

The MLICA Scoop



Spring 2016

From the Lead Plow, Trevor Young, President MLICA

I hope everyone had a safe and productive spring. I know we all got started a little later than we hoped but as I always say, "A tiler can never curse the rain!"

We had our most recent board meeting on June 7th. Mark Aug. 13th for a mini field day and summer picnic @ Rob Cook's farm in Vermontville. It will be a great time to meet up and talk with our MLICA friends.

Legislative news includes the introduction of our license plate bill. If this passes it will save us roughly 2/3 on the cost of our plate tabs. If you get a chance send some funds to Rep. Triston Cole. He is pushing for us on this bill. I sure hope it gets through before February. That is when I renew my plates.

That is about all I have for now. I wish everyone a safe and fun summer and hope to see all of you at Rob's on Aug. 13th for a fun day.

Respectfully,

Trevor Young

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Diary of an Executive Director

By Sarah Cook

Life these days seems so much busier than it was 5 years ago. There are so many things I am invested in, and yet I have a hard time telling others I am too busy to take on more things. So then I just end up being busier, spending less time on each thing individually.

And here the calendar says its halfway through June, and I'm just finishing up the Spring edition of the newsletter!

I feel I owe an apology to all MLICA members and associates because I let life get in the way, and put MLICA on a back burner. While compiling a newsletter is not an easy task, and I just attended my third funeral in as many weeks, I still did not meet my own goal of publishing and mailing this newsletter in the early parts of May.

As soon as this edition is sent to the printer, I will be working on the flyer for our MLICA Field Day and Summer Picnic. Once that is printed and mailed out, I will then begin working on the Summer Edition, because let's be honest, I know life will easily get in the way again. I am striving to better prioritize my time, so that I can give more time to my job as MLICA Executive Director, and help MLICA grow and become an even better organization!



National LICA Summer Meeting July 18-23, 2016

Intercontinental Kansas City at the Plaza in Kansas City, Missouri

Find more info at www.licanational.com under the events tab.

MLICA Field Day and Summer Picnic

Saturday, August 13th

Cook Brother's Farms,
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Flyer with details to follow!



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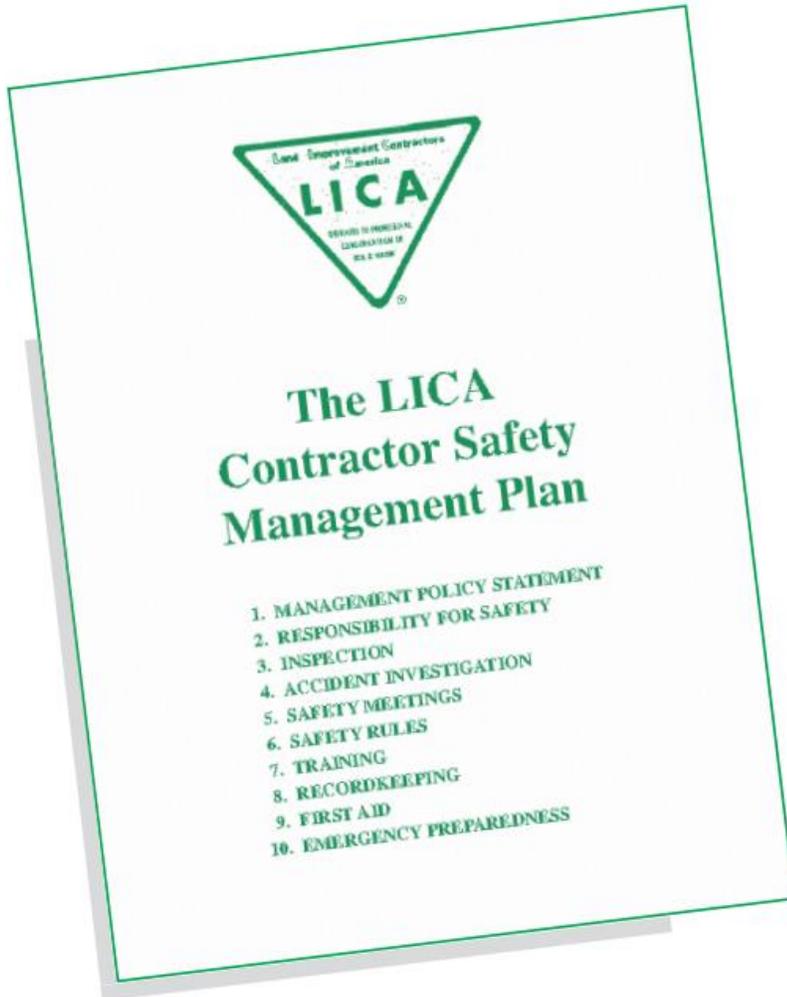
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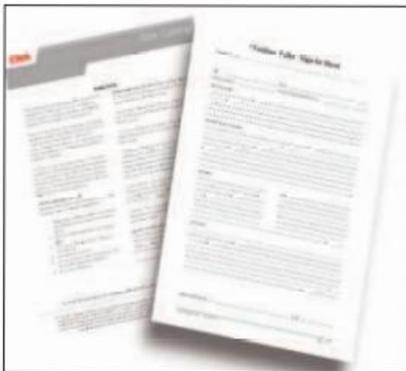
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The LICA Contractor Safety Manual

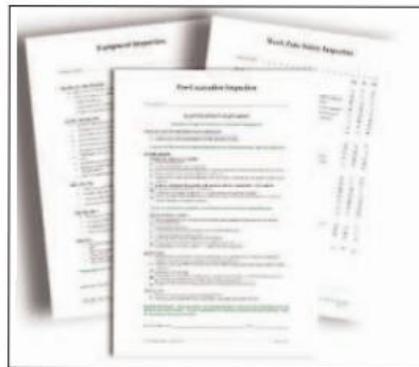


This comprehensive safety manual is provided free to all LICA contractor members and has been updated in 2012. It is designed to be your individual company safety program or supplement to your existing program. It contains thirty toolbox talks, equipment, jobsite inspection forms, OSHA Work-Related Injury and Illness forms and much more!

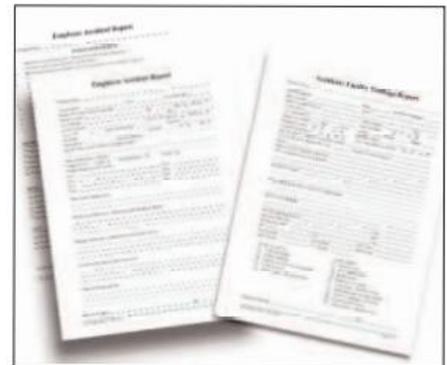
A complete CD of the manual is included. To obtain your free updated copy contact the LICA office.



Thirty Tool Box Talks



Equipment and jobsite inspection forms.



Accident reporting forms.

Member Benefit

The LICA Contractor Safety Manual In Brief

by Sarah Cook

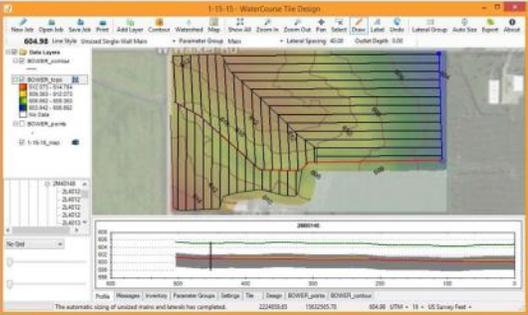
Earlier this spring, Jerry Biuso, National LICA CEO, sat down to breakfast with Trevor Young, Fred Karel, and myself. At this breakfast, Jerry shared the many benefits of becoming a LICA member, one of which was the LICA Contractor Safety Manual. Admittedly this was my first time looking at the Safety Manual. This resource alone outweighs the cost of the annual LICA membership by helping you maintain OSHA compliance, with *30 tool box talks, equipment and jobsite inspection forms, and accident reporting forms!* As contractors with large equipment, it is easy for OSHA inspectors to spot jobsites, and stop to check for compliance. By using the forms provided in the safety manual, you can have the peace of mind that you are in compliance with OSHA regulations, and avoid some costly fines! Contact the National LICA office for your free updated copy.



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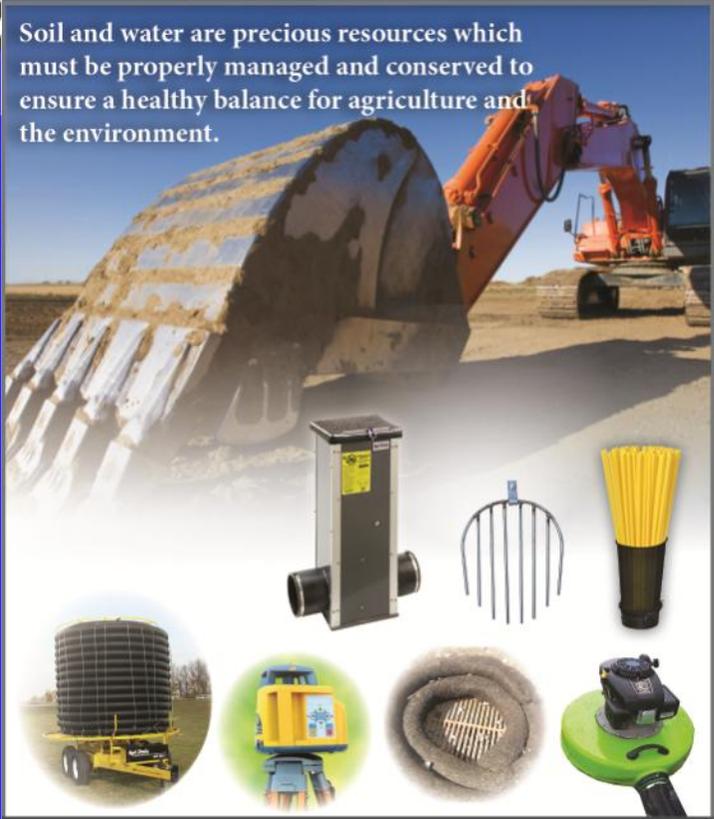
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- Photo
- Make & Model
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- Price & Location
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Member Highlight

Trevor Young, S. Hecksel Farms LLC

In the summer of 1999, Trevor began helping his uncle, Sherm Hecksel. At that time, Trevor was a full-time 5th grade teacher. Trevor kept his full-time teaching job until July 1, 2003, when he and his wife Kelley purchased the business from Sherm, and Sherm entered into retirement.

Sherm, a founding member of MLICA, brought Trevor to a convention in 2000. Upon Trevor's purchase of Sherm's business in 2003, he became a full voting MLICA member. MLICA has given the Young family many fond memories and many good friends. They always enjoy the picnics and conventions. Their daughter, Emma, started attending conventions when she was just a baby, and she hates missing them now that she is in school.

Trevor and his wife Kelley have a few proud moments with their business...In 2006 Trevor and Kelley won the state Farm Bureau "Excellence in Ag" award. Later that year, they went on to place in the top 10 at the National Farm Bureau Farmers and Ranchers contest. In 2011, Trevor and Kelley, along with Sherm and Ruth, celebrated 50 years of being in the farm drainage business with a huge dinner and party for customers, family, and friends. Trevor purchased a second plow in 2012 and in 2013 started with two full time crews.

Trevor employs eight full time people during tile season, with two of them staying on all year to make repairs and do maintenance in the shop during the winter months. Most of the full time guys have been with Trevor at least 4 years, so that helps with consistency and knowledge on the job. Trevor usually has his two BRON plows on separate jobs, as most of his jobs are small. Many of Trevor's customers are apple growers, so they typically have small 5 to 15 acre blocks to tile before planting new orchards.

Trevor and his wife Kelley have been married for 20 years. Kelley is a Nurse Practitioner at their local doctor's office. They have two children. Emma is 11 and will be a 7th grader this fall. She loves her fair animals and horse, which she rides in speed events, like barrels, and poles. Eli is 7 and will be a 2nd grader this fall. He loves tractors and helping on the tile jobs. If it doesn't have a motor he doesn't have much interest in it.

Kelley and Trevor are involved with their church and have both served as Sunday school teachers and other church leadership roles. Trevor is also on the local 4-H fair's Livestock Committee and is the acting Dairy Superintendent at his local fair. He enjoys pulling his two antique tractors, an Oliver 77 and John Deere A, at local fairs and pulling contests. Kelley keeps busy with the kids, helping with the business, paperwork, and running. She has run and completed the Detroit Marathon.

Trevor's advice to any just getting started in the business: "If it is your dream and passion go for it!!! And don't be afraid to make mistakes along the way. Learn from them and grow better."



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EXCELLENCE BY EXPERIENCE

Associate Spotlight

BOWER'S GREAT LAKES INTER-DRAIN, INC.

Bower, as well as, Great Lakes Inter-Drain, Inc. are names that have been associated with LICA for decades. Jack & Tom Bower both owned and operated Bower Tiling Service for many years. In 1985, Jack & Tom ordered the first Inter-Drain trencher and plow delivered in the U.S. from Holland. They became the first U.S. distributor at that time and Great Lakes Inter-Drain began. Jack and Tom have both since retired and Jack's daughter and son-in-law, Wendy & Jim Jett, purchased Great Lakes Inter-Drain, Inc. in July 2015 and operate under the new name Bower's Great Lakes Inter-Drain, Inc. Wendy & Jim have both worked for Bower Tiling Service, Inc. for over twenty years, which they also continue to own and operate. Actually using the Inter-Drain equipment in the daily operation of Bower Tiling has given them experience and knowledge which is beneficial in the operation of Bower's Great Lakes Inter-Drain.



Jack Bower (in yellow), Hans Vander Gaag of Inter-Drain Holland (in red) and Tom Bower (in white jacket) at a National LICA Convention in the 1980s.

Future plans for Bower's GLID include building their parts inventory, as well as expanding sales nationwide and into Canada. They currently sell wear and spare parts and provide service for Inter-Drain equipment. They are also in the process of adding GPS sales and service. Customer service is a priority and Bower's GLID will strive to provide a great experience for all its customers. Bower's GLID looks forward to many successes and meeting new people along the way.

Great Lakes Inter-Drain has been an associate member of MLICA for many years and Bower's GLID looks forward to being a member for many years to come. Being a member has helped the company grow by introducing new customers and contacts. MLICA has provided useful tools and information that is helpful in day to day operations.

Bower's GLID would like to extend a 5% discount on parts to MLICA members.

Wendy Jett grew up in the farm drainage industry with her Father Jack Bower and Uncle Tom Bower as owners of Bower Tiling Service, which began in 1900 by her Great Grandfather George Bower. She married Jim Jett in 1996 and they both began working for Bower Tiling full time.

They have 17 year old twins, Jack and Seth who also work for Bower Tiling and a 13 year old daughter Julia. They both enjoy time motorcycle riding, traveling and relaxing by their pool with friends and family. This is a very busy time in their lives and they look forward to all the adventures to come.



Wendy and Jim Jett, owners of Bower's Great Lakes Inter-Drain, Inc.

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Associate Spotlight

Land Stewards LLC

In 2001, Mark Wilson formed his company Land Stewards. At first the company's focus was on helping farmers navigate the world of environmental regulation (e.g. manure and nutrient management, wetlands, air quality and environmental site assessment, etc.). In 2010, they added management of Ohio LICA to their workload. In 2015, Land Stewards decided to take a different route and discontinued all previous services – including management of Ohio LICA – and transitioned into a multi-disciplinary consulting group specializing in caring for agricultural land affected by pipeline infrastructure. The company's pipeline work involves drain tile relocation and reclamation as well as soil restoration.

Over the next decade, Ohio and neighboring states expect to construct over 30,000 miles of new pipelines. Much of this new infrastructure will affect agricultural land. Consequently, they plan to grow and add more services (e.g. agricultural inspectors) in order to minimize the impact pipelines will have on agriculture.

Although working day to day with multi-national energy companies and union pipeline companies has provided many humbling experiences, Land Stewards' most exciting moment was realizing their pipeline success directly translated into new business opportunities for MLICA members.

Land Stewards is the newest associate to join MLICA.

Mark Wilson has a passion for agriculture and caring for this land. He has a wife named Lin and two daughters, Mara and Brynn. Mark has an interest in nature, travel, photography and politics.



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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 can be emailed to scook@michiganlica.org. Please include your name and phone number for verification purposes.