



Illinois Soil Classifiers Association Newsletter

Upcoming Events:

37th Annual Meeting March 17

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Winter– February 2012

Message from the President

Greetings

What a difference a year makes. I am writing this on February 1 (submittal deadline) it is 50 degrees and sunny. Last year at this time we had a blizzard with over a foot of snow and most roads closed. I remember driving on a state highway that was barely passable, with several sections of the road down to one lane because of the drifting. After driving about 6 miles on this highway, I noticed a barricade in the middle of the road stating that the road was closed; to bad there wasn't a sign at the other end.

It has been a busy year for ISCA. Printed elsewhere in this newsletter are some proposed changes to our constitution, by-laws, and the standards of certification. Please read through these and come to the annual meeting and place your vote on these changes.

The changes to the Standards of Certification are being made to accommodate the full/ associate membership changes and to separate membership from certification as recommended by the Illinois Department of Health. And also to better define what a years experience is.

I hope these changes bring about positive actions, which will make it easier for new members to join and to become active in our organization. Our profession has changed and we need to change in order to move forward.

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

Charter Member Interviews

Charter Member Steven E. Zwicker



1. What is your educational background?

I received a B.S. degree in Animal Science from Iowa State University in 1969 (with equivalent of a minor in soils). I attended the Soil Science Institute at Texas A & M University in 1984.

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

Illinois. I began my career as a Soil Scientist on the Winnebago-Boone County Soil Survey in 1970. I was the Soil Survey Leader in Lee County in 1975-81, Bureau-Putnam Counties 1981-86, and Stark County in 1987-89. I was selected for the Area Soil Scientist Position for Northwestern Illinois in 1990 (Rock Falls, IL) and retired in that position in 2007. I also had soil mapping details in Henderson, Marshall, Saline, and Rock Island Counties.

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

Soil science became more interesting to me than animal science after taking Dr. Wayne Scholte's course in Soil Genesis & Morphology at Iowa State University. Dr. Scholtes was a research associate of Dr. Robert V. Ruhe, whose research focused on explaining what effect the processes of landscape evolution have on the formation of soils distributed on the landscape. I became very interested in soils and worked with my college curriculum counselors to plan the additional soils courses needed before graduation. I was accepted into the summer SCS Student Trainee Program in Illinois in 1968, going to Henderson County as a Soil Conservationist Trainee (only position open to me in Illinois at the time). While there, I met Les Bushue, who spent time with me in soils orientation in nearby Adams County, where we visited a railroad cut described in his thesis, "Geomorphology & Properties of Paleosols and Till Soils in Western Illinois", advisor, J.B. Fehrenbacher, 1967. This experience was also instrumental in my decision to pursue a career in soil science.

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

I started mapping soils in 1970 using The 7th Approximation. It was a challenge to keep up with all the amendments. From 1982 to 1996, 18 amendments were issued as directives as a part of the National Soil Taxonomy Handbook (NSTH). The 19th and final issue in NSTH (July 1998) canceled the previous 18 amendments and designated the 8th edition of the keys to Soil Taxonomy as the official replacement which reflected all the changes in the 2nd Edition, Soil Taxonomy, published in 1999. There have been (3) more editions of the Keys to Soil Taxonomy since 1999. The 11th edition was published in 2010.

Fortunately, the development of web based soils information (i.e. Web Soil Survey (WSS)) has really helped organize and deliver ever expanding soils information. Digitized maps with the latest soil classifications, correlations, series & map unit descriptions, and interpretations can be retrieved with only a few strokes of the key board. The latest refinements to the WSS, includes the addition of a measurement tool, which adds to the utility of this technology for its users.

Automation and standardization in the publication of soils information has led to the loss of some important pieces of information (i.e. soil landscape block diagrams as done in the 50s-60s "era"), Indorante, S.J. 2011. The Art and Science of Soil-Landscape Block Diagrams: Examples of One Picture Being Worth More Than 1000 Words. Soil Survey Horizon. Vol. 52, No.3, 65-102.

The Field Indicators of Hydric Soils of the United States has evolved to Version 7.0 (2010). Prior to the development of the indicators, credibility in the identification and delineation of hydric soils was difficult. Criterion used in the 70's from soil taxonomy (1975) was not recognized by other agencies (i.e. 87 Corps Manual). In 1981, the National Technical Committee on Hydric Soils (NTCHS) began work on definitions and criteria. By July 1996, Ver. 3.2 (Hydric Soils Tech Note 2) became the official guide for USDA-NRCS. Since 1996, it has been more widely adopted by other agencies. Official changes to a few of the indicators, in later versions, were the result of proposed revisions made by Illinois soil scientists using field testing protocol documenting changes needed.

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

The move to a Microsoft Access data base for record keeping by ISCA about 1990, enabled the Certification Board to keep accurate, retrievable, and readily updated information on CEU's earned, dues and certification status mailings, certified member lists, and correspondence, efficiently, with very little cost. The Certification Board members approve CEU's, applications for certification, and make reports electronically, without having to travel to complete their responsibilities.

ISCA has a long history of outstanding annual meetings with informational programs. The addition of the summer or fall meetings, with focus on opportunity for field tours and training exercises, began on August 28th 1982, when Leon Follmer led a geologic field trip in the New Salem area. A wide variety of program ideas over the years has maintained continued interest in Fall Meetings. Summer/fall meetings were also held in all years from 1976-1981, except 1980. These meetings were mainly focused on the business of newly formed ISCA.

37th Annual Meeting Illinois Soil Classifiers Association

Saturday, March 17th, 2012

Champaign, IL

Where: Forbes Natural History Building, Champaign, IL

Registration: 11:00

Opening Remarks: 11:45

Lunch: 12:00

Guest Speaker: 1:00

Business Meeting: 1:45

The 37th annual meeting of the Illinois Soil Classifiers Association will be held Saturday, March 17th, 2012 at the Forbes Natural History Building, University of Illinois, same place as last year. 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.

Please use the registration form on the next page to make a reservation before March 14th, 2012. The cost of the meal and registration is \$20.00. Please make checks payable to ISCA. Same day registrants cannot be guaranteed lunch.

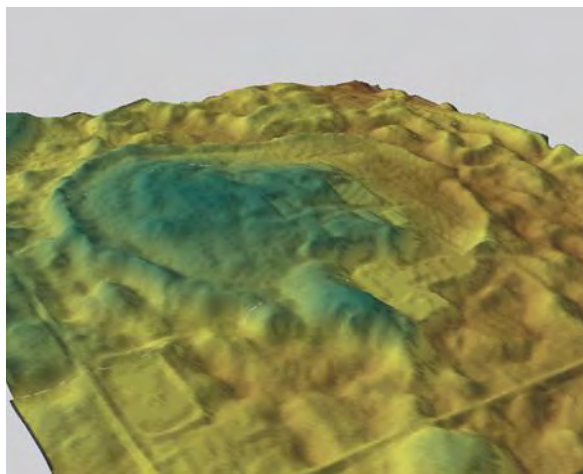
This year's guest speaker will be Dr. Mike Konen, an Associate Professor of Soil Science, Dept. of Geography at Northern Illinois University. His talk is titled *Soils and Geomorphology of Ice Walled Lake Plains in Illinois*.

Driving Directions: Find maps and directions on the Illinois Natural History Website at <http://www.inhs.illinois.edu/organization/maps.html>

Shaded relief map from LiDAR data showing an ice-walled lake plain.

See more at::

<http://www.isgs.uiuc.edu/nsdihome/webdocs/ilhmp/showcase/index.html>



ISCA 2012 Annual Spring Meeting Reservation
 March 17th, 2012
 Illinois Natural History Survey, Champaign, IL

Name _____
 Number Attending _____ (\$20/person)
 Total Payment _____
 Please indicate if you need vegetarian meal _____

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

Steve Elmer
 27892 Ebenezer Road
 Geneseo, IL 61254

If you can make it, we'd like to hear from you by March 14, 2012. Thanks!

Sorry, PayPal is still not up and running, but check back in at the ISCA website to see if we get it up running in time for this event.

Ballot for 2011 ISCA Elections

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

President-Elect

Doug Gaines

(write-in candidate for President-Elect) _____

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

Vice-President

Rick Francen

(write-in candidate for Vice President) _____

Write-in candidates must have agreed prior to the election to run for the office.

Secretary

Bob Tegeler

(write-in candidate for Secretary) _____

Write-in candidates must have agreed prior to the election to run for the office.

Submit your ballot:

You may bring your ballot to the 2012 Annual Meeting or you may vote prior to the annual meeting by mailing your ballot to Steve Elmer, ISCA Secretary, 27892 Ebenezer Road, Geneseo, IL 61254. Please seal your ballot in a separate envelope and mark it with "Ballot" on the outside of that envelope. Mailed ballots must be received by March 16th, 2012 in order to be counted.

2012 Candidate Biographies

The Nomination Committee presents the following slate of officers for nomination: President Elect - Doug Gaines; Vice-President - Rick Francen; Secretary - Bob Tegeler.

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

President Elect

Doug Gaines

Doug received his bachelors in Agronomy Crops & Soils from the University of Illinois in 1983. He worked as a County Soil Scientist on the Marion and Clinton County Soil Surveys from December 1983 - 1990. From May 1990 - 1994 he worked for a geotechnical engineer as a Field Technician, Staff and Project Scientist. In August 1994 Doug began Gaines Soil Consulting specializing in on-site evaluations for septic systems and wetland studies. Doug is certified by SSSA as a Professional Soil Scientist and by ISCA as a Professional Soil Classifier. He is also licensed in Missouri as a Soil Evaluator. Doug has served ISCA in the past as Program Chair, President, Public Relations Chair and as Certification Board Sec/Treas.

Vice President

Rick Francen

Rick received his B.S. in Plant and Soil Science from Texas A&M University. He attended Regis University in the Masters program for Database Management. He worked as a soils lab technician for an environmental company in Denver, Colorado for 3 years. He started with NRCS in 2003 as a Soil Conservation Tech in Montana and transferred to the Springfield Illinois MLRA Project Office in 2004 as a Soil Scientist. Rick has been a member of ISCA for 7 years, and served on the Public Relations and Education Committee.

Secretary

Bob Tegeler

Education- BS Degree from University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point - 1976

Major- Resource Management Minor- Soils

Experience- Employed by the Soil Conservation Service/Natural Resources Conservation Service for 35+ years. Mapped and Classified soils in Illinois for 33 years as part of the National Cooperative Soil Survey. Currently the Soil Survey Leader of the Springfield MLRA Soil Survey Office, in Springfield, Illinois.

ISCA involvement- Member of ISCA for 34+ years. Currently serving on Ethics, Certification and Membership Committee. Served as ISCA Secretary on 2 separate occasions, and Vice President for one term.

CPSC Notes

Thanks to those of you who have submitted CEUs in the past few months. Current accepted CEUs for each CPSC will be updated and available at the ISCA Annual Meeting, along with your 2012 CPSC wallet cards. If those of you who have not submitted CEUs for awhile have a moment, I would encourage you to utilize the electronic submittal form available on the ISCA website while things are a little quieter this winter. Remember to include details for each CEU, particularly in regard to the amount and location of soil evaluations performed when using them for CEUs. Also, be careful to note the maximum number of CEUs allowed for any given category. The renewal notice this year included an informal question asking if CPSCs would rather receive their renewal notice via email. Of those with a preference, about 40 percent wanted to retain mailed notices. Given this result, I will again mail notices next year. Winter time is also an excellent chance for those of you thinking of certification to get the ball rolling. General requirements for certification can be found within the Handbook on the ISCA website. If you have any questions pertaining to certification or CEUs, please don't hesitate to contact me at tasoukup@earthlink.net.
Todd Soukup, ISCA Certification Board Secretary/Treasurer

Proposed Amendments

As mentioned in our Message From the President,, the following pages list some proposed changes. Pages 6-8 list the proposed amendments to our Code of Ethics, Constitution, and By-Laws. Pages 9-11 list the proposed amendments to our Standards for Certification. Please read through them and come to the annual meeting and place your vote on these changes.

Code of Ethics, Constitution, and By-Laws Revisions Notice

Notice is hereby given that discussion and a subsequent vote to amend the following will take place at the Annual Meeting to be held at the Forbes Natural History Building (I-Building), Champaign, IL on March 17, 2012.

Reasons for proposed revisions:

1. Discussions have taken place for some time now at Executive Council meetings regarding the lack of opportunities for Associate Members to get the four years of soil mapping and/or classifying experience in order to qualify as Full Members. The Council is proposing to eliminate the four year experience from the requirements for Full Membership and thereby eliminating the Associate Member class.
2. Delete the reference to issuance of membership cards. Only Full Members who are ISCA CPSC certified are issued membership cards.
3. Further clarify the duties of the Ethics, Certification, and Membership Committee chairperson

Proposed Revisions: (deleted text is red and struck-through, and added text is green.)

Page 3: Code of Ethics, Article I Section 2 – delete Associate member

2. Each Member ~~or Associate member (hereafter called Member)~~ agrees to be guided by the highest standards of business ethics, personal honor, and professional conduct.

Page 11: Constitution, Article IV Section 2 – delete Associate Member and re-letter membership categories

Section 2. There shall be classes of membership as follows:

- a. Full Member
- ~~b. Associate Member~~
- ~~e-b.~~ Student Member
- ~~e-c.~~ Affiliate Member
- ~~e-d.~~ Honorary Member
- ~~f-e.~~ Out-of-State Member
- ~~g-f.~~ Retired Member

Page 11 and 12: Constitution, Article IV Section 3a. – adjust membership qualifications of Full Member

- a. Full Member shall be one who meets the ~~following qualifications:~~
- ~~1. Minimum Federal Civil Service requirement for Soil Scientist (Classification and Mapping). A Bachelor's degree and at least 15 semester credit hours in soil courses or closely related courses are required. Related courses can account for only 20% of the required 15 credit hours.~~
 - ~~2. A minimum of 4 years experience in soil mapping and/or classification. A Masters degree in soil genesis and classification (pedology) shall be equivalent of 1 year of experience; a Ph.D. degree in those disciplines shall constitute an additional one year of experience. Summer employment in field soil mapping and/or classification investigations shall count as experience time. Apprenticeship programs such as NRCS trainees will count as experience time.~~
 - ~~3. Teaching soil classification and genesis in an accredited university by an Assistant Professor or higher rank will count as one year of experience.~~

Page 12 and 13: Constitution, Article IV Section 3. – delete Associate member, re-letter membership categories, and adjust definitions of Affiliate and Out-of-State Members

- ~~b. Associate Member shall meet all the requirements of Full Member except for the four years of experience.~~
- e-b. Student Member shall be any undergraduate or graduate student pursuing a Soil Science curriculum approved by the Executive Council.
- ~~d-c.~~ Affiliate Member shall be one who does not qualify under a- or b-~~or e~~ but who desires to participate in the advancement of the profession.
- e-d. Honorary Member shall be one whom the Association desires to honor because of outstanding contributions to the profession, state, or nation.
1. Honorary Full Member shall be an Honorary Member who meets the qualifications of a Full Member and to whom is granted all the rights and privileges of a Full Member.
 2. Honorary Affiliate Member shall be an Honorary Member who is not a soil classifier as defined in Article II, Section 1.
- f-e. Out-of-State Member is any member who resides in a state other than Illinois, who qualifies under a-~~or b~~, and who does not practice soil classifying in Illinois.
- g-f. Retired Member is any member who has retired from the occupation and practice of soil classifying and has been a Full Member of the Illinois Soil Classifiers Association for the last five years.

Page 13: Constitution, Article IV Section 4b. and 4d. – delete Associate Member

- b. Voting privileges are limited to Full Members; ~~and Honorary Full Members, and Associate Members.~~
- d. Only a Full Member, Honorary Full Member, ~~Associate Member,~~ or Retired Member shall serve as a committee chairperson.

Page 21: By-Laws, Article II Section 1a. and 1b. – delete membership card text and adjust notification phrase

- a. Candidates for membership in the Association shall submit an application to the Association. This application shall be processed at a Council meeting. ~~If approved-Following processing,~~ the chairperson of the Ethics, Certification, and Membership Committee shall notify the candidate of his/her ~~acceptance status. Upon receipt of dues by the Treasurer, the Secretary shall issue a membership card.~~
- b. A candidate for Honorary membership shall be nominated by any Full Member of the Association in good standing at a regular or special meeting of the Association. If the nominee is approved by a majority vote of a legal quorum, the Secretary shall complete the processing and ~~issuance of a membership card notification.~~ An Honorary Member shall be elected for life, or until such time as the membership is revoked for just and sufficient cause by a majority vote at a regular meeting of a legal quorum.

Page 23: By-Laws, Article IV Section 1a. – delete Associate Members

- a. Annual dues for Full Members ~~and Associate Members~~ shall be \$25.00 payable by January 1 to the Treasurer upon receipt of dues notice. These dues may be changed by the Council (Article V of the Constitution).

Page 26: By-Laws, Article VIII Section 4a. – delete Associate Members

- a. The Constitution, By-Laws, and Legislative Committee shall consist of not less than three Full Members; ~~or Honorary Full Members, or Associate Members.~~

Page 28: By-Laws, Article VIII Section 5b(3). – add duty to Ethics, Certification, and Membership Committee

- 3. To determine the qualifications of applicants for class of membership ~~and notify applicants of their membership status following the council vote.~~

Page 43: ISCA Application for Membership, Section II Membership Class – delete Associate Member as option

*Respectfully submitted,
Constitution, By-Laws, and Legislative Committee*

Reasons for the proposed revisions to the Standards and Requirements for Certification:

1. Add the 4-year experience requirement, since it will be removed from the Full Membership requirement.
2. To better define what a years experience is.
3. To separate membership in ISCA from Certification as requested by IDPH.
4. To "streamline" conversion from SSSA CPSC into ISCA CPSC.

STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION

In order to be eligible for certification as a professional soil classifier in Illinois, applicants must ~~(a) subscribe to the Code of Ethics of the Illinois Soil Classifiers Association, (b) be a Full Member or Honorary Full Member of the Illinois Soil Classifiers Association, (c) submit a written application to the Certification Board containing such information as required in Section 6, (d) have actively practiced soil classifying in a responsible position at least three (3) of the preceding four (4) years with supervision under or collaboration with a Certified Professional Soil Classifier (CPSC) within the last year of the date of application; or have more than six (6) years total soil classifying experience with supervision under or in collaboration with a Certified Professional Soil Classifier within the last year of the date of application, and, (e) have successfully passed a written and/or oral examination designed to determine the proficiency and qualifications of the applicant to engage in the practice of soil classifying.~~

~~Applicants shall have one (1) year from the date of application to take the examination. Applicants that do not take the examination within one (1) year must reapply following the procedures described in Section 6, and pay the application fee as described in Section 7.~~

~~All applicants shall receive ten (10) sample questions at least two weeks prior to examination. Written examinations shall be monitored by a Board member. A passing grade on an examination shall be a score of seventy (70) percent or higher. Applicants may be re-examined once within two years of first applying for certification without submitting an additional fee, and meet the following.~~

a. Education requirements

1. Possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution and at least 15 semester credit hours in soil courses or closely related courses. Related courses can account for only 20% (3 hours) of the required 15 credit hours. Have 4 years of professional experience working in soil classification. Or.
2. Possess a master's degree from an accredited institution and at least 15 semester credit hours in soil courses or closely related courses. Related courses can account for only 20% (3 hours) of the required 15 credit hours. Have 3 years of professional experience working in soil classification. Or.
3. Possess a doctoral degree from an accredited institution and at least 15 semester credit hours in soil courses or closely related courses. Related courses can account for only 20% (3 hours) of the required 15 credit hours. Have 2 years of professional experience working in soil classification.

b. Professional Experience

1. The practice of soil surveying and classification shall mean the practice of a professional soil classifier in any service, work, or educational endeavor, the adequate performance of which requires the use and understanding of the physical, chemical, mineralogical, and biological properties that apply to pedology. Pedology is the science of soils, their origin, character, and utilization.
2. This practice shall include proficiency in the application of the principals of pedology to soil classification, investigation, education, and consultation, on the effect of measured, observed, and inferred soil properties and their use. It shall include the preparation of soil descriptions, maps, reports, and interpretations, any of which apply to either private or public work.
3. A person shall be construed to practice or offer to practice pedology when they advertise their proficiency and willingness to practice either verbally, in writing by job description, or by some other title that represents a professional soil classifier. This does not include the work performed by persons who sample and test the soil only for agricultural purposes, engineering activities, or environmental contamination.

c. Work Experience

- I. Applicants are required to demonstrate the percentage of work experience in the area of soil classification.
 - A. Activities such as soil consulting, soil mapping, soil survey, on-site evaluation of soil properties or behavior, extension, and teaching require a minimum of 70% of the applicant's time working directly with the area of soil classification.
 - B. Work experience less than 70% will be prorated.
 - C. A work experience summary will be attached to any application submitted by the applicant.
 - D. The applicant shall not have less than 4 years (or as required in Sec. a) of cumulative professional experience in the practice of soil survey and classification and a portion of these 4 years must be in a position that indicates to the Board that the applicant is competent to practice soil classification without direct supervision.
 - E. The Board reserves the right to request copies of the applicants work to review.

d. References

- I. You must submit three references that are familiar with your work and professional experience. References must be familiar with your work experience used to meet certification requirements and be knowledgeable of soils. The applicant will need to designate the time period for which the reference has personal knowledge of his or her work experience history.
 - A. At least one individual must be associated with your employment; an immediate supervisor, collaborator, or coworker.

e. Core Requirements

- I. Applicants must meet the minimum core requirements as outlined in this document.

f. Exam Requirements

- I. Certifications are exam based and all applicants for Certified Professional Soil Classifier are required to pass either;
 - A. The Illinois Soil Classifiers exam.
 1. Applicants shall have one year from the date of application to take the examination. Applicants that do not take the examination within one (1) year must reapply following the procedures described in Section 6, and pay the application fee as described in Section 7.
 2. All applicants shall receive ten (10) sample questions at least two (2) weeks prior to examination. A Board member shall monitor written examinations. A passing grade on an examination shall be a score of seventy (70) percent or higher. Applicants may be re-examined once within two years of first applying for certification without submitting an additional fee.
 - B. The Soil Science Society of America's Fundamentals and Professional Practice Soil Science Examinations.

g. Reciprocal Certification

- I. Persons whom are currently certified, registered, or licensed as a soil classifier by a state or national professional organization having equal or higher requirements for certification, registry, or licensure than those prescribed in these standards shall be approved for certification. The applicant must provide evidence of the standards and provide evidence of current good standing.
2. Persons whom are currently certified, registered or licensed as a soil scientist by a state or national professional organization having equal or higher requirements for certification, registry, or licensure than those prescribed in these standards shall be exempt from the exam requirement but must meet the professional and work experiences of this Section.

ISCA - Application for Certification - Page 3

NARRATIVE SUMMARY OF SOIL CLASSIFYING EXPERIENCE [Sec. 6 (e)]. Attach narrative describing soil classifying experience.

REFERENCES [Sec. 6 (d)]. List three (3) individuals that will supply reference information on the applicant's current soil classifying abilities upon request. At least one of the references shall be a supervisor or collaborator as specified in Section 5 (d) of the Standards for Certification of Professional Soil Classifiers. Check box when applicable.

1. Name: _____
 Occupation: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone # _____ E-mail: (opt) _____ Supervisor/collaborator []

2. Name: _____
 Occupation: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone # _____ E-mail: (opt) _____ Supervisor/collaborator []

3. Name: _____
 Occupation: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone # _____ E-mail: (opt) _____ Supervisor/collaborator []

Application fee enclosed: \$ _____

I, _____, understand that the application fee will not be returned regardless of the action of the Certification Board.

I understand that I have the right to review the contents of my confidential file.

I certify that the information stated above is true to the best of my knowledge, and I request to be considered promptly for certification in the category indicated above. I have read and fully subscribe to the Illinois Soil Classifiers Association Code of Ethics.

2011 Treasurer's Report

January 15, 2012

Treasurer's Report for Jan. 1, 2011 - December 31, 2011

Balance in Account - 01/01/11 \$ 11646.24

Income:

Annual Meeting	\$ 580.00
Dues	2370.00
Interest	30.85
State Soil Shirts	107.50
T-Shirts and Caps	73.00
Soil Monoliths	500.00
Certification fees	80.00
Drummer Soil Tubes	15.00
Fall Meeting	575.00
Hydic Soils Course	2300.00

	\$ 6631.35

Expenses:

Administration	\$ 20.95
T-Shirts	43.29
Fall Meeting	535.00
Annual Meeting	606.01
Internet Fees	107.40
Burt Ray Awards	1000.00
Soil Survey Horizons	1680.00
Soil Judging	800.00
Caps	242.65
Farm Progress Show	393.93
Hydic Soils Course	249.57

	\$ 5678.80

Ending Bank Balance - 12/31/11 \$12598.79

Submitted by:

Charles J. Frazee
Charles J. Frazee, CPSC
Treasurer

TRADING POST

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

ISCA Apparel

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

55th Annual ASA Region 3 Soil Judging Contest

The 55th annual ASA Region 3 Soil Judging Contest took place near Richland Center, Wisconsin on October 28 and 29, 2011. The contest was hosted by the University of Wisconsin-Madison and organized by Dr. Fred Madison. Fifty-one individuals from six teams (Northern Illinois University, Purdue University, University of Illinois, University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Wisconsin-Platteville, and University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point) participated in the contest. Seventeen students represented the two Illinois Universities.

Richland Center is located in southwestern Wisconsin in the heart of the unglaciated area. Students described Argiudolls and Hapludalfs developed in loess, colluvium, residuum, and alluvium. The contest consisted of two group judged pits on Friday afternoon and four individually judged pits Saturday morning.



Northern Illinois University Soil Judging Team (L to R - Jacob Kruse, Mike Sherry, Kurt Norman, Kris Osterloh, Clint Bailey, Wes Brinkman, Sara Halm).



Hapludalf in loess, colluvium, and residuum.



Argiudoll in loess and colluvium.

Overall team scores.

School	Score
Purdue University	3314
Northern Illinois University	3133
UW-Platteville	3073
UW-Madison	3046
University of Illinois	3038
UW-Stevens Point	2872

Top 5 individual scores.

Student	School	Score
Jeff Fischer	Purdue University	975
Aaron Englert	Purdue University	941
Jacob Kruse	Northern Illinois University	937
Daniel Bechman	Purdue University	936
Lori Nussbaum	Purdue University	927

Group judging scores.

School	Score
Purdue University	472
UW-Platteville	453
UW-Madison	439
Northern Illinois University	429
University of Illinois	405
UW-Stevens Point	360

The top three teams are eligible to participate in the 2012 national contest that will be hosted by West Virginia University in Morgantown. The highest scoring Illinois individual and winner of the Burton W. Ray Scholarship Award this year is Jacob Kruse from Northern Illinois University. Members may know Jacob from his summer internship with the Aurora MLRA office. The 2012 Region 3 contest will be hosted by UW-Platteville.



Jacob Kruse, NIU, winner of the 2011 Burton W. Ray Scholarship Award.

I think I can speak for everyone involved in thanking our hosts for all their hard work and hospitality and as usual everyone learned a great deal about soils, landscapes, hydrology, vegetation, and land-use and had fun while participating in the contest.

Thanks to all of you that have supported and continue to support Soil Judging,
Mike Konen, Coach of the Northern Illinois University Soil Judging Team

Walter Parks Obituary

Walter Donald Parks, 92, of Anna died at 2:55AM on Thursday, October 06, 2011 at Southeast Missouri Hospital in Cape Girardeau. He was born on November 20, 1918 in Moweaqua, IL the son of Oscar and Eva Sterling Parks. He married Mary Ada Pope on January 1, 1945 in Yorkville, IL. They have lived in Anna 56 years. He graduated from the University of Illinois and was one of five founders of Nabor House Fraternity. He was a member of the United Methodist Church, Soil Science Society of America, Illinois Public Health Association and a former member of the Anna Kiwanis Club. In World War II he served 3 years with the U.S. Army in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations, where he received the Bronze Star and the Oak Leaf Medal from the British Army. Both medals were for activity with Engineer Intelligence in support of combat operations. Mr. Parks was a Soil Scientist with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service for 25 years and was author of Soil Survey Reports covering the five southernmost Illinois counties. He also worked with Southern Seven Health Department for 17 years, in capacities ranging from Environmental Health Inspector to Health Department Administrator. He is survived by his wife, and by four children, W. David (Linda) of Jonesboro, Floyd W. (Carole) of Ironbridge, England, Darryl W. of Anna and Diane M. Ward of Jacksonville, Florida; five grandchildren, Maria J. (Jamie) Bridgeman of Frisco, Texas, John D. Parks of Anna, Rebekah S. (Allen) Plott of Anna, Charles F. (Natalie) Ward III of High Springs, Florida and Allison D. (Garrett) Courville of Loveland, Colorado; nine great-grandchildren, Clayton Bridgeman; Erikah, Emeliah, Esten, Evan Parks; Curtis, Amanda, Timothy Plott and Nathan Benson. He is also survived by three brothers: John R. (Donna) of Lincoln, Nebraska; Daniel W. (Wenona) of Florence, Montana; and Roger W. (Mary) of Moweaqua, IL and by 13 nephews and nieces. He was preceded in death by his parents and stepmother, Mabel Parks. Friends may call from 12-2PM on Sunday, October 9, 2011 at First United Methodist Church in Anna. Memorial services will be held on Sunday, October 9, 2011 at 2PM at First United Methodist Church of Anna. Memorial contributions may be made to 1st United Methodist Church and will be accepted by the church. Crain Funeral Home in Anna-Jonesboro is in charge of arrangements.

Walt's Obituary was sent to us by Margaret Miles, wife of the late Cliff Miles. In her email she wrote, "Several of the older soil scientists will remember Walt. He worked with Cliff, Lester Bushue and Ray Herman and I'm sure others too. Walt and Mary Ada were talented artists as well as good teachers and wonderful friends to Cliff and to me. The following was written by Walt. I thought you might want to use it in the next newsletter."



Psalm 23 A Paraphrase

The Lord is my leader.
 He makes a place for me in His world of nature
 And I am comfortable in it.
 I ask and He gives me confidence in my choice of work
 And leads me to do that which helps Him manage it.
 For the good of the earth and the people in it.
 Even though I feel lost in technicalities,
 I feel that if I ask Him He guides me
 For I am trying to help Him
 In the wise use of His gifts of nature.
 He prepares an agenda for me even though
 It may run counter to the desires of others.
 Surely His guidance will follow me all the days of my labor,
 And I will be recognized by St. Peter.
 Walter Parks - Soil Scientist

Governor Quinn Highlights Growing Enrollment at Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences

Legislation Boosts Enrollment; Increases Agricultural Exposure to Urban Communities

CHICAGO – February 6, 2012. As part of his commitment to strengthening education in Illinois, Governor Pat Quinn today visited Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences (CHSAS) to discuss recently adopted legislation that will allow more students in urban areas to pursue opportunities in Illinois' vital agricultural economy.

"One of Illinois' biggest economic engines is our mighty agriculture," Governor Quinn said. "Our urban students and those who live in rural communities should have the educational opportunities to prepare them for jobs in an industry that keeps food on our tables and makes our state more competitive in the global economy."

The Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences is a public magnet school that was opened by the Chicago Public Schools in 1985 with the goal of bringing agricultural education to urban students. The 72-acre campus includes a 40-acre working farm that allows students to get hands-on experience as well as summer internships in agricultural-related fields, which leads to many entering college to pursue agricultural and food science fields. Students are selected for the school via a lottery that chooses 150 students out roughly 1,000 applicants each year for the freshman class.

Senate Bill 1226, sponsored by Sen. Ed Maloney (D-Chicago) and Rep. Bill Cunningham (D-Chicago) changes the enrollment cap for the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences from 600 to 720 students and requires that 50% of enrollment reside within a 2.5 mile radius of the school, which is located on a 72-acre campus on the far South Side.

As highlighted by Governor Quinn in his State of the State Address, Illinois exports rose 30 percent in 2010 and the state is on track to double its exports by 2014. In 2010, Illinois' farm economy had total cash receipts of \$15 billion, supporting for tens of thousands of jobs. Agriculture exports alone supported nearly 50,000 jobs in 2010.

Source: <http://www.illinois.gov>

2012 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 2012, **please bring his/her nomination to the annual meeting** in Champaign on March 17.

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!



Answer to Fall Newsletter "Days Gone By":

From left to right (not including the horse): Lester Bushue, Burke Davies, Tonie Endres, Cliff Miles, Mark Matusiak, Bruce Currie, Doug Gaines, and Earl Voss. 1986 Progress Field Review in Marion County, Illinois.

www.illinoissoils.org

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Carbondale, IL 62903

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Fax: (618) 453-5578

Submissions

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

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

Publication Schedule

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



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

Days Gone By



Can you identify the soil scientists taken in this 1975 ISCA organizational meeting?
Answer to Fall "Days Gone By" can be found on page 17.

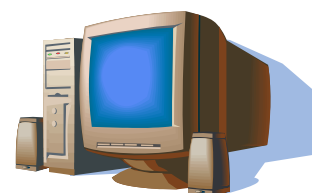


ISCA Newsletter Committee is looking for pictures of it's members, past or present, to include in future newsletters.

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

www.illinoissoils.org

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



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www.illinoissoils.org/news

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

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E-Mail: _____

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



Illinois Soil Classifiers Association Newsletter

Upcoming Events:

ISCA Field Exam June 11

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Spring-May 2012

Message from the President

First and foremost, I want to thank Jesse Kurylo for another excellent annual meeting in Champaign. The facilities and food were wonderful, and Mike Konen delivered an excellent presentation. It's always a pleasure to come together, see old familiar faces and have time to catch up with everyone.

I would like to congratulate and commend our newly elected and returning officers for 2012.

Executive Officers:

Bruce Houghtby, Past President
Doug Gaines, President- elect
Rick Francen, Vice President
Bob Tegeler, Secretary
Chuck Frazee, Treasurer

I would also like to express my gratitude to the committee chairs for stepping into some new and challenging roles for the upcoming year:

Bruce Putman – Constitution, By-laws, and Legislative
Jennifer Wollenweber – Ethics, Certification, and Membership
Bruce Houghtby – Nominations
Jesse Kurylo – Public Relations and Education
Rick Francen – Finance
Erik Gerhard – Newsletter

Thanks again to Steve Zwicker for his continuation as Historian, and to Mark Bramstedt as the Appointee to State Advisory Committee on Private Sewage Disposal, and as our Webmaster for the ISCA website. Finally, I would like to thank and welcome Dr. Robert Darmody and Roger Windhorn as new appointees of the certification board. To those members who have served this past year, thank you and know that your efforts are greatly appreciated.

2012 promises to be an exciting and challenging year. Considerations of what it means to be a soil scientist in a rapidly changing world has been much on my mind of late. The initial soil surveys for most of the United States will be completed in the near future, and the role of mapping soils in the field has diminished greatly, particularly in our Midwestern states. This has changed the venue by which many classifiers have gained their past experience. With the completion of most initial surveys, it has become increasingly difficult for younger soil scientists to attain the experience necessary to be considered a "Full Member" in ISCA. This in part, precipitated the proposals at the annual meeting regarding the changes to the ISCA Handbook with reference to membership categories and the definition of "Work Experience".

Please take time to review the minutes and review the ISCA Handbook available on our website. Remember, we are on Facebook. Check us out from time to time. It's a great way to post any questions you may have regarding soils. If you have any ideas for a fall tour, an annual meeting location/speaker, please let us know. In closing, I would encourage everyone to be proactive in ISCA this year.

Regards,

Frank Heisner
(815) 499-4681
ptownfrank@gmail.com

2012 Annual Meeting Photographs

Submitted by Ron Collman and Steve Zwicker



2012 Annual Meeting Photographs continued

Submitted by Ron Collman and Steve Zwicker



2012 Annual Meeting Photographs continued

Submitted by Ron Collman and Steve Zwicker



2012 Annual Meeting Photographs continued

Submitted by Ron Collman and Steve Zwicker



2012 Annual Meeting Photographs continued

Submitted by Ron Collman and Steve Zwicker



Once again, as ISCA President Frank Heisner stated, thank you Dr. Konen for your excellent presentation and thank you Jesse Kurylo for all your hard work.

Thank you to all that helped to make the 2012 Annual Meeting a success.

Draft Private Sewage Disposal Code

ISCA Members – Here is an update on the status of the Draft Code. The message below is from Chad Moorman, IDPH Program Manager to the Advisory Commission and to local health departments on the status of the Private Sewage Code. The Draft Code is not yet available for public review and comment, so it cannot be released at this time for all to review (so there are no attachments). However, the First Public Comment Period should be sometime this summer.

One big change is the definition of a Soil Classifier. The proposed definition is as follows:

"Soil Classifier" means one of the following:

A Certified Professional Soil Classifier (CPSC) who is certified by the Illinois Soil Classifiers Association (ISCA).

A person who is a full member of the ISCA, provided that direct supervision is provided to this person by an ISCA Certified Professional Soil Classifier who accompanies the person on at least 25% of the soil investigations and reviews and signs all of that person's soil investigation reports.

Let me know if you have any questions,

Mark Bramstedt, Appointee to the Advisory Commission

“The Private Sewage Disposal Program has requested and was given clearance to allow the release of the draft proposed amendments to the Private Sewage Disposal Code to the Advisory Commission on Private Sewage Disposal and local health departments. The Department wants to continue to work with its stake holders and be as transparent as possible in the rule making process. We are hoping with the Advisory Commission [modifications and local health department recommendations made to last year’s proposal](#), this draft will be a more favorable set of amendments. During the review by our Legal Division there have been numerous format and grammatical changes, but the intent of the language was unchanged. The Program would like to expedite the amendments to assure they are on the next Board of Health, Rules Committee agenda. There will be another opportunity to provide comments on the amendments during the First Notice Period, but the Department would like to make sure that concerns are addressed prior to the submittal to the Secretary of State. Thank you for your time and timely response.

The Department is also waiting for the draft National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for Illinois surface discharging private sewage disposal systems to be released by United States Environmental Protection Agency. Upon release the Department will notify the Advisory Commission to set up a Rules Committee meeting to evaluate the concerns with conflicting or non-concurrent issues with the Private Sewage Disposal Code. The attached proposed amendments are not associated or coupled with the NPDES permit. The time line within 225 ILCS 225/7 of the Private Sewage Disposal Licensing Act is not dependent or associated with the draft amendments.”



ISCA and NRCS to Co-sponsor a Field Exam/Skills Test for Soil Classifiers and Soil Scientists

ISCA and NRCS are offering an opportunity for testing one's field skills as a soil classifier. The opportunity will be June 11 at Shabbona State Park, DeKalb Co. The purpose of this exam is to test and fine-tune the skills and abilities of Illinois soil scientists and soil classifiers in identifying soil properties in the field. This exam will be an opportunity for each soil classifier to evaluate his or her skills in identifying color, texture, structure, limiting layers, and other basic soil properties. Often times, soil classifiers work alone in the field and do not have a way of comparing their field evaluation with other soil classifiers. The Field Exam will provide an opportunity for discussion of some of the basic issues in field identification and interpretation of soils. The field exam will use the approved "Key for Determining Sewage Loading Rates" (from the Illinois Department of Public Health, Private Sewage Disposal Licensing Act and Code <http://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/077/07700905ZZ9996amR.html>) and procedures and nomenclature from the USDA Soil Survey Manual <http://soils.usda.gov/technical/manual/> and the USDA-NRCS Field Book for Describing and Sampling Soils <http://soils.usda.gov/technical/fieldbook/> . All those attending are encouraged to bring their own soil description gear. Suggested items to bring include: Munsell color book, water bottle, tape measure, HCl acid bottle, 100 foot tape or measuring wheel, compass, knife, pencils, clipboard, textural triangle and any field guide or other reference material. There will be some extra field gear available for you to use if you do not have a specific item. You do not need a soil probe or shovel. The field exam will be considered an "open book" exam, so any reference material may be used. This is a voluntary exam and the results of the exam will not be kept as any official record of the individual member. The exam is not required for certified soil classifiers however, participation is strongly encouraged for all practicing soil classifiers and we encourage the attendance of all members. The field exam will qualify for continuing education units. Here are the details of the June 11 exam day:

Date: Monday, June 11, 2012

Time: 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM.

Where: Shabbona Lake State Park, near the town of Shabbona in DeKalb County. Enter the park from the north and park at the turn-out at the first intersection inside the park. (see maps)

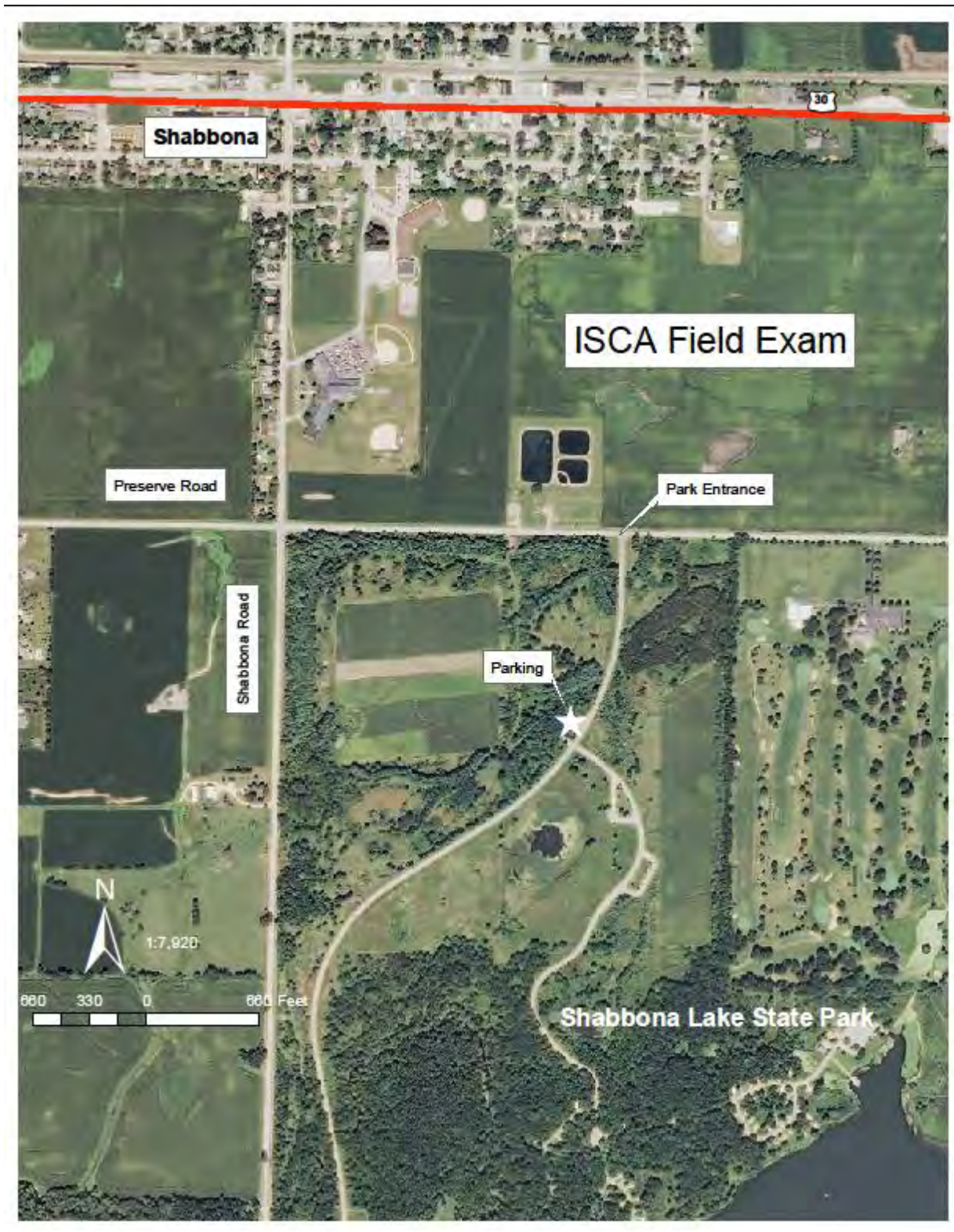
Cost: None – one of the many benefits of being an ISCA member.

All ISCA members and soil classifiers are encouraged to attend. NRCS soil scientists are welcome to attend (with supervisor approval, of course).

This exercise will be out-of-doors, so it is somewhat weather dependent. In past years, the field exam was washed out by heavy rains.

Registration Deadline: June 6, 2012. Advanced registration is requested.

Register by e-mail to: Event@illinoissoils.org





Missouri will be hosting the 32nd Annual Forest Soils Workshop

The workshop will be hosted this fall at Trout Lodge, YMCA of the Ozarks, in Potosi Missouri. Field trips will focus on Ecological Sites and forest ecosystem management on Missouri Ozark soils. Sites include a 20-year savanna restoration project on Mark Twain National Forest, contrasting woodland management practices (chemical, prescribed fire and thinning) by the Missouri Department of Conservation, the effects of slope aspect on woodland/forest communities in St. Joe State Park, a visit to Devil's Honeycomb "geologic wonder" in Hughes Mountain Natural Area and a view from one of the highest points in Missouri. These sites will take us through much of the stratigraphic column of the Ozarks, from Precambrian igneous soils up through various soils formed in Cambrian and Ordovician limestone, dolomite, shale and sandstone. As we view the soils and vegetation communities at each site, we will use draft Ecological Site Descriptions in discussions of ecological dynamics and management practices appropriate for the site.

The host facilities, YMCA of the Ozarks, is a 5000 acre resort and nature area surrounded by the Mark Twain National Forest. Lodging for the tour will be at the YMCA's beautiful Trout Lodge located on a 360 acre lake. The Resort offers many activities such as fishing, boating, hiking, and horseback riding that could make this a great opportunity to bring the family or extend the trip to enjoy all the resort and region has to offer. The Lodge includes a hotel with single and shared rooms, as well as multiple cabins for groups of 4 to 8. Lodging costs for the resort are slightly higher, but the resort provides 3 free meals a day to all of its guests in the resort's full formal dining hall. Cost can be reduced through sharing rooms or cabins.



For more information on the Workshop including a complete list of all of the wonderful attractions in the region, including State Parks, wineries, and historical stops, visit www.showmemapss.org You will also find info on the tour agenda, sites we will be visiting on the tour, and lodging on the MAPSS website also. Information about the lodge or accommodations is available at www.vmcasoftheozarks.org

32nd Annual Central States Forest Soils Workshop



Tuesday, Oct. 9:

Registration/Displays, 5:00 p.m.
Dinner in Lakeview Dining Hall, 5:30 p.m.
Evening Program, Mallard Ball Room, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 10:

Field Trip departs, 7:30 a.m.
Picnic Lunch at Hughes Mountain, 12 noon
Busses return to Lodge, 5:00 p.m.
Business meeting @ Lodge Chapel, 6:00 p.m.
Dinner and Social Hour, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 11:

Field Trip departs, 7:30 a.m.
Busses return to Lodge, 12:00 noon
Times listed are Central Time.

Workshop Lodging and Meetings

Trout Lodge
YMCA of the Ozarks
13528 State Hwy AA
Potosi, MO 63664
(573) 438-2154

For more information go to:
<http://www.showmemapss.org>

Make Checks Payable to:

Missouri Association of Professional Soil Scientists
(MAPSS)

**Payment must be received by deadline date
to qualify for preregistration discounts!**

Send To: Ralph Tucker
1004 Vondera Ave
Union MO, 63084

October 9-11, 2012
Mark Twain National Forest
Potosi, MO

Registration Form

Name _____
Guests _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip Code _____
Phone _____
Email _____
Representing _____
Special Needs _____
Room Preference - Hotel _____ Cabin _____
Roommate/Cabin group _____
Not staying at Trout Lodge _____

Early Registration until June 1, 2012

\$65 each X (number) Total \$ _____

Registration until Aug. 1, 2012

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

Early Student Registration: until Aug. 1, 2012

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

Late Registration after Aug. 1, 2012:

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

Late Student Registration after Aug. 1, 2012

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

Banquet-only for spouses or guests:

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

Total enclosed \$ _____

Pay your registration fee with 
Showmemapss@yahoo.com

Send me your email address with registration
form and I can forward an invoice.

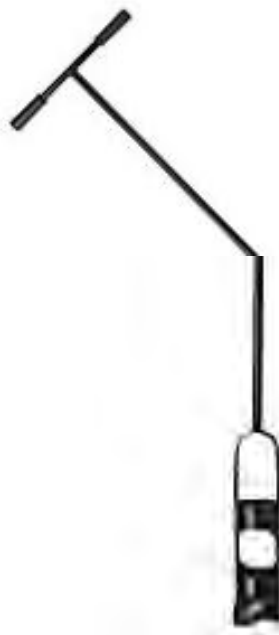
showmemapss.org

2011 Bent Auger Award Recipient

Jim Hornickel



Apparently Jim discovered a new fashion statement to make while heading out to the field and around the office when the heat was not kicking in. I believe the two have parted ways for the season. We will have to get an update this fall to see if the two reunite.



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 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 if you have any difficulty in accessing the ISCA Group or if you have any questions or comments.



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

FREE to a Good Home Journal of Soil and Water Conservation from 1963 to 1995 any or all of the publications

Please Contact Wiley Scott either by phone (217)586-4233 or e-mail wcsott3@frontier.com for more information

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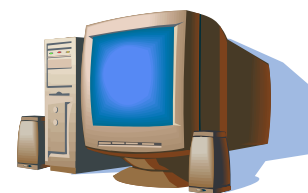


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www.illinoissoils.org

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



Illinois Soil Classifiers Association Newsletter

Upcoming Events:

ISCA Fall Tour Nov. 2012

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Summer-August 2012

Message from the President

Where has summer gone? Time seems to have passed quickly, despite being one of the hottest seasons in my memory. This has probably occurred to prepare me as I leave for southern Mississippi next week to attend an advanced hydric soil training session. I would like to thank everyone for their input with regard to the questionnaire submitted on June 6th by Bruce Putman and the Constitution, By-Laws, and Legislative Committee. We hope to have the comments reviewed and summarized by the fall tour this year.

Speaking of which, a fall tour is being planned for the weekend of November 10th in DeKalb and Lee Counties this year. Dr. Mike Konen, Dr. Brandon Curry, and Tim Prescott have been working on what promises to be an informative and thought provoking tour. The topic of ice-walled lake features will be a follow-up to Mike's presentation from the annual meeting in Champaign this year. It will be a great opportunity to examine the ice-walled lake features and associated soils on the landscape. More information will be forthcoming with regards to the date, time, and location but we will probably begin the tour in the DeKalb area.

In closing I would like to welcome new members to the Illinois Soil Classifiers Association, Alicia Metzger and Tom Anderson, and student member Sarah Smith. Alicia is employed by V3 Companies, LTD and resides in Elburn, IL. Tom is partnered with Steve Elmer at A&E Soil Consulting, Geneseo, IL. Sarah is currently pursuing her degree in Crop and Soil Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville.

Regards,
Frank Heisner
(815) 499-4681
President@illinoissoils.org

Charter Member Interviews

Charter Member D. Rex Mapes



1. What is your educational background?

Attended Western Illinois University from 1957 to 1959; Received a B. S. degree in Agriculture with a major in Agronomy (Soils) at the University of Illinois in 1961. Also attended the Soil Science Institute at Iowa State University in 1973.

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

Mostly in Illinois and Ohio. Was also headquartered at the National Soil Survey Center in Lincoln, Nebraska; but did no soils work for the state of Nebraska. Was on the Quality Assurance staff at Lincoln, and major areas of responsibility were in MLRA'S known as the Southern Piedmont and Coastal Plains and the Mississippi Delta Region. Work in those MLRA's included the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North and South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.

Began my career as a Student Trainee in Stephenson County, Illinois in 1960. After graduation, my full-time career took me to central and northeastern Illinois, including the Soil Surveys of Douglas, Logan and Sangamon Counties, and also mapping for conservation planning - with offices in Champaign, Clinton and Lincoln. Also had details to DeKalb, Grundy and Kendall Counties. From 1971 to 1975, was Soil Survey Leader for the Du Page and Part of Cook County Soil Surveys. In 1977- was a Soil Specialist for Map Finishing in Champaign for a short time (before Les Bushue). From 1977 to 1988, worked in Ohio as Asst. State Soil Scientist (Correlation). Ended my career at the National Soil Survey Center, 1988-1994.

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

My interest in Soil Science and Soil Conservation began when terraces were installed on a neighboring farm. Was drawn to Agronomy and especially Soils during courses taken by Professors John McVickar at Western Illinois University and Russell O'Dell at U. of Ill. Applied for a Student Trainee position (with SCS) mapping soils the following after my Junior year. My assignment was Stephenson County with Burt Ray as Party Leader. During my senior year, I then worked part time (WAE) for the SCS State Office Soils Staff. The Soils Staff, as well as the Regional Correlation Staff, had offices on campus. Although most of my work with the Soils Staff consisted of measuring acreage of mapping units, I was able to gain some knowledge about making soil surveys. The real hands-on experience helped me decide to choose a career in soil science.

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

Some of the biggest changes involved the development of Soil Taxonomy and the numerous amendments and changes within the system. The biggest and greatest change for users of soils information was the digitizing of soils information. Both soil maps and soils data are now readily available through several data bases, the Web Soil Survey being one of the best. Other avenues include SSURGO and many other state data bases.

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

Having moved out of state in 1977, my first-hand knowledge of changes in the last 30 years is limited. However, through the newsletters and attendance at a few annual meetings; I have observed several significant changes. One of the most significant changes was the establishment of a Certification Board to verify credentials of members and practicing professionals. Another big change was the addition of field trips and soils courses. Technical assistance is also now being provided by members of the Illinois Soil Classifiers Association for those field trips and soils courses and; in addition, for farm progress shows and soil judging contests.

Since my move out of the state, I regret not being more actively involved in the Illinois Soil Classifiers Association. However, during the formative stages of the association; I was very actively involved. (see notes below regarding early history on formation of the organization).



During the Soils Workshop in January, 1975 a group met and decided to establish an Association (note photo of meeting in the Winter Newsletter of 2012). Rex Mapes was elected chairman pro-tem and Ken Hinkley was elected Secretary. At that time, a motion was also passed to adopt the name "Illinois Association of Soil Classifiers". In February of 1975, a Steering Committee meeting was held, and a proposal was made by Joe Fehrenbacher to change the name of the organization to "Illinois Soil Classifiers Association". A meeting of the members of the organization was held in June, 1975 and the motion to change the name was officially passed. The first election of officers was also held in June, 1975 with the following results: President - D. Rex Mapes, President-elect- J. Wiley Scott, Vice President - Ivan Jansen, and Secretary-Treas. - John D. Alexander. Committee chairman and committee members were also appointed by President D. Rex Mapes during the meeting.

*Ken Hinkley's notes from the meetings

Kristine Ryan Assists Wyoming Soil Survey

This summer I am fortunate enough to assist Wyoming in their initial soil survey. I am stationed in Saratoga, Wyoming, which is about 130 miles west of Cheyenne, Wyoming. Saratoga is nestled in the valley, along the North Platte River, between the Sierra Madre Range and the Snowy Range mountains, at an elevation of about 6,700 feet. Saratoga is a great place to be in the summertime! I have spent my time hiking in the Snowy Range and the Sierra Madre Range on the weekends, soaking in the natural hot springs when I want to relax, enjoying the local beers at the microbrewery in town, and exploring everything else the town has to offer. There are two other detailees here as well and we do a lot of exploring and grilling together.

My mapping area is the northernmost extent of the Snowy Range Mountains, mostly in the foothills. The predominant soil orders in my area are aridisols, entisols, and alfisols. Mollisols are found in the drains where the Aspen trees grow. I have encountered a new diagnostic horizon that I have never seen: a calcic horizon! Most of the soils in my mapping have either an argillic horizon, a calcic horizon, or both. The geology ranges from gravelly/cobbly outwash in the foothills to the uplifted areas composed of igneous extrusions with interbedded sandstone and shale. Most of the holes I have dug have been loamy skeletal and it's been exhausting! But, the hard work is worth it because the scenery is gorgeous and I see antelopes, mule deer, and elk. I see the mountains every day. It's not a bad "office".

Not only has the job been fun but the people in Wyoming are wonderful. The soil scientists in Wyoming work hard and are very knowledgeable. They are also good teachers and are always willing to help each other with the workload. I have learned so much about soil taxonomy and I can apply it to the landscape while mapping. This detail has made me pay attention to taxonomy and to understand it. Aspect and vegetation are very important out here as well so I've learned a lot about ecological sites from the Range Specialist.

This mapping detail has been a challenge and a great learning experience for me. The people I work with range in ages and have such diverse experiences. Digging holes every day is tough, but humbling. I took the probe for granted!



NRCS Soil Scientist, Kristine Ryan



More from Kristine's mapping detail to Wyoming...





More from Kristine's mapping detail to Wyoming...



Jennifer Wollenweber Assists Minnesota Soil Survey

Lions, tigers, and bears, oh my! Well, maybe more like mosquitoes, ticks, and deer flies, oh my! This summer I was fortunate enough to go on an initial mapping detail for four weeks in Crow Wing County, Minnesota. I joined the two permanent soil scientists on staff in Baxter, MN in addition to three other detailees. The mapping scale was 1:24,000 and individual acre goals were set. While the legend was still a work in progress, several map units and complexes were well established.

The area I was responsible for mapping is covered with glacial deposits either from the Rainy lobe or the Superior lobe from the Late Wisconsinan. The Rainy lobe deposited a brown sandy till and contains basalt, gabbro and other rocks indicating a northeast source. Till from the Superior lobe is red in color and contains rocks derived from the Superior basin (red sandstone, shale, and agates).

While the majority of the U.S. was in severe drought, Central Minnesota was very fortunate to have a wet summer this year. I quickly learned that 20% chance of precipitation really meant 100%, and there would be more rain to the east (where I was mapping). This is wonderful news for producers and landowners; however for a soil mapper it makes the job a little trickier. In the areas I was mapping, not only were the wet areas too wet to access, but some of the dry areas were too. Many roads were closed either due to water over the pavement or because the water had caused severe damage to the road. When my family and friends would tell me how hot and dry it was in Illinois, I felt terrible letting them know that Minnesota was relatively cool and wet.

I had a wonderful time traversing the land, digging holes, and talking to landowners. I became very close friends with my sharp-shooter, auger, and the lower left-hand side of the textural triangle. At times digging was slowed by gravel and/or cobbles. Cobbles ranged from 0-75%, which also proved to be a bit of a challenge, but determination and hard work paid off in the end. I was also fortunate enough to have a few gravel pits located in my area, so I was able to see so much more of the soil profile. I mapped on moraines, outwash plains, wetlands, ice-walled lake plains, eskers, and old iron mines. Some areas consisted of beautiful rolling topography, while others were extremely flat. The moraine units consisted of the more complex topography, often times with small poorly drained pockets/pits.

I did not come across any bears, but saw evidence of them in the area. I did see white-tailed deer, grouse, sandhill cranes, ducks, geese, chipmunks, squirrels, loons, and extremely friendly farm dogs. Oh, and of course mosquitoes, ticks, and deer flies. I found out that these insect bites are actually a fashion statement!



NRCS Soil Scientist
Jennifer Wollenweber
testing out Columbia's
"bug proof" clothing



Beautiful rolling topography

More from Jennifer's mapping detail to Minnesota...



Washed out road/driveway



Road damage due to heavy rainfall in June

More from Jennifer's mapping detail to Minnesota...



Typical day digging!



Nice cobble to get in the way of digging!

Exciting New Phone App

Geocam takes photos using a smart phone/ipad and creates a map in google maps of where the photo was taken, the estimated elevation, the azimuth the photo was taken towards and so on. I see it as being a valuable tool for soil scientists, ecologist, engineers and others in conservation field. You can make pdf reports of these and upload them (see below).

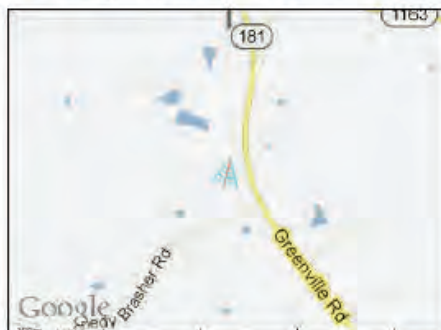
Submitted by Matt McCauley

GeoCam Report

PSV00015.jpg
 5/28/12 4:36 PM
 2012:05:28 21:36 UTC

2313-2669 Greenville Rd, Greenville, KY 42345, USA

	Latitude	Longitude	Altitude	Azimuth	Pitch	Roll
S	N37.174223°±7.00m	W87.153521°±7.00m	144m±7.00	193°±19	-19°±7	-3°±4



↑ GeoObject 6
 so red oak leaves



Using the NRCS Web Soil Survey: Free Public Access to the Nation's Soil Resource Data

The NRCS Soil Science Division has transitioned from its traditional, static soil surveys published in bound hard copy to a more fluid online format that allows NRCS to continually update soil survey data as needed and from which customers can create custom soil survey reports for just their area of interest.



The simple yet powerful way to access and use soil data.



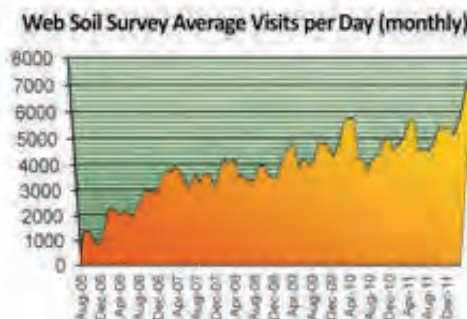
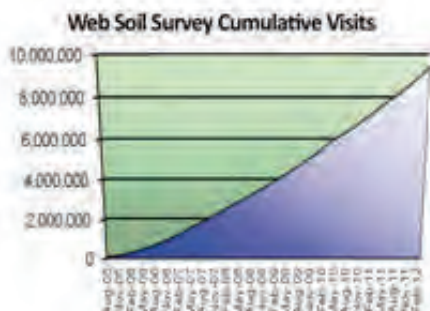
NRCS implemented the Web Soil Survey (<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/>) in 2005. Web Soil Survey allows customers to prepare reports for their particular area of interest, save a digital copy, and/or print a copy. During FY 2010, the first year for which statistics are available, over 135,000 custom reports were developed by customers. In FY 2011, over 155,000 reports were developed. It is anticipated that about 175,000 custom reports will be generated in FY 2012.

Not all users of soil survey information generate custom reports. About 800,000 single-theme reports or interpretive maps were generated in both FY 2010 and FY 2011. In FY 2010, about 1.7 million individuals accessed Web Soil Survey, and in FY 2011, about 1.8 million people used it.

As of February 2012, Web Soil Survey has enjoyed 9.2 million visitors to the site. By not producing hard-copy soil surveys, NRCS has saved the tax payers over 2 million dollars in printing costs.

About 92 percent of private and tribal lands are covered by soil surveys. There are currently 28 soil surveys underway. These soil surveys and maps will be completed in digital format and made available on the Web Soil Survey. In addition to these 28 soil surveys, updates are being done on soil survey data across the country to allow better interpretation of soil behavior for specific uses and for emerging issues, such as climate change and nutrient management.

This online application for accessing soil data permits a more efficient delivery of USDA programs. Updating existing data on an ongoing basis has allowed rapid responses to new demands, including responses to the recent disasters of Hurricane Katrina and the Gulf oil spill.



ISCA Member Charles Love Participates in Mississippi's "Last Acre" Ceremony

Last acre of soil surveyed completes century-old task

By Keri Collins Lewis
MSU Ag Communications

MISSISSIPPI STATE -- Technology may have changed in the 114 years since the national soil survey started, but the dedication of soil scientists engaged in the project has not wavered.

On May 8, partners from Mississippi State University's Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and other natural resources agencies met in Jackson to celebrate the completion of an ambitious project: to map Mississippi's soils on the acre level.

"To map over 30 million acres is a mindboggling scientific and technical accomplishment," said Billy Kingery, MAFES scientist and president of the Professional Soil Classifiers Association of Mississippi. "But it's not simply a map of the soils like a road map. This survey also offers suggestions for the uses of soils -- we call them interpretations -- to address the needs of people in such fields as agriculture, urban development, waste-water treatment and road-building. It's a resource for anyone, anywhere in the world to use any time of day or night. That's a big deal."

Many agencies collaborated to assess the soil types in each county, but the soil scientists who did the field work received special recognition at the celebration.

"The soil survey is not just an effort of NRCS; it's a cooperative effort of Mississippi State University, Alcorn State University, and other state and federal agencies," said Al Garner, acting state conservationist. "But it's the soil scientists, the boots on the ground, who have made this achievement possible. When you open a soil survey, you can see the work of agronomists, engineers, biologists and writers, who have put soil science into layman's terms and made the interpretations user-friendly, so everyone can manage the land to preserve soil and water, our most important natural resources."

Kingery said that the look and feel of soils is the starting place for putting them in a taxonomy.

"You have to put them into groups or classes so there's a system," he said. "Soils have different colors -- some are dark brown, almost black, and some are reddish or yellow. They have layers. That's the beginning of a taxonomy. Some are sandy, silty or clay-based. Red soil tells you iron has oxidized, gray tells you the soil is wet, so now we're into water availability and drainage. Slope or position in the landscape, climate, age, plants and microbes and of course the starting or parent material-- all of these factors influence the formation and properties of soil."

David Pettry, retired MAFES soil scientist, and W.L. Giles Distinguished Professor, said people do not realize the wealth of soils in Mississippi.

"We have eight out of the 12 soil types found in the world, right here," Pettry said. "I call the soil survey a blueprint for destiny -- it shows what we are capable of and where we're going. The key is to keep our efforts in balance and harmony with nature. How are we going to adapt our practices to make sure these resources are available for our children and grandchildren?"

The initial work of the soil survey has been completed, and the next phase of the project will bring together Mississippi's county maps. The original project was laid out by county, but the overall goal is a seamless, national map based on geographic land formations.

"The most important message from this celebration is that our soils are the living foundation of the home and provide for the needs of the household. We should take care of our soils as if our lives depended on them," Kingery said.



Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station soil scientist Billy Kingery (center), State Soil Scientist Delaney Johnson (left), and acting director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Survey Division Charles Love join partners from several natural resources agencies to celebrate the completion of the Mississippi Soil Survey. The 114-year effort mapped over 30 million acres by soil type and appropriate usage. (Photo by MSU Ag Communications/Bob Ratliff)

South Regional National Cooperative Soil Survey Work Planning Conference

The South Regional National Cooperative Soil Survey Work Planning Conference took place in Bowling Green, Kentucky the week of May 21. Midway through the week, participants took a field trip to a research site in MLRA 120 that is part of a soil systems study spanning southern Illinois, southern Indiana, and western Kentucky. Several soil pits were on display, including one in a Hosmer located on the shoulder slope. This pit had an excellent example of a fragipan starting at 99 cm depth, with Roxana loess present from 99-158 cm. To give a better view of the prismatic structure, a long bench was carved into the fragipan (see picture). Matt McCauley, Soil Survey Leader in MLRA 120, who chose the location of the pits and acted as guide for the field trip, called it the “Michael Jordan or Larry Bird” of fragipans. Also pictured below is a shot of all 55 participants, just before we were treated to some homestyle barbeque at the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center.

Submitted by Thomas Rhanor



ISCA and NRCS Holds Field Exam for Soil Scientists

The Illinois Soil Classifiers Association along with the Natural Resources Conservation Service one again hosted a field exam/skills test to soil classifiers and soil scientist. This took place this last June, at Shabbona State Park in Dekalb County.

The exam provides opportunity for each soil classifier to evaluate his or her skills in identifying color, texture, structure, limiting layers, and other basic soil properties.

Thanks to all those who helped to put the event on and to all who attended.





More pictures from the field exam...



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 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 if you have any difficulty in accessing the ISCA Group or if you have any questions or comments.



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Key to the Winter 2012
"Days Gone By" picture:

From Left: Don Wallace, Don Phillips behind Wallace
First Row: Walt Parks, Benny Weiss
Second Row: Dana Grantham, Steve Zwicker, Lon Young
Third Row: Mark Lavan, Steve Higgins

Picture taken by E. Voss June 7, 1975 at ISCA
organizational meeting, Turner Hall, Univ. of IL

Key to this edition's
"Days Gone By" picture:

Far right: Ken Hinkley, Joe Fehrenbacher
First Row: Rex Mapes, Henry Mount
Second Row: Benny Weiss, Wiley Scott, George Walker,
Chuck Frazee, John Alexander
Third Row: Ken Gotsch, Gerry Berning
Behind Gotsch: Gerry Alexander

Picture taken by E. Voss June 7, 1975 at ISCA
organizational meeting, Turner Hall, Univ. of IL

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Submissions

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

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

Publication Schedule

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



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

Days Gone By



Can you identify the soil scientists taken in this 1975 ISCA organizational meeting? Answers to this edition as well as last winter's "Days Gone By" are on page 15.



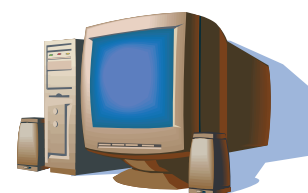
ISCA Newsletter Committee is looking for pictures of it's members, past or present, to include in future newsletters.

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

www.illinoissoils.org

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

Better yet... make it your home page!



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

www.illinoissoils.org/news

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

Change of Address Form

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



Illinois Soil Classifiers Association Newsletter

Fall-November 2012

Upcoming Events:

Council Meeting Dec. 2

Inside this issue:

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Message from the President

It seems like I was just preparing a write-up for the newsletter submission last week, but no, that was actually in August. But, as I look at my calendar, Thanksgiving is just around the corner. Time slows for no one. Within the NRCS, Soil Survey continues to move forward with reorganization. What used to be the Soil Survey Division is now the Soil Science Division. This has resulted in the closure of 26 MLRA and MO offices across the nation, although there has been no impact on Illinois survey offices at this time. It was interesting to note that even though several soil scientists had or have to be relocated to new duty stations, there were more vacant soil scientist positions than displaced individuals. The need for soil scientists still exists and as the agency will be faced with more retirements in the next couple of years, there will be opportunity for aspiring soil science students (assuming government agencies have a budget).

ISCA would like to welcome its newest student member, Kristopher Osterloh. Kristopher is currently a graduate student under the advisement of Dr. Mike Konen at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb. His research is focused on the affects of prairie restoration on dynamic soil properties. Kristopher is also the assistant coach for the NIU soils judging team. He obtained his BS in Earth Sciences from California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo in 2011. Welcome, Kristopher.

I would like thank Jesse Kurylo, Mike Konen, Brandon Curry, and Tim Prescott for an outstanding fall tour this year. The fall tour focused on ice-walled lake plains and ice-wedge polygons in DeKalb County. The tour began with presentation from Mike, Brandon, and Tim at Davis Hall, Northern Illinois University. Field stops were **very informative and interesting. Be sure to check out ISCA's Facebook page to see the photos.**

The Missouri Association of Professional Soil Scientists (MAPSS) likewise did an excellent job of hosting the 2012 Central States Forest Soils Workshop, near Potosi, Missouri, this year. Due to last minute budget discrepancies as the federal government moved into a new fiscal year, about 40 individuals had to cancel their plans for participation, but total attendance was still over 60 participants. The focus of the tour was the development of Ecological Site Descriptions and soil/landscape relationships. Be sure to check out the photos in this newsletter. Well done, Missouri!

Mark Bramstedt has resigned as the Appointee to the State Advisory Committee on Private Sewage Disposal. I have appointed Don Fehrenbacher as the new appointee. Thank you, Mark, for all your hard work!

In closing, there is much to be done in the upcoming year. Plans are underway for the March Annual Meeting and the 2013 Central States Forest Soils Workshop to name a couple. Jesse Kurylo is taking suggestions for speaker topics for the upcoming annual meeting, so be sure to contact her if you have any suggestions (jkurylo@inhs.uiuc.edu). Have a great holiday season, everyone!

Frank Heisner
President ISCA
815-499-4681
President@illinoissoils.org

Dale Calsyn 35 Years of Service with the NRCS

Dale Celebrated 35 Years of Service with NRCS on October 23, 2012!

The Aurora MLRA Staff would like to congratulate Dale for such a great accomplishment. Thanks Dale for all of your hard work.

The following are a few words from Dale's fellow co-workers over the years:

From Steve Elmer: I have known Dale professionally since 1977, when we were part of the Henry County Soil Survey staff together, and later as Major Land Resource Area Project Leaders in northern Illinois. Dale has been one of the most competent, productive, and professional soil scientists that I have ever been associated with in my entire soil science career. It was my privilege to have worked with Dale over the years on the Illinois soil survey. **The early MLRA years in the late 80's and 90's under McLeese were exciting times, and in the process Illinois became a leader in the national MLRA effort.** Dale was a major contributor to the Illinois MLRA effort then, as I am sure he continues to be today. Dale: Congratulations on 35 years in the soil survey world! It may have been a dirty job (literally or figuratively), but I look back on those years as a gift from God. I hope that the memories that you have bring you to the same conclusion.

From Bob Tegeler: I transferred to Henry Co. in 1977, to assist with the Henry Co. Soil Survey. This was the first time that I had met Dale. A few weeks after I arrived, we had a field review. Soil Correlators from the SCS, now NRCS, State Office were in attendance. At one of the field stops, one of the correlators looked at the soil core for that stop, and remarked that he wondered why that soil core looked the **way it did. To that question Dale commented: "God must have wanted it that way". I had never heard anyone make a comment like that to a correlator before that review or since, for that matter. It made me realize that Dale was not afraid to inject a little humor into his work.**

Dale and I attended a NASIS Training Session in Indianapolis. This was our first opportunity to work in the NASIS database. During one of the training sessions, my connection to NASIS crashed and I had to start all over. Fortunately, I was sitting next to Dale. He pulled out his notes and brought me back up to speed. **I had also taken notes during the training, but they were nothing like Dale's. They were highly organized and provided step by step guidance.** This situation was just another indication of the quality of work that Dale has done during his career.

I could discuss the "coffee games" and "Swisher Sweets", but those are stories for another day.



Dale Calsyn (left) receiving a Special Achievement Award in October, 1979 while a member of the Henry County Soil Survey Project (submitted by Steve Elmer)

Dale Calsyn 35 Years of Service with the NRCS

From Jeff Deinger: When Jennifer asked for some stories about Dale I had to sit back and try to remember what funny/bent auger worthy things he did during the 17 years that I was with him. I instant messaged Karla Petges in Juneau, WI to see if she could jog my memory and neither of us could think of any appropriate stories.

What I do remember is Dale was the office ROCK he was always there, rarely took vacations, wasn't very flashy and never really changed. He never yelled, rarely was upset, was always on an even keel and we always seemed to get the work done. We moved the office 3 times and he had 12 different soil scientists on his staff at various times when I was in that office. Most managers would not like the constant change but Dale would just shrug his shoulders, say "Whatever" and go back to his office. **Thirty five years is nothing for Dale's generation (most of which are still active soil scientist with NRCS today) he is good for at least another 20.** Congratulations Dale!



Dale Calsyn (right) soil sampling in Grant Park, Chicago, IL in 1992

Dale Calsyn 35 Years of Service with the NRCS

A Tale about Dale and His Diligence: Submitted by Mark Bramstedt

Dale Calsyn, Eric Engle, Don Fehrenbacher and I were working in Cook County in the early 1990's. The Chicago District of the Army Corps of Engineers had requested a wetland investigation of an area where about five feet or more of rubble had been dumped in the 1950s-1960s. Mark Matusiak (former soil survey employee and ISCA Member) was working for the Chicago District at that time and I think we were at the site at his request. The site consisted of irregular piles of concrete, appliances and other household goods, mixed with soil. This debris had been placed over some low natural dune and swale wetlands of coarse-loamy soils. The irregular piles of soil and fill material created pockets of wet areas that the Corps was planning to take into their jurisdiction as wetlands. (This led into the infamous "wetland in a bucket on a deck" argument with the Corps, but that is a story unto itself.) As one can imagine the scene, the sampling at times was difficult, however all of us continued to do our best. The fill material was hard and dense, so hammering the probe was the only way that samples could be taken. Don and I were working as a pair and Dale and Eric had teamed up. It wasn't too long into the sampling before Don and I heard some commotion from the other team. In the process of hammering, Dale had hurt his hand. Since the fill material was so hard and dense, one had to hold the handle of the probe to keep the probe from bouncing and swaying as it was pounded with the mallet. Either Dale's aim was a little off or he decided to shift his hand to get a better grip. In either case, it was the wrong move to make. Dale pounded his hand against the handle of the probe on that tender stretch of skin between the thumb and the forefinger. Blood started flowing immediately. Dale went to his truck, grabbed his dusty SCS-issued First-Aid kit and applied a series of Band-Aids to control the bleeding. If it hadn't hurt so much, it would have been a little comical as he had applied several ineffective and outdated band-aids on an area that is difficult to cover. Dale wanted to tough it out and finish the job. He tried to continue on with the sampling and took a few more probes, but the bleeding wouldn't stop. His Band-aids wouldn't stay on and his sampling equipment was starting to look a bit disgusting. His hand must have been throbbing and he finally admitted that it would be a good idea to get it checked out and possibly get some stitches. We were however, on the south side of Chicago. Would you go to a hospital on the south side? Dale wrapped his hand and the hanging Band-Aids in an old bandana and finally heeded our comments to go to a hospital. He apologized for causing disruption to the day and for not being able to finish sampling, but gave up and allowed Eric to take him to the hospital. He didn't go to a south side medical center, but with the pressure from the bandana, the bleeding slowed enough that he decided to go to a hospital back near his home. Dale received a tetanus shot and several stitches because of the misplaced blow of the hammer. He sports a small scar on his left

hand as a reminder of this south-side incident and of the pain he suffered. This incident is just an example of the diligence that Dale has for his work in the soil survey program. Congratulations, Dale for your work ethic and the dedication that you have shown for your Uncle Sam these 35 years!



Dale Calsyn (left) soil sampling at Soldier Field, Chicago, IL in 1992

Dale Calsyn 35 Years of Service with the NRCS



Soil Scientists in 1979 (Dale Calsyn first row, 2nd person from the right)



Soil Scientists in 2004 (Dale Calsyn, second row, 1st person from the left)

Dale Calsyn 35 Years of Service with the NRCS



Roger Windhorn and Dale Calsyn enjoying an ISCA field tour in 2006

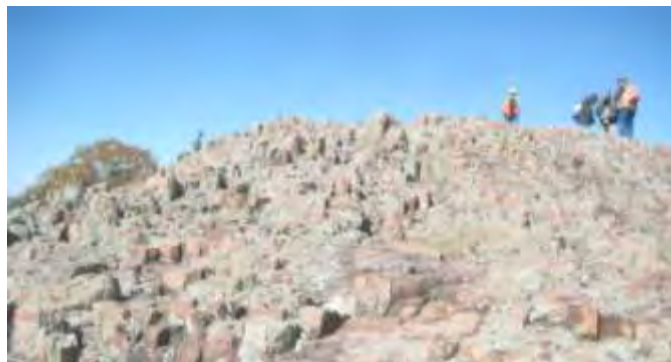


Dale Calsyn sampling the Ashkum OSD site in Will County, 2011

32nd Annual Central States Forest Soils Workshop

Submitted by Doug Gaines
Photographs by Doug Gaines, Frank Heisner and Roger Windhorn

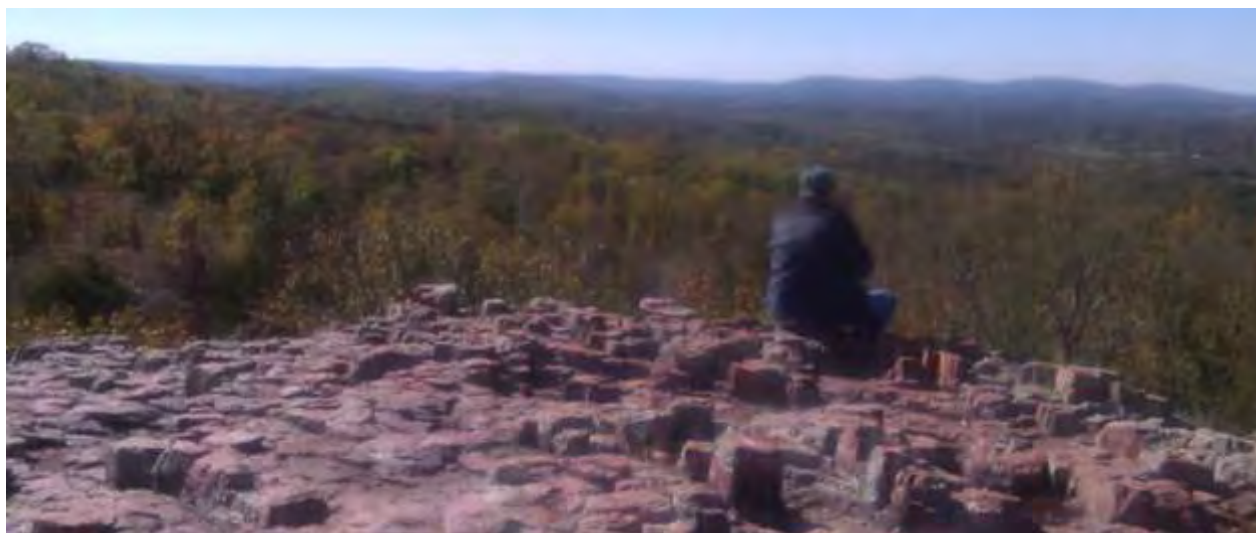
A group of us from ISCA attended the 32nd Annual Central States Forest Soils Workshop in Potosi, Missouri October 9 - 11, 2012.



Hughes Mountain volcanic rock structure

The tour focused on the relationships of the soils and woody vegetation and their respective locations on the landscape (exposed/ protected slope, aspect, etc.) The discussions concerned how to make our woodlands/forests healthier and for what purpose. Dr. Fred Young has been working on a system to identify these different systems of soils/ growth to be used in other areas. We looked at 4 sites in (2) MLRA's. In MLRA 116C we looked at St. Joe State Park and Hughes Mountain and in MLRA 116A we looked at Murray Hill and Long Ridge Conservation Area. Most of the soils were shallow to bedrock and the bedrock ranged from Sandstone, Dolomite, Limestone, to Igneous. The foresters had many discussions over whether or not we were in forest, woodland, or savannah (a term they define differently than we do in Illinois). The soil scientists had many discussions over classification, and horizon designations. None of these discussions got heated and were all solved over a beer or two at the end of the day (right?). As usual, more information was disseminated than I can take in at one time, so I will be digesting for awhile. If someone is interested in looking at the tour book, let me know & I will bring it to the next ISCA gathering.

Next year's 33rd Annual Central States Forest Soils Workshop will be held in Illinois. Ideas are flowing and I believe this next workshop will be exciting and very informative.



View from the top of the Devil's Honeycomb, a rhyolite formation on Hugh's Mountain

32nd Annual Central States Forest Soils Workshop



Sunrise over the lake at Trout Lodge, host facility of the 2012 Central States Forest Soils Workshop



View of the Missouri Ozarks

32nd Annual Central States Forest Soils Workshop



Group Photograph on Hughes Mountain



Ken Gotsch and Roger Windhorn



Frank Heisner and Karla Petges

32nd Annual Central States Forest Soils Workshop



Presentation of a fragipan soil by the Missouri hosts



Doug Gaines has a question regarding soil classification



Doug Gaines and Frank Heisner examine an Ultisol

32nd Annual Central States Forest Soils Workshop



Karla Petges and Doug Gaines listen to a presentation at one of the stops



Frank Heisner (center) tackles his lunch on top the Devil's Honeycomb

2012 Illinois Soil Classifiers Association Fall Tour

Between 25 and 30 ISCA members and guests met at Davis Hall, Northern Illinois University (NIU) on November 10 for the ISCA Fall Tour. Dr. Mike Konen (NIU) and Dr. Brandon Curry (Illinois Geological Survey) gave presentations on ice-walled lake plains and relict ice-wedge polygons, their formation and influence on the soil landscape. Tim Prescott (USDA-NRCS) gave a presentation on the use of LIDAR technology in identifying these features.

The presentations were followed with a tour of 4 stops near DeKalb and Waterman. Soil cores had been pulled from the interiors and rims of the ice-walled lake plains, and a relict ice-wedged polygon site. Mike and Brandon led discussions of the relationships between the geomorphic positions, soil series, and soil stratigraphy at each site on an otherwise subtle landscape.

Thanks to Mike, Brandon, Tim, and the NIU students who helped assemble this year's tour.



Brad Cate enjoys his lunch while Mike Konen discusses the features of an ice-walled lake plain

2012 Illinois Soil Classifiers Association Fall Tour



Above:

The ISCA Tour group
gathers at the first stop

Right:

ISCA members examine
a soil core



2012 Illinois Soil Classifiers Association Fall Tour



Mike Konen leads a discussion of relict ice-wedged polygons



ISCA members examine cores while Mike Konen and Steve Zwicker discuss the depositional properties of the ice-walled lake features

2012 Illinois Soil Classifiers Association Fall Tour



ISCA members enthusiastically examine a soil core



Brandon Curry discusses the stratigraphy of a soil core

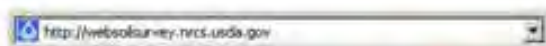


Soil structure in the overlying loess material on a relict ice-wedged polygon



Using the NRCS Web Soil Survey: Free Public Access to the Nation's Soil Resource Data

The NRCS Soil Science Division has transitioned from its traditional, static soil surveys published in bound hard copy to a more fluid online format that allows NRCS to continually update soil survey data as needed and from which customers can create custom soil survey reports for just their area of interest.



The simple yet powerful way to access and use soil data.



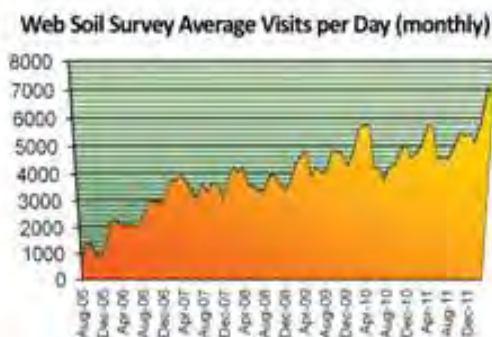
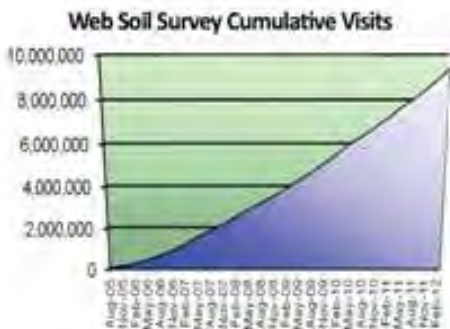
NRCS implemented the Web Soil Survey (<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/>) in 2005. Web Soil Survey allows customers to prepare reports for their particular area of interest, save a digital copy, and/or print a copy. During FY 2010, the first year for which statistics are available, over 135,000 custom reports were developed by customers. In FY 2011, over 155,000 reports were developed. It is anticipated that about 175,000 custom reports will be generated in FY 2012.

Not all users of soil survey information generate custom reports. About 800,000 single-theme reports or interpretive maps were generated in both FY 2010 and FY 2011. In FY 2010, about 1.7 million individuals accessed Web Soil Survey, and in FY 2011, about 1.8 million people used it.

As of February 2012, Web Soil Survey has enjoyed 9.2 million visitors to the site. By not producing hard-copy soil surveys, NRCS has saved the tax payers over 2 million dollars in printing costs.

About 92 percent of private and tribal lands are covered by soil surveys. There are currently 28 soil surveys underway. These soil surveys and maps will be completed in digital format and made available on the Web Soil Survey. In addition to these 28 soil surveys, updates are being done on soil survey data across the country to allow better interpretation of soil behavior for specific uses and for emerging issues, such as climate change and nutrient management.

This online application for accessing soil data permits a more efficient delivery of USDA programs. Updating existing data on an ongoing basis has allowed rapid responses to new demands, including responses to the recent disasters of Hurricane Katrina and the Gulf oil spill.



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 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 if you have any difficulty in accessing the ISCA Group or if you have any questions or comments.



T r a d i n g P o s t

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

FOR SALE: used Giddings rig, Briggs-Stratton eng., mounted on trailer made from 1950 Chevy 3/4 T pickup bed. Needs turret seal replaced. Contact Don Johnson, 217-356-7437 land; 390-4839 cell: [dljohns@illinois.edu](mailto:djohns@illinois.edu)

Thanks, Don Johnson

Key to this edition's "Days Gone By" picture:

Jasper County Soil Survey

Roger Risley, Bryan Fitch, Mark Bramstedt and
Bill Kreznor

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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.

Days Gone By



Can you identify the soil scientists taken in this 1985 Soil Survey Office Photograph
Answers to this edition "Days Gone By" are on page 17.

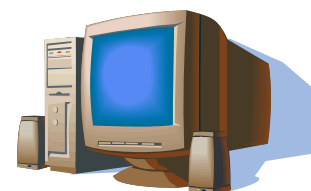


ISCA Newsletter Committee is looking for pictures of it's members, past or present, to include in future newsletters. Submissions can be sent electronically or hard copy to the staff address, see above and left. Please include a narrative for the caption! If hard copies are sent please indicate if they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

www.illinoissoils.org

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

Better yet... make it your home page!



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

www.illinoissoils.org/news

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