



# Illinois Soil Classifiers Association Newsletter

Summer — August 2023

## Upcoming Events:

ISCA 2023 Fall Meeting October 7<sup>th</sup>

## Inside this issue:

Message From the President	1
Farm Progress Show Thank You	2
NCSS Career Achievement Award Recipient Ron Collman	3—4
Update from PR&E Committee	5
58th Friends of the Pleistocene Field Conference Recap	6—10
Soil Science is Everywhere!	11—13
An Interview with Bob McLeese	14
2023 Fall Meeting Details	15—20
ISCA on Social Media	21

## Message from the President

Hope all of you are healthy, happy, and enjoying summer! Summers go too fast and this one is following course. My main message regards our upcoming Fall Meeting. We have 4 very educated and excellent speakers lined up for you who will be giving a joint presentation on their studies and experiences with the geology and soils of Jo Daviess County. One result of their past work and research is the Jo Daviess County Karst Features Database which maps and identifies geologic features which are of foremost importance to the safety of the region's groundwater. They will talk about how the database and geologic knowledge of the county has and will be used to make wise land use decisions. This should be of great interest to all of you who live or work in areas where limestone bedrock is close to the surface.

I know Jo Daviess County is a long way away for many ISCA members-my apologies for that but think about making a weekend out of it. Galena and the surrounding area are one of the most scenic parts of our state. Fall colors should be excellent. A block of rooms is available in Savanna, which is just to the south of the county, at the Savanna Inn and Suites. You can book a room, while they remain available, for either Friday or Saturday nights, or both.

You will also be able to catch up with some old friends who have moved on to work in Wisconsin or Iowa. Soil Scientists from both states have been invited to attend. We will also likely have farmers in attendance from a group which speaker and local resident Beth Baranski helps lead who are focusing on agricultural practices that improve both water quality and soil health. We will be able to learn a lot from this group, as well as our speakers.

One of those farmers is Greg Thoren. Greg is a very progressive farmer who is willing to try new practices. He has been conservation farming for many years now and he is seeing results in the soil, and with his bottom line economically. We will be viewing soils in at least several pits on some of Greg's land in the afternoon. Greg will inform us of his agricultural practices and of the results he is seeing.

Lastly this will be a free meeting for all members of ISCA. Come for free lunch and some CUE's if for no other reason than that.

See more information about the Fall Meeting and our speakers in the newsletter.

Thanks, and hope to see you on the 7<sup>th</sup>!

Bob Oja

## 2023 Farm Progress Show Volunteer Thank You!

Submitted by Bob Oja

### Thank You 2023 Farm Progress Show Soil Pit Volunteers

Just wanted to give a big Thank You to the following individuals who will be volunteering their time and talents in manning the Soil Pit at the Farm Progress Show this year. Those volunteering are Liz Miernicki, Bob McLeese, Brandon Mueller, Bill Kreznor, Dalton Williamson, Bob Oja, Scott Wiesbrook, Ron Collman, Ashtyn Stufflebeam, Rick Francen, Scott Wegman, and Liz Miernicki. Mentioned Liz twice on purpose as she was kind enough to take on two separate time slots. Thank you, Bill Teater, for being willing to be a last-minute fill-in if needed. Thanks to Ron Collman and Troy Fehrenbacher for planning to get the pits dug and filled in, tickets sent out, and for all the coordinating efforts they do each year to make this happen. Thank you, Treasurer Bob Tegeler, for taking care of getting checks sent out. The Farm Progress show will be Tuesday, August 29<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, August 31<sup>st</sup>.

## Career Achievement Award—Ronald Collman, USDA-NRCS, Illinois State Soil Scientist

Submitted by Mark Bramstedt

Ron Collman studied at the University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign, graduating with a B.S. in Agriculture-Agronomy\Soils in 1989. He began with initial soil survey as a Missouri Department of Natural Resources soil scientist (SS) in Madison County in 1990. Ron familiarized himself with several software tools and databases including the Pedon input codes, Pedon Description Glossary, Basic, DOS, and R-Base. We had one DOS based computer with Word and Lotus 1,2,3. We printed to a dot matrix printer and mailed hardcopies.

In 1993, Ron trimmed his mullet and began working for the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in a satellite field office attached to the Springfield, Illinois Major Land Resource Area (MLRA) working on the Adams County Update.

Ron worked during the “Great Flood of 1993” to identify geologic materials and locate the base of road slides and mapped sediment and wetlands. Ron bought a top of the line “Pentium” computer and started updating Unix based tools to Microsoft 3.1 OS and MS-Works. Ron worked to develop a transect database with collection forms using Microsoft Access and a field ruggedized 386 tablet computer. Hundreds of transects and descriptions to support the update were completed. Ron expanded his computer knowledge to include UNIX, Windows, Excel, and Access. Illinois adopted an MLRA update concept and established 5 MLRA offices across the state each with a Project leader, additional soil scientists, and a GIS specialist. We saw SCS become NRCS, SSD become NASIS, Imagery become Ortho-rectified, Internet was via modem, and Windows 95 and Netscape were top of the line.

In 1997, Ron transferred to the Charleston, Illinois MLRA. He helped finish up the hand compilation of the Adams County Update and then moved on to work on the Champaign, McLean, and Crawford County Updates and compilation. Ron became project leader for the Douglas, Clark, and Macon County Updates and main author of the manuscripts. He developed Excel spreadsheets that incorporated NASIS data and provided a method of checking the data against OSD ranges, lab data, and similar map units and parent materials. This pre-dated many of the checks, validations, and calculations we have now in NASIS. Initially, these spreadsheets were just used for a single MLRA subset, but use soon expanded to check statewide data and make join tables for interpretation maps.

His efforts led to promotion to Asst. State Soil Scientist in 2007. During this time, Ron participated in field reviews and correlations, assisted with EM and GPR studies, rapid carbon assessment, reviewed and edited many manuscripts, administered the Illinois NASIS data, developed more Excel tools to produce correlation documents, and made statewide property and interpretive maps for soils and ecological sites, assisted with training, supported sampling efforts and special studies using KSSL protocols, backhoe operations, became quite good at NASIS input, interpretations, queries, and data review; and navigated the National Soil Survey Handbook, Soil Survey Manual, Fieldbook for Describing and Sampling Soils, and Taxonomy. After a detail to New Mexico as acting State Soil Scientist, Ron Became State Soil Scientist for Illinois in 2012.

(continued on next page)



## Career Achievement Award—Ronald Collman, USDA-NRCS, Illinois State Soil Scientist

Submitted by Mark Bramstedt

Through CESU and other Agreements and Contracts, the Illinois NRCS Soils and GIS team has been able to acquire, process, and create LiDAR derivatives; archive LiDAR, imagery, and soils data; use supercomputing to analyze LiDAR data, complete FSA compliance slide scanning and soils document scanning with university students; develop sampling plans for dynamic soil properties and analysis, establish outdoor soil classroom pits at the U of I, and design and purchase probe trucks and other remote sensing and sampling equipment.

Ron continues to support soil judging, sampling for soil health and dynamic soil properties, sampling at climate stations, reviewing ESDs and data, soil interpretations including Illinois linked productivity, delivering educational outreach and recruitment, work with Illinois Soil Classifiers Association, participate with Soil Business Area Analysis Group, and provide basic soil, soil health, and hydric soils training. He maintains section 2 of the Illinois eFOTG and the Illinois NRCS Soils website, is state climate liaison, and administers Natural Resources Inventory (NRI), and the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA).

Ron has 31 years as a soil scientist. In that time, he has participated in initial, update, and order one mapping, collected monoliths for the Smithsonian and helped set up the soils display at the St. Louis Science Center, correlated state and MLRA legends, and aided numerous cooperators and Universities. Ron has been Acting Asst. State Conservationist (ASTC) for Field operations and ASTC for Compliance and Appeals. He has had the pleasure of working with many exceptional individuals and teams in the SSD\SPSD and NCSS.

Ron's goals before he retires are to update the "Keys to Illinois Soils," produce a digital archive of documents and imagery, convert some of the in-person soils training to online versions, and continue to assist partners of the NCSS. Ron is also working towards his M.S. Degree. Ron's family includes Sara, his wife of 22 years, Nicholas, recent high school graduate; Zach, stationed at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, his wife Kinzie and two grandkids; and Matt, stationed at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, his wife Kassie and three grandkids. Ron attributes his successes to family, those who came before, have supervised, trained, and worked with him; being able to adjust to change, and his stubbornness.

The article can be found at the following link:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/natural-resource-concerns/soil/2023-ncss-awardees>



## An Update from the Public Relations and Education Committee

Submitted by Ashtyn Stufflebeam

As previously mentioned in the president's message by Bob Oja in our last newsletter, the PR&E Committee has been focused on how we can get more students involved in ISCA. At the last council meeting, PR&E Chairperson, Ashtyn Stufflebeam, had presented a proposal to offer a scholarship to student members for being active in ISCA. This brought on some great discussion and after making some edits to the original proposal, it was approved. Before approving the new scholarship, ISCA Council members have decided to raise the Burt Ray scholarship award to \$1000, doubling it from the previous amount of \$500.

In addition to the Burt Ray Scholarship, the new Student Member Scholarship is part of a student recruitment plan. We are hoping this scholarship will encourage students to join ISCA and become involved in our meetings and activities. Every year at our annual business meeting we will award this scholarship to a student who meets the following criteria listed below

To be eligible to win the scholarship the student must:

- be enrolled full time in an accredited Illinois or neighboring institution
- Major in soil science or related program (is on track to complete 15 credit hours of soil science required to be a soil scientist)
- Is currently enrolled or has already completed a minimum of 3 credit hours of soil science
- Maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Is a student member of ISCA, with dues paid
- Is present at the annual meeting to accept the scholarship

Any student members meeting the scholarship requirements will be entered in a drawing to win the scholarship. Each time a student member submits an article to the newsletter or attends a meeting, an event or workshop, their name will go in the drawing for a chance to win the scholarship. The drawing will take place during the annual business meeting.

Student recruitment flyers will be sent out at the beginning of the fall semester to junior colleges and universities offering a soil science course or a related program. This flyer will include information about ISCA membership and an "invite" to our fall meeting.

The PR&E Committee has been working to compile a list of colleges we would like to send our recruitment flyers out to, however if you have any suggestions or contacts please send them our way. Email Ashtyn Stufflebeam at [ashtyn.stufflebeam@usda.gov](mailto:ashtyn.stufflebeam@usda.gov) with any colleges/contacts you would like to be included.

## 58th Friends of the Pleistocene Field Conference Recap

Submitted by Liz Miernicki

A few ISCA members attended the 58<sup>th</sup> Midwest Friends of the Pleistocene Field Conference back in May. Members traveled to Roscommon, Michigan to learn about the glacial and postglacial history of the Houghton Lake Basin. I've highlighted a few excursions below.

### Stop 1 – Introduction to the Houghton Lake Basin Landscape

Our first stop was atop the North Higgins Lake Ridge. Here, we listened to discussion about the Mackinac Lobe while viewing the Coy Ridge to the north of us. Below is an excerpt from the conference guidebook put together by Schaetzl et al.:

“The advancing Mackinac Lobe formed seven high ridges of stratified sand and gravel, presumably during stillstands where the subaqueous glacial margin was grounded in Glacial Lake Roscommon. These ridges typically have a steeper, ice-contact face on their N and E sides. Sedimentary structure data on crossbeds and climbing ripples within outwash and lacustrine sediments in these ridges have been used to suggest meltwater flowpaths; these flowpaths are almost always to the west and/or south.”

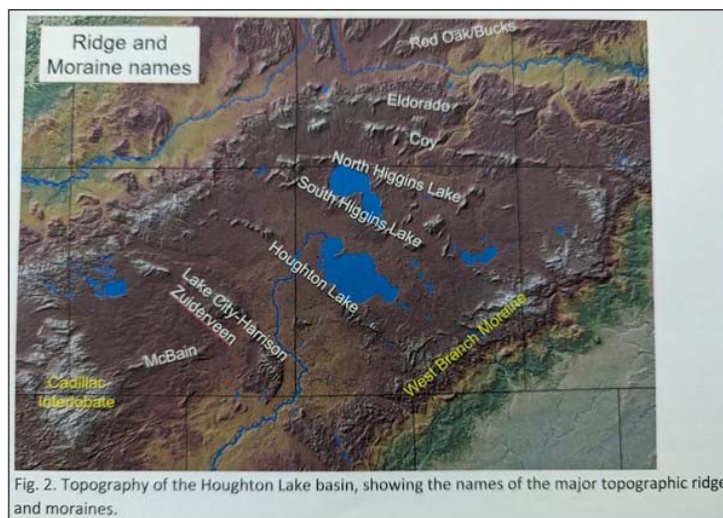


Figure from the conference guidebook



Facing north overlooking Coy Ridge



## 58th Friends of the Pleistocene Field Conference Recap

Submitted by Liz Miernicki



**Stop 2.** We were happy to see a soil pit on the first day. Scott didn't hesitate to jump in!



**Stop 2.** Based on the Soil Web Mobile App, the soils in the area were mapped Udipsammments.

## 58th Friends of the Pleistocene Field Conference Recap

Submitted by Liz Miernicki

### Stop 3 – Fine-textured Lacustrine Sediments & Armored “Mudballs”

At various sites within the Houghton Lake Basin, it's not uncommon to come across armored mudballs in outwash sediment. These geological oddities form in flowing water. They consist of fine-textured sediment and become coated in other particles like gravel or coarse sand as they move with currents. Extra care was needed when moving the mudballs from the vehicle to where the group gathered for discussion due to their fragility.



**Stop 3.** An exposure of stratified lacustrine sediment underlain by sand.



## 58th Friends of the Pleistocene Field Conference Recap

Submitted by Liz Miernicki

### Stop 4 – The Porath Pit

The Porath Pit is located within the Houghton Lake Ridge and is dominated by sandy and gravelly sediments. The lithology of the pit had high amounts of Gowganda Tillite and Jasper Conglomerate. Pictured below are the beautiful layers of alternating laminar sand and gravelly outwash .



## 58th Friends of the Pleistocene Field Conference Recap

Submitted by Liz Miernicki

### Stop 11 – Sand dunes of the Houghton Lake Basin & an Unexpected Visitor

The last stop of the conference was within a sand dune field named the Rosco Dunes. These dunes were situated on a sandy (but currently forested) plain just east of the Muskegon River valley. While discussion was wrapping up, attendees noticed movement on top of one of the dunes (see below).



Never thought we would have a Bigfoot encounter!



## Soil Science is Everywhere!

Submitted by Mark Bramstedt

On a recent trip to the West, I was astounded to see Soil Science visible in unexpected places. In the Theodore Roosevelt National Park (TRNP) in North Dakota, one of the lesser visited parks in the country and a North Dakota version of the Badlands National Park in South Dakota, soil science features are on display everywhere. The first that I noticed of course, is that the “badlands” are an extreme example of soil erosion. Features of sheet, rill, and gully erosion are pronounced in a beautifully bizarre landscape, showing stratification of sedimentary deposits from long ago. Just a broad view of the landscape is a classroom of soil science in action.



Specific soil features were also evident in the park. We have all seen small concretions in the soil as we have described soil profiles. However, in the North Unit of the park, there is a display of Cannonball Concretions. In comparison to Illinois, these concretions are huge! The roadside sign describes the features as:

“Cannonball Mystery - The large, round rocks littering the ground and protruding from the butte are bizarre. They don't seem to fit with the rest of the landscape. Where did they come from?”

These ‘cannonballs’ were not carried here by flowing water or glaciers. Instead, they formed within the sediment layers of the badlands. Now, erosion is slowly exposing these buried treasures. Notice how some cannonballs have completely eroded out of the butte while others are just being exposed. Even more lie deep within the rock layers, yet to be revealed.

How Do They Form? Mineral-rich water deposits minerals as it seeps through porous sediment layers. The minerals act like glue, binding the sediments together and forming concretions.

Concretions form in many different shapes and sizes. Those that are spherical are called “cannonballs.” For now, scientists can only guess why some concretions take on such spherical shapes.”



## Soil Science is Everywhere!

Submitted by Mark Bramstedt

Clay mineralogy is also highlighted in TRNP. The many stratifications of sediment show deposits from thousands of years ago. Some of the exposed layers are deposits of Bentonite.



Wherever the roads in the park crossed over the bentonite layers, the pavement was replaced with gravel and the road was all bumpy and hummocky. Of course, as soil scientists, we know that bentonite is an expansive clay that shrinks & swells upon drying & wetting and that it is used in Illinois to seal wells and the bottoms of ponds. So, it's no wonder that the roads fail as it crosses over the bands of bentonite!





## Soil Science is Everywhere!

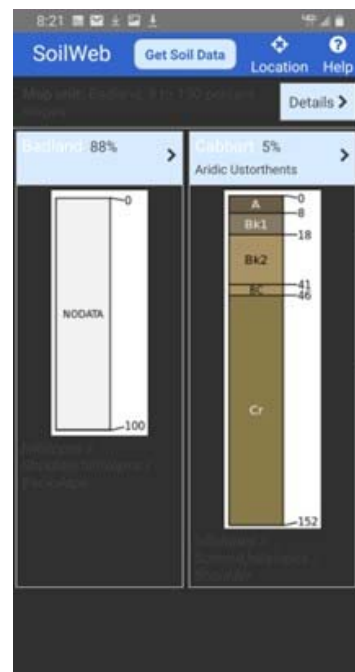
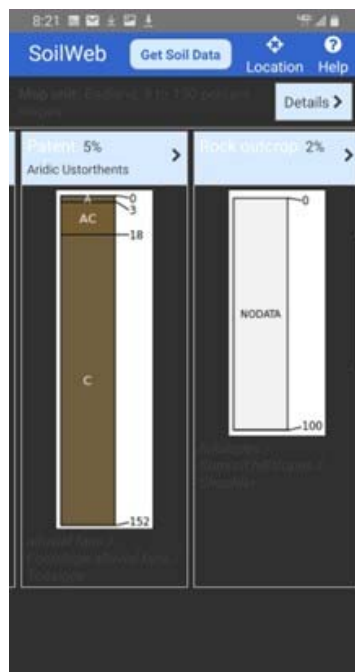
Submitted by Mark Bramstedt

Further on, near Lowell, Wyoming, I came across a bentonite plant out on the open range!



Back in TRNP, one of the first things I did, of course, was to use the “SoilWeb” app (from the California Soil Resource Lab, UC Davis). Even in the areas of the park that had no cellular service (most of the park), I was able to connect with the SoilWeb app. Here’s what I found: 88% was mapped as “Badland” (no data), 5% as Cabbart (Aridic Ustorthents), 5% as Patent (Aridic Ustorthents), & 2% as Rock Outcrop (no data). 90% of the mapped soils had No Data, which sort of reminded me of mapping in the City of Chicago, where 533 Urbanland (no data) was the major component!

So, when you are out and about, keep your eyes open for examples of soil science. The examples of soil science are exposed everywhere!



## An Interview with Bob McLeese

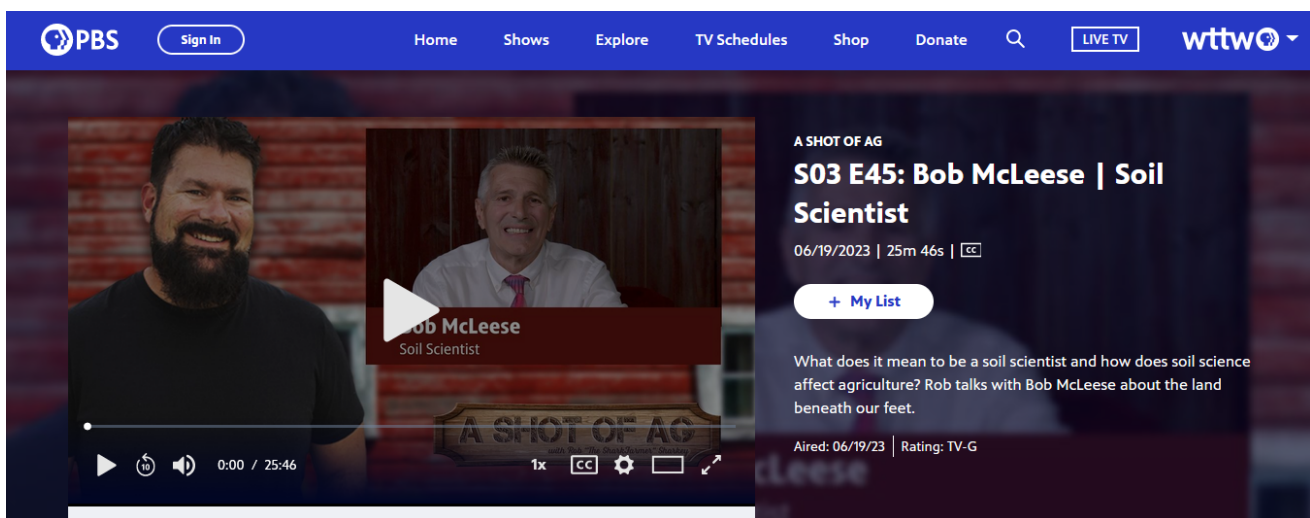
Submitted by Bob McLeese

Rob Sharkey ( the Shark Farmer) is Steve Zwicker's son-in-law. He has a daily Sirius XM radio show, a weekly show , "The Shark Farmer", on RFD TV, and a weekly show, "A Shot of Ag", on Peoria PBS TV.

He interviewed Bob McLeese on "A Shot of Ag" for Season 3, Episode 45 that was released on June 19, 2023. He asked Bob what is means to be a soil scientist, and how soil science can affect agriculture.

Great job Bob!

A link to the show is provided here: <https://www.pbs.org/video/bob-mcleese-soil-scientist-lcsvb7/>



The screenshot shows a PBS video player interface. The top navigation bar includes the PBS logo, a 'Sign In' button, and menu items for Home, Shows, Explore, TV Schedules, Shop, Donate, and a search icon. A 'LIVE TV' button and the 'wttw' logo are also present. The video player itself shows a video titled 'S03 E45: Bob McLeese | Soil Scientist' from the show 'A SHOT OF AG'. The video is currently at 0:00 / 25:46. A play button is visible over the video. To the right of the video player, there is a description: 'What does it mean to be a soil scientist and how does soil science affect agriculture? Rob talks with Bob McLeese about the land beneath our feet.' Below the description, it says 'Aired: 06/19/23 | Rating: TV-G'. There is also a '+ My List' button.

## 2023 Fall Meeting Announcement

Submitted by Bob Oja

### 2023 Fall Meeting Details

The 2023 Fall Meeting is to be held Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in Elizabeth, Illinois at the Elizabeth Community Building in Elizabeth, Illinois with an excellent joint presentation planned from several geologists/scientists from the Illinois Geological Survey, the head of the Groundwater Section of the Illinois State Water Survey, and by a resident and very active volunteer in all things related to groundwater, and the issues karst brings to wise land use planning.

The speakers will talk about the geology of Jo Daviess County including topics such as sink holes, groundwater contamination, springs, caves, septic systems, mining, dog holes, algific slopes, and crop lines. Much of this information was used to build the Jo Daviess County Karst Features Database (KFD) which is the result of over 10 years of scientific research. The KFD has become a very useful tool for land use planning purposes. The database and its development will also be discussed and shown. This will be an excellent and very educational, and interesting presentation.

The afternoon will be spent viewing and discussing several soil pits on a progressive farmers property in the southeast portion of Jo Daviess County.

The morning presentation is set to begin at 10:00 AM at the Elizabeth Community Building which is located at 111 E. Myrtle Street in Elizabeth, Illinois. A box lunch will be provided and after lunch we will travel to Greg Thoren's farm to view soils. Greg is a progressive farmer doing many soil conservation/soil health related practices. He is seeing his practices pay off with visible and measurable results in the soil.

Soil Scientists from Iowa, Wisconsin, and Illinois have been invited to attend. We will also likely have members of a farmer-led group which is focusing on agricultural practices that improve water quality in attendance.

## 2023 Fall Meeting Hotel Accommodations

Submitted by Bob Oja

### Hotel Accommodations and Recreational Activities

Since this is a long way for many of you to travel a block of rooms has been reserved at the Savanna Inn and Suites in Savanna, Illinois. Please reserve your room early if you plan to attend. Rooms will be available, while they last, for Friday and/or Saturday nights. The number to call is 815-273-2288. Room rates with all fees and taxes included are \$167.61 per night. Mention my name (Bob Oja) to get in the room block.

Savanna is a beautiful small town on the Mississippi River near Mississippi Palisades State Park. It is 21 miles south of Elizabeth. Other potential places to stay are in Dubuque, IA, which is 30 miles from Elizabeth, or Freeport, IL which is 35 miles away. The small town of Stockton, which is only 14 miles from Elizabeth, has a motel but it was mostly booked when I called. Lastly there is Galena, but most places there are reserved far in advance this time of year.

This might be a great opportunity for many of you to spend the rest of your weekend in this beautiful portion of Illinois which will be made even better by some excellent fall colors. There are many things to do in Jo Daviess County including distilleries, breweries, and wineries. If you have any room left after those, the Galena area has many great restaurants. There are activities at Chestnut Mountain Ski Resort, hiking and sightseeing at Apple River Canyon State Park, Ulysses S. Grants home, and many other historic buildings and places in and near Galena. If you are a movie buff or baseball fan the Field of Dreams is only 40 miles from Galena. Additionally, there are many golf courses, and you could even try goat yoga. Head to Charles Mound, which is the highest elevation in Illinois, to look down on all your friends.

**ONLINE REGISTRATION IS AVAILABLE AT <https://illinoissoils.org/announcements/>**



## 2023 Fall Meeting Speakers

Submitted by Bob Oja

### Speakers

#### Dr. Donald Luman

Following completion of his doctorate in 1978 at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Dr. Luman pursued a career of university teaching and research for more than 20 years in Illinois. His academic training in physical geography, geology, remote sensing/image interpretation, and cartography established an expertise in mapping and quantifying subtle spatial components and patterns with the physical landscape. He later returned to his alma mater as a research scientist at the Illinois State Geological Survey (ISGS), focusing on applications of remote sensing and advanced image processing for natural resource related projects in Illinois. After a professional career spanning nearly 45 years, resulting in numerous maps and scientific publications, Dr. Luman retired in 2014 as an ISGS Principal Scientist and continues with various research projects.

#### Jo Daviess County Karst Feature Database

For more than a decade, scientists from the ISGS and the Illinois State Water Survey (ISWS) have examined the geology, hydrogeology and geochemistry factors associated with karst terrain in Jo Daviess County. Beginning in 2020, and in collaboration with Jo Daviess County and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a two-year Karst Feature Database (KFD) project was initiated to bring together the accumulated research for the purpose of creating an online, GIS-based data product accessible to the general public. Using the results of the KFD project, the purpose of this presentation is to illustrate how these interrelated factors, set within a region characterized by thin surficial materials, largely devoid of thick deposits of glacial drift, and underlain by soluble carbonate bedrock have produced the distinctive landscape of Jo Daviess County.

#### Beth Baranski

Beth is a resident of Jo Daviess County and an active volunteer. She became involved in local water resource management issues through the League of Women Voters of Jo Daviess County. The League was interested in expanding local knowledge about the area hydrogeology to support thoughtful land use. Working with and guided by scientists at the state scientific surveys, efforts were undertaken to better characterize the nature of the karst in our area. Over the past decade, the League has facilitated the development of a county-wide water resource management plan, an Illinois EPA approved watershed plan for the lower Galena River, the formation of a farmer-led group focused on practices that improve water quality and soil health, and the creation of a karst feature database.

Beth will share her perspective on the role community engagement has played in advancing evidenced-based decision making to achieve science-based stewardship at the local level.

## 2023 Fall Meeting Speakers

Submitted by Bob Oja

### Speakers

#### Sam Panno

Sam is a retired Principal Scientist with the Illinois State Geological Survey, Prairie Research Institute, University of Illinois. His research from 1988 to present includes investigations of groundwater and surface water chemistry, distribution and movement of brines within the Illinois Basin, seismic history associated with the New Madrid Seismic Zone, and karst geology and associated hydrology of Illinois.

There will be 3 or 4 related presentations that will cover karst geology, remote sensing methods karst hydrogeology/geochemistry, and the effects of karst on affected communities and how leaders in northwestern Illinois are helping residents deal with it.

Sam's presentation will focus on karst geology and associated features of Illinois with emphasis on the karst of the Illinois Driftless Area. During his presentation, he will define 'karst', describe the anatomy of sinkhole, and discuss the reasons for sinkhole formation within the state.

#### Dr. Walt Kelly

Walt heads up the Groundwater Science Section of the Illinois State Water Survey. Walt's research interests include water quality and geochemical research, primarily in groundwater but also in surface water. Research topics include nitrate, arsenic, urban water quality, and geochemical processes in aquifers. Some of Walt's research includes Microplastic contamination in karst groundwater systems, and Characterizing pharmaceutical, personal care product, and hormone contamination in karst aquifer of southwestern Illinois.

## 2023 Fall Meeting Agenda

# ISCA 2023 FALL WORKSHOP & MEETING

Location: Elizabeth Community Building  
402 West Street, Elizabeth, IL

Date: Saturday, October 7th, 2023  
Time: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM



### Agenda Items

9:00 AM – 9:30AM	Council Meeting
9:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Workshop Registration
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	<p><b>DR. DONALD LUMAN</b> PRINCIPAL GEOLOGIST, ILLINOIS STATE GEOLOGIC SURVEY PRAIRIE RESEARCH INSTITUTE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN</p> <p><b>BETH BARANSKI</b> LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS JO DAVIES COUNTY</p> <p><b>SAM PANNO</b> PRINCIPAL SCIENTIST, ILLINOIS STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY PRAIRIE RESEARCH INSTITUTE</p>
12:00 PM – 12:15 PM	<p><b>GREG THOREN</b> OWNER/OPERATOR PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATION FARMING</p>
12:15 PM	Invocation/Lunch
1:15PM	Travel to soil pits at Greg Thoren's Farm

### Additional information

Car-pooling to soil pits is encouraged.

## 2023 Fall Meeting Registration Details

# ISCA 2023 FALL WORKSHOP & MEETING

Location: Elizabeth Community Building  
402 West Street, Elizabeth, IL

Date: Saturday, October 7th, 2023  
Time: 10:00 AM -4:00 PM



### Registration

Discussion topics during this workshop will focus on the karst features of Jo Davies County including sink holes, springs, caves, algific slopes, and crop lines .... not the ones caused by aliens! Much of this information was used to build the Jo Davies County Karst Features Database (KFD) which is the result of over 10 years of scientific research.

Additional discussion will be presented on groundwater contamination, septic systems, dog holes and mining.

The afternoon activity will be on location at a progressive conservation farm to view and discuss soil pits and Mr. Thoren's conservation and soil health efforts.

Rooms available at the Savana Inn and Suites at 101 Valley Drive in Savanna. Reserve a room from a reserved block before September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Rooms available Friday and/or Saturday night. Call 815-273-2288. Mention Bob Oja to get in the correct block of rooms.

- All attendees MUST REGISTER by September 23<sup>rd</sup>
- ISCA Members are free!
- \$15 per person if not an ISCA Member
- Box lunches will be provided

**ONLINE REGISTRATION IS PREFERRED AND AVAILABLE AT:**  
<https://illinoissoils.org/announcements/>

**OR**

Mail this registration form and a paper check to:

Robert Tegeler  
124 Joan Drive  
Divernon, Illinois 62530

NAME	EMAIL	COMPANY/STATE	ISCA MEMBER (Y/N)

Total Count: #

**Total Payment Payable to ISCA : \$**



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

ISCA Newsletter Staff

Alicia Metzger, Chairperson  
Jenwei Tsai, Committee  
Member

Email:  
[Newsletter@illinoissoils.org](mailto:Newsletter@illinoissoils.org)

### 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.

### ISCA on Facebook and Twitter

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 or Twitter. Search Facebook for "Illinois Soil Classifiers Association" or Twitter for @ISCA\_Soil. Anyone may post messages, announcements, pictures or events that may be of interest to our membership. These are great platforms for posting information and 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 Facebook or Twitter, it is easy to set up. Just go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) or [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com) and follow the instructions. Unfortunately, these sites are restricted on some government computers, so many of you will need to do this at home. Contact [webmaster@illinoissoils.org](mailto:webmaster@illinoissoils.org) if you have any difficulty or if you have any questions or comments.



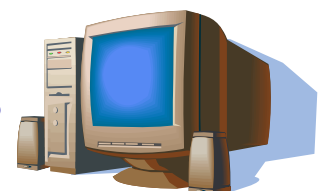
### ISCA Newsletter Committee is looking for pictures of its members, past or present, to include in future newsletters!

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

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

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

Better yet... [make it your home page!](#)



ISCA Newsletter  
46W951 Country Lane  
Maple Park, IL 60151

Visit the ISCA website for access to all newsletters  
<https://www.illinoissoils.org/member-resources/newsletter/>

----- Change of Address Form -----

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Mail to: Scott Wiesbrook, ISCA Secretary, 1816 S. Oak St., IL 61820