



Summer 2011

MLICA News

Michigan Land Improvement Contractors of America

What's going on with Michigan LICA?

It's been a busy spring and early summer for the LICA members and many things are in the works. Please take time to check it all out in this edition of the MLICA News!

Please check out the Michigan LICA Web site at www.MichiganLICA.org.

www.saveourgps.org for more information

Next Board Meeting

Saturday August, 13
12:30 Pm
Annual LICA picnic
Ithaca, MI

The Michigan LICA Board would like to introduce **Trevor Young** as the new President and **Mike Pennington** as Vice President for 2011 . We would also like to welcome **Nate Cook** and the new Associate representative to the board.

Annual Picnic Saturday, August 13th in Ithaca, MI.

Board meeting at 12:30 and lunch at 2:00. Directions and details on **Page 3**.

LightSquared Project

The FCC has granted a conditional waiver to a company called LightSquared to set up a ground based wireless Internet system. This is something we really need to follow and keep informed on. If allowed to continue, it has the possibility of disrupting traditional satellite based GPS systems of all kinds, from simple navigation to RTK systems used in drainage, construction and agriculture. A letter to our representatives at the state and national level is included in this newsletter. You can find much more information at <http://www.saveourgps.org>

Unemployment Seminars held across the state.

If you have only one employee or 20, you need to attend one of the free Michigan Unemployment seminars. They are very informative and explain what you as an employer can do to handle unemployment claims filed against your company. A mock hearing shows you what to expect and it really makes you aware of the things you need to do to protect your company against false claims and how to keep your rate low. The dates and locations inserted later in this newsletter.

Water Management Plan Training

In late August or early September MLICA will be teaming up with the NRCS and Dr. Larry Brown from Ohio State, to conduct a two day training session to certify LICA members to develop water management plans. This certification will allow us to survey and develop a water management plan for farm producers, which will be required when they do NRCS projects. More information will follow when it is available!

Michigan LICA Board Members

Chairman of the Board

Russ Talaski

(989) 479-9340

fieldtile@avci.net

President

Trevor Young

(231)853-5277

trevor.young@plantpioneer.com

Vice President

Mike Pennington

(989) 413-1940

joey6mile@gmail.com

Executive Director

Secretary/Treasurer

Mike Cook

(989) 587-3528

swms@4wbi.net

Board Members

Rob Cook

(517) 726-0121

landg@ia4u.net

David Dunne

(517) 448-8842

Eugene Izydorek

(989) 635-2029

farmlandtile@centurytel.net

Will Word

(517) 368-5931

wconfd@frontiernet.net

Associate Board Members

Seth Mellott

(810) 813-1564

seth.mellott@ads-pipe.com

Nate Cook

(989) 640-2347

nate@agpsinc.com

President's Desk



Dear MLICA members,

Well, it has been a very challenging spring for all of us I am sure. With the late start and then all of the rain. Conditions have not been good throughout the state. I keep reminding myself that this spring will be good advertising for us all in the future. Hopefully everyone is wrapping up spring work and getting ready for wheat ground work. I know some will gain a job or two because several customers took the preventative planting program.

I would like to take minute and invite LICA members to our 50th Anniversary Party of Hecksel Farm Drainage. Sherm started the business on his own at the age of 23 back in 1961. He sure has seen a lot of changes over the years in our industry. Kelley and I purchased the business from him and Ruth in 2003. We will be having a celebration party and retirement for Sherm on August 12, 2011 from 4-8pm at Sherm's place. The address is 10910 Wilson St. Coopersville, MI 49404. This is the day before our Summer Picnic, so it may work well for those coming from the East side of the state, as we are only about an hour and 30 minutes from Ithaca. Sherm and I would love for you to come. MLICA has always been near and dear to Sherm as most of you know.

I would like to welcome Nate Cook back onto the board and thank him for filling our vacant spot. Nate brings lots of experience and knowledge to the table. He and Scott are working on the Lightsquare project. This is very important and I encourage everyone to get involved by writing letters and calling your federal reps and senators. If this project goes thru it could jeopardize our businesses with the GPS interference.

Well, I think that is all for now. I hope to see you all at the parties in August. Be safe and have a great summer!

Sincerely,
Trevor Young

Chapter News

Annual Michigan LICA Family Picnic

Saturday August 13, 2011.

Board meeting at 12:30 Lunch to follow around 2:00

This year, in an effort to move the annual picnic around the state, we will be gathering at Reed Park in Gratiot County. It has a swimming beach, playground, nature trails and disc golf course.

It will be in pavillion #1. The address is 3181 E. Johnson Road.

That is 1.2 miles E of I-127.

From the South take I-127 North 4 miles North of M-57 overpass to Johnson road, East 1.2 miles to park.

From the North Take I-127 South 4 miles South of Washington Road Overpass (Ithaca) to Johnson road, East 1.2 miles to park.

Drinks and meat will be provided. Please bring a passing dish.



Agri Drain
CORPORATION
Your Partners in Water Management

We offer America's most complete selection of water management products for wetlands, ponds, lakes, controlled drainage, and subsurface irrigation. Along with tools, survey and safety equipment, and many hard to find items.

PO Box 458 - 1462 340th Street - Adair, IA 50002
Fax: 1-800-282-3353 - Email: info@agridrain.com
www.agridrain.com

35 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

For a FREE catalog or to place an order, call 1-800-232-4742.

JDE
EQUIPMENT CO.

**Your NEW / OLD
John Deere Dealer**

JOHN DEERE

HITACHI **EUCLID**

Timberjack **Eager Beaver Trailers**
A John Deere Company

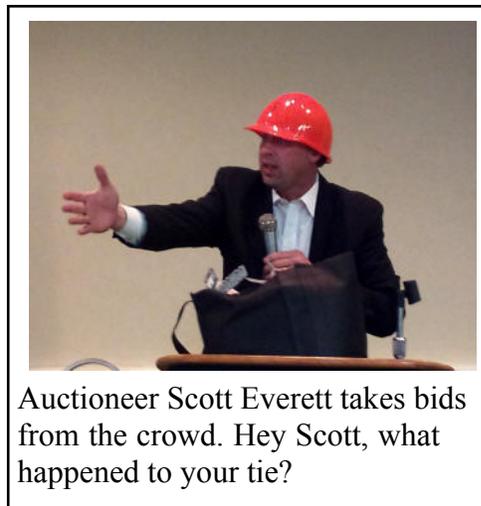
DETROIT (248) 437-8121
GRAND RAPIDS (616) 530-2000
TRAVERSE CITY (231) 943-3996

JDE
EQUIPMENT CO.

2011 Annual Michigan LICA Convention a Blast!

The winter convention as always, was a lot of fun! The new location worked out great and the hotel treated us with open arms. The new larger exhibit area was nice and it seemed to work out in everyone's favor.

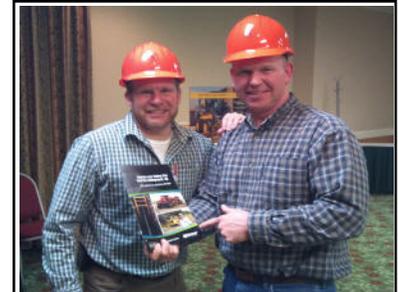
We continued the fundraising auction this year and it went over great, raising over \$4,000. Besides the money raised, everyone had fun with it. One of the most memorable items was a hand crafted wooden Bulldozer donated by Sherm Hecksel in memory of his son, Sherman John Hecksel, who died tragically in an auto accident in 1998. The winning bidder gets to keep it for the year and then it will be auctioned off each year in his memory. There was a heated rivalry between Mike Cook from Soil and Water Management Systems and Na-



Auctioneer Scott Everett takes bids from the crowd. Hey Scott, what happened to your tie?

tional LICA Vice President, Steve Gurten for the Memorial. Mike was determined to keep it in Michigan the first year! Thanks guys! Government Relations Director, Scott Everett, who takes a lot of kidding about always wearing a tie was a good sport and allowed his tie to be auctioned off for \$80!

The information brought forward was well worth the time attending. We had a trucking safety update from DOT Officer Joe Austin. It was nice to get the opportunity to get some insight from the officer's point of view and to get some questions answered first hand.



Dave Kemp holds a signed copy of the new ADS / Hancor brochure featuring Trevor Young on the cover, purchased at the auction.

A GPS discussion was held, with Will Word and Nate Cook demonstrating some useful and relatively inexpensive GIS mapping software and ways to find GIS data on the Internet for free.

MLICA Legislative Director, Scott Everett, gave an update on the progress of the MLICA sponsored personal property tax exemption bill that he has been working on, and some interesting news about the recent state election and what it may mean to us.

NRCS Liaison, Steve Davis, discussed an exciting new possibility of MLICA contractors being able to act as technical service providers developing "Drainage Water Management Plans" for producers. It would involve creating topo-maps and drainage plans for farmers, something we already do for each job anyways.

Continued to page 5

Convention continued.....

New this year was an employee break-out session, a time for employees to discuss how they did things and learn other methods or shortcuts. It also gave them a chance to talk about the boss!

Clint Barrett from the Barrett Insurance Agency, discussed the new health care laws and what it may mean to employers.

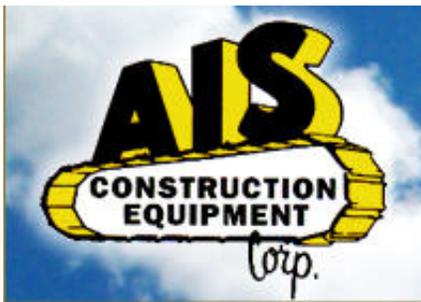
The list goes on and on, but basically we have two days full of useful information. We urge you to attend next year if you've never been to a convention. It is targeted specifically towards drainage and excavating contractors, just like you!



Lunch in the exhibit area. We were happy to have Chef Terry cooking for us again!



Does anyone notice a "theme" here? I think Al Kemp was the instigator.



Contact **Chad Fullerton** at the Bridgeport office at (989) 777-0090 For all of your new and used equipment needs.



BUCKEYE 9200 MAGNUM & BUCKEYE 7200 MAGNUM
High Production Digging From H & S Company, Inc.



Buckeye 9200 Magnum

- A Few Key Features:**
- 350 HP Cummins QSM11 Engine
 - Cab with Heat and Air
 - Power Shift Transmission
 - 7' or 9' Dual Hydrostatic Drive, Tapered Digging Wheel
 - Self-Leveling Wheel Up to 8 Degrees Left or Right
 - 36" Wide Conveyor-Dual Motor-Bar Style Dirt Shield
 - Digging Wheel Pivot

Dealers:

Illinois:

Midwest Auger-Aerator
Phone: 815-844-6400
Fax: 815-844-7469
Toll Free: 800-232-7008

Iowa:

Mid America Trenchers
Toll Free: 866-376-7453
Alt: 641-344-0640



Buckeye 7200 Magnum

- A Few Key Features:**
- 350 HP Cummins QSM11 Engine
 - 7' Dual Hydrostatic Drive, Tapered Digging Wheel
 - Self-Leveling Wheel Up to 8 Degrees Left or Right
 - 36" Wide Conveyor-Bar Style Dirt Shield
 - Digging Wheel Pivot

Authorized Dealer - Service Center

Steenbergen Hollandrain
Plows and Chain Equipment

See New Videos on our Website at www.wheeledtrenchers.com

Sales • Service • Parts

sales@wheeledtrenchers.com

Farm Drainage • Pipeline
• Construction • Wind Farm

Also:
Buckeye Auger/Backfillers



H & S Company, Inc.
7219 Harris Rd.
Celina, Ohio 45822
Toll Free: 800-777-1109
Local: 419-394-4444
Fax: 419-394-4789

Annual Equipment Inspection

Did you realize that according to MIOSHA Standards, an annual inspection must be made on all lifting and digging equipment? It's true! 22 MLICA members attended a training seminar hosted by AIS where they went through Basic First Aid, Trenching and Shoring Safety, and Lifting and Digging Equipment Inspections. At the facility, participants were able to perform inspections on two different machines and learn the proper way to do an annual inspection. This may seem like overkill to some of you, but if a serious accident should happen you should be prepared and have the proper safety procedures in place.

R 408.41012a Inspections generally.

Rule 1012a. (1) A thorough, annual inspection of a crane, derrick, or excavation equipment shall be made by a qualified person. The employer shall maintain, on the jobsite, a copy of the records of the date and results of the latest inspection for each piece of equipment. The inspection may be done by a "qualified person" (11) "Qualified person" means a person who, through attainment of a recognized degree or certificate of professional standing or by extensive knowledge, training, and experience, has successfully demonstrated the ability to solve or resolve problems relating to the subject matter and work. So, you could do the inspection yourself, but it must be done.

Inspection forms are available on the website at www.michigan.gov/lara

These inspection forms need to be kept with the machine. An operators manual must also be in the machine.

MAYAN

Insurance Since 1915

www.mayanagency.com

Contact:
(989) 643-7207
(800) 646-2926 toll free

THE MAYAN AGENCY

140 West Saginaw Street
Post Office Box 578
Merrill, MI 48637

info@mayanagency.com

Office Hours:
Monday-Friday, 9am to 5pm
If these hours are not convenient,
let us know the time and day that
best serves you needs.

Since
 Hastings
Mutual
Insurance
Company
1885



 **TEREX** Customers,
We've Got You Covered



Unbelievable Prices Available
From Southern Michigan's Terex Dealer!



D-P Equipment Co.

10700 S. Edon Rd.
Camden, MI 49232

(888) 368-5266

FOR SALE



Custom Built Wheel Trencher, Digs 18" wide, 5 foot 6" deep, Hydraulic Drive, S/N 17490
Kemp Tiling Co Inc. • (989)883-3708
 • Sebewaing, MI



Inter-Drain 6050HT, Chain Trencher, 2165 Hours, New Chain, De-watering Equipment is also available. . . **\$175,000**
Kemp Tiling Co Inc. • (989)883-3708
 • Sebewaing, MI

Editors note:
 This section is free for members to advertise equipment you have to sell or are looking for.

125th Anniversary
Baughman Tile Co.
 BTC *Pioneers in the Drainage Industry*
 1883-2008

5 Generations Serving the Agricultural Community

MANUFACTURER OF 3"-48" CORRUGATED HDPE PIPE

Home of Golden Yellow Poly-Drain®

Baughman Tile Co.
 Michigan Ag Sales
 James Proffer
 p. (810) 955-3868
 f. (810) 742-4863
www.baughmantile.com

Introducing...
AGPS-Guide^{2D}

Designed for excavators, backhoes, and stringers to operate without flags!

- Set "A-B" lines for simple grids
- Pairs perfectly with AGPS-Pipe Pro control systems:
 - Load the plow's grids
 - Imports contours and other images
- It is no longer difficult to dig the right angle off a curvy main.
- See your location in the field in relation to existing tile.

For more information about AGPS products Contact your MLICA Associate:
Mike Cook Soil & Water MGMT. Systems
989-587-3538 or 517-282-9801

<http://swmsinc.tripod.com>
<http://www.agpsinc.com>

Ask about our new low-priced Topo RTK!

2011 / 2012 Event Calendar

August 2011

12 - **Hecksel Farm Drainage 50 Yr Anniversary**
4-8pm at Sherm's place. The address is
10910 Wilson St. Coopersville, MI 49404

13 - Annual MLICA Family Picnic
12:30 Board Meeting / 2:00 Lunch
Reed Park - Ithaca, MI

Aug/Sept (TBA) NRCS drainage plan training
Lansing, MI

**THE
NEXT
GENERATION** Is Now
Here.



The New BRON Drainage Plow

Introducing the totally redesigned BRON self-propelled drainage plow. From the ground up, new features give you better control, better productivity and better comfort.

- **Balanced Weight Distribution**
- **Improved Operator Visibility**
- **Electronic Digital Controls**
- **Ergonomic Cab Comfort**
- **FOPS/ROPS Certified**
- **Tri-Core Cooling System**



rwfbron.com
1.800.263.1060

EECI10723-S02-01

Unemployment Insurance Agency invites employers to attend seminars Free seminars to be held across the state this year

Contact: Melanie Brown 313-456-2939
Agency: Licensing and Regulatory Affairs

JUNE 6, 2011 - Employers across the state will have an opportunity to learn more about the unemployment insurance system in Michigan at an upcoming Michigan Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA) Employer Seminar. This will be the fourth year that the agency offers seminars, which have proven to be quite popular among employers throughout the state. In recent weeks seminars were held across the state's Upper and Northern Lower Peninsula.

The seminars are conducted by UIA staff and will cover such topics as how unemployment benefits are calculated and then charged to employers, how most employers may qualify for a state UI tax credit, how to complete UIA tax-related forms and how to use the various online services the agency offers. The agency reminds employers to register early as these sessions are expected to fill up quickly. The sessions cover the areas of Michigan's unemployment insurance tax and benefit programs that employers most often have questions about as well as discuss recent changes at the agency and offer plenty of time for answering employer questions.

This year a new feature has been added to the seminars in which participants will see a mock hearing, where attendees can get a better understanding of what to expect during the appeals process. Agency staff will also be on hand with online access so they can help immediately answer any employer inquiry regarding their account status.

Each seminar will begin promptly at 8:30 a.m. and end at 4:30 p.m. with a one hour lunch break. The agency will not be providing lunch.

JULY

July 14	Lansing	State of Michigan Library & Historical Center http://lansingemployerseminar.eventbrite.com
July 20	Detroit	State of Michigan - Cadillac Place http://detemployerseminar.eventbrite.com

AUGUST

August 3	Dearborn	Henry Ford Community College M-TECH http://dearbornemployerseminar.eventbrite.com
August 9	Grand Rapids	Wisner-Botrall Applied Technology Center at Grand Rapids Community College http://gremployerseminar.eventbrite.com
August 10	Grand Rapids	Wisner-Botrall Applied Technology Center at Grand Rapids Community College http://grandrapidsemployerseminar.eventbrite.com
August 11	Greenville	Montcalm Community College M-TECH http://greenvilleemployerseminar.eventbrite.com
August 25	Livonia	Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center http://livoniaemployerseminar.eventbrite.com

SEPTEMBER

September 8	Clinton Twp.	Macomb Intermediate School District http://clintontownshipemployerseminar.eventbrite.com
September 13	Jackson	Baker College - Jackson Campus http://jackson2employerseminar.eventbrite.com
September 15	Lansing	State of Michigan Library & Historical Center http://lansing2employerseminar.eventbrite.com

July 7, 2011

(*Cong. Camp Huizenga, Miller, Rogers, Upton and Walburg*)
(*Senator Levin and Stabenow*)
Washington D.C. 20515



Dear Congressman Camp:

We are an organization of small family-owned businesses actively engaged in soil and water management through installation of agricultural drainage systems, conservation practices and other excavation/construction services throughout Michigan.

During the past decade, high-precision GPS technology that we all use on a daily basis has enabled us to become extremely efficient in providing services to land owners and other businesses. GPS technology allows us to make farmland more productive, conservation practices more environmentally beneficial and excavation/construction projects more accurate, saving time, money and fuel. The bottom line is that our businesses have become absolutely reliant on GPS technology.

The current efforts by the *LightSquared Company* and their investors to set up a high speed wireless internet infrastructure across the nation will potentially interfere not only with GPS systems critical to our businesses, but also others that use high-precision GPS technology including farmers, construction companies, excavation businesses and many others.

From our understanding, the *LightSquared Company* proposal is currently before the FCC. They are planning to construct 40,000 ground-based, high power transmitter towers across the U.S., and we have every reason to believe that these transmitters will interfere with and even could shut down our High-Precision GPS units that we all have a significant investment in. In fact, *LightSquared's* first test to prove to the FCC that no interference would take place, showed significant interference.

We wanted to call your attention to this issue and to ask for your help in making sure that the *LightSquared Company*, who are attempting to gain approval by FCC, should prove that they will not interfere with High-Precision GPS or they absolutely should not be granted approval. We fear that if they cannot prove that they won't affect others, there will be massive problems and an inability for thousands to do business that use GPS.

Thank you for your attention to this issue on behalf of our small businesses.

Sincerely,

Trevor Young, President
Ravenna

Mike Pennington, Vice President
Corunna

Mike Cook, Secretary
Westphalia

Russ Talaski, Chair of Board
Harbor Beach

Will Word, Chair, Legislative Committee
Camden

Scott Everett,
Executive Director
Lansing

cc: Kevin Daley, Chair, Michigan House Agriculture Committee
Joe Hune, Chair, Michigan Senate Agriculture Committee

February 22, 2011

Honorable Rick Snyder
Governor - State of Michigan
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909



Dear Governor Snyder:

We are an organization of family owned businesses dedicated to land improvement in the agricultural production, water and land conservation and development industries in Michigan.

Our members and affiliates have collectively experienced significant economic and regulatory challenges in recent years, and we believe it is imperative that Michigan's economy recover as quickly as possible. We think you recognize this and wanted to let you know that our organization supports your recommendations for the 2012 budget.

While we are not supportive of every detail, such as the ten percent cut to the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, we feel other changes you are recommending far outweigh the negative. For example, rescinding the excessive 40 percent subsidy for those producing a movie in Michigan is a positive change.

While we see and hear many others being vocally critical of your recommendations, we feel they do not want to understand that without our economy recovering, the ability for government to pay for what they desire is not just difficult, it is impossible.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Michigan Land Improvement Contractors Association

Trevor Young, President
Ravenna

Mike Pennington, Vice President
Corunna

Mike Cook, Secretary
Westphalia

Russ Talaski, Chair of Board
Harbor Beach

Will Word, Chair, Legislative Committee
Camden

Scott Everett,
Executive Director

MLICA 318 WEST OTTAWA ST. LANSING, MI 48933 517-484-4928