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*March - April 2015*

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### **Upcoming Events:**

4th Annual Area 6 Golf Outing -  
**June 19th - Meadowview Golf  
Course - Mattoon, IL**

Summer Picnic / Member Meeting  
**June 27th - 10 am  
LaSata Winery, Vincennes, IN**

## SUMMER EVENTS



**Area 6 Golf Outing**

### Summer Drainage Workshop



**Summer Picnic & Member Meeting**

### **Also Featured Inside:**

**Winter LICA Conference Brings Pirates to Tampa!** *(page 6)*

**Extension Connection: Tile Drainage in the Illinois Nutrient  
Loss Reduction Strategy** *(page 12-14)*

**Farm Progress Show Returns to Illinois** *(page 10)*

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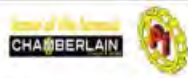
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# The ILICA News



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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.

Subscription price is \$50.00 per year, issued bi-monthly: Jan.-Feb.; Mar.-Apr.; May-June; July-Aug. Sept.-Oct.; Nov.-Dec., and also includes one annual directory.

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### The LICA Creed



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### Meeting Notice

**Regular Meeting of the Board**  
**May 2, 2015 - 2 pm**

**Richland Community College Cafeteria**  
**1 College Park, Decatur, IL**

**Committee Meetings: 10 am - 1 pm**

*(See map & directions on page 19)*



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE


Hello to all from Southern Illinois.

Spring is here, robins have appeared, and we have lots of mud here. It will be a few days before any dirt work can begin, if it does not rain more. Since our last message there have been several events take place.

The first was the LICA National winter annual meeting in Tampa, Florida. We had the normal committee meetings, safety training by CNA, training on the new LICA portal and the introduction of a new benefit program. They introduced a new health insurance program called Healthy Lifestyles which sounded worth looking into. I think they have an interesting approach that could save some money on premiums.

LICA members have many benefit programs; the last LICA Contractor magazine had four pages dedicated to listing and explaining these benefit programs. I think there is something in there for every member. We also had some interesting tours and had a few good times. Our own Steve Anderson is now the National President so congrats to Steve. The Summer annual LICA meetings will be held in Little Rock, Arkansas in July.

Janet put together a winter training meeting including 10 hour OSHA training and flagger training. This meeting was very well attended this year with 29 members and member's employees. We thank those members and employees for help-



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ing make the workshop a success while making Illinois a safer place to work.

The March regular board meeting was a productive one. The convention committee has already determined to return to the Embassy Suites East Peoria and the program planning is well under way. The show committee is working with the Wetlands Initiative, Farm Progress Show and Corn Growers. We are planning the usual membership meetings, the golf outings and the summer picnic is scheduled to be in Lawrenceville. Janet is already working on the drainage workshop.

Good luck out there this spring and please work safely.

Tom Beyers, President



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# Thank You!



Edits have already begun on the 2015 ILICA directory so if you've changed an email address, dropped a land line, or moved during the last year, PLEASE let the ILICA office know VERY SOON!

The directory is published for our members convenience and to provide others will accurate contact information for our contractors and associates. However, once the directory is published, it will be a whole year before corrections would be reflected to the public.

The intent is for this publication to contain the most current information possible when it goes to print. PLEASE help us by emailing changes to [lauri@illica.net](mailto:lauri@illica.net) or by calling the office at (309) 446-3700 with corrections.

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# WINTER LICA CONFERENCE BRINGS PIRATES TO TAMPA!



The 2015 Winter LICA conference brought out the “pirate” in several attendees, as can be seen in these photos. The convention followed closely on the heels of Tampa’s annual Gasparilla Festival, so Jerry thought, why not run with it! The hotel even provided their own pirate to welcome LICA members to the opening reception, handing out beads and “Doubloons” as everyone arrived.

But even before the opening night, several pre-tours were well attended so by the time the conference actually kicked off, several members had been able to enjoy the sunny, warm temperatures of Tampa before getting down to the business part of the meetings. Busch Gardens, Ybor City and even a sporting clay shoot were included in the pre-scheduling and all registrants got to enjoy a dinner cruise Friday evening on the “Starship” which was delicious and entertaining.

The ladies program was very enjoyable but that story can be found on page 8 of this newsletter. Veronica Seevers, LICA ladies chairperson, did an excellent job planning activities for the group so whether they were doing something in the ladies hospitality room or terrorizing the highways, everyone had a wonderful time.

And Illinois’ own Tom Beyers was awarded the LICA Mr. Contractor Award for 2014. Tom has had quite a year so far; He not only received this prestigious national LICA award, but he became ILICA President at the state convention in January and received the state Mr. Contractor of the year as well.



And an Illinois LICA member is once again National LICA president. Steve Anderson took the helm at this convention and will continue to provide the kind of leadership at national that he did in Illinois.

Steve Miller was front and center at the board meeting again, which was a real blessing for everyone, especially Steve, if a person were to ask him! Steve continues to recover and gain strength and presiding at the board meeting was a major goal. It was great to see that he hadn’t lost any of his sense of humor.

Jerry Biuso was also a sight for sore eyes following his double knee surgery in November. It’s been said that “you can’t keep a good man down”, and Jerry has proven that saying right by getting around during the entire convention with no more than 2 canes to assist him on what can be very long walks down conference center hallways. He too is getting better by the day and from a recent call to the ILICA office, appears to be back to his “spunky” self at this time. But we won’t hold that against him, just this once!

The summer LICA convention planning is already underway and Little Rock Arkansas is the destination. The theme has also been determined and it is the “Roaring ‘20’s” ... flapper costumes for the ladies, gangster-wear for the gentlemen. Dig out that old pin-stripped suit, black shirt and white tie, and you’ll be set. It’s going to take a little more creative thinking for the ladies costumes, but a trip to a consignment shop or resale store might go a long way. More information about this event will be available soon from national LICA and in the next issue of this newsletter.



(Top l) Tom Beyers, Xenya Mucha of John Deere and Lee Bunting in their pirate gear; (Top r) Most of the Illinois LICA group (a motley crew) posed on deck; (Above, upper left to lower right) The Starship Yacht where guests enjoyed dinner, dancing and cruising on Tampa Bay; Marsha and Dave Haag with David and Lori Kennedy on board the Starship before dinner; Lee and Marie Bunting on the open 3rd deck dance floor; Outgoing president Bob Clark, Jerry Biuso, Steve Anderson and Steve Miller at the board meeting; Pirates of every description gather at the opening reception and associates night; Tom Beyers receiving the LICA Mr. Contractor Award from LICA past president, Harry Hauschild.

## 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL AREA 6 GOLF OUTING AT MEADOWVIEW - JUNE 19, 2015

It may be hard to top last year's Area 6 golf outing, but Bill Dean is going to try! ILICA is returning for a 4th time to the very hospitable Meadowview Golf Course in Mattoon for this annual fundraiser. The support last year was phenomenal and from the early reports, it looks like it will be again this year. Everyone had a great time and as requested, sunscreen will be available to our golfers ... along with the beer!

Save this Friday date and plan on joining in the fun with old ILICA friends and perhaps a few new ones. Registration forms will be sent out in April along with the board meeting notice and more detail will be available soon on the ILICA website.



## ILICA SUMMER PICNIC - JUNE 27, 2015



The summer ILICA picnic is set for Lasata Winery near Vincennes Indiana with several tour ideas for the ILICA ladies and guys to complete this fun day. Lasata is an Indian word meaning a place of peace. The winery is located in a peaceful wooded setting near Robeson Hills across the Wabash River from Vincennes, Indiana, one mile north of Westport, Illinois, on scenic highway 33.

The summer member meeting will start at 10 am at the Winery followed by a catered picnic lunch on site. Wine tasting will be available to those interested (in this group ... really ???) before heading into historic Vincennes Indiana for an afternoon of museum tours and shopping.

And although the Indiana Military Museum might be one of the bigger attractions, Vincennes is also the boyhood home of Red Skelton and has several other historical sites including the USS Vincennes Monument and Old French House & Indian Museum.

For the ladies, there are several downtown merchants as well as the Vincennes Historical Farmers' Market, under an

open-air Riverfront Pavilion. This Farmers' market not only has baked goods, produce and perennials, Artisan vendors are on site offering fine needlecrafts, jewelry, woodworking and demonstrations as well.

A room block has been set up for Friday and Saturday evening, June 26 - 27, at a brand new Marriott Townplace Suites for \$109+ per night. Reservations can be made **right now** by contacting the hotel at 812-255-1500 or by calling the ILICA office to receive a link via email for online reservations.

The hotel also offers a few 2 queen bedroom suites that include an additional sofa bed, complete kitchen, separate living room and 3 flatscreen TV's. The rate is \$129+ but there are only a few available. They have a maximum capacity of 6 people, and would be perfect for a family or two couples to share, but don't wait if you think you'd like one of these.

Registration forms will be sent out in April along with the May meeting notice and details will be available soon on our website. Save the date for this fun day in Southern Illinois and bring the whole family.



# Ladies Really Enjoy National LICA Conference In Tampa

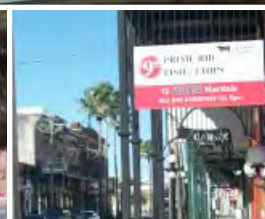
# ILICA LADIES PAGE



Thanks to a well planned tour program and National LICA Ladies committee chair, Veronica Seevers, this year's Ladies program in Tampa receives fantastic reviews from attendees.

What better setting could a person hope for than Tampa in February for the National LICA winter convention. And although the weather could have been just a little warmer, it was still about 30 degrees warmer than it was in Illinois so there were no complaints.

Pre tours at this years' convention included Busch Gardens and Ybor City, where the group toured a cigar factory and visited the La Segunda bakery for a demonstration of how the Cuban bread is made. It was said that the aroma alone was worth the trip.



Most photos are mentioned in the text but these above are Tarpon Springs & Ybor City. (below) Veronica with Shelly Hewson of NJ, winner of the necklace raffle.

Marsha & Dave Haag

Springs, St. Petersburg, Anna Maria Island or wineries on open afternoons. Of course, even the conference meals are a blast when you're with the right group, so the fun never stopped. These ladies didn't even have to leave the hotel to find ways to enjoy each others company. One evening, an impromptu pizza party broke out on the concierge floor where a few of the couples rooms were located. Before long, there were at least 20 people in the room, laughing, eating and enjoying a beer while a few women organized the ladies gift bags for the next day.

But this year, the real fun started when the girls struck out on their own for shopping on various occasions, attracting ladies from several other state chapters. The Illinois girls were the life of the party so their numbers grew with every outing. There have been discussions about who "corrupted" who during these trips, but Eileen Levy has already informed Janet that the Illinois ladies simply must continue to attend all future national LICA conventions.

And to insure that the LICA ladies will continue to enjoy these kind of programs, Veronica Seevers, with Jon's help, raised more than \$3000 on the LICA necklace raffle, which

helps support the National scholarship program and also replaces funds for the next year's ladies programs. Thanks in large part to their effort, the LICA ladies should have plenty to do during the next few conventions!



There were several in-house activities planned for the ladies as well. Veronica had cases of loose beads for a bracelet making activity that continued off and on throughout the convention. The ladies took advantage of the second floor hospitality room, where they could meet during the slow times and start on their project where they'd left off. Marie Bunting presented the party-hose flower make and take that she did for the Illinois LICA ladies in January, which was just as popular in Tampa as it was at home.

And for these ladies, who allowed husbands to accompany them on occasion, there was never a dull moment. Even when formal tours weren't on the schedule, smaller groups of couples and acquaintances from other state chapters headed out to restaurants at night and to places like Tarpon





# 10 HOUR OSHA & CERTIFIED FLAGGER TRAINING WELL ATTENDED



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## Workshop Sponsors



Every 2 years, 10-Hour OSHA Certification is offered at the February ILICA workshop and several of our newer members took advantage of this year's scheduling. Bruce Mosier of Prins Insurance facilitated most of the OSHA class, bringing a little humor to the sessions along with a very serious safety message. Much of the content presented in these sessions is required by OSHA, however, there are other segments that Bruce can customize to our contractors.

The workshop was held at Ashland House in Morton, which provides easy access from I-74 and I-155, a place for those who have traveled a good distance to stay and many good restaurants in the area. A total of 29 ILICA members attended the OSHA certification with 13 attendees at the Flagger Certification course on the final day.

Outstanding sponsorship was provided for the workshop with Envision Insurance Group, First Mid Insurance Group and Springfield Plastics Inc. stepping up to sponsor every meal and break served. Each of these supportive associate members has our sincere gratitude for their help in providing this kind of important information to our contractors as economically as possible.

ILICA's next workshop will be the drainage workshop during the first week of August in Decatur. The education committee is considering what content will be included in this year's workshop but the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy is being discussed as one of the possible topics. Look for more information on that in the next issue of the *ILICA News*.

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IMPORTANT HOTEL INFO

## AREA 6 GOLF OUTING

Turns out there's a **HUGE** softball tournament in Mattoon the same weekend as the Area 6 Golf Outing. There are **only 13 rooms available**, blocked for this outing.

There are 8 rooms at the Hampton Inn and 5 rooms at the Holiday Inn Express. The Quality Inn closest to Bills' shop is full.

The Hampton Inn **(217-234-4267)** room block **will drop June 5th**, and any rooms released back to the hotel will be gone in a heartbeat! **Please call the ILICA office to be placed on the room list at the Holiday Inn.**

There is a 24-hour cancellation policy at both of these hotels so please make your reservations now and cancel them later if your plans change.



## LEGISLATIVE ALERT! ILLINOIS MAY NOT BE ABLE TO PAY LAST 1/2 OF 2015 SWCD OPERATIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

In early March, a bill was proposed in Senate committee that threatened to sweep the remaining SWCD operational appropriations, set aside for the last half of 2015, into the general fund to help pay off Illinois' debt. The Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts (AISWCD) has been closely following this alarming suggestion and ILICA president, Tom Beyers has been right in the thick of it.

Illinois SWCD offices were appropriated approximately \$50,000 per district for operational costs, which they did not receive the first installment of until December 2014, several months into the fiscal year. The second half of those appropriations should be paid in June this year but it is possible that the State of Illinois simply won't have it to give.

Since Tom also serves as Vice President of the AISWCD, he has traveled to Springfield with the organizations other officers to make sure legislators are aware of the devastating impact this proposal would have on SWCD offices. The AISWCD office estimates that about 1/3 of the districts do not

have enough reserves to carry themselves through this time period without these funds. And although the proposal has not been passed at any level yet but is still being discussed. The Governors Office of Management and Budget (GOMB) has promised that the second installment of the insurance appropriations will be paid, but that is due right now and is above and beyond the operational appropriations.

Tom has provided this information, knowing many ILICA members are already aware of the hardships faced by their local SWCD offices. Most county offices have already adjusted to decreased budgets, learning how to live within their meager means, but this would be a devastating blow. If the final installment of 2015 is not realized until December this year, many county offices may lose the SWCD staff they now have.

Our members are urged to contact their legislators to encourage the release of adequate funding for the SWCD by the GOMB. These SWCD offices are responsible for processing state, local and federal dollars into their communities and the loss of this revenue would significantly impact the local economy. (*Legislative contact information is listed in your ILICA directory on pages 122 - 141, listed by district.*)

## FARM PROGRESS SHOW RETURNS TO ILLINOIS SEPTEMBER 1 - 3, 2015



The Farm Progress Show is coming back to Decatur on September 1-3, and ILICA will have a booth in the Partners in Conservation tent again this year. The FPS Conservation tent group has been meeting to plan how best to get show goers into the tent. After all, with the great information available from the participating partners, it's a shame not to share it with attendees.

This year's Conservation tent will be in approximately the same spot as years past but to encourage everyone to step in and see what's going on, the front of the tent will be open to the public. They have added farmer "Panel Discussions" and straw bale seating so each day, 2 presentations including Cover Crops, Conservation Cropping Systems, Beginning Farmers and Wildlife BMPs will be presented. Times will be posted so guests know when to return and a name will be drawn after each presentation for one lucky guest to win a tablet (*computer*).

The ILICA office will be looking for contractors to volunteer and help man the booth, since many of the questions that come up are from producers. Those can be better answered

by the guys that work with and for them all the time and volunteers will receive free admission to the show. Check the ILICA website for more information as the date get's closer.





# IOWA LICA SUMMER FIELD DAYS JULY 29<sup>TH</sup> - 30<sup>TH</sup>



## “Year of the Pond”

In the latest Iowa LICA newsletter, it was announced that this summer’s field day will focus on a constructed pond project that will only be partially done after this year’s event.

Iowa LICA contractors will start the pond construction 10 days to 2 weeks prior to the field day to install all the pipe and core trench. The process will be filmed to document the entire project so it can be shown to others well after the field day wraps up.

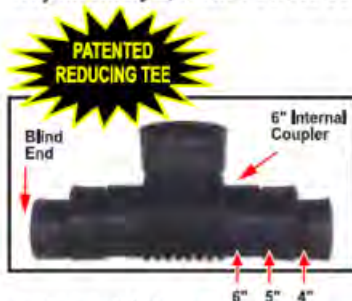
This is being touted as the “best show yet” so mark your calendars for the date and plan on joining our LICA neighbors to the west for this exciting project. Iowa LICA has made many improvements to the site during these events, so there’s already a lot to see!

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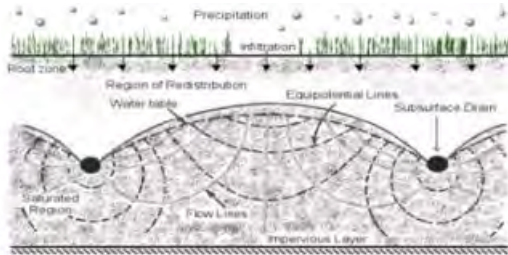
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# The Extension Connection

Source: Richard Cooke & Students

## Tile Drainage in the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy

This article presents an extended summary of the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (NLRs), with an emphasis on aspects of the strategy that are related to tile drainage. As suggested by the name, the NLRs is being developed to reduce the transport of nutrients, mainly nitrate-nitrogen and phosphorus, to surface water bodies in the state. It can be accessed online at: <http://www.epa.illinois.gov/topics/water-quality/watershed-management/excess-nutrients/nutrient-loss-reduction-strategy/index>

Information on the website includes the key Strategy components:

- Identifies priority watersheds for nutrient reduction efforts.
- Establishes the Nutrient Monitoring Council to coordinate water quality monitoring efforts by government agencies, universities, non-profits, and industry.
- Creates the Nutrient Science Advisory Committee to develop numeric nutrient criteria.
- Forms the Agricultural Water Quality Partnership Forum to oversee outreach and education efforts.
- Establishes the Urban Stormwater Working Group to coordinate and improve stormwater programs and education.
- Lays out strategies for improving collaboration among government, non-profits, and industry.
- Defines a process for regular review and revision.

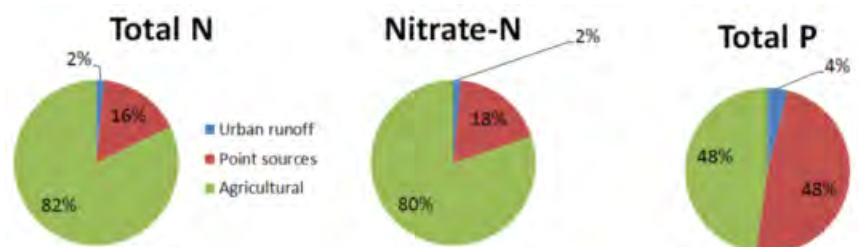
The ultimate goal of the strategy is to effect a 45% reduction in the annual loading of nitrate-nitrogen and total phosphorus to the Mississippi River. In the first phase, covering the period 2015 to 2025, the goal is to reduce annual nitrate-nitrogen and total phosphorus loadings by 15% and 25%, respectively.

In Chapter 3, the strategy outlines the scientific basis for “(1) determining the current conditions of nutrient



sources in Illinois and the export from both point and non-point sources by rivers in the state, (2) describing practices that could be used to reduce these losses to surface waters and providing estimates for the effectiveness of these practices throughout Illinois, and (3) estimating the costs of the statewide application of these methods to reduce nutrient losses and meet Gulf of Mexico hypoxia goals.”

The determination of current conditions is based on data from eight major basins (watersheds). The overall sources for the state are shown in Figure 3.2 of the report, which is reproduced in Figure 1. Approximately 80% of the nitrate-nitrogen and 50% of the total phosphorus is exported from agricultural sources. The non-point losses are further broken down by major watersheds (Figure 2). The highest levels of nitrate-nitrogen loss are in the heaviest tiled regions of the state, with yields as high as 46 lb./tile-drained acre/year.



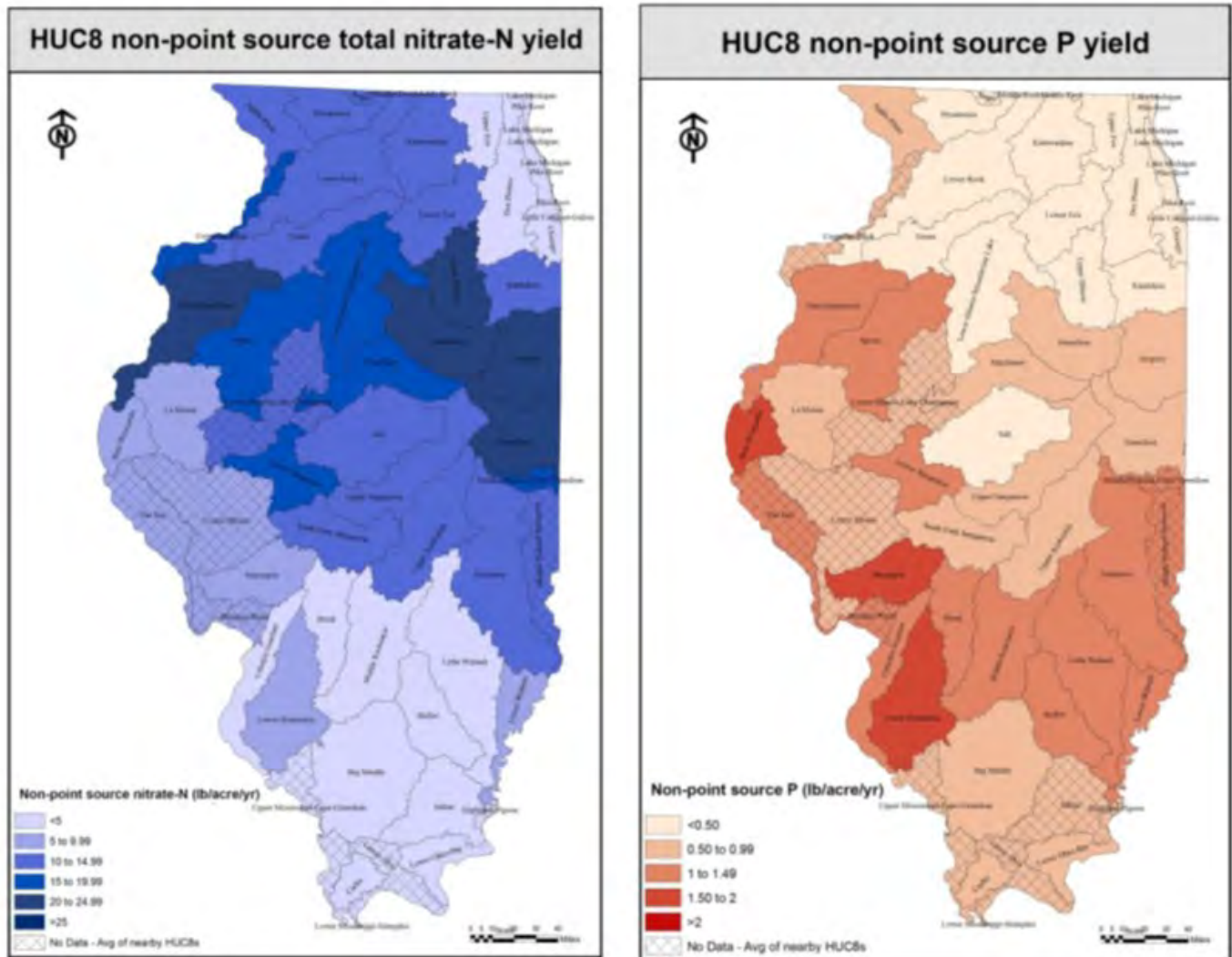
**Figure 1.** Figure 3.2 of the Draft Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy, showing nutrient sources in Illinois contributing to riverine nutrient export from the state.

Three types of practices for reducing nitrate-nitrogen loss from agricultural fields, in-field practices, edge-of-field practices, and land use changes, are pre-



# Tile Drainage in the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy

CONT.



**Figure 2.** Figure 6.1 of the Draft Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy, showing non-point source nitrate-nitrogen and total phosphorus yields from eight-digit Hydrologic Unit Code watersheds in Illinois.

sented in the NLCS. In-field practices include altering fertilizer amounts, applying nitrification inhibitors, changing fertilizer application timing from fall to spring, and the use of cover crops. It was estimated that there would be a 20% reduction in nitrate-nitrogen loss from tile drains in moving from fall to spring and side-dress applications, and a 30% reduction resulting from the use of cover crops. Edge-of-field practices include bioreactors, which are estimated to reduce nitrate-nitrogen loading by 40% and to be applicable to 50% of tile-drain land; wetlands, which are estimated to reduce nitrate-nitrogen loading by 40% and to be applicable to 25% of tile-drain land, and vegetated buffers, which are deemed to be ineffective in tile-drained areas, as much of the drainage water bypasses them.

The use of saturated buffers, the most recently developed best management practice for tile-drained land, is not discussed in the NLRS. Neither were there estimates for the cost or scope of applicability of drainage water management because of uncertainties associated with the practice. The authors raised concerns about characterizing nitrate-nitrogen lost in lateral seepage and seepage to groundwater.

For land-use changes, the authors looked the impact of planting perennial crops on former pasture land converted to row crops between 1987 and 2007, and also on reducing corn/soybean acreage by 10%. The practices considered and their estimated costs are summarized in Table 3.11 of the NLRS, which is reproduced in Figure 3.

# Tile Drainage in the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy *CONT.*

Similar practices for phosphorus reduction were also discussed and summarized in Table 3.14 of the Strategy. Of particular note is that fact that wetlands in tile-drained areas are deemed to have no impact on phosphorus reduction. The strategy also discusses several examples scenarios, each involving different combinations of nitrate-nitrogen and phosphorus removal practices that can be implemented to achieve the ultimate reduction goals. These scenarios are summarized in Table 3.17 of the NLRS. The least expensive of these scenarios would reduce nitrate-nitrogen by 35% and total phosphorus by 45%, at an annualized cost of \$383 million/year.

The Strategy was placed on line and opened for comment from November 24, 2014 through January 25, 2015. Close to a thousand comment letters were received. Approximately 85% of these were sent in by different signatories of a form letter from the Sierra Club. This letter called for a stronger plan with defined steps and interim benchmarks. It also called on the IEPA to adopt a phosphorus standard for streams and rivers in Illinois. Tile drainage was mentioned in a few of the remaining letters. Comments ran the gamut from one letter urging direct payments for permanent removal of tile drains and providing disincentives for the installation of new drain tiles, to questioning the validity of not including drainage water management (DWM) in the list of scenarios specified in the Strategy. That letter outlined DWM research that has been conducted on large acreage across the region, contrary to what has been stated in the NLRS, and it pointed out that drainage water management is included in the Iowa Strategy, and that water transported by any other pathway has a lower nitrate concentration than water that leaves through the tile outlet.

There were several letters urging the committee to reassess its estimate of the effectiveness of tile-fed constructed wetlands in phosphorus removal, and an outright suggestion of an anti-wetland bias in the strategy. Most wetland supporters raised questions about the effectiveness and life of bioreactors.

From the tile drainage perspective, one of the most striking aspects of the NLRS was the exclusion of drainage water management from consideration. Although there are uncertainties associated with the use of the practice, there are also uncertainties associated with the use of all of the practices in the NLRS. One way to reduce the uncertainty associated with drainage water management would be to conduct watershed-scale experiments on its effectiveness. It is my hope that such experiments can be conducted over the next ten years, so that when the NLRS is being reviewed at the end of Phase 1, a new case can be made for the inclusion of the practice.



**Richard is leaving his options “open” for the next issue of “The Extension Connection. He is currently working on a few ideas so stay tuned ...**

Table 3.11. Example statewide results for nitrate-nitrogen reductions with shading to represent in-field, edge-of-field, land use, and point source practices or scenarios.

Practice/scenario	Nitrate-N reduction per acre (percent)	Nitrate-N reduced (million lb)	Nitrate-N reduction from baseline (percent)	Cost (\$/lb removed)
Reducing N rate from background to MRTN on 10 percent of acres	10	2.3	0.6	-4.25
Nitrification inhibitor with all fall-applied fertilizer on tile-drained corn acres	10	4.3	1	2.33
Split application of 50 percent fall and 50 percent spring on tile-drained corn acres	7.5-10	13	3.1	6.22
Spring-only application on tile-drained corn acres	15-20	26	6.4	3.17
Split application of 40 percent fall, 10 percent pre-plant, and 50 percent side dress	15-20	26	6.4	
Cover crops on all corn/soybean tile-drained acres	30	84	20.5	3.21
Cover crops on all corn/soybean non-tiled acres	30	33	7.9	11.02
Bioreactors on 50 percent of tile-drained land	40	56	13.6	1.38
Wetlands on 25 percent of tile-drained land	40	28	6.8	5.06
Buffers on all applicable crop land (reduction only for water that interacts with active area)	90	36	8.7	1.63
Perennial/energy crops equal to pasture/hay acreage from 1987	90	10	2.6	9.34
Perennial/energy crops on 10 percent of tile-drained land	90	25	6.1	3.18
Point source reduction to 10 mg/L		14	3.4	3.3

**Figure 3.** Table 3.11 of the Draft Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy, showing nitrate-nitrogen reduction amounts and cost for practices considered in the strategy.



# PEKIN'S CENTURY-OLD 'SUGAR HOUSE' HAS EVOLVED INTO THE FIFTH LARGEST U.S. ETHANOL PRODUCER

By Steve Tarter, Journal Star

*A \$3 million overhaul to the turbine and generator systems at Aventine Renewable Energy will upgrade 1940's technology to the latest standards, something that Mark Beemer, CEO of Aventine Renewable Energy, says will "make us competitive and viable for the next 20 years."*

PEKIN — The old Sugar House has been through a lot of changes over the years.

That's the name "old timers" like Larry Whitehouse still use to describe the ethanol plant operated by Aventine Renewable Energy in Pekin, the site of a sugar processing plant that first went into operation in 1899.

When sugar beets didn't work out in central Illinois, the plant converted to corn. "The corn milling plant was started in 1904. Its name was changed to Corn Products Co. in 1960 after merging with Best Foods," said Whitehouse, 75, who worked at the plant from 1957 until he retired in 1999.



In 1981, the plant went from producing corn starch and other corn products to ethanol, said Aventine CEO Mark Beemer. Aventine, which took over the facility in 2003, was the third ethanol producer at the site, following Pekin Energy and Williams Bio-Energy.

Changes continue. Sacramento-based Pacific Energy recently purchased Aventine to become the fifth largest ethanol producer in the country.

While Beemer isn't sure of his future once the transaction is completed later this year, he's confident that corn-based ethanol will continue to find a place in the marketplace.

"Ethanol remains the cheapest energy molecule out there. It's the most economical source of octane available," said Beemer, referring to ethanol's place as an additive in most unleaded gasoline sold in this country.

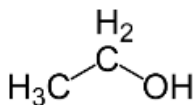
Ethanol prices have declined along with gasoline in recent months. "Ethanol is now around \$1.40 a gallon - the lowest it's been since 2005. We've seen significant margin erosion," he said.

As a result, Aventine is reducing the grind rate at its plant in Aurora, Neb. by 30 percent, said Beemer, who adds that there's a bright side to the drop in prices at the pump. "We're looking at a 3 or 4 percent increase in gasoline use (by motorists). As more gas is burned, we'll blend more ethanol," he said.

Ethanol also remains a robust export for the United States with nearly 1 billion gallons expected to be sold overseas this year, said Beemer, noting that distillers grains, a byproduct of



PHOTO/ FRED ZWICKY/JOURNAL STAR



processing corn into ethanol, is prized as feed for livestock — and as an export.

"With China's recent decision to buy distillers grains from the United States, the value of that product has gone up by 25 percent," he said.

The future of ethanol may be best reflected in the capital expenditures made at the Pekin plant where \$30 million in upgrades have been made over the past two years.

"We just put in two natural gas boilers, retiring 70-year-old coal boilers at a cost of \$13.2 million. That will save 13,000 tons of sulfur dioxide from going into the air each year. That's a big improvement in air quality for the Pekin area," he said.

As the Pekin plant has evolved over the years, the number of employees has declined. Today 205 people work at the facility while Whitehouse recalled that 1,500 worked there when he started in 1957.

When the plant was turning out corn products, the work was more labor-intensive than producing ethanol, said Beemer.

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  - GR - Gravel/ Rock Production
  - LL - Land Leveling
  - LS - Landscaping
  - ODW - Open Ditch Leveling
  - OSW—On Site Waste Treatment
  - PD - Ponds / Dams
  - RBD - Road Boring/Drainage
  - R - Reclamation
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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Illinois

**May Board Meeting**

**Richland Community College Cafeteria**

May 2, 2015 - 2 pm

Committee Meetings 10 am - 1 pm

**4th Annual Area 6 Golf Outing**

**Meadowview Golf Course - Mattoon, IL**

Friday, June 19, 2015

Noon Lunch - 1 pm Shotgun start

**Summer Member Meeting & Picnic**

**Lasata Winery - Lawrenceville, IL**

Saturday, June 27, 2015 - 10 am

Catered lunch - Noon - Tours, shopping etc. - 1 pm - ??

**Summer Drainage Workshop**

Richland Community College

August 4 - 6, 2015

### National

**2015 National LICA Summer Meeting**

**Little Rock, Arkansas**

July 13 - 17, 2015

**Iowa LICA Field Days**

**Iowa LICA Farm - Melbourne Iowa**

July 29 - 30, 2015

## ADVERTISERS INDEX

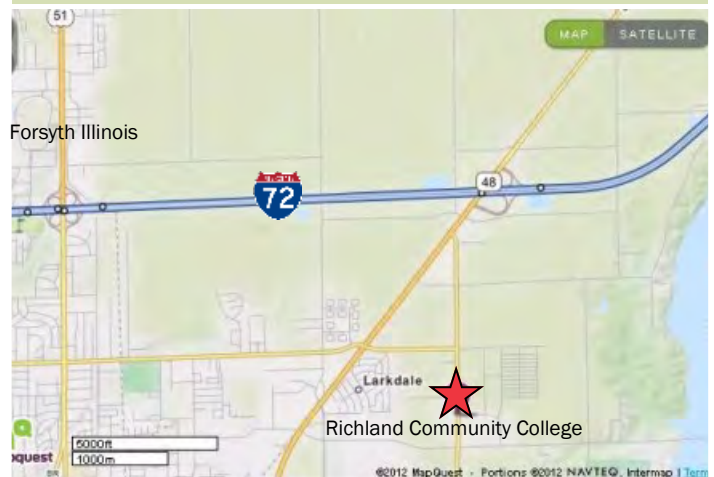
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### May 2nd Board Meeting Directions:

**Richland Community College Cafeteria**

**From I-72:** Take the IL-48, Exit 144, toward Oreana /Decatur and merge onto IL-48 via the ramp on the left toward Decatur. Turn left onto CR-1 (N. Brush College Road) and follow to the light at Mound Road. Turn left onto Mound Road and take the first right. At the stop sign, cross straight into the Richland Parking lot toward the main entrance. Enter at the College's main entrance (at the Flag Pole & Stainless Steel sculpture) and turn left, where you'll see the cafeteria.

The cafeteria will be closed on Saturday, but lunch will be catered in for the group.



# SAFETY FEATURE: EMPLOYING MINORS IN CONSTRUCTION

When school lets out for the summer, contractors may consider hiring some of these young people for part time help. Become familiar with these regulations from the Department of Labor to keep young workers safe, and stay in compliance.



Those minors between the ages of 15 and 17 that are employed in construction have a seven times greater chance of being fatally injured than their peers working in other industries. Because of the dangerous nature of the field, the Department of Labor (DOL) imposes restrictions on the type of work and number of hours that minors are permitted to perform in construction. Become familiar with these regulations to stay in compliance with federal law. Of course, state laws may have stricter laws regarding the employment of minors. Always consult your local jurisdiction before beginning employment.

## Minors Under 16 Years of Age

Those under 16 years of age may only perform office or sales work in the construction industry. They may not be employed on a construction site. The federal rules also limit the number of hours and times of day that such youth may be employed.

## Minors Age 16 and 17

Those employed at age 16 or 17 may work on construction sites, but there are several tasks or jobs that are deemed hazardous for them to perform, such as:

- Working in occupations involving mixing, handling or transporting of explosive compounds
- Driving a motor vehicle or working as an outside helper (17 year olds may drive automobiles and trucks on an incidental and occasional basis if certain criteria are met)
- Riding on most construction elevators and operating or assisting in the operation of cranes, hoists, forklifts, Bobcat loaders, front-end loaders, backhoes and skid steer loaders
- Loading, operating and unloading most trash compactors and balers
- Operating power-driven woodworking machines and metal forming, punching and shearing machines – including portable machines
- Operating power-driven circular saws, band saws, chain saws, reciprocating saws, guillotine shears, wood chippers and abrasive cutting discs – including portable machines
- Working in wrecking, demolition and shipbreaking
- Working in roofing and on or about a roof
- Working in excavation



Source: Zywave Inc.

This is not a complete list of hazardous occupations, and there are some exceptions provided for 16- and 17-year olds who are apprentices and bona-fide student learners.

## Those Over 18

Individuals age 18 and older may perform any work in construction.

## Recommendations for Employers

In addition to understanding labor laws, there are additional steps you can take to protect young workers:

- Recognize potential hazards
- Eliminate any issues present in your workplace that could injure a young worker
- Make sure that equipment used by workers is safe and legal
- Supervise young workers
- Be certain that young workers are appropriately supervised at all times
- Inform supervisors and adult workers of the tasks that teens should not perform
- Make sure that young workers are appropriately supervised at all times
- Label the equipment that teens cannot use, or color-code their uniforms so that others know they may not perform certain tasks
- Periodically verify through supervisors that teens are obeying safety practices
- Provide training
- Educate young workers to ensure that they recognize hazards and are competent regarding safe working practices
  - ♦ Training should include how to prepare for fires, accidents, violent situations and protocol for injuries. Teens need to know that they have a right to file a claim to cover their medical benefits and lost work time if they are injured
- Have young workers demonstrate that they can perform assigned task safely and correctly
- Use the buddy system
  - ♦ Implement a mentoring or buddy system for new young workers. Have either an adult or an experienced teen worker act as a buddy, and answer questions to help the inexperienced worker learn the ropes of the new job





# SAFETY FEATURE: EMPLOYING MINORS IN CONSTRUCTION

CONT.



- Check equipment safety
- Ensure that equipment used by teen workers is both legal and safe
- Identify and solve safety and health problems that arise or typically have been an issue in the past

- Develop an injury and illness prevention program
- Work with supervisors and experienced staff members to create a comprehensive safety program that includes an injury and illness prevention initiative

Discussion Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Employee Participants



Please visit [www.youthrules.dol.gov](http://www.youthrules.dol.gov) for more information about employing minors in construction. Source: DOL

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## FEDERAL BUDGET BATTLES ABOUT TO START

John Peterson, LICA Director of Government Relations. 13 MAR 2015/jmp

Fasten your seat belts. In the strange world of federal budgeting, 2015 looks to be a rough year (1). We have already seen some early sparring. In DEC, as the price of getting the omnibus spending bill through Congress, the president had to accept two non-budgetary provisions he didn't like; repeal of some Dodd-Frank limits on derivative trading by banks, and a weakening of limits on campaign donations. So far Obama has wielded his veto pen only twice, the lowest number since James Garfield, who cast no vetoes in his 6.5month presidency. I suspect this Congress will give Obama several more opportunities.

The resolution to fund Homeland Security would expire at the end of February. Early attempts to fund DHS with the exception of Obama's executive actions on immigration, which many believe to be unconstitutional, seem to have failed. Next up at the end of MAR is the "doc fix." In the 1990's, Congress created a formula for limiting Medicare payments to physicians. No one has supported that formula for years, but it remains on the books and grows increasingly punitive toward doctors. So each year Congress passes a one-year stay of execution known as the "doc-fix." Ending that now would seriously reduce physician payments, which neither party wants. A bill to extend it another year must pass by the end of MAR.

The grandfather of all budget deadlines is also in MAR, when the FEB 2014 agreement to suspend the national debt ceiling for 13 months expires. If nothing is done between now and 15 MAR, the US will be breaching the national debt ceiling on 16 MAR. This promises to be another political standoff with nothing happening until the last minute, if even then. The Sec. of the Treasury can use a number of gimmicks to postpone the day of reckoning, and experts think such gim-

micks can carry us through SEP or OCT. Then we will witness a serious confrontation that will be ugly.

In May the highway bill expires and the highway trust fund is expected to run out of money. Many of your LICA leaders have worked hard at getting a long-term bill passed. Politicians are talking about ways to stave off disaster. But they most likely will just keep talking until the last minute. Then who knows what kind of foolishness might get attached to a must-pass highway bill.

1 OCT, the first day of the new fiscal year (FY), is another important date. The FY 2016 budget is supposed to be enacted by then, but Congress has not met a FY budget deadline since the 1990's. This will also result in a lot more posturing and acrimony. And there is also the sequester, the budgetary disaster the president originally asked for. While both sides want to amend it, even deeper sequester cuts will kick in on 1 OCT unless an agreement is reached. The Children's Health Insurance Program must also be re-authorized and funded by that day, or else millions of children will lose their coverage.

Lastly there are things called "tax extenders," the grab bag of special tax provisions popular with both parties. Technically the deadline for renewing them for 2015 taxes passed on 31 DEC 2014. But everyone, including IRS, assumes they will be extended retroactively. For that to happen Congress must act before the end of 2015, a deadline they barely met last year. Expect some New Years Eve antics.

The real danger in all this foolishness is a host of very bad amendments that are often tacked on to last minute, must-pass, budget bills. To stop that, the president may even get my support to use his veto-pen. Will he? Wait and see. And fasten your seat belts for a very rough ride.

*Reference 1. Blinder, Alan S., The Bad Budget Wars Get Ready to Resume, The Wall Street Journal, 20 FEB 2015, pA11.*

## SENATE WOTUS HEARING

Today (March 24, 2015) the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry met to discuss the potential impacts of the EPA's Proposed Rule on Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS).

During the hearing the Honorable Leslie Rutledge, the Attorney General from the state of Arkansas, spoke specifically about the impact to conservation districts. "We have a number of state agencies that oversee clean water and clean air... likewise, in all 75 counties in Arkansas we have conservation districts. These are local controlled. They know *exactly* what's going on—they talk to the farmers, they talk to the landown-

ers/business owners in their area. They are elected to those bodies, so they know the land. They know the complications, and they are very protective of their land because [conservation] is a way of life."

A recording of the hearing can be found on the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry's website, (<http://www.ag.senate.gov/hearings/waters-of-the-united-states-stakeholder-perspectives-on-the-impacts-of-epas-proposed-rule>).







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