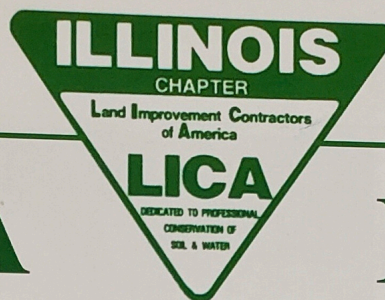


ILICA



NEWS

Land Improvement Contractors Of America • Illinois Chapter

November - December 2007

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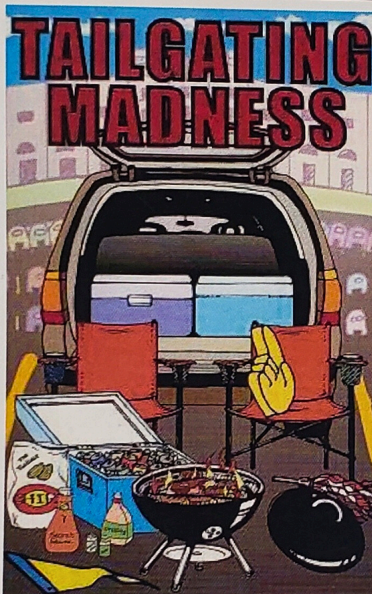
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Area 8

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2008 CONVENTION & MEMBERS MEETING JANUARY 17 - 19, 2008



HELP KICK OFF THE 2008 ILICA CONVENTION AT OUR TAILGATE PARTY!

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17TH

STONEY CREEK INN

MOLINE

SEE PAGE 10 FOR DETAILS



- AUCTION
- AWARDS BANQUET
- DOOR PRIZES
- EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS
- EXHIBITOR BOOTHS
- FOOD
- LADIES PROGRAM
- SPEAKERS
- AND MUCH MORE . . .

Also Featured Inside

Basics & Benefits of Sub-Surface Drainage Workshop Schedule - *page 5*

Act Now - Clean Water Restoration Act HR2421 - *page 9*

2008 Winter LICA Convention / Con Expo - *page 10*

Safety Feature - Winter Storms - *page 19*

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Thanksgiving Prayer

by Joseph Auslander

We thank thee for our daily bread,
For faith by which the soul is fed,
For burdens given us to bear,
For help that lifts the heart's despair.



We thank thee, Lord, for eyes to see,
The truth that makes, and keeps us free:
For faults -- and for the strength to mend them,
For dreams -- and courage to defend them.



We have so much to thank thee for,
Dear Lord, we beg but one boon more:
Peace in the hearts of all men living,
Peace in the whole world on this Thanksgiving.



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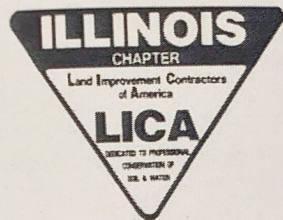
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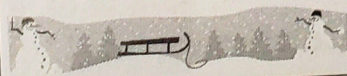
The ILICA News is the official publication of Illinois Land Improvement Contractors of America, 118 E. Knoxville St., Brimfield, IL 61517. (309) 446-3700.

Subscription price is \$1.00 per year, issued bi-monthly: January-February; March-April; May-June; July-August; September-October; November-December.



The problem with winter sports is that - follow me closely here - they generally take place in winter.

Dave Barry



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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.

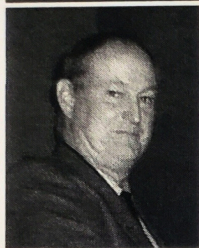
Meeting Notice

ILICA January Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, January 17, 2007 1:15 pm

Stoney Creek Inn, Moline Illinois
John Deere Room

ILICA Members/Business Meeting
Saturday, January 19, 2007 9:00 am

Stoney Creek Inn, Moline Illinois
John Deere Room



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings from Mattoon,

I want to say a big thank you for all our members that volunteered their time this summer to make the summer events go smoothly. Without your help it would not be possible.

Today is October 24 and harvest is almost over. We have hit the fields and have completed a lot of work already since crops came out early and the weather was great. Rain in our area began the last couple of weeks slowing our work a little, however, it is needed.

I hope everyone else is busy as well as it keeps you out of trouble. Crops were excellent and it appears farmers came out ahead. My only fear is when the farmer has a profitable year the seed, fertilizer, cash rent, & many other supplies costs conveniently raise. I'm not sure if many of the farmers in your area had a lot of volunteer corn and beans germinate, but we did. In our local newspaper I read a letter to the editor I must share with you. The letter read that our farmers were doing a good job, however they didn't have their combines set properly this fall causing all the volunteer corn and beans to germinate before winter arrives. Many people didn't realize the corn and bean loss from the combines was no worse than any other year. However, the early harvest, very warm weather and just enough moisture caused the above conditions. I was told that a loss of 4% of corn during harvest is expected every year.

The convention committee is now busy planning for our annual state convention which will be held in Moline at the beautiful Stoney Creek Inn where we were last year. Our intentions were to have it there only one year for our 50th anniversary however, it was almost unanimous everyone attending wanted to come back in 2008. If you did not attend you missed a good time. Dates for the upcoming convention are January 17 - 19, 2008. The show committee is also busy planning for the Con-Expo to be tentatively held at the Progress City in Decatur where we were in 2006.

November 3 is our next board meeting and I hope all directors, alternate directors, committee members, and any other members interested will attend. It will be held at the Heiser Insurance Office in Morton, IL located at 133 S. Main Street.

I know this sounds redundant however, Chairmen please contact your committee members and make sure everyone possible will attend; Directors, please contact your Alternates if you cannot attend. The committee & board members are the backbone of ILICA. Being able to attend every meeting will probably not be possible, which is not a problem, but be sure to contact your Alternate or other committee members to make sure someone from your respective position will. Trust me, we will continue emphasize this. Also, please call a new member in your area and have him or her ride along with you to a meeting. With this kind of commitment and hard work, we will finish 2007 with a bang.

Thanks for all your attention and if anyone has any ideas please share them with myself or anyone else in our Association.

Take care and see ya around!!

Bill Dean, President



Welcome!

New Members

Active Members

John Lawrence
A.J. McDirtt - Sterling
(recently located)

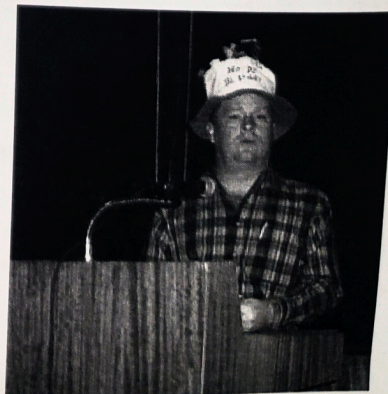
Thank You



Please take the time to
personally welcome one
of these new ILICA
members.

Let's keep ILICA
GROWING!

2008 ILICA Convention & Annual Business Meeting



January 17 - 19, 2008
Stoney Creek Inn, Moline, IL

Come Celebrate with Us!

BASICS AND BENEFITS OF SUB-SURFACE DRAINAGE

TRAVELING ILICA WORKSHOP SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 5, 6, 7, 2008



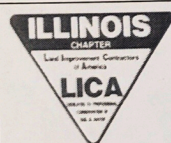
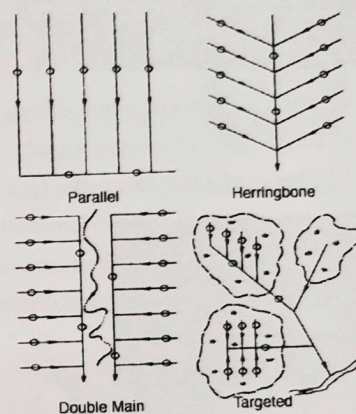
Responding to inquiries from all over Illinois, the ILICA Education Committee has organized a "traveling road show" workshop to address the basics of subsurface drainage and the benefits it provides. Working in conjunction with community colleges around the state, IADD, and Illinois Farm Bureau, this one-day workshop is scheduled in 3 convenient locations in Illinois.

- Black Hawk College, Kewanee, Tuesday, February 5
- Parkland College, Champaign, Wednesday, February 6
- Kaskaskia College, Centralia, Thursday, February 7.

Dr. Richard Cooke, University of Illinois College of A.C.E.S., and retired NRCS State Engineer Jim Evans will facilitate the workshops. They will provide professional, easy to understand instruction on the planning, design and installation of subsurface drainage systems. Dr. Cooke's ongoing research in drainage systems makes him one of the nations most knowledgeable authorities in this field. Years at NRCS and his current position at Maurer-Stutz Inc. Engineering and Surveying firm gives Jim Evans the

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

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



Illinois LICA Workshop

Basics & Benefits of Sub-Surface Drainage

Pre-Registration Form



Name: _____ Company Name: _____
 Address: _____ Phone: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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

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

(1st & 2nd choice)

_____ Tuesday, February 5, 2008 - Black Hawk College - Kewanee, Illinois (capacity 150)
 _____ Wednesday, February 6, 2008 - Parkland College - Champaign, Illinois (capacity 100)
 _____ Thursday, February 7, 2008 - Kaskaskia College - Centralia, Illinois (capacity 70)



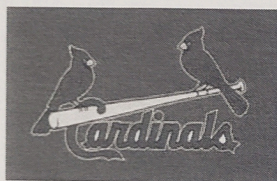
2008 ILICA CONVENTION & TAILGATE PARTY: JANAURY 17-19,2008 - STONEY CREEK INN



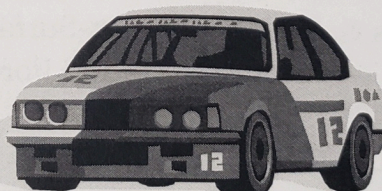
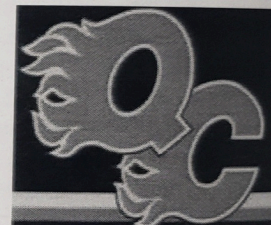
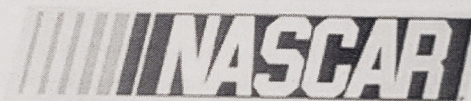
Due to popular demand, Illinois LICA is returning to Stoney Creek Inn, Moline Illinois for the 2008 ILICA convention and business meeting. Everyone enjoyed the historic 50th Anniversary celebration in January 2007, so we just had to return and show Moline how much fun land improvement contractors can be! The Convention committee has come up with a 'Tailgating' theme for the Thursday evening early bird dinner, which kicks off this year's convention with exhibits, lots of food and fellowship followed by the always entertaining ILICA auction.



Everyone, including the staff at Stoney Creek, is invited to show support for their favorite team, driver, player or other sports figure by wearing or displaying your support in some way. Moline has a new AHL Hockey team who's home ice is less than 2 blocks from the hotel, and tickets will be made available for anyone who would like to see the Quad City Flames play the Toronto Marlies, scheduled on Wednesday evening, January 16th.



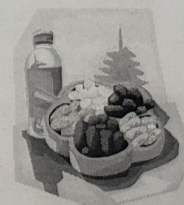
Many of the details are still being worked out, but our convention committee has taken the comments from last years questionnaire and this is what we know so far:



We are returning to the sponsored meals and events as in years past, and we've arranged the ballroom to allow for more dining area, meaning only 6 people per table. *(if you were there last year, you know why this is important!)* We plan to provide a little down time so we can catch our breath between meetings, educational sessions and other activities and are busy trying to fit in all the fun without putting people in two places at once! We hope to hold an indoor Backhoe Rodeo Saturday afternoon, if everything goes according to plans, but check your registration form for details on that. We have to take care of convention business, so we'll still have reports from our partner agencies, various board and committee meetings and educational sessions to provide important information and CEU's for our certified contractors, but "fun" is going to be the main course at this year's convention.

Registration and exhibit forms will be mailed out in early November.

Please mark your calendars for this wonderful event and plan to join us January 17 - 19, 2007 at Stoney Creek Inn, Moline Illinois.



2008 ILICA CONVENTION & TAILGATE PARTY

Regardless of what sport (s) you enjoy, please plan to show your support on Thursday evening at our Early Bird reception. The Quad Cities has several sports teams and if there is enough interest in the Wednesday evening QC Flames hockey game, we could secure one of the private patios for the evening. Details will be provided on the convention registration form, which will be going out soon. Thursday's Early Bird reception will be a social night of fun and entertainment as last years' auctioneers, Jason and Al Stenzel, are returning for another outrageous evening.



Those who aren't comfortable going all out to support their favorite sport can still play along. Items don't have to be extravagant; just wear your favorite jersey, hat, or other apparel item and show your colors.

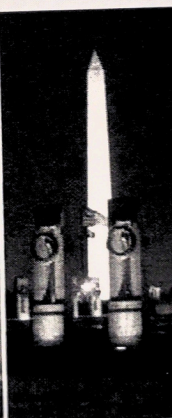


It doesn't even have to be a sport that most people tailgate for. Lance Armstrong might be your favorite sports person, so wear the yellow jersey or one of those cute little bike caps. Or if boxing is your favorite sport ... I'm not sure what to suggest, but surely someone can come up with a way to do it.



All the details will be available soon, as the convention committee meets again November 3rd. Please keep an eye out for the convention forms and let's make this year's convention a true celebration of how far

we've come in the last year. If you didn't make last years' convention, you may not know that the Stoney Creek Inn is a beautiful hotel and the service, food and atmosphere are outstanding. Our block is locked in at \$79 per night, which is also a bargain for these beautiful rooms. Details on reservations will also be included on the registration form, so save the date and we'll see you there!



A man does what he must - in spite of personal consequences, in spite of obstacles and dangers and pressures - and that is the basis of all human morality.
John F. Kennedy

(left) Statue at the National Viet Nam Memorial in Washington D.C.

(center) World War II Memorial at night with the Washington Monument in the background

(right) World War II Memorial showing some of the pillars and wreaths used to represent the brave soldiers from all 50 states who gave their lives in that war.

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GABBIN' WITH THE GALS..

You know, these race runners think they are really going fast, but this person is here to tell them that there is one thing they can never beat because it goes too fast for everyone; and that is TIME. When you are getting along in years it is normal to look back and say, "Where did all those years go?" Then there are those of us who don't pay attention to the time and when elderly (hate that word!) times overcome us it is doubly hard to realize your life has been fulfilled and rest is a welcome word because of it. Think of the apostles spending a mere three years with their leader, Jesus; they must have seen difficult years after that

without Him because He was here such a short time among the people. It's one thing that is inevitable and which we can do nothing about except the best we can. If you are one of the lucky ones who have had loving people around and a busy, fulfilled life with them, give thanks each day. Of course, we all have setbacks, some sorrow, disappointments, but they turn into memories too. When I hear that the lady who played the mother on "Leave it to Beaver" is now 91, it's a little more palatable. Well they say that every dog has his day so maybe we humans do too.

Many of us live in small towns - you know, where everybody knows everybody. Here are some thoughts on a small town: The "road hog" in front of you on Main Street is a farmer's combine ... The local phone book has only one Yellow Page ... You leave your jacket on the back of a chair in the café and when you go back the next day it is still there on the same chair ... You call a wrong number and are supplied with the correct one ... You start up the handicapped ramp at the post office and a good person is waiting at the door to help you in - etc., etc. After being downtown in Chicago several months ago I appreciate our small town even more. Not that there aren't good people in the city because you can find good ones everywhere you go, but it would take a lot of getting use to with traffic, trains, and all kinds of things to distract you. Guess we all can't be lucky, right?

Police in New Zealand were mystified by the apparent theft of a complete toilet bowl from a police station in Auckland. When a local news reporter asked the police sergeant if they had any leads, he replied, "At present, we have nothing to go on."

We have had a plethora of weddings in our family so now everyone should be in their new routine; we had one who actually had "wedding bells" and the one I had is right on the kitchen table where I can remember my granddaughter and my new grand-son-in-law. Our eldest son was married in August and he and my new daughter-in-law are adjusting very well. If she is a Green Bay Packer fan she will survive. I have told him several times that if he would channel all that fervor for the Lord, he would be one heck of a minister! So far, there's been no answer.

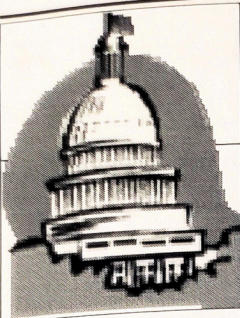
On October 6, my daughter remarried and when I asked who the attendants would be she replied, "His kids and mine." They were married at our farm next to the pond and they all managed to get on the small platform there; I believe the judge who gave the ceremony was a little overawed. The weather was perfect with warm temperatures and a southern breeze blowing across the pond. The reception was held elsewhere - we didn't want to share our food with all the lovely insects this time of year. We still have a lot of grandchildren to join the list of marrieds, so it isn't over by any means. They sure make good memories.

This person had some fun with a local businessman here recently. We bought a new carpet which was laid in August and come all of August and most of September, and no bill for it. I sent him the gift certificate which had been given to me to help with it, and still no bill. So I wrote him a poem in which I insinuated that if much more time went by, the money allocated for it might get spent. I soon had a bill by return mail!! Making up poems about current things is fun. I know most of you remember Maleda, Dan's wife who died some years ago; well, she was a very good poem writer. I like to write about things that happen in a person's life; for instance when my hair dresser fell over the cord to her blow dryer, I wrote her a limerick about that. When you get stymied because a word is hard to rhyme, sometimes you have to change the sentence. Those who received an invitation to Ben and Rose Bolliger's 50th wedding anniversary know that she is a very good poem writer too.

Here are a few quotes from famous persons; there is so much talk of money nowadays (or maybe it has always been) here's what Everett Dirksen had to say; "A billion here, a billion there, the first thing you know you're talking about REAL money!" Will Rogers said "There is no trick to being a humorist when you have the whole government working for you." Billy Graham said "A real Christian is one who can give his pet parrot to the town gossip." and St. Francis said, "Preach the gospel all the time. If necessary, use words."

The word for this issue is time. Take time to be friendly - it is the road to happiness. Take time to dream - it is hitching your wagon to a star. Take time to love and to be loved - it is the privilege of the gods. Take time to look around - it is too short a day to be selfish. Take time to laugh - it is the music of the soul. Take time to enjoy something YOU really enjoy. Take time to breathe deeply when you awake in the mornings for the day is yours and you are chosen to be in it. With lawn-mowing almost past it is time to start thinking about falling leaves and the farmers will be putting away the machinery for the winter - no, the don't take it to Florida with them! Until next time (no pun intended), stay cozy and warm.

See you around. Rambling Rose



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

HR2421 "CLEAN WATER RESTORATION ACT OF 2007"

The following is of great concern. AGC is opposed, Farm Bureau is opposed, as are many others.

Congress is considering the "Clean Water Restoration Act of 2007," HR2421. This bill would delete the term "navigable" from the Clean Water Act and replace it with "Waters of the United States." This action would have far reaching effect, taking jurisdiction over all intrastate waters away from the states and giving it to the Corps of Engineers and EPA. That includes ground water, ditches, pipes, streets, municipal storm drains, gutters, ponds, etc. The Corps and EPA would have authority over all "activities affecting these waters," public or private. This could mean grading and shaping, site preparation, tiling, clearing, you name it if it affects the waters.

If you think today's rules are a nightmare, just wait! Every contractor must contact his/her Congressman and implore them to defeat this bill. Their livelihood depends on it!

Send this message on your company's letterhead to your Congressman:

Dear Congressman _____

It has come to my attention that Congress is considering the "Clean Water Restoration Act of 2007" (HR2421) that will delete the term "navigable" from the Clean Water Act and replace it with "Waters of the United States." This would infringe on State's Rights in that intrastate waters will then come under Federal jurisdiction. The result will greatly hinder land improvement work on farms and ranches and perhaps stop even maintenance of water management systems all together. I urge you to vote against this bill and to encourage your fellow Congressmen to do so, also.

Sincerely,

Your Name

Call your Congressman's office and say the following:

This is *(Your Name)*. I am your constituent from *(Your Town)* I want to register my opposition to the proposed "Clean Water Restoration Act of 2007" (HR2421). If this bill passes, it will do irreparable harm to the progress of conservation work involving water management throughout the country. I am asking you to vote against this bill, and to urge your fellow Congressmen to do the same.

Thank you

If you need help with names, phone numbers or addresses of your congressmen, contact the ILICA office at (309) 446-3700 or via email at janet@illica.net.



NEW Subscription Membership Level

Due to the increasing number of requests for hard copies of the *ILICA News* newsletters, the ILICA Board of Directors have decided to offer a Subscription Membership to those interested.

Subscription Membership would cost \$25 annually and provide the member with all issues of the *ILICA News* as well as the annual Directory, published in March.

See the membership application on page 22 just below the active contractor application, and start receiving your copy of the *ILICA News*.





WINTER LICA CONVENTION & CONEXPO 2008

The winter LICA Convention is scheduled for March 9 - 10, 2008 in Las Vegas Nevada, just prior to the 2008 Con Expo - Con/Agg show. It may seem like a long time before March gets here, but the hotel rooms in Las Vegas will be gone long before then. Please review the registration documents you received from Debbie Dickens of Missouri LICA, regarding our winter convention and Con Expo.

You cannot get a room during this time without registering for Con-Expo and available rooms will be booked fast.!

National LICA has a booth at Con Ex and a LICA sponsored track of educational sessions which are easily identified in the program. Please support LICA's efforts by attending those classes, as your availability allows. Jerry Biuso has worked very hard to secure LICA's place among the thousands of exhibitors participating in this International event, and our chapter benefits from that notoriety as well. The LICA booth will need contractors to help with staffing and the registration form is located below, for your convenience. It is an opportunity to meet other contractors from all over the world and spread the word about this outstanding organization. Contact the ILICA office if you have any questions or need more information.



CONEXPO 2008 LAS VEGAS NV

NATIONAL LICA EXHIBIT VOLUNTEERS

_____ Yes, I will be attending the CONEXPO 2008 Trade Show in Las Vegas.
I can volunteer to work in the LICA Exhibit on the following day(s)

Morning Shifts	9:00am - 11:00 am	11:00am - 1:00 pm
Afternoon Shifts	1:00pm - 3:00pm	3:00pm - 5:00pm

Date	Morning	Afternoon	Exhibit Polo's Shirt Size
March 11, 2008 Tuesday	_____	_____	_____ Medium
March 12, 2008 Wednesday	_____	_____	_____ Large
March 13, 2008 Thursday	_____	_____	_____ X Large
March 14, 2008 Friday	_____	_____	_____ XX Large
March 15, 2008 Saturday	_____	_____	_____ XXX Large

Name _____

Company _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Complete and Mail to:

Jerry Biuso
National LICA
3080 Ogden Ave. #300
Lisle, IL 60532

or Fax (630)548-9189

For additional information please
call 908-996-7979

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



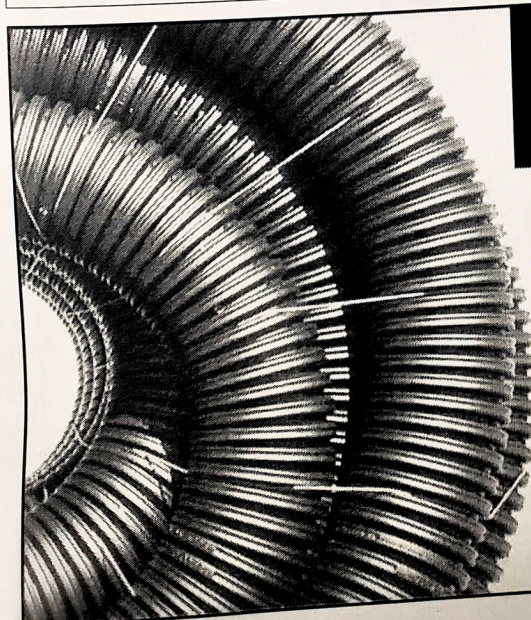
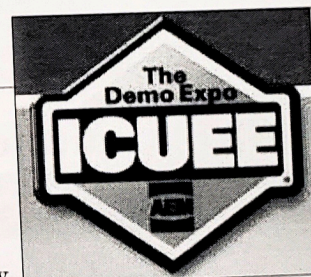
Thanks to our helpful connections at Progress City USA, ILICA has managed to reserve 3 hotel rooms for the evening of August 26th near the Iowa Farm Progress Show. These rooms are as difficult to come by as rooms near Decatur during the Illinois event, but with

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



ILLINOIS LICA MEMBER HELPS AT LICA BOOTH AT ICUEE IN LOUISVILLE

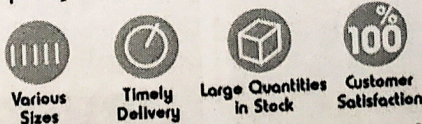
Illinois LICA member, Stan Seevers, made the trip to Louisville Kentucky for the ICUEE show September 16 - 18, 2007, to help Jerry Biuso in the LICA booth. This kind of national exposure is not only good for the National LICA organization, but also get's the state chapters noticed at the same time. One associate membership form has already been received at the ILICA office from a contact Stan made while at the equipment expo, so his efforts have already paid off! Thanks to Stan for representing our chapter so well and for all he does for ILICA. If you get the chance, please thank him personally, and consider representing our state chapter in Las Vegas in March. Volunteer form for the LICA booth at Con Expo is available on page 10 or contact Janet at the ILICA office for more detail.



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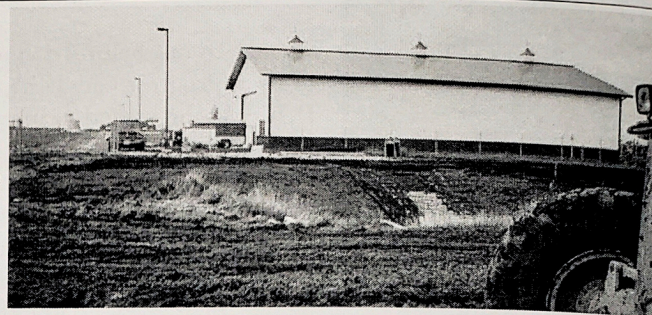


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2008 CONSERVATION EXPO RETURNS TO PROGRESS CITY: AUGUST 19 - 21, 2008

A preliminary planning meeting was held on October 25th in the new Agriculture wing of Richland Community College in Decatur to lay the ground work for the 2008 Conservation Expo. ILICA had agreed to return to the permanent site of the Illinois Farm Progress Show to continue what we started in 2006. Representatives from Brush College LLC, ILICA, NRCS, FSA, SWCD, and David Brix who farms the ground were all in attendance to select practices from the NRCS proposal prepared earlier this year, while considering the long term plan for the property surrounding Progress City. Annette Holmes of Macon County NRCS will begin working on the official conservation plan and coordinating potential cost share funding from other conservation agencies. We should have the plan in time to review with ILICA members at the 2008 ILICA convention in January.



This early in the fiscal year is a very good time to apply for cost share funding and things should be in order well in advance of the show. Cindy Laegeler is excited about our return and will continue to coordinate closely with ILICA Executive Director, Janet Doubet, as the process continues. Tentative dates of August 19 - 21, 2008, putting the conservation expo a week prior to the Iowa Farm Progress Show. Current practices included in the conservation plan are: field borders, waterway diversion, drainage tile, planted windbreak, and 2 enhanced wetland restorations. Keep checking the newsletters and website for updated information as planning continues over the coming year.



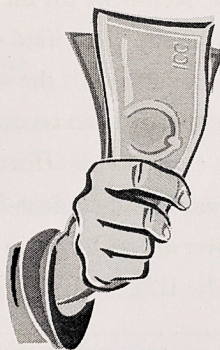
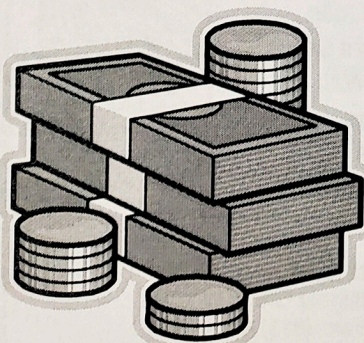
2007 Continental Western Dividends

~ \$10,710 ~

has been sent out to Illinois LICA members as this year's Continental Western / LICA Cooperative Insurance Program Dividend.

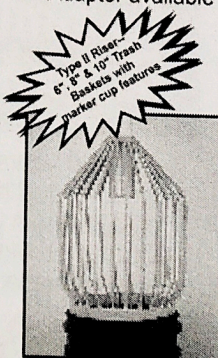
This program not only provides great contractor insurance coverage but also shows ILICA members in good standing a very real return on their dues investment.

If you think you should have received a dividend but have not, please contact the ILICA office at (309) 446-3700.



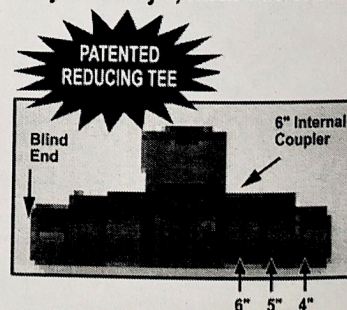
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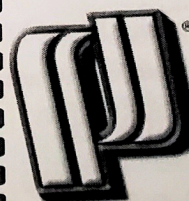
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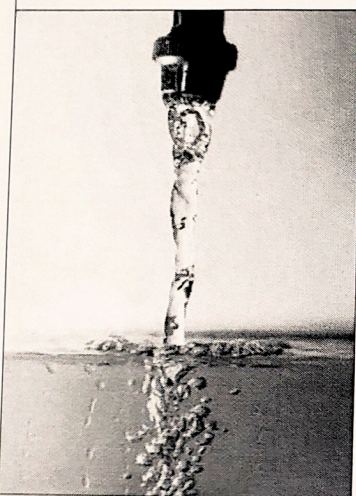
USDA ANNOUNCES MORE THAN \$11 MILLION IN WATER QUALITY GRANTS

WASHINGTON, Oct 10, 2007 – Acting Agriculture Secretary Chuck Conner announced today that more than \$11 million in grants will be awarded to universities nationwide to address water supply and water quality issues in rural, agricultural and urbanizing watersheds. Highlighted among these grants are two projects that address bioenergy production and water resource issues.

"As we move forward in developing our capacity to produce biofuels, we must understand the impacts on our natural resources," Conner said.

"These studies will help government, industry and farmers and ranchers make the most environmentally sound and sustainable choices to produce bioenergy."

The two projects, funded by the USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES), take unique approaches to addressing bioenergy development.



Investigators at Washington State University will explore the impacts of irrigating switchgrass for bioenergy development. The project will test long-lived, water-efficient perennial grasses for bio-fuel production to supplement the nation's energy supply, saving water for human, food and other societal needs.

At the University of Wisconsin, investigators are attempting to address the environmental and economic impacts of an emerging bio-economy in 14 Midwest states. Their efforts focus on how best to provide a research-based understanding of the issues and provide a robust outreach program that engages communities and key stakeholder interests in appropriate decision making that respects local economies and the environment.

CSREES funded these grants through its National Integrated Water Quality Program (NIWQP). The NIWQP program includes regional and national water quality coordination projects, along with watershed-scale projects to support combined agricultural research, extension and education activities. Funded projects lead to science-based decision making and management practices that improve the quality of the nation's surface water and groundwater resources in agricultural, rural and urbanizing watersheds.

Competitively awarded national and watershed-scale projects in fiscal year 2007 include:

- Colorado State University, \$170,000
- University of Connecticut, \$399,000
- University of Georgia, \$575,000
- Southern Illinois University, \$575,000
- Purdue University, \$554,000
- Rutgers University, \$200,000
- University of Rhode Island, \$600,000
- South Dakota State University, \$200,000
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute, two awards of \$596,000 & \$200,000
- Washington State University \$395,000
- University of Wisconsin \$380,000

In addition to these awards, nine regional water quality coordination projects were awarded continuation grants.

These projects include:

- University of Arizona, \$550,000
- Colorado State University, \$587,000
- University of Idaho, \$587,000
- Iowa State University, \$575,000
- University of Maryland, \$603,000
- Rutgers University, \$500,000
- University of Rhode Island, \$607,000
- Texas A&M University, \$1,245,000
- University of Wisconsin, \$602,000

CSREES advances knowledge for agriculture, the environment, human health and well-being, and communities by supporting research, education, and extension programs in the Land-Grant University System and other partner organizations. For more information, visit www.csrees.usda.gov. Release No. 0286.07



SENATE RELEASES FARM BILL PROPOSAL

October 23, 2007 NACD Notes:

Today, Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Tom Harkin (D-IA) officially released the bi-partisan legislative proposal for the 2007 Farm Bill. Ranking Member Saxby Chambliss (R-GA) and Senator Kent Conrad (D-ND) support the proposal after weeks of negotiations on the provisions. The Committee is scheduled to work on the legislative text tomorrow morning in a "mark-up" that allows Senators on the committee to amend or alter the proposal. The Conservation Title continues all current conservation programs and revises the Conservation Security Program into the Comprehensive Stewardship Program. Overall the proposal provides close to \$4.5 billion in additional spending for conservation programs. Details of the Conservation section are below and the complete farm bill can be found at <http://agriculture.senate.gov/>.

2007 Farm Bill Conservation Title - Investing in the Future Health of America's Agricultural Lands

- Expands the Comprehensive Stewardship Program to enroll over 13.2 million acres nationwide every year through 2012 and includes eligibility criteria based on local input to best address local environmental priorities and concerns. Establishes a funding level of **\$1.28 billion above existing baseline over 10 years**, and will allow enrollment of an additional 80 million acres over the next 5 years
- Creates the Comprehensive Stewardship Incentives Program, which will better coordinate the main working lands programs: CSP and EQIP. This umbrella program will require the Secretary to coordinate the programs and utilize a consistent process to identify resource needs.
- The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is funded at baseline levels through 2012. Forest management, pollinator habitat and organics are added as eligible activities. New incentives are available to foster conservation planning. Allows socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers and ranchers to receive 30 percent of their payment in advance for purchases of materials and labor. Includes \$165 million to address natural resource concerns in the Chesapeake Bay watershed
- Maintains the Conservation Reserve Program at 39.2 million acres. Adds pollinator habitat as a purpose of the program. Provides a priority for local ownership in accepting contract offers
- The Farmland Protection Program is reauthorized at baseline levels. The program purpose emphasizes limiting nonagricultural uses of the land
- Reauthorizes the Wetlands Reserve Program and provides funds to enroll 250,000 acres per year through 2012. Also provides new funding for the Grassland Reserve Program
- Continues the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program and adds incentive payments. Gives priority to projects that would further the goals and objectives of State, regional, and national fish and wildlife conservation plans
- Sets aside 10% of conservation funds for beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers. After a certain date, any unused funds would be returned to the donor program to fund other applications
- Adds a new grant program to encourage states and tribes to allow public access on private lands for wildlife-related recreation such as hunting, fishing, and bird watching
- Directs the Secretary to create a framework to facilitate the participation of farmers in greenhouse gas reduction and other environmental services markets. The framework will use a collaborative process to establish uniform standards, accounting procedures, reporting protocols and verification processes
- The partnership and cooperation provisions from 2002 farm bill are clarified and improved. Incorporates most of the Regional Water Enhancement Program

The Conservation Title will assist farmers and ranchers in providing clean water, clean air and wildlife habitat while producing food, feed, fiber and fuel.

- **Improving the nation's soil resource:** Working land programs help producers protect and improve the quality of their soil resources and support agricultural productivity and environmental quality. Building the quality of the soil through conservation measures helps to prevent erosion, benefiting land productivity as well as water and air quality. Easement programs are a complement, providing for retirement of the Nation's most highly vulnerable acres, and ensuring that working farms and ranches remain in production.
- **Water conservation:** Conservation on working lands helps keep soil and nutrients where they are needed, benefiting crops and water quality. Other conservation measures buffer streams and rivers - capturing soil and nutrients or limiting livestock access. In-field measures improve soil moisture and reduce supplemental water needs, while irrigation water management can make the most of scarce water resources.
- **Wildlife and agriculture work together:** Agricultural and forest lands provide a wealth of wildlife habitat and conservation programs help improve the quality and connectivity of that habitat. Working land programs can maintain residue providing cover and food, while buffers that shield fields or shelter livestock can be managed for native pollinators. Easements and buffers provide corridors that benefit species movement and protect aquatic habitat while protecting agriculture from the pressures of development.

2007 Illinois LICA Committees

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

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Steve Anderson
Ron Masching

Awards

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Rose Day
Bill & Bev Dean

Budget

Steve Anderson, Chair
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Wayne Litwiller

By-Laws

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Stuart Anderson
Bill Doubet
Stan Seevers

Certification

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Prof. Kent Mitchell, U of I
Stan Seevers

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Brian & Angie Brooks
Greg & Jennifer Furkin
Kristin Kutemeier
Ron & Cathy Masching

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Norm & Coretha Rozendaal

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John McCoy
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COMMITTEE INVOLVEMENT IS KEY AT ILLINOIS LICA

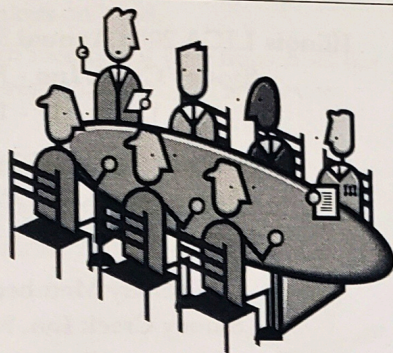
Each January, committees are reviewed and updated as existing members gain new areas of interest and new members come on board.

Committees are one of those places where

"more is better", so if you have an interest or

even suspect you may have an interest in one or more of the committee's listed on page 16, please let someone know. Talk to one of the current committee members, any of our directors or just call the office.

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



Please sit in on one and see if you might enjoy committee involvement.

Committee Function, Responsibility and Authority

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

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

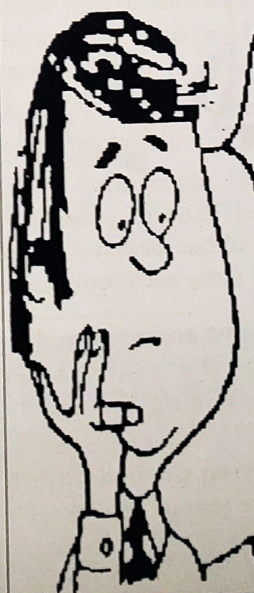


There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure.

Colin Powell



Help US Build!



Don't forget our "Just One" Membership Champaign.

Have you got yours yet??

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Illinois

Illinois LICA 2008 Annual Meeting & Convention
Stoney Creek Inn - Moline, Illinois

January 17 - 19, 2008

January Board of Directors Meeting
Stoney Creek Inn, Moline Illinois

January 17, 2007

January Members Meeting
Stoney Creek Inn, Moline Illinois

January 19, 2007

Basics & Benefits of Sub-Surface Drainage Workshops

February 5, 2008 - Black Hawk College, Kewanee

February 6, 2008 - Parkland College - Champaign

February 7, 2008 - Kaskaskia College, Centralia

National

2008 Winter LICA Meeting—Las Vegas, Nevada

March 9—10, 2008

(Sunday—Monday, prior to Con Expo 2008)

2008 Con Expo / Con Agg—Las Vegas, Nevada

March 11—15, 2008

2008 Membership Dues Notices



2008 dues notices have been mailed out and are due by **January 1, 2008**. This is a great time to start asking other contractors if they might consider joining ILICA.

Anyone that joins now can start enjoying the benefits of ILICA membership now and get the rest of 2007 free!



!! ATTENTION !!

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

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

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

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

SAFETY FEATURE - WINTER STORMS



Prepare a Winter Storm Plan

- Have extra blankets on hand.
- Ensure that each member of your household has a warm coat, gloves or mittens, hat, and water-resistant boots.

Assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit Containing

- First aid kit and essential medications.
- Battery-powered NOAA Weather radio, flashlight, and extra batteries.
- Canned food and can opener.
- Bottled water (at least one gallon of water per person per day to last at least 3 days).
- Extra warm clothing, including boots, mittens, and a hat.
- Assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit for your car, too.
- Have your car winterized before winter storm season.



Stay Tuned for Storm Warnings...

- Listen to NOAA Weather Radio and your local radio and TV stations for updated storm information.

Know What Winter Storm WATCHES and WARNINGS Mean

- A winter storm WATCH means a winter storm is possible in your area.
- A winter storm WARNING means a winter storm is headed for your area.
- A blizzard WARNING means strong winds, blinding wind-driven snow, and dangerous wind chill are expected. Seek shelter immediately!

When a Winter Storm WATCH is Issued...

- Listen to NOAA Weather Radio, local radio, and TV stations, or cable TV such as The Weather Channel for further updates.
- Be alert to changing weather conditions.
- Avoid unnecessary travel.

When a Winter Storm WARNING is Issued...

- Stay indoors during the storm.
- If you must go outside, several layers of lightweight clothing will keep you warmer than a single heavy coat. Gloves (or mittens) and a hat will prevent loss of body heat. Cover your mouth to protect your lungs.
- Understand the hazards of wind chill, which combines the cooling effect of wind and cold temperatures on exposed skin.
- As the wind increases, heat is carried away from a person's body at an accelerated rate, driving down the body temperature.
- After the storm, if you shovel snow, be extremely careful. It is physically strenuous work, so take frequent breaks. Avoid overexertion.



When a Winter Storm WARNING is Issued... (cont)

- Walk carefully on snowy, icy, sidewalks.
- Avoid traveling by car in a storm, but if you must... carry a Disaster Supplies Kit in the trunk.
- Keep your car's gas tank full for emergency use and to keep the fuel line from freezing.
- Let someone know your destination, your route, and when you expect to arrive. If your car gets stuck along the way, help can be sent along your predetermined route.



If You Do Get Stuck...

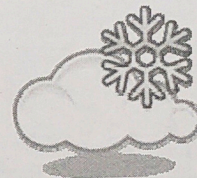
- Stay with your car. Do not try to walk to safety.
- Tie a brightly colored cloth (preferably red) to the antenna for rescuers to see.
- Start the car and use the heater for about

10 minutes every hour. Keep the exhaust pipe clear so fumes won't back up in the car.

- Leave the overhead light on when the engine is running so that you can be seen.
- As you sit, keep moving your arms and legs to keep blood circulating and to stay warm.
- Keep one window away from the blowing wind slightly open to let in air.

What to Do After a Winter Storm

- Continue listening to local radio or television stations or a NOAA Weather Radio for updated information and instructions. Access may be limited to some parts of the community, or roads may be blocked.
- Help a neighbor who may require special assistance--infants, elderly people, and people with disabilities. Elderly people and people with disabilities may require additional assistance. People who care for them or who have large families may need additional assistance in emergency situations.
- Avoid driving and other travel until conditions have improved. Roads may be blocked by snow or emergency vehicles.
- Avoid overexertion. Heart attacks from shoveling heavy snow are a leading cause of deaths during winter. Follow forecasts and be prepared when venturing outside. Major winter storms are often followed by even colder conditions.





UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
EXTENSION

"Your Doorway to the University"

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/>

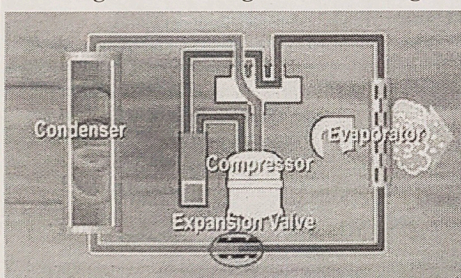
GEOTHERMAL CAN CUT POWER BILLS IN HALF

There is an age-old but little used source of alternative energy available to just about everyone, just about everywhere. It can save you as much as 50 percent on your heating and cooling bills—and it's right beneath your feet.

Six to eight feet below the earth's surface, the ground remains at a relatively constant temperature. The stable, even heat of the earth can be used as a heat source in the winter and a heat sink in the summer to provide residential and commercial buildings with heating and air conditioning, using a geothermal heat pump.

"The geothermal heat pump (GHP) is one of the most efficient and environmentally friendly heating and cooling systems available today," said Xinlei Wang, a professor in the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering at the University of Illinois. A normal heat pump system extracts heat from outdoor air and transfers it inside, where it is circulated through your home's ductwork by a fan, said Wang.

"If you want to keep it 70 degrees inside and it's below zero outside, a heat pump would have to work pretty hard to produce those temperatures," Wang explained. "But if we use underground heat as our source, even on the coldest day, the temperature is still 45 to 50 degrees six to eight feet below ground. Going from 50 to 70 degrees, your efficiency will be much higher."



A GHP works by collecting the earth's natural heat through a series of pipes (called a loop) that are installed below the surface of the ground. These loops can also be submerged in a pond or lake. Fluid in the loop, either water or an environmentally safe anti-freeze solution, circulates through the pipes in a closed system and carries the heat to the house. An electrically driven compressor and a heat exchanger concentrate the energy and, using typical ductwork, release it inside the home at a higher temperature.

In the summer, the loop draws excess heat from your home and transfers it back into the ground. The system works the same way your refrigerator keeps your food cool—by drawing heat from the interior, not by blowing in cold air.

There are several loop configurations that can be used, said Wang, but one of the most common is the horizontal ground loop.

"Horizontal ground loops are used where there's sufficient land available and where trenches are easy to dig," said Wang.

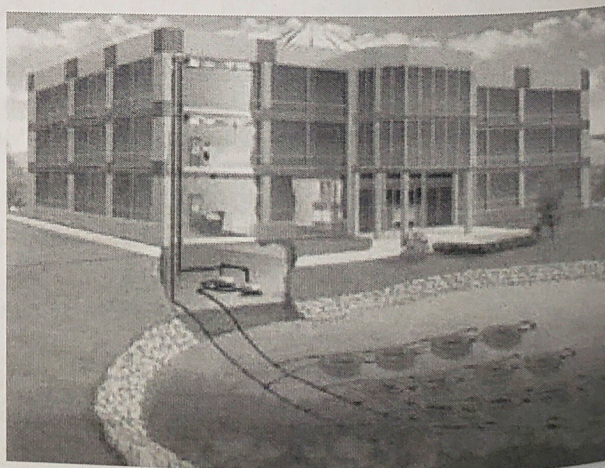
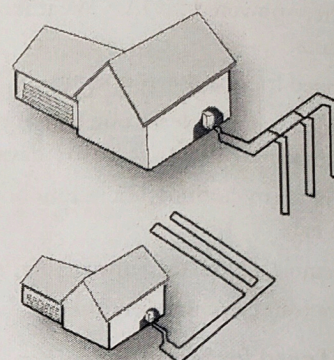
Workers dig trenches 4 to 6 feet deep, 2 feet wide, and then lay a series of parallel plastic pipes. A typical horizontal loop will be 400 to 600 feet long for each ton of heating and cooling, and an average residence requires a 3- to 4-ton unit.

If you have little yard space or you don't want to disrupt the landscape, a vertical ground loop can be used, said Wang.

Vertical holes, about 4 inches in diameter, are bored in the ground 150 to 450 feet deep. A single loop of pipe with a U-bend at the bottom is inserted before the hole is backfilled. The vertical pipe is then connected to a horizontal underground pipe that carries fluid to and from the indoor exchange unit.

A third alternative is the pond loop system. If your property has a pond or lake with an adequate supply of water, a supply line pipe can be run underground from your residence to the water and is coiled into circles at least 8 feet under the surface to prevent freezing. The water source must meet minimum volume, depth and quality criteria.

Because of the technical knowledge and equipment needed to properly install a GHP system, Wang advises finding a qualified installer to do the job. Your local utility company or the Geothermal Heat Pump Consortium should have a listing of qualified installers in your area.



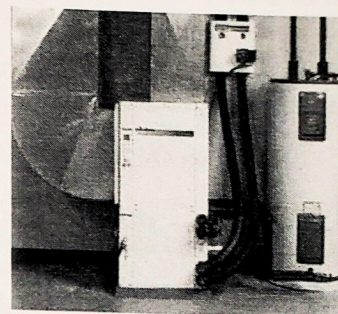
GEOTHERMAL CAN CUT POWER BILLS IN HALF (CONT.)

On average, a geothermal heat pump system costs about \$2,500 per ton of capacity, although a horizontal ground loop system will generally cost less than a system with vertical loops. And though more conventional heat pump systems cost about half that amount to install, Wang said the savings over time more than make up for the GHP's installation costs.

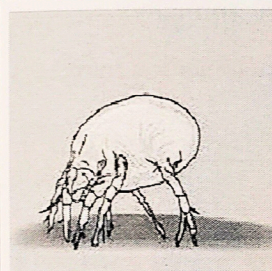
"Heating efficiencies are 50 to 70 percent higher than other heating systems and cooling efficiencies are 20 to 40 percent higher than available air conditioners," Wang said. "Most of the components are sheltered from the harsh weather, and the underground piping is guaranteed to last anywhere from 25 to 50 years, so there's very little maintenance. These systems generally pay for themselves in five to eight years."

Many people worry about the reliability or durability of some alternative energy technology, said Wang, because it's not mature yet.

"But this is one technology that is very mature," Wang concluded. "People can use it."



HELPFUL TIPS FROM U OF I EXTENSION CONTROL DUST, DUST MITES, AND OTHER ALLERGENS



A growing body of scientific evidence, as well as patients' personal experiences, shows a strong link between indoor dust and illness, especially asthma and allergies. The most common culprits in household dust are dust mites, mold, mildew, fungi, algae, roaches and other insects, pollen, and animal dander.

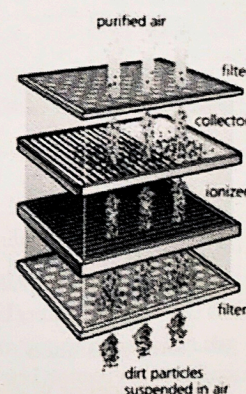
Droppings from dust mites and cockroaches, as well as their body parts, contain powerful allergens. Fine particles of these materials can become airborne as "dust" and can be drawn into the lungs, causing serious health problems. Mites thrive in dust and high humidity and live primarily in mattresses, carpets, and upholstered furniture.

Typical furnaces are not designed to trap the fine particles and spores that cause health problems. However, an electrostatic precipitator, which offers high efficiency in removing small particles, can be installed in the return air duct near the home's furnace. The charging section gives particles a positive charge. Then the negatively charged collector holds on to the particles. Units have a removable dust-collecting plate that needs to be cleaned regularly.

Pleated filters are much more efficient than standard fibrous furnace filters; smaller ones do not require modification to the furnace or ductwork. But they are less efficient than electrostatic cleaners. Pleated filters should be inspected regularly and may need more frequent replacement than conventional filters.

Passive electrostatic filters are naturally charged by static electricity (they use no power) and fit into a standard filter slot. They provide fairly good filtration, but not as good as some pleated filters. Although somewhat expensive, these filters can be washed and reused.

Room-sized air cleaners, which are usually placed in sleeping rooms or where occupants spend most of their time, must be coupled with other dust-control strategies. The most effective room-sized units are either the electrostatic precipitator or HEPA type. A HEPA filter is a high-efficiency particulate-arresting



Passive Electrostatic Filter

filter, capable of removing most of the particles that can cause health concerns. If you use a vacuum cleaner for dust control, ideally it should have a HEPA filter. Filters in conventional vacuums eject fine particulates into the air, as do vacuums that direct the exhaust stream through a container of water. However, some high-performance conventional vacuums can perform almost as well as vacuums with a HEPA filter.

Since dust mites grow mainly in mattresses and bedding, avoid exposure and reduce their potential for trouble by washing all bedding and clothing brought to the bedroom every week to 10 days in the hot cycle of your washer. Use mattress covers and pillow cases designed to block mites. These covers and pillow cases are available at surgical suppliers and healthcare outlets.

Mites grow best at 75- to 80-percent relative humidity. In warm weather, air-conditioning can be used to maintain a humidity level of 50 percent or lower. You can use a humidity gauge to determine the level of humidity in the bedroom. During winter, try to keep indoor humidity levels in the range of 35 to 50 percent—the optimum range for health.

Mold, mildew, fungi, and algae require high moisture levels, wet surfaces, or standing water to grow. Make sure drip trays under refrigerators and air conditioners are properly drained or regularly emptied. Eliminate standing water in the house, repair water damage, and kill visible growths on walls or other surfaces.



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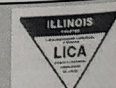
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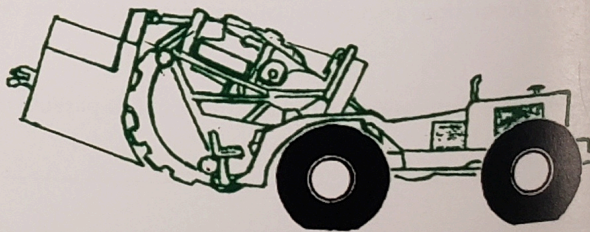
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