

ILLINOIS SOIL CLASSIFIERS ASSOCIATION

ISCA NEWSLETTER
February, 1990

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*For members only

SEPTIC CONTRACTOR'S WORKSHOP

The 16th Annual Septic Contractor's Workshop will be held at the Hob Nob Restaurant on Routes 14 and 31 in Crystal Lake, Illinois. The dates are April 3-4. Anyone interested can contact William Mellen at the Lake County Health Department at 3010 Grand Avenue, Waukegan, IL 6085, phone 312/360-6740.

LOGO CONTEST

There have been several good suggested logos to represent the ISCA. If you have an idea you would like to present, bring it to the annual meeting for consideration of the membership.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Running for President:

Bruce Putman: Bruce was born and raised in Sterling, Illinois and is currently self-employed as a consulting soil classifier in suburban Chicago. He has a B.S. and M.S. degree in pedology from the University of Illinois. Before starting his consulting practice, Bruce taught soil science for two years at Potomac Valley College in West Virginia. Before that he was a soil scientist for six years for SCS and mapped soils in four counties in Illinois.

Robert Darmody: A native of Maryland, is currently the newsletter editor for ISCA and Associate Professor of Pedology at the University of Illinois. He received his Ph.D. in Pedology from the University of Maryland in 1980 and then came to the University of Illinois in 1981 where he now teaches the soil survey program and conducts pedological research.



Certified

ARCPACS AFFILIATED

Vice-President:

William Teater: Currently SCS soil survey leader in Woodford County. Bill was born in Old Wimpole England when his parents were stationed there in the U.S. Air Force. He was raised in England, Germany, Venezuela, and five U.S. states. He has been an SCS soil scientist for 10 years and was a county soil scientist for one year.

Steven Suhl: Steve currently is a SCS soil scientist with the Schuyler County soil survey. He has been with the SCS since January of 1980.

Secretary:

Douglas Gaines: Doug is a University of Illinois graduate. After graduation he joined the Marion County soil survey as a county soil scientist. Currently he is a county soil scientist with the Clinton County Soil Survey.

Laura Merkel: Laura is currently a SCS soil scientist with the Woodford County soil survey. She received her B.S. from the University of Illinois in 1983, and has mapped soils since in three counties in Illinois and one in Virginia. She is an active certified ISCA member and has served on the Constitution, State Soil, and Membership committees.

Treasurer:

G. Ward Lenz: Ward is currently a SCS soil scientist with the Clinton County Soil Survey. Ward has been with the SCS as a soil scientist since March of 1987.

Steven Zwicker: Steve is currently a SCS soil survey leader for the Stark County soil survey. He has been with the SCS since June of 1968.

MIDWEST FRIENDS OF THE PLEISTOCENE

1st Announcement

The 1990 Midwest Friends trip will be held May 11-13, 1990 in the Council Bluffs area of southwestern Iowa. The trip will focus on Holocene alluvial stratigraphy and chronology of small- to moderate-size valleys in the thick loess region of the central Missouri River Drainage. We will also visit three other sites: an exposure of a Plio-Pleistocene alluvial fill sequence buried beneath Pre-Illinoian till, the Loveland Loess Paratype section (where we will discuss new C-14 and TL age determinations and their bearing on Midcontinent loess stratigraphy), and the County-Line Ash Site (Kraft Locality) where the 0.71 Ma Hartford volcanic ash is exposed.

Please circulate and/or post this announcement. A second announcement with registration information will be sent out in March, 1990. For additional information and to receive the second announcement and registration information please send your name and address to:

Art Bettis
IDNR-Geological Survey Bureau
123 N. Capitol St.
Iowa City, Iowa 52242

Sorry I can't attend this year, but keep me on the list for future FOP trips.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

STATE OF THE STATE SOIL

Drummer silty clay loam is on it's way to enshrinement!!

House Bill 2903, designating Drummer silty clay loam as Illinois' official state soil was introduced in The Illinois House by Representative Gordon Ropp on January 9, 1990. The governor mentioned the state soil in his state of the state message, but since then activity in the political arena has been at a stand still. The General Assembly reconvenes to begin serious work in April. So, it won't be till then that the bill will be considered.

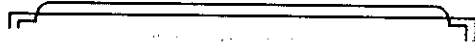
Then is probably no way the bill can make it through the legislative process by April 22, Earth Day. We are working on a proclamation to be signed by the governor on Earth Day, however.

We have received a lot of publicity to date. We've make the newspapers (all across the country, including front page Chicago Tribune and The Wall Street Journal), TV, and radio!! Most stories have been positive! One reporter in Effingham now wants a state weed, and a reporter in Wayne County is campaigning for Cisne silt loam.

We've received about 2 dozen "letters of support" but could use more!!! Please help out here and request local organizations to send a letter of support. You could send a personal one too.

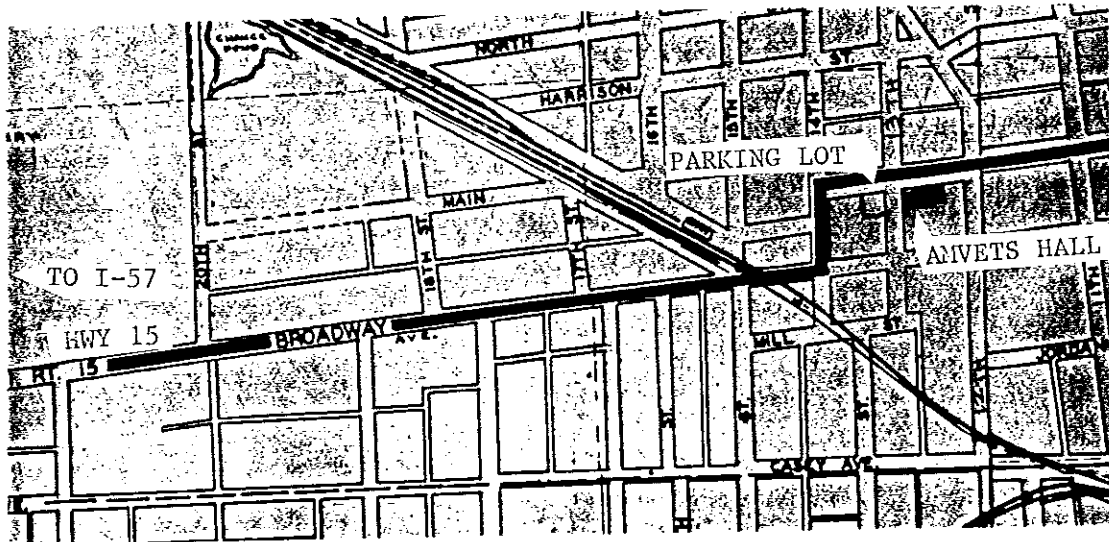
Later this spring we will need to be ready to contact legislators as the bill goes from Committee to House and House to Senate. If you are interested in making these personal contacts, please give Bob McLeese a call (217-398-5286 or 217-762-7697).

EDITOR'S NOTE: I NEEDED SOMETHING NEWSWORTHY TO FILL THIS SPACE.



SPRING 1990 ISCA ANNUAL MEETING PLANS

The 15th annual meeting of the Illinois Soil Classifiers Association will be held on Saturday, March 24, 1990, at the AmVets Hall in Mt. Vernon, Illinois. Exit east from I-57 on Illinois 15 which is Broadway Ave. Follow Broadway east (it is one-way east) into downtown Mt. Vernon. Go left on 12th and after one block go left onto Main st. (which is one-way heading west). The AmVets Hall is on the south side of Main St. between 12th and 13th streets. Parking is available on either 13th st. or a corner lot at 13th and Main sts. (see map). The entrance to the hall is on the east side of 13th st.

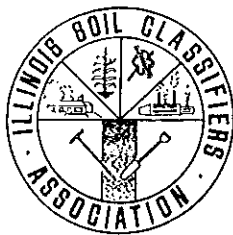


A buffet luncheon will start at 12 Noon. Afterwards, Dr. Jim Richardson from North Dakota State University will speak to us on "Aspects of Wetland Soils, Vegetation, Geology and Hydrology." He will also discuss his work on delineating wetlands as well. Dr. Richardson is well known for his work with Prairie Pothole wetlands of North Dakota. A business meeting will be held following Dr. Richardson's talk.

Make reservations by completing the form at the bottom of the page and returning it along with a \$5 check to cover the total cost by March 17, 1990. Make checks payable to the Illinois Soil Classifiers Association and send to Steven E. Zwicker, 772 Mayfair Dr., Route #6, Princeton, IL 61356.

Please make reservations early. They can be cancelled by notifying Steve Zwicker by noon, March 21, 1990. Telephone numbers to call are: 309-286-7355 (office) or 815-875-2279 (home).

clip and mail



ILLINOIS SOIL CLASSIFIERS ASSOCIATION

ISCA NEWSLETTER

November, 1990

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ISCA ELECTION RESULTS

President-Elect	R.G. Darmody
Vice President	W. Teater
Secretary	L. Merkel
Treasurer	S. Zwicker

HYDRIC SOILS WORKSHOP

ISCA sponsored a workshop on September 27-28 in Carol Stream Illinois. It was well attended and included a field trip to observe hydric soils in the Morton Arboretum. This is the sort of thing that ISCA should be doing. The organizers, Bruce Putman, Don Fehrenbacher, Pat Kelsey, John Tandarich, and Mark Matusiak, should be congratulated.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S COMMENTS

As you can see from the election results, I have been elected ISCA President. I have decided to step down as newsletter editor to allow total freedom of the press and to assure a separation of powers in the ISCA. Having been ISCA editor for five years, I know what power the editor has. I am looking forward to finding out what power the president has. We are currently looking for someone to take over as editor. If you want to be active in ISCA as newsletter editor, or in any other capacity, please call or write me. Thanks to John Doll, John Tandarich, Barb Springer, Judy Stoll, and the contributing membership for help with the newsletter.

ISCA CERTIFICATION BOARD

Following the annual meeting, a meeting of the ISCA certification board was held and new officers were selected. The new makeup of the board is as follows:

G. Ward Lenz	Chairman
William Kreznor	Vice Chairman
Mark Bramstedt	Secretary
Donald Wallace	Member
Emil Kabalek	Member
John Doll	Member



MERKEL TO COLORADO

Laura Merkel, ISCA Secretary, has moved to Colorado to straighten out their soil survey. The Coloradoans knew where to go for help.

STATE SOIL UPDATE

The proposal to recognize Drummer as the Illinois State soil did not pass this year. There was a question raised as to how representative Drummer was of the entire state. There was also a hint that recognizing a state soil was not an important issue. However, Governor James R. Thompson signed a bill that made the square dance the official American folk dance of the state. "Music and dance have played an important role in the lives of Illinoisans from the earliest days of civilization," Thompson said in a statement. See related story below. We did not get a state soil, but we are not unrecognized!

Governor's Endorsement.



STATE OF ILLINOIS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SPRINGFIELD 62706

JAMES R. THOMPSON
GOVERNOR

April 1990

Greetings:

As Governor of Illinois, it is my pleasure to recognize the efforts of the Illinois Soil Classifiers Association.

The State of Illinois is dedicated to promoting natural resource conservation. Soil is one of Illinois' most essential and valuable resources. The welfare of present and future generations and the quality of life of our citizens depend on our land resources and their wise use and proper management. These natural resources are indispensable to the support and growth of a strong and prosperous state.

I am proud, as you should be, of the outstanding service the Illinois Soil Classifiers Association has provided. By informing the public of the vast importance of the soil resources in Illinois, they have been instrumental in urging our citizens to rededicate themselves to preserving one of our richest resources--our fertile, prairie soils. It is a pleasure to have this opportunity to applaud them for their efforts.

On behalf of the citizens of Illinois, please accept my very best wishes and continued success in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James R. Thompson".

James R. Thompson
GOVERNOR

DEMOCRATS TABLE DRUMMER

In a 6-5 vote, the Illinois Senate Agriculture and Conservation Committee tabled the bill (HB 2903) designating Drummer silty clay loam as the state soil of Illinois.

It was strictly a party line vote! Unbelievable!? A few Democratic Senators from southern Illinois questioned the selection of Drummer and convinced the other Democrats to table the bill. Legislative sponsor of the bill in the Senate was Senator John Maitland, a Republican from McLean County.

The bill passed the Illinois House by a near unanimous vote and was sent to the Senate in May. Even though many Representatives considered the state soil bill to be a "joke", the Illinois Soil Classifiers Association was serious in its efforts. We received a lot of publicity and had many opportunities to discuss our soil resources and their importance to the citizens of Illinois.

The bill was sent from the Senate Rules Committee to the Senate Agriculture and Conservation Committee on May 31. The Agriculture and Conservation Committee discussed the bill on June 5 and tabled it.

Our many letters and phone calls to the Senators did not get the job done. In hindsight we should have made personal visits. We'll get it next year.

For more information call Bob McLeese, Chairman, State Soil Committee, Illinois Soil Classifiers Association at 217/398-5286 or 217/762-7697.

*NOTE: IN A LAST DITCH ATTEMPT REP. ROPP AMENDED
SENATE BILL 2171 WITH A STATE SOIL AMENDMENT
BUT, THIS BILL DID NOT PASS EITHER.*

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING
ILLINOIS SOIL CLASSIFIERS ASSOCIATION
MARCH 24, 1990
AM. VETS HALL
MT. VERNON, ILLINOIS

President J. D. Alexander opened the meeting at 12:00 PM. Willey Scott gave the invocation. There were 35 members and their guests present. Dr. Jim Richardson, from North Dakota State University, was the featured speaker. He discussed aspects of wetland soils, vegetation, geology, and hydrology.

The business meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM. Bob Tegeler, ISCA Secretary, summarized the minutes of the last Annual Meeting, and read the Secretary's report of the activities of the past year. The minutes were approved. Steve Zwicker, ISCA treasurer, read the treasurer's report. The balance in account as of March 24, 1990, was \$5755.49. He also reported that the budget report was given to Mark Matusiak, Finance Committee Chairperson, for his audit. Steve mentioned that outstanding bills amounted to \$1300.00. These bills were for printing the newsletters and the short course materials. This leaves a balance of \$4455.00, compared to a balance of \$5195.78 at the last Annual Meeting. The Treasurer's report was approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS - STEVE SUHL, CHAIRPERSON

J. D. Alexander reported that Steve's committee is working on an update of recertification procedures in ISCA. Committee member Doug Gaines, reported that the committee is also examining the possibility of upgrading and maintaining member certification in a manner similar to ARCPACS.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND EDUCATION - BILL KREZNOB, CHAIRPERSON

Bill reported that the major accomplishment of his committee, during the past year, was The Soil Investigations for Wastewater Disposal Short Course. ISCA also continued to be involved in the development of the Illinois State Health Code, relative to on-site wastewater disposal. The code change is in the IL. Register and should be out for review soon. ISCA assisted in organizing the 17th Annual Northern Illinois Private Sewage Disposal Contractors Workshop, to be held on April 3 and 4, 1990, in Crystal Lake IL. ISCA sponsored the participation of Mr. Junkung Ceesay, Soil Management Unit, the Gambia, in the Short Course. A news item relative to the Short Course was submitted to Soil Survey Horizons. Bob Charter of Illinois State University, will be the recipient of 1990 Illinois Outstanding Collegiate Soil Judge Award.

NEWSLETTER - ROBERT DARMODY, CHAIRPERSON

Bob reported that 3 newsletters were prepared and sent to the general membership, and other interested parties since the last Annual Meeting. Ninety-seven members received newsletters at each mailing; and 30 complimentary newsletters were sent at the June and December mailings. Bob also mentioned that the 3 most popular logos, as a result of the voting at the 1990 Annual Meeting, will appear in the next newsletter. Members will then have the opportunity to vote for their choice of one of the 3.

PROGRAM - JOHN TANDARICH, CHAIRPERSON

John expressed a word of thanks to his committee members, and the Public Relations and Education Committee for their efforts during the past year; especially in preparation for The Soil Investigations for Wastewater Disposal Short Course. It was held in conjunction with the ISCA Summer Meeting on Sept. 22 and 23, 1989, in Crystal Lake IL.

CERTIFICATION - DONALD WALLACE, CHAIRPERSON

Fred Awalt, Secretary of the Certification Board, reported that one person was certified as a Professional Soil Classifier, since the last Annual Meeting of ISCA. Presently there is a total of 36 certified soil classifiers, and all have renewed their certification for 1990. Two certified members were made inactive; one by moving out of state and one by changing to retired member status. Fred also reported that seven applications are pending.

J. D. Alexander passed the gavel to incoming President Don Fehrenbacher. Don presented the names of the committee chairpersons.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Robert Tegeler

Robert Tegeler, Secretary, ISCA

The Washington Post

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Lost in the Rhizosphere

FOR THE many people who approach gardening with mingled feelings of hope and despair, the thoughts of Richard W. Zobel might be of some comfort. Mr. Zobel, a plant physiologist for the Agriculture Department, was talking this week at a symposium about his area of study, which is the rhizosphere, the few inches of soil just under the surface where plants take root and their fortunes are settled for better or for worse.

"We don't even begin to thoroughly understand it," said Mr. Zobel, noting that there is too much going on under that patch of back yard to be comprehended with the scientific tools at hand. "Soil physics and chemistry, plant biology and physiology, entomology and microbiology all provide tools, but none of them is designed to work with more than a single microorganism or a single plant at a time." In short, says Mr. Zobel, you know little of the area, six inches to two feet

below the soil's surface is comparable to our knowledge of outer space right now.

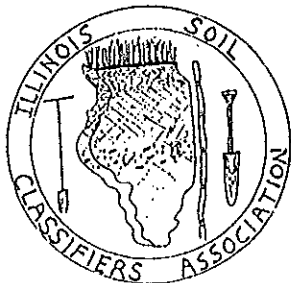
Mr. Zobel thinks this situation may change soon, that science is on the verge of making some important discoveries in the root zone, which would have major implications for world agriculture. In the meantime, and on a smaller scale, all those who have a spot of earth and a spade to turn it may feel uplifted by the thought that they are not simply inept putterers, unable to grow even tomatoes and cucumbers, but rather explorers on man's last frontier: intrepid voyagers on the dirtship Enterprise, bold spirits braving the attacks of nematode worms, insects, gases, microorganisms and various chemicals in strange and dangerous combinations. All this is by way of saying there's no cause for alarm if you should look over the fence this weekend and see your neighbor flourishing his trowel dramatically and calling out, "Onward to the Rhododendron Galaxy—dig me up, Scotty."

LOGO CONTEST

At the last annual meeting there was a straw vote to select a new ISCA logo. The current logo was selected by the membership in 1976, and looks "dated" to some. Below are the most popular nominees, as well as some late arrivals. We can select a final logo at the next annual meeting, or decide to keep the old one.



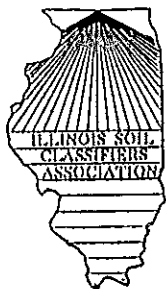
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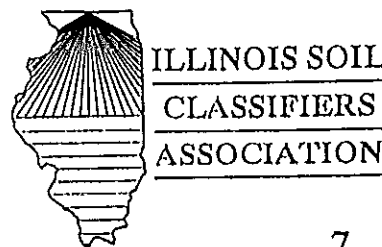
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STATE HEALTH CODE

The Illinois Department of Public Health has released a Notice of Proposed Amendments to the Private Sewage Disposal Code (77 IL Adm. Code 905). The important changes in the code involve allowing certified soil classifiers to evaluate soils for on-site sewage disposal. The code is not as strong as it could be, but it is a major step in the right direction. If you would like a copy of the notice or would like to write a letter expressing your views, contact Mr. Robert John Kane, Administrative Rules Coordinator, Illinois Department of Public Health, 525 West Jefferson, Second Floor, Springfield, IL 62761.

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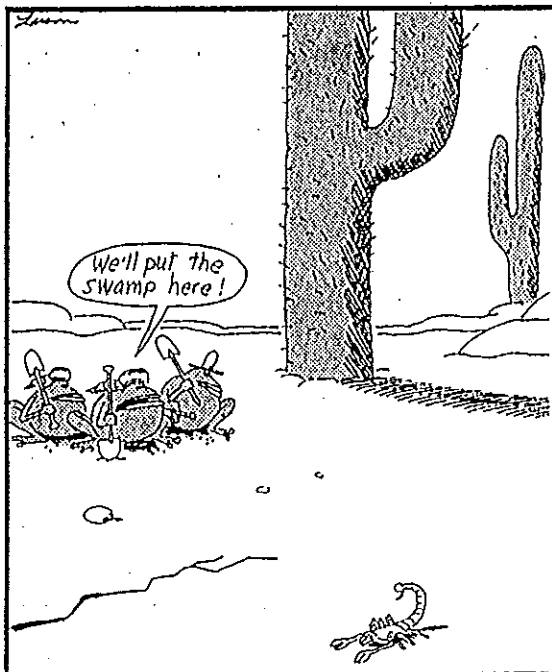
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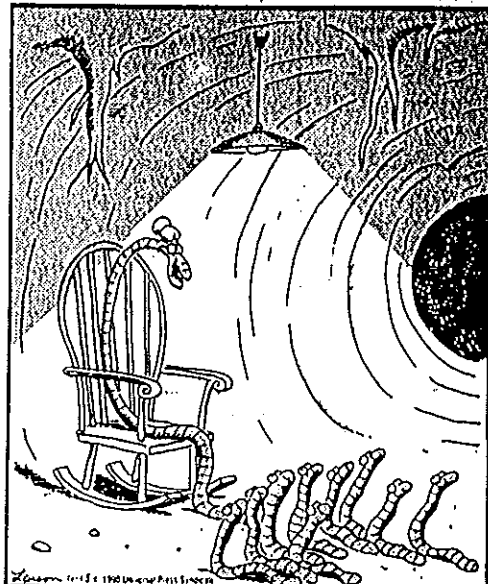
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