

MLICA Scoop

LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS ~ MICHIGAN CHAPTER

2022 ISSUE 1

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From the Lead Plow, Adam Cook, President MLICA

It looks like summer is finally here! Our crew shut down early today after we finished up our final job of the season that a customer wanted to plant. On my way home to get into some air conditioning my truck read 97° and oddly enough, I heard on the radio that June 21st was the first day of summer. This year has been flying by, as it seems like my kids were just on spring break and now they're out for the summer.

Just a few weeks from now we'll be down in St. Charles, MO for the national LICA meeting. I'm looking forward to seeing the Budweiser Clydesdales, catching a Cardinals game, and catching up with old friends. National meetings are always a good time, and have informative seminars. Like I always do, I'd like to en-

courage all of you to attend if you can.

Then, before we know it the MLICA golf outing will be here on August 6th. It's at the same location as last year, at a great course near our shop. If Russ Talaski can have fun golfing, so can you, so get your registrations in! I'm hoping for a good turn out this year! We're offering camping at our shop again for those that don't want to make the long commute home afterwards, so be sure to let me know if you want to stay around.

I hope you to see as many of you as I can at the summer events, and if I don't, I hope you have a great summer!



FEATURES

DIARY OF AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2ND ANNUAL FARM DRAINAGE DESIGN WORKSHOP RECAP

IT'S ALL ABOUT STYLE

GOLF OUTING REGISTRATION

SAFETY MATTERS: AVOID HEAT ILLNESS

PLAYING IT SAFE: SUMMER SAFETY—DEHYDRATION

SHERMAN DALE HECKSEL OBITUARY | FOSTER'S MLICA THANK YOU

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Diary of an Executive Director

Continuous improvement is better than delayed perfection" - Mark Twain

I've heard we tend to be our own worst critics. In school, I struggled with being a perfectionist, thinking my work wasn't good enough unless I received a perfect score (or higher by earning extra credit). When I was working on my teaching degree, I could easily identify students that were that same way. And I felt like I needed to help those students see they didn't have to be perfect. But it was much harder to change that in myself. A few years ago, I heard the phrase "perfectly imperfect" and it resonated with me. Every day I fight an internal battle, trying to quiet those perfectionist thoughts, because when they're so loud that I can't hear anything else, I struggle to even begin whatever it is that I need to accomplish. Some tasks are much easier for me to say "something is better than nothing." I recognize that when it comes to the MLICA Scoop, I struggle with my perfectionism the most I ever have... "do I have content members and associates will read; are my font types

and size easily readable; are there too many ads; are competitors' ads too close to each other; does that caption line up with the image; does the image line up with the lines in the article so the text wraps nicely; oh, that text didn't fit the space so now I need to resize it; now I need to move that image and caption; etc." On top of all these thoughts regarding the newsletter, I'm also a mom trying to manage sports schedules, school events, appointments, meal plans, and other household tasks. Some days, I feel so overwhelmed, that I question my ability to handle it all. It's easy to think "oh, I have _____ that needs to get done today...I can work on the newsletter tomorrow." Then the next day, repeat those same thoughts. Before I know it, weeks go by before I open my newsletter template and begin inserting content. So I'm choosing to focus on Mark Twain's quote, in hopes that I can train myself to believe each issue of the MLICA Scoop is perfectly imperfect.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NATIONAL LICA SUMMER MEETING Ameristar Casino Resort & Spa

One Ameristar Blvd.
St. Charles, MO 63301

JULY 12-16, 2022

MLICA GOLF OUTING

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 2022

REGISTRATION @ 1:30 PM

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2nd Annual Farm Drainage Design Workshop Recap

WRITTEN BY WILL WORD

IMAGES PROVIDED BY EHSAN GHANE

On March 8, 2022, the Michigan Land Improvement Contractors Association partnered with Ehsan Ghane of Michigan State University to hold the 2nd Annual Farm Drainage Design Workshop. This was a 3-day, hands on training that taught agricultural drainage design, from the basics to advance computer software.



It was attended by contractors, farmers and NRCS staff who wanted to learn more about agricultural drainage. Attendees learned how to properly size mains according to watershed, grade and soil permeability.

The class was taught by Dr. Ehsan Ghane (Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist), and MLICA members Russ Talaski, Will Word, and Adam Cook. Joey Schlatter from Schlatter's Inc. demonstrated the Trimble design software and Nate Cook demonstrated the AGPS design software. MLICA President Adam Cook spoke on the benefits of joining LICA and distributed membership applications. There were several people interested in joining, so hopefully this will help in-

crease membership.

Over the course of the 3-day event, participants learned the basics of water movement through the soil all the way to a complex controlled drainage design and layout. Students were grouped into teams and had to design a system, size the mains, create a material list and a cost estimate.





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IMAGES PROVIDED BY EHSAN GHANE



Then, they showed their design to the class and explained their layout.

Each participant was provided with a laptop and software to make the training hands on. Training like this is in great demand and the class fills up quickly. Although this was only the second year, there were great improvements, and I'm sure next

year will be even better. Although many of our current LICA members have had years of experience or have attended training before, I would recommend attending, either to participate or help. Even the instructors learn something new along the way or are challenged with a problem to solve.



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Ehsan Ghane had an idea for more than 10 years. In 2010, during his doctorate degree work, he began thinking about how different types of pipes could drain water faster, depending upon their properties.



A sock-covered pipe usually costs more, but the benefits in terms of efficiency might outweigh the cost. All images courtesy of Ehsan Ghane.

He felt a study could reveal differences in efficiency between three styles of four-inch diameter pipe: a knitted sock envelope on a regular-perforated pipe, an eight-row perforation sand-slot pipe and a four-row perforation sand-slot pipe.

But Ghane, now an assistant professor and extension specialist of agricultural drainage with Michigan State University's Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering, had to wait to engage in the study.

"I knew there was something going on with this [water flow based on pipe properties], but I couldn't do this [work] because I was working for someone else," he explains. "It feels good to tell people. It was like a 10-year secret."

Fine sand and silt builds up in pipes over time and causes clogging, thus why sock-wrapped and narrow sand-slot pipes were developed. Ghane knew that identifying which pipe worked best in a variety of sand, loam and silt combination soils would help in agriculture and other areas.

The study was conducted in Michigan, but any area with these types of soils and heavy rain falls could apply the information he reported. Any soil where clay content at the drain depth is less than 30 percent may lead to drain sedimentation issues and drainage options that reduce the potential for blockages is recommended.

THE SOCK ROCKS

Ghane's enthusiasm led to the study of each style of

pipe in the field for its water entry, water-table draw-down, drain spacing and cost effectiveness. The findings benefit landowners, farmers and contractors looking to move water as quickly as possible with an appreciation of how each option stacks up.



When a pipe is wrapped with a sock, it functions as though there is a pipe or a conduit without any walls.

"There's a sock-wrapped pipe.

A knitted sock envelope is wrapped around it. There are various options," he says. "And sand-slot pipes, also known [as] knife-cut or narrow cut. It

keeps the sand out with really narrow slots."

When all conditions are equal, a regular perforated pipe wrapped with a knitted-sock envelope moved water most quickly. The eight-row perforated pipe was second and four-row was the least effective of the three options.

"My scientific research shows that when I actually tested this in the lab, the one with the sock-wrapped pipe maximizes the water entering the pipe," says Ghane. "This happens because when a pipe is wrapped with a sock, it functions as though there is a pipe or a conduit without any walls. It's maximized. Like a mole drain."

There was a 16 percent higher drain inflow with the sock-covered pipe over the eight-row sand-slot pipe and a 29 percent higher drain inflow over the four-row pipe.

However, as one might expect, the sock-covered option does cost more than the sand-slot perforated pipes. He notes the difference is about \$18 USD per foot. The benefits may offset this increased cost in some cases.

The eight-row and four-row pipes are usually the same price, making the eight-row the most efficient option between those two.



Read the rest of the article at <https://www.drainagecontractor.com/its-all-about-style/>

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Avoid Heat Illness

When it is hot outside, your body temperature can rise to dangerous levels. Normally, your body cools itself through sweating. However, in hot and humid weather, sweating is not enough and the result can be a heat illness.

Staying Cool

Follow the suggestions below to stay cool when working in hot weather:

- Wear loose, light-colored clothing and some type of hat.
- Adapt to working in hot conditions gradually, especially if performing strenuous tasks.
- Take breaks in the shade when possible, and remove any outer protective gear you may be wearing.
- Avoid overexerting yourself during peak temperature periods (midday).
- Drink liquids frequently, even if you don't feel thirsty - at least eight ounces every 20 to 30 minutes. Choose water, fruit juice or sports drinks and stay away from liquids containing caffeine, which can dehydrate you.

Recognizing the Symptoms

There are three forms of heat illness, each with its own distinct symptoms:

- **Heat Cramps** – severe muscle spasms in the back, stomach, arms and legs, which are attributed to the loss of body salt and water during periods of heavy perspiration
- **Heat Exhaustion** – heavy sweating, cool or pale skin, nausea, headache, weakness, vomiting and fast pulse
- **Heat Stroke** – high body temperature, sweating stops, red and often dry skin, rapid breathing and pulse, headache, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, seizures, confusion or unconsciousness

Providing Treatment

It is essential to treat heat illness as soon as possible. If you are feeling any of the above symptoms, inform a co-worker and ask for help. If you suspect that a fellow worker has any of these conditions, follow the first-aid suggestions below:

- **Heat Cramps** – Move the victim to a cooler area and provide them with water or other cool, nonalcoholic beverages. Follow up with a medical examination.
- **Heat Exhaustion** – Move the victim to a cooler area and keep them lying down with their legs slightly elevated. Cool their body by fanning and applying cool, wet towels. Have them drink approximately six ounces of water every 15 minutes. Follow up with a medical examination.
- **Heat Stroke** – You or a bystander should immediately call an ambulance. Meanwhile, move the victim to a cooler area, remove their outer clothing, immerse them in cool water or apply cool, wet towels or cloths to the body. If the person is awake and able to swallow, give them small amounts of cool water to drink. If medical help is delayed, call the hospital for further instructions while waiting. Heat stroke is life-threatening, so it's important to move quickly!

Safety Reminder

The risk of heat illness increases with age, poor diet, being overweight, insufficient liquid intake, poor physical condition and/or when taking medication. Never take salt tablets without your doctor's approval. Be aware of weather conditions when you will be working outside so that you can be prepared with appropriate clothing and beverages. If you are working outside and start to feel any adverse symptoms, inform your supervisor and take a break.



PLAYING IT SAFE



Summer Safety - Dehydration

Helpful tips for keeping you safe on the job

In the simplest terms, dehydration occurs when you lose more water than you take in. Staying hydrated is important to keep all your body functions running smoothly. Whenever you are working outdoors or in warm environments, you'll want to take extra precautions as summer heats up.

Water Loss

On average, adults lose almost 10 cups of water a day simply by sweating, breathing and going to the bathroom. Along with water, you also lose electrolytes, which are vital because they help maintain the balance of fluids in the body. When you become dehydrated, your body cannot function, possibly resulting in heat stroke or even death.

Symptoms

How do you know if you're dehydrated? You'll begin to experience one or more of the following symptoms:

- Excessive thirst
- Sleepiness or tiredness
- Dry mouth
- Muscle weakness
- Headache
- Dizziness or lightheadedness

If you start to notice these warning signs, do not ignore them! Immediately take a break and give yourself time to recover.

Preventing Dehydration

The best defense against dehydration is prevention. That sounds easy enough—consume lots of fluids and foods high in water such as fruits and vegetables—but determining how much fluid can be complicated.

Unfortunately, determining appropriate water intake isn't an exact science, especially because so much depends on age, physical condition, activity level, location and body chemistry. The best overall approach is to make a conscious effort to stay hydrated, and continue drinking even if you don't feel thirsty. In hot weather, skip coffee or soda, and make water your beverage of choice.

Pace Yourself

During periods of heavy exertion, take frequent water breaks. Adjust your intake to match your activity level and working conditions to stay healthy and alert.

Be safe and healthy on the job at Michigan LICA with these helpful tips provided by Prins Insurance, Inc.

“Many times, the thirst mechanism is so weak that it is mistaken for hunger. Be sure to keep drinking water, even if it feels like you’ve just had a snack.”

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FARM SAFE 

Sherman Dale Hecksel Obituary



Sherman Dale Hecksel, age 84, of Coopersville, passed away at his home Sunday, June 12, 2022. He was born in Muskegon, MI., to the late Sherman Edward and Kathleen (Mellow) Hecksel. In addition to his parents Sherm was preceded in death by his son Sherman John Hecksel on Sunday, Feb. 1, 1998, brother and sister-in-law David and Joyce Hecksel, brother-in-law Joe Young, sister-in-law Elaine Hecksel and great niece Isabel Joy Um-lor. He graduated from Coopersville High School, Class of 1956 and attended Michigan State University for 2 years. Sherm founded S. Hecksel Farm Drainage which he started in 1961. He loved his job in the farm drainage business and working with farmers. Sherm was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Coopersville, he served on the Board of Michigan Land Improvement Contractors, the Coopersville Area Foundation Board, and various other boards and councils. He also enjoyed wintering in Estero Florida after his retirement. Sherm is survived by his wife of 50 yrs., Ruth (Hoffman) Hecksel; brothers, Gary Hecksel and Philip Hecksel; sister, Kathleen Young; brothers-in-law, John (Judy) Hoffman and Richard (Sue) Hoffman; sisters-in-law, Betty (Nate) Brock and Kay (Keith) Edick; many nieces and nephews. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated 11:00 A.M. Wednesday, June 15, 2022 at St Michael's Catholic Church, 17150 88th Ave, Coopersville, 49404 with Fr. Ayub Franics Nasar celebrant. Burial took place in the Coopersville-Polkton Twp. Cemetery. Visitation was held 5-8 P.M. Tuesday at the Throop Funeral Home, 214 Church St, Coopersville, 49404 and Wednesday 10 – 11 A.M. one hour prior to the funeral mass at St Michael's Church. Memorial donations may be made to the S.J. Hecksel Memorial Scholarship Fund awarded to Coopersville High School Seniors for College Education, please make checks payable to the Coopersville Area Community Foundation, 182 East St. Rm 112, Coopersville MI 49404. Online condolences may be left on his tribute wall at www.throoph.com.

MLICA Members,

Ben & I so appreciate the contribution MLICA and its associates have made in the memory of Derek. You all have been very generous in your kindness, support and contributions.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all you have done.

Sincerely
Ben & Theresa

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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.

