

ILLINOIS

CHAPTER

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ILICA NEWS

Land Improvement Contractors Of America • Illinois Chapter

September/October 2004

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Exciting News for ILICA Members!

New Illinois LICA Carrier

Illinois LICA is excited to announce that we have endorsed Continental Western Insurance Company as the insurance carrier for our member's property and casualty coverages. Continental Western's home office and regional service office is located in Des Moines, Iowa. Continental Western is part of the W.R. Berkley Corporation. Continental Western Insurance Company is A rated by A.M. Best, a recognized insurance company rating authority in the U.S. The insurance policy Continental Western Insurance Company provides for the ILICA members is designed specifically for the Illinois LICA. Through independent agents, representing Continental Western Insurance Company, the company is active in the Illinois LCA at both the district and state levels. The Continental Western Insurance Company, claims staff and loss control staff have the technical expertise to service LICA member accounts.

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Legislative and Regulatory Issues

All eyes are watching the race for the White House these days. I'm just thankful it will soon be over.

Agriculture has a fair amount at stake in this election and it's not just about policies, the differences are marked on taxes for example. Kerry wants to repeal Tax cuts enacted under Bush. Kerry would lower rates on dividends and capital gains for tax payers with over \$200,000. Adjusted Gross Income. Kerry would also return rates on the top brackets to 36% and 39.6 %. And Kerry wants to keep the estate tax but has suggested raising the exemption from \$1.5 million to \$2.0 for most estates and \$5.0 million for estates with family farms or businesses.

Bush wants to make current cuts permanent. Bush also would like to do away completely with the estate tax after 2010.

Kerry is viewed as a moderate promoter of free Trade, and more than likely pursue deals similar to the way Clinton did. It is unlikely Kerry would push as hard as Bush for new trade agreements.

On health care Both candidates have plans to help the uninsured. Bush proposes tax credits for low-incomees who buy insurance, while Kerry would give incentives to those that provide coverage to new hires.

Both candidates support most of spending for USDA programs but their priorities are very divergent. Kerry leans heavily towards helping the smaller producers. As we've all learned bigness isn't a problem for Bush.

Credit: The foregoing has been taken from recent Kiplinger Agriculture Letters.

State Action Mostly in the Governor's Hands

The Governor just signed legislation rolling back some of the fees he hit the trucking industry with last year.

The General Assembly successfully restored funding for C-FAR to continue funding the ongoing Research under Strategic Research Initiatives to the tune of \$3.5 million. Overall Agriculture didn't fair badly in the budget process, but it will take some time to feel the full impact.

I understand the show went well, congratulations to all involved. I regret not getting to see it. But my hiatus to Nova Scotia conflicted except for the last day.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello everyone. I am sure you all know by now that our Executive Director Joann Huff retired in March and we have finally found an excellent person to replace her, you all need to make welcome Melanie Harney as our new Executive Director. The office is back in Springfield now and the new address and phone number are listed in the newsletter.

Our Conservation Expo got a little wet this year but all things considered it went very well. I talked a lot with the owner and he thinks it was great and even with the mud it was well attended. I would like to thank all who helped to get it put together and all who gave their time to make sure the work got done, THANKS and great job, and a special thanks to Joe and Jackie Streitmatter for all their time and effort in putting this show on.

The summer national meeting in Rapid City, SD went very well, Illinois was well represented as always. The next national is in March 2005 in Las Vegas Nevada in conjunction with con-expo, it should be a great meeting and I think anyone who can, should plan to attend.

We are coming into the busy fall season, so work fast,

but **ALWAYS WORK CAREFULLY** . . . I hope you all have a great fall and hope to see you at the November Board Meeting.

Stuart Anderson
President



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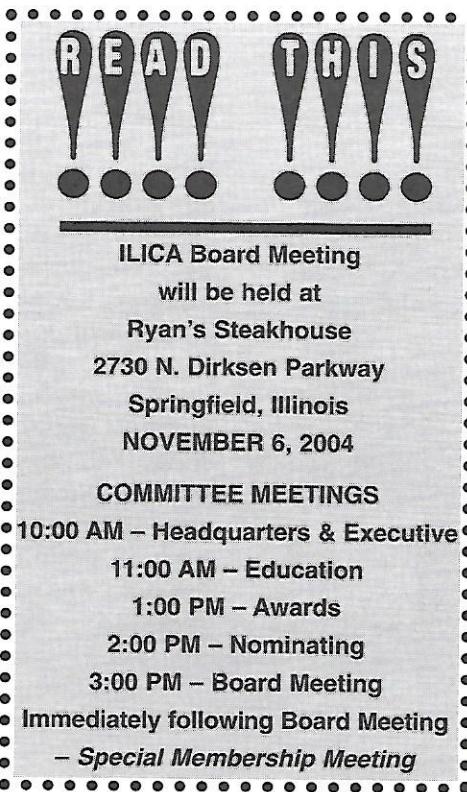
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Upcoming Meetings

ILICA BOARD MEETINGS

November 6, 2004
Ryan's Steakhouse, Springfield

March 5, 2005
TBA

May 7, 2005
TBA

2005 Annual Convention
January 12-15, 2005

A Soggy Expo!

When Melanie asked me to write a few words about the 2004 Conservation Expo, my first reaction was that there wasn't too much to say. But as I thought about all the good things that happened, suddenly I had an abundance of writing material.



Digging of Pond

As most of you know, JoAnn Huff retired in March. We hired JoEtta Carroll to be our new ED, and everything seemed like it would roll right along. With all the pressure from the show, newsletter, and directory deadlines, and loads of responsibility at home, we lost our 2nd ED in less



Joe Streimatter



Robert and Richard Lasser



East and West Tours

than 5 months. Panic was on the doorstep. How could we possibly pull off a successful show with no ED?!

Everyone at the show meetings was concerned, as was I. But our partners stepped up BIG, and things got back on track. A HUGE Thank You to Bob Frazee and the U of I Extension, Tom Miller and Trees Forever, McLean County Soil & Water Conservation District, and FSA & NRCS. I cannot thank you enough for all the help and coordination you provided. Also, thank you to the Lexington High FFA Chapter for painting the signs on such short notice.

The week prior to the show started great. Equipment started rolling in early in the week. Electricity was hooked up, and installed on Thursday. We were to start on the core of the dam on Friday, August 20th, but rain delayed us until Saturday. The tents were put up on Monday, and the exhibitors started setting up. JoAnn came out of retirement to lend a hand at the show, and her help was greatly appreciated. I had forgotten a few details, but she handled them like she had done this for 24 years. The only thing she didn't have under control was Mother Nature!

Our new ED's first day on the job was Tuesday, Aug 24th. Needless to say, she got muddy! I don't think her vision as ILICA's leader was clouded over though, as her enthusiasm is still bubbling over. Welcome to ILICA, Melanie, and the life of a dirt contractor!

The weather didn't get any better during the week, in fact it got worse. We ended up canceling the last day of the show (Thursday) because the parking area resembled a mud pit. We managed to work a few hours everyday. First we would push off the slop from the work areas, then went back to work hauling dirt for the dam. The engineers estimate was about 15,000 cubic yards of fill in the dam itself, but we moved a lot more than that. We built a small island in the center of the pond. I think it will be Richard's (Lasser) favorite fishing spot! We ended up working until Aug. 31st to finish up all the details. I was at the site on Sept. 4th to pick up some equipment. Clyde Day has been

running his land leveler over the entire project, and has things looking really nice! The WASCOB's didn't get built out in the corn field, but we decided to do them after harvest.

All in all everything went smoothly. There always are a few bumps in the road with a project this size. I felt sorry for the vendors and exhibitors on the lack of crowd numbers. They put forth a lot of time and expense to be at the show, so I know it was disappointing to them. The tour stop tents were a good idea, but with all the wind damage, I'm sure Dennis Lee and Bob Frazee got tired of repairing them.

This show would not have been successful without the tremendous support of equipment from our associates. We were very worried about how much iron would be available to us this year, but as always the dealers came through again! Many thanks to all of our associates! Also, thank you to Clyde Day, Wayne Litwiller, and Bill Dean for all the visits to the dealers, and countless phone calls in lining up the equipment. If you have an opportunity, please say thanks to our associates.

To our hosts, Richard and Bob Lasser, thank you for letting us play in the dirt with our "toys" on your farm. Your first thoughts were "what the h... are we getting into here", but then it was fun to watch and see things slowly take shape. We all would like to come back and have a "pond warming" party when you get your party house built. Enjoy your new fishing hole!

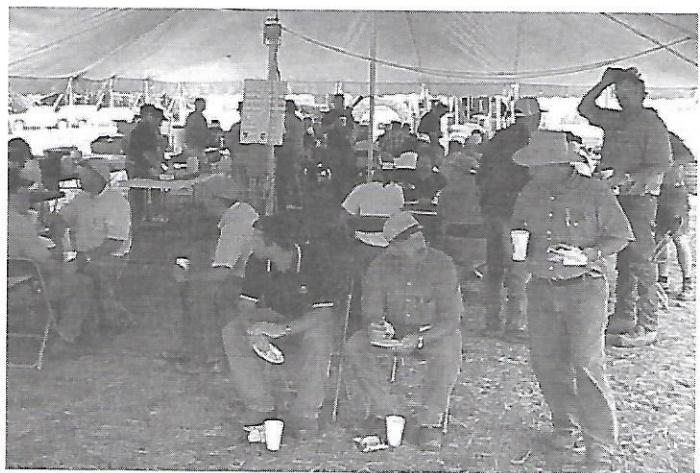
Now it's time to thank all the contractors, employees, and spouses. I truly cannot express enough gratitude for all the hard work and dedication that everyone put into the planning and execution of the 2004 Expo. We hurdled so many challenges along the way, and pulled off a successful show despite the weather. Please know, I appreciate each and every one of you whether you "pulled levers" or handed someone a drink. Also, thanks to the ladies who had a part in organizing the reception for JoAnn on Friday. Everything was great! And thanks to Bill Dean for being MC – the "Elmer's glue comparison to JoAnn" was right on!

I know I missed someone or something of importance, and for this I apologize. This is my first attempt at a very large "Thank You Note". I want everyone to know my gratitude for any and all efforts in conjunction with this show. Also, a special thank you to National LICA's President, Geri Mulford from Florida for taking time to spend 4 days with us. She is a very busy lady, and it was great to see her visit Illinois. And I would like to thank my wife, Jackie, for all her patience and support in the month's up to and including the show.

Show Co-Chair
Joe Streitmatter



Sawmill Demonstration



Headquarters Tent



Tiling

Thanks to all who gave a helping hand at the Lasser Farm.

ILLINOIS CONSERVATION FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES ILLINOIS OUTDOOR HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2005

Four Illinoisans well known and long recognized for their commitment to natural resources protection, conservation and enhancement of outdoor recreation opportunities in the state have been selected for induction into the Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame, a program of the Illinois Conservation Foundation.

"The four inductees selected as the Class of 2005 for the Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame represent the best our state has to offer in furthering our goals for making Illinois a better place to live," said ICF Board Chairman and Illinois Department of Natural Resources Director Joel Brunsvoold. "Each of us benefits every day from the effort invested and commitment shown to natural resources stewardship by these individuals. We look forward to honoring them at the annual Hall of Fame induction banquet next February."

The new inductees were selected from among dozens of nominees for the prestigious Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame honor. They are:

KENNETH V. FISKE, WOODSTOCK

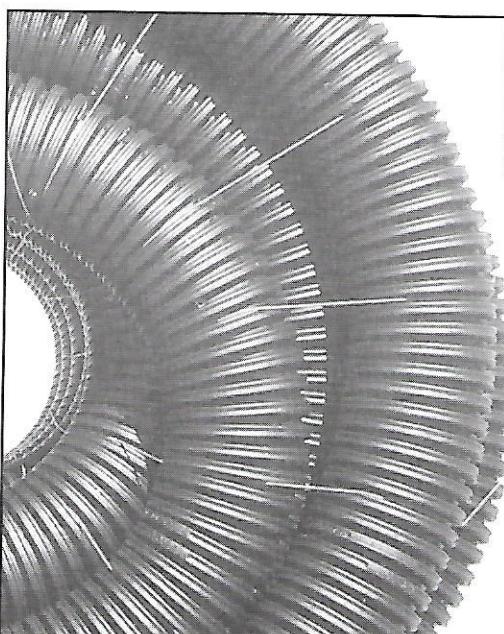
Ken Fiske has spent a career spanning more than 50 years committed to open land protection and conservation. A graduate of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in 1946 and the University of Wisconsin in 1950, Fiske returned to his family farm in McHenry County and was named Illinois Conservation Farmer of the Year in 1952. After a business

career in farm management and engineering, Fiske was the founding executive director of the McHenry County Conservation District, retiring from that post after 14 years in 1985. Fiske serves as a board member of the Corporation for OpenLands, is a former chairman of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, helped found the McHenry County Conservation Foundation, and serves as an officer of the Illinois Association of Conservation Districts and the McHenry County Soil and Water Conservation District. Fiske and his wife, Darlene, were honored recently as 2004 Refuge Volunteers of the Year by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for efforts on preserving and restoring bird habitat in Hawaii and Florida.

DR. W. D. KLIMSTRA, CARBONDALE

The late Dr. Willard D. Klimstra was the founding director of the Cooperative Wildlife Research Laboratory at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale from 1951 until his retirement in 1988. Dr. Klimstra continued his work at SIU on a part time basis until his death in 1993. As director of the lab and a professor of zoology at SIU, Klimstra directed the efforts of graduate students whose research and professional accomplishments continue to provide benefits to wildlife and natural resources conservation in Illinois and throughout the country. Klimstra was recognized as a pioneer in wildlife ecology and mined land reclamation. His work at Pyramid State Park in the 1950s represented one of the nation's first demonstrations of mine reclamation for fish and wildlife habitat enhancement. Klimstra helped draft legislation on mined land reclamation and conservation, the Illinois Nature Preserves System Act, and the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act. He later served as a member and chair of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission and a member of the Endangered Species Protection Board.

Illinois Conservation... (> p18)



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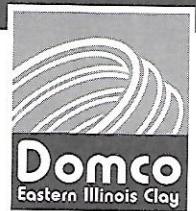
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USDA ANNOUNCES SELECTION OF FIRST CSP PARTICIPANTS; NEARLY 200 CONTRACTS SELECTED IN ILLINOIS' KISHWAUKEE RIVER WATERSHED

Bill Gradle, NRCS State Conservationist in Illinois, spoke from a farm near Capron, IL today and echoed Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman in announcing that \$41 million in contracts will be awarded to thousands of farmers and ranchers in 22 states who will be the first in the nation to participate in the new Conservation Security Program (CSP). In Illinois, one of 22 states to participate in this debut program year, Gradle of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced that 191 contracts and \$2.9 million in funds would be awarded to outstanding conservation-minded producers in the Kishwaukee River watershed.

Gradle spoke from the Boone county farm of Richard and Karen Gadke and presented them a plaque and sign for their farm, thanking them for their long-term commitment to the protection of natural resources on their land. The event commemorated the signing of the first NRCS CSP contract in Illinois. Gradle said producers in the Kishwaukee would receive between \$3,000 and \$23,000 for a broad range of conservation work that protects and enhances natural resources including water quality, soil quality and wildlife habitat.

CSP applicants participate in the new program on three different tiers reflecting both their documented historical conservation management as well as their agreement to do additional practices to further enhance the environment. Within the Kishwaukee Watershed, 20 applications were at Tier I, 155 at Tier II, and 16 at Tier III. Tier III recognizes the highest level of conservation. In the Kishwaukee, total CSP payments are more than \$4.8 million. Nearly 2,200 eligible contracts will be signed nationally. A total amount of \$35 million will reward stewards across the country who have actively protected natural resources on about 1.88 million acres.

"The Gadke's operation was rated Tier III," said Dave Brandt, NRCS District Conservationist from McHenry County, who served as CSP Team Leader for the Kishwaukee effort. "The Gadke farm has a broad range of sustainable practices, including pest and nutrient management, crop rotations that include small grains, contour and conservation farming, wildlife habitat improvements, and quality protection of soil and water," adds Brandt.

Each speaker commended all Illinois CSP applicants who demonstrate a family history and devotion to conservation. "This program was created to reward and recognize the long-term action and commitment of conservationists and stewards like the Gadke family," adds Gradle. "All successful applicants have achieved high technical standards for protecting soil and water quality," said Ron Doetch, Chairman of the Boone County Soil and Water Conservation District, who also spoke at the event.

According to Gradle, "These are model conservationists who we can point to as our first line of defense in managing ecosystems like the Kishwaukee Watershed with both productivity and careful stewardship as twin goals." While conservation incentive programs and technical assistance from NRCS date back to the Dust Bowl days of the 1930's, CSP represents the first time agricultural producers are being paid for ongoing stewardship.

CSP is a voluntary program that supports ongoing conservation stewardship of agricultural working lands and enhances the condition of America's natural resources. For more information on CSP and other NRCS programs see <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs>.

Thanks For so Many Years . . .

*The ILIICA Board of Directors,
Office, Members and Associates
would like to thank JoAnn Huff for
all of her hard and dedicated work to
the Association. She was a great
asset as well as a great friend to
many. JoAnn, thanks for everything
you gave to this office. You will be
greatly missed. Good luck with all of
your future endeavors.*



JULIE, INC. MARKS 30 YEARS OF PUBLIC SAFETY

MEMBER-DRIVEN, NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION ENCOURAGES HOMEOWNERS AND PROFESSIONAL EXCAVATORS TO DIG SAFELY IN ILLINOIS

Representatives of the Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators (JULIE, Inc.) announced that the organization is celebrating its 30th Anniversary this year. With over 1,760 members, JULIE, Inc. stresses the importance of calling the one-call system before starting any digging projects and promotes safe digging practices in Illinois.

"As one of the largest member-driven, not-for-profit organizations in Illinois, we are proud to promote an easier, safer digging environment," said Kevin Chmura, director of public relations at JULIE, Inc. "Working closely with our members, statewide associations and organizations and the excavation community, our mission is to prevent damages to underground utilities, the environment and property, reduce service interruptions and costly repairs, and save lives."

Commitment to Public Safety

Julie, Inc., also known as the Illinois One-Call System, is proactively involved in a variety of public and member education and safety programs aimed at increasing the use of the one-call system and reducing accidents through increased awareness of the excavation dangers. Illinois law requires anyone digging, regardless of depth, to call JULIE, Inc. (1-800-892-0123) at least two working days prior to the start of excavation and to begin that project within 14 calendar days from the call. Call center operators are available to receive and process calls 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"To mark our anniversary this year, a new corporate logo was created to reflect the proactive message of the organization-Call JULIE Before You Dig," Frost continued.

The Illinois One-Call System has 100 employees during peak periods and provides excavators with a toll-free number (1-800-892-0123) for the free locating and marking of underground facilities. JULIE, Inc. serves as a notification service for underground facility owners, taking information about planned excavations and distributing this information to its membership. It is then the responsibility of each facility owner to mark the location to its membership. It is then the responsibility of each facility owner to mark the location of their underground facilities at the excavation site. JULIE, Inc. neither owns nor marks any underground facilities.

With over 14.5 million calls received and processed since its inception and an annual call volume over 1.1 million, JULIE, Inc. is one of the largest industry one-call systems in the United States. Because one call to JULIE, Inc. results in communication with multiple member utility companies and municipalities, calls over this 30-year period have resulted in over 88 million notification messages being transmitted to members. Member utilities fully support JULIE, Inc. based upon their message volume.

History of JULIE, Inc.

In August 1974, JULIE, Inc. was founded by the owners and operators of underground facilities in Illinois as a means of preventing injuries and reducing damages to those facilities. JULIE, Inc. began operations in Will county and expanded its coverage in December 1980 to include all of Illinois, with the

exception of the city of Chicago. In 1976, the organization was accepted by the Illinois Commerce Commission as compliance with the one-call notification section of General Order 185.

Originally located in the Illinois Bell Telephone facility on Webster Street in Joliet, Illinois, the corporation moved to leased space at 3033 West Jefferson in the early 1980's. Then in 1992, JULIE, Inc. became a pioneer on Essington Street with a state-of-the-art one-call center that has served as a model facility for similar organizations across the nation.

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ARE YOU A LANDOWNER "WANTING" A POND?

If you are a landowner who has always been 'wanting' a pond, there are a number of preconstruction steps that should be done to first determine if your property will even be suitable for a pond. Bob Frazee, University of Illinois Natural Resources Educator suggests the first step would be to contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District Office for a soils map, topography map, and plat map. With this information in hand, you can begin to conduct a thorough site assessment to examine the soils land cover, drainage, watershed area, and utilities for the intended property. You can also determine the projected pond size, depth, dam location, and height of the waterline.

Frazee recommends landowners consider taking core samples of the intended pond area using a "backhoe check". This is also a good time to check on any local, county, or state regulations or permits which may be impacting the site.

It is important to be realistic about cost for constructing a pond, as a typical 1/2 acre pond may cost ten to twenty thousand dollars. Some landowners may find it beneficial to hire a private consultant or engineer to assist with some of these pre-construction assessment is "Does this site meet necessary requirements that will provide for a successful, long-term pond?"

The next step in making a pond a reality on your property is selecting a qualified contractor to construct your

pond. Frazee recommends landowners again contact their county SWCD Office to obtain a list of land improvement contractors who have knowledge and experience in pond design and construction, permits and regulations. They should have the necessary construction equipment and of proper size to complete the project in a timely fashion.

A contractor should be willing to provide referrals, but Frazee suggests that it is also advisable to visit with neighbors and other landowners as the quality of work they have done. The contractor should develop and provide a detailed installation plan with a written construction bid. You may want to check ask if they have a performance bond and liability insurance in case problems might develop during or after the construction process.

Once you identify a contractor, the next step is to schedule a site visit to examine the pond site, to provide a first-hand evaluation of the soil type, topography, watershed area, drainage, need for a 'borrow area', presence of creeks or springs, and tree, brush, boulder, or debris removal. Obtain the contractor's recommendations as to the pond's size, depth, dam location, water level, and shoreline slope. It's important to identify and discuss the installation of mechanical and emergency spillways, WASCOB (dry dam), and a drain for the pond. According to Frazee, this is also the time to discuss other additional options for your pond, which might include a sand beach, swimming area, boat ramp, dock, aerators, or electric service. Obtain from your contractor a projected timetable for construction; an estimated total cost for labor, equipment, and materials; and agree on the preferred method and timing for payment(s).

If everything is still "go" after the above items have been discussed, evaluated, and decided, Frazee feels the landowner should be ready to proceed with pond construction, assuming proper soil moisture conditions, good weather, and an available contractor.

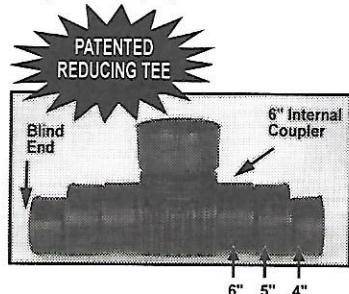
Source: Bob Frazee, University of Illinois Extension Educator-Natural Resources Mgmt.

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ILLINOIS CONSERVATION FOUNDATION AWARDS MORE THAN \$45,000 IN GRANTS FOR LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

The Illinois Conservation Foundation announced the awarding of grants totaling more than \$45,000 to 30 organizations, groups and agencies for projects and programs focusing on habitat enhancement, natural resources education and stewardship throughout the state.

"These grants will help make a difference in a variety of ways - from improving natural resources education in and outside of classrooms to providing outdoor experiences for youngsters and for people with disabilities," said Illinois Department of Natural Resources Director Joel Brunsvold, who serves as chairman of the Illinois Conservation Foundation. "All of the organizations and groups receiving Foundation grants are providing matching funds as part of their commitment to these worthwhile efforts."

The ICF grant program is supported by private donations, including funds raised at the annual Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame banquet. Grant applications were reviewed by staff and a committee of the ICF Board of Directors before being approved by the full board. This is the fourth year of the grant program, which has awarded more than \$240,000 in grants for more than 120 projects.

The Illinois Conservation Foundation is an IRS 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit corporation which has raised more than \$18.5 million since 1995 to support the programs of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

For more information on the grant program and applications for the next round of grants, contact the Illinois Conservation Foundation, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271, phone 217/785-2003, or visit the ICF web site at www.ilcf.org.

A list of this year's grant recipients, grant amounts and a brief project description are listed below:

2004 Illinois Conservation Foundation Grants

Argo Community High School, Summit, \$2,500. The Argo Outdoor Laboratory Initiative will allow students to design, plan and build a garden using plant species native to Illinois. (Contact: Paula Panfil, 708/728-3200 ext. 741)

Ballard Nature Center, Altamont, \$2,500. The nature center will construct a kid's fishing pond for fishing and nature programs. (Contact: Karan Greuel, 618/483-6856)

Camp Wartburg, Waterloo, \$1,900. The outdoor education center and summer camp will improve prairie, forest and pond habitat. (Contact: Susan Barker, 618/939-7715)

Clinton County Rehabilitation Center-Community Link, Breese, \$1,500. Community Link will install a sensory garden at its east facility in Breese to enhance outdoor experiences for people with disabilities. (Contact: Tracy Hermanson, 618/526-8800)

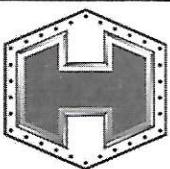
Cornerstone Christian Academy of McLean County, Bloomington, \$1,000. The outdoor education project for 5th grade students focuses on forestry, wildlife, and mapmaking. (Contact: April Kinzinger, 309/662-9900)

DePue Booster Club, DePue, \$1,150. The club hosts an annual fishing derby for youngsters at Lake DePue, including education programs, fishing and lunch. (Contact: Ron Marquez, 815/447-2652)

Ducks Unlimited GreenWings, Edwardsville, \$1,000. The annual GreenWings Day educates children on the importance of wetland habitat restoration and waterfowl conservation. (Contact: Tony Mikrut, 314/777-0893)

Eagle Creek State Park, Findlay, \$2,500. The Links to the Future youth festival at Eagle Creek and Wolf Creek state parks at Lake Shelbyville involves scouts and other young people from the region in a variety of outdoor recreation activities. (Contact: Richard Glazebrook, 217/756-8260)

Fishin' Buddies, Chicago, \$2,500. The organization hosts an annual Kids Fest focusing on fishing and other outdoors



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experiences for youngsters. (Contact: Julian Kidd, 773-2333250)

Fort Massac State Park, Metropolis, \$2,000. The park will host a daytime program for area schools surrounding the annual Fort Massac Encampment focusing on the region's history and natural features. (Contact: Sheila Richey, 618/524-4712)

Glen Carbon Centennial Library, Glen Carbon, \$400. The library's Bird Watching for Nestlings program is aimed at preschool through middle school students encouraging bird and wildlife watching and environmental awareness. (Contact: Janet McAllister, 618/288-1212)

Grand Prairie Friends of Illinois, Urbana, \$485. The GPF prairie education program educates area residents on native tallgrass prairie habitat in east-central Illinois. (Contact: James Ellis, 217/244-5695)

Hall Township High School District #502, Spring Valley, \$1,500. The school's outdoor classroom includes a self-sustaining butterfly and wildlife habitat managed by environmental sciences students. (Contact: Nickole Barto, 815/664-2100 ext. 117)

Holy Family School, Granite City, \$717.50. The funds will support a wildlife study program for students to encourage conservation stewardship. (Contact: Rosalie Ohlson, 618/877-5500)

Hoo Haven Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center, Durand, \$1,000. The center is building an outdoor flight training and exercise pen for birds of prey. (Contact: Karen and Steven Herdklotz, 815/629-2212)

Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Springfield, \$1,490. An Aquatic Ecology Program for school teachers as part of the IDNR ENTICE program includes sessions at Illinois Beach State Park on Lake Michigan and along the Mississippi River in northwest Illinois. (Contact: Randy Wiseman, 217/524-4126)

Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Springfield, \$2,500. An introductory wingshooting program for young people and women offers skills training and basic instruction for shotgun shooting. (Contact: Dave Cassens, 217/785-7742)

Illinois Federation for Outdoor Resources, Godfrey, \$2,000. The grant supports an outdoor recreation education program for approximately 180 young people ages 10-16. (Contact: Bob Becker, 618/466-2582)

Illinois Conservation Foundation... (>p12)

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Illinois Conservation Foundation... ... (<p11)

John Green Elementary School, Hooperston, \$1,900. The funds will support a 5th grade curriculum focusing on prairie, forest and wetland habitats. (Contact: Christy Hott, 217/283-6667)

Lincolnland Volunteer Safety Instructors, Pleasant Plains, \$1,400. A youth wingshooting clinic and upland game hunt will be provided to more than 40 young people, to be accompanied by experienced hunters. (Contact: Lou Matsko, 217/787-5923)

Mary G. Peterson Elementary School, Chicago, \$800. The school's Classroom in a Garden project focuses on an outdoor garden curriculum for approximately 300 1st through 3rd grade students. (Contact: Joseph Kallas, 773/534-5070)

Prairielands Council - Boy Scouts of America, Champaign, \$2,500. The organization is developing a shooting sports facility for scouts at which shooting skills and safety education will be available year round. (Contact: Michael Graham, 217/356-7291 ext. 18)

Sallie Logan Public Library, Murphysboro, \$765. The library will use the funds to add to its collection of books and materials for children focusing on nature and outdoor recreation. (Contact: Donella Odum, 618/684-3271)

Special Recreation Foundation, Franklin Park, \$2,000. West suburban youngsters ages 10-15 will experience outdoor recreation activities including camping, boating, hiking and star gazing. The program is targeted to low-income children and youngsters with disabilities. (Contact: Robin Tammeling, 847/455-2100 ext. 260)

Sugar Grove Nature Center, McLean, \$500. Funds will support development of a bat education mobile unit to enhance education programs and workshops in central Illinois. (Contact: Angela Smith, 309/874-2174)

Trees Forever, Peoria, \$2,000. The group has developed a coloring book on forest resources entitled "Together We Grow" designed to educate children. (Contact: Tom Miller, 309/692-0195)

Tri-County Special Education, Murphysboro, \$2,500. The funds will support an outdoor education program for young people with disabilities in Jackson, Perry and Union counties. (Contact: Aaron Thompson, 618/684-8432)

Unity West Elementary School, Tolono, \$2,500. A forest habitat to enhance environmental education is being developed at Unity West Elementary School with the help of the Champaign County Forest Preserve District. (Contact: Duane Walton, 217/485-3918)

University of Illinois Extension - Montgomery County, Hillsboro, \$800. The funds will support the Montgomery County Youth Conservation Day for more than 300 5th grade students, with information on native plants, soil and water conservation and local ecosystems. (Contact: Kelli Bassett, 217/532-3941)

Why Not Now Incorporated, Princeville, \$1,242. The funds will support installation of an accessible boat dock to enhance fishing and boating opportunities for people with disabilities. (Contact: Brad Guidi, 309-243-9268)

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JANUARY ANNUAL CONVENTION NOTICE...

The Annual Convention in January 2005 will be held 12-15. The convention this year will be a combination of the Annual Convention and the Annual Educational Workshop. If you should have any questions regarding this year's change, please contact the ILICA office at (217) 787-7260.

FYI. . .

There will be a **Special Membership Meeting** November 6 in Springfield at Ryan's Steakhouse/Buffet 2730 N. Dirksen Parkway. The membership will vote on a proposition to amend the current by-laws. **Recommended By Law changes to be voted on at the November 6, 2004 ILICIA Board Meeting and Special Membership Meeting:**

Article 1 Membership

Section 4 Membership Dues

Now reads- Active members dues shall be (\$275.00)
Two hundred seventy-five dollars.

Amend to read

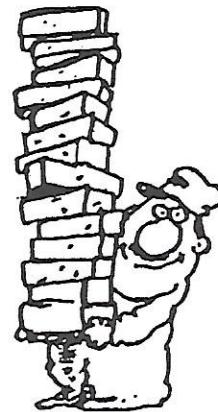
Active members dues shall be (\$160.00)
One hundred sixty dollars.

Section 2

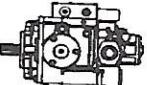
Delete By Law

If you have any questions, please contact the ILICA office at (217) 787-7260.

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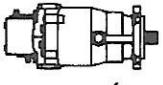
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ILICA COMMITTEES – 2004

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Denny Pastor, Hancor
Mark Baker, Springfield
Plastics

Auditing

Steve Anderson
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Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Day
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Mark & Kate Baker
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Beverly Dean
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Show

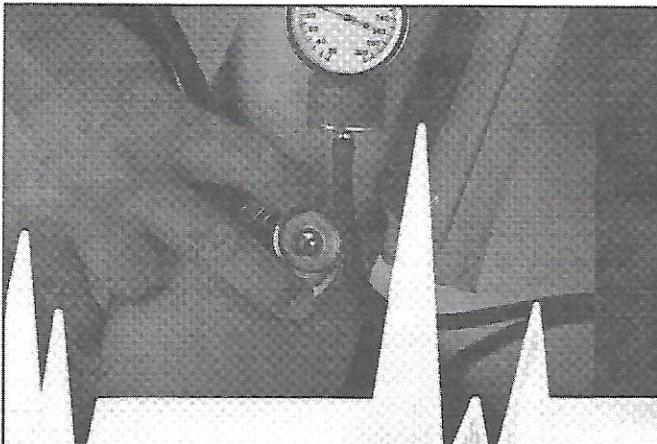
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COMMITTEE FUNCTION, RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY

The committee system is the best system yet devised in a democracy to capture and develop ideas into a workable program. The **FUNCTION** of each committee is to gather ideas from every source that relates to its area of concern. Those ideas should be advanced in the form of a proposal. Each member of the committee has a personal **RESPONSIBILITY** to become knowledgeable in that area of the committee's concern. Each committee has the **AUTHORITY** to investigate, research, meet, submit reports and develop proposals, to the extent of its budget. Committees are authorized by the By-Laws as an instrument of the Board as a means to secure ideas and suggestion from 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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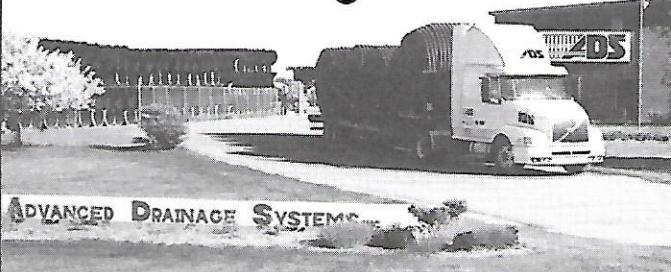
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**OUTSTANDING ILLINOIS
WILDLIFE LANDOWNERS
AND TREE FARMERS OF
THE YEAR PRESENTED
AT STATE FAIR**

Illinois Department of Natural Resources Director Joel Brunsvold today announced that Donald and Susan Meador of Larnark are the Illinois Wildlife Landowners of the Year, while Rollie and Lois Spaniol of Charleston are the Illinois Outstanding Tree Farmers for 2004.

"In presenting these awards each year to landowners committed to improving their natural habitat, we offer congratulations to the winners and encouragement to other landowners," Brunsvold said. "The award program highlights outstanding accomplishments of individual landowners in improving wildlife habitat, enhancing forests and protecting the investments they have made in their property."

The statewide awards for the Illinois Wildlife Landowner of the Year and the Illinois Outstanding Tree Farmer are presented during Agriculture Day activities at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield.

Illinois Wildlife... (> p19)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

Hello to Everyone! Some of you I have had the pleasure of meeting and those whom I have not, I'm sure our time will come. I want to thank ILICA for the warm welcome that I received in August at the Conservation Exposition. I'm looking forward to serving ILICA and all of our members. The office has once again moved. We are now located 2060 Timberbrook Drive, Suite 3 Springfield Illinois 62702. Our phone is 217-787-7260 and email is illinoislica@sbcglobal.net. I think the key for this Association's success is communication. If anyone has a question or would like to talk about what I envision for ILICA's future please do not hesitate to contact me. The office is always up to hear ideas or listen to any concerns our members may have.

A few dates that we need to keep in mind are our Annual Convention January 12-15th. This year the Annual Workshop, which is usually held in February will be combined with the Convention. We will be hosting a Certification Testing Date on the last day of the Convention. All materials will be forthcoming in the November/December Issue of the ILICA News.

Next years National will be hosted in Las Vegas, Nevada March 12-19, 2005. All materials have been mailed if you have not received your National Packet, please contact our office and we will make sure you get taken care of and receive the necessary materials.

Again, thank you for the great welcome and I look forward to meeting each and every one of you.

Melanie Harney



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GABBING WITH THE GALS...



Remember the song "Summertime, And the Living is EASY"? Well, it really has been pretty easy this year in our area. Good swimming weather, enough rain for the crops and the forecast seems to be good for harvesting. Our poor state of Florida has had more than their share of bad weather and we need to still pray that it is over and the rebuilding can commence. We really have had some decent days even though school has started and that's when it usually gets hot. Do you wonder what the coffee drinkers talk about if they can't complain about the weather? This gal used to go to have coffee in the mornings with some friends but when we put the office in a building at the shop, out of the house, that ended that. Of course there probably is time to go before worktime but who wants to get up that early? Surely at this age in time, that should be a perk - to sleep in a few times a week. If you are a morning person that wouldn't interest you, of course, but my getting-up time and the birds waking up time are not compatible.

I call this time of year the "quiet time" - just before the combines get going good and all the bean and corn dust hits the fan. Supposed to be an early harvest this year and when driving through the country it certainly could be from the ripening of the crops. Our farmers are brave people - very few businesses have two things to fear that they have no control over - the weather and the price of grain. Then at times, something occurs that is unexpected - last year the beans looked so good but did not produce according to their look - and who knows about this year? We shall see what happens probably by the time you get this newsletter.

We went to an ILICA meeting -recently and we met the new secretary, but as usual did not get her name. We welcome her and hope it won't take too long to get into a routine, so if you are talking to her be sure to give her a good word and be helpful if need be. We will be back in the groove in no time. Seems like everything does change at some time or another so we just go with the flow and adapt.

Here's one you might have to think about for a minute: Bob: Didn't I see you coming out of the doctor's office today? Dick: Yeah. he ordered me to go to a warmer climate. Bob: What did you go to see him about? Dick: About collecting a bill.

Hubby and I had a neat experience recently. One of our grandsons who is in the third grade invited us to the school Grandparents Day lunch. It was wonderful weather, and the school had put up tables and chairs outside near the playground; some had brought blankets and sat on the ground and ate lunch. We had to wait awhile for our grandson but he came out of the school with his lunch and his friend and we got to sit at a table and had a very nice time. They knew when the

bell for their class rang for them to go in, and there had been several other classes before that, so they know what to do when and we enjoyed our time with them, one on one which doesn't happen very often.

Now I have to apologize because I found the slip of paper with the fax no. for the association and our new secretary's name is Melanie, Will be very easy for me to remember as we have a daughter-in-law with the same name. So welcome, Melanie!

With school now in session and everyone gets to know everyone else, things are back to normal. A friend of ours was saying how her twin grandchildren were in the first grade this year and their father couldn't stand to take them to the school; he was very emotional about it. Brings back memories as first-timers were something to get sentimental about - it seems that they were growing up and away from us. If the child likes school it makes it much easier to get used to. If they don't, it makes it difficult for child and parents. Teachers have a lot to do with it. And if a teacher can see the potential in a student in a certain subject, it makes the teacher much more valuable - especially if they tell you about it. When I entered the junior year of high school it was new to me as were the teachers and students. Riding the school bus you got acquainted much faster. Our commercial teacher was a good guy - they had a habit of bringing your grades for the period to you and made sure you saw them. the first time he brought them he said, very quietly, "I'm disappointed in you - you can do better work than this." Now how could he see that when we had been acquainted in such a short time? Well, that was like putting a red flag in front of a bull - I'd show him! And I did - ended up the fastest typist and shorthand taker in the class. If he hadn't said something to me it probably would have been same old, same old. Rambling Rose is still waiting for one of the grandchildren to be a teacher. Time will tell.

The catalogs I am receiving have a lot of Halloween and Christmas gifts in them. Well, time is getting along and I will probably have to order most of our gifts if my knees aren't any better, so they will be a help. Hubby hates them but some things are necessary. Even if you don't buy anything they are fun to look at.

The weather man wasn't very nice to us at the conservation show, but they have finally got 99 1/2% finished. Thanks to all who participated and helped with the projects; it takes a lot of hands and it is easier for all when so many do come to work. The owners were pleased and that means a lot also.

The word for this issue is teach. Many people do not realize that they really are a teacher, even though they don't have a certificate that says so. We set examples every day and children learn a lot by what they see as well as hear. So if we can live our lives as a good example we will become a good teacher. Another song comes to mind: "Who could ask for anything more?"

Good health, enough wealth and plenty of time to enjoy both is wished to all from . . .

...Rambling Rose

Illinois Conservation... (< p6)

G. BRENT MANNING, WHEATON

Brent Manning served as Director of the Illinois Department of Conservation and its successor agency, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, from 1991-2003. Manning worked with Governor Jim Edgar to implement the merger of a number of state agencies and functions into the Department of Natural Resources in 1995. During Manning's tenure, the state of Illinois acquired more than 85,000 acres for conservation and outdoor recreation. Manning was instrumental in development of the Illinois Conservation 2000 program, Illinois Conservation Congress and state-federal Illinois River basin protection measures including the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program and Illinois Rivers 2020. Manning led efforts to implement a state habitat stamp program, the Illinois Environmental License Plate program and the Illinois Conservation Foundation. His interest in conservation education helped produce the state's Environment and Nature Training Institute for Conservation Education (ENTICE), a program training teachers and providing classroom resources to enhance science and natural resources curricula. Manning now serves as executive director of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County.

WILLIAM L. RUTHERFORD, SR., PEORIA

Attorney William Rutherford has been involved in environmental stewardship, open space preservation and wildlife conservation for more than 65 years through the Forest Park Foundation, which he helped found in 1938. The foundation has acquired and donated land for local and state parks and natural areas, including thousands of acres to the Peoria, Pekin and Fondulac park districts in central Illinois. At Bill Rutherford's direction, the foundation developed the Forest Park Nature Center operated by the Peoria Park District, and Wildlife Prairie State Park, which was donated to the state and has been operated since 2000 by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The state park is named in honor of Rutherford and his wife Hazel, who passed away in 2000. Rutherford also worked toward acquisition and establishment of the Rock Island State Trail in central Illinois. As Director of the Illinois Department of Conservation in 1969, Rutherford's efforts led to state acquisition of lands including Goose Lake Prairie and Silver Springs state parks in northeast Illinois. Rutherford's impact is also international through land acquisition for wildlife conservation efforts in cooperation with the Chicago Zoological Society in Australia.

Fiske, Klimstra, Manning and Rutherford will be inducted into the Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame during ceremonies at the annual Hall of Fame banquet on Friday, Feb. 19, 2005 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield. Proceeds from the banquet assist in funding Illinois Conservation Foundation programs including the popular ICF grant program, which awarded 30 grants totaling

\$45,000 earlier this year for projects focusing on natural resource protection, research and education.

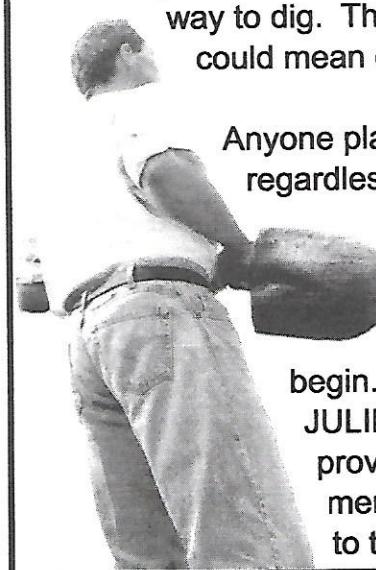
For more information on the Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame Banquet, contact the Illinois Conservation Foundation, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271, phone 217/785-2003, or check the ICF web site at www.ilcf.org.

The Illinois Conservation Foundation, an IRS 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit corporation established in 1995, has raised \$18.5 million to support the programs of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.



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Illinois Conservation... (<p15)

ILLINOIS WILDLIFE LANDOWNERS OF THE YEAR FOR 2004

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has selected Don and Susan Meador of Larnark as the recipients of this year's Illinois Wildlife Landowner of the Year award. The Meador family has been farming in rural Carroll County since the early 1940s. Don Meador took over the family farm operation in 1962, which at one time included more than 900 acres of cropland. Having been born and raised in the Carroll County, Don Meador witnessed first hand the transformation of the traditional smaller, diverse farming operations to large, intensively managed corn and soybean farms of today.

"Each year there were fewer and fewer fence rows, pastures, and set aside acres that I knew wildlife needed. When the farm next to ours changed hands and the new owner dozed-out a windbreak that I helped plant as boy, I knew I needed to do something," said Don Meador.

The Meadors first started working with Department of Natural Resources staff in 1999 when Don signed up about 70 acres into the federal Conservation Reserve Program. Filter strips, field border strips, windbreaks, shrub thickets and food plots were established, as well as one farm pond and one shallow water wetland. At the same time, Don Meador got involved with the Carroll County chapter of Pheasants Forever and soon thereafter took on duties as

the group's habitat chairman.

"Don's working knowledge of farmland management, plant communities, farming equipment and other farm operators in the county has greatly enhanced both Pheasants Forever's and the DNR's habitat efforts," said IDNR District Wildlife Biologist Scott Schaeffer, who nominated the Meadors for the award. "Don and Susan graciously share their farm with other landowners interested in establishing wildlife habitat. We run our seed, planters and other equipment out of Don's farm, making it easy for landowners during the busy spring planting season to get the help they need."

The Meadors added an additional 54 acres of habitat last spring, highlighted by three additional shallow water wetlands that Don engineered and constructed.

ILLINOIS OUTSTANDING TREE FARMERS FOR 2004

Rollie and Lois Spaniol of Charleston are recognized as the Illinois Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year for outstanding management of the forest resources at their Coles County tree farm, and for many years of outreach with other landowners and the public in encouraging land conservation efforts. Rollie Spaniol makes very clear that when it comes to his tree farm, "...I like to show it off."

Rollie Spaniol retired from Eastern Illinois University capping a 38-year teaching career, but has continued educating other landowners about the benefits of being good land stewards. He has been an active member and president of the local Lincoln Heritage RC&D conservation and development organization, along with the Coles County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Embarrass River Management Association and the Illinois Walnut Council. The Spaniols host meetings on farm stewardship and forest resources, welcoming school and community groups to their tree farm - 208 acres of which have earned them the statewide Outstanding Tree Farmer designation.

Rollie and Lois Spaniol have improved the quality of their woodlands by working with Illinois Department of Natural Resources foresters and professional forestry consultants. They and their family have taken advantage of products produced from trees grown on their property and have produced and sold mature timber. Nominators report that dozens of neighboring landowners in Coles County and throughout the region have been influenced and inspired to better forest stewardship by the Spaniols' example.

Illinois is home to 1,107 tree farmers managing 92,529 acres of forest land producing wood, wildlife and recreational benefits throughout the state.

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IN MEMORIUM

Dale P. Knuppel, 77, died Saturday October 8, 2004. Born November 18, 1926, in Mason County to Olof and Elizabeth Wiemer Knuppel, he married Shirley Weindel Bennett. She survives.

Mr. Knuppel was a World War II Army Air Forces Veteran. He received a degree in civil engineering from Bradley University. He and his brother Bob owned and operated Knuppel Bros. Construction in Mackinaw for more than 40 years.

He was a 50 year member and past master of Mackinaw Lodge 1323, AF&AM; worthy patron of Mystic Tie Chapter 245, Order of Eastern Star of Mackinaw; member of Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Valley of Peoria; charter member and past president Mackinaw Lions Club, where he received the Melvin Jones award in 2001; charter member and past president of Illinois Land Improvement Contractors of America; and past member of Deer Creek-Mackinaw District 701 School Board.

Services were held at 10:30 am at the Morton United Methodist Church. The Rev. Jeff Kelley officiated. Burial was in Mackinaw Township Cemetery, with military rites conducted by Mackinaw American Legion Emery Whisler Post 607.

Memorials may be made to Mackinaw Masonic Lodge 132 or the Mackinaw Lions Club.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Knuppel family.

Thanks to all who came to my Retirement Party in Bloomington. All the kind words, the cake, the gold bracelet and the good wishes are all something I will cherish for the rest of my life. Seeing everyone there and at the Conservation Show made me realize (again) how great the people of the Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association really are. How you pull together as a group to get things done. How you give up your time and talents to help get a job done that you really care about.. How devoted you all are to keeping ILICA strong and an ongoing association of members who are proud of what their organization stands for.

Thanks to all of you for being an important part of my life for the past 24 years. Thanks for teaching me the meaning of hard work, devotion, honesty, trust and most of all friendship. I hope our paths will cross again sometime in the near future. I know that your new Executive Director, Melanie will make every effort to get things back on track and keep the association moving in the right direction.

Your friend,

Jo Ann Huff



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Items For Sale or Purchase

We want the newsletter to serve our members. If you have equipment for sale or have specific equipment needs, you can send me a brief description of the item for sale or purchase and we will include those in our newsletter. Be sure to provide name of contact, phone number and email address (if available). This service will be provided at no cost to Illinois LICA members.

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- National and state newsletters will keep you informed of activities and events.
- National Conventions with trade shows, banquets and educational seminars are held annually around the country to provide productive, fun outing for you and your family.
- National and state scholarship programs.
- State and National Monthly meetings, annual state conventions and periodical field days.
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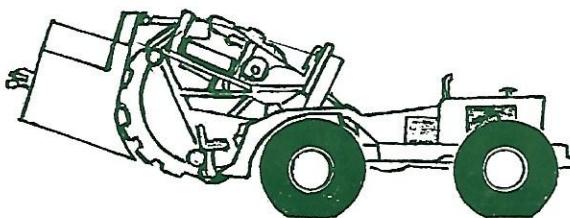
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