



ILICA NEWS

Land Improvement Contractors Of America • Illinois Chapter

2005 Conservation Expo

Jerry & Leslie Lewis' Farm
August 9, 10 & 11
Details Inside



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I thought I saw Wile E. Coyote chasing Roadrunner through a cactus farm last week! It is dry, dry, dry here in Stark County. We were very fortunate to get 4 tenths last weekend (June 4th). We (Wyoming Fire Department) were called out on our 1st storm watch this afternoon, June 8th. Nothing happened but lots of ugly looking clouds, a mini dust storm, and less than 2 tenths of rain. Maybe tomorrow!

We are starting some summer maintenance on our machinery. We are in the middle of painting the tile plow. I think this would be an appropriate time to remind everyone about shop safety. After the long stretch of spring work, our shop was in disarray. Cords strung everywhere. Air hoses weren't picked up. Gas cans not stored. Tools scattered high and low and dirt 3 inches deep on the floor. I think you get the picture!

It's very easy to let things lay around, but you ignore the hazards. Cords and hoses need to be hung up or wrapped, to prevent trips and falls. Tools should be put away not only to keep from stumbling over them, but to prevent loss. Sure seems like a lot of expensive tools can "grow legs", never to be seen again. We just had our fire extinguishers serviced last week. They need to be checked every year.

We are doing a fairly extensive shop cleaning this time in order to paint inside. Things will be picked up and put away in their proper places. I think this is probably the most important aspect to safety in any situation; **KEEP SHOPS AND JOBSITES NEAT!** It will also make you and your employees more productive if everything is in its proper place.

I hope to see you at the Conservation Show August 9-10-11. Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

P.S. Pray for some rain!

Joe

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IN THIS ISSUE



ILICA NEWS

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Welcome New Members!

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Doug Hayes
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2005 ILICA GOLF & PICNIC OUTING A HUGE SUCCESS!

Illinois LICA would like to thank Brian and Angie Brooks for being Hosts to this year's Golf & Picnic Outing, which was held in Geneseo, IL at the Richmond Hills Park, June 18th. We had a great turn out for golf with 14 golfers and 41 people at the picnic. We would like to thank all of the attendees and hope everyone had a great time!

The golf outing started approximately 8:30 am for four groups of golfers including the following: Joe Streitmatter, Wyoming; Steve Anderson, Marseilles; Stuart Anderson, Marseilles; Brian Brooks, Erie; Bill Doubet, Williamsfield; Rick LaFollette, Williamsfield; Bill Masching, Odell; Jim Kiley, Galva; Dave Hurst, Yates City; Robert Pleines, Minier; Jeremy Lancaster, Minier; Bob Grothaus, Springfield Plastics, Inc; Mike Grothaus, Springfield Plastics, Inc; Kane Causemaker, ADS. Several prizes were awarded with Closest to Pin going to Stuart Anderson, marseille on hole 4; Shortest Drive going to Kane Causemaker, ADS on hole 1; Longest Putt going to Dave Hurst, Elmwood on hole 9. Congratulations and thanks to all who participated!

We would also like to thank Advanced Drainage Systems and Springfield Plastics, Inc. for participating and sponsoring the Golf & Picnic Lunch. We appreciate your continued support of Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association.

We realize that this date conflicted with Seevers Farm Drainage open house and we would like to congratulate them on their 30 years in business!



Mike Grothaus, Joe Streitmatter, Brian Brooks and Bob Grathaus



Dave Hurst, Jim Kiley and Steve Anderson



Jim Kiley, Bill Doubet and Rick Lafollette



Brian Brooks



Robert Pleines & Jeremy Lancaster trying to sink one in!



Stuart Anderson teeing off!

Getting ready for the board meeting!



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GOV. BLAGOJEVICH ANNOUNCES STATE FAIR GRANDSTAND LINEUP

Entertainment features Country Music Association Award winners Rascal Flatts and Brad Paisley

SPRINGFIELD – Governor Rod Blagojevich today announced the Grandstand lineup for the 2005 Illinois State Fair. Among the bands taking the stage Aug. 12–21 are two of the hottest country music acts on the circuit, CMA Award winners Brad Paisley and Rascal Flatts along with the vicious sound of Velvet Revolver, who placed #1 in two sections of the Rolling Stone Readers' Poll for Best New Artist and Best Hard Rock/Metal Band in an early 2005 issue.

"The State Fair staff has done an excellent job putting together a Grandstand lineup that appeals to a broad range of music fans, from country to classic, southern and modern rock," Gov. Blagojevich said. "The 2005 State Fair Grandstand lineup will not only showcase great bands but the prices are also affordable keeping with our tradition to maintain a family friendly event."

- Friday, August 12th The Illinois State Fair kicks off with 2005 County Music Association Award winners Rascal Flatts taking the stage. The group took home the 2005 CMA award for Best Group Video of the Year for "Feels Like Today." All together, their first three albums have sold more than 6 million copies and their recent hit single "Bless the Broken Road" sat at #1 for 5 consecutive weeks. Opening the evening for Rascal Flatts is county music star Blake Shelton. Tickets are \$17.50, \$22.50 and \$27.50 for reserved grandstand seats and \$27.50 for the track area in front of the stage.
- Saturday, August 13th: Southern rockers Lynyrd Skynyrd will perform over thirty years of hits. The band recently collected their 18th gold and 12th platinum award for *Thirty*, their double-disc anniversary hits collection. They're best known for songs including "Sweet Home Alabama" and "Free Bird." Alternative Country up-and-comers, Cross Canadian Ragweed will open the show. Tickets are \$18.00.
- Sunday, August 14th: Classic Rock group REO Speedwagon returns to the grandstand. Their performance at the 2000 Illinois State Fair with Styx sold over 11,000 tickets. They will be joined at the 2005 State Fair by Cheap Trick and Head East. Tickets are \$18.00.
- Monday, August 15th and Tuesday, August 16th: Visitors will enjoy evening harness racing at the fair. Tentative post-time is 4:30 p.m. Admission is free.
- Wednesday, August 17th: The Illinois State Fair presents Velvet Revolver: Scott Weiland (lead vocals),

Slash (guitar), Duff McKagan (bass), Matt Sorum (drums), and Dave Kushner (guitar) -- are touring arenas in connection with their platinum-plus debut *Contraband* album, featuring the Grammy Award-winning and #1 rock single "Slither," as well as the band's other #1 rock hit "Fall To Pieces," plus their blazing new single "Dirty Little Thing." *'Contraband'* debuted at #1 on the *Billboard* album chart, selling over 250,000 copies. *Newsweek* describes the band as "truly explosive" and *Maxim* says, "Slash and Scott Weiland bring unpredictability back to rock." Tickets are \$30.00, \$25.00 and \$20.00 for reserved grandstand seats and \$30.00 for the track area in front of the stage.

- Friday, August 19th: Award winning country music artist Brad Paisley will perform on the Grandstand stage. Paisley walked away from the 2005 CMA Awards with Best Collaborative Video of the Year for "Whisky Lullaby," with Alison Krauss. His most recent album "Mud on the Tires" has reach double platinum status and the title track song is Paisley's fourth #1 hit. County music trio SheDaisy will open the show. Tickets are \$22.50, \$17.50 and \$15.00 for reserved grandstand seats and \$22.50 for the track area in front of the stage.
 - Saturday, August 20th: Simple Plan will take the stage. Their recently released album "Still Not Getting Any..." has sold millions of copies and features hit songs including "Shut Up!" "Me Against the World" and "Untitled (How Could This Happen to Me?)." The group has shared the stage with everyone from Rancid to Aerosmith; made appearances on the Vans Warped Tour for three years running (two as Headliners), and have been nominated for four MTV Video Music Awards. Jesse McCartney will open the show. Tickets are \$27.50, \$22.50 and \$17.50 for reserved grandstand seats and \$27.50 for the track area in front on the stage.
 - Sunday, August 21nd: The grandstand entertainment concludes with a free concert by the Illinois Symphony Orchestra at 7:30 p.m.
- Presale tickets will be available through Ticket Master by phone and internet starting April 30th and sales open at all Ticket Master locations May 14th. Presale tickets can also be purchased on the State Fair web site at www.illinoistatefair.info. To order presale tickets by phone call 1-800-827-8927 or TTY 1-800-359-2525. The State Fair ticket office will open June 4th.

GABBING WITH THE GALS...



Now we are in the throes of summer with new crops coming along and unexpected weather. If you have a flower or veggie garden we hope they will be successful. Makes it much more worthwhile if the end result is success because it does take work to plant, seed, and weed. In our town we have several spots around where flowers are planted and taken care of by volunteers. We appreciate the people who do these things for the joy to all to see. Several are near main highways and it makes our city more attractive. We also have several plots in town that people rent to have a garden and you have to admire them for wanting fresh products and to be willing to do all the work, especially since they may have to go across town for their garden.

Summertime — is for baseball, soccer, tennis, golf, swimming, vacations, etc. It is a time to enjoy the outdoors if you so desire and to be careful getting a suntan. Ice cream comes to mind also and the people who make and sell it are finding more and more ways to attract your taste buds. This gal is partial to the places that have the soft serve kind unless the air is too humid and then it melts too quick. Summer is also for family reunions — we have two parks in our town that are usually booked up for those — one is across the street from the swimming pool so that one is used a lot.

Remember when young men used to grow their hair long — some looked okay and many did not. That has slowed down considerably and they seem to have gone off the other way and shave it all off now. As for the ladies, the style they are using now leaves a lot to be desired as far as Rambling Rose is concerned. How they can stand their hair covering their eyes is a mystery plus the fact that long, straight hair with nary a barrette or clip to hold it off the face is used — it definitely is not attractive. Why is it when some who are in the public eye often start these fads and of course the rest of the public seems to follow the leader. What ever happened to doing your hair the way it fits your face and head? Not everyone can look good with the same hairstyle. Why can't we follow our own instincts and know we are looking our best instead of following someone else "just because"? One of the worst things you can do is to copy someone else no matter what. Whatever happened to being an individual and not a carbon copy?

It's not my style to describe medical treatments for myself, but for the sake of enlightening our ILICA family it will be done this time. On April 23 the surgeon who operated on my left knee in November '04 found and infection in the right knee (which had been replaced in January '03) and it takes drastic measures to clear it up. Consequently on May 4 the surgeon removed what has been replaced in the knee, put a "gizmo" with antibiotics in

it and closed it up. In addition I was to have 6 weeks of intravenous antibiotics three times a day which necessitated staying in the hospital to have this done. At this writing I am starting my fifth week then I can go home for 6 to 8 weeks. During this first 6 weeks, and also the time at home I cannot put pressure on my right knee, so I hop on one foot with my walker. (You soon find out there are things you cannot do with only one leg available.) Sometime in August I will have to go back to Loyola Hospital and my surgeon will re-do the right knee. Hopefully this will conclude the whole project. Of course there will be therapy afterward with which I am well acquainted but has to be done to get the leg to full use. Staying in the hospital for six weeks is the most time I have been away from my home and has caused this old lady to become homesick. At least at home I will be where Clyde has been for all these years and it seems closer to him plus I must be a "homebody" at heart. Anyway it will be wonderful to be in my own place after June 18. If you can, prayers will be appreciated.

The group who went to Tinsel Town for the LICA convention no doubt enjoyed it. The weather was very good too I understand. No one from Day Drainage could go this year — to busy as well as other commitments. We miss not seeing the old friends we have made and of course meeting new ones. The ladies' meeting is always interesting and the silent auction is fun. Hopefully someone from our company can attend the picnic meeting — that is the day my hospital stay ends so I believe I will take a rain check. Hope to be able to attend one or two board meetings this fall.

Condolences to the Kathryn Royer and her family on the death of C.B. He and Kathryn were great supporters of ILICA and we enjoyed their company. There are several we already miss if we'd gone to the LICA convention. They say that's the way the world turns, but it's still devastating when it happens. We will have a wedding August 13 in our family — Dan's second eldest Sarah will be married that day. Her fiancé is a very good person and well-liked — they will live in Paxton which is just 15 miles east of Gibson City. Dan's son Nick lives in Lawrence Kansas pursuing what he went to college for. We have two grandsons who are taking Drivers Ed and that is always interesting. One will be driving in the busy traffic of Chicago suburbs, so don't envy him. Actually, just driving on an interstate is scary, as there are some crazies out there — but that is another topic.

The word for this issue is faith — the more the world experiences troubles the more we need our faith. Sometimes we wonder how long God will put up with us. Be proud of your faith and be strong enough to talk of it to others. As a speaker said recently — we all make an impact on others without knowing it and that is a good thing.

Happy Flag Day (June 14) and 4th of July — pray for the rain and all that good stuff —

.....Rambling Rose

NEW GLOBAL PIPELINE DEALERSHIP OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED WITH HELP FROM FABICK CAT & THREE OTHER DEALERS

PipeLine Machinery International, LP and Chairman Douglas R. Fabick, also President of Fabick CAT, recently announced the official operational startup of the new Caterpillar dealership formed to serve the global pipeline construction industry. The Dealer Sales & Service agreement for PLM was signed on May 12, 2005. On May 3, 2005 dealer principals from the four partners – Fabick CAT, Fanning (Canada), Mustang Machinery Company, Ltd. and Ring Power Corporation – met in Houston to sign partnership agreements enabling a May 1, 2005 startup for PipeLine Machinery International, LP (PLM).

Chairman Fabick was joined at the signing by Ian M. Reid, President of Fanning (Canada), Brad Tucker, Executive Vice President/General Counsel of Mustang Machinery Company, Ltd. and Randal L. Ringhaver, Chairman and President of Ring Power Corporation. "As long-term pipeline equipment dealers, we recognized there was a better way to serve our pipeline clients," Fabick commented. "It is a unique business that warrants a unique service solution. We feel the expertise and resources of our four partners and the support of Caterpillar Global Pipeline will greatly enhance our ability to serve those clients."

Caterpillar® Inc.'s new division, Caterpillar Global Pipeline, was formed to provide a more focused approach and to provide solutions tailored to the unique product and service needs of its clients providing worldwide pipeline construction services. Customers specializing in large-diameter interstate and cross-country pipeline

transmission projects of limited duration tend to span over several dealer territories. Caterpillar chose the four dealer partners based on the strength of their history in the pipeline construction industry. The formation of PLM will allow for a focused effort by a dedicated pipeline dealership without geographic boundaries. PLM will combine the resources of its specialized pipeline equipment fleet and the service and support of local CAT dealerships around the globe.

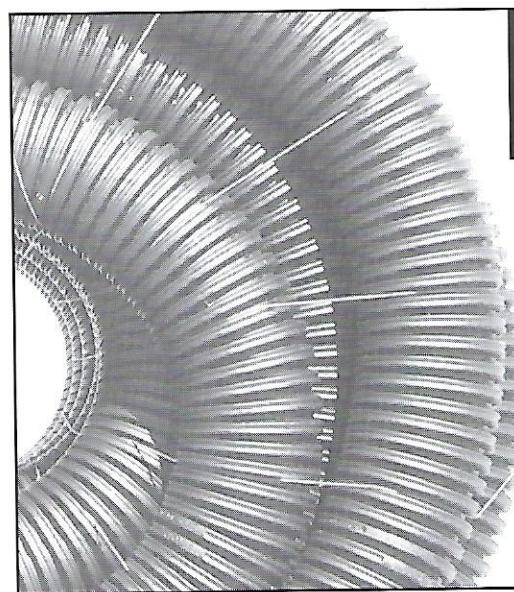
PLM will be responsible for maintaining customer relationships, merchandising purpose-built and traditional Caterpillar pipeline products, and providing solution packaging to worldwide customers in the pipeline construction industry.

Fabick CAT, headquartered in Fenton, MO, is the authorized dealer of Caterpillar equipment, prime and standby power systems, parts and service, compact construction, rental, and pipeline equipment for 99 counties in mid and southern Missouri and southern Illinois. Other locations include Jefferson City, Columbia, Springfield, Joplin, West Plains, Herculaneum and St. Charles, MO.; Salem and Marion, IL.

PLM is headquartered in Houston, Texas, with strategic locations around the world to support customers in the pipeline industry. Caterpillar Global Pipeline division will also be establishing a presence in Houston.

- 30 -

Further information is available from Fabick CAT at www.fabickcat.com or the PLM website at www.plmcat.com.



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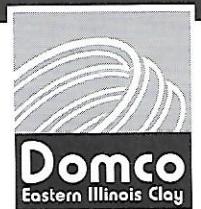


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HOW DRY WAS SPRING 2005? WEDNESDAY, JUNE 01, 2005

How dry was Spring 2005 (March-May) across Illinois? Here are some weather facts from the National Weather Service:

- Peoria had its second driest May on record - 0.69 inches of rain. The driest May on record was in 1934. It was the city's third driest Spring with 4.16 inches of rain.
- St. Louis reported its third driest Spring on record with 4.42 inches of rain.
- Springfield reported its sixth driest Spring on record with 5.29 inches of rain
- Chicago reported its seventh driest Spring on record with 5.00 inches of rain
- Moline had 4.9 inches of rain during Spring 2005. The driest spring on record in the Quad Cities was 3.09 inches in 1934.

For More Info Contact:

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Or even abuse it,

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Unknowingly pass the land by.

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by Melanie Harney

Well, it came down to the wire... the 93rd Illinois General Assembly adjourned Tuesday, May 31, 2005 with the Democrats agreeing on a budget avoiding a consecutive overtime session. The \$57.9 billion budget (\$24.4 billion General Revenue Fund) was approved along partisan lines. The budget includes appropriations for operating expenses, grant programs, re-appropriations and necessary services. No new capital appropriations were included. Below is a brief summary of how each program was changed from FY 05.

Program	FY 05 Approp.	FY 06 Approp.
C-FAR	\$3,500,000	\$3,500,000
U of I Extension	\$11,370,000	\$11,840,000
County Board Match		
U of I Extension – Youth Educators, etc.	\$1,782,100	\$1,693,000
NEW – Cook County Extension	-	\$5,000,000
Ag Education (In ISBE)	\$1,881,200	\$1,881,200
Ag Education from the Common School Fund	-	\$500,000
AgriFIRST Grants	\$250,000	\$250,000
II. Renewable Fuels Development Prgm.	15,000,000	\$10,400,00
C 2000 (IDOA)	\$4,700,000	\$4,000,000
Soil & Water Conservation Dist. Operations	\$5,545,600	\$5,545,600
Soil & Water Conservation Dist.C-2000	\$1,700,000	\$1,500,000
Farm Resource Center	\$570,000	\$300,000
Agriculture Leadership Foundation	\$28,000	\$27,400
II. Grape and Wine Industry	\$250,000	\$250,000
Tourism - II. Grape and Wine Industry	\$150,000	\$150,000



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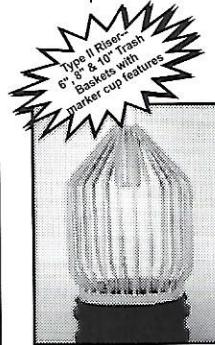
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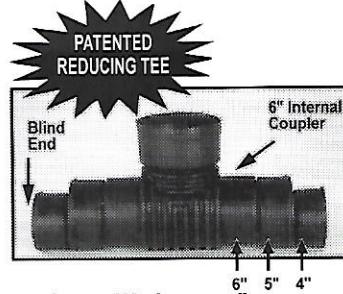
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CONSERVATION EXPO 2005, AUGUST 9 – 11

Conservation Expo 2005 is coming to western Illinois on August 9, 10, & 11, 2005. This statewide event is a showcase for the construction and exhibition of conservation and land improvement practices and equipment. This year's Conservation Expo will take place on the Jerry & Leslie Lewis Farm, Good Hope, IL.

The Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association is one of over 20 local, state, and federal agencies or groups which are co-sponsoring the Conservation Expo 2005 in cooperation with the Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association (ILICA). The Conservation Expo 2005 Show Site is located southeast of Good Hope, IL, in McDonough County, in western Illinois. From the intersection of IL Rt. 9 and US 67 on the south edge of Good Hope, go one-half mile south on US 67 and then 2 miles east on County Rd 1800 N. (follow the signs). Good Hope, IL is located 26 miles south of Monmouth, 33 miles north of Rushville, 6 miles north of Macomb, and 9 miles west of Bushnell.

Throughout the 3-day event, tours will be conducted to showcase the following conservation structures and practices: Tile Drainage/Drainage Water Management, Wildlife Food Plots, Filter Strips, Streambank Stabilization Control – Rock Riffles & Stone Toe Protection, Landscape and Habitat Management, Block Chute Construction, Grassed Waterways, Sealing Abandoned Wells, Wetland Development, Pond Management, Agro-Forestry Planting & Mgmt., Dry Hydrant Installation, Water and Sediment Control Basins (Dry Dams), A Soils Demonstration and New Septic System Installations. Tour guides will be at each of the sites throughout the show to discuss installation techniques, cost of construction, and benefits to the landowner and the watershed.

Certified Crop Advisers may also receive Continuing Education Credits for attending the 2005 Illinois Conservation Expo. Tours A and B have each been assigned 2 hours of continuing education credit in Soil & Water Mgmt. Sign up sheets for credit will be in Headquarters Tent. There will also be Featured Speakers, located at the Headquarters Tent, who will discuss current Natural Resources topics and issues impacting landowners and farmers.



The hours of the Conservation Expo are Tuesday & Thursday: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.; and Wednesday 9 a.m. – 7 p.m. There is no admission charge, and everyone is welcome to attend, including landowners, farmers, agri-businesses, conservationists, planners and the general public. Food and drink concessions will be available at the show site.

For more information, contact Melanie Harney, Ex. Director of ILICA, ph. 217-787-7260; McDonough County SWCD/NRCS, ph. 309-833-1711, Ext. 3; or Bob Frazee, University of Illinois Extension, ph. 309-694-7501, Ext. 226.

Source: Bob Frazee, University of Illinois Extension, Natural Resources Management Ph. (309) 694-7501, Ext. 226.

SPRINGFIELD PLASTICS, INC. RECEIVES CERTIFICATION FOR PIPE

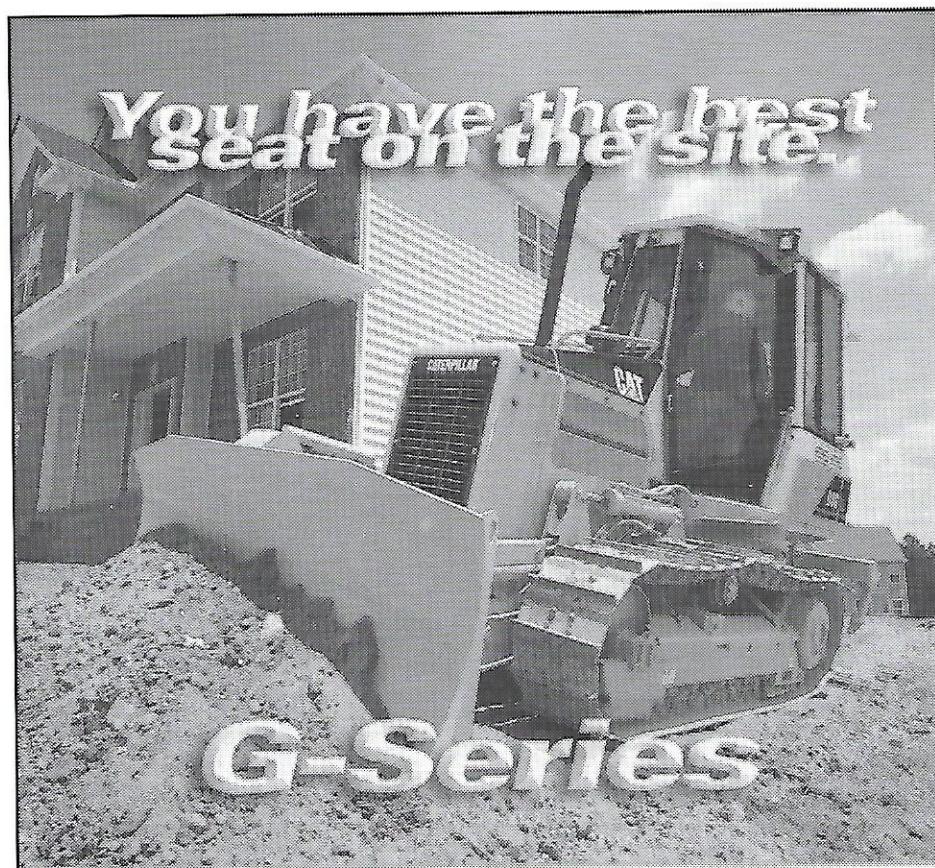
ONLY COMPANY IN U.S. TO USE 100% VIRGIN RESIN

Springfield Plastics, Inc. is currently the only corrugated pipe producer in the United States to have its use of virgin resin certified. Stephen Baker, President of the company stated, "We feel it is very important to our customers to know that we want to make this commitment to them year after year. That's why we have continued to receive this certification, to be a leader in providing top quality drainage products"

This is the 5th year in a row that SPI has received certification that the company only purchases virgin resin to be used in the manufacture of its drainage pipe. Standard setting organizations, such as ASTM and USDA-NRCS, have required the use of virgin resin materials for many years. The Plastic Pipe Institute (PPI) has also released a position-statement stating that recycled materials should not be used in piping materials. However, many drainage pipe companies continue to use recycled materials in their product to reduce their costs. According to Plastic News recycled materials can cost five to seven cents per pound less than virgin materials. Over the years, the use of recycled materials in plastic products has been promoted as a way of enhancing plastics recycling efforts. Baker notes, "We are environmentally sensitive to the recycling issues we have today, but we believe using the recycled materials affects the structure and durability of the pipe. The industry standards require the use of raw material. It is critical we follow these standards in order to lead the way in providing the highest quality product possible to the agricultural producer."

ASTM and PPI have always been concerned with the wide variability of the physical properties in recycled material and how these properties would affect the long-term performance of drainage pipe. The variability in the materials could lead to stress cracking, poor crush and impact strengths and uneven wall thickness. Baker adds, "None of these properties are desirable in our drainage pipe. It's our

company's philosophy that quality must be a priority; therefore the standards set must be followed. Farmers expect the drainage pipe they install in their farm fields to serve them for many years and be top quality. We feel that being the only company to extend our certification of virgin resin use to our customers is meeting that goal"



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

Well... June is almost over and the Conservation Show will be here before we know it!

*Just a reminder the room block for the AmeriHost Inn will be released mid-July so don't forget to get those reservations in. To make reservations contact Kristi Bellomy at 309/837-2220. The dates of the Show are August 9, 10 & 11. If you have any questions, please contact the office at 217/787-7260.

*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 Deer 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.

*Planning has begun for the 2006 Convention and is going rather well. We have reserved rooms for January 12, 13 & 14th 2006 at the Holiday Inn in Bloomington/Normal. We have a great ladies program this year and lots of fun things in store!

*Also the Ladies Committee will be having a raffle at the 2006 Convention, those items and tickets will be forthcoming in the near future.

*The Ladies Committee is also asking for recipes to be submitted to either Jackie Streitmeyer or the ILICA office, a recipe book is in the works for a Ladies Fundraiser, more information will follow in the September/October Issue. If you have any questions, please contact the ILICA office.

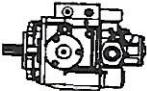
Thanks! Have a Great Summer...

Melanie Harney
Executive Director

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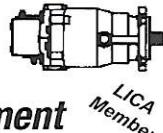
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HOME AND GARDEN TIPS

Lawn and Garden Care

Rules of Thumb for Water Use on Lawns and Gardens

- One deep watering is much better than watering several times lightly.
- Lawns need about 1 inch of water each week. If the weather is very hot, apply an inch of water about every 3 days.
- Watering to a depth of 4-6 inches encourages deeper, healthier root development. It allows longer periods between watering.
- To measure the water, put an empty tuna can (or cat food can) on the lawn while watering. Stop watering when the can is full or if you notice water running off the lawn.

Know Your Soil

Different soil types have different watering needs. You don't need to be a soil scientist to know how to water your soil properly. These tips can help.

- Loosen the soil around plants so it can quickly absorb water and nutrients.
- Use a 1- to 2-inch protective layer of mulch on the soil surface above the root area. Cultivating and mulching reduce evaporation and soil erosion.
- Clay soil: Add organic material such as compost or peat moss. Till or spade to help loosen the soil. Since clay soil absorbs water very slowly, water only as fast as the soil absorbs the water.
- Sandy soil: Add organic material to supplement sandy soil. Otherwise, the water can run through it so quickly that plants won't be able to absorb it.
- Loam soil: The best kind of soil. It's a combination of sand, silt, and clay. Loam absorbs water readily and stores it for plants to use.

Water at the Right Time of the Day

- Early morning or night is the best time for watering to reduce evaporation.
- To help control where your water goes, water when it's not windy.

Rules of Thumb for Proper Fertilizer Use

Fertilizers provide nutrients necessary for plant health and growth, such as nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. These are what N, P, and K stand for on bags of fertilizer. Nitrogen (N) is needed for healthy green growth and regulation of other nutrients. Phosphorus (P) helps proper roots and seeds develop and resist disease. Potassium (K) is also important in root development and disease resistance. When properly applied, the nutrients in fertilizers are absorbed by plants and little of these nutrients enters ground or surface water resources.

Use the Right Fertilizer

- Test your soil to find out what nutrients are needed. Contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service or Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service office to get information on obtaining a soil test. Local fertilizer dealers can also be helpful.
- A soil test will help you understand what your plants require.
- Follow label directions.
- Choose a fertilizer that has at least one-fourth of the nitrogen in a slow-release form, such as sulphur-coated urea.

Mow Your Lawn Frequently

Leave the grass clippings to decompose on the lawn. Annually, this will provide nutrients equivalent to one or two fertilizer applications. Set mower at 2 inches to reduce water use during hot weather.

Apply Fertilizer Properly

- It is best to apply fertilizer when the soil is moist and then water lightly. This will help the fertilizer move into the root zone where it is available to the plants, rather than stay on top of the soil where it can be blown or washed away.
- Watch the weather. Avoid applying it immediately before a heavy rain system is predicted to arrive. Too much rain (or sprinkler water) will take the nutrients away from the lawn's root zone.
- Use the minimal amount of fertilizer necessary and apply it in small, frequent applications. An application of 2 pounds of fertilizer five times per year is better than 5 pounds of fertilizer twice a year.
- Calibrate your fertilizer spreader to be sure you know exactly how much material is being discharged in a given space. Follow instructions accompanying your spreader.
- When spreading fertilizer, cover ends of the lawn first, then go back and forth across the rest of the lawn, using half of the recommended amount. Shut the spreader off before reaching the ends to avoid over-application. Apply the other half of the fertilizer going back and forth perpendicular to the first pattern.
- Dispose of fertilizer bags or containers in a safe and state-approved manner.

Alternatives to Pesticides and Chemicals

When used incorrectly, pesticides can pollute water. They also kill beneficial as well as harmful insects. Natural alternatives prevent both of these events from occurring and save you money. Consider using natural alternatives for chemical pesticides: Non-detergent insecticidal soaps, garlic, hot pepper sprays, 1 teaspoon of liquid soap in a gallon of water, used dishwater, or forceful stream of water to dislodge insects.

State Fair Lineup... (<p6)

DATE	PERFORMER	TICKET PRICES	
		Reserved	Track
Friday, 8/12	Rascal Flatts/Blake Shelton	\$27.50-22.50-17.50	\$27.50
Saturday, 8/13	Lynyrd Skynyrd/Cross Canadian Ragweed	\$18.00	\$18.00
Sunday, 8/14	REO/Cheap Trick/Head East	\$18.00	\$18.00
Monday, 8/15	Evening Harness Racing	Free Admission	
Tuesday 8/16	Evening Harness Racing	Free Admission	
Wednesday, 8/17	Velvet Revolver	\$30-25-20	\$30.00
Thursday, 8/18	Tractor Pulls	\$10-5	
Friday 8/19	Brad Paisley SheDaisy	\$22.50-17.50-15.00	\$22.50
Saturday, 8/20	Simple Plan	\$27.50-22.50-17.50	\$27.50
Sunday, 8/21	Illinois Symphony	Free Admission	

*All artists above have approved this announcement however concerts are subject to contracts being finalized. The 2005 Illinois State Fair runs August 12-21 in Springfield. Visit our website at www.illinoistatefair.info.

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Home & Garden Tips... (< p14)

Also consider using plants that naturally repel insects. These plants have their own chemical defense systems, and when planted among flowers and vegetables, they help keep unwanted insects away. The table below contains a partial list of nature's alternatives.

Pest	Plant Repellent
Ant	mint, tansy, pennyroyal
Aphids	mint, garlic, chives, coriander, anise
Bean Leaf Beetle	potato, onion, turnip
Codling Moth	common oleander
Colorado Potato Bug	green beans, coriander, nasturtium
Cucumber Beetle	radish, tansy
Flea Beetle	garlic, onion, mint
Imported Cabbage Worm	mint, sage, rosemary, hyssop
Japanese Beetle	garlic, larkspur, tansy, rue, geranium
Leaf Hopper	geranium, petunia
Mexican Bean Beetle	potato, onion, garlic, radish, petunia, marigolds
Mice	onion
Root Knot Nematodes	French marigolds
Slugs	prostrate rosemary, wormwood
Spider Mites	onion, garlic, cloves, chives
Squash Bug	radish, marigolds, tansy, nasturtium
Stink Bug	radish
Thrips	marigolds
Tomato Hornworm	marigolds, sage, borage
Whitefly	marigolds, nasturtium

JOHN DEERE EQUIPMENT TO PROVIDE FACTORY-INSTALLED ELECTRICAL INTERFACE FOR GPS, LASER GUIDANCE SYSTEMS

MOLINE, Ill. (June 21, 2005)— John Deere Construction & Forestry Company soon will offer equipment that ships from the factory with hardware, software, and wiring integrated and ready to support the use of global positioning systems (GPS) or laser guidance systems.

John Deere is working under separate development agreements with two of the leading suppliers of GPS and laser-based guidance systems in the construction market to develop this technology for crawlers, graders, and other machines. With an open architecture approach, the mobile construction equipment will operate software from aftermarket guidance systems and enable control through an electrical interface, according to Brett Errthum, product marketing manager, John Deere Construction & Forestry Company.

"As a result, installations will be cleaner, highly reliable, and will cost less," he said.

The electrical connection provides improved performance over hydraulic interfaces. Because the hydraulic system is tuned for the specific machine, response is faster. This electrical connection will use an industry standard communication code to enable other providers to develop additional products to attach to John Deere construction equipment—resulting in significantly expanded capability for the machine owner.

This new system also ensures that the operator's station is less cluttered because the onboard PC is integrated into the existing machine monitor. This feature provides a larger screen for the guidance data and eliminates the need for an additional monitor, avoiding blind spots that block the operator's line of sight.

"John Deere's approach to automatic grade control provides the machine owner with the greatest flexibility," Errthum said. "Regardless of which brand they use for site mapping and position sensing, John Deere machines will come ready for plug-n-play installations."

Hydraulic valves and hardware components installed at the factory will be covered under John Deere's machine warranty.

About John Deere: John Deere (Deere & Company-NYSE:DE) is the world's leading manufacturer of agricultural and forestry equipment; a major manufacturer of construction equipment; and a leading supplier of equipment used in lawn, grounds and turf care. Additionally, John Deere manufactures engines used in heavy equipment and provides financial services and other related activities that support the core businesses. Since it was founded in 1837, the company has established a heritage of quality products and services providing performance that endures to customers worldwide.

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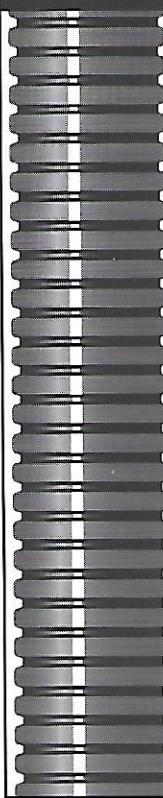
Anyone planning to dig, regardless of the depth, should call JULIE two (2) working days before they begin. The call to JULIE and the service provided by utility members are free to the excavator.

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From the ILICA Ladies.....

Lighting Needs of Houseplants

Find out if your plants are receiving enough, or too much, sunlight.

The Basics

Light is vital to plants, yet each type of plant, and sometimes individual plants within a type, demand different amounts of it. Each home, too, presents entirely different conditions. That's why you should plan on experimenting with each plant until you find the spot that yields best performance.

There are some general rules, but these all have exceptions. For the most part, flowering plants need more light than foliage plants. Yet croton, a foliage plant, needs lots of light to keep its vibrant leaf color. Most plants with thick, fleshy leaves need little light, yet cacti and succulents thrive in bright light.

Some plants flower according to how long light is present each day, rather than how intense it is. Christmas cactus, chrysanthemum, kalanchoe, and poinsettia are examples of plants that need short days (long nights) to flower properly.

Fortunately, if other conditions — water, soil, and humidity — are right, many plants can live under less-than-perfect light.

Different Light

Natural Light

To determine the intensity of the light on a given spot in your home, place an object there and check the shadow. The more intense the light, the more defined the shadow. Generally, a south exposure is the brightest. East and west windows can be bright, but usually not as bright as south windows. North windows generally are the dimmest.

Light varies considerably by time of year. Light also varies by what's nearby. It can reflect off light-colored buildings or snow, or be blocked by trees, shades, and awnings.

Light intensity drops dramatically as you move from the source. Plants near a window receive far more light than ones several feet away, even though the room may be flooded with light.

High light is found in a greenhouse or by a window with a southern or southwestern exposure. This is intense light, as strong as can be found indoors. It is also called full sun. Medium light refers to direct exposure from an east or west window. Also receiving medium (or what's often called bright indirect) light are spots near a filtered southern or southwestern exposure (or some distance from a similar exposure that's unfiltered). Low light is found near north windows. The light several feet from an east or west window or far from a southern or southwestern exposure

(in both cases, often called indirect light) also qualifies as low light. Low light is common in corners and bathrooms. It is not total darkness.

Your plants will let you know when the light is not right. Insufficient light causes spindly stems, yellow foliage, and leaf drop. Too much light causes leaf burn or pale foliage.

Artificial Light

Many houseplants thrive in artificial light. The most effective and inexpensive light source for houseplants is a fluorescent tube.

Carefully position plants under the light source (as close as 6 inches, never more than 15 inches away). Keep lights on for as many as 16 hours a day, depending on the plant.

Again, your plants will tell you how much light they need. Flowering plants fail to bud or bloom in poor artificial light. Foliage plants needing more light get tall and spindly. Foliage plants exposed to too much light look ghostly or faded.

To increase the light intensity, use more powerful lights, use more tubes, place the tubes closer together, use white reflectors, move plants closer to tubes, or burn lights longer. Match the length of exposure to the needs of the plant.

When growing plants under fluorescent tubes, rotate the plants regularly since the light at the end of the tubes is often weaker than in the middle. Experiment with lights from different makers and a combination of fluorescent and incandescent bulbs for a broader color spectrum. But be wary of heat generated by incandescent bulbs; it can burn plants if they are placed too close.



The Christmas cactus needs short days to flower properly.

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August 9 - 11, 2005

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Hosts: Jerry & Leslie Lewis, Good Hope, Illinois



Directions to the show site from Good Hope, IL: The Conservation Expo 2005 Show Site is located southeast of Good Hope, IL, in McDonough County, in west-central Illinois. From the intersection of IL Rt. 9 and US 67 on the south edge of Good Hope, go one-half mile south on US 67 and then 2 miles east on County Rd 1800 N. (follow the signs). Good Hope, IL is located 26 miles south of Monmouth, 33 miles north of Rushville, 6 miles north of Macomb, and 9 miles west of Bushnell.

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For More Information, Contact:

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

National LICA Meeting

Maritime Institute, Baltimore, MD

July 13 & 14 Pre-Tours

July 15 & 16 Summer Meeting

2005 Conservation Expo

August 9, 10 & 11

Jerry & Leslie Lewis' Farm

Good Hope, IL

Board Meeting

September 10, 2005

Maverick Family Steakhouse/Buffet

Springfield, IL

Board Meeting

November 12, 2005

Maverick Family Steakhouse/Buffet

Springfield, IL

Annual ILICA Convention

January 12, 13 & 14, 2006

Holiday Inn, Bloomington/Normal

Winter National Convention 2006

February 20 & 21 Pre-Tours

February 22-25, Winter Meeting

Radisson Plaza Hotel, Myrtle Beach

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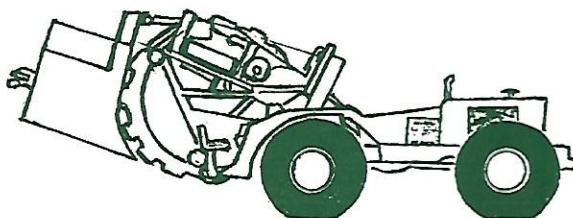
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