



#### Upcoming Events:

47<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting      March 5<sup>th</sup>, Champaign, IL

#### Inside this issue:

Message From the President	1
Annual Meeting	2
2022 Election Ballot and Candidate Bios	3-4
Texture Project	5-6
ISCA on Facebook	7

# Illinois Soil Classifiers Association Newsletter

Winter-February 2022

## Message from the President

Submitted by Josh Litwiller

Dear ISCA member,

Please see the rest of the issue for registration for the 2022 Annual Meeting and an update for texture soil project.

**Please use: <https://illinoisoils.org/announcements/> and register by March 2<sup>nd</sup> online and pay either in person with a check or through PayPal.**

You may also bring your ballot to the annual meeting and vote in-person.

Thank you and hope to see you there!

## 47th ISCA Annual Meeting

**March 5th, 2022  
Illinois Natural History Building,  
1816 S. Oak St., Champaign, IL**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_ (\$25/person)

Total Payment \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please register by **March 2** so that we can get a head count for lunch. Please either bring a check to the meeting (payable to ISCA to the following address or

register online with a major credit card at [illinoissoils.org](http://illinoissoils.org) through **PayPal**

### Tentative Agenda

Council Meeting	10:30am
Registration	11:00am
Opening Remarks	11:45am
Invocation & Lunch	12:00pm
Burt Ray Award	1:00pm
Guest Speaker	1:05pm
Business Meeting	2:30pm

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

### Speaker for the Annual Meeting: Dr. Andrew Margenot



Andrew earned his Ph.D. at University of California Davis in 2016, working on organic matter and phosphorus cycling in highly weathered soils of East Africa. The deeply red color and musky sweet smells of Oxisols in this region made him fall in love with soils. During his time at University of California Davis, he had the privilege of learning pedology in field courses under Prof. Randy Southard. Andrew joined the faculty at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 2017, where he leads a research team that studies the biogeochemical underpinnings of soil functions. His team works on nutrient cycling and organic matter dynamics in the intensively managed landscapes of the glaciated Midwest.

**Abstract:** How much can soils change with and by humans? The soils of Illinois have likely changed over the past 150 years with European-American settlement and agricultural intensification, but quantifying historical changes can be difficult. Thanks to the foresight of many

past soil scientists, our state of Illinois has the unique opportunity to determine in what ways, and how much, soils have changed over time. Using an archive of soils spanning from the original county surveys to state cooperative survey, our campus houses a collection of geolocated samples that enable at least a centennial chronosequence by re-sampling of sites. Examples of soil questions that can be answered through such approaches will be reviewed and contextualized in the lens of the Anthropocene.

## 2022 Election Ballot and Candidate Bios

### Ballot for 2022 ISCA Elections

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

#### **President-Elect**

- Robert Oja  
 Write-in candidate for President-Elect \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Write-in candidates must have agreed to run for the office\*\*

#### **Vice President**

- Robert Tegeler  
 Clayton Heffter  
 Brandon Mueller  
 Write-in candidate for Vice President \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Write-in candidates must have agreed to run for the office\*\*

#### **Secretary**

- Scott Wiesbrook  
 Write-in candidate for Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Write-in candidates must have agreed to run for the office\*\*

Submit your ballot:

You may vote prior to the Annual Meeting in one of two ways:

**Emailing your ballot to [swiesbro@illinois.edu](mailto:swiesbro@illinois.edu)**

Please scan or photograph your ballot and return it as an attachment to an email with "Ballot" in the subject line. That way the ballot can be stored until virtually "opened" by the Nominations Committee without compromising your secrecy.

Or by **mailing your ballot** to:

**Scott Wiesbrook**  
**580 CR 1700E**  
**Philo, IL 61864**

Please **seal your ballot** in a **separate** envelope and mark "Ballot" on the outside. Please put the ballot envelope in another envelope and mail with postage. Please be sure to include your return address on the outer envelope, so we know you are an eligible voter. Envelopes without a return address will not be counted. Mailed ballots will be recorded as to who has voted (to prevent voting more than once) and then the unopened, separately sealed ballots will be passed to the Nominations Committee at the Annual Meeting.

\*\*\*\*\*All ballots whether mailed or emailed must be received by **March 4th, 2022** to be counted. \*\*\*\*\*

## 2022 Candidate Bios

### Candidate Bios for 2022 ISCA Election

#### **President-Elect – Robert Oja**

**Robert Oja** served 4 years in the US Air Force after graduating high school and the earned a B.S. in Forest Administration with a soil science minor from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 1987. He spent the next year working for Soil Survey Leader Steve Elmer mapping soils a county soil scientist in Warren County, IL. Since that time, Bob has been employed by the McHenry-Lake Soil & Water Conservation District. He spends most of his time conducting soil borings for septic suitability and creating high intensity soil maps for subdivision platting. He became a Certified Professional Soil Classifier in 1992. Past work with ISCA includes a stint on the Certification Board and as Chairman of the Program Committee. He has four children and they and his wife Sherry all enjoy camping, fishing, and other outdoor activities.

#### **Vice President – Robert Tegeler, Clayton Heffter, & Brandon Mueller**

**Bob Tegeler** received a BS in Resource Management with a Soil Science Minor from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, in 1976. He began working with the Soil Conservation Service(SCS)/Natural Resources Conservation Service(NRCS) in 1976 as a Soil Scientist, student trainee. In January 1977 Bob began working full time with SCS on the Champaign County soil survey, and over the years worked on numerous county soil surveys in Illinois. He was the Springfield MLRA Soil Survey Office Leader upon retirement from NRCS in 2019. In 2003, Bob started conducting soil investigations for septic systems on a part time basis, and he is continuing to do these types of soil investigations in central Illinois. Bob became a member of ISCA in 1977, over the years he has held the office of Secretary 3 different times, Vice president once, and was a member of the Certification Board for a three year term, serving as Secretary-Treasurer for 2 years.

**Clayton Heffter** has worked for DuPage County Stormwater Management as the Stormwater Permitting Manager since 2004. Since 1985, Clayton has had a variety of positions as a Soil Scientist within the federal and local governments and private consulting firms. Clayton is a Certified Professional Soil Classifier with the ISCA.

**Brandon Mueller** graduated from the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point in May of 2019 with a B.S. in Soil & Land Management and a minor in Wildlife Ecology and Management. He currently works as a soil scientist at William R. Kreznor & Associates, Inc. His hobbies include kayaking, biking, rock climbing, hiking, fishing, woodworking, golfing, and playing soccer.

#### **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 coached the U of I soil judging team since 2017, and has also coached Black Hawk College, East Campus to 10 NACTA Soil Judging National Championships (2 year division) since 2000. He joined ISCA in 2008, is finishing his second term as secretary, and has served as vice president, 3 terms on the finance committee, and several terms on the ethics, certification and membership committee.

## Soil Texture Project

Submitted by Josh Litwiller

### Soil Texture Kits for Purchase



Over the last few years we have been working on creating soil texture kits to sell to our membership and to the broader public. We now have 25 kits available for purchase and more texture sample ready to be assembled for more kits in the future. You may purchase a kit on our website: [illinoissoils.org](http://illinoissoils.org). I will also be bringing 10 of these kits to the annual meeting on March 5. The kits are \$250.

Within the kit you will find 12 texture samples, a data sheet, a plotted texture triangle, a blank texture triangle, a flowchart, quiz sheets, and a sand gauge card. Each texture was sampled and pro-

cessed by members of the ISCA and analyzed using the pipet method for mechanical analysis by the NRCS in Lincoln, NE. There are multiples of some texture classes as well as missing texture classes. Please use the multiples to identify slight changes within classes. We hope, in time, to obtain all the texture classes. There is approximately one cup of each sample with some exceptions that may contain less than one cup.

Some of the samples are very close to the line between different texture classes. For example, one of the samples is a silt loam very near the line to silty clay loam. Using this known sample you can then determine any unknown sample that is lighter in clay to be silt loam and any that is slightly heavier in clay to be silty clay loam.

The data sheet included with this kit includes texture breakdowns for each sample. The plotted texture triangle shows the 'location' of each sample on the texture triangle. A blank triangle, a flow chart, and quiz sheets are included to help determine texture. The sand gauge card shows the physical differences between silt and very fine, fine, medium, coarse, and very coarse sand.

If you have any questions regarding this kit please contact me.

Josh Litwiller, ISCA Texture Project Chair

## Order Form for the Soil Texture Kits

### ORDER FORM

Each soil texture kit is \$250 and comes with 12 texture samples, a data sheet, a plotted texture triangle, a blank texture triangle, a flowchart, quiz sheets, and a sand gauge card.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

SHIPPING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

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

BUSINESS NAME

ISCA Newsletter Staff

89 Kings Highway  
Dover, DE, 19901

Phone: 302-739-9326

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.

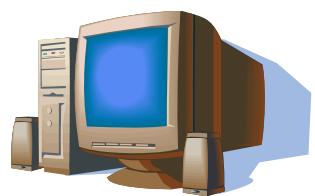


**ISCA Newsletter Committee is looking for pictures of its members, past or present, to include in future newsletters.** Submissions can be sent electronically or hard copy to the staff address, see above and left. Please include a narrative for the caption! If hard copies are sent please indicate, if 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!



ISCA Newsletter  
89 Kings Highway  
Dover, DE, 19901

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