



# Illinois Soil Classifiers Association Newsletter

Spring-July 2020

## Upcoming Events:

None

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## Message from the President

Submitted by Alicia Metzger

Hello to all!

I would like to first officially introduce myself as President of ISCA since we were unable to have an in person meeting this March as originally planned. I am thankful and excited for the year ahead although it isn't quite what I would hope for our group. However, I am hoping we can remain active and engaged with each other, even if technology becomes the means and methods!

Throughout the newsletter we will provide some insight into what we have planned for the year but always be sure to check the website and Facebook page for updates as things seem to be ever-changing. Since technology has become more of a staple in our work, ISCA is also looking into online training opportunities that we can share with you soon to apply towards your CEU/PDHs. For those seeking certification, now is a great time to reach out to get certified! The Certification Board has been very active over the last year and as always we encourage certification for our members.

Although we had to cancel our Annual Meeting planned for March and the Northern Illinois Hydric Soils training we had planned for the end of April, we are hopeful that there will be an opportunity to host some type of fall meeting, likely outdoors, so we can remain engaged and connected. We always have the option of a Zoom meeting, but of course I think many of us prefer the field to the computer! As things change, we will look into that as an option and keep you updated.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Council, Committee Chairs and Members for agreeing to serve and keeping our association active as we navigate through email chains, Zoom and technology issues. We would not be who we are without their help and volunteerism and have some great people on board and exciting ideas in the works. If you are interested in volunteering and contributing to ISCA, let us know as we are always looking for members to volunteer and serve on committees.

I hope everyone has remained safe and healthy during the last four months and continue to do so as the year progresses. One great thing about most of our work is social distancing doesn't seem to be an issue! I look forward to serving ISCA over the next year and hope we can connect again soon!

Have a great summer!

Alicia Metzger



## ILLINOIS SOIL CLASSIFIERS ASSOCIATION

**Due to the postponement of the 2020 ISCA Annual Meeting, the following reports are provided for member review. Secretary's Report is provided as draft to be voted upon during the rescheduled membership meeting.**

### **Secretary's Report**

### **Treasurer's Report**

### **Committee Reports**

- Finance
- Newsletter
- Ethics, Certification, and Membership
- Constitution, By-Laws, and Legislative
- Nominations
- Public Relations and Education

### **Ad Hoc and Special Appointee Reports**

- Historian
- Webmaster
- IDPH Advisory Commission
- Technical Advisory Committee

### **Certification Board Report**

## Secretary's Report for March 21, 2020 Annual Meeting Champaign, IL

The Executive Council met four times during the past year, on May 20, August 23, and November 18, 2019, and February 11, 2020. A Council meeting was also held before the Annual Meeting held on March 16, 2019. Minutes of these meetings were routed to Council members, and are available upon request.

Executive Council Officers serving from March 16, 2019 to March 21, 2020 Annual Meeting were President – Mary Beth Falsey, Vice President – Alan Stone, Secretary – Scott Wiesbrook, Treasurer - Charles Frazee, Past President – Mark Bramstedt, and President-Elect – Alicia Metzger.

Council Officer positions up for election at the March 21, 2020 Annual Meeting are President-Elect and Vice-President.

As of May 14, 2020, there are 101 members, a decrease of seven from last year. 44 current members are ISCA certified, down four from last year.

Current membership includes 77 Full members (including 34 non certified Full members); 9 Out-of State members; 6 Affiliate members; 7 Retired members; 1 Student member; and 1 Honorary Full member.

The Secretary maintained the membership database, including membership contact/status information as received. Official updated membership files were forwarded to the ISCA Webmaster and the ISCA Newsletter Committee as needed throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott M. Wiesbrook, Secretary

ISCA - 2019

January 24, 2020

Treasurer's Report for Jan. 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019

Balance in Account - 1/1/2019 \$ 22421.06

## Income:

Annual Meeting  
Caps & Clothing  
Dues  
Certification Fee  
Interest

\$ 6051.89

## Expenses:

Administration  
Annual Meeting  
Burt Ray Award  
Certification Board Computer  
Farm Progress Show  
Forest Workshop  
Soil Texture Project

\$ 5811.99

Ending Bank Balance - 12/31/19 \$ 22660.96

Submitted by:

Charles J. Frazee, CPSC  
Treasurer

### Newsletter Committee Report:

The Committee published four newsletters in the year of 2019. Thank you to Alicia Metzger, Dennis Keene, Elizabeth Miernicki, and Rachel Welch to be part of the Committee. We look forward to serve you again in 2020.

Jenwei Tsai

### ISCA Finance Committee Report

Committee Chair: Al Stone

Committee Member: Mary Beth Falsey

### Summary of Activities:

#### Committee Members chosen December 2019

#### **Audit**

Items balanced according to treasurer's report.

Total income for 2019 was \$6051.89, mostly from dues and certification fees.

Total expenses for 2019 were \$5811.99, mostly from the annual meeting, forest soils workshop, and certification board expenses (including computer).

Net surplus of \$239.90.

#### **Budget**

Anticipated income is \$8,930.00, mostly from dues hydric soils workshop, and soils tour.

Anticipated expenses are \$8,010.00, mostly for the annual meeting, soils tour, and hydric soils workshop.

Budgeted net surplus of \$920.00

## 2020 Election Results

The Nominations Committee, along with the ISCA Secretary, tallied the ballots for the 2020 ISCA election of officers on May 1st, through a Zoom meeting. There were 31 ballots submitted of which 29 were valid (one ballot was blank, another could not be confirmed that it was from a voting member).

The new President-Elect was decided by a one vote difference. Josh Litwiller is the new President-Elect.

Bryan Fitch took the majority of votes for Vice President.

Congratulations to Josh and Bryan and thanks to John Ford, Frank Heisner, and Bob Oja for their willingness to run and for their continuous support.

The 2020 ISCA Executive Council is:

Alicia Metzger, President  
Bryan Fitch, Vice President  
Scott Wiesbrook, Secretary  
Charles Frazee, Treasurer  
Josh Litwiller, President-Elect  
MaryBeth Falsey, Past President

Respectfully submitted,

2019 Nomination Committee

Mark Bramstedt, chair  
Liz Miernicki  
Troy Fehrenbacher

## CPSCs Please CYA (Cover Your Area) as Business is Booming!

Submitted by Mark Bramstedt

Recently an ISCA CPSC contacted me to say that business is booming for on-site investigations in central Illinois. I anticipate that business is growing in many areas across the state. He went further to say that we need more CPSCs to pick up the workload, especially in some of the “margin” counties – those counties outside of big city markets – such as Edgar and Cumberland counties. In discussion with how CPSCs were contacted for jobs, many contractors and health departments just use “the list” (CPSCs available for consulting) to find a CPSC who lives in their area. In order to help those underserved counties, CPSCs need to contact the county health department in those counties for which they are willing to work. Also, we should continue to point people to the Interactive Map on the ISCA webpage to find the people who have agreed to work in each county. The Interactive Map is a great tool to find CPSCs. However, in order for the tool to be effective, the map needs to be accurate. For example, Edgar County lists 4 CPSCs and Cumberland County lists 6. I wonder if all those CPSCs are in contact with those counties? It seems not, as contractors don’t know who to call (or so it appears). All CPSCs, please review the map and send any changes and updates to [Webmaster@illinoissoils.org](mailto:Webmaster@illinoissoils.org). For those of you who are not certified – we encourage you to **GET CERTIFIED!!** A career, or additional income, is waiting for you!

## CEU's and Recertification During the Pandemic

Submitted by Brad Cate

One thing is for certain, the pandemic has not only changed our daily lives but has also changed our professional lives. Our council has just completed it's first meeting via zoom which was a new (and favorable) experience for me.

An issue discussed was getting CEU's. Since early March, the opportunities for attending workshops and conferences have evaporated, leaving us to explore new avenues to gain credits.

Just to recap, we are responsible for obtaining 60 CEU's within each 5 year certification period. The ISCA Membership Handbook lists categories and maximum credits for each on pages 40 and 41. The handbook is available by clicking the **constitution and bylaws** link at: <http://illinoissoils.org/member-resources/constitution/>

Until things normalize again, CEU's in categories A and C may only be available on-line in self study, webinar, or zoom type meetings. SSSA typically offers several webinars (for fee) and other professional organizations, commercial enterprises, and universities do the same.

ISCA, on our website: [illinoissoils.org](http://illinoissoils.org), will list both on-line and currently scheduled physical workshops/events along with CEU credits authorized by the certification board.

The membership is encouraged to forward links or information about upcoming applicable events to myself [esss@grics.net](mailto:esss@grics.net) or Bob Tegeler [ISCAcertsecretary@outlook.com](mailto:ISCAcertsecretary@outlook.com) so we can both assign credits and get the word out.

Be careful and stay safe!



## IDPH-Servicing the Need for On-Site Investigations

As most of our membership is aware, Illinois Soil Classifiers as well as SSSA certified Soil Classifiers are written into the Illinois Private Sewage Code as professionals qualified to conduct soil investigations. Some areas of the state have better coverage by resident or relatively nearby classifiers than others. In order to provide a needed service to all counties, we are encouraging:

- eligible ISCA members (or qualified nonmembers) to become certified.
- certified individuals to consider actively consulting, whether full or part time.
- certified actively consulting individuals to consider serving as broad an area as they are comfortable with.

Some have expressed a reluctance to serve/consult in areas where another classifier is currently active. That's a noble sentiment but results in areas/counties being underserved and some classifiers being under or overworked. ISCA encourages classifiers to consult in all areas within a travel radius they are comfortable with, regardless of the number of classifiers active within that area. Obviously, the fee schedule should be calibrated for travel as additional time associated with a particular job. It is up to the customer to accept or reject a service at that fee. Members should remember that our code of ethics prohibits unfair competition with others based on salaried employment (or benefits) when setting prices.

Brad Cate  
Certification, Ethics, and Membership  
Certification Board

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

Newsletter Chair:

Jenwei Tsai

2019 Committee:

Dennis Keene, Rachel Welch,  
Liz Miernicki, and Alicia  
Metzger

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### Submissions

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

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

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

### Publication Schedule

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



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

## ISCA on Facebook

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



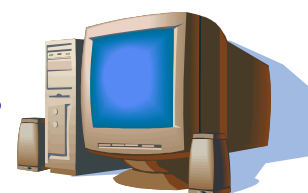
### ISCA Newsletter Committee is looking for pictures of its members, past or present, to include in future newsletters.

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!



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

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

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### Change of Address Form

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

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

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

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

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

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