

# ILICA



# NEWS

## Land Improvement Contractors Of America · Illinois Chapter

### March - April 2023

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(Vacant)

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- ▶ **Retiring NRCS State Conservationist Recognized by ILICA** (page 12)
- ▶ **2023 LICA Scholarship Application** (page 9)

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# The ILICA News



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello from Hoopeston, Illinois. Home of the Cornjerkers. Yes, it's a real thing. We are proud to have one of the most unique school mascots in the country! My name is Eric Layden. I am happy to introduce myself to you as ILICA's new President. I'm not a new face to any active member of

the organization. I have been an active member for over ten years. I have taken advantage of almost every educational opportunity this organization has held for many years now. Because of these opportunities, I do my job better and safer. I have a current CPR certification, OSHA training with a specific trench safety endorsement, and I have many new friendships throughout the entire state.

ILICA held its annual members' meeting and convention in January. It was a great time. I want to thank everyone who attended. The trade show just keeps getting better and better. In late January, ILICA teamed up with our long-time partners and supporters, Dr. Cooke and the U of I Ag Extension to hold a virtual drainage workshop. This was a two-day event that covered many of the basics of agricultural drainage. In June, we look forward to helping with a more advanced drainage workshop. This March, we will send a team of delegates out to LICA's National winter convention in Las Vegas. Many of us are staying for ConExpo, which is the same week. I hope to see you there. LICA has a booth!

I encourage you all to take advantage of all the membership benefits National LICA has to offer. We have a return-on-investment calculator on our ILICA website. You should try it out. It only takes a few of these national benefits to make up for your annual dues. While on the subject of membership benefits, don't forget you have legislative watchdogs here at the state level and at the national level that are keeping our best interests in mind. I promise this is not a paid endorsement. I am just a business owner always concerned about the bottom line. Personally, some of the tricks of the trade that I have learned from other members, by attending ILICA events, have paid for my membership for the rest of my career.

We are committed to try and keep up with the way our society is changing. More virtual content is coming. ILICA is not a club just for professional contractors. We welcome all who seek knowledge in how to improve the land. ILICA's board of directors went through a strategic planning process in the last couple of years. What we learned is that our mission is still the same as it was since ILICA's inception 66 years ago. ILICA is based on promoting best practices for Land Improvement, and we are willing to teach anyone one willing to learn. This is an educational based organization first and foremost. Our industry partners and associate members are a big part of our strength. We work directly with other conservation partners like the Farm Bureau, Corn Growers, NRCS, Wetlands Initiative, and others.

The warm winter we are experiencing this year has been great for working. High commodity prices have helped drive business as well for a lot of us. As we head into Spring, please work safe. Remember that your mental health is just as important as your physical health. You can always pick up your ILICA directory and call a friend when you need one. I find it is comforting when I talk to other members and find out they have been through some of the same trials and obstacles that I have in business and in life. You are certainly not alone if you are a member of the ILICA family.

Best regards,  
Eric Layden

### 2023 BOARD MEMBER MTG. ATTENDANCE

| A = absent      P = present      C = cancelled meeting |     |       |     |     |     |
|--|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|
| Area / Director  | Jan | March | May | Sep | Nov |
| Pres: Eric Layden                                      | P   |       |     |     |     |
| VP: Jon Seevers  | P   |       |     |     |     |
| 1st VP: Tyler Seals                                    | P   |       |     |     |     |
| Area 1 - Brian Brooks                                  | P   |       |     |     |     |
| Area 2 - Steve Anderson                                | P   |       |     |     |     |
| Area 2 - Stuart Anderson                               | P   |       |     |     |     |
| Area 3 - Grant Curtis                                  | P   |       |     |     |     |
| Area 3 - Joe Streitmatter                              | P   |       |     |     |     |
| Area 4 - David Kennedy                                 | P   |       |     |     |     |
| Area 4 - Lee Bunting                                   | P   |       |     |     |     |
| Area 6 - Scott Day                                     | P   |       |     |     |     |
| Area 6 - Bill Dean                                     | P   |       |     |     |     |
| Area 8 - Tom Beyers                                    | P   |       |     |     |     |
| Area 8 - Tyler Seals                                   | P   |       |     |     |     |
| Associate Dir: D. Randolph                             | P   |       |     |     |     |

### BOARD & MEMBERS' MEETING SCHEDULE

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

**March 4, 2023** - Regular Meeting of the Board:

Richland Comm. College, Decatur

*Exact location, meeting times & other details will be published in the ILICA News and sent to members via mail and/or email.*

## NEW MEMBERS

### Active Contractors

**Tim Kendrick****Sauk Valley Plumbing**

801 E 17th St.

Rock Falls, IL 61071

Ph: 815-622-3117

Email: saukvalleyplumbing@gmail.com

Website: saukvalleyplumbing.com

**Theodore Graff****Broken Ground Excavating LLC**

1172 100th Ave

Middletown, IL 62666

Ph: 217-652-5193

Email: theoroosevelt98@gmail.com

**Isaac McCorkle****Coal Creek Excavating & Septic LLC**

20801 N White Grove Rd.

Princeville, IL 61559

Ph: 309-712-5633

Email: isaac@mccorkleexcavating.com

**Benny Lefringhouse****Lefringhouse Construction**

1421 N 1003rd Ln.

Quincy, IL 62305

Ph: 217-430-5960

Email: benl81078@gmail.com

### Affiliates

**Matt McLaren****Day Drainage Co. Inc.**

215 E Lynn St.

Gibson City, IL 60936

Ph: 217-714-2495

Email: kristinstamps@yahoo.com

### Associates

**GFL Environmental****Randy Embry**

24501 McMullen Rd.

Hopedale, IL 61747

Ph: 309-696-4035

Email: randy.embry@gflenv.com

Website: gflenv.com

**Wolfe Heavy Equipment****Kevin Shimp**

1011 Nottingham Drive

Quincy, IL 62305

Ph: 226-377-5093

Email: kshimp@wolfeequipment.com

Website: wolfeequipment.com

**Road Machinery & Supplies Co.****Bryan Stolee**

3150 5th Ave

East Moline, IL 61244

Ph: 309-428-0075

Email: bstolee@rmseq.com

Website: rmsequipment.com

**Cen-Pe-Co Lubricants****Larry Bayer**

1604 40th St. Ct.

Moline, IL 61265

Ph: 309-738-0984

Email: larrybayer@gmail.com

Website: cenpecocom

**The Hillard Agency Insurance****Jason Badman**

500 South Main St.

Tuscola, IL 61953

Ph: 217-299-2702

Email: jbadman@hillardagency.com

Website: hillardagency.com



## LEGISLATIVE NEWS

*By Tom Beyers, ILICA Legislative Committee Chairman*

### New Law Establishes Statewide Renewable Energy Project Siting Standards

At the ILICA winter annual meeting in January, the members present were informed of recent legislation passed in the lame duck session of the 102nd legislative session of the Illinois General Assembly. SB 4412 and HB 4412 had several amendments attached concerning renewable energy regulations.

“(t) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a facility owner with siting approval from a county to construct a commercial wind energy facility or a commercial solar energy facility is authorized to cross or impact a drainage system, including, but not limited to, drainage tiles, open drainage districts, culverts, and water gathering vaults, owned or under the control of a drainage district under the Illinois Drainage Code without obtaining prior agreement or approval from the drainage district, except that the facility owner shall repair or pay for the repair of all damage to the drainage system caused by the construction of the commercial wind energy facility or the commercial solar energy facility within a reasonable time after construction of the commercial wind energy facility or the commercial solar energy facility is complete.”

The insert above is the section of the bill that impacts Drainage Districts. This authorization gives to the facility owner the right to impact drainage systems without approval of the Drainage Districts and further by exception states that the owner shall repair all damage within a reasonable time after construction of the facility is complete. This legislation is now law and further restricts the authority of local counties and

townships, requiring them to comply with the State standard siting requirements for renewable energy projects. There will be subsequent efforts to change this law from the Illinois Association of Drainage Districts in the form of a trailer bill; there will probably be efforts by IFB and the Counties and Townships, as well. As this effort develops, the sponsors of proposed trailer bills will be soliciting support from other interested parties and organizations like ILICA to sign on in support. This certainly seems to be a deterioration of local control. The law maybe viewed in full at: <https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/102/102-1123.htm>

### Amendments Proposed to Illinois Underground Utility Facilities Damage Prevention Act

Another proposal that is of interest to contractors impacts the JULIE one-call system. The JULIE board has approved a proposed bill to amend the Illinois Underground Utility Facilities Damage Prevention Act. This is nothing new; they have routinely amended the Act to address concerns. These proposed changes impact both the Excavators and the Utility Owners. There are numerous changes proposed to definitions, timeframes and penalties, just to name a few. Everyone is entitled to comment on these proposed changes. The changes can be found at: <https://www.illinois1call.com/damage-prevent-act-amendments-landing/>

On this site, you can find the proposed changes to the Act, section by section, as well as fact sheets and summaries of the changes by clicking on the links within the “Download More Specifics” section. There are about eight downloads with varying degrees of detail. Immediately below the downloads section is an opportunity to leave your comments online.



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## JANUARY FULL OF ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

As always seems to be the case at the start of a new year, the month of January proved to be a busy one for the Association with a number of events and activities for members to partake in.

### Industry Bites

In mid-January, Illinois LICA joined forces with Martin Equipment of Illinois (MEOI) at their Peru location to host the first "Industry Bites" event of 2023. The evening event, complete with a catered dinner, was sponsored by MEOI and attracted nearly 30 contractors interested in learning about John Deere's SmartGrade technology and basic grade control applications from MEOI's JB Briggs. With Illinois LICA's Ryan Arch wrapping up the evening with a brief presentation on the benefits of ILICA membership, those in attendance digested plenty of info within a couple of hours. Added bonus: members that attended the ILICA Annual Convention one week later (see page 14 for event coverage) had the opportunity to catch JB at MEOI's exhibit booth during the trade show to ask any follow up questions that cropped up.



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### Virtual Introductory Drainage Workshop

For 2023, the longstanding University of Illinois Extension and Illinois LICA Drainage Workshop will once again be hosted virtually, based on a good response to virtual program in 2020 and a poor response to in-person training opportunities in 2022. At the end of January, an introductory drainage workshop training was held over two consecutive mornings via Zoom. Roughly 30 attendees learned not only about the basics of surveying, soils, and drainage system design but also about basic online drainage tools, one-call regulations, trench safety, and conservation drainage practices. There was also an ILICA expert panel that fielded a number of great questions from those in attendance on the second day, concluding the first half of this drainage workshop series. That's right; you heard correctly! There is a second drainage workshop in the works for June that will contain more advanced content with hands-on drainage design training. Be sure to regularly check our calendar of events on our website for registration: [www.ilica.net/events](http://www.ilica.net/events). Thank you to all our partner member presenters, our sponsors, and Richard Cooke!

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# ILICA Ladies' Page

## Why You Need to Support Other Women & 5 Ways to Start



She sat across from me on the floor, on a multi-colored pillow. We were in a room full of women who were there for one reason: to replenish one another.

This may seem odd or unfamiliar. It was to me at first. I had grown accustomed to petty competition that seeps into the pores of women, holding us back, keeping us on edge. What started in elementary school as girl-on-girl crime developed, blossomed, and bloomed into women throw-down tear-downs in the adult world. How did this happen?

Gossip. Betrayal. Envy. Language.

In our world, women compete for partners, jobs, best in motherhood, in sexiness, in meal preparation, in parties, in got-it-all-togetherness. Within this competition you'll find eye-rolling, cutting other women down with words, whispers, divulging information that isn't ours to share, shaming other women for their choices, and protesting with our emotions, absence, or silence.

But, on this day surrounded by women, this particular woman said she was committing to supporting other women. What did this mean for her, I wondered?

"I'm going to say yes to other women and get behind whatever they're trying to do," she said.

This idea seemed incredibly courageous in its simplicity: just say yes and just show up.

***What does this look like in our everyday life and attitudes?***

### 1. Start with encouragement.

As women, we tend to play it safe or make sure all of our ducks are in a row. We want to assess the situation for security and control. We oftentimes are risk-averse. But when it comes to living brave and bold, we need to support other women in their brave and bold decisions. You want to buy a bikini for summer? Yes! I will go with you to make sure self-defeating thoughts don't creep in. You want to start a business? Yes! Let's go! How can I support? You want to throw an event, host a workshop, buy the puppy, attend counseling, travel to a foreign land, try online dating? Yes! I'll buy a ticket, a dog bowl, and answer your cell phone calls when you have stories of hilarity or anxiety.

### 2. Stay accountable for her and for yourself.

When you're showing support to someone, helping them stay accountable to their goals is important for them and for you. It keeps them on track and it keeps you in encouragement, even when it may be easy to slip into a little jealousy. What you'll

find is that support feels good. Uplifting a girlfriend brings feelings of uplift for you as well. It always feels wonderful to be encouraged and it feels wonderful to encourage others. The shift of perspective is a tool of momentum producing courage in both women.

### 3. Observe your language.

The way we encourage women and how we say it matters. As women, we have been minimizing each other without even knowing it. The language we've been handed makes us seem dainty and quaint and pretty and lovely and quiet and demure. If you Google "descriptors for men," you discover the following list: strong, tall, big, handsome, tough, robust, hero, powerful, aggressive, hard-working, athletic, dependable, sculpted. A similar Google search for women produces the following list: accepting, adorable, affectionate, agreeable, angelic, attentive, attractive, gorgeous, fragile, forgiving, provocative, ravishing, reserved, sacrificing. When you're encouraging a fellow female, try to use language that sounds and feels powerful. Instead of "You're so amazing," exchange it for, "You're powerful, strong, goal-oriented, focused, driven, and your idea will shake the ground you set it on."

### 4. Ask her powerful, positive questions.

Women are such ingenious innovators. Many times, the ideas they come up with on their own are more effective than anything someone tells them. As her friend, encourage her own thoughts to grow. Create action plans with her by asking her prompting questions instead of telling her what you would do. Questions like: "Why is this important to you?" or, "What matters the most in this situation?" or, "Who do you need to become to achieve this?" or, "What do you need to lose in order to achieve this?" And let her navigate what matters to her in this space, instead of hearing what matters to you first.

We need to support other women in their brave and bold decisions.

### 5. Be present. Show up. Be proud.

Celebrate her effort and her work. Encouragement nuggets are the best way to keep going, and celebrations can be as simple as a quick text, e-mail, hug, or glass of wine.

As women, we are in this together and it's time we start lifting each other up instead of silently holding each other back. We want our fellow females to be loved, supported, encouraged, empowered, educated, successful, and fearless. We want them to achieve their goals and spread their wings. We want them to make big decisions and roll with them. We want to see women thriving, and to do that, we have to play an active role in the lives of our fellow females.

Since that day, I have remembered my friend's words: "I'm going to say yes to other women and get behind whatever they're trying to do." This simple rule for living has brightened my life in countless ways, and I carry it with me every day.

Source: Reprinted with permission from [www.gritandgracelife.com](http://www.gritandgracelife.com).

Author: Sheena Jeffers; <https://thegritandgraceproject.org/relationships/why-you-need-to-support-other-women-and-5-ways-to-start>



## 2023 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, 2023** and return to:

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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.

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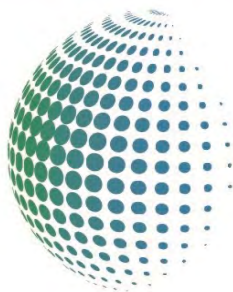
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## RETIRING NRCS STATE CONSERVATIONIST RECOGNIZED BY ILICA

Anyone actively engaged with furthering conservation work, especially in Illinois, knows the key word to success is “partnerships,” and few states do them better than Illinois. This past January, Illinois LICA recognized retiring Illinois Natural Resources Conservation Service’s State Conservationist Ivan Dozier for his instrumental role in fostering these partnerships and driving conservation for the last 20 years.

Ivan Dozier has been the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service’s State Conservationist for Illinois since April of 2012. Raised on his family’s farm in Southern Illinois where they produced grain and cattle, Dozier’s retirement plans include returning back to the family farm and his roots.



With a B. S. in Agriculture from the University of Illinois ('83) and an M.A. in Environmental Studies from the U of I Springfield ('92), Dozier started work with SCS/NRCS in 1983 as a part-time Soil Conservation Aide and was converted to a career Soil Conservationist position in 1984. His previous body of work with NRCS includes experience as a County Soil Scientist, Soil Conservationist, District Conservationist, American Indian Liaison and Assistant State Conservationist for Programs. Over his years as a trusted and model State Conservationist, Dozier has been asked to serve in several positions to support agency needs at the National Office in DC, as an Acting State Conservationist in other states, and as Chair of many strategy teams, taskforce groups, and other mission-critical leadership roles.

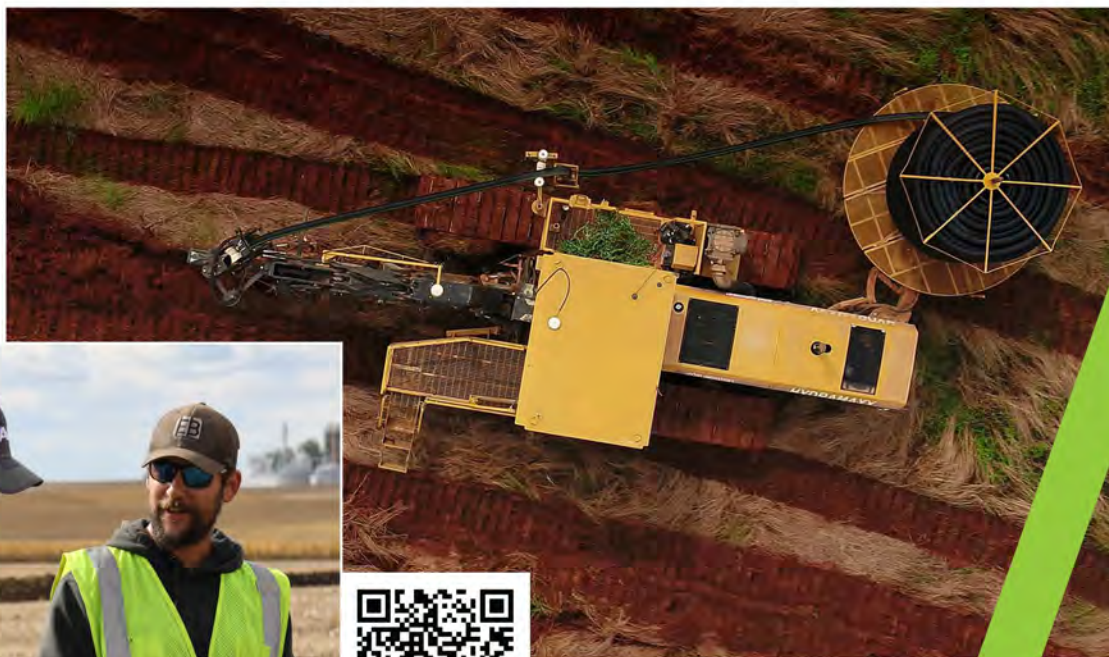
Dozier is a past-President of the Illinois Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS). He served on the Illinois NRCS State Civil Rights Committee and on the National Civil Rights Committee as the American Indian Male representative. He is a former officer with the American Indian Council of Illinois and the past-President of the National American Indian Alaska Native Employee Association for NRCS. Dozier is also a veteran of the US Army Reserve. He graduated with honors from both Basic and Advanced Training. While in the Reserves, he served as a medical lab specialist.

During his tenure as Illinois NRCS State Conservationist, Dozier has been a strong conservation partner and friend of Illinois LICA. A capable and receptive leader within NRCS, his skill sets have driven conservation in Illinois on many fronts, especially through his engagement and open dialogue with many non-governmental organizations and stakeholders. For his years of service, strong partnership, and dedication to conservation, Illinois LICA recently recognized Ivan Dozier with a plaque during his retirement party at the state NRCS office (pictured below: ILICA past-President Steve Anderson with Ivan Dozier).

We congratulate Ivan on his well-earned retirement, and we thank him for his leadership and support of Illinois LICA and conservation in Illinois.







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## ILICA ANNUAL CONVENTION & MEMBERS' MEETING FEELS "NORMAL"

Fresh off the heels of an annual convention less than a year ago that almost wasn't (i.e. COVID, significant hotel staff changes, snowstorm in Springfield), the ILICA Annual Convention and Members' Meeting held this year on January 19-21 at the Isle Casino Hotel Bettendorf felt "normal"... except for being in Iowa, which is not normal for an Illinois Chapter of any Association really. (Luckily, I think we may have gotten in and out before our Iowa Chapter even noticed.)

Admittedly, the definition of "normal" as it applies to any part of the world today is seemingly still in a state of flux. But for the purposes of this article, the recent Illinois LICA convention felt "more similar" to pre-pandemic conventions. Sure, we were in the Hawkeye State, but just barely...it's the first exit over the river, and this was a strategic decision by leadership. Our registration numbers were closer to average (150); our sponsorship and number of exhibitors were very strong; our silent auction totaled over \$4,000; and our education, banquet, entertainment, and hospitality were all top-notch. Speaking of top-notch, Iowa showed us it has more to offer us Illinoisians than just amazingly cheaper gas prices. The service and food we received at our event from the Isle Casino Hotel Bettendorf was extraordinary!

And while "normal" is generally a good thing, the 2023 Illinois LICA Annual Convention also receives high marks for some of the less obvious successes. Back to leadership's decision to cross the Mighty Mississippi, we had a great pre-tour to the North America Conservation & Drainage Expo over in Des Moines, IA where roughly 20 members jumped at the opportunity to check out the last day of the inaugural event developed and supported by many of our Associate members in the industry. We also saw many new faces at this year's event, both from within our membership and from the local community; a blossoming trend as a result of our growing social media presence and our newer, open-to-the-public trade show format. On top of all this, we had a very smooth transition into a new-to-us venue with nothing but positive feedback to share.

Thank you to our Convention Committee, event sponsors, exhibitors, speakers, and everyone that showed up to support the

2023 Illinois LICA Annual Convention. You all contributed significantly to bringing the event back to "normal"... depending on your definition, that is. Here's to making the next one remarkable!





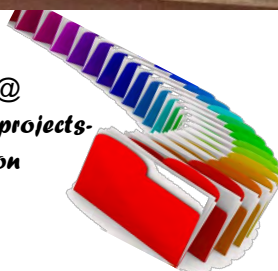


## Exhibitors & Sponsors

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 Xylem, LTD.

See more photos @  
<https://www.illca.net/projects-1-1/2023-convention>





## 2022 ILICA AWARD RECIPIENTS

During the 2023 ILICA Annual Convention held in January, the Awards Committee recognized the most outstanding individuals and partners in 2022 for their contributions to ILICA. Based on membership nominations, the award winners were:

### Merit Award

For their outstanding roles in support of the ILICA constructed wetland field day demonstration projects in 2022, the Awards Committee recognized Justin Cole, Ty Sparrow, and Jason Beyers as Merit Award recipients. (Beyers also receives the recognition for his involvement in helping host last winter's safety workshop at his shop in Lanark.)



#### Merit Award:

*Justin Cole & Tom Beyers  
(accepting award on behalf  
of his son, Jason Beyers)*

During the last full week of August, Illinois LICA constructed two wetlands near Dwight, IL in conjunction with special open-to-the-public field day events and activities. The field demonstration projects required dozens of man-hours physically moving dirt and laying material in the ground to complete the practices on strict timelines for our partners, and all of these individuals contributed to

ensuring the practices were completed to ILICA standards on time and safely.

For his contributions to the Woodchip Bioreactor Partnership demonstration on behalf of ILICA in 2022, Nick Helm of JRH Services also received a Merit Award.

Despite many project setbacks before construction, ranging from staff changes within the partnership to multiple equipment breakdowns, Helm and his company professionally navigated all the challenges to install the largest woodchip bioreactor to-date for Illinois LICA and the Woodchip Bioreactor Partnership. The bioreactor, possibly the largest in the state, was installed in early November on Lake Springfield without so much as a single hiccup in the end; a notable achievement for a contractor that is fairly new to the Association, had no familiarity with the practice prior to install, and who is not a drainage contractor by rights.



#### Merit Award:

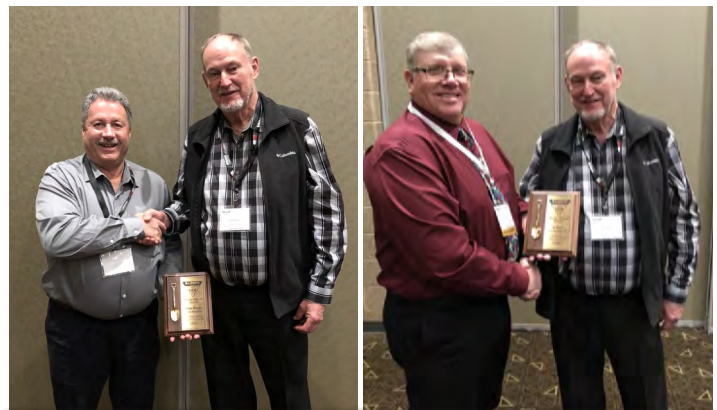
*Nick Helm (R) receiving award  
from Awards Committee Chair  
Bill Dean*

### Shiny Shovel Award

Bringing recognition to those members and partners that have consistently supported Illinois LICA in every, or almost every, event throughout the year (i.e. financially, physically, and promotionally), Shiny Shovel Award recipients are highly engaged, supporting ILICA at its numerous functions held each year. Metaphorically, their shovel never sets down long enough to acquire rust, but instead is shiny from its continual use.

Blessed with many dedicated and committed members, Illinois LICA is a very active chapter and in 2022 held 5 business meetings, 2 golf outings & trap shoots, a member picnic, 2 summer demonstration projects, countless conference calls & industry partner meetings, and an annual meeting, just to name a few.

For an individual to provide financial, physical, and promotional support to all, or even most, of these events is a notable recognition for someone who receives no monetary compensation for their dedication, commitment nor time donated to the Association. And yet the recipients that earned this recognition for 2022 devoted their personal time, finances, man-power, and experiences to nearly every activity listed for this year. It's also worth noting that these recipients supported all these efforts in addition to their leadership roles within the Association that include holding seats on the Board and committees and co-chairing committees. For 2022, the Shiny Shovel Award recipients were Brian Brooks and Jon Seevers.



#### Shiny Shovel Award:

*Brian Brooks (L; left image) & Jon Seevers (L; right image)  
receiving awards from Bill Dean*

### Leadership Award

By dictionary standards, "leadership" is the action of leading a group or organization. In practice, leadership is the art of motivating a group of people toward a common goal. Over the years, ILICA has benefited from the exemplary leadership and mentorship of several members, and this year Steve Anderson was recognized with the Illinois LICA Leadership Award.

For consideration of the ILICA Leadership Award, nominees are judged on their dedication and loyalism to the Association;



## 2022 ILICA AWARD RECIPIENTS (CONT.)

their willingness to share and impart their knowledge and expertise upon others within and outside of the Association; and their professionalism, business ethics, and ideological representation of the construction industry.

Steve Anderson personifies all of the above and, over the years, has led the association by serving on several committees and chairing a number of these; serving as a Director on the Board in his area; serving as President, not just once but twice for the Association (6th person to do so in ILICA's 66 year history); and serving as National LICA President (only 3rd ILICA Past President to do so).

A member since 1988, Steve has been a leader in Illinois LICA for over 34 years, though his family-ties within the Association run much deeper, and he has personally received numerous Merit Awards, the Shiny Shovel Award, and the Mr. Contractor Award in 2011.



**Leadership Award:**  
Steve Anderson (R) receiving  
award from Bill Dean

### Innovator Award

The Innovator Award was developed for those individuals that do not fit "neatly" into ILICA's current, more traditional award criteria, yet that stand out for their visionary or trendsetting contributions to conservation. Innovator award recipients are highly aware of their conservation responsibility as a landowner, partner, or ILICA member. They are strong conservation supporters and promoters that are "early adopters" or innovators actively involved in the betterment of the conservation industry. They recognize the value of partnership and are willing to work with various interests for the optimization of resources and conservation promotion. Eligible Innovator Award candidates include partners, associates, and contractor members.

For his contributions this past summer as an eager and passionate landowner determined to bring different sectors of the conservation industry together to share the benefits of constructed wetlands on his farm and for implementing the practice himself, Wes Lehman received the 2022 Innovator Award.

Wes works harder and with more determination than many and takes every step with consideration of the people around him. Dedicating his time not only to helping others but helping the environment around him, Wes is a husband to his wife Andie, father to two precious girls, Wren and Wylder, son to Sue and Cris, and a friend to many. He splits his time between his family and friends; Springfield Plastics, as a territory sales representative; Father N Son Products, where he is co-owner



**Innovator Award:**  
Bill Dean presents award to Wes, Andie,  
Wren, & Wylder Lehman

with his father; and Feather Prairie Farm, where he is co-owner with his wife. On top of his careers, Wes is an avid waterfowl and deer hunter. He has dedicated time to volunteering for conservation work, assisting different youth programs, and giving a hand to

anyone who needs him. Wes is a passionate, selfless, focused, "idea man" with no objective too big and no dream too small to achieve.

### Mr. Contractor Award

The 2022 Mr. Contractor, John McCoy, moved to the Grand Ridge area where he built his family home with his wife, Ann, while completing an agricultural internship with Joliet Junior College. It was in the Grand Ridge area that John would grow his business and his family. With much hard work & dedication, he started his independent tiling & excavation business in 1994. Throughout the late 1990s and early 2000s, he continued to work out of the Union Hall while spending his evenings dedicated to growing his personal business. With the help of his wife & 3 sons, he started focusing full time on his tiling & excavation business in the year 2002. Since then, John has worked incredibly hard on building his business to what it is today in order to support his family & community. He has done numerous conservation projects throughout LaSalle County and has been a proud sponsor of agricultural programs within the classroom for many years. He has been a dedicated member of ILICA for over 20 years, and John & his family have done several charitable acts within their community over the years. His family proudly donates



**Mr. Contractor Award:**  
John McCoy (R) with Bill Dean

money each year to the Grand Ridge Fire Department, the Grand Ridge Community Fest, Pheasants Forever, and the Jerry Yedinak Memorial Scholarship Fund. John even sponsors his grandson's T-Ball team. John looks forward to continuing his business and supporting his three grandchildren, who reside in the Grand Ridge & Ransom area.



## 2023 National LICA Winter Convention

March 11 - 13 | Harrah's Hotel & Casino | Las Vegas

### Winter Convention Agenda & Details



#### Saturday, March 11

6:00 pm - 10:00 pm Executive Committee

#### Sunday, March 12

6:00 am - 7:30 am Registration

8:00 am Opening Breakfast

9:00 am - 5:30 pm Committee Meetings

1:00 pm Lunch

7:00 pm - 10:00 pm Associates' Night

#### Monday, March 13

9:00 am Delegates' Meeting

10:45 am Board Meeting

1:00 pm Lunch

6:00 pm Reception

7:00 pm Awards Banquet

10:00 pm President's Reception

#### What does registration include?

Winter Convention registration includes all meal functions, Associates' Night, Committee Meetings, the Delegates' and Board Meeting. All registered members will receive meal tickets, a name badge, and a program when they check-in on site and are welcome to ... even encouraged to, attend any of the Committee Meetings and the Board Meeting. For a list of committees and their functions, visit [LICANational.org](http://LICANational.org).

#### Associates' Night

Sunday, March 12 ~ 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Join our National LICA Associates for drinks and bites as they showcase the latest in heavy equipment, technology and programs available to LICA members. Make some new connections, support our valued associates and learn how they can help your business succeed.

#### Associates' Night Beverage Sponsor



#### Associates' Night Sponsors







## 2023 National LICA Winter Convention

March 11 - 13 | Harrah's Hotel & Casino | Las Vegas

### Winter Convention Registration Form



Company \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Attendees (for Badges)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

#### Early Bird Registration

Postmarked by **February 18, 2023**

Members, Spouses, Associates **\$350**

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Youth: 13 Years & under **FREE**

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Registration

Postmarked after **February 18, 2023**

Members, Spouses, Associates **\$395**

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Youth: 13 Years & under **FREE**

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Includes: Sunday's Breakfast, Lunch, & Associates' Night, Monday's Lunch, Receptions & Awards Banquet**

#### Hotel Information:

Harrah's Las Vegas

3475 S Las Vegas Blvd.; Las Vegas, NV 89109  
\$160/night (plus taxes & resort fees)

Call: 888-458-8471

Group Name: LICA – Winter 2023 OR SHLIC3.  
Reserve by: February 18, 2023

**Calling on or before the deadline does NOT  
guarantee you will get the room rate.  
Make your reservations today,  
the block fills up fast.**

Return this form with payment to:  
**LICA Winter Convention**  
3080 Ogden Ave. Suite 300, Lisle, IL 60532

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

or charge my credit card

Credit Card MC Visa

Cardholder \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. \_\_\_\_\_ 3 Digit Code \_\_\_\_\_

Billing zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Policy:** Only individuals registered and wearing badges may attend Winter Convention events. No registration will be processed without payment. Registration fee deadlines will be strictly enforced.

**Refund Policy:** For cancellations received prior to March 1, 2023 a \$30.00 charge will be deducted from the original amount paid. No registration payment will be refunded after March 1, 2023 unless there has been an emergency.





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## **LICA Discount Deadlines**

**Register by: January 6, 2023**

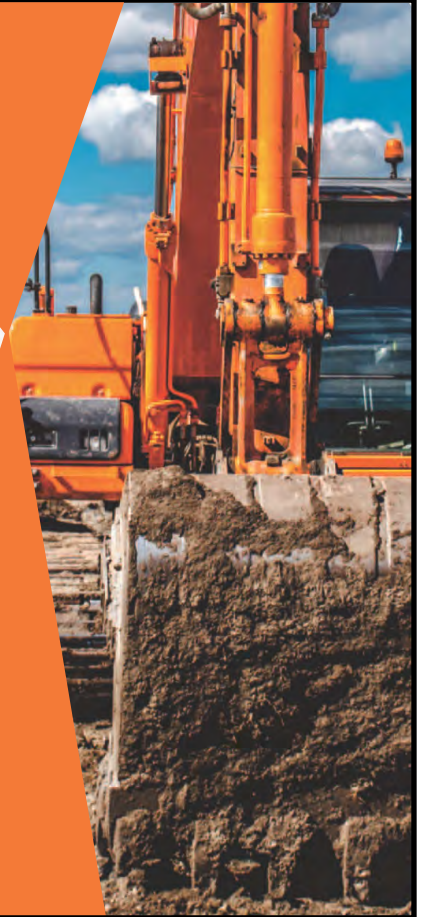
**Badge Fee: \$124**

**Register by: March 13, 2023**

**Badge Fee: \$149**

**Register by: March 18, 2023**

**Badge Fee: \$175**



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(illica.net/events)



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When was the last time Illinois LICA won Top State Award (excluding 2021)?



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michelle@illica.net

One lucky winner will receive a prize!

Jan/Feb Answer: 1979





# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Illinois

### **Board of Directors Meeting March 4, 2023**

National Sequestration Education Center (NSEC)  
Room NS121/NS122, Richland Comm. College  
1 College Park, Decatur, IL 62521

Committee Meetings: 9 am - 12 pm  
Board Orientation: 12:30 pm  
Board Meeting: 1:30 pm

### **Contractor Training Store & Illinois LICA Virtual Septic Training March 23, 2023**

8 - 11:30 am

Register: <https://form.jotform.com/210405973758159>  
or via QR code on page 22

### **NRCS/ILICA Technical Meeting April 5, 2023**

USDA-NRCS Illinois State Office  
2118 W. Park Court, Champaign, IL 61821

Meeting @ 9 am

Please submit questions/comments to bring to NRCS  
and register to attend this yearly meeting (members only)  
by March 29 via:

<https://form.jotform.com/230454081861150>

## National

### **2023 LICA Winter Convention March 11-13, 2023**

Harrah's Hotel & Casino  
3475 S Las Vegas Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89109  
Register for the event via page 19.

### **2023 CONEXPO March 14-18, 2023**

Las Vegas, NV

LICA members use special link to receive discounts:

<https://www.licanational.com/event-posts/conexpo-2023/>

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#### Safety & Health Consulting

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#### Mock OSHA Inspections

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**Albert.Osche@lancastersafety.com**



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