



Illinois
Land Improvement
Contractors Association

NEWSLETTER

May/June 2002

No. 2

QUAD CITIES

LICA's 51ST SUMMER CONVENTION & TRADE SHOW

July 17-20
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INFORMATION INSIDE



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by Dwight Dunbar,
Consultant to ILICA

Today - April 16th - a sort of Budget agreement the Legislative leadership hammered out was presented to the 4 Legislative caucuses about noon. This first version is the "no new taxes" one that slices deeply into the Governor's proposed budget with no one or nothing spared some kind of hit. The saving amounts to \$1.2 billion - which is one estimate of the deficit's size.

However the hit to Education is between \$600 and 700 million another \$100 million from corrections. Even the Department of agriculture got an additional \$15 million hit.

This exercise may best be characterized as "shock therapy," that will have a lot of people screaming. I'm guessing that no one will want to vote for a proposal like this, even the Governor has vowed to veto anything along these lines should the General Assembly send it to him. Revenue enhancements look better and better the worse things get. The increases in "sin taxes" can't fill the deficit hole completely even adding in a reinstated "death tax" there still won't be enough new revenue.

That says to me, loud and clear, we should seek a more certain source to enhance State revenues. A surcharge of one half of one percent (0.005%) on income taxes yield about \$1.4 billion. Implementing such a proposal now would get the revenues flowing by the end of this fiscal year. It almost magic!

Are there other options? Yes, but they're as disagreeable as the ideas floated out today.

Hundreds of Bills Die

The House has 31 Senate Bills on its Calendar today and probably another 60 posted for Committee Hearings this week, with the Committee deadline for House Committee to act on Senate Bills coming-up April 18th.

In the Senate probably 100 House Bills are posted to Committee this week, with Committee deadline for Senate Committees to act on them being April 25th. The Senate has only advanced 6 or so House Bill to full Senate consideration. By the time you are reading this things will be close to wrapped-up for Spring Session and we'll know what's what!

Senator Mahar's bill to delay implementation of last year's changes to the JULIE law proved to controversial for advancing this session so it remained in Rules Committee.

Speaker Madigan's "shell bill" to create licensing for Crane operators got a new Sponsor and some substance following the Easter Break. The language was so general that any "hoisting of materials" could have been defined as operating a Crane. It also apparently became too controversial for advancing this session and was not called in Committee so it is technically dead this session. Speaker Madigan handed this bill HB4468 off to Representative Joel Brunsvold, (D-Milan).

IDPH Rulemaking

The septic licensing regulations the Agency has been so "hell bent" to revise apparently got new life. The word is that proposed rulemaking was to be published in the Illinois Register last week - April 12, 2002. Typical of these processes they hit at a busy time for those most affected so not many of you will have the time to review them let alone comment on them. We'll try to keep you advised of developments as they occur.

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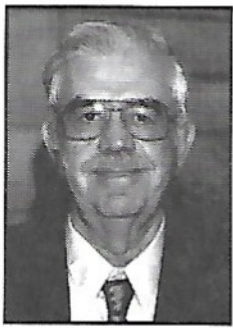
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we start our spring work, I hope all of our contractors are busy.

Please put on your calendar the dates for the ILICA Annual Picnic and Golf Outing — June 23 in Mattoon at the Meadowview Golf Course. Golf Pro's and novices alike are invited to play. Last year we had players who had never golfed before and everyone had a great time!! We're still working on our state certification program. The committee will meet at the picnic to report on their progress.

The LICA Summer Meeting will be in Moline at the Radisson on John Deere Commons this year. Lots of activities and educational sessions are planned. If you have never had the opportunity to attend a National Meeting, here's your chance. Illinois is one of the host states so I'd like to see good representation from ILICA members.

This is a busy time for all of us — remember to WORK SAFE!

Forrest Davis
President



NEW MEMBERS

ACTIVE

John E. McCoy — Area 4
McCoy & Sons Excavating & Tiling Co.
2022 N. 18th Road
Streator, IL 61364
815-249-5008

Todd Soukup — Area 2
Applied Land Analysis, Inc.
P.O. Box 651
Plainfield, IL 60544
815-439-6774

ASSOCIATE

Central Hydraulics, Inc. — Area 3
Chris Porzelius
513 State Rte. 251
El Paso, IL 61738
1-800-694-9376

— CONTRACTOR MEMBERS —

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they do a lot for
our association.

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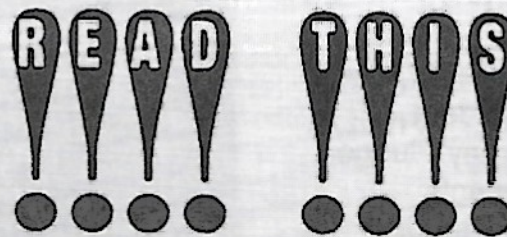
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ILICA BOARD MEETING WILL
BE HELD AT THE
HERITAGE HOUSE
RESTAURANT
3851 S. 6TH STREET
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
MAY 11, 2002

COMMITTEE MEETINGS
10:00 AM — Education
11:00 AM — Convention
1:00 PM — Certification
2:00 PM — Membership

Upcoming Meetings



ILICA BOARD MEETINGS

May 11, 2002
June 22, 2002
September 7, 2002
November 2, 2002

2003 Annual Convention
January 16-18, 2003
Holiday Inn Brandywine, Peoria

LICA MEETINGS

July 16-20, 2002
Radisson Hotel
Moline, Illinois
February 17-22, 2003
Oklahoma/Tulsa, Oklahoma
July 15-19, 2003
Buffalo, New York

ILLINOIS MEMBERS ATTEND BIRMINGHAM CONVENTION

Over 300 LICA Members, associates and their families attended the LICA Winter Meeting in Birmingham, Alabama. Educational Sessions were held, Committee and Business Meetings were well attended and everyone had an all around great time. The state of Illinois was again honored—We received an Award of Excellence *“In Recognition of Outstanding Achievement by a State Chapter”*. Congratulations to all members for making our chapter one to be proud of!!

Some of the Highlights of the Meeting are as follow:

- The Board of Directors voted to go to Lexington, Kentucky for 2004 Winter Convention.
- There was a new committee formed to review and implement the NRCS Contractor Certification Program.
- The Board approved a new membership class. It's called a "Supporting Association Membership". This is for other organizations of which we have a common goal.
- The convention agenda for the 2003 Oklahoma City Convention will be restructured to a day-by-day selection format, making it more cost efficient for members to pick and choose what part of the convention they would like to attend.
- The summer meeting in Moline this July, will hold a trade show instead of pre-tours. Remember Illinois is one of the hosting states for this meeting so we'd like to see a good turn out of Illinois Members.
- The LICA Five Year Strategic Plan was developed
(See the National Newsletter for further information on Committee and Board Meeting Reports)

LICA RAFFLE WINNERS

- Grand Prize** - John Deere 35ZTS Mini Excavator
Tom Dungan, Clifton, VA
- 2nd Prize** - John Deere Gator
John Stanford, Leesburg, VA
- 3rd Prize** - Sprecra Precision Laser
Anita Pfauth, Lebanon, NJ
- 4th Prize** - Lap Top Computer from Agri-Drain
Scott Pruss, Dodge, NE

AWARD WINNERS

Top State
Nebraska

Contractor of the Year
David Cantrell, North Carolina

Contractor Wife of the Year
Nordis Estrem, Minnesota

Hancor On-Site Waste Award
John Hack II, Indiana

Hall of Fame
Len Bestgen, Missouri
L. D. Thousand, Indiana



Illinois attendees at LICA meeting.



Region IV Vice President Barney Flueger presents "Outstanding Achievement" award to JoAnn Huff, Executive Director & Forrest Davis, President.



Dan Day presents outgoing LICA President Don Loken with portrait.

LIFE INSURANCE

A Reminder:

If any Active Contractor Member would like to increase their \$5,000 Life Insurance Policy or add wife/employees — You will need to contact National LICA direct, as your State Chapter does not handle this.

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LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTOR OF AMERICA STRATEGIC PLANNING

The following is the LICA five-year DRAFT Strategic Plan developed at the LICA 2002 Annual Convention held in Birmingham, Alabama. All members were given an opportunity to provide input to the plan through a questionnaire provided to all members with the December 2001 LICA Newsletter. Fifty-six LICA members participated in the planning session held on February 21, 2002, in Alabama.

Goal I Develop better working relationships with government agencies.

- Action 1. Host agency meetings for the exchange of information (local, state, and federal levels)
- Action 2. Send newsletters to target groups
- Action 3. Utilize e-mail for improved communications (Kent Mitchell to agencies)
- Action 4. Prepare and share with members a brief synopsis of Legislation that pertains to LICA
- Action 5. Engage in lobbying, personal visits, letter writing, phone calls, and e-mails.

Goal II Promote and develop contractor certification through educational programs.

- Action 1. Form a national certification committee
- Action 2. Create a standard certificate form
- Action 3. Inform LICA members about existing NRCS letter of competency

Goal III Target contractors in all areas of land improvements as members.

- Action 1. Trade shows
- Action 2. Membership drive
- Action 3. Publicity campaigns
- Action 4. Network with other trade associations
- Action 5. Educational workshops
- Action 6. Local interest meetings
- Action 7. Additional member benefits

Goal IV Position Land Improvement Contractors of America in the public perception as a professional land and water conservation organization.

- Action 1. Utilize advertising

Goal V Provide educational opportunities that help contractors diversify and learn new construction techniques.

- Action 1. Provide seminars, field days and demonstrations that focus on practical application.
- Action 2. Utilize resource speakers/demonstrators from:
 - university/research/extension
 - associate business members
 - contractors using the techniques
 - architects, engineers, and other
- Action 3. Assign LICA members to identify opportunities and evaluate tangible results through workings of education, new technology, and associates advisory committees.

Note: This goal will be seen as accomplished if 50 to 70 different, diversified construction techniques are presented to LICA members via seminars, field days and/or demonstrations by 2007.

Goal VI Develop leadership to market and promote LICA to contractors and the public.

- Action 1. Teach public speaking (a type of LICA toastmasters)
- Action 2. Leadership training/development
- Action 3. Learn and be aware of other contractor needs through surveys/questionnaires.

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ON A POSITIVE NOTE

On a positive note, I've learned that no matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life goes on and it will be better tomorrow.

I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he/she handles three things: a rainy day, lost luggage and tangled Christmas tree lights.

I've learned that regardless of your relationship with your parents, you'll miss them when they're gone from your life.

I've learned that making a "living" is not the same thing as making a "life". I've learned that life sometimes gives you a second chance. I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mit on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back.

I've learned that if you pursue happiness, it will elude you. But if you focus on your family, your friends, the needs of others, your work and doing the best you can, happiness will find you.

I've learned that whenever I decide something with an open heart, I usually make the right decision. I've learned that when I have pains, I don't need to be one. I've learned that every day you should reach out and touch someone. People love that human touch, holding hands, a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back.

I've learned that I still have a lot to learn.

People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but, people will never forget how you made them feel.

Copied from the Wyoming LICA Newsletter

NEW WETLANDS RULES

Under new rules issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, developers no longer will be required to restore or create new wetlands for every acre they drain or fill. The rules, which revoke some Clinton administration requirements, also will enable developers to get quick government approval for draining and filling permits under the Clean Water Act if the impact on streams or marshes is minimal.

EPA WATERSHED INITIATIVE

President Bush's 2003 budget includes \$21 million for new Environmental Protection Agency grants initiative to protect watersheds across the country. The effort targets up to 20 of the United States most highly valued watersheds.

EPA will work cooperatively with state governors, tribes, and other interested parties on the initiative, which will support local communities in their efforts to expand and improve existing protection measures.

OWLS NOT ENDANGERED?

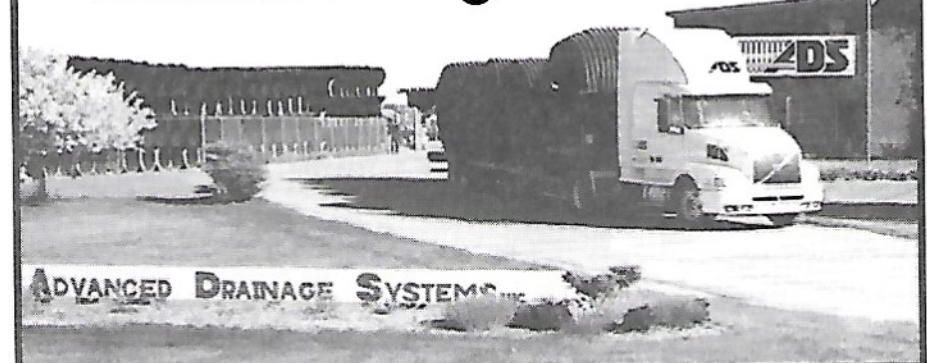
A coalition of timber groups argue that federal government has failed to follow the Endangered Species Act requirement to review the status of threatened animals every five years and that new evidence indicates the birds are not as rare as formerly believed. The petition states "scientists have produced a materially different picture of the status of the northern spotted owl population than what federal officials relied on in extending legal protection to the birds in 1990." Secretary Norton has 60 days to answer the petition. If she fails to do so, or if the timber group is dissatisfied with her response, it can legally file suit against the government. Removing the owls' protection may not be a long shot, either, since a California judge recently lifted critical habitat protection for two species in response to pressure from the Bush administration.

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A DEPRESSION is when you lose your job.

PANIC is when your wife loses her job.

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LICA Goes to Washington DC

Once again, LICA Chapters have sent delegates to Washington D.C. there were several Legislative Issues which LICA wanted addressed. These issues impact all of us. LICA's voice was heard on March 18-20th when Illinois LICA member Steve Anderson visited State Representatives and Senators letting them know how LICA stands concerning various bills up before the legislature. Of particular interest to LICA were the following:

1. Small Watershed Protection PL 566
Flood Prevention PL 534
 - a. Seek appropriation of funds in the amount of \$170 million
 - b. Watershed surveys and planning \$20 million
 - c. Small watershed rehabilitation \$25 million
 - d. Emergency watershed protection \$20 million
2. Increase conservation Operations appropriations from \$753 million to \$1 billion
 - a. Increase EQIP appropriations from \$200 million to \$1 billion
3. Death (or Estate) Tax elimination
Permanent
4. Oppose CARA
Oppose son of CARA - two programs which are basically giving government power and money to buy land, land and more land
5. Oppose Ergonomics rules by OSHA in any form
6. Support more ethanol and bio-diesel use for more energy efficiency, use American produced products, and reduce pollution

If anyone would like to volunteer to represent the chapter next year in Washington D.C., please contact the legislative committee or the ILCIA office. This is important and we need active participation! (Thanks again Steve for representing ILCIA)

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Construction & Agricultural Machine Control Systems

Wayne Maresch, LICA Executive Vice President

Thank you for taking the time to make NRCS a stop for your visiting LICA members during their recent working visit to Washington, DC. The discussions provided valuable information to NRCS concerning the issues that are important to the LICA contractors. We are aware that it takes all of us to plan, design, and install quality conservation practices on the ground.

At this meeting, several contractors indicated a desire to obtain and use NRCS engineering documents to assist them in the design and installation of conservation practices. As stated at the meeting, many of these documents are currently out of print. However, they have been scanned into electronic files and can be viewed and downloaded from the Internet. The following is a temporary site where the documents can be located: <ftp://ftp.nhq.nrcs.usda.gov/pub/outgoing/jbernard/CED-Directives/>

Within the next month, a public site will be available that will house most of the NRCS engineering documents. When this site is active, I will let you know.

Again, thanks for taking your valuable time to stop by NRCS during your recent visit.

Bill

William Hughey
National Agricultural Engineer
P.O. Box 2890 Washington7 DC 20013
Phone and Voicemail: 202-720-5023
Fax: 202-720-0428

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BE AWARE OF FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION RULE CHANGES

Federal transportation regulations will change some requirements related to vehicular markings in July.

Every self-propelled commercial motor vehicle regulated by federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations must meet marking requirements.

Farm trucks operated only within Illinois (intrastate) are generally not required to have the name of the owner-carrier displayed on the truck, said Kevin Rund, Illinois Farm Bureau director of local government.

For interstate (multiple state) carrier vehicles, the following rules currently apply:

Any vehicle over 10,000 pounds used in interstate commerce is required to have identifying markings of U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) identification number and name.

If a private carrier - which would include most farmers - uses the vehicle, then the truck must display the USDOT

number and the legal name or single trade name of the motor carrier and its base city and state.

This requirement in various forms has been in existence for years, Rund said.

What has changed is that now the name displayed on the truck must be identical to the name used on the Motor Carrier Identification Report (form MCS-150).

Also that report will now have to be resubmitted every two years. In the past, it had been a one-time-only application.

If a for-hire carrier uses the vehicle, then it must display the Interstate Commerce Commission Motor Carrier (ICCMC) number.

As of July 3, trucks displaying the ICCMC number also will have to display the USDOT number. This won't affect too many farmers, Rund said.

If a vehicle was added to a fleet after July 3, 2000, the owner has until July 5, 2005, to have it marked with the legal name or single trade name.

The state's marking requirement for intrastate private carriers has not

changed, Rund added.

*Kay Shipman, Farmweek
April 1, 2002*



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ILLINOIS LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION INVITES YOU TO JOIN US JUNE 24TH FOR THE ANNUAL ILICA PICNIC, BOARD MEETING AND GOLF OUTING AT MEADOWVIEW GOLF COURSE, 6489 MEADOWVIEW LANE, MATTOON.

TEE TIME IS SET FOR 9:00 A.M. FEES ARE \$17 FOR NINE HOLES & CART.

A PICNIC MEAL WILL BE SERVED AT 12:30 AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING WILL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW AT 1:00.P.M.

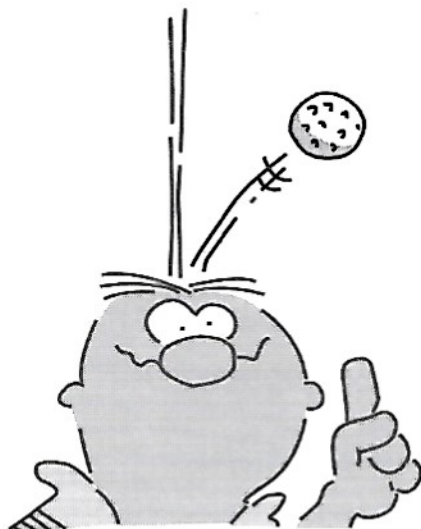


DIRECTIONS TO MEADOWVIEW GOLF COURSE

From I-57 South take exit 184, go to stop sign (intersection hwy 45/121) go south to first left county road 250N. Go 1.5 miles east to stop. Turn left go north .5 mile, course on left.

From I-57 north take exit 184 go to stop, turn left or south on hwy 45/121, go to first left, county road 250 N, go 1.5 miles east to stop, turn left go north .5 mile and course is on the left.

From Decatur, Springfield area - Take hwy 45/121 to Mattoon, follow signs through town to Lakeland College, take first left past Lakeland 250N road follow signs east to stop. Turn left, go north .5 mile and course is on the left.



CLIP & MAIL

ILICA SUMMER PICNIC & BOARD MEETING

YES, WE WILL ATTEND THE ILICA BOARD MEETING & DINNER ON JUNE 24, 2002 AT MEADOWVIEW GOLF COURSE IN MATTOON. PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING:



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3. _____ 4. _____

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PLEASE SEND IN RESERVATIONS BEFORE JUNE 15,2002

More Signs of The Times

On a fence:

"Salesmen welcome! Dog food is expensive."

At a car dealership:

"The best way to get back on your feet - miss a car payment."

Outside a muffler shop:

"No appointment necessary. We hear you coming."

In a veterinarian's waiting room:

"Be back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!"

At the electric company:

"We would be de-lighted if you send in your bill. However, if you don't, you will be."

In a restaurant window:

"Don't stand there and be hungry. Come on in and get fed up."

In the front yard of a funeral home:

"Drive carefully. We'll wait"

At a propane filling station:

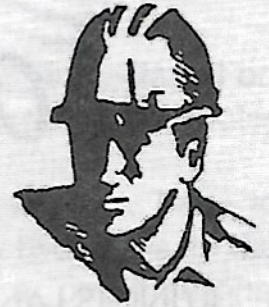
"Tank heaven for little grills."

And don't forget the sign at a Chicago radiator shop:

"Best place in town to take a leak"

TOOL BOX TALKS

FROM CNA



LAW AND CONDITION DICTATE TOP SPEED

Your job as a driver is moving from one place to another as rapidly and efficiently as possible with due regard for safety...your own safety, safety of the vehicle and cargo, and, above all, the safety of the public - any persons who may be using the same public ways.

Although the term, "as rapidly as possible" denotes speed, the word "efficiently" must suggest caution. A trip cannot be efficient if it is not safe.

To an immature driver, the word, "speed," might mean, "give'er all it's got!" But let's hope we have no such drivers. If you're not all skillful and experienced operators who always use sound judgment about what speed is proper for all situations and under any and all conditions, we face a tough job of coaching and retraining - or weeding out.

You might say speed for driving a motor vehicle of any kind is a relative term. Top speed on the open highway (for good drivers) does not mean the fastest possible with a powerful engine that responds so readily to your gas pedal.

Let's repeat that top speed is variable, always a matter for sound judgment. On a good, dry open highway, top speed must never be faster than the law allows - the posted speed limit. If it starts to rain on that beautiful pavement, top speed must be much slower than the posted limit. If a fog rolls in, top speed may seem little more than a crawl - or must be reduced even to zero!

There are many reasons for a driver to decide that reducing speed is smart, aside from weather conditions. The traffic thickens so there is a problem maintaining safe following distance with our dropping back...an irresponsible driver is trying to gain time by weaving in and out of traffic lanes...up ahead there is a farm truck barreling along a side road that intersects the highway...on a superhighway, drivers start cutting across lanes to reach an exit, or on a city street there may be children at playing close to the roadway...and many other reasons.

Proper speed is a matter of judgment. The driver who does not quickly learn to choose the proper speed limit in any situation may not be driving very long.

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2002 ILICA WORKSHOP HELD

More than 75 ILICA Contractors attended the 2002 ILICA Contractor Workshop held at the Stoney Creek Inn, Peoria, Illinois on February 5-6-7, 2002. Topics included: IDOT Contractor Qualifications, Bidding Jobs, Surveying-Fundamentals & Checking Instruments, Computing Quantities-Earth Fills, Excavating & Graded Sites, Surveying-Differential Leveling, Profile & Cross Section Leveling, Drainage Systems Designs, Mapping, Basic Drainage Principles, Regulations-Used Oil & Disposal of Tires, Computer Assisted Drainage Designs, Conservation Practices Design & Installation-Streambank Protection & Detention Basins, Checkout of Conservation Practices-Waterways & Basins and Safety. **WATCH YOUR NEWSLETTER FOR INFORMATION ON UPCOMING WORKSHOPS!!**



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STATE, DEERE PARTNER TO TEST ETHANOL-BLEND DIESEL FUEL

A new partnership between the State of Illinois and Moline-based Deere and Company promises to further research into the future use of ethanol-blended diesel fuels.

The two-year test project, being funded through a \$500,000 grant through DCCA's Alternative Energy Research, Development and Demonstration Program, will demonstrate the use of "E-Diesel" fuels in industrial diesel engines manufactured by Deere. Tests will involve laboratory research, emission testing, field trials and demonstrations throughout the country using Deere's 4.5-liter, 8.1-liter, and 12-liter diesel engines, which are used to power off-highway Deere equipment ranging from skid steers, to tractors and combines.

"This is our most extensive ethanol project to date," said DCCA Director Pam McDonough. "John Deere is one of the most respected names in agriculture, and we are proud to work with the company to test and demonstrate the use of E-Diesel in several product lines. The testing done now will have long-term benefits for Illinois agriculture and the environment."

The partnership was announced at the 2002 Commodity Classic in Nashville, sponsored by the National Corn Growers Association and the American Soybean Association.

THE BIG SEVEN: RETIREMENT PLANNING ERRORS

Some errors are more costly than others. With retirement planning, one or two mistakes could cause painful changes in your retirement plans. Here are some common mistakes:

1. Not considering long-term care needs. About half of us will spend time in a nursing home. While the average annual cost of long-term care insurance is \$1,700, it will protect your other assets and provide for adequate care should the need arise.

2. Failing to consider the effects of inflation and taxes. Many retirees find that they are still in a high tax bracket after they retire. And inflation could rob them of their purchasing power.

3. Not saving enough in the years immediately before retirement. An all-out effort leading up to the final day of work can make a big difference in the size of your nest egg. Some people save a third of the final total in the last five years before retiring.

4. Making big loans to family and friends. These loans

have a way of becoming gifts (not always, but often).

5. Overestimating how much you can withdraw from savings. Most advisors are comfortable with 3 to 5 percent, though some approve of 7 or 8 percent in the early retirement years when you are most active.

6. Underestimating life expectancy. Most planners now use 90 or 95 years as a longevity figure.

7. Making risky investments. If 7 or 8 percent fills your need, don't try for 17 or 18 percent.

PRINSCO OFFERS USED EQUIPMENT CLASSIFIEDS TO CONTRACTORS ONLINE

The *Used Equipment Classifieds*, Prinsco Inc.'s newest web site feature is designed to help contractors sell their used equipment or enable them to find the equipment they're looking for. "This newest web site option was created because of numerous customers asking if we knew where they could find used equipment," said Larry Groen, General Manager of Prinsco, Inc.

Keeping equipment updated - selling the old or purchasing new or used is always a challenge for business owners. They're talking about it with their crews, other contractors, and their sales associates.

"Prinsco is always looking for ways to help contractors solve problems," said Kent Rodelius, a regional sales representative with Prinsco for over 17 years. "The *Used Equipment Classifieds* is just another way to help the industry."

At <http://www.prinsco.com/equip.cfm> contractors fill in a simple form that asks for their contact information (so prospective buyers can contact them directly) and basic data about the equipment they want to sell or hope to purchase. Photos can also be e-mailed to Prinsco or mailed directly to Prinsco's Minnesota office.

After the form is submitted, Prinsco's marketing department puts it online - usually within one to three days. The process is very simple, fast and effective.

Although Prinsco is hosting the *Used Equipment Classifieds* on their web site, they're not in the business of selling equipment. Like the classified ads in local newspapers, all sales transactions are directly between the buyer and the seller. Prinsco is not involved in the sales negotiations and receives no fees or commissions.

If you have any questions about Prinsco's *Used Equipment Classifieds*, please log on to www.prinsco.com or call 1-800-992-1725.

March 22, 2002

Letter to the Editor:

The Illinois economy, weakened by the national recession and the terrorist attacks of September 11th, shows no signs of rebounding fast enough to prevent serious cutbacks in state spending during 2002. In the month since I proposed a balanced state budget for the coming fiscal year, the revenue deficit faced by state government has grown by \$350 million to about \$1 billion.

The budget problem in Illinois was not caused by "overspending". More than 40 other states have had to cut their budgets since September 11th because tax collections are not meeting original revenue estimates. The recession has had a devastating effect on government budgets throughout the country.

Over the last six months, I have initiated several cost-cutting measures designed to balance the budget without the need for massive layoffs of state employees. However, the state's budget remains out of balance in part because other proposals to reduce spending have been met with strident resistance from the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

Involuntary layoffs of thousands of AFSCME members could be avoided if the union leadership would listen to rank-and-file members and negotiate reasonable changes in the current contract. AFSCME leaders in Iowa negotiated a temporary wage freeze earlier this year that prevented 800 permanent layoffs.

To help balance the upcoming budget for Fiscal Year 2003, I am willing to forego any salary increase allocated for me this year. I am willing to order no salary increase for my staff. I am also willing to order my cabinet – if their pay is set by state law – to refuse any salary increase this year. I call on other state officials to follow my lead.

Legally, I am bound to budget money for pay raises to state employees covered by collective bargaining agreements. I am bound by the Illinois Constitution to budget pay raises for state officials whose salaries are set by state law.

But in order to pay for AFSCME raises which I cannot unilaterally cancel, layoff notices for state employees will begin to be issued this week by various agencies.

I always have said that layoffs are the final option in balancing the budget. Unfortunately, all other options have been exhausted. I do not have the unilateral authority to raise taxes, as AFSCME has asked. I do not have the authority to spend state bond money on government operations, or to transfer money from one government account to another.

A few months ago I ordered a one-day unpaid furlough for all state employees under my control to save \$8 million. I have taken my furlough day and by the end of the fiscal year every member of my cabinet and staff will have taken a furlough day. Many legislators and state employees not under my control have also taken a furlough day. Many labor unions representing state employees have negotiated

temporary furlough plans with my office and I am grateful for their support.

However, AFSCME not only opposed the concept of one-day furloughs, it went to court for a temporary restraining order to stop the furloughs for 45,000 of their members. That action negated any significant cost savings from the furlough plan. I have no choice but to find those savings from additional permanent layoffs.

In an attempt to save about \$20 million, I proposed that the state turn over food service operations in all state prisons to private contractors. Private companies have operated food services in some of the state's maximum-security prisons for about 20 years. But again, AFSCME went to court and stopped this proposal, wiping out \$20 million in cost savings. I will probably have to find that \$20 million by closing or downsizing additional prisons.

There are roughly 100 days left before the start of the new fiscal year. It is my hope that in that time, the General Assembly and I can count on the support of state employees and other interested stakeholders in fashioning a balanced budget that fulfills the needs of Illinois citizens in every part of our great state.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. RYAN
Governor of Illinois

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HOW TO DELEGATE RESPONSIBLY

Delegating is a key management skill. But managers often mistake delegation for passing off work. Failing to effectively delegate wastes your time and a company's time and resources. Here are some tips to delegate responsibility:

- 1) Don't look for perfection. Instead, establish a standard of quality and a fair timeframe for reaching it. Once you establish the expectations, let your staff decide how to carry out the project.
- 2) Provide complete job instructions. Make sure an underling has all the information he/she needs to complete the job. And be sure he/she understand and accepts the job before you consider it delegated.
- 3) Stop believing you're the only one who can get the job done right. Just because an employee does things differently doesn't mean he/she won't do the job right or well. If you establish expectations of the end goal and the standards to follow, then methodology shouldn't be an issue.
- 4) Look at delegation as a way to teach employee skills. Again, delegating doesn't mean passing off work. It means giving others responsibility. As you hand over greater responsibility, it's important you understand that mistakes will be made. Learning new skills includes making mistakes.
- 5) Check on progress. Don't look over his/her shoulder or watch every move. Let the employee do the work, but check in periodically on progress. When you outline the expectations in the beginning, make sure you build in checkpoints for follow up.

World's 20 Thinnest Books

20. BEAUTY SECRETS by Janet Reno
19. HOME-BUILT AIRPLANES by John Denver
18. HOW TO GET TO THE SUPER BOWL by Dan Marino
17. THINGS I LOVE ABOUT BILL by Hillary Clinton
16. MY LIFE'S MEMORIES by Ronald Reagan
15. THINGS I CAN'T AFFORD by Bill Gates
14. THINGS I WOULDN'T DO FOR MONEY by Dennis Rodman
13. THE WILD YEARS by Al Gore
12. AMELIA EARHART'S GUIDE TO THE PACIFIC OCEAN
11. AMERICA'S MOST POPULAR LAWYERS
10. DETROIT - A TRAVEL GUIDE
9. DR. KEVORKIAN'S COLLECTION OF MOTIVATIONAL SPEECHES
8. EVERYTHING WOMEN KNOW ABOUT MEN
7. EVERYTHING MEN KNOW ABOUT WOMEN
6. ALL THE MEN I'VE LOVED BEFORE by Ellen DeGeneres
5. MIKE TYSON'S GUIDE TO DATING ETIQUETTE
4. SPOTTED OWL RECIPES by the Sierra Club
3. THE AMISH PHONE DIRECTORY
2. MY PLAN TO FIND THE REAL KILLER by O.J. Simpson
1. MY BOOK OF MORALS by Bill Clinton

Thanks to E. T. Allen for forwarding this to me.




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GABBING WITH THE GALS...



The flowers that bloom in the Spring, tra la — well, with the ups and downs Mr. Weatherman has seen fit to give us at this time of the year, the poor flowers won't know if they are to bloom where they are planted, or just to stay planted. There is a song that says, "the geese are going barefoot because they've no shoes". The ones I have seen might have shoes but don't know where to put them down; as soon as they put down on one lake the cold or warm air comes along and they move, but it is apparent they are confused. Probably not more so than we humans. Do you recall any well-known person saying "Keep 'em guessing"? Me neither, but Mr. Weatherman sure does a good job of it. Look at it another way — just what would the guys and gals in the coffee shops talk about if not for the weather? So it does serve a purpose.

Now the price of first-class stamps are going up again. This is the price we pay for technology. Between fax machines and computers, not to mention cell phones, people no longer lick stamps to keep in touch. Once good thing brings down another good thing. It doesn't seem right to call that "progress". It's great to look forward to the mail each day — it is a mystery because you never know what it will bring. We could hope it would bring good news. At any rate it is fun to open envelopes to see what is inside. Even advertisements are fun at times and usually lead to an I-want-one-of-those situations. One thing that would be good — if the credit card companies would advertise on computer instead of through the mail as this is one type of ad this gal does not appreciate receiving. Guess we can't have everything, right?

Speaking of happiness as it just entered the picture (via satellite); just recently it was stated by yours truly that Mr. No Name (wouldn't dream of dropping his name) did not look very happy. What is happiness? The heart is happiest when it beats for others. For every minute you are angry you lose sixty seconds of happiness. And genuine happiness occurs when a wife sees a double chine on her husband's old girlfriend!

Well, dear old daylight savings time has finally arrived. Takes some getting used to, alright. An extra nap is not a luxury, it's a necessity. This is a story about a minister who arrived on time but sleepy-eyed because of not enough sleep after clocks had been turned ahead. When it was time for his sermon he said, "As you all know, we lost an hour last night because of daylight savings time. I don't know which hour you lost, but I lost the hour in which I usually write my sermon." He returned to the altar and continued the service. And you can bet that many were happy with that sermon.

We soon will I hear the sound of tractors in the field and all that goes with that job. Most of the farmers are anxious to get started and probably by the time they get going they will leave a cloud of dust. You can read everything about the

farming industry, pros and cons and still not know for sure what the true situation is. We wish a good crop for all of them and decent price for all the work and expenses.

We really enjoyed the state convention and the national as well. Please put the national summer meeting on your calendar and plan to attend. It will be in Moline, IL and when will it ever be that close again? You meet some very nice people from all over the nation and it's a trip you're bound to enjoy. There is information about it in our newsletter so don't procrastinate and get a room booked and plan to go. Sometimes we have to see what the rest of the world is doing. Our Executive Director, JoAnn, will have all the information.

How would you like being a toastmaster? It appeals to this gal, but not everyone's tea. What is a toastmaster? He (or she) is a person who eats a meal they don't want so they can get up and tell a lot of stories they don't remember to people who have already heard them. This gal saw Bob Hope in person once, and has admired him every since. One of his habits was to find out before he went to the city where he was speaking the small characteristics of well know people there and make his jokes around them. This pleases people and makes it funnier to the crowd if they know the person. He was a natural actor, which you must be if you are a comedian. Facial expressions have to change often and they have to be able to do this. He had his sidekick, Marilyn Maxwell, with him and they made a good couple for their act. It was well worth the money and of course in 1968 no nearly so expensive as tickets are nowadays. That was the only time I can think of that we were in the right place at the right time. We were at a national bowling tournament and it didn't seem to improve our bowling at all. Guess he's not a magician, huhh! Then there was the speaker who remarked, "I have discontinued long talks on account of my throat. Several people have threatened to cut it."

Do you breathe a sigh of relief when your income tax is signed, sealed and mailed? Those of us who still mail ours do. The electronic filers can go their computer way, this gal wants something tangible to hang on to that can be read without a machine. The computer in our office finally went to the glue factory and has been replaced with one that must be very popular — some can't keep their hands off of it. Had a little dog / named him Tax. Opened the door and — in come Tax.

There will be a large tractor show this summer near Penfield, IL. It promises to be attractive to people overseas and will be, as Ed Sullivan used to say, A Big Shew! Publicity will be out and about so watch for it. For those who love tractors it will be solid joy, or a lot of happiness which is our word for this issue. Guess we can be happy if we just make up our mind we will be. Oh, there will be obstacles from time to time, but you can become adept at getting around them and staying happy. The really happy person is the one who can enjoy the scenery even when there is a de-tour. Some days you have to say to yourself that you will be happy come heck or high water. And sometimes it works!

We hope everyone had a very good Easter celebration, will have a productive year and good gardening to those who plant veggies or flowers or both. Keep the bunnies away!

..... Rambling Rose

EMINENT DOMAIN EPIDEMIC

The Washington Times reports governments all over America are increasingly using their powers of eminent domain to oust private citizens from their homes to make way for shopping malls, industrial developments and upscale housing. In New London, CT the homes of dozens of people have been condemned to make way for an office park and other development to compliment a nearby Pfizer research center. The city of Riviera Beach, FL is planning to force more than 5,000 residents from their homes to build a privately owned commercial and industrial development. Lawyers at the non-profit organization, Institute of Justice, report that they "cannot handle even one-tenth of the cases that now come its way." The Castle Coalition, an organization recently formed to fight eminent domain abuse, has issued a report identifying ten of the worst examples; "Government Theft: The Top Ten Abuses of Eminent Domain, 1998-2002." To learn more, go to: www.castlecoalition.org. Hawaiians are fighting their own battle over eminent domain after the Honolulu City Council condemned "the land of four small landowners in Waikiki only to turn it over to another private entity, the Outrigger Hotel and Resorts, so that company could develop a \$300 million hotel and restaurant superblock". The Hawaiian legislature is attempting to deal with the situation.

Dear Abby:

(Letters that left Abby speechless)

Dear Abby: I have a man I never could trust. He cheats so much I'm not even sure this baby I'm carrying is his.

Dear Abby: Our son writes that he is taking Judo. Why would a boy who was raised in a good Christian home turn against his own?

Dear Abby: I was married to Bill for 3 months and I didn't know he drank until one night he came home sober.

Dear Abby: My mother is mean and short-tempered. I think she is going through her mental pause.

Dear Abby: I joined the Navy to see the world. I've seen it. Now, how do I get out?

Diesel Price Watch

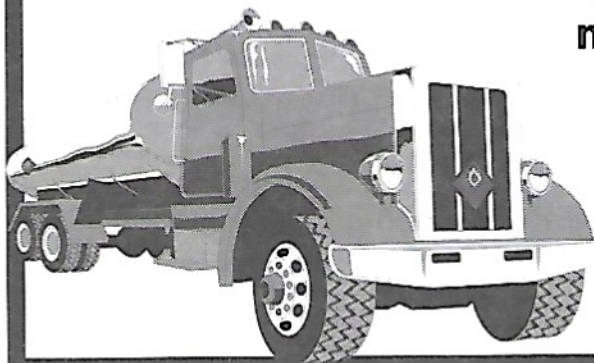
Average on-highway diesel price (self-serve cash price, including taxes):

Midwest: \$1.259/gal

National: \$1.281/gal

This compares to a price one month ago of \$1.128 and one year ago of \$1.367 (\$1.392 National Average). Your price

may be higher or lower, depending on state and local taxes.



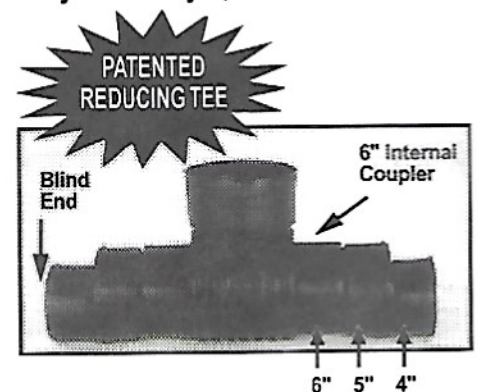
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Flash Flood Alert

Flash floods can strike any time and any place with little or no warning. In mountainous or flat terrain, distant rain may be channeled into gullies and ravines, turning a quiet stream side campsite or wash into a rampaging torrent in minutes. City streets can become rivers in seconds. Observe these flash flood safety rules. They could save your life.

- ☛ Keep alert for sign of heavy rain (thunder and lighting), both where you are and upstream.
- ☛ Watch for rising water levels.
- ☛ Know where high ground is and get there quickly
- ☛ Be especially cautious at night. It's harder to recognize the danger then.
- ☛ Do not attempt to cross flowing water which may be more than knee deep. If you have doubts, don't cross.
- ☛ Don't try to drive through flooded areas.
- ☛ If your vehicle stalls, abandon it and seek higher ground immediately.
- ☛ During threatening weather listen to commercial radio or TV, or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Weather Radio for Watch and Warning Bulletins.

Flash Flood Watch means it is possible that rains will cause flash flooding in the specified area. Be alert and prepared for a food emergency.

Flash Flood Warning means flash flooding is occurring or is imminent in the specified area. Move to safe ground immediately.

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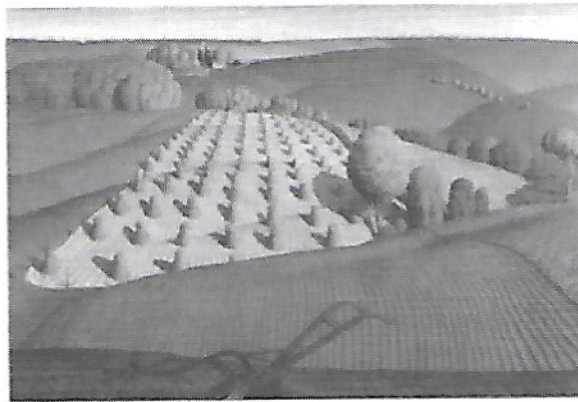
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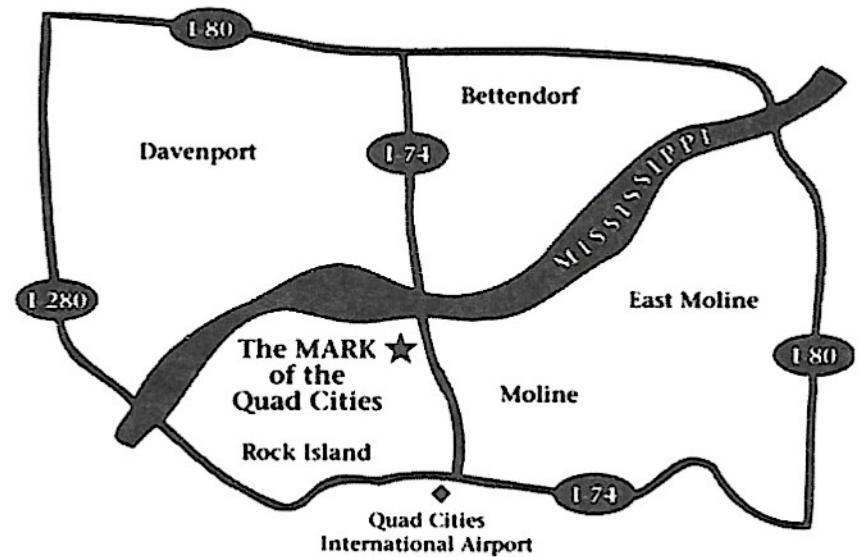
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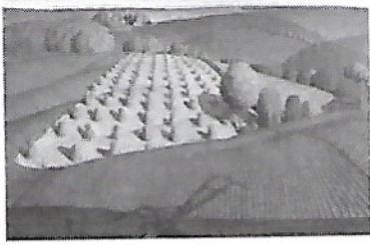
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ALL ROADS LEAD TO MOLINE

National ILICA Contractors Expo

The Mark Conference Center, Moline, IL

July 17-20, 2002



WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2002

4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Registration

Radisson - Lobby

7:30 p.m.

Executive Committee Meeting

Radisson - Mississippi Room

THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2002

6:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Pipe & Drape Set-up

The Mark - Arena

Exhibitor Set-up

The Mark - Arena

Exhibitor Break (Beverage & rolls)

The Mark - Arena

7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Registration

The Mark - Lobby

7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

Devotions

Radisson - Mississippi Room

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Opening Breakfast with Mayor Stan Leach

The Mark - Conference Room

9:00 a.m.

Associates Advisory Meeting

The Mark - Arena

9:30 a.m.

Committee Chair(s) Meeting

The Mark - Conference Rm. F

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Exhibitor Trade Show

The Mark - Arena

11:00 a.m. – Noon

Convention Committee

The Mark - Conference Rm. A

Insurance Committee

The Mark - Conference Rm. B

Water Table Management Committee

The Mark - Conference Rm. C

Public Relations Committee

The Mark - Conference Rm. D

By-Laws Committee

The Mark - Conference Rm. E

Noon – 1:20 p.m.

Box Lunch – (Registered persons only)

The Mark - Arena

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Conservation Committee

The Mark - Conference Rm. A

Policy Committee

The Mark - Conference Rm. B

Awards Committee

The Mark - Conference Rm. C

Devotions Committee

The Mark - Conference Rm. D

Technology Committee

The Mark - Conference Rm. E

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

On-Site Waste Committee

The Mark - Conference Rm. A

Membership Committee

The Mark - Conference Rm. B

Long Term Planning Committee

The Mark - Conference Rm. C

Legislative Committee

The Mark - Conference Rm. D

Safety Committee

The Mark - Conference Rm. E

5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Exhibitor Tear-down

The Mark - Arena

6:00 p.m.

Dinner Hosted by John Deere

John Deere Headquarters

(First 200 Registrations Only)

FRIDAY, JULY 19, 2002

7:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Registration

The Mark – Lobby

7:00 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.

Devotions (family Values), Thomas Schroeder,

Radisson - Mississippi Rm.

7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Exec. Director RICCA

Radisson - Complimentary

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Breakfast (attendees)

The Mark - Conference Rm. D

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Exec. Dir. & St. Pres. Breakfast & Meeting

The Mark - Conference Rm. A

Education Committee

The Mark - Conference Rm. E

Budget Committee

The Mark - Conference Rm. B

Past President's Committee

Seminars

Convention Registration

The Mark Conference Center, Moline, IL

July 17-20, 2002

Contact Name: _____
 Company: _____
 Address: _____ City, St. & Zip: _____
 Phone/Day: _____ Phone/Evening: _____

General Registration—Postmarked after June 15, 2002		Trade Show Package Only
Discount Registration—Postmarked by June 15, 2002		For those interested in only attending on July 18 or July 19 we are offering a reduced one-day registration of \$75 per adult and \$50 for child. This does not include the Thursday evening John Deere dinner or the Friday evening reception at the John Deere Commons.
Memb: Contractors, Associates, Gov't Employees, Consultants	\$125 \$150	
Member Spouse:	\$110 \$135	
Child 12 and under	\$ 75 \$ 90	
Non-Member:	\$165 \$190	

Print Names for Badges	Complete for Children	Total
	Child: age _____	
	Child: age _____	
	Child: age _____	
	Child: age _____	

Saturday July 20, 2002 * River Boat Dinner Cruise	# Attending _____ X \$ 33.45 Registration cut-off June 15, 2002	
Total Convention & Dinner Boat Fees		

* Dinner Boat Cruise includes—2 1/2 hr locking cruise on the Mississippi River, live entertainment, Prime Rib & Chicken buffet. Cash bar available

Make checks payable to: **Region IV Convention Fund**

Mail to: **Region IV Convention Fund**
 1816 Hemlock Avenue
 Owatonna, MN 55060

Registration Policy: Only individuals registered & badged may attend convention events. The spouse/guest of a registered member need not register to share hotel accommodations, but must register to participate in a convention programs or functions. No registration will be processed without payment. A \$30 processing fee will be incurred on cancellations postmarked before June 15, 2002. Cancellations postmarked after June 15, 2002 will be subject to a 50% reduction in refund. All requests must be in writing. Meals will be on an "availability basis" for on-site registration.

Expo Itinerary continued from page 20

8:30 a.m.	"Sharpening Your Bidding Skills" Forrest Davis, - Forrest Davis Construction, Co., Manito, IL	The Mark - Conference Rm. A
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	"Optimizing Drainage Design for Water Quality Consideration: Dr. Richard Cooke, Assoc. Professor, Univ. of IL	The Mark - Conference Rm. B
10:00 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.	"Expand & Enhance Your Business with G.P.S.", Sid Seifken, Trimble/Spectra Precision, Dayton, OH	The Mark - Conference Rm. C
10:20 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.	Refreshment Break	The Mark - Lobby
	"Hitting the Road Securing Equipment for Transport" Louis McFarland McFarland & Sons, Circleville, OH	The Mark - Conference Rm. A
	"Drainage Installation Research with the Pull Behind Plow", Larry C. Brown Ohio State University	The Mark - Conference Rm. B
	"Using Soils Surveys to Predict Site Characteristics & Increased Profitability", Todd Soukup, Applied Land Analysis, Inc.	The Mark - Conference Rm. C
11:30 a.m.	Ladies – load bus – Dinner meeting & tours	Radisson Lobby
11:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Ladies – Butterworth & Deere-Wiman House, tours & Botanical Center	
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch/speaker (World's Worst Farmer)	The Mark - Conf. Rms. D, E, F
1:00 p.m.	Men – load bus – J.D. Demonstration	Radisson Lobby
1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	John Deere Coal Valley Demonstration Site	
4:00 p.m.	Ladies – bus back to Radisson	
4:30 p.m.	Men – bus back to Radisson	
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Reception	John Deere Commons

SATURDAY, JULY 20, 2002

7:00 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.	Devotions	Radisson - Mississippi Rm.
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast	The Mark Balcony
9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Region 1 Meeting	The Mark - Conference Rm. A
	Region 3 Meeting	The Mark - Conference Rm. B
	Region 7 Meeting	The Mark - Conference Rm. C
10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Region 2 Meeting	The Mark - Conference Rm. A
	Region 4 Meeting	The Mark - Conference Rm. B
	Region 6 Meeting	The Mark - Conference Rm. C
	Region 8 Meeting	The Mark - Conference Rm. D
12:00 noon	Lunch	The Mark
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Board Meeting	The Mark - Conference Rm. C, D
6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Optional River Boat Dinner Cruise	

POSSIBLE CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

Niabi Zoo • Interactive Family Museum of Arts & Science
Putnam Museum of History & Natural Science • IMAX Theatre
Wacky Water Park & Michaels Sports World

**All registered attendees
will be entered to win
a 2002 John Deere
Toy Gator!**

GOLF – Call the Quad Cities Convention Bureau at 800-747-7800 for the names and location of golf courses.
RV PARKING – Notification that RV parking available at the Mark. There are no hook-ups available.



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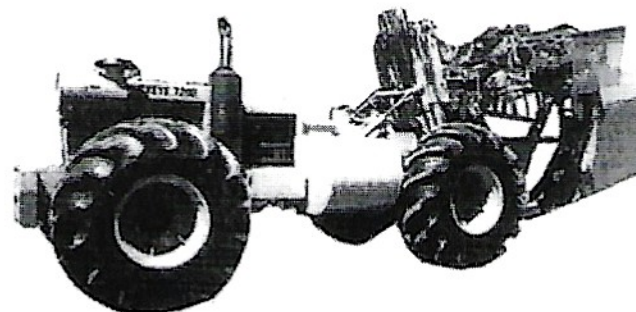
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