



Land Improvement Contractors Of America · Illinois Chapter

July - August 2012

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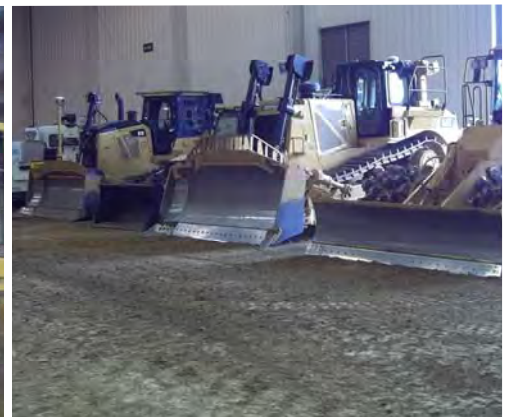
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Upcoming Events:

Drainage Workshop
Richland Community College -
Decatur, IL - August 7 - 8, 2012

4th Annual Area 3 Golf Outing-
Coyote Creek Golf Course -
Bartonville, IL - September 13, 2012

ILICA SUMMER PICNIC A BIG HIT!



(page 6)

Also Featured Inside:

Drainage Workshop Registration & Agenda *(page 8 - 9)*

Drought Conditions Expanding & Intensifying Across Illinois *(page 10)*

Reflections On The Federal Farm Bill *(page 15)*

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



LICA SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS FROM ILLINOIS!



Once again, Illinois was very well represented among those selected for the 2012 scholarship awards. Three of the eight students receiving these awards were from Illinois LICA families and we congratulate them for this outstanding achievement.

Jessica Baer of Tremont, IL: Granddaughter of Marvin and Rebecca Baer, Baer Tiling.

Melanie Behrends of Danforth, IL: Daughter of Dennis and Renee Behrends, Haley Brothers Excavating, Inc.

Madison Oswald of Springfield, IL: Step-daughter of John and Karen Fraase, Fraase Excavating, Inc.

Each year the National LICA Education Committee awards several scholarships. To be eligible you must be related to an active LICA Contractor member. This includes members, spouse, child or grandchild. The application can be found on the National LICA website and the basic instructions are:

- 1) Write an essay (300 words or less) describing your academic, vocational and personal goals and objectives and why you should receive this scholarship.
- 2) List your major course of study and include high school and/or college grade transcripts.
- 3) Include three letters of recommendation from your community, school or other adult non-relative.
- 4) Include a wallet size picture (2"x3" or equivalent), with the understanding that award recipients will be featured in the *LICA News*.
- 5) Application must be completed and mailed to the National LICA office with a **postmark date no later than March 15**. Incomplete applications and ineligible students are automatically disregarded.

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

Subscription price is \$25.00 per year, issued bi-monthly: Jan.-Feb.; Mar.-Apr.; May-June; July-Aug. Sept.-Oct.; Nov.-Dec., and includes one annual directory.

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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

Board Meeting Notice

**September Board Meeting
September 1, 2012 - 2 pm**

ILICA Office Building - (Rear Conference Room)

**118 E. Knoxville St., Brimfield, IL
Committee Meetings 10 am - 1 pm**

(See map & directions on page 19)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello from McLean County,

I hope everyone is surviving the heat that has gripped the Midwest this summer.

The golf outing in Mattoon was a great success with approximately 40 golfers, hackers and general gluttons for punishment attending. The weather was not unbearable and I believe that everyone enjoyed the meal following. Many thanks to Birkey's and Springfield Plastics as outing sponsors and PIP Printing and Port Industries as meal sponsors.

CAT outdid themselves again, sponsoring the ILICA summer picnic with an outstanding demonstration at their Edwards facility, serving an excellent meal to round out the evening.

On July 24th Springfield Plastics will host an open house and field day at their plant in conjunction with a member meeting for ILICA. The activities will consist of a plant tour and site visit to a saturated buffer strip with dinner following.

A drainage workshop will be held August 7 & 8 at Richland College in Decatur to cover survey and design of drainage systems. Whether you are new or an experienced contractor, be sure to attend.

For those of us that did not have enough abuse at the Area 6 golf outing, we have scheduled the Area 3 outing for September 13th at Bartonville. Let's hope that we have to play in full rain gear.

On a personal note, Lori and I are due to be grandparents the middle of next month. Our son-in-law Daniel and daughter Jamie are expecting a little girl to be born in Italy August 19th. Please contact me if you are interested in making donations for airfare.

Seriously, work safe, stay hydrated and pray for rain.

David Kennedy



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CATERPILLAR HOSTED ILICA SUMMER PICNIC A BIG HIT!



ILICA's summer picnic's have been pretty casual affairs in the past, which works very well for our membership but this year we decided to try something a little different. Caterpillar generously offered to host our group at their Edwards training and educational facility during the summer when the building is not being used every day for training purposes. The picnic and member meeting scheduling fit right into this invitation and so the plans began.



The Edwards facility is a state-of-the-art complex with offices and demonstration areas to fit any need. Depending on the weather and required utilization, even the largest CAT equipment can be demonstrated indoors or out. The outdoor arena has bleacher seating mounted on a turnstile that keeps guests in the shade all day. However, with the extreme heat Illinois and much of the Midwest has been experiencing this summer, the evenings' demonstration was moved to an indoor arena where our guests sat in air-conditioned comfort while the Caterpillar equipment operators braved the heat to put on an outstanding show. It is hard to believe that with everything going on, there were only three operators on hand, running, and I mean actually running, from one piece of equipment to the next; and the demonstration went off without a hitch!

Our ILICA members and guests showed up in huge numbers for this event, indicating the appeal that a Caterpillar event produces. Just over 200 RSVP's were received at the ILICA office and it appeared that nearly all of them attended. Attorfers provided a luxurious bus for attendees from the Champaign area who were chauffeured to Edwards and back in real style.

After the demo, hors d'oeuvres and drinks were served while a very brief member meeting was held in an adjacent meeting room and by 6:45 pm, dinner was being served. The meal was outstanding as well, featuring a hog roast with salads and sides after which pie and ice cream were served. The meal was delicious, the hospitality was exceptional and with the gift shop open during much of the evening, most of our guests left with souvenirs ranging from thumb drives to the cutest baby and children's outfits you've ever seen! Our sincere thanks goes out to Adam Zimmerman, Corporate Account Services Sr. Account Manager at Caterpillar, for coordinating this great evening for us and to all those at Edwards who helped plan and implement one of the best ILICA summer picnic's ever!



A GREAT DAY FOR ILICA'S 1ST AREA 6 ANNUAL GOLF OUTING



See page 23 for additional photos



As many of you already know, Illinois LICA holds an annual fundraiser golf outing in Area 3. This very successful and fun outing is now in it's 4th year, scheduled at Coyote Creek on September 13th later this year. With the membership growth experienced throughout Illinois, the ILICA leadership decided to hold a second outing in Mattoon to bring the fun and fellowship a little closer to home for some of our southern members. Bill Dean took the bull by the horns and began planning the 1st Area 6 outing for early summer.

Bill Dean has been in the Mattoon area for a long time and knows quite a few folks around there. He secured Meadowview Golf Course, which is almost in his back yard, and started promoting the event to area friends, contractors and businesses. By the time the registration form was mailed out, Bill had quite a bit of local interest in the event, and of course, the ILICA membership was behind it 100%. Bill has always participated in the Area 3 outing and it was time to return the favor.

Birkey's wanted to support the outing in a big way and signed up as outing sponsor early on. Springfield Plastics also became an outing sponsor with PIP Printing & Document Services signing up as lunch sponsor and Port Industries, Inc. picking up the dinner sponsorship. Since so many of our members wanted to support both area outings, a special incentive was offered to anyone who wanted to provide hole sponsorship for both, which received a very good response, putting us well on our way to a successful day.

And although it has been a hot and dry summer in the Midwest, luck was with us as a brief shower went through Mattoon the night before the June 22nd outing, bringing cooler temperatures for our golfers. Friday morning, the sun came up on a beautiful day, complete with a delightful breeze. Meadowview went above and beyond to help make this outing a big

success, working with the golf committee to get everything set up and ready for the noon lunch and 1 pm shotgun start. As our golfers began to arrive, lunch was ready in the beautiful clubhouse and announcements were made inside and out to let everyone know it was time to load clubs in the carts and get ready to hit the course.

There are a lot of folks that deserve our thanks for making this day an entertaining and successful fundraiser, starting with Bill Dean. Don't let his casual pose in the photo to the left fool you ... it takes a lot of work to pull something like this off. Bill worked for months leading up to the actual date and his efforts were instrumental in bringing in over 40 golfers as well as the outstanding sponsorship support.

Jeff and Debbie Boldig at Meadowview also deserve a big round of applause for their help in planning and setting up the day's activities. They were very accommodating as the date approached and were even more helpful once we arrived. They provided us with everything we needed for an outstanding day, beyond the normal and customary services other courses provide. From icing down our water and Gatorade to the delicious grilled rib-eye's we were served for dinner, they took very good care of our group. Thanks to Kelly Spaulding too, the Meadowview golf pro, for assisting us with the prize holes as well as his help with door prize giveaways as the outing concluded.

Harris Metals & Recycling, a Mattoon area business, surprised us with registration giveaways of LED lighted pens and can cozies for everyone and joined us on the course as well. Of course, our very gracious thanks to our outing and meal sponsors, to all those who joined us that day, and to everyone who sponsored a hole. The participation of each of you made this event a real winner!



AUGUST DRAINAGE WORKSHOP REGISTRATION



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
EXTENSION

Richland Community College - Shilling Center - Salon I
One College Park, Decatur, IL



Aug. 7 - 8: Drainage Survey & Design : Drainage Water Management
Bioreactors : Optional Computer Aided Drainage Design (CADD)

Pre-Registration Workshop Fees - ILICA Members		
	<i>1st Attendee</i>	<i>Additional</i>
*Full Registration for all Sessions:	\$125	\$100
*Includes Wednesday evening CADD session		
After July 25, 2012 or On-Site Registration		
	<i>1st Attendee</i>	<i>Additional</i>
*Registration for all Sessions:	\$160	\$130
*Includes Wednesday evening CADD session		
Optional Certification Review & Testing on Aug. 8 th at 3 pm (2 year certification period)		
\$100—Initial Certification Per Applicant		
\$50—Bi-Annual Renewal Per Applicant		

Pre-Registration Workshop Fees - Non-ILICA Members		
	<i>1st Attendee</i>	<i>Additional</i>
*Full Registration for all Sessions:	\$175	\$150
*Includes Wednesday evening CADD session		
After July 25, 2012 or On-Site Registration		
	<i>1st Attendee</i>	<i>Additional</i>
*Registration for all Sessions:	\$200	\$180
*Includes Wednesday evening CADD session		
Optional Certification Review & Testing on Aug. 8 th at 3 pm (2 year certification period)		
\$500—Initial Certification Per Applicant		
\$200—Bi-Annual Renewal Per Applicant		

Yes, I will attend the following August Drainage Workshop Session(s)

Survey & Design Drainage (2 days) **Optional ILICA Certification** (see schedule above)

Optional CADD Evening Session (Aug 8th; 5 - 8 pm)

Name: _____ Area #: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip _____

Company Name: _____ Phone # _____

Additional Attendees _____, _____, _____

_____, _____, _____

Pre-Registration fees must be received in our office by deadlines stated above.

Mail to: ILICA - P.O. Box 474 - Brimfield, IL 61517 or Fax: (309) 446-3744 Total Enclosed: \$ _____

<p align="center">Sleep Inn 3920 E. Hospitality Lane Decatur, IL - \$71.99 Ph: 217-872-7700</p>	<p align="center">Please contact the hotel and mention Illinois LICA as your group no later than July 24th to receive the group rate of \$71.99 + tax. After July 24th, the Sleep Inn nightly room rate will increase to \$81.99 + tax.</p>
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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
EXTENSION

2012 DRAINAGE WORKSHOP AGENDA



AUGUST 7TH & 8TH

**Drainage Survey & Design ▪ Drainage Water Management (DWM)
Bioreactors ▪ Optional Computer Aided Drainage Design (CADD)**

We're returning to Decatur's Richland College for the August drainage workshop again this year. This venue provides our attendees with easy parking, great technical resources and, with the Farm Progress Show in Iowa this year, a newly remodeled hotel very close by with available rooms.

The agenda printed here is still tentative, but a more detailed itinerary will be available as the dates approach. Richard Cooke of University of Illinois Extension will facilitate the survey, design, DWM and bioreactor sessions of the class. The first day will cover survey and design basics like differential, laser guided and profile leveling, contour lines, longitude-latitude, GPS, soil properties & behavior and will also include the field session for laser surveying.

The second day will begin where day 1 left off on the drainage design and will conclude with an afternoon session on DWM and bioreactors. Optional ILICA certification will be offered following these topics on Wednesday afternoon. Additionally, Richard will present an optional Wednesday evening session from **5 - 8 pm** on a new computer aided drainage design software he is developing. There is no additional cost for this session which will be best suited for drainage contractors who are already familiar with other computer aided design applications.

Please bring your grade pole and laser receivers for the

field portion of the workshop. Not everyone needs their own but there should be one for each small group during the field session. **Also note that laptops will be VERY helpful** for the all days of the workshop, but especially during the in-depth drainage guide session and the optional evening class. If you would like a "loaner" computer during these sessions, contact Janet at the ILICA office to make arrangements. Please plan to dress accordingly (hat, sunscreen, raingear, etc.) for the field session on Tuesday. All sessions qualify for CEU's in the ILICA certification program.

Unfortunately, we have encountered a scheduling conflict for the advanced drainage class originally set for August 9th. With the already busy ILICA summer schedule, field days by other LICA chapters and other industry training sessions, there was no where to go that didn't create another conflict. This very popular day of GPS and machine control software review is going to be rescheduled and offered in conjunction with our January convention **or** our February workshop.

The registration form and contact information for the Sleep Inn is on the preceeding page. If you have questions about this workshop, please call the ILICA office and keep checking our website, www.ilica.net for more detail as the date gets closer.

August 7th: 8 am - 5 pm (breakfast, lunch & breaks included)

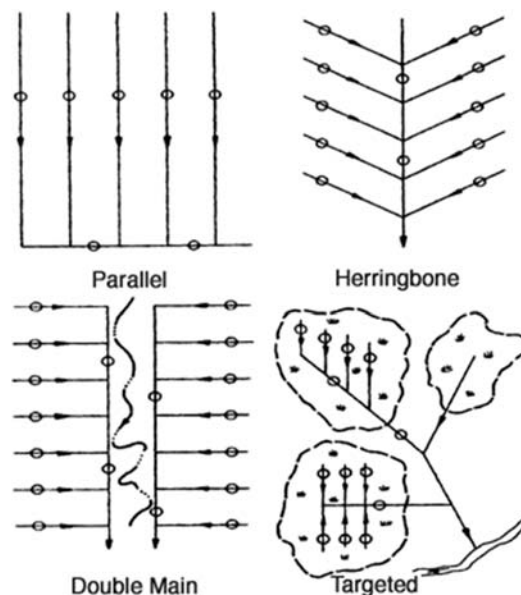
- Survey & Design Basics
- Field Session - Laser surveying

August 8th: 7:30 am - 3 pm (breakfast, lunch & breaks included)

- Drainage Coefficients
- Drainage Design
- In-Depth Illinois Drainage Guide Session
- Drainage Water Management & Bioreactors
- 3 - 5pm - Optional ILICA Certification review & testing

August 8th: 5 - 8 pm (Optional Advanced Design Session)

- Computer Aided Drainage Design (CADD) software



DROUGHT CONDITIONS EXPANDING AND INTENSIFYING ACROSS ILLINOIS



Illinois State Water Survey (ISWS) Drought Update

Illinois is falling deeper into drought conditions, as agricultural impacts are now becoming much more evident and hydrologic conditions continuing to deteriorate. There is very little precipitation in the forecast at a time when substantial rains are needed to avoid agricultural damages. Although drought conditions are greatest in southern Illinois and parts of central Illinois, the area of concern is also spreading to northern Illinois.

Precipitation

Since the June 21 ISWS Drought Update, widespread rains of 0.5 to 1.5 inches fell in a band from the Quad Cities area to the Chicago area. Meanwhile, no significant rains fell over the rest of the state. The statewide average precipitation total from June 21 to July 3 was 0.5 inches, only 28 percent of normal. The statewide average temperature during this time was 78.0 degrees, 3.8 degrees above normal. Extremely hot weather occurred during the second half of this period with highs in the 90s and low 100s common across the state. At least 56 sites in Illinois broke their daily high temperature records on June 28 and 29.

The statewide average precipitation for June was 1.8 inches, which is 2.3 inches below normal and 43 percent of normal. It was the eighth driest June on record. June 1988 was the driest on record at 1.1 inches.

The statewide average precipitation for the first half of 2012 was 12.6 inches, making it the sixth driest on record. The first half of 1988 was slightly worse at 12.0 inches. The driest January-June was 1934 with only 10.3 inches.

Statewide precipitation deficits since January 1, 2012, (Figure 1) have grown to 4 to 6 inches across northern Illinois, 6 to 10 inches across central Illinois, and 10 to 12 inches or more in southern Illinois.

Agricultural Conditions

According to the July 2 Illinois Weather and Crops Report, only 26% of the corn crop and 28% of soybeans are rated good to excellent, only about half of what was reported two weeks ago. The lack of moisture in the top soil continues to be a primary concern, with 89% of the soils in the State considered to have short to very short moisture levels. Conditions in southern Illinois are the worst in the State, with nearly all soils considered to be very short on moisture in both the topsoil and subsoil.

Streamflows

Figure 2 displays streamflow conditions throughout Illinois for the past 2 weeks, with flows expressed as percentiles comparing this year's June 18-July 2 period to the same period for all years of record at selected USGS gaging stations. Most

streams south of I-80 are experiencing much-below normal flow levels (in the lowest 10th percentile for this time of year). The exceptions are the Kankakee River region and the western fringes of the State that have received greater amounts of rainfall over the last month. For the first half of June, most of Northern Illinois streams were experiencing flows in the normal range, but conditions have deteriorated such that most streams in this region are now considered below normal. Alt-

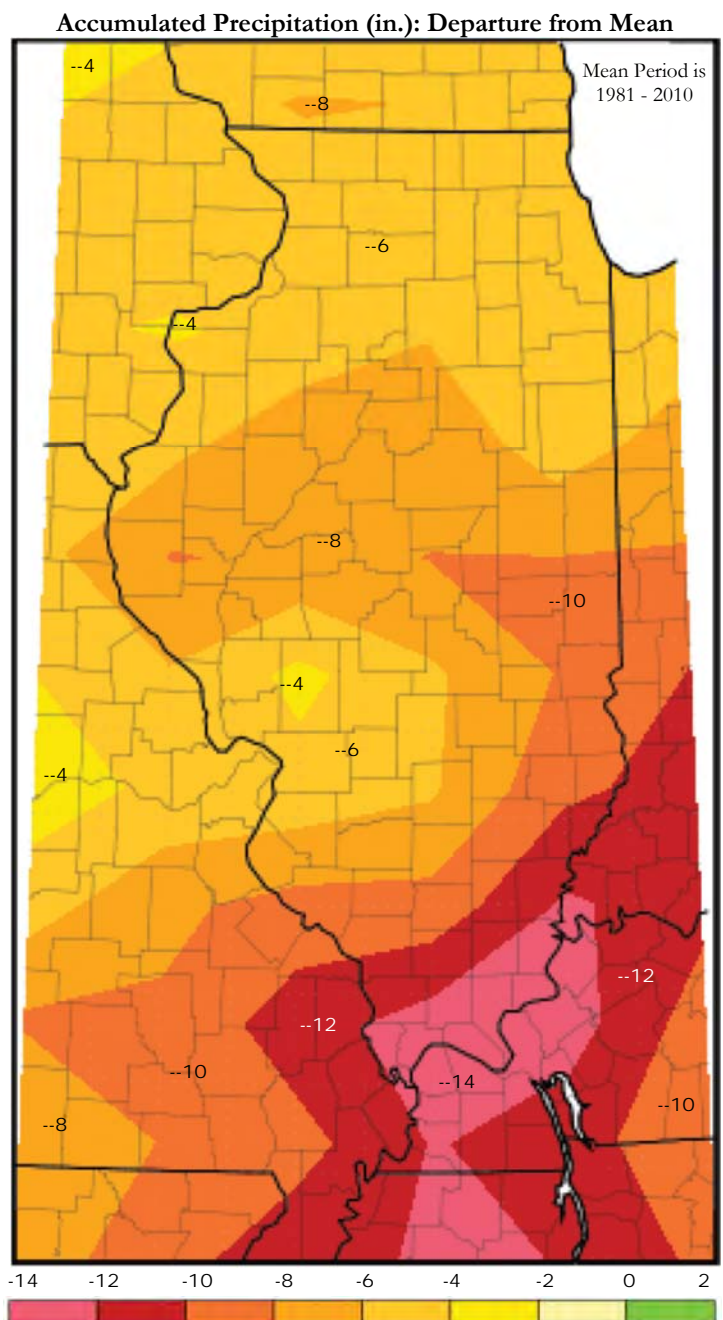


Figure 1: Precipitation deficits for Illinois from January 1 - July 3, 2012



DROUGHT CONDITIONS EXPANDING AND INTENSIFYING ACROSS ILLINOIS (CONT.)

ough flows in many streams were below or much below normal for June, most of the current flow levels are yet close to their normal annual minimum levels. Thus, many environmental impacts associated with low stream levels have yet to be experienced this year. However, without substantial amounts of rainfall, stream levels will continue to fall in upcoming months.

Community Water Supplies

Over the past winter and spring, the levels at Canton Lake have been at their lowest since the 1988-89 drought, and over the past month the lake has been more than 6 feet below normal. However, as of June 20, the City of Canton now obtains its water from a radial collector well near the Illinois River, and is no longer considered vulnerable to drought impacts.

Water levels at most community reservoirs in Illinois have begun to fall from their full or nearly-full levels in late spring. Several community reservoirs are already between 1.0 to 2.5 feet below full pool. Although the onset of lake drawdown is occurring early in the season for most of these reservoirs, and is significant in that regard, most community reservoir systems in Illinois were designed to provide water through multi-year drought episodes typically lasting 18 months or longer. Thus, most systems will not experience severe drought impacts for many months to come; although in many cases it may be in the community’s interest to begin reducing water use in anticipation that reservoir levels will continue to fall through this year.

The ISWS has identified only two community reservoir systems that could potentially be vulnerable to a severe drought lasting fewer than 12 months: Decatur and Danville. Of these two systems, the ISWS considers Decatur to be the most at risk of experiencing shortages during a record or near-record drought condition (www.isws.illinois.edu/data/ilcws/drought.asp), and Decatur will likely be the focus of water supply concerns over the next few months. Over the past month, the Lake Decatur level has fallen over 1 foot. At the current rate of decline, the lake will fall to an elevation of 613.0 by mid-July and, according to the City’s Drought Action Plan, the City will then implement voluntary water use restrictions and begin tapping its supplemental groundwater supplies. In anticipation of the drought, Danville has raised their lake’s pool level by installing flash boards on their spillway.

Shallow Groundwater

Communities that rely on shallow groundwater systems are also typically the first to experience drought impacts. Although the ISWS has begun receiving requests from water users looking for new sources of groundwater, we do not yet have specific reports of communities facing problems at this time or of water hauling.

The ISWS is in the process of obtaining water level records for the end of June from its shallow groundwater well network. The well data received so far indicates a continued decline in all wells from last month, and several wells continue to record the lowest-ever June reading for their periods of record.

June 18 - July 1 Average Streamflow Percentiles

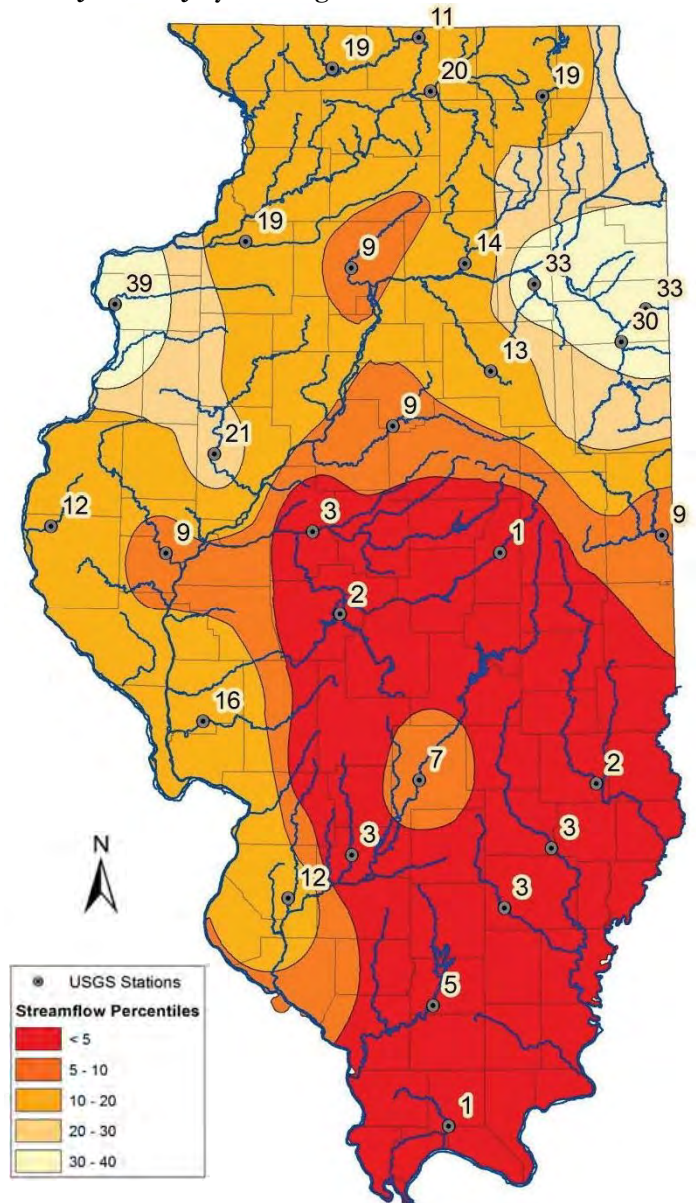


Figure 2: June 18 - July 1 average streamflow percentiles for Illinois.

The percentage values on this map describe Illinois streamflows compared to the same period for all years of record at selected USGS gaging stations; i.e. A value of 20 indicates that 20% of the years on record experienced lower total flow than the current year. The streamflow data used to produce this map are provisional and may be subject to change.



**Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association
4th Annual Area 3 Golf Outing - Thursday, September 13, 2012**

Coyote Creek Golf Club - Shotgun Start 1:00 pm

8201 W. Lancaster Road, Bartonville, IL 61607

Golf & Dinner.....\$ 90.00

(Includes Green Fees, Golf Cart, Hamburger lunch, Driving range, 2 Beverage tickets, Buffet Dinner & Prizes)

Golf Only..... \$ 70.00 • Dinner Only..... \$ 45.00

Registration Form

Please RSVP By August 26

Enclosed is the check PAYABLE TO ILICA

In the amount of \$ _____ for the following;

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____

Golf & Dinner
@ \$90

Golf Only
@ \$70

Dinner Only
@ \$45

My preferred foursome is: _____ I do not have a preference

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Green & Tee Sponsors

Company Name (To be listed on sign) _____

Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Yes, we would like to Sponsor a Green or Tee - **\$150**

Please provide our sign (\$35 per sign)

We will provide our own sign (16" x 24")

Use sign from last year's golf outing

Enclosed is the check **PAYABLE TO ILICA**, in the amount of \$ _____ for registration and sponsorship.

Meal & Outing Sponsors

- I would like to be a lunch sponsor \$250.00 *
- I would like to be a Dinner Sponsor \$350.00 *
- I would like to be an Outing Sponsor \$500.00 **
- I would like to be an Outing Sponsor & sign up a foursome \$770 *** (includes 1 free golf & dinner registration)

Mail check and this form to:

Illinois LICA - P.O. Box 474 - Brimfield, IL 61517 (Credit Cards also accepted. Call the ILICA office @ 309.446.3700 for details)

* Lunch and Dinner sponsors will have signage in place at registration table and dining area and receive recognition in the annual ILICA Directory.
 ** Outing sponsors will have signage (including company logo) in place at registration table, in dining area and at cart pick up location and will receive recognition in the annual ILICA Directory and at the annual Convention and Member meeting.
 *** Outing sponsors that also purchase a foursome receive special pricing on golf & dinner registration; **buy 3 get one free!**

4TH ANNUAL AREA 3 GOLF OUTING SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION



ILICA's fourth Area 3 golf outing fund raiser is set for **September 13th** as you can see by the registration form on the previous page. We would love to have you support this year so please consider sponsoring a hole or joining us at the course ... or both! **Green and Tee signs can be provided by you or printed by the ILICA office** and those who participated last year already have a sign, ready to notify all our golfers of your support. Of course, there will be the normal newsletter and website coverage of this fun and important event with outing and meal sponsors receiving additional recognition in the next directory and at the 2013 Convention and members meeting.

We need foursomes to make this event as much fun as it has been the last three years. **Contact your favorite contractors, co-workers, friends or relatives and invite them to be in your group.** You talk them into coming and we'll make sure everyone has a great time. We'll have the beverage carts on the course again this year, prizes for the "shortest putt" and "longest drive" and the infamous "betting hole" for those confident golfers in the bunch. And the added benefit of registering your own foursome is that you'll be sure to spend the afternoon with exactly who you think you'll have the most fun with!

And remember, **anyone** who wants to support ILICA is welcome to join us, sponsor a tee or green and add to the overall



success of this fun event. There are several contractors, associates and even non-members who have already signed up. The registration and sponsorship form is also available on our website, www.illica.net. Our committee members and board of directors will encourage all of our contractors to sign up for this wonderful day and we know our associate members will support this event with the same enthusiasm we always see from this outstanding group.

There is plenty of time to get involved. Don't miss out on this outstanding opportunity to have fun working for ILICA! It's not often we can make an offer like that, so take advantage of it while you can! Call Janet at the ILICA office if you have any questions or would like more information and get signed up today !!



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Sign up for hole sponsor signs!
Join ILICA for this fun outing disguised as a fund raising event!
Get a foursome together with your favorite contractors!
50 - 50 & Raffle prize drawings

Golfing & Sponsorship is NOT restricted to Area 3 ILICA Members but is available for ANYONE who would like to support ILICA's 4th annual FUN Day Fund Raiser!
Contact Janet for more Info!



Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association, Inc.

118 E. Knoxville • PO Box 474 • Brimfield, IL 61517
Phone: (309) 446-3700 • Email: janet@illica.net

**You're invited to an Open House and Plant
Tour of Springfield Plastics, Inc.
(including a site visit to a local saturated buffer and a
FREE dinner at Edgewood Golf Course)**

Tuesday - July 24, 2012

**Site visits to saturated buffer 1/4 mile from Springfield Plastics and
plant tours will be done throughout the afternoon, beginning at 2 pm.**

Free Dinner at Edgewood Golf Course at 6:15 pm



Brief Introduction to Illinois LICA

New State United Fire Group / LICA Insurance Program ~ Petrocon Commodities Discount Program

The UFG/LICA Insurance Program provides a discount on premiums and a dividend potential.

The Petrocon program will generate savings for LICA members on their oil, tires, electric, cellular expense, fuel and possibly much more, pending the geography the member resides in.

You are welcome to bring a guest! (*Spouses also welcome!*)

**Please RSVP to (309) 446-3700 before July 17th
with the number of guests attending.**

Directions: From I-55: Take the IL-104 exit, **Exit 82** from I-55 North or South. Turn right onto IL-104 toward Auburn and follow for about 7.5 miles. Springfield Plastics Inc. is approximately 1.7 miles past the city of Auburn on IL-104 on the south or left side of the road.

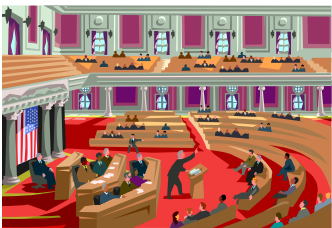
From West on IL-104. Springfield Plastics Inc is approximately 9 miles East of Waverly on IL-104 on the south side of IL-104.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: SOME REFLECTIONS ON THE FEDERAL “FARM BILL”

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

It has been interesting following the course of the Senate version of the Farm Bill, S 3240. From about 270 amendments that were offered initially, they allowed 73 to be debated on the floor. They debated 26 on June 19th and had another 47 to deal with on June 20th & 21st. Final passage of the Senate Bill occurred Thursday, June 21st, on a 64-35 vote. In a news conference, Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee Chairman Stabenow (Sen. Pat Roberts, KS is the Ranking member) pointed to the flexibility built into the Conservation Title (Title II), when 23 programs are consolidated into 14 and placed in 4 major categories to make them less complicated and duplicative. NACD has been supportive of the Senate bill, focusing on the Conservation Title. That is also where I have focused as many LICA contractors work with farm programs.



One issue that was addressed in the Senate, but the amendments to deal with it were not passed, is the cost of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) which now provides food stamps to 1 out of every 7 Americans and costs \$4 of every \$5 in the Farm Bill, roughly \$80 billion/yr. Senate Agriculture Committee leaders in both parties wanted to trim a modest \$250 million from the program each year, but were rebuffed. The House is certain to demand greater food stamp cuts. We now spend as much on food stamps as we do to fix our nation’s roads and bridges. Many newspapers suggest the title “Farm Bill” is a misnomer as most of the 1000 page bill no longer deals with farmers or ranchers. I have always disliked omnibus bills. There were over 2000 pages in Obamacare and now 1000 pages in the Senate version of the Farm Bill. How many Senators do you think actually read this bill and know what is in it?

Concerning the SNAP Program, even though we spend \$80 billion/yr on food stamps, we have no idea where or how that money is spent. The amount spent on food stamps has more than doubled in recent years, and the amount of food stamps laundered into cash has increased dramatically government statistics show. USDA administers the SNAP program in conjunction with the states, and contends that disclosing how much each store that is authorized to accept benefits receives in taxpayer funds would amount to revealing trade secrets. As a result, fraud is hard to track and the efficacy of the massive program is impossible to evaluate. USDA also has no idea what type of food the benefits are buying, even though the combination of universal bar codes and benefits cards

makes that entirely feasible. The USDA is notoriously secretive about who receives its money, relying on weak legal reasoning, said Steve Ellis of the watchdog group Taxpayers for Common Sense.

The 11 Titles in S 3240 are:

- I Commodity Programs.
- II Conservation.
- III Trade.
- IV Nutrition.
- V Credit.
- VI Rural Development.
- VII Research, Extension and Related Matters.
- VIII Forestry.
- IX Energy.
- X Horticulture.
- XI Crop Insurance.
- XII Miscellaneous.

The House Agriculture Committee (Rep. Frank Lucas, OK, Chairman; Rep. Collin Peterson, MN, Ranking Member) will begin consideration of its version of the Farm Bill on Wednesday, July 11th. I expect the House to suggest even more cuts than the Senate did. As many have said before, the 2012 Farm Bill, if we get one, will be written in Conference. That could prove to be tense.

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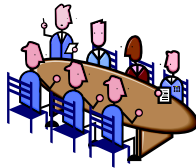
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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association, Inc.

118 E. Knoxville · PO Box 474 · Brimfield, IL 61517
(309) 446-3700 · Fax: (309) 446-3744 · Email: janet@illica.net

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

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

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

Firm Name: _____

Spouse: _____ County: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email : _____ Sponsor: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Fax: _____

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| GR - Gravel/ Rock Production | TH - Trucking / Hauling |
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- Active Contractor Membership - \$295**
(One hundred seventy dollars (\$170) for Illinois Membership plus One hundred twenty five dollars (\$125) for National Membership)
(Active members are individuals engaged in the business of entering into contracts for performing work that will result in soil, land, natural resource conservation or rehabilitation, water conservation, control and prevention of soil erosion, depletion and misuse of natural resources and soil and water pollution and contamination.)
- Associate Membership - \$295** (Associate members are those businesses that manufacture or sell equipment, materials or services used by active members)
- Affiliate Membership - \$85** (Affiliate members are individuals employed by an active member in the business that makes the active member eligible for membership)

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THESE LICA BENEFITS?

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LICA MEMBER BENEFIT

Construction equipment theft is estimated to be a **BILLION dollar problem and it's getting worse....**

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HELPtech registration allows law enforcement to identify you as the owner of your equipment in any state at any time of night or day—even before the theft is discovered ... and that's bad news for thieves!

NER HELPtech Database

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Famous Footwear	\$82.45	10.40%	\$8.57
Kohl's	\$64.96	3.20%	\$2.08

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United Fire Group / LICA Insurance Program

As a member of your state's Land Improvement Contractors Association (LICA) you work hard to conserve our soil and water. Every day you use your equipment to help protect and construct the cities, farms, ranches and rural areas where we live and work. **But, who is protecting you?**

For the protection you need, consider the state LICA



Insurance Program from United Fire Group.® Our program is specifically designed for state LICA members and provides coverage for your equipment, as well as many other advantages.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Illinois

Springfield Plastics, Inc.

Open House - Site Visit - Plant Tour

Dinner at Edgewood Golf Course, Auburn, IL

July 24, 2012 - Open House - 2 - 5 pm: Dinner - 6:15 pm

4th Area 3 Annual Golf Outing

Coyote Creek Golf Course - Bartonville, IL

Thursday, September 13, 2012

Lunch - Noon - 12:55 pm ~ 1 pm Shotgun Start

Catered Dinner on-site - 6:30 pm

National

Winter Meeting & Conference

Marriott Riverfront

100 General McIntosh Boulevard

Savannah, Georgia

February 5 - 10, 2013

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September Board Meeting Location ILICA Office Bldg., Brimfield Illinois



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The ILICA office is located in Brimfield, just off I-74 about half way between Peoria and Galesburg.

From West: Take the Route 78 exit from I-74 to Kewanee and Canton and turn North from the exit ramp. Turn right or east onto Route 150 at Akron Services grain storage facility. Follow Route 150 into Brimfield and the ILICA office is on your right, next door to Good Time Challey's and directly across from the bank time and temperature marquee.

From East: Take the Brimfield exit from I-74 and turn North from the exit ramp. Turn left or West onto Route 150 at the stop sign. Follow Route 150 into Brimfield and the ILICA office on is your left, next door to the bar and restaurant, Good Time Challey's (look for the Budweiser sign) and directly across from the bank time and temperature marquee

DOES ANYONE KNOW WHAT ERA THIS TILING MACHINE WOULD HAVE BEEN IN USE?



This picture was sent to the ILICA office by Jay Mulholland, American Agricultural Drainage. I had hoped he would be able to provide more information about what period in our nation's history this kind of unit would have been in use, but he said the guy he'd gotten it from really didn't know much about it at all. According to an Ohio Park Service website I found online, "In the late 1830s and 1840s, Cyrus McCormick and Obed Hussey introduced improved reapers and mowers. In 1837, John Deere invented the first steel plow. It required only one man and a team of horses to operate. Prior to this, farmers used wooden mold-board plows that required three teams of oxen and two men to pull." Since it isn't evident from the photo whether teams of oxen or draft horses were being used to pull this, it could be an even earlier vintage. At any rate, it is a very interesting looking apparatus and if anyone has some insight on the time period, please let me know. I'll follow up in the next newsletter with any additional information I get.

Can you imagine putting in systems today with this kind of equipment? We've come a long way gentlemen!



LICA FARM BILL NEWS RELEASE

Source: John Peterson, LICA Director of Government Relations.



The Land Improvement Contractors of America (LICA) applaud the Congressional House and Senate Agriculture Committees for their commitment to conservation.

The Land Improvement Contractors of America (LICA) applaud leaders of both the federal Senate and House Agriculture Committees for recognizing the significant value of conservation in supporting America's long-term environmental and economic stability. In language released in both their versions of the 2012 Farm Bill, the leadership in both political parties demonstrated strong bipartisan support for locally-led soil and water conservation efforts.

"We fully recognize the need to get our nation's financial house in order, and we understand that means cuts in federal programs," said LICA President Merlin Welch of the California LICA Chapter. "We are very pleased that the federal committee leadership has developed a balanced plan that recognizes the critical value of local leadership at the landscape scale. The two Farm Bills propose about a 10% cut over 10 years, approximately \$6 billion, to Farm Bill Title II Conservation Programs (the Farm Bill has 11 titles). That is more than the ill-fated super-committee proposed in 2011, and even more than

what the agriculture share of the federal budget represents, about 2%. LICA hopes other aspects of society bear their fair share of the federal budget cuts, as agriculture and conservation have demonstrated they will do."

"Investing in conservation simply makes sense," Welch continued. "Not only do Farm Bill conservation programs play a key role in supporting clean water, air, and healthy, productive soils, they also help producers avoid unnecessary regulation, and support our nation's long-term economic and food security. As we face increased pressure to produce food, feed, fuel, and fiber for a growing population, we simply cannot afford not to invest in natural resource conservation." The federal Farm Bills have always had strong bipartisan support.

LICA's members in every state appreciate their opportunity to provide input throughout the legislative process. Specifically they are pleased to see bill language that: 1) protects critical conservation program funding, and 2) supports program consolidation for increased efficiency and ease of use for producers. LICA has always supported locally-led, voluntary incentives-based approaches to conservation delivery through our nations Soil & Water Conservation Districts.

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