

MLICA Scoop

LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS ~ MICHIGAN CHAPTER

2020 ISSUE 1

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From the Lead Plow, Adam Cook, President MLICA

"The secret of health for both mind and body is not to mourn for the past, not to worry about the future, or not to anticipate troubles, but to live in the present moment wisely and earnestly." —Buddha

Hello everyone,

I'd like to start by saying what an honor it is to have been nominated as President for the upcoming year. As a third generation Michigan LICA President it really hits home that you all respect our family the way that you do. I can just picture my Grandpa and Grandma smiling down on Ben and I for having back to back presidencies, while my Father served in National office. From the depths of my heart, I thank you, LICA members.

We have a big year coming up for LICA! The National meetings are at great destinations of Las Vegas (going on now!), and Niagara Falls in July. If you haven't attended one before these are both sure to be good ones to go to. I person-

ally have made country-wide friendships and learned a lot from these meetings. Also, this June, MLICA and MSU will be co-hosting a public field day featuring a completely self-contained drainage and sub-irrigation system. It is sure to draw a large crowd, and we would love for any and all volunteers we can find.

Speaking of a big year for LICA, it appears this winter has been kind to most MLICA members, and it's gearing up to give us positive spring working conditions. Anything can be better than last spring right?

Hopefully it ends up being a good year for everyone! Good luck this spring!



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2020

FARM DRAINAGE FIELD DAY

Hosted by Michigan Land Improvement Contractors Association & Michigan State University Extension

June 24 & 25

Located at
8815 Samaria Rd
Riga, MI 49276

This Event is

FREE

To Attend!

Promoting Soil, Water and Nutrient Management in Agriculture

Event runs 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM both days

Lunch will be provided

Field demonstration will run continuously
with a short break for lunch on both days

Field demonstration on both days will include:

- **Subsurface drainage installation with tile plow**
- **Installation of water control structures**
- **Pond installation for drainage water recycling**

Speaker sessions on both days

- **Conventional drainage**
- **Controlled drainage**
- **Drainage water recycling**
- **Cover crops**
- **Soil health**
- **Nutrient management**

For speaker-session details and CCA credits, go to the link below

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer

The Michigan Land Improvement Contractors Association and Michigan State University Extension will be demonstrating the latest advancements in agricultural drainage.

Exhibitors will be on-hand displaying equipment and supplies relating to the drainage and excavating industry.



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension



For more information contact :
Ehsan Ghane at ghane@msu.edu
Sarah Cook at scook@michiganlica.org

BRING ALONG YOUR FRIENDS, CLIENTS, & ASSOCIATES

Diary of an Executive Director

Whew! I feel like shouting "I SURVIVED!" Another MLICA Winter Convention and Annual Meeting has come and gone, and spring is on it's way. Changing convention locations can be a bit stressful, especially when it's a month before the event. It was a tough call to make, and Mike and I had a few discussions about it...in the end, we knew it would be best for our group to make the change, and we are so glad we did! The Crowne Plaza event coordinators and staff were so attentive to details; it was such a pleasant experience to work with them! Make sure to check out the convention highlights on the next page.

A couple weeks ago, I stopped by Michigan's First Drainage Workshop, coordinated by Ehsan Ghane of MSU Extension. MLICA Board members Will Word

and Russ Talaski, along with MLICA Associate member Nate Cook, all spent time presenting at the drainage workshop. MLICA is excited about the partnership with Ehsan, helping to educate about best practices in the drainage industry. You can see some photos of the drainage workshop on page 5.

By the time you all are reading this, myself and a few other MLICA members will be attending the National LICA Winter Convention in Las Vegas. I look forward to meeting up with the other state Executive Directors and learning more to benefit our state chapter!

Don't forget to mark your calendars for our upcoming field day, in partnership with MSU Extension, and the Lenawee Conservation District. Spread the word, this event is open to the public!

UPCOMING EVENTS

NATIONAL LICA WINTER CONVENTION
HARRAH'S LAS VEGAS
MARCH 7 - 9, 2020

MLICA/MSU 2020 FIELD DAY
8815 SAMARIA RD
RIGA, MI 49276
JUNE 24 - 25, 2020

NATIONAL LICA SUMMER MEETING
NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK
JULY 7 - 11, 2020



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2020 Convention Highlights



Teams competing in MLICA's 5th Annual Cornhole Tournament

MLICA 5th Annual Cornhole Tournament Championship Round



MLICA 5th Annual Cornhole Tournament 1st place winners Bill Rawn and Ben Cook



MLICA Members & Associates gathered for lunch

MLICA Lifetime Honorary Member Chuck Braje pictured with MLICA's traveling dozer. Chuck Braje has been involved with Michigan LICA 55 years and it's a great honor ask him to display our traveling dozer again!



Tom Hansen with MIOSHA presenting information on traffic regulations



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MSU Associate Professor and Extension Soil Scientist Kurt Steinke, Ph.D. presenting information on basic soils, soil water, and water movement.

Michigan's First Drainage Workshop

SUBMITTED BY EHSAN GHANE

Michigan State University partnered with Michigan LICA to host Michigan's first ever drainage workshop in Lansing on Feb 12-13, 2020. Farmers, an NRCS employee, current and future drainage contractors attended the workshop to learn about design concepts. The evaluation survey showed that the workshop was a great success with 87% of the students stating that their knowledge increased a great deal and the remaining 13% increased moderately. This workshop will be an annual event to be held in March next year.

MLICA Vice President Russ Talaski speaking about Choosing the Design Drain Depth, aiming for uniform drain depth and minimum soil cover.



MLICA Board Member Will Word teaching students how pipe grade affects water velocity which then affects the pipe.



Students working to create a design on a contour map based on what they had learned so far.



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Caterpillar Extended Powertrain Protection Program



Your powertrain will be covered for up to three years or 5000 hours on your next new CAT machine! The plan covers parts and labor for powertrain component failures caused by defects in materials or workmanship. You can work confidently backed by the power of the earthmoving equipment leader. Now you can control costs, avoiding the expense of covered repairs. Contact your CAT dealer for details.

Sunbelt Rentals Discount



When it comes to land improvement projects, we equip customers for success by offering the equipment you need, when and where you need it. By renting from Sunbelt Rentals, a National LICA partner, LICA members can easily access equipment through our national network of locations. And, we're proud to offer a 10% discount as part of our exclusive LICA member discount program. See your local dealer for details.

Mack Truck Let's Build Program



FREE Engine Plan 2, Chassis Plan 2 and EATS (Engine Aftertreatment System - Emissions) when the unit is financed with Mack Financial Services (MFS). MFS Finance Features: TRAC Lease options and up to 72 month terms for qualified buyers \$2000 Association Loyalty Reward for LICA Members with the purchase of any eligible Mack truck. This offer is limited to 5 trucks per customer per calendar year. Eligible Vehicles: 2019, 2020, 2021 MY - Mack Granite® GR series, LR and TerraPro models only. Does not include MHD. Program Period: Eligible vehicles must be retailed and warranty registered by December 31, 2020 and funded by MFS by January 31, 2021. For additional details see your local Mack dealer today!

LICA Members: Buy & Sell Equipment with the Inventory Management System



LICA Members can now buy and sell equipment on the National LICA website for FREE using the Inventory Management System from Sandhills Global. The Inventory Management System allows members to list any and all equipment with a description, photograph, price and contact information. It also allows members to advertise their equipment on Sandhills' websites like: Machinery Trader and Auction Time (for a fee, see 50% off First 2 months of a 4-month advertising program). Contact: 1-800-247-4898



National LICA Contractor Magazine

The LICA Contractor was launched in 2007 and the response has been overwhelmingly positive. This quarterly publication is being used to keep LICA members up-to-date in their industry, as well as to highlight our members' unique and challenging projects.

LICA Contractor Safety Management Plan



This comprehensive safety manual provides LICA members with recommended safe operating procedures. It's designed to be your individual company safety program or supplement to your existing program. It contains toolbox talks, equipment and jobsite inspection forms and much more. This manual is worth thousands of dollars and is FREE to every contractor member.

LICA Advertising Discount from Sandhill Publishing



Sandhill Publishing 50% advertising discount for all of their publications the first two months of a four month commitment. Publications include: Machinery Trader, Auction Results, Auction Time, Rental Yard, Tractor House, Power Systems Today, Truck Paper, Crane Trader, Oilfield Trader and Market Book. Contact: 1-800-247-4898

LICA Member eCommerce Benefit



LICA Members can sell directly from their websites with the eCommerce benefit from Sandhills Global. Make it easy for your customers and turn your website into a convenient place to shop. eCommerce takes care of check-out and invoicing for you and your customers. Contact: 1-800-247-4898

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The LICA Portal



Log-in to your personalized LICA Portal & you can search for safety materials. The LICA Portal Offers: OSHA Requirements, Risk Mgmt. Materials, Property & Casualty Info. and more! All are ready to download, print and customize for your needs. Contact: anational.lica@gmail.com

Petrocon CAT Parts Replacement Program



Petrocon has launched a brand new CAT® aftermarket replacement parts program. This national offering will be a full comprehensive program to replace OEM Caterpillar® parts at substantial savings to our contractors. Expected savings are 20-40% over OEM parts. Contact: 866-548-8750

LICA Member Currency Benefit



LICA Member Credit Card Processing from CurrencyPay. Benefits include: multiple payment method options, complementary bluetooth card reader or POS terminal, no contract or commitment with transparent, at processing fee, rebates for processing - reduce your fees to 0%, and a one-time \$10 sign-up fee. Contact: 1-800-247-4898

LICA Member Premium Hosted Website Benefit



LICA members can host their websites with Sandhills Global and receive 5% off a HTML package and 10% off a CMS package in addition to free banner advertising online. See your website advertised on Machinery Trader or Auction Time and reach more potential customers. When hosting with Sandhills you receive: priority level service, professional data backup, communication with the designer and it's all completely customizable. Contact: 1-800-247-4898

Petrocon



This program will generate savings for LICA members. Members will receive a minimum savings of 10% on their oil, tires, electric, cellular expense and possibly much more, pending the geography the member resides in. You will also have access to the Petrocon Portal to make ordering even easier! www.petrocon.org/portal.html Contact: 866-548-8750 or jdgiov@petrocon.org

Cooper Tire Program



Petrocon can now offer a special discount program with Cooper Tire & Rubber Company. It's an American company that specializes in design, manufacturing and sales of replacement commercial truck tires. Contact: 866-548-8750 or jdgiov@petrocon.org

NATIONAL HAPPENINGS

A SUMMARY OF CURRENT BENEFITS

Year to year, National LICA Benefits are updated, and it can be hard to keep track of. National LICA works very hard provide many great benefits for members to use. Below is a list of current benefits:

- ◆ Caterpillar Extended Powertrain Protection Program
- ◆ Sunbelt Rentals Discount: details on page 8
- ◆ National LICA Contractor Magazine
- ◆ Mack Truck "Let's Build" Program
- ◆ LICA Contractor Safety Management Plan
- ◆ Sandhills Global: Buying and Selling Equipment on LICA Website
- ◆ Sandhill Publishing LICA Advertising Discount
- ◆ Sandhills Global: LICA Member eCommerce
- ◆ Sandhills Global: LICA Member Currency

- ◆ Sandhills Global: Premium Hosted Website
- ◆ LICA Beef Benefit: details on page 9
- ◆ The LICA Portal
- ◆ Petrocon
- ◆ Petrocon CAT Parts Replacement Program
- ◆ Petrocon Cooper Tire Program
- ◆ Petrocon Piston & Piston Kits
- ◆ Bridgewell Health
- ◆ MASA Medical Transport Solutions
- ◆ C2C Business Succession
- ◆ BenefitMall Payroll Services
- ◆ LegalShield: Identity Theft, Personal & Business Protection
- ◆ Trimble New Member Coupon
- ◆ Clean Fire New Member Discount

For more information regarding any of these benefits, email scook@michiganlica.org

Bridgewell Health



Land Improvement Contractors of America pleased to offer three unique limited benefit plans through Bridgewell Health that cover all the bases for Minimum Essential Coverage but also go further, offering limited outpatient and inpatient medical benefits for employees - with tangible benefits that they will appreciate! Contact: (833) 202-6495

MASA: Medical Transport Solutions



MASA provides medical emergency transportation solutions AND cover your out of pocket medical transport cost when your insurance falls short. With MASA, you will have ZERO out of pocket expenses for any emergent air or ground transport, REGARDLESS who transports you! Contact: 314-540-5729 or azink@masamts.com

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Trimble Coupon

Every NEW Contractor Member receives a coupon from Trimble for a 5% discount! Sign-up a Contractor Member? Contact National LICA for a sponsor 5% coupon!



Clean Fire New Member Discount

Clean Fire Distributing is offering you a \$50/case discount on Clean Fire Diesel fuel additive to help lower your fuel and maintenance costs. Offer ends December 31, 2019. Contact: 888-892-1811 or cleanfire-dist@gpcorn.net

Piston & Piston Kits



Now available from Petrocon. The pistons are the hardest working components CTP Crown & Skirts now sold separately inside a diesel engine. CTP pistons are designed and manufactured to meet most rigor and stringent specifications. Contact: 866-548-8750 or jdgiov@petrocon.org

C2C Business Succession



Coast 2 Coast is a national network of independent financial professionals. They provide planning for: business succession, estate and wealth transfer strategies, buy/sell arrangements, insurance and risk management reviews and brokerage, key employee retention strategies and more. LICA members get a no-fee initial consultation. Contact Nan Merrill at 402-944-2331 or nan@thejohnsoncompany.net



LegalShield: Identity Theft, Personal & Business Protection

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NATIONAL HAPPENINGS

SUNBELT RENTALS BENEFIT

When it comes to land improvement projects, Sunbelt Rentals can equip you for success by offering equipment you need, when and where you need it. LICA members can easily access equipment through Sunbelt Rentals national network of locations. Sunbelt Rentals proudly offers a 10% discount through their exclusive LICA member discount program. This

offer is available to LICA members only. To receive the discount, you must present the LICA discount flyer. Request your flyer today by emailing scook@michiganlica.org



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Discount: 10% Flat Rate
Terms: Offer available for LICA members only.
Must present this flyer to receive offer.

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Discount valid only at Sunbelt Rentals. Equipment may vary. Offer subject to terms and conditions available at sunbeltrentals.com/terms. Offer where prohibited. Coupon has a cash value of 10¢ per \$1.00. Must present flyer at time of rental. Discount amount not exceed \$500.

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NATIONAL HAPPENINGS

PIEDMONTESE BEEF BENEFIT

This LICA member benefit is sure to make your mouth water! LICA members can receive 25% off Certified Piedmontese gourmet steaks, premium roasts, exceptional beef jerky, and gift boxes or gift cards when ordering at piedmontese.com using the LICA discount code. Free shipping on orders over \$99 is also included. Certified Piedmontese beef is a naturally lean, nutritious beef low in fat

and calories, yet high in protein. Piedmontese cattle originate from the Piedmont region of Northwest Italy and are today raised on family ranches across the Midwest. Certified Piedmontese cattle never receive added growth hormones, steroids, or antibiotics, ensuring a high-quality, nutritious beef every time. Take advantage of this offer today!



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Revisiting The Story Of Michigan LICA's Traveling Dozer

Three years ago, during the auction of the 2017 MLICA Winter Convention and Annual Meeting, it was decided to have Ruben Auernhamer display the MLICA traveling dozer until the following year's convention. Ruben didn't know the story behind the dozer so his son Dave took the time to compile the story for us.

For the benefit of supplemental funding for legislative activity and action, the 2010 Michigan LICA board came up with an idea and plan to present a fund raising auction. Board member, Trevor Young, from Ravenna, approached his aunt and uncle, Ruth Ann and Sherman Hecksel, with the concept of making an auction item donation. The Hecksels were long time MLICA members that had retired, but still remained in contact.

While attending a national LICA conven-

tion in the early 2000's, the Hecksel's became recipients of a wooden model of a CAT ripper bulldozer. The scaled model was crafted by a hobby artist, befriended for the Illinois LICA chapter. The model graced a focal area in the Hecksel home for years.

Sherm and Ruth Ann made a decision to donate this model artifact to the Michigan LICA in memory of their son S.J. (Sherman John) Hecksel. S.J. was taken from them in a tragic accident on February 1, 1998. To appease the memories of their family loss, they donated this model to accentuate the memories and relationships they've garnered over the years with their LICA family. Though bitter sweet, the model's repeated sale and display give credible opportunity to memorialize and acknowledge the valu-

able, intangible benefits of being a LICA family member.

To preserve and protect the integrity of the model, Bill Holdwick, from Harbor Beach, crafted a glass case and mount platform to properly house the treasure.

Michigan LICA's Traveling Dozer Honoree Recipient Displayers

2013	Mike Cook
2014	RWF
2015	Chuck Braje
2016	John Cook
2017	Ruben Auernhamer
2018	Kemp Tiling
2019	RWF in Marine City, MI
2020	Chuck Braje

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(August 12, 1929 - January 16, 2020)

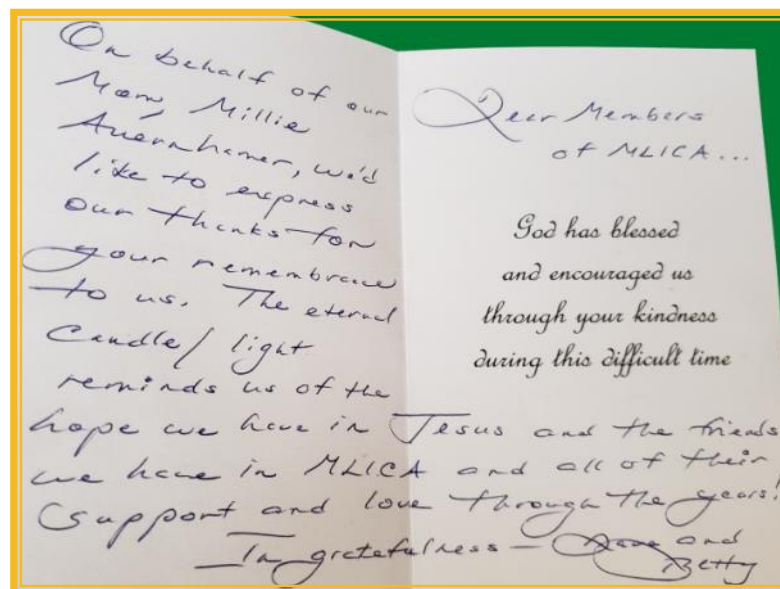


Mildred “Millie” Barbara Auernhamer, 90, fell asleep in Jesus’ arms on January 16, 2020 to live eternally with Him in His heavenly home. Millie was born in Frankenmuth, Michigan on August 12, 1929, the first-born daughter of the late Edwin and Edna Loesel. She married Ruben R. Auernhamer of Richville, her husband of 69 years, on October 14, 1950. Together they raised 6 children, David (Betty) Auernhamer, Rev. Mark (Nola) Auernhamer, Heidi (Donald) Thorsen, Steven (Lisa) Auernhamer, Mary (David) Smith, John (Carrie) Auernhamer. Known lovingly as “Omi” to her 21 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren, she treasured each child and shared eagerly the love of Jesus and the blessing of family. Millie is survived by her husband Ruben, their children, grandchildren, and great-grand children, sister Leona (Vernon) Guenther, brother-in-law Howard (Edith) Auernhamer, sister-in-law Nancy (Glenn/Bob) Auernhamer Klopff, brother-in-law John (Ellie) MacKenzie, and many nieces and nephews. Millie has reunited in heaven with her parents, sisters Arlene (Jack) Buchinger, Ellie (Art/John) Gohlke MacKenzie, and her other brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law.

Millie was a member of St. Lorenz Lutheran Church and, together with her husband, served and supported a wide variety of local, national, and international ministries. They both felt a strong calling to offer support to anyone in need and Millie spent much of her golden years assisting with driving, delivering home grown produce, and ministering to individuals far and wide.

Millie will be lovingly remembered for her strong commitment to faith and family. She dedicated her life to nurturing family relationships and traditions. Bringing family together always gave her great joy. As the family grew, many summers were spent in week long gatherings for fun, laughter, and fellowship on the shores of Lake Michigan at Camp Arcadia. During these treasured weeks, all were able to share, grow, and celebrate God’s bountiful blessings. In addition, Millie had a passionate love of nature and all things natural. She tenderly nurtured plants through 70+ years of vegetable and flower gardening and tending to decorative indoor and outdoor plants. Through her appreciation for birds, wildflowers, or grains of the field, Millie always found opportunities to share and celebrate her faith.

Funeral services took place on Saturday, January 25, 2020 at 10:15 a.m. at Cederberg Funeral Home of Frankenmuth, 590 N. Franklin St. and 11:00 a.m. at St. Lorenz Lutheran Church. Burial took place between services in St. Lorenz Lutheran Cemetery. Millie’s family received visitors at the funeral home on Friday, January 24, 2020 from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Saturday from 9:30 a.m. until the time of the service.



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