



ILICA

NEWS

Land Improvement Contractors Of America · Illinois Chapter

May - June 2009

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2009 SUMMER ILICA EVENTS



Something for everyone! Details Inside!

Also Featured Inside

- Area 3 and Area 8 March Member Meetings *(page 6)*
- 1st Annual Area 3 Golf Outing *(page 7)*
- Picnic Registration Form *(page 11)*
- LICA Summer Meeting Agenda *(page 13)*

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

Upcoming Events:

- Picnic & Member Meeting
June 27-28, 2009
- LICA Summer Convention -
July 14 - 18, 2009

ATTENTION ALL ILICA MEMBERS! PROPOSED BY-LAWS CHANGE VOTE - JUNE 27, 2009 - 10 AM



This is official notification of a proposed by-laws change. Following a joint meeting of the by-laws, membership and executive committees at the March board meeting, it has been recommended by the by-laws committee chair that the by-laws be changed as detailed in this article. It was further stated as a motion and seconded, requiring that the motion be voted on by the general membership at the annual summer member meeting set for 10 am, June 27, 2009 at the Rend Lake Resort in Whittington Illinois.

Current by-laws read:

Section 4. Membership Dues. The annual dues of members shall be established from time to time by the members of the ILICA at an annual or special meeting. Annual membership dues shall be payable before or during the first month of the fiscal year. One dollar (\$1.00) of said dues shall be for subscription to the ILICA Newsletter or its successor publication. Until changed by the membership, the annual dues

for each class of members shall be as follows:

- (a) The first two (2) years dues for new members shall be One hundred sixty dollars and existing Active members dues shall be Two Hundred seventy-five dollars per year effective November 2004. (Plus the National membership dues).
- (b) Affiliate members-Eighty Five dollars (\$85.00)
- (c) Associate members-Two Hundred dollars (\$200.00)

Proposed changes would read:

- (a) Active member dues shall be One hundred seventy dollars (\$170) per year, effective November 2009. (Plus the National membership dues).
- (b) Affiliate members-Eighty Five dollars (\$85.00)
- (c) Associate members - Two Hundred Ninety-Five dollars (\$295.00) per year, effective November 2009.

Please attend the member meeting at Rend Lake and make your voice count on this by-laws change.

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The ILICA News



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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.

Meeting Notice

ILICA General Member Meeting
 Rend Lake Resort
 Whittington, IL
 Saturday, June 27, 2009
 10:00 am

Convention Committee
 Sunday, June 28th 9:30 am
 Membership Committee
 Sunday, June 28th 10:30 am

(See map on page 12)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is nice once again to feel like doing something after recovery from a March tonsillectomy. If you are looking for something fun to do, I highly DON'T recommend the procedure. It really does put you out of commission for a couple weeks and the couple following aren't exactly great. However, everything went fine and when the throat finally settles down, I think I will be able to say it was worth it.

The process did cause me to miss the great membership meetings that we had in March at Altorfers and Erb's in the more southern part of the state. Those went well and several new members have been added to bring new vitality and knowledge to the organization. Be sure to comment to the members of the membership committee on the wonderful job they have been doing. And of equal or even greater importance be sure to take the time and send a greeting to those new members so that they will feel more comfortable getting involved in this organization, where all of us more tenured members know that is where the fun is, from committee work to field projects to board meetings to conventions. From personal experience, I know it has made me better at what I do.

Looking forward to the summer, if it ever comes as I sit here writing this on April 21 under the threat of snow show-

ers, there are many great activities coming up. There will be a couple of projects ILICA will be doing for the University of Illinois. One is the postponed Bell Tower landscaping that was going to be done in March but due to changes in design was pushed back and the other is work on construction of a sediment runoff test facility on a portion of the University farm where they will present classes on sediment runoff control. They have offered to give to us this class once a year free of charge to members, an excellent opportunity to enhance your knowledge in what may become a mandated field of work. Thanks to Jon and Neal, show committee chairs for their work in getting all this moving along. And then there is the summer picnic and general membership meeting to be held in the Rend Lake area in June. Details are in the newsletter here so make your plans to attend. Should be a great time in a very pretty area with a lot of activities for everyone. Barring another tonsillectomy, I will be there, why not you?

Now that April 15 has come and our money left over has gone, time to get to work. Though the weather here hasn't been cooperating much except in providing more work from a couple nasty rains on half frozen ground, we are starting to get a shine on some of the machines. Hopefully you are getting going again too. Be careful, work smart and keep up your support of the organization.

Steve Anderson, President

ILICA MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE IS THE BEST!

As reported in past issues of the *ILICA News*, our membership committee has been diligently pursuing new members all winter. Actually, beginning last summer at our picnic in Area 7, our membership co-chairs, several committee members and Jerry Biuso started out around the state, setting up Area member meetings, field visits, breakfast and lunch meetings, and every other imaginable venue, informing contractors about the benefits of membership with ILICA.

Although they have no intention of stopping now that the weather is good and everyone is trying to get back to work, the directory is finished and it's a good time to report on the fruits of their labor.

It was reported at the state convention in Springfield, that 26 new members had been signed up during 2008. Since then, an additional 20 members have joined in time to make the 2009 Directory. This brings the total number of contractors to 121, surpassing the challenge set by National LICA President Bruce Barnhart at the 2008 ILICA convention in Moline and qualifying Illinois for the LICA dues incentive program for the first time. *(It may require Bruce to make some serious purchases at next year's auction as well.)*

The dedication of the membership committee and co-chairs, the support of attending ILICA contractors and associate members who provided meals or meeting space have made this success possible. If you have a chance, why not take time to thank these folks for the time they've spent building ILICA for the benefit of all of us.



Membership Co-Chairs In Action: (l) Jerry Biuso, member Randy Steber and Norm Kocher during November membership drive. (r) Wayne with new member Todd Staley at Altorfers meeting this March.



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OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Active Contractors

- Thomas Beyers - Odin
- Edwin Gajewski
- Edwin Gajewski Bulldozing - Scheller
- Mike Gaskins
- MTG Excavating - Chillicothe
- Dustin Gray
- Ultimate Edge Landscaping - Findley
- David Hauger
- Lowell Farm Drainage & Excavating, Inc. - Standard
(formerly Mick Lock "Mole Inc")
- Eric J. Herron
- E. J. Herron Excavating Co., Inc. - Chillicothe
- Rod Hinmon
- MGC Home & Garden Services - Monticello
- Josh Keith
- Prairieland Farm Drainage - Catlin
- Jerry Kimble
- Kimble Excavating, Inc. - Sparland
- Rick LaFollette
- LaFollette Earthmoving - Williamsfield
- Wes Litwiller
- Litwiller Excavating - Armington

**Thank
You!**



Active Contractors *(cont.)*

- Dennis Mulvaney
- DLM Trucking, Inc. - Metamora
- Kenneth Pleines
- Ken Pleines Excavating, Inc. - Minier
- Robert E. Pleines
- Ken Pleines Excavating, Inc. - Minier
- Stephen Sanders
- Tri-S Excavating, LLC - Odin
- Allen Schrock
- Schrock & Sons Crane Service, Inc. - Congerville
- Todd Staley
- Staley Lawn Care & Landscaping - Morton
- T. J. Timmerman
- Quad Cities Directional Boring, Inc. - Colona

Associate Members

- Henderson-Weir Agency, Inc. - Mackinaw
- Bill Embry
- Homeaway Homes - Goodfield
- Ted Schieler

MARCH AREA 3 & AREA 8 MEMBER MEETINGS ANOTHER BIG HIT



After a very busy winter, spring continues to delay its arrival with cool, rainy days. Everyone is trying to work between raindrops but more than ready to feel the sun on their face and dirt turning beneath a machine on a daily basis. But, what a way to end the winter with a very successful March Area member meeting series!

During the initial state-wide sweep last November, we promised to return to Areas 3 and 8 in March and discovered that contractors in those areas were glad we did. Altorfer and Caterpillar hosted the Area 3 meeting at Altorfer's East Peoria facility with Troy Carroll, Peoria CAT Heavy Equipment rep, acting as our grill chef. Total attendance exceeded 93, most of which were area contractors, and everyone involved was thrilled with the turnout. The Illinois Soybean Association subsidized another Bio-diesel program by Hoon Ge for both area meetings, which was also well received. Altorfer's and CAT were outstanding hosts, the food was absolutely delicious and although we only had three signed applications at the end of the evening, several more were received from contractors who attended that night's program.

With no time to waste, it was off to Southern Illinois and the second Area 8 member meeting hosted by Erb Equipment Company, who provided a fabulous catered BBQ dinner at their Mt. Vernon facility. Greg Erb joined us for the evening and a brand new Stihl string trimmer was raffled off, going to Jerry Jones, shown to the right. Over 30 area contractors, several that had joined ILICA during our November visits, attended and enjoyed Hoon's Bio-diesel presentation, great company and a delicious meal. Several ILICA directors also attended, bringing contractors from their neighborhoods and taking time to talk to our guests about their own reasons for supporting ILICA.

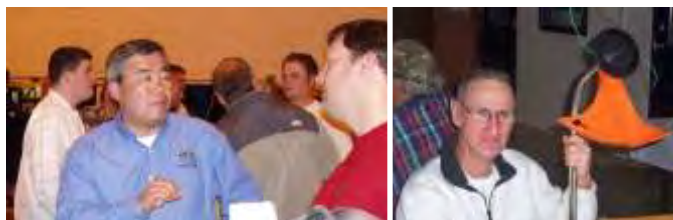
Not to let an opportunity get away from our tenacious membership co-chair, Norm Kocher, ILICA was also on the agenda at the Jefferson County NRCS/SWCD meeting scheduled the following morning in Mt. Vernon. This meeting was another chance to meet new contractors and explain ILICA to people in other counties who are involved in various aspects of the land improvement industry.

And although it may not have appeared, as the weary membership travelers headed back toward central Illinois, that their efforts were quite as fruitful as their first series last November, it just goes to show that "it ain't over till it's over." As published on page 4 of this newsletter, new contractor members matched the number signed up between November and the ILICA convention, bringing membership to a level Illinois hasn't seen in years.

Area 3 and 8 member meetings will resume this November and additional areas are being considered as well, but it is apparent that Illinois contractors welcome education, fellowship and a good hot meal; And with the help of our associates, ILICA plans to continue providing just that.



(below) Guests at Erb Equipment Co. following the delicious BBQ dinner. (right top to bottom) Hoon Ge, MEG Corp, answers contractors' questions following one of his presentations. Jerry Jones with the Stihl string trimmer he won at Erbs. Registration line at Altorfer's in East Peoria and the contractors at Altorfers with a new CAT D7E dozer.



ILICA'S 1ST ANNUAL AREA 3 GOLF OUTING SEPTEMBER 10, 2009



As most members know, it was decided that ILICA would skip a year or two before holding another full-blown conservation expo, after coordinating one the past 5 years in a row. However, the number and variety of projects already scheduled or being considered will require the resources of the organization, so other sources of income have been discussed.

Some of the construction projects planned for this summer will generate income for ILICA as well as provide the opportunity for hands-on education. And although the financial status of the organization is solid, it has been decided that a "FUN DAY" fund-raiser might be just the thing for an "off expo year" event. Since area 3 continues to be the area of strongest ILICA membership, we're starting in the heart of Illinois at Bartonville's Coyote Creek Golf Club with our first Area 3 Golf Outing.

Consider this; what sounds like more fun...spending a week in the rain and mud, fighting weather and fatigue, while neglecting your own business and spending hundreds of dollars on a hotel room you barely see or ... taking a Thursday afternoon off to join your friends for a quick lunch, an informal golf cart ride around a beautiful, green field in central Illinois followed by a buffet dinner and perhaps a beer?



... OR

Or, for our associates; would you rather spend a week under a circus tent watching the rain, after hauling thousands of dollars of equipment or material to be donated for the benefit of ILICA (which we really appreciate...we can't even tell you how much) or ... spend \$150 on sponsoring a tee or green and take a Thursday afternoon off to spend with your customers on a beautiful, green field in central Illinois followed by a buffet dinner and perhaps a beer? It seems like it should be a pretty easy decision for any kind of member.

Several committee's have a stake in this event; The show committee has been assigned the duty of coming up with creative income-generating projects during their first slow year in some time; the membership committee plans to encourage our many Area 3 members to bring prospective members in their foursomes; and business and industrial relations are working with our equipment associates on securing a small machine as a "Hole-In-One" prize.

Since this is an Area event, the ILICA office will be contacting most of our associates in the Area for tee, green and meal sponsorship as well as to sign up foursomes to enjoy this relaxing afternoon. However, anyone who wants to support ILICA can sponsor a tee or green and take part in this fun event. Jerry Biuso, Norm Kocher, Wayne Litwiller and Forrest Davis have signed up as the first foursome and promise an interesting if not skillful 18 holes of ... something.

Look for the registration form in the next *ILICA News* or check our website now for all the latest information and join us for a great day in central Illinois!



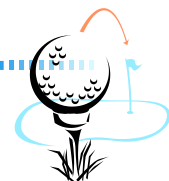
... OR



GREAT GOLF COMEBACKS

Golfer: "This is the worst golf course I've ever played on!"

Caddy: "This isn't the golf course, sir! We left that a half hour ago!"

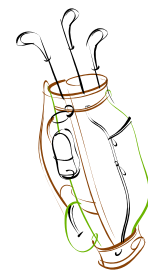


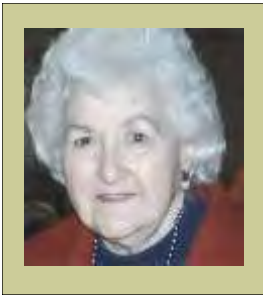
Golfer: "Well, Caddy, How do you like my game?"

Caddy: "Very good, Sir! But personally I prefer Golf."

Golfer: "I've played so poorly all day; I think I'm going to go drown myself in that lake."

Caddy: "I doubt that. I don't think you could keep your head down that long."





GABBIN' WITH THE GALS...

Finally we are on the brink of Spring! For our contractors, it means (hopefully) Work - Work - Work! My husband really appreciated warm weather and always sat outside to read the newspaper each evening on the east side of our home where there was almost always a nice breeze. And I believe you would agree, there is nothing more refreshing than a cool breeze on a warm day - one of the many small things we should thank our Creator for.

Folks, we need to pay attention to the daily news through television and newspapers - some things are changing - some not for the better. When we learn that our president has fired two people who were working in private business, it gets scary! Even if money was involved would it not have been more thoughtful to talk to the owner and ask that person to do the firing? Personally, it would help to explain it to people where the law is that gives him that venue. You realize the word "change" (which is what he based his campaign on) does not necessarily pertain to everything. After watching some of the people who were appointed to an office, it would make sense to "change" the appointee to someone who has paid their tax. Then again, maybe they were not to be found? Some people are trying to change our country and my feeling is that the kind of changes they propose are not changes that are welcome or needed...Remember the old saying - *if it ain't broke, don't fix it!* These reasons are why we need to absorb all the daily news we can so we know what is going on or we will lose what we inherited from our forefathers, which we should carry on. Whoops! I just turned over my soapbox!

As we age, many others are aging with us. It is a jolt to acknowledge one day that we are all growing older every 24 hours, and as long as we can have another birthday we should be thankful. The best birthdays are those that haven't arrived yet! Will Rogers said "We could certainly slow the aging process if it had to work its way through Congress!" Groucho Marx said "I was married by a judge - I should have asked for a jury!" Milton Berle said "At my age, when I order a 3-minute egg, they ask for the money up front." A humorous old gent said he hoped to put all his aches in one casket - how about that?

You know you are growing older when you can throw away the items your children made in first grade. This gal has some that will not be discarded in my lifetime. Here's one many of you can appreciate, especially this gal - A young doctor completed examining an elderly man - "Tell me, do you suffer from arthritis?" "Of course" the senior replied, "What else can I do about it?" Here's one to remember: "My grandmother is 90 and she is dating. He's 90. It's going great - they never

argue - they can't hear each other."

Wonder how many of you get too much mail? My mail slot overflows most of the time and it is getting to be a nuisance. The next time I find a phone number or an address to invite all those who send to me to cease and desist. With politicians worrying if they will be elected, they are calling on us peons to help them so one gets mail from different committees and one doesn't know if they have the same list, so it doubles up and I for one, am not happy about it. Then they hire someone to call you on the telephone - well, its enough to break a blood vessel! By the way, my son Dan put a mail slot for the mailman to use and it is really handy, because now I don't have to go outside to get the mail and can thumb my nose at the weatherman...so there!

It is gratifying to see there apparently was no problem electing new officers for our organization. When members take their membership seriously and accept these jobs, it strengthens the organization and gives a good impression to new members. Congratulations to all the new officers and best wishes for a banner year! Having a reliable secretary adds much to keep everything running smoothly - thanks Janet!

Did you hear about the woman who went to a self-help group for compulsive talkers - it is called On & On Anon. So you can't speak Italian? Tri Veni - Vidi - Velcro...which means I came, I saw, I stuck around. Some help, no? Everyone has a photographic memory - some people are just out of film. My pig learned karate - now he's doing pork chops! Some days we are the dog, some days the hydrant. If you are going to try cross country skiing, we suggest you start with a small country.

How about these - Lawyers get disbarred, Clergymen defrocked, ball players - debased, politicians - de-voted, cowboys - de-ranged, models - de-posed, Calvin Klein models - de-briefed, organ donors - de-livered, dry cleaners - de-pressed, de-creased or de-pleated. Do you hear about the home brewer who entered his first brewing contest and the report he got back said, "Dear Sir, Your horse has diabetes. (Amen.)"

The word for this issue is "Thankful." No matter what state of life we are in, thank the good Lord we are at least in it even if it isn't the best time of our life. My side of the family is planning a reunion which means we will see relatives that have been out of touch for some time. Since our families have dwindled, which is normal, we will be thankful for those who are still around and can attend! The happiest people don't necessarily have the best of everything - they just make the most of everything that comes their way.

The best of summer to all and please pray for our country!!



ILLINOIS FARM PROGRESS SHOW - ILICA JOINS PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION TENT - SEPTEMBER 1 - 3, 2009

Once again, ILICA joins many of our partner agencies at the 2009 Farm Progress Show in Decatur Illinois. Although the Farm Progress Show draws a big crowd, the conservation tent struggles each year with creative new ways to draw those crowds into the world of conservation long enough to get our message heard.



Once inside, the Partners In Conservation tent will look more like a carnival midway with games of chance and skill combined with questions about soil erosion, water quality, habitat and our environment in general. Taking our cue from the very successful Illinois EPA exhibit during the 2007 FPS, each agency and organization will have an activity, trivia like questions on the environment and prizes to entice our visitors into thinking just a bit.



Many of the practices that were installed during the 2006 and 2008 ILICA Conservation Expo's in will also be featured in the Conservation Tent. No walking tours of the practices are planned, but since Professor McLaughlin serves free snow cones during the 3 day event, we expect some heavy traffic around the pervious roadway and rain garden areas. The bio-reactors, water control structures and restored wetland will be part of ILICA's table top display and trivia questions, but the real draw will be the "Riser Ring-Toss" game.



You'll just have to stop by and see how it turns out, since the ILICA office hasn't figured out all the details yet.

As always, ILICA needs representatives at the booth to help with the many questions landowners and farm managers have during the 3 day show. Contact Janet with your availability and remember, free admission is included. Any day or half-day you have to help out would be greatly appreciated.

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Legislative Update; LICA Leaders Storm Washington

On Thursday, April 30th and Friday, May 1st, three LICA officials visited Washington DC and carried our LICA message far and wide. LICA President Bruce Barnhart, Executive Vice President Jerry Biuso, and Director of Government Relations John Peterson made up the team.

The visits started at the office of Iowa Representative Steven King where they met with King's Senior Legislative Assistant Brent Boydston. Rep. King was back in Iowa for the weekend, but President Barnhart had met with him in Iowa the week earlier. King is also a past LICA Regional Vice President and his contracting firm is now managed by his son. Our purpose of this meeting was to bring Rep. King the latest in LICA activities, let him know that the current LICA President is also from Iowa, and let John Peterson meet King's principal staff. This was an excellent meeting, and John was able to help Boydston with some information on Iowa's Little Sioux Watershed Project. John also offered to serve as a resource to Rep. King's staff and will stay in touch with Brent.

Then after a cab ride to USDA and NRCS, the group met with NRCS's Liaison to LICA Lyn Gillespie. Lyn is the NRCS National Construction Engineer and has also been designated as the agency's liaison to LICA. In addition to getting to know Lyn, we learned that various sections of the Recovery Act (Stimulus Bill) will require contractors and other recipients of Recovery Act Funds to register in the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) database and also pay Davis-Bacon Act wages. That will be the topic of a separate LICA article. Jerry also asked Lyn to author an article for the LICA Contractor, and she agreed when she can find the time. Lyn is a very enthusiastic liaison to LICA and we are happy she plays that role with us.

Next the team was off to the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD). NACD is the umbrella organization that serves as the eyes and ears in Washington for the 3000 Soil and Water Conservation Districts in every state. NACD CEO Krysta Harden was to have met with us, but she has been nominated by the president to be the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations at USDA and her confirmation hearing is May 7th. We did have a great meeting with Rich Duesterhaus, NACD Senior Advisor. In addition to restoring a relationship between organizations that have worked together for 60 years or



more, we are working on ways to provide each other complimentary exhibit space at our annual conferences, and we will be inviting NACD officials to our Summer Meeting in Des Moines. This is a partnership that is very important to LICA.

After lunch at Union Station, we met with Portland Cement Association (PCA) officials David Hubbard, Vice President for Legislative Affairs, and John Sullivan, Director of Federal Infrastructure Markets. This meeting was valuable in that we learned just what damage Cap and Trade legislation (Waxman-Markey Bill) could do to our entire economy. PCA is working on this as a high priority. Should such a Bill go in the wrong direction, which looks to be the case, it would have a very detrimental affect on contractors and virtually every aspect of our economy. This is an issue we all need to watch closely. This visit also gave our LICA team a briefing on just what PCA is, an organization representing the nations Portland Cement Producers. David and John are among the best and most professional lobbyists in Washington.

Our last visit was with the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and Director of Federal Government Relations Steven Fier. Steven explained how ASCE makes their policy decisions, how they decide on taking positions on issues, and how the ASCE membership takes part in that process. ASCE is a professional society representing about 150,000 civil engineers throughout the country, and is very active in representing their membership in Washington. They also publish the **2009 Report Card for America's Infrastructure, which grades 15 categories of our infrastructure and gives it an overall grade of D.** Delayed maintenance and chronic underfunding are contributors to the low grades in nearly every category. Steven also has had extensive prior experience with other organizations in working with government & PAC's, and he shared much of it with our LICA team. The 2009 report Card should be of interest to all LICA members.

This was a quick trip, but one where not only did LICA learn a lot, but also was able to publicize our organization and make some new friends and hopefully partners. At each stop we left behind copies of the LICA Contractor Magazine. Now the task is to put some of what we learned to use.

By: John Peterson, National LICA Legislative Liaison - 04 May 09



2009 SUMMER MEMBER MEETING, PICNIC AND MORE!



June 27 - 28, 2009 - Rend Lake Resort
Rend Lake Golf Course - Whittington, Illinois



Illinois LICA has planned our annual picnic and summer members meeting at Rend Lake near Mt. Vernon Illinois and there are LOTS of activities to enjoy in the area, whatever your interests!

We will start the day at Wayne Fitzgerald State Park near Whittington with our **summer members meeting starting at 10:00 am**, followed by quick box lunch and an afternoon of whatever activity suits you best. Members are encouraged to bring their fishing or recreational boats to enjoy over the weekend and Rend Lake Golf Course is just a few minutes away for the **1:30 pm golf outing**. **If you're not into golf or fishing**, pontoon boats are on reserve and trap shooting is available in the State Park. The Wayne Fitzgerald State Park has 243 camp sites with electricity, but those fill up fast during the summer. They also have 20 primitive tent sites in a more remote part of the park, for rugged campers. There is a large Art & Artisan Center with the work of more than 800 Illinois artisans in Whittington as well as the Pheasant Hollow Winery. There is something for everyone at this beautiful park so please, save the date and join us at Rend Lake for this enjoyable weekend. See next page for the complete weekend agenda and details on these activities and area hotels.

Please join us for a day of family fun in Southern Illinois!



Please Reply by June 13th:

Name/Company Name: _____ Phone No: _____

- Yes, I/we will attend the ILICA picnic. # _____ x \$9.50 (children under 6 are free)
- Yes, I/we will attend the golf outing. # _____ x \$30 per player (9 holes including golf cart) or
_____ x \$49 per player (18 holes including golf cart)

List golfers names _____, _____, _____, _____

- Yes, I/we will Trap Shoot. # _____ \$4.50 (25 targets)
- Yes, I/we will join the group for Friday evening dinner # _____ Location TBA

Return To: ILICA Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Janet Doubet - P.O. Box 474
Brimfield, IL 61517 or Fax: (309) 446-3744

Bill Me

Please note the EARLY release dates on our room blocks (Area Hotels: next page)

Area Hotels and Other Attractions

Area Hotels: **The Seasons Lodge - 12575 Golf Course Dr - Whittington, IL 62897 - (618) 629-2600**
 The Seasons Lodge is closest to the Golf Course but approximately 9 miles from the Rend Lake Resort on Wayne Fitzgerald State Park. Guest rooms are \$98 per evening and King / Queen Suites are \$108. Please mention Illinois LICA to be booked into our block. If we pick up 10 or more rooms, everyone will receive a 10% discount on guest room pricing. Rooms will be released back to the public on May 27th.

Rend Lake Resort & Conference Center - 11712 East Windy Lane - Whittington, IL - (618) 629-2211
 The Rend Lake Resort requires a 2 night minimum for weekends during busy summer months. The guest room rates are \$93 with suites running \$130. Please mention Illinois LICA to be placed in our block. Rooms will be released back to the public on May 14th.



Area Camping: Wayne Fitzgerald State Park has 20 tent sites to accommodate primitive campers who relish a rustic outdoor experience. Those who want a few more amenities will want to take advantage of the 243 modern campsites, which offer electrical hookups and sanitary facilities. Three shower buildings are available for campers. They recommend arriving no later than Friday morning to get one of these. Campers should register with the Campground Host upon arrival. The fee for camping is \$20 per night for sites with electricity, or \$6 per night for a primitive site. The campground remains available on a first-come, first-served basis which gives everyone equal opportunity for campsites. There are other camping areas around Rend Lake but they are further from the picnic, golf course and other activities. 618-629-2320



Weekend Schedule & Other Activities

Friday, June 26th

7:00 pm - Join the early arrivers for dinner at local restaurant (tba)

Saturday, June 27th

10 am: Member Meeting at the Rend Lake Resort
Noon: Pick up "to go" or enjoy a box lunch at the Resort before an afternoon of boating, fishing, trap shooting, golfing, shopping, etc.
6 pm: Cook-out Picnic at Wayne Fitzgerald State Park, Shelter #2 (feel free to invite a prospective member (and spouse) to come with you) Meal, drinks and table service provided.

Sunday, June 28th

8:30 am: Buffet breakfast at Rend Lake Resort
9:30 am: Convention Committee meeting
9:30 am - ?? Free time for activities as your schedule allows.

Maps & Directions: Wayne Fitzgerald State Park & Rend Lake Resort are just off of I-57 and Route 154 at Whittington, IL, just south of Mt. Vernon in Southern Illinois.



The National LICA Summer Meeting - July 14-18, 2009

Hosted by Iowa LICA at the Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines, Iowa

Welcome to Des Moines!

Iowa LICA is excited to host the 2009 summer meeting. The Holiday Inn Airport has been selected to be the site of the meeting. The Des Moines area offers many wonderful entertaining sites. You are sure to enjoy your stay.



A wide variety of equipment will be on hand at the Midwest Construction Expo & Field Days! Everything from excavators to dozers in Melbourne, Iowa home of the Iowa LICA farm. Members will be able to operate the equipment! You will get your hands dirty when the CREP (The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) wetland is completed. LICA members will be able to participate in and see first hand how CREP was designed to remove nitrates before they enter the stream and into the water supply. There will be demonstrations on-site from The Agricultural Drainage Management Coalition.

Vermeer Plant and Facility Tour

Members will tour this magnificent facility in Pella. It is spread out over an impressive 1.5 million square feet. They will see why the Vermeer Corporation is now one of the leading trencher manufacturers. It started as a small operation by Gary Vermeer, since then it has become an international organization that manufactures construction, industrial, and agricultural equipment.



Hotel Information

Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport

For hotel reservations call:

800-248-4013

(Inform them you are with the LICA group)
\$77.00/ single and \$87.00/ double (plus tax)

Reservations must be made by June 19th.

Airport Information

Des Moines International Airport

Free shuttle service available to the hotel.

Summer Meeting Tentative Agenda

Tuesday – July 14, 2009

8:30 am – 4:30 pm

2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

7:00 pm – 10:00pm

Drainage Workshop hosted by ADMC

Executive Directors

Executive Committee

Wednesday - July 15, 2009

8:15am

8:30 am

9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Tour Bridges of Madison County

Tour Vermeer Plant

Midwest Construction Expo & Field Day at "The Iowa Farm"

Thursday – July 16, 2009

8:15 am

9:30 am

9:00 am - 5:00 pm

5:00pm – 7:00pm

Plant Tour of Cemen Tech

Botanical Gardens, Jasper Winery & Lille Mae Chocolate

Midwest Construction Expo & Field Day at "The Iowa Farm"

LICA Opening Reception at "The Iowa Farm"

Friday – July 17th

7:00 am – 7:30 am

7:30 am – 8:30 am

8:30 am – 9:30 am

9:30 am – 10:00 am

10:00 am – 11:00 am

Devotions

Breakfast

LICA Benefits

Committee Chairs

Devotions

Legislative

Water Table Mgmt

Cons., Exc., Earthmoving

Ladies

Education/Technology

Safety/Insurance

On-Site Waste

Long Term/Past Presidents

Lunch

Membership

Associates

By-Laws

Convention

Policy

Region Meetings

Dinner and Square Dancing

11:00am – 12:00 pm

12:15 pm – 1:15 pm

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

2:45 pm – 3:45 pm

5:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Saturday – July 18th

7:00 am – 7:30 am

7:30 am – 8:30 am

8:30 am – 9:00 am

9:00 am – 10:00 am

10:00 am – 11:30 am

12:00 pm – 1:15 pm

5:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Devotions

Breakfast

Budget

Safety Seminar

Board Meeting

Lunch

Dinner at the Prairie Meadows

Racetrack and Casino (Optional)

The National '09 Summer Tours and Special Events



MADISON COUNTY

Come join us in the quaint town of Madison County and eat in the café where "The Bridges of Madison County" was filmed. Everyone knows about the movie that Clint Eastwood directed now find out what else this historical town has to offer! There were at one time 19 covered bridges in Madison County and now only 6 remain. You will be visiting the Birthplace of one of America's true icons?

Marion Morrison was born here in 1907—a humble beginning for the man who would become John Wayne.

BOTANICAL GARDENS

Located close to downtown Des Moines the Botanical Center is a sight to see in person. Since 1979 the Botanical Center has been educating and impressing visitors with their beautiful displays. Enjoy the sights and smells at this beautiful site.



JASPER WINERY

Taste the fruits of Iowa at the Jasper Winery! Stroll through the beautiful vineyards and even taste the different varieties of wine that the Jasper Winery has to offer. Made right in Iowa, Jasper Winery has vineyards onsite, and makes premium wine. You will find out all that goes into this intricate process from grape variety, harvesting and aging.



LILLE MAE CHOCOLATE MARSHALLTOWN

Take a tour of this old-fashioned candy store right in Iowa! Satisfy your sweet tooth with Lille Mae Chocolate. Lille Mae is unique and has a personal, homemade quality. Some recipes used date back as far as 1939, from caramels to turtles Lille Mae has excellent varieties to entice customers of all ages. Many dignitaries have eaten Lille Mae Chocolates, including George and Barbara Bush, Bob and Elizabeth Dole and Bill and Hilary Clinton, whose letters can be seen on their wall.



CEMEN TECH

You will tour the plant that made the first mobile or volumetric concrete mixer. The company is 100% employee owned. With over 30 years of experience, it is the world's largest manufacturer of volumetric proportioning and continuous mixing systems. In the summer of 2006, Cemen Tech proudly celebrated the milestone of manufacturing their 2000th concrete mixer. Cemen Tech's products are considered to be the highest quality in the industry.



The United States Military has chosen Cemen Tech as their exclusive supplier of concrete mixers year after year.

DRAINAGE WATER MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Drainage water management systems present exciting business opportunities for drainage contractors. This special workshop will give innovative contractors a leg up on this growing piece of the drainage industry. Agricultural drainage water management systems utilize control structures and pattern tile to set the desired level of the water table. Siting and installing those weir boxes properly, and laying out laterals to make the most effective use of the control structures, require special care in the design and installation stages. On the flip side, that extra skill and effort make drainage water management a high-value business. Not many contractors know how to do it yet. The more you know, the more efficiently you can do it.



Prairie Meadows RaceTrack and Casino

LICA members come place your bets at the Prairie Meadows Racetrack and Casino! This facility features slot machines, poker, blackjack and horseracing. Come for dinner and stay for the races at this lively establishment where members will have a time they won't soon forget. This promises to be a fun filled night.



Limited space. Please make your reservations early. For more information call National LICA (630) 548-1984. Registration Forms available at www.ilica.net or contact the ILICA office at (309) 446-3700.

Drainage Water Management (DWM) Training Workshop Registration Form

WHEN: July 14th & 15th, 2009 **WHERE:** Airport Holiday Inn, Des Moines, Iowa (800-248-4013)

Highlights

July 14th Classroom Workshop (8:30am - 4:30pm)

- Instruction for design and installation of DWM. (Lunch will be provided)
- Reference manual for DWM.
- Certificate of competency in DWM.

July 15th Field Day Bus Tour (8am - 3pm)

- Field day to demonstrate the application of DWM.
- Bus trip to Vermeer. (Lunch will be provided)



For more info go to <http://www.admcoalition.com/events.html>

Upon completion of the training, your certification will be posted on drainage industry websites.

~ Space is limited - register today! ~

Name: _____ Organization: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Website: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

▶ **Full-Program Registration - July 14th & 15th, 2009 = \$250** \$ _____

▶ **(1) Day Classroom Workshop - July 14th only = \$200** \$ _____

Yes, I would like to become a supporting member (\$250) of ADMC. \$ _____

ADMC member discount \$ -100

Late fee \$50 (after June 30th) = \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed = \$ _____

Please Return Form and Payment by June 30th to: ADMC, PO Box 592, Owatonna, MN 55060

If you have questions, please contact Leonard or Jeanne at ADMC, (507) 451-0073

CEU's may be available.

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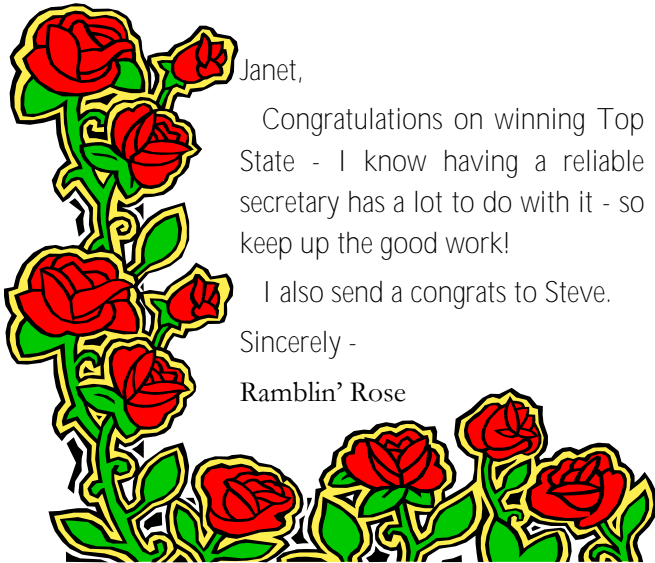
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New!

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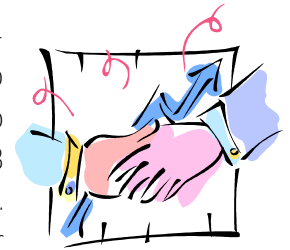
CONGRATULATIONS



Janet,
 Congratulations on winning Top State - I know having a reliable secretary has a lot to do with it - so keep up the good work!
 I also send a congrats to Steve.
 Sincerely -
 Ramblin' Rose

THANK YOU

The membership committee co-chairs would like to thank every ILICA member who helped promote any of our Area 3 and Area 8 Member meetings. Anyone who contacted or brought a prospective member, set up a lunch meeting or one-on-one visit has helped make 2009 an outstanding year for our membership drive.



Now that we know what it takes, we are committed to continuing this success throughout the year and beyond.

Wayne Litwiller & Norm Kocher

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Illinois

University of Illinois Erosion Facility
& Bell Tower Projects
U of I South Farm - Champaign, IL
(Tentative) June 1 - 5, 2009

Annual Picnic & Member Meeting
Golf Outing, Trap Shooting & Boating Weekend
Rend Lake Resort - Mt. Vernon, IL
June 27 - 28, 2009

2009 Farm Progress Show
Partners in Conservation Tent
Farm Progress Show Site - Decatur, IL
September 1 - 3, 2009

1st Annual Area 3 Golf Outing
Coyote Creek Golf Club - Bartonville, IL
September 10, 2009

Noon lunch; Shotgun Start - 1 pm; Dinner - 6 pm

National

Midwest Drainage Workshop
Holiday Inn - Airport - Des Moines, IA
Classroom - July 14, 2009
Field Day - July 15, 2009

2009 LICA Summer Convention
Holiday Inn - Airport - Des Moines, IA
July 16 - 18, 2009

2010 LICA Winter Convention
Sheraton Crescent Hotel • Phoenix, AZ
February 16 - 20, 2010

2010 LICA Summer Convention
Holiday Inn City Centre • Peoria, IL
February 16 - 20, 2010

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SAFETY FEATURE - HOW MUCH DOES AN ACCIDENT COST YOUR COMPANY?



There is a lot more to the cost of an accident than meets the eye. After an accident some say “it’s okay, insurance will pay for it”. Insurance does pay for accidents; however, it covers the direct costs of an accident. Direct costs of an accident include property damage, cargo damage, bodily injury, worker’s comp, etc. But what about the “Hidden Costs” of an accident, who pays for them? The employer pays for hidden costs. Not only that, but the hidden costs can range from 2 to 10 times the direct costs of an accident, OUCH! How can that be? Well, let’s look at some of the “Hidden” costs that an employer must absorb:

Let’s take a closer look at hidden costs associated with an injured driver.

Employers do everything they can to prevent injuries; unfortunately, they do occur. Additional costs absorbed by the employer to replace an injured driver include advertising, reviewing applications, interviewing applicants, performing road tests, pre-employment drug testing, background checks, orientation, training, etc. The new driver will not be as efficient as the veteran driver. The driver returning from the injury will not be at 100%. Now on top of that, what if the company is sued? Costs in terms of lost time, attorney fees, and settlements can skyrocket!

So where do the revenues come from to pay for “hidden costs”? Revenues come from the profit margin. Why from the profit margin? Well, the employer needs to pay taxes, wages, equipment costs, fuel costs, etc. to stay in business. The only place the hidden costs can come from is the profit margin. So how much does an accident cost your company? As previously mentioned, hidden costs can range from 2 to 10 times the direct costs of an accident.

If the direct cost of an accident is \$25,000, the hidden cost to the employer will be a minimum of \$50,000. So how many loads do you think it will take to make up for \$50,000?

A lot!



- Lost time by one or more employees at the scene of the accident
- Lost time by supervisors at the scene of the accident

- Lost revenue because the equipment is not operating
- Failure to fill orders or meet deadlines
- Lost time by dispatch rescheduling missed loads
- Payments to the finance company continue while the truck or trailer is in the shop
- Lost time on accident investigations by management and the safety committee
- Lost time filling out forms
- Lost time making phone calls to the insurance company, repair facilities, police department, etc.
- Insurance premiums can increase
- Possible damage to customer relations
- Possible damage to public relations



LYLE & MARGO BROOKS
50TH ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE
JUNE 14, 2009 - 1 PM
ERIE METHODIST CHURCH





Look for lots of helpful information, suggestions and ideas on Agriculture, Natural Resources & the Environment and much more on the University of Illinois Extension web-site...
<http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/state/>

2009 SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE TOURS SCHEDULED

URBANA – For the seventh consecutive year, University of Illinois Extension is offering tours that highlight sustainable agriculture operations around the state of Illinois. "Small farms embody a diversity of ownership, cropping systems, landscapes, biological organization, culture, and traditions and have unique challenges and opportunities," said Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant, Small Farm and Sustainable Agriculture Extension Specialist who is coordinating the tours. "The tours allow visitors to meet these extraordinarily, creative farmers and producers and find out how they solve their unique problems everyday."

A fee of \$20 per person will be charged for each tour, which includes lunch. The schedule for the 2009 sustainable agriculture tours is as follows:



May 14, Organic Meats and Poultry

Open Range Products in Pecatonica and Eickman's Processing (Seward)

June 19, Growing Strawberries, Naturally

Jed's Farm (Thompsonville)



July 7, Grass-fed Beef, Pastured Chickens and Eggs

Meadow Haven Farm and Graze N' Grow Farm (Sheffield)

August 13, Creative Community Co-op Farming

Basu Natural Farms (Pembroke)

August 15, Raising Elk and Innovative Farming

Mackinaw Valley Elk Farm and Blue Schoolhouse Farm (Congerville)



September 22, Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

River Front Berry Farm (Martinton)

Registration at least one week in advance is required.

Visit <https://webs.extension.uiuc.edu/registration/default.cfm?RegistrationID=2845>

To register and for more details about each of the tours including a map and agenda. To register by phone, contact Donna Cray at 217-241-4644. For more information, contact Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant (217-968-5512); or cvnghgrn@illinois.edu.

Source: Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant, Extension Specialist, Small Farm and Sustainable Agriculture



LANDSCAPING WITH SMALL FRUITS

If you have limited yard space but like the taste of home-grown fruit, try integrating small fruits into your landscape plan. Several of the small fruits lend themselves nicely to landscape use. "Of all the small fruits, strawberries are the best landscape subjects," says David Robson, University of Illinois Extension horticulture educator. "They have shining green leaves throughout the growing season, attractive white flowers and red berries. Plus, they add a little fall color."



Strawberries are easily tucked into a corner of the flowerbed or shrub border and can be used as ground cover or as edging for a flower border or walk. They can also be grown for specimen value in pyramids or barrels, or even grown singly in pots to be placed in selected garden spots.

Next in preference for landscape use are blueberries. When properly placed and cared for, Robson says they are one of the most attractive shrubs available. The blueberry plant has dainty white blossom clusters in the spring, beautiful glossy green foliage all summer and attractive blue fruit. The foliage also has splendid fall coloration. After the leaves fall, the graceful lines



of the bright green or reddish branches provide color interest that lasts throughout the winter. Blueberry plants quickly grow to maximum size and, if properly maintained, remain about the same size and shape for years. They rarely outgrow their original location and function. Furnish about the same acid soil and growing conditions as for rhododendrons and azaleas and you can grow blueberries in shrub borders, as specimens, in corner plantings or with other shrub groupings.



Grapes are excellent home garden fruits that easily fit into the landscape. The vines grow rapidly to produce an abundance of attractive dense foliage and fruit that may vary from green to red to dark purple, depending upon variety and season. The shredding bark on an old trunk and the bright tan color of previous season's canes also add winter interest. Grapes can cover an unsightly fence or screen an undesirable view on a standard arbor. You can put grapes on a semi-arbor against an expanse of blank wall, or on a standard trellis as a natural fence or boundary planting.

Robson says that raspberries are more difficult to fit

continued on page 21

UNIVERSITY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS UPDATE



Since the last printing of *ILICA News*, developments on the Bell Tower and erosion control facility construction projects at University of Illinois have surfaced, some good...some not so good.

Due to decisions within the hierarchy of the university, landscaping plans are being altered and our original March date has been pushed back to later this summer. Since our show committee is also working on a second project to construct an erosion control

facility on the university's south farm, things may actual work out for the better, allowing both projects to be done during the same time frame.

The erosion control project began as a collaboration between Illinois DOT and the university to determine a more effective way to control soil erosion along highway projects. **ILICA's part in the project came up during a meeting on the Bell tower and seemed to fit like a glove, providing the means to offer outstanding educational opportunities to our growing number of contractor members who offer landscaping and erosion control services. The university's goal is to have the facility completed and ready for IDOT classes this August, before the fall school year begins.**

Show committee co-chairs, Jon Seevers and Neal Barnes, reported at the May 2nd board meeting that the erosion control facility construction is tentatively scheduled for the 1st or 2nd week of June. Plans for that project are also

being altered slightly to provide for more 'real world' circumstances, but those changes should not delay the planned start. Everyone agrees that it would be best for all those involved to complete both projects during the same time period, but, "wait and see" is our only option for now.



These projects will be great exposure for ILICA as well as outstanding training opportunities. Both projects will allow ILICA contractors to gain hands-on experience and the erosion control facility will also have a classroom that can be used for future erosion control or drainage workshops, proving once again that our long-time partners create some of ILICA's biggest benefits.

If both projects "go" at the same time, our co-chairs will need a lot of help from ILICA contractors to complete all the work in a timely fashion. Please contact Jon Seevers at 217-433-1302 or Neal Barnes at 618-779-2985 to discuss the details of these endeavors and see if you might be interested in lending a hand. Feel free to contact the ILICA office at with any questions about these or other events and check out our website, www.ilica.net for all the latest information.



LANDSCAPING WITH SMALL FRUITS (CONT.)

into the average landscape plan. The thorns on many varieties and the suckering (spreading) habit of some species make confinement in the original location difficult. But, they can make attractive summer hedges or screens when trained along a fence. You can also support them by a trellis or a single post in a group of plants.



do not spread beyond their allocated space—growing 3 to 4 feet high and about as wide. They have small, attractive leaves that provide a variation in texture in the home landscape, and they make excellent conversation pieces when heavily laden with their yellow or red fruit.



Elderberries, serviceberries and highbush cranberries are other small fruits of dual purpose that also deserve consideration as landscape subjects.

For more lawn and garden information, visit the SI Gardening website, <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/regions/hort>

Source: David J. Robson, Extension Educator, Horticulture, drobson@illinois.edu



Currants and gooseberries are fine landscape subjects but are rarely planted in Illinois. They deserve the attention of home gardeners who enjoy their fruits because home production is now practically the only way to obtain them. The bushes



SIGN UP A NEW MEMBER TODAY!



| | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <p>Application for CONTRACTOR Membership Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association</p> |  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

P.O. Box 474 • Brimfield, IL 61517 • Phone (309) 446-3700 • Fax: (309) 446-3744 • janet@illica.net

_____ hereby makes application for Active Membership in the ILLINOIS LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION, INC., (ILICA) and enclose Two Hundred eighty-five Dollars (\$285) as my annual membership dues for the year _____. One dollar (\$1.00) of this amount is for a subscription to the "Ilica News", a bi-monthly newsletter, for one year.

Dues are \$285*

One hundred sixty dollars (\$160) for Illinois Membership plus

One hundred twenty five dollars (\$125) for National Membership

New members only (years 1—2 of membership.) All existing members remain at \$400 annually.

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

Individual Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Spouse: _____ Firm Name: _____

Address: _____

County: _____ ILICA Area Number: _____ Sponsor: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

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- LL-Land Leveling • LS—Landscaping • ODW-Open Ditch Work • OSW-On Site Waste Treatment • PD-Ponds / Dams
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- SP-Site Prep • SWU-Sewer/Water/Underground Utilities • TH-Trucking or Hauling • TW-Terraces & Waterways
- WM—Water Management.



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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <p>Application for SUBSCRIPTION Membership Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association</p> |  |
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P.O. Box 474 • Brimfield, IL 61517 • Phone (309) 446-3700 • Fax: (309) 446-3744 • janet@illica.net

Subscription membership entitles the member to each issue of the *Ilica News* newsletter and 1 copy of the annual directory for the subscription year. The annual membership dues are \$25.00 and offset the cost of publication and mailing.

Send completed application with dues (make check payable to ILICA) to the corporate address above.

Individual Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____


Application for ASSOCIATE Membership
Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association


P.O. Box 474 • Brimfield, IL 61517 • Phone (309) 446-3700 • Fax: (309) 446-3744 • janet@illica.net

_____ hereby makes application for Associate Membership in the ILLINOIS LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION, INC., (ILICA) and enclose Two Hundred Dollars (\$200) as my annual membership dues for the year _____. One dollar (\$1.00) of this amount is for a subscription to the "Illica News", a bi-monthly newsletter, for one year.

Associate members shall consist of and be limited to persons, firms, corporations, associations or organizations that manufacture or sell equipment, material or services to land improvement contractors.

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

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