

ILICA



NEWS

Land Improvement Contractors Of America · Illinois Chapter

January - February 2008

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COLLINSONS INC.

*Featured
Contractor*



COLLINSONS INC. HAS BEEN AN ACTIVE PART OF ILICA'S HISTORY SINCE 1965

(PAGE 6-7)

Also Featured Inside

Basics & Benefits of Subsurface Drainage Workshop Series
2008 ILICA Annual Convention & Members meeting
Advanced Drainage Workshop

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Professor Richard Cooke
University of Illinois

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

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I am still determined to be cheerful and happy, in whatever situation I may be; for I have also learned from experience that the greater part of our happiness or misery depends upon our dispositions, and not upon our circumstances.

Martha Washington
US wife of George Washington 1759
(1732 - 1802)

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The LICA Creed

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

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

Meeting Notice

ILICA Board Meeting

Ryan's

Springfield Illinois

Saturday, March 8, 2008

2:00 PM

ILICA Committee Meetings

10:00 AM—2:00 PM

Ryan's—Springfield, IL

(See Page 17 for Map & Directions)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings from Mattoon,

Hello everyone; winter is upon us. Today is New Years Eve and all is well. I hope everyone has had a good fall with plenty of work. Early harvest & excellent weather has made for a very productive fall for us until the middle of December. We have had approximately 7 inches of snow as well as rain since then, which has slowed production down. The rain however is much needed to replenish the subsoil moisture.

I hope crops in your area were as good as here. That coupled with the \$11.50 beans and \$4.00 corn should help us next year as well. Let's keep our fingers crossed.

I want to again thank everyone for their help and donations for the benefit of the association this past year. Many devoted hours of labor & equipment for the Progress City 11th St. project, Conservation Expo and the picnic as well. These activities not only helped our bank account but also caused many of us to find new friends which we may rely on. This brings up a good saying a friend of mine came up with. **Those who think friends aren't important have never had mine.**

On a sad note, I'm sure many of you are not aware we lost a good friend this month, who hosted the Con-Expo two different times. Richard Lasser passed away on Sunday, December 16, 2007, and some ILICA contractors attended the visitation. We will miss his happy smile and all the good times we had. Let's all keep his family in our prayers. A copy of the obituary can be found on page 14 of this newsletter, including information if you would like send a card.

I hope everyone is aware of our State Convention January 17- 19 at the beautiful Stoney Creek Inn in Moline. Please make every effort to attend. The education and convention committees have prepared an exciting agenda again this year. Remember our board meeting, election of officers, and annual meeting of general membership will be held, so everyone please try to attend. Saturday the 19th we will have an indoor backhoe rodeo which I'm sure will be well attended, so come and compete to see if you can come home with the bragging rights. While you are at the convention please thank all the committee members for all their hard work. And last but not least, let's also thank our E.D. Janet Doubet for all her hard work.

Don't forget also, the National LICA Convention is coming up March 9 - 10 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Make reservations early so you may attend. The construction Con-Expo follows the LICA convention that week, running March 11 - 15. This is an awesome show if you have never been, so I encourage you to try and make it this year.

With this, I am going to get ready to bring the New Year in and I am looking forward to seeing everyone at Moline.

Bye for now!

Bill Dean, President



Welcome! New Members

Active Members

David Litwiller
Litwiller Farm Drainage - Hopedale

Associate Members

Mike Orminski
MC Consulting Associates - Cortland
(new Nat'l Member from Illinois)

Thank You

ILICA Convention Name Tags

LOOK

for
these
stars



on nametags at the ILICA
Convention and take the time to
personally welcome one of these
new ILICA members!

BASICS AND BENEFITS OF SUB-SURFACE DRAINAGE

TRAVELING ILICA WORKSHOP SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 5, 6, 12, 13, 2008



Responding to inquiries from all over Illinois, the ILICA Education Committee has organized a "traveling road show" workshop to address the basics of subsurface drainage and the benefits it provides. Working in conjunction with community colleges around the state, IADD, and Illinois Farm Bureau, this one-day workshop is scheduled in 4 convenient locations in Illinois.

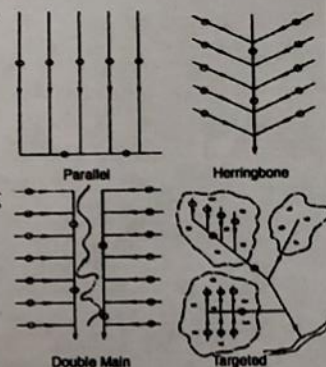
- Black Hawk College, Kewanee, Tuesday, February 5
- Parkland College, Champaign, Wednesday, February 6
- Lincoln Land College, Litchfield, Tuesday, February 12
- Kaskaskia College, Centralia, Wednesday, February 13

Dr. Richard Cooke and Jay D. Davis of University of Illinois College of A.C.E.S., and retired NRCS State Engineer Jim Evans will facilitate the workshops. They will provide professional, easy to understand instruction on the planning, design and installation of subsurface drainage systems. Dr. Cooke's ongoing research in drainage systems makes him one of the

nations most knowledgeable authorities in this field and Jay Davis has 30 years experience providing geographic information to military and agricultural professionals. Years at NRCS and his current position at Maurer-Stutz Inc. Engineering and Surveying firm gives Jim Evans the expertise to instruct both landowners and contractors in drainage design and installation.

This "Basics & Benefits of Sub-Surface Drainage" workshop is open to the public. It is designed to be an introductory course for anyone considering installing subsurface tile. Registration will be limited to available seating so please sign up early to assure your seat. If seating allows, walk-ins are welcome; however, pre-registration guarantees a box lunch and refreshments will be provided during breaks. Each session will run from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. ILICA certified drainage contractors will be available to answer additional questions during breaks and lunch.

Pre-registration form is provided below; available on-line at www.ilica.net; and can also be found in the December 2007 and January 2008 issues of Prairie Farmer magazine. Please contact the ILICA office at (309) 446-3700 or via email at janet@ilica.net with any questions.



Illinois LICA Workshop Basics & Benefits of Sub-Surface Drainage Pre-Registration Form



Name: _____ Company Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Workshop fees are listed below. Please mark your preference of workshop location, noting a second choice if you would be willing to travel if your 1st preference has reached capacity. Pre-registration fee includes box lunch and refreshments during breaks.

- ☐ \$30.00 per person ☐ ILICA / IADD / Farm Bureau Members - \$25.00 per person

- _____ Tuesday, February 5, 2008 - Black Hawk College - Kewanee, Illinois (capacity 120)
_____ Wednesday, February 6, 2008 - Parkland College - Champaign, Illinois (capacity 100)
_____ Tuesday, February 12, 2008 - Lincoln Land College - Litchfield, Illinois (capacity 100)
_____ Wednesday, February 13, 2008 - Kaskaskia College - Centralia, Illinois (capacity 70)



Registration Deadline - January 28, 2008



FEATURED CONTRACTOR - COLLINSONS INC.

Collinsons Inc. has changed through the years, much like the tiling industry it has supported. Dale Collinson started the business in 1962 after working on the family farm, and began delivering clay tile from St. Anne Brick & Tile. He joined ILICA during the 1965 Convention at the Pere Marquette Hotel in Springfield as an affiliate member and immediately became active in the organization. His first experience with the ILICA Conservation Expo was in Carlinville in 1965 and Dale recalled how it rained all week. (sound familiar...?) Times were harder then and hotel rooms were a luxury that few spent their hard earned dollars on, so that first expo experience included sleeping in the back of his station wagon, which Dale didn't complain about doing. He can tell dozens of stories of the times ILICA members discovered ingenious solutions to everyday problems that were encountered at the expos. He also recalled getting to know Pete Schlatter at that same expo and of the life-long friendship that followed. Pete, who Dale and Donna both referred to as a 'genius', manufactured a 2 wheel cart that Dale has used in local parades and still has the proto-type model after all these years.

Dale spent many years delivering tile around the state and has worked with a total of 21 different clay, plastic and concrete tile plants, although concrete tile was a dying industry early in his career. He has witnessed many changes in the drainage industry in his 40+ years in the business, and noted that the biggest change has been in the technology being used today. Grade is determined by laser and is often communicated directly to the equipment, making the operator do little more than steer. GPS systems are used to create survey maps with more detailed data than could ever be collected by transit and grade rod, and software provides

sizing, grade and flow capacity calculations, saving the contractor untold hours. The other major change he mentioned was the invention of plastic tile, another labor saving innovation. In 1967 he became one of the first dealers, if not the first, to have an inventory of plastic tile in Illinois. At that time, everyone had read about the "new" plastic drainage tile, but no one had actually seen any. A sales representative from Francesville Drain Tile brought a section of the new product to the 1967 Conservation Expo and cut off short pieces for contractors to inspect. Later that year, Rich Overmyer convinced Dale to take 8 coils of 4" plastic tile back to his lot with instructions to "sell it if he could." Needless to say, it sold.

Dale originally joined ILICA as an affiliate member but with his work installing aluminum toe walls as well as the 10 years he spent running a bulldozer and other equipment for Pete Fonstrom, it was only a matter of time before he officially became an active member. ILICA Secretary Joanne Huff approached

Dale during the 1981 Farm Progress Show at the Schachtrup Farm in Brimfield Illinois and asked if he would consider changing his level of membership...and the rest, as they say, is history. Dale has remained active ever since, serving as a Director or alternate Director and serving on the Headquarters, Business & Industrial Relations, and Legislative committees as well. His first hand knowledge of the past 40 years of ILICA activities are a wealth of information, especially for the relatively new ILICA executive director.

Dale's long time ILICA involvement has seen many accomplishments, some of which have yet to be repeated. He is the only contractor to have two wives receive the Mrs. Contractor award. Mary Ellen Collinson was Dale's constant companion at many ILICA and LICA conventions, and received the prestigious award in 1992. Donna, who became Dale's wife on November 29, 1997, received the award in 2004 and is also very active in the organization. She accompanies Dale to board meetings and is a beloved addition to the ILICA Ladies committee.



FEATURED CONTRACTOR - (CONT.)



At the 50th Anniversary convention January 2007, it only seemed right that Dale received the Mr. Contractor award for his years of dedication to the organization. And Dale's commitment to his community doesn't stop with ILICA involvement; he has also sat on the board or been active in several other area organizations including the Henry County SWCD, Galva Co-op, Lynn Center Telephone Company, Illinois Farm Bureau and the Gateway Coop.

Dale retired in 2000 and his daughter, Carol Kiley, became the principal agent of Collinsons Inc. Dale and Donna had married in 1997 and Dale moved from his rural home into the village of Galva. Carol and her husband Jim continue to operate the tile supply company, along with many other endeavors, and remain dedicated to ILICA as well. Carol also joined ILICA as an affiliate member and immediately became active on committees. Like Dale, she later became an "official" active member and is currently an Area 3 director. She has always been very effective signing up new active members, even long before the "Just One" campaign

became popular and continues the Collinsons winning ways, as the recipient of the ILICA Merit Award in 2004. Jim is not only an affiliate member but an active part of several ILICA committees and projects. Both are willing to lend a hand where ever its needed, are always glad to volunteer their time and talent at ILICA Conservation Expos, and continue the loyal traditions Dale started so many years ago.

As we enjoyed lunch at a downtown Galva restaurant, it quickly became apparent how well known and liked Dale and Donna are in their community and how Dale remains connected to local matters and current Galva goings on. The Collinsons have not only gained the respect and admiration of the ILICA and LICA membership, it was obvious, from the waitress who commented that it had been too long since she'd seen them to the stream of men that stopped to say hello and ask about various friends and relation, that Dale and Donna have both gained the same respect and affection of the Galva locals.



(Page 6, top r to bottom l) A load of plastic tile arriving at the Collinsons yard in 1970; Aluminum toe wall built by Dale in mid-1980's; Dale and Donna at the 2004 Convention with her Mrs. Contractor Award, Mary Ellen Collinson with the 1991 Mrs. Contractor Award
(above) Dale receiving the 2006 Mr. Contractor Award from ILICA President Bill Dean;
(upper right) Carol receiving the 2004 Merit Award from Awards Committee co-chair, Kate Day,
(lower right) Donna and Dale at home in Galva.

ILLINOIS CHAPTER
LAND IMPROVEMENT
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2007 ILICA Directory

The highest heavens belong to the LORD,
but the earth He has given to man.
Psalm 113:16

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2008 DIRECTORY NOTICE - ADVERTISING, UPDATES, AND CORRECTIONS DUE MARCH 1ST.

The 2008 ILICA Directory will be published in March and ad space is being reserved now. If you are interested in advertising space, have corrections or updates to your contact information or would like any other changes made to your information as listed in last years' directory, please contact the ILICA office soon. A copy of the 2007 Directory and contact update forms will be available at the ILICA registration table at the 2008 Convention, Stoney Creek Inn, Moline, January 17 - 19, 2008.

Please see Janet at the convention or contact the ILICA office to make sure your contact information is correct !



GABBIN' WITH THE GALS..



It always seems strange when writing the first article of the New Year to add another digit in place of the preceding one. Baby New Year doesn't mind, though, so as they say "Just get used to it, Kiddo!" Well if you say so - can't seem to stop the world from turning. There is a song which says "Stop the World, I want to get off!" Just like the horn you play where the music goes down and around and it comes out here. Can't stop it, some things, no matter what age you are, you just can't stop 'em.

And from the news on the telly today, seems as if none can stop these people from going into places and killing people. Getting to be worse than the heyday of Al Capone and his buddies. They had an advantage in those days however - most if not all of the victims knew or had an inkling that they would end up that way, where today, innocent people become victims and will never know why. No matter how they try to make owning guns difficult, they seem to be found easier. We used to have a saying of how to get news passed on - Tele-graph, Tele-phone or Tell-A-Woman. It is this writers' observation that "woman" could use "man" as a substitute and still be right. Nowadays there are so many reporters that all you would have to do would be to tell just one to pass it on to many.

What I am grateful for - that in WWII we did not have television widespread and other means of communications available and Congress could not manage a war from those angles or we might be under someone else's rule now. Some things just can't be understood in this thing I call a head and one is how a body of lawmakers think they can manage a war taking place on the other side (or anywhere for that matter) of the world. It is a full time position and they already have a full time position - except in the years when running for president, then they still get paid for their jobs but are too busy running from state to state to work at their first job. As we go singing again, "Nice work if you can get it" - right?

In our area we really did have a good year weather-wise, but didn't you have just a wee bit of inking that we would eventually get something? Now is when we appreciate those 90-degree temps because ice can't stand that. Work-wise, it was almost perfect.

One in awhile something happens that is so special it just has to be told. One of our grandsons is in his second stint in Iraq as a Marine. Recently we went to an office in Champaign and talked to him in person via a screen and whatever electronic device propelled the sound and it was like seeing the impossible. He could hear us and we could hear him and we could see him but not sure if he could see us - I assume he could. It was one of those times you will always remember and very reassuring to our family that he is okay. He said it was much quieter this time than when they were there the first time so that is good to know. He has also been promoted to Corporal and we are proud of him for that also. Don't know what his future plans are, but we will trust to the Lord to bring him back safely so he can have a future.

Didn't know I could do it folks - wrote a complete page without one joke - and for me that is unprecedented. Will correct that right now with advice to the ILICA president who probably has already found it out: Sometimes a majority simply means that all the fools are on the same side. Someone called Claude McDonald said that. Definitions you won't find in the dictionary: Adult - a person who has stopped growing at both ends and is now growing in the middle. Chickens: the only animals you eat before they are born and after they are dead. Committee: a body that keeps minutes and wastes hours. Secret: something you tell to one person at a time. Toothache: the pain that drives you to extraction. Some advice as to what NOT to do: A married man left for work one Friday and instead of going home he spent the weekend partying with the boys. When he returned home finally on Sunday night, his wife got on his case with a passion. She said, "How would you like it if you didn't see me for a couple of days?" He smiled and said it would suit him just fine. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday went by and he didn't see her. Thursday, the swelling went down a bit and he could see her just a little bit out of the corner of his left eye. (So there!)

With all the catalogs this person receives in the mail (one day netted 22!) you would think the Christmas shopping could have been done by using them. Looking at them takes longer than driving somewhere and only four items were found from them. Of course, using a walker, I cannot go shopping for real, so the rest had to be satisfied with Moolah. Except for the wee ones and they lucked out by having their parents shop for Grandma. Our littlest one now will be one year old December 30 and is just as pretty as the picture she takes. One year, when our two oldest grandsons were only 2 and 4, we hired Santa to come to the house on Christmas Eve, thinking it would be fun to watch them with him. WRONG. The youngest sat on his lap but the oldest cried and was not happy. So we didn't try that again. Children are surely their own individual self, which in this persons' opinion is A-OK.

The word for this issue is "remember". Especially if you have love ones that have gone on to the second life - don't be maudlin but think of good things and memories to get through the days and nights. Lucky for me I love to read and that fills in time that would otherwise probably get maudlin. Between reading various books and working on crossword puzzles you learn the meaning of many words that would otherwise not have happened.

Hope to be present at the convention but that is a decision to be made later as conditions seem to change day to day. Enjoyed seeing a lot of you at the picnic and it would be great to see you again if possible. Rambling Rose



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

NACD PLEASED WITH SENATE FARM BILL PASSAGE

NACD Acting President Steve Robinson, a producer from Marysville, Ohio, today issued the following statement in response to the U.S. Senate's passage of the Farm Bill.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—December 14, 2007—"Today members of the U.S. Senate passed the 2007 Farm Bill. On behalf of the National Association of Conservation Districts, I want to thank Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Ranking Member Saxby Chambliss (R-GA) for their

leadership and continued commitment to moving the bill forward..

"While it was not a quick or easy road to get to this point, we are pleased that members of the Senate were able to come together in a bi-partisan way to finalize the legislation. The final Senate bill maintains the strong financial and programmatic commitment to conservation that the Senate Agriculture Committee proposed.

"We still need to address short-term continuation of conservation programs until the two houses can conference to work out differences and get a bill to the President for signage. The Farm Bill is critical to American landowners and producers, and continuity of programs is important. We look forward to a final bill that contains strong support for working lands conservation."

Found at: <http://nacdn.net.org/news/newsroom/releases>

REMEMBERING OLIN SIMS

NACD President Olin Sims died unexpectedly from injuries suffered in a ranching accident on December 7, 2007. He was many things to many people, but to conservation districts, he was our President, our leader, our friend and a man who lived what he preached. He was raised on a ranch in McFadden, Wyoming, where he his family put a high priority on caring for the land. His presence will be deeply missed, but his legacy will remain in our lives and hearts.

Tribute to a Cowboy

Maybe you've known Olin for 20 years, maybe you just met him once, or maybe you've never seen him in person but have heard his voice on his prized "America's Voice for Conservation" audio clips. He's an easy man to remember; he didn't know a stranger. We are collecting your stories, thoughts and memories to share with his family and to use in our Annual Report and on our website.

Sims' Services Honor a Man Who Gave His All

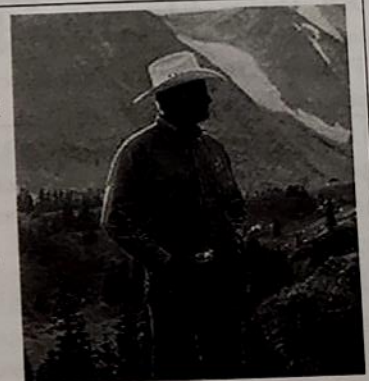
Freezing temperatures, blowing wind and a long trip did not deter over 1000 folks from making the trek to Rock River, Wyoming on December 15, 2007 to celebrate the life of NACD President Olin Sims. The ceremony clearly depicted the life of a man who followed his passions, touched lives across the nation and gave more of himself in 47 years than many of us could give in 100. There was an outpouring of love and support from the conservation district family, both at the services and in many, many phone calls, letters and emails. NACD leadership and staff thank you for your support during this difficult time.

Condolences to the family can be addressed to: Sims Family - HC 64, Box 106 - McFadden, WY 82083
The family has requested that contributions be made to one of the three funds below in lieu of flowers:

Wyoming Natural Resource Fund
517 East 19th St.
Cheyenne, WY 82001

Rock Creek Fire Department
Arlington Rt.
McFadden, WY 82083

NACD Endowment Fund
Attn: Arthur Ganta
509 Capitol Ct., NE
Washington, D.C. 20002



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Exhibits

2008 ILICA CONVENTION, & TAILGATE PARTY: CONVENTION SCHEDULE

**Door Prizes****Tailgate Party!****Wednesday, January 16th**

5:30 pm - Budget Committee Meeting
6:30 pm - Quad City Flames Hockey game -
I Wireless Center - private patio, cash bar
8:00 pm - Convention Committee Meeting (at
hockey game??)

Thursday, January 17th

8:00 pm - Registration/
Continental Breakfast
9:00 - 11:45am - Educa-
tional Session - J.U.L.I.E. NEWTIN RTE
Training - Dave VanWy - (online locate
ticket application)
11:45 am - Nomination Committee Meeting
8:00 am -10:00 am - Exhibit Hall Set up
10:00 am - 12:00 Exhibitor Set up
12:00 - Lunch
12:30 pm - Agency reports (FSA, NRCS etc.)
1:30 - 3:00 pm - Exhibitor Set up
1:30 pm - Educational Session - Sales and Use
Tax in Contractor businesses - Dustin Cour-
son, CPA
3:00 pm - Board of Directors Meeting
4:00 pm Hdqtrs/Exec. Committees Meeting
3:00 - 7:30 pm - Exhibits Open
5:00 pm - Hospitality Hour in Ballroom
5:15 PM - Exhibitor Group Photo

**Friday, January 18th**

7:30 am - Devotional Service
8:00 am - Breakfast - Exhibit Hall
8:00 to 11:00 am - Registration Open
8:00 am to 1:00 pm - Exhibits Open
10:00 am - Certification committee Meeting
11:00 am - Educational Session - Illinois
Legislative Information - Stu Ellis
11:00 am - Associates Meeting
12:00—Lunch (Exhibit area)
12:30 pm - Partner Association Reports
(AIWSCD, Nat'l ILICA, University of Ill)
1:15 pm - Annual Business Meeting & Elec-
tion of Officers
1:15 pm Exhibit tear down
5:00 pm - Hospitality Hour at Canteen
5:45 pm - **Membership - Directors**
Group Photos - Ballroom Stage
6:00 pm - Awards Banquet
7:30 pm - Awards Ceremony
9:00 pm - 1:00 am - Associates Hospitality
Rooms Open

**Education****Saturday, January 19th**

7:30 am - Devotional Service - Green Acres
8:00 am - Breakfast (*door prize giveaway &
New members recognized*)
9:30 am Coalition Update - DWM, CIG
Grant, Wetlands issue etc. - Steve Baker
11:00 am Board Bus - Leave for Indoor
Backhoe Rodeo in Davenport
(Box lunch provided at Backhoe Rodeo)
5:00 pm - Hospitality Hour at Canteen
6:00 pm - Dinner & Entertainment
8:30 pm - Presidents Hospitality Room
Open

Ladies Program**Thursday, January 17th**

8:00 am - Registration/Cont. Breakfast
9:00 am - Cookie Exchange/Cards/Games -
Ladies Hospitality Room
White Elephant Bingo - *Bring wrapped gift for
exchange. (This can be a purchased item or a usable
item you have at home)*

12:00 Lunch

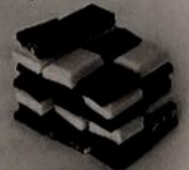
1:30 pm - Sales and Use Tax in Contractor
business - Dustin Courson, CPA

Friday, January 18th

7:30 am - Devotional Service
8:00 am - Breakfast (exhibit area)
9:30 am - Board Bus

10:00 am - Village of East Davenport- shop-
ping & lunch at Lagomarcino's Confection-
ary & Cafe, Botanical Gardens / Chocolate
Tasting Tour

3:30 pm - Return to Hotel
6:00 pm - Awards Banquet

**Saturday, January 19th**

7:30 AM—Devotional Service
8:00 AM—Breakfast (*door prize giveaway &
New members recognized*)
9:30 - 11:00 am - Basics of Bio-Identical
Hormones - Jeff Robins, Preckshot Profes-
sional Pharmacy
11:00 am Board Bus - Leave for Indoor
Backhoe Rodeo in Davenport
(Box lunch provided at Backhoe Rodeo)
6:00 pm - Dinner & Entertainment

**Backhoe
Rodeo****Grill Giveaway!**

6:00 pm - Early Bird Tailgate Party/Exhibit
Hall
6:15 pm - Convention Chair Welcome
7:45 pm - Auction
9:00 pm - 1:00 am - Associates Hospitality
Rooms Open

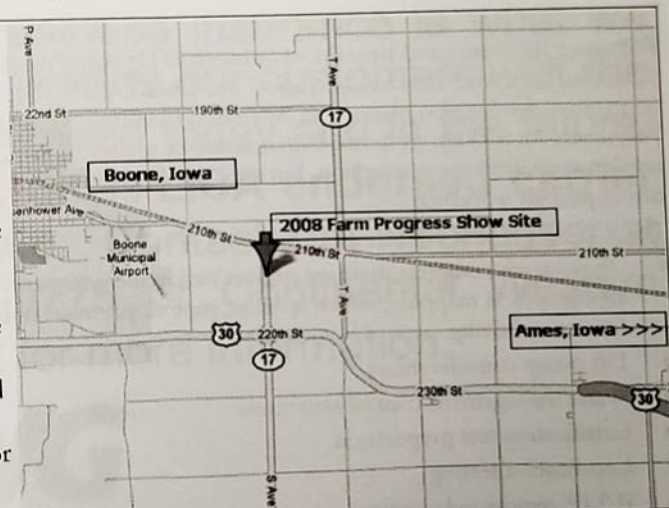


HOTEL ROOMS RESERVED IOWA FARM PROGRESS SHOW AUGUST 26, 27, 28, 2008



Thanks to our helpful connections at Progress City USA, ILICA has managed to reserve 3 hotel rooms for the evening of August 26th near the Iowa Farm Progress Show. These rooms are as difficult to come by as rooms near Decatur during the Illinois event, but with the dates just one

week after ILICA's 2008 Conservation Expo, only 3 were reserved. If anyone is interested in attending the Iowa show and would like one of these rooms, please contact Janet at the ILICA office via email at janet@illica.net or (309) 446-3700 for more detail.

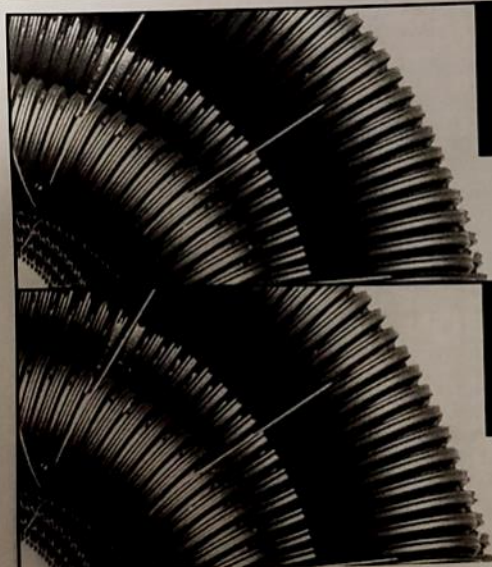


2008 CONSERVATION EXPO UPDATE - PROGRESS CITY AUGUST 19 - 21, 2008



Although the snow is still flying, planning continues for the ILICA 2008 Conservation Expo, set for next August. Meetings have continued between NRCS, ILICA and Progress City management, as the conservation plan develops. We're still looking for co-chairs for the show committee, so if you think you might be interested, please mention it to Bill Dean, Jon Seevers or Janet Doubet at this years' convention, or contact the ILICA office anytime. The Progress City show site has many amenities that other sites lack and Cindy Laegeler is one of the best in the business to work with, making smooth sailing of much of the show planning and execution; and this isn't her first rodeo either! This would be a great expo to become involved in ILICA committee work with the show committee.

Keep checking the newsletter and website for updated information.



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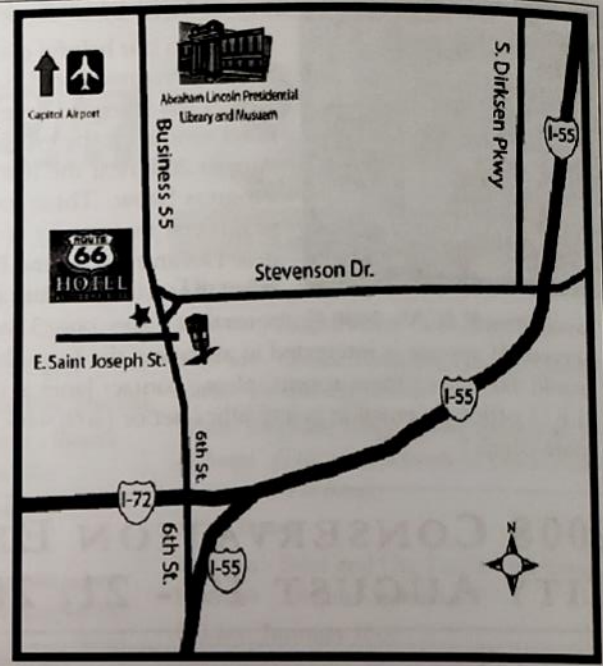
2008 ILICA ADVANCED DRAINAGE WORKSHOP FEBRUARY 19 - 20, ROUTE 66 HOTEL

Following the Basics and Benefits of Subsurface Drainage Workshops scheduled for early February (see page 5 for details), the ILICA Education committee has also planned an Advanced Drainage Workshop for February 19th & 20th. A detailed agenda will be mailed to ILICA membership soon after the convention, but save the date and plan to attend this important workshop.

The following topics will be included:

- An in-depth complete drainage project design including surveying, topographical mapping, lateral spacing, pipe slope, main flow calculations and sizing.
- Lift pump considerations
- Water management control structures
- Certification test preparation
- Certification testing
- JULIE remote ticket entry

The Route 66 Hotel in Springfield, which was the site of last year's ILICA Workshop, has a room block set aside at a rate of \$66 per night. Please contact the Route 66 Hotel directly at (217) 529-6626 to reserve your room and contact the ILICA office if you have any questions.



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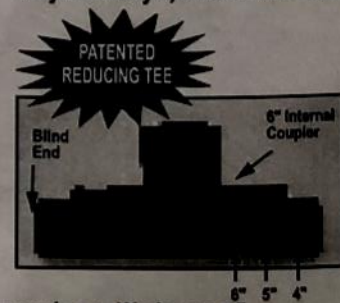
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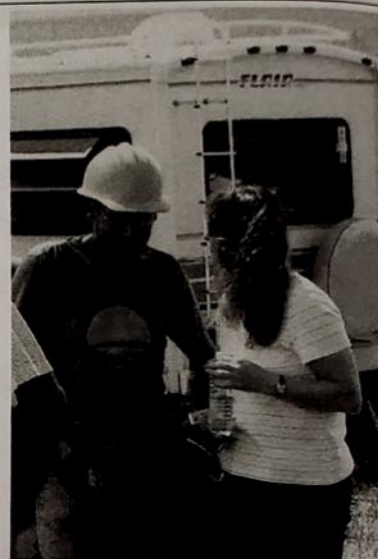
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ILICA LOOSES A CLOSE FRIEND AND PARTNER



ILICA has lost a dear friend and conservation partner in the recent passing of Richard Lasser, Conservation Expo host in 2004 and 2007. It is hard to imagine life without the power house we had the pleasure of working with just a few short months ago. Even after dealing with unrelenting rain at the 2004 Expo on another McLean County farm, he was anxious to make needed conservation improvements to his newest farm property just south of Colfax. The 2007 Conservation Expo had it's own challenges, as each one does, but Richard was on site, rain or shine, every day the contractors were working. You could see the anticipation in his face as he watched the pond and dam take shape, and grow as the wetlands and islands moved from his vision into reality. His

dedication to wildlife habitat and conservation work is well documented and will be sorely missed by our organization as well as the many others that Richard actively supported with his time, labor and money. He was tireless in every pursuit he set his mind to and at 73, was pouring and finishing concrete as recently as last October. He was an inspiration to us all. Thank you for the wonderful legacy you have left, not only for your family, but for the many generations of Illinois-ians that will learn from your vision. **You will be missed.**



(upper right) Richard & Cathy enjoying a short break (above) auxiliary spillway construction at 2007 expo (lower right) Richard, Cathy and Sally Lasser watch Steve Sauder at well sealing



Richard Joseph Lasser - BLOOMINGTON – Richard Joseph Lasser, 73, formerly farmed in the Bloomington area, died Sunday (Dec. 16, 2007) at Provena Saint Joseph Medical Center, Joliet.

He was born on the family farm in Plainfield, and was a lifelong area resident.

He was a member of the NRA since the age of 8. He was a graduate of Joliet Township High School, attended Carthage College and Northern Illinois University. He was a U.S. Army veteran.

He spent his life involved with many endeavors, including farming, construction and land conservation. He was a life member of Cantigny Post 367 VFW, member of the Operating Engineers Union Local 150, the Cement Finishers Union, Teamsters Union Local 179, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever and Trees Forever. He hosted two conservation expos in 2002 and 2007.

Mr. Lasser has various awards for wrestling, track and football, and thought of himself as the unofficial coach of the Chicago Bears and the Chicago Bulls. Richard had a passion and vitality for life. He was a very productive person who never met a stranger, and never let grass grow under his feet.

Survived by his life partner and constant companion, Cathy Jones, Plainfield; three children, Jane Lasser, Andrew (Claire) Lasser and Sally Lasser; four grandchildren, Catlyne, Chloe and Kyle Lasser; and Nicholas Lasser; former wife and mother of his children, Suzanne Lasser; one brother, Robert (Nancy) Lasser; and numerous other extended family members and lifelong friends. He was preceded in death by his mother, Isabel Harms Lasser, and his father, Joseph Lasser.

The funeral for Richard Joseph Lasser will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Fred C. Dames Funeral Home chapel, Joliet. Private family interment. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in his name to Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, Trees Forever or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Visitation will be from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home. Please contact Janet at the ILICA office for information on where to send cards or notes of condolence.

2007 CONSERVATION EXPO UPDATE

An expo site visit in mid-November with Chris Davis from Illinois EPA Bureau of Water found only a few feet of water at the bottom of the newest Lasser pond in McLean County. The auxiliary spillway sported a lush growth, courtesy of the hydro-seeding and the seeding across the dam and above the pond waterline also showed a healthy start. The upper wetland, shown to the right, had enough water in it to surround the habitat island, but since it was Chris' first visit to the site, it took her a few moments of walking around the southern edge of the pond before the overall design became apparent. The site looked a great deal like it had in late August at the conclusion of the expo. Everyone who had worked on the project knew however, that it would only take one heavy rain to change the excavation site into the pond and wetlands that were Richard Lasser's vision of this farm.



As you can see from the pictures below, that vision is now a reality. Heavy rains hit McLean County in late November and early December, and the pond quickly filled to capacity, making the design readily apparent. Bitter cold temperatures after Christmas turned the pond into an ice skating rink and snow covers most of the surface, but it is still apparent that this wildlife habitat is exactly what Richard set out to create. Warmer temperatures after the first of the year may have changed the appearance even now but by the time spring hits central Illinois, ducks and geese will recognize the property as safe haven and begin to utilize the many features Richard created just for them. Although he was taken from this life too soon, his family intends to maintain and continue the conservation work that their father started and honor the legacy he left to us all.



Pictures of the Richard Lasser conservation pond near Colfax, Illinois, site of the 2007 ILICA Conservation Expo. (top left to lower right) Dam & structure seen from across the ice; picture taken from the dam; wetland below the dam with island; primary overflow structure at water level.

2007 Illinois LICA Committees

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Corey Getz/ADS
Eugene Glueck/ Martin Equipment
Chad Nickelson/Eastern IL Clay

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Steve Anderson
Ron Masching

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Rose Day
Bill & Bev Dean

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COMMITTEE INVOLVEMENT IS KEY AT ILLINOIS LICA

Each January, committees are reviewed and updated as existing members gain new areas of interest and new members come on board. Committees are one of those places where "more is better", so if you have an interest or even suspect you may have an interest in one or more of the committee's listed on page 16, please let someone know. Talk to one of the current committee members, any of our directors or just call the office.



Committee's meet on the same day as regular board of directors and are listed in the meeting notice you receive in the mail.

Talk to Bill Dean at the 2008 Convention about your interest in committee involvement.

Committee Function, Responsibility and Authority

The committee system is the best system yet devised in a democracy to capture and develop ideas into a workable program. The FUNCTION of each committee is to gather ideas from every source that relates to its area of concern. Those ideas should be advanced in the form of a proposal. Each member of the committee has a personal RESPONSIBILITY to become knowledgeable in that area of the committee's concern. Each committee has the AUTHORITY to investigate, research, meet submit reports and develop proposals, to the extent of its budget. Committees are authorized by the By-Laws as an instrument of the Board as a means to secure ideas and suggestion from the membership. Committees which do not gather and refine ideas for presentation to the Board are missing the opportunity to serve the Association. Committees can be no stronger than the individual members who serve the Association.

The committee structure of Illinois LICA is an integral part of every function, goal and service we provide. Committees are the driving force behind every convention, workshop, expo or membership drive and one of the reasons we are celebrating 50 years of success at the January 2007 Convention. If you are interested in becoming involved in one of the committees listed on page 16, please let your Area Director or any member of the Executive Committee know.



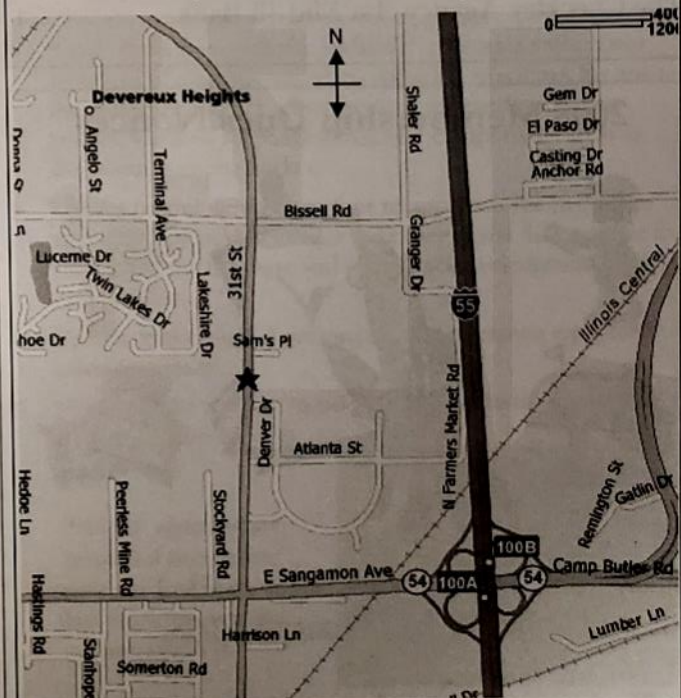
2008

The officers and staff of Illinois LICA would like to thank our dedicated membership for an outstanding 2007. Without the support of our contractors, associates, affiliates, and life long partners, we would not be where we are today...standing strong and ready for another 50 years of soil & water conservation!

You have our sincere and heartfelt thanks!

May each of you have a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year.

March 8, 2008 Board Meeting Location



Ryan's Buffet—2730 N. Dirksen Parkway, Exit 100 on I-55
Take the Sangamon Avenue exit from I-55 to Dirksen Parkway—turn right, heading North on Dirksen approx. 2 blocks.

Ryan's is just past the new Super Wal-Mart.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Illinois

Final Board Meeting of 2007
Stoney Creek Inn - Moline, Illinois
 January 17, 2008 3:00 pm

Illinois LICA 2008 Annual Meeting
Stoney Creek Inn - Moline, Illinois
 January 18, 2008 1:15 pm

Basic Drainage Workshops
February 5, 6, 12, & 13, 2008
 See page 5 for locations & other details

Advanced Drainage Workshop
Route 66 Hotel, Springfield, Illinois
 February 19 - 20, 2008

National

2008 Winter LICA Meeting—Las Vegas, Nevada
 March 9—10, 2008
 (Sunday—Monday, prior to Con Expo 2008)

2008 Con Expo / Con Agg—Las Vegas, Nevada
 March 11—15, 2008

2008 Membership Dues Notices



2008 dues notices have been mailed out and are due by January 1, 2008.

Please remit your dues today to maintain the many benefits of ILICA Membership.



!! ATTENTION !!

Winter LICA Convention
Las Vegas, Nevada
March 9 - 10, 2008

It may seem like a long time before March gets here, but the hotel rooms in Las Vegas will be gone long before then.

Please review the registration documents you received from Debbie Dickens of Missouri LICA, regarding our winter convention and Con Expo. You cannot get a room during this time without registering for Con-Expo and available rooms will be booked fast!

Please notify the ILICA office ASAP if you haven't received your registration packet.

SAFETY FEATURE - PREVENTING INJURIES WHEN WORKING WITH HYDRAULIC EXCAVATORS AND BACKHOE LOADERS

Workers who operate or work near hydraulic excavators and backhoe loaders are at risk of being struck by the machine or its components or by excavator buckets that detach from the excavator stick. NIOSH recommends that injuries and deaths be prevented through training, proper installation and maintenance, work practices, and personal protective equipment.

A National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) review of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) data identified 346 deaths associated with excavators or backhoe loaders during 1992–2000 [NIOSH 2002]. Review of these data and of NIOSH Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) cases [NIOSH 2000, 2001] suggests two common causes of injury: (1) being struck by the moving machine, swinging booms, or other machine components; or (2) being struck by quick-disconnect excavator buckets that unexpectedly detach from the excavator stick. Other leading causes of fatalities are rollovers, electrocutions, and slides into trenches after cave-ins.

Employers should take the following steps to protect workers from injury while working with excavators or backhoe loaders.

Site Set-Up

- Contact local utilities and other responsible parties to locate overhead and underground utility lines before beginning work. Avoid working near overhead power lines. If you must work near them, develop a plan to avoid contact and to follow OSHA regulations for minimum clearance [29 CFR* 1926.550(a)(15)].
- Do not permit hydraulic excavators or backhoes to be operated on grades steeper than those specified by the manufacturer.
- Make sure that workers position machinery at a safe distance from excavations such as trenches.

Equipment Operators

- Train equipment operators in the proper use of the equipment they are assigned to operate. Be sure to follow manufacturers' specifications and recommendations.
- Continually evaluate safety programs to address changing conditions at the worksite.
- Clearly identify and label all machine controls and make sure that the manufacturers' safety features are working.
- Install and maintain equipment attachments and their operating systems according to manufacturers' specifications.
- Securely latch attachments (such as quick-disconnect buckets) before work begins.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for using positive locks on quick-disconnect equipment.
- Train operators to conduct visual and operational checks on all machine systems and operating controls before working the machine.
- Make frequent visual inspections of quick-disconnect systems—especially after changing attachments.
- Use the ROPS and seat belts supplied by the manufacturer. Do not remove the ROPS.
- Do not exceed load capacities when lifting materials.
- Instruct operators to lower the boom to a safe position with the bucket on the ground and turn off the machine before stepping off for any reason.

Other Site Workers

- Train site workers to recognize and avoid unsafe conditions and to follow required safe work practices that apply to their work environments.
- Make all workers on the site aware of the machines' established swing areas and blind spots before the operator works the machine. Keep workers on foot outside these areas by marking them with rope, tape, or other barriers.
- Before each work shift begins, review and confirm communications signals between machine operators and workers on foot.
- Instruct machine operators to keep the bucket as close to the ground as possible when workers are attaching loads for hoisting.
- Keep workers outside the hydraulic excavator swing areas and clear of attachments when using the machines for hoisting materials. Do not allow workers to stand under suspended loads or suspended machine components such as the boom, arm, or bucket.
- Do not permit workers on foot to approach the hydraulic excavator or backhoe loader until they signal the operator to shut down the machine and receive acknowledgment from the operator.
- Use spotters or signal persons around operating equipment when necessary.
- Never permit workers to ride in or work from excavator or backhoe loader buckets.

Provide appropriate personal protective equipment and make sure that workers use and maintain it.



Acknowledgments: The principal contributors to this publication were Virgil J. Casini and Paul H. Moore, NIOSH Division of Safety Research, Morgantown, WV.



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ONE DAY RESOLUTIONS

I cannot keep a resolution. I try, really I do. But by February I have resorted to my old habits. Why? Who knows? Change can be hard, I can be lazy and I can set standards that are *way* too high. So this year I am setting "trial" resolutions—as in 24 hour trials—for each day the first week of January. I hope you will join me.

All of my ONE day resolutions are focused on the environment, inexpensive and some will even save money if I can turn them into a habit. It never hurts to try, so here goes:



Monday: Replace one incandescent light bulb (the old kind) with a compact fluorescent light (CFL). CFL's use 75 percent less energy than incandescent lights and can last up to ten times longer. If you do not like the CFL at the end of the 24-hour period, put your incandescent light back in.



Tuesday: Turn the thermostat back one degree. Yes, just one degree will save 3 percent on the heating cost over the 24-hour period. If the temperature is not comfortable after the trial period, bump the thermostat back up.

Wednesday: Place a rock filled container, such as an old butter dish with the lid on, in the reservoir tank of the toilet.

Never use bricks as pieces can break off and harm plumbing. This can save you up to half a gallon of water per flush. Try it for 24 hours, and see if the toilet still performs as expected.

Thursday: Unplug the computer when it is not in use. Better yet, turn off the power strip leading to the computer, printer, modem, etc. Even when turned "off" computers can still use 1 – 3 kilowatts of power per hour.

Friday: Observe the speed limit. Driving the speed limit can improve fuel efficiency by 5 – 20 percent depending on your normal speed. Research shows that every five miles per hour you drive over 60 is comparable to paying an additional \$0.20 for a gallon of gas.

Saturday: Clean the lint trap in the dryer every time it is used. Clogged dryer vents create a fire hazard and reduce the dryer's performance, increasing the cost of operation.



Sunday: Recycle all of the paper used during these 24 hours, including the Sunday paper. This is the only resolution I have made and managed to keep. I am still amazed at how much paper my household recycles every week.

Source: Jodie Tate, University of Illinois Extension natural resources management educator, (217)782-6515

What Can You Recycle? Each day, Americans throw away as much as seven and a half pounds of garbage per person, leaving a behind over 100,000 pounds of trash during the course of a lifetime. As the New Year approaches, why not set a New Year's resolution to recycle your garbage and purchase items that are made from or packaged with recycled products and give a gift to future generations?

According to the National Recycling Coalition, the top 10 things to recycle are aluminum, PET plastic bottles, newspaper, corrugated cardboard, steel cans, HDPE plastic bottles, glass containers, magazines, mixed paper and computers.

The National Recycling Coalition website provides a handy "Recycling Calculator" to show how much energy and resources can be saved by recycling plastic bottles, aluminum cans, glass and newspapers. For instance, recycling four Sunday newspapers a month saves four trees per year and recycling seven aluminum cans per week conserves enough energy to watch television for 21 hours. Visit <http://www.nrc-recycle.org/> to calculate your energy savings.

Many cities across America have curbside recycling programs in place for residents to use along side their regular garbage pickup service. Unfortunately not all towns and municipalities offer this type of program. For residents in these areas, it is necessary to find locations to drop off recyclable items and to consider how to begin a local community-wide effort to recycle.

In Illinois, residents can contact their local solid waste handler, the Illinois Recycling Association, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, or the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs, Bureau of Energy and Recycling for information on recycling. Check out these websites for more details on how to start a recycling program in your town.

Illinois Recycling Assoc. - www.illinoisrecycles.org/, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency - www.epa.state.il.us/, Ill. Dept of Commerce & Community Affairs - www.illinoisbiz.biz/dcco/. Kelli Bassett, Extension educator, natural resources

HELPFUL TIPS FROM U OF I EXTENSION

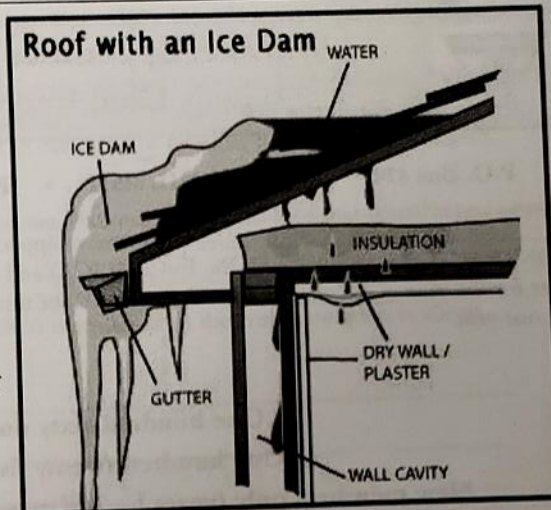
WINTRY WEATHER CAN LEAD TO ICE DAMS ON ROOFS AND LEAKS

An ice dam is a ridge of ice that forms at the edge of a roof and prevents melting snow (water) from draining off the roof. The water that backs up behind the dam can leak into a home and cause damage to walls, ceilings, insulation, and other areas. This is basically the result of a difference between escaping warm home temperatures and colder outside temperatures. For ice dams to form there must be snow on the roof, and, at the same time, higher portions of the roof's outside surface must be above 32° F while lower surfaces are below 32°F. For a portion of the roof to be below 32°F, outside temperatures must also be below 32°F. The snow on a roof surface that is above 32°F will melt. As water flows down the roof it reaches the portion of the roof that is below 32°F and freezes, forming an ice dam.

The dam grows as it is fed by the melting snow above it, but it will limit itself to the portions of the roof that are on the average below 32°F. The water above backs up behind the ice dam and remains a liquid, which can find cracks and openings in the exterior roof covering and flow into the attic space. From the attic it could flow into exterior walls or through the ceiling insulation.

Since most ice dams form at the edge of the roof, there is obviously a heat source warming the roof elsewhere. This heat is primarily coming from the house. Heat from the house travels to the roof surface in three ways: conduction, convection, and radiation. Conduction is heat energy traveling through a solid. In a house, heat moves through the ceiling and insulation by conduction through the slanted portion of the ceiling. In many homes, there is little space in regions like this for insulation, so it is important to use insulations with high R-value per inch to reduce heat loss by conduction. The top surface of the insulation is warmer than the other surroundings in the attic. Therefore, the air just above the insulation is heated and rises, carrying heat by convection to the roof. The higher temperatures in the insulation's top surface compared to the roof sheathing transfers heat outward by radiation. These two modes of heat transfer can be reduced by adding insulation. This will make the top surface temperature of the insulation closer to surrounding attic temperatures directly affecting convection and radiation from this surface.

There is another type of convection that transfers heat to the attic space and warms the roof. It can go from inside the house and through penetrations in the ceiling, such as the light to the attic space. In many homes this is the major mode of heat transfer that leads to the formation of ice dams.



For immediate action, remove snow from the roof. This eliminates one of the ingredients necessary for the formation of an ice dam. A "roof rake" and push broom can be used to remove snow, but may damage the roofing materials. In an emergency situation where water is flowing into the house structure, making channels through the ice dam allows the water behind the dam to drain off the roof. Hosing with tap water on a warm day will do this job. Work upward from the lower edge of the dam. The channel will become ineffective within days and is only a temporary solution to ice dam damage. Be cautious, however, as anyone on the roof during the winter or performing work on the roof from below is risking injury and risking damage to the roof and house. It may be important to contact professionals to carry out this job.

Long-term action is often needed. Increase the ceiling/roof insulation to cut down on heat loss by conduction. Make the ceiling air tight so no warm air can flow from the house into the attic space. Both of these actions will increase the snow load that your roof has to carry because it will no longer melt. So, determine if the roof can carry the additional load.

Interior damage should not be repaired until ceilings and walls are dry. In addition, interior repair should be done together with correcting the heat loss problem that created the ice dam(s) or the damage will occur again. Proper new construction practices should help prevent ice dams. Secondly, it is necessary to construct a continuous, 100% effective air barrier through the ceiling. There should not be any air leakage from the house into the attic space.

This information is compiled from the University of Minnesota Extension fact sheet, "Ice Dams", # FO-01068, Rev. 2007. The fact sheet and other winter storm resources related to current weather issues, safety, home energy and other information is available on the University of Illinois Extension – Rockford Center website at web.extension.uiuc.edu/rockfordcenter. Scroll to the Natural Resources and Environment section and click on the Winter Storm Resource Center icon.

Source: John Church, Extension Educator, Natural Resources Management, churchj@uiuc.edu



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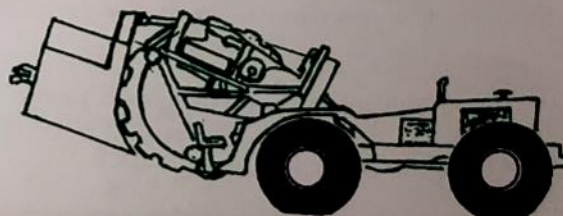
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