
ILICA



NEWS

Land Improvement Contractors Of America · Illinois Chapter

January - February 2015

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10 HOUR OSHA CERTIFICATION FEBRUARY 26 - 27, 2015 *(pages 9-10)*



Also Featured Inside:

3rd Annual Area 6 Golf Outing Is A BIG Success *(page 6)*

John Deere & Martin Equipment Host Picnic and Equipment Demo *(11)*

Extension Connection: Estimating Yield Response To Drainage *(page 12-13)*

National LICA Summer Convention Schedule *(page 15)*

Upcoming Events:

Summer Drainage Workshop -
July 29 - 31 - Decatur, IL

6th Annual Area 3 Golf Outing -
September 12 - Pine Lakes,
Morton, IL

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The LICA Creed



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

Regular Meeting of the Board
March 8, 2015 - 2 pm

Jubilee Café - Kickapoo, IL

Committee Meetings - 10 am - 1 pm

(See map & directions on page 19)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings from Odin.

First, I would like to thank the membership for entrusting me with this leadership position. I will try to do my best. I would also like to thank the rest of the officers for accepting their nominations. I think we have a very capable slate of officers. I also think it is very appropriate to thank all the members and associates for supporting the Illinois State Convention, the largest attendance yet, five new members and the exhibit hall filled. The education sessions were very informative and well attended, including the septic training. We had another successful fundraising auction so thank you to all the bidders and buyers. The ILICA convention has grown to the point that we will need a facility equal to the size of the Embassy Suites or larger. This is a credit to the convention committee and the staff for again putting together a very successful convention, the envy of many chapters. Great Job and Thank You!

Judy and I are preparing for the Winter National Annual Meeting in Tampa, I would invite anyone that has the time and interest to consider attending, I can assure you it will be worth your time. It is always interesting to hear about some of the issues facing LICA contractors in other parts of the country. We truly have a diverse country.

ILICA planning a 10 hour OSHA training workshop, scheduled for February 26 & 27. I encourage every member to consider attending and bringing your employees. I assure you, everyone will learn something about safety and hazards to watch out for. There is a real reason that LICA contractors have a better safety record and fewer lost work days than non-LICA contractors and these stats can help your insurance rates.



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ILICA has been approached by Illinois Corn Growers to help with the installation of tile on a 160 acre actual farm size research lab to help with the development of real data and possible best practices to aid in the reduction of Nitrate losses thru tile systems. Their plan includes four such farms of this scale in the next couple of years. This could be a big opportunity for ILICA and we really appreciate them asking us to participate. I hope this works out. We have also been approached by the Wetland's Initiative group who have been planning and designing a wetland construction project in Bureau County. This project is also associated with the State of Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy, an effort to reduce Nitrate and Phosphorus loading in the Mississippi River contributing to the Gulf of Mexico hypoxia. This statewide effort could prompt considerable amounts of new projects for ILICA contractors.

Have a nice winter, stay safe, and let's see what the new Governor does.

Tom Beyers, President

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
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“THANK YOU” TO ALL 2015 ILICA CONVENTION SUPPORTERS!



All the stars lined up for the 2015 state convention, in many different ways. The Red Carpet theme brought out James Bond and Tom Hanks to the kick-off dinner, as well as many glamorous evening gowns on our ILICA ladies. But even the weather cooperated this year with a little snow early in the week and cold enough temps to provide several walk-in attendees during the trade show, which was outstanding to see.

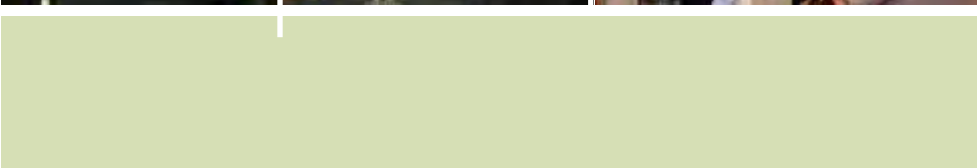
And when it was all over, this convention saw the best attendance and support yet, with more exhibitors and sponsors than ever before. The septic CEU training on Friday brought 20 new faces into the trade show and the membership committee converted 2 of those into new contractor members as well as another young man who happened across our trade show on the internet, attended Thursday and Friday sessions and then joined before Friday evening's hospitality rooms opened.

Educational sessions were well attended again this year and we thank our facilitators for their time and expertise.

These sessions provide credits for ILICA certified contractors to maintain their certified status and provide great industry information for all ILICA members.

And the awards banquet this year had it's only list of stars. Life Member plaques were presented to Richard Cooke, Forrest Davis, Rose Day, JoAnn Huff-Riegler and Kent Mitchell. Jean Davis accepted Forrest's award as did Scott Day and Kristin for Rose's plaque, which will hang proudly in the new Day Drainage headquarters. K.C. Ting, Professor and Head, Dept. of Ag & Biological Engineering, accepted Richard's plaque in his absence but Kent and Marlene Mitchell as well as JoAnn Huff-Riegler and her husband David were in attendance as ILICA's very special guests.

And to top it off Xenya Mucha, of John Deere Corporate, was gracious enough to be Master of Ceremonies for the banquet, providing an excellent flow to the evening and managing to raise more than \$75 for the LICA scholarship fund by charging the pre-dinner cake eaters \$5 each for their transgression! Some felt



“THANK YOU” CONVENTION SUPPORTERS!

obliged to give more apparently, depending on how much of their cake was gone.

And this year also saw the changing of ILICA leadership with the presidency passing from Dave Haag to Tom Beyers. Lee Bunting has agreed to step in as VP with Grant Curtis serving as 1st VP. This well rounded group of officers are committed to moving this organization forward as a professional trade association and we thank them for their willingness to serve.

As you can see by the list shown here, the support ILICA received from its associate membership was better than ever, and that’s saying a lot. Thank you all for your continued support. We couldn’t do it without you.



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CATERPILLAR WELCOME CENTER RECEPTION - A HIGHLIGHT OF ILICA CONVENTION



Caterpillar and Altorfer’s Inc. supported the ILICA convention in a real big way this year. Pictured to the left is an outstanding auction donation by Adam Zimmermann. This “Golden Ticket” allows the bearer to “own and operate” a D 11 dozer for 1 hour at the Edwards proving grounds and it brought in the largest single donation amount of the evening.

Caterpillar continued going all out for the Friday evening reception at their Welcome Center in downtown Peoria. Shuttle transportation was provided by Altorfer’s sponsorship which allowed our bus to remain outside the facility so people could

return to the hotel as they wished. As you can see from the photo above, there was an extensive spread laid out for our group ... and the dessert table isn’t even visible. Although some people drove and guests came and went as they pleased, it appears that close to 100 people attended the event, enjoying the simulators and museum tour almost as much as the food and refreshments.

Our sincere thanks go out to Caterpillar for their ongoing partnership with National LICA as well as their support of our state chapter. We thank Altorfer’s for the generous sponsorship that provided for shuttle transportation for our ladies outing, this reception as well as the Riverfront Museum tour on Saturday afternoon. The convenience of having warm transportation waiting to return our guests to the hotel whenever they wanted was priceless!

And last but certainly not least, we thank Adam Zimmermann for his friendship and for his participation on the state and National level. Adam gets to travel a lot in his job but still makes time to attend as many National LICA conferences as his schedule allows. And he stops in the ILICA office once in a while too! His efforts are a great benefit to our members and they are genuinely appreciated.





10 Winter Skin Care Tips

The weather outside may be unsightly, but your skin doesn't have to be. How to banish dry skin and give your winter skin care regimen a boost.

ILICA LADIES PAGE

For many people, the cold clear days of winter bring more than just a rosy glow to the cheeks. They also bring uncomfortable dryness to the skin of the face, hands, and feet. For some people, the problem is worse than just a general tight, dry feeling: They get skin so dry it results in flaking, cracking, even eczema (in which the skin becomes inflamed).

"As soon as you turn the heat on indoors, the skin starts to dry out," Bonnie LaPlante, an esthetician with the Canyon Ranch resort in Lenox, Mass., tells WebMD. "It doesn't matter if you heat your home using oil, wood, or electricity. The skin gets dry."

SEEK A SPECIALIST

If you go to your local drugstore, you'll be hard put to find a salesperson who can give you good advice. That's why going to an esthetician or dermatologist even once is a good investment. Such a specialist can analyze your skin type, troubleshoot your current skin care regimen, and give you advice on the skin care products you should be using.

But that doesn't mean you'll be stuck buying high-end products. "Inexpensive products work just as well as high-end ones," says David Voron, MD, a dermatologist in Arcadia, Calif. "In fact, the extra price you pay for the expensive stuff is often just for packaging and marketing. What's most important is how your skin responds to the product and how you like its feel, not how much money you paid for it."

MOISTURIZE MORE

You may have found a moisturizer that works just fine in spring and summer. But as weather conditions change, so, too, should your skin care routine. Find an "ointment" moisturizer that's oil-based, rather than water-based, as the oil will create a protective layer on the skin that retains more moisture than a cream or lotion. (Hint: Many lotions labeled as "night creams" are oil-based.)



MOISTURIZE MORE CONTINUED...

But choose your oils with care because not all oils are appropriate for the face. Instead, look for "nonclogging" oils, like avocado oil, mineral oil, primrose oil, or almond oil. Shea oil -- or butter -- is controversial, because it can clog facial pores. And vegetable shortening, LaPlante says, is a

really bad idea. "It would just sit on the skin," she says. "And it would be really greasy."

You can also look for lotions containing "humectants," a class of substances (including glycerine, sorbitol, and alpha-hydroxy acids) that attract moisture to your skin.

SLATHER ON THE SUNSCREEN



No, sunscreen isn't just for summertime. Winter sun -- combined with snow glare -- can still damage your skin. Try applying a broad-spectrum sunscreen to your face and your hands (if they're exposed) about 30 minutes before going outside. Reapply frequently if you stay outside a long time.

GIVE YOUR HANDS A HAND

The skin on your hands is thinner than on most parts of the body and has fewer oil glands. That means it's harder to keep your hands moist, especially in cold, dry weather. This can lead to itchiness and cracking. Wear gloves when you go outside; if you need to wear wool to keep your hands warm, slip on a thin cotton glove first, to avoid any irritation the wool might cause.

AVOID WET GLOVES AND SOCKS

Wet socks and gloves can irritate your skin and cause itching, cracking, sores, or even a flare-up of eczema.

HOOK UP THE HUMIDIFIER

Central heating systems (as well as space heaters) blast hot dry air throughout our homes and offices. Humidifiers get more moisture in the air, which helps prevent your skin from drying out. Place several small humidifiers throughout your home; they help disperse the moisture more evenly.



HYDRATE FOR YOUR HEALTH, NOT FOR YOUR SKIN

If you've heard it once, you've heard it a thousand times: Drinking water helps your skin stay young looking. In fact, it's a myth. Water is good for your overall health and "the skin of someone who is severely dehydrated will benefit from fluids. But the average person's skin does not reflect the amount of water being drunk," Kenneth Bielinski, MD, a dermatologist in Oak Lawn, Ill., tells WebMD "It's a very common misconception."

LaPlante agrees. "I see clients at the spa who drink their 10

10 Winter Skin Care Tips

ILICA LADIES PAGE



to 12 glasses of water a day and still have superdry skin. It just doesn't do that much."

GREASE UP YOUR FEET

Yes, those minty foot lotions are lovely in the hot summer months, but during the winter, your feet need stronger stuff. Try finding lotions that contain petroleum jelly or glycerine instead. And use exfoliants to get the dead skin off periodically; that helps any moisturizers you use to sink in faster and deeper.



PACE THE PEELS

If your facial skin is uncomfortably dry, avoid using harsh peels, masks, and alcohol-based toners or astringents, all of which can strip vital oil from your skin. Instead, find a cleansing milk or mild foaming cleanser, a toner with no alcohol, and masks that are "deeply hydrating," rather than clay-based, which tends to draw moisture out of the face. And use them a little less often.



BAN SUPERHOT BATHS

Sure, soaking in a burning-hot bath feels great after frolicking out in the cold. But the intense heat of a hot shower or bath actually breaks down the lipid barriers in the skin, which can lead to a loss of moisture. "You're better off with just warm water," LaPlante advises, "and staying in the water a shorter amount of time."

A lukewarm bath with oatmeal or baking soda, can help relieve skin that is so dry it has become itchy, Bielinski notes. So, too, can periodically reapplying your moisturizer. If those techniques don't work, go see a dermatologist. "You may need a prescription lotion to combat the dry skin," Bielinski says. "Or you may have a condition that isn't simply dry skin and that requires different treatment."

SOURCES: *Bonnie LaPlante, esthetician, Canyon Ranch Resort, Lenox, Mass. David Voron, MD, Arcadia, Calif. Kenneth Bielinski, MD, Oak Lawn, Ill. Mayo Clinic: "Dry Skin." American Academy of Dermatology: "EczemaNet: Winter Skin Care Guidelines."*

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10 HOUR OSHA WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

February 26 - 27, 2015 - Ashland House Best Western

201 E. Ashland Street, Morton, IL 61550



- CEU's On All Sessions ▪ Full Workshop & Additional Attendee Discounts ▪ Lunch/Breaks Provided each day
- 10 Hour OSHA begins 9 am Thursday, February 26th and concludes at noon, Friday, February 27th
- Certified Flagger Training begins at 1 pm, Friday February 27th.

Pre-Registration Workshop Fees - ILICA Members		
	<i>1st Attendee</i>	<i>Additional</i>
Full Registration for all Sessions:	\$175	\$125
Session Pricing		
10 Hour OSHA	\$120	\$100
Certified Flagger Training	\$ 75	\$ 65
After February 18, 2015 or On-Site Registration		
	<i>1st Attendee</i>	<i>Additional</i>
Full Registration for all Sessions:	\$200	\$180
Session Pricing		
10 Hour OSHA	\$150	\$125
Certified Flagger Training	\$100	\$ 95

Pre-Registration Workshop Fees - Non-ILICA Members		
	<i>1st Attendee</i>	<i>Additional</i>
Full Registration for all Sessions:	\$300	\$275
Session Pricing		
10 Hour OSHA	\$225	\$200
Certified Flagger Training	\$125	\$100
After February 18, 2015 or On-Site Registration		
	<i>1st Attendee</i>	<i>Additional</i>
Full Registration for all Sessions:	\$300	\$275
Session Pricing		
10 Hour OSHA	\$250	\$225
Certified Flagger Training	\$190	\$175

Yes, I will attend the 10 Hour OSHA Training and/or Certified Flagger Training Session

Certified 10 Hour OSHA Training (*day 1-2*)
 Certified Flagger Training (*afternoon, day 2*)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip _____

Company Name: _____ Email: _____

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: \$ _____

A hotel block is available at the Ashland House for the standard double or king room. Our rate is \$89.99 but you might try your CLC card too ... see which is more economical. Call (309) 263-5116 and mention "Illinois Land Improvement" to use the block rate. Please make your reservations before February 23rd to make sure you get a room. There shouldn't be a problem with the hotel filling up, but you never know.

And what would you rather do? ... get up and walk through a warm hotel to training, or ... go outside in February, start your car, scrape the windows, get in a cold car and then drive 3 blocks to a training? ☺



10 HOUR OSHA WORKSHOP AGENDA

February 26 - 27, 2015 - Ashland House Best Western

201 E. Ashland Street, Morton, IL 61550



OSHA 10 Hour Training Agenda Thursday, February 26th

- 9 - 11 am Introduction to OSHA (2 hours)
- 11 - 11:10 am Break
- 11:10 - 12:30 pm Fall Protection (1 hour 20 minutes)
- 12:30 - 1 pm Lunch
- 1 - 2 pm Electrical (1 hour)
- 2 - 2:30 pm Stairways & Ladders (30 minutes)
- 2:30 - 3 pm Identifying Health Hazards (30 minutes)
- 3 - 3:15 pm Break
- 3:15 - 3:45 pm Personal Protective Equipment (30 minutes)
- 3:45 - 4:15 pm Material Handling (30 minutes)
- 4:15 - 5 pm Emergency Action Plan (45 minutes)

Dinner is on-your-own but there is a restaurant / bar in the hotel and many others close-by as well.

OSHA 10 Hour Training Agenda Friday, February 27th

- 8 - 9 am Caught-in-between (1 hour)
- 9 - 10 am Struck by (1 hour)
- 10 - 10:10 am Break
- 10:10 am - Noon Excavating/Trenching/Jobsite Awareness (1 hour 50 minutes)
- Total Classroom Time: 10 hours 55 minutes
- Noon - 12:45 pm Lunch

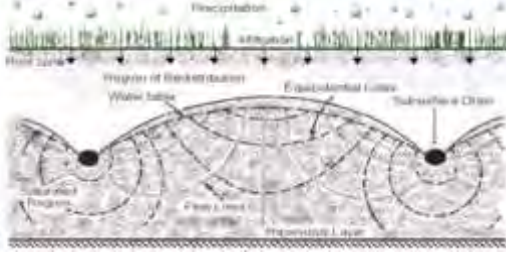
Certified Flagger Training Friday, February 27th

- 1 - 4 pm Certified Flagger Training including:
 - Classroom
 - Hands-on
 - Testing
- Short Break Included

OSHA 10-Hour Certification Topics

The following is a list and brief explanation of what is discussed at this 10-hour course. This is a strict 10-hour course over a 2 day time frame.

- Introduction to OSHA
 - This is a breakdown of safety history, what is OSHA, fines/violations, requirements, and what to do if OSHA shows up on the jobsite.
- OSHA Focus Four Hazards
 - ◆ Fall Protection - safeguards and how to identify fall hazards
 - ◆ Electrical - identifying electrical hazards at the jobsite, what to look for, how to avoid and general electricity training
 - ◆ Struck by - jobsite awareness, staying out of harms way
 - ◆ Caught-in-between - confined space awareness, rules & regulations for confined space entry and work orders
- Stairways & Ladders - Proper use of ladders at the construction site and shop locations. Identifying safeguards for stairways and making sure they are safe to use.
- Identifying Health Hazards - Targeting noise levels and chemical/gas awareness at the jobsite. Also includes weather related injuries or illness and other emergency action plans that show up at the jobsite
- Personal Protective Equipment - Identifying the need and proper use of gloves, shoes, hearing protection, glasses, etc.
- Material Handling - Proper use of chemicals, including clean up and storage. This includes all sprays, cleaners, diesels and paints
- Excavating/Trenching/Jobsite Awareness - Proper rules associated with digging, including soil types and benching/sloping practices. Addressing who is a competent person and what a competent person needs to know. Other OSHA rules and regulations that address the jobsite specifically.



The Extension Connection

Erosion and Sediment Control Research and Training Facility Devoted to Preserving Natural Resources

Source: Rabin Bhattarai

Land development and construction projects, including road construction, are primary sources of soil erosion in Illinois and can have adverse impacts to the environment, such as water pollution, habitat loss for fish and wildlife, and increased flooding. As part of its goal to increase sustainability through environmental conservation, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) teamed with the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering of the University of Illinois, Illinois Center for Transportation (ICT), and the Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (CERL) of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to construct a research and training facility research focused on stormwater management, soil erosion control, and sediment control.

The project, "R27-054 Stormwater Pollution, Erosion, and Sediment Control Products Demonstration and Training Center," began in early 2009 and was originally funded by a \$450,000 grant from IDOT. The initial site construction was completed later that year with in-kind contributions from the Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association (ILICA). The Erosion and Sediment

Control Training and Research Center (ESCTRC) has a field research and demonstration site on five acres at the South Farms of the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. A dirt berm 300 feet long and 13 feet high is the focal point of the facility (Figure 1). The berm's slope is three-to-one on the front side and two-to-one on the back side. There are three ditches at the base of the berm that drain into a small pond along with a pump.

One purpose of the site is to evaluate erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs). Four erosion plots, runoff collection structures, and a portable rainfall simulator were designed and calibrated to evaluate hill slope erosion control on the berm. Three different types of erosion control blankets (SC-150, DS-75 and Curlex I) were evaluated along with a bare control plot and their results were compared (Figure 2). The three blankets evaluated showed similar sediment concentration in the samples collected during testing, and signifi-



Figure 1. The field research and demonstration site shown in this aerial view includes an earthen berm, a detention pond, and three channels of varying configurations.



Figure 2. Erosion control plots at the ESCTRC testing site.

cantly smaller than the sediment concentration obtained from the control plot. The results of the erosion control blanket experiments revealed that these products are an

Erosion and Sediment Control Research and Training Facility Devoted to Preserving Natural Resources

CONT.

efficient control measure to ameliorate the effects of erosion and sediment transport on disturbed lands.

Five demonstration vegetation plots with different cover practices (Hydroseed-mulch, hydroseed, compost, mulch and bare) for a native-grass seed mixture were implemented and monitored to evaluate their performance (Figure 3). Preliminary results indicated that the compost and mulch covers led to greater vegetation establishment than either hydromulch treatment. The establishment of the research site has provided insights into appropriate strategies for the field evaluation of erosion control and sediment control BMPs, and will continue to allow any related products to be objectively and quantitatively evaluated under locally relevant conditions.



Figure 3. Five demonstration vegetation plots with different cover practices (Hydroseed-mulch, hydroseed, compost, mulch and bare, from left to right)

A demonstration of different check-dam series was performed in the channels, and various flow conditions were used to explore evaluation methodology. After completing the testing protocol development, three ditch check products (Sediment Logs, Triangular Silt Dike and GeoRidge) were evaluated and their results were compared for different flow conditions. The results obtained revealed that the Triangular Silt Dike product performed significantly better than the other two products tested (Figure 4). Similarly, GeoRidge performed better than the Sediment Logs for higher flows; both products had a similar performance for medium and low flow rates in terms

of sediment retention. It was also observed that products that allowed for better ground contact were more effective on sediment retention.



Figure 4. Evaluation of Triangular Silt Dike ditch check

The ESCTRC also has a classroom to provide training to IDOT contractors, inspectors, and designers on stormwater management plans and the proper installation, use, and evaluation of erosion and sediment control methods and products. Under IDOT policy D&E 23—Erosion and Sediment Control Training, these classes will be required beginning January 1, 2015, for IDOT staff and consultants who oversee projects subject to National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. The courses are also available to others interested in erosion and sediment control and stormwater management best practices (Figure 5). Three training modules are offered.

The first module addresses the fundamentals of hydrology and soil erosion, related laws and regulations, available BMPs and a short overview of inspection practices. This class is designed to assist those individuals working under IDOT's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits to remain in compliance with the General Permits issued by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). This class has been offered multiple times in 2011 and 2012 to several groups. The main objective of module 2 is to examine the erosion and sediment control design process to develop erosion and sediment control plan and stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) using classroom instruction and examples. The

Erosion and Sediment Control Research and Training Facility Devoted to Preserving Natural Resources

CONT.

class activities includes design-process discussion, filling out the SWPPP using an example project with IDOT's Bureau of Design and Environment (BDE) Manual Form 2342, developing a basic design for the IL47 project, and discussing BMP practices. The third module provides a more detailed overview of the inspection and maintenance aspects of construction projects. The main objectives of this class are to provide regulatory requirements for the inspection and compliance of stormwater BMPs, to provide foundation knowledge for inspectors for identifying correct installation and maintenance of stormwater BMPs, and to familiarize the attendees with BMP maintenance requirements. Class schedules and registration information are on the ICT website (http://ict.illinois.edu/Training/erosion_workshop.aspx).



Figure 5. Participants in a training class take part in a field demonstration.

To view the complete project report for R27-054, visit ict.illinois.edu and click "Research" on the menu at the top of the page. This project was conducted by the Illinois Center for Transportation, a research partnership between IDOT and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The role of drainage in the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy will be addressed in the next issue.

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Envision Insurance Group would like to announce the addition of **Dawn Thurston** to our personnel located at the 300 East War Memorial Drive location in Peoria. Dawn is licensed in all lines of insurance & specializes in Personal Insurance exposures. She has over 24 years experience in the insurance marketplace and earned the **Certified Insurance Services Representative (CISR)** designation in 2012. Dawn can be reached at (309) 685-6606.



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ILICA EXHIBITS AT O.W.P.I. CONFERENCE FOR A SECOND YEAR

Last February, ILICA exhibited and sponsored lunch at the On-Site Waste Professionals of Illinois (OWPI) conference in Collinsville Illinois in an additional effort to get ILICA's logo in front of this group. The organization was well received, gained two new members and the confidence to continue chipping away at this segment of the industry.

After a very successful training session at the January ILICA convention that provided the 3 CEU's required for licensed septic contractors in Illinois, the membership committee headed to Collinsville to exhibit at the OWPI conference for a second year.



ILICA sponsored lunch again as well, as can be seen on the tent card on the table in the photo above. The ILICA logo is proudly displayed on every dining table, getting the association name in front of all attendees.

Prins Insurance shipped the beautiful standing banner seen in the photo to the left to the ILICA office to be used for this show and Sam Parrott of Gallagher-Heiser joined Wayne in the booth to provide detailed information regarding the UFG – state LICA insurance program to attendees.

We thank Steve Johnson and Rich Maquire who are also ILICA members, for all their hard work coordinating this convention and trade show. *And we hope to hear from the contacts made or revisited during this event.*



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- 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)

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NRCS SIGN-UP: 2015 CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM GENERAL SIGN UP



Source: Paige Buck, Public Affairs Officer - USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) announced that funds will be available this year through the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Although NRCS accepts applications all year, agricultural producers and forest landowners should submit applications by Feb. 27, 2015 to ensure they are considered for this year's funding. Applications received after that date will be considered for future funding.

"CSP offers an incentive for agricultural producers and private forest landowners who maintain a high level of conservation on their land and agree to adopt higher levels of stewardship," said Ivan Dozier, State Conservationist of USDA's NRCS. "By focusing on multiple resource concerns, producers can achieve a sustainable landscape and maintain or increase the productivity of their operation."

Through CSP, participants take additional conservation steps to improve resource conditions on their land, including soil, air and habitat quality, water quality and quantity, and energy conservation. Dozier said CSP producers are conservation leaders, showing how science-based conservation and technological advancements can improve the environment and farming operations at the same time.

FAA EASES BARRIER TO COMMERCIAL DRONE USE

The US regulator grants another exemption to its ban on commercial drone use -- this time to oil refineries for monitoring flare stacks.

Using drones for business purposes just got a smidgen less illegal in the United States.

The Federal Aviation Administration announced on Tuesday new exemptions permitting five companies to operate their unmanned aircraft. The move marks an expansion of the uses the FAA permits and helps to set a pattern for other companies seeking the regulator's permission.

Drones, held aloft with multiple helicopter-like rotors and often equipped with a camera, are a hot technology item. Hobbyists have been snapping them up as a new aerial cousin to remote-controlled cars and boats. The FAA prohibits business use of the aircraft for the time being, though there's abundant demand to do everything from monitor construction sites or assist in marine salvage operations.

The FAA is gradually loosening up, though. In September, the FAA granted exemptions to drones in the movie and video industry; later came exemptions for real estate photography, agricultural monitoring and aerial surveying. Now

The 2014 Farm Bill brought changes to CSP, including an expanded conservation activity list that offers participants more choice and more options to meet their conservation needs and address natural resource issues on their land. These conservation activities, called enhancements, include cover crops, intensive rotational grazing and prairie restoration, among others.

"CSP is a great addition to our conservation toolbox for stewardship-minded producers here in Illinois. They get rewarded for the great practices they already use and they can work with new options to take things a step further," Dozier said.

Interested producers should submit applications to their local NRCS office. As part of the CSP application process, applicants will work with NRCS field personnel to complete a resource inventory of their land. The inventory helps determine their conservation performance for existing and new conservation activities. Each applicant's conservation performance will be used to determine eligibility, ranking and payments. Producers can use the CSP self-screening checklist to learn if the program is suitable for their operation. The checklist highlights basic information about CSP eligibility requirements, stewardship threshold requirements, and different payment types.

by Stephen Shankland - www.cnet.com

another industry has been added to the list with an exemption that lets a company called Total Safety inspect flare stacks, the large towers used in the petrochemical industry sites like oil refineries to burn off undesired gases. Getting humans to the tops of these stacks is expensive, but drones can do it cheaply and even when the stack is operating. The other exemptions were for companies in categories the FAA had already started permitting: surveying and video for the entertainment industry.

The FAA's decisions will help determine how rapidly drones are embraced for business purposes -- and whether the drone industry takes its next, more ambitious steps in the United States at all.

Among the more contentious cases is e-commerce giant Amazon, which so far hasn't prevailed in its quest for an exemption and which is threatening to move its drone delivery research to another country. Google's drone delivery research project is taking place in Australia.



Continued on page 22 ...

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Illinois

10-Hour OSHA & Certified Flagger Training
 Ashland House Best Western, Morton, IL
 February 26 - 27, 2015
 Feb. 26th - 10 Hour OSHA - 9 am - 5 pm
 Feb. 27th - 10 Hour OSHA - 8am - Noon
 Feb. 27th - Certified Flagger Training 1 - 4 pm

National

2015 National LICA Summer Meeting
 Little Rock, Arkansas
 July 13 - 17, 2015

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March 8th Board Meeting
 Directions:
Jubilee Café; 7203 N. Kickapoo-Edwards Rd,
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THE IMPORTANCE OF BUILDING A SAFETY CULTURE



Of course workplace safety is important to you. But how important is it to your employees? If you don't know, it may be time to evaluate the safety culture at your business and think about what you can do to improve it.

What is a Safety Culture?

A safety culture is the shared beliefs, practices and mindsets that shape behavior at an organization in a positive way.

A safety culture sets the standard for overall safety at your company. For example, if the head chef at your restaurant carries knives blade-up while walking through the kitchen, that tells the rest of the kitchen staff that safe knife handling is not a priority and that they can carry a knife any way they choose. This unsafe behavior is perpetuated by new employees who think this is an acceptable thing to do.

But if the head chef is diligent about health and safety in the kitchen (and always carries knives close to his or her side with the blade down), that attitude will influence the rest of the staff and create a culture of safety.

Why Should I Implement a Safety Culture?

According to OSHA, an established safety culture can reduce your injury and illness costs by 20 to 40 percent. When it comes to the costs associated with safety, consider these statistics from OSHA:

- Employers pay almost \$1 billion per week for direct workers' compensation costs alone, which comes straight out of company profits.
- Injuries and illnesses increase workers' compensation and retraining costs.
- Lost productivity from injuries and illnesses costs companies roughly \$63 billion each year.
- If you have high workers' compensation costs or your premium increases every year, analyzing the effectiveness of your company's safety culture is a good way to start controlling these costs.



How Can I Motivate My Employees to Care?

You can motivate your employees to care about safety by tying it directly to compensation or incentives. Reward employees who err on the side of safety over efficiency. But make sure you understand the difference between reward and recognition—you don't want employees doing something just because they know they'll get something tangible in return.

A strong safety culture with appropriate recognition and rewards will inspire employees to look out for one another and point out unsafe behaviors or situations. Everyone will feel responsible for safety and pursue it on a daily basis by going beyond the "call of duty" to identify unsafe conditions and behaviors, and to intervene to correct them.

Where Do I Start?

Your first step to promoting a safety culture is to contact your insurance agency's risk management department and ask them to help you develop a safety culture plan. Or contact Prins Insurance Inc. for information about the state LICA-UFG Insurance Program.

Discussion Date: _____

Employee Participants

Source: Zywave Inc.

THE ILICA SUMMER PICNIC HAS MOVED SOUTH!



There has been a plan for several months now to take the competitive ILICA contractors to a go-kart track near Steve and Stuart Anderson for the June picnic and member meeting, however, Steve found out that they can't accommodate a group of our size ... so "Plan B" had to be developed. During the January convention, Norm Kocher volunteered to take on the task of finding a place in his area for an alternate site.

Norm went to work immediately after getting home from convention and has most of the details lined up already. The meeting and picnic will be held at a local winery with tours planned for downtown Vincennes and the Indiana Military Museum. The exact times and order of events is still being determined but there will be plenty to do for all who attend.

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

The hotel offers a few 2 queen bedroom suites with a sofa bed as well, complete with kitchen, separate living room and 3 flatscreen TV's. The rate for these rooms is \$129+ but there are only a few available.



IS THIS A WONDERFUL FAMILY ... OR WHAT?

Everyone knows how supportive the ILICA family is when there is a need of any kind. It's actually how the doors are kept open in a not-for-profit organization such as this, but sometimes, the generosity of this group really shines.

It has been published for quite some time now that Judy Beyers was making a t-shirt quilt from ILICA members' business shirts that were donated to her during this year to raise money for the ladies activities. As first lady, Judy takes the ladies committee chair position this year and started off by completing the beautiful quilt pictured to the right shortly before convention.

What many might not know, is that this task was not done by Judy's hands alone. Her good friend and second mom, LouAnn Shaffer, helped Judy with the quilting but two days after they completed the quilt, LouAnn passed away, making this quilt a very special item for Judy.

Despite the fact that the quilt now represented many of the final hours Judy had spent with LouAnn, it was destined

for a purpose and was proudly displayed at the conventions' opening night auction. Judy wanted everyone to know how much LouAnn was a part of this colorful quilt, which she mentioned to the crowd just before it was auctioned off.

But even though Judy was willing to let the quilt go, she still hoped that someone she could count on to take care of it properly would purchase the quilt. Sure enough, Steve Baker of Springfield Plastics won the bid with a generous donation, but three days later, it arrived via UPS at the Beyers' home. Thanks to Steve Baker, the ILICA ladies have a healthy fund for next year's activities and Judy has this wonderful quilt that she can cherish along with the memories of working on it so many hours with her dear friend.

This is just another example of the "random acts of kindness" the ILICA family shares with each other. "Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom." (Luke 6:38) Just count the blessings that have come from this one quilt; the love and joy of true friendship, the generosity of spirit that offers a precious gift for the benefit of others ... the kindness that returns it to that willing soul. Is this a wonderful family or what?

STATEMENT FROM SECRETARY VILSACK ON FISCAL YEAR 2016 BUDGET PROPOSAL



WASHINGTON, February 2, 2015

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today made the following statement on the proposed Fiscal Year 2016 budget:

"President Obama's 2016 Budget is designed to bring middle class economics into the 21st century. The budget proposal achieves reforms and results for the American taxpayer, modernizes critical infrastructure, supports the research and innovation required to build resilience in the face of a changing climate, and creates a pathway towards continued growth and prosperity in rural America.

"The budget continues to fund programs that, since 2009, have helped more than 900,000 families buy or refinance a home; improved or constructed more than 158,000 miles of electric line; brought clean drinking water and better waste water management to 15.7 million rural residents; and provided grants and loans to assist more than 89,000 rural businesses, creating or saving more than 418,000 jobs. Collectively, these investments support stable communities and create jobs in rural America.

"To empower hardworking Americans as they transition out of nutrition assistance programs, we have invested in programs that build the skills they need to get a good paying job while increasing access to fresh, healthy foods as they work towards self-sufficiency. The budget also supports programs that give children the nutrition they need to learn and grow, including expanded resources to promote the use of MyPlate and help schools upgrade outdated kitchen equipment as they continue to provide healthy school meals with more whole grains, fruits, vegetables, lean protein and low-fat dairy, and less sodium and fat. The budget also continues efforts to increase

breastfeeding rates among low-income women.

"The 2016 budget fosters innovation and advances technologies that address climate change vulnerability, improve pollinator health, combat antimicrobial resistance, encourage the development of renewable energy, and support the efficiency, sustainability and profitability of America's farmers and ranchers, particularly those just starting out.

"The budget again proposes a new approach to wildland fire suppression. It will treat severe wildfires like other natural disasters that can draw on emergency funding, rather than raiding other critical programs, like forest restoration and management, research and other activities that help manage our forests and reduce future catastrophic wildfire.

"USDA's Blueprint for Stronger Service has saved the American taxpayer a total of \$1.368 billion while ensuring that taxpayers receive the best possible service. The budget builds off those efforts by strengthening program integrity and increasing resources to support USDA's aggressive actions to root out waste, fraud and abuse. It proposes the consolidation of certain programs in order to cut costs while improving their effectiveness.

"The 2016 budget, along with programs authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill, is a strong investment in the men and women living, working and raising families in rural America. Building on the successes of the past six years, the budget supports rural communities that are more innovative, competitive and resilient in the long run, which benefits every American, no matter where they live."

FAA EASES BARRIER TO COMMERCIAL DRONE USE

Continued from page 18 ...

Later this year, the FAA plans to release draft regulations for comment that would permit broad use of relatively lightweight drones weighing less than 55 pounds. Until those regulations are done - a September deadline seems improbable in the eyes of many observers - the only way to get permission is through specific exemptions under regulation Section 333.

So far, the FAA has granted two dozen exemptions, and this month it also loosened restrictions for two granted last year. As the FAA adds more exemptions, it in effect sets a template for other petitioners who want an exemption by showing requirements like flying altitude limits and pilot licensing for drone operators. More recent exemptions also opened the door for mainstream drones such as drone maker DJI's Phantom models.

The floodgates haven't exactly opened, though, and

offering broader drone regulations is a tricky task, FAA spokesman Les Dorr said. The agency has been working since 2009 on "writing a rule that's going to maintain today's extremely high level of safety but won't put undue regulatory burden on an evolving industry," he said.

The agency had planned to publish its draft regulations in 2014 but missed that deadline. After they are published, the agency plans a 60-day public comment period, then some time to consider those comments and potentially update the regulations in response.

As for Amazon, perhaps the highest-profile drone advocate, Dorr said it's possible the regulator could come to some kind of accommodation under the current exemption process.

"We are working with them to figure out what sort of authorization would work best with them," Dorr said.



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