



January/February 2008

MLICA News

Michigan Land Improvement Contractors of America

Winter Convention Highlights



Bernie Thelen, from Greenstone Farm Credit Services, entertains us with his humorous stories and some insight to the farm economy at the annual banquet.



Chairman of the Board, Will Word, welcomes new President, Russ Talaski with a LICA President's pin.



Rob Cook (L) and Steve Cook (R) present Mike Cook with a prototype model of his new plow.

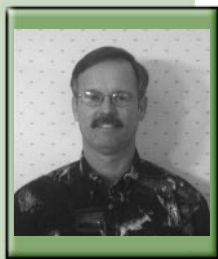


New Michigan NRCS state conservationist, Garry Lee addresses the LICA members at the Monday lunch session.

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Next board meeting
Wednesday March 5th
4:30 pm
Lansing Best Western Midway



BY: Russ Talaski
President

Michigan LICA Board Members

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wconfd@frontiernet.net

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(231) 853-5277

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Ben Foster
(989) 838-2554
Rob Cook
(517) 726-0211

Associate Board Members
Perry Strimback
(616) 530-2300

Kevin Holdwick
(989) 479-9822

President's Desk

From the President's Desk

First of all, I would like to introduce myself for those of you who have not yet met me. My name is Russ Talaski and I will be serving you as your 2008 Michigan LICA State President. My wife, Joann and I have been married for over 25 years and we have three children: Russell (26), Vicki (24), and Haley (9). Professionally, I have been involved in the soil and drainage industry since 1978. In 1995, my former partner, Fred and I started Talaski Farm Tiling, Inc. and have been servicing the tri-county area of the Thumb of Michigan for 13 years now.

I would like to thank everyone involved in the 2008 MLICA State Convention in Lansing, Michigan. It was great and I have had a lot of positive feedback from the members about the guest speakers throughout convention and entertainment in the evenings. Joann and I really enjoyed hosting the Newlywed game. We thought that there might be four or five couples interested in participating, but actually ended up with eight wonderful couples. Some of them had been married over 50 years while others had only been dating for 10 days. Couples were asked questions ranging from "Which way does the toilet paper roll

off?" to "What color was your bridesmaids' dresses?" While the game took longer than we had expected; fun was had by all.

A special thanks to all of the participating couples and our wonderful judges for making the Newlywed game so exciting. Here are the top scoring couples:

- 1st place: Adam Cook and girlfriend of 10 days, Linsey
- 2nd place: Chuck & Bonnie Bragie
- 3rd place: Jerry & Joann Humpula
- 4th place: Dave & Bonnie Auernhamer
- 5th place: Jack & Sue Bower

Also at convention, we welcomed Ralph Krupp and the Kellogg brothers as new members along with Tom Frank who had signed up for membership at our GPS field day. John Breen, representing AMS Oil, also joined us as a new associate member.

I am looking forward to serving you this upcoming year as president. I will however, need some help as I adjust to this new position, so please send me any feedback and suggestions throughout the year so I can better serve you the members.

The outlook for agriculture and supporting businesses for next year is great so this is our opportunity to advance in our businesses by helping each other grow stronger.

Have a great season,
Russell L. Talaski





Convention Scenes



One of the many associate displays this year



Nick Staat and others check out some of the newest technology at Schlatter's booth.



New members Steve and Stacy Kellogg chat with Rob Hall about the Bron plows.



On Tuesday the associates treated us to a huge pizza buffet.



The associates booths in the atrium were always a busy place.



Don't believe everything you hear at *that* table.



Educational seminars were well attended this year. Here, Ron Edwards discusses the newest truck safety rules and regulations.



Our associates group is really growing. Here is the associates board meeting. We appreciate all of the help they provide us throughout the year.



John Carpenter of BJ Hydraulics, reminds us how important proper filtration is.



Steve Davis, State Engineer of the Michigan NRCS, updates members on a new waste water treatment project he is working on with member Ben Foster.



Dr. Larry Brown from Ohio State University discusses some of the past and present drainage research that is ongoing.



*Submitted by:
Jodie Holdwick*

LADIES PROGRAM

This year we all enjoyed ourselves. We adventured out to the Wharton Center to see the 25th Annual Puttman Spelling Bee. That took several of us back to middle school with the awkwardness of life at that age, many laughs were had by all. On Monday Marsha Will once again came down to join us with chair massages and facials. we also tried our hands at card making. We found a new love for some of the ladies. Tuesday was a day of shopping. There was a joke in the program that we would be enjoying a male review in the afternoon present by the men of MLICA. So while we were out shopping I found Mike cook the perfect outfit for the male review. Since he keep bring it up all week long. Next time you see Mike ask him how his outfit worked out for him. Thanks to all who came to enjoy there time with us. Also if you know of a member whose spouse wasn't there drop them a line and see if they can make it next year.

We will also be doing a secret pals/sister/friend through out the rest of the year. For those of you who weren't at the convention please answer the questions below and mail or email them to me so that I can get the information in the books and get them mailed out to you.

Name:
Address:
Phone:
Date of Birth:
Profession:
Wedding Anniversary:
Spouse name:
Number/Names of Children;
Number of Grandkids:

Hobbies:
Talents:
Favorites Color, Food (if you have a food allergy please note that)
Season:
Collectibles:
Hopes and Dreams:
Anything else that you would like to share with us:

This will be a group effort by all. What we will do is once you get your book you will find information about each of the women. I am asking that you drop them a note/call/gift for any of the special days and information that is listed. You can let them know who you are or you can keep them guessing until next January. Lets have fun with this trough out the year. This way we will be able to learn more about each other and can keep in touch more often through out the year.

Once you get this package there will be a note in there from me with further detail. If you have any questions please give me a call. Have fun! See you all at Field Days in August.

There maybe possible activities for the ladies at this years venue. We are also in the works of planning next years ladies program. We are looking at doing a class on clay bead making at one of the local stores. If there is something that you are interested in doing or have any suggestions of things to do in the area please do not hesitate to let me know. Take Care, God Bless.
Sincerely,
Jodie Holdwick

New Associate Member

We would like to welcome our newest associate member, John Breen, from Jennison, MI. John is a distributor of AMSOIL lubricants. John has been with AMSOIL since 1977. He has been a farmer or in the farming industry all of his life. John is mechanically inclined and built the first 2 row self-propelled radish harvester in Michigan. He still enjoys truck farming



and often helps the local vegetable growers out at harvest time driving truck.

John has 6 children, 24 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. Sadly, he lost his first wife in 2000. He is currently married to Mary, who also has family in Michigan and Wisconsin.

We are happy to have John and Mary on board as new associate members. If you have any questions about any of the AMSOIL products, be sure to give John a call at (616) 243-9757.

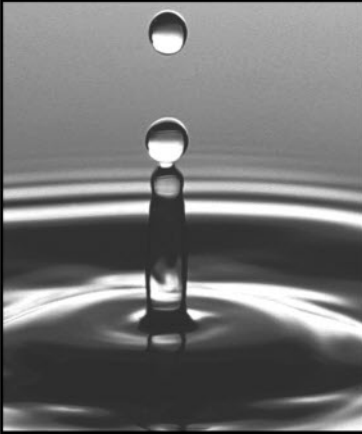
Congratulations to our own Nick Staat for making it in the Land and Water magazine! Check out the article on page 59 of the Jan/Feb 2008 edition titled "Applying Best Management Practices on 2,300 Acre Michigan Farm".

New LICA Members

It's nice to see that the chapter is starting to grow! In the past year, we had several new members join.

Tom Frank from Water Management Services, in Coloma joined at the GPS field day. At the convention, we had several new members attend. Ralph Krupp from KMR Excavating in Chesaning joined as well as Stacy, Steve and Ed Kellogg, from Kellogg Drainage in Edon Ohio. Our newest member is John Iott with Countryside Excavating Services, LLC. in Ottawa Lake. We also had a few guest contractors attend the convention like Andy and Louis Lukazcek with Lukazcek Excavating in Coldwater. We hope they enjoyed the meetings and took something back with them.

We would like to welcome all of the new members and thank them for showing an interest in our organization!



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Submitted by:
Mike Cook

On The Lighter Side.....

Jesus and Satan were having an on-going argument about who was better on the computer. They had been going at it for days, and frankly God was tired of hearing all of that bickering. Finally, fed up, God said, "THAT'S IT! I have had enough. I am going to set up a test that will run for two hours, and from those results, I will judge who does a better job."

So Satan and Jesus sat down at the keyboards and typed away. They moused. They faxed. They e-mailed. They e-mailed with attachments. They downloaded. They did spreadsheets and created charts and graphs. They did some genealogy reports. They did every job known to man. Jesus worked with heavenly efficiency and Satan was faster than hell.

Then, ten minutes before their time was up, lightning suddenly flashed across the sky, thunder rolled, rain poured, and, of course, the power went off.

Satan stared at his blank screen and screamed every curse work know in the underworld. Jesus just sighed. Finally the electricity came back on, and each of them restarted their computers. Satan started searching frantically, screaming: "It's gone, it's all GONE! I lost everything when the power went out!" Meanwhile, Jesus quietly started printing out all of his files from the past two hours of work. Satan observed this and became irate. "Wait!" he screamed. "That's not fair! He cheated! How come he has all of his work and I don't have any?"

God just shrugged and said,
"Jesus Saves"

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Sell and Swap Shop

For Sale

JD 544 C End Loader. \$27,500 or best offer. Caterpillar 225 excavator, \$18,000 or best offer.

Contact Rob Cook (517) 726-1492 for more information.

For Sale:

3 - Winthrop Welding tile stringing trailers. 12 volt, batteries less than 1 year old, implement tires. Very good shape. \$2,500 ea.

Contact Trevor Young for more information @ (231) 853-5277

For Sale:

Link 250 Plow for HD-21.

Holdwick Tile Reel. Bolt on mount for Fiat Allis HD-21B. Easily removed for transport, works with Agri-Drain tile spools.

New bottom rollers for HD-21

Daycab Kit for International Semi \$250

If interested call Will Word (517) 368-5931

For Sale :

2 used Novatel RTK GPS Units

1 used Ashtech RTK GPS Unit

2 used Xplore computers

Great discount to get started In RTK Systems

Contact: Mike Cook @ (989) 587-3528

Editors note:

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

Editors Note:



Those of you with high speed Internet should have received this issue of Michigan LICA News via e-mail. Please let me know if this worked out for you. Any feedback would be appreciated. If you have a slower connection, it may take a while to download. If that is a problem, I can see that you receive a printed copy. I would still like some ideas of what you would like to see in the newsletter. So far it hasn't been too hard to fill it up, and we even discussed adding a couple more pages, due to new advertisers and more things going on within the chapter. If you look at the calendar, we have another busy year planned!

Will Word

Send suggestions and info to Will Word at (517) 368-5931

Or

e-mail to wconfd@frontiernet.net

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Event Calendar

March 2008

4-5 AGPS GPS training seminar

Lansing Best Western Midway
(contact Mike or Nate Cook)

5th MI LICA Board Meeting

4:30 pm Lansing Best Western Midway

9-10 National LICA Winter Convention

Las Vegas, Nevada

11-15 ConExpo/ConAGG

Las Vegas, Nevada

17-21 Overholt Drainage School

Agricultural Service Center Findlay, OH

JUNE 2008

19th MI LICA Board Meeting

4:30 pm Lansing Best Western Midway

AUGUST 2008

6-7 MI LICA Field Day

Cook Bros. Farms, Vermontville

17th MI LICA Summer Picnic

10:00 am Board Meeting 12:00 Barbeque
Village Park, Sebawaing, MI

November 2008

8th MI LICA Board Meeting

4:30 pm. Lansing Best Western
Midway

January 2009

(Tentative dates)

11 MLICA Annual Board meeting

2:30 pm at Lansing Best Western Midway

12-13 MLICA Annual Meeting - Lansing

Best Western Midway

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