

ILICA



NEWS

Land Improvement Contractors Of America · Illinois Chapter

November - December 2022

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ILICA OPPOSES IL CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ON BALLOTS NOV. 8TH

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TWO WETLANDS IN ONE WEEK

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The *ILICA News* is the official publication of Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association, Inc. at 112 Exchange St., Ste. 2, Galva, IL 61434. (309) 932-1230.

Subscription price is \$50.00/year, issued bi-monthly: Jan.-Feb.; Mar.-Apr.; May-June; July-Aug.; Sept.-Oct.; Nov.-Dec., and also includes one annual directory.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings from the land of colors,

It is looking like it's going to be a very colorful fall here in the Illinois River valley. I do enjoy this time of year from the weather to the colors, from the harvest going on to the last board meeting of the

year; just a reminder for those board members to attend the November meeting.

I would like to thank all those members and associates who contributed greatly to make the wetlands project at Wes & Andie Lehman's farm in Dwight, IL this August a success. Everything was completed in a week, and we didn't have to work Saturday to finish up for a change. Also, congratulations to the Lehmans on their new arrival in the household, a lovely baby girl born in September. This association can do some good work when we get together. A special Thank You to Brian Brooks for his efforts as job foreman, making sure everything got done when it needed to be and figuring out how and where, as well. It's not an easy job sometimes, as the lack of people wanting to fulfill the role shows. For those members that didn't make it out, you again missed one of the best opportunities to get to know people, learn new things, and enjoy some tasty breakfasts prepared by Eric Layden on his grill. We didn't suffer from hunger, for sure. Again, thanks to all who helped.

In the last message, I brought up the problems some contractors are experiencing with certain NRCS staff on cost share practices. There was a call for any contractor to bring forth any issues so that we could bring them to NRCS's attention. Since then, the new NRCS state engineer Matt Robert and the NRCS state conservationist Ivan Dozier reached out to have a meeting regarding these concerns. They are already aware of some of these matters and are actively working on training their new staff on design and check out criteria, on building contractor relationships, and on identifying different contractors' capabilities. We can certainly help in this by keeping our minds open and by not being so set in our ways that we won't do something differently. There was also some preliminary talk about exploring joint field training opportunities between NRCS staff and contractors on specific practice installations, as there are

many new NRCS hires that don't have construction backgrounds; experience that helps transfer designs from paper into the field. A combined training opportunity would be a good chance for us to refresh our understandings of NRCS designed practices and to learn the "why" behind the designs, especially for those just starting to work on NRCS projects. I remember from my own beginnings the great SCS personnel here in LaSalle County that helped me understand what I was supposed to make projects look like. Dad would just take off and leave me to learn how to do it on my own. I am grateful for a father that understood that was my way of best learning something. Back to the subject, continue to share with us if you have concerns about a NRCS project, practice, staff training, etc. so we may share with the state office where we feel improvements could be made. There is some added funding for conservation forthcoming, so if we can build an even stronger relationship with local NRCS staff these projects will be done efficiently and done well.

Timing can be everything. Its effect can be witnessed leaving 20 seconds later from a stop sign so that you are not passing through the intersection when someone decides he or she doesn't want to stop like they are supposed to. It is going somewhere the same time that certain person did that you have been married to for the last 50 years. You might be wondering where I am going with this, but you probably are wrong. I am talking about my scraper, 762B Series II, that helped move some of that dirt at the Lehman's wetlands project. It ran without a problem that whole week. However, within the next 10 hours, it blew a hose, the blower fan switch came apart, a wire terminal broke killing the ignition, and one of the ejector gate rollers fell off. Nothing major but had that occurred during the wetlands project the down time would have kept Tom Beyers running one of the other scrapers pretty late into the evening trying to make up for it. That is the way life is sometimes when the timing is right. We hope for those days because they sure do feel good when it all goes according to plan. It doesn't often occur but sure is great when it does, like that time when I visited Hawaii and flew back to Honolulu from one of the other islands. I got off the plane, walked to the baggage claim, out came my suitcase, and I didn't even have to break stride to grab it. If only life was always that well timed.

Steve Anderson, President

NEW MEMBERS

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2022 BOARD MEMBER MTG. ATTENDANCE

A = absent

P = present

C = cancelled meeting

Area / Director	Mar	May	Aug	Sep	Nov
Pres: Steve Anderson	P	P	P	P	
VP: Eric Layden	P	P	P	A	
1st VP: Jon Seevers	P	P	P	P	
Area 1 - Brian Brooks	P	P	P	P	
Area 2 - Stuart Anderson	P	P	P	P	
Area 3 - Wes Litwiller	P	A	A	P	
Area 3 - Grant Curtis	P	A	A	A	
Area 4 - David Kennedy	A	A	P	A	
Area 4 - Lee Bunting	P	P	P	P	
Area 6 - Scott Day	P	A	A	A	
Area 6 - Bill Dean	A	A	A	A	
Area 7 - John Barttelbort	P	A	A	P	
Area 8 - Tom Beyers	P	P	P	P	
Associate Dir: D. Randolph	A	P	A	A	

BOARD & MEMBERS' MEETING SCHEDULE

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

Nov. 5, 2022 - Regular Meeting of the Board:

Virtual & In-Person, Galva

Jan. 19, 2023 - Final Regular Meeting of the Board:

Isle Casino Hotel, Bettendorf, IA

Jan. 21, 2023 - Annual Members' Meeting:

Isle Casino Hotel, Bettendorf, IA



LICA MISSION

To promote, perpetuate, and
improve the proper use of our
natural resources for the
benefit of all

ILICA OPPOSES IL CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ON BALLOTS NOV. 8TH

Slated for ballots this fall, voters have the final say regarding the proposed amendment that adds a new section to the Bill of Rights Article within the Illinois Constitution in the name of “workers’ rights.” Illinois LICA has multiple concerns with this proposed amendment and encourages members to vote “no” to the addition of Section 25 to Article I of the Illinois Constitution on November 8th.

Per the Office of the Secretary of State’s website (https://www.ilsos.gov/publications/con_amend/ca_english.pdf), “The proposed amendment would add a new section to the Bill of Rights Article of the Illinois Constitution that would guarantee workers the fundamental right to organize and to bargain collectively and to negotiate wages, hours, and working conditions, and to promote their economic welfare and safety at work. The new amendment would also prohibit from being passed any new law that interferes with, negates, or diminishes the right of employees to organize and bargain collectively over their wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment and workplace safety.”

In summation, this proposed amendment boils down to giving unions full rights to organize without restriction in IL; enshrining their power directly into the governing documents and law of Illinois. Illinois LICA has some concerns with this amendment and that approach. Here’s why:

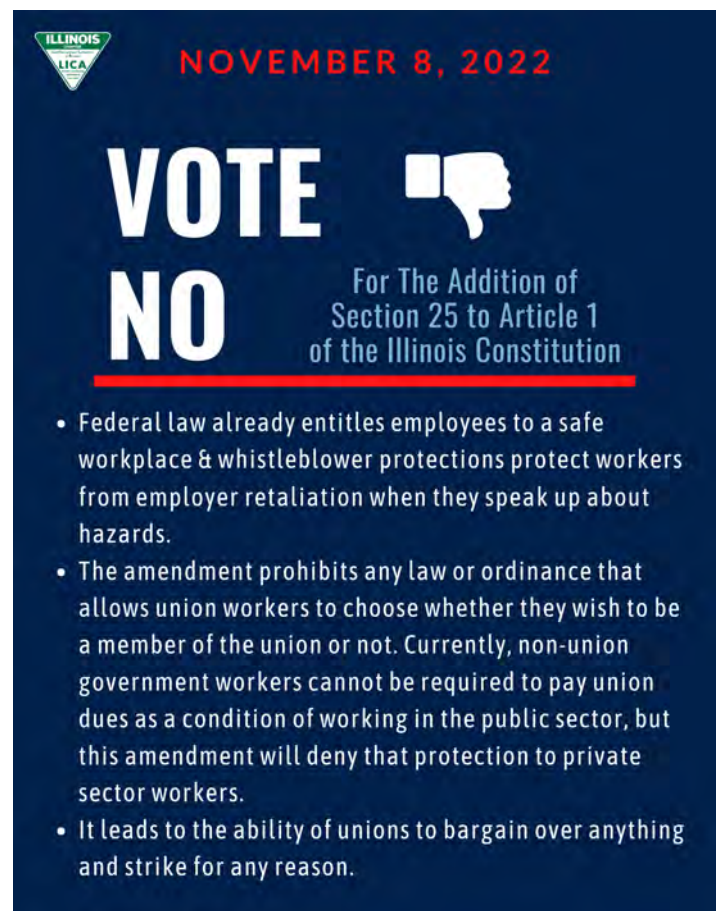
One argument in favor of the amendment claims it “will protect workers’ and others’ safety” by guaranteeing the rights of employees like nurses and construction workers to put patient care and their own safety ahead of profit without “fear of retaliation” or fear of “being silenced when they call attention” to these issues. However, federal law already entitles employees to a safe workplace, requiring employers to keep workplaces free of known health & safety hazards. Additionally, OSHA provides and enforces whistleblower protections that protect workers from employer retaliation when workers speak up about these hazards.

Second, the proposed amendment, per [ilsos.gov](https://www.ilsos.gov), “prohibits any law or ordinance that allows union workers to choose whether they wish to be a member of the union or not. Under the 2018 United States Supreme Court decision Janus v. Illinois AFSCME, non-union government workers cannot be required to pay union dues as a condition of working in the

public sector. Approval of this constitutional amendment will deny that protection to private sector workers.”

Finally, the proposed Section 25 amendment would make union powers permanent and unfettered in IL, leading to the ability to bargain over anything and strike for any reason which can drive the cost of government services in the public sector and lead to higher taxes.

For all these reasons, Illinois LICA encourages our members to vote “no” to the addition of Section 25 to Article I of the Illinois Constitution on November 8th.



NOVEMBER 8, 2022

VOTE NO

For The Addition of Section 25 to Article 1 of the Illinois Constitution

- Federal law already entitles employees to a safe workplace & whistleblower protections protect workers from employer retaliation when they speak up about hazards.
- The amendment prohibits any law or ordinance that allows union workers to choose whether they wish to be a member of the union or not. Currently, non-union government workers cannot be required to pay union dues as a condition of working in the public sector, but this amendment will deny that protection to private sector workers.
- It leads to the ability of unions to bargain over anything and strike for any reason.

For more details, view the state pamphlet about the proposed amendment which includes an explanation of the proposed amendment, arguments in favor of and against the amendment, and the form of ballot:

https://www.ilsos.gov/publications/con_amend/ca_english.pdf

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ILICA Ladies' Page

Yes, this is another napkin project. I hope that you aren't tired of these. The reason why I love them so much is because they are so easy, but more importantly they are so versatile. Think about how many paper napkin patterns there are out in the world. That's how many



projects x 10 that you can create. These sweet Victorian holly berry napkins were part of my Los Angeles score at just .20¢ for the pack.

Materials:

- cocktail napkins
- cardboard tags
- ModPodge Matte finish adhesive
- sponge brush
- 1/4" decorative coordinating ribbon
- drying hanger

I lucked out at the dollar store. A 12-pack bundle of these cardboard tags was only \$1.00. Have you ever meandered the



aisles of the dollar store? They have some unexpected craft items that are great deals.

Anyway...always make sure to have ModPodge handy.

Using a sponge brush, spread on a good layer of ModPodge.

Remember, the napkins are 3-ply sheets and you need to peel away the bottom two



layers. You only want to use the top layer. It is very thin, so carefully lay it on top of the ModPodge and begin smoothing out the wrinkles and bubbles. Repeat the process on the back, cutting excess paper.

Add more ModPodge to the outer layer.

Hang to dry for approximately 2 hours. I used a dry cleaner hanger and just disconnected one end.

While the tags are drying...find a font that you like on your home computer. I played around with several. Type out names of family and friends for your gift tags or place cards and print.

I simply hand ripped my names because this was the look I was going for. You can use scissors if you want a more precise cut. I just just a tiny bit more of the ModPodge to add

the names to the tags. The gold hangers were perfectly fine to leave in place. I wanted bright red to be more prominent on the tags. Plus by adding new ribbon it makes the tags look custom made.

I cut the gold cording and easily removed. Using 1/4" ribbon I had to push it through the existing hole with scissors and then knot it off. These are ready to add names for when I need them for gifts.

Source: Adapted & reprinted with permission from author, 2 Bees by Vicki and Jenn; <https://2beesinapod.com/diy-christmas-gift-tags/>



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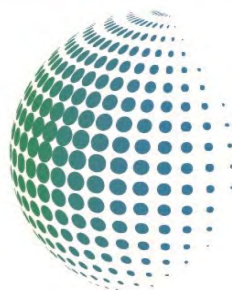
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NEW DRAINAGE DESIGN INITIATIVES FOR ILICA MEMBERS

By *Anamelechi Falasy & Richard Cooke*

The University of Illinois Extension has a long history of working with ILICA to promote drainage design and drainage-related management practices in Illinois. Indeed, members of the department have served as educational advisors to ILICA since its inception. As part our mission to provide unbiased research-based solutions to challenges associated with drainage in the state, we are pleased to announce two new initiatives geared towards ILICA members and other drainage practitioners. The initiatives are (1) weekly Zoom-based design sessions using the recently developed Illini Drainage Tools, and (2) sharing field-scale digital elevation data from a new 2 meters x 2 meters statewide layer compiled from data in the Illinois Height Modernization LiDAR data set.

1. Thursday Morning Drainage:

Free Thursday morning drainage sessions will start on November 3rd. We will reserve every Thursday morning through winter and spring for these sessions. Each session will start at 9 am and will be conducted as long as at least one person shows up before 9:15 am. Each week, a Zoom link will be provided on the new Illinois Drainage Guide website (publish.illinois.edu/illinoisdrainageguide).

In these sessions, we will work with contractors or other stakeholders on the layout and/or sizing of a drainage system for a field, using a series of “one-click QGIS processing” plugins that comprise the *Illini Drainage Tools*. The group will work on selected fields from the university’s South Farm, or on fields selected by participants. For their field to be considered, a participant is required to email field information, comprising a field boundary file and/or a tile layout file in *kml*, *kmlx* or *shapefile* format, by 5 pm on the Wednesday before the Thursday session. Files should be sent to either: falasya2@illinois.edu or rcooke@illinois.edu.

The new tools covered in these sessions were developed to simplify the design of subsurface drainage systems, and they have been placed in the public domain to make them available to a broad audience. They are free, are compatible with all versions of QGIS3, and are available for download from the official QGIS Plugin Repository (plugins.qgis.org/plugins/illini_drainage_tools). They can also be accessed from the Illinois Drainage Guide. These easy-to-use tools are designed to minimize the level of technical or GIS expertise required for designing a drainage system, and have been successfully used to optimize the design and layout of subsurface drainage systems on the University of Illinois South Farm. Figure 1 below shows the list of routines in the toolbox.

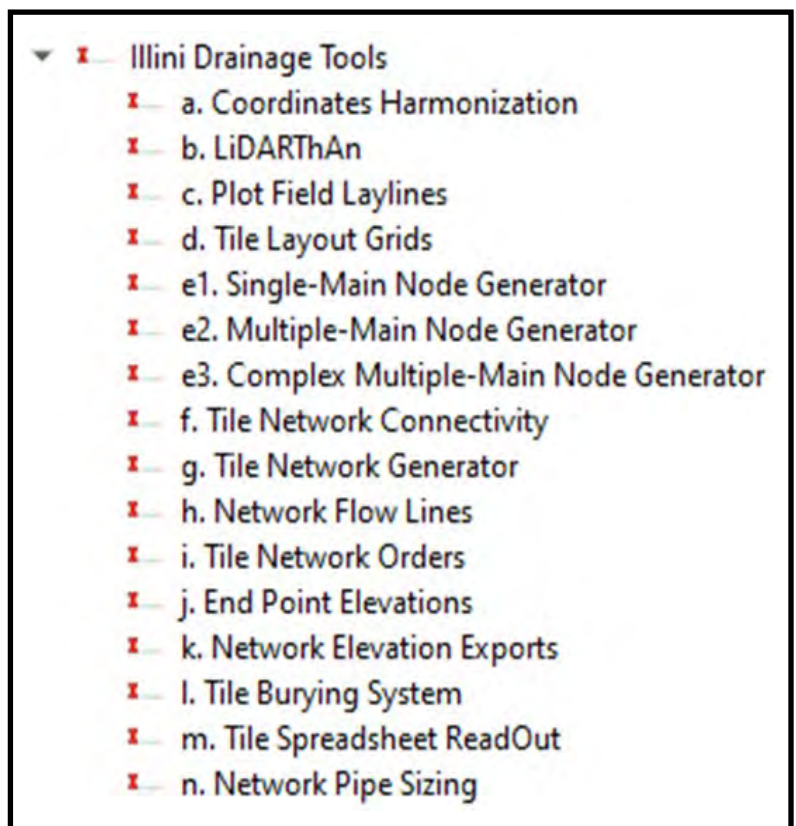


Figure 1. List of routine in the Illini Drainage Tools



2. Field-scale LiDAR Elevation Data:

Researchers in the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering have compiled a 2-meters (6.56-feet) statewide digital elevation layer from data in the Illinois Height Modernization LiDAR data set. If sent a field boundary file in *kml*, *kmz* or *shapefile* format, we will extract and return the digital elevation model for the field with a 100 ft buffer (Figure 2). Emails should be sent to the addresses provided above. Note that this offer only applies to fields in the State of Illinois.

Figure 2. Example field digital elevation model.



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MEMBERS “GET THEIR KICKS ON ROUTE 66”

Back in August, not even the rain could dampen the spirits of Illinois LICA members as they enjoyed the tours and activities of the Annual Picnic & Summer Members’ Meeting held along the historic Route 66 in downtown Pontiac, IL.

The City of Pontiac’s Office of Tourism rolled out the red carpet for ILICA, helping set up many of the museum tours as well as the transportation downtown for our group via their Jolly Trolley. In the morning, members first toured the interesting “road yacht” of the late artist and cartographer, Bob Waldmire, before proceeding into the Route 66 Museum and Livingston County War Museum for self guided tours. The group wrapped up the morning touring the Pontiac-Oakland Car Museum and then headed to Chautauqua Park where the picnic and members’ meeting were held. Each museum was chock-full of history, artifacts, and powerful displays related to their individual areas of focus. Many members likely could have spent much more time than just the morning touring one, let alone three, of the museums (something to keep in mind if this area is on a list of stop-offs during your travels on the “Mother Road”). During the members’ meeting, the ladies returned to downtown Pontiac via the trolley where they explored the shops and vintage market and enjoyed some special treats and surprises from local businesses.

Thank you to the Picnic Committee, especially Jon & Veronica Seevers, and to our event sponsors for supporting the wonderful day full of history and fellowship: Advanced Drainage Systems, Bower’s Great Lakes Inter-Drain, Martin Equipment of Illinois, Metal Culverts, Prins Insurance, Prinsco, Springfield Plastics, and United Fire Group. To view more pictures from the event, visit: <https://www.ilica.net/picnics-gallery/>



TWO WETLANDS IN ONE WEEK

During the week of August 22-26, 2022, several organizations partnered together to improve water quality and wildlife habitat in north-central Illinois by building two wetlands at Feather Prairie Farm in Dwight, IL.

In less than 5 days, ILICA volunteer members carved out two wetlands on the farm owned by ILICA member Wes & Andie Lehman in Livingston County. The 12.3-acre project included implementing a 0.58-acre restored wetland and a 2.01-acre constructed wetland for the treatment of subsurface tile drainage. The US Fish & Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program and the Wetlands Initiative co-funded the project design and construction, and Illinois Pheasants Forever contributed to the establishment of a prairie around the wetlands that includes native species to attract pollinators and other wildlife to the area. Other project and field day supporters included the Illinois Sustainable Ag Partnership and Springfield Plastics.

Throughout the week, the site was open for anyone to visit and view the construction from 10 am - 4 pm with three special functions held on Wednesday and Thursday. An Agriculture and Conservation Expo focused on the project's agricultural and conservation aspects, including the advantages of water control structures in ag tile drainage systems and a demonstration of how they are used to manage water flow. Another session held later that same day focused on the recreational opportunities of the conservation practice for landowners, hunters, farmers, and others interested in wildlife and waterfowl. The final special function was a Contractor Expo for land improvement contractors, agricultural drainage tile system installers, and earth-moving equipment operators that discussed the connection between tile and conservation drainage

practices, business opportunities, and more. Meals and refreshments were included with all three special functions with a number of conservation partners on-hand to answer questions for those in attendance.

ILICA would like to sincerely thank our generous Associates and partners for their discounts and donations of equipment, materials, and manpower:

Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc.; Agri Drain Corp.; Alta Equipment Company; Birkey's; Bradford Supply Company; Martin Equipment of Illinois, Inc.; Schlatter's, Inc.; Springfield Plastics, Inc.

Thank you to the ILICA contractor members who volunteered their time, expertise, staff, and equipment towards the construction of this project including:

Steve Anderson, Stuart Anderson, Jason Beyers, Tom Beyers, Brent Breedlove, Brian Brooks & Crew, Don Bunting, Lee Bunting, Justin Cole, Bill Dean & Crew, David Kennedy, Eric Layden, Ron Masching, John McCoy & Crew, Jon Seevers & Crew, Ty Sparrow & Crew, and Joe Streitmatter

Finally, the biggest thank you to our show committee chairmen, **Brian Brooks & Jon Seevers; The Wetland Initiative team, Jill Kostel, Jean McGuire, and Mike Richolson; USFWS's Jason Bleich; and the entire Lehman Family** for their support, hospitality, and for considering us a partner on the project!

For a complete listing of supporters and to view photos and videos from the project, visit: <https://www.ilica.net/projects>



Photo credit: The Wetlands Initiative



Photo credit: The Wetlands Initiative

Photo credit: The Wetlands Initiative

AREA 3 TRAP SHOOT & GOLF OUTING HIGHLIGHTS

Compared to 2018, the world as we know it today looks a lot different than the last time the ILICA Area 3 Trap Shoot & Golf Outing was held in Kewanee, IL. In spite of all these changes, this entertaining and relaxing event that our members have come to enjoy at the range and on the course remained constant for 2022.

For the second time this year, mother nature blessed us with another absolutely perfect weather day for an association trap shoot and golf outing. Held on September 9, the event layout continued to draw praise from members in attendance. With the trap shoot held immediately across the street from the golf course, with the golf course's "flat" front nine and "hilly" back nine, and with a grill-your-own dinner held outside on the patio overlooking the 18th green, the Area 3 event is a perfect fit for our group and for a good time.

In the morning, our trap shooters took aim at hundreds of clay targets at the Izaak Walton League Trap-Skeet Grounds, likely to the dismay of serious morning golfers across the street, before most turned around afterwards and "shot" golf themselves in the afternoon. "Top Shot" at the range was claimed by a familiar competitor, Kyle Kocurek, who took home a pair of Walker's Slim Electronic Muffs, while all shooters received door prizes thanks to our generous sponsors.

After a quick hot dog lunch, sponsored by ADS and Miller Township Construction, trap shooters joined the other golfers, doubling their numbers, to play 18 holes in a scramble format at Baker Golf Course. Thanks to the sponsorship received for the beverage cart and for all 18 holes, the golfers had a great time out on the course; all taking home registration gifts and door prizes with one lucky 50/50 raffle winner and other prize winners announced during the steak and chicken dinner buffet.

Hole prize winners each took home \$50 cash, the Lowest Scoring Team won \$100 cash, and the Most Honest Team received a special certificate of recognition; all compliments of our sponsors. Winners were as follows:

Longest Drive: Bob Hoopes

Closest to the Pin: Peter Moyemont

Longest Putt: Peter Moyemont

Lowest Scoring Team: Mike Heberer, Nick Caravello, Neil Arch, Bob Hoopes

Most Honest Team: Steve Anderson, Stuart Anderson, Mike Anderson

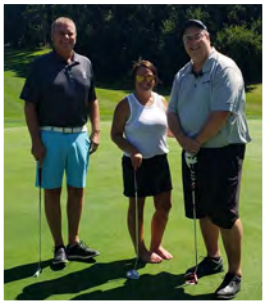
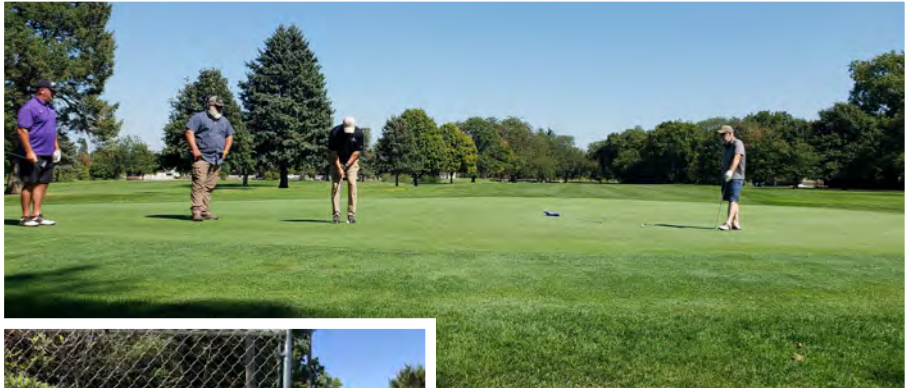
Event outing sponsors were Springfield Plastics, Altorfer CAT, Courson & Associates, and PIP Marketing Signs & Print.

Our sincere thanks to everyone who supported the event including sponsors, gift and prize donors, volunteers, shooters, golfers, and the ILICA Golf Outing Committee for ensuring the success of another Illinois LICA Area 3 Trap Shoot and Golf Outing!

For a complete listing of sponsors and to view pictures from the event, check out our website: <https://www.ilica.net/golf-outings>.



AREA 3 TRAP SHOOT & GOLF OUTING HIGHLIGHTS (CONT.)





2023 ILICA Convention Schedule*

January 19-21

Isle Casino Hotel - Bettendorf, IA



Wednesday, January 18th

- **Committee Mtgs.:** Convention, Nomination, Awards

Thursday, January 19th

- **Pre-Tour:** North America Conservation & Drainage Expo (Des Moines, IA)
- **Final Board of Directors Meeting & Dinner**

Friday, January 20th

- **Education:**
 - Septic Training (3 CEUs)
 - Taxes & Employee Retention
 - Machinery Purchases, Costs of Operation
 - Limiting Contractors' Liabilities, Contracts, Etc.
 - Bidding and Contracting Jobs
- **Trade Show**
- **Awards Banquet**
- **Entertainment:** Comedian Andy Forrester

Saturday, January 21st

- **Trade Show**
- **Members' Meeting & Election of Officers**
- **Committee Meetings:** Associates, Convention

DAILY
DEVOTIONS, LADIES' ACTIVITIES,
ASSOCIATE HOSPITALITY ROOMS!

PRE-TOUR
JANUARY 19



COMEDIAN
ANDY FORRESTER
JANUARY 20



*tentative schedule





Illinois LICA's Annual Convention & Members' Meeting January 19-21, 2023

Isle Casino Hotel
1800 Isle Parkway, Bettendorf, IA 52722



Registration Deadline: Dec. 19, 2022

(\$100 late fee after deadline)

Pre-Tour - January 19*

North America Conservation & Drainage Expo - Des Moines, IA

_____ x \$50 = _____

*Min. number of registrants required by Dec. 19th; additional registration fees at the event apply. Round trip transportation departs Isle Casino at 6am & returns around 5pm.



Full Participation - January 20-21

(all meals, activities, & trainings, except septic)

Individual # _____ x \$205 = _____

Couple # _____ x \$315 = _____

Child (5-12) # _____ x \$90 = _____

(Under 4 free)

Total = _____

☐ FREE Trade Show Only

Friday, Jan. 20th 1-5 PM

Saturday, Jan. 21st 8-11 AM

- Heavy Equipment
- Drainage Supplies
- Engineering Consulting
- Environmental Support
- Erosion Control Products
- Waste Mgmt. Products
- Rental Equipment
- Insurance
- Laser/GPS Products
- Safety Equipment

Attendee Name: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Phone: _____

Company Name: _____

Additional Attendee Name(s): _____

Special Dietary Needs: _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Payable to: ILICA

112 Exchange St., Ste. 2

Galva, IL 61434

Email: michelle@illica.net

Fax: 309.932.1231

(\$100 late fee after Dec. 19th)



Reserve your hotel room today to ensure a guaranteed room rate of \$132/night, plus tax!

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Hotel reservation deadline: January 11, 2023



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ILICA Trivia

What Year was this
ILICA Convention?



Be the first to submit the correct
answer to michelle@ilica.net

One lucky winner will receive a prize!

Sept/Oct Answer: Ron Gahring, Paul
Bucha, Bill Hartman



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Illinois

Board of Directors Meeting (hybrid)

November 5, 2022

Galva, IL

Committee meetings: 8 am - 11 pm

Board Meeting: 12 pm

In-person:

ILICA Office

112 Exchange St., Ste. 2,

Galva, IL 61434

Virtual:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9759547353?pwd=c1ZPcjFhSTBTYjhXeERNZnFRTXdOZz09>

Or call: 1-312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 975 954 7353

Passcode: 0000

Contractor Training Store & Illinois LICA

Virtual Septic Training

November 29, 2022

8 - 11:30 am

Register: <https://form.jotform.com/210405973758159>

or via QR code on page 7

2023 ILICA Convention & Annual Mtg.

January 19 - 21, 2023

Isle Casino Hotel Bettendorf

1800 Isle Parkway, Bettendorf, IA 52722

Register: <https://form.jotform.com/222925682060051>

or via page 21

National

2023 LICA Winter Convention

March 11-13, 2023

Harrah's Hotel & Casino

Las Vegas, NV

2023 CONEXPO

March 14-18, 2023

Las Vegas, NV

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