program Agreement between SCS and the US Army. While there, he worked with a team designing and installing erosion control structures, firebreaks, range reseeds, MI Abrams tank crossing and training track, wild fire assessment and bivouac rotation.

In 1995, Chris was assigned to State Headquarters and located in Casa Grande, AZ as a computer specialist. From here he had the opportunity to travel to every field office in Arizona, loading and/or updating computer programs used for field office operations, giving him an unprecedented view of the state.

Chris returned to soil scientist duties in 1996, writing a natural resource management plan for Fort Huachuca and conducting National Resource Inventory studies while on George Ross's area staff in Tucson, AZ.

In 1997, Chris again went to work with the U.S. Army at Yuma Proving Ground under an Intergovernmental Program Agreement between NRCS and the US Army. There Chris helped develop their Geographic Information System, conducted PM-10 and PM-2 dust inventories, worked with the Construction Engineering Research Lab in developing the ATTACC computer model, and gave numerous presentations at Army conferences on wind erosion and on using hydrologic unit areas as a technical basis for managing military lands.

He again returned to soil science work in 2000, updating the Mohave County, AZ soil survey while on Cathy McGuire's staff.

In 2001, Chris returned to Illinois as the MLRA Project Leader in Charleston, IL on Bob McLeese's staff. Here Chris worked on and oversaw the update of soil surveys in 12 counties in east-central Illinois.

Chris was assigned to State Headquarters in Champaign, IL in 2009 after his office was closed in a National reorganization of MLRA offices. While there, he attended an international conference on Soils of Urban, Industrial, Traffic, Mining, and Military Areas in New York City and he authored a paper on soil moisture and soil temperature classification and correlation. He presented the paper at the 19th World Congress of Soil Science in Brisbane, Australia in August, 2010.



Chris has received several recognition and performance awards throughout his career including an Outstanding Performance Award for his work at Yuma Proving Ground and a Certificate of Appreciation for mapping in excess of 1 million acres of soil for the National Cooperative Soil Survey Program.

Chris is a member and former officer of the Illinois Soil Classifiers Association. He also maintains membership in the American Society of Agronomy and the Soil Science Society of America. He has been a Certified Professional Soil Scientist since 1986 under the auspices of the ARCPACS certification program.

Upon retirement, Chris and his wife Elissa, plan on moving back to Arizona. That move may be delayed a year or two depending on the housing market and/or opportunities as they may arise. In the meantime, Chris plans on being a house-husband.

Chris and Elissa have two children. Their son David graduated from the University of Illinois in 2007. He currently works for the Department of Homeland Security at Customs and Border Protection at the JFK International Airport. Their daughter Tiffany graduated from Southern Illinois University in 2009. She is currently attending Auckland University of Technology in Auckland, New Zealand for graduate studies.



Left: Chris celebrates his retirement with fellow soil scientists
Below: Chris from his younger years as a soil scientist



Congratulations Chris!!



Illinois' State Soil Scientist Hangs Up Soil Probe

As 2010 ended, staff of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Illinois said goodbye to the best State Soil Scientist on the planet. Bob McLeese signed the papers and humbly hung up his soil auger and officially retired. Saying farewell to Bob and all he contributed to NRCS and to the importance of soil resources and data in the USA is a sad task. Luckily, with all Bob's hard work and vision over the last 37 years, he has planted seeds and nurtured talents of new Soil Scientists who will follow his footsteps and march forward in the future use and application of digital soil survey tools and resources he helped create.



Most NRCS staff members have a special attachment to nature, natural resources, and the land. But when you're a Soil Scientist, that attachment to the actual organic, living and breathing skin that covers the Earth (AKA soil; dirt) is just a little more intense. Just a little.

Intensity and passion for soil is so much a part of Robert McLeese that it's almost *contagious*. Over his career, Bob worked with NRCS soil teams in South Dakota, Michigan, Vermont, and Illinois; he even initiated and supported technological soils progress in Bulgaria, helping that country engage and tap into the benefits of quality soil survey techniques and digital soils data management.

Bob has been "into" soils (and literally in soil pits) for all his adult life. Like many soil scientists, he has an appreciation, a fascination, almost an obsession with the art and science of soil. Not only is he technically up-to-speed with the facts, figures, characteristics and interpretations of soil, Bob is one of the most motivated marketing enthusiasts and Public Relations Guru for soil to ever roam the planet.

In fact, Bob is so convinced as to mankind's absolute and critical dependence on soil and our dire need to protect against erosion in order to maintain life as we know it, that he speaks to groups, students, radio and TV personalities whenever he can. Because he is intelligent, witty, and personable, Bob has the remarkable ability to tell stories, paint a picture and enrapture his audience—be it one poor bloke standing in line at the grocery or an award-winning crowd of 500 NRCS and partner employees.

For a technical scientist on such a potentially geeky career path, Bob is remarkably sociable, poised and talented in public speaking, humor and the art of persuasion. Over his career, he has performed hundreds of speaking engagements for NRCS, the Illinois Soil Classifiers Association, and is a favorite keynote speaker at Illinois Soil and Water Conservation District annual meetings. He has appeared on many local news programs, morning shows, radio and TV special broadcasts, and even a PBS video production.



Does Bob sound like a busy guy? Don't forget to factor in that he and wife Rosie raised 3 children who were scholars and athletes. Bob served as a basketball referee, speaks to FFA Chapters, Soil and Water Conservation Society events, recruiting efforts, University of Illinois functions and he never misses an opportunity to make a point or positively impact those around him. Basically, if you ask Bob to do something and it offers a chance to promote soil, he'll do it. He'll find the time, make the commitment, and do a bang up job. Bob has never disappointed the crowd.

As Illinois' State Soil Scientist, Bob's passion for soils and his drive to improve soils technology left an imprint on the land and the soils-related products available to Illinois' private landowners and local units of government. Providing high quality digital soils data was a dream to Bob long before the Global Positioning Systems (GPS) or "Web Soil Survey" was even conceived. Under Bob's leadership and initiative, Illinois NRCS has been providing updated digital soils data on CDs since 1996, giving Illinois the best digital soils report card across the nation. "Bob really set the standard," says State Conservationist Bill Gradle. "Now all the other states have to do is try to catch up!"

Over the years, Bob worked well with staff, the Illinois NRCS Leadership Team, with university and state partners and even elementary school children. He can 'talk dirt' with PhD-laden old farts or the 3rd grade students his wife teaches. The bottom line is this: no matter who you are or what you do for a living, if you spend five minutes with Bob McLeese, you will know more about soil and you will appreciate its importance. Bob McLeese has been a passionate scientist who worked every day to make his slice of the Earth a better place to live. For Bob McLeese, his purpose and his passion are soil.

Thanks to Bob McLeese for all he's contributed to the protection and wise use of one of Illinois most precious resources—that Black Gold we call SOIL.

Submitted by Paige Mitchell Buck



Charter Member Interviews

New to the ISCA Newsletter are the Charter Member Interviews. Actually more of a survey, it consists of 5 questions to be answered by our charter members. Of the 49 original charter members, 15 are still members. That group has seen a lot of changes since the beginning of the organization, and the Council thought that the membership might like to hear and benefit from some of the wisdom and experience of those members.

A different charter member will be featured each newsletter. If all 15 participate, this column will run for 4 years. So, charter members, be prepared! We will send the survey to a few of you each year. Your participation, although voluntary, will be greatly appreciated by the newsletter committee and the entire membership.

Below you will find the first of the charter member interviews. Wiley Scott is the first that we have called upon to participate as he was one of the primary organizers of the ISCA. Thanks Wiley, for your participation.

Charter Member Wiley Scott

1. What is your educational background?

I have a B.S. degree in agriculture with a major in soils from the University of Missouri (1958), and a M.S. in soils from the University of Missouri (1963). I also attended the Soil Science Institute at Iowa State University in 1966.

2. What states have you worked in during your career?

I began my career in a training location in southwestern Missouri where we mapped farms for conservation planning in seven counties. Then I was Soil Survey Leader in De Kalb County in northwestern Missouri. I was selected to serve on the staff of the World Soil Geography Unit in Hyattsville, Maryland, an extension of the SCS national office. I transferred to Illinois where I mapped soils in four counties in the central part of the state before I was assigned as survey leader of Union County. I became the Assistant State Soil Scientist for correlations and served in that capacity for almost twelve years. After that I was assigned as an agronomist on the resources staff where I worked mainly on water quality programs until I retired.



3. What factor(s) led you to choose a career in Soil Science?

I found soil science the most interesting of the college courses I took. I was especially impressed by the knowledge of soil expressed by a college professor, Dr. Clarence Scrivner, when he led a field trip for one of my soils courses.

4. As a charter member of ISCA, what significant change(s) have you observed within Soil Science over the past 30+ years?

When I began mapping soils, we were guided by Dr. Marbut's scheme of soil classification as presented in the 1938 Yearbook of Agriculture. In practice, we mapped soils by series concept and landscape associates called catenas. Catenas were primarily sequences of soils with differing internal drainage but formed in similar parent material and having similar natural vegetation. About the time I began working for SCS we were introduced to the 'Brown Book', that carried the official title of The 7th Approximation. That was a system of soil classification developed by Dr. Guy Smith. After a few years of testing in the field, it was replaced by the 'Green Book', Soil Taxonomy, issued in December 1975.

When I started my career with SCS the soils on upland landscapes in northern Missouri and adjoining states were identified as being formed in either glacial till or loess. Much of the glacial till was mapped in one soil series as Shelby loam. At the final field review of the county adjacent to mine, the survey leader was surprised by the recognition of several new soil series in the legend based on Dr. Bob Ruhe's study of paleosols in Iowa. Dr. Ruhe's studies lent a new dimension to the understanding of soil formation.

With changes in flight patterns and map scale, we essentially lost the capability to stereoscope soil maps to locate and adjust map unit boundaries. More recently, the Official Series Descriptions have become more complex. The development of digitized soil maps has become a good and useful change because it puts them on the same scale as other data layers for interpretation and planning purposes.

5. What significant change(s) have you observed within the ISCA over that same period?

In the beginning there were four elected officers, as the secretary-treasurer was one combined office. John Alexander held that office the first six years. Then those duties were separated and one more elected officer was added. We also started with five standing committees and later added the newsletter committee. The structure and duties of some of the standing committees has been changed through the years. Even before we formed the Association, some soil classifiers explored the possibility of gaining registration status by the state the same as some other professions such as barbers, beauticians, auctioneers, etc. We were told that we would have better credentials if we developed a certification program with a set of standards to define the work we do and the service we can provide. After much study and review, we implemented the program for Certified Professional Soil Classifier in March of 1980. At that time we established the Certification Board.

I am not sure of the date we began the fall meetings that consist of a soils tour or other field exercise. We also became more active in hosting or helping set up soil judging contests for high school and college students. We began holding training sessions for health department professionals and other groups that benefited from our expertise. With the completion of the once-over soil survey and the reduction in the number of field trained soil scientists we found it necessary to adjust the requirements to be certified. We also established guidelines for Certified Professional Soil Classifiers to mentor or provide collaboration to soil scientists seeking certification. We find that our members have a more diverse background of college majors and work experience than when we started.



Left to right: Wells Andrews, Wiley Scott (featured charter member), Paul Youngstrum, and Don Phillips. Photo taken during the soil survey of Bond County.

Specialty Crops workshop held at KC

Kaskaskia College hosted the second in a series of specialty crop workshops earlier this month. Guest speakers were brought in from both Champaign and from Carbondale to cover topics of interest to the grape growers of our region.

The Illinois Small Business Development Center (ISBDC) at Kaskaskia College has an ongoing assistance and information program for this specialty crop segment. In addition, the ISBDC has built a library of regional soil and geological maps. Dr. Richard Berg, Senior Geologist for the Illinois State Geological Survey and based in Champaign, observed that "the quality of Illinois soil and geological maps are excellent and recognized as such throughout the U.S." In other words, they are accurate and can be counted upon.

After area grape growers had a chance to network and view the technical maps, Samuel Indorante, Soil Scientist/Project Leader for the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Carbondale based, conducted an interesting introduction to our areas soil characteristics. Indorante brought comparisons to well known California grape growing regions and also covered the historical glacier periods of downstate Illinois and how they are the basis for our modern day soil conditions. The NRCS station in Carbondale is responsible for charting and documenting soil conditions for the bottom third of Illinois and is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Dr. David Grimley, Quaternary Geologist for the Illinois State Geological Survey, based in Champaign, provided the second focus-geological features of the Kaskaskia River Basin and also the surrounding region. Quaternary refers to the ancient time period of when Illinois geological features were shaped by glaciers. Grimley illustrated long ago river beds that make the current Mississippi River small by comparison.



(Submitted Photo)

Samuel Indorante, Soil Scientist/Project Leader for the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), leads a discussion on area soil characteristics during the specialty crop workshops held recently at Kaskaskia College.

A lively discussion that can only happen when pairing land users and scientists then occurred about the land features of the area.

Many area grape growers are affiliated with both the Illinois Grape Growers and Vintners Association (IGGVA) and the Heartland Rivers Wine Trail. Their dedicated efforts and enthusiasm are apparent whenever they meet. A unique feature of the group is their unified focus on building agri-tourism traffic for the area and recommending local merchants of all types to visiting tourists. The statewide annual conference for the IGGVA is coming up February 24-26 in Springfield. The state organization has expressed support and enthusiasm for the Kaskaskia College's efforts on behalf of their area members.

Workshop attendees were from Clinton, Marion and Fayette counties. Art Borum, Executive Director of the South Central Illinois Growth Alliance (SCIGA) also participated.

This ongoing Kaskaskia Col-

lege Illinois Small Business Development Center project fits well with the Illinois Department of Agriculture and USDA initiatives for specialty crops. In September of 2010, Illinois announced the receipt of \$650,000 from the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program.

IDOA Director Tom Jennings said "Illinois' fertile soil and favorable climate are good for growing a wide variety crops. The purpose of these grants is to encourage additional production and access to nutritious, locally grown fruits and vegetables."

Funded projects include some focused on grape growers. Supporters extend all of the way up to Michelle Obama, who early into the current presidency highlighted locally grown crops and produce as a national initiative. The 2011 Illinois Specialty Crops, Agritourism and Organic Conference is scheduled for January 5-7, 2011 in Springfield.

The Illinois Small Business

Development Center at Kaskaskia College is partially funded by the Illinois Department of Agriculture and USDA initiatives for specialty crops. In September of 2010, Illinois announced the receipt of \$650,000 from the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. All services of the ISBDC and the SBA are provided to the small business community on a nondiscriminatory basis. Kaskaskia College will continue the specialty crop series as one of many projects focused on the area's economic growth and job creation.

-Salem Times Courier
December 22, 2010

36th Annual Meeting Illinois Soil Classifiers Association

Saturday, March 26th, 2011
Champaign, IL

Where: Forbes Natural History Building (I-Building), Champaign, IL

Registration: 10:30 - 12:00

Showing: "Dirt! The Movie" from 10:45 - 12:15

Opening Remarks: 12:20

Lunch: 12:30

Guest Speaker: 1:15

Business Meeting: 2:00

The 36th annual meeting of the Illinois Soil Classifiers Association will be held Saturday, March 26th, 2011 at the Forbes Natural History Building, University of Illinois. The Forbes Natural History Building is located at 1816 South Oak St., Champaign, IL. This is within the Research Park southwest of the Assembly Hall. Parking is free.

Registration will begin at 10:30 and continue past noon. Registration is opening early to accommodate those who would like to see "Dirt! The Movie", running time is approximately 1 hour and 20 minutes.

Please use the registration form on page 13 to make a reservation before **March 18th, 2011**. The cost of the meal and registration is \$20.00. Make checks payable to ISCA. Same day registrants can not be guaranteed lunch.

This year's guest speaker will be Dr. Michelle Wander, an Associate Professor of Soil Fertility/Ecology, Dept. of Natural Resources, University of Illinois. She will be speaking on the subject of soil organic carbon.

Driving Directions: See map on next page for directions.

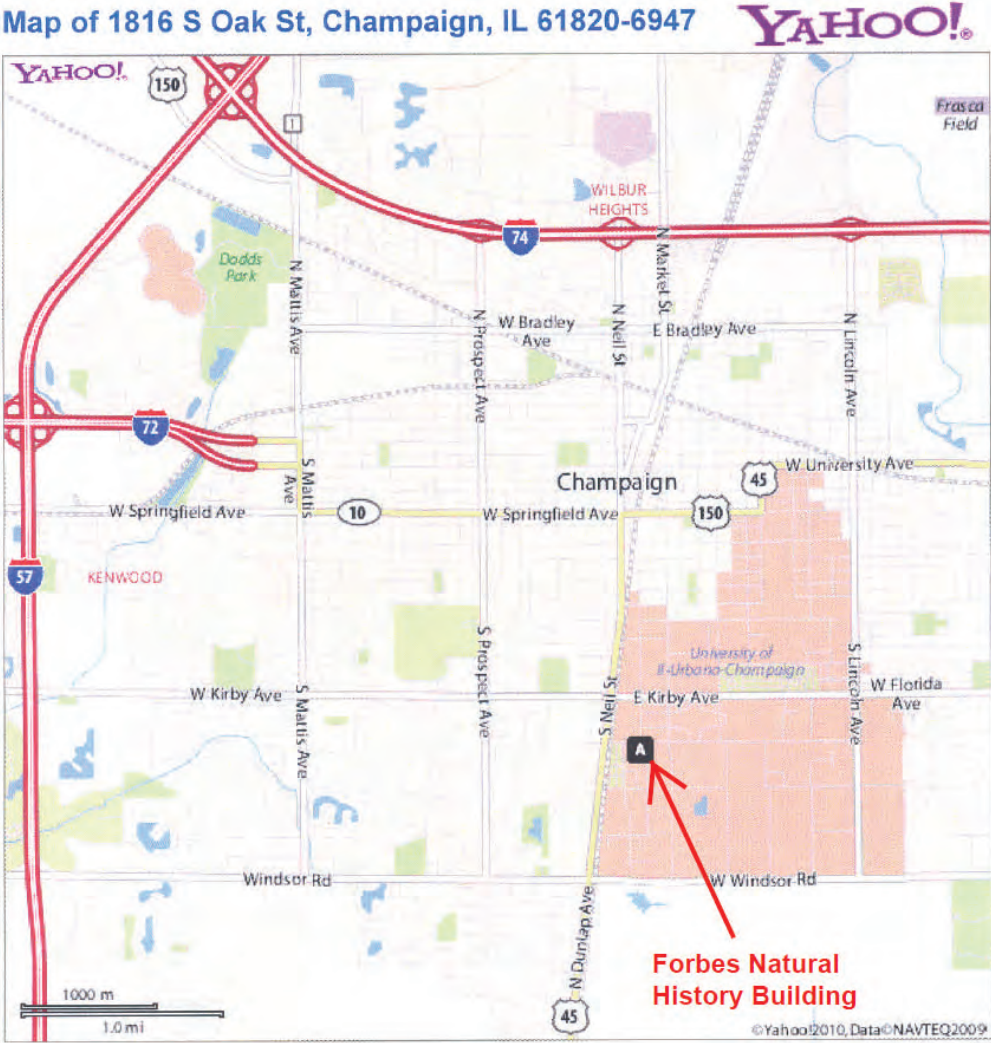
2011 Bent Auger Award

It is once again time to select a new winner of the prestigious Bent Auger Award. As its name suggests, this award is given each year to an individual or group of individuals who displays "excellence" in the field. Qualifying events/situations are numerous and unrestricted. Stories do not have to be true, but are preferably based on partial truth. If you know anyone who is deserving of this award for 2011, **please bring his/her nomination to the annual meeting** in Champaign on March 26.

Competition can be fierce, so make sure your story is well prepared and fully exaggerated. This award has been held by many of the leaders and founders of the ISCA. It is a great honor and looks good on any resume. Good luck!



Map of Champaign - Location of 2011 Annual Meeting of the ISCA



Close up map of the Forbes Natural History Building (I-Building):



2011 Candidate Biographies

The Nomination Committee presents the following slate of officers for nomination: President Elect - Frank Heisner; Vice-President - Don Fehrenbacher, Zach Weber.

Please see their biographies below and use the ballot on next page to cast your vote.

President Elect

Frank Heisner

Frank received his B.S in Forestry from Iowa State University and his M.S. in Soil Science from the University of Missouri - Columbia. He began his career with the U.S. Forest Service, Dickinson, North Dakota in 1987, classifying soils as part of a regional soil and land type inventory in Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Frank also functioned as a resource soil scientist during his time with the Forest Service. In 1999, Frank joined NRCS in the MLRA project office in Rock Falls as part of the soil survey update staff. He was temporary MLRA Soil Survey Project Leader until the office was closed in 2008. Currently, Frank is assigned to the Springfield MLRA office. Frank has served on various ISCA committees and one term as vice-president. He currently resides in Prophetstown, IL.

Vice President

Don Fehrenbacher

Don worked for the Illinois NRCS Soil Survey for over 33 years and two years as Area Resource Planner in NE Illinois. He served as the State Soil Scientist of Wisconsin for five years and ended his federal career as program manager of the regulatory branch for the St. Paul District of the Army Corps of Engineers. He is presently consulting part-time.

Zach Weber

Zach was raised on a grain farm in Richland County. After earning a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Plant and Soil Science from Southern Illinois University, he went to work for a local FS cooperative as a precision farming specialist. One year later he accepted a soil scientist position with the NRCS where he has conducted soil survey work for the last seven years. Zach has been a member of the ISCA for 6 ½ years and has served on the newsletter committee for the last six.

55th Midwest Friends of the Pleistocene to be Held in Illinois

The 2011 Midwest Friends of the Pleistocene field conference is set to be held in Carlyle, IL on May 20-22. Those interested are being encouraged to register and make hotel reservations as soon as possible.

Details on Friends Tour, as well as registration info. can be found at <http://www.amqua.org/friends/midwest/>.

This is an excellent opportunity to attend a Friends Tour - right in our backyard!

ISCA 2011 Annual Meeting Reservation
March 26, 2011
Forbes Natural History Building, Champaign, IL

Name _____
Number Attending _____ (\$20/person)
Total Payment _____

Choice of Entrée (select 1 choice per person)
Chicken Parmesan _____
Potato Parmesan Crusted Tilapia _____
Eggplant Parmesan _____

Fill out the above information and mail with a check (payable to ISCA) to the following address:

Charles J. Frazee
65 Gaffney Rd.
Divernon, IL 62530



Ballot for 2011 ISCA Elections

Voting rights are for Full and Associate Members only.
Please vote for one for each office by placing an X next to the name.
See the biographies in this Newsletter for more information about the candidates.

President-Elect

Frank Heisner
 (write-in candidate for President-Elect) _____
Write-in candidates must have agreed to run for the office.

Vice-President

Don Fehrenbacher
 Zach Weber
 (write-in candidate for Vice President) _____
Write-in candidates must have agreed prior to the election to run for the office.

Submit your ballot:
You may bring your ballot to the 2011 Annual Meeting or you may vote prior to the annual meeting by mailing your ballot to Steve Elmer, ISCA Secretary, 27892 Ebenezer Road, Geneseo, IL 61254. 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 25th, 2011 in order to be counted.

Treasurer's Report for Jan. 1, 2010 - December 31, 2010

Balance in Account - 01/01/10 \$ 15394.13

Income:

Annual Meeting	\$ 435.00
Dues	2685.00
Interest	30.76
State Soil Shirts	48.00
Fall Meeting T-Shirts	157.50
Bookmarks	10.00
Fall Meeting	1000.00

	\$ 4366.26

Expenses:

Administration	\$ 142.55
Fall Meeting T-Shirts	309.81
Fall Meeting	690.51
Annual Meeting - 2010	1410.21
Internet Fees	267.35
Soil Booklet – 10000 copies	3046.22
Soil Survey Horizons	1580.00
Soil Judging	700.00

	\$ 8146.65

Ending Bank Balance - 12/31/10 \$11613.74

Submitted by:

Charles J. Frazee, CPSC

A New Way to Search Lab Data

The following link will take you to [NCSS laboratory point database](#) portrayed as hotlinks on google maps throughout the world. This is also posted on the opening page of soils.usda.gov.

Other point data will be available through this format in the future, notably the OSDs.

Credit for this excellent work goes to NRCS Soil Scientists, Paul Finnell and Thomas Reinsch.



2011 Membership Dues

Our Secretary Steve Elmer wants to thank everyone who submitted their 2011 dues in a timely manner. ISCA is a leading proponent of the use of soil survey information in Illinois. Its many activities throughout the year are designed to advance soil science in many ways. Your participation and support helps make this happen. Thanks to all of you! For those very few of you who may have procrastinated over the holidays, there is still time to renew your membership, using the form below.

2011 ISCA membership dues are to be mailed to Steve Elmer, 27892 Ebenezer Road, Geneseo, IL. 61254. Fill in your name, check the appropriate membership category, and return with a signed check for the appropriate amount. Thank you!

NAME _____

Membership Category (circle correct category and insert dues amount in the space to the right):

Full and Associate (\$25.00) _____

Student, Affiliate, Retired, & Out-of-State (\$5.00) _____

Honorary Full (\$0) _____

Indicate whether Membership Status has changed in past year: YES _____ NO _____

If YES, Reason for change: _____

ISCA (information about you) on the Web











As you may be aware, ISCA maintains a web page with announcements of events, the ISCA Membership Handbook, information about certification and links to soil resources. The ISCA web page has information about membership, including a list of members with addresses and a list of certified members with addresses. For certified members who are available for consulting, there is also an interactive map where a CPSC can have an e-mail address and phone number posted so that prospective clients can see who is available for consulting on a county basis.

The information about our membership is constantly changing as people move or as they switch e-mail addresses or change phone numbers. Sometimes the notice to correct or update the web information may not get passed along or may get overlooked. All members should check the web page to see if their own personal information is correct. If you find an error, omission, or if you want your information removed, please contact the webmaster@illinoissoils.org.

Don't forget, ISCA is on Facebook, too!

Here are some stats from the web for December 2010 and a yearly summary.

Countries (Top 10) - Full list

Countries	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
 United States us 1040 2111 486.28 MB			
 Unknown unknown 638 907 195.69 MB			
 Germany de 106 106 69.56 MB			
 Australia au 24 53 57.66 MB			
 Great Britain gb 21 25 277.05 KB			
 Japan jp 14 14 7.24 MB			
 South Korea kr 8 37 963.62 KB			
 Canada ca 8 15 1.22 MB			
 Iran ir 6 20 2.58 MB			
 Ukraine ua 5 5 1.25 MB			
Others 28 76 15.07 MB			

Summary

Reported period	Month Dec 2010				
First visit	NA				
Last visit	31 Dec 2010 - 23:27				
	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Viewed traffic *	507	743 (1.46 visits/visitor)	1898 (2.55 Pages/Visit)	3369 (4.53 Hits/Visit)	837.76 MB (1154.6 KB/Visit)
Not viewed traffic *			6566	6930	1.14 GB

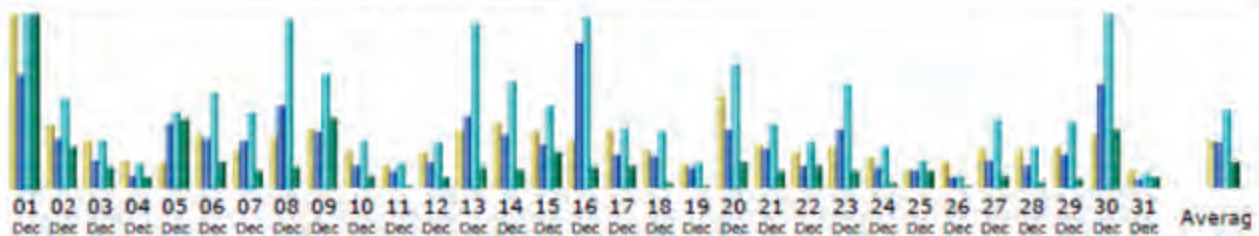
* Not viewed traffic includes traffic generated by robots, worms, or replies with special HTTP status codes.

Monthly history



Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2010	455	674	1972	3816	598.49 MB
Feb 2010	501	717	1941	3910	829.93 MB
Mar 2010	483	708	1863	4241	559.02 MB
Apr 2010	456	631	1592	3484	384.60 MB
May 2010	503	693	1778	3624	722.32 MB
Jun 2010	436	605	1190	2360	482.28 MB
Jul 2010	387	537	1357	2380	390.91 MB
Aug 2010	515	759	2069	3554	1.71 GB
Sep 2010	565	738	1832	3803	1.29 GB
Oct 2010	515	665	1664	3362	996.20 MB
Nov 2010	575	781	1886	3354	1.15 GB
Dec 2010	507	743	1898	3369	837.76 MB
Total	5898	8251	21042	41257	9.81 GB

Days of month



Got an App for That?

Smart Phones such as the Blackberry and iPhone are everywhere. There are several applications or “APPs” as they are known for the iPhone, many of which can be useful to soil scientists.

Many of these APPs are free or available for a nominal cost. Most of these are unbelievable! You need to check them out! Some of the APPs that I have on my iPhone besides the applications for iPod music, social networking, news, clock, calendar, stocks, book searches, maps, weather, voice memos, and games are:

Audubon Guides (Birds, Wildflowers, Mammals, and Trees) (free sampler):

http://www.audubon.org/market/licensed/Audubon_iPhone.html

Calculator (both basic and scientific are free).

You can even get a graphing calculator for \$0.99!

Clinometer (\$0.99)—level and slope finder by Peter Breitling

(www.plaincode.com/)

Google Earth (free):

(<http://google.com/mobile/>)

Handy Level (free):

(<http://www.ihandysoft.com/level>)

Motion X™ GPS Drive (\$2.99):

(<http://gps.motionX.com>)

SoilWeb (free):

<http://casoilresource.lawr.ucdavis.edu/drupal/node/882>



Submitted by MMcClain on Fri, 03/12/2010 - 11:46

www.illinoissoils.org

ISCA Newsletter Staff
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Submissions

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

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

Publication Schedule

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



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

Days Gone By



In the spirit of Annual Meetings and Bent Auger Awards, can you identify this proud Bent Auger recipient and his “lovely” escort?
Answer in next newsletter.

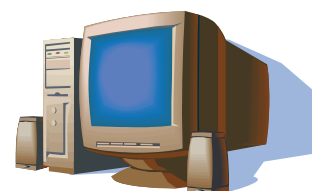


ISCA Newsletter Committee is looking for pictures of it's members, past or present, to include in future newsletters.

Submissions can be sent electronically or hard copy to the staff address, see above and left. Please include a narrative for the caption! If hard copies are sent please indicate if they are to be returned otherwise photographs will be retained in an archive photos file.

www.illinoissoils.org

New, exciting links have been added to the “announcements” page on our website. Be sure to bookmark this page. Its an excellent resource to keep you informed on the latest soils issues. Better yet... make it your home page!



ISCA Newsletter
1502 South West St.
Olney, IL 62450

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

www.illinoissoils.org/news

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

Change of Address Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

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



Illinois Soil Classifiers Association Newsletter

Upcoming Events:

Friends of
Pleistocene May 20-22

Inside this issue:

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Spring- May 2011

Message from the President

Greetings from northern Illinois. I'd like to thank Frank Heisner and Jesse Kurylo for organizing our 36th Annual Meeting. The location and facilities were excellent and lead to a good turnout of fellow soil scientist. A good time was had by all.

An article in the recent Crops & Soils magazine (reprinted later in this newsletter) informed us of the phasing out of the Certified Professional Soil Classifier designation. This is for ARCPACS (Soil Science Society of America) certified members. This has sparked good discussions among our membership. I compared our membership numbers to SSSA certified members and came up with some interesting figures. 28 of our members are ARCPACS certified, 13 are CPSS, 7 are CPSC and 8 are CPSS and CPSC and of the 28 only 21 are ISCA CPSC's. There are 173 ARCPACS CPSC's nationwide and 15 or 8.6% of these are in Illinois. This is a very high percentage considering ARCPACS is a national and even international organization. ISCA has had a strong influence on professionals in Illinois identifying themselves as Soil Classifiers.

Our professional equivalents in Indiana are Registered Soil Scientist, Ohio-Pedologist, Pennsylvania-Professional Soil Scientist, Minnesota-Licensed Professional Soil Scientist, Wisconsin-Professional Soil Scientist, Iowa- Professional Soil Classifiers, Kentucky- Soil Classifiers. A breakdown of all the professional soils associations in all the states I could find is 11 are Soil Classifiers, 23 are Soil Scientist and 2 are Pedologist. We professionals are not consistent in what title we give ourselves. So, the confusion on the national level is understandable.

Here in Illinois, "Certified Professional Soil Classifier" is written into both county health codes and (as far as I know) the state health code. This will still require everyone doing on-site soil evaluations for septic systems in Illinois to be certified as a CPSC either with ISCA or ARCPACS.

It does not appear that the phasing out of the CPSC designation is up for discussion by the Soil Science Certification Board of the Soil Science Society of America. It is a done deal and we need to accept this and move forward.

Bruce Houghtby
President ISCA
815-344-4020
bhoughtby@johnraber.com

ISCA Membership News

'Soil tells a story'

Mike Konen cannot keep from chuckling when he talks about his job teaching soil science and physical geography to graduate and undergraduate students.

The subject itself is not funny, but the attention and excitement he attaches to what many people refer to as dirt, casts it in an ironic light.

To further the irony, the light he has shined on soil was reflected back onto him this month when the professor in NIU's **Department of Geography** received the Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award.

"I was surprised I won," he said. "Last year, I was nominated after the committee told me. I suspected I would be nominated again this year. There are a lot of excellent teachers nominated."

Receiving the award is an honor, he said, and winning tells him that he can incite students to be just as enthused as he is about soil.

"I love soil, and I love teaching," said Konen, a farmer turned college scholar. "Some people call me a soil nerd. But there's more to soil than just being dirt."

The first thing he tells his students at the start of a semester is they will get their hands dirty and shoes muddy. He teaches his courses in two segments: in the classroom and in the field.

"Teaching my classes is rewarding. In the field, I can show students the different layers of soil. From them, we can tell what has happened on the property in the last 100 to 200 years," Konen said. "We can tell if a plot was farmed or if any buildings were once on it."

From its color, layer thickness and vegetation, Konen and students determine how old it is, how well water drains from it and, if someone wants to build on it, how it will react to development.

Before attending college, Konen worked as a dairy farmer. Later, he earned his bachelor's and doctoral degrees from Iowa State University. He received his master's degree from Ohio State University.

While working for an environmental engineering firm, Konen became interested in soil and wanted to learn more. He wanted to know why soil is different some places, how and why it changes and how people impact soil properties.

"Soil tells a story," he said. "I like teaching my students what to look for in finding that story. I know many of them would say 'That guy loves soil.' Yes, I do love soil and I like teaching, too."

Since he started teaching at NIU in 1998, the rural DeKalb County resident's enthusiasm for the earth has put the university on the map with other universities that offer similar courses.



He introduced NIU and his students to the American Society of Agronomy Soil Judging Contest where a team of undergraduate students compete against other universities to describe soil properties and interpret potential land use.

Last spring, in only its fourth year of existence, the **NIU soil judging team placed fifth** at the national soil judging contest in Lubbock, Texas. On Saturday, April 30, team members will compete in their third consecutive national contest in Bend, Ore.

Team member Clint Bailey was one of the students who nominated Konen.

"I am sure that many students will tell you in this nomination how Dr. Konen's creative teaching style has turned what can be often deemed a boring and dry subject into something interesting and exciting," Bailey told nominating committee members.

"I think what truly separates Dr. Konen from the rest is the passion he has for his subjects and how far he will go to instill that passion into others."

-Reprinted from NIU Today; April 25th, 2011

Charter Member Interviews

Charter Member Earl E. Voss

1. What is your educational background?

I received BS degree in Agronomy (Soils) from Purdue University in 1951.

2. What states have you worked in during your career?

Indiana and Illinois

3. What factor(s) led you to choose a career in Soil Science?

I may have been influenced at an early age when I followed the Soil Scientist who made the soil map of our home farm in 1940. Professors in soils at Purdue University.

4. As a charter member of ISCA, what significant change(s) have you observed within Soil Science over the past 30+ years?

Increased use by non-farm users. Development of technologies that have helped in identifying, classifying, and interpreting soils.

5. What significant change(s) have you observed within the ISCA over that same period?

Involvement with state and county health departments to develop standards for waste disposal. Communication with similar soil classifier groups in neighboring states.



This is the second of the Charter Member Interviews to be published in the newsletter. Actually more of a survey, it consists of 5 questions to be answered by our charter members. Of the 49 original charter members, 15 are still members. That group has seen a lot of changes since the beginning of the organization, and the Council thought that the membership might like to hear and benefit from some of the wisdom and experience of those members.

A different charter member will be featured each newsletter. If all 15 participate, this column will run for 4 years. So, charter members, be prepared! We will send the survey to a few of you each year. Your participation, although voluntary, will be greatly appreciated by the newsletter committee and the entire membership.

Certification

Soil science certification program changes: CPSC designation to be phased out



By Dawn R. Ferris, Ph.D., PSS, and CPSS
Soil Science Program Coordinator
Soil Science Society of America
dferris@sciencesocieties.org
Twitter: @dferris_soils
Blog: <http://wiredsoils.blogspot.com>

Over the next few months, I will be letting you know of changes that the Soils Certifying Board is making to the Soil Science Certification Program. One of these changes has to do with the types of certification that are available on a national level. Currently, an individual can be certified as a Certified Professional Soil Scientist (CPSS), a Certified Professional Soil Classifier (CPSC), or both. The two certifications are essentially the same and have many of the same requirements, including using the same application, exams, and continuing education program. The difference between the CPSS and CPSC is twofold:

1. Both the CPSS and CPSC require 15 semester-hours of soil science coursework; however, five of the hours for the CPSC must be in soil classification.

Newly certified

The following list includes newly certified individuals and those who have added additional certifications since Jan. 1, 2011. The list is alphabetized by surname within each state/province.

Illinois

Engh, Bernard W. Dekalb, IL (CCA-IL)
Moore, Kevin Eugene, Murrayville, IL (CCA-IL)

Iowa

Hermiston, Nicole Rachael, Bernard, IA (CCA-IA)
Leek, Adam Harold, Williamsburg, IA (CCA-IA)
Mowrer, Kyle Christopher, Newhall, IA (CCA-IA)
Pagel, Will Matthew, Mitchellville, IA (CCA-IA)

2. CPSC must show five years of cumulative professional experience, specifically in the practice of soil survey and classification.

The Soils Certifying Board has decided to phase out the CPSC for several reasons. The board sees a need to house all soil science certifications under one title; that being the CPSS. This is important because the profession tends to be perceived as "splintered" by many other professions and the general public. This hurts the soil science profession and our attempts to talk with other professions and gain the support of legislators for licensing, certification, or in the designation of who can do select types of work within state statutes and rules or ordinances. The fact is that we are all soil scientists; we just have different areas of expertise. We practice within those areas of expertise per our code of ethics.

Additionally, we do not have separate exams for different areas of expertise within the profession of soil science. The reason for this is because as soil scientists, we really need to understand all of the basic areas of soils in order to interpret the issue(s) and come up with solutions. The exams are national and all aspects of soil science are represented. We do periodically poll soil scientists across the U.S. and ask what percentage of the exam should be attributed to each major area of soil science (chemistry/miner-

Wired for Soils Blog

Read the latest posts from *Wired for Soils* (<http://wiredsoils.blogspot.com>), a new blog written by Soil Science Program Coordinator Dawn Ferris. And, follow @SSSA_soils on Twitter for tweets about all things soil.



alogy, fertility, physics, genesis/morphology/classification, biology/biochemistry, and land use). We try to stay close to those percentages. Last time the poll came back, soil physics was the area most soil scientists thought should be emphasized. Typically, the polls reveal a pretty even split of emphasis among the areas.

As a soil scientist, you need to be able to be conversant in all major areas of soils. Everyone is stronger in certain aspects of soil science depending on their expertise, but soil science is a science where you cannot just study/understand one aspect since they all influence one another. For example, while I might classify myself as a soil physicist, it doesn't mean that I think there should be a separate CPSP for soil physicists. However, it would not stop me from referring to myself as a soil physicist with a CPSS.

There are several things to keep in mind with this upcoming change:

- This is for the Certification Program only; it does not apply to how licensed soil scientists are referred to in their respective licensing states.
- If you currently hold a CPSC, you will not lose that designation.

- Those who are in the process of obtaining a CPSC may continue to do so. No one will be allowed to start the process after Dec. 31, 2011.
- If you hold both the CPSS and the CPSC, please be aware that if you keep both, you will be paying for two renewals because you hold two certifications. This is not a change from current policy, just a reiteration of what is required.
- The Soils Certifying Board will be sending out forms to all current CPSCs/APSCs in the next few months to provide a mechanism by which those individuals can tell us if they:
 - Want to continue as a CPSC or on the CPSC track.
 - Want to convert from a CPSC to a CPSS or convert to the CPSS track.
 - Want to continue holding both certifications.

Please feel free to contact me with questions about this change at dferris@sciencesocieties.org.

-Submitted by Mark Bramstedt and Bruce Houghtby. Reprinted from Ferris, Dawn R. 2011. Soil science certification program changes: CPSC designation to be phased out. *Crops and Soils*. 44(2):12-13

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 troy.fehrenbacher@il.usda.gov

FREE TO GOOD HOME

SSSA Journals: May 1979 through January 2006
Free to a good home. Call Zach at 618-783-2999

ISCA Apparel

There have been some recent inquiries about purchasing ISCA apparel. For anyone interested in placing an order please contact Mark Bramstedt at mark.bramstedt@il.usda.gov for more information and pricing.



Soil Science Society of America

5585 Guilford Road • Madison, WI 53711-5801 • Tel. 608-273-8080 • Fax 608-273-2021
www.soils.org • email: headquarters@soils.org

April 13th, 2011

Dear Soil Science Society members and Certified Professionals,

As many of you have likely read or heard by now, the Soils Science Certification Board and the Soil Science Society is in the process of bringing the Certified Professional Soil Scientist (CPSS) and Certified Professional Soil Classifier (CPSC) certifications into the single designation of Certified Professional Soil Scientist. The certification board is made up of professionals in private practice, government agencies and universities and is unified and unanimous in the need for this change. We believe that a singular certification will aid in bettering our science and our industry as a whole.

For years the soil science profession has been misunderstood by the public and many other professional industries. The confusion as to what a soil scientist is, and what we are qualified to do, is likely in part due to complexity of our science which includes the sciences of chemistry, physics, geology, biology, ecology, hydrology and climatology. The two certifications within our system gives the impression soil science consists of two distinct areas, classification and non-classification; this has greatly contributed to and magnified the level of confusion both inside and outside of our industry. It has become increasingly obvious over the last few years that this division within the certification program was the root to much of the confusion about the soils science profession.

We have received a few letters from concerned certified individuals that are opposed to discontinuing the CPSC. In these letters the individuals have stated their interpretation of what a CPSC is opposed to a CPSS. Each of the concerned certified individuals described what a CPSC is very differently. The Board and the society greatly appreciate this input as it has made the issue very clear; it is not only outsiders to our field but also our own certified individuals that are confused by having two certifications. When other industries or the public at large are confused by the system we could rationalize the issue as one of poor outreach or lack of communication from our industry to others, but when certified individuals within the soil science certification system can't understand the differences, how can we expect others to understand when a situation is appropriate to call on the services of a Soil Scientist opposed to a professional in a different discipline?

Some have argued that to be a CPSC one must have five years of in-field soil mapping experience. The experience requirement for the soil classifier does not specify that the experience must be in-field mapping or direct field applications, nor does it exclude the areas of laboratory, research or teaching as some individuals had thought. What the current CPSC does guarantee is that the individual has 5 semester hours of a soil classification class, which many to most CPSS's have, and 5 years of professional experience doing something that is related to classification. If you teach, conduct research or laboratory work that has to do with soil formation, morphology, etc. it too would be counted as classification experience toward a CPSC. A soil scientist working in an office with GIS to identify locations that are mapped as having hydric soils for construction limitations for the private sector may never be in the field, but that does not mean that experience would not count toward a CPSC.

If the CPSC were only for people that conduct in-field soil series mapping, as some have stated as their interpretation, then this brings the topic to an even more interesting question. What qualifies as field classification of soils? If a scientist's only experience in the field is to site septic leaching fields, does that qualify that person to conduct an order one or order two soil survey? So is that person a Soil Classifier or not?



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What about the individual that is in the field evaluating soil profiles for salts, free carbonates, structure and textural changes with depth and hydraulic conductivity to determine whether the site is feasible for a restoration project? This person is not “classifying” the soil to the series level, nor are they creating a USDA-NRCS style soil map of the soils, but they are experienced in applied soil morphology, genesis and formation and how to interpret those characteristics. Some of you may say, yes, that person should definitely qualify as a CPSC, others may disagree. The interesting thing about this example is the individual whom this example is about more than meets the education requirements to become a CPSC, yet does not consider himself a soil classifier. Examples like this can go on and on.

The fact is a soil scientist, no matter what area of specialty they may practice, must have an understanding of many of the “specialty” areas of the entire science in order to practice good soil science. Hopefully this makes it more clear that not only is it likely impossible to correctly define an individual as being specialized in a singular specialty area of soils science, it is also not accurate to attempt such a specific designation due to the nature of the science.

One might ask, then how do we prevent a CPSS that is not qualified to conduct soil mapping from mapping soils, or how do we prevent any soil scientist that is not qualified to practice in a specific specialty area from practicing in that area? The answer is simple. The same way we always have, through the Code of Ethics. If you haven’t re-read our Code of Ethics in a while I suggest you do, it is a great quick refresher on what is expected of all of us as certified professionals. You will notice in Article 2, number 2 it states; “A Registrant shall not give professional opinion or make a recommendation without being as thoroughly informed as might reasonably be expected considering the purpose for which the opinion or recommendation is desired, and the degree of completeness of information upon which the opinion is based should be made clear.” In other words, you cannot practice outside of your area of expertise. Also note that article 5 states it is all certified professional’s duty to report unethical activities of other certified professionals. Each of us abiding to the rules set forth within the Code of Ethics has been, and remains to be, the best means for all soil scientists to ensure for ourselves and those we serve a highly respected and trusted scientific profession made up of highly respected individuals.

Change is never easy and there will never be 100% agreement within any group to a change. What I and the Soil Science Certification Board hope is that all soil science practitioners, no matter what part of the industry you practice or in what area you specialize, can understand that the purpose of this change is to better position the entire soil science industry to retain and capture the jobs that are best suited for soil scientists. More and better soils science jobs will attract the interest of high quality students to the soils industry. New soil scientists coming into the professional ensures the future of the science to which we have dedicated our careers and reputations.

The certification board and I appreciate your input and hope you now have a better understanding of the time and thought that has gone into this decision as well as the purpose and need for the change.

Sincerely,
Matt

Matthew M. Duncan, CPSS/CPAg/PSS-MN
Chair of the Soil Science Certification Board

Phasing Out of the CPSC Designation

After reading about the "phase out" of the Certified Professional Soil Classifier designation by SSSA (Crops and Soils, March-April 2011 and CSA News, April 2011), I decided to write a letter to all of the members of the SSSA Soils Certifying Board. In the process of looking up the members of the Board, I discovered that two of the seven members were employed by the same consulting firm. I then wrote a letter to the SSSA President expressing my concern about this fact. (As of this date I have received no response from SSSA.) At the same time, I was curious whether the Illinois Dept. of Public Health proposal to include CPSSs in the IL On-Site Wastewater Code had any possible connection with the events occurring at SSSA. After some assistance from other ISCA members, it became very clear that these two occurrences were probably not coincidental.

Scenario:

Imagine that the SSSA Certifying Board has two members that work for a relatively small consulting firm with its home office in western Illinois.

(SSSA Certifying Board has seven members nominated by the Board itself for the SSSA President's approval. See members and guidelines: <https://www.soils.org/about-society/committees/S584>)

Imagine that this firm, Firm No. 1, has been in open opposition to the CPSC standard for a number of years.

(Staff holds SSSA -CPSS designations but not CPSC.)

Imagine that the Certifying Board has led the effort to dissolve the CPSC standard in SSSA in a relatively closed forum.

(Documented in SSSA Certifying Board response to ISCA member.)

Imagine that during this same time frame, a second consulting firm, Firm No. 2, in the St. Louis Area, expresses an opinion to the IL Dept. of Public Health to include CPSSs to complete soil evaluations for on-site wastewater treatment.

(Documented by personal communication with ISCA member.)

Imagine that Firm No. 2 has also been in open opposition to the CPSC standard.

(Personal communication with Firm No. 2. Staff holds CPSS but not CPSC from SSSA or ISCA.)

Finally imagine that Firm No. 1 and Firm No. 2 have a history of working together and both stand to gain financially with a change in the IDPH On-Site Wastewater Code and the phase out of the SSSA- CPSC designation that will end future SSSA-CPSCs.

(Personal communication. Phase out effect described in Crops and Soils (March-April) and CSA (April).)

And then I want to ask you, why are you not troubled with this apparent conflict of interest? If you expect ISCA to maintain high ethical standards, why would you not expect the same from SSSA and express this concern to SSSA? I'm only one voice, but I know the history that put CPSC requirements in county and state codes and ordinances and I want to suggest steps for ISCA's Council and members at-large:

Write SSSA and bring forth these concerns about this apparent conflict of interest in phasing out the CPSC designation and question why this could take place in a small circle of influence that includes two members that share a financial interest in these reversals.

Contact all state organizations that share our interests.

Contact all SSSA -CPSC's in other states. If you know others, contact them yourself with these facts. (SSSA has 173 CPSC's and 1100 CPSS's, CPSC's represent 14%. Many CPSC's may hold state certifications or registrations with a standard similar to the CPSC.)

Share these concerns with IDPH.

And finally as individual ISCA members, get involved yourself and discuss this with other professionals including NRCS employees. NRCS Soil Scientists represent the largest single group of potential CPSC's. NRCS Soil Scientists that are SSSA-CPSS's should immediately submit a request for CPSC certification from the SSSA Certifying Board. You already passed the test and should only need to submit a transcript with 5 hours of appropriate courses, documentation of your experience, and the fee.

Thank you. Don Fehrenbacher, CPSS/CPSC, CPSC-ISCA, State Soil Sci., WI-NRCS, Retired

PINK Is My Favorite Color!



Ron Collman sporting his beautiful pink blanket-sleeping bag-sack-comforter thing while earning the award winning 2011 Bent Auger nomination.

Well, the way I remember the story is: You know Ron is really kinda a wuss when it comes to cold and cold weather. He claims that sitting by the window is like 30 degrees colder than anywhere else. (I generally sit over there in shorts and t-shirt, but I digress!) He had been complaining or shall we say whining a lot of fingers being so cold he couldn't use the computer or some such garbage. Well many people, not me of course, were trying to console him and "feel his pain." Evidently he made a big impression on Bernita, of all people, and she brought him that pink, fuzzy, fluffy, blanket-sack thing to "warm his tender fingers!" He looked like a big pink Easter bunny in that little corner of his and made all of us tough, rugged, sweat-smelling soil scientists real proud!!!

.....at least that's how I remember the story.....!

-Submitted by Roger Windhorn

Pictures From the Annual Meeting



President Bruce Houghtby addressed the membership.



Dr. Wander gives a presentation on soil organic carbon.



Steve Elmer and Roger Windhorn in deep conversation!



3 great minds in conversation: Les Bushue, Wiley Scott, and Earl Voss.



Ken Anderson and Brad Cate in conversation after the meal.



Frank Heisner is getting ready to see if he can hold his ground against the buffalo. Good luck Frank!

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Submissions

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

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

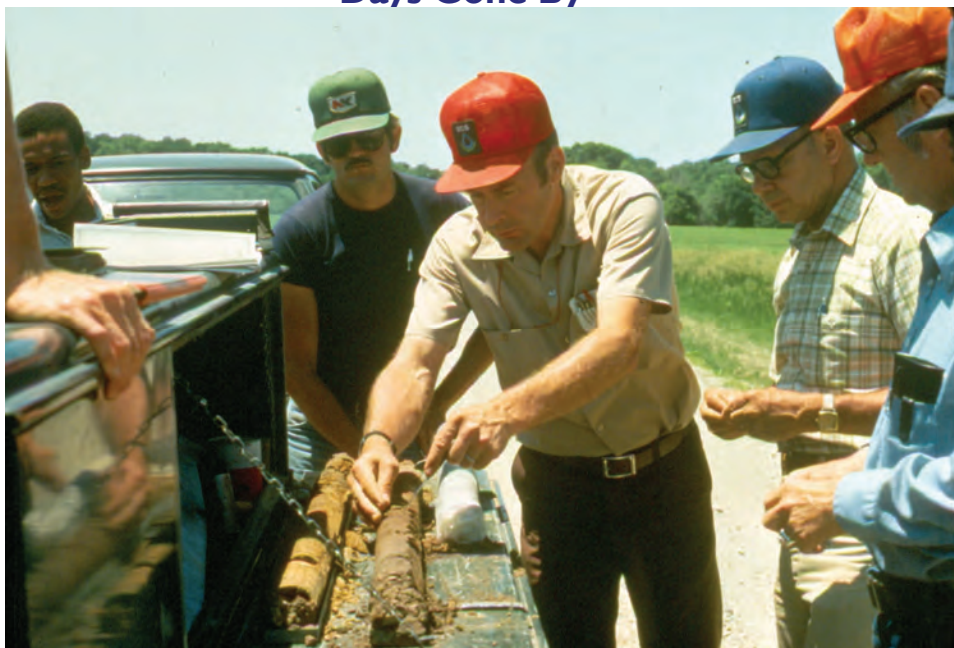
Publication Schedule

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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.

Days Gone By



Knox County Field Review 1980

Days gone by answer for winter newsletter: Mr. Leon Follmer and Ms. Jerry Berning.

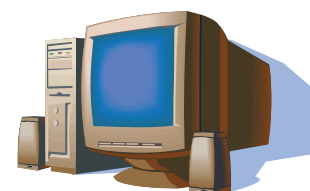


ISCA Newsletter Committee is looking for pictures of it's members, past or present, to include in future newsletters.

Submissions can be sent electronically or hard copy to the staff address, see above and left. Please include a narrative for the caption! If hard copies are sent please indicate if they are to be returned otherwise photographs will be retained in an archive photos file.

www.illinoissoils.org

New, exciting links have been added to the "announcements" page on our website. Be sure to bookmark this page. Its an excellent resource to keep you informed on the latest soils issues. Better yet... [make it your home page!](#)



ISCA Newsletter
6021 Development Drive
Suite 2
Charleston, IL 61920

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

www.illinoissoils.org/news

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

Change of Address Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

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



Illinois Soil Classifiers Association Newsletter

Upcoming Events:

Hydric Soils for October
Wetland Delineation 6 and 7

October
ISCA Fall Tour 21 and 22

Inside this issue:

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Summer– August 2011

Message from the President

Greetings ,

The new Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) Private Sewage Disposal Code is currently in front of the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules for it's second notice. When (and if) passed the code will require on-site soil test for each septic permitted in Illinois. This is an opportunity and a challenge for ISCA members.

Throughout the past decade or so, ISCA has assured the IDPH that enough certified soil classifiers would be available to perform on-site test throughout the state. In reviewing the ISCA website and the interactive map of soil classifiers, each county has at least two classifiers willing to work in each county, a few counties have 7 to 9 classifiers.

ISCA currently has 64 Full Members and 42 Certified Professional Soil Classifiers. This means that there are 22 Full Members that may be eligible to be Certified Professionals. I realize that some of our Full Members are certified through SSSA and a few may not meet the requirement that you must have actively practiced soil classifying 3 of the past 4 years. But, I strongly encourage all of our Full Members whom are eligible to apply for Certification.

I also ask that our certified members consider expanding the number of counties in which they are available to perform on-sites. (I personally have added 6 counties to my list) Expanding your availability will help assure the IDPH that we can cover the entire state.

To get your name on the ISCA interactive map or to expand the number of counties served please contact our Webmaster, Mark Bramstedt (webmaster@illinoissoils.org).

Plans for the Fall Tour are shaping up. The meeting will be held in the Centralia area at the Round House Winery. This year's theme is "Terroir" Wine and Soils in Southern Illinois. The dates are October 21st and 22nd. Mark your calendars and plan on having a good time.

Bruce Houghtby
President ISCA
815-344-4020
bhoughtby@johnraber.com

ISCA Membership News

ISCA members are saddened by the death of Clifford C. Miles one of the charter members of our association. His obituary and a thank you letter from Margaret Miles are below and on the following page.

Clifford C. Miles | Visit Guest Book



Clifford C. Miles

SPRINGFIELD - Clifford C. Miles, 81 of Springfield, passed away on Sunday, May 22, 2011 at his residence.

Clifford was born on June 26, 1929 in Triboli, IL son of Elmer and Viola (Manock) Miles. He married Margaret Wilkenson and she survives.

He is also survived by his daughters: Lynette L. (Bill) Damhoff of Morrison, Jennifer S. (Mark) Sheehan of Springfield, and Sandra K. Linville of

Terre Haute, IN; grandchildren: Maegwin (Andy) Winkelman, Tom and Lindsay Damhoff, Justin and Drew Sheehan, and Chelsea Linville; great-grandchildren: Nicholas, Cara and Jonah Winkelman.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his son: Robin K. Miles.

He was the owner of Soil Site Investigations and had worked for the State of Illinois Soil Conservation Services as a Soil Scientist prior to owning his own business. He had volunteered many years for the Habitat for Humanity and the Lincoln Presidential Museum. He enjoyed sight-seeing, the Chicago Cubs, Bears, and Bulls and the Illinois Fighting Illini. He also enjoyed ice cream and cheese burgers. He was the author of the book entitled, "The Underground Books That Spoke to Lincoln." He had served his country during the [Korean conflict](#) in the Army where he received the Bronze Service Star and the United Nation Service Medal.

Memorial services will be held at 6:30 PM, Tuesday, May 24, 2011 at the Ellinger-Kunz and Park Funeral Home with Reverend Mike Winkelman officiating. Visitation will be from 5:00 PM until the time of services on Tuesday. Burial will follow at the Elmwood Cemetery in Elmwood, IL at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to the St. John's Hospice or the Habitat for Humanity and will be received by the Ellinger-Kunz and Park Funeral Home.

Ellinger-Kunz & Park Funeral Home, 530 N. 5th St., Springfield, IL is in charge of arrangements.

Visit our online obituary at www.ellingerkunzfuneralhome.com.

ISCA Membership News

Dear Troy,

Thank you so much for sending the email for us. Several Soils people came to the visitation and three spoke at the Memorial Service. Their presence was comforting to our family and especially to me. Our daughters said that their Dad would be very pleased and honored to have them there. We will all miss Cliff so very much. He was such a dear person and loved by many. He never stopped thinking about his work with soils and was so fortunate to have a job that he truly enjoyed and colleagues who were super people.

Margaret Miles

-thank you letter received by Troy Fehrenbacher on behalf of all the soils people who attended Cliff's memorial service.



Picture of Cliff taken at the 1979 Soil Scientists Workshop in Champaign

South Carolina NRCS is pleased to announce the world premiere of *Soil Stories*!

Soil Stories was born out of a collaborative effort between the Earth Sciences and Resources Institute-University of SC and SC NRCS.

Dr. Buz Kloot, the film's director, cinematographer, script-writer, and editor, worked with SC NRCS State Soil Scientist Pam Thomas to get all the information about soils across, but in a way that was engaging. "While facts came easy, it's not always easy to be engaging on this subject," admitted Kloot. Until that is, when Kloot gained insight at a *ScienceFilm* workshop in Washington State. Someone suggested to him, "why don't you make a movie about people who have a relationship with the soil?" Well, the rest is history, and *Soil Stories* does just that.



In the production, our main character, Francine, embarks on a journey of discovery that begins with her realization that soil is alive and that without soil, life as we know it would not exist. In her journey of discovery she meets with soil scientists who help her "see" beneath the surface of the soil and help her understand how diverse yet ordered soil bodies are in the landscape and how much work has been done in soil survey.

In the second half of the story, Francine meets with characters that help her take an up close and personal look at some physical and biological attributes of soils without which they would not function. In the final part of the video, a character from history, Mr. Hugh Hammond Bennett ("*Big Hugh*") shares an epiphany about soils with Francine and translates this to modern terms.

Please visit the link below and let us know what you think!

<http://vimeo.com/channels/soilstories>

Submitted by:

Brad Cate and also by Gary Struben

Consequences of Man Induced Levee Breach on Agricultural and Urban Lands of the Lower Mississippi River Valley

By Kenneth R. Olson Kenneth R. Olson is professor of Soil Science in the College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois

The Corps of Engineers decision to blow up Birds Point levee (Figure 1) on the Mississippi River and flood agricultural lands on May 2, 2011 to protect the city of Cairo, Illinois was a calculated risk built on a growing body of river science and prior flooding experiences. The decision was a difficult and complex engineering problem with significant social and political trade-offs between loss of human lives and properties in urban and rural areas. The induced breach resulted in considerable soil erosion caused by overland flow of fast moving water which created deep gully fields, short-term production losses and reduction in future soil productivity.



Figure 1. Birds Point levee breach. The Birds Point levee is showing the site of the first explosion is visible with remnants of the fuse plug levee and the crater lake extending into the adjacent agricultural lands that are still under floodwaters.

The impact of the floodwaters on the 133,000 acres of farmland in New Madrid floodway appears to have been greater than anticipated as a result of the delay in opening the Floodway due to legal action. When the Corps of Engineers were given permission to open the Floodway, the Mississippi River was 4 feet higher than specified in the operational plan and the additional force of initial floodwater caused more damage to buildings and other structures (Figure 2), filling in of drainage and road ditches (Figure 3) and greater land scouring (Figure 4) of ridges and 2nd bottoms than was predicted. The 2011 agricultural impacts included the 20,000 to 30,000 acres winter wheat crop loss, the crop production loss from 20,000 to 30,000 acres of low lying and slow to drained soils not re-planted to soybeans, the loss of crop production from the hundreds of acres of fields with gullies and the 40% crop income loss from farmland in New Madrid floodway.



Figure 2. Flood damage buildings.
A house and shed located in New Madrid floodway that was damaged by 3 to 5 ft. of rapidly flowing floodwater from the Birds Point levee breach

The Corps of Engineers reclamation effort could restore some of the permanently lost cropland in crater lakes and sand delta and/or create additional wetlands and wildlife habitat adjacent to the patched levees. It appears that the severe gulying of isolated cultivated fields on ridges or higher lying bottomland soils could result in lost permanent agricultural land unless a federally funded land reclamation program is developed.



Figure 3. Silted in road ditch.
Excavator cleaning out 2 feet of sediment in road and drainage ditches.



Figure 4. Field gullies in cropland.
Gullies extended into cropland. Gullies and channels that was created from May 4-16, 2011. The main channel and attached gullies were up 8 to 12 ft deep and more than half of dissected field could not be cultivated.

Dr. Kenneth R. Olson
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S-224 Turner Hall
MC-047
Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences
1102 South Goodwin Avenue
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois 61801, USA
phone (217) 333-9639
fax: (217-244-3219)
e-mail: krolson@illinois.edu

National Wetlands Condition Assessment

National Wetlands Condition Assessment Underway

During the summer of 2011, field crews from federal, state, and tribal governments will be sampling wetlands throughout the country as part of the first ever National Wetland Condition Assessment (NWCA). The NWCA is a study led by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to understand the quality of the nation's various wetland resources. The study uses standardized field methods and indicators to describe the vegetation, hydrology, algae, water chemistry, and soil characteristics of selected wetland sites.

In Illinois, a field crew led by James Ellis of the Illinois Natural History Survey is currently sampling wetlands across the state. U.S. EPA has their own field crew that is traveling throughout the Great Lakes states to sample reference wetlands.

On June 14, the U.S. EPA crew sampled a wet meadow wetland located at Illinois Beach State Park in Lake County. The soil sampling protocol involves profile descriptions of four soil pits dug to 60 cm; then one of the pits is expanded for profile description to 125 cm and the collection of samples for



bulk density, chemistry, isotope, and enzyme analysis in the laboratory. For more information about the NWCA, you can visit U.S. EPA's website at <http://water.epa.gov/type/wetlands/assessment/survey/> or contact Yone Yu at 312-886-2260.

U.S. EPA crew members at Illinois Beach State Park.

Yone Yu extracts an auger sample while Samuel Strom uses a hand pump to bail water from the pit. Greg Carlson looks on.

National Wetlands Condition Assessment cont.



The site was mapped as Adrian muck. No argument there, but the surface muck layer was shallower than expected over a loose fine sand.

FARM PROGRESS 2011 SHOW

58th Annual

**August 30 through September 1
Decatur, Illinois**

Main Page - Farm Progress Show
<http://farmprogressshow.com/main.aspx>

ISCA Members,

The Farm Progress Show will be in Decatur again this year, August 30-Sept. 1. ISCA (and NRCS) will have a soil pit again very similar to the one in 2009. If you would like to volunteer to be one of the pit-people, please let me know! Shifts will generally run from 8:00 to 12:00 and from 1:00 to 5:00. I don't have an official sign-up sheet yet, but let me know what works for you and I will get it down. Of course, free passes will be available for the day you work. IF you are an ISCA member and also an NRCS employee, Jody is ordering polo shirts to wear. We need your size! She will be sending in the order on July 27, so we need your info before that. **LIKE ALWAYS, IF NRCS, YOU WILL NEED PERMISSION FROM YOUR SUPERVISOR TO ATTEND!!**"

Thanks to all!!

Roger

Roger D. Windhorn
Geologist
USDA NRCS
2118 West Park Court
Champaign, IL 61821
217-353-6634
217-433-5293 cell
217-353-6678 fax

ISCA Fall Meeting Announcement
Illinois Terroirs –
Growing Grapes and Making Wine in Illinois
Friday, October 21 and Saturday, October 22
Roundhouse Wine Company
Centralia, Illinois



Our annual fall meeting is being held at the Roundhouse Wine Company near Centralia, IL (1938 Dogwood Lane, Centralia, IL 62801).

<http://roundhousewineryil.com/>. Jerry and Shirley Kapes, owners

Join us to learn about the grape and wine industry of Illinois, and its relationship to the soil resources of the state.

Friday – October 21st at 7:00pm - Get together and wine tasting at the Roundhouse (Snacks will be provided and refreshments will be available for purchase). First speaker, Sam Indorante (USDA-NRCS, CPSS, CPSC) will present the concept of “Terrior” and how it applies to Illinois’ grape growing and winemaking. The main speaker, Bruce Morgenstern, President of the Illinois Grape Growers and Vintners Association (www.illinoiswine.com/index.html), will present an overview and discuss the future of the Illinois wine industry. He and his wife Mary are part owners of the Pheasant Hollow Winery in Whittington, Illinois (www.pheasanthollowwinery.com/).

Saturday – October 22nd at 10:00am - Gather again at Roundhouse for coffee, juice and snacks (all provided). Jerry Kapes will give us a tour of his winery and there will of course be a soil pit to explore. We will discuss the growing of grapes in Illinois soils and climates. Along with the Kapes’, David Gaines (Doug Gaines’ father (Gaines Soil Consulting, <http://gainessoil.com/>)) will share his knowledge and experience as a long time grape grower and winemaker in the region and Dave Rahe, (CPSC, CPSS, CPESC, CCA), with Soil-Right Consulting Services, www.soilright.com/con_ag.htm will discuss soil health and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as it relates to grape growing. Dave also blogs at Observations in Agriculture (daverahe.blogspot.com/) and has been recognized by Successful Farming magazine on their “A List” of agriculture information sites on the web.

A special thanks to Burke Davies (CCA, CPESC), Marion County SWCD and Tom Beyer’s Excavating (Director on the Marion County SWCD) for the soil pit.

We will adjourn at noon, and members will be supplied a list of local restaurants if they want to get together for lunch afterwards.

Local lodging is listed below:

Lodging in Salem, IL

Comfort Inn and Suites

www.comfortinn.com - 1800 West Main Street, Salem - (618) 548-2177

Guest House Inn

www.guesthouseintl.com - 1812 West Main Street, Salem - (618) 548-4212

Super 8 Salem

www.super8.com - 118 Woods Ln, Salem - (618) 548-5882

Lodging in Centralia, IL

America Best Value Inn

www.americasbestvalueinn.com - 200 East Noleman Street, Centralia - (618) 533-1300

Motel Centralia

www.motelcentralia.com - 215 South Poplar Street, Centralia - (618) 532-7357

Home Motel

www.rahulyadav.com - 326 West Noleman Street, Centralia - (618) 532-5633

Clip and Send by October 19, 2011 ...Clip and Send by October 19, 2011...Clip and Send by October 19, 2011

ISCA 2011 Annual Fall Meeting Reservation
October 21-22, 2011
Roundhouse Wine Company, Centralia, IL

Name _____
Number Attending _____ (\$25/person)
Total Payment _____

Fill out above information and mail with a check (payable to ISCA) to the following address:

Steve Elmer
27560 Ebenezer Road
Geneseo, IL 61254

If you can make it, we'd like to hear from you by October 19, 2011. Thanks!

31st ANNUAL CENTRAL STATES FOREST SOILS WORKSHOP
October 11-13, 2011
Natchez Trace State Park, Wildersville, Tennessee

Location

Natchez Trace State Park is located off Interstate Highway 40 exit 116, which is 93 miles west of Nashville and 119 miles east of Memphis, TN. (see map on registration form). Natchez Trace State Park is in the southern part of the Natchez Trace State Forest.



Entrance to Natchez Trace State Park

Lodging

The host facilities for the workshop will be at the Pin Oak Lodge in Natchez Trace State Park near Lexington, TN. (GPS 35.708500, -88.289870) A block of rooms is being held under Group Code 2546 at the Pin Oak Lodge through September 20 at a rate of \$67 per night, plus taxes. Cabins and Villas have also been reserved which have two or more individual bedrooms. These may be convenient for families, or in case several people would want to share costs of one. The park also has 208 campsites and 77 RV sites. There are also several other hotels in Lexington, TN, just 15 minutes driving time from the meeting location

For more information about the Natchez Trace facilities and for making reservations, go to: <http://www.tn.gov/environment/parks/NatchezTrace/> or call 731-968-8176 (Toll Free 1-800-250-8616).

Tentative Program Includes

- ◆ White Oak Regeneration
- ◆ Forest Best Management Practices
- ◆ Timber Stand Improvement
- ◆ Bottomland Hardwoods research project on University of Tennessee Experiment Station
- ◆ Eroded and depositional soils site restoration and carbon sequestration
- ◆ Water and sediment movement in accreting bottomlands
- ◆ Soils on Sandstone formed in Cretaceous Age marine sediments
- ◆ Natchez Trace Agricultural and Civil War history
- ◆ West Tennessee cooking and hospitality

For Additional Information

Contact: Caleb Gulley or Doug Slabaugh, USDANRCS:
 Caleb.Gulley@tn.usda.gov (731) 686-7731
 Doug.Slabaugh@tn.usda.gov (615) 277-2550

Sponsors

- ◆ Tennessee Department Environment and Conservation, Division of Forestry
- ◆ Soil Scientists Association of Tennessee
- ◆ Tennessee Department Environment and Conservation, Tennessee State Parks
- ◆ University of Tennessee at Martin
- ◆ University of Tennessee Experiment Stations
- ◆ USDA - U.S. Forest Service
- ◆ USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service-Tennessee
- ◆ Carroll County, Tennessee Schools

31st Annual Central States Forest Soils Workshop Registration Form

October 11-13, 2011
Natchez Trace State Park
Wildersville, Tennessee 38388

Tuesday, Oct. 11:

Registration/Displays, 5:00 p.m.
Evening Program, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 12:

Field Trip Departs, 7:30 a.m.
Picnic Lunch at Maple Lake, 12 Noon
Busses return to Lodge, 4:30 p.m.
Banquet @ Pin Oak Lodge, 6:00 p.m.
Social Hour, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 13:

Field Trip departs, 7:30 a.m.
Busses return to Lodge, 12:00 noon

Times listed are Central Time.

Workshop Lodging and Meetings

Pin Oak Lodge
567 Pin Oak Lane
Lexington, TN 38351
731-968-8176 | Toll Free 1-800-250-8616



GPS coordinates: 35.70850^o, -88.28987^o

For more Park Information go to:

<http://www.tn.gov/environment/parks/NatchezTrace/>

Name _____

Guests _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Representing _____

Special Needs _____

Pre-Registration through Sept. 9, 2011

Regular Registration:

\$70 each X (number) _____ Total \$ _____

Student Registration:

\$45 each X (number) _____ Total \$ _____

Late Registration after Sept. 9, 2011:

Regular Registration:

\$80 each X (number) _____ Total \$ _____

Student Registration:

\$50 each X (number) _____ Total \$ _____

Banquet only for spouses or guests:

\$15.00 each X (number) _____ Total \$ _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

Make Checks Payable to:

Soil Scientists Association of Tennessee

Payment must be received by deadline date to qualify for pre-registration discount!

Send To: Kevin Raley, SSAT Secretary/Treasurer
2803 Tweed Place
Thompson's Station, Tennessee 37179

New U of I publication for Septic Systems

There is a new publication for purchase or on-line by the University of Illinois Extension about septic systems. One can purchase the booklet at <https://pubsplus.illinois.edu/C1378.html> or view the information on-line at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/septicystems/>. ISCA is mentioned as a organization that provides soil consultants, as well as credit for the publication.

Submitted by:

Mark W. Bramstedt

Soil Scientist / Soil Classifier

Hydric Soils for Wetland Delineation - October 6 and 7

ISCA Sponsors Hydric Soils for Wetland Delineation course, October 6 and 7, DuPage County. This course is for consultants who conduct wetland determinations and need a better understanding of the hydric soil indicators and is generally targeted to non soil scientists. Watch the Announcement page of the ISCA website or the ISCA Facebook page for registration information.

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 troy.fehrenbacher@il.usda.gov

FREE TO GOOD HOME

SSSA Journals: May 1979 through January 2006
Free to a good home. Call Zach at 618-783-2999

ISCA Apparel

There have been some recent inquiries about purchasing ISCA apparel. For anyone interested in placing an order please contact Mark Bramstedt at webmaster@illinoissoils.org for more information and pricing.

www.illinoissoils.org

ISCA Newsletter Staff
6021 Development Drive
Suite 2
Charleston, IL 61920

Phone: (217) 345-3901 ext.5
Fax: (217) 345-9669

Submissions

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

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

Publication Schedule

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



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

Days Gone By



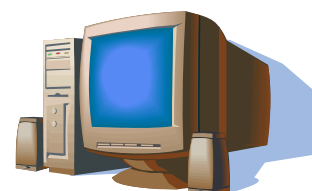
Spring Newsletter answer
Knox County Field Review 1980
Charles Love, Roger Windhorn, J. Wiley Scott, Earl Voss, John Alexander



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

www.illinoissoils.org

New, exciting links have been added to the "announcements" page on our website. Be sure to bookmark this page. Its an excellent resource to keep you informed on the latest soils issues. Better yet... make it your home page!



ISCA Newsletter
6021 Development Drive
Suite 2
Charleston, IL 61920

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

www.illinoissoils.org/news

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

Change of Address Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

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



Illinois Soil Classifiers Association Newsletter

Upcoming Events:

37th Annual Meeting March 2012

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Fall– November 2011

Message from the President

Greetings

Our recent Fall Soils Tour was held at the Roundhouse Winery in Centralia. The event was well attended by ISCA members and even drew in a family who is starting a vineyard in northern Illinois. The hosts were very gracious and took the time to show the group their entire wine making operation. I think everyone who attended learned about the expanding agribusiness of Illinois wine making and enjoyed the weekend in Centralia (and the fine Illinois wines).

At the 2012 annual meeting the membership will be voting on some major changes to our membership requirements. With the changes in soil classifying employment opportunities, it has become increasingly difficult to achieve and document 4 years of soil classifying experience as is required for Full Membership. Therefore the council has decided to remove the 4-year experience requirement for Full Membership and to bring this constitution/bylaw change up for a vote before the membership at the annual meeting.

This would eliminate the need for an Associate Membership category. Currently the only privilege that Full Membership has over Associate Membership is the ability to hold the office of President, President-Elect, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

The elimination of the 4-year experience requirement would allow more members to achieve Full Membership status and therefore allow more members to become active in the organization. The 4-year experience will still be required for Certification.

Think about these membership requirement changes and plan on attending the 2012 annual meeting to vote. If you have any questions or comments about these changes, please e-mail me at bhoughtby@johnraber.com or any of the council members.

Bruce Houghtby
President ISCA
815-344-4020
bhoughtby@johnraber.com

ISCA and NRCS Exhibit at Farm Progress Show

ISCA and NRCS worked together to promote soil science with a soil pit and exhibit at the 2011 Farm Progress Show. The show was held in Decatur, IL August 30 - September 1. Attendance at this year's show was high. The weather was beautiful all three days, and those helping stayed busy, as interest in the soils pit was excellent.



Roger Windhorn "talks dirt" with anyone who will listen. Believe it or not, there were hundreds that did.



ISCA members Ron Collman and Earl Voss answer questions and provide information on Illinois soils at the 2011 Farm Progress Show in Decatur.



Identification of Hydric Soils Course Held In Northern Illinois

Some say numbers really do matter others say it is about lives impacted for change. On October 6 and 7, 2011, the Illinois Soil Classifiers Association presented a course on the "Identification of Hydric Soils" which was co-sponsored by DuPage County Stormwater Management. The course was held within one of the newest state parks, James "Pate" Philip State Park, Bartlett, Illinois. In attendance were 29 people including 10 instructors; participants ranged from private sector consultants to government employees, each looking to gain a new or renewed understanding of hydric soils.

The day and half course started with a half day of classroom instruction on topics ranging from soil and hydric soil formation to an overview of the NRCS hydric soil indicators by ISCA members Mike Konen, Mark Bramstedt, and Jennifer Wollenweber. To compliment the classroom component, we utilized the park's diverse landforms to demonstrate the items discussed in the classroom. Six field instructors (ISCA members - Mark Bramstedt, Jennifer Wollenweber, Don Fehrenbacher, Clayton Heffter, Mary Beth Falsey, and Jesse Kurylo) worked with each of the participants to help them understand how to evaluate the landscape and soil relationships, identify any and all hydric soil field indicators within selected pits and thereby identify the presence or absence of a hydric soil.

The final half day of our course started with a Stearns Road Wetland Mitigation Facility tour given by ISCA member Patrick VerHalen and Lacey Lawrence. Afterwards we returned to the State Park and challenged the course participants, at six new locations, to accurately document the soil characteristics and to subsequently recognize and correctly apply the hydric soil field indicators. All in all the numbers may have been lower than expected but those who were partakers had a great time, learned more about hydric soils and left changed by the experience.

In addition to those listed above, this course would not have been successful without the time and energy of ISCA members Ken Anderson and Clayton Heffter.



Participants and Instructor Falsey Investigating Hydric Soils



Participants and Instructor Wollenweber Evaluating Hydric Soils Indicators



Participants and Instructors Reviewing and Summarizing Hydric Soils Course

2011 ISCA Fall Meeting

Thirty ISCA members, spouses, guests, and speakers gathered at Roundhouse Winery at Centralia, IL October 21-22 for the ISCA-sponsored Fall Tour. Hosts Jerry and Shirley Kapes provided the use of their new vineyard meeting facility for an evening social and speaker presentations Friday night.

Sam Indorante, ISCA member and Fall Tour organizer, spoke about the USDA Soil Survey program and soils in Illinois. Bruce Morgenstern, President of the Illinois Grape Growers and Vintners Association, lead a discussion of the Illinois wine industry.

The Kapes' also led a tour of their grounds and other buildings on Saturday. The group ended up at a soils pit (of course) alongside the initial planting of grape vines on the vineyard. Mr. Kapes, ISCA member Dave Rahe, and David Gaines (area grape grower and Doug Gaines' father) all spoke about the connection between soils and grape production at the pit.

Thanks to all who helped put the tour together and all those who attended.



Opening speaker and ISCA member, Sam Indorante, presents the concept of “Terror” and how it applies to Illinois grape growing and winemaking.



Bruce Morgenstern addresses the group.



ISCA members visit at the Roundhouse Winery Friday evening.



The group meets back up Saturday morning.

Photos by
Steve Elmer



ISCA members discuss the soil pit located at Kapes' vineyard.



David Rahe discusses soil health and Integrated Pest Management as it relates to grape growing.

Investing in Soil

(Author's note: The following article is intended solely for the amusement of the reader. It is not meant as an endorsement of any investment instrument, or to offer investment advice.)

My son Phil has been working as a financial analyst for an Iowa-based financial planning firm for about 18 months. When the stock markets began their wild gyrations in August 2011, I asked him if he had any investment advice for Dear Old Dad.

With tongue firmly planted in cheek, he emailed me information concerning an investment that he wrote "would be perfect for you". (The following was excerpted from: <http://globalxfunds.com/fertilizersef/>)

SOIL GLOBAL X
FERTILIZERS/POTASH ETF



Within the agricultural sector, fertilizer producers are the first link in the global food supply chain. Farmers require these nutrients to increase crop yields, and fertilizer companies have become the primary producers of commodities that are critical for global food supply growth. The Global X Fertilizers/Potash ETF offers targeted exposure to fertilizer producers around the world, giving investors access to a critical agricultural industry.

Nutrients for Emerging Markets

Emerging markets in Asia and Latin America account for almost two-thirds (2/3) of global consumption to support food production for their large and growing populations.

Global fertilizer consumption is growing fastest in these emerging markets, with historical annual growth rates of more than 3% over the past 15 years.

Global economic growth is predicted to drive food demand (especially high value foods such as meat, fruit and vegetables) in emerging economies, thereby strengthening demand for fertilizers (Food and Agricultural Organization, 2010).

Source: PotashCorp 2010, unless otherwise noted.

I began to speculate why an ETF (Exchange Traded Fund) investing in fertilizer producers would use SOIL as a ticker symbol. Perhaps FERT was too obvious. How about POT? Might be confused with an investment in medicinal marijuana. I suppose few investors would put money into MNUR. Indeed, SOIL conveys a sense of something solid, the building block of life. As Phil suggested, "You will sleep well knowing you've got SOIL in your portfolio."

Submitted by Bill Kreznor

2012 ISCA Membership Dues Reminder – Non-Certified Members

This reminder is directed to all non-certified ISCA members. ISCA members who are Certified Soil Classifiers receive a separate billing from the Ethics, Certification, and Membership Committee.

You should have received this 2012 ISCA membership dues notice in October via email, or if necessary snail mail from the Secretary. If you did not receive the notice, or have not submitted your 2012 dues to date, please copy or detach the bottom portion of this page, fill in the blanks, and return with a check made out to ISCA for the appropriate membership amount.

Membership dues are to be mailed to ISCA Secretary Steve Elmer at 27892 Ebenezer Road, Geneseo, IL 61254. The deadline for payment of dues is **December 31, 2011**. Please also indicate on the return portion below if there is any change in your membership status this past year.

Thank you for your continued commitment to soil science and ISCA!

Steve Elmer
ISCA Secretary

✂-----✂-----✂-----✂-----✂-----✂-----✂-----

2012 ISCA membership dues are to be mailed to Steve Elmer, 27892 Ebenezer Road, Geneseo, IL. 61254. Mailing deadline is December 31, 2011.

Fill in your name, circle the appropriate membership category, and return with a signed check for the appropriate amount. Thank you!

NAME _____

Membership Category:

Full and Associate (\$25.00) _____

Student, Affiliate, Retired, & Out-of-State (\$5.00) _____

Honorary Full (\$0) _____

Indicate whether Membership Status has changed in past year: YES _____ NO _____

If YES, Reason for change: _____

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

ISCA Apparel

There have been some recent inquiries about purchasing ISCA apparel. For anyone interested in placing an order please contact Mark Bramstedt at webmaster@illinoissoils.org for more information and pricing.

www.illinoissoils.org

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Submissions

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

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

Publication Schedule

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



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

Days Gone By



Can you identify the soil scientists taken in this 1986 photo?
Answer will be posted in the next newsletter.

Answer to Summer Newsletter
"Days Gone By":
Doug Gaines at the 20th Annual
ISCA Meeting, 1995

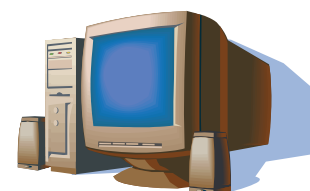


ISCA Newsletter Committee is looking for pictures of it's members, past or present, to include in future newsletters.

Submissions can be sent electronically or hard copy to the staff address, see above and left. Please include a narrative for the caption! If hard copies are sent please indicate if they are to be returned otherwise photographs will be retained in an archive photos file.

www.illinoissoils.org

New, exciting links have been added to the "announcements" page on our website. Be sure to bookmark this page. Its an excellent resource to keep you informed on the latest soils issues. Better yet... make it your home page!



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

www.illinoissoils.org/news

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

Change of Address Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Phone: _____

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