



MLICA News

Michigan Land Improvement Contractors of America

LICA Contractors help Hunger Relief Program in Elkton

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



GPS Field Day Update Submitted by : Russ Talaski

Next Board Meeting

Sunday January 9th,2011 4:30 PM Hospitality Suite Ramada Inn Lansing, MI In March of 2009 the Huron County Soil Conservation District, along with the Hunger Relief Program, (a non-profit group) contacted me to put in a few tile lines on land owned by the Village of Elkton that they use to grow crops on. The Hunger Relief Program is made up of a church group and thumb area farmers, growing crops on approximately 160 acres of land, with the profits they generate used to help feed starving people around the world.

After GPS surveying, I showed them that the field lays almost flat in some spots and has three major depression areas that should be filled or shaped to remove surface water from ponding. I then approached the Michigan LICA board to see if we could help them out and setup a Summer GPS Field Day for 2010. The board totally agreed and plans were under way. In March of 2010

we installed an eight inch non-perforated main west through another land-owners field to a county drain because the farm operator was going to plant Sugar Beets in their field that spring. The Soil Conservation District no-tilled wheat in the field to allow us to have our Field Day in August.

The GPS Field Day began August 10 and 11, 2010 with the help of many Michigan LICA members and their employees. The Michigan LICA Associate members were contacted and again stepped up to help us out. The tile suppliers provided us with main tile and 3 & 4 inch tile to drain the 28 acre field.

The equipment suppliers provided us with bulldozers equipped with GPS leveling attachments, backhoes and excavators with GPS guidance systems on them. The goal of this GPS field day was to demonstrate new technologies and advancements in drainage (Cont. Pg 3)

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President's Desk



For some of us the year is almost to a close for our business and others the crops are off and fields are

in great shape to continue working. In the thumb area we are in great shape, we have had a dry fall with just a little rain to soften the top ground. I can't remember plowing tile in the middle of November with Tee shirts on and not having to clean the machines off every night. Talking to most of the board members in the south of Michigan, they are so dry that they have a pail of water in the headlands to cool the point of the tile plow after installing a tile run. According to the tile salesmen we must be having the best year in a long time with the amount of tile they are selling. Excavator contractors say that the ground is in the best shape to be moved in a long time. With the agricultural crop prices being up, we are all looking forward to next year being one of the best years to install conservation practices on the land. Land prices are on a steady increase making it more practical to make improvements to the existing land that you own to increase your income per acre. This is the best time of the year to start looking at what are our needs are for equipment and maybe even new technologies to gear up for the increase to our work load.

The winter annual state convention is coming up in January and this is the time to come and see what is new in your industry. We have a lot of guest speakers already lined up but if you as a member have an idea, call me or Mike Cook and we will try to get a speaker to present your topic. This is why you joined and is very important to others in Michigan LICA.

I would like to Thank everyone who helped and attended the Summer Picnic in Elkton. We had a great turnout and a lot of you brought your family and they seamed to have a great time also. The best was watching Gene's grandson take home a large arm full of Black Walnuts and all the contractors encouraging him. A special thanks goes out to JDE and Perry Strimback for providing the food and preparing it, again it was great. Another thanks goes out to our host family, Kyle and Vicki Yackle, and my family members who provided the location and helped with every thing because I was so busy with the field day. At our November Board meeting we had Ben Foster volunteer to look in to having next years summer picnic by his home town in the middle of the state. Thanks again.

The Nomination committee is looking for candidates to run for Michigan LICA Board seats and Officers so please step forward if you feel that you can contribute to this great organization.

Thank You for letting me serve you and I will see you at the Annual Meeting in January.

Russell Talaski President, Michigan LICA

Chapter News

Winter Convention closing in fast!

It's hard to believe that the year is almost over and winter convention is upon us. We have some exciting changes coming this year. We will be holding this years convention at the newly remodeled Ramada Inn, just across the street from the old convention site. We feel the new location and facilities will suit us well, and we were able to keep the room costs low, as we've done in the past to make it affordable for everyone to come. We will continue to offer two full days of informative, industry specific material and the chance to meet and mingle with other contractors in the same field. This year we are planning an extra day on Wednesday for those that wish to stay. Plans are still being finalized, but it will be well worth your time.

If you are new to LICA and have never been to a convention, we strongly urge you to attend. You will see what a value being a LICA member can be. Remember, if you are a new member, your convention registration will be waived. If you are a current LICA contractor, make sure to include your crew! They will have a lot of fun and learn some valuable information at the same time.

Please take time now to fill out and send in the attached convention registration while you are thinking about it and reserve your rooms directly with the hotel.

The special room rate of \$69 will end DECEMBER 15th so make your reservations now!!

(GPS Field Day Cont.) and land shaping equipment. We only used marking flags to show where the main sizes changed. The Natural Resource Conservation Service provided the technical support to install a soil erosion drop structure on the other county drain on the north edge of the field. The Huron County Cooperative Extension Service shared the

information of the Phosphorus Study that has been preformed on this land with best management implemented. Local implement dealers and other related businesses added to the exhibit area to bring even more information to the visitors to the event. Pennington Farm Drainage sponsored by RWF Bron of Canada brought their 450 Bron tile plow that was equipped with AGPS control systems, an onboard reel and a tile cut off system. Schlatter's Inc. of Indiana brought up a brand new Wolf tile plow equipped with Trimble GPS control system, and Self leveling plow system. Talaski Farm Tiling Inc. brought in

their 2040GP Interdrain plow with AGPS control systems, and onboard reel. These three machines demonstrated three different types of installing the drainage tile. GPS, Laser and Site Rods were explained back by the 1918 Buckeye wheel machine donated by a local antique collector. Other equipment dealers brought in tractors to demonstrate auto steer, leveling equipment to level tile trenches and a Fast Track tractor.

On behalf of the Michigan LICA, the Huron Soil Conservation District, the Hunger Relief Committee and the National Food Banks, we would like to thank our members and their employees, the MI LICA Associate membership, the Huron Soil Conservation District employees, NRCS, Huron County Extension, other equipment dealers, ag related businesses and every one who helped us in the success of this Field Day and the benefit of improving this plot of land to help serve others in the future.

2010 Michigan LICA Field Day



Talaski Farm Tiling with an Interdrain 2040



Schlatter's Inc. with a new Wolf Plow



Pennington Farm Drainage and their Bron 450



Gene Izydorek discusses drainage and politics with State Representative Kevin Daley.



Region 3 VP Bob Clark from Indiana tries his hand at the backhoe skills game, as Perry Strimback of JDE watches.



Nate Cook from AGPS goes over the earth shaping plans with Al Kemp.



Russ Talaski addresses the lunchtime crowd along with members from the Hunger Relief Project.



New member Lynn Walton drops in, literally, with his helicopter to check out the field day.



Will Word & Rob Cook pass out door prizes.



LICA Members making it happen!













Learning by doing......





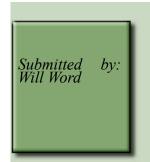












TRUCKING SAFETY & REGULATIONS

There have been several instances of contractors getting pulled over with tile stringing trailers.

The rule describes **Special mobile equipment** (MVC 257.62) as:

Every vehicle not designed or used primarily for the transportation of persons or property and incidentally operated or moved over the highways, including farm tractors, road construction or maintenance machinery, mobile office trailers, mobile tool sheds, trailers for housing stationary construction equipment, ditch-digging apparatus, well-boring and well-serving apparatus.

As it was described to me by a Motor Carrier Officer, if you are transporting any material on the trailer, even if it is for a special off road purpose, then it must be licensed. If it is empty and being moved from one job to the next, then it *may* be exempt from registration.



Tips & Tricks

Here's a handy tool that I've found very useful. It's a wireless LED trailer light system. You plug the transmitter into your truck light plug and it sends the light signal to the magnetic mounted lights on



the trailer. They work great if you get caught in the dark with no lights, or they stop working for some reason. (That never happens, right?) They run on batteries and are said to run 24 continuous hours on a set. Since last summer, we replaced the batteries once. They can be quickly mounted several different ways too. They can be found at NorthernTool.com or at TSC for around \$150.



Legislative Report November 2010



Submitted by:

Scott Everett

Director

MLICA Government Relations 517-204-3328 Everett.erm@earthlink.net As everyone knows on November 2nd the playing field changed not only across the country concerning Congress but it also changed in Michigan. Republican's took control of the House, Senate and the Administration. MLICA looks forward to working with the new legislators to pass legislation that has been previously introduced.

SB 1012 Sponsors-- <u>Senators</u>: Jim Barcia - (primary) Gerald Van Woerkom, Mark Jansen, Mike Nofs, John Gleason, Alan Cropsey, Cameron Brown, Roger Kahn

The bill exempts Personal Property Tax on equipment used to install field tile for agricultural purposes on qualified agricultural land. Introduced on 12-8-09, Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance. **MLICA Supports.**

HB 5984 Sponsors—<u>Representatives</u>: Kevin Daley (primary) Tyler, Pavlov, Huckleberry, Bryum, Hansen, Mayes, Espinoza, Kurtz, Meltzer, Haase, Barnett, Liss, Proos, DeShazor, Denby, Bolger, Nerat, Genetski, Sheltrown, Valentine, and Stamas.

• The bill also exempts Personal Property Tax on equipment used to install field tile for agricultural purposes on qualified agricultural land. Introduced on 3-23-10- Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture. MLICA SUPPORTS

HB 6457 Sponsors – Jeff Mayes (primary)

The bill exempt Personal Property Tax on equipment used to install or implement soil and water conservation techniques on qualified agricultural land. 9-16-10. **MLICA SUPPORTS**

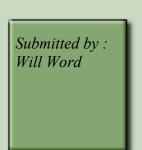
Stabenow Named Agriculture Chair

U.S. Sen. Debbie STABENOW (D-Lansing) is the new Chair of the U.S. Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee, as U.S. Sen. Blanche LINCOLN (D-Ark.) lost her re-election bid.

Stabenow is the fifth-ranking Democrat on the committee, but the senators who outrank her are all chairmen of other committees, according to The Associated Press.

"Agriculture is critical to Michigan's economy, employing a quarter of our workforce. Not only does agriculture create jobs and feed our families across America, but it is also helping us develop new fuels and energy sources," Stabenow said. "I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, as we begin writing a new farm bill that once again recognizes the importance of America's agricultural economy and rural communities."

Stabenow has served on the Agriculture committees in the Michigan Legislature, U.S. House of Representatives and currently the U.S. Senate. She worked on the most recent Farm Bill, including the addition of a new fruit and vegetable title to the Act.

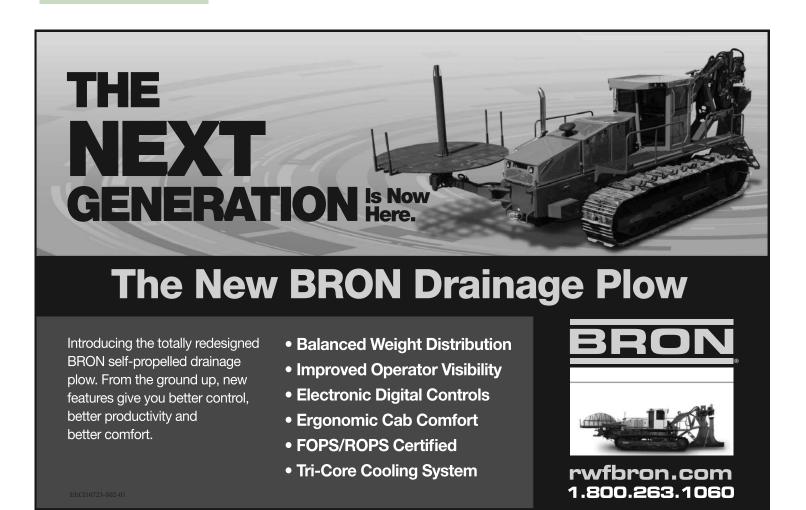


On Thursday November 25, 2010, our dear friend Dave Gordon passed away. Dave had been battling pulmonary fibrosis, a lung disease, for some time. Dave was a great friend of LICA. The convention won't be the same without his smiling face or boisterous laugh. He always had a positive attitude and was there to help out whenever the need arose.



Dave was employed by Haviland Drainage Products and represented them well as an Associate Member. If Dave called on you in the field, there would be a cooler of cold pop for you and the crew and sometimes he'd even bring out a pizza for the guys. He loved his job and getting out to the field to see his clients.

Our hearts go out to his wife, Kathy, and the rest of his family. He will be greatly missed.



More Field Day Fun.....









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Buckeye 7200 Magnum



More Chapter News......

Memebership Dues

You will find a membership application in this newsletter. Your current membership is up for renewal. Please take time to fill out the application and mail it in. We try very hard to keep member expenses to a minimum and offer excellent training and information for our members. Please help us continue to grow this chapter and improve our businesses and industry.

Special Visitors to the Field Day

Besides the many LICA members and Associates present, we were pleased to welcome several state legislators as well. Representative Kevin Daley, (R) Lapeer, Representative Jeff Mayes (D) Bay City, Representative Terry Brown (D) Pigeon and Jack Laurie, former President, Michigan Farm Bureau, took time out of their busy schedules to come and see what LICA was all about!





Region Meetings

July Region Meetings

Last July we held four regional meetings around the state. Although the programs were great, the turnout was light. We feel that they may have been too close to the holiday and a lot of the contractors seemed to be pretty busy in the fields.

We are planning another round of meetings in late February or early March. More details will be announced at the winter convention in Lansing. PLEASE try to attend these meetings. They are well worth your time and one of the benefits of being a LICA member.

The purpose of these meetings are to bring industry specific training right to you, in your back yard. Not to mention the opportunity to network with other local contractors and suppliers near you, without having to drive 2 or 3 hours away.

If you haven't attended one yet, they are very casual and relaxed, and a meal is provided, all at no cost to you. The meetings are usually hosted by equipment dealerships, so you can kick some tires and maybe even pick up some parts too. It is encouraged that you bring your crew and also invite a fellow contractor that may not be a member of LICA yet.



//AGPS-Guide^{2D}

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2010 / 2011 Event Calendar

December 2010

15 - Hotel Reservations due for Michigan **LICA Convention**

January 2011

3-5 Ohio LICA Convention

Columbus, OH

9 - Michigan LICA Board Meeting

4:30 pm Ramada Inn - Hospitality suite

10-12 Michigan LICA Convention

Ramada Inn - 7501 Saginaw Hwy

Lansing, Michigan

19-20 LICO (Ontario) Winter Convention

London, ON

January 2011 (cont.)

27 - Agriculture's conference on the Environment

Lansing Center, Lansing, MI

27-28 Indiana LICA Convention

Indianapolis, IN

March 2011

20-21 National LICA Winter Convention

Las Vegas, NV

22-26 ConExpo

Las Vegas, NV

July 2011

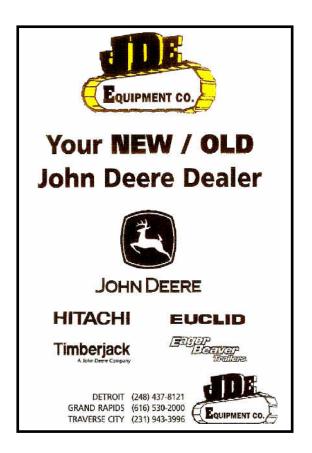
http://www.legislature.mi.gov

http://www.michigan.gov/

13-17 National LICA Summer Meeting

Rochester, MN

Industry and Associate Websites



http://www.michigan.gov/mdot http://www.truckingsafety.org/ http://www.michiganfarmbureau.com/ http://michiganlica.org/ http://www.licanational.com/ http://www.drainage.org/ http://www.bigodrain.ca/ http://www.agpsinc.com/ http://d-outlet.cfans.umn.edu/ http://www.bronrwf.com/ http://www.aisequip.com http://www.jdeequip.com/ http://www.baughmantile.com/ http://www.mayanagency.com http://dpequipment.com

Michigan Legislature Michigan Government http://www.micountyroads.org/page.cfm Seasonal county weight restrictions Michigan DOT website Michigan Center for Truck Safety MI Farm Bureau Michigan LICA National LICA LICO (Ontario) Armtec / Big O Tile AGPS Inc. **Drainage Outlet RWF Bron** AIS Equipment JDE Equipment Baughman Tile Co. The Mayan Agency D-P Equipment Co.

EARLY NOTIFICATION 2010 MLICA ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION & INFORMATION



January 9th to 12th 2010 at the Ramada Inn 7501 Saginaw Hwy, Lansing, Michigan

Dear MLICA Members:

I am excited to announce that the site for our annual convention has changed. This year we will meet at the Ramada Inn located directly east of the old meeting site. I am confident you will find the atmosphere and remodeled facilities of the Ramada to be pleasant and relaxing! Negotiated room rates remain at \$69. This includes a free full breakfast, (not just continental) and ladies will enjoy a spacious suite to meet & greet with refreshments of course. To view the facilities go to <u>WWW.ramada.com/hotel/33060</u>.

Please take the time to invite anyone actively engaged in our industry, the more people we have at the annual meeting the more we will all get out of it. Below is the preliminary agenda along with the registration form. I look forward to seeing everyone at this year's MLICA Convention.

DRAFT ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA:

Sunday January 9th: 4:30 PM MLICA Board of Directors Meeting, ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED! Meal following.

<u>Monday January 11th:</u> Registration 8 AM to 9:30 AM. From 9:30 to noon seminars will take place on topics that will interest all contractors. At noon a luncheon will be served with a guest speaker planned. At 1PM seminars will continue until 5PM. **At 4PM, The Annual Meeting will take place**. After dinner, MLICA will again conduct a fundraising auction. **Please donate something to auction!**

<u>Tuesday January 12th:</u> 2nd Annual Legislative Breakfast followed by more informational seminars, lunch and the annual banquet *will be Tuesday Evening*.

Wednesday January 13th: Plans are being made to have MIOSHA training.

PLESE MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS BY DECEMBER 15th at 517-627- 3211! Identify yourself as MLICA. Invite a potential MLICA member free for either daily activities. Send bottom portion along with your check payable to MLICA, ASAP TO: Mike Cook 4372 S Wright Rd. Westphalia Mi. 48894

	NAME FOR BADGE	REGISTRATION FEE
() Member/Associate/Guest 2 day registration @ \$100		\$
() Spouse, Employee 2 day registration@ \$75 *Same for Affiliate, Retired or paying guests with a member re	gistration	\$
() Member, 1 Day Registration	etired, Spouse, or guest	\$
Other Name Badges	_	TOTAL ENCLOSED \$

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)



Michigan LICA Membership Application

www.MichiganLICA.org

Company Name	
Member Name	Spouse's Name
Street Address	
City	State Zip
Phone () Ce	ell Phone ()
Fax () En	nail:
Contractor Member Date of Birth (Required for Ins	urance)
LICA Sponsor	
Contractor (Type of Business)	
☐ CR Crane Service	☐ ODW Open Ditch Work
☐ DI Drainage/Irrigation	☐ OSW On Site Waste Treatment
☐ EC Erosion Control	☐ PA Paving
☐ EMC Earthmoving/Land Cleaning	☐ PD Ponds or Dams
☐ EXG Excavating/Grading	☐ R Reclamation
☐ HD Hardscaping	☐ SEP Septic Systems
☐ LL Land Leveling	☐ TH Trucking or Hauling
☐ LS Landscaping	☐ TW Terraces or Waterways
☐ SA Dealer, Service Co., Government	Agency, Consultant, Insurance Agency
Application is for (Check One)	
☐ Voting Contractor Member (Annual Dues)	
Associate Member (Annual Dues)	
Affiliate Member (Annual Dues) Person(s) directly associated with a Regular or Ag	\$ 40.00 filiate Member interested in Michigan LICA.
☐ Retired Member (Annual Dues)	
☐ Supporting Member (Annual Dues)	\$ 100.00
Any individual, business, firm, corporation or e Association and/or are not eligible to be a Regu	
Signature	Date

Mail to: Mike Cook

MLICA Executive Director

4372 S. Wright Rd. Westphalia, MI 48894 For additional information contact Mike Cook At: 989-587-3528 • Email: swms@4wbi.net

Fax: 517-579-3377