

MLICA Scoop

LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS ~ MICHIGAN CHAPTER

SUMMER/FALL 2016

Dedicated to Professional Conservation of Soil & Water

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From the Lead Plow, Trevor Young, President MLICA

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas. I hope my letter finds all of you doing well and busy with lots of fall work. This year has seemed to fly by very quickly.

From what I have heard from some of you, business has been a little down this year. I know I have had several customers that normally do a tile project every year, but not this year. Low commodity and milk prices have hit some farmers hard and all of this usually trickles down to our businesses. However, everything cycles, and I think we are going to see a turnaround soon. Hopefully, now that this crazy election is over, things will start to rebound and we will all see the benefits of an upward cycle.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the state convention in January. I'm sure Sarah will include the dates and info in this newsletter. Our past several conventions have been great with lots of valuable info. So I am sure this upcoming one will be one you don't want to miss!!!

Again, work safe and have a great holiday season with your family and friends. See you all come January in Lansing.

Best Regards,

Trevor Young

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Diary of an Executive Director By Sarah Cook

As you take a look through this newsletter, you might notice the new cover design, as well as quite a few more advertisements. The New York and Missouri LICA Chapters revamped their newsletters to have a sleeker design, and were willing to share that design with other LICA state chapters. So I jumped at the chance to revamp our newsletter, especially with so many new advertisements from our associates! It's great to have to expand the number of pages to accommodate so many advertisements! **Thank you to the associates that placed an ad in the MLICA Scoop for Summer 2016-Spring 2017!** Make sure to check out our website and Facebook page, as I will also be using the new cover design there.

Since the last edition of the newsletter, the National Summer Meeting took place in Kansas City, MO. It was great being able to connect with the Executive Directors in Kansas City to share our knowledge. I also attended a meeting briefly explaining all the benefits provided to members from the national level. I hope to help you all understand the National level benefits, so National can keep providing them to us.

In August, we also had a field day hosted by Rob Cook in Vermontville. **Special thanks to Rob Cook (and his employees) for providing the location for a field day and picnic, AIS for providing a great meal, ADS for providing beverages, and all our Associates that set up a display**

Upcoming Events

MLICA Winter Convention

Sunday, January 15th

Board Meeting &

2nd Annual Cornhole Tournament

Monday, January 16th

Seminars, Associates' Night, & Auction

Tuesday, January 17th

GPS Seminar (1/2 day)

**LOOK FOR THE
REGISTRATION WITH
THIS NEWSLETTER!**

National LICA Winter Convention

Harrah's, Las Vegas, NV

March 4-6, 2017

Details on page 11

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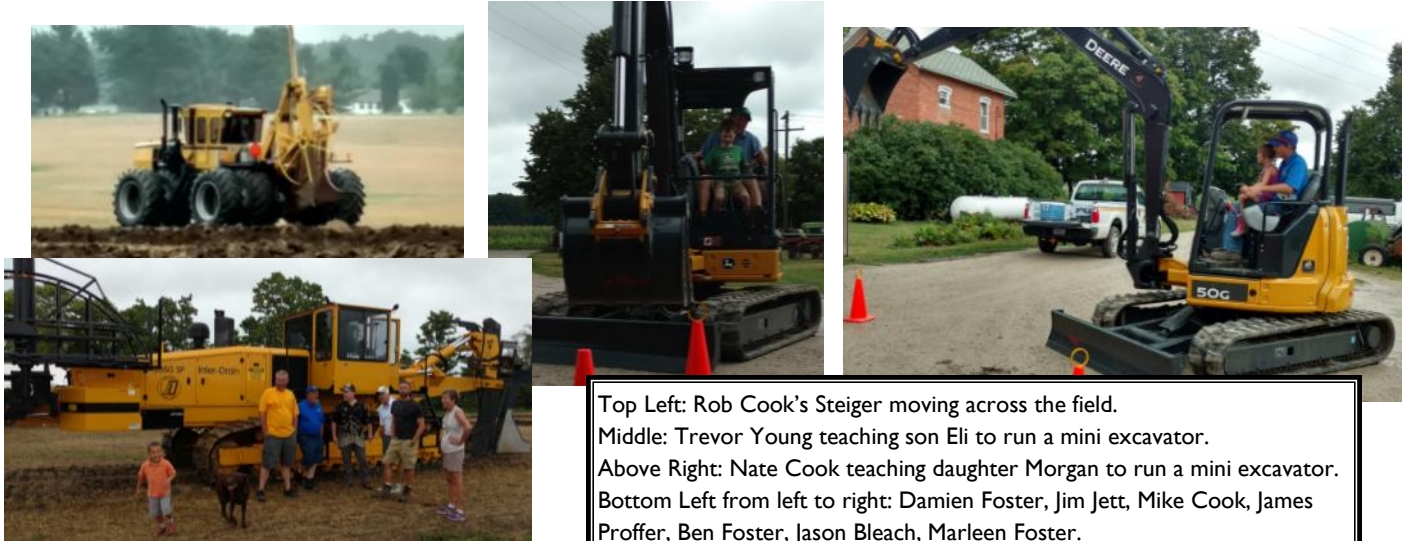
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(Continued from previous page)

for the field day! We had a great turn out at the field day and summer picnic. It was great to see everyone that was able to make it out to Vermontville! Make sure to check out the photo highlights below!

As 2016 comes to an end, we are gearing up for our winter convention, finalizing the details and agenda. **Make sure to mark your calendars for January 15th through 17th!** We will be having our 2nd Annual Cornhole Tournament following the Board Meeting Sunday evening, so get your bean bags out and start practicing! Monday evening will be our Annual Associates Night and Auction. Tuesday will be a half day of GPS seminars, including a Q&A session, so bring your list of questions with you! I look forward to seeing all of you in January!



Top Left: Rob Cook's Steiger moving across the field.
Middle: Trevor Young teaching son Eli to run a mini excavator.
Above Right: Nate Cook teaching daughter Morgan to run a mini excavator.
Bottom Left from left to right: Damien Foster, Jim Jett, Mike Cook, James Proffer, Ben Foster, Jason Bleach, Marleen Foster.



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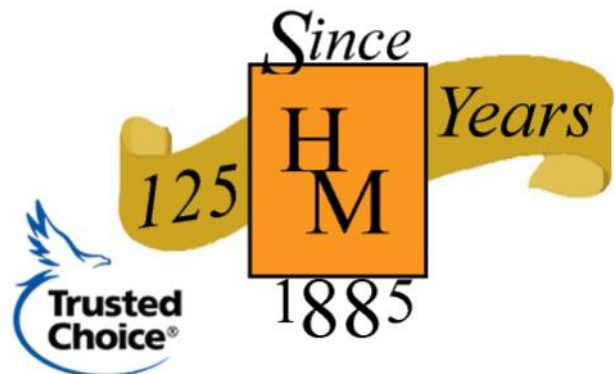
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Obituary for John Lewis Cook

(July 30, 1934 - November 22, 2016)



John L. Cook, age 82, of Peck died November 22, 2016. He was born in Yale to Lewis and Nettie Cook. He graduated from Yale High School. John married Lilia Smith on August 21, 1954.

John owned and operated Cook's Drainage Management for over 50 years. He was very active in the community where he served as 4-H leader and 4-H council member, Mayor of Peck, President of the Sanilac Fair Board, a member of the Michigan Land Improvement Contractor Association and President of National LICA. He was also a member of the Good Sam's Club, Gideons and a long time member of the Peck United Methodist Church.

He is survived by three children; 2 sons, Michael L. Cook, Larry (Kim) Cook and daughter Linda (Jerry) Rogers, 6 grandchildren; Sean and wife Leslie, Nate and wife Sarah, Sheena and fiancé John, Ben, Adam and wife Nikki, and Daniel; 8 great grandchildren; Kaleb, Savanna, Brennan, Carter, Morgan, Jake, Alexis and Gabby, 4 siblings Catherine Doyle, Barb Croteau, Dave Cook and Peggy Ostrom.

He was preceded in death by his parents and wife of 60 years Lilia Cook.

Memorial donations may be made to the John and Lilia Cook 4-H Memorial Scholarship or Peck Summer Youth League.

Lansing Matters From The Desk Of Scott Everett

HB 5889 and 5890

Status: Senate Floor (as of December 5th)

Sponsor: Representative Dan Lauwers

House Bill 5889 would amend the General Sales Tax Act (MCL 205.54a).

House Bill 5890 would amend and the Use Tax Act (MCL 205.94).

Current law provides sales and use tax exemptions for certain tangible personal property used in agriculture and aquaculture. Among other things, the exemption applies to agricultural land tile, portable grain bins, and grain handling equipment when sold to persons engaged in an agricultural business enterprise. House Bills 5889 and 5890 would specify that the exemption also applies when the property listed above is sold to a person in the business of constructing, altering, repairing, or improving real estate for others to the extent that it is affixed to or made a structural part of real estate and is used for an exempt agricultural purpose.

Also under the bills, the exemption would include the sale of personal property to persons engaged in a business enterprise and using or consuming the tangible personal property in "draining for agricultural purposes."

MLICA Supports HB 5889 and 5890.

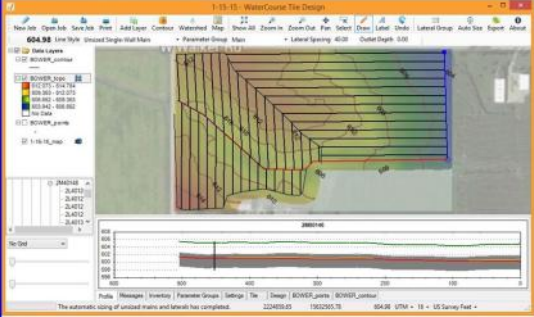
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<http://www.licanational.com/events/2017-winter-convention/>



2017 NATIONAL LICA WINTER CONVENTION TENTATIVE AGENDA



SATURDAY, MARCH 4

5:00 pm Executive Committee

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

7:00 am - 7:30 am Devotions
7:30 am - 8:00 am Committee Chairs
8:00 am **Opening Breakfast**
9:15 am - 10:15 am Education/Tech
Ladies/ Devotions
Legislative
Water Table Mgmt.
10:30 am - 11:30 am By- Laws
Conservation, Exc.
Executive Directors
11:45 am - 12:45 pm Convention
Long-Term/
Past Pres.
On-Site Waste
Safety/Insurance
1:00 pm **Lunch**
2:15 pm - 3:15 pm Associates
Membership
Policy
3:15 pm - 4:15 pm Region Meetings
4:15 pm - 5:00 pm Budget
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm **Associates' Night**

MONDAY, MARCH 6

7:00 am - 7:30 am Devotions
7:30 am **Breakfast**
9:00 am - 10:15 am Delegates Meeting
10:30 am - 11:45 am Board Meeting
12:00 pm **Lunch**
6:00 pm **CNA Reception**
7:00 pm **Awards Banquet**

ASSOCIATES' NIGHT

Sunday evening national associates will exhibit their products and services, while networking with LICA members. This year, the theme of the night is construction! There's no better way to start CONEXPO week than by wearing your hard hats and utility belts. Everyone is encouraged to join in the fun and dress the part.

Interested in exhibiting?
Contact the National LICA Office
Phone: 630-548-1984
Email: anational.LICA@gmail.com

MAGICIAN CHRISTOPHER CARTER AWARDS BANQUET

Christopher Carter is a mindreader, motivational speaker, and magician you will be raving about for months. He will provide LICA members with an outstanding entertainment experience.

Christopher has created custom presentations for some of the nation's top corporate groups, including Sprint PCS, Harley-Davidson, Bristol Myers Squibb, Phillips Electric, Wells Fargo, The Million Dollar Round Table, and many more.



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Buckeye 7200 Magnum

A Few Key Features:

- 350 HP Cummins QSM11 Engine
- Power Shift Transmission
- 7' Dual Hydrostatic Drive with Tapered Digging Wheel
- Self-Leveling Wheel Up to 8 Degrees Left or Right



Buckeye 9200 Magnum/Track Option

A Few Key Features:

- 350 HP Cummins QSM11 Engine
- High Visibility Cab with Heat and Air
- 7' Dual Hydrostatic Drive with Tapered Digging Wheel
- Self-Leveling Wheel Up to 8 Degrees Left or Right



Buckeye 7300SLT

A Few Key Features:

- Self Leveling Tractor
- Enlarged Cab Design for Operator Comfort and Greater Visibility with Air Ride Seat & Optimized Controls
- 7' Dual Hydrostatic Drive with Tapered Digging Wheel
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Buckeye-Link 175 Plow

A Few Key Features:

- 400 HP Cummins QSM11 Engine
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Buckeye 350 Backfiller

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Member Highlights

Talaski Farm Tiling Inc. of Harbor Beach, Michigan

Written by Russ Talaski, MLICA 2016 Vice President

I started this business May 1, 1995, with a cousin of mine. In 2005 he sold out to me to stay farming because the business had grown larger and he didn't have enough time to farm.

I started in the Industry on August 5, 1979 working as a backhoe operator/laborer with Holdwick Tiling Inc. Bill Holdwick had a welding shop and in the winter we would saw lumber for hire. I did get to run his tile plow a little and survey land to get ready to tile. In October of 1985 I hired on with Hancor at a newly opened distribution yard to do sales and delivery. In the fall of 1986 we had so much rain that a lot of our sales were canceled and I was invited down to Hancor in Findley Ohio to work with Mike Cook, surveying and designing layouts for sub irrigation and tile drainage. I traveled to Ohio from my home in Harbor Beach each week and in the spring of 1987 I decided to leave Hancor to stay home with my family. I was hired by The Huron Soil Conservation District as a Sub Irrigation Technician to assist farmers with how to conserve energy with their sub irrigation in 3 counties and later including overhead irrigation in 5 counties. This lead up to making a decision to start my business.

I heard about Michigan LICA from tile salesmen and, at first, didn't want to spend the company's money to go because my business partner didn't want to go to the meetings. After awhile, I decided it was in the best interest of our business to learn more about our industry. I think I joined in 1996 and drove down to Lansing with Bill Holdwick and Gene Izydorek. I still remember Gene saying in front of the LICA Board that I would not run for a board seat that first year; that put me in relief. But by the next year, I was elected to the board and have served since.

The first machine I started out with was a D8K Cat with a 250 link plow and a brand new analog mast laser. At the MLICA annual meeting in 2008, I was talking to Jack Bower and ended up buying his 2040 GP Inter-Drain Plow and GPS equipment. Then I purchased AGPS software from Mike Cook; that was quite a spring learning a new machine and GPS thank god for Nate Cook. In the summer of 2013, I bought a 350 Bron plow because of its Telescoping tracks and auto-steer capabilities. We Run a PC120 Excavator and a 214 JCB Backhoe because of the large tires in the front.



(Continued on next page)

Classifieds

Equipment for Sale?

List it here in the MLICA Scoop!

Send your information to
scook@michiganlica.org

Please include any of the
following information that
applies:

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- Make & Model
- Size & Color
- New, Used, or Reconditioned
- Price & Location
- Contact Info including Name & Phone Number



2010 Bron 450 PU

CAT C-13 Engine

6,200 Hours as of 7/2016

White with Gray Undercarriage & Plow

Telescopic Tracks

\$370,000

Peck, MI.

Larry Cook

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Ben Cook

(810) 650-0403

One of the highlights of my business was when I called RWF and Ron Hall came out to show me how to reshape the front of the wear plate on my plow and he wanted to buy the D8K Cat I was going to put it on .

That told me that I made the right choice. Another highlight was meeting Scott Evert and getting to present a history of what tile drainage is to the Senate Ag Committee for the Exemption of personal property tax on Drainage Equipment that became law with the guidance of Scott and started a great Friendship. And in 2010 I chaired a GPS Field Day in Elkton Michigan in the Thumb on land rented by Hunger Relief, a Food Bank program. We as LICA members were able to tile land that would raise money to buy food in other need parts of the world; that was a great feeling.

I could not run my business without my family, my wife Joann does the bookkeeping and payroll, my son Russell worked for us all through high school years and helps move equipment when he can. I tell him that I can run a computer better than him because he uses 10 fingers and I only use one. But he has helped me learn and has gotten things straightened out from time to time. My daughter Vicki and her husband Kyle have two kids Ethan who is 6 and Allison who is 3 and wants to be 6. They help me put information on QuickBooks. Haley, my youngest daughter, is a senior in high school and plans to go to college this fall to become an Ag teacher like Vicki. I couldn't more proud of all of them.

One of the funniest memories in business was when my business partners' kids were in the field with us on a Saturday. It was muddy and both kids got stuck in the mud. Fred had to extend the backhoe out to them and walk out on the boom to pull them out and retrieve their boots. But one of the most memorable times was getting my D8 plow stuck in a muck field, we took the backhoe in the field and dug holes to see what kind of muck we had to work with. It had morrow under it so we thought it would be ok. I backed in off the road and started from the outlet, moving ahead 400 ft, when we hit a pocket of peat moss. We went down about 5 feet in a second; I could walk out of the cab by pushing the door out into muck. Of course, we didn't have cell phones to take pictures, but that wasn't on my mind at the time. A friend of mine brought out his excavator and dozer to build a ramp in front of me and push 10 inch by 3 ft pads to pull me up. It only took 4 hours but that machine never saw another muck field again.

As I look back at my experiences with MLICA, I wouldn't change a thing: the friendships, the business contacts, the knowledge and how much it has improved my business. My advice to all members, new and old is to get involved, make it happen. When I am driving to Lansing two and a half hours I feel that this is still cheap for what I have gotten back. The best way to get what you want is to ask or dig into it and find what works for you. The best thing about Michigan LICA is that we are not in competition with each other, at meetings we talk about what works best for us and share it with any member that is willing to listen. If you attend meetings you will find that out for yourself. So I say it again, GET INVOLVED to get the most out of your membership dues.



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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.