

ILICA



NEWS

Land Improvement Contractors Of America · Illinois Chapter

November - December 2008

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ILLINOIS LICA ANNUAL WINTER CONVENTION & MEMBERS MEETING JANUARY 15 - 17, 2009 (PAGE 12)



Join Us On The Beach!



Also Featured Inside

Area 3 and Area 8 Member Meetings (page 6)

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OSHA Top 25 Violations (page 18)

Upcoming Events:

**State Wide Membership
Sweep:** Schedule on Page 5

Area Member Meetings:
Schedule on Page 6

**Complete Event Schedule -
Page 19**

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

ILICA 2010 WORKSHOPS PLANNED FOR FEBRUARY - MARCH

The **ILICA** education committee is working on finalizing the workshop schedule for next year. At the time of this printing, topics are being considered for our 2-day workshop, which will probably be held in the Peoria area, for the first week in March with an alternate date being the last week in February.

More detail should be available in the January-February *ILICA News* and at the members meeting and annual convention in Springfield.



2008 Basic Drainage workshop attendees in Centralia

Additional one day workshops are being considered as well. Currently, the committee is looking at the Mt. Vernon area and Princeton/Peru area for these one day sessions.

If you have suggestions for topics you'd like to see presented during future workshops or member meetings, please contact Carol Kiley, Education Committee chairperson at (309) 932-2876 or the **ILICA** office.

For more information on topics and exact dates, keep checking our website, www.ilica.net or contact the office at (309) 446-3700.



Attendees at the 2008 Advanced Drainage Workshop in Springfield

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The LICA Creed

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

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

Meeting Notice

ILICA Board of Directors Meeting
President Abraham Lincoln Hotel
Friday, January 15, 2008
10:00 am

ILICA Winter Members Meeting
President Abraham Lincoln Hotel
701 E. Adams, Springfield, IL
Friday, January 15, 2008
1:45 pm

(See convention details on page 12)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

How is everyone?

It looks like it's that time of year again. Today is November 2nd and winter is knocking on our door. The weather here has been absolutely wonderful this fall. We have had only a couple of rain days so far. We had a hint of cold weather a week ago, however this week has been sunny and warm for the first of November. We are knee deep into our fall work and all is going well. I hope every one of you have had a good year.

Considering the rain, wind, and storm damage earlier this year, our crops in this area are excellent. This year the high rolling ground shined through for yields. We have a lot of corn in the 200 Bu + and 60 Bu + beans on the average. High moisture content in the corn was about the only problem we have had around here so far. I have heard yield monitors hitting 300 Bu per acre in a few places in the fields. How about those yield monitors? They have shown many farmers this year where the drainage paid off and where there low black ground didn't do good if it wasn't drained. If people in our business had any idea what kind of a sales tool these monitors would be, we would have purchased them ourselves and given them to our customers out of the starting gate.

By the time you read this I suspect the election will be over with. What about this election? x?&%#@#, I guess I better leave that alone. All I know is if the media would stay out of it, most of us would not be so glad to see the election over. It's sad that the only thing the media wants to report is what we want to listen to or read. Think about this! These people are in a business to make money as we all are. This means they are only interested in printing something that will make them money. Our society will listen to disasters, damaging winds, bad accidents, murders, bankruptcies, and any other sad event that happens. It doesn't make them money to print or announce how well some one did, or about the good people in the world, or the accomplishment that was derived from some event, because that must be boring for us to hear. Oh well, it's just another thought I need to keep to myself.

On November 8th we will have a board meeting in Springfield and I expect every one possible to attend. As I keep harping on, we need the participation of all officers, director, alternates, committee members, and any one else interested in our association. Getting involved is the only way to get your full money's worth. Call a member next door to

you and ask them to ride along. Membership is another priority. Area meetings are being organized by Wayne, Norm and their committee. Let's get behind them and help. Don't forget to sell the organization to people so we can develop more friends, pass along the insurance program along with all the other benefits that go along with membership. Con Expo is over with and we are now concentrating on the convention in Springfield. Please plan to attend it as well.

Don't forget, we are still looking for new ideas to help fund this organization to keep membership costs down. It seems this is what hinders many from joining. I'm sorry for those people who are missing out on a wonderful time as well as the many other benefits.

My reign as president will soon be over and you will not have to hear from me anymore, however I hope every one got something out of the last two years.

I hope all of you have a great fall, what's left of it, and we will see you in Springfield this January.

Thanks and take care for now.

Bill Dean, ILICA President



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STATE-WIDE MEMBERSHIP SWEEP GAINS SUPPORT ACROSS ILLINOIS

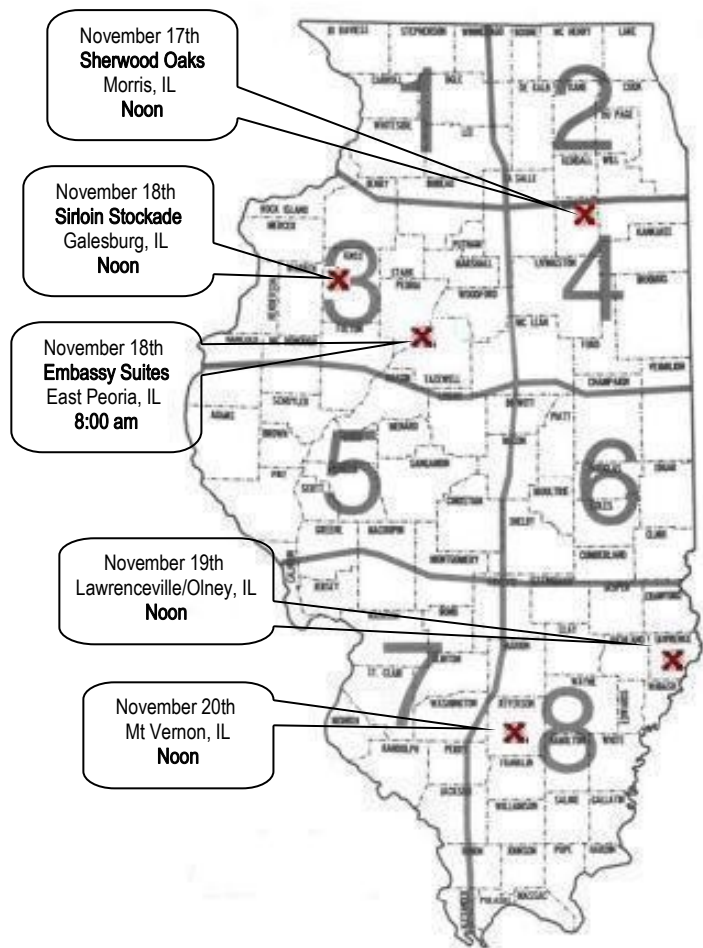


Under the direction of our membership committee co-chairs, Wayne Litwiller and Norm Kocher, and National Executive VP, Jerry Biuso, **ILICA** Directors have scheduled several informational meetings throughout Illinois to introduce other contractors to the many benefits of membership with **ILICA**. We'll buy your breakfast or lunch if you'll spend just a few minutes listening to Jerry and talking with our contractors.

Jerry continues to work tirelessly with the **ILICA** office to coordinate this state-wide membership sweep, our first Area 3 and Area 8 Members Meetings and the Chicago Construction Expo this January, all in his spare time. He is thrilled with the overwhelming response from the area directors setting up these venues and with the continued efforts of the **ILICA** membership committee. Jerry's confidence in our state chapter increases with every opportunity and he hopes to return to New Jersey completely exhausted from this incredibly successful trip.

Keep checking our website for additional meetings and exact locations as the dates approach and **please**, bring a contractor you know to one of these conveniently located meetings. You can always contact Janet at the **ILICA** office for more information at (309) 446-3700 or via email at janet@ilica.net.

NOVEMBER 17 - 20, 2008



See additional story on our upcoming Area 3 and Area 8 Members Meeting Schedule, listed on page 6.



November State-Wide Membership Sweep Meeting Schedule

Each meeting includes a free meal and short introduction to **ILICA** by Jerry Biuso, National ILICA Executive Vice President, explaining the many benefits of membership with the Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association, Inc. Area **ILICA** contractors will also be available to provide additional information.



November 17th - Noon - Sherwood Oaks - 1571 Division St, (IL Rt. 47), Morris, IL

November 18th - 8:00 am - Embassy Suites - 101 Conference Center Dr, East Peoria, IL

November 18th - Noon - Sirloin Stockade - 2200 N Henderson St, Galesburg, IL

November 19th - Noon - Lawrenceville/Olney area (Exact Location TBA)

November 20th - Noon - Mt Vernon area (Exact Location TBA)

Have **YOU**
heard
about
ILICA?

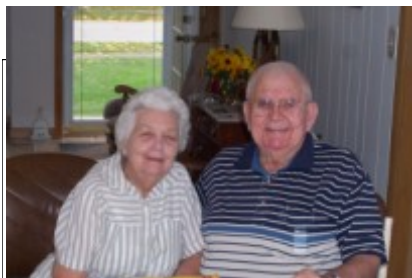


ILICA MEMBER MEETINGS RETURN TO AREA 3 & AREA 8'S ANNUAL SCHEDULE



The **ILICA** membership committee has been hard at work again this year, gaining outstanding support in two **ILICA** areas, so far. Using a concept that has proven successful in the past, Area Member meetings have been revived and are scheduled in Area 3 and Area 8. The first meetings are scheduled to coincide with the November state-wide membership sweep and Jerry Biuso's return to Illinois.

Year's ago, associate members would hold informational meetings around the state, providing a meal and education for **ILICA** contractors and their guests. Many times, the associate member would facilitate the educational portion as well, providing information about new capabilities of their products or the importance of preventative maintenance for equipment. Other times, **ILICA** would utilize our partnerships with University of Illinois Extension, NRCS or SWCD staff to facilitate specialized sessions on a variety of topics. These meetings are held in the evening, during months that traditionally see slower work loads for our contractors, making it possible for more of them to attend. This provides **ILICA** contractors with another benefit of membership, and also gives our associates an opportunity to meet contractors who could easily become new customers.



Open House for Dale & Donna Collinson

WHEN: November 22, 2008 - 1:00 - 4:30 PM

WHERE: McKay's Restaurant
Market Street - Galva Illinois

WHY: Dale being 80 years young, Donna celebrating another birthday and their 11th Anniversary.

Please join the children of Dale & Donna for a simple gathering of friends and family to celebrate their many milestones. We request your attendance, but please, no gifts.

For more information, contact Carol at (309) 932-2876



Wayne Litwiller has been a key reason for the renewed interest in Area 3 and has secured the first meeting site at **Martin Equipment of Illinois, Inc.** in Goodfield, scheduled for Tuesday, November 18th. Martin's have generously agreed to host this meeting, supplying a Rib-eye Sandwich dinner with all the fixings while the Illinois State Police are providing a Commercial Motor Vehicle Enforcement Officer to explain IDOT regulations that affect contractors. Even if you're just renting a piece of equipment, you need to know these regulations before you haul it out to your job site.

Although Norm Kocher has been working non-stop with the Army Corps of Engineers to repair damaged levees in southern Illinois, he has spent what little spare time he has

locating sponsoring associates in Area 8 for their first member meetings. On Wednesday, **November 19th**, Caterpillar is sponsoring our members meeting at the new **Fabick-CAT** location in Mt. Carmel, Illinois.

Norm has also made arrangements for a second Area 8 members meeting at **ERB Equipment** in Mt. Vernon for **November 20th**. All meetings will feature the Illinois State Police Commercial Motor Vehicle Enforcement Officers from their Districts as the educational presentation.



Since the holidays, state and national conventions and workshops fill our schedules from December through February, additional meetings for these 2 areas will resume in March and April, before the weather gets nice and everyone is anxious to get back out in the field. Keep an eye on our website, www.ilica.net, for updated information on any of these members meetings and next spring's schedule.





AREA MEMBER MEETINGS - HOW CAN I GET THEM SCHEDULED IN MY AREA?

If the Area member meetings detailed on the previous page sound like something you'd like to see in your neighborhood, the **ILICA** office would like to help make that happen. 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.

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 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.

These 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. Since they

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.

Although these are member 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 as well as providing the membership committee with quality time spent visiting with potential members.

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



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GABBIN' WITH THE GALS...

The days of Autumn have appeared in all its glory, fallen leaves and all! By the time this will be read, the season will be nearly over; it seems to be very short but we can enjoy it anyway, right? Our famous Almanac says we will have snow but we hope the quantity won't be as much as the quality. If Santa races across the sky, why would we have to have snow? We'll leave that for the scientists to figure out.

We hope the world is in better shape by the time your read this, but since math does not seem to be my bailiwick, we'll leave that to the ones who really understand the problem. By the time you read this we will have a new president and hope he is up to the job. Our furnaces will up the ante on the gas bill but like it or not, this gall intends to keep warm.

Another grandson is in college and is doing just fine - he came to visit me when back home for a weekend recently - he is so thoughtful that way and this gal really appreciates it. This is one person who could not have gone to college right after high school because I was too immature. We have a granddaughter who refused to attend college after high school and who knew best - why go away and be miserable? She is now working at a job she likes and is happy - I have always said that college is not for everyone. Of course if you want a high paying job you would have to have that diploma; depends how high on the totem pole you wish to go and perhaps money isn't everything to everyone. Taking classes online suits some, but you have to be motivated to get the best out of it.

Education can go several ways. When this gal was growing up my parents moved quite a bit. When Daddy got disenchanted with either the job or the people, he would get another and we would move. Consequently, Rambling Rose attended quite a few different schools which was an education all its own. You learned how to get along with all different types of children and teachers. At one time I had to attend Champaign Junior High School, which was a b - i - g school; in fact I had never been inside a school that large in my life and this was seventh grade where you had homerooms and many rooms of the same grade. As it happened, they had a spelling contest the first week I was there; each grade held their own. We were given a list of words to study and my brothers helped me study the list the night before the contest. I missed one word and found out the correct spelling. Well, it finally came to me and another girl to win the contest. Would you believe that she received the same word I had misspelled at home and she misspelled it as I had. So, knowing the correct spelling, guess who won the contest? Do you know that girl never spoke to me the rest of the year and we were in the same home room? Her

family was well-off and she must have been angry to be defeated by a simple poor country girl...That's what I mean by getting a different kind of education - you find out how some people really are!

Speaking of my father, he was a good worker and I know of one family who came after him three different times to come back to work for them, even though he had quit them several times. The first time he worked for this family the people had cows to milk and my three brothers were unhappy about that, but they soon learned all about it. By the time he worked for them again the boys had joined the Navy so they weren't involved.

We are about to celebrate the feast of Thanksgiving and with Christmas around the corner, all this gal can think about is food. Turkey is fine but one does get tired of it since there always seem to be leftovers. As for Christmas, it is said that from a commercial point of view if we didn't have it, it would be necessary to invent it. Got that right didn't they? They say that nothing is as cruel as giving a child something useful for Christmas.

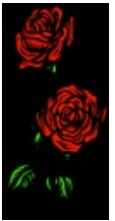
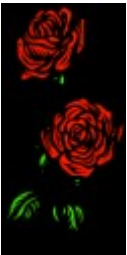
The famous Olympic skier, Picabo Street (pronounced Peek-A-Boo) is not just an athlete. She is now a nurse, currently working at the intensive care unit of a large metropolitan hospital. However, she is not allowed to answer the phone and say, "Picabo, ICU."

Seems there is a new supermarket in Richmond, Va. It has an automatic water mister to keep the produce fresh. Just before it goes on, you hear the sound of distant thunder and the smell of fresh rain. When you pass the milk cases, you hear cows mooing and you experience the scent of fresh mown hay. In the meat department there is the aroma of charcoal grilled steaks with onions. As you approach the egg case, you can hear hens cluck and cackle, and the bread department features the tantalizing smell of fresh baked bread. One lady said she won't buy toilet paper there anymore!

Do you know who was the greatest financier in the Bible? Noah - he was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation. Who was the greatest female financier in the Bible? Pharaoh's daughter - she went down to the bank of the Nile and drew out a little prophet. Freddie, in church for the first time, watched as the ushers passed the offering plates. When they neared the pew where he sat the boy piped up, "Don't pay for me Daddy, I'm under five."

The word for this issue is present. Whether you are thinking of "a" present or "the" present, remember it is okay to give someone a present - it makes the merchants happy, makes the recipient happy and when else can you make so many people happy? If you're like me, it makes me happy to make someone else happy so as the saying goes "what goes around comes around" or something to that effect. Have a good Fall season, bring in those sheaves and keep warm!

..... Rambling Rose



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - WHAT HAPPENS TO PONTIAC CORRECTIONAL CENTER NOW?



By Sheila Shelton - Mon Oct 27, 2008

Sen. Dan Rutherford, R-Chenoa, said this morning at a press conference that one of the main goals in the Pontiac and Livingston County communities will now have to be finding a new use for the Pontiac Correctional Center (PCC).

Gov. Rod Blagojevich and the Illinois Department of Corrections on Friday set Dec. 31 as the official closing date for PCC. Blagojevich, who first started talking about a proposed closure of PCC in May of this year, had previously set the closing date for February 2009.

Friday's announcement stated that it is the intention of DOC to have all 1,600 inmates, housed at PCC, transferred to other correctional centers in the state by the December date instead of February. "We are now looking at two separate issues. One is the employees of PCC that are covered by AFSCME contracts. That issue is between AFSCME and the employees," said Rutherford. "What we will do for the community and this county is bring in the Department of Employment Security to help whatever PCC employees not covered by contracts and other people, that because of this closure, will need to be retrained for other jobs."

He said retraining grants will be sought for this group of people. "The second thing we must start working on immediately as a coordinated effort is to find an alternative use for PCC and its grounds," he said. "The correctional facility started here in the 1800s as a boys' reform school, then it later became a prison. It was not named a maximum security facility until the 1990s."

"The legislative question now becomes 'what do we do with this facility,'" he said, "We must all work in a coordinated effort to determine and find the correct use for this large facility. Some of the suggested uses are for it to become a federal prison, a facility for over crowded county jails overflow or a drug-treatment facility."

"We will all need to work together on this issue. By that I mean legislators, mayors, the Chamber of Commerce and everyone else so this can be resolved in a totally united manner," said Rutherford. "I am going to assume that when the governor says closing by Dec. 31 that is exactly what he means. We, however, will still use all legal means to stop this date," said Rutherford.

Rutherford referred to the lawsuit which has been filed in Livingston County Circuit Court to keep PCC open. "This lawsuit deals with the only funding that is in place for PCC and that is through the June 30, 2009, time period. That would be only a temporary fix for PCC for a few months," he said. Rutherford was asked by a member of the press if Blagojevich set out to close PCC over Rutherford's vote on the recall issue in Illinois. "He is doing the same thing all over the state. He is laying off approximately 175 DCFS employees, closing state parks, etc.," said Rutherford. "I voted for recall and the governor says he supports it, even embraces it for Illinois."

"This governor simply governs by calamity. He closes whatever he can to gain money so he can start new state programs," he added.



GOVERNOR BLAGOJEVICH LAUNCHES TASK FORCE TO FOCUS ON PONTIAC CORRECTIONAL CENTER TRANSITION

Governor Rod R. Blagojevich today announced the creation of an inter-agency task force to ease the impact that the closure of Pontiac Correctional Center will have on the community, including businesses and local governments. The Task Force will pool all available and necessary state resources to preserve the economic well-being and quality of life for Pontiac and surrounding communities.

Under the new Task Force, Governor Blagojevich brings together the state agencies under his jurisdiction to create a comprehensive resource pool of services that may be used to ensure that the transitional period during the closure is streamlined and to make sure that livelihood of people in the Pontiac community is impacted as minimally as possible during that time.



The Task Force brought together to ready their agency resources and to provide expert opinion and guidance during the transition is comprised of representatives from the following state agencies: Illinois Healthcare and Family Services, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Illinois Department of Human Services, Illinois Community College Board, Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Department of Public Health, Illinois Finance Authority, Illinois Housing Development Authority, Illinois Central Management Services and the Illinois State Police.

The Task Force will hold a series of meetings co-chaired by Steve Frenkel, Deputy Chief of Staff for Economy and Environment, and Jennifer Ricker, Deputy Chief of Staff for Public Safety. The Task Force will expand to include participation and input from state and local elected officials, as well as the business and civic communities.

OUR GOOD EARTH - THE FUTURE RESTS ON THE SOIL BENEATH OUR FEET

From the September 2008 National Geographic - Story by Charles C. Mann

The article titled above was published in the September issue of National Geographic and, since **ILICA** is dedicated to the conservation of soil & water, seemed particularly pertinent to our industry.

ILICA contractors already understand the importance of the soil beneath their feet, but if you have time, review this complete article at the web site listed below. It provides a broader glimpse of how this important resource is being stretched to the breaking point as well as some of the work being done to restore it.

Below are short excerpts from the article, which, in its entirety, covers the world and the vast array of soil erosion problems it faces. The below excerpts hit closer to home however, and as our world shrinks and global issues create more and more local impact, perhaps our actions as land improvement contractors can become an even bigger part of the solution.

Journalists sometimes describe unsexy subjects as MEGO: My eyes glaze over. Alas, soil degradation is the essence of MEGO. Nonetheless, the stakes - and the opportunities - could hardly be higher, says Rattan Lal, a prominent soil scientist at Ohio State University. Researchers and ordinary farmers around the world are finding that even devastated soils can be restored.

"Political stability, environmental quality, hunger, and poverty all have the same root," Lal says. "In the long run, the solution to each is restoring the most basic of all resources, the soil."

Walking the roads on the farm hosting Wisconsin Farm Technology Days, it was easy for me to figure out what had worried Jethro Tull... the agricultural reformer of the 18th century. Under my feet the prairie soil had been squashed by tractors and harvesters into a peculiar surface that felt like the poured-rubber flooring used around swimming pools. It was a modern version of a phenomenon noted by Tull: When farmers always plow in the same path, the ground becomes "trodden as hard as the Highway by the Cattle that draw the Harrows."

Tull knew the solution: Don't keep plowing in the same path. In fact, farmers are increasingly not using plows at all—a system called no-till farming. But their other machines continue to grow in size and weight. In Europe, soil compaction is thought to affect almost 130,000 square miles of farmland, and one expert suggests that the reduced harvests from compaction cost Midwestern farmers in the U.S. \$100 million in lost revenue every year.

The ultimate reason that compaction continues to afflict rich nations is the same reason that other forms of soil degradation afflict poor ones: Political and economic institutions are not set up to pay attention to soils. The Chinese officials who are rewarded for getting trees planted without concern about their survival are little different from the farmers in the Midwest who continue to use huge harvesters because they can't



(above) Wisconsin's Coon Creek watershed. Once ravaged by erosion, its farms and streams became a national showcase for soil conservation strategies in 1933.

(below) Thick, six-foot-long roots of sunflowers, side-by-side with the roots of assorted prairie grasses near Salina, Kansas.

Photographs by Jim Richardson



afford the labor to run several smaller machines. Next to the compacted road on the Wisconsin farm was a demonstration of horse-drawn plowing. The earth curling up from the moldboard was dark, moist, refulgent—perfect Midwestern topsoil. Photographer Jim Richardson got on his belly to capture it. He asked me to hunker down and hold a light. Soon we drew a small, puzzled crowd. Someone explained that we were looking at the soil. "What are they doing that for?" one woman asked loudly. In her voice I could hear the thought: MEGO.

When I told this story over the phone to David Montgomery, the University of Washington geologist, I could almost hear him shaking his head. "With eight billion people, we're going to *have* to start getting interested in soil," he said. "We're simply not going to be able to keep treating it like dirt."

Excerpts from Our Good Earth by Charles C. Mann

Full article can be found at <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2008/09/soil/mann-text>

SOIL QUALITY MANAGEMENT ♦ **Manage pests & nutrients efficiently:** An important function of soil is to buffer and detoxify chemicals, but soil's capacity for detoxification is limited.

From: USDA NRCS website - soils.usda.gov/sqi/management/

The six components of soil quality management are discussed briefly below. Choosing specific practices within each component depends on the situation since different types of soil respond differently to the same practice. Each combination of soil type and land use calls for a different set of practices to enhance soil quality. Go to Agronomy - Cropland, Grazing Lands, Forest, Urban, or Organic Agriculture at USDA NRCS website, soils.usda.gov/ for more information by land use.



♦ **Enhance organic matter:** Whether your soil is naturally high or low in organic matter, adding new organic matter every year is perhaps the most important way to improve and maintain soil quality. Regular additions of organic matter improve soil structure, enhance water and nutrient holding capacity, protect soil from erosion and compaction, and support a healthy community of soil organisms. Practices that increase organic matter include: leaving crop residues in the field, choosing crop rotations that include high residue plants, using optimal nutrient and water management practices to grow healthy plants with large amounts of roots and residue, growing cover crops, applying manure or compost, using low or no tillage systems, and mulching.

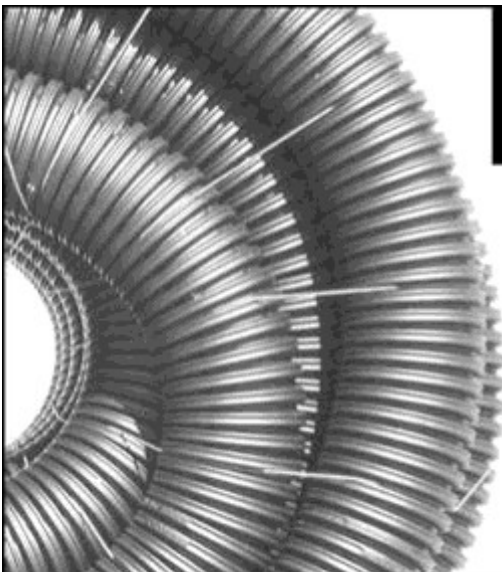
♦ **Avoid excessive tillage:** Reducing tillage minimizes the loss of organic matter and protects the soil surface with plant residue. Tillage is used to loosen surface soil, prepare the seedbed, and control weeds and pests. But tillage can also break up soil structure, speed the decomposition and loss of organic matter, increase the threat of erosion, destroy the habitat of helpful organisms, and cause compaction. New equipment allows crop production with minimal disturbance of the soil. For more information about conservation tillage, visit the Conservation Technology Information Center.



♦ **Prevent soil compaction:** Compaction reduces the amount of air, water, & space available to roots and soil organisms. Compaction is caused by repeated traffic, heavy traffic, or traveling on wet soil. Deep compaction by heavy equipment is difficult or impossible to remedy, so prevention is essential.

♦ **Keep the ground covered:** Bare soil is susceptible to wind and water erosion, and to drying and crusting. Ground cover protects soil, provides habitats for larger soil organisms, such as insects and earthworms, and can improve water availability. Ground can be covered by leaving crop residue on the surface or by planting cover crops. In addition to ground cover, living cover crops provide additional organic matter, and continuous cover and food for soil organisms. Ground cover must be managed to prevent problems with delayed soil warming in spring, diseases, and excessive build-up of phosphorus at the surface.

♦ **Diversify cropping systems:** Diversity is beneficial for several reasons. Each plant contributes a unique root structure and type of residue to the soil. A diversity of soil organisms can help control pest populations, and a diversity of cultural practices can reduce weed and disease pressures. Diversity across the landscape can be increased by using buffer strips, small fields, or contour strip cropping. Diversity over time can be increased by using long crop rotations. Changing vegetation across the landscape or over time not only increases plant diversity, but also the types of insects, microorganisms, and wildlife that live on your farm.



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2009 ILICA WINTER CONVENTION & MEMBERS MEETING TENTATIVE SCHEDULE



Wednesday, January 14th - Normally, members traveling from a distance arrive on Wednesday along with those involved in the getting the convention up and running. There is a restaurant and bar in the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel and a new Bennigans right across the street. Most of us will be at one of those locations as dinner time rolls around!

5:30 pm - Budget Committee Meeting - 8:00 pm - Convention Committee Meeting



Thursday, January 15th - The convention officially starts with registration at 8:00 am in the registration counter entering the ball room area. Stop by and get your welcome packet, area maps and local information. Enjoy a continental breakfast and take some time to visit with other ILICA families before the educational session at 9:00 am.

8:00 am - Registration/Continental Breakfast

9:00 - 11:45am - Education - IDOT Is Coming - Is Your Office Ready ?

9:00 am - Nomination Committee meeting

12:00 - Lunch - Served in the ballroom as exhibitors continue setting up for the evenings Early Bird Dinner and kick off party. ILICA partner state and federal agencies will provide reports as lunch concludes.

* Founding/Former Member Social *

We hope our former members take this opportunity to get together, review scrapbooks, tell stories and look at unusual and interesting artifacts unearthed by ILICA members during years of excavating in this good earth. **Bring your treasures to display!**

12:30 pm - Agency reports (FSA, NRCS, IEPA)

1:30 - 4:00 pm - Education - IEPA - Can I Burn It or Bury It?

3:00 - 5:00 pm - Founding & Former Member Social Time - Bring "artifacts"; items un-earthed while excavating



3:00 - 7:30 pm - Exhibits Open - Our exhibitors sponsor our convention meals and activities and will spend Thursday setting up exhibit booths. They have earned our support so let's all stop by during the open exhibit times on Thursday pm and Friday am.

4:00 pm - Awards Committee Meeting



5:00 pm - Hospitality Hour in Ballroom - There will be a cash **Tiki Hut** bar in the Ballroom to set the mood for the evenings' Early Bird meal. Please wear your favorite 'beach wear', complete with flip-flops, Tropical shirts, sunhats and Ray Ban's to get in the mood for a "groovy" convention.

5:15 pm - Exhibitor Group Photo

6:00 pm - Early Bird Meal /Ballroom



7:45 pm - Auction - Our always entertaining auction begins after our casual night at the beach so after checking out the treasures available, join us for another fun auction that directly supports the convention.



9:00 pm - 1:00 am - Associates Hospitality Rooms Open are located on the 2nd floor conference center, away from guest rooms and grouped in a manner that encourages easy movement and relaxed conversations. Soft seating areas will be located in the hallways between the conveniently located hospitality rooms.



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2009 ILICA WINTER CONVENTION & MEMBERS MEETING TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (CONT.)

Friday, January 16th - The second day of convention begins with our **7:30 am - Devotional Service** followed by the **8:00 am Breakfast** in the Exhibit Hall. Registration continues Friday morning for those that weren't able to get away on Thursday and the **Associate's Exhibits** will be open until 2 pm on Friday. Please stop by and thank ALL of our exhibitors for their continued support of ILICA and the convention. The brief **Board of Directors Meeting** will begin at **10:00 am** followed by an even briefer Executive & Headquarters Committee meeting. Lunch will be served in the Exhibit Hall with our partnering associations reports beginning around 12:30. The afternoon is full of meetings, starting just after lunch with the Associates Committee meeting, followed immediately by the Annual Members Business Meeting and Election of Officers.



12:30 pm - Partner Reports (AIWSCD, LICA, ADMC, etc)

1:15 pm - Associates Meeting

1:45 pm - Annual Business Meeting and Election of Officers

*** Ladies ***

The Ladies Day outing is scheduled for Friday and details are listed below!

Once the ladies return from their day out and the meetings conclude, our **5:00 pm Hospitality Hour** will commence in the Ballroom, even though our exhibitors will have packed up their displays. We can still imagine ourselves on a warm tropical beach somewhere as we enjoy an evening of good food, friendship and entertainment. A local comedian, Luke Gleason, will share interesting, funny stories following the evening meal, stemming from his many years of teaching.



9:00 pm - 1:00 am - Associates Hospitality Rooms Open are located on the 2nd floor conference center, away from guest rooms and grouped in a manner that encourages easy movement and relaxed conversations. Soft seating areas will be located in the hallways between the conveniently located hospitality rooms.



Friday's Ladies Day - After devotions and a quick breakfast, the ILICA Ladies are boarding their private bus to head for **Historic Taylorville** and start their day with a brief welcome reception. A tour of the **Market Street Inn Bed & Breakfast**, 1 of only 3 Illinois Inns listed on the Select Registry of Distinguished Inns, is followed by lunch at **One East**, just 2 blocks away. The afternoon will be spent shopping the quaint downtown shops, including a fine jewelry store, gift shop and confectionary, furniture store and many more, ending up at **The Market Street Wine Shop** for a private wine tasting. The ladies should be back to the hotel in plenty of time for the casual evening meal and entertainment.



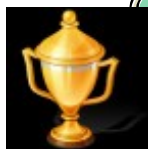
Saturday, January 17th - We begin the day with another **7:30 am Devotional Service** followed by the Door Prize Give-away breakfast in the Ballroom. We also take this opportunity to welcome all new members that have joined us throughout the year. The final educational session is scheduled for the morning along with a **Children's Pool Party** followed by their own **Knee High Buffet** lunch. Downtown shopping is also an option for the ladies who don't care to sit in on other activities. Lunch will be served in the Ballroom followed by the group tour of the historic **Abraham Lincoln Museum Tour** just a block away from the hotel.



9:15 - 11:45am - Education - Bio-Diesel, The Good, The Bad, The Unknown

10:00 am - 12:30 pm - Children's Pool Party & Knee High Buffet

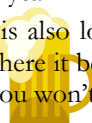
1:00 - 4:00 pm - Abraham Lincoln Museum Group Tour



The bar opens in the Ballroom at 5 pm, starting off the highlight of the convention, the **Awards Banquet at 6:00 pm and presentation of Awards at 7:30 pm**. The committee decided to return to the traditional Saturday evening scheduling of the banquet, noting how appropriate it is to close the convention honoring those that have supported ILICA in a special way throughout the year.



At 8:30 pm the **Presidents Hospitality Room** opens, which is also located on the 2nd floor conference area, to make sure all the rowdy fun stays away from guest rooms and where it belongs...in the President's Hospitality Room! Please join outgoing ILICA President, Bill Dean for an evening you won't soon forget. *(or perhaps be able to remember)*



Illinois LICA Convention & Members Meeting

Join Us On the Beach!

January 15 - 17, 2009



Illinois LICA is heading South to sunny Springfield Illinois and the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel for a tropical experience at this year's convention. An **Early Bird Luau** will kick things off Thursday evening in the exhibit hall, followed by the always entertaining **auction**.



Please contact **Natalie** at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel, (217) 544-8800 ext. 4180 or Janet at the ILICA office as soon as possible to make room reservations. Our guaranteed room rate is \$90. (Limited # of handicapped rooms available)

Return completed Registration form to: **Illinois LICA • P.O. Box 474 • Brimfield, IL 61517**
or fax to: **(309) 446-3744**

Pre-Registration for the ILICA Convention - January 15 - 17, 2009

Name: _____ Spouse's Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Member Type: _____ Area: _____ Company Name: _____

Child(ren) Name(s): _____



Educational Workshops • Exhibit Booths • Awards Banquet
Door Prizes • Ladies Program • Auction
Children's Swim Party • Abraham Lincoln Museum Tour



Pre-Registration fee:

Must be received in our office by January 2, 2009



Full Participation (3 days)	One Day Participation
Individual \$145	Individual \$ 69
Couple \$231	Couple \$104
Child (under 12) \$ 69	Child (under 12) \$ 40

(Indicate which day (s) you plan to attend)

☐ Thursday ☐ Friday ☐ Saturday

Ladies Program - Friday, January 18 in Historic Taylorville



- ▶ Market Street Inn B&B tour
- ▶ Private Lunch at **One East**
- ▶ Shopping in Downtown Taylorville
- ▶ Private Wine Tasting

I / we will attend: _____ # in party

Cost of Registration after January 2, 2009

Full Participation (3 days)

Individual	\$203
Couple	\$300
Child (under 12)	\$104

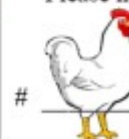


One Day Participation

Individual	\$ 87
Couple	\$133
Child (under 12)	\$ 64

Awards Banquet - Friday, January 18

Please indicate your meal choice for each attendee:



_____ Prime Rib

_____ Chicken Marsala w/Mushroom & Basil



Price of registration includes all meals & activities listed in program, unless otherwise noted.

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ (Make check payable to ILICA)

Tentative 2009 Convention Exhibit Layout

Exhibitor Information

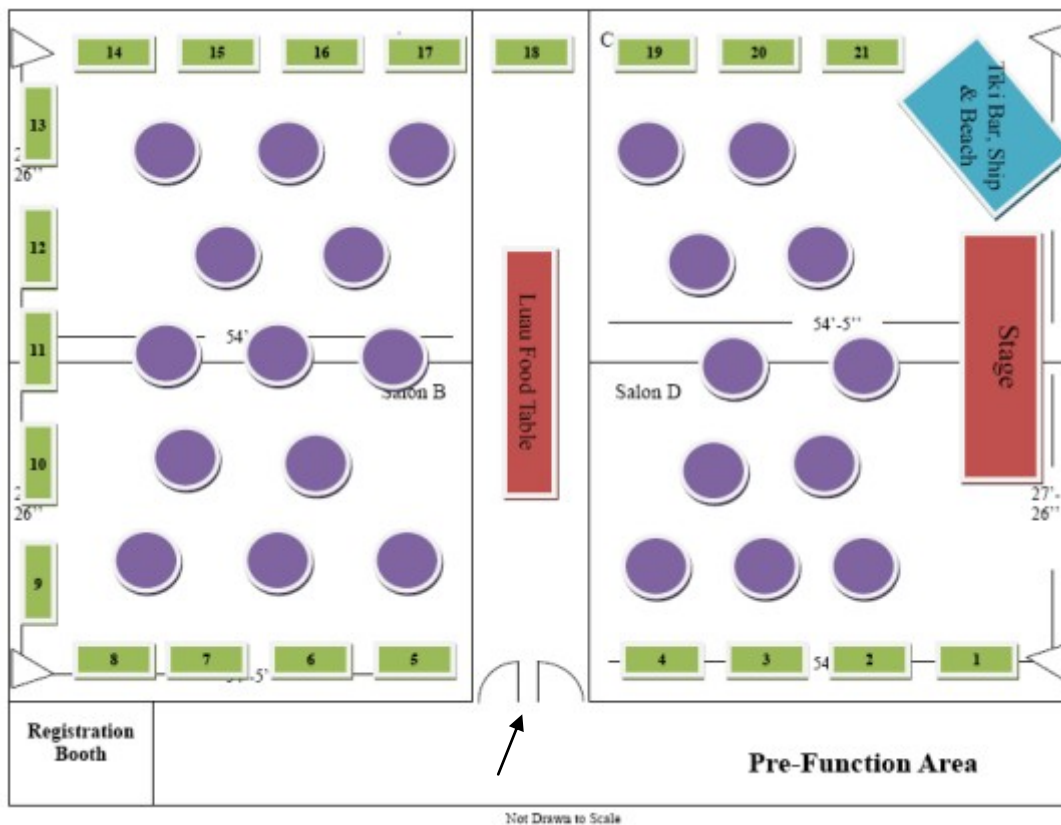


Exhibit space is available for the 2009 Convention and will be arranged in the familiar perimeter layout, shown to the left. The hotel set up crew is verifying the layout for actual set up, but we'll have at least 21 exhibit booths. The main ballroom entrance is marked by the arrow and the service entry doors are shown at each corner. Each exhibit space includes a 6' skirted table, 2 chairs and a wastebasket.

One (1) full participation registration is included with each exhibit space reserved.

Detailed information will be mailed out soon and check our website for all the latest **ILICA** news.

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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 suggestions from the membership. Committees which do not gather and refine ideas for presentation to the Board are missing the opportunity to serve the Association. Committees can be no stronger than the individual members who serve on them.

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 have celebrated more than 50 years of success. 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.

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NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER SELECTION

Each January, the **ILICA** president reviews the prior years' committee lists and determines any changes, deletions or additions for the new calendar year.



Some committees have a geographic element to the member selection, some are reflections of areas of interest by those members. If you have ever ask yourself, "I wonder why they decided to do that?", please review the brief descriptions of the responsibilities of some of **ILICA's** more active committees listed below and see where your interests fit in.

- ◆ **Education Committee** - This committee is responsible for securing topics and facilitators for workshops, convention educational sessions and Area member meetings. This committee is required to glean through a vast amount of information that is important to our contractors in Illinois.
- ◆ **Legislative Committee** - This committee is responsible for tracking state legislation that can impact small business people in our industry and is currently drafting a working model to speed up the process of getting this information out to **ILICA** membership.
- ◆ **Long Term Planning Committee** - This committee works closely with Illinois NRCS and other partners on the programs that assist landowners with land improvements. As the name suggests however, **ILICA's** long-term goals are considered and decided by this committee.
- ◆ **Membership Committee** - Work with Wayne and Norm on increasing **ILICA's** footprint in Illinois. If you believe in **ILICA** benefits, this committee could be for you.
- ◆ **Show Committee** - With the hope of skipping a year or two before the next **ILICA** Expo, this committee will re-work the current timeline and partner responsibilities to fit today's challenges. They will also consider new approaches to **ILICA's** "hands-on" training opportunities.

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SAFETY FEATURE - TOOL BOX TALK

OSHA TOP 25 VIOLATIONS

Every LICA contractor receives "The LICA Contractor Safety Management Plan" as a benefit of membership with national LICA. It contains everything your business needs to be OSHA compliant, complete with policies, forms and Tool Box Talks. If you aren't using your LICA safety manual, check the list below to see if you're prepared for an OSHA audit.



1. Guard rails not provided for open-sided floors or platforms. 1926.500(d)(i)

2. Head protection from impact, falling objects & electrical burns not observed. 1926.100(a)

3. Ground fault protection not provided. 1926.404(b)(1)(i)

4. Electrical path to ground missing or discontinuous. 1926.404(f)(6)

5. Lack of protective systems for trenching/excavations. 1926.652(a)(1)

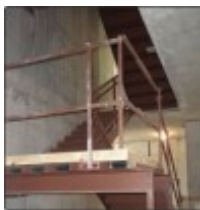


6. Guard rail specifications for tubular, welded frame scaffolds not met. 1926.451(d)(10)



7. Appropriate personal protective equipment not available for specific operations. 1926.28(a)

8. Stair rails required at 30" change of elevation or 4 risers not observed. 1926.1052(c)(1)



9. Approved containers or tanks for storing or handling flammable or combustible liquids not to specifications. 1926.152(a)(1)

10. General housekeeping unacceptable. 1926-25(a)



11. Daily inspection of physical components of trench & protection system not done. 1926.651(k)

12. Lack of safe access for all types of scaffolds. 1926.451(a)(13)

13. Ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI's) not in use. 1926.404(b)(1)(ii)

14. No guarding of protruding steel rebars. 1926.701(b)



15. General requirements for guarding scaffolds lacking. 1926.451(a)(4)

16. No spoil pile protection. 1926.651(j)(2)

17. Improper securing of compressed gas cylinders. 1926.350(a)(9)



18. Additional rules for welding/cutting as per ANSI Z49.1-1967 not observed. 1926-350(i)

19. Lack of eye/face protection for operations which create exposure. 1926.102(a)(1)

20. Guarding of floor openings missing or not to specifications. 1926-500(b)(1)

21. Ladder extended less than 3' above landing as required. 1926.1053(b)(1)

22. No strain relief provided for flexible cords and cables. 1926.405(g)(2)(iv)



23. Egress from trench/excavation does not meet minimum requirements. 1926.651(c)(2)

24. Listed, labeled or certified equipment used in other than manner prescribed. 1926.403(b)(2)

25. No flexible cords designated for hard or extra hard usage. 1926.405(a)(2)(ii)(j)

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Illinois

Area 3 Member Meeting
Martin Equipment of Illinois
400 W. Martin Drive, Goodfield, IL
 November 18, 2008
Free Rib-Eye Sandwich Dinner - 6:30 PM
Program: IDOT Trucking Regulations for Contractors

Area 8 Member Meeting
Fabick-CAT
15927 Highway 1 North, Mt. Carmel, IL
 November 19, 2008
Free Barbecue Dinner - 6:30 PM
Program: IDOT Trucking Regulations for Contractors

Area 8 Member Meeting
Erb Equipment Company
11322 State Rt 148, Mt. Vernon , IL
 November 20, 2008
Free Catered Dinner - 6:30 PM
Program: IDOT Trucking Regulations for Contractors

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

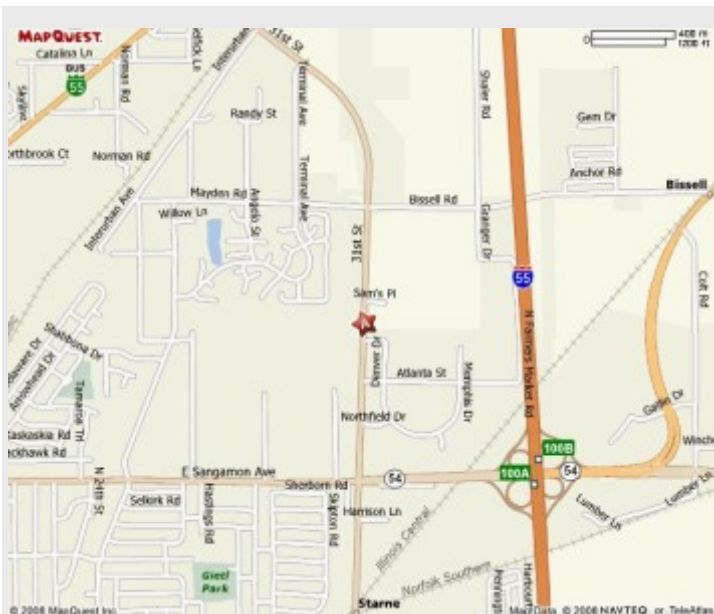
ILICA Convention and Members Meeting
President Abraham Lincoln Hotel - Springfield, IL
 January 15 - 17, 2009
Exhibits Open Thursday at 3:00 pm
Member Meeting Friday at 1:45 pm
Abraham Lincoln Museum Tour Saturday at 1:00 pm

National

2009 LICA Winter Convention
Embassy Suites - Nashville, TN
(Registration forms available on our web-site)
 February 12 - 14, 2009

2009 LICA Summer Convention
Holiday Inn - Airport - Des Moines, IA
 July 15 - 18, 2009

2010 LICA Summer Convention
Peoria, IL
 July 14 - 17, 2010



Ryan's Steak House - 2730 N. Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, IL

From I-55 at Springfield, take Exit 100 or Sangamon Avenue East to the light at Dirksen Parkway, turn right, heading north to Ryan's, just past the Super Wal-Mart



Look for lots of helpful information, suggestions and ideas on Agriculture, Natural Resources & the Environment and much more on the University of Illinois Extension web-site...
<http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/state/>

HAVING A SPENDING PLAN IS CRITICAL DURING TOUGH ECONOMIC TIMES



With today's tough economy, you may be faced with reduced income, increased expenses, or both. Making a spending plan can help you better manage the money that you have.

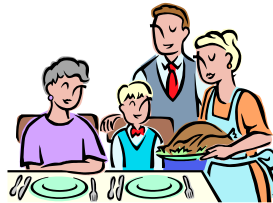
"Many people try to hide financial problems from themselves or family members," says Lois Smith, University of Illinois Extension consumer and family economics educator. "But, not facing the problem can be destructive because the worry and stress caused by financial uncertainty and lack of cash may be worse than the financial problem itself. It's important to look realistically at your situation and actively seek solutions to problems, despite the discomfort."

Because spending decisions affect the whole family, talk with your family about the situation. Help them understand that all family members need to adjust their spending habits. Involve everyone in deciding spending priorities. If family members understand the tough choices that must be made and have a voice in making the decisions, they will be more willing to accept the decisions.

As your family talks about what is most important, be sure to listen to what they say. Supporting each other can help you pull together as a family and get through these tough times.



Smith says a spending plan is always an effective tool to help you get the most for your money. It can help you make decisions about how to spend your money and provide for "needs" before "wants." A plan can also help you match your spending to your current income. And, a spending plan can help prevent arguments over money.



For practical tips on developing a spending plan for your family, visit the new website, [More For Your Money, Using Your Money Wisely](#). You can also request the fact sheet, *Setting Spending Priorities*, from your local U of I Extension office. Source: *Lois E. Smith, Extension Educator, Consumer and Family Economics*



CHOOSING A FINANCIAL PROFESSIONAL WEBSITE

If you need help to develop strategies for reaching financial goals but don't know where to turn, a new University of Illinois Extension website might be of help. "Choosing a Financial Professional" (<http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/financialpro/index.cfm>) was recently launched.

"The site discusses whether or not you should use a financial professional, who is a fiduciary, questions to use in interviewing financial professionals, and understanding the different types of financial professionals," explained Jane Scherer, U of I Extension urban programs specialist and director of Extension websites.

Developed by Karen Chan and Kathy Sweedler, both U of I Extension consumer and family economics educators, the website covers a number of topics associated with seeking professional help for financial planning. One feature focuses on the questions one should ask in choosing a financial professional. Another section of the site includes a guide to financial professional titles.



suggestions on appropriate investment products to meet those goals? Do you want help with a few specific questions or do you need a comprehensive financial plan? Do you want ongoing assistance?"

Sweedler said if you have been asking yourself questions like these, it is probably time to consider using a financial professional. During tough economic times, it makes sense to seek help to evaluate your financial plan.

"By knowing the questions to ask when you interview financial professionals, you can successfully choose one to help you meet your financial goals," said Sweedler.

The website includes a checklist to use when interviewing financial professionals as well as a definition of terms to help you understand the various types of accreditations used in the field. University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. Extension programs and materials are research based and strive to meet the needs of people locally.



If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, contact Rick Keim at 217/942-6996.



"When considering using a financial professional, there are a number of questions to ask yourself," said Chan. "Do you need help in developing strategies to reach your financial goals? Do you want



HELPFUL TIPS FROM U OF I EXTENSION

HEALTHY INDOOR AIR - REDUCING YOUR RISKS

What is carbon monoxide?

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that claims unsuspecting lives each year. Carbon monoxide poisonings are on the rise, and consumers should take steps to protect their families from falling victim to this silent killer. Carbon monoxide (CO) kills quickly and silently. More than 500 residential deaths in the United States are attributed to CO each year.



Where is carbon monoxide found?

CO doesn't discriminate. Anyone with fuel-burning appliances such as gas furnaces, ovens, ranges, and portable heaters is a potential victim. Fumes from auto exhausts and improperly vented fireplaces, the use of cooking appliances for heat, and the use of charcoal inside the home are other sources of this poison. CO poisoning can also occur after using varnish remover in a poorly ventilated setting.

How does carbon monoxide affect the human body?

Basically, CO suffocates its victims by reducing the amount of oxygen in the blood stream. If people continue to inhale CO, they face the risk of breathing difficulty, cardiac trauma, brain damage, coma, and even death.



What are the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning?

Victims of CO poisoning experience flu-like symptoms including nausea, fatigue, headaches, dizziness, confusion, and breathing difficulty. Due to increased blood pressure, a victim's skin may take on a pink or red cast.

The elderly, fetus, and those with cardiovascular and pulmonary diseases are particularly sensitive to elevated CO levels.

How will I know if I am at risk of carbon monoxide poisoning?

Look for these danger signs in your home:

- streaks of carbon or soot around the service door of gas-burning appliances
- no draft in the chimney
- excessive rusting on flue pipes or appliance jackets
- moisture collecting on the walls and windows of furnace rooms
- fallen soot from the fireplace; small amounts of water leaking from the base of the chimney, vent, or flue pipe
- damaged and discolored bricks at the top of the chimney
- yellow or discolored pilot flames in fuel-burning appliances (normal appearance is blue)

Another source of CO is car exhaust. It is important that the door between the house and garage be closed when car engines are running. Keep the garage door open to the outside air when the car or any gas-powered equipment is running. If you have a garage attached to the house, the safest precaution would be to let autos and gas-powered equipment idle outside the garage so that carbon monoxide fumes cannot seep into your home.



What features should a CO detector have?



Since CO is a silent killer, having a CO detector is important. Most people killed by carbon monoxide poisoning die in their sleep. When buying a detector, look for the UL mark with the adjacent phrase, "Residential Carbon Monoxide Detector."

How often should a CO detector be tested and cleaned?

If the unit is a plug-in type, test it monthly. A battery-operated detector should have the batteries changed at least once a year. All units should be cleaned regularly as recommended by the manufacturer.

How can I protect my family against CO poisoning?

- The best precaution against CO poisoning is to have a qualified service technician inspect your fuel-burning appliances once a year.
- Install UL-listed CO detectors within 15 feet of sleeping areas and near all fuel-burning appliances. Do not install them directly above or beside these appliances.
- Keep the CO detector at least 15 feet from heating and cooling appliances.
- Do not mount the CO detector in bathrooms or other humid areas of the home.
- Check the manufacturer's booklet for instructions on installation, use, and care.

For more information:

Contact your local U of I Extension office or visit these web sites:

University of Illinois Extension -
<http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/regions/SIfamily>

Healthy Indoor Air for America's Homes -
<http://www.healthyindoorair.org>



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