
ILLICA



NEWS

Land Improvement Contractors Of America · Illinois Chapter

July - August 2008

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Upcoming Events:

2008 Conservation Expo:

August 19 - 21, 2008
Progress City USA, Decatur, IL

Chicago Construction Expo:

January 7 - 9, 2009
Renaissance Schaumburg Hotel
Schaumburg, IL

MILLER TOWNSHIP CONSTRUCTION

SERVING NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOR 50 YEARS

(PAGE 6)



Also Featured Inside

Area 7 Membership Drive Off To A Great Start (page 5)

NEW Certification Decals Available (page 10)

Area Member Meetings; What Are They? (page 11)

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



2008 EXPO VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

This year's expo officially starts on Tuesday, **August 19th**, but equipment will start arriving on the Friday before when preliminary work to the site will also begin. Contractor members will be needed on Friday and Saturday, **August 15th & 16th** but no work is planned for Sunday. Monday will be a heavy work day in preparation for Tuesdays' spectators but work will knock off around **3:00 pm** for the **Back Hoe Rodeo** and **Kick-Off BBQ dinner** that evening at the site.



This year's Expo will demonstrate Wetland Restoration & Enhancement, Rock Chute Construction, Seeded Turf Reinforcement Mat Installation, and Sub-Surface Drainage along with two new practices. The 2008 Conservation Expo will also feature the installation of a rain garden, storm water retention infiltrators and pervious pavement near the Horticulture building of RCC. Since Storm Water Pollution Protection has become part of most land improvement contractors workload, ILICA has a chance to introduce our members to the newest materials and methods for SWPP and give our volunteers hands on training on any and all of these practices.

The Expo is open to the public from **9:00 am - 4:00 pm Tuesday through Thursday**. And tram tours will be conducted during those times. Volunteers will be served breakfast at 6:00 am each morning at Richland Community College cafeteria and a concession lunch will be available when we break for lunch at noon on those days as well.



A block of rooms have been secured at the **Sleep Inn**, located just off Brush College Road, a few minutes north of the Progress City show site. Call **(217) 877-7700 before August 8th** and mention ILICA to receive the quoted room rate of \$69.95. Camping is also welcome on the secured show site and permanent bathrooms make life a little easier for everyone during what is traditionally a long wet week.



To get more information or to sign up to work during this year's expo, contact show committee show co-chairs, **Jon Seevers at (217) 433-1302** or **Bill Doubet at (309) 360-9667**.

New Members



Active Members

Rick Surmeier

Surmeier & Surmeier, Inc. - Mascoutah

! Correction !

Nick Appell - Appell Truck & Trailer - Galva

Editors Note: Nick was incorrectly listed as Kevin in the last issue of *ILICA News* (*don't ask me why????*) Please welcome **NICK** to our outstanding organization.

Thank You !

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The ILLICA News



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FEATURES

ILICA Expo Volunteer Info	2
Area 7 Membership Drive Off To A Great Start	5
Featured Contractor: Miller Township Construction.	6
NEW Certification Decals Available	10
Area Member Meetings: What Are They?	11
Chicago Construction Expo	12
Sealed Bids for Dell Laptop	13
ILICA Picnic & Members Meeting	14
Letter from Show Committee Co-Chair.	18
Safety Feature - Summer Safety	19
U of I Extension - Sample Flooded Wells/Websites for Kids	20
Tips from U of I Extension - Managing Weeds	21

COLUMNS

Welcome New Members	2
Members Meeting Notice	3
Presidents Message	4
Gabbin' With the Gals	8
Legislative Update - EPA Grant Proposals To Reduce Hypoxic Zone	9
2008 Committee Members	16
Advertisers Index	18
Calendar of Events	18
Active Member Application	22
Associate Member Application.	23

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 of Directors Meeting
Richland Community College
Board Room - Decatur, IL
Saturday, September 6, 2008
2:00 PM

Committee Meetings
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Lunch provided



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings from Mattoon,

Hope all is well with everyone. Today is July 6, 2008 and the weather is beginning to dry up ... finally. Crops have taken a toll with all the rain around us. We personally, in a 5 square mile area, have been very fortunate this spring as far as corn. We have had an abundance of rain; however, our immediate area has not had 6"-10" rains concentrated in one day like some. 4 miles north of us and continuing north into Champaign County, I have seen crops that have been drowned out, replanted and have suffered water damage after the second planting. 3 miles south of us on south to southern Illinois, I have talked to many farmers who replanted their entire corn crops and some have planted a third time. Heavy rains down there have not only caused water damage but have also packed the light soils causing the plants not to push through. Beans have been a problem also but not quite so bad. Wind damage has been very disastrous in various storms this spring also. We have lost many roofs or complete buildings due to the severe weather. I do know we have been very fortunate compared to the other parts of the state as far as flooding and wind.

Who ever thought the day would come when we would see \$7.00 corn and \$15.00 beans. On the other hand, who ever thought the day would come when we would see near \$5.00 diesel and \$4.00 gasoline, even though we were told it would happen. My only suggestion is to step back, look at your operation and see where you can be more efficient with less fuel. These times will pass and we will adjust to them somehow. It appears most of us have plenty of work for the rest of this year and if we have decent crops, this years' work should continue into next. That should help everyone's business.

Now, let's get down to ILICA business at hand. We had an excellent turn out for our summer picnic in Collinsville. I think Neal and Tracy Barnes and his entire staff deserve a standing ovation for a well thought out picnic and follow through from start to finish. With the help of Jerry Biuso, who we enjoyed very much, the membership committee set out to solicit membership in that area and did not stop until they saw many contractors, some who joined and others that are thinking very seriously about it. Lets all make a commitment to do the same. Remember JUST ONE is all it takes. To help with this I just renewed my Insurance and was able to take advantage of the workers comp from Continental Western which will be eligible for the dividend as well. I will let you know I saved nearly 10% from my previous carrier BEFORE the dividend. What a sales tool! THAT'S what I'm talking about. Membership is the backbone of this organization and we all can help.

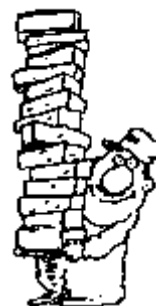
Now for the fun part; the upcoming Con-Expo. We are back at Progress City and Richland Community College for another show. And guess what; we are going to have fun! And guess what else; we are going to need helpers. And guess what else; we are going to need equipment from our dealers for this work. And guess what one last time; we have new some new objectives to accomplish this time. Please make an attempt to help out with this event and you will be able to see what I mean about having fun and sharing knowledge of how your competitor does something or shouldn't do something; finding out what different equipment he may use to do the same task, making it more efficient or on occasion how un-efficient some are. That's how this organization helps all of us. Please call Janet and tell her you plan on attending one or all three days of August 19, 20, & 21st at the Farm Progress show site. Tell her you would like to help out with running a piece of equipment or help out with labor. This would be a good time to bring your employees and give the hands on experience they may need.

Take Care and we will see you there.,

Bill Dean, ILICA PRESIDENT



**Have You Got Your "ONE"
New Member Yet?**



Help US Build!

AREA 7 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE OFF TO A GREAT START!

ILICA's membership drive started a few days before our evening at Fairmount Park with Neal Barnes and Jerry Biuso, LICA Executive V.P. and membership "madman" reviewing some of the construction and land improvement projects in the Collinsville area. Friday, Wayne Litwiller, Forrest Davis and Norm Kocher joined Neal and Jerry for visits with area contractors and associates. They were able to stop at several job sites and Rick Surmeier, pictured below with our membership group, is our newest contractor member. The interest generated during this weekend in Area 7 will continue with members meetings set for September, October and November this year. RSC Equipment Rental and Hayden



Equipment both expressed an interest in becoming our newest associate members as well as sponsoring two of these meetings, including dinner. Following a wonderful afternoon at Horseshoe Lake and Arlington Greens Golf Course, it was time to get ready for ILICA's first membership drive at Fairmount Race Track in Collinsville. It had been a warm afternoon but a good breeze kept things pretty comfortable at the lake and golf course. It was a good thing that Neal had arranged for an indoor/outdoor space at Fairmount however, as it was a little warmer at 6 pm with the buildings blocking some

of that fine breeze we'd enjoyed all day. Guests could sit inside to eat and watch the races on monitors or simply step outside to get a true sense of the event. Many members brought their families who enjoyed watching the races and each other's company as evening brought cooler temperatures and at least one uninvited guest, shown to the right.

We were joined by several prospective members and took advantage of the time between races to get to know a little about them and hopefully show them a little about who we are. Fairmount Park was a wonderful venue for our first membership drive and everyone seemed to enjoy the evening, staying until the last race. After a great picnic, golf for some and a tour of Cahokia Mounds for others, the evening was a perfect end to a great day down south. More than one member stated that it was one of the best ILICA outings ever and that they would love to go back whenever Neal can stand to have us again.

Check our website for more information regarding the upcoming Area 7 members meetings. Dinner will be provided, followed by a short educational presentation and members are encouraged to bring at least one prospective member along.

See page 11 for more information on bringing members meetings to your area.



(below, top to lower right) Dave Hurst holds large pincher beetle that joined the party; Members with their children, grand children and a few others enjoy slowing down a little after a busy day.; Jim & Carol Kiley, Dave Hurst, Veronica and Jon Seevers pick their next winner; Neal Barnes signing up Chris Morford of RSC Equipment Rental.



MILLER TOWNSHIP CONSTRUCTION - SERVING NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOR 50 YEARS



Miller Township Construction was founded in the summer of 1958 by Robert Anderson and four other local landowners who pooled resources to purchase a TD18 International bulldozer to build waterways, ponds and terraces on their own properties. As other area landowners saw the work being done, they started asking if they could hire Bob and the bulldozer for their projects. Bob ended up buying out the other partners in 1959 and Miller Township Construction became his own. He continued doing mostly agriculture related work and was able to add two more TD18 bulldozers an old Allis AD3 grader and a Laterno pull behind scraper as the requests for more construction came in.

The area has a large Norwegian population who settled in the hill country due to the natural drainage, avoiding the wetter, flat land nearby. The Anderson farm was originally settled in 1837, Bob's family being of the local Norwegian decent. The 260 acre farm is still farmed by Steve while Stuart maintains Anderson General Hauling, another sister enterprise developed out of the agricultural work Miller Township Construction is involved with.

Bob kept this working fleet busy into the mid-sixties when he added a John Deere 760 scraper, which was just before he joined ILICA in 1966. His two sons were still too young to help with the business but Steve admitted he started "playing around" with the grader on the farm when he was about 12 years old, building a go-cart track on farm property. He started working for his dad in the summer of 1975 after deciding one morning to go to work with him on a waterway south of Marseilles. Before the day ended, Bob left Steve to continue shaping the waterway alone as he went into town for errands, trusting Steve enough to continue the job correctly. The next summer, they needed to rent a second scraper to complete a 3 acre excavated pond south of Marseilles, which is when Steve began working full time during the summers and after school into the fall.

Miller Township Construction really took off after that summer and Bob bought the first 750 Deere dozer Martins sold, the first year they came out. Stuart was still too young to help with the business but the addition of the new dozer kept both Steve and Bob busy up until 1984, when Stuart graduated from high school and also joined the business. They added another 200 International scraper that summer, which they still have, and continued building waterways and ponds throughout the area but also began building block chutes and constructing terraces. The Andersons built some of the first terraces in that area installing over 14,000 feet of terrace on one area farm alone. The photo shown on the cover of this issue, taken by Bob from his plane, shows another 1987 terrace project of Miller Township Construction.



(top left) Steve and Stuart Anderson of Miller Township Construction in front of their 850 Hyster compactor;

(above) Upper picture shows pond near Marseilles being constructed in 1989 while the lower shot shows how the pond looks today. (look for the 4 overflow pipes in the dam for comparison.)

(Page 7, top to bottom) A very young Stuart constructing a toe-in wall; Road on top of dam through an area subdivision built by MTC in 1997 and; another road under construction marking the second phase of the same subdivision which Miller Twp Construction is also constructing; Two of the Andersons' machines at the site prep for a new shed; Anderson General Hauling delivering screenings for the shed floor.

MILLER TOWNSHIP CONSTRUCTION - SERVING NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOR 50 YEARS - (CONT.)

Terraces remained very popular into the 1990's, creating another opportunity for Miller Twp. Construction to diversify, due to the delays experienced sometimes, waiting for other contractors to complete tiling for the terraces they were constructing. While attending the ILICA convention in 2000, the Andersons purchased a Spiker 600 tiling machine from John Trimby, who was getting out of the tiling business. The first tiling job they did is just a few miles down the road from their shop, but it was not long after that terracing became a thing of the past.

The Andersons didn't let the Spiker set idle however, and as area farmers became aware they had tiling equipment, that aspect of the business also grew. So much so that two years later, they had to purchase a Spiker 7060 to be more productive than they were with the 600. The machine wasn't new however, and the downtime caused by the aging tracks prompted them to keep an eye out for something a little newer.

Tiling requests continued to increase and at the first Lasser Expo in McLean County in 2004, they ended up taking a demo Magnum 7200 that Larry Philyaw of Midwest Auger-Aerator had at the show site. Tiling continues to be a big part of their business, and the ability to diversify depending on what the weather or farm programs do during any given year, has helped Miller Twp. Construction stay busy regardless of the changing business climate.

Stuart has always liked working with large trucks and Anderson General Hauling is another way the Anderson's diversified. As Stuart was hired to haul in rock and other materials, more and more commercial work, such as driveways, subdivisions and basements became available for the excavating machinery. Now, Miller Twp. Construction stays busy in the spring constructing waterways, then after the ground thaws, will begin tiling jobs which normally takes both brothers to keep up with. As crops get planted and the tiling jobs wind down, Steve begins scraper work at an area gravel pit to remove the top 5 feet of soil to get down to the rock and sand. The landowner, a long time customer of the Andersons, will ultimately end up with a beautiful clay lined pond once all the materials are harvested.

Today, Miller Twp. Construction owns and operates multiple crawlers, graders, loader-backhoes, excavators, scrapers, an auger-backfiller and various trucks and trailers. One of their International E200 scrapers was "born" on Steve's birth date, which was the final push that made it a must have item. When asked about the biggest change they've seen in the industry, Steve remarked how hydro-static drive has provided much more control and maneuverability and how heated/air conditioned cabs have made dirt work much more comfortable than in days past.

The Andersons remain loyal supporters of ILICA, attending conventions and expos with Robert since the mid 1980's to today. Steve and Stuart attend national conferences, often as Illinois delegates and continue to participate in every ILICA expo or convention. Robert was ILICA President in 1990 and remained active in ILICA as a retired member until his passing in September of 1997. Stuart and Steve joined as active members in 1993 and Stuart served as ILICA President in 2003 and 2004. Steve is this year's incoming President and will assume his new duties at the 2009 convention in Springfield. They continue to serve the agricultural and commercial needs of their community and honor the tradition of hard work and experience started by Robert 50 years ago.





GABBIN' WITH THE GALS...

The month of June used to be "bridal month" but that seems to have gone south or some other direction as they are held most any month you can mention. This is written at a time when we are having floods almost anywhere you look and this gal hopes it hasn't been too unfortunate for our readers. "Devastation" would seem to be the word for this issue. One day it occurs in one area of our country and then it shows up in another part of our America. Mother Nature must be on the warpath in earnest because She doesn't seem to prefer one area over another. Those that have been overlooked would be wise to not brag or they could become the next victim. Where are our scientists now? This gal hasn't heard a word from them as to what could cause these eruptions. Weather channels would be the first ones to have one or two on their program but unless my TV has been on the wrong channel, it hasn't shown up here. Hopefully it won't be the same scientist who was adamant that it was impossible for a star to be where the three men were that guided them to the infant Jesus. Now there was a perfect example of an unbeliever because if he had been a believer then he would have known that God who can do all things, could have placed a star anywhere in the sky He desired. Those of us who cannot physically help these people can only use the power of prayer to assist in some way. Where we used to pray FOR rain now we have to pray for it to go away already.

There was an article in the newspaper recently about Mothers, because it was near to "her day." Here are a few opinions from second-graders: Asked why did God make mothers? 1.) She's the only one who knows where the scotch tape is; 2.) Mostly to clean the house; 3.) To help me out of there when we were getting born. How did God make mothers? 1.) He used dirt just like for the rest of us; 2.) Magic plus super powers and a lot of stirring; 3.) God made my mom just the same as he made me, He just used bigger parts. If you could change one thing about your mom, what would it be? 1.) I'd make my mom smarter. Then she would know that it was my sister who did it and not me; 2.) I would like for her to get rid of those invisible eyes on the back of her head.

Some other observations: A suburban mother's role is to deliver children obstetrically once and by car forever after. "Any mother could perform the job of several air traffic controllers with ease." Mark Twain said: "My mother had a great deal of trouble with me but I think she enjoyed it."

With Father's Day on the horizon we certainly wish a great day for all fathers! Don't forget to acknowledge those who are no longer with us except in spirit!

If your TV spouts the same old, same old as mine does, it gets rather redundant doesn't it? I believe by the time this election is over we will all know the color of each one's eyes and that of the spouse as well as what they had for breakfast, and many other nonessentials, except for what their intentions are! Newspeople probably have to keep up with the one around the corner, but it gets hard to digest. If anyone at some future time needs to know, I don't mind telling you that every morning I toast two slices of raisin bread and make a cuppa and that usually holds me until lunch. By that time you would be uninterested anyway. My mother had a different life - she made (from scratch) biscuits for all three meals of the day. When she was hospitalized for a week and Sunday came around, this gal got up the nerve to try to cook and the meal ended up with a compliment from Daddy who said "I didn't know you could cook like this!" And I replied, "Neither did I!" Shows what you can do when it becomes a have-to, doesn't it?

Come to think of it, a political elections is a lot like expecting a baby - at least you know there will be a solution at the end of a certain time. Might not be to your liking, but at least it will be over.

Wish I could have attended the picnic, but my body won't take the long, long trips anymore. It sounded as if you could be occupied with several different choices before the main meeting of course. We have had several days thrown in that were not to our liking but I believe you had good weather for those days. We are in the midst of the season of Summer now, so maybe the good weather is right where it should be - and full speed ahead!

A college professor began to bring a tennis ball to class which he would place on his podium and students wondered what it was for. One day, a student fell asleep in his chair and he professor picked up the tennis ball and hit him in the head with it. Woke the man up, it did! The next day, the professor came to class, walked over to his podium and put a baseball on it. No one ever went to sleep in his class again!

Some unnecessary thoughts: Atheism is a non-prophet organization / Why do they lock gas station bathrooms - are they afraid someone will clean them? / If a turtle doesn't have a shell, is it homeless or naked? / How do they get deer to cross the road only at those yellow road signs? / How is it possible to have a civil war? / Why is it called tourist season if we can't shoot at them? / and why is there an expiration date on sour cream?

Hoping your flowers and gardens prosper and you can keep cool in hot weather until next time. Don't forget the word, "Devastation" and say some prayers please.

..... Rambling Rose





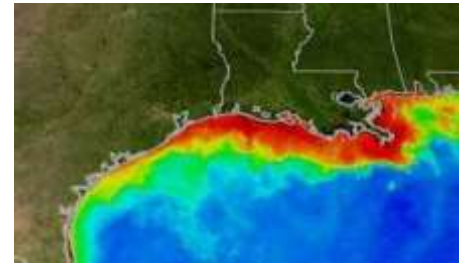
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - EPA REQUESTS GRANT PROPOSALS TO REDUCE HYPOXIC ZONE IN THE GULF OF MEXICO

Story By Shakeba Carter-Jenkins

EPA plans to award up to \$4.2 million in targeted watershed grants to reduce the hypoxic zone in the northern Gulf of Mexico. EPA is soliciting proposals that will use water quality trading programs to reduce nutrient loads, particularly from the Ohio River, the Upper Mississippi River, or the Lower Mississippi River. These three sub-basins provide the most nutrients to the Gulf, contributing to the hypoxic zone, an oxygen-depleted area that cannot support aquatic life. Excess nutrients come from a wide range of sources, including runoff from developed land, atmospheric deposition, soil erosion, agricultural fertilizers, & sewage and industrial discharges. "This is seed money to grow an innovative solution to nutrient pollution and cut the size of the Gulf of Mexico's dead zone," said Asst. Administrator for Water Benjamin Grumbles.

Market-based approaches like water quality trading that use innovative pollutant cap and trade programs can accelerate the restoration of the Gulf and help achieve major reductions in pollution at lower costs. Setting pollutant reduction targets and allowing sources to buy and sell credits to meet those targets can make it faster, easier, and cheaper to meet water quality goals.

Grant proposals must be submitted by Sept. 9, 2008. State governors and tribal leaders nominate proposals for targeted watershed grants. A national panel evaluates and ranks submissions based on criteria outlined in the notice. Selection of the grantees will be announced this fall. The Targeted Watersheds Grants program has awarded nearly \$50 million to 61 organizations since 2003. For 2008, the focus is on supporting water quality trading to protect local water resources to reduce the hypoxic zone in the northern Gulf of Mexico.



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NEW! CERTIFICATION DECALS NOW AVAILABLE

New self-sticking decals have been produced for ILICA certified contractors that can be used instead of or in addition to the magnetic signs original issued. A limited supply is available at this time and others will be ordered and produced as needed in any quantity desired. Certification number, expiration date and classifications are included in each set and all current classifications will fit one line across the bottom of the new decals.

Two sets of decals or magnets, whichever is preferred, will be issued after completion of the certification process at no charge. Additional decals can be purchased at \$10.00 per set, covering cost plus shipping and additional magnets may be purchased at \$20.00, including classification strips.

Decals can be placed on equipment, trucks or displayed on your office door or windows and have a white back-

ground with green logo and black print. Magnets also have the same white background, green logo and black lettering.

ILICA Certified Contractors are listed below. Please check your information to insure it is correct. Contact the ILICA office with any questions, corrections or to order your decals or magnets at (309) 446-3700.



Certification #	Name	Conservation	Drainage	Earthmoving	DWM	Septic	Exp Date
563	Charles Adams	Y	Y		Y		03/2010
564	Cody Adams		Y		Y		03/2010
542	Mark Baker		Y		Y		03/2009
539	John Barttelbort		Y	Y			03/2009
561	Dennis Behrends	Y	Y		Y		03/2009
516	Lee Bunting	Y	Y	Y	Y		03/2009
526	Kenneth Carpenter		Y				03/2009
529	Forrest Davis			Y		Y	03/2009
546	Dan Day	Y	Y	Y			03/2009
545	Scott Day		Y		Y		03/2009
527	Bill Dean	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	03/2009
569	Bill Doubet		Y	Y	Y		03/2009
535	Gary Elliott		Y				03/2009
528	David Hurst	Y	Y	Y	Y		03/2009
540	Frank Huston	Y	Y	Y			03/2009
534	Gerald Joyner		Y				03/2009
538	David Kennedy	Y	Y	Y		Y	03/2009
524	Joe Krupps	Y	Y				03/2009
525	Jerry Lewis	Y					03/2009
518	Jeff Litwiller			Y		Y	03/2009
560	Wayne Litwiller					Y	03/2009
519	Wes Litwiller	Y					03/2009
532	Greg Magsamen	Y	Y		Y		03/2009
541	David Maltby	Y		Y			03/2009
543	Bill Masching	Y	Y	Y			03/2009
544	Ron Masching	Y	Y	Y			03/2009
562	Albert A Pearce	Y	Y		Y		03/2010
536	Robert Prose	Y	Y				03/2009
521	Jon Seevers	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	03/2009
537	Joe Streitmatter	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	03/2009



AREA MEMBER MEETINGS

WHAT ARE THEY AND HOW CAN I GET THEM SCHEDULED IN MY AREA?

When the ILICA education committee set up our traveling workshops last winter, it was in response to requests for more education and opportunities to network with other land improvement contractors. And although the response was good, there are only certain months during the year that our contractors have time for full day or two day workshops. That's where members meetings can provide a workable alternative, utilizing evening scheduling with short travel times that eliminate the need for costly overnight stays yet still provide important information for our contractors.

Several other LICA chapters follow this meeting format, scheduling 4 to 6 meetings annually within an area. The months of the year that are intensively busy with work or families, holidays and before planting for instance, are skipped. Associate members sponsor an evening meal, have a few moments to address the group followed by a short informational program by experts in variety of fields. Since these meetings are set up by area, no one has to travel very far to get a free dinner and the chance to compare notes with land improvement contractors working in similar conditions as their own.

The meetings are scheduled on a week night and generally start at 6 pm with dinner at 6:30, followed by a 1-hour program. Most meetings will conclude around 8:30 pm, allowing time to visit with other contractors and return home in time to catch the evening news and weather.



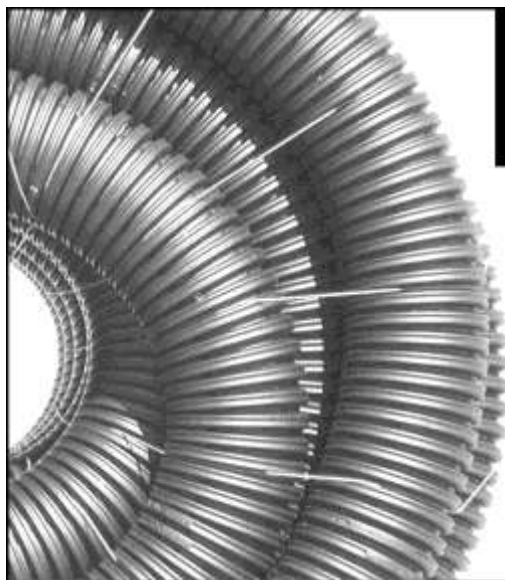
With the great response from our first membership drive in Collinsville, we're starting off in Area 7 with meetings set for September, October and November. Areas 3 and 8 have also expressed an interest in starting a meeting schedule there. All it takes is a dedicated ILICA director or active member, willing associate support in the area and a strong belief in what we have to offer other contractors in our own back yards.

Although these are members meetings, they are also a perfect opportunity to show area contractors that are not yet



members what we have to offer. Area ILICA members are encouraged to bring along other contractors that could benefit from these sessions and introduce them to the many other benefits of membership. It also gives our associates the chance to show off their facilities and new products and gives the membership committee some quality time to spend visiting with potential members.

Keep checking our website for more details on current meeting schedules and contact the ILICA office for more information on members meetings or how to get them started in your area.



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CHICAGO CONSTRUCTION EXPO TO INCLUDE LICA EXHIBIT AND EDUCATIONAL TRACK

JANUARY 7 - 9, 2009

ILICA received an invitation in April this year to attend a planning lunch for the Chicago Construction Expo at the Renaissance Schaumburg Hotel & Convention Center in Schaumburg, IL. These expos are scheduled around the country and Jerry Biuso, who has worked with this event in the past, agreed to attend the meeting at our request, since he was already at National LICA headquarters in Lisle that day.

The upcoming expo is scheduled for January 7 - 9, 2008 in Schaumburg and Jerry has secured a booth for us, free of charge, also agreeing to work with us in the booth, providing an great opportunity for more exposure in our northern Illinois areas.

While attending this planning meeting, Jerry mentioned the great success of the LICA educational track at Las Vegas, especially the backhoe panel discussion which saw the best attendance of any session offered. He currently has plans to attend the Chicago, Philadelphia and Pittsburg Expo's and has been given the go-ahead to set up educational tracks at each event, getting LICA's name in front of everyone attending the expos.



This event will require the participation of our ILICA contractor members to make a real impact on our footprint in Northern Illinois. The directors that worked with Jerry in Area 7 prior to our summer picnic in Collinsville can best explain why contractors have to be present, even with Jerry's bubbly personality on our side. They understand that our own contractor members have the best chance to make a positive impact on other contractors.

Our associate members will also have the chance to network with hundreds of contractors by facilitating or assisting with the educational sessions. Topics are currently being considered so contact the ILICA office if you have program suggestions or if you would like more information regarding the opportunities available at the Chicago Construction Expo.



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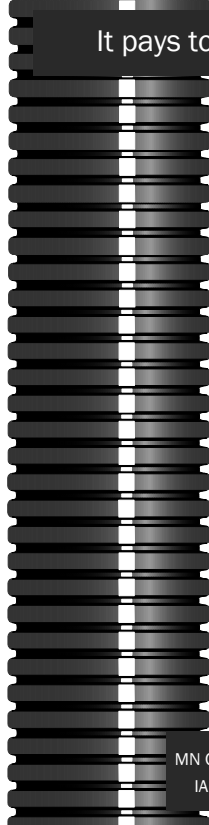
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DELL LAPTOP AVAILABLE FOR SEALED BIDS



The ILICA office laptop is up for sale. ILICA information has been backed up and pertinent files transferred to the new computer, which is wonderful. There was no carrying case included when the computer arrived from Springfield.

Many of the applications found on the computer, including all the Microsoft Office applications did not have installation CD's. Because of some installation issues with various software, the hard drive will be erased and Windows reinstalled, but the other applications will be gone for good. Only those applications that have OEM CD's or that can be downloaded from Dells website are considered to be included in the purchase.

To place a bid on the laptop, put your offer in a sealed envelope and mail to the ILICA office at the address listed at the right. Please contact Janet at the office if you have any questions about the computer **prior to submitting your bid**. The laptop has a power adapter but the portable USB mouse stopped working several months ago. The laptop comes with no guarantee other than the statements made in this article.

Included features:

- ◆ Intel Pentium processor 1.50GHz
- ◆ 512 MB of RAM
- ◆ Product Information Guide
- ◆ Dell Inspiron 600 m Owners Manual
- ◆ (OEM) Software CD's
 - ▶ Windows XP Home Edition
 - ▶ CyberLink PowerDVD Software
 - ▶ Inspiron System Software
 - ▶ Sonic RecordNow 7.1 LE Software



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ILICA PICNIC & MEMBERS MEETING AT HORSESHOE LAKE, COLLINSVILLE, IL

June 7th started out with a beautiful sunny morning in Collinsville, which might not seem that strange, except for the fact that tornados had gone through the previous afternoon accompanied by hail and several inches of rain. Friday evening, picnic host Neal Barnes was a little concerned about our outdoor plans the following day, but after an evening tour of the shelters he had reserved at Horseshoe Lake, everyone agreed to hope for the best and stick to our original plan.

There was a very busy schedule set for the day, starting with the members and board meeting at 10 am at the shelter at Horseshoe Lake. The call for scattered showers turned out to be a false alarm and the strong breeze off the lake kept the warm temperatures tolerable. Neal and his 'chefs' provided a wood fired grill and soon the rich aroma of hickory filled the air, followed by the mouth-watering smells of our BBQ lunch cooking. As the meeting concluded, members took the time to see the newest editions to our ILICA family, welcome visiting potential members and catch up on the latest crop, rain or equipment story.

After dragging a few more picnic tables closer to the shelter, delicious grilled bratwurst, hamburgers and pulled pork roast that was to die for was served with the traditional sides of potato salad, coleslaw, chips and bake beans. The meal was

fantastic and the fellowship was even better. We were glad to welcome representatives from Winfield Solutions and Pat Kelly Equipment who joined us for the picnic lunch and shared a little about their businesses and experiences. Bruce, Shelley and Jacob Barnhart also joined us for the meeting and lunch and everyone had a wonderful time. It seemed like the golf outing tea time came much too quickly and it was off to Arlington Greens, which was only a few minutes away.

Friday afternoons' torrential rains left half of the road back to the golf course under water, but as long as the carts stayed on the pathways, the golf outing was on as scheduled. The outstanding breeze continued for the afternoon and kept the thirteen members and guests cool as they played the open, rolling course.

Knowing that there are several non-golfers in the group, Neal also made arrangements for a guided tour of Cahokia Mounds. The historic site was just minutes away from the park and several people were able to take advantage of an opportunity to see one of the earliest excavation sites in Illinois. The Splash City water park right behind the hotels was another popular attraction for members attending with their



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MEMBER



children who spent the afternoon relaxing while their kids burned off steam. All and all, it was a great day for everyone who attended and we all owe Neal, his wife Tracy and delightful daughter Savanna a great big "Thank You" for being such gracious hosts. We also want to thank Prins Insurance Inc. and Continental Western Group for sponsoring the lunch and Agri-Drain Corp for sponsoring the desserts from Apples' Bakery in Peoria, which were also VERY good.

Golf Outing sponsors were Heiser Insurance, Martin Equipment of IL, Springfield Plastics and Tompkins State Bank. All of our gracious sponsors have our heartfelt thanks for their outstanding support.

(Page 14, top l to lower r) Lunch cooking near the shores of Horseshoe Lake; Potential member, Scott Wohltman of Winfield Solutions with Bruce Barnhart and Forrest Davis; Some of our golfers at Arlington Greens; Jerry Biuso, Wayne Litwiller, potential members Dan Blevins and Neal Hickman of Pat Kelly Equipment and Norm Kocher waiting patiently for lunch; Members working their way through the delicious serving line for a lunch at the lake.

(Page 15, l to r) Forrest Davis, Brent Breedlove, Norm Kocher and Tracy Breedlove take a little time before lunch to admire one of the newest additions to our ILICA family; Tim, Doug, Brett and Ben of Stormwater Erosion Specialties and the Chefs' Extraordinaire for our picnic lunch.



2008 Illinois LICA Committees

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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 form 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.

Last Call For Hotel Rooms

2008 FARM PROGRESS SHOW
BOONE, IOWA
AUGUST 26-28, 2008

Thanks to our connections at Progress City USA, ILICA has managed to reserve three (3) rooms for the evening of August 26th near the Iowa Farm Progress Show site. These rooms are as hard to come by as rooms near Decatur during the Illinois event, but with the dates just one week after ILICA's 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 as soon as possible. If these rooms are not spoken for by **July 20th**, they will be returned to the area CVB for distribution to those on the waiting list.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Illinois

2008 Conservation Expo
Progress City USA - Decatur, Illinois
 August 19 - 21, 2008

Area 7 Member Meeting
TBA - Collinsville Area
 September 25, 2008
 Program: Truck Inspections - IDOT

Area 7 Member Meeting
TBA - Collinsville Area
 October 23, 2008 - Program: TBA

Area 7 Member Meeting
TBA - Collinsville Area
 November 20, 2008 - Program: TBA

Chicago Construction Expo
Renaissance Schaumburg Hotel - Schaumburg, IL
 January 7 - 9, 2009

ILICA Convention and Members Meeting
President Abraham Lincoln Hotel - Springfield, IL
 January 15 - 17, 2009

National

2009 LICA Winter Convention
Embassy Suites - Nashville, TN
 February 12 - 14, 2009

ADVERTISERS INDEX

Agri Drain Corporation.	23
Continental Western Group/Heiser Ins	13
DOMCO/Eastern IL Clay	11
Dunmire Equipment Co. Inc.	12
Fratco	15
Martin Equipment of Illinois.	24
Midwest Auger Aerator.	24
Precision Intakes.	23
Prins Insurance Inc.	9
Prinsco.	12
Roland Machinery Co	2
RWF Bron	17
Springfield Plastics Inc	24
Stadel Electronics.	17
The Checkley Agency	24

LETTER FROM 2008 SHOW COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR, JON SEEVERS



Dear Fellow LICA Members,

The 2008 Conservation Expo is quickly approaching. This year's show is scheduled for August 19 - 21 and will be returning to the Farm Progress Show site at Decatur Illinois.

In addition to the usual installation of agricultural conservation practices such as Sub-surface Drainage, Erosion Control Structures, Streambank Protection, and Wetland Enhancement, we will be showcasing some new urban erosion and pollution prevention practices.

Some of the Best Management Practices(BMPs) being installed are; Silt Fencing, Inlet Protection, Rain Garden, Underground Storm Water Detention, and Pervious Paving.

There will be a tremendous amount of work to be done this year, but also a tremendous learning opportunity for our members in areas that they may not be familiar with. Regardless of your age or experience, we will need your help on everything from operating new equipment, to driving tour wagons, to supplying other workers with a cool drink! - *Jon Seevers*

If you have any questions about the expo or would like to volunteer for this year's event, contact the ILICA office at (309) 446-3700 or call Jon Seevers at (217) 433-1302 or Bill Doubet at (309) 360-9667.

SAFETY FEATURE - SUMMER SAFETY



NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) offers the following tips to make your summer safer:

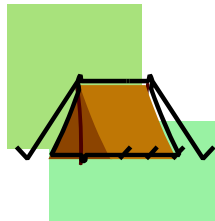
Scooter, bike and pedestrian safety

Scooters, bikes, in-line skates and skateboards are associated with numerous injuries yearly.

- Wear a comfortable, properly fitted helmet bearing the label of an independent testing lab. Be sure that the helmet sits level on top of the head—not rocking in any direction—and always fasten the safety strap.
- Be sure that safety gear (wrist, elbow and kneepads) fits properly and does not interfere with the rider's movement, vision or hearing. Wrist pads are not recommended for scooter riders as they may affect their ability to maneuver.



- Ride scooters and bikes only on smooth, paved surfaces and only ride during daylight hours.
- Learn the proper hand signals and use them when you turn or stop.
- Come to a complete stop before entering driveways, paths or sidewalks, then look left, right and left again for bikes, cars or pedestrians heading your way.
- Teach crossing safety to children by example.



Barbecue safety

Beware when you barbecue. In 1999 alone, gas and charcoal grills caused 1,500 structure fires and 4,200 outdoor fires in or on home properties, resulting in a combined direct property loss of \$29.8 million, according to NFPA.

- When using barbecue grills on decks or patios, be sure to leave sufficient space from siding and eaves.
- Always supervise a barbecue grill when in use.
- Keep children and pets far away from grills.
- With charcoal grills, only use charcoal starter fluids designed for barbecue grills and do not add fluid after coals have been lit.



- With gas grills, be sure that the hose connection is tight and check hoses carefully for leaks. Applying soapy water to the hoses will easily and safely reveal any leaks.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions and have the grill repaired by a professional, if necessary.



Water safety

Extra caution should be used when around water, for children and adults.

- Only swim in approved areas.
- Always supervise children near water at all times and make sure that children learn to swim.
- Check the depth of the water with a lifeguard before jumping in.
- Always wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved PFD (personal flotation device) when boating, jet-skiing, tubing or water-skiing. Air-filled swimming aids, like water wings or inner tubes, are not substitutes for approved PFDs. An adult should always supervise children using these devices.
- Be sure to extinguish all smoking materials and shut down motors, fans and heating devices before fueling a boat. In case of a spill, wipe up fuel immediately and check the bilge for fuel leakage and odors. After fueling and before starting the boat's motor, ventilate with the blower for at least four minutes.



Camping safety tips

- Always use a flame retardant tent and set up camp far away from the campfire.
- Only use flashlights or battery-powered lanterns inside the tent or any other closed space, not liquid-filled heaters or lanterns.
- Always build your campfire down wind away from your tent. Clear all vegetation and dig a pit surrounded by rocks before building your campfire.
- Store liquid fire starter (not gasoline) away from your tent and campfire and only use dry kindling to freshen a campfire.
- Always put out a campfire when going to sleep or leaving the campsite. To extinguish the fire, cover with dirt or pour water over it.

Fireworks

Fireworks lead to thousands of injuries requiring emergency room treatment, according to NFPA. These dazzling, but dangerous devices can burn up to 1200 F and can cause burns, lacerations, amputations and blindness. **Stay safe by always leaving fireworks to professionals.**

- Stay back at least 500 feet from professional fireworks displays.
- Treat all fireworks, whether legal or illegal for consumers, as suitable only for use by trained professionals.
- If you find fireworks, do not touch them but instead direct authorities to them.
- Leave any area where amateurs are using fireworks.





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SAMPLE FLOODED WELLS FOR CONTAMINATION



With the recent heavy rains and flooding in some areas of northern Illinois, some private well owners in low-lying areas may need to test their water for possible contamination. If the wellhead was under water or surrounded by floodwater it is a good idea to have the water tested before using the well. If wellheads and well casings are old, loose or corroded they may be especially susceptible to

contamination from surface water. The flood water may run into the well pipe which is a direct conduit to the well's underground water supply. Floodwater can potentially contain pollutants that would not normally be in the wellhead area. Some local health departments conduct special collection events for flooded wells.

To help well users take samples for such tests, University of Illinois Extension has available the publications, Land and Water Fact Sheet #13 - Testing Home Drinking Water and #14 - Common Contaminants. In addition to sampling procedures, the publication outlines what tests are necessary, when to take special tests, health advisory levels for common contaminants, and other related information, including information on sources of lab testing. Collecting water samples does not have to be a complicated process, but proper, sanitary procedures should be followed to help insure as accurate results as possible. Information and sample bottles are often available from local health departments. It is recommended that a sterilized sample bottle be used if available.

Basic tests for nitrate and coliform bacteria are often sufficient for most private well owners, but check with health officials if there are other concerns. High levels of these may be

an indication that other contaminants may be present, and additional testing should be conducted. There typically is no reason to routinely test for a broad spectrum of other contaminants, such as pesticides, industrial chemicals, etc., unless special conditions exist at the well site or water quality has changed significantly.

Health officials recommend sampling routinely for nitrate and coliform bacteria about once a year, in addition to special occasions such as flooding or other possible contamination. If there is contamination, health department officials can advise on the proper well clean up procedures.

Many labs will not test a sample that is over 48 hours old, so special delivery may be required in some areas. For best results, samples should arrive at the lab within 30 hours of sampling. Contact local health department officials if there is a question on the test results or for further instructions on testing procedures.

Contact the local U. of I. Extension office for copies of the fact sheets, or phone 815-397-7714. Other well fact sheets regarding well construction, location and sealing are also available. Interested persons can also go to the University of Illinois Extension Disaster Resources website at <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/disaster>.



EXTENSION WEBSITES FOR KIDS

School's out and the kids are looking for something to do. U of I Extension may have some answers for harried parents.

"More than 20 websites sponsored by U of I Extension are available to help kids learn and have fun at the same time," said Jane Scherer, Extension Urban Programs Specialist and Director of Web Programming. "By using Extension websites, kids can plant their first garden, learn about where their food comes from, or embark upon a 'great corn adventure.'"

My First Garden (<http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/firstgarden/>) introduces children to gardening. "The site explains how to select a garden spot, how to care for the garden, as well as help in deciding what to plant in the garden," said Scherer.

To learn where the food on the plate comes from, go to Fresh from the World: Where Your Food Comes From (<http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/food/>). "Users of this site can explore the history and origins of 15 different foods, including favorites like watermelon, apples, peanuts, and popcorn," she said. "There is also information about produce stands and farmers markets."



HELPFUL TIPS FROM U OF I EXTENSION MANAGING WEEDS IN THE LANDSCAPE, LAWN AND GARDEN



While weeds are a fact of life for the home gardener, understanding types of weeds and how they grow can help us choose the best way to manage them more effectively.

The two major categories of weeds are broadleaf types such as dandelions and grassy weeds such as crabgrass. Either type can have an annual life cycle, meaning it grows, goes to seed and dies in one season, or it is a perennial, meaning it re-grows year to year. Perennial weeds usually sprout from an underground plant part such as a rhizome. A less common life cycle is the biennial weed that grows in one season, over-winters, then flowers and goes to seed the next spring.

Cultural weed control is done without the use of chemicals. These methods include hand-pulling and cultivation, flaming with a hand-held propane torch, and reducing weeds in the soil by avoiding introduction of weed seeds (in manure and hay) and never allowing weeds to go to seed. Barriers such as fabric, mulch and replacing soil with sterilized soil mixes in containers and raised beds can also be effective.

Chemical control of weeds focuses on stopping weed seed germination through the use of a pre-emergent herbicide such as Preen™ or by spraying existing weeds with a post-emergent product, such as Roundup™. When using these products, always read the labels to determine which weeds and weed types they will control, and to determine proper application times. Proper timing is essential to achieve maximum effectiveness.

Crabgrass is an annual grassy weed that germinates in the spring when soil temperatures reach 60 or more degrees. Thus, a timely spring application is needed. If applied too soon, they will lose their effectiveness before weeds germinate. Winter annuals like henbit and chickweed in turf germinate mid-fall, as soils cool, grow slowly over winter and set seed in spring. A well-timed early fall application using a pre-emerge herbicide can prevent their becoming established.

Post-emergence products can kill on contact only or by being absorbed into the plant's system to kill underground roots. Post-emergence products can also be selective or non-selective as to type of weeds controlled, usually selective materials kill grass or broadleaf weeds.



For lawns, both grassy and broadleaf weeds can be a problem. In addition to using well-timed pre-emerge materials in spring and fall, selective post-emerge materials such as 2,4-D and dicamba can be applied to turf without injuring grass. These are often sold with fertilizers as a dry product that sticks to leaves.

In landscape and perennial beds, it is best to use cultural methods. In new beds, an application of Preen™ can be a valuable tool. Take care if using a post-emerge product such as Roundup™ as a spot spray; even a slight breeze can cause spray to drift and damage surrounding desirable plants.

Cultural control is the best in vegetable gardens, since pre-emerge products may affect any seeds sown directly into the ground. Perennial weeds and invasive plants are especially challenging. Using Roundup™ or 2,4D are most effective, but must be used in well-timed applications and the proper product matched to the proper weed. 2,4-D is only effective on broadleaf weeds.

Controlling weeds does not have to be an overwhelming task, and with the proper approach and tools, can be easily managed, thus maximizing the beauty of your landscape and the productivity of your garden. For more information on weed and pest control, visit the University of Illinois website <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/state/hort.html> or contact your local Extension Office.

Source: Anthony Bratsch, Extension Educator, Horticulture, bratsch@uiuc.edu

EXTENSION WEBSITES FOR KIDS (CONT.)

All you have to do is drive a bit outside the cities to sense that Illinois is one of the largest corn-producing states in the country. To find out why and more about corn, stop by The Great Corn Adventure (<http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/corn/>). "This interactive site teaches all about the history of corn, a year in the life of an ear, how corn is harvested, the many products and uses of corn, and how corn travels around the world for many uses," she said.



Given the wet and windy spring, some youngsters may be interested in the weather. "If you have a weather-watcher in your house, encourage them to make a web visit to Riding the Winds with Kalani (<http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/Kalani/>), a weather adventure," she said. "It features information on wind, clouds, precipitation, sun, and other weather factors."

Source: Jane Scherer, Extension Specialist, Urban Programming/Web Coordination, jscherer@uiuc.edu





SIGN UP A NEW MEMBER TODAY!



Application for ACTIVE Membership Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association



P.O. Box 474 • Brimfield, IL 61517 • Phone (309) 446-3700 • Fax: (309) 446-3744 • janet@illica.net

_____ hereby makes application for Active Membership in the ILLINOIS LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION, INC., (ILICA) and enclose Two Hundred eighty-five Dollars (\$285) as my annual membership dues for the year _____. One dollar (\$1.00) of this amount is for a subscription to the "ILICA News", a bi-monthly newsletter, for one year.

Dues are \$285*

One hundred sixty dollars (\$160) for Illinois Membership plus

One hundred twenty five dollars (\$125) for National Membership

New members only (years 1—2 of membership.) All existing members remain at \$400 annually.

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

Individual Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Spouse: _____ Firm Name: _____

Address: _____

County: _____ ILICA Area Number: _____ Sponsor: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

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☐ EC-Erosion Control ☐ EMC-Earthmoving/Land Clearing ☐ EXG-Excavating or Grading ☐ GR-Gravel/Rock Production
☐ LL-Land Leveling ☐ LS—Landscaping ☐ ODW-Open Ditch Work ☐ OSW-On Site Waste Treatment ☐ PD-Ponds / Dams
☐ RBD-Road Boring/Drainage ☐ R-Reclamation ☐ SA-Service Co (Government, Insurance Agency, Dealer) ☐ SEP-Septic Systems
☐ SP-Site Prep ☐ SWU-Sewer/Water/Underground Utilities ☐ TH-Trucking or Hauling ☐ TW-Terraces & Waterways
☐ WM—Water Management.



Application for SUBSCRIPTION Membership Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association



P.O. Box 474 • Brimfield, IL 61517 • Phone (309) 446-3700 • Fax: (309) 446-3744 • janet@illica.net

Subscription membership entitles the member to each issue of the *ILICA News* newsletter and 1 copy of the annual directory for the subscription year. The annual membership dues are **\$25.00** and offset the cost of publication and mailing.

Send completed application with dues (make check payable to ILICA) to the corporate address above.

Individual Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____



Application for ASSOCIATE Membership Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association



P.O. Box 474 • Brimfield, IL 61517 • Phone (309) 446-3700 • Fax: (309) 446-3744 • janet@illica.net

_____ hereby makes application for Associate Membership in the ILLINOIS LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION, INC., (ILICA) and enclose Two Hundred Dollars (\$200) as my annual membership dues for the year _____. One dollar (\$1.00) of this amount is for a subscription to the "ILICA News", a bi-monthly newsletter, for one year.

Associate members shall consist of and be limited to persons, firms, corporations, associations or organizations that manufacture or sell equipment, material or services to land improvement contractors.

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

Individual Name: _____ Email: _____

Firm Name: _____

Address: _____

County: _____ ILICA Area Number: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____



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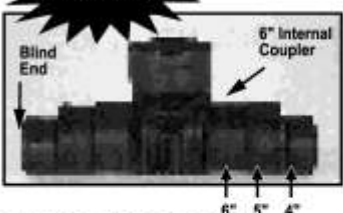
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