



# Illinois Soil Classifiers Association Newsletter

Winter-February 2015

## Upcoming Events:

40th Annual Meeting      March 14

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## Message from the President

The ISCA Annual meeting has been scheduled for March 14<sup>th</sup> in Champaign Illinois and this year's meeting is definitely worth attending. Our guest speaker is Dr. A. Robert Rubin, Emeritus Professor of biological and Agricultural Engineering at North Carolina University. Dr. Rubin will be speaking about soils and sewage loading rates. He is a nationally recognized expert on waste treatment systems including the NSF 350 membrane type waste disposal system. The soil loading rates for the NSF 350 type units should be different from conventionally treated sewage due to the very low amounts of solids and nutrients. Dr. Rubin will shed some light on this subject and we are fortunate to have him as our speaker. Please review the newsletter for additional information and the Constitutional changes that are to be called for a vote. I encourage everyone to register early for this meeting and I look forward to seeing you on March 14<sup>th</sup>.

Regards,

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

## Speaker for the Annual Meeting

Dr. A. Robert Rubin, Emeritus Professor of Biological and Agricultural Engineering at North Carolina State University, will be our Annual Meeting Speaker. He has had a life long interest in the chemistry and biology of soil, nutrient recycling and sewage treatment. Dr. Rubin has conducted one of the most dynamic and far reaching programs in wastewater management and biosolids recovery/disposal in the United States with a focus on innovative technology transfer, aimed at training operational personnel, regulators, and government officials. He served as a visiting scientist at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Water Management from 1999 to 2005, where he assisted in the development of guidelines for wastewater management.

His national leadership in this critically important area is so widely known that he was asked to give the keynote speech at the 2007 International Water Congress in Spain. This conference was focused on sanitation for small communities and was a prelude to the 2008 International Year of Sanitation. In 2003, Dr. Rubin was awarded the "Bronze Medal for Commendable Service" by the U.S.E.P.A.

Dr. Rubin presently serves as the chairperson of the NSF International Non-potable Water Reuse Task Group (NSF-350 standard). He also continues consulting work and contributes to the mission of the NCSU Bio & Ag Engineering Department as an emeritus faculty member.



Dr. Rubin (from UNC-TV)

## **Proposed Amendment to Article VIII of the Constitution of the Illinois Soil Classifiers Association as published in the March, 2012 Illinois Soil Classifiers Association Membership Handbook**

It is proposed that Article VIII – Nomination and Election of Officers be amended to require that the Executive Council approve nominations for Executive Council offices. The proposed amendment will become Section 2 of Article VIII, with the existing Section 2 of Article VIII becoming Section 3. The proposed amendment will read as follows:

Section 2. The Chair of the Nominations Committee shall present proposed nominations for elective offices to the Executive Council for review and approval. Approval of the nominations presented shall be indicated by a majority vote of the Executive Council.

### **Officer Nomination Biographies**

#### **President Elect**

##### **Brad Cate**

Brad received his BS & MS degrees in Plant and Soil Science from Southern Illinois University in '78 and '81. In addition to a short stint as a soil conservationist, he has worked on the Brown, Putnam, and Whiteside County soil surveys in Illinois as well as a soil survey of the Quatif area of Saudi Arabia for Harza Engineering. In 1987 he briefly worked as a soil scientist with the Delaware Dept. of Natural resources overseeing the soil investigation program for septic systems in Delaware before starting his own environmental consulting business. Since then, he has worked primarily in Delaware until 2006 when he and his wife Kay moved back "home" to Savanna, Illinois. Brad continues to practice in Delaware while developing a presence in Northwest IL and the adjacent portions of Iowa and Wisconsin.

##### **David Rahe**

Dave graduated from the University of Illinois in 1977 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agronomy with emphasis on Soils. He started his career as a county soil scientist in Madison County. He worked for Soil Conservation Service as a soil scientist on Lee, Bureau, and Putnam County soil surveys and also dabbled in resource soil scientist duties around Northwestern Illinois at that time. He has also worked for NRCS as a soil conservationist, district conservationist, and resource conservationist in various locations in Illinois and Missouri. He spent almost 3 years doing wetland delineations in investigating possible violations of the clean water act with the Corps of Engineers in St. Louis. Dave is currently an associate of Soil-Right Consulting Services, Inc. as a consulting soil scientist specializing in soil classifying, soil fertility and management, and natural resources. He has been an ISCA certified soil classifier for 30 years and has served ISCA as Vice-President, chair of the certification committee and chair of the constitution and bylaws committee and served on various other committees. He is also a certified professional soil scientist under ARCPACS and a CPESC.

## Officer Nominations Biographies

### Vice President

#### Steve Elmer

Retired NRCS Soil Scientist, Survey Leader and MLRA Project Leader after 37 years in WI-CT-IL (1968-2006), the last 30 years in Northwest Illinois. Served as past ISCA Secretary, Chair of recent ISCA NPDES Committee, and member on other previous ISCA committees, and assisted with numerous high school and college soil judging contests over the years. Currently co-owner of A&E Soil Consultants, providing soil information and assistance to homeowners, installers, and local Health Departments.

#### Jenwei Tsai

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

### Secretary

#### Scott Wiesbrook

Scott Wiesbrook received a B.S. in Agricultural Science with an emphasis in Soils in 1996 from the University of Illinois. He spent two more years at UI working on a M.S. under Dr. Robert Darmody before accepting a position at the Illinois Natural History Survey as a soil/wetland scientist. Since 1998 Scott has conducted wetland delineations, assessed potential sites for wetland mitigation, and monitored created/restored wetlands for INHS. He is currently the Assistant Project Leader for Soils in the Wetland Science Program, which involves some database maintenance, supervisory responsibilities, and report reviewing; in addition to actually getting to map soils and wetlands. He has helped Bob Darmody coach the U of I soil judging team since 1996, and has also coached Black Hawk College, East Campus to 7 NACTA Soil Judging National Championships (2 year division) since 2000. He joined ISCA in 2008, and has served as vice president, 3 terms on the finance committee, and one term on the ethics, certification and membership committee.

#### Kristine Ryan

I received my B.S. in Plant and Soil Science with an emphasis on soils from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in 2003. I accepted a soil scientist position with the Illinois NRCS in 2004. I have worked on soil survey update projects in Northeastern Illinois, Order 1 soil survey mapping projects for the Lake County Forest Preserve District, and I was also on the crew that completed the Cook County initial urban soil survey. I also detailed to Georgia in 2009 and Wyoming in 2012 to help in their completion of their initial soil surveys. Currently our office is working on the Soil Data Join Re-correlation initiative (SDJR), the Ashkum Saturated Hydraulic Conductivity project, and we hope to work on some identified MLRA field projects this summer. I received my Masters of Public Health (MPH) from Benedictine University in Lisle, Illinois, in 2010. I focused my studies on community gardens and soil contamination. I have become increasingly interested in these topics since I began my career. I have been a shareholder of a Naperville Community Supported Agriculture (CSAs) for many years. I hope that in the future I can merge my love of soils and natural resources and my MPH and become more involved in community gardening and the local food movement.

## 40th ISCA Annual Meeting

Scheduled for March 14<sup>th</sup> in Champaign Illinois

Register On-line at the ISCA Website by March 7th 2015

### Submitting CEU's

By David Rahe – Certification Board

The Certification Board has been reviewing CEU's submitted since the first notice went out. Our Secretary, Bill Keznor, receives the CEU's and submits them to the rest of the board for review. Those submitting CEU's do a great job of submitting appropriate activities, but sometimes they are not in the most appropriate category. In those cases, we make an adjustment and the CEU's get recorded as they should. We often get multiple years of CEU's to evaluate. While there is nothing in the by-laws that says you can't submit multiple years of CEU's, the board would like to encourage everyone to submit their education units annually. Getting the event in the correct category is easier when we evaluate the same events for everyone in the same year. In addition, your record keeping should be much easier if submission is annual. One of the things I worry a little bit about is that I might submit something near the end that is not accepted. If you wait five years to submit, that could be a problem.

According to Secretary Bill Keznor, 30 CPSCs (of the total of 48) had their 5-year re-certification period begin 1/1/2011 and needed to re-certify by 12/31/2015.

12 have done so.

Of the remaining 18 CPSCs, only 4 have submitted some CEUs for review.

14 CPSCs have not submitted any CEUs during their 5-year re-certification period which began 1/1/2011.

We encourage you to submit all activities whether you think you are over in that category or not. Our database keeps track of categories and upper limits to make sure you are properly credited. Why even have categories? The original requirements were set up to make sure that we all have ample opportunity to collect CEU's, but we also wanted our certified members to have broad experience in order to remain competent in many aspects of our science.

Submit CEU's early and submit everything.

## Tips to maximize your ISCA web experience

The ISCA web page is updated often with articles, announcements, and features. Some members have mentioned that they have not been able to access certain features (such as on-line payment or registration) or see the current articles on the ISCA web page. This may be a result of the settings that are used for the web browser (such as Internet Explorer). Some settings send the web browser to a cached or stored version of the web page. In order to make sure your browser is accessing the current page, here are some suggestions to change the settings for Internet Explorer (IE). If you use a browser other than IE, they probably have similar settings that you can change and adjust. The following instructions are for IE 11, but previous versions of IE will have similar choices.

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Once you have deleted the stored or cached versions of the web page, you will be returned to the “Internet Options” or “Internet Properties” window. Go back to “Browsing history” and choose “Settings”. When you choose “Settings” another window will open with the tab “Temporary Internet Files”. Under “Check for newer versions of stored pages:” click on the button “Every time I visit the webpage”. Making these changes should allow you to access the current ISCA web page every time you visit.

Submitted by:

Mark Bramstedt

### **TRADING POST**

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

[www.illinoissoils.org](http://www.illinoissoils.org)

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

Phone: 618-453-5579  
Fax: 618-453-5578  
Email:  
[Newsletter@illinoissoils.org](mailto:Newsletter@illinoissoils.org)

### Submissions

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

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

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

### Publication Schedule

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



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

### ISCA on Facebook

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



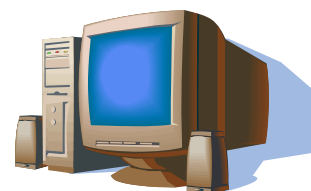
### ISCA Newsletter Committee is looking for pictures of it's members, past or present, to include in future newsletters.

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

### [www.illinoissoils.org](http://www.illinoissoils.org)

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

Better yet... make it your home page!



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

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

**[www.illinoissoils.org/news](http://www.illinoissoils.org/news)**

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

### Change of Address Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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



# Illinois Soil Classifiers Association Newsletter

Summer - August 2015

## Message from the President

### Message from the President

Several exciting changes and opportunities are on the horizon for ISCA. First the Ethics, Certification and Membership Committee headed up by our President Elect, Brad Cate is working with the Certification Board (specifically Bill Kreznor and Bruce Houghtby) to develop proposed changes to our certification standards that will make pathways to certification more transparent and equitable.

A point system to rate a certification candidate's quality of experience as well as the quantity is part of the proposal. If the proposal is adopted, the experience standard will no longer be 4 years with 70% of an applicant's time in soil classifying activities. High quality and diversity of experience will be rated and total points will become the gateway to our written test and a final field practicum. Also individuals with certification or license as a soil classifier or pedologist with other state or national organizations will be eligible for the written test and field practicum.

The Certification Board is proposing changes to the CEU structure to bring the units of credit to be more in line with the actual time spent and not the present fractional point system. The CEUs will also be renamed as Professional Development Hours (PDHs.) Look for these proposals in the near future and express your opinions when these are published.

Jerry Berning, Public Relations and Education Committee along with the Brad Cate's committee are planning a sample field practicum to be conducted this fall. This will allow you to test your field skills and be scored on your performance. The practicum is tentatively planned for Friday, October 30th at the University of Illinois South Farms. Look for more concrete details soon.

Finally, this is a friendly reminder to submit your CEU's to the Certification Board on a regular basis. Don't wait until December 31st to submit your 5 years worth of CEU documentation. In other words, do not follow my rotten example. I am one of the worst offenders in this way and I am convinced to change my pattern of waiting until the last minute to submit CEUs. Thanks to all of you for your continued support to our profession!

Don Fehrenbacher, ISCA President  
815-546-5684  
donfehrenbacher@comcast.net

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## A note from the Certification Board

Kindly Support Your Certification Board – Renew Early

*Urgent necessity prompts many to do things.* Miguel de Cervantes

The cohort of ISCA Certified Professional Soil Classifiers (CPSCs) that must earn nine Continuing Education Units (CEUs) by the end of 2015 is by far the largest. Of the 48 CPSCs, 30 must report CEUs earned over the period 1 January 2011 through 31 December 2015. Currently, 12 of this group have submitted CEUs to the Certification Board and have met the continuing education requirement. They are ready to begin their next 5-year cycle on 1 January 2016. Of the 18 who still need to report CEUs, only 4 have submitted any CEUs. That leaves 14 CPSCs who wait for prompting by “urgent necessity”.

The Certification Board urges each CPSC to review his or her CEU statement that was sent with your renewal notice last November. If you have misplaced your statement, contact the Secretary-Treasurer of the Certification Board to see where you stand. Don't wait until you receive the CEU statement that will be sent this November to begin submitting your CEUs. Do it now and avoid scrambling at the last minute to provide additional documentation if your submission is unclear or doesn't meet the 9-CEU requirement. Note that while each CEU Category has a maximum allowed, you are encouraged to submit **all** your continuing education activities. The Certification Board may re-categorize some reported activities during the course of their review. This could help you. Better to exceed the limit than fall short. You've already completed the activity – why not report it?

Use the Re-Certification Worksheet to help you document your continuing education activities. It can be accessed on the ISCA website at: [www.illinoissoils.org/certification.html](http://www.illinoissoils.org/certification.html). The worksheet can be completed and sent electronically to the Certification Board. You can also download the form, complete it, and send via email or the US Postal Service. Please don't hesitate to contact the Secretary-Treasurer of the Certification Board if you have any questions.

Bill Kreznor, Secretary-Treasurer  
ISCA Certification Board  
904 Powers Road  
Woodstock, IL 60098  
815-236-5633  
[certificationboardsecretary@illinoissoils.org](mailto:certificationboardsecretary@illinoissoils.org)

## Bureau County hosts conservation expo

Published: Friday, Aug. 7, 2015 1:27 p.m. CDT • Updated: Friday, Aug. 7, 2015 2:42 p.m. CDT



(BCR photo/Goldie Rapp)

Caption +

By Goldie Rapp - [grapp@bcrcnews.com](mailto:grapp@bcrcnews.com)

OHIO — The first-ever Bureau County conservation expo was hosted this week at Thacker Farms, just outside of Ohio.

The three-day event allowed area farmers to explore conservation and land improvement practices including cover crops, grassed waterway, tile drainage, filter strips and more.

The expo was organized by the Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association (ILICA), the Wetlands Initiative (TWI) and other partners.

Janet Doubet, ILICA's executive director, said being able to have the chance to host the expo to allow farmers to see some of the conservation practices now being done helps rid their hesitance on the ideas they may have about the new applications.

The highlight of the event was watching the construction of a CP39

wetland on the Thacker property, which will be used to naturally capture and remove excess nutrients from tile drainage.

Doubet said with the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy now being the buzz in the farming industry, many farmers are being directed to look at more conservation practices like the constructed wetland.

The Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy is a state effort to improve water quality at home and downstream by reducing nitrogen and phosphorus levels in lakes, streams and rivers.

The strategy lays out a comprehensive suite of best management practices for reducing nutrient loads from wastewater treatment plants and urban and agricultural runoff.

"With these shows, when you get the volunteers and grants, it provides the opportunity to install the wetland at a minimum cost to the landowner, to participating agencies and you have the ability to do the monitoring and come up with the real hard data that's going to drive promoting the practice down the road," Doubet said.

Jill Kostel, TWI senior environmental engineer, further explained everyone — from urban activities to rural activities — have to do their part with the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy.

"What we're trying to say is nutrient run-off is a success. Productivity is a great success and it's just a side effect of that success," she said.

While there are three practices that aid in removing excess nutrients, a constructed wetland is just one practice that can help manage what's coming through the tile.

"We realize when people hear wetlands they have a whole different picture of what we're talking about," she said. "They are thinking 1,000-acre wetland that takes farming operations out. We're saying, 'no this is a constructed wetland. It's tiny and compacted. It's shallow with only being about 18-inches deep. You want to average about one foot so it's not like a restored wetland.'"

The wetland area at the Thacker farm is about 4.2-acres in size, which includes the surrounding buffer. The cost to construct the wetland is estimated to be anywhere between \$20,000 and \$25,000, but the price of a constructed wetland is based on size.

The wetland practice is available for reimbursement under the Conservation Reserve Program (CPR) or the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) of the Farm Bill.

## Farm Progress Show

Dear ISCA Member,

Roger is still in need of volunteers for the Farm Progress Show if anyone is available to help. Thanks!

A request from Roger Windhorn:

Morning! We will be having our traditional soil pit at the Farm Progress Show this year. The dates are Tuesday, Sept. 1 through Thursday Sept. 3. We will need ISCA folks to work in the pit, if at all possible. I have set up two work times for each day. Very simply, a morning shift from 8 to 12 and afternoon shift from 12 to 4. We need at least two other folks there, beside myself. If you would like to volunteer, please let Roger Windhorn know which days and times you are interested in at 217-433-5293 or best, [roger.windhorn@il.usda.gov](mailto:roger.windhorn@il.usda.gov).

We will have tickets and/or a switching of vest pins available for each worker. I will start out trying to fill each slot, with two folks, on kind of a "first come, first serve" time frame. This could be adjusted at a later time. The folks at the pit will be discussing soil properties, Soil Health, properties relating to leach fields, etc. We will have thousands of people stop at the pit over a period of three days!

Thanks in advance for your help!!

Roger Windhorn

## Bureau County hosts conservation expo

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(Continued from Page 1)

"We would like to show over time your return investment is very good because this is not something that you try one year, and then you're not interested in it. This is a commitment. It's a big decision for a landowner to give up this much acreage for 50 to 70 years," she said.

Kostel said constructed wetlands are not put on prime farmland. The goal of a wetland is to intercept tile drainage and let natural processes in the wetland remove the nitrogen.

Kostel said she hopes to do a few more wetland demonstrations in the area, so more farmers can see it's about what works and fits into their landscape.

"I'd like to show it's not a cookie cutter," she said. "We're just interested in getting it in the top of people's mind when they're thinking what can I do, because no one in this area has seen this practice before."

*Comment on this story at [www.bernews.com](http://www.bernews.com).*

## In the Pit



Mark Bramstedt at a Soil Health Demonstration south of Erie, IL in Henry County



## 2015 Fall Tour

Indiana Association of Professional Soil Classifiers (IAPSC)

### Indiana Association of Professional Soil Classifiers Fall Tour

**Location:** SWPAC/VU John Deere Tech Center 4200-4368 Purdue Rd Vincennes, IN 47591

UTM Zone 16, 458091E 4287788N , NAD 83

**When:** September 18th, 2015

**Agenda** (Eastern Daylight Savings Time)

9:00 -10:00 -- **Registration:** Dena Marshall IAPSC Secretary/Treasurer (coffee and donuts)

10:00-10:10 **Welcome and Introductions:** Joanne Mosher, IAPSC President

10:10 -10:30 **Overview/History of the Farm – Research -** Dennis Nowaskie

10:30 -11:00 **Agribusiness Topic –** Susan Brocksmith

11:00 -11:45 **John Deere Center/Diesel Shop Talk and Tour-** Tim Hale

11:45 - 12:30 **Hot Lunch by SODEXO**

12:30 - 1:15 **Business Meeting and Door Prices**

1:15 -1:45 **Septic System at SWPAC-** Mark Hacker and Dave Ortel

1:45-2:30 **Tour of Farm –** Dennis Nowaskie

2:30-3:00 **Soil Pits** (Gary Steinhardt indicated he wants to have this as the site for the VU Invitational Soil Judging Contest, so we will have at least 5 soil pits available)

3:00 **Adjourn**

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

Joanne Mosher, President  
John Allen, Past President  
Dave Ortel, President Elect  
Becky Langford, Vice President  
Dena Marshall, Secretary-Treasurer  
Norm Stephens, Pedestal Editor

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

<http://www.iapsc-in.com>

## Tips to maximize your ISCA web experience

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Submitted by:

Mark Bramstedt

### **TRADING POST**

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

[www.illinoissoils.org](http://www.illinoissoils.org)

ISCA Newsletter Staff  
502 Comfort Drive  
Marion, IL 62959

Phone: 618-993-5396ext105  
Email:  
Newsletter@illinoissoils.org

### Submissions

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

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

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## ISCA on Facebook

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



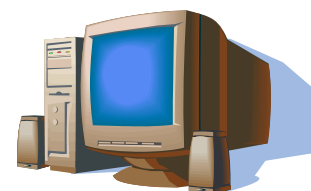
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[www.illinoissoils.org](http://www.illinoissoils.org)

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

Better yet... make it your home page!





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

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

**[www.illinoissoils.org/news](http://www.illinoissoils.org/news)**

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### Change of Address Form

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City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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



# Illinois Soil Classifiers Association Newsletter

Fall - December 2015

## Message from the President

### Inside this issue:

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### Message from the President

The turn out for our Fall Meeting at the U of I South Farms on October 30th was great. A field practicum was conducted at two pits and there were some very tricky textural samples that were also part of the "test." Individuals will receive their personal results and we will publish overall results when they are available.

Before the field session, we had a good discussion on the proposed changes to the certification standards and tentative experience scoring method. Again the changes to the standards make it possible for someone with very intensive and high quality experience to become certified with less than a four year period. You should of received an email with the proposed changes to the standards. Make sure and send in your comments.

Have a great Holiday season

Don Fehrenbacher, ISCA President  
815-546-5684  
donfehrenbacher@comcast.net

## Dr. Sam Indorante Retires from the NRCS

Sam Indorante, MLRA Soil Survey Project Leader in Carbondale, IL retired on November 27, 2015 after more than 35 years with NRCS

Sam first studied soils at Northern Illinois University and later received a BS in soil science from Iowa State University. He completed his MS in soils at the University of Illinois in 1979. He then began his career with NRCS as a soil scientist on the Perry County soil survey staff and later served on the Bureau County soil survey crew.

In 1986 he went on leave without pay to pursue a PhD at the University of Missouri. "Dr. Sam" (as he was called by many of his colleagues) returned to NRCS and soil survey in 1990 as the MLRA Soil Survey Project Leader in Belleville, IL.

"Dr. Sam" was unique to soil survey- a PhD in the field. Former State Soil Scientist, Bob McLeese, considered Sam to be one of Illinois' "creative geniuses". He helped keep the "science" in Illinois' Cooperative Soil Survey program. His influence and accomplishments were many and widespread-

\*He was one of the first MLRA Soil Survey Project Leaders in the USA

\*He was an early innovator of GIS technology in soil survey

\*He led the completion of the soil survey update/digitizing for all of southern Illinois

\*He cooperated with University cooperators from SIU, NIU, Uof I, Purdue, Kentucky,

Missouri, UC-Riverside on dozens of special soil survey investigation projects.

\*With the help of many university and NRCS soil scientists, he helped solve the puzzle of the Sodium Affected Soils (SAS) patterns in south central Illinois and the mapping of soils on areas affected by surface mining for coal.

\*He was a mentor for many new employees, interns, and students

\*He was the first recipient, in 1999, selected as the national "Soil Scientist of the Year" by the National Cooperative Soil Survey!

Sam says the best professional compliment he ever received came from Gary Struben (Indiana State Soil Scientist) - "You don't act like you have a Ph.D.!"



Though he is retiring from NRCS, Sam will continue with his passion for soil science by teaching soils classes and turfgrass at SIU. He is not done.....

Hit 'em straight Sam!

Sam, celebrating retirement with Missouri State Soil Scientist Jorge Lugo-Camacho.

## A note from the Certification Board

Kindly Support Your Certification Board – Renew Early

*Urgent necessity prompts many to do things.* Miguel de Cervantes

The cohort of ISCA Certified Professional Soil Classifiers (CPSCs) that must earn nine Continuing Education Units (CEUs) by the end of 2015 is by far the largest. Of the 48 CPSCs, 30 must report CEUs earned over the period 1 January 2011 through 31 December 2015. Currently, 12 of this group have submitted CEUs to the Certification Board and have met the continuing education requirement. They are ready to begin their next 5-year cycle on 1 January 2016. Of the 18 who still need to report CEUs, only 4 have submitted any CEUs. That leaves 14 CPSCs who wait for prompting by “urgent necessity”.

The Certification Board urges each CPSC to review his or her CEU statement that was sent with your renewal notice last November. If you have misplaced your statement, contact the Secretary-Treasurer of the Certification Board to see where you stand. Don't wait until you receive the CEU statement that will be sent this November to begin submitting your CEUs. Do it now and avoid scrambling at the last minute to provide additional documentation if your submission is unclear or doesn't meet the 9-CEU requirement. Note that while each CEU Category has a maximum allowed, you are encouraged to submit **all** your continuing education activities. The Certification Board may re-categorize some reported activities during the course of their review. This could help you. Better to exceed the limit than fall short. You've already completed the activity – why not report it?

Use the Re-Certification Worksheet to help you document your continuing education activities. It can be accessed on the ISCA website at: [www.illinoissoils.org/certification.html](http://www.illinoissoils.org/certification.html). The worksheet can be completed and sent electronically to the Certification Board. You can also download the form, complete it, and send via email or the US Postal Service. Please don't hesitate to contact the Secretary-Treasurer of the Certification Board if you have any questions.

Bill Kreznor, Secretary-Treasurer  
ISCA Certification Board  
904 Powers Road  
Woodstock, IL 60098  
815-236-5633  
[certificationboardsecretary@illinoissoils.org](mailto:certificationboardsecretary@illinoissoils.org)

## Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago

All,

Volunteers are needed to be the "Scientist at the Field" at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago for the second Thursday of the month for December 2015 through June 2016. Plan a Winter/Spring trip to Chicago for you and a colleague/friend or for you and your family. Chicago is beautiful this time of year, the assignment is work related, and there is free parking for the "Scientist" right next to the door! You won't find that anywhere else in the City! We (NRCS) are occasionally listed in the Museum's publication "In The Field" in their schedule of events. One doesn't need to be a soil scientist, but one just needs an understanding of soils and natural resources – perfect for all of us.

The "Scientist" is usually located in the hall outside of the Underground Adventure (an exhibit about soil and life underground developed with input from NRCS in 1999), but also may be located in the actual UA exhibit, or sometimes we have a table in Stanley Hall (the main hall of the Museum). The Scientist(s) will interact with Museum visitors about SOIL; Soil Health, Life in the Soil, and other natural resources and will need to be on duty from 11:00-2:00. Props are available for you to use and you may bring your own, as well. On some days, it may be difficult for one person to handle the crowds, as there are school groups and camp groups that bring lots of kids during certain times of the year, especially in the late spring and summer. Two people are ideal, but a small group will work as well. While there, you may visit the other regular and special exhibits at the Museum at no charge. In addition, you may bring your family or a friend along with you to help and also to enjoy the exhibits at the Museum.

Exhibits to check out:

***The Greeks – Agamemnon to Alexander the Great:*** Journey through 5,000 years of Greek history and culture and meet some of the earliest rulers, warriors, and heroes of the ancient world.

***Lichens, the coolest thing you've never heard of:*** Get pulled into the beautiful world of lichens-organisms you may have never heard of.

***Echoes of Stone-Age Greece:*** Explore the enormous cavern and secret lakes of a Neolithic Greek cave and learn how archaeologists study this site to uncover clues human settlement.

***Galapagos 3D Special movie***

***Evolving Planet*** takes visitors on an awe-inspiring journey through 4 billion years of life on Earth, from single-celled organisms to towering dinosaurs and our extended human family.

See the Museum website for more information about current and future exhibits: [fieldmuseum.org](http://fieldmuseum.org)

**If you are interested in volunteering** for any of the dates listed below, **reply to me by e-mail** with a first and second choice of dates (**NRCS employees must consult with your supervisor, of course**). All dates are filled on a first-come basis and they sometimes fill up quickly. NRCS has been working with the Field Museum since 1997 and have provided a "Scientist" since 1999. We have had contact with thousands of visitors over that time. This is a great outreach opportunity for all of us, a great way to reach a new audience about Soil, Soil Health and other natural resources, and a fun way to provide Technical Soil Services to a diverse audience. Thanks to all who have helped.

## Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago .... Dates to Volunteer

Dates to Volunteer as the "Scientist at the Field":

December 10, 2015

January 14, 2016

February 11

March 10

April 14

May 12

June 9

**Mark W. Bramstedt, CPSS/CPSC**

**Resource Soil Scientist**

3605 North Illinois Route 47, Suite C

Morris, Illinois 60450

Office: 815.942.0359 x106

Cell: 815.351.7845

FAX: 855.288.1478

Member Steve Elmer instructing students on the importance of soils.



## Tips to maximize your ISCA web experience

The ISCA web page is updated often with articles, announcements, and features. Some members have mentioned that they have not been able to access certain features (such as on-line payment or registration) or see the current articles on the ISCA web page. This may be a result of the settings that are used for the web browser (such as Internet Explorer). Some settings send the web browser to a cached or stored version of the web page. In order to make sure your browser is accessing the current page, here are some suggestions to change the settings for Internet Explorer (IE). If you use a browser other than IE, they probably have similar settings that you can change and adjust. The following instructions are for IE 11, but previous versions of IE will have similar choices.

To check or change your settings for IE, click or open the “Tools” menu on the toolbar at the top of the IE window and choose “Internet Options”. You can also access “Internet Properties” by going to the “Start Menu”, choosing “Control Panel”, then choose “Network and Internet” and finally “Internet Options”. Both ways will bring you to the same choices.

Once you have either “Internet Options” or “Internet Properties” open, you will notice a series of tabs at the top of the small window. Under the “General” tab there is a section for “Browsing history” and a button marked “Delete ...”. Click on that button (it will not delete anything until you choose what to delete). In order for your computer to look for the current version of the ISCA web page (and the current version of any other page, for that matter) you will need to remove old versions of the web page that your computer has stored. To do that, check the box “Temporary Internet files and website files”. Review the other boxes to make sure you agree with the settings and then click the “Delete” button at the bottom of the window. You may also need to delete the “Cookies and website data”, but you can do that later, if needed.

Once you have deleted the stored or cached versions of the web page, you will be returned to the “Internet Options” or “Internet Properties” window. Go back to “Browsing history” and choose “Settings”. When you choose “Settings” another window will open with the tab “Temporary Internet Files”. Under “Check for newer versions of stored pages:” click on the button “Every time I visit the webpage”. Making these changes should allow you to access the current ISCA web page every time you visit.

Submitted by:

Mark Bramstedt

### **TRADING POST**

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



[www.illinoissoils.org](http://www.illinoissoils.org)

ISCA Newsletter Staff  
502 Comfort Drive  
Marion, IL 62959

Phone: 618-993-5396ext105  
Email:  
Newsletter@illinoissoils.org

### Submissions

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

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

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

### Publication Schedule

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



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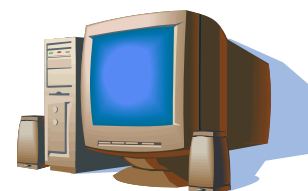
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\*Mail to: Scott Wiesbrook, 816 S. Oak St. Champaign, IL 61820