2018 ISSUE 2

MLICA Scoop

LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS ~ MICHIGAN CHAPTER

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From the Lead Plow, Ben Cook, President MLICA

Hello Everyone!

I hope everyone's year has started off well. It seems as if summer has arrived with the record setting high Memorial Day temps that we have had the last few days.

Don't forget to register for the National LICA Summer Meeting in Grand Rapids; it's not too late. We really hope to get more members from our state chapter to come than are already registered. With it being located right in our state, as well as Mike Cook being National President, there isn't a better time to attend.

Saturday, July 14th, during National's Summer Meeting, AIS in Grand Rapids will be hosting our Annual MLICA Summer Picnic,

separate from the national convention. Check out the flyer on the next page for details. If you are unable to attend the rest of the weekly events of National's Summer Meeting, I hope to see you at AIS.

We are continuing to look into OSHA training sessions for our members in the near future. With the changes in the last few years this is something that is going to affect us all. Nothing is set yet, but keep an eye on our newsletters, as well as, email, Facebook and

www.michiganlica.org for information in the future.



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Michigan LICA Members JOIN US

Saturday, July 14, 2018

COME ENJOY A MEAL, TAKE A TOUR, TEST YOUR SKILLS, AND JUST PLAIN DIG SOME DIRT!

2018 Annual Summer Picnic



600 44th Street S.W. Grand Rapids, MI 49548

Time: 11 AM - 4 PM

Lunch: 11:30 AM

Tour of AIS Facility: 12:15 PM - 1:15 PM

AIS Skills Competition: starting @ 1:30 PM

Coinciding with the final day of National LICA's Summer Meeting, National members are welcome to join us at AIS after lunch. MLICA Members are welcome to register with National LICA for the Whitecaps game following the picnic. Tickets are limited.





Please RSVP by July 6th to scook@michiganlica.org for meal count!

Here we are less than 6 weeks away from National's Summer Meeting taking place in our own backyard! I've been looking forward to this event for the past 2 years and it's finally just around the corner!

While I realize National Meetings cost more than Michigan LICA Members are used to spending, I hope to see many of you there to represent our great state! Even if you miss the early bird registration deadline of June 9th, please still consider coming!

This year, with National's Summer Meeting being in Grand Rapids, our board members voted to schedule our Annual Summer Picnic at that same time. AIS is graciously hosting our picnic at their Grand Rapids facility. During our picnic AIS will provide MLICA members lunch and then take us on a tour of the facility. After we tour the facility, AIS will welcome National members, allowing us

Call us today 616-205-9016

to all test our skills in a competition, and just plain dig some dirt. Please RSVP to me by email at scook@michiganlica.org so I can give Allen Bonthuis a count for food.

Following our picnic, National LICA has arranged for registrants to attend the Whitecaps Minor League baseball game for a small fee. Tickets are limited, so make sure to get your registration sent in to National LICA if you plan to join us!

As Ben mentioned in his letter, we are looking into offering trainings to MLICA members in regards to OSHA compliance. We will likely offer these trainings as regional meetings, hopefully in the fall. Stay tuned to MLICA's Facebook page, as well as email, and www.michiganlica.org for details.

Once again, I look forward to seeing you in July!



National LICA Summer Meeting

July 10-14, 2018

Amway Grand Plaza Hotel

Grand Rapids, MI

MLICA Annual Summer Picnic

Saturday, July 14, 2018 AIS Grand Rapids

KEEP UP TO
DATE BY EMAIL
& FACEBOOK

On site in 4 hours or less!



Submitted by Vicki St Clair



Port Industries traces its roots back to Mercer County, Ohio before 1900 when Harvey Shimp was laying clay field tile. His son Nathan Shimp, helped Harvey through his years growing up while he was in school, and then also after he returned from WWII. In 1950 Nathan wanted a better ditching machine than the 1911 model he was running, so he designed a new machine. He hired a local welding shop to build it for him and others quickly wanted one of the new Tandem Traction Trenches. In the early 1960's Nathan sold his interest in this venture to Karl and Mark Speicher. He then incorporated Port Industries, and in 1967 Port Industries completed its first machine. This was an auger backfiller, and it was followed by the Hydra -Tandem Trencher in 1968.



The Hydra-Tandem was the first completely hydrostatically driven trencher. All other ditchers being built at that time were driven with gear boxes and exposed drive chains. Nathan used the machines he built through Port Industries to build a successful drainage contracting business in northeast Missouri and west central Illinois. He continued to build machines through the 70's and 80's, and if a machine wasn't sold, Nathan and the Port Industries employees would use it to install drain tile themselves until it did sell.

Port Industries introduced the Hydra-Tandem II in 1987.

This was the first rubber fired trencher capable of digging 7 feet deep. In 1991 the Hydramaxx 2400 became the first 4-wheel drive trencher offered by Port Industries. By 2002 Port Industries product line included the Hydramaxx 2600 (rubber tire wheel trencher), Hydramaxx 2500 (rubber tire chain trencher), and the Hydramaxx 3300 (self-contained plow). Because of this rapid expansion in 2000 Port Industries moved to its current location for increased production capabilities. In 2015 Port Industries added on again to include office space, and in 2016 added a new service building featuring three independent service bays.

This year Port Industries has introduced an Interchangeable V-Plow attachment, and the first self-contained full-size V-Plow manufactured in the USA, the Hydramaxx 3320 V-Plow. Hydramaxx equipment is used in a variety of markets including Ag, renewable energy, pipe line, and gas. The Hydramaxx brand can also be found from California down to Florida in the USA, and in Canada.

Today, 50 years after our first trencher, Port Industries is still growing and changing to keep up with technology, customer demand, and service. Port Industries now also, specializes in setting up machinery, from back-fillers to tractors, with Trimble products for machine control for steering and elevation control offering both laser and GPS.

On July 27, 2018 Port Industries will be hosting a field day to celebrate our 50th Anniversary and to showcase our newest models of trenchers and plows.

For more information contact Vicki St. Clair at vicki.stclair@portind.com



Port Industries 50th Anniversary 27, 2018







RSVP by:









Phone: (800) 562-8713

Email: Vicki.StClair@portind.com

models for field demonstrations. Including the New Hydramaxx 2520 Chain Trencher, 2720 2720 Wheel Trencher, 3320 Drainage Plow and 3320 V Plow. The Open House will include lunch, field demonstrations, and a tour of the plant. We have also invited Trimble to join us in celebrating thier 50th Anniversary. We will have a collection of Trimble products on display showing thier history for the past 50 years. Contact us for more information or to RSVP.

Port Industries would like to invite you to

50th Anniversary, Hydramaxx Ag Field Day and Open House in Palmyra, MO. We will have our new Tier IV trenchers and plows

join us on Friday, July 27, 2018 for our

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NATIONAL HAPPENINGS

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The LICA Program for...

Small Business Term Loans

Small business loans ranging from \$50,000 - \$10 million

In conjunction with LICA's goal to always provide Members with essential benefits LICA has partnered with Newtek and ADP Statewide Insurance to create the National LICA Small Business Loan Program. This program will give LICA's members access to Small Business Term Loans.

Newtek's business lending division, Newtek Small Business Finance, is distinguished for its broad array of lending products and customer friendly application process. Newtek makes loans ranging from \$50,000 to \$10 million for existing businesses (with two or more years of tax returns).

General loan parameters

- Loan sizes from \$50,000 \$10 million Variable interest rates tied to prime
- Limited or no prepayment penalties
- 100% financing considered

Acceptable uses of proceeds

- Expand or acquire a business
- Purchase equipment
- Finance business expenses
- Purchase owner occupied real estate
- Refinance existing business debt

Loan terms

- Varies depending on use of proceeds
- 10 years for general business purposes
- 15 years to purchase equipment
- 25 years for acquisition or refinance of mercial real estate

Industry types

Contractors

- Multi-use real estate
- Special purpose properties
- Gas station/C-Store
- Service businesses
- Retail

Beyond a broad loan policy, Newtek offers an uncommonly efficient and personalized application process. Step-by-step, a Newtek Business Services specialist guides the borrower from initial application through closing.

The Small Business Authority® is a registered trade mark of Newtek Business Services Corp. and neither are a part of or endorsed by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Being a small business owner isn't easy, and sometimes you need a little bit of financial help. LICA members have access to Small Business Term Loans through Newtek. Newtek Small Business Finance is distinguished for its broad array of lending products and customer friendly application process. With loan sizes ranging from \$50,000 - \$10 million, you can expand your business, purchase equipment, finance business expenses, purchase real estate, leasehold improvements, refinance existing business debt.

If you're in need of a small business term loan, take advantage of this LICA member benefit by contacting Vince Basciano by email vince@adpinsurance.com or by phone 973-538-6300 ext 217 or 973-476-2563.



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2018 National LICA Summer Meeting **Tentative Agenda**

Tuesday, July 10

8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Mint, AgroLiquid & Dairy Tour

6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Executive Committee

Wednesday, July 11

8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Dune Rides, Winery & Blueberry Farm

National LICA Benefits

Educational Seminars

Associates' Night

Breakfast

Education/Tech

Legislative Water Table Mgmt.

Kids Tour: Children's Museum

By- Laws Conservation, Exc. Ladies/Devotions

Fredrick Meijer

Gardens

Kids Tour: John Ball Zoo

Thursday, July 12

8:00 am - 8:45 am

8:45 am - 2:30 pm

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

9:00 am - 2:00 pm

7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Friday, July 13

7:00 am - 7:30 am 7:30 am - 8 :00 am

9:15 am - 10:15 am

10:00 am -2:00 pm

10:30 am - 11:30 am

Friday, July 13 (Continued)

12:00 pm

1:15 am - 2:15 pm

Convention Long-Term/Past Pres. On-Site Waste Safety/Insurance

2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Associates

3:45 pm - 4:45 pm 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Region Meetings Budget

Lunch

Saturday, July 14

7:30 am - 8:00 am

12:00 pm

8:00 am

Breakfast Board Meeting

Devotions

AAA Baseball Game West Michigan Whitecaps vs.

Beloit Snappers

mer meeting and National Associates will be there exhibiting their products and services. While you enjoy the food and drink, celebrate

"A Salute to American History" Thursday, July 12 ~ Associates' Night ciates' Night is the official start of the Sum-

America by dressing as an American historical

2018 National LICA Summer Meeting **Registration Form**

CGGGGGG

Company	
City	State
Phone	
Email	
Names of Att	endees (for Badges)
Name	
Name	
Name	
Name	

Early Bird Registration Postmarked by June 9, 2018

Members, Spouses, Associates \$265 Total \$ Number Attending Youth: 13 Years & under (Under 3 Free) \$99 Number Attending Total \$ Registration

Members, Spouses, Associates

Optional Tours

Tues. July 10 Cost \$ 50 per person Weds. July 11

No. Attending Total \$

No. Attending Dunes & Blueberry Farm Cost \$ 60 per person Total \$_

No. Attending Cost \$ 35 per person Total \$ Sat., July 14

No. Attending Cost \$ 40 per person Total \$ Use Children's Form for discounted child rate.

Tour Total

Convention Total \$

Return this form with payment to: LICA Summer Meeting 3080 Ogden Ave. Suite 300, Lisle, IL 60532

Postmarked after June 9, 2018

\$299 Number Attending ____

Youth: 13 Years & under (Under 3 Free) \$99 Number Attending _ Total \$

Registration Includes: Associates' Night, Friday Breakfast & Lunch, Saturday Breakfast & Lunch. **Hotel Information:**

Amway Grand Plaza 187 Monroe Ave. NW; Grand Rapids, MI 49503 Calling on or before the deadline does NOT guarantee you will get the room rate.
your reservations today, the block fills up fast.

Call: (800) 253-3590 (Ask for Group Reservations) Group Name: Land Improvement Contractors Reserve by: June 9, 2018

Enclosed is my check for \$ _ or charge my credit card Credit Card MC Visa Cardholder Card # 3 Digit Code Billing zipcode

Registration Policy: Only individuals registered and wearing badges may attend Summer Meeting events. No registration will be processed without payment. Registration fee deadlines will be strictly enforced. Refund Policy: For cancellations received prior to June 29, 2018 a \$30.00 charge will be deducted from the original amount paid. No registration payment will be refunded after June 29, 2018 unless there has been an emergency.

2018 National Summer Meeting Tours

Tuesday, July 10th

Mint Producer, AgroLiquid & Steenblik Dairy



We will visit the Midwest's largest producer of spearmint, lo-cated in St. Johns, MI. This family owned operation got its start in 1948 with roughly 10 acres. Three generations in, the farm has grown to more than 2,000 acres.

Enjoy lunch at AgroLiquid, which remains a family business and boasts a cutting edge facility. There is also a 750 tillable acre

research farm where products go through extensive testing.

After immigrating to the United States from Holland in 1994,

Albert Steenblik started his dairy operation with 250 cows. In 2014 he built a brand new rotary parlor, and 12- row freestall barn. Over a 23 year span, Albert has grown his operation to 3450 milking cows.

Wednesday, July 11th

Dune Rides, Winery, & Blueberry Farm



Start your day on a 7 mile ride on the shifting sand dunes, viewing Silver Lake and the lovely beach along Lake Michigan. Accessible to the mobility impaired, all ages can enjoy the exciting, scenic rides.

Next, dine with us, as we enjoy The Fox Barn. Here, you'll be able to taste wines, shop for wine themed items, along with fresh produce and a variety of special foods. The Foxes are proud to

be part of a rich farming community for 5 generations.

Finally we will stop at the Jawor Brothers Blueberry Farm & Country Store. Over 800 acres of blueberries are cultivated and harvested every year, with some as big as quarters. The Country Store showcases a variety of baked goods derived from Jawor family recipes which are made in the store's kitchen on a daily basis.

Thursday, July 12th Fredrick Meijer Gardens



Enjoy the beautiful scenary of these gardens from the comfort of tram. While aboard, your docent will tell you all about the beautiful horticultural displays. After the tram tour visit the cafe for lunch on your own in this truly beautiful setting. There will be time after lunch for a little exploration by foot.

Saturday, July 14th AAA Whitecaps Baseball Game



Here's a perfect way to end the Summer Meeting: a baseball game! The West Michigan Whitecaps are taking on the Beloit Snappers. About an hour into the game enjoy a BBQ, complete with hot dogs, burgers and brats. After the game is over we will get a fireworks display.

2018 National LICA Summer Meeting Children's Tours Form



Pare

City

Cell

Thurs., July 12

John Ball Zoo

Fri., July 13

Sat., July 14

Cost \$ 25 per child

Whitecaps Baseball

Cost \$ 30 per child

Thursday, July 12th John Ball Zoo: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Have your kids have a day filled with animals of all kinds at the John Ball Zoo. They can visit the fish of the deep sea, the mighty lions of the Africa, and the monkeys of the rainforest all in one day!

Friday, July 13th

Children's Museum: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

The Grand Rapids Children's Museum is a mix of fun and learning for your child. Exhibits range from the imagination playground to "Little Grand Rapids" where your child can grocery shop, go the bank and more in the little version of Grand Rapids!



ent's Name	Children Attending		
2000	Name	Age	
State	Name	Age	
Phone	Name	Age	
ail	Name	Age	
ildren's Tours			

All parents must sign the "Liability Waiver & Release Form" for their children No. Attending to attend these tours. Cost \$ 25 per child Total \$

Any child without a signed form will not be allowed to attend the Children's Tours.

Refund Policy: For cancellations received prior to June 29, 2018 a \$30.00 charge will be deducted from the original amount paid. No registration payment will be refunded after June 29, 2018 unless there has been an

hildren's	Tour	Total	\$ _

No. Attending

No. Attending

Total \$

Use the "Summer Meeting Registration" form to register your children for meeting mea

Credit Card MC Visa

or charge my credit card

Return this form with payment to: LICA Summer Meeting 3080 Ogden Ave. Suite 300 Lisle, IL 60532

Card #	
Card #	F-100 (MD-100-11)
Exp	3 Digit Code
Billing zipcode	- 8 8

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Donald W Theis 1945-2018

Donald W. Theis, 72, of Fowler, Michigan, passed away unexpectedly on May 3, 2018. Don was born October 27, 1945 to John and Leona (Platte) Theis of Westphalia, Michigan. He grew up in Fowler/Westphalia area and lived in Fowler at the time of his passing. He attended St. Mary School and Pewamo-Westphalia High School.

Donald is survived by his children, Rebecca, Elizabeth (Kolya), Mary Kay, and Jason. Don is also survived by two sisters, Germaine Miller of Westphalia and Marie Cook of Portland; one brother, Leon (Mary) Theis of

Fowler; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Leona Theis; sister, Geraldine Nurenberg; brothers-in-law, Gerald Miller, William Cook, and Dennis Nurenberg.

Don was the owner and operator of Northwest Excavating and took great pride in his work. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, Catholic Order of Foresters, and served in the Michigan National Guard.

Don was a very devout Catholic and was an active member of St. Mary Catholic Church in Westphalia all of his life. The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, May 8, 2018 at St. Mary Catholic Church with Rev. Eric Weber presiding. Rite of Committal will follow at St. Mary Catholic Cemetery. The family will receive friends on Monday, May 7, 2018, from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the St. Mary Funeral Chapel, 210 N. Westphalia St., Westphalia. The rosaries will be prayed at 1:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. at the funeral chapel on Monday. Arrangements are entrusted to Lehman Funeral Homes, Portland, Michigan. Online condolences may be made at www.lehmanfuneralhomes.com.

Published in Lansing State Journal on May 6, 2018





2015 Summer Picnic at AIS Lansing

Emma Young, Russ Talaski, John Cook, Ben Cook, Adam Cook, Nate Cook, Mike Cook, Scott Everett



2016 Summer Picnic in Vermontville

Above: Morgan Cook with Nate Cook Right: Eli Young with Trevor Young



MLICA SCOOP PAGE 15

Michigan Land Improvement Contractors Association

Sarah Cook, Executive Director scook@michiganlica.org 517-282-1083

4372 S. Wright Road
Westphalia, MI 48894
Mike Cook, Secretary/Treasurer
517-282-9801

MLICA Lansing Office 318 West Ottawa St. Lansing, MI 48933

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124 West Allegan St. Ste 1000
Lansing, MI 48933

Scott Everett, Cell: 517-204-3328





MLICA C/O Mike Cook 4372 S. Wright Rd. Westphalia, MI 48894

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 c a n b e e m a i l e d t o scook@michiganlica.org. Please include your name and phone number for verification purposes.

