



MAY JUNE JULY 2009

MLICA News

Michigan Land Improvement Contractors of America

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**We have a lot going on this month.
Please look inside to read all about it!**

August 15th Annual Michigan LICA Picnic
This year it will be hosted by Trevor and Kelly Young near
Reveana , MI . Maps and info are on page 3

August 17 - 20 Michigan LICA Promotional meetings.

This is a new program we are embarking on. We will travel to 4 different regions around the state promoting LICA to fellow contractors explaining to them what LICA has to offer and what the Michigan LICA chapter is doing in the local and national legislative arena. In case some of you weren't aware, we have enlisted Scott Everett from Earthscape Resources to pursue some important legislative issues at the state level and to also help with promotion and recruitment for the MLICA. So far it is working out great, and we welcome Scott to our group!

On the legislative scene, Scott Everett has some exciting things happening in Lansing on the personal property tax exemption legislation. Things are moving forward and we hope to have more information at the promotional meetings! Stay tuned for more on that!!

Inside This Issue

President's Desk.....	2
Summer Picnic.....	3
Chapter News	4
Wetlands Update.....	5
Meeting Locations.....	7
Sell and Shop Swap.....	9
Calendar.....	10

Next board meeting
Saturday August 15
10 AM

Michigan LICA Summer Picnic
Grose Park - Chester Twp.



BY: Russ Talaski
President

Michigan LICA Board Members

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wconfd@frontiernet.net

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President's Desk

I hope you are enjoying our Summer with Your Family and Friends. This is a time to catch up on things you want to do for yourself while the crops are in the fields.

We have a lot going on this summer as you will see in the newsletter. I would like to welcome Scott Everett to our organization and I am looking forward to working with you. I want to mention a future plan of another GPS Field day for next summer 2010. I have been talking to an organization called The Hunger Relief Project along with A Phosphorus Study by the Huron Soil Conservation District. They have a lease on a 30 acre parcel of land owned by the City of Elkton to raise agricultural crops on it and use the profit to purchase food for a Food Resource Bank to assist the needy. This field is not tiled and they are having a hard time farming it. There is a need for land shaping and two soil

control structures. The field to the west has an open ditch in it for an outlet. The local FFA will be interested in putting on the meal and is willing to help as needed. We have hotels in Bad Axe which is about 10 miles away and the John Deere Wind Farms are about a few miles to the west of the site. I know this site is not as big as we have had but we can still show the same things. I will have more details in the future of how you can become involved.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the summer meeting August 15, 2009

Thank You MILICA President

Russell Talaski



Contact **Chad Fullerton** at
the Bridgeport office at
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For all of your new and
used equipment needs.



Annual Michigan LICA Summer Picnic and Board Meeting



Who's Invited : All LICA members, associates, affiliates, family, friends and fellow contractors.

What: Home grown hog roast with fresh sweet corn

When: Saturday August 15 th at noon
(Board of Directors will meet at 10:00 Am)

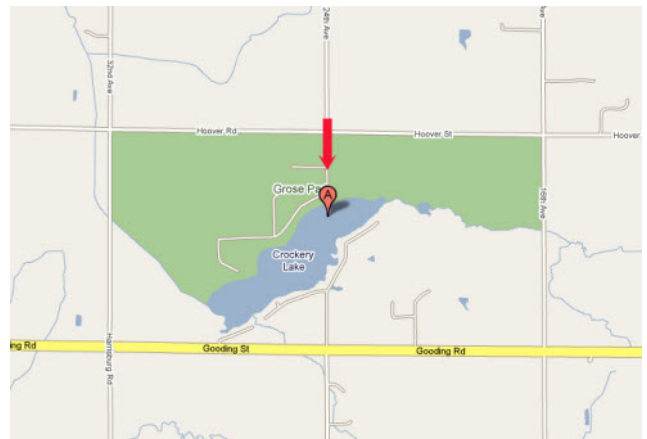
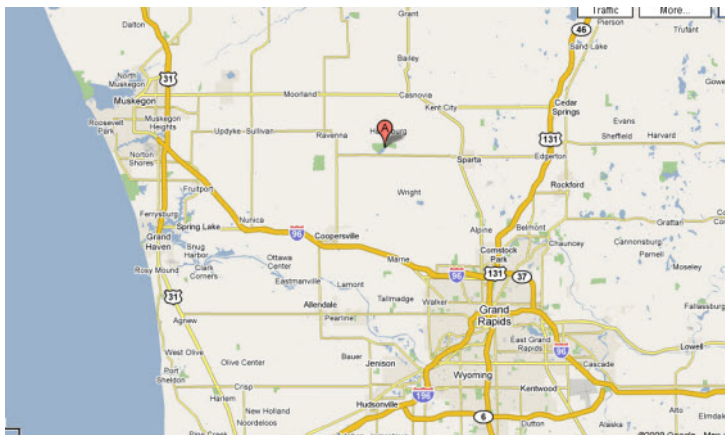
Where: Grose Park
Crockery Lake in Ottawa County , Chester Township
On the South East corner of Hoover and 24th Avenue

Hosted by Trevor and Kelly Young

Bring your favorite passing dish. Drinks and table service will be provided.

There are several campgrounds around and there is a lot to do in the area, like Michigan Adventure Amusement and Water Park, Musical fountain in Grand Haven, and several other attractions.

Trevor and Kelly have mentioned doing some sight seeing Saturday evening for those who want to, and some members have discussed going to Michigan Adventure on Sunday.



Chapter News



*Submitted by:
Newsletter Editor*

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

Michigan LICA Promotional meetings

By the time you receive this, many of the invitation letters will have been sent out for the meeting, but I'm sure we will need more input and help from you the members. For these meetings to be successful, we need you to invite and bring along fellow contractors to these meetings.

Scott Everett has been busy mailing out hundreds of invitations to non-member contractors.

This is the perfect opportunity to show what LICA has to offer fellow contractors and Scott will be announcing some exciting developments in the state legislative area.

It is just as important to have a good showing of members as it is to have guest there as well. Please locate the closest or most convenient meeting site to attend and let the meeting coordinator know you will be there.

An e-mail from Dean Neiswinger

Congressman John Fleming (Louisiana physician) has proposed an amendment that would require congressmen and senators to take the same healthcare plan they force on us (under proposed legislation they are curiously exempt).

Congressman Fleming is encouraging people to go on his Website and sign his petition (very simple -just first, last and email). I have immediately done just that at:
<http://fleming.house.gov/>.

Please urge as many people as you can to do the same! If Congress forces this on the American people, the Congressmen should have to accept the same level of health care for themselves and their families.

Scroll down on the website till you see:

Express Your Opinion



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 - Digging Wheel Pivot



Buckeye 7200 Magnum

- A Few Key Features:**
- 350 HP Cummins QSM11 Engine
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 - 36" Wide Conveyor-Bar Style Dirt Shield
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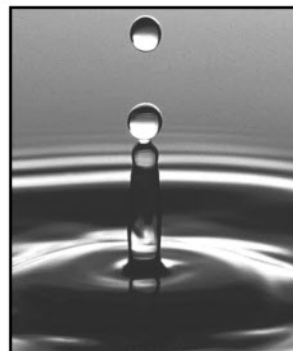
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August 5, 2009

Dear MLICA Member:

The Board of Directors for the Michigan Chapter of the Michigan Land Improvement Contractors of America Association would like to invite you and others to attend one of **FOUR** meetings that we have scheduled for different regions of the state.

These regional breakfast meetings are a new venture for our organization. The board feels we need to hear more about what members need and want members to know more about what the organization is doing. While e-mails and newsletters have some benefit, there is nothing that can replace actually getting together.

We are attempting to undertake some new directions for MLICA, including getting the organization more involved in state policy and legislative issues. We would like to both tell you about them and get your input/reaction at these regional meetings so we hope you can attend.

You would think given Michigan's economy and the stated desire by elected officials in wanting to fix it-- that those who make land more productive contributing more to the economy would be of value. That is exactly why we believe the timing is right to become more aggressive in working on issues that are either counter-productive or especially beneficial too – the business we are in.

I also need to ask a favor. Please bring others that you know are engaged in our industry to this meeting. It's like anything else in life, the more people we have rowing in the same direction, the more effective we can be.

We would appreciate anything you can to both get the word out or even pick someone up and bring them to one of these meetings.

Thanks for your current and future support of MLICA. We look forward to your attendance at one of the following meetings. **No RSVP is necessary, just show up.**

Best Wishes:

Mike Cook, Executive Director
517-282-9801

West Michigan: Monday August 17th - 9 AM
New Beginnings Restaurant: 25 68th Ave., (Exit 16 off I-96) Coopersville

Southern Michigan: Tuesday August 18th - 9 AM
Comfort Inn: 1000 Orleans Blvd., (I-69-U.S. 12) Coldwater

Central Michigan: Wednesday August 19th – 9 AM
Gracie's Country Inn: 9483 Genesee St., New Lothrop

Eastern Michigan: Thursday August 20th - 9 AM
Tietz Restaurant: 430 E. Capac Rd., Imlay City

Legislative Issues

Michigan urged to keep wetland power

Report says state is better able to protect areas than the feds

Jim Lynch / The Detroit News

Submitted by :
Scott Everett
Earthscape Resource Mgt

Michigan would be better served by keeping wetlands protection in state hands, rather than turning that responsibility over to the federal government, according to a report released Tuesday by regional environmental groups.

As Michigan legislators look to solve a \$1.7 billion budget gap for the next fiscal year, Gov. Jennifer Granholm has proposed shifting oversight of wetlands from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

It's a move administration officials estimate could save as much as \$2 million.

But a report released by the National Wildlife Federation recommends leaving permitting for actions that have an impact on wetlands with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

"While we believe there are some shortcomings in the current Michigan wetlands program ... returning the program to federal administration under Section 404 would neither result in a stronger, more comprehensive program, nor likely result in any cost savings overall," the report says.

"Instead, the state should identify resources as needed and make a commitment to maintain administration of this important program."

Federal agencies describe wetlands as areas where "water covers the soil, or is present either at or near the surface of the soil all year or for varying periods of time." Those areas are valued because they perform a variety of services. When wetlands disappear, they take with them habitats for wildlife, flood protection for humans and a water

quality buffer. Michigan has lost nearly 50 percent of its wetlands.

Michigan has been handling wetlands permitting for a quarter-century, and only New Jersey has a similar program. A spokesman for Granholm could not be reached for comment Tuesday. Opponents of Granholm's plan list several concerns with transferring responsibility to the Corps of Engineers. Among them is the fact the federal program does not require a permit for work such as depositing or placing of fill material, dredging or removing soil or minerals, and draining surface waters. In addition, environmentalists said a change could result in a longer permitting process and "less comprehensive" reviews of permit applications.

Another key issue is protection of isolated wetlands -- parcels no more than 5 acres in size that are not connected to a body of water. While MD-EQ has limited discretion in protecting these areas, the corps has no authority to do so.

"There are almost 100,000 acres or more of isolated wetlands in Michigan," said Marc Smith, Great Lakes State policy manager with the National Wildlife Federation. "So those would be unprotected."

Jennifer McKay, a policy specialist with the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, said once Michigan cedes its wetlands authority, it may be difficult to get it back.

"We will most likely not be able to administer it in the future," McKay said.



Michigan LICA Membership Drive

Recently the membership committee had contacted the National LICA Executive Director, Jerry Biuso, to help us with a membership drive. He has been successful with other chapters by holding several informational meetings around the states. We have divided our state into four regions to make the effort more manageable. We will be inviting area contractors to attend a coffee hour, free of charge and explain to them the benefits of being a LICA member and share some of our experiences with them.

Each region has a membership leader, who will be in charge of setting up the meeting. What we need from our members is a dedicated effort to attend the meeting in your region, and provide the region leader with a list of contractors in your area. Also, personally invite at least one contractor and bring them along. We all know how hard it is to take off work to attend a meeting, so some prodding may be needed.

Jerry will be providing information about the benefits of LICA and our new Legislative Director, Scott Everett will be highlighting some of the political issues that Michigan LICA is undertaking that will help drainage and excavating contractors alike.

Please make an effort to attend the meeting and help us get the word out about what LICA has to offer.

Regional Membership Drive Areas and Leaders

West Region

Trevor Young (231) 853-5277
Monday August 17th 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
 Meeting site - New Beginnings Restaurant
 25 68th Street Coopersville, MI 49404

Southern Region

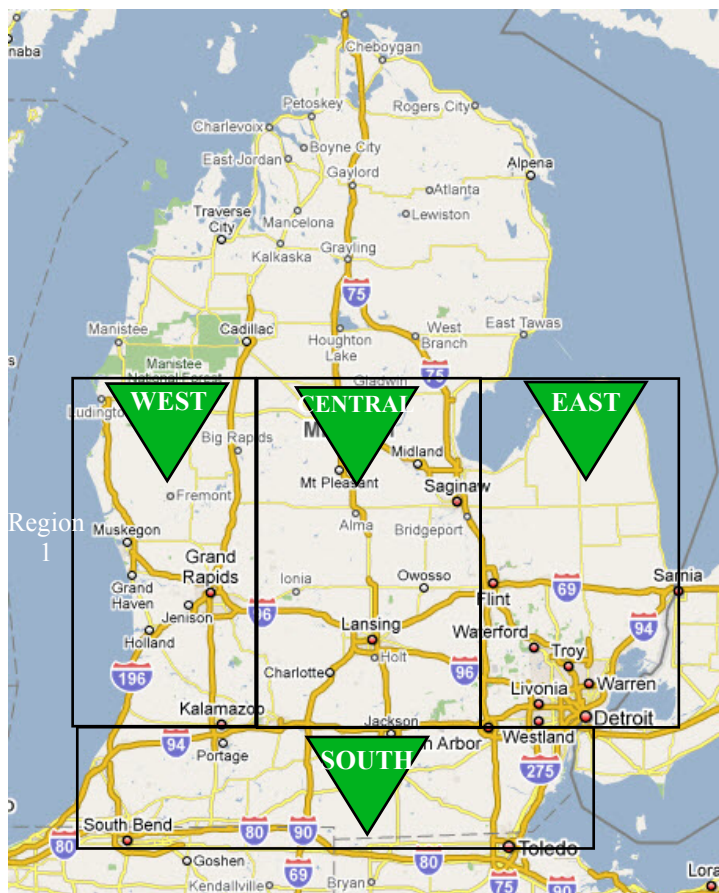
Will Word (517) 398-1105
Tuesday August 18th 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
 Meeting Site - Coldwater Comfort Inn
 1000 Orleans Blvd. Coldwater, MI 49036

Central Region

Dewey Pennington (989) 743-5074
Wednesday August 19th 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
 Meeting site - Gracie's Restaurant
 9483 Genesee St New Lothrop, MI 4846

East Region

Russ Talaski (989) 479-9340
Thursday August 20th 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
 Meeting site : Tietz Restaurant
 430 E. Capac Rd. Imlay City, MI 48444





Submitted by:
Will Word

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

Editors Note:

Funny Stuff

Just because you have auto-steer, doesn't mean you can fall asleep behind the wheel!!



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If interested call Will Word
(517) 368-5931

Editors note:

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



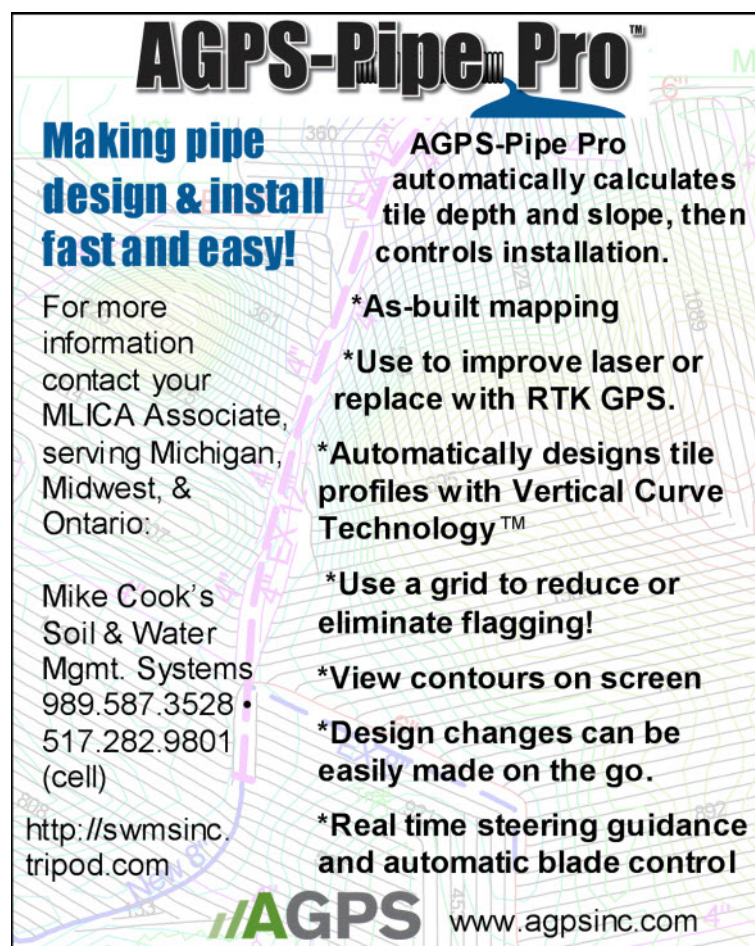
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Event Calendar

August 2009

15 (Saturday) MLICA Summer Picnic

10:00 AM Board Meeting

12:00 Picnic

(Hosted by Kelly and Trevor Young -
Ravenna, MI)

MLICA Promotional Meetings

West Region

Trevor Young (231) 853-5277

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Southern Region

Will Word (517) 398-1105

Tuesday August 18th 9 AM - 11 AM

Central Region

Dewey Pennington (989) 743-5074

Wednesday August 19th 9 AM - 11 AM

East Region

Russ Talaski (989) 479-9340

Thursday August 20th 9 AM - 11 AM

November 2009

11 MLICA Board Meeting

4:30 pm at Lansing Best Western
Midway Hotel

January 2010

10-12 MLICA Annual Convention

Lansing Best Western
Midway Hotel

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