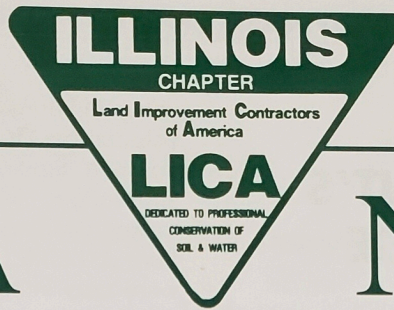




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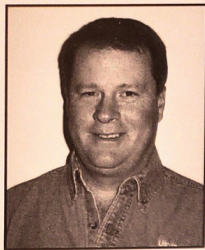
NEWS

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ILICA Goes to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina!



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello to everyone! Hope you have enjoyed another mild winter in Illinois. It's still very dry here in Stark County. I saw on the news that a local weather observer reported we have a 17" deficit in the last year. It will take a long time to make that amount up. Hopefully the Good Lord will help us this year.

We've had a very successful past couple of months in Illinois. Our 49th annual convention in Bloomington had some trying moments, but overall was a great time. We had the honor of having Darrell Birge, our National V.P. in attendance. Also, Doug Egeland, Bruce Barnhart, and Steve Brown from Iowa stopped in to give a Region IV update, and allow Bruce to announce his intention to run for Region IV V.P. I would like to thank all of them for visiting Illinois, and invite them to return anytime.

Our contractor workshop was held Jan. 31st & Feb. 1st, also in Bloomington. Attendance was down, but I think since the weather was so nice people were working. I thought the workshop was an excellent opportunity to gain

valuable knowledge from experts in the industry. Anytime you can get Dr. Brown and Dr. Cooke to lead our classes, you are tapping into two great resources of drainage knowledge. Brian Endress is an excellent speaker, and makes Drainage Law an interesting seminar. Dale Kuhn from J.U.L.I.E., and Tony Roth from Continental Western were very informative, and kept our attention focused on two vitally important issues to all contractors. Forrest Davis and Brent Breedlove did a great job of leading the earthmoving sessions. I think it helps to get a contractors point of view, based on the fact that they have had years of hands on experience, and can give tried and true examples of what works and what doesn't. Also, thanks to Kent Mitchell for his help and insights at the workshop. A Big Thank You to all the speakers, committee members, and all the behind the scenes help that made our convention and workshop very successful.

Jackie & I had a great time in Myrtle Beach, SC at the National Convention. Illinois was again well represented at National. Thanks to all who attended. I think overall everyone was pleased with the convention. There are going to be a few changes in the next few years in LICA. I feel that we do need these changes to take place, and get some fresh and new ideas in place. Bruce Barnhart did get elected to Region IV V.P. He is a very thoughtful person who will listen to any of us, and will represent our Region very well. His wife, Shelley, is also our Region IV

President's Message... (>p9)

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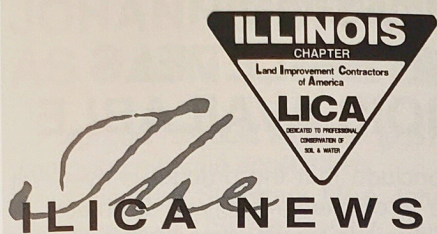
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FEBRUARY ABOVE AVERAGE PRECIPITATION DOESN'T EQUAL ABOVE AVERAGE WATER LEVELS LATEST DROUGHT UPDATE FOR ILLINOIS AVAILABLE

All water resources in Illinois are below their pre-March 2005 levels despite above average precipitation in January 2006 that brought levels closest to normal since the drought onset last year according to the latest report to the Drought Response Task Force. The report states a possible repeat of drought conditions this spring likely would deplete water resources even more quickly than in 2005.

Governor Blagojevich activated the Task Force in 2005—the ninth time since 1984 when the Water Plan Task Force established the protocol for doing so. Since activation last year, members from the Illinois State Water Survey (ISWS) and other agencies have been meeting—quite often during the height of the drought, less frequently now—and monitoring issues with potential impacts on public safety and Illinois' economy: agricultural considerations, community water supplies, and private wells.

Report authors from the ISWS (<http://www.sws.uiuc.edu/>) include Chief Derek Winstanley, State Climatologist Jim Angel, and scientists Mike Palecki, Vern Knapp, Amy Russell, Al Wehrmann, Ken Hlinka, and Bob Scott. Task Force members from other agencies include experts from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Water Resource Management, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, the Illinois Department of Agriculture, the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, the Illinois Commerce Commission, and the U.S. Geological Society.

"Statewide precipitation in 4 of the 7 months since July 2005, including January 2006, has been above normal. It

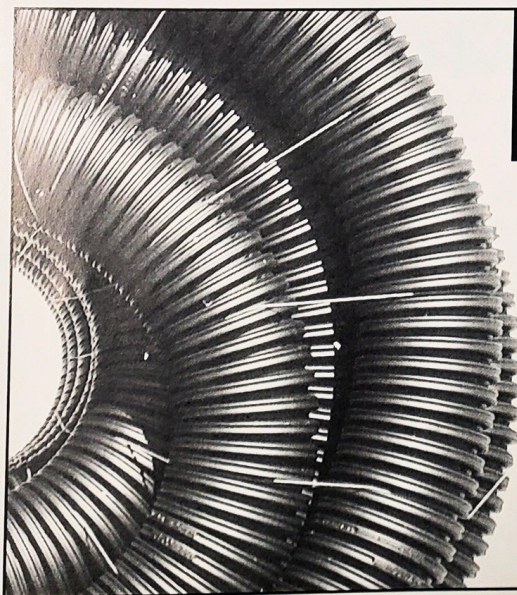
would be easy to conclude that the drought is over. Yet evidence of severe precipitation deficits in much of northern and central Illinois in March–June 2005 remained in January 2006 as low streamflows, depleted soil moisture, and low groundwater and reservoir levels," said ISWS Chief Derek Winstanley.

Winter snow and ice cover typically store water for release in the spring as temperatures warm. "This year there is no snow and ice cover; hence, no water to release. Climate conditions this spring will be critical for water availability and supplies," said Winstanley.

Five key indicators point to the probability, albeit unquantified, of a dry spring and summer in northern Illinois and perhaps other regions of the state. These indicators are:

Evolution of similar drought conditions in the past. Persistent and strengthening drought conditions from the Mexican border northeastward to Missouri. Cooler than normal sea-surface temperatures in the equatorial eastern Pacific Ocean (La Niña). The federal Climate Prediction Center forecast of continuation of a weak La Niña. Persistent warmer than normal sea-surface temperatures in the north Atlantic Ocean.

Compounding the dry outlook is a tendency for above normal summer temperatures in Illinois after La Niña occurs in spring. "We are not aware of any indicators that point to any increased probability of wet conditions," said Winstanley.



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JOHANNNS ANNOUNCES NITROGEN FERTILIZER TOOL AS PART OF ENERGY STRATEGY

Agriculture could save up to \$1.5 billion annually by improving nitrogen applications

Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns has announced the release of USDA's Energy Estimator for Nitrogen, a web-based awareness tool that farmers and ranchers can use to identify potential nitrogen cost savings associated with major crops and commercial nitrogen fertilizer applications.

"The Energy Estimator for nitrogen provides our nation's producers with another new tool to reduce their energy costs and protect the environment," said Johanns. "Encouraging proper fertilizer management is part of USDA's comprehensive energy strategy to help farmers and ranchers mitigate the impact of high energy costs."

Nitrogen fertilizer is one of the largest indirect uses of energy on an agricultural operation. Fertilizer accounts for 29 percent of agriculture's energy use, according to USDA research data. Proper management of nitrogen fertilizer, including the use of organic sources of nitrogen such as animal manure and cover crops, can save producers energy and money.

Using manure instead of petroleum-based fertilizers could reduce costs up to \$55 per acre, based on February 2006 prices, while adopting management intensive grazing practices can save up to \$6.50 per acre in energy costs and another \$38.00 in reduced harvest costs. In addition, converting from conventional tillage to no-till can save up to 3.5 gallons of fuel per acre with a current value of \$6.83 per acre. Nationwide, reducing application overlap on 250 million acres of cropland could save up to \$750 million in fertilizer and pesticide costs each year and doubling the use of manure-based nitrogen fertilizer to replace fertilizer produced from natural gas could save an additional \$750 million and 100 billion cubic feet of natural gas annually.

The Energy Estimator for Nitrogen estimates savings in nitrogen fertilizer applications and use to help farmers and ranchers make practical and sound decisions regarding nitrogen fertilizer use on their farm or ranch. This is the second tool USDA has developed as part of its overall energy strategy to mitigate the impacts of high energy costs and develop long-term solutions for agricultural producers. Last December, USDA released its first web-based tool - the "Energy Estimator for Tillage" - to help farmers and ranchers calculate diesel fuel use and costs associated with various tillage practices.

Producers using the Energy Estimator for Nitrogen can select up to four crops from a list of commonly harvested crops in their state. Next, they enter the acres of each crop, pounds or units per acre used for each selected form of nitrogen fertilizer, and the nitrogen fertilizer price. Finally, producers select the nitrogen fertilizer application practices - the timing and placement of the fertilizer application and whether or not they used materials that reduce potential nutrient losses to the environment.

USDA intends for farmers and ranchers to use the Energy Estimator for Nitrogen for guidance rather than as a sole source for decision-making on nitrogen fertilizer application. The Energy Estimator for Nitrogen identifies a producer's local USDA Service Center and provides links to state university soil and nitrogen information. USDA recommends that farmers and ranchers take their nitrogen fertilizer estimates to their local USDA Service Center, Extension office, or their crop consultant. To find your local Extension office, visit USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service Web site: www.csrees.usda.gov

Additional information about USDA's Energy Estimator for Nitrogen can be found at <http://nfat.sc.egov.usda.gov/>. Additional information about the USDA Energy Initiative can be found at <http://www.usda.gov/energy>.

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DO CELLULAR PHONES CAUSE MORE VEHICLE ACCIDENTS?

It's common knowledge that the number one cause of work-related fatalities is vehicle accidents. Most companies have at least one truck, if not a whole fleet of vehicles, and their drivers face the hazards of the roadway day after day. Sometimes a trip ends tragically.

Now, a new technology threatens to increase the accident potential for drivers. In more and more companies, cellular phones are being used by construction, service and delivery personnel, as well as by management levels. According to one research study, the use of a cellular phone while driving increases the risk of having an accident four-fold. Another study found that having a cellular phone in a vehicle increased the risk of being involved in an accident by 34 %. The U.S. Department of Transportation reports an increase in the number of complaints about drivers talking on their phones while operating a vehicle. Critics of these studies argue that the research is poor and does not make a decisive connection. Besides, having a cellular telephone in the car can be an advantage when used to call emergency services. What do you think?

Reported Hazards Associated With Cellular Phones:

- Users are said to be distracted from defensive driving practices, and less responsive to highway traffic situations. When they do react, their response time is said to be longer.
- People on the phone are more likely to have intense conversations that involve problem-solving-which is more distracting than shooting the breeze with a passenger.
- Passengers in the car often alert drivers to dangerous situation, and stop talking at such times, in contrast to someone on the other end of the line who is unaware of the traffic situation.
- Cell phone users may be concentrating on dialing a number or handling the equipment and fail to notice a stop light, traffic sign, or a vehicle in front of them.
- Not only the driver on the phone, but other drivers on the roadway are at increased risk if a cell phone user is the ultimate cause of an accident.

Safety Reminders For Cell Phone Users:

- Keep conversations short and sweet. Develop ways to get free of long-winded friends and associates while on the road. Don't use the cell phone for social visiting.
- Hang up in tricky traffic situations-without warning if necessary. Safe driving takes precedence over telephone etiquette. You can explain later-- because you'll still be alive!
- Resist dialing a number while on the move in heavy traffic whenever possible; wait until you are at a traffic light or stop sign.
- Keep even more distance between you and the car ahead of you than normally recommended.
- Consider using a "hands-free" speakerphone system, so you can keep your hands on the wheel and your eyes on the road-- and still keep talking. These speakerphones are available for many popular telephone models. Some states have proposed legislation that requires use of these devices.

All drivers are at risk of having a vehicle accident before, during or after work, and the use of a cell phone may increase this risk. Concentrate on the above reminders! Don't become a statistic

GOV. BLAGOJEVICH ENCOURAGES AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION WITH AWARD OF \$230,000 IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE GRANTS

Governor Rod R. Blagojevich today awarded \$230,000 in grants to promote the development of innovative farming practices that are profitable and conserve natural resources. The grants, which are part of the Governor's Opportunity Returns economic development strategy, will be distributed through the Illinois Department of Agriculture's Sustainable Agriculture Grant Program.

"Illinois farmers are good environmental stewards. The care they take to protect their land and water has made them among the most productive and efficient producers in the world," Gov. Blagojevich said. "These grants will help ensure our agriculture industry practices the most modern production and conservation techniques and our natural resources are preserved for future generations of farmers."

The grants will fund eight on-the-farm or university research projects and five educational outreach programs. Topics to be studied include the effect of drainage water management on nitrogen and phosphorous movement, land application systems for swine manure, the use of winter cover crops in organic farming and vermicomposting, a method of recycling food and yard waste using worms.

"Market conditions are causing many farmers to reevaluate their operations, and the research funded through this program can help them make informed decisions," Agriculture Director Chuck Hartke said. "The quality and diversity of the projects selected this year is quite impressive."

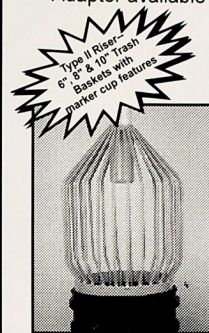
The Sustainable Agriculture Grant Program was established in 1996 as part of the Conservation 2000 program to research and implement methods of production that protect natural resources without sacrificing farm profitability.

Gov. Blagojevich's Opportunity Returns regional economic development strategy is the most aggressive, comprehensive approach to creating jobs in Illinois' history. Since a one-size-fits-all approach to economic development just doesn't work, the Governor has divided the state into 10 regions — each with a regional team that is empowered and expected to rapidly respond to opportunities and challenges. Opportunity Returns is about tangible, specific actions to make each region more accessible, more marketable, more entrepreneurial and more attractive to businesses. It is about upgrading the skills of the local workforce, increasing the access to capital, opening new markets, improving infrastructure, and creating and retaining jobs. Opportunity Returns is about successfully partnering with companies and communities, both large and small, to help all of Illinois reach its economic potential.

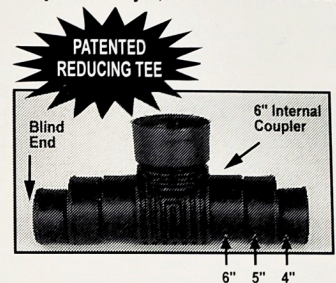
The complete list of grant recipients is listed below. For additional information, contact the Illinois Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Land and Water Resources, P.O. Box 19281, Springfield, Ill., 62794, or call (217) 782-6297.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

The year has started off great for ILICA. We had a great Annual Convention and Educational Workshop as well as great Illinois representation at the National Winter Convention in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. We have more great things planned for the rest of the year. In this issue you can find information as well as registration information for the 2006 Annual Summer Picnic and Golf Outing being held in Springfield, Illinois. We had a great turn out last summer in Geneseo and hope to see everyone this year too!

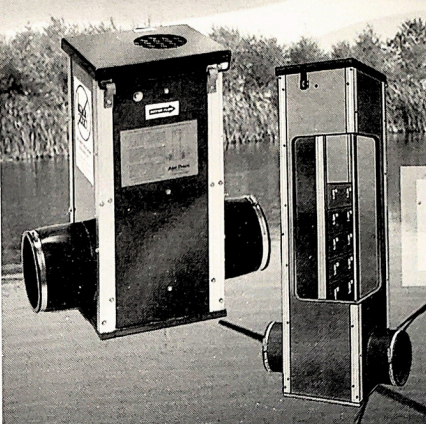
The ladies are planning a day outing for hopefully May 20, be sure to get your questionnaire back to the ILICA office or email Jackie Streitmatter at jjstreit@starkcounty.com whether or not you would like to attend. Information can be found on page 18.

Information is being collected for the 2006 Annual ILICA Directory too, if you haven't gotten your information to the office or haven't paid your 2006 dues yet, you need to do so to ensure publication of your name.

Thanks to all who have been supporting ILICA throughout the years. We couldn't have done it without you.

Thanks
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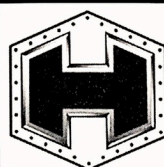
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President's Message... (<p2)

secretary. I thank both of them in advance for their service.

I would like to thank Doug Egeland and his wife Mary Lou for their service as Region IV V.P. and secretary respectively. I honestly have to say, when I first got to know Doug, I thought he would "upset the apple cart". Then, as I got to know him better, and listened to what he was saying and why, my opinion of him changed. He truly is a strong supporter of LICA, and wants to see some changes NOW!! But that is hard to do in any organization. Doug definitely got his points out in the open, and people are rethinking some issues. Doug's drive and determination will be remembered for many years, and hopefully some of these issues will be addressed to the better of our organization.

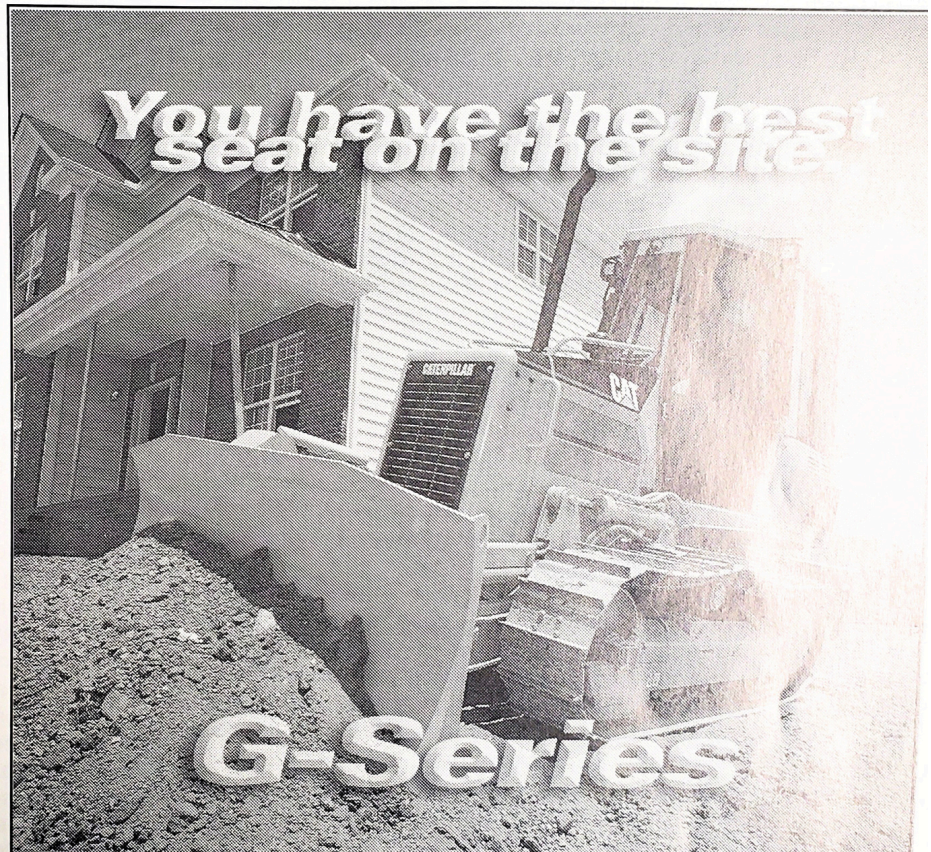
Congratulations to Darrell Birge on his election to National President. He will make a fine leader, and will strengthen LICA to the best of his ability. Thanks to Harry Hauschild from NE for his leadership this past year.

I was very pleased with the attendance at the March 4th board meeting. We have got a good start on our 50th convention which will be held at Stoney Creek Inn, Moline, IL on Jan 18th-20th, 2007. This is a brand new facility! The picnic is being planned for June 10th, 2006 in Springfield, IL. Congratulations to all the new members and associates that were accepted into ILICA.

Please remember that we are always looking for new suggestions and ideas to strengthen our organization. Please get involved in our committees and activities throughout the year, and you will be rewarded not only by new knowledge, but lifelong friendships.

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GABBING WITH THE GALS...



You know the old saying "Another day, another dollar?" Well, we have come the whole route since again with "Another year, another year." With each new year we hear the same old, same old – oh, it went too fast – I can't believe we've gone through another whole year! Somehow we seem to get through by hook or by crook, sometimes by prodding and most of all that's the way our world is. Those of us who are up in years probably do think about time more than anything. Maybe that's the reason I like mystery stories because we never know what a new day will bring and sometimes we are surprised and then again we long for the same old, same old. Time is only a four-letter word but it contains a lot of meaning. Those of us who remember the old songs can still hear Rudy Valle singing "Time on my hands, you in my arms, etc." Rudy was okay and a good vocalist but in this gal's opinion no one will ever be as well-rounded an entertainer as Bing Crosby was. He was so laid back it's a wonder he ever got out of bed!

Sorry to have missed the convention, maybe next time. There are times when this old body just can't cut the mustard so it's best to listen to what it says. For instance, awhile back my son Ed and daughter Sandra took me to Champaign to get an office chair for which I had received a gift certificate at Christmas. Of course the office supply store always has their furniture in the back of the store so it was a lot of walking for me on the walker. There had to be a "sitting" to be sure one would fit the other if you get my drift. When we arrived home I didn't feel tired, didn't know my body was tired, but when they left and I sat down at 4 p.m. to "rest" in my favorite chair in our living room, next thing I knew it was 7 p.m. Guess my body didn't speak loud enough, right?

My sons remarked how many nice things there were for the auction at the convention. I believe that is apart of the convention that is a favorite and should be kept. There is an annual luncheon I attend in May each year and we have a "silent auction" with all of us donating a nice item. They put each item in a small brown bag, mark what it is and you buy tickets then put them in the bag of the item you would wish to win. Seems like a good idea, that you don't go home saying, "What will I do with this?" My husband had more luck when it came to things of chance but this gal lost it somewhere along the way.

We had a birthday party recently and my great-granddaughter turned ten! She has grown in height this past year and I am happy for her. She has a step-sister who was 12 the same day and she has grown quite a bit this past year also and will be tall. Granddaughter Kristin had their party in a building where the small ones could run around and have a good time, and they DID! We have a hallway in our home that is about 15 ft. long and I can still see our grandkids playing in that hallway and really had a good time. We are getting ready to have new carpeting installed in our kitchen and later on in our living room. Carpets do have a habit of wearing out, but it is so much warmer in the winter than tile or linoleum. I used to rent a machine to clean carpets with but that practice went bye-bye long ago, when they were too heavy for me to maneuver. Actually, carpet cleaning isn't all that expensive and if you get someone reliable to do a good job it is well worth it.

This one caught my eye: Tourist – "Pardon, sir, but what do you do with all that corn?" Farmer: "Well, we eat what we can and what we can't we can." Tourist's wife: "What did he say, dear?" Tourist: "He said they ate what they could and what they couldn't they could."

Since it's time for politicians (according to our mail!) to try to get votes we will throw this one in: Man wearing three hats – passerby: "What's the idea? Hat man: "you know I've decided to become a politician. What are the three hats for?" Hat man: "One to cover my head, another to toss in the ring and one to talk through." Nowadays they talk through microphones and cell phones.

Speaking of cell phones, they do come in handy. One of my neighbors has one and she had the regular phone disconnected. Now I can't remember her number. At our house we have post-its stuck all around with everyone's cell phone number on it. The computer in our heads can store just so much and then shut off. One of my grandsons works for a company that installs towers for cell phones and they are busy, busy.

Our sincere condolence to Bill Largent on the loss of his wife, Marjorie. Hadn't seen her for quite some time but remember she was always interesting to talk to, and could think up ideas and an attractive lady. They always say there will be plenty of memories; well, Bill, I can vouch that that it is true and it never stops. Read somewhere that a person commented they would like to live so that even the undertaker was sad. When you read in the paper or a magazine that this one or that one started a program that is now national, how do you suppose they do that? It has always been a mystery to me how organizations get started. Guess you have to be a person who can come up with ideas and the know-how to get them going, who to contact to help you, etcetera. Just saw where the DAR is looking for new members. It's a good organization but the requirements are so specific it is difficult for a lot of people to even find anything if the do try to look up the facts and proof. Some of our children won awards in grade school from the DAR for patriotic essays. It is a good organization for our country and boy do we need it now!

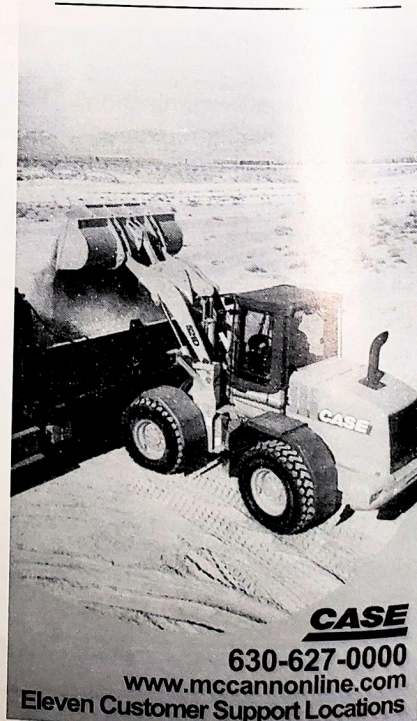
The word for this issue is "Cards." There is a picture staring me in the face that keeps getting put on the back burner and that is writing Thank You cards for all phone calls, visits, etc. I received while in the hospital such a long time. May-think? It's always something to do, but otherwise we wouldn't be so busy, would we? Just sent a poem to a friend who received an award for volunteering so much – we seem to have quite a few in our town who do this and it is great!

Have a great Easter Season, etc. Time to start thinking about flowers and hoping Mother Nature will cooperate.

.....Rambling
Rose

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FY '06 SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE GRANTS

Recipient	Project	Amount
Growing Home, Inc., Chicago	Four Seasons Food Growing Project	23,000
Brown County Soil and Water Conservation District, Mt. Sterling	Effect of Drainage Water Management on Nitrogen and Phosphorous Movement, Crop Growth and Development, and Crop Yield	7,167
Central Illinois Agricultural Research Farms, Inc., Springfield	Using Yard Waste Compost in Sustainable Agriculture	16,000
Mike Vincent, Hull	Okra, a Potential New Oilseed for Illinois	10,000
CSA Learning Center; The Land Connection, Caledonia	Illinois Farm Beginnings: Preparing Farmers for a New Illinois Food System	25,000
Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom, Bloomington	Sustainable Agriculture in the Classroom	24,940
Two Rivers RC & D, Pittsfield	Agricultural Diversity in the Two Rivers Area	7,580
Illinois Grassland Conservation Initiative, Breese	Forage Management in Illinois	15,000
Earth Partners, Champaign	Learning About Sustainable Agriculture Using Science, Math and Reading Lessons for K-12 grade teachers	11,830
University of Illinois Board of Trustees, Office of Sponsored Programs and Research Administration, Champaign	Determining Occurrence and Distribution of Viruses Causing Cucurbit Diseases in Illinois	22,393
Southern Illinois University, Carbondale	Sustainable Vegetable Crop Production Using Vermicomposted Food Wastes from SIUC Campus Cafeterias	18,590
Illinois State University, Normal	Evaluation of Land Application Systems for Swine Manure to Reduce Non-Point Source Pollution	25,000
University of Illinois Board of Trustees Office of Sponsored Programs and Research Administration, Champaign	Transition to Organic Systems: How to improve the use of Winter Cover Crops to enhance nitrogen cycling and reduce nitrate leaching	23,500
Total		230,000

2006 COUNTY FAIR SCHEDULE HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED, MARK YOUR CALENDARS....

June

Jun 11-18
Jun 13-18
Jun 14-18
Jun 17-24
Jun 17-26
Jun 20-25
Jun 20-25
Jun 21-25
Jun 21-25
Jun 21-25
Jun 24-Jul 01
Jun 25-Jul 01
Jun 29-Jul 04
Jun 30-Jul 04
Jun 30-Jul 08

Clark Co. Fair Assoc.
Decatur-Macon Co. Fair Assoc.
Sangamon Co. Fair & Ag. Assoc.
Greene Co. Ag. Fair, Inc.
Perry Co. Ag. Society
Henry Co. Fair Assoc.
Piatt Co. Jr. Fair Assoc.
Montgomery Co. Fair & Ag. Assoc., Inc.
Western Illinois Fair Assoc.
Vermilion Co. Fair & Expo.
Jasper Co. Ag. Assoc.
Martinsville Ag. Fair Assoc., Inc.
Schuyler Co. Fair & Lvstk. Show Assoc.
Grundy Co. Ag. Dist. Fair
McLeansboro Fair Assoc.

Clark
Macon
Sangamon
Greene
Perry
Henry
Piatt
Montgomery
Pike
Vermilion
Jasper
Clark
Schuyler
Grundy
Hamilton

Marshall
Decatur
New Berlin
Carrollton
Pinckneyville
Cambridge
Cerro Gordo
Butler
Griggsville
Danville
Newton
Martinsville
Rushville
Morris
McLeansboro

July

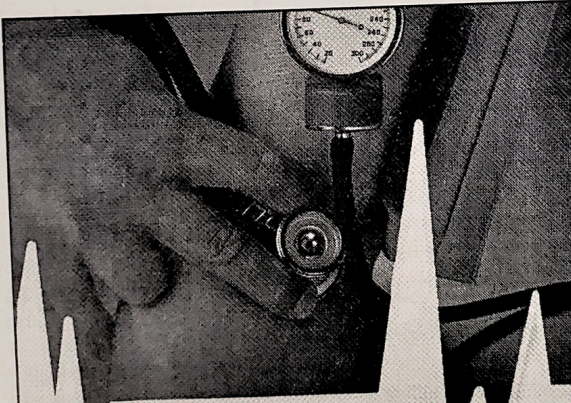
Jul 01-08
Jul 06-12
Jul 07-15
Jul 07-15
Jul 08-16
Jul 08-15
Jul 08-15
Jul 09-15
Jul 09-15
Jul 11-15
Jul 11-16
Jul 11-16

Henderson Co. Fair Assoc.
Franklin Co. Fair Assoc. @ Rend Lake College
Richland Co. Farm & Fair Assoc.
Heart of IL Fair
Jersey Co. Fair Assoc.
Nashville, Washington Co. Fair Assoc.
Fayette County Fair Assoc.
Moultrie-Douglas Co. Fair & Ag. Assoc., Inc.
Ford Co. Fair of Melvin, Inc.
Fisher Comm. Fair & Horse Show
Christian Co. Ag. Fair Assoc.
Mercer County Ag. Society

Henderson
Franklin
Richland
Peoria
Jersey
Washington
Fayette
Moultrie-Douglas
Ford
Champaign
Christian
Mercer

Stronghurst
Ina
Olney
Peoria
Jerseyville
Nashville
Brownstown
Arthur
Melvin
Fisher
Taylorville
Aledo

Fair Schedule... (>p13)



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COST OF HEALTH
CARE INCREASING
YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE?**

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- You determine your cost level
- You gain control of your plan

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Fair Schedule... (<p12)

Jul 12-16	LaSalle Co. Jr. Fair Assoc., Inc.
Jul 12-16	Marshall-Putnam Fair Assoc.
Jul 12-16	Morgan Co. Ag. Fair Assoc.
Jul 14-22	Massac Co. Youth Fair & Comm. Ctr., Inc.
Jul 14-22	Jefferson Co. Youth Fair
Jul 15-23	Clay Co. Ag. Fair Assoc., Inc.
Jul 15-22	The New Wayne Co. Ag. Fair
Jul 16-22	Clinton Co. Ag. Inc.
Jul 17-22	Macoupin Co. Fair & Ag. Assoc., Inc.
Jul 17-22	Pike Co. Fair Assoc.
Jul 17-21	McDonough Co. 4-H Bldg. & Grds. Corp.
Jul 17-20	Livingston Co. Fair Assoc.
Jul 18-23	Menard Co. Fair, Inc.
Jul 18-22	Rock Island Co. Ag. Fair & Expo. Assoc.
Jul 18-22	Farmer City Fair Assoc.
Jul 18-22	Cass Co. Fair Assoc., Inc.
Jul 19-24	Iroquois Co. Ag. & 4-H Club Fair Assoc.
Jul 19-23	Hancock Co. Fair
Jul 19-23	Kane Co. Fair & Ind. Expo.
Jul 19-29	Edwards Co. Ag. Fair Assoc., Inc.
Jul 21-29	Champaign Co. Fair Assoc.
Jul 21-29	Saline Co. Ag. Assoc.
Jul 21-29	Elizabeth Community Fair
Jul 22-28	Crawford Co. Fair Assoc.
Jul 22-28	Wabash Co. Youth Exhibition
Jul 22-29	Edgar Co. Fair Assoc.
Jul 23-28	Madison Co. Fair Assoc.
Jul 23-30	Monroe Co. Fair Assoc.
Jul 23-30	Warren Co. Ag. Fair Assoc.
Jul 24-28	Mason Co. 4-H & Jr. Ag. Show Assoc.
Jul 24-27	Shelby Co. 4-H & Jr. Fair Assoc.
Jul 24-29	Fulton Co. Fair & Racing Assoc.
Jul 25-30	Lake Co. Fair Assoc.
Jul 26-30	DuPage Co. Fair & Expo. Assoc.

LaSalle
Marshall-Putnam
Morgan
Massac
Jefferson
Clay
Wayne
Clinton
Macoupin
Pike
McDonough
Livingston
Menard
Rock Island
DeWitt
Cass
Iroquois
Hancock
Kane
Edwards
Champaign
Saline
JoDaviess
Crawford
Wabash
Edgar
Madison
Monroe
Warren
Mason
Shelby
Fulton
Lake
DuPage

Ottawa
Henry
Jacksonville
Metropolis
Ina
Flora
Fairfield
Carlyle
Carlinville
Pleasant Hill
Macomb
Pontiac
Petersburg
East Moline
Farmer City
Virginia
Crescent City
Augusta
St. Charles
Albion
Urbana
Harrisburg
Elizabeth
Oblong
Mt. Carmel
Paris
Highland
Waterloo
Roseville
Havana
Shelbyville
Lewistown
Grayslake
Wheaton

Fair Schedule... (>p14)

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A BERKLEY COMPANYSM

Fair Schedule... (<p13)

Jul 27-Aug 02	Adams Co. Fair Assoc.
Jul 27-30	Lee Co. 4-H Fair & Jr. Show
Jul 28-Aug 05	Randolph Co. Fair
Jul 28-31	Stark Co. Jr. Fair Assoc., Inc.
Jul 28-30	Moultrie-Sullivan Jr. Fair
Jul 28-Aug 05	Marion Co. Ag. Fair Assoc., Inc.
Jul 29-Aug 05	White Co. Ag. Society
Jul 30-Aug 06	Coles Co. Ag. Assoc.
Jul 30-Aug 04	Scott Co. 4-H & Jr. Ag. Sho/w Assoc.
Jul 30-Aug 05	Lawrence Co. Jr. Fair Assoc.
Jul 31-Aug 03	Veteran's Memorial Fair Assoc.

Adams
Lee
Randolph
Stark
Moultrie
Marion
White
Coles
Scott
Lawrence
Tazewell

Mendon
Amboy
Sparta
Wyoming
Sullivan
Salem
Carmi
Charleston
Winchester
Sumner
Pekin

August

Aug 01-06	Logan Co. Fair Assoc.
Aug 01-06	Brown Co. Fair Assoc.
Aug 01-05	Knox Co. Ag. Board & Fair Assoc.
Aug 02-06	Ogle Co. Fair Assoc., Inc.
Aug 02-06	McLean County Fair Assoc.
Aug 02-08	Bond Co. Fair Assoc., Inc.
Aug 02-06	Kankakee Co. Fair & Expo. Inc.
Aug 02-06	McHenry Co. Fair Assoc.
Aug 03-06	Kendall Co. Fair Asso/c., Inc.
Aug 03-06	JoDaviess Co. Ag. Society
Aug 04-06	Sycamore Farmer's Club Jr. Fair
Aug 05-12	Williamson Co. Ag. Assoc., Inc.
Aug 05-12	Effingham Co. Fair Assoc.
Aug 06-12	Georgetown Ag. Fair Assoc., Inc.
Aug 07-12	Carroll Co. Fair Assoc.
Aug 08-13	Boone Co. Fair Assoc.
Aug 08-12	St. Clair Co. Fair Assoc. Inc.
Aug 09-12	Cullom Junior Fair
Aug 11-20	Illinois State Fair
Aug 14-19	Pulaski Civic & Comm. Fair Board
Aug 15-19	Whiteside Co. Central Ag. Society
Aug 15-20	Winnebago Co. Fair Assoc., Inc.
Aug 16-20	Fairbury Fair Assoc.
Aug 19-26	Southern Illinois Fair Assoc.
Aug 20-26	Greenup-Cumberland Co. Fair Assoc.
Aug 21-27	Stephenson Co. Fair Assoc.
Aug 23-27	Bureau Co. Ag. Board
Aug 23-27	Will County Fair Assoc.
Aug 26-Sep 04	Du Quoin State Fair
Aug 30-Sep 04	Pana Tri-Co. Fair Assoc., Inc.
Aug 31-Sep 04	Tri-County Fair Assoc.

Logan
Brown
Knox
Ogle
McLean
Bond
Kankakee
McHenry
Kendall
JoDaviess
DeKalb
Williamson
Effingham
Vermilion
Carroll
Boone
St. Clair
Livingston

Pulaski
Whiteside
Winnebago
Livingston
Union
Cumberland
Stephenson
Bureau
Will

Christian
LaSalle

Lincoln
Mt. Sterling
Knoxville
Oregon
Bloomington
Greenville
Kankakee
Woodstock
Yorkville
Warren
Sycamore
Marion
Altamont
Georgetown
Milledgeville
Belvidere
Belleville
Cullom
Springfield
Pulaski
Morrison
Pecatonica
Fairbury
Anna
Greene
Freeport
Princeton
Peotone
DuQuoin
Pana
Mendota

September

Sep 02-10	Gallatin Co. Fair Assoc.
Sep 06-10	Sandwich Fair Ass., Inc.
Sep 07-10	Calhoun Apple Adv. Club, Inc.
Sep 15-17	Okawville Ag. Products Fair Assoc.

Gallatin
DeKalb
Calhoun
Washington

Ridgway
Sandwich
Hardin
Okawville

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USDA UNVEILS NEW TOLL-FREE NUMBER FOR FSA BORROWERS FARMERS AND RANCHERS CAN CHECK ACCOUNT STATUS 24/7

Farm Service Agency Administrator Teresa Lasseter today announced that direct loan borrowers with USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) can now check the status of their accounts around the clock using a new toll-free telephone number.

"This convenient new tool gives customers up-to-the-minute access to their accounts, helping producers better manage the daily operations of their farm or ranch," said Lasseter. "This secure system is fast, efficient and very user-friendly, and yet another hallmark of our commitment to provide high quality and convenient services."

The toll-free number is 1-888-518-4983 and is available in both English and Spanish. The system delivers information on active FSA loans 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The telephone system provides FSA direct loan borrowers with the following information:

- * loan number;
- * original loan amount;
- * unpaid principal;
- * if the borrower is delinquent and the amount of the delinquency;
- * due date of next installment;
- * principal and interest amount of next installment;
- * date last payment was received;
- * amount of interest paid in current calendar year; and
- * amount of interest paid for prior loan year.

During the first call to the new system, borrowers will enter their tax identification number (TIN) or the social security number (SSN) associated with the loan. They also will need to enter their zip code. Borrowers will create a personal identification number (PIN) for security. Customers must enter their PIN every time they use the system and may change their PIN. The system menu helps users access helpful information. The system may also direct borrowers to contact their local FSA servicing office if action is necessary on their accounts.

FSA has more than 73,000 direct borrowers with about \$7.2 billion in its loan portfolio. The agency makes direct farm ownership, operating and emergency loans to family-size farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank, Farm Credit System institution or other lenders. Borrowers can use FSA loans to purchase land, livestock, equipment, feed, seed, and supplies, construct buildings or make farm improvements. Special loan programs also exist for rural youth.

2006 Annual ILICA Picnic and Golf Outing Directions

DIRECTIONS TO TOM MADONIA WEST PARK:

From I-55 you will need to take the Stevenson Drive Exit. At the light, you will be directly across the street from City Water Light and Power, you will need to turn Left, cross the bridge and follow Lake Shore Drive around the bend, look for signs, Tom Madonia West Park is on the Left hand side. The golf course is just a little further around the bend.

DIRECTIONS TO GOLF COURSE:

From I-55 you will need to take the Stevenson Drive Exit. At the light, you will be directly across the street from City Water Light and Power, you will need to turn Left, cross the bridge and follow Lake Shore Drive around the bend, the golf course is on right hand side.

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Anyone planning to dig, regardless of the depth should call **JULIE** before they begin. The call to **JULIE** and the service provided by utility members are free to the excavator.

BE SAFE. DIG SMART.

1-800-892-0123



2006 Annual ILICA Picnic and Golf Outing Sponsorship Opportunities

Please circle the item or event you wish to sponsor and complete the form below and return to ILICA office with payment. Below are suggested donations, however, we will gladly accept any amount you are able.

Thank you for helping make this years Picnic and Golf a success!

Golf Outing

Hole Sponsorship \$100

*Longest Drive \$75

*Shortest Pin \$75

*Longest Putt \$75

*Best Game \$75

**The above listed prices would allow the picnic committee to purchase gift awards for the winners at the event. Only one sponsor will be accepted, first come first serve for these prizes.*

Picnic Lunch, Lunch Sponsorship (meal and drinks) \$400

Dessert \$175

Company Name/Contact _____ Phone _____

For Office Use:

Date Received: _____ Check No. _____

ILICA 2006 PICNIC
COME JOIN US FOR FOOD, FUN & FELLOWSHIP

ILLINOIS LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION INVITES YOU TO JOIN US
JUNE 10th FOR THE ANNUAL ILICA PICNIC, BOARD MEETING AND GOLF OUTING AT TOM
MADONIA WEST PARK (LAKE SPRINGFIELD) AND LINCOLN GREENS GOLF COURSE, IL.

A GOLF OUTING IS ALSO SCHEDULED AFTER THE PICNIC MEAL. TEE TIME IS SET FOR 2:00 PM
(YOU WILL NEED TO BE AT THE GOLF COURSE NO LATER THAN 1:30 P.M.)

\$20.50 INCLUDES 9 HOLES AND 1 CART \$31.50 18 HOLES AND 1 CART

A PICNIC MEAL WILL BE SERVED AT 12:00 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING.

THE COST OF THE MEAL WILL BE \$8.50 PER PERSON.

DIRECTIONS TO TOM MADONIA WEST PARK AND LINCOLN GREENS GOLF COURSE:

DIRECTIONS TO TOM MADONIA WEST PARK: From I-55 you will need to take the Stevenson Drive Exit. At the light, you will b directly
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signs, Tom Madonia West Park is on the Left hand side. The golf course is just a little further around the bend.

DIRECTIONS TO GOLF COURSE: From I-55 you will need to take the Stevenson Drive Exit. At the light, you will be directly across the street
from City Water Light and Power, you will need to turn Left, cross the bridge and follow Lake Shore Drive around the bend, the golf course is on right
hand side.

***THE BOARD MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 10 AM**

***If you have any questions regarding Golf Outing, Directions or Picnic Lunch please contact Dave and Deb
Maltby, Picnic Chairman, at 217-625-7744 OR BY EMAIL AT MALTBYBULLDOZING@NETZERO.NET**

Please return to office no later than June 1, 2006

ILICA SUMMER PICNIC & BOARD MEETING

YES, we will attend the ILICA Board Meeting & dinner on June 10 at Tom Madonia West Park. Please make
reservations for the following at \$8.50 each:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 3. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 4. _____ |

Golf at Lincoln Greens Golf Course - REGISTRATION 1:30 PM TEE TIME 2:00 PM
\$21.50, Includes 9 holes and 1 cart or \$30.50, Includes 18 holes and 1 cart.

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 3. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 4. _____ |

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

**Mail to: ILICA
2060 Timberbrook Drive, Suite 3
Springfield, IL 62702**

2006 ILICA LADIES SUMMER OUTING

Since our winter convention is always held in January, we thought that it might be fun to have a Ladies Summer Outing.

Our trip would include the following on Saturday, May 20, 2006:

10 am – Governor's Mansion Tour 15-30 minutes long

10:45 am – Dana Thomas House (Frank Lloyd Wright Home) Tour 1-1 ½ hours long

12:00 – Lunch at your choice of 6th Street dining: Maldener's, Trout Lily Café, Wienerdog or Zbistro

1:15 – Old State Capitol Tour ½ hour long

1:50 – Lincoln's Presidential Library and Museum

Immediately following – Washington Park Botanical Garden Walk

The Washington Park Botanical Garden contains 9,000 square feet of greenhouse area, plus a conservatory which houses over 150 species of tropical plants. Surrounding the conservatory are a variety of gardens, including a 5,000 plant rose garden, the largest of its kind in central Illinois, a scent and texture garden for the visually impaired, an iris garden, perennial border, Betty Mood Smith Rockery, and Roman Cultural and outdoor cactus gardens.

There will be limited walking and the downtown trolley will be available.

If you would be interested in attending, please fill out the form below and return to the ILICA office by May 1st or let Jackie Streitmatter know at jjstreit@starkcounty.com or 309/695-2800

****The ladies tour will only take place if we have enough interested in attending.**

+++++

Cost per lady will be \$10.00 covering the cost of the admission and suggested donations to each location. Lunch will be on your own.

Yes, I'm interested

No, Thank you

Name (please print)

Address

City, State and Zip

Phone

Please return to:

**ILICA
2060 Timberbrook Drive Suite 3
Springfield, IL 62702
Fax 217/787-7260 or send to illinoislica@sbcglobal.net**

ILICA COMMITTEES – 2006

Associate

Mark Baker, Chair/Springfield Plastics
Chad Nickelson/Eastern IL Clay
Ben Bobell/ADS
Kane Kausemaker/ADS

Auditing

Steve Anderson, Chair
Ron Masching

Awards

Scott & Kate Day, Chair
Rose Day
Ralph & Norma Habbe
Bill & Bev Dean

Budget

Bill Dean, Chair
Joe Streitmatter
Wayne Litwiller
Forrest Davis
Steve Anderson

By-Laws

Don Hurst, Chair
Stan Seevers
Stuart Anderson
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

Rose Day, Chair
Wayne & Janice Litwiller
Forrest & Jean Davis
Norm & Coretha Rozendaal

Executive

Joe Streitmatter, Chair
Bill Dean
Wayne Litwiller
Stuart Anderson
Melanie Schutt

Ladies

Jackie Streitmatter, Chair
Jean Davis
Janice Litwiller
Janet Doubet
Cathy Masching
Hazel Anderson

Legislative

Dave Hurst, Chair
Steve Anderson
Norm Kocher
Dale Collinson

Education

Jon Seevers, Chair
Ron Masching
Joe Krupps
Carol Kiley
Steve Anderson
Scott Day
Bob Grothaus
Mark Baker
Richard Cooke, U of I
Jim Evans, NRCS

Headquarters

Dan Day, Chair
Dale Collinson
Steve Anderson
Forrest Davis
Bill Doubet
Mark Baker

Insurance

Dave Hurst, Chair
Stan Seevers
Jackie Streitmatter

Industrial & Business Relations

Bill Dean, Chair
Dale Collinson
Wayne Litwiller
Bill Doubet
Dan Day

Long Term Planning

Norm Kocher, Chair
Stuart Anderson
Dan Day
Don Becraft
Bill Doubet

Membership

Wayne Litwiller, Co-Chair
Norm Kocher, Co-Chair
Bill Dean
Mark Baker
Gerald Hoogstraat
Carol Kiley

Nomination

Don Hurst, Chair
Stan Seevers
Ralph Habbe

On-Site Waste

Wayne Litwiller, Chair
Larry Vansickle
Jason Winings
Jon Seevers
John McCoy

Picnic

David & Deborah Maltby

Publicity

Bill Masching, Chair
Mark Baker
Jackie Streitmatter
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

Board Meeting

May 6, 2006

*Richland Community College
Decatur, IL*

Summer Picnic/Golf Outing

June 10, 2006

*Tom Madonia West Park
Lincoln Greens Golf Course
Springfield, 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

TBA

National LICA Events...

Summer Convention

July 18-22, 2006

Newark, New Jersey hosted by NJ LICA

Winter Convention 2007

February 12-17, 2007

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



Application For AFFILIATE Membership

Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association



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

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

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

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

Individual Name: _____

Firm Name: _____

Address: _____

County: _____ ILICA Area Number: _____ Sponsor: _____

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



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: _____

2006 National Winter Convention...

The 2006 National Winter Convention was well attended by the Illinois LICA Chapter. The weather wasn't much better than what we had back in Illinois, but with how this winter has been, who can complain? I think everyone who flew into Myrtle Beach had one story or another, but once everyone got there, they had a good time.

The convention had a great educational line up with some incredible speakers and some great entertainment for the Saturday evening awards banquet, Cloggers! The 2006 National Summer Meeting will be in Newark, New Jersey hosted by New Jersey July 18-22. The 2007 National Winter Meeting will be February 12-17, 2007 at the Radisson Worldgate Resort in Orlando, Florida. For more information go to www.licanational.com.

Below are some pictures of the Illinois Chapter enjoying their fellowship and committee meetings held throughout the week.



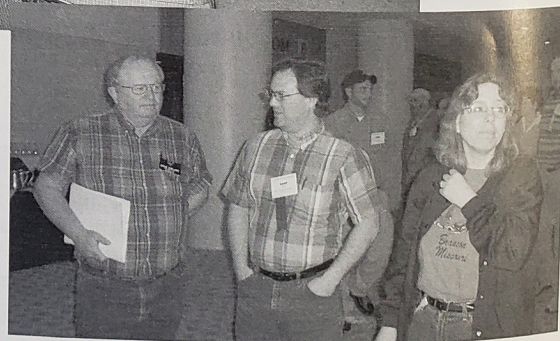
Forrest Davis, Stuart Anderson
and Joe Streitmatter at the
Delegates Meeting



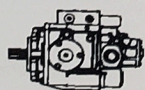
National Convention
Committee Meeting



Illinois LICA members in attendance



Stuart and Hazel Anderson talking with Doug Egeland of Iowa
LICA



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Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association • 2060 Timberbrook Drive, Suite 3, Springfield, IL 62702

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.

**NEW
RATES**

***Dues are \$285**
One hundred sixty dollars (\$160) plus
One hundred twenty five dollars (\$125)

**NEW
RATES**

***New members only, for 1st 2 years of membership. All existing members are \$400.00**

(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.)

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

Individual Name _____ Spouse _____

Firm Name _____

Address _____

County _____ ILICA Area Number _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Sponsor _____

Check Services Provided

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| ☐ TH-Trucking or Hauling | ☐ R-Reclamation | ☐ EMC-Earthmoving or Land Clearing | ☐ DE-Drainage or Irrigation |
| ☐ 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 |

EVERY MEMBER . . .

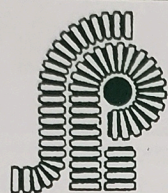


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- Water Treatment
- Dams and Structures
- Drainage Systems
- Farm Ponds
- Grading
- Land Clearing
- On Site Waste Treatment
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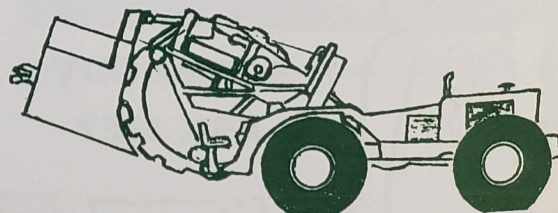
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