

Indiana Association of Professional Soil Classifiers



2023 Membership Dues Statement

Amount: \$25.00

Please remit payment c/o
Make checks to I.A.P.S.C. Inc.

Clip and mail to Dena Anderson IAPSC Sec./Treas at:
6939 S. Majors Rd
Hanover, IN 47243
Or at the Annual Meeting

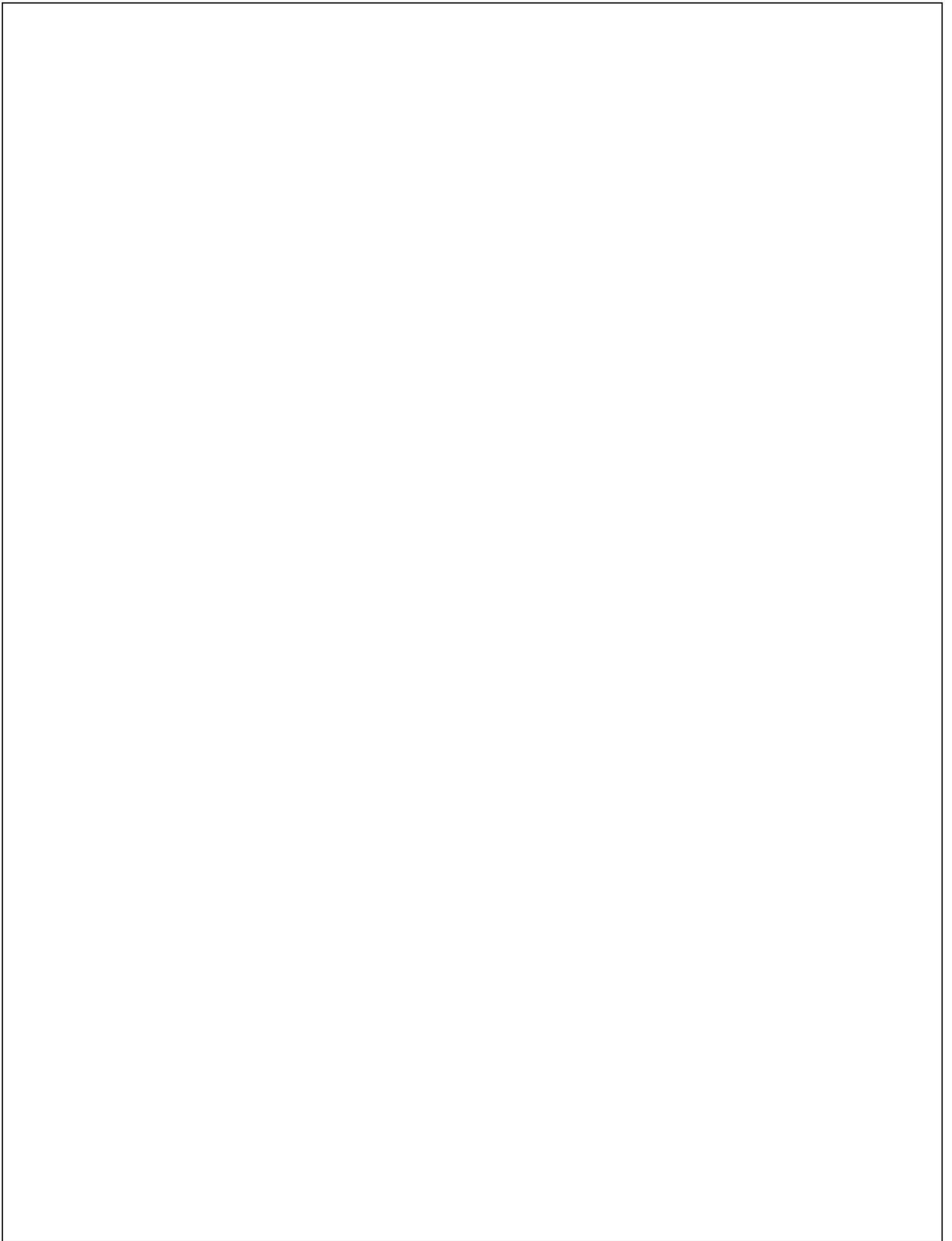
Please correct any contact information as needed.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



THE

Pedestal



2023 Winter Meeting

Indiana Association of Professional Soil Classifiers (IAPSC)

Indiana Association of Professional Soil Classifiers

Winter Meeting

Location: Hendricks County

4-H Fairgrounds

1900 East Main Street
Danville, Indiana 46122

UTM Zone 16, 0543808E, 4401445N, NAD 83

When: February 6th, 2023

Agenda (Eastern Daylight Time)

- 8:00 – 9:00 Registration
- 9:00 – 9:15 Welcome and Introductions
Archie Sauerheber– President
- 9:15 – 9:45 Updates : NRCS, Purdue, BSU,
IRSS, IOWPA Updates, John Allen
NRCS, Dr. Gary Steinhardt - PU,
Dr. Jessi Haeft – BSU, Bob Jones –
IRSS, Randy Staley - IOWPA
- 9:45 – 10:00 BREAK
- 10:00 – 11:30 Rule 410 Review/Comment
IDOH Representative
- 11:30 – 12:00 Shrink/Swell Studies and
Larry Gramm, Mark McClain,
Archie Sauerheber
- 12:00 – 1:00 LUNCH

1:00 – 2:00 Pit Safety: Bryan L. Thais
INSafe Safety Consultant
Indiana Dept. of Labor

2:00 – 2:15 Elections/Break

2:15 – 3:15 IAPSC Business Meeting

3:15 – 3:20 Election results.

3:20 Adjourn – SAFE TRAVELS!

New business:

Candidates 2023 Election:

President-Elect

Vice President

The Indiana Association of Professional Soil Classifiers (IAPSC) is a not-for-profit organization of soil scientists who are interested in the field study and evaluation of soils.

Archie Sauerheber, President
David Lafforge, Past President
Gary Steinhardt, President Elect
Evan Troutman, Vice President
Dena Anderson, Secretary-Treasurer
Norm Stephens, Pedestal Editor
Tim Porter, Website Administrator

<http://www.isco.purdue.edu/irss/iapsc.html>

Indiana Registry of Soil Scientists

(As written on the IRSS web site.)

The Indiana Registry of Soil Scientists is a program that establishes ethical standards and education, examination, and work experience criteria for Indiana Registered Soil Scientists.

<http://www.oisc.purdue.edu/irss/>

Pedestal

We need your stories and photographs for the Pedestal. Please email them to:

Pedestal Editor Still Needed

The Pedestal for the 2023 Winter Meeting is the last issue I will be sending out. Please let one of the IAPSC officers know if you are interested in taking over those duties.

Norm Stephens

See the Pedestal in color:

Electronic copies of Pedestal will eventually be found at:

<http://www.iapsc-in.com/#!documents/c1po4>

Membership Email Addresses

If you did not get an email notification of the electronic Pedestal it means we no longer have a valid email address for you. Please submit your current email address to Dena Anderson:

dena.anderson@usda.gov

Email is the most cost-effective way the IAPSC can keep you informed of any last minute changes in meeting plans, or time sensitive notifications of importance to the group.

Everyone is Busy

Everyone who is serving, or has served as an IAPSC board member is a busy person. It's not a valid excuse for not taking a turn in our group's leadership. Many of the same people have taken on the different responsibilities many times over, or they have held a position for years on end. I applaud those who take on a role in our group, but I really find it disappointing we can't get more than one person to run for an office. The jobs do require a day, or two of your time over the course of the year. Most of the time ... a few hours at a time.

Diversity in our group's leadership keeps things fresh. Be sure and say yes when asked to run for office.

Soil Classifiers:

Periodically (once every couple of weeks) I send, via email, notices on happenings within the National Cooperative Soil Survey. The subjects vary, but include job vacancies, workshops, soils videos, NCSS Newsletters, Soil Taxonomy updates, updates on Web Soil Survey, etc. If you are not currently on my email list (which is currently at about 120 folks) and would like to be added please send your current email to me at

john.allen@usda.gov Feel free to share this with others if you know of folks you think might be interested, but may not be IAPSC members. Maybe we can recruit some new members!

Of course, if you want to be taken off the list, just email me that too! (Except for the NRCS staff who will get them whether they want them or not!)

John Allen

Acting Indiana State Soil Scientist
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
6013 Lakeside Blvd.
Indianapolis, IN 46278
(317) 295-5859 (Office)
john.allen@usda.gov

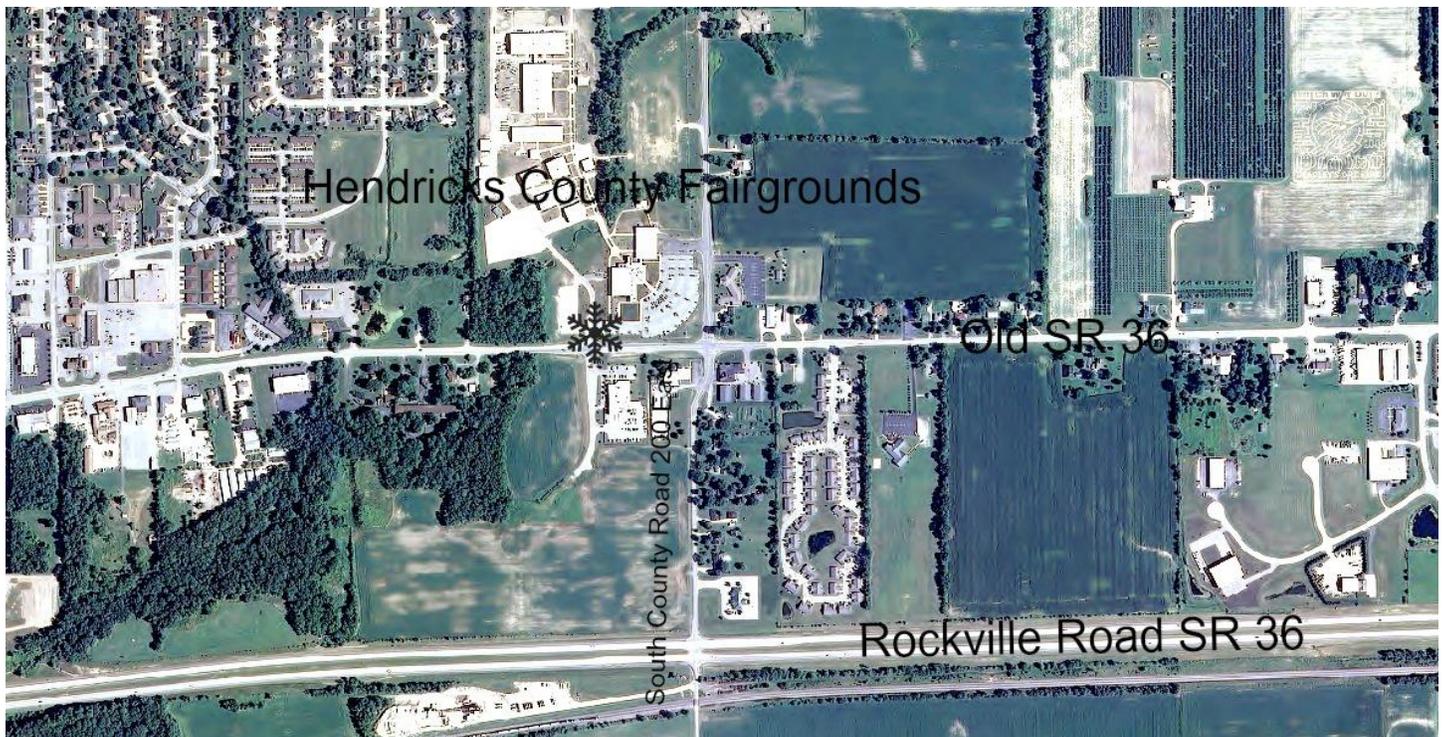


Hendricks Co 4-H Fairgrounds & Conference Complex

1900 East Main Street, Danville, IN

The Winter Meeting will be held at the Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds located southwest of Indianapolis. The fairgrounds is a 12 mile drive from I465 on the west side of Indianapolis along SR 36. The Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds and Conference Complex is located at the intersection of County Road 200 E and East Main Street (Old US-36 in Danville)

Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds Map



The Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds and Conference Complex is located at the intersection of County Road 200 E and East Main Street (Old US-36 in Danville).

<http://www.4hcomplex.org/>

Thank You

FFA

MR. NORM STEPHENS,

Thank you so much for taking the time to make and support the Chrome spade award for INDIANA state soils. Our students work extremely hard each year and the tradition and pursuit of the spade is a part of that motivation. We truly appreciate your time and craftsmanship.

Jim Wilder

Musings, Murmurings and Memories from 60 years as a Dirt Dauber

By Jerry Shively, RPSS # 8

During my senior year (1958-1959) at Purdue University, I bought my copy of the 7th "Abomination," *Soil Taxonomy*. Three years later, on Oct. 1, 1962, I began my career as a soil scientist in the humble upstairs Soil Conservation Service office in Greencastle. Nearly 61 years later, on June 30, 2023, that story comes to a close.

I started out working under Carl Gurnsey, who by Christmas, had already been reassigned to Hawaii. So, then it was off to Franklin, to learn under Shelby Brownfield's tutelage, which involved differentiating out the light-colored Crosby from the dark-colored Brookston soils. With 70,000 acres, or about one year's worth of work remaining, the powers that be decided to send me to some God-forsaken place called Boonville. Seven more years would pass before the Shelby County Soil Survey would be published.



So now it is off to Boonville. But first, I had to return to my ancestral home near Fort Wayne before beginning the journey to that small town at the opposite end of the state. Off I went in my 1961 Dodge Dart Pioneer, driving through a foot of snow in Fort Wayne, then over treacherous sheets of ice starting in Loogootee, and finally, gliding along a beautifully clean roadway from Dale to Boonville. Ironically, twelve years later, in January 1976, I experienced the same conditions, albeit in reverse order, this time with a wife and young son in a 1971 Dodge Dart. It was a beautiful road near Boonville, then on to an icy road through Bedford, and finally a snowy road in North Vernon. We followed a Trailways bus through a foot of snow from North Vernon to Greensburg.

But back to my time in Boonville. Herb Williamson was my party leader and he introduced me to fragipans, loess, and the rolling hills of Spencer County. I spent those dozen years doing soil surveys in Spencer, Vanderburgh, and Warrick Counties. Also, I was area soil scientist for the southern half of Area 5. It was here

that I met intelligent and often time real "characters" during my stay. There were T.C. Bass and Frank Sanders, who saved the soil surveys; Leo Kelley, Mac Robards, Denver Farmer, Chuck Froele, Ray Sinclair, David T. and George McElrath, Bob Turner, regional soil correlator, and lastly, Jim Goetel, area conservationist. It was during Goetle's review of work performance and goal setting that I accidentally showed up with a bent pen, which had melted on the dashboard of my truck, to figure out next year's goals. Then there were the guys from Greensburg, Greencastle, the folks I met on detail around Indiana, Illinois, and Alabama, and septic people who are too numerous to mention.

Greg Henderson was with me in Decatur and Franklin Counties during the mid to late 1970s. Of all the guys I worked with other the years, Greg sticks out as one with whom I enjoyed working. Greg was a BIG guy with a red beard who wore a small cap on the job and rode a motorcycle. One day while I was mapping along Interstate 74 in Decatur County, I saw Greg pass by on that motorcycle on his way from his home in Dearborn County to Peoria, Illinois, to meet up with his future bride.

Then there was T. C. Bass, the state soil scientist. There was then an existing theory that within two miles of the White River, fragipans are not possible. On a field review, T. C. corrected me with, "that is a fragipan, Red," in a road cut less than a mile from that river. So much for that theory! Sometimes it is best to appear to be stupid to prove your point. Then I questioned why, if the well-drained Alford soils are moderately permeable, moderately well-drained Muren are moderately slow permeable, etc., are the same texturally, structurally, and chemically, why is permeability different? "That is the way it is," I was told. You can verify this by looking in the older published surveys. I think Bill Hostetler managed to correct this issue.

Now a new question has emerged. In southern Indiana, fragipans are described with silt coatings only and are not Glossic. They all are fragipan soils formed in loess or loam as the upper part and various parent materials forming the lower part. There are at least six catena "suites" that fit this definition. Now I see Avonburg and Cobbs Fork series in Decatur County are classified as Glossic with a fragipan. Sixty years ago, this same question arose in Spencer County, and my opinion, then as now, is that they are not **glossic**. Is the answer "that is the way it is," or do we reexamine the question? For example, many years ago, they split the glossic Vigo series from the non-glossic, somewhat poorly drained Iva series. The answer may be wetness duration. Hmmm. Something to consider.





The one of the highlights of my career has always been high school soil judging. My first day on the job as a judge was with Carl Guernsey, area soil scientist, and Gerald Runyon, ag teacher at Clay City, and the resulting argument was that one of the four sites was a "medium or moderately fine surface layer." Does that sound familiar? I made many great memories during those years, from taking four guys and my wife to the 1972 Nationals in Oklahoma, to my time judging with Tom Beckmann at the Shelby County Invitational. Then there was Steve Wade, from Wadesville, who reminds me of a disagreement between us whenever he can. It happened on the first day of me being THE official judge. Oh!

I can think of no better profession than that of a soil scientist. We ask, "Why or why not?" from the beginning to the end of our day. Sixty years from today to day one, I thank God for the opportunity to be a professional soil scientist, and I have enjoyed most every moment of SOILS!





Found by Gary Struben.

Indiana Soil Surveys bound and preserved in the Ball State University Library.

Poking Holes in History

By
Norm Stephens



Poking holes in history seems to be the main job of the soil scientist as we evaluate the sediments left behind by the movements of glacial ice and water, but then there has been a lot of soil modifications which has taken place in the past 200 years without jumping back thousands of years! During the fall tour I listened to a spirited conversation about clearing trees on a building site and I thought ... “Doesn’t that describe nearly all of the building sites currently occupied around Indiana?” Indiana was completely carpeted with trees except for the prairie areas and some of landforms the Native Americans burned to keep clear for farming. I farmed with my in-laws in the early 1980s and after acquiring an additional 80 acres we had five acres of old growth timber as well as three acres of a farmstead covered in trees since it was abandoned prior to WWII. Clearing the land for farming began immediately by burning the old farmhouse and outbuildings. We hired a crew to come in and clear the land after the timber sale. They used dynamite much like they do in the movies and proceeded to blow the trees out of the ground. They were moving along too slowly, and the crew was fired. We then hired a contractor with a D8 Caterpillar. He would angle the blade on the dozer and cut the tree roots before lifting the blade on the dozer high on the tree and using the weight of the tree to help push it over. The dozer was also used to dig deep pits to push glacial boulders into. Glacial boulders were cleared from the farm field and left in the fence row along the woods. The rocks ranged in size from a softball up to that of a Volkswagen Bug. I often wondered how they moved some of those stones out of the soil with a team of horses. Soils which I would later learn were mapped as lakebed soils? The previous work of the dynamite crew had left root fragments throughout the soil surface where they worked. The dozer would make a pass of the trees it removed with a rake

on the blade where it would gather and pile the roots for burning. The dozer would also pull a disk behind it with 4-foot disk blades which cut two feet into the soil. We spent the summer wading knee deep through the freshly disked soil kicking up the root fragments resulting from the dynamite and anything else that didn't belong there. The debris would be thrown onto a hay wagon to be dumped and burned later. The guy with the D8 was getting ready to leave after the job was done and he turned around and told us this was the first time he had ever left a land clearing project where the ground was ready to plant a crop in. I doubt you could tell there was a woodland there today without looking at old aerial photographs. All that occurred over 40 years ago. The previous land clearing took place in the late 1800s. The question becomes ... How many years does it take before you no longer worry about the tree removal over a potential septic site?

I was running a Fincastle transect down in Bartholomew County in an area surrounded with soils mapped Xenia and Reesville. The soybeans were just a couple inches out of the ground on a level field when I started poking my soil probe holes. I found 4 to 8 inches of silt over dense till high in carbonates. It was a bit of a head scratcher until I dug into the old files and maps and found there used to be a WWII airport in that field. It was used to store B-17 aircraft during their ferry flights to the east coast and on to Europe.

Boone County transects had me wading through some woods where I found a long linear feature which disappeared once it went into the farm fields around it and it also had numerous large trees growing on it. My first thought was an old railroad bed even though there was no sign of it in the cropped field. I traced it quite a distance, poking holes in it as I went. I did not find any traces of wood, stone, or metal commonly found along railroad beds. I stopped and talked to the landowner on my way out and asked him what he knew about the linear feature. He had the same thought I had when he bought the land back in the 1950s. He ran into an old man in the nearby little town who told him the railroad paid him to build the roadbed with his team of mules and slip scoop. It turns out a competing railroad won the race to supply railroad track to the route and as a result the railroad track was never constructed through the woods.

A Delaware County cornfield had me digging up antique auto parts during my transect. An old air photo showed an auto salvage yard in that field back in the 1950s. I also tried to run a transect in a nearby woods. Using a soil probe in a wooded area can be problematic due to the roots, but in these woods ... the problem was bricks. The trees had grown up covering an abandoned brickyard. Graveyards are a nice quiet place to eat lunch and you can sometimes catch a grave being dug and get a look at the soil there since the law does not allow you to probe there. Graves in a Fox soil makes sense, but a grave spoil pile containing nothing but high carbonate till makes a person doubt the Fox really being there.

Growing up in Knox County during the 1960s I witnessed many an old farmstead being pushed into pits and being burned to add a couple more acres of crop land. Dad told me there once was a house and a team of mules for every 40 acres and from the remains I've stumbled across I think Dad's estimate is not too far off! Today you may find irises growing along the road to hint of the location of the abandoned farmstead. At other times there will be bits of metal, glass, pottery and brick in the tilled field. The severely eroded spot on the knob may be that, or it may be the C material from the hole the farmer buried the farmstead debris in. A good location for a house today ... probably once had a building on it once before. Today you can see a similar thing happening along north US31 where the state is buying and tearing down the farmsteads and homes along the state highway.

The early 1960's had many a community who had a dump where trash was discarded and burned. EPA regulations closed those dumps down, but you can still find them if you look for the golf courses, and baseball diamonds built on them. Will a soil classifier be doing a septic onsite on one of these former dumps 100 years from now when the memory of what was there has faded?

Old maps and newspaper articles can provide hints to what we find out on the landscape, but with the digital age makes it seem like anything not found online ... doesn't exist! The researchers must make their way to the library and dig through the archives. Otherwise, we might not know that a circus making its way through the wet and swampy terrain in Tipton County had an elephant get hopelessly mired in a mucky spot along what is now SR28 and expired there. The ice sheet created a lot of history we poke holes in today, but there has been a lot more history being made since then. History that affects the way we evaluate the soils.

Obituary



Harold "Raymond" Sinclair Jr.

March 19, 1937 - December 3, 2022

Raymond Sinclair, Jr. passed away on Saturday, December 3, 2022, with his loving wife of almost 63 years by his side. Ray was born on March 19, 1937, in rural Mason County, Illinois. The son of Harold Raymond, Sr. and Grace Sinclair was born and raised on a grain and livestock farm in west central Illinois. He attended the University of Illinois obtaining his Master of Science in August 1961. Ray married A. Colleen Cross on January 30, 1959. Together they built a loving family including five children: Amy (Ed) Vernon, Paragon, IN; Alice (Mark) Ostendorf, Fort Mitchell, KY; Duane (Sue) Sinclair, Carmel, IN; Jon Sinclair, Box Elder, SD; and Sara (Sean) Brito, Melbourne, Australia. He was so proud of each of his 13 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren: Marie (Laura) Moreno, Josh (Amanda) Vernon, Kate (Mark) Nienaber, Ben (Alysha) Ostendorf, Wes (Courtney) Vernon, Steven Sinclair, Matthew Sinclair, Carmen Vernon, Kristen (Christopher) Brann, Jonathan Sinclair, Nick Brito, Henry Sinclair, Alex Brito, Joshua Vernon, Bella Vernon, Wesley Vernon, Thomas Nienaber, Fitz Vernon, Ruth Nienaber, Aurora Ostendorf, Gideon Ostendorf, Anali Moreno, Mahla Vernon (dec.), and Chava Vernon. Ray was one of four children born to Harold and Grace Sinclair: Eleanor Rodemer (dec.), Robert (Judy), and Barbara Sinclair. He was preceded in death by his parents, Harold, Sr. and Grace Sinclair, great-granddaughter, Mahla Vernon and sister, Eleanor (Sinclair) Rodemer.

Ray worked his entire career as a Soil Scientist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly the Soil Conservation Service.) Counting his college internships, Ray had more than 50 years of service as a Soil Scientist. As a soil scientist stationed in Illinois, Vermont, Michigan, and Indiana, he did soil correlation, soil interpretations, soil investigations, technical soil services, soil manuscripts, soil cartographic work, land evaluation, and site assessment. Ray was heavily involved in research for mine reclamation, co-authoring several articles regarding soil evaluation and reconstruction after surface coal

mining. He served as the State Soil Scientist in Indiana for 16 years. Ray's final position with NRCS was at the National Soil Survey Center in Lincoln, NE. In that role, he furnished technical soils information to local, state, and federal agencies; consultants; agricultural businesses; and individuals. Ray was recognized as a Sagamore of the Wabash by Governor Robert D. Orr in November 1988, as a result of the incredible work done under his leadership as State Soil Scientist, including ensuring soil surveys were completed for all counties in Indiana. In 2004 he received the Administrator's Group Honor Award, one of the highest that the Farm Service Agency bestows on employees and private citizens. Ray had been a member of the American Society of Agronomy and Soil Science Society of America for 55 years. He was a Certified Crop Adviser through the American Society of Agronomy. Other memberships included: Indiana Association of Professional Soil Classifiers, Masonic Lodge, Mt. Mansfield Lodge No. 26 F & AM, Jericho, VT and Chapel Hill United Methodist Church, Indianapolis, IN.

Ray was a hard-working, highly intelligent man who took great pride in using his gifts and talents to assist others. He happily shared information on the best soil types on which to build a home and his family knew he cared so much about that safety issue because he cared so deeply for those inside the home. While dedicated to his work as a soil scientist, his greatest pleasure was in spending time with his large family and reminiscing over how it all began with two people who fell in love. He will be dearly missed by his family and all who were lucky enough to know this incredible man.



(Registration Form)

2023 WINTER MEETING REGISTRATION FORM
For Monday February – 6th

Registration fee includes hot lunch.
Help us keep costs low by registering early.

Register online at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-indiana-association-of-professional-soil-classifiers-winter-conference-tickets-498721077167>

or

Send in your check today!

Registration Fee \$25.00 before February 1st.

LATE FEE after 02/01/2023 - \$30.00

If at all possible register/RSVP before February 1st.

An accurate head count keeps our costs low!

Make checks to I.A.P.S.C. Inc.

Clip and mail to Dena Anderson IAPSC Sec./Treas at:

6939 S. Majors Rd
Hanover, IN 47243

Questions, RSVP Call Dena at 812-525-6433, or 812-591-3770

Name(s): _____

Members please update the following, if needed:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No: _____

E-mail address: _____

