



ILICA

NEWS

Land Improvement Contractors Of America · Illinois Chapter

March - April 2010

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2010 WINTER EVENTS



CONVENTIONS



WORKSHOPS



MEMBER MEETINGS

Also Featured Inside

ILICA Summer Picnic & Member Meeting (page 5)

August Workshop Schedule Update (page 15)

Upcoming Events:

- 1st Area 5 Member Meeting** - Springfield - April 1, 2010
- Combined Drainage Workshop** - Champaign - August 11-12, 2010
- Erosion Control Workshop** - Champaign - August 18-19, 2010

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

ILLINOIS WINS TOP STATE AWARD - AGAIN!



ILICA was awarded the National LICA Top State Award for a second year in a row at this year's winter meeting in Phoenix. ILICA president Steve Anderson was present to accept the award on behalf of the organization and graciously thanked everyone that had worked so hard to make 2009 such a success. It is an honor to receive this esteemed award a second time, and to know just how hard the Illinois chapter has worked to continue promoting ILICA's name across the state.

a real benefit to the new members signed up during previous visits. The first weekend long picnic and member meeting at Rend Lake was a big hit and enjoyed by all who attended. The golf outing was another first for ILICA, providing a great afternoon of fun and fellowship as well as a real boost to the bank account. 2009 ended much like it started; equipment demonstrations, member meetings, and dedicated ILICA members making a real difference in the land improvement industry in Illinois. Thank you, ILICA members, for all your hard work!

2009 has been another great year for ILICA with the membership, education and convention committees putting in long hours to make their events fun, informative and a real success. The year started off with an exceptional convention in Springfield and outstanding service from the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel. Following the national convention in Nashville TN, ILICA held their first 10 Hour OSHA workshop, which received a great response. Member meetings continued in Area's 3 and 8 starting in March 2009, which served as a means of building membership numbers as well as



(above) Directors & officers with 2009 Top State trophy & documentation.

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The LICA Creed



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



Meeting Notice

ILICA Board of Directors Meeting
Doubletree Hotel
10 Brickyard Drive - Bloomington, IL
Saturday - May 1, 2010 - 2:00 pm

Committee Meetings: 10 am - 1:00 pm
Lunch Provided



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings,

Another new year has started, another convention has passed into history and off we go to work once more. Been out here putting in a couple tile lines ourselves, the frost does vary but thin enough to go.

The convention went well and there were many favorable comments about it. The convention committee does a great job and does not get enough thanks for its efforts. They do a lot over the course of the year to get everything to go as well as it does. The same thanks go out to the education committee too for their efforts at providing sessions that are beneficial to the membership. It's not an easy task for sure on either committee and often they feel like they operate in a vacuum. Provide your input, join the committee even; the voice in the wilderness is seldom heard. The comments on the survey sheets are great but take the time and speak to a committee member directly and help them find that balance.

And following on this theme, I express my gratitude and thanks for those associate members that attended, dis-

played, and sponsored meals at the convention. Even in this downturn of the economy there was an increase over last year in associates' booths. There were some very interesting new products displayed and it was good to see many members come down just to visit the exhibits. I can't speak for everybody but I know that I buy first from associates, they support us, I support them. Sometimes, I support them more than I want to but all machines breakdown sometime or another. The convention wouldn't be the same without you. Thanks for all the contributions to the auction as well.

We had a workshop early in February at the Henry White Farm near Millstadt and one scheduled at the University of Illinois in early March. Both of these are drainage oriented. If you have an earthmoving focus you would like covered, please contact the education committee so we can put together workshops on those topics. Later this summer will be the erosion control workshop that should be beneficial to all members as the regulations for construction site runoff become more stringent. This workshop has a limited class size, so register early. We will try to fit as many in as we can but the classroom size is a real limitation.

It was nice to go out to Phoenix for the National winter convention. After a very round about trip getting there that crossed 11 states and much in the way of beautiful scenery I got there in time to enjoy the pre-tours which were very good. Also very good was winning the Top State award once again. My thanks for all the work of those in the chapter that have made this possible. If you haven't been to a National it is a good place to meet new friends, learn new things, and even put forth your views in the committees. I enjoy them, and have been attending since I became an officer in the state. Nice to have one out west again since I could make a nice vacation out of it too.

Now that I am back from that, I do look forward to your support as we move forward in a new year. There is a lot to do this year. Several goals that we will strive to reach are: Continued membership growth, establishment of regular area meetings, greater political involvement, and increased member involvement. There is a lot you can get out of this association, but you do have to put something into it to get it, starting with your smiling face at meetings, conventions, workshops, etc. Hope to see you there.

Steve Anderson

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2010 ILICA PICNIC & SUMMER MEMBER MEETING SET FOR JUNE 26TH

At the ILICA March Board of Directors meeting, the idea of holding our summer member meeting along with the summer National ILICA meetings in Peoria was revisited in greater detail. Although in theory, it seemed like a great idea, as planning became more concrete, it appeared that we would end up asking our state members to spend an additional day either before or after national, in an effort to accommodate this scheduling. After much discussion, Jon and Veronica Seevers volunteered to host the picnic at their home in Cisco on the traditional picnic weekend, June 26th.

Last year's weekend picnic at Rend Lake was a great success, but in light of the additional summer conference in Illinois and the need for our contractors to play catch up on workloads after last year's unusual wet weather, we're returning to the one day itinerary of years past. There will still be time to take care of the business meeting, share great food, fun and

fellowship with the ILICA family.

Jon and Veronica have secured a grill chef (*and traveling cooker*) for pork chops and chicken breasts and a caterer for picnic side dishes. As many of those involved in the 2008 expo at Progress City in Decatur already know, the Seevers' home has a lovely, BIG yard, an in-ground swimming pool and trampoline as well as several yard games for entertainment. (*And there's talk of Veronica's famous home made ice cream sandwiches!*) Jon has also planned a trip to Allerton Park near Monticello and is working with a local 9 hole golf course for those interested in a round of golf. Many of the details are still being finalized, but all signs point to a very fun but relaxing day for this get-together. Look for the registration form in the next issue of this newsletter and plan to join us there!



NEW MEMBERS

Active Contractors

Jeanette Mulholland
American Agricultural Drainage - Rochelle

Joel Sandeno
Agri-Tile, Inc. - Dwight

Steve Wheeler
Midwest Land Contractors - Ashland

Andy Bedolli
Bedolli Excavating - Buffalo

Jared Kunkle - Monmouth

Ed Decker
Decker Farms - Philo

Myron Kirby
Kirby Drainage & Excavating - Farmer City

J.D. Laster
Laster Custom Underground & Directional Boring - Mattoon



Thank You!

Active Contractors (cont.)

Dan Wilkinson
Precision Farm Drainage - Mazon

Peter Kalman
Kalman Engineering, Inc. - Pekin

Associate Members

AquaBlok, Ltd. - Toledo, OH

AGPS - Mike Cooke SWMS - Westphalia, MI

TEK Collect - Washington

RSC Equipment Rental - East Peoria

Centre State International Trucks, Inc. - Peoria

WORKSHOPS & AREA MEMBER MEETINGS KEEP ILICA CONTRACTORS INFORMED



The winter months are always busy for ILICA, but that's never been more true than this year. The state convention was a blast, but there was no time to bask in the success of the association's biggest annual event before getting busy on the next series of activities. Before heading out from snowy Illinois for the national LICA winter meeting in sunny Phoenix AZ, the first of two drainage workshops was held in February in Southern Illinois at the Henry White Farm near Millstadt. The Illinois Department of Agriculture had agreed to provide this wonderful facility, and Don Kniepkamp, Extension Master Gardner at the site, coordinated with Doug Nicholson to get the classroom set up for the workshop. Early February was still fairly cold but the southerly location and sunshine on the first day helped make it tolerable for students. 25 contractors attended the workshop and seemed to thoroughly enjoy Richard Cooke's wealth of knowledge. They also provided some great feed back to help enhance the Champaign drainage class, scheduled the following month.

The facility at the Henry White Farm is large enough that a separate Certified Flagger Training Class was held during



(above, upper right to left) Field survey exercise at the Henry White Farm workshop; Classroom session with Richard Cooke; Brent Breedlove doing a Flagger Training course.

Fratco, Inc. hosting lunch on Wednesday and Advanced Drainage Systems / C.D. Getz Corporation hosting Thursday's lunch. Jay D. Davis, Kent Mitchell and Jon Seevers helped facilitate portions of the class and another ILICA contractor went through certification testing at the conclusion of the workshop. Mike Shidler of Fratco and Corey Getz of ADS / C.D. Getz



this workshop. Although the class was slightly smaller than earlier classes, Brent Breedlove welcomes every opportunity to share this important safety information with contractors.

The second drainage workshop of the year was held in Champaign on March 10 - 11th and attendance was limited by the smaller classroom at the University of Illinois South Farm site. Although the workshop had not been advertised outside of ILICA publications, there were applicants that had to be placed on a waiting list in hopes the class could be repeated later in the season. There were also long-time ILICA members interested in a more advanced drainage class so the education committee has decided to work with Richard Cooke and others to come up with the additional scheduling mentioned on page 15 of this publication.

The March workshop had outstanding support with

(above) Field survey exercise at Champaign workshop; Richard & Kent Mitchell working with attendees during design session

Corp were also on hand to help in any way they could.

The education committee continues to address the scheduling challenges and seminar needs of the membership. They are already working on next year's workshop and convention topics while quickly responding to the call for another drainage class and discussing topics for the Area member meetings that will resume next fall.

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WORKSHOPS & AREA MEMBER MEETINGS

KEEP ILICA CONTRACTORS INFORMED (CONT.)



On March 16th, the membership committee kicked off the 2010 Area member meeting series in Olney at BM Truck Equipment, one of our newest associate members. They provided a great venue with an enormous new building which is utilized for a wide variety of truck, trailer and fabrication needs. As Lee Milone, owner, said, "I can't say we can do anything, but we will try to do almost anything." pointing out a huge drill rig they had fabricated from scratch and mounted on the truck that would soon head to Texas with it. The food was outstanding, grilled just outside the overhead door and accompanied by all the traditional fixins'. Tom Beyers, area 8 director, did a great job helping Janet Doubet present ILICA benefits, explaining what he has gained from membership since he joined a year ago.

Following dinner, Illinois State Police District 12 Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Officers Bromm and Kruse provided an update on changes in IDOT regulations that took effect January 1, 2010 as well as answering a wide variety of questions from contractors in the group. Area 8 members continue to respond in a big way to ILICA scheduling and this meeting drew quite a crowd. A big "thank you" goes out to Lee, Linda and all the staff at BM Truck Equipment that helped to make this area meeting such a success.

On Thursday, it was off to Martin Equipment of IA - IL in Rock Island for a second area meeting at that location. Jerry Sheldon, sales manager, coordinated the evening event and had equipment displayed inside including the new 764

High Speed Dozer.

Bruce Barnhart, national LICA board



chairman and Steve Miller, Region IV V.P. drove over from Iowa to join the meeting, providing a national presence in Jerry Biuso's absence. Bill Doubet and Dave Hurst also helped to promote ILICA with brief testimonials about how much they have grown since becoming members, explaining the benefits of membership in a way that only experience can provide. The BBQ dinner was fantastic and another nice crowd turned out for the safety presentation by Bruce Moser of Prins Insurance, Inc. Bruce provided a very straightforward seminar on OSHA regulations, site visits and how a contractor needs to respond from the minute an OSHA inspector steps on your property. Bruce understands the importance of a Safety Manual and stresses the need for ILICA contractors to use the one they receive ... sooner rather than later.

Both area meetings were a great success and we know that it is the support of associates like BM Truck Equipment and Martin Equipment that help make it possible. On April 1st, Roland Machinery will host the first Area 5 member meeting at their facility in Springfield. Our always-on-the-go membership committee works very hard to make these meetings a success and everyone does an outstanding job. "Thank you" to all those involved, and if you get a chance, stop in sometime and thank Lee and the folks at BM Truck Equipment or Jerry and Martin Equipment for their support.



(below, upper left to lower right) Guests at BM Truck equipment IDOT presentation in Olney; Troopers Bromm & Kruse; BM Truck Equipment store front and shop. John Deere High Speed dozer and new skid steer on display at Martin Equipment in Rock Island; The evenings' presenter, Bruce Mosier, enjoying a delicious dinner with guests before beginning his program.

! CONGRATULATIONS ! 2009 ILICA AWARD WINNERS

Merit Awards:

Jennifer Furkin Jeff Litwiller

Membership Committee Doug Nicholson

Shiny Shovels:

Jerry Biuso Brent Breedlove

Mr. Contractor of the Year:

Neal Barnes

Mrs. Contractor of the Year:

Kristin Kutemeier

Life Member Status:

Rose Day



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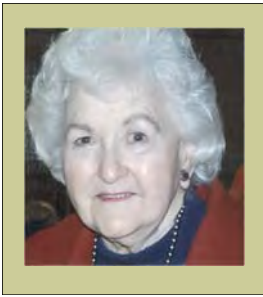


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GABBIN' WITH THE GALS...

In honor of Roses' Life Membership Award, the editor decided to run an article from the vast archive of "Gabbin' With The Gals..." of years past. This article appeared 10 years ago in the March - April issue of the ILICA News so enjoy this walk down memory lane with Rambling Rose.

Today is the first day a sizeable amount of our snow will have melted. Snow reminds this person of beautiful women. They are awesome when presented in the best light, but if one is caught with rollers in the hair, cleansing cream on the face, I-don't-care clothing on, it is anything but awesome. Mr. Snow is the same - very pretty when new, but as time goes on it gets murkier and murkier until you want to yell, "Just get outa here, will ya?" We do hope some of the children and adults had a good time sledding and/or snowball fighting, as that must be the general purpose. We are happy to have the moisture after this fall season. Let us count our blessings, right?

The convention was thoroughly enjoyable. It is great to visit with friends and outright amazing to discover all that has happened to some of them throughout the year. We get caught up on how their families are doing and what their opinions are on everything and anything. We value these visits more each time we get together. We had great entertainment, food and a few surprises. Our thanks to the convention committee for having some novel events this time around - just shows what many heads can do together. Our morning devotions increased in attendance this year and that is great! Congratulations to those who accepted offices or jobs and we look forward to next year!



Politics is usually not a good subject in mixed company, but the truth is we are in a political year and it is proving to become a very loooonnnngg year already. Golly, we even have some competition here in our small county and Rambling Rose smiles every time she sees the names of both candidates in the same yard. Is that what they call a split ticket? Well, we promise enough when reciting the marriage ceremony we don't have to promise to vote alike. Have been reading about different sayings and how they came about. One of those is "snow job". This verbal metaphor really is based on winter weather. That is when snow can pile up deeply before anyone has a chance to clear a path. Rambling Rose always advises people to listen to their candidate as well as the competition and then make a decision. We should probably qualify that: a persuasive flow of words aims at overwhelming by sheer mass. So be wary when you face a verbal deluge that is too smooth and allows you no time to think about dealing with

it. There is a good chance someone is trying to blanket you in two feet deep before you can find the old snow shovel. There are those times when we can read something a candidate said, but understand it? No way. We have an example of that in our local paper recently when they explained the sale of the paper(s) to a different conglomerate. Whoever wrote it is a master of the "snow job" because you cannot grasp who owns what now and who is running the show. The same thing will happen if your car has to be put on "the machine" to find out what Mr. Computer says is wrong with the car. Oh, they can explain it in computer words, but cannot mention a part that is easily identified that the ordinary customer would know about. Amen.com

Here is one of those "why do they say that" items that might interest you contractors out there. In the aftermath of the Civil War, many Louisiana vigilantes called themselves "bulldozers." A "bulldozer" carried a black snake whip and at least one big pistol. When such a fellow moved into action, people got out of the way fast. Long dormant, the terrorist name was revived prior to WW II. It seemed an appropriate word to designate a powerful earth-moving machine that easily pushed opposition aside. After being used widely in military operations, the mechanical bulldozer became standard equipment in construction work.

We have overheard some young people discussing the economics of the times and stating they do not believe there could ever be another depression. Now this writer does not hold with that because it seems to defy all possibilities. Perhaps they could tell this simple person how costs can keep spiraling and seemingly no place to stop. There is a solution (partly) and that is to live within our means. There are too many things people "want" and seem to think they should have, come heck or high water.

Our word for this issue is "informed". When it comes to elections, be an informed voter and know what your priorities are compared to the candidates. It has been a discovery to note that the General Public does not want to hear the truth. Some candidates who have told it like it is have been defeated and what did the winning candidate do? Just everything the opponent said they would do only the winner stated they would never do. You have to separate the chaff from the good stuff and if the truth is too painful to hear just go ahead and vote for the one who is lying. Also, just a word to the wise, don't believe everything the media comes up with either. It used to be news announcers just reported the news; now they pretend to be biologists and dissect the news to suit themselves.

Have a blessed Easter and good luck growing those veggies!
.....Rambling Rose

ILICA CONVENTION BRINGS BACK THE "FABULOUS '50's"



The ILICA convention committee did it again; put together a great convention for everyone involved! This year's convention theme was the "Fabulous '50's" and a lot of the membership got involved for Thursday night's Early Bird, donning poodle skirts, rolled up jeans, leather jackets and even a couple of Elvis wigs. More associate exhibits were on hand than had been seen in recent years and the variety of products being displayed was a real benefit for attending contractor members. Our associates also joined in the fun with Norm & Coretha Rozendaal winning the best dressed prize basket. Thanks go out to all the ILICA contractors who made a special trip to Springfield just to visit the trade show exhibits, although those who spent all three days really got their money's worth of education, good

food and fellowship. The President Abraham Lincoln Hotel did another "fabulous" job, changing their ballroom into a 1950's diner and soda shop. The whole experience was as exceptional as the first convention there, and the management and staff of the PAL are to be commended for their outstanding service and delicious food.

Thursday's education sessions were well received as were the Saturday morning topics which centered around general business practices. As exhibitors got their booths set up, auction items began collecting on the ballroom stage



"Greasers" at the Soda Fountain



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ILICA CONVENTION BRINGS BACK THE “FABULOUS ‘50’s” (CONT.)



(right) Made to order milk shakes & floats kept the PAL Soda staff busy all evening

and committee meetings came and went. Thursday’s auction provided an entertaining evening, some good buys and the opportunity to support the convention financially. Paul the Good Luck Bear supplied another shot in the arm for membership committee funds to continue their work around Illinois. The associate hospitality rooms opened after the auction to allow members more time to socialize.

Friday served as the time to handle the business of ILICA with the last board of directors and annual members meeting. Some new members stepped forward to become directors and to volunteer for committees of interest. These new voices will bring a wider variety of ideas and perceptions to our organization which is just one of the things that keep ILICA moving forward and growing in so many ways.

Saturday morning’s educational sessions were standing room only and received rave reviews from those who attended. After lunch, some folks decided to stay in and catch the Illini game on television, but those that attended the guided State Capital / Lincoln & Herndon law office tour found it to be very interesting, thanks to Justin Blanford of the State Capital Historical Society. He was well prepared for our group and made this walk back in history real for everyone, even allowing special access to some areas of the State Capital building for the group.

The ladies program was also a bit hit this year with a special speaker from the Illinois Regional Archives on gene-

alogy, using the Lavina Watson story to illustrate how much work is involved in tracking personal history back through time. William J. Exclusives did another fun make and take jewelry activity for the ladies to round out their first day of activities.

However, the real high point of the program was the “Morning at the Spa” that started off Friday’s Ladies Day outing. Our ILICA ladies enjoyed a luxurious morning of pampering before a private lunch and a wine/chocolate tasting in the afternoon. The ladies looked marvelous when they arrived back at the hotel to prepare for the evening’s dinner and “Newlywed Game.”

Many compliments have been received at the ILICA office regarding the convention but that hasn’t stopped the committee from working just as hard on next year’s event. We’ll see you next year at the Doubletree Hotel in Bloomington and you can bet, it will be another great convention!



(Page 10, left to right) Lori Kennedy, Judy Beyers & Cathy Craig “in style” for the evening; group shot of our many exhibitors; Look at all the Poodle Skirts!! Kristin Kutemeier, convention chair with dad, Dan Day and Sylvia.

(right) Newlywed Game contestants, Bob & Betty Grothaus, Mike & Holly Yordy, Dan & Sylvia Day and Norm & Coretha Rozendaal with game show host, Bill Dean.; Attendees at Saturday’s machine costing seminar, facilitated by Dustin Courson, CPA.

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CONVENTION INFORMATION & COMMENTS



To: Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association, all who this may concern

Thanks to all who assisted in my award for 2009 at the 2010 Convention. It is a pleasure to contribute to whatever will help the association in any way.

It is in humility the award is accepted and with the idea that our jobs say "to the best of our ability" which is usually our limit. If this award assists in any way to boost our association, then it was worth it.

Thanks to all - *Rose Day*



Thanks to everyone who purchased tickets for the National LICA raffle held in Phoenix AZ this past February.

The winners are:



- 1st Place - \$5000 Randy Liddle, Iowa
- 2nd Place - \$2500 Wayne Litwiller, Illinois
- 3rd Place - \$1000 Richard Agle, New York
- 4th Place - \$500 Jacob Barnhart, Iowa

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NATIONAL LICA SUMMER MEETING UPDATE JULY 13 - 17, 2010



After hosting an exhibit table at the Phoenix winter meetings this February, it appears many folks from across the country are looking forward to this year's summer event in Peoria. The Holiday Inn City Centre will be home to the first Illinois hosted national event in many years. ILICA is responsible for setting up the pre-tours for the convention and there were more tour options available for the days available to fit them in. It has been decided that Tuesday, July 13th will be a tour to Champaign and the University of Illinois to showcase the many projects ILICA has partnered with the university on. The day will include a welcome at the ACES Library, a tour of the McFarland Bell Tower project and Erosion Control Testing Facility that ILICA worked on last year. Lunch will be hosted in the new skybox of Memorial Stadium followed by a special "Tea Ceremony" in Japan House, located on the property where ILICA helped construct the Arboretum Ponds in 1997.



Wednesday will be spent at the CAT proving grounds in Edwards with hands on operation of their equipment. If weather prohibits being outside, there is still an indoor arena for operation and participants may be split between one of CAT's many production facilities in the area and the Edwards site. It should be a great day, regardless of the weather, and CAT is ready to welcome our contractors to their home town. CAT has a unique dinner and demonstration planned for Friday evening as well, which is something **NO** contractor will want to miss! **We guarantee it!** See tentative highlights on page 23.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE; HIRE ACT

Submitted by Dustin Courson, Courson & Associates, CPA



This information has been provided to give you an overview of the key tax changes affecting business in the recently enacted Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment (HIRE) Act. Please check with your CPA or accountant if you have questions about this Act.

Extension of enhanced small business expensing (Section 179). The new law gives a one-year lease on life to enhanced expensing rules, which allow qualifying businesses the option to currently deduct the cost of business machinery and equipment, instead of recovering it via depreciation over a number of years. For tax years beginning in 2010, the maximum amount that a business may expense is \$250,000, and the expensing election begins to phase out when a business buys more than \$800,000 of expensing eligible assets. These dollar limits are the same as those that were in effect for 2008 - 2009.

Payroll tax holiday and up-to-\$1,000 credit for employers who hire unemployed workers. To help stimulate the hiring of workers by the private sector, the new law ex-

empts any private-sector employer that hires a worker who had been unemployed for at least 60 days from having to pay the employer's 6.2% share of the Social Security payroll tax on that employee for the remainder of 2010. A company could save a maximum of \$6,621 if it hired an unemployed worker and paid that worker at least \$106,800 - the maximum amount of wages subject to Social Security taxes - by the end of the year. As an additional incentive, for any qualifying worker hired under this initiative that the employer keeps on payroll for a continuous 52 weeks, the employer is eligible for an additional non-refundable tax credit of up to \$1,000 after the 52-week threshold is reached, to be taken on their 2011 tax return. In order to be eligible, the employee's pay in the second 26-week period must be at least 80% of the pay in the first 26-week period.

Workers hired after the date of introduction of the legislation (Feb. 3, 2010) are eligible for the payroll tax forgiveness and the retention bonus, but only wages paid after the date of the new law's enactment receive the exemption for payroll taxes.

Here are some additional features of the new hiring incentive:

- The tax benefit of the new incentive is immediate. It puts money into a business' cash flow immediately, since the tax is simply not collected in the first place.
- The tax benefit generally applies only to private-sector employment, including nonprofit organizations; public sector jobs are generally not eligible for either benefit. However, employment by a public higher education institution would qualify.
- There is no minimum weekly number of hours that the new employee must work for the employer to be eligible, and there is no maximum on the dollar amount of payroll taxes per employer that may be forgiven.
- For workers that would otherwise be eligible for the "Work Opportunity Tax Credit," the employer must select one benefit or the other for 2010; no double dipping.
- An employer cannot claim the new tax breaks for hiring family members.
- A worker who replaces another employee who performed the same job for the employer is not eligible for the benefit, unless the prior employee left the job voluntarily or for cause.
- For the hiring to qualify, the new hire must sign an affidavit, under penalties of perjury, stating that he or she has not been employed for more than 40 hours during the 60-day period ending on the date the employment begins.
- The incentive is not biased towards either low-wage or high-wage workers. Under the measure, a business saves 6.2% on both a \$40,000 worker and a \$90,000 worker.
- The payroll tax holiday does not apply with respect to wages paid during the first calendar quarter of 2010, but the amount by which the Social Security payroll tax would have been reduced under the payroll tax holiday provision during the first calendar quarter is applied against the tax imposed on the employer for the second calendar quarter of 2010.
- The Act creates a similar new set of rules permitting a payroll tax holiday for railroad retirement tax purposes.
- The credit for retaining qualifying new hires is the lesser of \$1,000 or 6.2% of the wages paid by the taxpayer to the retained worker during the 52-consecutive week period. Thus, the credit for a retained worker will be \$1,000 if, disregarding rounding, the retained worker's wages during the 52-consecutive-week period exceed \$16,129.03. The credit is not available for pay not treated as wages under the Code (e.g., remuneration paid to domestic workers).

EROSION CONTROL WORKSHOP DATE SET FOR AUGUST 18 - 19, 2010 - CHAMPAIGN

Dr. Prasanta Kalita has traveled the world over since coordinating the University of Illinois / IDOT / ILICA project last August, described on the preceding page, but he is currently very involved in the development of the education modules that will be used for training sessions at this very specialized research site.

As a benefit of ILICA's efforts in constructing the berm, the first erosion control workshop dates have been determined with the modules being finalized by the end of April. The first day will contain the "basics" of IDOT erosion control regulations with a second day dedicated to the installation module of Dr. Kalita's program.

The small classroom makes class size limits mandatory so this session should be attended by the lead erosion control person from your company. Registration forms will be

available in the next issue of this newsletter and early registration will be critical to insure a spot in the class. CD's of handouts will be provided for each attendee to take back to their companies and share with co-workers.

Work continues on the site with planting of the grass varieties mentioned on page 20 and the design of the rain simulator that will be installed over the berm.

By August, things should be in place for the first "test" of this unique testing and research facility. The registration list is already started, so call Janet today if you want to be sure and make this class!



(upper right) One of the sediment collection ditches at the erosion control testing site; an example of the kind of problems this site will help correct; (left) The berm in early March, 2010.

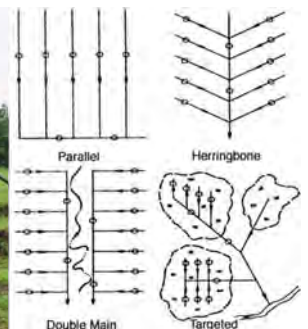


ADDITIONAL DRAINAGE WORKSHOP DATE SET FOR AUGUST 11 - 12, 2010 - CHAMPAIGN

Due to the overwhelming response from ILICA members to the Champaign drainage workshop held this March, a second workshop has been scheduled one week prior to the erosion control class described above. To accommodate all those interested, the workshop will be held at a hotel located very close to the University of Illinois South Farm, making it possible to utilize the site for survey and other field sessions. The workshop will blend the content of the March workshop while adding the advanced drainage topics.

The education committee plans to discuss all aspects of the workshop at the May 1st board meeting and the registration form will be published in the next issue of this newsletter. The tentative schedule is to allow contractors to attend days of their choice, depending on their experience level and educational needs. If necessary, a third day may be added and details will be published as soon as they are available.

The demand for education has grown tremendously



and as always, scheduling classes when contractors are available to attend is a struggle. The summer scheduling of these two workshops is a new concept from the education committee, but if it proves to be well received by ILICA contractors, they will become annual events that our membership can count on. Earthmoving, excavation and safety workshops will continue to be scheduled in February and/or March to allow for the work loads of those contractors.

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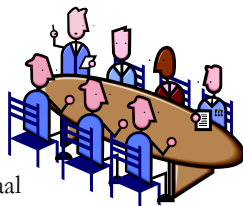
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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association, Inc.

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 (309) 446-3700 · Fax: (309) 446-3744 · Email: janet@illica.net

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

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

Individual Name: _____

Spouse: _____ DOB:(required for active members only) _____

Firm Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Sponsor: _____

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| ODW - Open Ditch Leveling | Other: _____ |

Active Contractor Membership - \$295 (One hundred seventy dollars (\$170) for Illinois Membership plus One hundred twenty five dollars (\$125) for National Membership)

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

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

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

ILLINOIS LICA BENEFITS



Education

Illinois LICA provides many educational opportunities throughout the year with sessions at our annual convention, at Area 3 and 8 member meetings and at workshops each year. Area 5 director, Brent Breedlove, is in the planning stage of beginning meetings in his area with other areas following suit.

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



Workshops have been offered annually, however, there is an expanded schedule this year, including two survey and design drainage workshops and an erosion control workshop in August. OSHA 10 Hour certification will be offered every other year as well as Certified Flagger training available as often as demand warrants.



Continental Western Group/LICA Insurance Program

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

ILICA News & Annual Directory

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



Legislative Representation

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

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

National Benefits

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



- National LICA Contractor Magazine
- LICA Contractor Safety Management Plan
- LICA Mini-Med Basic Healthcare Program
- LICA PerksCard Program
- LICA Transamerica Retirement Program
- National LICA Winter Convention and Summer Meeting
- LICA 6-Pack Health Care Savings Card Program
- LICA FlexSystem
- LICA BizPlan
- Term Life-Insurance

Each active Contractor member receives a complimentary \$5,000 Term-Life policy and \$5,000 Accidental Death & Dismemberment policy.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Illinois

1st Area 5 Member Meeting
Dinner & IDOT Regulations Update
Roland Machinery Co. - Springfield, IL
April 1, 2010

Board of Directors Meeting
Doubletree Hotel - Bloomington, IL
May 1, 2010 - 2 pm

Picnic & Summer Member Meeting
Jon & Veronica SeEVERS Home - Cisco, IL
June 26, 2010 (Exact Time TBA)

Drainage Design & Advanced Drainage Workshop
Exact Location TBA - Champaign/Urbana Area
August 11 - 12, 2010

Erosion Control Workshop
University of Illinois South Farm - Urbana, IL
August 18 - 19, 2010

National

2010 LICA Summer Convention
Holiday Inn City Centre Peoria, IL
July 13 - 17, 2010

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BERM CHANGES THE LANDSCAPE ON ABE RESEARCH FARM

In a county that is often characterized as “flat as a pancake,” a dirt berm 300 feet long and 13 feet high definitely catches your eye as you drive onto the campus of the University of Illinois. The berm is located south of the campus on the research farm of the U of I Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering (ABE).

This berm, and the area around it, will provide a multitude of research and training opportunities in erosion control and storm water management, said Prasanta Kalita, an agricultural engineer with ABE. Kalita is a co-investigator for the project, along with Niels Svendsen and Heidi Howard of the Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (CERL) of the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Kalita said they plan to test approximately 10-15 different varieties of grass that grow in Illinois (and elsewhere in the country) to study the different grasses’ effects on erosion control. The berm’s slope is 3-to-1 on the front side and 2-to-1 on the back side. There are three ditches at the base that drain into a small pond. Kalita said check dams will be placed on the ditches every few feet to learn how sediments are being trapped and transported through those ditches. Two of Kalita’s graduate students are designing a sprinkler irrigation system that will run the entire length of the berm. “That way,” said Kalita, “whenever we want to run tests, we can ‘rain’ on it.”

The research facility was funded by a \$450,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). Kalita said IDOT plans to use the facility to train their engineers and technicians to install effective erosion control practices and develop storm water management plans for use on Illinois’ roads and highways. “Like everyone else,” said Kalita, “IDOT is required to comply with EPA regulations, and this facility will allow them to do the research and training they need to be compliant.”

CERL is the research arm of the Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Defense organization responsible for investigating, developing and maintaining the nation's water and related environmental resources. Svendsen said the DOD hopes to use the facility to test products and practices that can eventually be used on military installations around the country.

Originally the berm was designed to be 100 feet long and five feet high. But when another agency, the Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association (ILICA), learned about

From U of I Extension Newsletter, 12.9.2009



the project, they were eager to contribute to its construction. “ILICA came on board with an in-kind contribution of \$50,000,” said Kalita, “although in terms of work contributed, the amount is much larger. It enabled us to more than double the size of the berm, and now ILICA will be able to schedule time to train their people here as well.”

Neal Barnes, an independent contractor and an ILICA board member, said “This facility will broaden our perspective on the impact of erosion. There are factors with erosion that you can’t anticipate, and I think a facility like this will enable everyone to have a better understanding of those factors.”

Barnes hopes to see more research on alternative materials that can be used for erosion control, such as turf reinforcement mats. “Right now there are materials used that are fairly common,” he said, “so we seem to think they should be used everywhere. I’d like to see research on material that’s more job specific.” Barnes said the opportunity to work directly with different materials (“kick the tires, so to speak,”) will be invaluable for everyone.

Construction of the berm was completed in August and Kalita hopes to allow the site to “settle” for several months before beginning any tests or demonstrations. He said they will use the winter months to develop teaching modules that can be used in training.

Finally, Kalita said the berm will be used to involve students in the research process. “Right now, our students are developing a boat for the pond that will enable us to study it from the water as well as from the banks.”

Kalita also hopes to get funding to convert a room in one of the on-site buildings into a classroom. “The companies and organizations who will use the berm to test products are potential employers for our students. It will be good for our students to interact with them in a real-world setting.”

Kalita concluded, “I love to do research, but I love the students too. For me, to be on a campus means to be involved with the students. With this facility, we can do it all.”



SAFETY FEATURE - REFUELING EQUIPMENT

Refueling is an event at any jobsite. It happens so frequently that we don't always stop to think of the dangers. When we are doing something as ordinary and simple as refueling we need to be especially mindful of the need to act safely Provided by: SAFETY.CAT.COM™



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Employee Participants

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- Make sure the fire extinguisher is within reach
- Be sure to chock the wheels if you feel the equipment may roll
- Don't overfill the fuel tank
- On hot days allow for the fuel to expand

Refueling Areas

- Be sure the area is clearly marked
- Always clean up all spills as quickly as possible
- Keep an extinguisher close
- Make sure that all garbage is picked up and that equipment can easily enter and leave the area





NATIONAL LICA WINTER MEETING: FUN! FUN! FUN!



Not only was Phoenix sunny and 74° for the winter meetings, the schedule was packed with fun pre-tours and plenty of time to catch up with LICA members from across the country. Illinois LICA was very well represented and everyone was thrilled to get out of the cold and snow, even if it was for just one week.

The Dolly Steamboat provided a beautiful water tour of the Arizona countryside and was a great way to start the pre-tours off. On Wednesday, it was off to John Deere's winter proving grounds in Sacaton, AZ, just outside Phoenix. After a short bus ride, the group was welcomed into a beautiful outdoor theater for a live demonstration of a wide variety of John Deere equipment. Following the demonstration and a short safety meeting, everyone headed out for the hands on operation of their favorite "toy". Tractor drawn trams made it easy to get from one area of the proving grounds to another.

After a delicious lunch hosted by John Deere at the site, it was off to the F1 Go-Cart track for a LICA race. The winners of each heat ran a final race for the top 3 finishes and Illinois was well represented with third place going to Jon SeEVERS and Region IV V.P., Steve Miller taking second place.

The board and delegates meetings were held Saturday and since Jerry Biuso was unable to attend the Illinois state convention, Award committee chair Bill Doubet, took advantage of the issues session to present Jerry with his Shiny Shovel award. Jerry has been instrumental in the success of the ILICA's membership drive and is very deserving of the award. All good things must come to an end; and the awards banquet concluded the convention with a great steak dinner, hilarious comedian and several honors being presented.

Illinois was well represented once again with Wayne Litwiller winning the Entrepreneur of the Year Award and the Illinois chapter bringing home the Top State trophy for the second year in a row. What a great convention!

(upper right) Jerry Biuso receives Illinois' 2009 Shiny Shovel Award.
(below, upper left to lower right) Welcome reception at John Deere proving grounds; Andy Schlicksup, CAT Marketing Strategy Consultant for Earthmoving & Excavation Division joins the LICA Executive Directors meeting to discuss how he can help with meetings in their states; Illinois delegates with ED and president Steve Anderson; Wayne accepting the Entrepreneur of the Year; Norm Kocher, Andy Schlicksup, Forrest Davis & Jerry Biuso; the Illinois attendees; LICA contractors pushing dirt; Another delicious meal and time to catch up with friends from across the country. Demonstration of the big John Deere equipment at Sacaton.





NATIONAL LICA SUMMER MEETING PEORIA, IL - JULY 13 - 17, 2010



Tentative Schedule

Tuesday, July 13th - University of Illinois - Champaign

Tour of University / ILICA projects: Arboretum Ponds, McFarland Memorial Bell Tower, Erosion Control Testing Facility; Lunch in the new skybox at Memorial Stadium; Private Formal Japanese Tea Ceremony and tour of gardens.



Wednesday, July 14th - Caterpillar Proving Grounds

Hands-on operation of CAT equipment at Edwards (indoors or outside, depending on weather); Tour of area CAT plant; Optional On-Site Waste Display



Wednesday, July 14th - Ladies Tour - Manito IL

Welcome at the Village Square including complimentary "Manito Bucks" which can be spent at any store in town. Live Pottery demonstration, bakery, Lunch downtown, Candy-making demonstration, winery tour and wine tasting; shopping on the square.



Wednesday, July 14th - Children's Program

The ladies can enjoy their day out while the kids stay at the hotel for a scavenger hunt, lunch, movie and swim party.

Thursday, July 15th - Educational Programs

Topics are being finalized and will be announced soon.

Thursday, July 15th - Ladies Tour - Washington Square

Lunch at Denharts Bakery, a renovated bank on the nostalgic square in Washington IL. Afternoon shopping at a variety of specialty, antique and craft shops right on the square.



Friday, July 16th - Committee Meetings; CAT Sponsored Dinner with Live Equipment Demonstration

Friday, July 16th - Ladies Activity

Ladies presentation or speaker in the afternoon

Saturday, July 17th - Board Meeting - Free Time Activities

River Front Market every Saturday am in the art district (walking distance or via Hotel shuttle); Afternoon activities and entertainment are currently being researched





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