

ILLINOIS SOIL CLASSIFIERS ASSOCIATION

6/79
JUNE 1979 NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Now that we have finally settled on a name, we must move on and try to fulfill some of the objectives established when the Illinois Soil Classifiers Association was formed. Although one important objective of the organization was registration, ISCA officers in previous years have found the climate unfavorable for registration. We do have an option available and that option is certification. We currently have the machinery available for certification through the various membership categories. The climate for registration may also become more favorable in the future, but until that time, certification will let the public know that we are professional soil classifiers providing a professional service. A point directly related to the idea of certification is the need for the certified soil classifier to remain current in the field. Other professional organizations have addressed this very problem by requiring some form of continuing education. This is not necessarily a problem at present because ISCA is new and memberships have only recently been assigned. This could become a problem in the future as the organization matures, especially with the expanding use of soil surveys we see today. Wiley Scott, chairman of the Ethics, Registration, and Membership Committee, will be looking at the whole certification approach and would appreciate any comments you might have, both positive and negative.

In regard to the expanding use of soils information, the State of Indiana is in the process of drafting a regulation requiring certification of reported data by a qualified soil scientist. Dan Strahl of the Indiana State Board of Health has requested a list of ISCA members, which I provided in early May. Anyone desiring more information may contact:

Dan L. Strahl, Group Leader
Division of Water Pollution Control
Indiana State Board of Health
1330 West Michigan Street
P.O. Box 1964
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Mike Kiefer,
President, ISCA

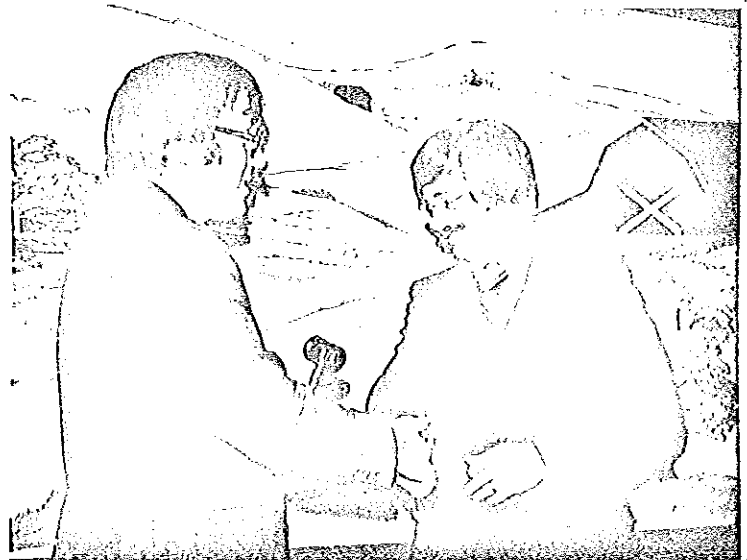
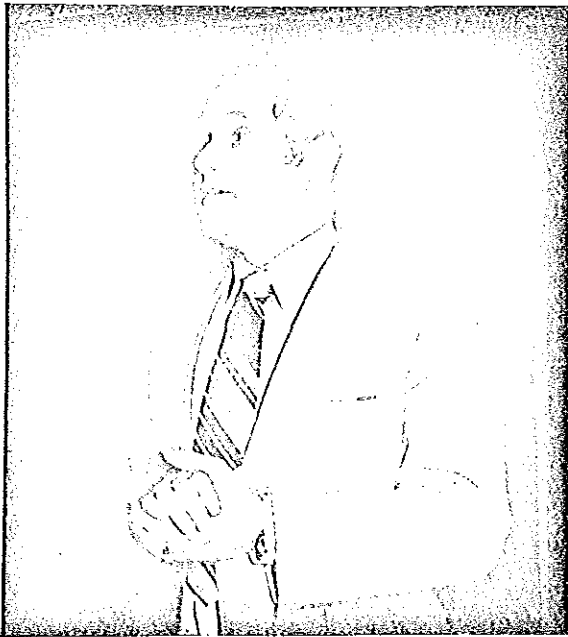
ISCA ANNUAL MEETING

The fourth annual meeting of the Illinois Soil Classifiers Association was held at the Country Inn Restaurant, Champaign, on February 24, 1979. The noon meal was followed by an address entitled "What's in ARCPACS for Us?", presented by Dr. Martin D. Openshaw. The address outlined the history and purpose of ARCPACS- The American Registry of Certified Professionals in Agronomy, Crops and Soils. Dr. Openshaw indicated that ISCA could affiliate with ARCPACS.

A business meeting followed, which included Secretary, Treasurer, and Committee reports.

Among old business, an amendment changing the name of ISCA to the Illinois Pedologists Association was defeated in a vote among the membership. Next President Zwicker reported on his attendance at the December 1978 ASA Meeting in Chaicago.

New business included the announcement of the results of a mail ballot determining ISCA officers for 1979. Two posts were filled. John Paschke was elected President-elect and Tyrone Goddard was elected Vice President. A motion was approved providing \$200.00 toward the attendance of incoming president Mike Kiefer at the August 1979 ASA meeting in Fort Collins, Colorado.



LEFT; Dr. Openshaw, representing ARCPACS. RIGHT; 1979 President Kiefer (left) receiving the gavel from 1978 President Zwicker (right).

NOTES FROM NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE MEMBERS

JERRY BERNING -Dixon

Steve Zwicker, Lee County survey leader, addressed a large group at a private sewage seminar in Dixon on March 27th. The seminar was attended by some thirty contractors, as well as regional and county health department personnel from a six county area. Steve presented information on the physical characteristics of soils which affect the operation of private sewage systems. Those present showed genuine interest in Steve's information. Health department officials emphasized the importance of soil information in planning an effective system for waste disposal. Some counties in northern Illinois which have modern soil surveys use soil information rather than percolation tests to determine the disposal system to use.

MARK BRAMSTEDT -Galesburg

Larry Acker, Area 3 soil scientist, after more than ten years of service in the SCS, resigned April 6th. Larry will be farming and working as a soil consultant. For those who wish to continue correspondence with Larry, his present address is:

1212 Debbie Lane
Macomb, IL. 61455

By mid to late summer, he can be reached at:

RR #2
Summerhill Road
Polo, IL. 61064

(815) 946-2546

Good luck, Larry!

KEN GOTSCH -Jacksonville

Leonard Lewis joined the Morgan-Scott survey team in March. He is employed by Morgan County. He has a B.S. in Agriculture, Western Illinois University, 1976.

Scott Martin keeps boring down five feet in Tama and Ipava soils thinking he will find bedrock!

Surveying operations are being conducted by the Topographic Division of the U.S.G.S. in parts of Morgan, Scott, Cass, Sangamon, Greene, and Macoupin Counties. The result will be updated, larger-scale, topographic maps.

CLIFF MILES -Carbondale

Supplement G. No, it is not an additive to feed; but it looks like it might be an additive to some work loads.

Supplement G is an attachment to the Application for Surface Disturbance Mining Permit established by the Illinois Department of Mines and Minerals. It was just issued in March.

The supplement has to do with Prime Farmland restoration. It requires the applicant to include a description of the original undisturbed soil profile. Data to be included is the depth and thickness of each horizon, bulk density of each major horizon, texture analysis of each horizon, and the pH and fertility of the surface horizon.

So, it looks like the coal companies will be doing a lot more soils work, but I wonder where the on site soil descriptions and such will come from?

HENRY MOUNT -Champaign

Members of ISCA certified by ARCPACS include:

Henry Mount
Wiley Scott
Earl Voss
Steve Zwicker

The above list does not include those ISCA members currently making application for certification.

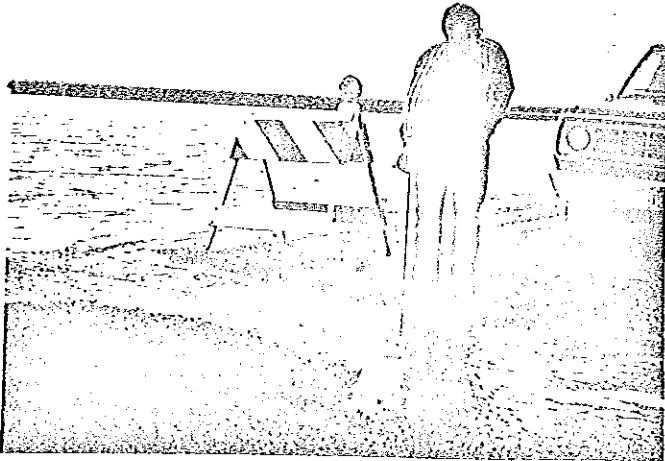
Let's hope several members attend the ASA annual meetings in Ft. Collins, Colorado. They will be held August 5-10 on the beautiful campus of Colorado State University at the foothill of the Rockies. This is an excellent opportunity to combine a business trip with a vacation for the whole family.

JACK PASCHKE -Kankakee

If you receive AGRONOMY NEWS, be sure to read the article on page eight of the March-April issue. Then pass it on to any of our members who do not receive it. This article really puts our position on recognition out in the open. Do we have to continue to be denizens of the back room, allowed out only when we are needed? The process of being recognized as a professional group is slow, as we all know.

For a starter on recognition, what about ideas for some form of clothing or dress that would be exclusively "Illinois Soil Classifiers"? Perhaps the most logical item would be a cap or hat of a certain style or color. Talk it over, and let your ideas be known.

MIKE WALKER -Watseka



Iroquois County soil scientists went out on a LIM last spring. Conducting LIM, which is an erosion inventory and monitoring project being undertaken nationwide by SCS, can be difficult. The photo at left shows a road and a stream sharing a common point on the landscape; a situation easily documented on a LIM form but not easily negotiated by a truck.

John Pearse is assigned as a SCS student trainee with the Iroquois County Soil Survey, beginning June 3rd. He is attending the University of Illinois.

IRENE WATTERSON -Edwardsville

We have a new soil scientist working with us on the Madison County Soil survey. Randy Moore, who lives in Granite City, joined the survey team in mid-March.

Randy graduated from the University of Illinois last December. He received his Bachelor's Degree from the Department of Agronomy, where he specialized in soils.

The Bond County Soil Survey has a new soil scientist on the team also. He is Steve Ellis. Steve studied at Southern Illinois University, where he received his Bachelor's Degree in Forest Resource Management in 1976. He then attended graduate school at Northern Illinois University. His Master's Degree is in Natural Environmental Systems.

For his thesis, Steve studied the relationship between new terminal growth of Northern Red Oak saplings and the thermal environment, including the soil.

As we all know, the current tax assessment law in Illinois requires that farmland be assessed, in large part, on the basis of its soil productivity. Washington County, whose current soil survey dates back to 1937, will have an updated general soils map for this purpose sometime this fall.

Don Wallace, soil scientist with the Southwestern Illinois Metropolitan Planning Commission (SIMPC) in Collinsville, is in charge of developing this map and the tract productivity data.

About six months ago, the planning commission signed an agreement with the Washington County Board to develop a soil map which could be used for assessment of rural lands. In addition, SIMPC will be using its elaborate computer system to plot, measure, and calculate tract productivity indexes for each individual farm ownership. Circular 1156, issued by the University of Illinois, is the source of productivity data.

Don Wallace, who was a soil scientist with SCS before retiring last July, stresses that the maps are being generated for tax assessment purposes only; they "do not take the place of a detailed soil survey", he says.

In developing the new map, Don and his staff have used the soil survey map published by the University of Illinois. This soil information was spot-checked in the field, updated, and correlated to the current legend. The soil lines were then drawn on 7.5' topographic maps of the county. Finally, the soil information was transferred onto aerial photographs flown in 1978.

I asked Don to tell me also about the special project they are now doing for Madison County at SIMPC. He said that a contract has been signed at the end of March between the Madison County Board and the planning commission. The agreement is that SIMPC will measure and calculate tract productivity indexes for Madison County to be used for tax assessment. This will be based on the detailed soil survey SCS is currently conducting in the county. In fact, the first batch of completed soil maps is now on its way to the planning commission in Collinsville to begin the project.

An electronic planimeter will be used to plot and measure the acreage by soil mapping unit. The soil information, acreage, and soil productivity will be entered into a computer file by parcel of land. The computer will calculate tract productivity indexes. A printout will then be generated by land parcel showing total acreage, acreage by

soil type, acreage by land use, productivity index, and tract productivity index.

The whole set-up will be completed and ready to go as the soil survey is completed and all the mapping units are correlated.

I asked Don how he enjoys his work at SIMPC. "It's a lot of fun!" he said. "I can see how the work all of us do in the field is being used."

It all sounds exciting to me, and I promised myself to visit Don at his SIMPC office soon to see the computer project firsthand.

ISCA DIRECTORY

The Public Relations and Education Committee is thinking of publishing a "Directory of Professional Soil Classifiers". This 'Directory' will include a list of all members and associate members in the ISCA. In addition, it will include a 'message' from our President and a statement of the purpose of our organization, i.e., "wise utilization of our greatest natural resource 'soil', etc." This 'Directory' will then be mailed to appropriate federal, state, and local officials throughout the State, as well as educators in various colleges and universities and major private companies. It will inform them of who we are, what we do, and where we are located. If you wish to have your name appear in the 'Directory', please complete the following form and return it before July 5, 1979.

Send to: Chris Cochran, Chairman
Public Relations and Education Committee, ISCA
2302A Melrose Drive
Champaign, IL. 61820

NAME: _____ TITLE: _____

EMPLOYER: _____ EMPLOYER ADDRESS: _____

COUNTY: _____ BUSINESS PHONE: _____ HOME PHONE* : _____

HOME ADDRESS* : _____

ASSOCIATE MEMBER: _____ MEMBER: _____ OTHER: _____

*optional information

Only those submitting this form will have their names published. All others will be thought to wish anonymity.

MEETING REMINDER

The ISCA summer meeting is scheduled for September 8, 1979 at pavillion #1 of Lake-of-the-Woods near Mahomet, Illinois. In addition to a noon picnic, a short business meeting and recreational activities are set.

ILLINOIS SOIL CLASSIFIERS ASSOCIATION
c/o Mike Walker
P.O. Box 72
Watseka, IL. 60970



Leon Follmer
1208 W. William St.
Champaign, IL. 61820