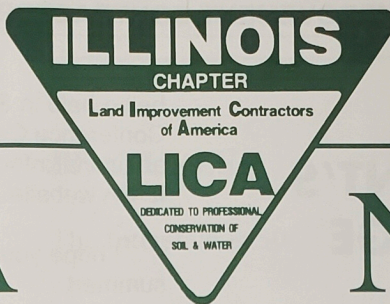




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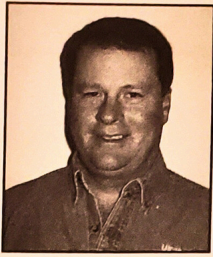
NEWS

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*2006 Summer Picnic at Lake
Springfield, a Success!*

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'd like to thank everyone for the great attendance at the May Board meeting and especially at this year's Annual Picnic and Golf Outing. Jackie and I were unable to attend this year, but have heard many great things and have seen many great pictures. We hope you all enjoyed the event. We have a busy summer coming up and have recently been given the go ahead by Richland Community College in hosting a 2006 Conservation Show at Progress City, home of the Illinois Farm Progress Show, August 29-31st. You can find some of the information in this issue of the newsletter and be sure to check the ILICA website at www.ilica.net for future updates as well as future mailings.

Also, remember to be on the look out for 2007 Convention information, January 18-20, 2007 in Moline, Illinois as well as the 2007 Annual Educational Workshop

being held in Springfield, Illinois at the Route 66 Hotel and Conference Center January 30-31, 2007. You can also find additional information on these two upcoming events on the ILICA website.

I hope you all work safely and remember to enjoy your summer!

Thanks
Joe

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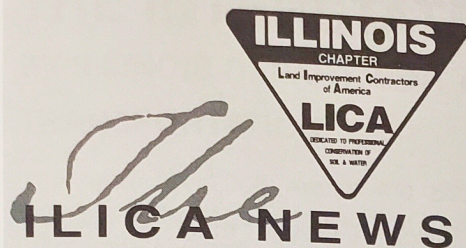
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Publisher and Managing Editor:

Melanie Schutt

ILICA, 2060 Timberbrook, Suite 3
Springfield, IL 62702

217-787-7260

Fax: 217-787-7264

Website: www.ilica.net

Email: illinoisilica@sbcglobal.net

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Welcome New Members!



by Melanie Schutt

The Illinois General Assembly wrapped up its Spring Session. The Illinois House of Representatives adjourned late leaving the final adjournment up to the Illinois Senate.

The General Assembly returns on November 1st for a perfunctory session which starts the clock for the fifteen day period that the house of origin has to override any Governor's vetoes. The General Assembly then adjourns until Tuesday, November 14th (after the election) to begin the short veto session.

The \$56 billion budget was adopted along strictly partisan lines as Republicans in both chambers were completely shut out of the budget negotiation process. The plan almost came unraveled yesterday as the four Hispanic members of the Senate withheld their support as they sought additional funding for Chicago schools and to send a message to Governor Blagojevich regarding some political meddling in the recent primary elections.

Governor Blagojevich achieved most of what he requested in his budget address, additional education funding, preschool programs and a college tuition aid program, although the latter two were significantly curtailed in the size and scope he had requested.

Funding for the new programs relies largely on under funding the state's public pension programs, further delays in reimbursing medical providers in the Medicaid plan and sweeping dedicated funds for \$200 million, including the Insurance Producer Administration Fund and the Insurance Financial Regulatory Fund. The Producer Fund was swept of \$2 million, which will result in a total of almost \$30 million during the last four Blagojevich budgets. The Financial Regulatory was swept for \$5 million. Because of the reliance on borrowing and being shut out of the budget negotiations and over \$250 million in district initiatives, not one Republican in the General Assembly voted for the budget.

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THE INTERSTATE IS 50!

BY ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

June 29, 2006 marks the 50th Anniversary of the signing of the federal legislation that created the Interstate Highway System. President Dwight D. Eisenhower's signature that day on the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 marked the end of a decades-long debate about how to develop and fund a modern national highway system and launched the largest public works project in American history.

A 1999 survey by the Fannie Mae Foundation found that historians and scholars ranked "the Interstate Highway System and the dominance of the automobile in transportation" as the "number one influence" on American cities during the last half of the 20th Century.

Indeed, the consequences of the Interstate system for the lives of both urban and rural Illinois residents have been far reaching and significant.

The Illinois Department of Transportation's commemoration of this historic anniversary focuses on three of the most profound, positive impacts of the Interstate system on the lives of Illinois residents. These Celebration Themes are:

FREEDOM: The enhanced freedom of movement.

SAFETY: The important improvements in highway safety.

PROGRESS: The increased opportunities for a higher quality of life made possible by progress and economic growth.

Today, these and other dramatic benefits brought about by the Interstate system are often taken for granted.

This website is designed to take you on a journey to understanding the Interstates' tremendous influences on our daily lives.

With over 2,000 miles of Interstate highway paved throughout the Land of Lincoln, the State of Illinois is a key transportation center within the United States for trucking and other commercial traffic flow. The Illinois Interstate system fuels economic growth as the motoring public is able to access and travel these Interstate roadways for business and pleasure.

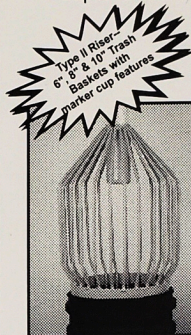
The trip will involve taking you "back to the future" to understand what pre-Interstate era travel was like in Illinois and invite you to experience it now, in-person, by exploring the many historic roads and byways that exist in modern day Illinois and are often accessible from Interstate highways.

It will also trace the path of history and highlight the impacts of the development of the Interstate system and invite you to participate in various Illinois activities and events that will mark the 50th Anniversary of our Interstate highways.

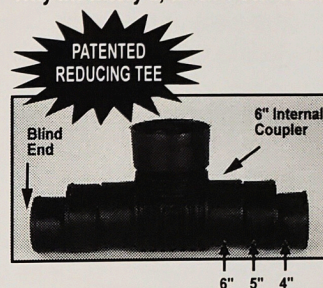
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FYI....

The 2007 Annual Educational Workshop will be held January 30-31, 2007 in Springfield, Illinois at the Route 66 Hotel and Conference Center. Reservations can be made for \$59 per night and must be done prior to January 3, 2007 at 888-707-8366. For more information regarding the facility you can check www.rt66hotel.com. Topics for the workshop will be posted on the ILICA website at www.ilica.net and in the September/October issue of the ILICA News.

TOOL BOX TALKS. . . . FROM CNA



HARD HATS

The average safety hard hat weighs about 14 ounces. The average man's head weighs 14 pounds. So there's an ounce of safety for every pound of head — provided the head protection is properly worn and maintained.

The brain is the control center of the body. The slightest damage to any part of the brain will cause malfunction of some area of the body. The skull, under normal circumstances, protects the brain. But when a possibility of injury from falling or flying objects exists, additional protection is required.

Hard hats not only reduce the chances of serious injury resulting from falling objects, but protect you when you bump your head on things — like machinery, ductwork, ceiling tie wires and forms. Non-conductive hard hats protect you from electrical shock and burns. Never wear metal hard hats around electrical work.

HOW TO CARE FOR HARD HATS

The better care you take of your hard hat, the better care it will take of you. Here are some suggestions:

1. Properly adjust suspension systems to maintain clearance between your head and the shell of the hat.
2. Don't cut holes for ventilation. Don't heat and bend.
3. Don't substitute "ap." They aren't strong enough.
4. Don't paint your hard hat.
5. Don't put anything under it except your head; this includes cigarettes or notebooks.
6. Don't wear it backwards.

SOME COMMON COMPLAINTS AND THE REAL TRUTH

We sometimes hear the following complaints about hard hats. But is there any real basis for them?

"It's too heavy." Hard hats are only a few ounces heavier than a cloth cap, but the extra protection you get is worth the extra weight.

"It's too hot." Measurements taken in hot weather show that the temperature under a hard hat is often cooler than it is outside.

"It gives me a headache." A thump on the head from something which has fallen two floors will give you a worse one. There is, however, no medical reason why a properly adjusted hard hat should cause a headache. Don't alter the suspension system or the hard hat, because you won't get the designed protection.

"It won't stay on." You're right, it won't in a high wind. A chin strap will solve this problem. Otherwise, you will find that a hard hat stays put no matter how much stooping or bending you have to do—if it's fitted properly.

"It's noisy." That's your imagination. In fact, tests show that properly worn hard hats will shield your ears from noise to some extent.

NO HELP UNLESS YOU WEAR IT

The hard hat is a useful piece of safety equipment. But like any other protective device, it must be properly adjusted and worn and kept in good condition to give you maximum protection.

Don't be a hard head — get in the hard hat habit.

USDA ANNOUNCES \$11.8 MILLION IN EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM FUNDING FOR 18 STATES

WASHINGTON, June 29, 2006 -- Agriculture Deputy Secretary Chuck Conner today announced that USDA will begin allocating \$11.8 million in Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) funding for 18 states to help producers rehabilitate land damaged by natural disasters.

"Excessive rainfall, flooding, drought and other severe weather conditions have taken a toll on our farm and ranchlands," said Conner. "These Emergency Conservation Program funds will help assist farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate and restore conservation practices on their lands."

ECP gives producers additional resources to remove debris from farmland, restore fences and conservation structures, provide water for livestock in drought situations and grade and shape farmland damaged by a natural disaster. The program is administered by USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) state and county committees. Eligible producers will receive cost-share assistance of up to 75 percent of the cost of the approved practice, as determined by FSA county committees.

Producers should check with their local FSA offices regarding ECP sign-up periods, which are established by county FSA committees. For a producer's land to be eligible, the disaster must create new conservation problems that, if untreated, would impair or endanger the land, materially affect its productive capacity, represent damage that is unusual in character, and be so costly to rehabilitate that federal assistance is required to return the land to productive agricultural use. Conservation problems existing prior to the applicable disaster are ineligible for ECP assistance.

USDA offers additional programs to help farmers and ranchers recover from damages caused by natural disasters. These programs include the Emergency Loan Program, Federal Crop Insurance and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program.

More information on ECP and other disaster assistance programs is available at local FSA offices and online at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

The 18 states will receive the following in ECP funds:	
Arkansas	\$643,000
Arizona	\$27,000
California	\$255,000
Colorado	\$413,000
Georgia	\$73,000
Hawaii	\$957,000
Illinois	\$12,000
Kentucky	\$215,000
Missouri	\$1,676,300
Nevada	\$493,000
New Hampshire	\$48,000
New Mexico	\$1,092,000
Oklahoma	\$532,000
South Dakota	\$1,963,000
Tennessee	\$2,328,800
Texas	\$570,300
Utah	\$120,000
Vermont	\$396,700
Total	\$11,815,100

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

I'd like to thank all of our Associate members who took the time to come out and support ILICA once again at our Annual Summer Picnic and Golf Outing. We had a great turnout for the picnic and for golf. This year's picnic was a success and we owe that to the continued support from our wonderful members and associates. Thanks!

Also, I'd like to let everyone know that we will be having a small Conservation Show this year, August 29, 30 and 31st at Richland Community College, home of the Illinois Farm Progress Show. Some of the details are still being worked out, but we're looking forward to another great turnout and successful show! A brief flier is located on page 7 of this issue and the office will be doing another mailing once the final details are set.

Also, just a reminder that the 50th Annual Convention is being held in Moline, Illinois at the Stoney Creek Inn January 18-20, 2007 and the Annual Educational Workshop is being held at the Route 66 Hotel and Conference Center in Springfield, Illinois January 30 and 31, 2007. You can find additional information and tentative schedules in this issue.

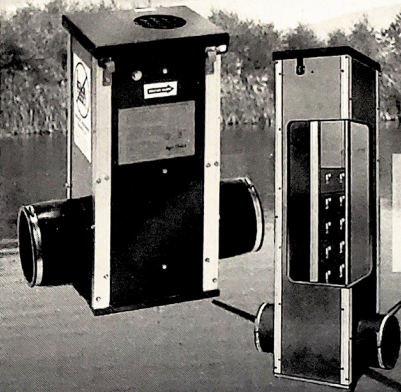
I'd like to let everyone know that the ILICA office will be open part time for a few weeks this summer. I know that a lot of the membership isn't aware that I have a baby due July 23rd. I hope you all can be patient and just know I will be checking messages and eventually forwarding the office phone to my home for a while, but most importantly, I will be checking email daily at illinoislica@sbcglobal.net

Remember to work safe and enjoy your summer!

Thanks

Melanie Schutt

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Unknowingly pass the land by.
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MORE EFFICIENCY FOR TRACTOR/SCRAPER OPERATIONS WITH NEW AUTOLOAD™ SYSTEM

MOLINE, Ill. - Operators of pull-type scrapers put in long hours moving earth and are constantly looking for ways to improve efficiency and reduce operator fatigue. John Deere offers a new solution with AutoLoad, an automatic scraper control system.

"AutoLoad was designed with the customer in mind," says Greg Laudick, division manager, marketing, John Deere Waterloo Works. "This industry-exclusive system automates the scraper's hydraulic lift functions during the loading cycle. Once activated, it automatically adjusts the scraper's cutting edge height according to draft loads of the equipment without operator intervention."

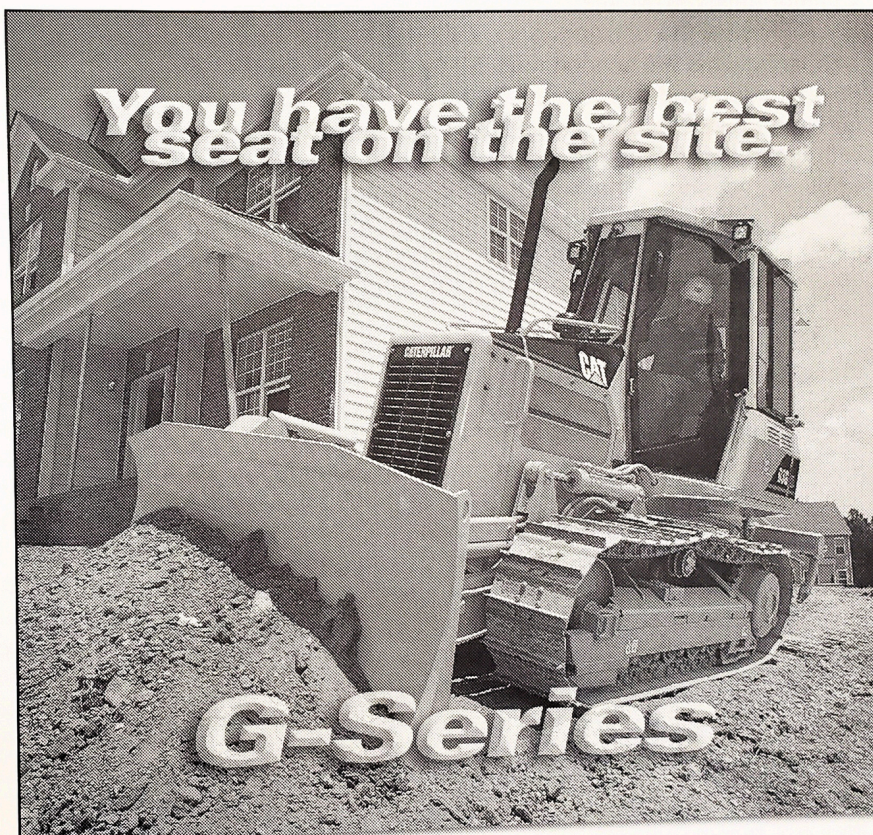
An operator engages AutoLoad at the beginning of a cut. Then the system automatically varies blade height according to draft load, wheel slippage, and soil conditions. The system is disengaged at the end of the cut through normal operation of the selective control valve (SCV) lever in the tractor. AutoLoad can also be overridden at any time for manual operation.

"The new system is compatible with John Deere 9020 Series Wheel Tractors with PowerShift Transmission (PST) and John Deere ejector and carry-all type scrapers," explains Laudick. "An operator can also easily adjust transport height and dump height with the tractor's TouchSet™ depth control system. These two heights can be customized to an operator's specific working needs. This eliminates the need to see the cutting edge of the scraper because the TouchSet control system puts it to the same level above the ground every time."

Because of the ease of operation, AutoLoad reduces training time for operators and brings them more quickly to productivity levels of the more experienced operators. The new system also reduces overall operator fatigue and ensures that the equipment is working efficiently and consistently.

"Our customers will appreciate the ease of operation with AutoLoad," says Laudick. "With the new system, the tractor and scraper are working together for consistent productivity around-the-clock in earth-moving applications."

For more information, contact your local John Deere dealer or visit our Web site at www.JohnDeere.com.



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GABBING WITH THE GALS...



WOW! This is summer with a vengeance. by the time this is published there must be relief from 90 plus heat we have been enduring. But summer is sometimes more summer than others so guess the old adage of "grin and bear it" is appropo. When the winter winds start howling then is when we will appreciate these summer days (daze), right?

Right now the uprising in the Middle East has all of us wondering what will happen next. Many people in the U of S do not understand how those things can affect us and being no expert cannot explain except to state that they do. And with the state of mind of the terrorists being what it is, the whole world shoulg be afraid of the consequences. The "powers that be" sometimes cann't do a whole lot about these situation s but we will hope and pray thaty someone somewhere can help to call a halt to the fighting. Pray is the key word for now.

Say, there is a spot of information that happened to hit the eye and it did answer a question many people have. do you know why lightning does not stike in the same place twice? Because that "place" is no longer there! makes lots of sense, doesn't it? We have had an abundance of lightning, thunder, etc., and rain, rain, rain andit has cased much havoc all over our nation as well as other countried. Seems as if once it starts it doesn't want to quit, so just goes to a new location. As much as we have had it all around this area, there was bound to be a time when it would find us. And it did cause a lot of trouble was bound to be a time when it would find us. And it did cause a lt of trouble in and around the St. Louis area with many thousands being without electricity for a long time in the 90-degree heat, just recently. Weather is something you can guess at but take some advice and don't bet on it.

Just read where recycling ne aluminum can can save an amount of energy that is equivalent to half that can filled with gasoline? And paper - my, oh my, it is apalling the amount of paper that is wasted by everyone; utility people are one f the worst, also bank statements. Many times they have an extra page with their bill on which is written nothing! Sometimes they will blame the computer but this rambler cannot believe that because a person is in control of the computer and some way that could be prevented. And have you ever noticed how many paper towels are used by people in rest rooms? It is actually a sin in my belief to be so wasteful. Paper is one thing they tell us that does not disintegrate in the landfills, also many plastic materials will never be gone. Mny landfills are getting to capacity now and it is mind-boggling to think where our great-grand-children will dispose of their overages. Some generations are not going to leave the world in very good condition. mea culpa, mea culpa!

One more item and then on to another subject. North Americans throw away enough office and writing paper each year to bulid a wll 12 feet high, stretching from Los Angeles to New York City. Also, lighting accounts for 25% of North American electricity use and if you substitute a flourescent light for a traditional bulb you can kep a half ton of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere, over the duration of the light bulb's life span. In case you hadn't noticed, they are beginning to manufacture more flourescent bulbs that fit table lamps, etc. so as customers we should be looking in to that adventure.

Did you know that 2000 mockingbirds equals 2 kilomockingbird? Do you know what Pope John Paul said after touring New York City? "We're going to need a few more commandments." And shotgun wedding is a matter of wife or death. Here's a good story: A mon was lost while drifting through the country. As he tried to read a map, he accidentally drove off the road into a ditch. Though he wasn't injured, his car was stuck deep in the mud. So the man walked to a nearby farm to ask for help. "Warwick can get you out of that ditch," said the farmer, pointing to an old

Gabbing with... (>p11)

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LOOKING AT THE BIG PICTURE – DELLA MOEN ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Due to "extraordinary efforts by America's private landowners to conserve and protect agricultural lands," Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns was able to announce on May 22, 2006, "Total soil erosion on cultivated and non-cultivated cropland in the U.S decreased 43 percent between 1982 and 2003."

According to USDA's National Resources Inventory (NRI), a statistical survey of natural resource conditions and trends on non-federal land, sheet and rill erosion dropped from 4 tons per acre per year in 1982 to 2.6 tons per acre per year in 2003. Wind erosion rates also dropped from 3.3 to 2.1 tons per acre per year. A ton of soil over an acre is equal to soil about the thickness of dime.

The Missouri and the Souris-Red-Rainy/Upper Mississippi River Basins – approximately 50 percent of our nation's cropland – experienced the most significant reductions in total erosion from 1982 to 2003. The latter basin, which includes sections of Illinois and five other states, lowered the average rate of soil erosion by 2.5 tons per year.

Soil erosion is the result of soil particles being carried off by rainfall and runoff. "During heavy rain, erosion of exposed surface soil can occur even on quite gentle slopes," explains Farm Forest Line on a webpage. "The process often follows this sequence: raindrop or splash erosion breaks the soil structure allowing smaller particles to clog soil pores and seal the surface; sheet erosion follows as the constant agitation keeps the fine soil particles in suspension allowing them to move off-site with the water; rill erosion leaves fine channels as the water concentrates into fast flowing streams that begin to gouge out the surface soils." Conservation practices interrupt the sequence beginning with the effect of the raindrop/splash.

How is this erosion measured? The Natural Resources Conservation Service uses soil loss and wind erosion equations determined using models. The equations take into consideration observable factors, such as soil type, degree and length of slope, plant cover, and management practices applied. Putting factors together gives an estimation of average annual soil loss in tons per acre caused by sheet and rill erosion. The NRI is an assessment of soil erosion, land cover and use, prime farmland soils, wetlands, habitat diversity, selected conservation practices and related resources. Data is gathered from 800,000 sample sites on non-federal land in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands and some Pacific Basin locations. For more information on the results of the cropland erosion study, visit <http://www.usda.gov/technical/NRI>. More soils information is available by visiting <http://soils.usda.gov/>

Farmers and landowners can use conservation practices to manage the risks from erosion. Vegetative

cover and conservation tillage are effective choices. Even on highly erodible land covering slopes with vegetation can control erosion. If vegetative cover is not a profitable alternative, other conservation practices can be applied. Della Moen, Earth Team Volunteer, NRCS/Stephenson Soil and Water Conservation District, an equal opportunity provider and employer, 05/24/06 (for publication on 05/30/06 in the Journal Standard, Freeport, Illinois)

Gabbing with... (<p10)

mule standing in a field. "Yep, old Warwick can do the job."

The man figured he had nothing to lose and they made their way back to the car with the mule. The farmer hitched the mule to the car and with a snap of the reins he shouted, "Pull, Fred! Pull, Jack! Pull, Ted! Pull, War Wick!" And the mule pulled the car from the ditch with very little effort. The man was amazed. He thanked the farmer, Patted the mule and asked "Why did you call out all of those other names before you called Warwick?" The farmer grinned and said, Old Warwick is just about blind. As long as he believes he is part of a team, he doesn't mind pulling." And that says a lot folks!

Here is a take on one quotation from St. Francis: "God grant me the ability to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do like, and eyesight to tell the difference." This one is for Dale Collinson: When you back goes out more than you do, you know you are no longer a kid. Since this person has been in a nd out of the hospital so much this past two years, one of the questions always aksed was "Do you have dentures?" Upon being advised that my teeth were my own they were surprised. So this one applies: Two elderly women, rivals in their social circle, met at a party. The first woman: "My dear, are those real pearls?" "They are." Replied the other. "Of course the only way I could tell would be for me to bite them," smiled the first woman. The one replied, "Yes, but for that you would need real teeth." (That's telling them isn't it!!!)

Our word for this issue is Peace. We've always been told that we have to have peace in our families first before we can seek peace elsewhere, but when you are dealing with terrorists there may be no solutions. There is a song which says, "Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me." Sometimes we have to make peace with ourselves and go from there. Good Luck! See you in the funnies

Ramblin' Rose

2007 ILICA CONVENTION TENTATIVE PROGRAM

Tuesday January 16

Pre Conference Tour/TBA

Wednesday January 17

Pre Conference Tour/TBA

Budget Committee Meeting

Registration Open

Thursday January 18

7-9 Excel set up

9-3 Exhibitor set up

8:00 - 11:30 Registration with Coffee

12:00 Lunch

1:15-3:30 **Educational Program: 10 Most Frequent Sited Violations and How to Handle a Surprise Inspection**

3:30 **Break/Coffee/Snacks**

3-6:30 **Exhibits Open**

3:30 - 4:30 Board of Directors Meeting

5:30 - 6:30 Hospitality Hour

6:30 Dinner

Welcome - Convention Chairman

7:45 Auction

9:00 pm Associates Hospitality Rooms Open

Friday January 19

7:30 Devotional Service

8:00 - 9:00 Breakfast

8:00 - 10:00 Exhibits Open

8:00 - 11:00 Registration Open

10 am **Educational Program: Lease vs Purchase or Redcross Safety Program (1st Aid/1st Responder Course)**

Associates Committee Meeting - **(Exhibit Area)**

12:00 - 1:30 Exhibits open

12:00 - 1:15 Luncheon - **(Exhibit Area)**

1:30 **General Session**

1:30 ILICA Report - Joe Streitmatter

1:45 ILICA Legislative Report, Melanie Schutt

2:00 NRCS Report

2:15 FSA Report, Illinois Farm Service Agency

2:30 IL Association of Drainage

Districts Report

2:45 AISWCD Report -

3:00 Illinois Dept. of Agriculture

3:00 - 6:00 Exhibit Time

6:15 Dinner

7:30 Awards Banquet

9:00 pm Associates Hospitality Rooms Open

Saturday January 20

7:30 Devotional Service

8:00 Breakfast

8:30 - 10:00 Registration

9:00 - 10:30 **Educational Program: IDOT Regulations or Updates: How Legal Are You?**

10:30 **Educational Program: Calculating Compensation & Benefits for Employees**

12:00-1:00 Lunch

2:00 Tour: Rock Island Arsenal Tour

2:00 **Annual Business Meeting & Election of Officers**

5:00 Hospitality Hour

6:00 Dinner and Trivia Night

8:00 Presidents Hospitality Room

LADIES PROGRAM

Thursday - January 18

Welcome Coffee and Breakfast Pastries

Workshop: TBA

Friday - January 19

7:30 Devotional Service

9:30 Board Buses

10:00 Isabell Bloom Tour and Gift Shop

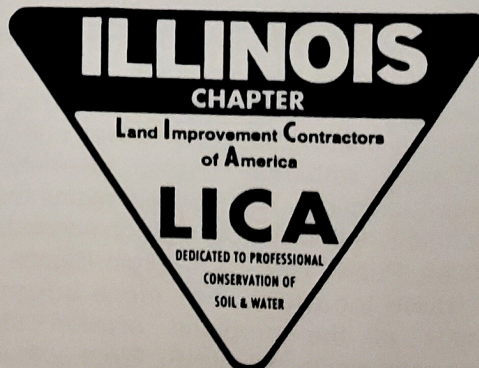
11:30 Lunch

12:30 Lavendar Crest Winery Tour and Gift Shop

2-3:00 Return to hotel

Saturday - January 20

TBA



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONSERVATION EXPO 2006 TO BE HELD IN DECATUR, IL, AUGUST 29 - 31

The Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association (ILICA) 2006 Conservation Expo will be held August 29, 30 & 31 at the home of the Illinois Farm Progress Show, Progress City located near Richland Community College in Decatur, IL. This Expo is an excellent opportunity for ILICA and other cooperators to showcase conservation and land improvement practices here in Illinois.

The Show site is located east of Forsyth, IL, in Macon County just off of highway 72 at exit 144. At the exit turn left (south) onto highway 48/22nd Street and go to Brush College Road, just south of Bob Brady Auto Mall at stoplight. Turn Left onto Brush College Rd, at the next stop light, turn left onto Mound Road, Progress City is on the right hand side.

The Conservation Expo will be open to the public with free admission Tuesday & Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. There will be food and beverages available. More details to follow on the different types of conservation practices that will be displayed. Keep on the look out for those to come!

The Illinois Conservation Expo is sponsored by Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association (ILICA), in cooperation with Richland Community College, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, Macon County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), University of Illinois Extension and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

For more information, contact Melanie Schutt, Ex. Director of ILICA, ph. 217-787-7260; Greg Florian or Cindy Laegeler, Richland Community College at 217/875-7211; or Dave Shiley, University of Illinois Extension, ph. 217/333-4901.

Source: Melanie Schutt, Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association
Phone (217) 787-7260; email illinoislica@sbcglobal.net

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Conservation Expo 2006



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August 29 - 31, 2006

Tuesday & Thursday, 9 am to 4 pm
Wednesday, 9 am to 7 pm

**Free Admission
Everyone Welcome**

Host: Richland Community College, Decatur, Illinois
Home of the Illinois Farm Progress Show

Directions to the show site from I-72 at exit 144: At the exit turn left (south) onto highway 48/22nd Street and go to Brush College Road, just south of Bob Brady Auto Mall at stoplight. Turn Left onto Brush College Rd, follow until you get to the RCC sign and turn left onto Mound Road.

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Stream bank stabilization

Diversion
Rock Chute
Bio Reactor

For More Information, Contact:

Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association, Melanie Schutt 217/787-7260
Richland Community College/Progress City, Greg Florian or Cindy Laegeler, 217/875-7211
U of I Extension, Dave Shiley, 217/333-4901

GRAZING "SUMMER SCHOOL" CAN SAVE YOUR GRASS LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS ATTENDING CAN MEET EQIP REQUIREMENT

Champaign, IL—Summer school is up and running. But for livestock producers, this might be a summer class you WANT to attend. Grazing School could help you save your grass. Several Grazing School sessions will be held across Illinois this summer. The students are livestock producers and Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) applicants. The day-long sessions are designed for grazing enthusiasts and will cover topics that can help build the skills and ideas needed to create sustainable grazing systems here in Illinois. Specialists and educators from the University of Illinois Extension and USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will provide information on a wide range of topics: forage species, forage fertility, weed control in pastures, system layout and design suggestions, grazing management, summer and winter annuals, stockpiling options, forage risks and animal disorders, meeting animal nutritional needs with forages, and economics of managed grazing. Most sessions begin at 9 am and end at 4:30 pm.

"One of the questions on the EQIP ranking sheet is whether or not you've attended 'Grazing School.' If you come out to this one-day session, it'll help fulfill your requirements. You get credit for attending the session and you'll learn a lot too," says NRCS State Resource Conservationist Richard Hungerford.

To register or receive a program flier, contact the following offices:

Monday July, 17 9:00 am – 4:30 pm
Sauk Valley Community College, Dixon IL
Lee Co. Extension Office 815-857-3525

Tuesday, July 18 9:00 am – 4:30 pm
Ed Tech Center, 335 E. Main, Galesburg, IL
Knox Co. Extension 309-342-5108

Wednesday, July 19 9:00 am – 4:30 pm
KC Hall, Rt. 24 West, Mt. Sterling, IL
Adams Co. Extension Office 217-223-8380

Tuesday, Aug. 1 9:00 am – 4:30 pm
U of I Ext. office, 402 Ava Rd. Murphysboro, IL
Jackson Co. Extension office, 618-687-1727

Wednesday, Aug. 2 9:00 am – 4:30 pm
U of I Ext. office 1404 E. Main, Salem, IL
Marion Co. Extension office, 618-548-1446

Thursday, Aug. 3 1:00 – 6:30 pm
Dixon Springs Ag Center, Hwy 145, Simpson, IL
Dixon Springs Ag Center 618-695-244

Tuesday, Aug. 22 9:00 am – 4:30 pm
Logan Co. Extension Center, Lincoln, IL
Logan Co. Extension office, 217-732-8289

Monday, Aug. 28 9:00 am – 4:30 pm
Greene Co. Ext. Building, Carrollton, IL
Greene Co. Extension office 217-942-6996

Tuesday, Aug. 29 9:00 am – 4:30 pm
Douglas-Hart Nature Ctr, 2204 Dewitt Ave. E., Mattoon, IL
Coles Co. SWCD, 217-345-3901 Ex. 3

Wednesday, Sept. 6 9:00 am – 4:30 pm
Kankakee Community College, Kankakee, IL
Kankakee Extension office, 815-933-8337

This contact list will be available on the following web sites: Illinois Forage and Grassland Council, IFGC, web site: www.illinoisforage.org; and the Illinois Beef Association website: www.illinoisbeef.com.

An early registration fee of \$15 (\$20 at the door) covers cost of the meal, refreshments and handouts. For additional information, contact your local USDA-NRCS office, or call Roger Staff, NRCS Grazing Specialist at 618-664-0555 ext. 108 or Matt Bunger, NRCS Grazing Specialist at 309-452-0830 ext. 112.



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From the ILICA Ladies.....

How to Organize Photos

Organize your photos now and you'll have more time for making photo-worthy memories.

The Photo Challenge

You've conquered desk disarray, shoe-closet stampedes, and kids' clutter. You're well on the way to a full year of succeeding in that New Year's resolution to get organized!

Next stop: those drawers stuffed with photo-center envelopes, loose negatives, and stuck-together prints of people you can't identify.

It never fails: You develop a roll of film, flip through the photos a couple of times, and toss them aside, intending to sort them in the future.

Later, when you're on the hunt for a particular snapshot, you paw through overwhelming stacks of photos littered throughout the house or shoved into desk drawers, but the image you're searching for seems to have disappeared.

The next time you pick up your developed film, spend an evening sorting the photos right away. Make it a family event -- share laughs and reminisce about that shot of the dog eating your son's birthday cake -- and you'll be on the right track for keeping those precious memories safe, organized, and easily accessible.

Sorting Tips

Invest in a large set of matching photo albums and photo boxes. This will make it easy to organize your photos over the years. (Visit www.exposuresonline.com for options.)

Go over photos when you first receive them.

While you sort, record an identifying description, such as the date or who's in the photo, on the back of each photo.

Write on photo paper with a light touch, and make certain you use an acid-free, photo-safe pencil or pen (available at art-supply and crafts stores).

Don't keep bad exposures, blurry shots, or bloopers you won't look at again. Throw away any photos you'd rather not remember.

Nab your favorites to put in an album or frame right away; pick out images to give to friends.

Make a list of any reprints or enlargements you need and take it to the photo store next time you're out and about.

Boxing Options

Box It Up

You can use specially made photo boxes to create a filing system. Transfer prints from the photo-center packets to less bulky acid-free envelopes.

Clearly label each envelope with dates and any other identifying description -- Road trip to Yellowstone or Christmas 2004, for instance. Then separate the envelopes into specific categories for storage.

Label tabbed dividers to further organize into subcategories, perhaps by year or family member.

The key is to create categories that will fit all of your photos and that you'll remember when the time comes to search out that certain shot.

Memory Reminders

Albums or binders with acid-free plastic sleeves are great systems for organizing your photos. Identify shots by leaving a blank pocket in front of each new set of photos.

Slip a little labeling card in the pocket -- something to remind you and other viewers that these are moments from your second honeymoon in Hawaii or your niece's graduation party.

Slide the corresponding negatives into acid-free plastic negative sheets and keep in the back of the album or in a separate binder.

Supply Corral

For easy access, keep all of your photo supplies near your albums and storage boxes.

If you use the family room bookshelves, for example, designate a shelf in the cabinet below to keep film, extra albums, scrapbooking materials, even camera equipment.

Use labeled plastic storage tubs and baskets to keep clutter contained.

Think Outside the Box

Line a drawer of a desk, bureau, or flat file with acid-free, archival-quality cardboard for storing envelopes of photos and negatives just as you would in a photo box. A piano bench or chest also makes a handy storage unit.

Tips to Protect Photos

Handle with Care

To protect your precious photos, keep these points in mind:

Temperature, humidity, and light affect photos. Stash stored photos and photo albums away from sunlight in a cool, dry area.

Hang framed photos on a wall that won't get the direct sunlight that fades photos quickly. Or use blinds and draperies to control the light.

Avoid storing photos in basements or attics, where temperatures and humidity fluctuate.

Oils on your fingers degrade photos and negatives, so handle them by the edges only. For additional protection, wear clean white cotton gloves.

Paper clips, rubber bands, glue, and tape shouldn't come in contact with photos, unless specifically designed as safe for photos.

Plastic pages, bags, and boxes that aren't acid-free may release harmful vapors that permanently damage photos. These plastic products are considered safe: Polypropylene, Polyethylene, Mylar, Tyvek, and Cellulose Triacetate. Before you buy, check labels on photo boxes, mats, and albums to make sure they're acid-free and photo safe.

Always frame photos using acid-free matting materials.

2006 ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC AND GOLF OUTING A HUGE SUCCESS!

This year's picnic and golf outing was hosted in Springfield Illinois by our active members in Pawnee Illinois, David and Deb Maltby. We'd like to thank them for their great hospitality and wonderful turnout for this year's event. We had 48 attend the picnic and had 17 golfers!

We'd like to congratulate Cindy Baker of Springfield Plastics for winning the prize for longest drive; Kyle Dean, Dean Drainage, for closest to pin and Susan Lafollete, D & L Drainage, for longest putt. Best team score went to Mark and Kate Baker of Springfield Plastics, teaming up with Brent Breedlove and Matt Garlisch of Forrest Davis Construction. A great time was had by all of the golfers and they were able to get their 9 holes in before the rains came.

A special thanks to all of our event sponsors: Heiser Insurance Agency and Continental Western Group for sponsoring our picnic lunch; dessert was sponsored by Agri Drain Corp.; Longest Putt by Precision Intakes, Best Team Score, Springfield Plastics, Inc.; and hole sponsorship by Advanced Drainage Systems.



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Everyone getting ready to eat!



Brian Brooks getting ready to tee off!



Enjoying the Lake View!



ILICA Ladies having a chat!

ILICA COMMITTEES – 2006

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Chad Nickelson/Eastern IL Clay
Ben Bobell/ADS
Kane Kausemaker/ADS

Auditing

Steve Anderson, Chair
Ron Masching

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Rose Day
Ralph & Norma Habbe
Bill & Bev Dean

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Joe Streitmatter
Wayne Litwiller
Forrest Davis
Steve Anderson

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Bill Doubet

Certification

Dave Hurst, Chair
Stan Seevers
Ron Masching
Forrest Davis
Wayne Litwiller
Kent Mitchell, U of I

Convention

David & Marsha Haag, Chair
Greg & Jennifer Furkin
Bill & Bev Dean
David & Deb Maltby

Devotions

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Forrest & Jean Davis
Norm & Coretha Rozendaal

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Janet Doubet
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Norm Kocher, Co-Chair
Bill Dean
Mark Baker
Gerald Hoogstraat
Carol Kiley

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Stan Seevers
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On-Site Waste

Wayne Litwiller, Chair
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Jason Winings
Jon Seevers
John McCoy

Picnic

David & Deborah Maltby

Publicity

Bill Masching, Chair
Mark Baker
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Bev Dean

Show

Bill Doubet, Co-Chair
Joe Streitmatter, Co-Chair
Brian Brooks
Wayne Litwiller
Bill Dean
Scott Thompson
Joe Krupps
Forrest Davis

Safety

Stan Seevers, Chair
Jason Winings
Bill Dean
Dave Kennedy
John McCoy
Dave Hurst

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.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

National LICA Events...

Summer Convention

July 18-22, 2006

Newark, New Jersey hosted by NJ LICA

2006 Conservation Expo

August 29-31, 2006

Progress City/Richland Community College
Decatur, IL

Board Meeting

September 9, 2006

Maverick Family Steakhouse/Buffer
Springfield, IL

Board Meeting

November 4, 2006

Maverick Family Steakhouse/Buffer
Springfield, IL

2007 50th Annual ILICA Convention

January 18-20, 2007

Stoney Creek Inn
Moline, IL

2007 Annual ILICA Workshop

January 30-31, 2007

Route 66 Hotel and Conference Center
Springfield, IL

Winter Convention 2007

February 12-17, 2007

The Radisson Worldgate Resort
Orlando, Florida at the entrance to
Walt Disney World...

Web
RCC
Board mtg



Application For AFFILIATE Membership

Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association



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_____ 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: _____



Application For ASSOCIATE 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 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.

Individual Name: _____

Firm Name: _____

Address: _____

County: _____ ILICA Area Number: _____

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

FRAMING AGRICULTURE'S FUTURE: IFB AG SUMMIT 2006

Illinois agricultural leaders will learn the latest regarding domestic and international trends impacting future ag markets and industry competitiveness at the Illinois Farm Bureau Agricultural Leadership Summit, to be held Tuesday, August 8, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield.

"IFB's 2004 Summit served as an important first step in what became a successful dialogue towards developing appropriate domestic farm program concepts," said IFB President Philip Nelson. "The goal of this year's Summit is to further inform that process and consider other issues and trends demanding appropriate public policy, program, and educational responses," he said.

The 2007 Farm Bill and the ongoing agricultural trade discussions under the WTO will be central items of discussion at this year's Ag Summit.

- Confirmed speakers include:
- Chuck Conner, USDA Deputy Secretary;
- Bob Lane, Chairman and CEO, Deere & Company;
- Bill Hoagland, Director of Budget and Approps, Senate Budget Committee;
- Bob Young, Chief Economist, AFBF
- Bruce Babcock, Center for Ag & Rural Development, Iowa State University;
- David Freshwater, Director of Grad. Studies for Ag Econ., University of Kentucky;
- Bob Thompson, Gardner Chair in Ag Policy, University of Illinois.

Invited speakers include:

- Bob Goodlatte, House Agriculture Committee Chairman.

The summit begins Monday evening, August 7th, with a kickoff reception and a speech by Jim Grueff, former assistant deputy administrator of USDA's Foreign Agriculture Service.

On Tuesday, August 8th, the summit will start with registration at 8:00 a.m., followed by opening remarks at 8:45 a.m. Cost to attend is \$25/person which includes the August 7th reception, breakfast and lunch on August 8th. Pre-registration is encouraged through your local county Farm Bureau or online

For those attending both the Ag Summit and the Commodities Conference on August 7th, registration will be \$50 – a savings of \$10.

Online registration is currently at www.ilfb.org. Just click on the "Summer Conference Series" icon located on the website's home page.

To reserve your room, please call the hotel at 217/529-7777 and indicate that you are attending the Illinois Farm Bureau event. After July 16, room availability will be "space available" only.

For additional information, visit www.ilfb.org or contact Tamara White at 309/557-3112.

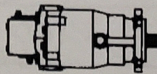
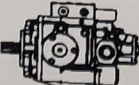
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I, _____, hereby apply for active membership in the ILLINOIS LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION INC. (ILICA) and enclosed \$_____ as my annual membership dues for the year _____. One dollar (\$1.00) of this amount is for the subscription to the "Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association Newsletter" for one year.

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(One Hundred Twenty Five Dollars (\$125.00) of the dues of each active member is paid to the Land Improvement Contractors of America (LICA) as National dues.)

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| ☐ EXG-Excavation or Grading | ☐ OSW-On Site Waste Treatment | ☐ EC-Erosion Control | ☐ ODW-Open Ditch Leveling |
| ☐ SWU-Sewer or Water or Underground Utilities | ☐ PD-Ponds or Dams | ☐ SA-Dealer, Service Co., Government Agency, Consultant, Insurance Agency | ☐ LS-Landscaping |

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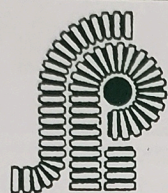


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Land Improvement Contractors of America is the largest organization specifically serving the national and local needs of professional land improvement contractors.

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- Water Treatment
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- Drainage Systems
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- Grading
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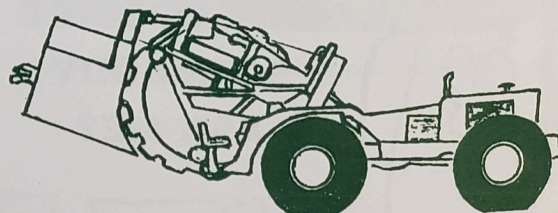
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