



# Illinois Groundwater Association Spring 2009 Newsletter

Advancing Groundwater Knowledge Since 1983

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## **From The Chair**

2009 is going to be a rough year but there is hope that we will see some improvement for the Illinois Groundwater Association and its members. During the Inauguration of President Obama I was happy to hear him mention "clean water" and "science" as priorities for his administration. With this new administration there will be a focus on issues that are important to all of us, and I'm pleased to say that the IGA and its members are poised to be leaders in these areas for our home state of Illinois.

Throughout this year we will be positioning ourselves for any new opportunities that present themselves. We have all seen how fast conditions can change, so if you have any suggestions or hear of anything that will help our members, let me know and we will pass it on.

For the upcoming Spring Meeting, the IGA is partnering with the North-Central Geological Society of America, which is having its meeting April 2-3 at the NIU Rockford Center. The IGA Spring Meeting that will be held the day before the GSA-NC meeting on April 1 (no fooling!) is shaping up to be an informative and exciting gathering. More on our meeting is on page 2 of the newsletter.

The two days following the IGA meeting (April 2-3) will be the annual North-Central Geological Society of America meeting, which is also at the NIU Rockford Center. The program includes presentations and posters in a wide variety of geological topics with technical programs in hydrogeology and water quality on both days. In addition, there are workshops and field trips that might be of interest to you or one of your colleagues - so spread the word. Check out the website: <http://www.niu.edu/geology/gsa/>. The NIU Rockford Center is located right off of I-90 and State Street in Rockford. It is a great facility for meetings due to the large rooms and excellent sound system. I am looking forward to seeing all of you in Rockford.

If you are planning on attending the NC-GSA meeting you might also be interested in the Mann Mentors in Applied Hydrogeology Program. The program is designed to acquaint undergraduate, graduate, and recent graduate students with careers in applied hydrogeology through mentoring opportunities with practicing professionals. The program goal is to bring these students together with professionals from the existing pool of practicing hydrogeologists associated with GSA's Hydrogeology Division or any other hydrogeology professionals in attendance at the meeting. If you are interested in a free lunch and to meet with students, contact Melissa Lenczewski ([Lenczewski@niu.edu](mailto:Lenczewski@niu.edu)).



## Fall 2008 IGA Meeting at Starved Rock State Park



*Scenic wonders  
at Starved Rock  
State Park*

Starved Rock is one of our favorite sites for IGA meetings, and we make a point to return every few years, and we did so again for our Fall 2008 IGA meeting. It turned out that October 22<sup>nd</sup> was a beautiful day with more than a touch of fall in the air. We were pleased to give our 2008 Groundwater Science Award to Kane County for their dedication to scientific study and management of groundwater resources. Presentations on topics such as the effects of a proposed mega dairy in northwestern Illinois, arsenic in groundwater, and use of

personal digital assistants (PDAs) during soil logging provided the diverse range of topics. Topping off the day was a tour of Matthiessen State Park, which was led by Bill Shields of the ISGS and Mike Phillips of the Illinois Valley Community College. We not only got to glimpse into the geologic history of the Matthiessen site, but also some of its human history. Bill and Mike provided a wealth of knowledge, and it was a great way to end the day!

## 2009 IGA and NC GSA Meeting at NIU Rockford

Northern Illinois University (NIU) will be hosting the Spring 2009 IGA and 2009 North-Central regional GSA meeting at the NIU Rockford campus. The IGA meeting will be on April 1<sup>st</sup> and the NC GSA meeting will be on April 2-3, 2009.

The IGA meeting will be held on April 1<sup>st</sup>, the day prior to NC GSA. Meeting registration and agenda are provided on page 7 and page 8 of the newsletter, respectively. Our agenda focuses (as always) on groundwater, which complements the NC GSA program.

NIU last hosted a NC GSA meeting 24 years ago (1985) at the NIU main campus in DeKalb. It is not feasible to hold the 2009 meeting in DeKalb, but the Rockford campus is a conveniently located and attractive venue with good hotels and restaurants (and an excellent brewpub). Of particular interest to conference participants are the Burpee



NIU Rockford Campus

Museum of Natural History (where the Meeting buffet will be held on Thursday evening) and the newly opened Center for the Sciences in nearby Beloit College, Beloit, WI. Also, the NIU faculty will be delighted if some of you take a couple of hours to visit the Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences in DeKalb while you are here at the meeting or on Saturday as you leave.

Why should you attend the 2009 NC GSA meeting? The impact of geologic processes and resources on society has probably never been greater than it is today, and those of us

who work in the geosciences have never before been asked to undertake such a wide variety of tasks. Yet, as a group, we are getting older. According to the most recent American Geological Institute study, "the number of younger geoscientists in their early 30's is approximately half the number of those nearing retirement age." The need to prepare a new generation of geoscientists is obvious, and regional meetings such as this can help (with a relatively low carbon footprint from transportation). In that spirit, NC GSA 2009 offers sessions devoted to education as well as special luncheons for students. And equally important, the meeting offers students the opportunity to listen to and to present professional papers and posters in an environment that may be more comfortable and personal than that encountered at a national meeting.

*Based on the NC-GSA meeting information at this link:*

<http://www.niu.edu/geology/gsa/>

## John Mann Mentoring Program



Mentoring the Next Generation of Hydrogeologists and Hydrologists

One of the primary goals of the IGA is education and fostering scholarship in subjects relating to groundwater. One such program that is worthy of support is being hosted at the NC GSA 2009 meeting at NIU Rockford – the *John Mann Mentors in Applied Hydrogeology Program*, which is being held on Thursday April 2nd from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. This event gives students and recent graduates with an interest in applied hydrogeology or hydrology as a career an opportunity to interact and

network with professionals practicing in these fields of interest.

The *John Mann Mentors in Applied Hydrogeology Program* is looking for professionals that will volunteer a few hours of their time to guide students and recent graduates. The volunteers will receive a free lunch as a token of appreciation. To learn more go to <http://www.geosociety.org/mentors/mann.htm>. If you are interested, contact Melissa Lenczewski ([lenczewski@niu.edu](mailto:lenczewski@niu.edu)) to sign up.

## New IGA Dues Policy



As you may already know, you can now pay your IGA membership dues at the IGA web site (<http://www.IllinoisGroundwater.org>) using PayPal. This new service makes it easier than ever for you to pay your dues, but it also requires that our dues policy be updated.

If you pay online using PayPal, two changes to the membership dues policy have been implemented. Firstly, to cover the transaction fee charged by PayPal, we have set online dues to \$26 for professionals (IGA receives \$25.13) and \$5.50 for students (IGA receives \$5.08). Secondly, a major benefit of paying online is that your dues will be good for a one-year period starting on the date of payment. If you choose the recurring subscription option, PayPal will automatically keep your dues current each year until you cancel your recurring subscription. **The great thing about the recurring subscription is that you can sign up once and never have to worry again if your dues are current.**

If you continue to pay through check (or cash at meetings) there will be no change. As in the past, your annual IGA dues will expire at the end of the calendar year during which you last paid dues.

We encourage you to take advantage of the recurring subscription option. It can give you peace of mind and you'll be helping the IGA by always keeping your dues current.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask. We're here to serve you!

Steve Bennett, IGA Treasurer



## Great Advances for the IGA: [IllinoisGroundwater.org](http://IllinoisGroundwater.org)

The new and improved IGA web site..



As highlighted in the Fall 2008 IGA newsletter, the IGA web site has been completely overhauled so that it can better serve our members and better provide information to the general public. The IGA web site's new home is [www.IllinoisGroundwater.org](http://www.IllinoisGroundwater.org), and it has taken several leaps forward with an all new look and added functionality. Randy Locke, a former IGA chair and current webmaster, and Pete Hlavach, a freelance web designer and owner of

[mampco.com](http://mampco.com), teamed up to overhaul the site. After many months of development, the new site builds on previous content and adds:

- A new, more vivid interface with easy navigation
- The ability to pay your membership online (<http://illinoisgroundwater.org/join.html>) as a recurring subscription or one-time payment using PayPal, a widely recognized leader in easy and safe online commerce
- The ability to register online ([http://illinoisgroundwater.org/meetings/meeting\\_s.html](http://illinoisgroundwater.org/meetings/meeting_s.html)) for an upcoming meeting, and
- Customized *Google* searches that will help you quickly find what you're looking for including text in from IGA abstracts and newsletters.

Some content like the directory of expertise will be transitioned in the near future. Please update your bookmarks and links pointing to the old address ([www.iga.uiuc.edu](http://www.iga.uiuc.edu)). Service to that address was discontinued after December 31, 2008.

Check out [www.IllinoisGroundwater.org](http://www.IllinoisGroundwater.org) and let us know what you think!

## Spring 2009 IGA Student Grants

A primary goal of the Illinois Groundwater Association is to foster groundwater scholarship. One way we support this effort is through our Student Research Grant Program (<http://illinoisgroundwater.org/sgrants.html>), and the IGA has granted over \$13,000 in direct financial support to deserving students since 1987.

Student grant applications are accepted in the spring and fall of each year, and for 2009 we anticipate awarding at least four grants worth a maximum of \$500 each. The spring and fall application deadlines are April 24 and September 25, respectively.

Any undergraduate or graduate student registered for full- or part-time study at an accredited college or university in Illinois is eligible to apply. Notifications have been sent to many eligible institutions, and we encourage

students to submit their applications as early as possible.

The application form and guidelines can be obtained from the student grants section of the web site or from:

Edward Mehnert  
IGA Grants Coordinator  
Illinois State Geological Survey  
615 East Peabody Drive  
Champaign, IL 61820  
217/244-2765 Fax 217/244-2785  
[mehnert@isgs.illinois.edu](mailto:mehnert@isgs.illinois.edu)

Benefits of the IGA student grants go well beyond monetary support for research. As part of the grant conditions, students present their findings at an IGA meeting - a great opportunity to improve professional presentation skills in front of a supportive and interested audience. Overall, involvement in the IGA gives students a chance to network with groundwater professionals in academia,



Student grants help prepare the next generation

government and industry, learn about relevant issues, improve their resume and hone their skills. Improving groundwater knowledge is what it's all about.

## Support IGA with Your Membership Dues

Membership in the IGA is open to anyone interested in the groundwater resources of Illinois and dues help the IGA meet its educational and charitable mission. Professional member dues are \$25, and student membership is \$5 per year. With your membership dues, you support the IGA. We offer several convenient ways to pay: cash, check or now pay online (<http://illinoisgroundwater.org/join.html>) with a credit card or PayPal account. See the *New Dues Policy* article on page 3 of the newsletter.

We encourage you to pay online because it is the quickest and simplest way to help the IGA. Using this payment method also gives you the choice of selecting a recurring or single-year subscription. Never worry about forgetting to pay your dues again!

If you prefer to pay by cash or check, please complete the membership form (<http://illinoisgroundwater.org/forms/Membership%20Form.pdf>) on the web site or the form below. **Please make checks payable to the Illinois Groundwater Association.** Cash or check memberships expire on December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. Online memberships expire 12 months from the date of payment.

	COST	Name: _____
Renew Membership	\$25	Position: _____
New Membership	\$25	Employer: _____
Student	\$5	Address: _____
		_____
		Phone: _____ Fax: _____
		E-mail: _____

### Clip this form and send with payment to:

Diane Lamb, IGA Secretary  
 Hanson Professional Services  
 1525 S. Sixth Street  
 Springfield, IL 62703  
 Cell: (309) 256-2199 or Fax: (217) 788-2503  
[DLamb@hanson-inc.com](mailto:DLamb@hanson-inc.com)

## IGA Meetings – Get Your CEUs Here

Continuing education units (CEUs) are required for many Illinois professionals. The IGA Spring 2009 program has been approved by the Illinois Department of Public Health as meeting the annual three-hour training requirements for local health department water program personnel as specified in the Local Health Department Grant Protection Rules, Section 615.320 (c) 2. Interested Sanitarians can attend the meeting and have an IGA officer sign their program to show attendance.

The IGA has also applied to provide CEUs for Drinking Water Operators, and approval is pending with the IDPH for CEUs for the Licensed Environmental Health Practitioners.

Other professions also can use the IGA's meetings for CEUs. For instance, Illinois Professional Engineers (PEs) can attend IGA meetings for CEUs.

Some educational programs require that our meeting agenda be preapproved. Be sure to ask an IGA officer in advance if your educational program is included. If it isn't, we'll work with you to meet your educational needs!

## IGA 2008 Survey Results

Thanks to all of you who completed the Member Questionnaire included as part of the Fall 2008 IGA newsletter. We greatly appreciate your input and we look forward to using your submitted comments and ideas to improve our organization. The following list summarizes member suggestions from the 2008 survey, which the IGA Executive Committee is actively pursuing:



- Open mike discussions at the Spring and Fall meetings
- Government agency update presentations
- Provide more presentations at the meetings
- Have the meetings in a more geographically central location or in southern Illinois
- Make speaker presentations available on the IGA website
- Host a field trip to an area with karst terrain
- Provide a quarterly newsletter to members via email
- Provide information to members regarding groundwater related events in Illinois
- Send email reminders of meeting times and dates

***Feel free to contact any Executive Committee member at any time with additional ideas or suggestions, as these are always welcome!***

## Field Trip Venue and Training Suggestions Requested

Field trips are always popular, and we try to feature a field trip every year or two. The IGA Executive Committee is currently developing ideas for a future field trip and for a potential training seminar to offer our members. Your responses to the following questions will assist in determining what topics to explore further. Thank you in advance for your cooperation!



1. What geographical area or specific location would you like the IGA to pursue as a potential field trip?
2. What topics would you like to see offered as a training seminar?
3. Do you know of someone who should be contacted as a potential host/speaker for a field trip or a training seminar?
4. Would you rather attend a field trip or training seminar which is held on a day proceeding or following an IGA meeting or on the same day as the meeting?
5. Please list any additional comments or ideas you may have regarding a future field trip or training seminar.

Please send responses to Danielle Wallin/IGA Board Member at [dwallin@F-W.com](mailto:dwallin@F-W.com)

## Spring 2009 IGA Meeting Registration

Please return a form for each person attending. Registration includes a continental breakfast, a catered lunch and afternoon refreshments. **If you aren't a member yet, become one and save up to \$45 on meeting registrations this year!** Send this information to Diane Lamb (DLamb@hanson-inc.com), IGA Secretary, by Wednesday March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009 by mail, e-mail, or fax (see information below) to qualify for early registration. Make checks payable to the Illinois Groundwater Association if registering by mail, or pay at the conference if registering by email or fax. For faster and simpler registration, register online now at [www.IllinoisGroundwater.org](http://www.IllinoisGroundwater.org).

<b>Early Registration</b> (received by 3/25/2009)	
Member:	\$65.00
Non-Member:	\$100.00
Student:	\$20.00
<b>Late Registration</b> (after 3/25/2009)	
Late Member:	\$75.00
Late Non-Member:	\$110.00
Late-Student:	\$20.00

### Contact Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Position: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Employer: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## IGA Membership

Membership in the IGA is open to anyone interested in the groundwater resources of Illinois and dues help the IGA meet its educational and charitable mission. Professional member dues are \$25, and student membership is \$5 per year. We offer several convenient ways to pay: cash, check or now online (<http://illinoisgroundwater.org/join.html>) with a credit card or PayPal account. See page 4 for additional details.

<b>Membership Dues</b>	
(Re)new:	\$25.00
Student:	\$5.00
Send registrations and memberships to:	
Send membership renewal to: Diane Lamb IGA Secretary Hanson Professional Services 1525 S. Sixth Street Springfield, IL 62703 Cell: (309) 256-2199 or Fax: (217) 788-2503 <a href="mailto:DLamb@hanson-inc.com">DLamb@hanson-inc.com</a>	

### Contact Information

(if same as above, check here )

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Position: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Employer: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Provisional Agenda

## Illinois Groundwater Association 2009 Spring Meeting

April 1, 2009

Northern Illinois University, Rockford, Illinois

- 8:30–9:00 Registration
- 9:00–9:15 Opening Remarks, **Melissa Lenczewski**, IGA Chair
- 9:15–9:45 **Jerry Dalsin**, *Illinois Dept. of Public Health*, Regulating Dewatering Wells During Site Development
- 9:45–10:15 **Chris Greer**, *Northern Illinois University*, Preliminary Recharge Analyses into Shallow Glacial and Deep Bedrock Aquifers Related to the Troy Bedrock Valley System, DeKalb County, Illinois
- 10:15–10:45 **BREAK**
- 10:45–11:15 **Alan Stone**, *CES Group of Illinois, Inc.*, Comparison of TACO Equation R26 with Alternative Models
- 11:15–11:45 **Dan In'erd**, *Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources*, Lake Michigan and Groundwater (Exact topic TBD)
- 11:45–1:00 **Lunch/Executive Committee Meeting**
- 1:00–1:30 **Bev Herzog**, *Illinois State Geological Survey*, Federal Legislative Updates Related to Groundwater and Water Resources
- 1:30–2:00 **George Roadcap**, *Illinois State Water Survey*, Topic TBD, Kane County Groundwater Modeling
- 2:00–2:30 **BREAK**
- 2:30–3:00 **Cassandra McKinney**, *McHenry County*, Water Supply Planning: 3-D Geological Mapping, Observation Wells with Real Time Data Collection, & Hydrologic Flow Modeling
- 3:00–3:30 Presentation to be Determined
- 3:30–3:45 Open for Comments/Announcements
- 3:45–4:00 Closing Remarks: **Melissa Lenczewski**, IGA Chair



## State Scientific Surveys Merge with University of Illinois

Just three years into its second century, the Illinois State Geological Survey (ISGS) has been swept up in a major change in the administrative structure of taxpayer-supported science done in public service to Illinois. After having been part of state government for 103 years, the ISGS and the other Illinois scientific surveys (Illinois Natural History Survey, Illinois State Water Survey, and the Waste Management and Research Center) were merged with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign on July 1, 2008.



Seven months have passed, and, at this juncture, it is clear that the change is the most significant since the Illinois scientific surveys were organized under a single Board of Natural Resources and Conservation (BNRC) in 1917. Without changing physical location, the Surveys have become divisions of a newly formed University of Illinois Institute of Natural Resource Sustainability. Former ISGS Chief Bill Shilts is the Institute's founding Executive Director, and he reports to Interim Vice Chancellor for Research. We all report to the University Board of Trustees. The Institute will bring together a new advisory body, the Illinois Board of Natural Resource Sustainability. Plans are to retain the members of the former BNRC and to add state agency and University participants.

The move of the Surveys to the University is much more than administrative window dressing. The Surveys' locations, staffing, budgets, and responsibilities remain largely the same. Historic legislative mandates regarding the nature and mainly Illinois focus of our research and service are embedded in Survey tradition and were restated in the new authorizing legislation. Yet we have readily adapted to University governance, policies, and outlook, and those offer us options. Having entered into the university community of scholars and researchers, the Surveys will have opportunities for greater involvement in education. Student participation in Survey research, always an advantage of our campus location, will increase. There will be opportunities to increase our role in teaching. New opportunities to examine research questions and apply our knowledge in regional, national, or global contexts will be explored. Broader opportunities to attract external funding will open via avenues available to University entities. New and expanded research collaborations are under discussion, and some are beginning.

The Surveys' transition into the University of Illinois is one that has honored our traditions and kept our mandates intact. We retained our staff, facilities, responsibilities, strong sense of purpose, and most of our budget. Thus, the traditions of the scientific surveys' research and service for the benefit of the people of Illinois have not only survived the transition but also have remained our highest and most urgent objectives. At the same time, we gained flexibility that we will use to explore opportunities, to expand our traditional role, to develop new research, and to venture into new areas.

Don McKay, PhD  
Interim Director

## Feature Article – Water Supply Planning in Illinois

*By Dave Larson; Illinois State Geological Survey; Head, Hydrogeology, Geologic Mapping and Hydrogeology Center*

Illinois was affected by a severe drought in 2005, which provided the impetus for Governor Blagojevich's Executive Order 2006-01 on water planning. The Order cited the need for sound planning in the management of the state's water resources, and called for the development of a strategy for comprehensive, statewide water supply planning and management. As part of developing the strategy, at least two locally based, regional water-supply planning committees were to be organized in order to participate in the development and approval of regional plans. The regional planning committees were to receive three years of financial and technical support from the state through Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources. The committees would help collect the information needed for the planning process.



Using the Texas Water Development Board as an example of a grass-roots, bottom-up approach to water-resources planning, two committees were organized with representatives from a wide range of stakeholder groups to test the suitability of this approach to water-resources planning in Illinois, and assess the feasibility of applying it statewide. The Northeastern Illinois Regional Water Supply Planning Group includes the 11 counties within the greater Chicago region. The East-Central Illinois Regional Water Supply Planning Committee includes 15 counties located in east-central Illinois.

The Northeastern Illinois Regional Water Supply Planning Group is comprised of 32 members selected by caucuses of nine stakeholder groups. Organization of the group was facilitated by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP). The nine stakeholder groups represent county government, municipal government, environmental advocacy, conservation and resource management, agriculture, wastewater treatment and non-municipal public water supply, business, industry, and power, real estate and development, and academia and public interest in regional planning. An analysis of water demand for the northeastern Illinois region to the year 2050 was recently completed under the auspices of the Planning Group and CMAP. Three scenarios were used in the analysis of water demand – current trends, less resource intensive, and more resource intensive – in four broad water-

## Feature Article – Water Supply Planning in Illinois (cont.)

use segments with an analysis of sensitivity to climate change. The report and more information about the Northeastern Illinois Regional Water-Supply Planning Group are available at CMAP's web site (<http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/watersupply/default.aspx>).

The East-Central Illinois Regional Water Supply Planning Committee has 12 members selected from twelve stakeholder groups. Organization of the Committee was facilitated by the Mahomet Aquifer Consortium (MAC). The twelve stakeholder groups represent agriculture, counties, environment, electric generating utilities, industries, municipalities, public, rural-water districts, small business, soil and water conservation districts, water authorities, and water utilities. An analysis of water demand for the east-central Illinois region to the year 2050 was recently completed under the auspices of the Planning Group and the MAC. Three scenarios were used in the analysis of water demand – current trends, less resource intensive, and more resource intensive – in four broad water-use segments with an analysis of sensitivity to climate change. The report and more information about the East-Central Illinois Regional Water-Supply Planning Committee are available at the Committee's web site (<http://www.rwspec.org/>).

The Illinois State Geological Survey (ISGS) is compiling existing information about the hydrogeology of northeastern and east-central Illinois to make it available to the two planning groups. Additional data have been gathered by scientific test drilling and limited geophysical exploration within the Fox River Basin in northeastern Illinois and from the Mahomet aquifer system in east-central Illinois. The Illinois State Water Survey (ISWS) is interpreting these data for regional groundwater flow models of the Fox River Basin and the Mahomet aquifer system. The flow models will be used to evaluate the effects of withdrawing groundwater to meet the water demands identified in the various water-demand scenarios. Although the third year of funding for the water-supply planning initiative was withdrawn, the two planning groups continue to function, and the Illinois State Water Survey and the Illinois State Geological Survey continue with preparing reports on the water-resource availability in the two planning areas. These two reports will provide an analysis of the impacts of meeting the water demand as identified in the reports on water demand that were prepared by the planning groups.

More information about the water-supply planning process is available on the web at <http://www.sws.uiuc.edu/wsp>.

## Illinois Groundwater Update

### Geologist Intern Amendment Reintroduced

By Bill Dixon, PEC, Incorporated

Last year, the Geologist Intern amendment to the Geologist Licensing Act HB 4762 passed unanimously in the house but never came to a vote in the senate. It has just been reintroduced as HB 0880, and has just been assigned to the Business/Occupational Licensing Committee. You can track the progress of the bill on the Illinois State Web site; on the left menu, click on Government; then on the right menu, click on Legislature; then click on the link "Bill and Resolution Search".

The purpose of the bill is to allow candidates for licensure to take the Fundamentals of Geology (FG) portion of the examination right after graduation or in the final semester immediately before graduation. Now, candidates must wait until they have completed the required four years of professional experience before they can take the FG and Practice of Geology (PG) examinations.

The bill will also allow Illinois schools, if they choose, to utilize the FG examination as an exit exam as is done in Mississippi and Kentucky. Currently, there is no system of accreditation for geology departments,

but the exit exam method allows them to self evaluate their programs by seeing how their students perform on the several domains, or broad topics, within the FG examination.

The students are required to take the exam to obtain their degree, but they do not have to pass the exam. If they do pass the exam, they are one step closer to being licensed.

This HB 0880 improves professional licensure for Geologists in Illinois and it needs your support. Please consider sending a letter of support to your representative on the Business/Occupational Licensing Committee. The list of members and details on HB 0880 are at this link:

<http://www.ilga.gov/house/committees/hearing.asp?CommitteeID=773&GA=96>



### FutureGen Update

The Illinois State Geological Survey (ISGS) continues to investigate the geology in the Mattoon, Illinois area to determine its suitability for large-scale, long-term underground storage of carbon dioxide (carbon sequestration) as part of the FutureGen project. As reported by the ISGS (<http://www.isgs.uiuc.edu/>), new geophysical data confirms that the Mattoon site is well

suited for carbon dioxide storage. The seismic study provided a three-dimensional perspective of the subsurface extending in a 15-mile radius around the FutureGen site and found that the Mt. Simon Sandstone and shale cap rock were continuous and un-interrupted, and that there were no faults in the vicinity of the site.

### ISGS-Sponsored Geological Science Field Trips

Each year the Illinois State Geological Survey (ISGS) hosts 2 field trips in the spring and fall. Each trip is designed to acquaint the participants with the geology, landscape, mineral resources, and biodiversity of a different part of the state. Those who attend will have the opportunity to explore a special area, to talk with geologists and other experts, admire the view, and collect rocks, minerals, and fossils. Each participant will receive a guidebook explaining the geology, topography, and other features along the route and at the stops.

The spring 2009 field trips on April 18<sup>th</sup> and May 2<sup>nd</sup> feature the geology of the Mackinaw River Watershed in McLean, Woodford, and Tazewell Counties. Visit the ISGS web site for more information (<http://www.isgs.uiuc.edu/education/field-trips/intro.shtml>).



Mackinaw River



## Illinois Groundwater Update

### NGWA 2009 Meeting in Tucson

The National Ground Water Association 2009 annual meeting is *Ground Water Summit—Adapting to Increasing Demands in a Changing Climate*. The meeting taking place April 19-23, in Tucson, Arizona, will bring together a mix of regulators, natural resource managers, practitioners, and those who supply knowledge and technology needed to address our key water issues. The program will focus on the critical role of ground water in the context of a changing climate with regard to water resources and provide insights into the nature of the challenges and opportunities ahead. Program highlights include a keynote presentation, the NGWREF Darcy Lecturer (<http://www.ngwa.org/ngwref/darcy/current.aspx>), the GSA Birdsall-Driess

lecturer ([http://gsahydro.eas.ualberta.ca/Zheng2009\\_BirdsallDreiss.pdf](http://gsahydro.eas.ualberta.ca/Zheng2009_BirdsallDreiss.pdf)), short courses, and field trips. The Ground Water Summit offers the opportunity to learn and stay current, present your latest ground water endeavors, and renew existing professional relationships, as well as start new ones. For more information visit the NGWA web site (<http://www.ngwa.org/2009summit/index.aspx>).



### IDPH Groundwater Advisories

Groundwater advisories are periodically issued by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). The IDPH recently advised (<http://www.idph.state.il.us/public/press09/1.16.09RoscoeWaterTesting.htm>) residents of the Roscoe area who have private wells to have their groundwater tested for contamination. Results from routine testing of the local elementary

school water supply had concentrations of tetrachloroethylene (PCE) that exceed groundwater quality standards. This indicates that contamination could be present in area's private wells, and based on this finding the IDPH recommends that private wells within a one-mile radius be tested. Groundwater from the community water supply is not affected.

### USGS Groundwater Information

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) has a groundwater information page (<http://water.usgs.gov/ogw/>), which provides basic information on groundwater and advanced topics like karst, artificial recharge, and land subsidence. This web site also has recent groundwater-related publications, many of which are available electronically without charge. Two of the recent publications are *Ground-Water Availability in the United States* (<http://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/1323/>) and *Field Techniques for Estimating Water Fluxes Between Surface Water and Ground Water* (<http://pubs.usgs.gov/tm/04d02/>). The former is written for a wide audience and examines what is known about the Nation's ground-water availability and outlines a program of study by the U.S. Geological Survey Ground-Water Resources

Program to improve our understanding of ground-water availability in major aquifers across the Nation. The second publication provides an overview and in-depth methods on how to measure the flow of water across the interface between surface water and ground water.

