



December 2008

MLICA News

Michigan Land Improvement Contractors of America

EXTRA EXTRA !

Read all about it!

Field day update: (Page 3) We had a great turnout from members and guests at our second annual field day. Check out the pictures and report.

GPS Training: (Page 4) Nate and Mike Cook will be hosting an in-depth GPS training for users of AGPS Pipe-Pro software and anyone else who may be interested in learning more about GPS machine control and surveying. It will follow the convention on Wednesday January 14th.

Convention: (Page 5) Convention is fast approaching and will be here soon. Included in this edition is information on the scheduled events and a registration form that needs to be sent in as soon as possible.

Tool Box Talk: (Page 6) All members should have received a "LICA Contractor Safety Management Plan." A lot of work and planning has went into this program by the national committee and it is a very well put together booklet with tons of useful information. Included in this newsletter is an excerpt from that plan.

Dues: (Page 8) Also included in this edition is the annual dues billing. Please cut this out and send it to Mike Cook.

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Next board meeting

Sunday January 11, 2009

4:30 PM

Lansing Best Western Midway



BY: Russ Talaski
President

Michigan LICA Board Members

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Will Word
(517) 368-5931
wconfd@frontiernet.net

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(517) 726-0121

Associate Board Members
Perry Strimback
(616) 530-2300

Kevin Holdwick
(989) 479-9822

President's Desk

Seasons Greetings from Your MLICA President,

Welcome to our new members this year and a THANKS to those members that have been a part of our organizing for many years.

Just like the old play book, it's the bottom of the 9th ,2 outs ,bases loaded, 2 strikes , 3 balls and you are the pitcher. We have the same days in our business , main is peripred ,1 backhoe operator,2 labors with shovels in hand, a farmer with tillage tool and a planter ready to plant and we are pitching. Half way down the home stretch a hydraulic hose breaks or a motor fails. At this time it is extremely easy to become upset and lose it, because every one is counting on us . Machines are repairable or replaceable and after it is fixed we continue on. I recently was injured and thought why now, my busiest time of the year, landowners, Family and employees counting on me. Machines can be fixed in hours or a few days, people take weeks, months, even years to repair. My thoughts this season is to be thankful for what you have accomplished ,play your game with what cards you receive and count on the ones around you to help you ac-

complish your goals. It may take a little longer but you will finish the game.

We have had another great GPS Field Day in part to all the members that helped and the Dedication of those members and Associate members that have been so giving of their time and talents.

We are planning another Annual Meeting in January and I personally invite all of our members to come and enjoy fellowship and learn from our Speakers. I didn't start coming to the Annual Meeting at first and I missed out on a lot of information that would have helped me in my business. If you missed last year than you missed out on the Newly Wedd Game everyone enjoyed it maybe as much as the Family Feud Game a few years ago. This year Kevin & Jody Holdwick and My wife Joann and myself will be putting on The Price Is Right. As you are shopping or just paying bills this season pay attention to what things cost and you could be a winner. Looking forward to seeing you soon and thank you for electing me.

MICHIGAN LICA WINTER CONVENTION

January 12th and 13th, 2009

Lansing Best Western Midway Hotel & Convention Center

Our annual winter meeting is fast approaching! The convention will be held on Monday January 12th through Tuesday the 13th. As usual the board will meet on Sunday at 4:30 pm at the hotel.

Convention registration forms and information are included in this newsletter. Please send them in as soon as possible.

This years meeting will be packed full of educational seminars and valuable information. Be sure to bring your crew, as there is a lot of good information they could learn as well.

If you are a new member or haven't been to a convention in a while, it is well worth the time to come. We have

excellent information from the Michigan Center for Truck Safety, Miss Dig, BJ Hydraulics and not to mention a chance to meet and talk to our associate members and take a first hand look at their products and equipment.

We also have Dr. Larry Brown from Ohio State University discussing the latest drainage research, and the NRCS will discuss the latest Farm Bill.

If you are interested in GPS machine control, Mike and Nate Cook from AGPS, will be hosting an in-depth GPS training on Wednesday following the convention. This is a separate event and more information is included on page 4 of this newsletter.

MLICA Field Day A SUCCESS!!



For the second year in a row, the field day was a great success. We would like to thank all of you that participated and helped to make it happen. We started to wonder if we would have the same commitment this year like we did last year, but after a few calls, we had more than enough help.

Fortunately it was a good year for everyone, but that makes it very difficult to take time off of your jobs to come and help at a volunteer event. But as we've seen in the past, we have very dedicated members and associates that put the organization ahead of themselves.

MLICA would also like to thank Rob, Steve and Margaret Cook for allowing us to use their farm as a site for this event. Not only did they let us invade their busy farming operation, they aggressively promoted the event. Rob even put together a TV ad that aired each morning on the Ag Day program on a Lansing TV station. They also sent out flyers to all of their Lime and Gypsum customers all over the state. Besides being major organizers of the field day, they were busy building grain bins, managing employees, and keeping the farming and trucking operations going.

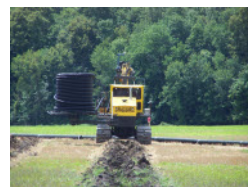
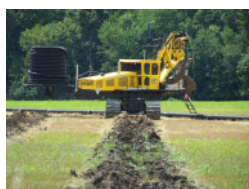
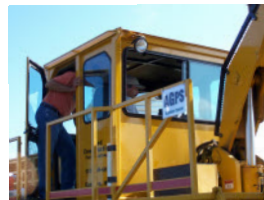
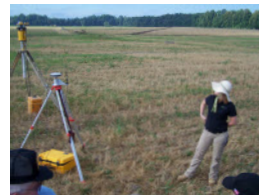
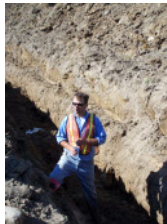
The associates once again stepped up and provided us with a great exhibit area, with hands on demonstrations of their equipment and supplies. Members, workers

and other contractors had the opportunity to try out the latest equipment and see the newest innovations in technology that is quickly shaping our industry. We were also fortunate to have several of tile companies represented so members could compare the different companies and meet with their sales representatives.

A big thank-you also goes out to Mike and Nate Cook and all of their crew for setting up and planning this event. Several weeks of work go into just the layout and flow of the event.

We have decided to take a break from doing a field day for a couple years and possibly moving the next one to another area of the state to try to showcase our members and abilities in other locales.

Thanks again to EVERYONE that was involved!!



Chapter News



*Submitted by:
Newsletter Editor*

Web site:

Please check out the
Michigan LICA Web site at
www.MichiganLICA.org.

Nate has been updating it with newsletters and current chapter information. We would like to get more involvement from the members. If you already have a web page, send the address to Nate and he can put up a link from our page.

We have noticed that members have received calls from all over the country from the "sell and swap" section. Our newsletter will come up on most Google searches if someone is looking

for equipment that is listed there. So, not only is your free advertisement going out to our members, but is accessed by people all over the world. We are talking about adding a "sell and swap" section in the website including pictures.

NRCS NEWS!!

USDA has produced a series of "at a glance" reports giving an overview of conservation programs under the 2008 Farm Bill. They can be found online at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill/2008/ataglance.html>

AGPS Training Class

Mike Cook's
Soil & Water MGMT. Systems
4372. S. Wright Rd.
Westphalia, MI 48894



Current and new users of AGPS software!

You won't want to miss the second AGPS-Pipe Pro Training Seminar

*Hosted by AGPS Distributor Mike Cook
along with Nate Cook of AGPS*

**Date: January 14, 2009 from 8:00 am to 5pm
(following Michigan LICA convention)**

**Location: Best Western Midway Lodge
7711 W. Saginaw Hwy.
Lansing Michigan**

Fellow Contractors & users of AGPS software;

You are cordially invited to attend this seminar to gain a better understanding of everything AGPS-Pipe Pro can do for you! We plan to review *Pipe Pro* from the simple basics of getting started, leading up to the most advanced options available.

Specifics of the seminar:

The meeting room will be classroom style with tables to give you ample space to make notes. A computer with overhead screen will be utilized to demonstrate *Pipe Pro* screens and options. The intention for this seminar to give you increased knowledge of *Pipe Pro*, and allow you to answer specific questions about your use of the software. The seminar will be informal, so bring your questions and be prepared to share your experiences with the group. We hope to send you home with a better knowledge of *Pipe-Pro* and in turn make your business more profitable!

2009 ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION & INFORMATION

January 11 thru 13, 2009 at the Best Western Midway Hotel in Lansing

Your MLICA board welcomes everyone to come join in for two days of seminars and sharing experiences with fellow members at our annual meeting. You will find the atmosphere and remodeled facilities of the Midway Motel to be pleasant and relaxing. **Note the annual banquet will be at noon Tuesday.** A brief overview of the daily activities includes:

Sunday January 11, @ 4:30 PM the board will meet...ALL ARE INVITED! At 6:30 we will meet for supper

Monday January 12, registration will be from 8 to 9:30 AM. From 9:30 to noon informative updates and seminars will bring you up to date. At noon a luncheon will be served, with a guest speaker planned. At 1PM seminars will continue until 5PM. **At 4PM our annual meeting will take place.** After an hour to relax, or trade tall tales, an exhibitor reception and hors d'oeuvres buffet will be served in the exhibit area, with the Talaski's hosting the "Price is Right Game".

Tuesday January 13, seminars will begin at 9 AM. After a buffet lunch and a guest speaker, new MLICA board members will be introduced. More informative seminars will follow in the afternoon

Some of the planned seminars: the NRCS will summarize FY 2008 & 2009 programs & answer questions. John Carpenter will return for a hydraulics discussion. Miss Dig, Ron Edwards of the MI Trucking Association, and Larry Brown with Ohio State are returning. An overview of our field day, Gidgets & Gadgets, Safety, and an associate update will be of interest. **Please identify you are with MLICA when reserving your room as meeting room costs are tied to rooms used!**

REMINDER---MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS ASAP BY CALLING 517-627-8471!

***Invite a potential MLICA member free for either daily activity.
Please send bottom portion with your check payable to MLICA ASAP
In care of: Mike Cook 4372 S Wright Rd, Westphalia Mi. 48894***

	<u>NAME FOR BADGE</u>	<u>REGISTRATION</u>
() Member/Associate/Guest 2 day registration @ \$100_____		_____
() Spouse, Employee 2 day registration@ \$75_____		_____
*Same for Affiliate, Retired or paying guests with a member registration		
() Member Day Registration @ \$60_____		_____
Day Attending_____ Same fee for Affiliate, Retired, Spouse, or guest		
		TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____
Additional Name(s) for Badges_____		

**Remember: New members attend the convention free with 1st year dues paid in advance!
Potential members can attend any day free! (Excludes Mon Evening functions)**

Submitted by:
Jodie Holdwick

Ladies Program 2009

Below is the schedule of events for the Ladies Program at the Annual 2009 MLICA Convention in Lansing, Michigan. Jodie Holdwick and Sarah Cook are the current chairpersons of the ladies program.

Monday January 12

AM

Meet and Greet

Roses by Sue

Beads by Jodie

Crafters Cards by Jodie

If any of the other ladies of MLICA is interested in bringing things to share they are more then welcome.

PM

Shopping at the Malls



Tuesday January 13

AM

Michigan Historical Center

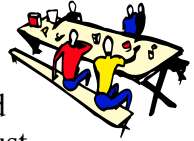
Lansing City Market

PM

Ladies annual meeting and planning for next year.

Summer picnic update

The annual MLICA Summer Picnic and board meeting was held in Sebewaing last August.

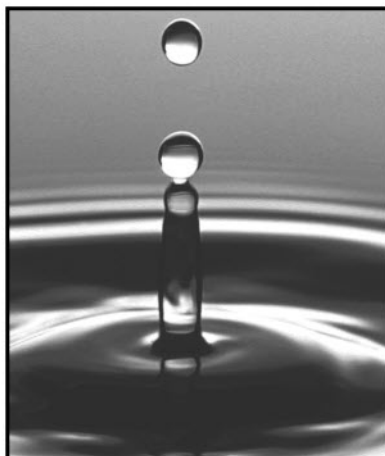


We had a real good turnout and the weather was much better than the previous year. The bar-b-que chicken was wonderful thanks to Al, Laurie, Dave Kemp and their families.

Ron Mellot from Timewell Tile supplied the drinks and chicken. The Mayan Insurance Agency donated prizes for the kids games. Also a big thank-you goes out to Dave and Bonnie Dunne and their family for organizing the kids activities. It's always a big hit and the kids look forward to it.



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MLICA Board meeting minutes from November 13, 2008

President Russ Talaski called the meeting to order @ 5:05 PM.

Will Word made a motion to have an open agenda, 2nd by Ben Foster.
Motion passed

Dave Dunne made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as printed.
2nd Kevin Holdwick. Motion passed

Discussed 2009 convention to be held Jan 11 thru 13, 2009 at the Best Western..highlights:

- Annual member meeting to be Monday afternoon
- New board meeting immediately after
- Banquet to be Tuesday after lunch
- Possible speakers: Bernie Thelen, Scott Piggott, Bruce Koll, FSA
- Seminar suggestions: MTA, Miss Dig, NRCS, Larry Brown, John Carpenter. Filter mounds, unemployment, 10-15 min for each Associate
- Request Nate Cook to post info on Web site
- “Price is Right” by Holdwicks Monday evening

Reviewed the field day. It is decided that we will not have a field day in 2009, possibly in 2010 in the thumb area. Any pictures should be sent to Nate Cook to arrange for a presentation at the convention.

National matters..discussed the upcoming bylaws change that if passed would result in MLICA losing one vote on the board. All agreed to recommend to membership at annual meeting to have our delegates vote “NO” for proposed change.

Membership discussed, we have a couple of new members and associates from the field day

No other business brought forward, Will Word motioned to adjourn meeting, 2nd by Ben Foster. Motion Passed

Respectfully submitted

Mike Cook

Secretary/Treasurer

MLICA 2008/2009 Dues Notice

Your MLICA board of directors would like to thank you for your support the previous year(s). It is that time again to renew your membership and continue to receive all the benefits MLICA and National LICA has to offer. Please fill out the form below completely.

MICHIGAN LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS WORKING FOR YOU

Why your MLICA Membership Counts:

- ★ Formed in 1948, available to members for over 60 years.
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- ★ Members have call or internet requests to Miss Dig 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- ★ \$5,000 Life Insurance for all members, with options for additions and employee coverage.
- ★ Our own insurance and bonding program.
- ★ Initiated research at Michigan State University on Water Quality
- ★ Memorandum of understanding with NRCS, National Resource Conservation Service
- ★ MLICA is a member of the NRCS Technical advisory committee.
- ★ \$500 reward for vandalism or theft information.
- ★ Computer programs for Bidding and Accounting.
- ★ Newsletter a minimum of four times a year.
- ★ Annual safety and education seminars.
- ★ Strong national organization, with over 2,000 members.
- ★ State, regional and national conventions throughout the U.S.
- ★ Major Hotel & Motel chain discounts
- ★ Information received continuously from sources important to our industry

Your Support And Involvement is Needed! **Dues Structure For 2008/2009**

--- Voting Member \$225
--- Associate Member \$300

--- Affiliate Member \$40
--- Retired Member \$15



***Please send this portion with your check payable to MLICA ASAP
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Company Name _____

Phone # _____

Member Name _____

Spouse _____

Address _____ Age _____

Fax # _____

City/Zip _____

Email _____

Year joining MLICA _____

Members Date of Birth _____

List any affiliates or additional names below:

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____



TOOL BOX TALK

HARDHATS

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

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

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

HOW TO CARE FOR HARD HATS

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

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

SOME COMMON COMPLAINTS AND THE REAL TRUTH

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

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

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

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

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

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

NO HELP UNLESS YOU WEAR IT

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

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

For more information please call us toll-free at (866) 262-0540 or visit us online at www.cna.com/riskcontrol

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Reprinted from the National LICA Contractor Safety Management Program



Submitted by:
Will Word

Send suggestions and
info to me at
(517) 368-5931
Or e-mail to
wconfd@frontiernet.net

Editors Note:

Well, once again the newsletter has fallen behind schedule. I apologize for this, but hopefully you will find this edition packed full of good information. In the upcoming issues I hope to get back on track with the member spotlight sections and also to highlight new products and innovations from our associate members and advertisers. Any input and article ideas are helpful!

More Field Day Snapshots.....



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Link 250 Plow for HD-21.
Parting out Fiat Allis HD-21 B
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**If interested call Will Word
(517) 368-5931**

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2 used Novatel RTK GPS Units
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Editors note:

This section is free
for members to
advertise equipment
you have to sell or
are looking for.

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AGPS www.agpsinc.com

Event Calendar

January 2009

5-7 Ohio LICA Convention

Sugar Creek, OH (419) 694-6404

28-30 Indiana LICA Convention

Indianapolis, IN (765) 593-1901

11-13 MLICA Annual Convention -

Lansing Best Western Midway Hotel & Conference Center (989) 587-3528

Sunday 11th - Board Mtg. 4:30

Monday 12th - Registration 8:00- 9:30

Tuesday 13th - Seminars start @ 9:00

14 AGPS Training Seminar

Lansing Best Western Midway Hotel & Conference Center (989) 587-3528

Wednesday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

February 2009

11-15 National LICA Winter Convention

Nashville, TN (630) 548-1984

July 2009

15-18 National LICA Summer Meeting

Des Moines, IA (319) 334-9884

20-21 LICO (Ontario) Conference

London, ON (519) 836-1386

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