



## Land Improvement Contractors Of America · Illinois Chapter

*September-October 2016*

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## DRAINAGE WORKSHOP HAS SOMETHING FOR ALL EXPERIENCE LEVELS

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## NATIONAL LICA SUMMER CONVENTION TURNS UP THE HEAT!

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- ▶ Extension Connection: New Multi-State “Transforming Drainage” Project Envisions the Future of Drainage (page 12-13)
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Illinois LICA  
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Brimfield, IL 61517

Upcoming Events:

TWI Wetland Project/  
Conservation Expo  
**Bonucci Farms: Princeton**  
**August 27-September 2, 2016**

Board of Directors Meeting  
**ILICA Office: Brimfield**  
**September 10, 2016 - 2 PM**

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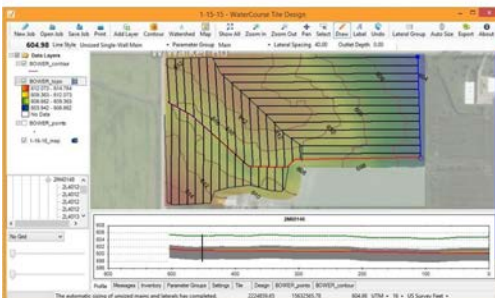


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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Since our last newsletter ILICA has been busy. On July 13th several of us directors, Ryan and Steve Baker met with Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association representatives including Jean Payne, Dan Schaefer and several of their directors. The meeting included an update on

Tile Effluent Nitrate research results presented by the University of Illinois Dr. Lowell Gentry and Dr. Robert Hoeft. Some results are interesting but bottom line there is still significant Nitrate concentrations leaving the farm fields via drainage tile. I think both organizations thought the meeting was productive and positive. We agreed to continue to collaborate and promote responsible crop production and responsible tile installation and edge of field BMPs.

We have reached agreement with Wetlands Initiative, Inc. to construct the Bonnucci wetland starting construction on August 29 or maybe as early as the 27th. We plan to complete that project before the Labor Day weekend. Every one of our members is welcome and invited to help with this project. We have never had too many workers on a project yet. There always seems to be something to do.

We also have a tentative date, September 20th to install tile for Corn Growers near Blue Mound. This design calls for a new main, laterals on 40' spacing and some 36 control boxes. Lots of good hands also needed here. Contact Ryan at the ILICA office for more detail.

Bill and Bev Dean, Meadowview Golf Course and Associates hosted a great Golf Outing June 24th and the Summer Picnic June 25th, which included a Backhoe rodeo hosted by Birkey's CaseIH at Bill Dean's shop. Everyone had a great time. Summer member meeting was held that afternoon. Thank You to all the Associate members and Nordis, Region IV VP, who participated in the golf outing and supported the two events.

In late July ILICA had good representation at the summer National meeting in Kansas City. MLICA hosted an excel-

lent week of events, weather was hot but most of us braved the heat to attend the tours and an evening Royal's game. Our seats were nicely located with a breeze; fun game to watch with home runs, double plays, stolen bases and an impressive post game fireworks display. The formal meetings were productive, current issues continue to be discussed and Jerry Buiso is still working on the septic system protection plan. This plan has potential to be an excellent program exclusively offered and administered by LICA members. Watch for developments of this program.

The education committee, Ryan, and Lauri hosted a well-attended and well received August Drainage workshop. The agenda included tile drainage updates and edge of field BMPs, developments in technology including a drone demo, and ILICA certification review and testing. I have received positive comments on the workshop from the attendees. It's always nice to have the opportunity to visit with some of our partners who were presenters. Thank You to all the facilitators for your willingness to help us with the workshop.

On a more sober note, we just recently learned of the passing of one of our friends from Iowa, Steve Miller, former National President. Please keep the Miller family in our thoughts and prayers.

Tom Beyers, President

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**Welcome!**

**Thank You!**

## 2016 Board & Member Meeting Schedule

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

**September 10, 2016** - Regular Meeting of the Board:  
 ILICA Office, Brimfield

**November 5, 2016** - Regular Meeting of the Board: TBD

**January 13, 2017** - Winter Convention and Member Mtg.:  
 Meeting, Embassy Suites, East Peoria

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

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## 2016 Board Member Meeting Attendance

	A = absent		P = present			C = cancelled meeting	
Area / Director	Jan	Mar	May	Jun	Sep	Nov	
<b>Pres:</b> Tom Beyers	P	P	P	P			
<b>VP:</b> Lee Bunting	P	A	P	P			
<b>1st VP:</b> Grant Curtis	P	P	P	P			
Area 1 - Brian Brooks	P	P	P	P			
Area 2 - Steve Anderson	P	P	P	P			
Area 2 - Stuart Anderson	P	P	P	P			
Area 3 - Mike Yordy	P	A	A	A			
Area 3 - Joe Streitmatter	P	P	P	P			
Area 4 - David Kennedy	P	P	A	P			
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Area 5 - <b>Vacant</b>							
Area 6 - Jon Seevers	P	P	P	P			
Area 7 - <b>Vacant</b>							
Area 8 - Norm Kocher	P	A	P	P			
Associate Dir: Brad Baker	P	P	A	A			

# DRAINAGE WATER MANAGEMENT FUNDING OPPORTUNITY VIA RCPP ASSISTANCE



## S.C.A.R.C DRAINAGE WATER MANAGEMENT ON SYSTEM TILE

The University of Illinois, Illinois DNR, and USDA-NRCS have recently initiated a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) designed to provide critical habitat to migrating waterfowl and shorebirds through the use of drainage water management. With NRCS funding and our match, it is free to you. Also, if you are willing to hold back the water until mid-April, on any year that works for you (typically on a soy year), we will provide a payment based on the quantity and quality of your field, of up to \$10k for the low areas that are wet. The benefits of Drainage Water Management include giving you control of your water, providing seasonal wildlife habitat, and improving water quality. There is no risk involved since all gates can be pulled at any time.



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# ILICA Ladies Page

Halloween brings out the cool, pumpkins appear on you know it, you've turned a mad scientist's lab.

Every retailer from Macy's offers Halloween costumes party supplies. But while you those animated, life-sized inflatable decorations, you drop hundreds of dollars to Halloween.

Whether you throw a Halloween or just want to impress the hood trick-or-treaters with mansion, you can decorate for Halloween, and still have a impressive house on the block. Most of these craft projects use reclaimed materials or items you already have in your home. You just need a few tools, some supplies, and your imagination to have a spook-tacular Halloween this year.

## Backyard Cemetery

This classic Halloween decoration idea turns your yard into a creepy cemetery. Use reclaimed materials to create a free graveyard. To create your haunted cemetery, cut different shapes out of cardboard and paint them to look like aging tombstones. Once they dry, you can arrange them on the lawn to look like a miniature graveyard.

You can also use the tombstones to denote a haunted pathway for trick-or-treaters. As they approach your front door, they have to pass by the tombstones, making for a thrilling Halloween nighttime walk.

**Directions:** Flatten several shipping boxes.

Use a Sharpie to draw tombstone shapes. I made a few rectangular, cross, and oval tombstones to give my graveyard some variety.

Cut the shapes out of with a pair of scissors.

Paint the shapes a dark grey and allow the paint to dry.

Once dry, add on sayings like "R.I.P" to the front of each tombstone. Glue a wood or plastic yard stake to the back of the tombstone and plant it into the ground.

By using real wood, you can partially waterproof the tombstones, so they last for more than one Halloween season. The project works best if you use thin pieces of composite wood, which you can buy at any home improvement store. The thin pieces are easier to cut and stand up better in the grass.

**Pro Tip:** You can blend white paint onto the edges of the tombstone, or glue on some artificial moss, found at craft stores, to make them look more aged and authentic.



## Haunted Trees

If you have trees in your yard, you can use oven-baked clay to give the trees spooky faces. Simply create a pair of eyes, a nose, and a mouth, and attach them to the trunks.

Stand near the tree and play with the clay to draw even more at the base of the trees.

Use oven-baked modeling clay or a similar brand. You can purchase clay for about \$12 a pound. Use a different color of clay, such as green, to give the face more texture. Use a different color to make each face more unique.

Use a small amount of clay to make shapes for the eyes, nose, and mouth. Use a utility knife to carve out the eyelids or teeth, and bake the faces.

Use a small amount of tape to arrange the face on the tree.

**Pro Tip:** You can purchase a day glaze at most craft stores that prolongs the life of these faces. The glaze adds a protective coating which keeps them safer in the rain.

## Reusable Jack o' Lanterns

Jack o' lanterns are staple Halloween decorations, but some of us would rather not deal with cutting and carving pumpkins every year. Hobby and craft stores sell artificial pumpkins you can carve and light. Best of all, you can store them for next season.



**Directions:** Purchase an artificial pumpkin from a hobby store. They come in several different shapes, colors, and styles, so pick one you think will look best at your front door.

Use an Exacto knife to carve a small hole in the bottom of the pumpkin, and to create a design on the front.

After you finish the design, use a small piece of sandpaper to gently sand down any rough edges.

Place a small flashlight or electric candle in the bottom to make your design glow, and pop your Jack o' Lantern on the front porch.

If you use small reusable jack o' lanterns, you can place them in the windows of your home, to cast an eerie light on your front yard.

**Pro Tip:** If you're not artistically inclined, you can use a stencil to create a Jack o' Lantern design. A few websites offer free stencils you can print.

Places to get free Jack o' Lantern Stencils:

**Celebrating Halloween** has a selection of traditional Halloween designs you can print.

**Stoney Kins** has an eclectic mixture of stencils, offering every-



## ILICA Ladies Page cont.

thing from Cookie Monster to Humphrey Bogart, and they're free to print and use.

**Pumpkin Glow** has a large selection of "un-Halloween" stencils, which includes everything from commercial icons to famous people.

**Better Homes and Gardens** has a large selection of free stencils, ranging from the classics to different breeds of dogs.

### Giant Spiders

You can transform a few black trash bags into a giant spider that fits on your front porch, or up in a tree. You can also make multiple giant spiders and cluster them across the front and sides of your home.

**Directions:** You need nine black trash bags and stuffing such as newspaper, left over packing materials, or even leaves.

Fill one trash bag with stuffing and tie it closed to create the spider's body.

Hold the second trash bag on its side and fill the length with stuffing.

Wrap the empty bag around the stuffing several times, so that it looks like a spider's arm, and secure it with a tie. Repeat this for the other seven legs.

Use a glue gun to secure the legs to the body.

Pro Tip: You can cut off the bottom of Styrofoam cups and glue them onto the body to make eyes.



Giant Spider - WatsCraft

### Ghost-Lit Walkway

If you have a collection of milk jugs in your recycling bin, you can create a ghost-lit walkway that your trick-or-treaters will love. Look online to get inspirations for designing your ghosts' faces. The Scream mask makes an instantly recognizable, scary ghost face that you can easily replicate on your milk jugs.

**Directions:** For this project, you need several milk jugs, some black construction paper, and enough artificial candles to fill the jugs.



Spirit Jugs - eighteen25

Wash and dry each milk jug.

Once dry, use a knife to cut a small hole in the bottom of each jug.

Make ghost faces for each jug by cutting out a pair of eyes, a nose, and a mouth from the black construction paper.

Turn the jug so that the handle faces the back. Glue the faces onto the front of the jug and place an artificial candle inside.

Line the jugs along your walkway and turn the candles on. The jugs light up, illuminating the faces.

Pro Tip: You can also use white Christmas lights to light up the ghosts. Line the ghosts along the pathway, and insert a handful of the string lights inside each jug.

### Halloween Garland



These instructions focus on making a garland with a message, but you have unlimited options when creating your Halloween garland. String paper pumpkins, ghosts, and vampires to make an eerie garland for your party. Use oversized paper cutouts of candy corn, candies, and popcorn for a garland over the snack table.

**Directions:** Decide on a saying for your garland. For example, you can do a simple "Happy Halloween" or "Trick or Treat."

Select a color palette for the paper. If you want an eerie look, black, red, and green work well. If you want a festive look, brown, orange, red, and purple work nicely.

Cut the paper into small squares or triangles, until you have one piece for each letter of your saying.

Use paint markers or a sharpie to draw each letter on to the paper.

Punch a small hole in the top with a hole punch. Slide a paper clip through each hole.

Attach the letters to a long piece of twine.

Hang your garland over a doorway or a mantle.

Pro Tip: You can add decorations between each letter block to give the garland more detail. For example, I wrapped artificial spider webs between the letter blocks on my garland.

### Specimen Jars

With a few leftover glass jars, you can convert a table into a scientist's lab. By tossing just about anything



Specimen Jars - Paper Dolls for Boys

you can imagine into a glass jar with some food coloring, you can quickly create a cheap Halloween decor piece. Look online for craft ideas for fingers, eyeballs, and other body parts to fill your specimen jars. Make the jars and the rest of your decor seem even creepier by using mood lighting. Turn off overhead lights or switch them out with colored light bulbs, to increase the creepiness factor in your home.

**Directions:** Collect a few glass jars in different sizes, such as [mason jars](#), spaghetti jars, or old baby food containers.

Find an object to place in each jar. For example, I popped the head off an old doll and stuck it inside a mason jar.

Wash and dry the jar. Place the object inside.

Fill the jar with water and drop in two drops of food coloring. The food coloring will make the object look like a specimen at a lab.

Pro Tip: Around the Halloween season, hobby stores sell small, plastic party favors. These party favors, including miniature skeletons, eyeballs, and severed limbs, all work well in specimen jars.



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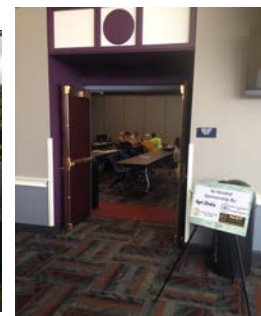
This year's Drainage Workshop covered the basics of Illinois's Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (NLRS) and highlighted many of the end-of-pipe practices, and potential future practices, the NLRS lists as critical players in improving water quality. For some attendees, this was the first introduction to these practices, while for others presentations on the newest research and development provided more insight into the efficiencies and applicability of these practices. Presenters included Dr. Laura Christianson (U of I), Dr. Jill Kostel (TWD), Dr. Ruth Book (NRCS), Paul Sweeney (Ecosystems Exchange Services).

A full day of hands-on drainage design, survey basics & system layout was provided by Dr. Richard Cooke, University of Illinois. This valuable day of training engaged over 30 contractors on proper drainage design in accordance with the IL Drainage Guide, utilizing some of Dr. Cooke's own design tools and other public domain design tools such as Google Earth and QGIS. Joey Schlatter, Schlatter's Inc., also contributed to the design tools training, sharing his expertise on Google Earth and other available in-field and desktop mapping programs.

Lei Tian, U of I, presented on the applicability of drones within agriculture, and specifically the drainage industry, showcasing some of the functionality of drones and the programming associated with their flights and data gathering. Contractors even had the opportunity to fly the drone onsite in an open field near Richland Community College.

As in the past, Dr. Kent Mitchell, University of Illinois, with the assistance of Steve Anderson, Area 2 ILICA Director, reviewed the concepts for the various classifications of the ILICA Certification Program before offering testing on the Core, Conservation, Drainage, Drainage Water Management, and Earthmoving classifications on the final afternoon of the workshop.

Thank you to our workshop sponsors: Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc., Agri Drain Corp., Bower's Great Lakes Inter-Drain, Inc., Illinois Association of Drainage Districts, Martin Equipment of Illinois, Inc., Mid America Trenchers, LLC, Precision Intakes LTD, River Valley Pipe, LLC., Springfield Plastics, Inc., and Tesmec.



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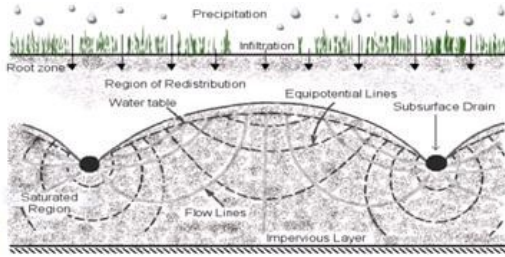


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# The Extension Connection

## New Multi-State “Transforming Drainage” Project Envisions the Future of Drainage

Source: Dr. Laura Christianson, Department of Crop Sciences, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

A recent Google search for images of historic drain tile installations reminded me not only of the long history of drainage in our region, but also of the millions of man-hours that have been invested in our vital drainage networks. Huge technology advances in the drainage industry over the past few decades such as GPS-guided installation equipment, sophisticated computer design software, and perhaps most importantly, polyethylene plastic drainpipe have elevated the practice of drainage to new levels across the Midwest. Reflecting on our history and recent advances naturally compelled me to think about what’s next for drainage in Illinois. What will drainage systems look like in 20, 50, and 100 years, especially considering the new regional emphasis on water quality and potentially more frequent floods and droughts?

A forward-thinking new research and extension project aims to investigate just that question. The USDA-funded

“Transforming Drainage” project addresses the need to provide more secure water for crops throughout the growing season while maintaining adequate drainage during wet periods and limiting nutrient losses from drained fields. The project focuses on practices that store water in the landscape: controlled drainage (AKA, drainage water management; Figure 1), s

ers (Figure 2), and drainage recycling (Figure 3). Another objective, the project specifically strengthen the Midwestern drainage network to advance and coordinate research, extension, and implementation of drainage water storage system and seeks to determine the economic and environmental costs of storing drainage water across the region. The project is a partnership between the University of Illinois, the USDA ARS, University of North Carolina, North Carolina State University, and the University of Missouri. Three participating

**Figure 1.** Controlled drainage (AKA drainage water management) consists of the use of adjustable structures placed in the drainage system that allow the outlet level (or water depth) to be adjusted. Because the water table must rise above the outlet level before drainage will occur, shallower water table depths occur, holding more water in the soil profile. Raising the outlet level during portions of the year when drainage is less critical (for example, during the winter) reduces the overall amount of drain-

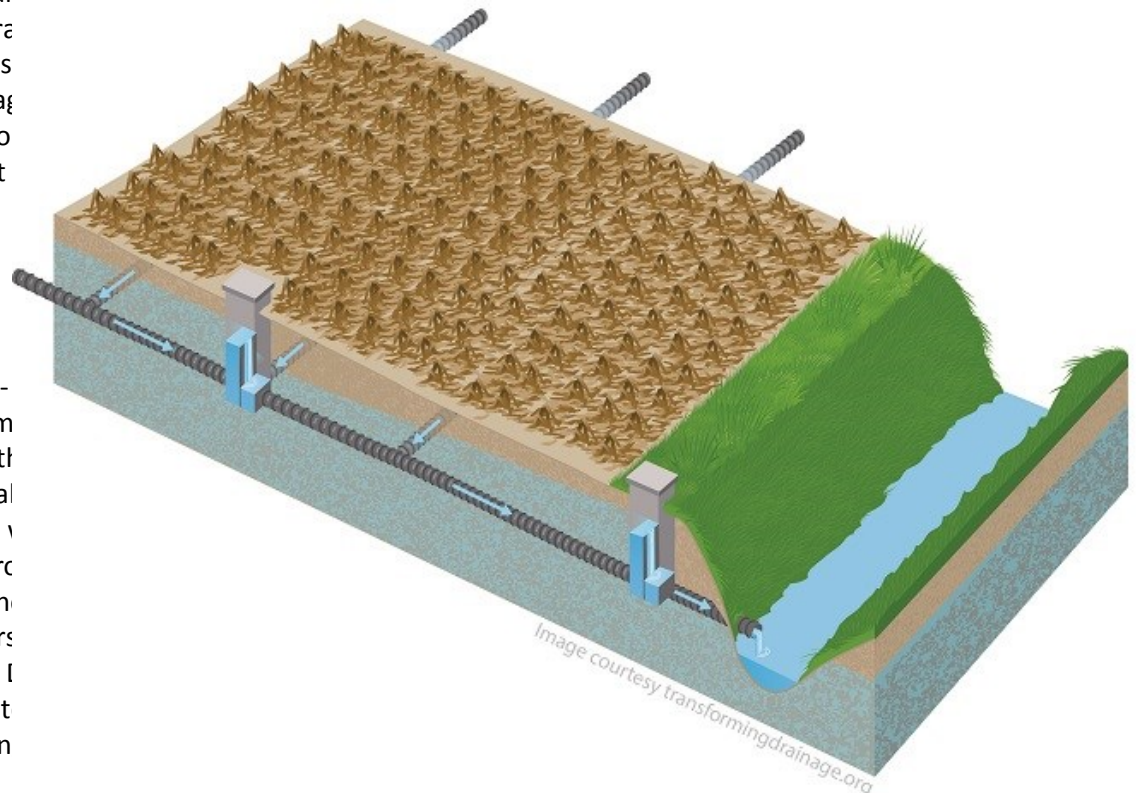


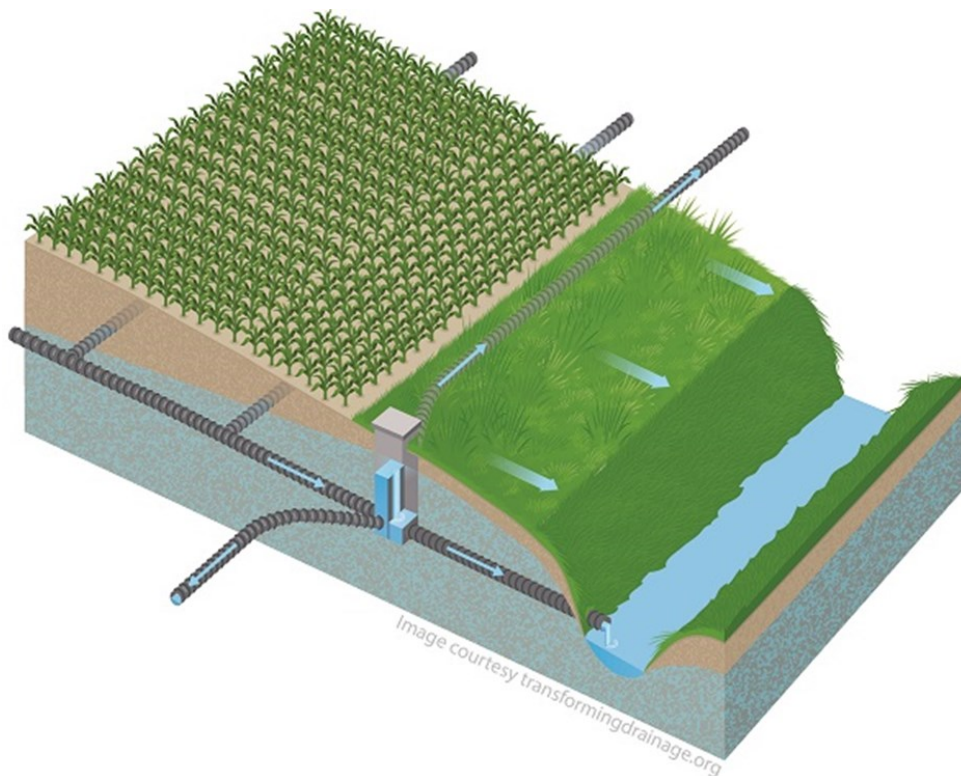
Image courtesy transformingdrainage.org



## New Multi-State “Transforming Drainage” Project Envisions the Future of Drainage *(cont.)*

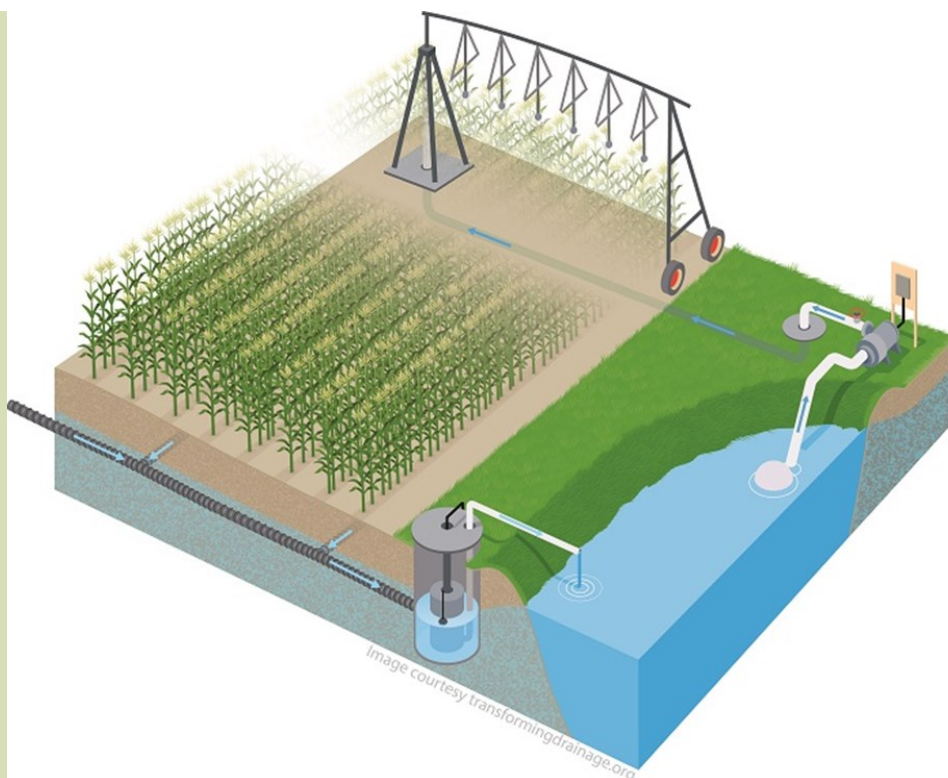
feature the practices of controlled drainage and drainage water recycling using subirrigation.

Stay posted for results from this 5-year regional effort, and please check out the project website for more information and periodic updates: <https://transformingdrainage.org/>



**Figure 2.** A saturated buffer is a modification of the edge-of-field drainage system that allows drainage water to flow as shallow groundwater through the buffer’s soil. A saturated buffer consists of a shallow perforated drain pipe that extends laterally along the riparian buffer and is connected to the drainage main via a control structure. Drainage water seeps from the perforated lateral pipe through the riparian zone where the existing vegetation can uptake both the water and the nitrate in the drainage water. (Figure courtesy TransformingDrainage.org)

**Figure 3.** Drainage water recycling is the practice of storing drainage water in a pond or reservoir, and then returning it to the soil through irrigation during dry periods. Although excess soil water is prevalent during the late winter and spring period in Midwestern agriculture, soil water deficits during the late summer often limit grain production. During these times, having access to the drainage water that was routed away earlier in the season would be advantageous. Thus, this practice can provide a potential crop yield benefit as well as helping to keep nitrate in drainage water from moving downstream. Drainage water recycling can use either surface (shown here) or sub-surface irrigation systems. (Figure courtesy TransformingDrainage.org)



# ILLINOIS RIVER WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT LINKED TO MORE EFFICIENT CORN PRODUCTION

URBANA, Ill. – Good news - the quality of water in the Illinois River has improved in one important aspect. A new study from the University of Illinois reports that nitrate load in the Illinois River from 2010 to 2014 was 10 percent less than the average load in the 1980s and early 1990s.

Reducing the nitrate and phosphorus loads in the Mississippi River by 45 percent is the US EPA's ultimate recommendation. This will serve to reduce the size of the seasonal hypoxic area, or "dead zone," created in the Gulf of Mexico when nitrate in tributaries like the Illinois River flows into the Mississippi River and down to the Gulf. Illinois has developed strategies to achieve these reductions described in the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy. Other Midwestern states have developed similar strategies.

"The recent reduction in nitrate load in the Illinois River is a promising sign," says Greg McIsaac, U of I researcher and lead author of the study. The study was completed last October, before data for 2015 were available. "Now that these data are available, we know that the Illinois River nitrate load from 2011 to 2015 was 15 percent lower than the load measured in the baseline period from 1980 to 1996. This 15 percent reduction is a milestone that the state hoped to achieve for all its rivers by 2025," he says.

In addition to examining trends in nitrate loads and concentrations in the Illinois River from 1976 to 2014, the authors tried to identify reasons for changes in loads and concentrations. One possible source of change considered was nitrate in treated wastewater discharged into the Illinois River by the Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago from 1983 to 2014. The authors also used annual records of fertilizer sales, livestock numbers, and crop yields to calculate residual agricultural nitrogen for each year—that is, the nitrogen made available to crops in fertilizer, manure, and biological fixation, but not ab-

sorbed by the crop or harvested in the grain.

"A significant portion of this residual nitrogen is left in the soil as nitrate and can be washed into the river, primarily through groundwater and subsurface drainage tiles in agricultural fields," McIsaac says.

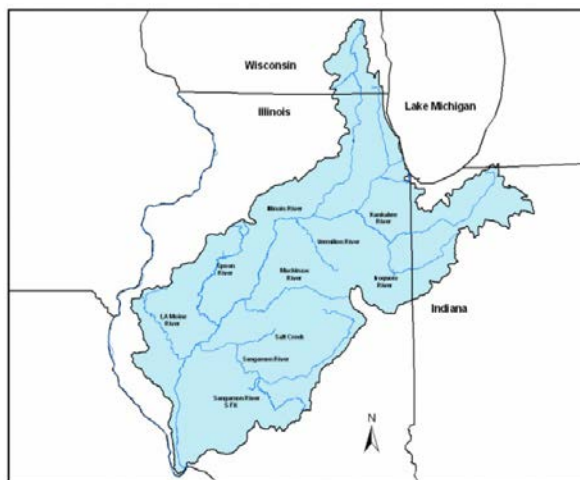


Illinois River at Valley City

Mark David, U of I biogeochemist and co-author of the study, says the residual agricultural nitrogen was highest in the late 1980s, following a major drought and low corn yields in 1988.

"Beginning around 1990, the residual agricultural nitrogen began to decline, most likely due to improved fertilizer management and higher corn yields. Since 1980, the amount of nitrogen fertilizer sold in the watershed remained

relatively constant, but corn yields increased by about 50 percent," David says. "This means that more of the nitrogen fertilizer applied was taken up by the corn and harvested in the grain and less was left in the soil or washed down the river."



Illinois River Watershed

From their analysis of the data, the team found that annual nitrate loads were significantly correlated with river flow, nitrate discharged in Chicago wastewater and residual agricultural nitrogen averaged over a six year window. Nitrate concentrations – the average weight of nitrate in a typical gallon of river water – were also correlated with residual agricultural nitrogen and nitrate discharge from Chicago, but not river flow.

Another one of the study's co-authors, U of I biostatistician

George Gertner, is cautious about the findings. "Although the correlations we found are statistically significant, they are not definitive proof that the reductions in residual agricultural nitrogen or nitrate discharge from Chicago caused changes in nitrate concentrations or loads in the river. The results are, however, strongly suggestive of the connections."

Nitrate loads are strongly influenced by precipitation and river flow which can be highly erratic. "It is promising that nitrate



# ILLINOIS RIVER WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT LINKED TO MORE EFFICIENT CORN PRODUCTION

(CONT.)

loads have declined in recent years despite higher than average river flows. The five-year average river flow from 2007 to 2011 was the highest recorded since the start of measurement in 1939," McIsaac says.

Nitrate concentrations, on the other hand, have declined more consistently since about 1990, which was a period of high concentrations. The reason for the divergence between nitrate concentration and load, explains McIsaac, is that the load is the product of both concentration and river flow and the flow is strongly influenced by precipitation, while concentrations are not. Higher flows allow the river to carry more pounds of nitrate, but it doesn't necessarily change the concentrations.

Whether nitrate concentrations and loads continue to decline in the future depends on several factors, according to the researchers. "If the annual river flows return to their 1976-2005 average values, and if nitrogen fertilizer efficiency remains high or continues to improve, there likely will be a decline in nitrate loads in the Illinois River," David explains. "On the other hand, if river flows remain high, which may be a consequence of climate change, meeting the nitrate reduction goals will likely require more conservation effort than originally proposed."

The study, "Illinois River nitrate-nitrogen concentrations and loads: Long-term variation and association with watershed nitrogen inputs," written by Gregory F. McIsaac, Mark B. David, and George Z. Gertner, is published in the *Journal of Environmental Quality* and available through open access at <https://dl.sciencesocieties.org/publications/jeq/pdfs/0/0/jeq2015.10.0531>.

Data used in the study was provided by the US Geological Survey and the US Department of Agriculture. Partial funding was provided by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA, under Agreement No. 2011-039568-31127.

Source: Reprinted from materials provided by the University of Illinois College of Agricultural, Consumer & Environmental Sciences (Published May 10, 2016)-  
<http://news.acs.illinois.edu/news/illinois-river-water-quality-improvement-linked-to-more-efficient-corn-production>



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# NATIONAL LICA SUMMER CONVENTION TURNS UP THE HEAT!



Scheduled during the hottest heat wave of the year for the Midwest, the National LICA Summer Convention in Kansas City, MO was well attended and full of great speakers, presentations, tours, and activities.

“Impressive” was the word commonly used by tour goers to describe Big Brutus, the largest electric shovel in the world, which started off the tour schedule for National Convention. The following day’s tour included a detailed look at Kansas City’s green infrastructure, designed to minimize rainwater

contributions into the city’s combined sewer system. Flowing right next to the Intercontinental hotel where Convention guests stayed, Brush Creek’s Flood



Control and Beautification Project was another topic of the tour. This project was developed as a direct result of 25 fatalities and millions of dollars worth of property damage from the flood of 1977. This dynamic project allowed the various communities and cities along Brush Creek to tailor their unique funding situation, needs, and wants into the project design, addressing everyone’s concerns. Finally, the Steamboat Arabia Museum gave tour goers a look back in time at general store goods dating back to the 1850s, fully preserved by the Steamboat Arabia that sank in the Missouri River and was buried many feet beneath the surface.

In typical National Convention fashion, the “business” portion of the Convention included a great presentation on a national benefit program provided by LegalShield. Within this program, LICA members have the opportunity to have all the benefits of an attorney “on-call” without the cost. Services including document review, attorney letters, calls, debt collection letters, and trial defense are provided for a nominal fee to contractors based on company size. Other sessions included a look at OSHA forklift certification & requirements, insurance analysis & claim prevention training, drones, and a business session, presented by an attorney, on protecting your assets.

While there is a plethora of great discussion and action coming from every National LICA Committee during Convention (I encourage you to get a copy of committee meeting minutes for more detail), some of the highlights impacting

membership and chapters directly include:

- New National LICA Magazine Design
- National LICA to Establish a Chapter in Colorado
- National Health Program Re-vamped Providing Substantial Cost Savings
- National Septic Warranty Program Almost Finalized
- CONEXPO Discounts on Admission & Education for LICA Members
- National LICA Pinnacle Benefit Coming Soon (similar to previous consumer buying program called Perks)
- National LICA Promoting “The LICA Advantage” (the concept of taking advantage of all the benefits LICA membership



ILICA Member Wayne Litwiller (Hopedale) claims National Backhoe Rodeo Champ Title

provides to better one’s business and personal life)

Despite the triple digit “feels like” temperatures in MO, the National Convention accomplished a lot. Even the outdoor activities like the Ladies’ Culinary Scavenger Hunt, KC Royals baseball game, and Foley Equipment’s Backhoe Rodeo and cook-off were enjoyable thanks to breezy conditions and great hospitality from hosts. (ILICA’s members must have already been conditioned to the heat, because members Wayne

Litwiller and Jon Seevers took home 1st & 3rd places, respectively, in the backhoe rodeo properly representing IL at National Convention.) A big thanks to the Missouri LICA Chapter and National LICA crew for all their hard



ILICA Member Jon Seevers (Argenta) claims 3rd Place at National Backhoe Rodeo

work and planning and to all our National Associates for their continued support. Maybe we will catch YOU at the next National Convention on March 4-6, 2017 in Las Vegas!



# NATIONAL LICA SUMMER CONVENTION TURNS UP THE HEAT! (CONT.)





# FEATURED NATIONAL LICA BENEFIT: PETROCON



Providing its members with more benefits than any other association in the nation, National LICA, in conjunction with its associates, offers members various discount programs and services just for being a member! One such program is the Petrocon Commodities Program.

Petrocon gives participating LICA members the opportunity to save up to 20% on key commodities, such as fuel, oil, tires, lubricants, energy, cellular phone service, waste management, and more; from brand names such as Phillips 66, Kendall, Goodyear, Yokohama, Kelly, etc. With over 8 different programs, Petrocon utilizes its commercial buying power to keep LICA members' commodity costs low, improving bottom lines.

In addition, Petrocon offers a members-only portal to access their full line of products and pricing for items such as lubricants & greases, antifreeze, analysis kits & testing tools, chemicals & cleaners, commercial truck & automotive tires, and construction & agriculture rubber tracks. Members can also create custom templates for quick reordering, view order history, view order status, and receive email confirmations via the Petrocon Portal. LICA members are encouraged to frequent the Portal often, as pricing has been known to change quickly. Current LICA members can sign up and access the portal via: [www.petrocon.org/portal.html](http://www.petrocon.org/portal.html)

For more information about Petrocon contact:  
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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Illinois

**TWI Wetland Project/ Conservation Expo**  
 August 27-September 2, 2016

**Bonucci Farms**  
 22450 1500 North Avenue, Princeton, IL

Board of Directors Meeting  
 Saturday, September 10, 2016

**ILICA Office**  
 118 E. Knoxville St., Brimfield, IL 61517  
 Committee meetings - 10 am - 1 pm  
 Board Meeting - 2 pm

IL Corn Field Labs Project  
 Target Start Date: September 20, 2016  
 Near Blue Mound, IL

2017 ILICA Convention & Member Mtg.  
 January 11-14, 2017  
 Embassy Suites  
 100 Conference Center Dr., East Peoria, IL 61611

### National

**LICA Winter Convention & CONEXPO**  
 March 4-6, 2017 (NLICA) & March 7-11, 2017 (CONEX)  
 Harrah's Las Vegas Hotel & Casino

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# SAFETY FEATURE: STRUCK-BY VEHICLE HAZARDS

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### You Are at Risk

The above situation can occur if you are not constantly alert on the job site. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) offers some ways in which you can reduce your risk of being struck while on the job:

- Always wear a safety belt when operating equipment, except when the vehicle does not have a rollover protection structure (ROPS) or when it is designed for standup operation only.
- Check vehicles before each shift to ensure that all parts and accessories are in safe working condition.
- Do not drive vehicles in reverse when you have an obstructed view unless a co-worker signals that the path is clear.
- Make sure that you and all other personnel are out of the way before using dumping or lifting devices.
- Lower or block bulldozer and scraper blades, end-loader buckets and dump bodies when they are not in use, and leave all controls in the neutral position.
- Set the parking brake when vehicles are parked and chock the wheels if they are on an incline.
- Never exceed a vehicle's rated load or lift capacity.
- Wear reflective clothing to get motorists' attention on construction sites.
  - To avoid getting struck by inattentive motorists, use traffic signs, barricades or flaggers to divert traffic.
- Never transport your co-workers unless there is a safe place to ride.
- Cranes, power shovels, loaders and other equipment that loads haulage vehicles must be equipped with a cap shield or canopy to protect the driver from falling materials.

Discussion Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Employee Participants

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# 2016 OSHA FINE INCREASES (UP TO

For the first time in over 25 years, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration is about to increase monetary penalties for standards violations. What does this mean for your business?

**Initial Increase:** The initial fine increase in 2016 can account for the previous 25 years of non-adjustment, and many experts are saying that could mean an increase of over 80%. However, the Act does give OSHA the discretion to increase penalties less than the maximum amount if the increase would have a negative effect on the economy or if the full increase would result in social costs that outweigh the benefits of the increase. OSHA will be required to publish the plan for the first inflation adjustment by July 1, 2016, with the fee adjustment to become effective by August 1, 2016.

Potential 2016 Maximum Penalties:

Violation Type	Current Maximum Penalty	2016 Maximum Penalty*
Other than Serious Violations	\$7,000	\$12,600
Serious Violation	\$7,000	\$12,600
Willful Violation	\$70,000	\$126,000
Repeat Violation	\$70,000	\$126,000

\*assumes 80% catch-up adjustment

**Future Increases:** In addition to the catch-up adjustment this year, the bill allows OSHA to continue raising fines annually to keep pace with inflation. While most statute violation penalties have been inflated every four years, OSHA and a few other federal agencies were previously exempted from raising their fines under the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act. Moving forward, businesses can expect to see these annual increases by no later than January 15 of each year. The goal of this new change is to keep the fines up-to-date as a relevant penalty.

**What This Means For Businesses:** For many businesses, the small OSHA fines of the past were simply a cost of doing business; compared to other costs and risks, companies simply did not see the penalties as financial deterrents. 2016's increased fees could have a significant impact on smaller businesses or businesses who have previously found it unimportant to implement a safety program. Safety experts hope that businesses will make worker safety and OSHA enforcement a priority. Others believe that the penalties are already high enough and that increases will not add any extra deterrence to safety violations.

Whatever your thoughts on the outcome of the penalties, one thing is clear: they are coming, and they can be scary. Now is a great time for businesses to review their safety programs, update worker training and implement procedure updates to ensure standard enforcement.

Here are some ideas for how to prepare yourself for these fine increases:

**Top OSHA Citations** - Do you experience any of the hazards associated with these top violations? Addressing these top citation areas can be a good first step in re-evaluating your safety program.

**Hazard Recognition Training** - I want all of your workers carry a 10-hour (and your supervisors and man hour card)? Hazard recognition is a great baseline to ensure workers have basic safety training topics covered.

**Certificate Courses** - Are there topics and hazards you know are especially risky for your workers? Make sure to train (and re-train annually!) on these topics. Our certificate training courses, which result in an official Certificate Completion from an OSHA Training Institute Education Center, can be a great option to complete annual or biennial training efficiently and on a budget.



Source: [www.oshaeducationcenter.com/articles/2016-osh-fine-increases.aspx](http://www.oshaeducationcenter.com/articles/2016-osh-fine-increases.aspx)



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