



ILICA

NEWS

Land Improvement Contractors Of America • Illinois Chapter

May/June 2005

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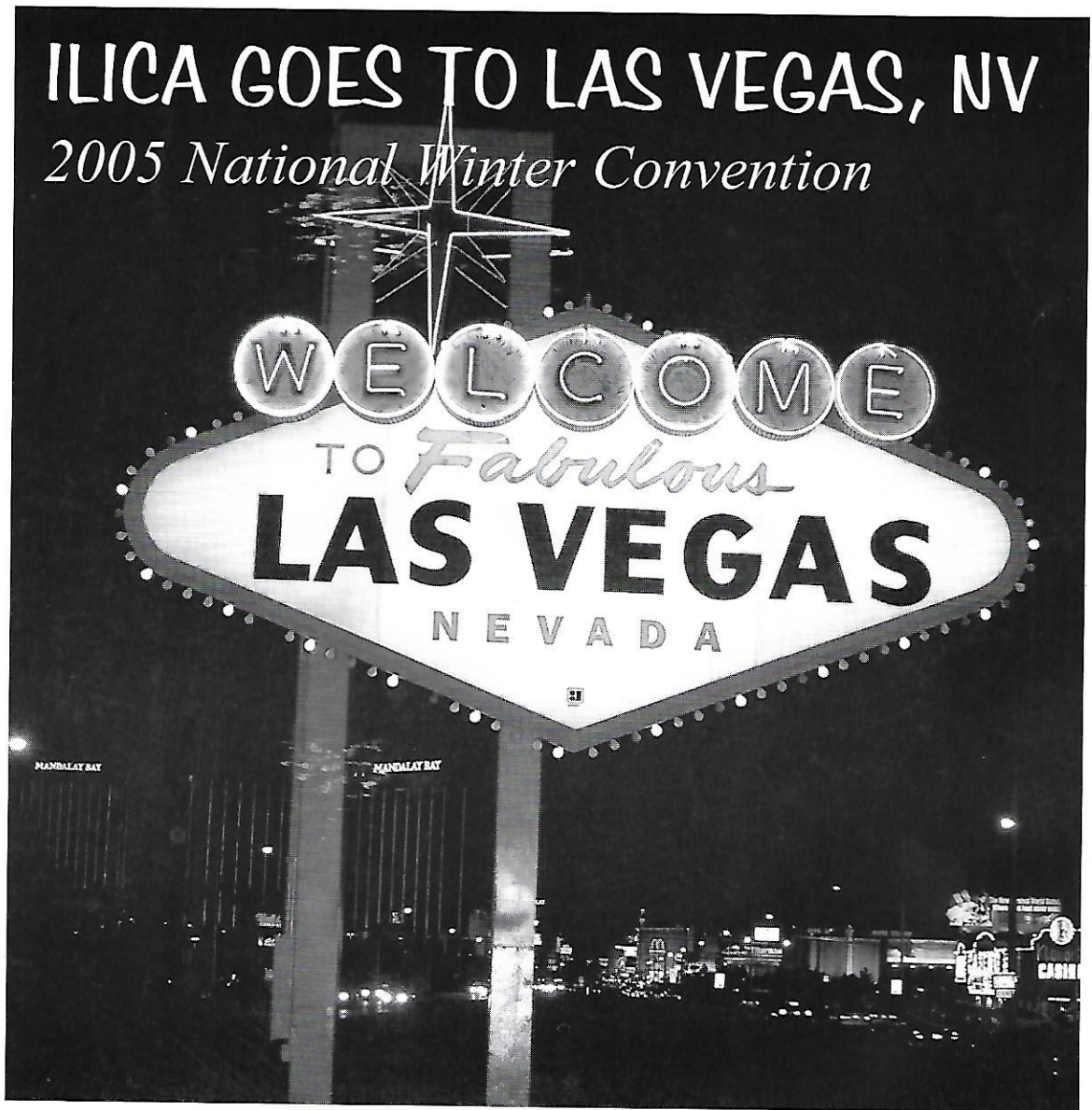
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ILICA GOES TO LAS VEGAS, NV *2005 National Winter Convention*



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, we sure can't complain about the weather lately! Monday (April 4th) & Tuesday were gorgeous. We missed the rains during the last week of March, so things are pretty dry here in Stark County. Fieldwork is starting at a fast pace, and corn planters are beginning to sow another crop. I've already put off one job until fall, because the corn is planted in that particular field. It sure seems like we have fewer working days every year. Maybe I'm just getting older and less productive!

Jackie & I faithfully followed the Illini this season. We both shed a few tears Monday when they lost to North Carolina. What a great season they put together. It is quite an accomplishment to get to the Final game, and they played like champions to the very end. Congratulations to Coach Weber, and the entire Fighting Illini Team.

We had a great time at the National Convention in Las Vegas. The convention was pretty well attended. The committee meetings that I attended seemed to go smoothly, with some lively discussion on many topics. Iowa is still thinking about pulling out of National, but some of the things they want changed are on the horizon. We will be talking about some of these issues at the next board meeting. Stay tuned for further updates! We also got to spend a couple of days at Con-Ex in conjunction with National. This was the first one I have attended, so I was

like a kid in a candy store! What an impressive show! In case you're wondering, I didn't buy anything! We're looking forward to going to Baltimore for the summer meeting!

The last month has been difficult for 2 of our ILICA families, the Day's and the Royer's. I had the privilege of knowing Clyde and Chester. I only wish I could have visited with both of them more. The knowledge and wisdom that men like these two possessed is priceless. It breaks my heart to know that we won't even be able to say "Hi" to either one again. Clyde and "C.B." will be truly missed. May God Bless both of their families.

Please remember to visit with new member prospects, one of them could be the lifeblood of the organization. Think ahead, and work efficiently! See you at the May meeting!

Go Cardinals!!



NEW MEMBERS

ACTIVE

Chris Overton
Overton Excavating
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Mattoon, IL 61938

Russel Hopper
Hopper Excavating
RR1 Box 274
Gays, IL 61928

Phillip Miller
Miller Farm Drainage
14795 N 100th St
Brocton, IL 61917

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Educational Adviser
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*ILICA Board Meeting
will be held at
Maverick Family
Steakhouse
May 7, 2005
at 3 p.m.*

Upcoming Meetings



ILICA BOARD MEETINGS

May 7, 2005
Board of Directors Meeting
Maverick Family Steakhouse,
Springfield IL

June 18, 2005
Summer Picnic/Board Meeting
Richland Hill Park, Geneseo IL
National LICA Summer Meeting
Maritime Institute, Baltimore MD
July 13 & 14 Pre Tours
July 15 & 16 Summer Meeting

2005 Conservation Expo
August 9, 10 and 11
Jerry & Leslie Lewis' Farm
Good Hope, IL

The Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association Newsletter is the official publication of the Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association, Inc., 2060 Timberbrook Drive Suite 3, Springfield, IL 62702, telephone 217/787-7260.

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



by Melanie Harney

Springfield, IL - On April 19th, our 43rd President, George W. Bush, dedicated the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library along with, U. S. Senators Richard Durbin and Barack Obama, Cong. Ray LaHood and Speaker Dennis Hastert. With all the hype and Air Force One landing at the Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport, people have guesstimated anywhere from 12,000-20,000 people attended the long awaited ceremony.

SB 3374 - After closely watching and awaiting action in the Senate, the Conservation 2000 appropriations bill has ended sine die (This would mean that it is anticipated that this particular body will not meet again; the next session of the legislature would have a somewhat different membership, as some members would not be standing for election again, while others might not win their seats back.)

The Illinois LICA legislative committee is in the beginning stages of working with JULIE on legislation changing the current "48 hour call before you dig" statute.

Once the language has been all agreed upon by all of the stakeholders, more information will be given.

Washington, DC - The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) has been a fiery topic in Washington these past few days. The energy bill, which LICA has been focusing on, was a topic of discussion amongst LICA members and their Congressman during the LICA Legislative Days. It seems as though the Senate is working on a larger energy bill that would allow oil exploration on 2,000 acres of the Refuge. According to an article on the CNN website, Senator Tom Daschle feels that with the 50 seats the Democrats hold are pretty much unanimous and it will be hard for the supporters to get the 60 votes needed. However, with that said....the House approves the energy bill on Thursday. This is the second time the House has given the go ahead for drilling in the past four years only to see the issue die in the Senate. On one hand legislators argue that the energy bill will reduce oil imports and generate new jobs. The other hand argues that the drilling will cause irreparable damages to the land and the wildlife. This is definitely an issue worth watching!

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ILICA goes to Las Vegas

The National LICA Winter Meeting was held in Las Vegas Nevada. There was a good turn out of fellow LICA members and a great representation from the Illinois Chapter. Pre-tours were fantastic and meetings and educational sessions were informative. Our headquarters hotel was Circus Circus and I might add that at times it was a circus!

On Saturday, March 12, 2005 I attended the Executive Director's Workshop and learned more than I had ever imagined. It was so fulfilling to meet with the other State's Executive Directors and hear and sympathize with their problems/successes and how they've learned to fix them and move on. If only I could have attended something like this months ago. Thank you to all of you who attended and Patti McArdle of Nebraska for Chairing the Meeting.

What can I say about the Con Expo other than it was CRAZY! I never in a million years imagined I'd see that much machinery in one location. I was able to walk around with our newly elected President and learn about the different types of equipment used by a great deal of our members. I was able to jump in a John Deere 450 C, however, I'm not sure I'd be able to run it I was amazed by the fact that they're farming cadillacs! The number of people attending the Expo was unbelievable as well. All in all everyone had a fantastic time and a great deal of learning was accomplished.



Overhead view of opening day



LICA Executive Directors



Illinois LICA Attendees



Fellow LICA members at Assoc.



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IN MEMORIAM

Clyde I. Day, 89, of Gibson City died March 11, 2005 at Gibson Area Hospital. Clyde was born November 22, 1915 in Roberts, son of Stanley and Beulah Trott Day. He married Rose Marie Gusler on November 17, 1951. She survives.

Clyde was the owner of Day Drainage, and worked in residential construction, building 196 homes over an 11-year period. He served in the Army during World War II and was a motor sergeant in the Battle of the Bulge. He was a member of the Gibson City Chamber of Commerce, a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and a member of the Gibson City Moose Lodge 2289. He was past president of the Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association and was voted contractor of the year in 1969. He was a member of the Gibson City Beautification Association and the I & I Antique Engine and Tractor Club. He enjoyed hunting turkey, deer and pheasant.

Services were held 10 a.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. The Rev. Joseph Mundakel officiated. Burial was in Melvin Cemetery with military rites.

Memorials may be made to the Gibson Area Hospital or the family.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Day Family.

Chester "C.B." Royer, 88, of Victoria died March 31, 2005 at Galesburg Cottage Hospital. C.B. was born September 28, 1916 in Clay City, Indiana to Carl and Elizabeth Blair Royer. He married Katherine G. Milroy on January 21, 1939. She survives.

C.B. was a purchasing agent and worked in inventory control for Derby Foods-Peter Pan for nine years. He then moved to rural Victoria in 1951, where he farmed and operated a farm drainage business. He was a member of the Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association, where he served as past president and director and received the ILICA 1990 Contractor of the Year Award. He was also a member of the Altona Masonic Lodge 330 for 65 years.

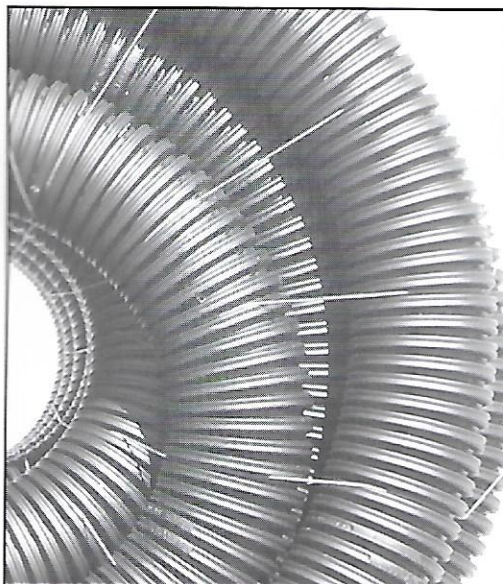
Services were held 11 a.m. at Victoria Methodist Church. The Rev. Marty Briney officiated.

Memorials may be made to the Victoria United Methodist Church or the Altona Masonic Lodge.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Royer Family.

To all of our friends who acknowledged the loss of my husband, Clyde, in any way, you all know that he loved this organization and was a tireless worker in it. Your friendship is special as you were special to him. Thank you for being there.

The Family of Clyde Day



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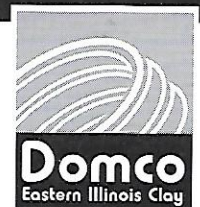


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CLYDE ISAAC DAY

A few insights on the life of this man who was an integral part of the Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association for many, many years.

From 1950 to 1961 he was in the home construction business. He bought prefabricated homes from a company in Cairo, Illinois and constructed nearly 200 of them.

People at that time were building homes

who were awed at the fact that they

could own their own home for the first time and were proud of it. When he gave an estimate, all he asked was how many square feet they required and within fifteen minutes he had a price for them. Some wanted to do some finishing to their home and that was considered in the price. He didn't care for waiting on utilities to be there at the right time so as not to keep his work from being done he hired people who could do plumbing, heating and electricity right there on the premises.

By the time some of the lumber yards got the word of how successful he was they decided to jump in and underbid homes by using smaller size rafters and joists than what we did. Clyde would not build that way; if it wasn't going to last he wouldn't build it.

In 1961, he decided to get out of that business and start another. It happened that a man in a nearby town was going bankrupt in the tiling business, so he took this man to Arthur and had him help select a tiling machine – a machine he had never

used before. In our town there was an engineer Clyde was acquainted with, and he taught Clyde how to survey. Remember at that time there were no lasers, nor plastic tile. Since he was well known around because of his home business and farmers knew they could trust him, he was off on a new adventure.

You can tell that he was never intimidated; with a family of five kids to take care of and a new business – well, he did it and when new things came along like lasers and plastic tile he checked them out first before trying. When his sons were in high school they were “invited” to help in the business, then took some courses at junior college and Voila! They were the

company. They have built up the business and with their expertise and known for good quality work and integrity, it has ballooned to a well-established business. He was proud of his children in all their work whatever they chose and he should have been because of his good example.

And with all the work he has done on committees and being president, etc., for ILICA, don't you imagine he is already on a committee up there to organize whatever?

Thank you, Clyde Isaac Day.



Joe Streitmatter presenting Clyde Day Merit Award at 2005 Annual Convention

From the ILICA Ladies.....

Spring is here! It's time to get rid of a winter's worth of dust and grime. Unfortunately, it's also the time of year when we all want to be outside enjoying the fresh air. The last thing on our minds is cleaning. Yuck! But the good news is that with a thorough spring cleaning, all of the fragrant crispness of springtime can be felt throughout the house. And with the following gameplan to guide you, you'll be able to clean up quickly and efficiently, with plenty of time left over to stop and smell the newly budding roses.

BEFORE YOU CLEAN

Even before you clean, there are a few precautions you should take so that cleaning can be finished as painlessly as possible.

- Wear comfortable, old clothes that you won't mind staining or getting dirty.
- Take stock of your cleaning needs and supplies. Don't wait until you're about to clean the oven to find out that you don't have any oven cleaner left. Have everything on hand and ready to go for a smooth time.
- Prepare one bucket of supplies to bring with you to every room. All you really need are a few rags, some paper towels, furniture polish, and one good all purpose glass and counter cleaner. These items will do the trick for most cleaning jobs. Also, grab two empty garbage bags: one to carry garbage you find along the way, and the other to fill with things you no longer want but are still useful. You can give these items away or sell them at a later date.
- Turn off the TV and the phone! The quickest cleaning is accomplished without any distractions.
- Get organized. Make a list of the rooms you want to tackle, then clean each room fully before moving on to the next.
- Let the sun shine in! Open the windows and let the clean, green aroma of spring's new flower and plant life enter your home. Not only will the mustiness of winter be removed, but you'll also protect yourself from inhaling dust and dangerous fumes from cleaning products.

DURING CLEANING

- Play some fun, lively music. Before you know it, your adrenaline will start pumping and you'll be dancing your way through the house.
- Toss away everything you don't use. I mean everything! Be ruthless. Less clutter not only makes future dusting easier, it also has a tendency to give us a freer, more relaxed frame of mind when we enjoy these rooms. Feng shui, the art of uncluttered living, has long been practiced by Chinese people. It is believed that if the universe's energy, or chi, can easily flow through a room, our lives will be more harmonious and joyful. Decorators worldwide are now embracing the simple beauty of barer rooms for easier living.
- Gather the extra items in your life and give them to charity, or sell them at a spring-time yard sale. Get the whole family in the act by telling kids that they can keep the profits from selling toys they no longer use.
- Work around the room in one direction, either left or

right. This way, there won't be any time wasted in criss-crossing the room, or vacuuming that same spot twice.

- Clear it off and put it away. This is really the first step to cleaning any room. In the livingroom this means putting away books and recycling old magazines. Clear away all knickknacks and family photos so that dusting and polishing can be finished in a snap. In the bedrooms, remove items stored under the bed, and file away or throw out papers. In the kitchen, remove everything from counters and take down curtains. In the bathroom, clear away potpourri holders, magazines, and waste baskets. Take down the shower curtain and liner for laundering. Just remember to tackle one room at a time. Remove these items and cleaning will be much easier.
- Wear rubber gloves! Even though it is harder to grip things with gloves than it is with bare hands, it is worth using them to protect your skin from the harshness of hot water and drying chemicals.

AFTER CLEANING

When you're finished cleaning, it's time to put back those items you need and love. Here are a few things to keep in mind.

- The only necessary appliances on kitchen counters are the ones that you use daily or weekly. Stash anything else in cabinets or cupboards. Also, if you have a counter full of cook books you seldom use, you may want to put them on a shelf for more living and cooking space.
- Try putting treasured knickknacks and photos on different tables, shelves, or even in different rooms. This will give your home a fresh new look.

A GAMEPLAN FOR EVERY ROOM

Following a list makes everything in life easier and more efficient. Here are some spring cleaning tips and techniques for every room in your home.

- Livingroom
 1. Dust and vacuum corners and crevices from high points to low. Remember dust falls downward so you want to clean from the top to the bottom of any room.
 2. Vacuum furniture, lampshades and pictures. Remember all those gadgets that come with your vacuum cleaner? Use them here, and experiment with different attachments for furniture and corners of rooms.
 3. Vacuum or wash curtains.
 4. Dust wood furniture.
 5. Dust mop floors.
 6. Vacuum carpet.
 7. Take plants outside for a gentle washing with a fine spray from your garden hose. Plants and their pots get dusty over the winter.
- Bedrooms
 1. Wash, or dry-clean curtains.
 2. Take blinds outside and wash them with a mild ammonia solution Rinse with that good old stand by—the garden hose!
 3. Strip bed linens and dust ruffle.
 4. Vacuum your mattress and box spring. Flip and rotate the mattress before putting on new sheets. This will prevent dips from forming on the mattress, and keep it firmer longer.
 5. Polish wood furniture and dust knickknacks.
 6. Vacuum everything, from the floor behind and under the bed to the carpet, lampshade and pictures.

Ladies... (>p10)

MADIGAN WARNS CONSUMERS ABOUT CELL PHONE VIRUSES; ADVISES CONSUMERS TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS WITH CELL PHONE TEXT MESSAGES

Chicago – Attorney General Lisa Madigan today alerted consumers that while cell phone viruses are still somewhat rare, reports are beginning to surface that they could destroy your cell phone and others in your network in the same way a computer virus can crash your computer and wipe out important documents.

Because most cell phone viruses come from instant messaging software, Madigan alerted consumers they should treat unsolicited text messages the same way they would unsolicited e-mail messages – press delete and never open the unsolicited messages or their attachments.

Madigan said that once a virus-encoded message is opened on a cell phone, it may spread to other users in the cell phone's directory. For this reason, Madigan warned that even if the message appears to have been sent by a friend, if the subject line or attachment has a strange title or seems out of the ordinary, do not open it.

Madigan said that while a phone with advanced features may be more likely to be victimized by a virus because of the greater amount of software involved, many cell phones that offer sophisticated operating systems also can be restored or repaired by anti-virus software. Consumers should check their owner's manuals for options.

In addition, Madigan advised consumers with cell phones that use wireless technology to make sure they chose the "hidden visibility" option, so another infected phone can't find their phone as easily.

Consumers can visit Madigan's Web site for additional consumer protection information at www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov or call the Consumer Fraud Hotlines:

Chicago: 1-800-386-5438 and
1-800-964-3013 (TTY)

Springfield: 1-800-243-0618 and
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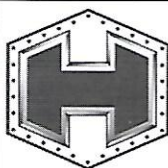


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Ladies... (<p8)

7. Clean mirrors and wipe down light fixtures and lamps.
8. Dust mop wood floors.

— Kitchen

1. Let cleansers do the scrubbing for you! Spray your oven with cleaner the night before you plan to spring clean your kitchen. This will literally "marinate" the grease and grime, making it simple to sponge off.
2. Here is a great microwave cleaning tip: fill a paper cup with water and a few tablespoons of baking soda. Nuke it for about 30 seconds, or until you see the contents explode! Then just take a paper towel and wipe it all off. The explosion spreads the cleanser over the entire area, and you can even use the moistened rag or paper towel to wipe outside the microwave and its surrounding area.
3. Vacuum stove vents, refrigerator coils, floor, and counters.
4. Defrost that freezer. A blow-drier aimed at the ice will speed up the process. Get rid of old foods, or those jars of things you thought you'd like but never ate.
5. Clean the inside of freezer and fridge with a solution of three tablespoons of baking soda and one quart of warm water.
6. Clean outside of fridge with glass cleaner.
7. Clean counters, appliances and stove top with an all purpose glass cleaner or the baking soda solution listed above.
8. Wash out the trash can and spray it with a good disinfectant before putting in a new lining. Leave it outside the kitchen for the next step.
9. For linoleum floors, spray a foaming tile cleaner and take a five minute break, (you can change the CD, or start clearing out items in another room). When you come back, you just need to sponge mop the floor. The foaming cleanser will have already lifted up the dirt so you don't have to.

—Bathrooms

1. Spray shower and tub with strong cleanser.
2. Pour cleaner into the toilet bowl, and spray the outside with the same cleaner. Let the chemicals do the cleaning while you do the next steps.
3. Clean mirrors, chrome, bathroom scale, and light fixtures with glass cleaner.
4. Vacuum everything! This will remove dust and hair that is so hard to get up when surfaces are wet.
5. Empty and clean the wastepaper basket.
6. Clean the sink and wipe off the

cleanser you already applied to the shower and tub.

7. Working from the top of the toilet down, clean the outside, and brush and flush the inside.
8. Scrub the floor with a strong cleanser. Tough tile floors can be most easily cleaned by hand with the scrub-brush side of a bathroom-only sponge.
9. One more tip: spaghetti mops are more efficient at getting into tough corners than sponge mops. Many types can even be thrown in the washing machine between cleanings.

Adapted from the Family Digest Spring 1999 article, "Spring Cleaning Tips & Tricks" by Anne Marie Dunatov.



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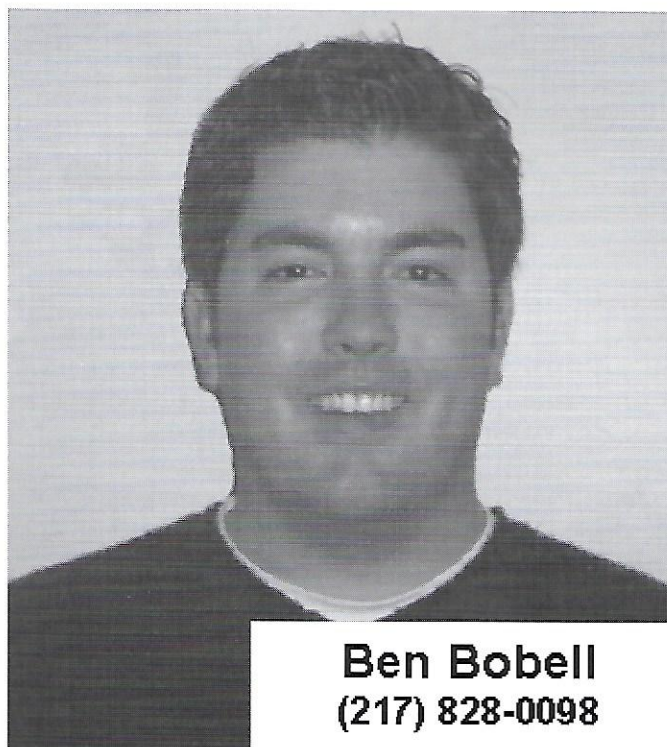
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HOUSEKEEPING ON THE JOB



You have a pretty good idea how safe a job is just by looking at it before you start to work. Even a "Sidewalk Superintendent" knows this. A job that looks clean, with everything in its place, is a safe job. That's all we mean when we talk about job housekeeping. Good housekeeping calls for just two things. Try to remember them:

- First: Keep trash and loose objects picked up and dispose of them.
- Second: Pile all materials and park all tools and equipment in the places where they belong.

These are the fundamentals of good house-keeping and they're simple enough. If we don't follow these two rules, we're letting ourselves in for trouble.

Putting the rules to work is not so simple. A grand cleanup once a week won't do the trick. Housekeeping is a job that can't be put off. We have to do it. It's up to each individual to be their own job housekeeper.

When you see something lying around where it could trip an individual or fall on them, put it in a safe place. Don't wait for someone else to do it. If it's something that he or she will be looking for, you can put it safely where they can see it.

You've seen jobs, and probably worked on some, where it wasn't safe to put your foot down without first looking twice to be sure you weren't going to twist an ankle or run a nail through your shoe. A job like that is poorly run, badly managed. Probably it's losing money as well as causing accidents.

Some jobs have walkways, aisles, stairs, and ladders by which you get from one place to another. It's particularly important that these lines of travel be kept safe and clear of loose objects. Workers often carry loads on these routes. They can't always pick their steps or look around to be sure that nothing is going to trip them or fall on them.

A wet or greasy walkway may cause a bad accident. If you see a treacherous spot, make it your business to do some sweeping, mopping or scraping.

Brick, tile, pipe, steel rods and similar materials scattered about the job or insecurely piled on scaffolds or platforms can cause accidents. All material should be piled in the place set aside for it. Each kind of material has its own characteristic. But some rules for piling apply to all kinds:

First, you have to consider how the material is going to be taken out of the pile. If it's going to be a fast-moving operation with a big tonnage being unloaded in a short time, be sure to leave space for the worker and the equipment that will have to do the work.

Be courteous. Never pile material in such a way that it will endanger a worker who has to work on it or will make a backbreaking job for the worker who breaks down the pile.

Other points to think about are:

1. The strength of the support if you're piling material on a floor, platform or scaffold.
2. The stability of the ground if you're piling a heavy load.
3. The height of the pile so it won't topple.
4. The need for building racks if it's pipe or rods you have to stack.
5. The wisdom of waiting for the proper equipment to handle structural steel and other heavy material.

We all know the value of good lighting in job housekeeping. Poor lighting and accidents go together. When you find a light out, report it and get a replacement.

It's not hard to keep a job clean if all useless materials, boxes, scrap lumber and other trash are picked up and removed regularly. Remember, if they're allowed to accumulate for even a few days, the job becomes a messy and unsafe place to work.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

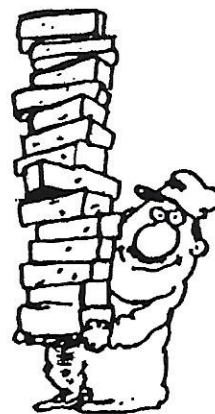
With the summer months approaching rather quickly, the office just keep getting busier and busier. Below are a few reminders:

- * ILICA will be having their Summer Picnic and Golf Outing June 18, 2005 at the Richmond Hill Park in Geneseo. **Please remember to return the registration forms that were mailed to the ILICA office no later than June 1, 2005.**
- * Also, don't forget, we have Raffle Tickets available. The drawing will take place at the Summer National Meeting in Baltimore Maryland. Keep in mind that for each ticket we sell, National LICA will give us \$5 back. **Grand Prize:** John Deere 320 Skid Steer Loader **2nd Prize:** John Deere Gator **3rd Prize:** Trimble/Spectra Precision Laser **4th Prize:** \$500 Agri Drain Product Gift Certificate **5th Prize:** \$500 Agri Drain Product Gift Certificate. **Drawing Date: Saturday, July 16th 2005 at LICA Summer National Meeting, Baltimore, MD.**
- * The Conservation Expo planning is going better than expected. We have several practices for everyone to enjoy! The show will be August 9, 10 and 11th in Good Hope at the Farm of Jerry and Leslie Lewis. If you have any questions or are an associate and would like to participate please contact the ILICA office. Sleeping Rooms have been blocked at the AmeriHost Inn. To make reservations please contact Kristi Bellomy at 309/837-2220. The block will be released mid July so make those reservations as soon as possible! If you have any questions, please contact the office at 217/787-7260.

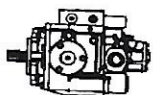
Thanks...Have a great Summer and Work Safely!

Melanie Harney
Executive Director

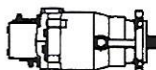
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JOHANNIS LAUDS VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION ON PRIVATE LANDS USDA HIGHLIGHTS 2004 PERFORMANCE AND BENEFITS OF CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

WASHINGTON - Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns announced major conservation achievements in 2004 resulting from USDA voluntary conservation programs for private lands in remarks to the National Association of Conservation Districts.

"Investments in conservation contribute to an increased quality of life for all Americans through cleaner air, soil and water and improved wildlife habitat," said Johanns. "Through the Bush Administration's cooperative conservation efforts, landowners are working in partnership with the government to produce tangible results, conserving natural resources for this generation, our children and our grandchildren."

USDA offers a portfolio of conservation programs that give producers the technical and financial assistance they need to develop more effective conservation plans that improve the environment and help rural communities. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) are in charge of USDA's conservation programs for private land management and environmental stewardship.

These 2004 conservation benefits and successes, along with the President's conservation budgets, support a continued cooperative conservation effort that gives farmers

and ranchers the ability to become the best stewards of the land. In keeping with that vision, President Bush has proposed a strong budget for conservation efforts in fiscal year 2006, including \$3.8 billion to continue implementation of the conservation programs authorized in the 2002 Farm Bill. These funds will allow USDA, landowners and operators to build on a tremendously strong record for cooperative, voluntary conservation.

National performance highlights of key conservation programs and initiatives operated by NRCS include:

Conservation Security Program (CSP): During the first year of the program, more than \$35 million helped nearly 2,200 producers conserve and improve soil, water, air, energy, plant and animal life on nearly two million acres of tribal and private working lands. Environmental enhancement activities offered by applicants included improving wildlife habitat, air quality management and on-farm energy management.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP): Nearly \$720 million helped almost 46,500 farmers and ranchers improve soil, air and water quality and related resources on private working lands. About 62 percent of EQIP funds were associated with livestock concerns. More

Johannis Lauds... (>p16)

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than 8 percent of approved contracts were signed with limited resource producers and beginning farmers. Approximately 60 percent of funded practices directly impact one of the four national EQIP priorities while 40 percent reflect a primary impact on state or local priorities.

Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP): \$90 million funded 550 conservation easements on nearly 115,000 acres of valuable farm and ranch land to protect it from conversion to nonagricultural uses. For every federal dollar invested through FRPP, an additional \$2.28 has been contributed by participating state and local governments, nongovernmental organizations and landowners.

Grassland Reserve Program (GRP): \$56 million funded more than 1,000 private landowners protect and restore grasslands, biodiversity and wildlife habitat and reduce soil erosion while sustaining viable working ranches on 283,000 acres. An additional \$2 million was provided to help greater sage grouse conservation and recovery efforts in four western states. GRP is administered jointly by NRCS and FSA.

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP): Nearly \$275 million helped more than 1,000 private landowners restore, enhance and protect wetlands to maximize wildlife habitat and wetland functions and values on close to 200,000 acres. Restoration projects were completed on nearly 150,000 acres of wetlands and associated upland areas. The first two Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Program (WREP) partnership projects were approved. More than \$4 million was provided for the Lower Missouri River WREP project in Nebraska that will restore and enhance a total of 18,800 acres when the project is completed. Nearly \$3 million was provided for a WREP project in Minnesota that will restore approximately 7,250 acres of environmentally sensitive wetlands throughout the state.

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP): More than \$27 million funded over 3,000 private landowners create, restore and enhance wildlife habitat for upland wildlife; wetland wildlife; threatened, endangered or at-risk species and fisheries as well as other types of wildlife. Of the more than 430,000 acres enrolled in the program last year, 21,000 acres will help threatened and endangered species. During the first year of the WHIP Salmon Habitat Restoration Initiative, 47 landowners, tribes and

Johanns Lauds... (>p17)



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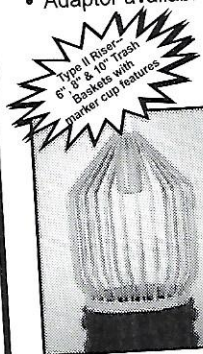
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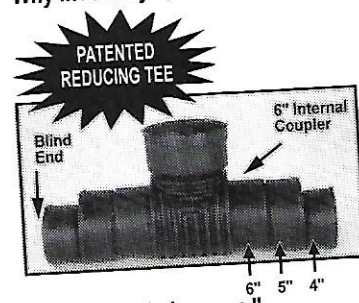
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municipalities signed contracts and agreements totaling \$3.3 million to improve nearly 900 acres of riparian habitat and to open hundreds of miles of streams for fish passage in five states.

Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA): \$10.2 million assisted 723 agricultural producers address natural resource concerns by incorporating conservation into their farming operations while managing financial risk on 105,000 acres. More than 8 percent of approved contracts were signed with women and minority producers. AMA is available in 15 states where participation in the Federal Crop Insurance Program has been historically low.

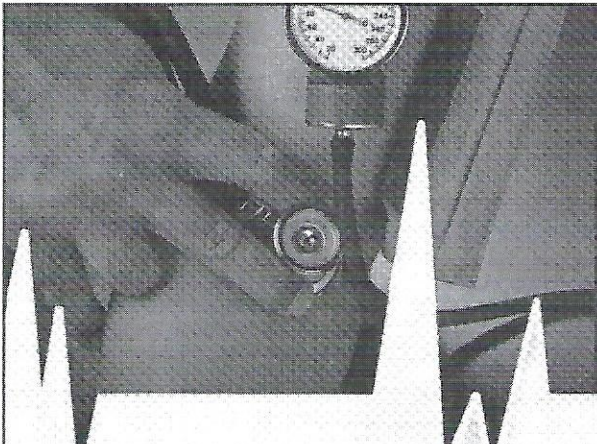
Conservation programs operated by FSA include:

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP): First established in 1985, CRP protects natural resources and enhances the environment by allowing eligible farmers and ranchers to voluntarily establish long-term conservation practices on highly erodible and environmentally sensitive cropland. In fiscal year 2004, CRP paid farmers approximately \$1.8 billion in rental and cost-share payments. Trees, grass and soil on CRP land remove an estimated 17 million metric tons of carbon per year from the atmosphere through photosynthesis. Land enrolled in CRP reduces wind erosion by 212 million tons per year. The program has reduced soil erosion by more than 443 million

tons per year. During 2004, 76 percent of all applicants were accepted into the program, the highest acceptance rates in the program's history. As a result, the total acreage of CRP will rise to 35.6 million acres, or 90 percent of the total 39.2 million acres authorized under the Farm Bill.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP): CREP is a federal-state partnership that targets additional resources in defined geographic areas for conservation practices such as buffers and filter strips. Three new CREP agreements were established in 2004. The Ohio River Western Pennsylvania CREP will provide 100,000 acres of cropland or marginal pastureland to be devoted to conservation practices. A New Jersey CREP will improve water quality of streams flowing into the Atlantic Ocean with 30,000 acres of cropland and marginal pastureland being planted to filter strips, riparian buffers, grass waterways and contour grass strips. A New York CREP will enhance water quality in 12 major watersheds throughout the state.

Detailed information and performance data on NRCS voluntary conservation programs at the national and state levels can be found at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs> and on FSA programs at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.



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GABBING WITH THE GALS...



What is there left to say? You all were so kind to come and offer your condolences and share in our grief at the sudden death of my husband Clyde. The grief doesn't go away but we try to get through one day at a time. He certainly left a deep void that can never be filled again. We had a wonderful 53 years; of course there were had days as well as good ones, but we were strong enough to weather them through, and that strength is needed now. The family is bearing up along with me and that also helps. We hope to meet again some day and then there will be rejoicing.

At this writing the sun is shining and we take that to mean that the Lord is asking us to keep on believing and trusting Him. The world will keep spinning and we must keep up with it.

We still have our world problems in our country and of course, it is scattered among other countries. If we could develop the secret of living peacefully together it would truly be a great world. Actually, when you realize how many different types of people are in our world it is probably a miracle that more are not a peace. We don't claim to be psychologists but if we have to use our brain to keep it in gear, we might as well get in our licks whenever we can. By the time this Newsletter comes out, we will have buried Pope John Paul II and elected a new one. No one could fill the shoes of the one who just died and no doubt the new one will be his own self and not to try to outdo anyone else. This is the month that most towns around us are having elections for mayors, council people, school boards, etc., and we will have more changes to go through. Actually, this person was asked to run for the school board at one time but when you don't have the grasp of high finance, well that scared me. Just balancing a simple checkbook is the extent of my expertise with finance. And no doubt in my opinion would have been the opposite of the others so what good would it do? If that's called being negative, then that must be my label. Hopefully not all things, just finance.

For some reason puns are funny to me – to a degree. One can surely get tired of them fairly quick. Here are a few: How do some people define protractors and calcutors? As weapons of math destruction. #2: When Jack Frost and his mate embarked on a journey, do they ride an icicle built for two? Here are some from the classifieds: "Illiterate? Write today for free help." "Auto Repair Service – Free pickup and delivery. Try us once; you'll never go anywhere again." "Man wanted to work in dynamite factory. Must be willing to travel." "Mixing bowl set designed to please cook with round bottom for efficient beating." "Wanted: Man to take care of cow that doesn't smoke or drink."

This is the time of year when you want to be very careful if traveling on country roads. This gal sticks to the highway to keep from getting behind a "slow-moving vehicle." When farmers are going from field to field and some probably scattered from their main farm, it pays to be very alert and cooperate with their movements.

At the rate time flies, it will be time for our picnic meeting soon. It is always a great time to be casual, laid back and enjoy good food, good company and a good (hopefully) meeting. For those who attended the national meeting in Las Vegas, we hope it was profitable and worth the time for all. Even if you didn't win any moolah – it was fun trying, wasn't it? This person believes that everyone should see Las Vegas in their lifetime, as you can't come close to describing how it really looks and feels to be there; even pictures don't help all that much. Just like Doubting Thomas – you have to be there to believe. There is one adjective that should describe seeing all that machinery in one place and that is "overwhelming." Of course, our land improvement guys know which ones they are interested in and look at those, but you probably cannot keep way from the ones that are overwhelming either – right?

Our son who works in Chicago area with backhoes, excavators, etc. had the opportunity to recently of sitting in a (my words only) high rise crane between two skyscrapers and he said it was "awesome" which is probably mild compared to what it was. Those guys who put up those skyscrapers together from the girders up really are something else. Of course they are careful, but there's still the danger of slipping; as a former boss of mine use to say, "they couldn't pay me all the money in Bear Creek to do that!" Our son doesn't have to work on those high places and needless to say his mother is glad of that.

Rambling Rose believes that the committee who chose the new ILICA secretary made a great choice. She is so cooperative and fits in so well, plus bringing in some youth with new ideas, etc. Sometimes we get so set in our ways that we can't see the cone for the ice cream. We need new ideas if we are to survive with the whole world changing as much as it does from day to day. We have that problem in our own church women here in our town – you know the phrase "but we've never done that before!" So what? As we use to say – try it, you might like it. If not then try another avenue or go back to the original. Whatever works in your website, right? Right!

The word for this issue is "life." Since we never know when it will end or become wounded, we have the option of doing the best we know how and can leave with no regrets. My husband should have had no regrets; he lived up to his potential and tried to live by the golden rule. He was so unassuming that he had no idea of the legacy he left behind for all of our family to follow. A saint? Of course not, but one who did the best he could with what the good Lord gave him to use. He is the one who instilled the good work ethics in all of our five children, encouraged them to look into new ways of accomplishing goals; he did not ask them to do something he would not do.

We wish a great summer to all of you, hopefully just enough rain and sunshine to accomplish all our projects. Look at all of the beautiful flowers and don't forget to smell them along the way.

.....Rambling Rose

TERRACING

Use terraces to make flower and vegetable gardening possible on steep slopes, or simply to add interest to your landscape.

In your backyard

Terraces can create several mini-gardens in your backyard. On steep slopes, terracing can make planting a garden possible. Terraces prevent erosion by shortening the long slope into a series of shorter, more level steps. This allows heavy rains to soak into the soil rather than run off and cause erosion.

Materials for terraces

Numerous materials are available for building terraces. Treated wood is often used because of several advantages: it is easy to work with, blends well with plants, and is often less expensive than other materials. There are many types of treated wood on the market—from railroad ties to landscaping timbers. These materials will last for years. While there has been some concern about using these treated materials around plants, studies by Texas A&M University and the Southwest Research Institute concluded that these materials are not harmful to gardens or people when used as recommended. Other materials for terraces include bricks, rocks, concrete blocks, and similar masonry materials. Some masonry materials are made specifically for walls and terraces and can be more easily installed by a homeowner than other materials such as field stone and brick. Most stone or masonry products tend to be more expensive than wood.

Height of walls

The steepness of the slope often dictates wall height. Make the terraces in your yard high enough so the land between them is fairly level. Be sure the terrace material is strong enough and anchored well enough to stay in place through freezing and thawing, and heavy rainstorms. Do not underestimate the pressure of water-logged soil behind a wall. It can be enormous and cause improperly constructed walls to bulge or collapse. Many communities have building codes for walls and terraces. Large projects will need the expertise of a professional to make sure the walls can stand up to water pressure in the soil. Large terraces also need to be built with proper drainage and to be tied back into the slope properly. Because of the expertise and equipment required to do this correctly, you will probably want to restrict terraces you build yourself to no more than a foot or two high.

Building a terrace

The safest way to build a terrace is probably the cut and fill method. With this method, little soil is disturbed, giving you protection from erosion should a sudden storm occur while the work is in progress. This method will also require little, if any, additional soil.

1. Contact your utility companies to identify the location of any buried utilities before starting to excavate.
2. Determine the rise and run of your slope. The rise is the vertical distance from the bottom of the slope to the top. The run is the horizontal distance between the top and bottom. This will help you determine how many terraces you need. For example, if your run is 20 feet and the rise is 8 feet and you want each bed to be 5 feet wide, you will need 4 beds. The rise of each bed will be 2 feet.
3. Start building beds at the bottom of your slope. You will need to dig a trench in which to place your first tier. The depth and width of the trench will vary depending on how tall the terrace will be and the specific building materials you are using. Follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully when using masonry products. Many of these have limits to the number of tiers or the height that can be safely built. If using landscape timbers and your terrace is low (less than 2 feet), you only need to bury the timber to about half its thickness or less. The width of the trench should be slightly wider than your timber. Make sure the bottom of the trench is firmly packed and completely level. Place your timbers in the trench.
4. For the sides of your terrace, dig a trench into the slope. The bottom of this trench must be level with the bottom of the first trench. When the depth of the trench is one inch greater than the thickness of your timber, you have reached the back of the terrace and can stop digging.
5. Cut a timber to the correct length and place in trench.
6. Drill holes through your timbers and pound long spikes or pipes through the holes and into the ground. A minimum of 18 inches pipe length is recommended; longer pipes may be needed for stability for higher terraces.
7. Place the next tier of timbers on top of the first, overlapping corners and joints. Spike these together.
8. Move soil from the back of the bed to the front of the bed until the surface is level. Add another tier as needed.
9. Repeat, starting with step 2. In continuously connected terrace systems, the first timber of the second tier will also be the back wall of your first terrace.
10. The back wall of the last bed will be level with the front wall of that bed.
11. When finished, plant and mulch.

Other options for slopes

If terraces are beyond the limits of your time or money, you may want to consider other options for backyard slopes. If you have a slope that is hard to mow, consider using groundcovers other than grass. There are many plants adapted to a wide range of light and moisture conditions that require little care, but provide soil erosion protection. These include:

APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR GOVERNOR'S POLLUTION PREVENTION AWARDS

Companies and organizations proud of their pollution prevention efforts are invited to submit applications for the 2005 Governor's Pollution Prevention Awards. The Waste Management and Research Center (WMRC) - a division of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources - is now accepting applications for the annual awards program.

For 19 years, the WMRC has presented the Governor's Pollution Prevention Awards to companies and organizations in Illinois that have demonstrated a commitment to environmental excellence through the practice of pollution prevention. Any Illinois public or private organization is eligible to apply for an award. Continuous Improvement Awards are awarded to companies that have shown an ongoing commitment to pollution prevention. Eligible applicants will be evaluated in one of the following categories:

- Small, Medium or Large Business/Industrial Facility
- Vendor/Supplier
- Community Group
- Trade Organization/Association
- Educational Institution
- Service Organization (such as medical, military, government, etc.)

Information about the Governor's Pollution Prevention Awards and an application are available on the WMRC website at www.wmrc.uiuc.edu. Click on "Illinois Governor's Pollution Prevention Awards" link in the Special Projects section of the WMRC home page. More information is also available by contacting Bob Iverson, Information Services Manager at 217/333-8946, e-mail biverson@wmrc.uiuc.edu

The application due date is May 20, 2005. Technical experts from the WMRC will review applications and site visits may be performed. Award winners will be announced at the Governor's Pollution Prevention Awards luncheon on Thursday, October 20, 2005 at the Abington in Glen Ellyn.

The Waste Management and Research Center's mission is to conserve natural resources, reduce wastes and increase economic vitality by providing Illinois businesses, institutions and citizens with information, research, innovative technologies and technical assistance.

Terracing... (<p18)

- Juniper (*Juniperus horizontalis*)
- Pachysandra (*Pachysandra terminalis*)
- Wintercreeper (*Euonymus fortunei*)
- Periwinkle (*Vinca minor*)
- Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster* spp.)
- Potentilla (*Potentilla* spp.)
- Partridge berry (*Gaultheria procumbens*)
- Heathers and heaths

Stripcropping is another way to deal with long slopes. Rather than terracing to make garden beds level, plant perennial beds and strips of grass across the slope. Once established, many perennials are effective in reducing erosion. Mulch also helps reduce erosion. The erosion that may occur will be primarily limited to the garden area. The grass strips will act as filter strips and catch much of the soil that may run off the beds. Grass strips should be wide enough to mow across the hill easily as well as wide enough to effectively reduce erosion.

On the farm

Terraces catch runoff water, let the water soak into the ground, and deliver the excess safely to the bottom of a hillside much like eavespouts on a house. The earthen ridges built around a hillside on the contour cut a long slope into shorter slopes, preventing water from building to a highly erosive force. Some terraces are seeded to grass, which provides erosion control and a nesting area for birds. Terraces are often used in combination with other conservation practices to provide more complete soil protection.

Stripcropping is a common erosion control practice on many farms. Farmers often alternate strips of corn or soybeans with strips of hay. Many farmers put erosion prone areas into permanent cover.

More about backyard conservation

The Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Association of Conservation Districts, and Wildlife Habitat Council encourage you to sign up in the "Backyard Conservation" program. To participate, use some of the conservation practices in your backyard that are showcased in this series of tip sheets—tree planting, wildlife habitat, backyard pond, backyard wetland, composting, mulching, nutrient management, terracing, water conservation, and pest management. Then, simply fill in the Backyard Conservation customer response card, send a Backyard e-mail request to backyard@swcs.org, or call 1-888-LANDCARE.

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COMMITTEE FUNCTION, RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY

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



Application For AFFILIATE Membership

Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association



2060 Timberbrook Drive, Suite 3, Springfield, IL 62702 • Phone: (217) 787-7260 • Fax: (217) 787-7264

_____ hereby makes application for Affiliate Membership in the ILLINOIS LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION, INC., (ILICA) and enclose Eighty Five Dollars (\$85) as my annual membership dues for the year _____. One dollar (\$1.00) of this amount is for a subscription to the "Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association Newsletter" for one year.

Affiliate members shall consist of and be limited to individuals employed by the ILICA, persons employed by an active member in the business that makes the active member eligible for membership, individuals engaged in professional soil, water and natural resource conservation work and persons, firms, corporations, associations and organizations engaged in the business of publishing magazines and newspapers, part or all of which are devoted to disseminating information on soil, water and natural resource conservation and any person, firm, corporation, association or organization that has demonstrated a special interest in soil, water and natural resource conservation.

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

Individual Name: _____

Firm Name: _____

Address: _____

County: _____ ILICA Area Number: _____ Sponsor: _____

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



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

Associate members shall consist of and be limited to persons, firms, corporation, associations or organizations that manufacture or sell equipment or materials used by land improvement contractors.

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

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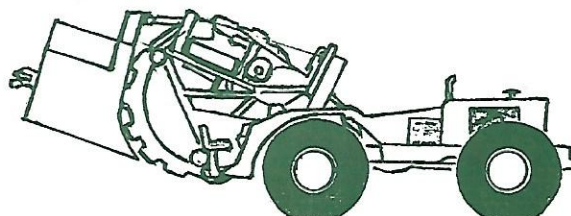
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