



# Illinois Soil Classifiers Association Newsletter

## Upcoming Events:

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

## Inside this issue:

Welcome New Member	2
Trading Post	2
Cochran Retires	3-4
McLeese Retires	5-6
Charter Member - Wiley Scott	7-8
Specialty Crops Workshop	9
Annual Meeting	10-11
Bent Auger Award	10
Candidate Biographies	12
Friends of Pleistocene Tour	12
Annual Meeting Reservation Form	13
Election Ballot	13
Treasurer's Report	14
NCSS Lab Data Interactive Map	14
2011 Dues Notice	15
ISCA on the Web	15-16
Got an App for That?	17
Days Gone By	18

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

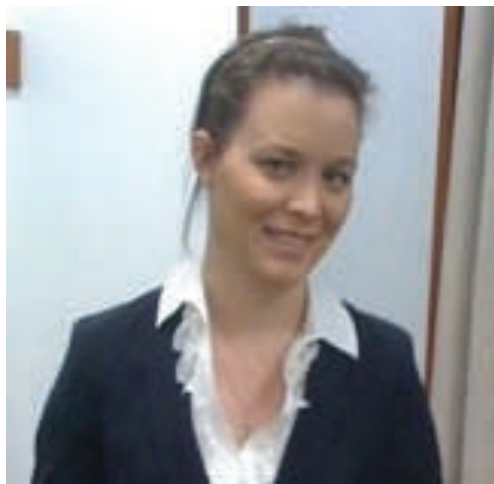
## ISCA Membership News

### 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](mailto: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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 househusband.

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

## 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Illinois Soil Classifiers Association

Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 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 36<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Illinois Soil Classifiers Association will be held Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 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 18<sup>th</sup>, 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

Map of 1816 S Oak St, Champaign, IL 61820-6947 **YAHOO!**



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!



## 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](http://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




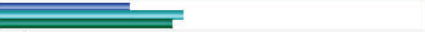

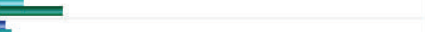





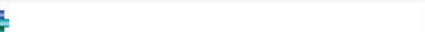

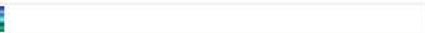







As you may be aware, ISCA maintains a web page with announcements of events, the ISCA Membership Handbook, information about certification and links to soil resources. The ISCA web page has information about membership, including a list of members with addresses and a list of certified members with addresses. 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](mailto: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 *	<b>507</b>	<b>743</b> (1.46 visits/visitor)	<b>1898</b> (2.55 Pages/Visit)	<b>3369</b> (4.53 Hits/Visit)	<b>837.76 MB</b> (1154.6 KB/Visit)
Not viewed traffic *			<b>6566</b>	<b>6930</b>	<b>1.14 GB</b>

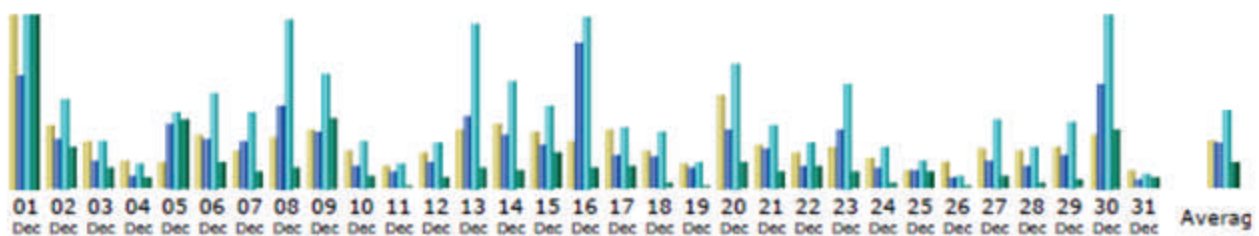
\* Not viewed traffic includes traffic generated by robots, worms, or replies with special HTTP status codes.

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

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Email: zach.weber@il.usda.gov

### 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.

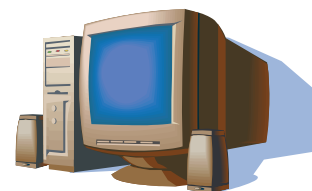


### ISCA Newsletter Committee is looking for pictures of it's members, past or present, to include in future newsletters.

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](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  
1502 South West St.  
Olney, IL 62450

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