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September - October 2011

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ANOTHER BUSY SUMMER FOR ILICA MEMBERS!



Featured Inside

Four Illinois Recipients Win LICA Scholarships *(page 10)*

Area Member Meetings Resume In November *(page 13)*

Area 3 Golf Outing Receives First Class Support *(page 22)*

Upcoming Events:

ILICA Winter Convention

Bloomington - Jan 12 - 14, 2012

Business Mgmt Workshop

Exact Location TBA
February 14 - 15, 2012

Return To: Illinois LICA
P.O. Box 474
Brimfield, IL 61517

CASE TRIPLE THREAT BACKHOE RODEO AT **BIRKEY'S** BLOOMINGTON FACILITY



The ILICA membership committee partnered with Birkey's to host the lunch service at the August 13th backhoe rodeo at their Bloomington location. Janice Litwiller, Bev Dean, and Veronica SeEVERS volunteered to help caterers serve the 150 meals to Birkey's guests and staff while Wayne, Norm, Bill Doubet and Forrest talked to contractors in the crowd about ILICA's benefits.

determine the champion. The grand prize winner will receive a new Case compact track loader and a Ram truck!

ILICA members Bill Dean and Jon SeEVERS competed in this event but the winner of the trip to Las Vegas for 2 was Tyce Mahannah of Decatur. Operators who win rodeo events at Case dealerships across North America compete in a final event during the 2012 World of Concrete tradeshow to

And Birkey's generosity didn't stop with them buying lunch for everyone that day; during the award presentation at the end of the event, they also awarded Habitat For Humanity with a \$500 donation for their good work in the community as well as presenting the ILICA membership committee with a \$500 donation to continue their hard work. A great big "Thank You" goes out to Ron Birkey, Todd Bohlmann, Jeff Hedge and Don Spence for their partnership and outstanding support of ILICA!



(Above) Tyce Mahannah, winner of Bloomington's Triple Threat competition;
(left to right) Todd Bohlmann presents Habitat for Humanity with a \$500 donation; one of the competitions making up the event; Todd Bohlmann presents another \$500 donation for ILICA membership committee to Bill Dean.

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The *ILICA News* is the official publication of Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association, Inc. at 118 E. Knoxville St., Brimfield, IL 61517. (309) 446-3700.

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FEATURES

- Case Triple Threat Backhoe Rodeo At Birkey's 2
- Drainage Workshop Very Popular Again This Summer 6
- DWM Training & TSP Certification Save the Date! 7
- Farm Progress Show Brings ILICA Back To Partners Tent 9
- Four Illinois Recipients Win LICA Scholarship Awards10
- Minnesota Hosts LICA Summer Meeting11
- Memorial To Carroll J.W. Drablos 12
- Area Member Meetings Resume In November13
- 2012 ILICA Winter Convention Will Have A Western Theme. 15
- Area 3 Golf Outing Receives First Class Support 22

COLUMNS

- Board Meeting Notice 3
- Presidents Message 4
- New Members 5
- ILICA Ladies Page 8
- Legislative Update: LICA Promotes Agren Conservation Tool14
- 2011 Committee Members. 16
- Member Application17
- ILICA Benefits18
- Advertisers Index 19
- Calendar of Events19
- University of IL - Taking Care of Spring Planted Trees 20
- Contractor Classifieds 20
- Safety Feature: Call 811 Before You Dig! 21

The LICA Creed



Land, the foundation of the Nation
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 The poor man's joy and comfort
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All that man builds is from the land. We often take it for granted or even abuse it; And yet many, unthinkingly and unknowingly pass the land by. What man does with the land will be the deciding factor of his survival.



Meeting Notice

Regular Board Meeting
November 12, 2011 - 2:00 pm

Heiser Insurance Agency
133 S. Main Street - Morton, IL

(see page 19 for map and directions)

Committee Meetings - 10 am - 1 pm



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings from McLean County,

As I write this message, I wonder where the summer has gone. We were fortunate enough to have worked all through the summer months.

ILICA was well represented at Decatur in the Partners In Conservation tent during the Farm Progress Show. Everyone braved the heat to educate show visitors on what it is that members of ILICA can actually do to aid in the conservation efforts of landowners.

Another very successful drainage workshop was also held in Decatur at Richland Community College with exceptional attendance. It is very satisfying to see this level of interest in continuing education and the interest in new products to make our jobs simpler.

As quickly as the summer months came and went, Lori and I were able to visit our daughter Jamie and son-in-law Daniel in Europe. We were fortunate enough to have our Jamie organize our itinerary, and let me just say, she did a great job. My first impression flying into Budapest was the abundance of



red tile roofs on all the buildings along with the absence of wood used in construction. Stone and masonry construction was the norm in most buildings. Obviously they are doing something right due to the age of the buildings, many of which are older than this country we live in.

Our son-in-law, Daniel, is stationed in Papa, Hungary at a NATO supported air base which is about two hours from Budapest. The area around Papa consists of mostly small acreages with a cropping mix of corn and sunflowers ... and a few vineyards thrown in for good measure. We did see evidence of subsurface drainage identified by manholes scattered out in the crop fields.

We traveled to Rome by plane and then to Florence, Italy by train. The photo (right) is of Jamie and me standing in the middle of the Coliseum. It is hard to believe that these ruins have been around for hundreds of years. One of the most exhausting parts of our trip was when Lori and I climbed 463 steps to the top of the Duomo (Cathedral) to see all of Florence. It wasn't by choice, as we thought we were walking into the church sanctuary...wrong line. But none the less, it was one of the most beautiful sights I had ever seen.



The train trip from Rome to Florence took us through a bit of agricultural area showing extensive surface drainage on spacings of 80 to 100 feet in corn and soybeans. As you travel into the wine producing areas, you see what appears to be very rocky soil which may prohibit subsurface work in the lower elevations.

We recognized real quickly how wasteful we are in America. Very rarely did we find restaurants that had air conditioning, and yes, you can live with only 2 pillows on your bed and not the standard 7 pillows that we think we must have here in the states. The automobiles are much smaller than the ones we drive and small scooters are everywhere in the cities. It was my first experience with different currencies, so for 2 weeks I was not sure exactly how much money we were spending.

All in all, it was a great trip with lots of memories, and the best part of all was spending time with Jamie and Daniel.

With the fall work season beginning again, I hope that everyone has a safe and profitable season.

David Kennedy, President



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Active Contractors

Todd Sears

Sears Farm
14385 600 North Avenue, Tiskilwa, IL 61368
Ph: 815-646-4224

Dan Grothaus

Grothaus Farms
10339 Plainview Blacktop, Plainview, IL 62685
Ph: 217-473-2189

Dale Himstedt

D & H Drainage
533 E. 1275 N. Road, Morrisonville, IL 62546
Ph: 217-827-4455

Active Contractors (cont.)

Colt Roderick

C.R. Roderick Excavating
1661 County Road 1050 N, Greenup, IL 62428
Ph: 217-273-5060

Jeff Hodel

Ken Hodel & Sons
1258 County Rd. 1800 E., Roanoke, IL 61561
Ph: 309-923-7385

Kyle Morris

Morris Farm Drainage, Inc.
1630 E. CR 1075 N, Camargo, IL 61919
Ph: 217-369-2900

Josh Ward

Ward Tiling, Inc.
R.R. 3, Box 182, Mount Sterling, IL 62353
Ph: 217-242-4962

Thank You!

You may notice a slight difference in the listing of new members above. New member contact information will now be published in this section as they are introduced to the organization. If you already know our newest member, please give him a big ILICA welcome the next time you see him to let him know how glad we are he decided to join!

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At Continental Western Group, business insurance is what we do; period. Our single focus is to provide our customers with the business insurance coverage they need today and in the future. Continental Western Group is the Illinois **LICA endorsed carrier** for property and casualty insurance. Contact Tim Neuhauser at Heiser Insurance at 1-800-727-9775 or Continental Western Group directly at 1-800-235-2942 for more information.



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DRAINAGE WORKSHOP VERY POPULAR AGAIN THIS SUMMER



Once again, August scheduling for the ILICA drainage workshop seemed to work well for area drainage contractors (as well as one from Wisconsin). There were 39 attendees for each day of this 3 day workshop with several new faces in the group although it was also well attended by ILICA members. The Schilling Center at Richland Community College was a perfect place for this workshop with an open area east of the main campus for the survey field session which was right next to the pit-style bio-reactor installed during the ILICA 2006 Conservation Expo. The classroom had all the latest technical equipment and the staff at Richland was very helpful in so many ways. They went out of their way to provide anything we needed ... and the food was good too!

As a direct result of this workshop, there were 3 new contractor members added to ILICA ranks and several other strong leads identified from the non-member attendees. Once again the exit survey's indicate that Richard Cooke's knowledge and classroom style is a winning combination with drainage contractors. The exit survey's also indicate that most attendees would like to see a repeat of this class again next year.

The workshop also received outstanding support from associate facilitators and sponsors. Mike Cook from AGPS and Joey Schlatter from Schlatter's Inc spent several hours traveling to provide 1/2 day sessions on the last day of the workshop as well as spending additional one-on-one time with some of our contractors for more specific questions about their products.

A very heartfelt "thank you" goes out to all those who helped make this workshop such a success. The support of our sponsors, who are listed below, makes it possible for ILICA to continue to provide this kind of outstanding education.

Drainage Workshop Sponsors

Advanced Geo Positioning Solutions
 AGPS - Mike Cook ~ C.D. Getz
 Fratco, Inc. ~ Port Industries
 Precision Intakes, LLC ~ Springfield Plastics, Inc.

(top left to lower right) Long-time partner and ILICA educational advisor, Richard Cooke from University of Illinois Extension; Dennis Brooks, Lee Bunting and Randall Schertz during survey field session; Haley Bros. group during field session; attentive classroom during Richard's design session; another group braving the heat for survey results to use during design session.



ADMC

Agricultural Drainage Management Coalition

will be providing a
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www.admcoalition.com

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ILICA LADIES' PAGE

Hello fellow LICA ladies! After my grandmother, Rose's passing, I was asked to continue her article in our newsletter. Honestly, at first, I balked. Let's just say, creative writing is not a trait that she passed on to me. However, I'm gonna give it a whirl. You will see many changes in the ladies' page from the past. In lieu of wit and wisdom from me, I plan to give you random information that you may feel useful. The information will mostly be tips you can use in your daily life for convenience, creativity and fun!

Please feel free to contact me (kristinstamps@yahoo.com), with any additions you may have. I'd love to include photos of your homes & vacations, favorite reads, landscape ideas...anything goes! ENJOY!

Here is a glimpse of how I use the internet, with a few of my favorite websites.

PARTY PLANNING www.catchmyparty.com

Here you will find the most creative party planning ideas. I've based some of my kid's parties on these ideas and plan to use the Amazing Race party idea for Keegan's 10th birthday this September.

HOME DECORATING www.roomzaar.com

There are great "real life" photos of every kind of room you may be struggling to design on this great site. You can't help but be inspired!

COOKING www.allrecipies.com

There are great tools on this site. You can print off shopping lists for recipes, and my favorite part...type in the ingredients you have at home and it will generate a recipe for you.

CRAFTING www.tipjunkie.com

On this site you will find tutorials of how to make just about anything on your own. I especially like the tutorials to knock off pricy designer looks.



ENTERTAINMENT

www.youtube.com

Bored? Go to youtube and you won't be for long. Watch music videos, learn how to apply your make-up, catch up on your favorite TV shows. It's addicting, make sure you don't lose track of time!

ORGANIZATION www.organizedhome.com

I LOVE, LOVE, LOVE the ideas to keep your home clean and inviting here. You can find cleaning schedules that I find very useful.

EXERCISE www.great-workout.com

This site is perfect for the amateur fitness nut. There are workouts designed for every level, which you can do at home. I turn to this site when I get bored with my fitness routine.

SHOPPING www.etsy.com

This is my all-time favorite website. I go here almost daily to see what is new. Crafters sell their goods here, usually for a song! Just stick a word in the search box and you will be amazed at the creativity you find!

www.shoprouche.com

I came across this site by accident while searching for vintage clothing inspiration. They have beautiful things, based on vintage patterns, accessories, etc.

Some other fun sites to check out...

www.coolest-homemade-costumes.com

www.craigslist.com

www.ebay.com



The word for my debut issue is **WEBSITE**. Some of you may be hesitant to use the internet, but for me, I learn something new nearly every day from the **WORLD WIDE WEB**. Have fun exploring!

-Kristin Kutemeier



FARM PROGRESS SHOW BRINGS ILICA BACK TO PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION TENT

Once again, ILICA joined with its conservation partners in exhibiting at the Illinois Farm Progress Show. This international agricultural event brings people in from across the globe and many of them made their way through the Partners In Conservation tent.

ILICA contractors man the exhibit booth during the 3 day event with volunteer extraordinaire, Stan Seevers front and center the entire time. The signage on the "conservation cart" shown to the right was created by Jon Seevers for the 2009 FPS and this customized ride returned again this year, ready to take our volunteers to and from their cars, out to lunch or for a trip around the grounds to check out the many interesting exhibits that make up this huge bi-annual event.

This year's conservation tent theme was "Putting Conservation Pieces Together" with exhibitors displaying their "part" in promoting conservation. Guests who visited at least 7 of the booths had their conservation "passport" marked for

drawings held twice per day for a free rain barrel, compliments of IEPA.

A special "thank you" goes out to all our volunteers

who tolerated some pretty extreme temperatures on last 2 days of the show. David Haag, Eric Layden, Bill Dean, David Kennedy, Steve Anderson, Tom & Judy Beyers, Wayne Litwiller, Forrest Davis, Jon & Veronica Seevers and the ever present Stan Seevers each spent time at the ILICA booth, promoting ILICA and sound conservation practices. Stan also provides the always popular drainage display along with some antique drainage tools that usually get visitors talking. Thanks again everyone, for making this years' FPS a real success, including the addition of 2 new contractor members!



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WHO KNEW? FOUR ILLINOIS RECIPIENTS WIN LICA SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS!



Along with Rebekah Seevers, who was mentioned in the last issue of the *ILICA News* for winning one of the National LICA scholarship awards, 3 other Illinois LICA families also received scholarships. This year, LICA decided to award \$500 scholarships in order to help a greater number of students.

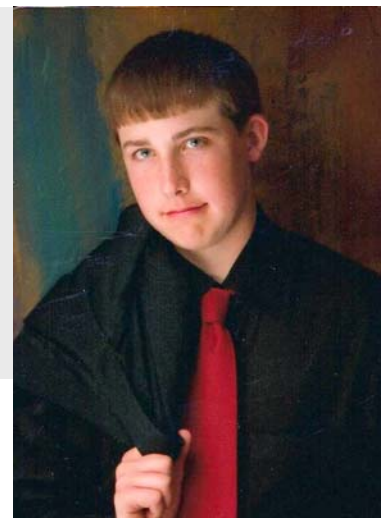
Luke Day, son of Scott and Kate Day is starting his senior year at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. He is a Dean's List student studying Civil Engineering, with a Surveying Specialty. He just finished a summer surveying internship with the prestigious engineering firm of Christopher B. Burke Engineering in Rosemont, Illinois (Chicago area). He participated in a broad range of surveys, including city road work, interstate off ramps, and through forest preserves. He also worked in their AutoCAD department. During school breaks he continues to work with his father at Day Drainage. After being a 3-sport athlete in high school, he still has sports in his blood and plays on intramural football and softball teams. He is a member of the student chapters of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Illinois Professional Land Surveyors Association. He plans to graduate December 2012. Luke has really enjoyed his association with ILICA, particularly the backhoe rodeos and conventions.



Jordan Mars, daughter of Mike and Chris Mars is currently majoring in geology with a specialization in petroleum at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. She hopes to graduate in the fall of 2012 with a Bachelor of Science degree and then plans to further her education by receiving a Masters degree in Petroleum geology at Louisiana State University. During her time at SIUC she has been involved in many Registered Student Organizations such as Circle K, Saluki Pro-life, and Student Ministry team. Circle K is a club that is based on service, volunteering at numerous events on campus and in Carbondale. Saluki Pro-life and SMT are both groups that are through the Newman Catholic Center on campus.

Summer of 2010 she was a student orientation leader on campus. Being an orientation leader then lead into being a Student Life Advisor (SLA) in the fall of 2010. The main goals of SLA's are to move students in and escort them to as many campus activities as possible. Being involved in your college is one of the key ingredients in becoming a well developed, fun and successful student! It is because of the above groups that my journey at SIUC has been an unforgettable one. Go Salukis!!

Stephen Lake, son of David and Ruth Lake of Addieville is starting his freshman year at the University of Illinois. Stephen was active in Golf and Baseball during his years in High School. He was a member of National Honor Society and President during his senior year. Stephen was an active member of FFA all throughout high school, holding offices in his school's organization as well as at the section level. He worked part-time in high school at the family business Lake Contracting. His experience in both FFA and in construction led him to enroll at the University of Illinois with the goal of pursuing a degree in Technical Systems Management through the College of ACES. This seems very appropriate given ILICA's long history with the College of ACES.



We offer our sincere congratulations to each of these outstanding students on receiving this honor and offer our best wishes to each one of them for continued success in all of their pursuits.

MINNESOTA HOSTS LICA SUMMER MEETING

This year's summer LICA meetings were held in downtown Rochester Minnesota with several pre-tours planned to entertain a variety of interests. Everything from a tour of the McNeilus Truck Company to a visit to Red Wing Minn. was enjoyed by LICA visitors. Minnesota LICA also set up a septic and equipment demonstration much like the one held at Wayne Litwillers' shop during last year's summer meetings in Peoria, providing live demonstrations and a great meal.

The opening reception was supported by many LICA associate displays as well as donations to the Silent Auction, which was a big hit. The evening was a very enjoyable kick off to the official start of the summer meetings, which began the next morning with committee meetings. The Board meeting was held on Saturday followed by go-kart races that afternoon. The convention concluded with a dinner cruise on Lake Pepin onboard the "Pearl of the Lake" paddleboat.

The first ADMC/NRCS facilitated Drainage Water Management and TSP certification class was also held during the summer meetings, bringing in contractors from several states to take advantage of that training. The ILICA office has just been notified by ADMC that the second scheduling of this class has been set for February 28 - 29, 2012 in Champaign. (see page 7) Please keep checking the ADMC website at <http://www.admcoalition.com> for more information.



The 2012 Winter LICA meetings are set for San Diego California, February 7 - 11. Although it seems like a long time until February, now is a good time to look into air-fare to get the best pricing. The **tentative** schedule is listed below and more details will be available soon. Doesn't a trip to California in February sound inviting!

2012 Winter LICA Meetings

Doubletree Hotel, 1646 Front Street, San Diego, CA 92101

Tuesday, February 7th - **USS Midway Tour**

Wednesday, February 8th - **San Diego Zoo**

Thursday, February 9th - **Educational Seminars**

Friday, February 10th - **Committee Meetings**

Saturday, February 11th

Board & Delegates' Meetings & Indoor Go-Karts

(above) Issue session during this summer's board meeting.

(lower left) Mini-Expo at Bucknell site; Guests enjoying the dinner cruise down the Mississippi River on the "Pearl of the Lake" paddleboat.



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MEMORIAL TO CARROLL J.W. DRABLOS

JUNE 12, 1930 TO JUNE 6, 2011



Many of ILICA's younger members probably don't remember Carroll Drablos or may not have even heard of him. However, Carroll was instrumental in developing one of the leading educational programs for land improvement contractors, which ILICA continues to benefit from even today. Kent Mitchell and Richard Cooke both worked

closely with Carroll, who undoubtedly had a profound effect on their careers. Carroll was an honorary Life Member of ILICA, and in honor of his great contributions to the organization, the following excerpt is taken from the official University of Illinois memorial.

Professor Carroll J.W. Drablos, internationally recognized for his expertise in Soil and Water technology, died six days before his 81st birthday in Champaign, Illinois.

Carroll was born on his parent's farm near Raub, North Dakota. His education began with four classmates in a one-room country school near the family farm. He received his BS degree in Agricultural Engineering in 1954 from North Dakota State University. During college, Carroll met Arlene Skjelset and they were married on September 13, 1953.

Carroll was commissioned as an officer in the United States Air Force upon his graduation. Following his military service, Carroll accepted a position with the Soil Conservation Service as an Engineer in Valley City, North Dakota. One year later, Carroll received an assistantship to work on a Master's Degree at North Dakota State University. After he finished his M.S. in Agricultural Engineering in 1958, Carroll accepted a research position at the University of Illinois. He was promoted to Professor in 1978.

Professor Drablos was a pioneer in the compilation and analysis of the interrelation of highway and agricultural drainage laws, and highway and agricultural drainage practices. The Illinois studies had an impact nationally and served as a model for changes in other states, and led to ASAE committee activity which had national impact.

Professor Drablos' studies on the strength of corru-

gated plastic drain tubing and methods of installation provided basic data used in developing ASTM specifications for this new material. These specifications had an impact nationally by assuring customers of a quality product.

Professor Drablos utilized his field experience and his educational skills to help develop one of the country's leading educational programs for land improvement contractors. Based on his field studies on plastic tubing he joined with colleagues in adjacent states to assure that drainage contractors knew how to install plastic drain tubing for long term use. The educational program was broader than drainage and encompassed all phases of soil and water engineered management practices. This program was geared in part to land contractors who apply practices to the land and led to the development of an award winning state association that served as a model for other states to emulate. Again, Carroll's programs had regional and national impact because of their quality and visibility.

Professor Drablos was a staunch supporter of the Soil Conservation Society of America and served in several positions, including State President. He was a leader in the American Society of Agricultural Engineers' effort to promote improved standards for highway and agricultural drainage. He served as Chairman of the Interrelation of Highway and Agricultural Drainage Committee and Chairman of the Design and Construction of Tile Drains Committee.

A registered professional engineer, Carroll received numerous honors and awards including seven ASAE Blue Ribbons for Educational Aids. He was honored with membership in Epsilon Sigma Phi, Gamma Sigma Delta, Sigma Xi, and the Overholt International Drainage Hall of Fame. He was an honorary member of the Corrugated Plastic Tubing Manufacturers Association, an honorary Life Member of the Illinois Land Improvement Association, and is listed in Who's Who in the Midwest and in Leaders in American Science.

Carroll was a member of Grace Lutheran Church and served in numerous leadership roles over his long affiliation with his church. Carroll loved to play bridge and was an active participant in the Ginger Creek duplicate bridge group in Champaign and a Silver Life Master. Attending Illini games and supporting the rebounders ranked high among his favorite pastimes. Most of all, Carroll enjoyed spending time with family and friends.

Carroll is survived by Arlene, his wife of 57 years; two sons, Scott (Kelly) Drablos of Dallas, Texas, and Craig (Kristi) Drablos of Tampa, Florida; and six grandchildren.

AREA MEMBER MEETINGS RESUME IN NOVEMBER



Save the Date:

November 10, 2011

Area 3 Member Meeting

**Hosted by Martin Equipment of IL
DoubleTree Hotel - Bloomington, IL**

5 - 6 pm - Social Hour

6 pm - Dinner

7 - 8 pm: IT4 / Emissions / Martin MAX Program



It's hard to believe, but fall is here! The number of grain trucks on the road and so many corn fields disappearing are a sure sign of the changing of seasons though. And with that, comes the return of ILICA area member meetings.

Area 3 will kick off this year's series with Martin Equipment hosting contractors at the DoubleTree Hotel in Bloomington on November 10th. Following the social hour and catered dinner, Martin's will present information on IT4, emissions, and Martin MAX. Martin's will also have a static equipment display just outside the conference center entrance for those interested in checking out the newest models.

Then in December, Area 6 will host their first member meeting in the Mattoon area on Tuesday, December 13th. Since it will be our first visit to Area 6, the program will be provided by the Illinois State Police Commercial Vehicle Division on IDOT regulations for contractors. Bill Dean is working in finalizing the details of that event and more information will be available soon. That same week, the ILICA membership committee will return to Area 8 on Thursday, December 15th for a meeting in Norm Kocher's neck of the woods. Again, more detail will be available soon regarding the exact location and educational topic.

Of course, with January comes the ILICA convention in Bloomington, then February brings the national LICA winter conference followed closely by the ILICA winter workshop which will have a business focus in 2012.



Then, in line with our standard schedule, Area member meetings are scheduled again for the week of March 5th although they are still very early in the planning phase. Area 3 near Peoria and Area 5 are both being discussed as possible meeting venues with Tuesday March 6th and Thursday March 8th selected for the meeting dates.

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: LICA PROMOTES AGREN CONSERVATION PLANNING TOOL



*Source: John Peterson, LICA Director of
Government Relations*

The letter below was personally delivered to the NRCS Chief, David White, by John Peterson under the direction of LICA President, Steve Gerten. Several LICA members have had the opportunity to view this planning tool through an on-line webinar and have been very impressed. See Steve's comments below regarding the benefit this software could provide to NRCS offices around the United States.

Dave Hurst was one of the members who viewed the on-line presentation and agrees that this software offers a welcomed change to current processes used in determining cost and design on many conservation practices. However, since this is not strictly a state issue, Dave recommended contacting the National LICA office to "respectively request that LICA develop a position statement for the federal level that ILICA and the other chapters could adopt for their respective state and local agencies." Dave's comments were presented at the September 10th board meeting along with additional information regarding the LiDAR technology used in this process.



After some discussion, the board agreed that a unified approach to this matter would best serve everyone involved. Past LICA president Bruce Barnhart sat in on one of the Agren webinars and also saw the potential of this software. He agrees that this is a good time to promote such a tool at the national level since the NRCS is currently researching new programs of this kind. Those that Bruce are aware of in Iowa however, are still cumbersome and far less efficient than the Agren and LiDAR system. Bruce supports the development of a National LICA position statement and putting their full support behind Agren and LiDAR.

Although everyone is at least starting to get busy at this time, the developers of Agren would be more than happy to set up another webinar for others to view this technology if there is interest. And they are also willing to schedule it in the evening so it doesn't interfere with work hours. All that is required is a computer with an internet connection and a telephone of any kind. Once you are logged into the demonstration, you simply listen in via telephone while the host from Agren controls what you see on your computer screen. It is a very simple and painless process ... just as Dave Hurst!

Please contact the ILICA office if you would like more information about the Agren software or to discuss the possibility of another webinar. With dwindling field staff and funding for conservation programs, this technology might be just what NRCS needs to keep cost share programs going strong.

We also understand that Agren has proposed a national initiative with NRCS that would provide these tools to 20 field offices in 10 states, and ultimately could make these tools functional for NRCS's use nationally. The purpose of my letter is to encourage NRCS to work with Agren on this national initiative. As NRCS's partner since the 1950's, and as the organization representing contractors that have installed most of the nation's conservation practices on the land, we see these tools improving our system of conservation planning and installation even as resources dwindle. Please call on LICA if we might help as you evaluate this initiative. It will aid NRCS, cooperators, and our environment.

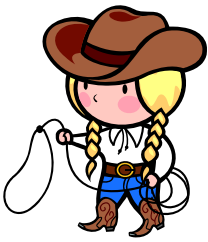
Sincerely,
Steve Gerten, President
Land Improvement Contractors of America
Cc: Biuso, Peterson, LICA; Vilsack, USDA

August 25, 2011

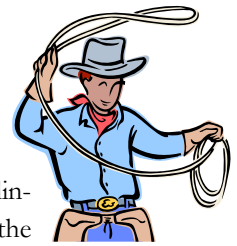
Dear Chief White,

Recently members of The Land Improvement Contractors of America (LICA) have had the opportunity to use some computerized conservation planning tools that we believe could really help NRCS strengthen its core technical assistance function, giving landusers information and options they need to make sound conservation decisions. As budget cuts continue, and we are afraid they will, and NRCS staffing levels diminish, the need for conservation work and technical assistance continues. The planning tools we have learned of have been developed by Agren, a small company in rural Iowa. These computerized online tools coupled to LiDAR and intuitive GIS-based technology, help landusers quickly envision how practices such as farm ponds, grassed waterways, terraces and other structural practices will fit on their land, and within minutes they even have accurate estimates of the likely costs involved.

It is my understanding NRCS in Iowa is piloting the use of these Agren conservation planning tools, and have found them to be immensely helpful. IA NRCS officials we have talked to really believe these tools save them time and improve planning accuracy. Our LICA members who have used them see the significant time savings realized with their use.



2012 ILICA WINTER CONVENTION WILL HAVE A WESTERN THEME



ILICA will return to the DoubleTree Hotel in Bloomington for the 2012 annual convention and member meeting. This year's convention will have a western theme and the committee is hoping to have the same outstanding participation on Thursday evenings' theme night as they did last year with our "hippies".

The schedule will follow the same basic format as last year too, with exhibits opening early Thursday morning and remaining until noon on Friday. Educational programs will be offered most of Thursday and again Friday morning with the members meeting set for Friday afternoon. A ladies hospitality room will be available all day Thursday with refreshments and individual activities and the traditional ladies day outing is set for Friday. Last year's chaperoned children's program was such a success, it is back on the schedule again. There is no additional fee involved and since the children remain in the hotel, par-

ents can enjoy Friday evening's mystery dinner entertainment without worry, while the kids enjoy a movie, snacks and many other activities.

Registration and exhibit forms will be available in the next issue of the *ILICA News* but please save the date and plan on joining us at this informative and entertaining event! We hope that many of the new members who have joined over this past year will take advantage of their free convention registration benefit and see what ILICA is all about. The atmosphere is casual and friendly and families are encouraged to attend. Look for more detailed information after the November committee meeting. We hope to see you there "partner"!

SAVE THE DATE!
JANUARY 12 - 14, 2012



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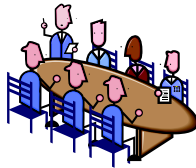
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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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_____ hereby makes application for Active Membership in the **ILLINOIS LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION, INC.**, (ILICA) and enclose \$_____ as my annual membership dues for the year _____. One dollar (\$1.00), which is included in the \$295 dues, is for a one (1) year subscription to the “ILICA News”, a bi-monthly newsletter.

Send completed application with payment (make check payable to ILICA) to the corporate address above or give to any ILICA member to forward.

Name: _____ DOB:(*required for active members only*) _____

Firm Name: _____

Spouse: _____ County: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email : _____ Sponsor: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Fax: _____

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| EMC - Earthmoving/Land Clearing | SP - Site Prep |
| EXG - Excavating/Grading | SWU - Sewer/Water/Underground Utilities |
| GR - Gravel/ Rock Production | TH - Trucking / Hauling |
| LL - Land Leveling | TW - Terraces / Waterways |
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Active Contractor Membership - \$295 (*One hundred seventy dollars (\$170) for Illinois Membership plus One hundred twenty five dollars (\$125) for National Membership*)

(Active members are individuals engaged in the business of entering into contracts for performing work that will result in soil, land, natural resource conservation or rehabilitation, water conservation, control and prevention of soil erosion, depletion and misuse of natural resources and soil and water pollution and contamination.)

Associate Membership - \$295 (Associate members are those businesses that manufacture or sell equipment, materials or services used by active members)

Affiliate Membership - \$85 (Affiliate members are individuals employed by an active member in the business that makes the active member eligible for membership)

ILLINOIS LICA BENEFITS



Education

Illinois LICA provides many educational opportunities throughout the year with sessions at our annual convention, at Area member meetings and at workshops each year. Almost every Area is hosting meetings this year.

Illinois LICA state convention, which includes exhibits by our associate members, is scheduled each January in various locations around the state. First year contractor members will receive 1 free full participation registration to the convention, which includes all meals during the 3 day event. Several educational sessions are scheduled during the convention along with many social and networking opportunities.



Workshops are offered multiple times per year. In 2011 there were three scheduled; A 4 day safety workshop in February, the University of Illinois Erosion Control workshop in March and a drainage and drainage water management workshop set for August. OSHA 10 Hour certification will be offered every other year and Certified Flagger training is available as often as demand warrants.



Continental Western Group/LICA Insurance Program

Continental Western Group has designed a comprehensive LICA Insurance program, blending Property, Inland Marine, Crime, General Liability & Business Auto coverage into a simple and convenient policy. It offers standard coverage for many items specific to the Land Improvement industry, providing outstanding coverage at a very competitive rate, even before the Safety Group Dividend potential return. Although the dividend is not guaranteed, the return rate has been between 3.5% and 12% most years.



ILICA News & Annual Directory

The ILICA News is a bi-monthly publication distributed to all Illinois LICA members that contains 24 pages of information relative to the land improvement industry as well as notice of activities and upcoming events. The annual directory of members is published each spring and distributed to all ILICA members and many IEPA, NRCS and SWCD offices throughout Illinois.



Legislative Representation

ILICA has an active Legislative Committee that monitors legislation that impacts small business in Illinois. They participate in the Agricultural Legislative Roundtable caucus and many other events then disseminate that information to ILICA members. They are currently working on a system to streamline this process for more effective communication.

ILICA not only maintains its own relationship with legislative contacts, Illinois along with other state chapters have a combined voice in Washington DC through national LICA. Each year, representation from ILICA travels to Washington DC along with several other chapters, to lobby their congressmen and women regarding legislation that affects land improvement contractors.



National Benefits

A LICA membership entitles contractors to many benefits that can give their company a competitive edge. Listed below are just a few:

- National LICA Contractor Magazine
- LICA Contractor Safety Management Plan
- National Equipment Register
- Petrocon Commodities Discount Program
- Beyond Perks Program
- National LICA Winter Convention and Summer Meeting
- National Scholarship Program
- Land & Water Magazine
- LICA Sponsored Limited Medical Program

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Illinois

Area 3 Member Meeting
DoubleTree Hotel - Bloomington, IL
IT4 / Emissions / Martin MAX
 November 10, 2011
 Social Hour - 5 - 6 pm ; Dinner 6 pm

Area 6 Member Meeting
Exact location TBA
IDOT Regulations for Contractors
 December 13, 2011

Area 8 Member Meeting
Exact Location and Topic TBA
 December 15, 2011

ILICA Winter Convention & Member Meeting
DoubleTree Hotel - Bloomington, IL
 January 12 - 14, 2012

Winter Business Management Workshop
Exact Location TBA
 February 14 - 15, 2012

National

LICA Winter Convention
DoubleTree Hotel - San Diego, California
 February 7 - 11, 2012

ADVERTISERS INDEX

Agri Drain Corp 4
 Central Illinois Ag 2
 Continental Western Group/Heiser Ins. 5
 First Mid-Illinois Bank & Trust 7
 Fratco, Inc.15
 Great Lakes InterDrain13
 Martin Equipment of Illinois 24
 Midwest Auger Aerator. 24
 Precision Intakes Ltd24
 Prins Insurance Inc.9
 Prinsco 11
 Roland Machinery Co. 2
 RWF Bron 23
 Springfield Plastics Inc.24
 Stadel Electronics 20

November 12, 2011 Board Meeting Location
Heiser Insurance - 133 S. Main Street - Morton, IL

From I-74, take Exit 102, Morton Avenue to Jackson St. Turn left onto Jackson St and follow it to Main. Turn right onto Main, go 4 blocks to Adams St. Turn right onto Adams and turn right into the parking lot. From I55, take Main to Adams, turn left and park behind the building. There is an glass entrance door into the building from that parking lot.

(You'll actually enter into a sandwich shop, but you're in the right place.) **Heiser's**
ph: (309) 263-8431





UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
EXTENSION

TAKING CARE OF SPRING-PLANTED TREES

When a tree is planted in the spring, there are high expectations that it will become an integral part of the landscape, said a University of Illinois Extension horticulture specialist.



"How well and how soon that happens starts with the tree's first several seasons in its new location in the landscape," explained Richard Hentschel. "A general rule for transplant recovery of a shade or ornamental tree is that it takes at least one year of recovery for every inch of trunk caliper. That can mean a two- or three-year recovery for a typical tree planted by a homeowner and longer if you have a professionally planted tree of a larger trunk caliper.

"Homeowners will need to take care of that transplanted tree until the tree completely recovers and resumes a normal annual rate of growth," he said.

Examples of a normal rate of growth can be measured by the amount of annual growth compared to the growth rate the first year after transplanting, the leaf size returning to normal, and a return of flowers if it is a flowering tree. The tree will spend much of the energy produced by the leaves to re-grow and establish a root system for those first years.



"Providing plenty of water during those first years is very important," he said. "With a limited root system, watering is one of the most important things a homeowner can do.

"In the spring when we are having cooler temperatures, the demand for water is reduced and there is usually adequate moisture in the soil from the spring rains. As the weather gets warmer, homeowners need to check the tree about once a week for water and then only water when needed."

With the roots in the root ball, both burlapped and container-grown trees, the surrounding soil may be moist, but there are no roots to take advantage of the soil moisture.

Source: Richard Hentschel, Extension Educator, Horticulture, hentsche@illinois.edu

"If the root ball is dry, put enough water on the root ball area to thoroughly wet the entire ball," said Hentschel. "Ideally, this is done before any obvious wilting can be seen in the tree canopy.

"If there is a watering berm around the edge of the hole from the displaced soil when the tree was planted, watering is easier because the water stays where you want it and filling up the ring with the garden hose is easy. If there is no watering berm, water slowly enough so the water stays around the tree and does not run off into the lawn or some other bed."



One way to extend the watering interval is to use a mulch layer 3 to 4 inches deep out past the root ball. This will conserve moisture and also keep the soil cooler, an environment favorable to tree roots. Keep the mulch ring loose so water will soak in rather than run off during a rain.

If the soil is heavy and has a tendency to hold more water or hold water longer, using a piece of plastic drainage tile with holes or slits placed vertically in the hole next to the ball at planting time can provide a way to remove excess water from the planting hole.

"This same tile also provides more soil oxygen to enter the root zone, which is an added benefit without any additional cost," he said. "There are trees lost every year from being over-watered."

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ANNUAL AREA 3 GOLF OUTING CONTINUES TO RECEIVE FIRST-CLASS SUPPORT!



The 3rd annual Area 3 golf outing, held September 8th back at Coyote Creek Golf Club in Bartonville, brought out over 80 participants on an absolutely beautiful fall day again this year. Associate and contractor members alike supported this annual fundraiser in a big way, providing enough hole sponsorships to fill every tee and green plus a few extras! There isn't enough room here to list every one, but each sign helped to make this outing the great success it was. Lunch was sponsored again this year by C.F.C.O. and Martin Equipment of Illinois sponsored the evening meal.

There were also four very generous outing sponsors: Courson & Associates - CPA, Springfield Plastics, Inc., Port Industries and CK Power, who had golfers present on the course too, making the day a lot of fun along with providing their outstanding financial support. Agri Drain Corp and Prins Insurance were unable to attend but supported the event by providing registration gifts.

During the last three years, ILICA has relied on this outing to provide the additional funding necessary to keep the organization on solid financial ground while building ILICA's name around Illinois. Our membership continues to grow with each and every event to where we now stand at 167 contractor



members before our fall membership sweeps even begin! And although getting contractor membership up to 200 seemed like a distance goal in 2007 when ILICA's renewed growth began, it now appears to be well within our reach.

And now, the Area 3 golf outing has developed a life of its own with many members and guests looking forward to next year before the evening meal is even done. All the hard work put in by the golf committee, led by Wayne Litwiller, has paid off in spades with this very successful event. Our very sincere thanks go out to them and to everyone who supported the outing in any way. Our outing and meal sponsors are listed below but we also appreciate all those who took time away from their busy schedules to attend; the beautiful ladies who took complete care the very busy registration desk; everyone who thought ahead and brought door prizes to donate and those who hung-out at the betting hole. We extend our sincere thanks to them as well.

And the golf outing just wouldn't be the same without Jerry Biuso, who made the trip again this year, despite his very busy travel schedule. ILICA's first golf outing was initiated by Jerry and he remains the rallying force behind outing volunteers, treating them to lunch and refreshments once things settle down. Jerry, we all thank you for your continued guidance and support (and for the refreshments too!!!)

Outing Sponsors



Port Industries



ANNUAL AREA 3 GOLF OUTING (CONT.)



(Above, l to r) – Registration staff; Kristin Kutemeier, Jackie Streitmatter, Cathy Masching, Michelle Peuster and Shelby Hurst taking care of business. Bob Martin Jr, Jeremy Smith and Devon Hess from Martin Equipment pause for a quick photo-op with one of our hole sponsor signs; Kent Kowalske gets swing tips from Dale Kuhn (JULIE) while Gina Meehan watches BJ McCullum in action in the Ameren group; Jerry Biuso, National LICA CEO with Adam Zimmerman from Caterpillar, Wayne Litwiller, Dan Ostrander from Altorfers and Dick Hohulan wait for the group to tee-off; the 1 pm shotgun start gets underway on the first hole with the other carts heading off to their respective start locations on a perfect fall day.

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