

ILICA



NEWS

Land Improvement Contractors Of America · Illinois Chapter

March - April 2017

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STATE CONVENTION & MEMBER MEETING (page 16-17)

2016 ILICA AWARD RECIPIENTS (page 10-11)



NATIONAL LICA RELEASES RESIDENTIAL SEPTIC WARRANTY PROGRAM (page 9)

RSWTM

Residential Septic Warranty

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- ▶ **Extension Connection: A QGIS Plugin for Thinning and Extracting Elevation Data from LiDAR Maps** (page 12-14)
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Illinois LICA
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Upcoming Events:

Board of Directors Meeting

Jubilee Café: Kickapoo
March 11, 2017 - 2 PM

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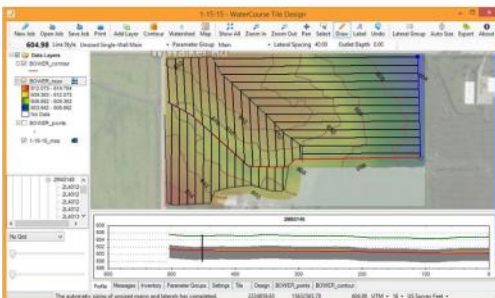
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



How are you doing? A little history about us, Marie and I have 5 grown kids, 14 wonderful GRANDCHILDREN, two brothers, and I have a trucking, farming, and farm drainage operation located around Dwight, ILL. A little history, in 1972 our Dad bought 240 acres adjacent to the home farm, 80 of it, where he was born, was wet, with an area not farmed, but pasture for my Grampa's horses. In 1973, he bought an Ohio Tiling machine. It had 12", wheel dug 5' deep pull type, powered by a Ford major diesel. You stood beside the tractor, sited targets backwards. In the summer of 73, we dropped in to a creek, on the home farm, with a 12" clay tile, and headed for the slough.

Since the Ill. LICA convention, I have attended the Ill. Association of Drainage Districts conference in Bloomington. They had a good lineup of education programs on Des Moines Water Works Lawsuit, tile and nitrate problems, wetland determinations, and the effects of climate change on agriculture. Last week, Don and I attended the OSHA 10 Hour and Forklift Certification Workshop at Altorfer's new shop in Springfield. Tom Grey of Grey and Associates, a new Associate Member, was the instructor. Other associate sponsors were Springfield Plastics, Nicoud Ins., Prins Ins./UFG, and First Mid Ins.

Coming up, we have the National LICA Winter Convention in Las Vegas with the CONEXPO. Marie and I are planning on attending. If you want to see equipment, anything you can imagine, it will be at the expo. Our March Board meeting is scheduled for the 11th at Jubilee Café, Kickapoo; been doing a little work on ILICA Committees for this year, if anyone is interested in being on a committee please let me know.

Well it's getting light out, and we have a little snow on the ground. If you want to get ahold of me, our email address is leemarie1967@gmail.com or cell phone 815-674-0617.

Thanks, Lee Bunting, President

The LICA Creed



Land, the foundation of the Nation
 The basis of all wealth
 The heritage of the wise
 The thrifty and prudent
 The poor man's joy and comfort
 The producer of food, fiber and fuel
 The basis of factories
 The foundation of banks

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.

NEW MEMBERS

Active Contractors

Bill & Joshua Reno

PO Box 61
 Medora, IL 62063
 Ph: 217-854-4576
 Email: reno_jackie@yahoo.com

Larry E. Melton

Dirt Works Landscaping & Hydro-Seeding Inc.
 14286 E. Cnty. Rd. 450N
 Charleston, IL 61920
 Ph: 217-345-5400
 Email: dirtworks@consolidated.net
 Website: dirtworks-landscaping.com

Kammie Lane

Northern Directional Drilling Inc.
 4329 Stone Quarry Rd
 Belvidere, IL 61008
 Ph: 815-547-6188
 Email: northerndrill6@gmail.com

Patty Thompson

Xtreme Seeding, Inc.
 1304 Parker Avenue
 Effingham, IL 62401
 Ph: 217-347-7337
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Scott Tucker

Liberty Land Improvement & Excavating
 30347 US Hwy 150
 Farmer City, IL 61842
 Ph: 309-928-3502
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Brian Bragg

Gicha Some Inc.
Db a Landscaping by Brian Bragg
 18126 N. Centerville Rd.
 Edelstein, IL 61526
 Ph: 309-678-1810

Kevin Larkin

2352 Co. Rd. 875
 Casey, IL 62420
 Ph: 217-932-5824

NEW MEMBERS

Active Contractors

Mike Bellovics
Construction Group, LTD.
 205 N. Stewart St.
 Geneseo, IL 61254
 Ph: 309-944-3200

Morris L. Mott
Mott Excavating, Inc.
 1210 Lake Autumn Lane
 PO Box 613
 Vienna, IL 62995
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Welcome!

Associate Members

Country Enterprises, Inc.
Tom Moore
 410 North Street PO Box 157
 Lucan, MN 56255
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 Email: tmoore@countryent.net
 Website: www.countryent.net

Caselli Insurance & Real Estate
Scott Caselli
 483 Main St.
 Marseilles, IL 61341
 Ph: 815-795-4028
 Email: caselli@mtco.com
 Website: caselliinsurance.com

Williams - Manny Insurance Group
Craig S. Nelson
 290 S. County Farm Rd., Suite T
 Wheaton, IL 60187
 Ph: 630-668-6644
 Email: craig.nelson@wmanny.com
 Website: www.wmanny.com

Thank You!

2017 Board Member Meeting Attendance						
A = absent	P = present			C = cancelled meeting		
Area / Director	Jan	Mar	May	Jun	Sep	Nov
Pres: Lee Bunting	P					
VP: Grant Curtis	A					
1st VP: Steve Anderson	P					
Area 1 - Brian Brooks	P					
Area 2 - Stuart Anderson	P					
Area 3 - Wes Litwiller	P					
Area 3 - Joe Streitmatter	P					
Area 4 - David Kennedy	P					
Area 4 - John McCoy	P					
Area 5 - Earl Mast	P					
Area 6 - Jon SeEVERS	P					
Area 6 - Scott Day	P					
Area 7 - Vacant						
Area 8 - Norm Kocher	A					
Area 8 - Tom Beyers	P					
Associate Dir: Brad Baker	A					

2017 Board & Member Meeting Schedule

Unless changed by the Board during the year, the ILICA business meetings are scheduled as follows:

March 11, 2017 - Regular Meeting of the Board:
 Jubilee Café, Kickapoo

May 13, 2017 - Regular Meeting of the Board: TBD

July 29, 2017 - Picnic and Member Mtg.:
 SeEVERS Farm Drainage Inc, Argenta

Exact location, committee meeting time & other details will be published in the ILICA News and sent to members via mail and/or email.

THE WATER WORKS RULING: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

JANUARY 27, 2017: The Iowa Supreme Court released a 104-page ruling Friday in Des Moines Water Works' controversial lawsuit against three Iowa counties regarding nitrate pollution. Here's what you need to know:

Q: What did the court decide?

A: The Iowa Supreme Court ruled that Des Moines Water Works cannot win damages under the Iowa Constitution against drainage districts in the three counties it is suing. The utility hoped to recover damages in its lawsuit to make up for the costs of running its nitrate removal facility. But the court upheld nearly a century of precedent that drainage districts are immune to lawsuits.

Q: Is the lawsuit over?

A: No. Another portion of the lawsuit is set for trial in June. Those claims deal with whether drainage districts should be considered point-source polluters under the federal Clean Water Act, which would require them to get permits and be subject to additional oversight. Des Moines Water Works CEO Bill Stowe said Friday that he also believes the utility could still ask for damage payments under the U.S. Constitution.

Q: What did the justices say?

A: Justice Thomas Waterman wrote the majority opinion, which was joined by Justice Edward Mansfield and Justice Bruce Zagar. Chief Justice Mark Cady and Justice Brent Appel wrote their own opinions dissenting in part from the majority.

Waterman wrote that the longstanding immunity given to drainage districts should remain in place, regardless of new concerns about pollution. "While attitudes toward the environment may differ today from when the first drainage tiles were placed generations ago, tort claims based on alleged pollution are nothing new," he wrote. "... Those tort claims have coexisted with drainage district immunity, weakening the DMWW's argument that changes in environmental laws support abrogating that immunity."

In his dissent, Appel wrote he would allow the public utility to seek damage payments from the districts through a "takings claim" under the Iowa Constitution. The state constitution ensures that "no private property shall not be taken for public use without just compensation first being made." Courts in other states have found that water users have a right to expect "water of a certain quality," he wrote.

"It certainly cannot be denied that drainage districts advance legitimate state interests," he wrote. "But the argument proves too much. For example, a sewage treatment plant advances legitimate state interests, but can it be said categorically that there is no taking if a sewage treatment plant so pollutes waterways that it is no longer safe to inhabit downstream property?"

Source: Des Moines Register: <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/crime-and-courts/2017/01/27/water-works-ruling-what-you-need-know/97138256/>

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ILICA Ladies Page

No one sets out to kill a houseplant, yet most dead houseplants were killed by kindness. Gardening indoors is an artificial climate and all plants will need a period of adjustment. Expect to see a few leaves drop at first.

The best thing you can do for indoor plants is to learn something about their growing conditions and provide as close to those conditions as possible. If you see a problem developing, take action quickly.

Here are some surefire ways to kill your houseplants:



Over Watering

The #1 killer of houseplants is over watering, which leads to root rot. Don't let your plants sit in water and don't automatically water all your houseplants on a schedule.

Low Humidity

We've all seen what low humidity can do to our skin. Well, lack of humidity does in a great many indoor plants, too, especially during the winter. When the heat comes on, the humidity in your house can take a huge dip. Just imagine what a change that is for a plant that was living outdoors, a few weeks earlier. You may first notice the problem as browning leaf tips.



Insufficient Light

Plants that are not getting as much light as they need will look pale, rather than a healthy green and new growth is spindly, as it reaches for the sun. You may also notice that the new leaves are smaller than usual.



Top 8 Ways to Kill a Houseplant

Exposure to Direct Heat

Placing your houseplant near a direct source of heat, like a radiator or duct, will not only fry your plant, but also speed up dehydration. Some locations are obviously bad, but sometimes choices are limited.

Improper Watering & Salt Buildup

Giving your potted plants just enough water so the soil gets wet but is never allowed to drain, can lead to salt buildup which can inhibit the growth of your houseplants. You may not notice it until you start to see whitish crust on the soil or sides of the pot.

Ignoring Pest Problems

Indoor pests multiply quickly. There are no natural predators to keep them in check, so you have to be very diligent about checking for symptoms. Spider mites, aphids, mealy bugs and scale can cover a plant in days. If severe enough, the plant may never recover.

Exposure to Drafts

Placing an indoor plant, especially a tropical or blooming plant, near a frequently opened door to the outside or too close to a window with limited insulation will have the same effect as leaving the plant unprotected outside.



Allow it to Become Pot Bound

When a plant outgrows its pot, the roots circle around inside the pot and start to restrict themselves. Pot bound plants often seem to dry out more quickly than normal, because the ratio of roots to soil is too large.



NATIONAL LICA RELEASES RESIDENTIAL SEPTIC WARRANTY PROGRAM

Developed under the guidance of National LICA’s CEO, Jerry Biuso, the Residential Septic Warranty (RSW) Program is slated to provide additional income and business to contractors, National LICA, and State LICA Chapters. Released to Illinois LICA at our Annual Convention in East Peoria on January 12, 2017, we have already seen interest from ILICA contractors and non-member contractors in Illinois to provide the RSW program to their septic customer base.

Program Basics

The RSW program is a transferrable warranty available to homeowners for new and existing septic systems. The warranty coverage includes the repair and/or replacement of septic tanks, distribution boxes, leaching lines, inlets and outlets, and pumps and motors up to a \$10,000 limit, with zero deductible. Coverage requires a septic system inspection and pumping, at the homeowners expense every 5 years, and a 90-day waiting period prior to the first claim. Warranty claims due to septic system negligence, abuse, rust, and/or corrosion are excluded, as well as Third Party costs and damages incurred from gaining access to and/or closing a septic system. The RSW Protection Plan annual premium is \$399.00/year, plus taxes. A great value to homeowners ensuring peace of mind and security for less than \$34/month! Homeowners can purchase the RSW directly online via credit card.

Contractor Benefits

Offered exclusively by LICA contractors, the RSW program compensates contractors \$50/warranty application. Warranty claims provide contractors GUARANTEED payment directly from Bankers Warranty Group, up to \$10,000 for services provided in compliance with the warranty. Contractors will be required to conduct an inspection and pump the septic systems (when needed) per the RSW, to be paid by the homeowner. Finally, LICA’s Residential Septic Warranty Program is the only one in the Nation! The exclusivity of the whole program and the fact that only LICA members can provide such a warranty, allows contractors to grow their customer base.

Getting Started

Even though Illinois is one of a few states piloting the RSW program for National LICA before it is released to Chap-

ters nationwide, we already have ILICA members selling the program to their customers! To ensure contractor payment and proper tracking, those ILICA contractor members interested in offering the RSW program will need to call the ILICA office to get their contractor ID and custom RSW website address for their customers to access and complete payment processing. Ryan at the office can also provide step-by-step details on paperwork processing.

Looking Ahead

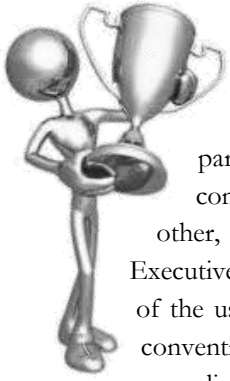
While the Residential Septic Warranty program’s basic plan, the Protection Plan, is up and running, National LICA is completing the final touches on the second plan option to be released soon, the Protection Plan with Pumping (MSRP \$479). As the name implies, pumping maintenance and costs are built into this RSW plan option. National LICA is also working on developing a commercial septic warranty program once the residential version is released nationwide.

National LICA’s RSW is expected to hit the ground running. The RSW program will generate additional income for contractors, National LICA, and Illinois LICA, while also expanding contractor customer base. The RSW program provides great value to homeowners and protects them from unforeseen expenses. As this program grows, we expect both realtors and banks/lenders to fully endorse the Residential Septic Warranty program, promoting it directly to homeowners.

For more information or to get signed up today to start providing RSW plans to your septic customers, contact Ryan at the ILICA office: 309.446.3700.



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2016 ILICA AWARD RECIPIENTS

Last year was a “big” year for ILICA, particularly with two large summer projects, completed within a matter of weeks from each other, and with a changing of the guard for the Executive Director position. Add these items on top of the usual business meetings, picnics, golf outing, convention, etc., and it is easy to see that 2016’s success relied heavily on the efforts of many members and associate members. Needless to say, the awards committee had a difficult decision making process when selecting those individuals most worthy of recognition for their contributions to ILICA in 2016, as Illinois LICA is blessed with a number of dedicated and outstanding members.

Merit Award

For their loyal partnership to ILICA and for their outstanding coordination of their respective conservation projects, Jill Kostel, TWI & Laura Gentry, IL Corn were named merit award winners.

Bill Doubet was similarly named for his successful coordination and execution of both summer demonstration projects as Show Committee Chair and for his countless hours invested and relentless drive to ensure a job well done.

For their regular involvement in the planning process, daily jobsite leadership, and lead by example mentality in regards to the constructed wetland installation in Bureau County, Wes Litwiller and Joe Krupps were merit award recipients this year.

And for their assumed leadership roles, superior knowledge of tile drainage installation, and generous donations of man-power (crews) in regards to the installation of the Field Lab in Macon County, Jon Seevers, Bill Dean, and David Kennedy were named merit award recipients this year, as well.

Finally, Bill and Bev Dean also received a merit award for their generous hospitality as hosts for the members’ meeting and picnic the last couple of years.

Shiny Shovel Award

Bringing recognition to those members and partners that have consistently supported Illinois LICA in every, or almost every, event throughout the year (i.e. financially, physically, and promotionally), Shiny Shovel Award winners are highly engaged, supporting ILICA at the numerous functions held every year. Their shovel never sets down long enough to acquire rust, but instead is shiny from its continual use.

Being a state-wide association with functions spread throughout the state, Illinois LICA, in 2016 alone, held 6 business meetings, 2 education workshops (ranging in length from 2-3 days), a golf outing, a member picnic, 2 membership drives, 2 summer demonstration projects (spanning close to a full two weeks’ worth of in-field work), countless conference calls & industry partner meetings, 2 National LICA Conventions, and an Annual Meeting.


This year’s recipient, Tom Beyers, devoted his personal time, finances, man-power, and industry networking & experiences to every activity in 2016 (with the exception of one meeting), all while holding an active leadership role for the Association for the past 2 years as President. Tom perfectly exemplifies someone that is continually dedicated and engaged at the highest level to Illinois LICA, and his recognition comes as no surprise to those who have had the pleasure of working with him through ILICA.


Mr. & Mrs. Contractor Awards


This year’s Mrs. Contractor Award winner, Lindsey Curtis, has been known to walk in a room with a big beautiful smile on her face and instantly win your friendship. Born and raised a farm girl, she was active in high school playing basketball, singing in the choir, and on the National Honor Society. She graduated from Jr. College while maintaining a full-time job and went on to obtain her 4-year degree while working a part time job. She is currently the office manager for their family


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2016 ILICA AWARD RECIPIENTS (CONT.)

farm operation and assists with marketing, billing, part-runs and job coordination or any other duties as assigned for their Land Improvement business; all while at the same time, keeping up with the household duties for the family and her own business! She is active in ILICA serving on the convention committee and the ladies activities. She is a member of Trinity Lutheran Church of Macomb. And she and her husband have been married since 2004 and are blessed to have a wonderful son.

This year's Mr. Contractor, Lee Bunting, married his high school sweetheart; is the father of five; "Papa" to 14 Grand-children; and a Navy Veteran. He has been known as a steward of soil ever since being a toddler. In the mid 70's, his father purchased their first "Ohio" trencher to keep his 3 sons busy in the "farming off" season. Lee and his brothers all taught themselves surveying and trenching and soon began contracting commercially for area farmers, along with farming over 2100 acres and keeping up with their trucking business.

Lee is also heavily involved with a number of other organizations. He has been a Soil and Water Conservation Director for over 40 years, serving as President of his local district and Past President of the State Association of IL Soil & Water Conservation Districts. He is the former President of the National Conservation Past President Association. He served on the Indian Creek Steering committee. He has been a LICA member for 19 years, volunteering for various activities & projects and attending local & national conventions. He is a Farm Bureau member, a Corn Grower member, and formerly a FBFM committee member. He spearheads his

local food resource bank. He is an active member of his local church as events moderator, deacon, trustee and a member of the dartball team for the past 40 years. Also, his family was recognized for their on-farm conservation efforts by a local newspaper that awarded them the Farm Family of the Year.



Merit Award: Joe Krupps



Shiny Shovel Award: Tom Beyers,
with Bill Dean (Awards Comm. Chair)



Merit Award:
Bill Doubet, Jill Kostel, Wes Litwiller



Merit Award: Bill & Bev Dean



Merit Award: Laura Gentry, with Bill Dean (Awards Comm. Chair) & Tom Beyers (2016 President)

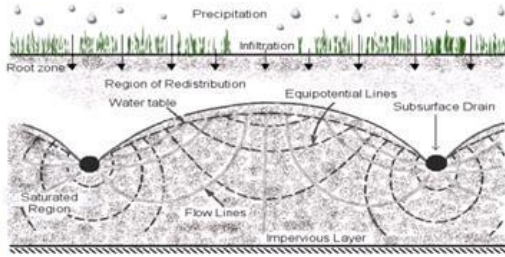


Mr. Contractor: Lee Bunting

Buntings: Tinley, Deidra, Mason, Chris, Marie, Lee, Marcia, Don



Merit Award: Jon Seevers, David Kennedy, Bill Dean



The Extension Connection

A QGIS Plugin for Thinning and Extracting Elevation Data from LiDAR Maps

Source: Dr. Richard Cooke & Nidhi Adhikari, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

In the July/August 2016 issue of the Illinois Newsletter, we presented a procedure for thinning and extracting elevation data from LiDAR map layers. The procedure was placed on the Illinois Drainage Guide, with videos demonstrating each step. In this issue we present a program designed to simplify, that is, automate, the procedure. The program, written in the Python computer language, has a graphical user interface (GUI). The required inputs are a boundary file and a LiDAR file. Using this data, the program generates a clipped LiDAR file at a specified resolution, which is then converted into an xyz file and a comma separated variable (csv) file. The elevation data for the area under consideration is also displayed on QGIS in a contour map with user-specified contour intervals. The procedure is outlined below. The procedure may also be accessed online at http://www.wq.illinois.edu/dg/Extraction/LiDAR_Extraction_Plugin.htm. The online version includes videos of each step of the procedure.

Installing of the plugin

The plugin has to be installed into QGIS before running it for the first time. **This installation only has to be done once on each computer.**

The plugin requires a Python library called 'pandas'. To add this library, open "OSGeo4WSHELL" that came with QGIS, and run as an administrator (right-click and select "Run as administrator").

On the console type the following:

- `python --m pip install --upgrade pip`
- `pip install pandas`

Download the zipped file with the plugin, and unzip it. This plugin can be downloaded from <http://www.wq.illinois.edu/dg/Extraction/LiDARExtraction.zip>

Save the directory in the QGIS plugin directory. The location of this directory depends on the computer's operating system:

- a. Windows: `C:\Users\username\.qgis2\python\plugins`
- b. Mac: `/Users/username/.qgis2/python/plugins`
- c. Linux: `/home/username/.qgis2/python/plugins`

Open QGIS. Go to Plugins> Manage and Install plugins> Settings> Select show experimental plugins.

Running the plugin

The GUI for the plugin is shown in Figure 1. Step by step instructions are given below. Once the input files, the boundary file and the LiDAR file, have been loaded, the whole process takes a few minutes.

- 1) Set the default directory in which the boundary file and the LiDAR file are located in the **Set default directory** box. It is recommended that both input files be placed in the same directory, but it is not essential. The default directory simply sets the location from which the routine opens.



Figure 1: Graphic User Interface of the LiDAR Extraction plugin

A QGIS Plugin for Thinning and Extracting Elevation Data from LiDAR Maps *(cont.)*

- 2) Specify a CRS for the output files created by the routine. The recommended CRS is either NAD_1983_StatePlane_Illinois_East_FIPS_1201_Feet (102671) or NAD_1983_StatePlane_Illinois_East_FIPS_1201_Feet (102672) depending on the county under consideration. Enter the appropriate number in parenthesis (102671 or 102672) into the **Specify project CRS** box, and press the OK button next to it.
- 3) Load the boundary file into the **Input vector file** box and press OK. The boundary file may be a kml file, or a shapefile, or any polygon vector file recognized by QGIS. It may be in any CRS. The July/August 2016 article outlined how a kml boundary file can be created in Google Earth.
- 4) Specify the name of an output boundary file in the **Output shp file** box and press OK. This creates an output boundary shapefile in the CRS specified above. If the input boundary was a shapefile, the same name cannot be used for the output boundary file. The output shapefile is saved as a vector layer, and stores data such as the shape, location and geographic features of the field (Figure 3).
- 5) Specify the county LiDAR file in the **Input tif file** box, and press okay. For Illinois, the county LiDAR files can be downloaded from the Illinois Geospatial Data Clearinghouse: <https://clearinghouse.isgs.illinois.edu/data/elevation/illinois-height-modernization-ilhmp-lidar-data>



Figure 2: State plane zones for Illinois

The Clearinghouse now provides users the option of using smaller LiDAR files, typically 2000 feet x 2000 feet, instead of countywide files. More than one file may be required to cover a field. These files are in a format that cannot be directly read into QGIS, and have to be converted into tif files before they can be loaded into the GUI. A procedure for this conversion is outlined on the Illinois Drainage Guide (<http://www.wq.illinois.edu/dg/Extraction/Las2Tif.htm>)

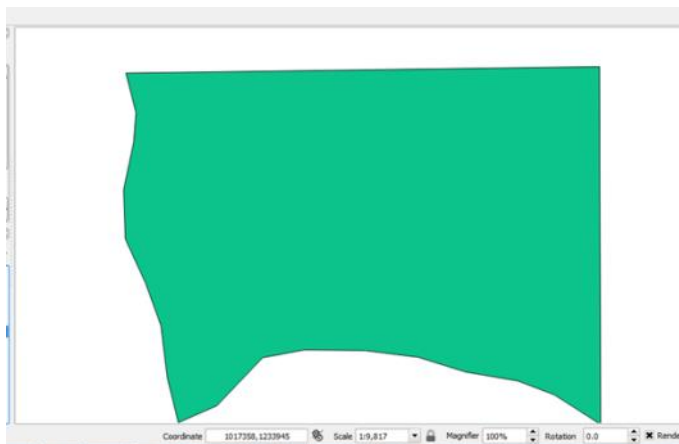


Figure 3: Output boundary Shape file from routine.

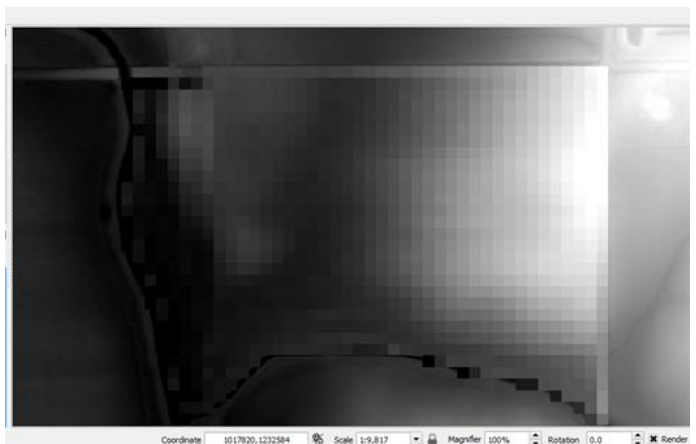


Figure 4: Thinned tif file from routine.

- 6) After the LiDAR file has been loaded into QGIS, specify the resolution at which the raster data is to be clipped in the **Clip resolution** box, and the name of the output LiDAR file in the **Output clip file** box, and press OK. A typical resolution would be 40 feet by 40 feet. The May/June 2016 article in the LICA newsletter discusses the effect of resolution on contour maps produced by the data. When the OK button is pressed, the LiDAR map is clipped to the field boundary using the specified resolution, and saved to the user's directory (Figure 4).
- 7) Specify a name for the output .xyz file in the **Output xyz file** box, and press OK, then specify a name for the output .csv file in the **Output csv file** box, and press OK. In this step, points files that can be used in drainage design software are created. These files are similar to survey data taken at the resolution specified in Step 6. The locations of the points are displayed on the map (Figure 5).

A QGIS Plugin for Thinning and Extracting Elevation Data from LiDAR Maps *(cont.)*

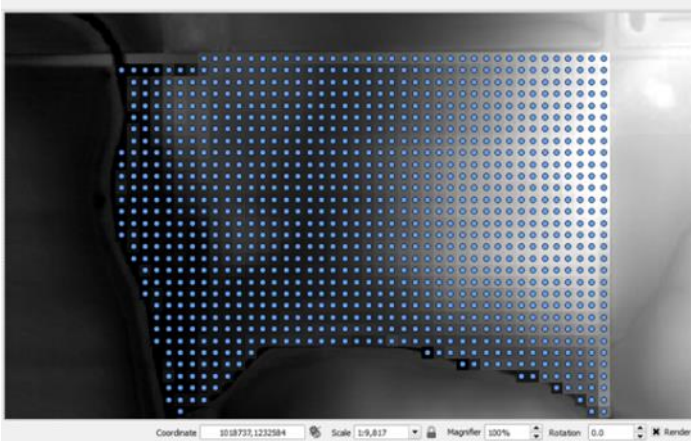


Figure 5: Points from csv file loaded to QGIS.

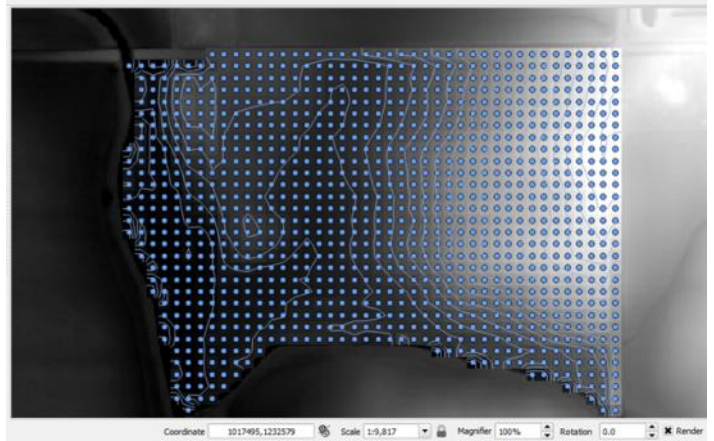




Figure 6: Contour lines created from points in csv files.

- 8) If a contour map is required, specify the required contour interval in the **Contour interval** box, and the name of the contour file in the Output shp file box, and press OK. Contour lines are created at intervals stated by the user and saved to the user's directory (Figure 6).

This program provides an easy and user-friendly option for quick processing and analysis of LiDAR data. Drainage contractors and other designers can use the plugin generate elevation data that can be used in the design of drainage systems.

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ILICA GOINGS-ON

ILICA has been quite busy this late winter. In addition to addressing all the post-convention items and visiting other industry conventions, here is brief update of other the things we have been up to.

During the first week of February, Ryan Arch and Wayne Litwiller, with the help of National LICA CEO, Jerry Biuso, and Region IV VP, Nordis Estrem, attended the Onsite Wastewater Professionals of IL Convention. Here ILICA sponsored a lunch, exhibited, and pitched the National LICA Residential Septic Warranty Program to attendees. We had quite a bit of interest from members and non-members alike in the program, which is thought to be the only one in existence nationally. Contact the office for more information about the program, so you can start providing this beneficial service to your septic customers today!

Immediately after OWPI, we held our 10 Hour OSHA & Forklift Operator Certification Workshop. Associate members Altorfer CAT graciously provided their facilities and forklifts to help us complete the two day course, and Tom Grey with Grey & Associates did a fantastic job of presenting the safety course in an upbeat, engaging, and, at times, humorous way. Other event sponsors included First Mid Insurance Group, Nicoud Insurance, Prins Insurance, Springfield Plastics, and UFG. Please thank these Associates the next time you see them. While attendance was down due to beautiful weather in the 50s, this workshop still provided one of the most important trainings to our contractors in attendance, supplying them the tools to work efficiently and safely on the jobsite so they come home the same way they arrived to work. Be sure to contact the office with any other training needs you or your company may have, so we can get a program together. Subject matter diversity drives attendance and keeps our trainings well rounded for all companies.

ILICA had the opportunity to sit down with IL NRCS for our yearly meeting to discuss a number of industry topics. We had another great and informative meeting and very much appreciate the NRCS taking time out of their schedule to answer any questions or concerns our contractors may have. Topics this year revolved heavily around end-of-pipe practices such as DWM and bioreactors. We are also in discussions with the NRCS about partnering to provide some sort of training, a step below TSP training, to help educate contractors on new end-of-pipe practices with particular emphasis on practice standard review, feasibility, and layout. Please contact the office for meeting minutes or to get added to next year's attendance list.

Finally, Prins Insurance and United Fire Group invited ILICA (Tom & Judy Beyers, Steve Anderson, Bill Dean,

and Ryan Arch) to UFG's headquarters in Cedar Rapids, IA for their Annual State LICA Insurance Program Update. Check the next newsletter issue for more details!



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STATE CONVENTION & MEMBER MEETING

Themed after one of the top priority resource concerns in IL, water quality, the 2016 ILICA Convention provided great education, networking, and socializing for contractor and associate memberships again this year. Although attendance was down roughly 15%, some of which may have been attributed to the icy weather on the first day, speakers and exhibitors were not detoured, and we had plenty of members on-hand for the ILICA business meetings.

Averaging 140-150 attendees over the first two days of Convention, ILICA members had the option of attending over half a dozen education sessions, septic training, partner reports, and the trade show. Education sessions explored the IL Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy and its accomplishments and future goals, various water quality conservation practices, recent summer partner projects, utility location, and water quality/nutrient management research data from the University of IL and NREC. Between these sessions, contractors visited 32 trade show exhibitors that filled over 36 booth spaces in the main exhibitor hall. ILICA Ladies also kept plenty busy making various crafts, hosting their own in-house trade show full of clothes and housewares, and sampling makeup and skin care products. Evening activities wrapped up the first two days of Convention with a silent and live auction that serves as a fantastic fundraiser for the Association, as well as a nice Awards Banquet that brings much needed recognition to our most active and dedicated members and partners (see pages 10-11).

As expected, survey feedback from the Convention was very positive, particularly regarding venue and location. So much so, the 2018 ILICA Convention will again be held at the Embassy Suites in East Peoria. Look for some changes next year, such as new meal selections, additional septic training options, and alternative evening entertainment and tours. And don't forget to thank all this year's Convention sponsors and donors when you see them next, between now and then! The success of our events hinges on their generosity and support!



Some of the many auction & silent auction items donated by membership.



Thank You

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STATE CONVENTION & MEMBER MEETING

(CONT.)



Awards Banquet



National LICA CEO, Jerry Biuso, releases the new Residential Septic Warranty Program, sold exclusively through LICA members (see page 9), during his report over lunch.



Ladies make & takes



Doug Ebelherr, Chase Environmental, facilitates septic contractor training during Convention.

FEATURED ILICA BENEFIT:

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Illinois

**Board of Directors Meeting
Saturday, March 11, 2016**

Jubilee Café - Kickapoo, IL
7127 N. Kickapoo - Edwards Road
Committee meetings - 10 am - 1 pm
Board Meeting - 2 pm

**Area 6 Golf Outing
Friday June 16, 2017**

Meadowview Golf Course - Mattoon, IL
Hotel blocks at Comfort Suites & Quality Inn - Mattoon, IL

National

**LICA Winter Convention & CONEXPO
March 4-6, 2017 (NLICA) & March 7-11, 2017 (CONEX)**

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SAFETY FEATURE: LADDER SAFETY

Ladders pose specific safety hazards, so it's essential to familiarize yourself with the risks and safety rules.

Falls from elevated surfaces are frequently listed as one of the top 10 causes of accidents in the workplace. Most of these accidents occur due to failure to follow basic ladder safety. To help prevent ladder injuries, practice the following safety tips.

Setting up Safely

Make sure you select the correct ladder for the job—check the length and duty rating. Proper length is a minimum of three feet extending over the roofline or working surface.

Inspect your ladder before each use for loose or damaged:

- Steps
- Rungs
- Spreaders
- Rung dogs
- Safety feet
- Other parts

Clear the area where you will be working. Never place a ladder in front of a door that isn't locked, blocked or guarded.

Because metal ladders conduct electricity, use a wooden or fiberglass ladder near powerlines or electrical equipment.

Check that all locks on extension ladders are properly engaged before placing your ladder on a steady surface. The ground underneath the ladder should be level and firm. Large, flat wooden boards braced underneath a ladder can help level it on an uneven surface or soft ground. Straight, single or extension ladders should be set up at approximately a 75 degree angle.

Use the 1:4 ratio to ensure your safety when on a ladder. Place the base of the ladder one foot away from whatever it's leaning against for every four feet of height up to the point of contact for the top of the ladder.

Use Caution

Always exercise caution when using a ladder and do not use a ladder for any other purpose than intended. Other safety considerations include:

- Make sure the weight that your ladder is supporting does not exceed its maximum load rating (user plus materials). And only one person should be on a ladder at a time.

- Keep your body centered between the rails of the ladder at all times. Do not lean too far to the side while working. Never over-reach. Instead, descend from the ladder and move it to a better position.
- Do not step on the top step, bucket shelf, or attempt to climb or stand on the rear section of a step-ladder.
- Always face the ladder when climbing up or down. Never leave a raised ladder unattended.



Discussion Date: _____

Employee Participants

WORK COMP INSIGHTS

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Officer Exclusion from Workers' Compensation Insurance

Most states require employers to purchase a workers' compensation insurance policy to cover workers who are injured or made ill due to a workplace exposure. While owners and corporate officers can exclude themselves from coverage, there are potential drawbacks to opting out that need to be seriously considered before you make your decision.

Executive officers of a corporation are usually included for coverage under each state's workers' compensation laws unless they file for an exclusion from the policy. Partners and sole proprietors are generally exempt from coverage but may elect coverage under the policy.

Benefits of Workers' Compensation Insurance

The benefits are the same for everyone covered under a commercial workers' compensation policy, including officers. Workers' compensation coverage pays benefits to workers injured on the job. These benefits include medical care, a portion of lost wages and permanent disability. It also provides death benefits to dependents of employees killed from a work-related accident.

A typical health insurance policy specifically excludes work-related injuries unless there is a rider attached to the policy that adds business coverage. Furthermore, health insurance does not cover disability the same way that workers' compensation insurance does.

Why would someone opt out of workers' compensation insurance?

Many officers and business owners make the following assumptions when opting out of workers' compensation insurance:

- They assume that their medical insurance is enough to cover them in the event of an injury incurred at the workplace.

- They assume that they would never want to file a workers' compensation claim against their own company, so they don't see the need to pay premiums for a policy that they won't use.

Drawbacks of Opting Out

Even if a corporate officer spends the majority of his or her time at a desk, there is still a risk of injury. And if an injury occurs, it's likely that the officer's health insurance policy will have an exclusion for work-related injuries. Without workers' compensation insurance, the cost of treatment for those injuries would have to be paid for by the company, or come out of the pocket of the officer.

While owners and corporate officers may be allowed to exclude themselves from workers' compensation coverage, there are drawbacks to opting out.

Opting out of workers' compensation insurance may save some money, but it also transfers risk to the employer and to the corporate officer who chooses to opt out.

Additional Premium Charges

If an officer rejects coverage, he or she will most likely have to file a form with the state and/or the insurance provider prior to obtaining coverage for the rest of the company. In absence of this notification, the insurance provider will assume that the officer is electing coverage, and will charge him or her a premium.

Option to Self-insure

With self-insurance, a company can avoid paying workers' compensation premiums by serving as its own carrier. The catch is that the company has to agree to post a bond or put money aside to pay for any claims that may occur. Each state has its own self-insurance requirements.

Consult Prins Insurance, Inc. today if you have any questions about self-insurance or need help deciding whether or not opting out of workers' compensation insurance is right for you and your business.

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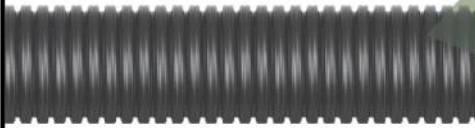
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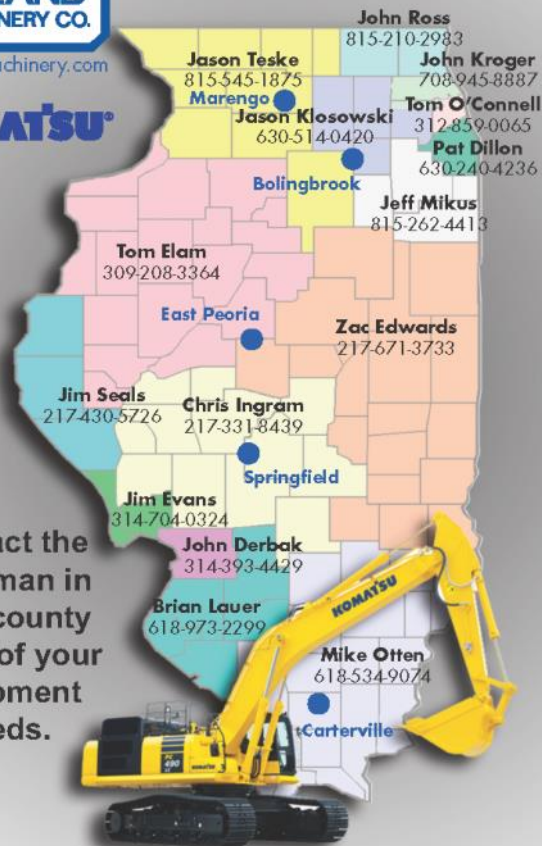


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