

The Burton W. Ray Scholarship Award in Soil Science

The ***Burton W. Ray Scholarship Award in Soil Science*** was developed in 1984 by the Illinois Soil Classifiers Association (ISCA) in honor of ***Burton Wiley Ray***, a charter member of ISCA. Professor Ray, a graduate of the University of Illinois, began his career as a soil scientist in 1946 with the Soil Conservation Service and later with the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering. In 1948 he joined the Illinois Soil Survey as a Research Assistant of the Department of Agronomy at the University of Illinois. He was made Assistant Professor of Pedology in 1960 and Associate Professor of Pedology in 1970.

Professor Ray was associated with the Illinois Soil Survey for more than 35 years and during that time served as soil survey leader in McHenry, Carroll, and Stephenson counties. In 1965 he spent part of a year on soil survey investigations in India. In later years he worked throughout the state of Illinois in soil correlation and soil survey quality control. Also during this period he conducted research on many Illinois soils which led to better management and conservation, and higher productivity of Illinois soils. He was author and co-author of many scientific papers and bulletins pertaining to the soils of Illinois.

Professor Ray was a dedicated teacher. He enjoyed teaching, working with, and advising students. He taught the course Agronomy 301 – “Soil Survey – With Emphasis on Illinois Soils” for more than 13 years. Three times during his career he was given the “Outstanding Agronomy Instructor” award. He advised several graduate students in addition to his undergraduate teaching program.

Burt Ray was a charter member of the Illinois Soil Classifiers Association. He was a tireless worker in the organization and he served in some official capacity from the inception of ISCA until his death in 1980.

The ***Burton W. Ray Scholarship Award in Soil Science*** is given in his memory to a college student who is enrolled at an Illinois college or university and who has achieved the highest individual score in the regional collegiate soil judging contest for that year. The winner of the award receives a check for \$1000 dollars and his/her name is engraved on a traveling plaque which should be displayed prominently in an appropriate area at the university/college of the winner. Send qualifying materials to the ISCA Public Relations and Education Committee.

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Award Application

Date: _____

Student's Name _____

Address _____

University, College, or Jr. College attending _____

Date enrolled _____

Advisor's name and address _____

Number of semesters or quarters completed _____

List of soils courses taken for credit _____

Region 3 Contest Location _____

Applicant's Individual Contest Score _____

Signature of Advisor _____