

ISCA SPONSORS SHORT COURSE FOR ON-SITE SOIL INVESTIGATIONS FOR WASTEWATER DISPOSAL

On 22-23 September 1989, a short course on soil investigations for septic systems was held in Crystal Lake, Illinois. The course was sponsored by the Illinois Soil Classifiers Association in cooperation with the University of Illinois and the Illinois state Geological Survey. The course was held in response to the increasing need for qualified Soil Classifiers to perform on-site investigations for septic system suitability. This need already is present in northeastern Illinois, and is expected to spread into other areas when proposed changes in the state of Illinois Private Sewage Disposal Code are adopted.

The course consisted of two parts. A classroom session featuring speakers who addressed issues relative to both policy and technical matters was held during the afternoon and evening of the first day. The second part featured a field trip that examined sites in McHenry County illustrative of the program topics and was held on the second day.

John Alexander, ISCA President, welcomed the participants. Doug Ebelherr, Illinois Department of Public Health, discussed the proposed changes in the Private Sewage Disposal Code. Bill Mellen, Lake County Health Department, Pat McNulty, McHenry County Health Department, and Bob Leonard, Kane County Development Department, described on-site soil investigations required in their respective counties. Benny Weiss and Duray Potter discussed soils and septic systems from the perspective of the Sanitarian and Civil Engineer, respectively. Soil properties and hydrologic considerations were addressed by Tom Bicki and Bill Simmons, pedologists with the University of Illinois. Geologic and glacial geology were discussed by Leon Follmer and Ardith Hansel, Illinois State Geological Survey, and Hilt Johnson and Ed Hajic, University of Illinois.

The field trip consisted of four stops in southern McHenry County showing some of the more common soils and glacial materials in northeastern Illinois. The discussion at each stop centered around the use of those soils for residential development served by septic systems, and the unique challenges presented by each to the soil Classifier performing the on-site investigation. The field trip leaders were consulting Soil Classifiers Bruce Houghtby, Bill Kreznor, and Bruce Putman.

The attendance for the short course classroom session was 115, including the course instructors. These individuals represented federal, state, and local agencies such as county and municipal health departments, soil and water conservation districts, and the Soil Conservation Service. Also attending were consulting engineers and soil classifiers, sanitarians, and university faculty and graduate students. Fifty-five ISCA members were attendance. About 85 people participated in the field trip.

ISCA sponsored the participation of Junkung Ceesay in the short course and field trip. Mr. Ceesay is with the Soil and Water Management Unit, The Gambia, Africa. He spent

several weeks studying soil and water management and conservation with Soil Conservation Service personnel.

A course handbook was developed and provided for each participants. The handbook includes notes, tables, charts, and diagrams from each of the course instructors. A brief description of each of the field trip stops is provided. The handbook is appended to include references for soil interpretations for septic system suitability. A small number of these handbooks are still available for a nominal fee. Contact Bill Kreznor for details.



Mike Lilly, Mark Matusiak, Ward Lenz, and Charles Love (in the pit)