

The MLICA Scoop



Spring 2015

From the Lead Plow, Ben Foster, President MLICA

It's Spring again and it finally looks like it. After a long and cold winter the weather finally decided to tempt us with some warmer and drier days. Of course, like today, we will have to endure some wet days before we can finally hit the fields running. Hopefully the load limits will be removed shortly and our "spring" can really begin.

After a very successful 2014, our organization is in good shape and growing. The contractor field day and tour of the "Liquid" Headquarters in St. Johns was very well received and a similar day is being planned for August of this year. This, along with a large attendance at our annual meeting in Lansing resulted in several new members joining our group. The intention of the Board is to continue this momentum into 2015.

We continue to monitor the "wetlands" issue and request anyone with new information on contact or issues with the MDEQ or NRCS to please pass this on to anyone on the Board or directly to Scott Everett.

New rules on "The Waters of the United States" are expected to be unveiled shortly and LICA, along with many other organizations, have commented strongly against the proposed rules.

MLICA continues to pursue revisions to the existing Michigan Truck "Weight Plate" rules to allow a reduction in annual cost for trucks operating less than 5,000 miles per year. Proposed legislation has been drafted and success may be impacted by the fate of "Proposal 1" in May.

Finally, please join me, in welcoming our new Executive Director Sarah Cook. Sarah is taking over the "nuts and bolts" of keeping our organization "on the tracks" and will undoubtedly be an asset to our organization. And while he is not going to be able to completely disappear into the sunset, help me thank Mike Cook for his many years of dedication to MLICA.

Ben Foster
Foster Trenching, Inc.
President MLICA

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Upcoming Events

- National LICA Summer Convention in Little Rock, AR
Tues., July 14 - Sat., July 18
Check out licanational.com for more details
- Contractor Field Day
Friday August 21st &
Saturday August 22nd
- MLICA Annual Picnic
Saturday August 22nd
(at the Contractor Field Day)

LOOK FOR
MORE INFO IN
OUR NEXT
NEWSLETTER!

Change in Executive Director

With Mike Cook taking on the role of National LICA's Region 3 Representative, he decided it was time to take a step back from being Michigan LICA's Executive Director. He thought who better to fill his shoes than someone who has been there with him, helping him organize name badges for convention along with various other things. He put forth a proposal to the board, as well as to me, his daughter-in-law, Sarah Cook to take on the Executive Directorship.

I put in careful consideration before agreeing to take the position...I am a mom of a very active 3 & 1/2 year old after all. It just wouldn't feel right not to be so involved though. I love getting to talk to the members, and seeing familiar faces every year. I'm looking forward to getting to know everyone better! And don't be surprised if you receive a call from me...I plan to start a "Member Highlight" section in our newsletter! Feel free to reach out to me as well!

Thank you to the Board, as well as all the MLICA members, for having the confidence in me to do the job.

Sincerely,

Sarah Cook, MLICA Executive Director

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Funding Michigan Roads:

Prop 1 goes down big time



The Unofficial Prop

I Vote Tally:

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NO: 1,403,772

(80%)

The lowest previous recorded voter support

for a proposed

amendment to the

1963 state constitution

had been

21.22 %

a mark set on a school

funding and property

tax measure in

1980.

The Governor early Wednesday said that the defeat Tuesday night of Proposal 1 at 5 to 1 means that the parties will have to come back to the table and try again. And that next try will still have to include some kind of revenue increase.

According to the Governor: "Now's not the time to fight about what happened and blame anyone. Now it's time to roll up our sleeves and get to work," Mr. Snyder said on an early conference call. "Hopefully we can come up with a legislative process. ... Hopefully there's much more awareness of repairing our roads and having better roads."

Mr. Snyder said he would still oppose a plan like passed the House last session taking all the funds from other parts of the budget.

"It would be great to get a solution to the transportation issue," he said. "How do you do that in a context of not creating major problems in other parts of government or the public sector?"

Mr. Snyder said the vote Tuesday was not a statement on increasing taxes, but on kicking the issue to the voters. "There was some degree of concern from citizens that going to the ballot wasn't really a process they wanted to do," he said.

Meanwhile, later on Wednesday morning, House Speaker Kevin Cotter (R-Mt. Pleasant) says he's pursuing a new plan that would make the tax code fairer and would dedicate more existing dollars to roads. During a press conference inside the Capitol, Cotter unveiled what he described as a "framework" and "pillars" of a road-funding plan that he's crafting.

The plan was light on specifics but evolved around four areas: "tax fairness;" "using existing funding;" "making road funding a stronger priority going forward;" and "ensuring quality work."

Eliminate Daylight Saving Time?

Rep. Jeff Irwin (D-Ann Arbor) introduced legislation in March that would eliminate the use of daylight saving time in Michigan, citing studies that the current turning forward and backward of the clock twice a year causes sleep disruptions, heart attacks and traffic accidents.

"Ultimately, daylight saving time is not worth the disruption it causes," Irwin says. "I hope my colleagues and Michigan residents will join me in supporting this legislation to eliminate the worst day of the year."

**"Ultimately,
daylight saving time
is not worth the
disruption it causes."**

NRCS Update by Mike Cook

Recently, I attended the NRCS Michigan Technical Committee (MTC) meeting in Lansing. Kim Wieber is now the Assistant to Gary Lee for program administration; you may remember her from past MLICA presentations.

At the meeting, it was announced that in hopes of better getting information out to farmers, the NRCS, MI Dept of Agriculture, and US Dept of Agriculture have entered into a joint agreement to share program information with each other. While reviewing the 2014 Farm Bill, it was noted that even with a backlog of applications for various NRCS practices, overall funding of programs is reduced. The MTC advisory subgroups have been scaled back to Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), and Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG).

We need to keep our voice in these programs! I ask any MLICA member willing to be part of these advisory committees to notify me.

***Prime example:** MTC recommended to the NRCS to narrow down ditch filter strips to 50' with no provisions for MLICA contractors to work in those strips. I advised, and they accepted, to allow normal tiling or maintenance projects in those filter strips.*

PLEASE let me know if you can help, as I will ask the board at our next meeting to appoint representatives.

“The NRCS, MI Dept of Agriculture, and US Dept of Agriculture have entered into a joint agreement to share program information with each other.”



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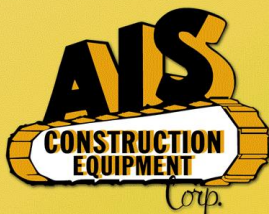
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Lilia Cook



Lilia Cook age 78, died February 6, 2015. She was born in Flint, Michigan on July 15, 1936. Lilia married John L. Cook on August 21, 1954. Lilia was a housewife, mother, grandmother and community volunteer. She was the financial partner with her husband for Cook Drainage Management.. She was a long time active member of the Peck United Methodist Church. Lilia was a founding member of the Peck Boosters Club, was a 4-H Leader and on the Elk Township Library Board to mention a few of her activities for the Peck community. She received the LICA Contractor Wife of the Year Award in 1983. She is survived by husband of 60 years John L. Cook, three children Mike Cook, Linda (Jerry) Rogers and Larry (Kim) Cook, six grandchildren; Sean (Leslie) Moes, Nathan (Sarah) Cook, Sheena Moes, Benjamin Cook, Adam (Nicole) Cook, and Daniel Cook along with seven great grandchildren; Kaleb Moes, Savanna Moes, Carter Moes, Brennan Moes, Morgan Cook, Jacob Ransom and Alexis Cook. Donations in Lilia's memory may be made to the Peck United Methodist Church, the Sanilac Gideon's or the Sanilac County 4-H Fair Board.

Philip Holzhausen, Jr.



Philip Holzhausen, Jr. of New Haven Township died peacefully in his sleep on March 5, 2015 at the age of eighty-nine. He lived a good, long, and fruitful life. A great day in Phil's life was October 9, 1948 when he married his high school sweetheart, Mildred ("Mickie"). Patting his heart, he said often and with great pride and joy that each and every one of their five children, Alan, Julie, Kay, Dean and Amy, was special.

Phil was preceded in death by his parents, Philip Sr. and Eva (Ackroyd); siblings Barbara Steele, Wayne Holzhausen, Richard Holzhausen; and siblings-in-law Robert Steele, Kathy Holzhausen, Don Flory, Patricia Holzhausen, and Robert Miller. He is survived by his beloved wife Mildred; siblings Glenn (Sarah) Holzhausen, Doris (Doyle) Ahlander, Marjorie Miller, and Marilyn Flory; children Alan (Denise) Holzhausen, **Julie (Dewey) Pennington**, Kay Patterson, Dean (Tammy) Holzhausen, and Amy (Roger) Bertschausen; thirteen grandchildren; eighteen great-grandchildren (with one more on the way); and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

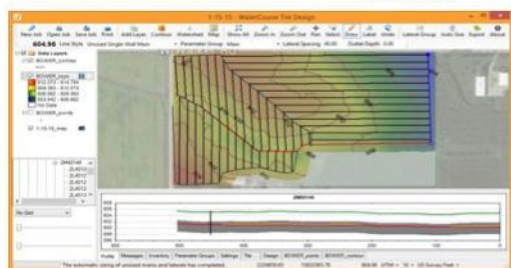
Phil was a life-long farmer and started a successful farm drainage contracting business in the early 1960s. He lived almost all of his married life in the house he built next door to the farmhouse in which he was born and grew up. He graduated from Chesaning High School. He proudly served in the U.S. Army during the occupation of Germany following World War Two. After being discharged from the Army Phil loved flying airplanes. He also loved to drive the countryside pointing out the fields that he tilled. He was an avid downhill skier, enjoying skiing for free in his seventies. He traveled widely, including twice to China and Australia. In recent years, he and Mickie enjoyed eating breakfast at Owosso's Big Boy every day. He loved to make people laugh wherever he went. The family gives a special thanks to Patty from Care and Assist.

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William Benjamin Foster III



Foster, William B. (Benjamin), III; age 83; born January 7, 1932; died at his home on February 26, 2015; after a long illness. Memorial contributions may be made to the Pompeii United Methodist Church or to Sparrow Home Hospice. Born at his parent's home in Lansing on January 7, 1932, Bill was the second child of William B. (Josh) Foster II and Georgia L. Robinson. Shortly after his birth, Bill and his family moved to Pompeii, where his father owned a milk route and his mother ran a small dairy and delivered milk locally. Later the dairy grew to a large dairy and farming operation for its day and Bill drove on the milk route, farmed and helped with the dairy. During high school, Bill ran track at Ithaca High School and set the 1/2 and 1 mile record which he held for over twenty (20) years. In 1971, he and his son held the 1/2, 1 and 2 mile records at Ithaca. During high school, he met and dated Lorraine Hipolite, the Homecoming Queen. They were married on June 23, 1951. They began their life together at the farm on Garfield Road, outside of Pompeii. Bill and Lorraine had two children, William Benjamin (Ben) Foster IV, born on November 29, 1952 and Jeana Joy (Foster) Anderson, born December 31, 1954. In 1964, they moved to his present home on Wells Road. In 1956, Bill's father started Foster's Trenching Service, a farm drainage business which Bill joined after selling the dairy in 1962. Bill continued the business until his retirement in 1997, when it became Foster Trenching, Inc. and continues to this day. Throughout his life, Bill enjoyed hunting and shooting in many forms. He was an accomplished trap shooter and competitive rifle shooter. He competed with the Ithaca Rifle Team for many years. He also enjoyed fishing in Canada with his brother-in-law, Alvin, grandsons, and nephews. Bill was preceded in death by Lorraine in 2001; his mother, Georgia; and his father, Josh. He is survived by his son, William B. (Marleen) Foster IV; and their sons, William B. (BJ) (Julie) Foster V and Derek (Elizabeth) Foster; and his great grandchildren, Skylar and Dante. His daughter, Jeana Foster (Marc) Anderson of Oregon; and their sons, Jason (Typhanie) Anderson, and Dakota (Mylene) Anderson; and his great grandchild, August. His sister, Jeri Steck of Owosso; his brother-in-law, Alvin (Donna) Hipolite; and many nieces and nephews. The family would like to thank Clarissa Leslie, Kristina and Jeremy Leslie, Lori and Emily Hipolite, and Mark Reeder for the compassionate and loving care they provided in the last days of Bill's life.



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The MLICA Scoop is the official publication of the Michigan Land Improvement Contractors Association, dedicated to the professional conservation of soil and water.

The MLICA Scoop welcomes letters, subject to editing for accuracy and brevity. The MLICA Scoop also welcomes articles relevant to the land improvement industry. All letters and articles can be emailed to scook@michiganlica.org. Please include your name and phone number for verification purposes.



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