ILICA NEWS

Land Improvement Contractors Of America · Illinois Chapter

March - April 2022

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Galva, IL 61434

The ILICA News

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FEATURES

COLUMNS

President's Message

Dear members, as the fingers press the keys for this, I find myself sitting in a motel room in Arkansas on my way to the National convention; very pleasant temperature though not quite warm enough to put the top down on the old MGB but getting close. It is a markedly pleasant change from the mid teens that I left a couple days ago back in northern IL. Perhaps a reminder of what is to come as we inch toward spring.

The winter National event has become an important part of my life. This marks the 13th year that I have been able to make them without missing one. I have quite the collection of name tags hanging on my wall. If you take the time, you can learn much at the national events both from what is presented and from other contractors you meet and talk with. Of course, this happens in the state, too. I am by no way minimizing what we do here in Illinois. I do miss those years when we were the dominant state in terms of attendance at the national meetings. If you can ever fit one in, I do suggest you attend and get involved in what goes on.

By the time you read this, we might be having our state convention. I can't ever remember one being postponed in my 30 plus years as a member. It does snow sometimes, though. I do remember several times the snow piled up while we were sitting comfortably inside the hotel. Like with many things, better safe than sorry. It does look like it will be a good one. Hopefully, I will have seen you there.

With the small talk aside, it gets down to what I want to bring out in this message. ILICA needs you, and you should need ILICA. You have all kinds of sources of information in today's computer age that can show you how to do about everything from making a popcorn ball, which I just recently looked up online, to building buildings. That is all well and good, but you can often eliminate much of the trial-and-error when you have a good mentor, which directly relates to keeping down costs you have to eat because you didn't get it right the first time. Let us see a show of hands of those that didn't learn from experience…not too many, I see. I know I learned many good tips from others' experiences in LICA. No need to keep reinventing the wheel. What it all starts with is coming to state events and getting on a committee because that is where you really get to know others and make the friends that keep you coming and looking forward to the projects we do and the good times we have doing them together. It is my belief that a person needs to be at a certain point in life, though, to be a really active member of ILICA. That point is where you are looking for a new challenge; not just in your business but in life, too. The interesting thing is how you grow with that commitment or into it, as was the case with my own experience. Start on a committee, be on the board, become an officer, and you will be surprised at how it can change you for the better if you let it. Talk to a past president or a board member about their experiences. We won't mind.

Get ready for spring, get everything working well including yourselves. May you have a prosperous and safe working year.

Sincerely,

Steve Anderson

New Members

Active Contractors

Philip W. Smith
Nature's Finest, Inc.
3009 W Old Church Rd
Champaign, IL 61822
Ph: 217-369-9498
Email: phil@arborsmith.biz
Website: naturesfinestdrainage.com

Dustin Dekeyrel
Triple D Excavating Co.
3359 N 1300th Ave
Orion, IL 61273
Ph: 309-314-3228
Email: tripledexcavating@yahoo.com
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Active Contractors

Jay McCullough
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7549 Desch Rd
Riverton, IL 62561
Ph: 217-306-3661
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Associate Members

Roland Machinery Co.
Chris Ingram
816 N. Dirksen Pkwy.
Springfield, IL 62702
Ph: 217-789-7711
Email: cingram@rolandmachinery.com
Website: rolandmachinery.com

SHOW US THE MONEY

Congress passed a record Infrastructure bill but when will states, cities and counties get the money?

By Nick Yaksich, Director of Government Relations, National LICA

It's been nearly 3 months since Congress passed and the President signed into law the historic bipartisan $1.2 billion infrastructure legislation. Illinois is one of the biggest beneficiaries of the historic law that over the next 10 years provides a record amount of federal funding for highways, airports, water, transit, rail and broadband. The amount of funding dwarfs previous spending and will be distributed in two primary ways: new or established formula programs often based on population and existing systems and discretionary grants out of Washington or Springfield. The record amount of funding also provides unique opportunities for states and local governments, and importantly for LICA members, to benefit from the new infrastructure investment.

U.S. Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin (D-IL) met recently with members of the Illinois State Senate Democratic Caucus to provide more details about the funding for Illinois included in the newly-signed Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Durbin spoke in detail about the bill's $17 billion included for Illinois and the additional billions in competitive grants that Illinois will be eligible for. Durbin and the lawmakers discussed using the funding to accelerate the infrastructure investments already being made through the state's capital program, REBUILD Illinois.

"Now that Congress passed the historic Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, we can begin the exciting work of rebuilding, expanding, and modernizing our state's infrastructure. The increased federal funding for Illinois will help us fix crumbling roads and bridges, expand public transit and passenger rail, and provide broadband and clean drinking water to communities across Illinois," said Durbin. "I look forward to many more productive conversations with my colleagues in the state as we enter a new era of reconstruction."

The $17 billion in formula funding set aside for Illinois in the IIJA includes:

- $9.8 billion in highway formula funding for Illinois
- $1.4 billion in bridge replace/repair formula funding for Illinois
- $4 billion in transit formula funding for Illinois
- $1.7 billion in water infrastructure formula funding for Illinois
- $616 million to fund improvements to Illinois airports
- $149 million for expansion of EV charging in Illinois
- $100 million for expansion of broadband in Illinois

As government officials move to implement the record investment, they are faced with two (and there are more) significant challenges: how to distribute the money and, more importantly, will Congress make the money available in the budget?

How the Money be Distributed?

The Administration is committed to maximizing transparency so communities across America know what to apply for, who to contact, and how to get ready to rebuild. That's why they have created a guidebook for state, local, tribal, and territorial leaders. This guidebook is a roadmap to the funding available under the law, as well as an explanatory document that shows, in as much detail as currently available, program-by-program information. The 465 page guidebook BUILDING-A-BETTER-AMERICA_FINAL.pdf (whitehouse.gov) explains the different pots of money available to communities, along with a data file meant to allow applicants to quickly learn about available programs by searching name, funding amount, geographic area and/or agency.

The record investment will also most likely be a boon to federal and state infrastructure lobbyists who have made the case for years that rebuilding America should be a top government priority. More than 1000 local government entities spent nearly $50 million in the last half of 2021 on lobbying as the bill was being negotiated and moved through the House and Senate. Industry groups like IL LICA will play an important role in providing information on programs and funding made available by the new law.

Is the Funding Available?

To answer this question, some basic understanding of how federal infrastructure investment works, or some would say doesn't work, is required. The bill signed into law authorizes the levels of spending for different departments – highways, rail, airports, transit, etc. Congress still needs to appropriate, or make available, that level of funding. Quite often, the authorized level of funding does not match the appropriated level of funding. Let's try an example that may hit home – you tell (authorize) your young child that they have $100 to spend at the toy store, but you only give (appropriate) them $50. That's the dilemma facing Congress now; they need to fully fund the infrastructure bill that is now law.

Call To Action: Fully Fund the Infrastructure Law

The same industry coalition that lobbied for years to invest in infrastructure is now turning their influence on the budget and appropriation committee members to support the authorized level of funding in the new law. If you are in the infrastructure business, now is the time to have that conversation with local, state and federal elected officials on making the funds available to rebuild our infrastructure, create good paying jobs and enhance the movement of goods and people. It's a once in a generation opportunity.

ILICA Ladies Page

Spring is a time of new beginnings and fresh starts, so it's also a perfect time to revisit your habits and adopt some heart-healthy routines. During the winter months, it's easy to become sedentary, but spring is the time to get back in motion and take advantage of all that Mother Nature has to offer.

Here are five ways you can get back into the swing of things to have a heart-healthy spring.

Plant a Garden

Planting a garden offers several benefits for both your physical and mental health. First, you have the chance to grow your own healthy vegetables. What's better than walking outside to pick your lunch? But the benefits of gardening go beyond being able to grow healthy food; gardening itself is good for your heart. It decreases stress, burns calories, and studies show it reduces your risk of heart disease. Plus, you're boosting your immune system with the sun's all-natural vitamin D!

Research also has linked gardening to enhanced joy and creativity, as well as a sense of awe and purpose — and who doesn't want that?

If you don't have a backyard or enough room to create an outdoor garden, consider making a windowsill garden. They're great for small spaces and provide some of the same benefits as an outdoor garden.

Get Outside and Move

Warmer weather + sunshine = the perfect reason to get outside and exercise. Getting fresh air is good for you in many ways, and being in nature can improve your blood pressure and heart rate, as well as boost positive emotions.

In a time when everyone is concerned about COVID-19, experts say that exercise outside is still recognized as safe; as just mentioned, there are many benefits to getting outside and breathing fresh air. However, where you live can make a big difference in what you can do outside.

It's important to be able to maintain a safe social distance from others right now, but Dara K. Lee Lewis, a cardiologist and co-director of the Women's Program at the Lown Cardiovascular Center in Massachusetts, advises that getting outside and exercising remains one of the healthiest things you can do for yourself.

Don't overlook activities like hiking in the woods, riding a bike or other fun forms of exercise that can be done with others while maintaining a bit of distance.

Give Your Plate a Makeover

Soups and stews and warm comfort foods are staples of wintertime, but as the seasons change, so should your meals. One of the great things about spring is the abundance of fresh, seasonal food. Take advantage of it by making fresh fruits and vegetables a mainstay of your spring diet.

Incorporate more salads into your diet, and aim to get 10 servings of fruits and vegetables a day. That's the number of servings recommended to reduce your risk of coronary heart disease, stroke, cardiovascular disease and more. There's no more delicious way to improve your heart health!

Do Something for Others

Volunteering is a wonderful way to improve your connection to other people, improve their lives and bolster your heart health.

A study from Carnegie Mellon University found that older adults who volunteer for at least four hours a week decreased their high blood pressure by 40%. It appears that what kind of volunteer work you do doesn't matter, what matters is only that you do it. A study by Eric S. Kim, a research fellow at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, found that people who volunteer have a great sense of purpose, which is another positive emotion shown to improve heart health. In fact, one study found that people with a higher sense of purpose showed a lower risk of having a cardiovascular event, such as a heart attack or stroke, compared to people who didn't have a strong sense of purpose.

Whether your form of volunteering is making phone calls to those who are lonely and need someone to talk to, or it involves helping out at a school or soup kitchen, you're doing more than helping others — you're doing your heart a huge favor!

Change Your Beverage

You are what you eat, the saying goes, but what you drink can really do some damage! We aren't just talking about alcohol, although when consumed in excess, that can definitely wreak

ILICA Ladies Page (cont.)

havoc on your heart health. As the warmer weather returns, so do some of our favorite beverages, like sweet tea, lemonade and frozen coffee drinks.

However, those drinks can be loaded with sugar, so look for healthier alternatives. Try a cold brew coffee instead of a rich frozen drink; drink your tea unsweetened or with a touch of honey. Or, if you're craving a bit of lemonade, try squeezing fresh lemons into your water. (You'll get the added bonus of some vitamin C!)

When it comes to soft drinks, which are loaded with unhealthy ingredients, avoid swapping out a diet soda as an alternative, since they use artificial sweeteners that have been linked to an increase in metabolic syndrome and type 2 diabetes.

Your best bet is to reach for a glass of water, which will help you stay hydrated and healthy. And, if you don't like your water plain, add cucumber, lemon or lime to it for a refreshing change.

Source: Reprinted with permission from The Mended Heart, Inc..; https://mendedhearts.org/heart-healthy-tips-for-springtime/

REMINDER:

FREE Classified Listings for Contractors!

Contact the ILICA Office for More Info: 309.932.1230

2022 LICA Scholarship Application

Every year, National LICA awards scholarships to support students in their pursuit of higher education. LICA encourages students to fulfill their dreams of entering into the career of their choice.

To be eligible, applicants must be related to an active LICA Contractor member. This includes members themselves, spouses, children or grandchildren. To apply, complete the application no later than March 15, 2022 and return to:

National LICA, 3080 Ogden Ave., Ste 300, Lisle, IL 60532

Applications can also be downloaded online at: https://www.licanational.com/national-scholarship/

National Land Improvement Contractors of America Scholarship Application

3080 Ogden Ave. Suite 300; Lisle, IL 60532
Phone: (630) 548-1984 • Email: NLICA@aol.com

Name:_____ Age:_____

Address:_____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone:_____Email:_____

Educational institution currently attending:_____

Present year in school:_____Major course of study:_____

List courses you are taking or planning to take:_____

_____

_____

Parent or Guardian:_____

Address:_____

City/State/Zip:_____

Occupation(s) of parent(s) or guardian(s):_____

_____

Name of current, active LICA contractor member:_____

Relationship to active LICA contractor member:_____

Instructions:

1) Write an essay (300 words or less) describing your academic, vocational and personal goals and objectives and why you should receive this scholarship.
2) List your major course of study and include high school and/or college grade transcripts.
3) Include three letters of recommendation from your community, school or other adult non-relative.
4) Include a wallet size picture (2"x3" or equivalent), with the understanding that award recipients will be featured in the *LICA News*.
5) Application must be completed and mailed to the National LICA office with a **postmark date no later than March 15**. Incomplete applications and ineligible students are automatically disregarded.

Applicant's signature:_____Date:_____

ILLINOIS Extension Connection

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
THE GRAINGER COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
Department of Agricultural & Biological Engineering
338 Agricultural Engineering Sciences Building, MC-644
1304 W. Pennsylvania Ave.
Urbana, IL 61801

Woodchip Bioreactors: Installation Process and Chemistry Inside

By Dr. Shirley Johnson (farm owner) with Dr. Laura Christianson (University of Illinois)

A denitrifying woodchip bioreactor is one tool we have to remove nitrate from drainage water. As a farm owner, it is my responsibility to do what I can to limit nitrate runoff from my fields to minimize water pollution. The goals of this update are to provide a real example of the process of working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and contractors to build a bioreactor and to use real data to explain some of the chemical reactions in a bioreactor.

Johnson Farm Overview

My farm near Peoria, Illinois is 176 acres total with 50 acres currently in cover crop for transition to organic. New tiles were installed on 30 acres in early 2020 to improve drainage for better productivity. The drainage system uses 4-inch diameter laterals spaced at 60 feet, which tie into a 6-inch diameter main. Along with that land improvement, a woodchip bioreactor was installed in late 2020 to treat drainage from 20 acres.

Bioreactor Installation Process

The process from application to cost reimbursement for my bioreactor took over a year. In February 2020, I applied for technical and financial support through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) from the NRCS. My application was approved in August 2020. NRCS technical personnel surveyed the site and provided a detailed construction package in October 2020.

It was my responsibility to find a contractor, which proved to be somewhat difficult. I contacted 10 contractors and nine declined either because they had never built a bioreactor or they were too busy. Some contractors told me they did not know where to source woodchips, so I found a woodchip supplier, secured NRCS approval of the woodchips, and ordered the amount specified in the NRCS construction package. A contractor experienced with bioreactors, who had initially declined, unexpectedly had a scheduling window open in late November and I jumped on the opportunity to have him build my bioreactor. An NRCS technician was present during construction to answer questions and ensure the installation went smoothly.

Unfortunately, there were not enough woodchips to fill the bioreactor pit, which was slightly oversized compared to the design specifications. I had to order more woodchips and it was difficult to get them delivered. My second order of woodchips was finally delivered and spread in March 2021. The need to order additional woodchips is not an uncommon bioreactor installation issue, but from my personal experience, I would recommend that others organizing bioreactor construction have their contractor take ownership of woodchip procurement to help avoid a mismatch between bioreactor size and woodchip amount.

Figure 1. Dr. Laura Christianson and Dr. Shirley Johnson discussing the woodchip bioreactor on the Johnson Farm near Peoria, Illinois.

Total materials and labor cost for my bioreactor (54 ft long x 16 ft wide x 4.9 ft deep) was around $14,000, which was reimbursed in full by the NRCS through EQIP. I qualified for a higher NRCS cost-share rate than the standard rate because I am a beginning farmer. The NRCS calculates cost share based on their internal formula, not my actual expenditure, and that calculation resulted in NRCS covering my total cost including the additional woodchips.

I was awarded a USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Farmer Rancher grant for automated water samplers. Researchers from the Christianson Lab at the University of Illinois deployed the samplers, which automatically collect inlet and outlet water samples every four days. Once per month, a researcher transports the samples to the laboratory for analysis.

ILLINOIS Extension

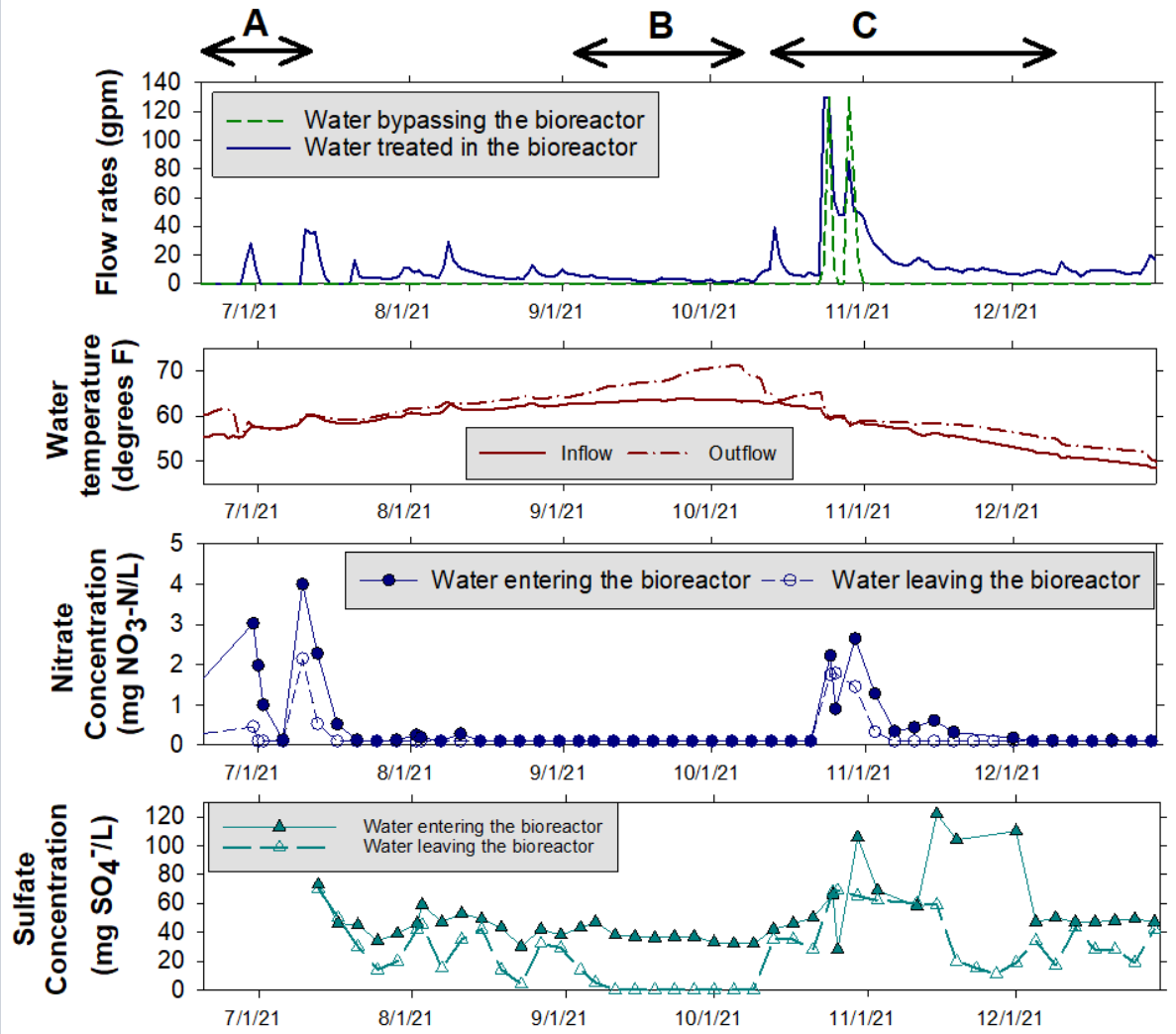

Figure 2. Johnson Farm bioreactor flow rates, water temperatures, and nitrate and sulfate concentrations. Every point in the bottom two panels is a sample collected at either the inflow (entering the bioreactor) or outflow (leaving the bioreactor) control structures.

Bioreactors as a Chemistry Lesson

Nitrate gets cleaned from drainage water inside a woodchip bioreactor by the natural process of denitrification. This process is done by native bacteria that eat the carbon in the woodchips while breathing in nitrate and breathing out dinitrogen gas, the primary component of the air we breathe. In more scientific terms, the process of denitrification is an oxidation-reduction reaction, often called a redox reaction. In all redox reactions, one substance is oxidized because it donates electrons, and the other substance is reduced when it receives the electrons.

When denitrifying bacteria perform denitrification, they are technically taking electrons from the carbon in the woodchips and transferring those electrons to the nitrate molecule. The nitrate molecule gets reduced (by the added electrons) through a series of steps which ends in dinitrogen gas, efficiently reducing nitrate in water exiting the farm.

There are other redox reactions that happen inside woodchip bioreactors depending on the environmental conditions and bacteria present. One of these processes is the reduction of sulfate naturally present in the drainage water to hydrogen sulfide gas. In this process, sulfate is reduced (gains an electron) to form sulfide, and the woodchip carbon is oxidized (contributes electrons).

Hydrogen sulfide production (from sulfate reduction) may result in a rotten egg smell at bioreactors sometimes. Once all the nitrate has been removed by denitrifying bacteria in a bioreactor, which is most common when drainage flow is very low in the late summer, sulfate reducing bacteria can outcompete the denitrifiers. Like denitrification, sulfate reduction is a natural process that has been occurring for millions of years.

Redox Reactions in Real Life

Since monitoring started in spring 2021 at my bioreactor, the nitrate concentrations in the drainage have been very low at less than 5 mg NO3-N/L (where nitrate is reported as the nitrogen present). This is most likely due to the in-field cover

(Cont. pg. 14)

crop of clover. Drainage research across the Midwest has shown that diversified crops like small grains (wheat, oats) and legumes (alfalfa, clover) have lower drainage nitrate concentrations than corn and soybeans.

Data from my bioreactor, shown in Figure 2, nicely illustrate the chemistry inside:

A - In July, there were several periods of intermittent high flow (up to about 40 gpm) which corresponded with flushes of nitrate entering the bioreactor. The bioreactor handled these nitrate flows well averaging > 50% reduction in nitrate concentration in July. During sampling events in mid-July when there were small concentrations of nitrate left in the bioreactor outflow, sulfate reduction did not occur. That is, the bioreactor inflow and outflow sulfate concentrations were similar in mid-July.

B - In late September / early October, there was very little flow (flowrates <10 gpm) and water was likely sitting in the bioreactor for long periods. This was also evidenced by the increase in water temperature across the bioreactor. During this period, nitrate concentrations entering the bioreactor were nearly zero so the denitrifying bacteria were outcompeted by naturally present sulfate reducing bacteria. Sulfate concentrations were reduced from approximately 40 mg SO4/L in the inflow to zero in the outflow. These samples confirmed what researchers had reported on-site: the outflow control structure smelled like rotten eggs (hydrogen sulfide).

C - Drainage flow increased into the fall months and water temperatures decreased. Cooler water temperatures slow down biological activity including both denitrification and sulfate reduction. Sulfate removal tapered off when nitrate was entering the bioreactor in large drainage events in late October. However, sulfate removal started again when nitrate concentrations dropped in mid-November.

Summary

Drainage flow rate, water temperature, and water chemistry (for example, nitrate and sulfate concentrations) interact to impact the redox reactions inside a bioreactor. While both nitrate reduction and sulfate reduction are natural processes, we prefer to minimize the latter to limit production of hydrogen sulfide gas. This is best accomplished by adjusting stop logs to avoid stagnant water in the bioreactor.

A bioreactor is a worthwhile method to reduce nitrate runoff to decrease the negative impact of farming on groundwater, lakes, and rivers. The NRCS provides farmers with outstanding technical support and generous cost share for bioreactors, but farmers need to plan ahead to take advantage of NRCS programs.

COVID Impacts Postponed Workshop Series

Over two full years since its identification in the US, COVID continues to impact just about everything, and Illinois LICA's events are no exception. Already postponed from January 2021, ILICA's Safety Workshop Series held this past January experienced low registration and attendance across all four scheduled locations, leading to the cancellation of the workshops in Macomb and Salem.

Having been over 3 years since the most recent ILICA class offering for any one of the 10HR OSHA, CPR, or Flagger certifications being provided during the workshop series, poor registration didn't seem to be for lack of need (certifications expire every 2-3 years) nor price, which was heavily subsidized for members via sponsorship (over 50% cheaper than any other source). And in speaking with members, the overarching response for lack of attendance was indeed their own COVID infection and/or the infections of their family members and co-workers close to them.

However, for those that did make the trainings, Dan "Dano" Nelson, of Grey & Associates, provided them quality, top-notch, life-saving education that they can use on the job everyday. Training that had many members in attendance talking about the immediate changes they were planning on implementing within their company as soon as they got back to the office; realizing that at the end of the day, nothing is more important than completing a job safely and returning home in the same condition in which you left.

A big thank you to Grey & Associates, to those members that helped host the trainings, including Jason Beyers and Jon & Veronica Seevers, and to our workshop sponsors: Prins Insurance, Inc; United Fire Group; Springfield Plastics, Inc.; Precision Intakes, Ltd.; Vermeer Midwest, Inc.; Drain Tile Safety Coalition.

PRINS INSURANCE

Springfield Plastics, inc.

ufg

Drain Tile Safety Coalition

PRECISION INTAKES, LTD

Vermeer Midwest


READY TO TILE?
KNOW WHAT'S BELOW.
Each drain tile project is as unique as the land itself.
Don't be surprised by an underground pipeline or utility.
Call 811 or visit www.clickbeforeyoudig.com in the planning process to identify the location of underground pipelines. It's a free service and only takes about three days.
Drain Tile Safety Coalition
811
© 2021 Drain Tile Safety Coalition // Photo Credit: Bob Clark

ILICA Trivia

ILLINOIS CHAPTER Land Improvement Contractors of America LICA

Where was this National Convention held?

Be the first to submit the correct answer to michelle@illica.net
One lucky winner will receive a prize!

Jan/Feb Answer: Bill & Marlene Ports and Jean & Forrest Davis

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Illinois

Contractor Training Store & Illinois LICA Virtual Septic Training (Series)
March 15, 2022
8 - 11:30 am
Register: https://form.jotform.com/210405973758159

Area 6 Golf Outing & Trap Shoot
June 10, 2022
McKillip Farm - Lerna, IL
Meadowview Golf Course - Mattoon, IL

National

2022 LICA Summer Convention
July 12-16, 2022
Ameristar Casino, Resort, & Spa
One Ameristar Blvd., St. Charles, MO 63301

ADVERTISERS INDEX

Featured New LICA Benefit: Value Insight Portal

Value Insight Portal offers numerous data-driven tools that work together to give you the best information possible about your equipment. Knowing the status of every asset, including real-world and future valuations, forms the foundation for making informed decisions regarding when to buy and sell.

Machinery Trader · AuctionTime.com · RentalYard · TractorHouse · Power Systems Today · Truck Paper · CraneTrader · Oilfield Trader · ForestryTrader

Powering Associated Software: FleetEvaluator · VIP Value Insight Portal

Contact a Machinery Trader representative for complete details. 1-800-247-4898 www.MachineryTrader.com

Safety Feature: Hand Protection

Of the many tools that we have available, our hands are the most valuable. They provide us with the dexterity necessary to perform precise maneuvers that even the most advanced technology cannot replicate. Even the simplest tasks are difficult for a person that does not have full use of his or her hands.

Many everyday tasks put your hands at risk. Hand injuries on the job are quite common, but many are preventable. There are many things you can do to keep your hands safe, and here are a few of the most common.

Make Use of Machine Guards

Never operate machinery that does not have a working guard to protect your hands. Always use a lockout device on machinery when you have to reach into it for any reason. Immediately replace guards when you remove them. When safety guards are missing from machinery, hands, fingers and arms can easily be caught, amputated or crushed.

Wear Gloves

Always protect your hands by wearing work gloves when handling rough materials or performing operations where you are using your hands to lift or move objects. An Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) study revealed that 70 percent of workers experiencing hand injuries were not wearing gloves. The remaining 30 percent were making use of damaged, inadequate or inappropriate types of gloves for the job. Choose the right gloves for the task and inspect them thoroughly before use.

Be Cautious of Sharp Objects

Utilize the correct safety procedures when handling knives, box cutters and other sharp objects. Never attempt to pick up broken glass, nails or other sharp objects not meant for handling with bare hands; always use appropriate gloves or a broom.

Remove Rings

No matter how much sentimental value they carry, rings put your hands in grave danger on the job. They can very easily catch on machinery and other objects, resulting in lacerations, amputations or broken bones. Always remove rings before beginning work.

Stay Alert for Pinch Points

When using your hands to move an object, whether it is on a hand truck or you are carrying it, be sure your path is wide enough for you to move through safely before you start the job. When you set a heavy object down, be aware of the placement of your hands. Always be alert for possible pinch points.

Speak Up

If you are unsure about the type of gloves to wear to adequately protect yourself, or if you have any other issues regarding the protection of your hands on the job, talk to your supervisor.

Discussion Date: _____

Employee Participants

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

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Safety Matters Toolbox Talks - From Prins Insurance LICA Portal (Zywave)