



MLICA News

Michigan Land Improvement Contractors of America

CONVENTION UPDATE

Well, once again we had a great turnout at the winter convention, probably one of the highest attended meetings in a long time. We had 88 members, associates and guests at the Monday luncheon. The hotel treated us fine and the food was wonderful as usual. (Thanks Chef Terry) The hotel is under new ownership and management, so we were afraid things may not go as smoothly as in the past, but fortunately everything went along without a hitch.

The training and educational sessions were well attended and very informative as well.

Ron Edwards from the Michigan Center for Truck Safety informed us that



the DOT will be strictly enforcing the DOT number identification rules.

Make sure that your commercial vehicles are properly marked or you could be stopped. He also took on a barrage of questions from the members.

Steve Davis and his staff from the NRCS and FSA gave us an update

on the new farm bill and how it may affect the conservation projects and programs we work with.

John Carpenter from BJ Hydraulics reminded us how important it is to keep hydraulic oil clean and the importance of proper filtering. His horror stories of pump and filter failures keeps us aware or the importance of taking care of those systems and letting that oil warm up in these winter conditions.

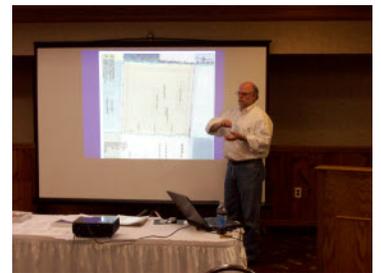
Steve Law from the RC&D and Lori Phalen from Mich. Assoc. of Conservation Districts discussed the importance of the local conservation districts and requested that the Michigan LICA support them in getting or keeping state and national funding to keep the districts going.

Dr. Larry Brown presented some information on drainage concerns

such as Nitrate leaching and how controlled drainage can reduce chemicals

to streams and he also had some....

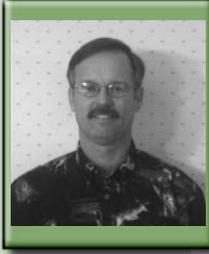
(Continued on page 7)



Inside This Issue

President's Desk.....	2
Member Spotlight.....	3
Chapter News	4 & 5
Dig Safely.....	6
Overholt School Info.....	6
Local Legislation.....	8
Tool Box Talk.....	9
From the Editor.....	10
Sell and Shop Swap.....	11
Calendar.....	12

Next board meeting
Thursday March 5th, 2009
4:30 PM
Lansing Best Western Midway



BY: Russ Talaski
President

Michigan LICA Board Members

Chairman of the Board
Will Word
(517) 368-5931
wconfd@frontiernet.net

President
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(989) 479-9340

Vice President
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(231) 853-5277

*Executive Director
Secretary/Treasurer*
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swms@power-net.net

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Dewey Pennington
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Ben Foster
(989) 838-2554
Rob Cook
(517) 726-0121

Associate Board Members

Kevin Holdwick
(989) 479-9822
James Proffer
(810) 955-3868

President's Desk

What a Great State Convention , I said it at the banquet , It feels great to stand in front of you looking back on a very prosperous year for us and our industry . We would like to Thank our Associates again for all that they did for us this past year , with out your support we could not accomplish our goals. From the four of us that put on the Price is Right Game we hope you enjoyed being involved and hope you use the gifts that you received, but a few of you did leave your gifts behind. The Price is Right Game went very well and it shows you that one cent can make a different if you get a Great Hat or not. Thanks to Dave Dunne for staying on the board for the next few years. It was great to see past members show up to visit with us and talk about old times. Another long time Friend spoke to us at the banquet ,this was the 15 th year that Bernie Thelen from Greenstone Farm Credit Services gave us his insight on the years to come in our industry and reviewed comments he made in previous years. Congratulations to Bernie on his retirement form the banking industry and keep in touch with our organization in the future. To summarize the convention Great Speakers, Great times, Great Fellowship and Thanks to those who made it a Great success.

February is the month that we normally fly to Washington DC. to visit with our Senators and Representatives to voice our views on up coming topics . This year with the new Administration in place the National LICA thought that we should stay in our home state and visit with our local issues. They will still be putting together packets for us with National issues to hand out. I found out that the Senate and House

both meet Thursdays so we will be setting up a **Legislation Day for February 19 th, 2009 to meet at the State Capital in Lansing, MI. at 9 am.** Try to contact your District Representative to make an appointment in the morning and Senators in the afternoon. If you have any questions contact me at 989-479-9349 or 989-550-1889.

Another large job in this organization is this newsletter, make sure that you thank Will Word for all the time and extreme effort he puts in to this publication to make it look so great.

Thanks for letting me serve you and I am looking forward to this upcoming year.

Russell Talaski



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





MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Armtec

Michigan LICA would like to welcome Armtec as our newest Associate member. They were present at the winter convention and it was a pleasure to meet them.

Since 1908, Armtec has been providing quality solutions to its broad customer base across the country. They have come a long way since the Canada Ingot Iron days with culvert plants located in Guelph, Ontario and Winnipeg, Manitoba.



Along the way many, significant milestones have been achieved. A highlight being in 1997 when Armtec became involved in the manufacture and sale of High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) Pipe after 90 years of being a steel products company. Through the merger and subsequent acquisition, of Big 'O', Canada's leading manufacturer of HDPE pipe, Armtec became the only manufacturer of both HDPE and Corrugated Steel Pipe on a National basis.

Big O first arrived on scene in 1968 and merged with Armtec in 1998. They currently have about 26 locations from Coast to Coast. They have 6 Agricultural tubing locations in Ontario, and have a full range Co-Ex tubing Plant in Forest Ont., which is about 30 minutes East of Sarnia, Ontario. Armtec is set-up to deliver to Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and New York. They are strong supporters of LICO as well as Michigan LICA, Ohio LICA and NY LICA. Armtec looks forward to a lasting relationship and will Continue to support through good times and bad. They offer white Co-Ex from 4" to 12 " and Smooth wall from 4" to 36"

David Groot is the Sales Representative and contact for Armtec. Please give him a call at (519) 982-0721 or (800) 265-1447 if you have and questions about their products! David can also be reached via e-mail at dgroot@armtec.com

Chapter News

Web site:

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

New Board members

This year we had two board member terms expire. They were Dave Dunne and Russ Talaksi. They both graciously offered to serve on the board for another term. At the first meeting of the new board, it was decided that we have Russ Talaski as President for one more year as well as Trevor Young for Vice President. Mike Cook will remain Secretary/ Treasurer and hold the Executive Director position.

James Proffer from Baughman Tile Co. Is replacing Perry Strimbeck as the associate representative. We welcome James and also would like to thank Perry for his commitment to LICA and for serving on the board.

We appreciate the dedication of all of the board members for taking time out of their busy schedules to come back to Lansing throughout the year for the board meetings.



New Picnic Site Chosen!

We appreciate the hard work and dedication of the Kemp family for hosting the annual summer picnic in Sebawaing for the past several years, but Al has decided to hang up the apron and spend more time catching Walleye than cooking chicken! And who can blame him for that?

It was discussed that we try to move it around the state a bit in the future and immediately Trevor and Kelly Young offered to host it for this summer, over on the west side of the state along Lake Michigan. They are from Ravaenna which is near Muskegon and only a few miles from Lake Michigan.

This is a great area for a family vacation as well, since there are many attractions like Michigan Adventure, sand dunes and state campgrounds.

The details are being worked out and will be posted in the newsletter as more information is available.

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Buckeye 9200 Magnum

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 - 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



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

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Fax: 815-844-7469
Toll Free: 800-232-7008

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Fax: 419-394-4780

Chapter News.....continued

As some of you may or may not know, Steve Cook, a fellow member and great friend to many of us, has been going through some tough medical problems. Please keep Steve and his family in your thoughts and prayers as they go through this tough time. We missed Steve at the convention and look forward to seeing him soon!

(UPDATE) Rob said Steve is doing good, but he is having a hard time keeping him from overdoing it. As we all know, it's hard to keep a good man down. So, Steve, take it easy for once and you'll be back in the saddle in no time.

STATE LEGISLATION DAY SCHEDULED

Mark your calendar for
Thursday February 19th!

Since the National LICA is not lobbying in Washington D.C. This year, they asked the state chapters to lobby at their own state capitals.

We will be meeting at 9:00 am at the Capital building in Lansing. Please try to contact your District Representative for an appointment in morning and Senators in the afternoon.

It is important that we have a good showing of the Michigan LICA members to show our interest and give some valuable in-site about our industry and interests.

If you have any questions, contact Russell Talaski at (989) 479-9349 or (989) 550-1889

LADIES PROGRAM

The ladies program this year due to the weather and people needing to get home was shortened a little.

On Monday we did the craft in the am, Icing flowers, snowflake pins, and card making. In the afternoon we ventured out to the Meridian mall. On Tuesday we went to Kohl's and Hobby lobby.

Plans for next year will be soap making and paper curling just to name a few things.

Jodie

CONGRATULATIONS!!

On November 1st, 2008, Trevor and Kelly Young welcomed Eli Joseph Young into their family. He arrived 7 weeks early, weighing just 4 lbs. 6 oz, but is doing great and is already up to 12 lbs. Emma is a big help and loves her new baby brother!

Submitted by:
Newsletter
Editor

DIG SAFELY

I think it was on the TV show Hill Street Blues where the Captain always said , “.....and hey, let’s be careful out there!”

at the end of the briefing. Well, I think that is something we need to say to ourselves each and every day as we head out to the field as well.

Those of you who attended Eric Urbain’s presentation from Miss Dig, watched the news footage from a deadly pipeline explosion caused by a crew installing an underground electric cable right here in Cass County, Michigan. The operator was killed instantly and it left a huge crater 80 feet wide by 25 feet deep in the ground.

I know most all of our members use the Miss Dig system religiously, but there are times when we are tempted to dig instead of waiting for that locate to be done. Lets face it, we are always under pressure to keep things moving and that next door neighbor always has a way of dropping in just when you are about done and wants you to do a little work for him across the road.

Well, I have some pictures here, some from the net and some sent to me by Steve Davis, that will hopefully make you re-think the urge to dig blindly without waiting or calling for that staking.



The Cass county accident



Another pipeline hit - found on the web



OVERHOLT DRAINAGE SCHOOL

WOOSTER, Ohio -- Laser surveying, topographic mapping and drainage systems design are just a few of the topics being covered during the Ohio State University Overholt Drainage School in March.

The event, being held March 23-27 at the Garden Hilton Inn in Wooster, is a continuing education program for land improvement contractors, soil and water conservation technicians, farmers, engineers, consultants, sanitarians and other individuals interested in advancing their knowledge of basic concepts, principles and skills related to the purpose, design, layout, construction and management of water management systems.

Enclosed in this newsletter is an enrollment form. If you have never attended one of these seminars, I urge you to do so. I have went several times and always take some valuable information back with me. Also, it is a great training for any of your employees, so they can get some hands on training in design and surveying techniques. It will make them a more valuable employee and give them some knowledge and incentive become more involved in your business.

For more information contact:
Dr. Larry Brown at
brown.59@osu.edu
(614) 292-3826

(Convention update.....from page 1)

very interesting information on underground bio-mass filters. This is being tested and tried at various places with very good results. This type of system in underground, so it can be farmed over without loosing valuable farm-land.

Peter Darbishire had a power-point presentation on the history of the Drainage Contractor magazine and some very interesting photos of drainage equipment from the past to the present. It was very interesting to hear the stories of how drainage machines evolved, and the how a lot of it

happend right here in Michigan and Ontario!

We also heard from John Breen, Amsoil representative about the latest from his company; and Bruce Kammeraad from Employee Capital on payroll and human resources services.

To liven thing up on Monday night, the Talaski's and Holdwicks teamed up and put on the "Price is Right" game. Instead of drawing door prizes this year, you had to "win" them, similar to the TV show. If you were the winner of the round, you got to choose door #1, #2 or #3. And I'm sure no funny business went on with Jodie Holdwick involved, hahaha! Everyone had a great time and we really appreciate the generosity of the associates and the hard work from all of those that helped make the evening so fun!



Hmmm...the price of a new John Deere Backhoe, I should know this one!!



Perry Strimbeck from JDE gives it his best shot



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CURRENT LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION

Resolution Supporting Michigan's Conservation Districts

This resolution is to be decided upon by the board of directors at the next board meeting. If you have any input, please attend the meeting or contact any of the Board members.

Whereas, the Michigan Land Improvement Contractors Association is an organization dedicated to high standards of workmanship in resource management, land improvement practices and to the promotion of private enterprises in land improvement contracting, and

Whereas, Michigan's Conservation Districts play a vital role as the delivery system for conservation program, technical and financial assistance available through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA/NRCS) to conserve and improve our soil, water, animal, plant and air resources to the benefit of the residents of Michigan, and

Whereas, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service is organized to deliver these vital services to Michigan's landowners and decision makers only with and through the leadership and guidance of the locally led Conservation Districts.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Land Improvement Contractors Association strongly encourages Michigan's Governor, State Legislature and County Governments to provide such financial and other resources as may be required to maintain Michigan's 79 existing Conservation Districts with stable and adequate operational funding which will result in the continued delivery of the vital technical, financial and programmatic assistance needed to protect the natural resources of our State.

Michigan Drain Code Revised

At the convention we heard from Hillsdale County Drain Commissioner, Bill Word representing the Michigan Association of Drain Commissioners. At that time on Monday, House Bill 4688 was passed by both the Senate and House of Representatives and was on the desk of Gov. Granholm to be signed. She did end up signing the bill and you can read more about it at <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2007-HB-4688>

It basically increases the amount of funding a drain commissioner can spend on maintenance from \$2,500 per drain per year to \$5,000.

It was discussed how difficult it was to keep some of the aging drain systems repaired and maintained with the current funding limitations. It is more economical to do more of the work at one time, rather than to break a project into small pieces over time or to petition the drainage district to spend over the current limits.



BACKING TECHNIQUES

A National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) study determined that over 90% of backing accidents can be attributed to one of the following causes:

- Driver was unaware of the obstacle
- Driver used improper backing techniques

Yet, these accidents can be prevented by using some of the following simple accident prevention techniques:

- Preplan trips to avoid or to minimize the need for backing.
- When entering an alley that does not permit drive through or turnaround, back into the alley, if allowed by local ordinance, since it is usually safer to back into the area with less traffic. This will enable you to see the traffic as you exit the alley.
- When backing out of an alley, ask someone to be your guide, and signal when it is safe to back into traffic.
- When a guide is used, instruct the guide to use appropriate hand signals rather than voice commands.
- The majority of backing accidents with bodily injury

- Park defensively to prevent your vehicle from rolling into another vehicle. If parking on an incline, turn the front wheels into the curb to prevent the vehicle from rolling.
- Park in the middle of the parking space. This will allow you room to exit the parking space without backing and provide space if backing is required.

you may have parked or backed into a location many times, evaluate the location to determine if clearances have changed or if new obstacles are present.

techniques. If you have access to a designated area to practice backing – use it.

- Learn exactly how the rear of the vehicle responds to every little movement of the steering wheel. Practice - Practice - Practice!
- Know what's going on around you at all times and perform all backing maneuvers SLOWLY.
- Check all your mirrors when backing. Know the mirror blind spots. Conduct a walk around inspection of your vehicle to check these blind spots or get someone to guide you while backing. Know the clearance to all obstacles and the exact distance to

For more information please call us toll-free at (866) 262-0540 or visit us online at www.cna.com/riskcontrol

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Submitted by:
Will Word

Send suggestions and
info to me at
(517) 368-5931
Or e-mail to
wconfd@frontiernet.net

Editors Note:

At the convention someone asked me “How long do you spend putting out the newsletter?”. Well, I didn’t have a good answer, other than “A lot”. I’ve tried to keep track of the time spent in the past but lost track. So, with this issue I kept close track of the time I spent on it.

-
- 21 hrs general layout and researching articles and topics
- 4 hrs correspondence (phone/e-mail)
- 3 Hrs. Mailing and labeling, stuffing envelopes
- 28 total hours

Funny Stuff

“And you thought you were having a bad day.....”




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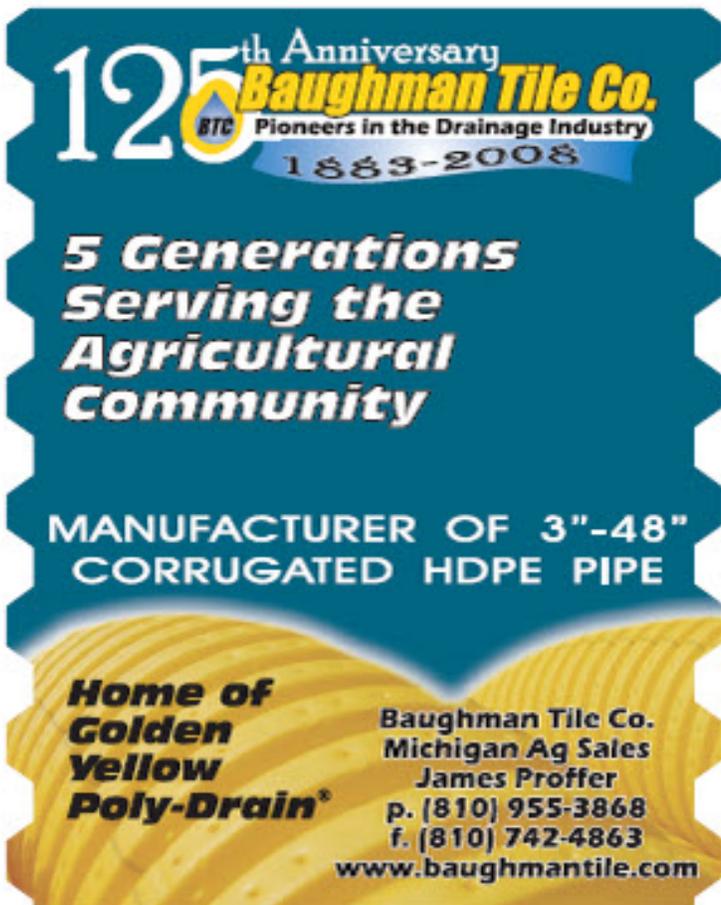
Link 250 Plow for HD-21.
Parting out Fiat Allis HD-21 B
New bottom rollers for HD-21
LB-4 Dual grade laser - new battery and just calibrated
Daycab Kit for Intenational Semi \$250
If interested call Will Word (517) 368-5931

For Sale :

2 used Novatel RTK GPS Units
1 used Ashtech RTK GPS Unit
2 used Xplore computers
Great discount to get started In RTK Systems
Contact: Mike Cook @ (989) 587-3528



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



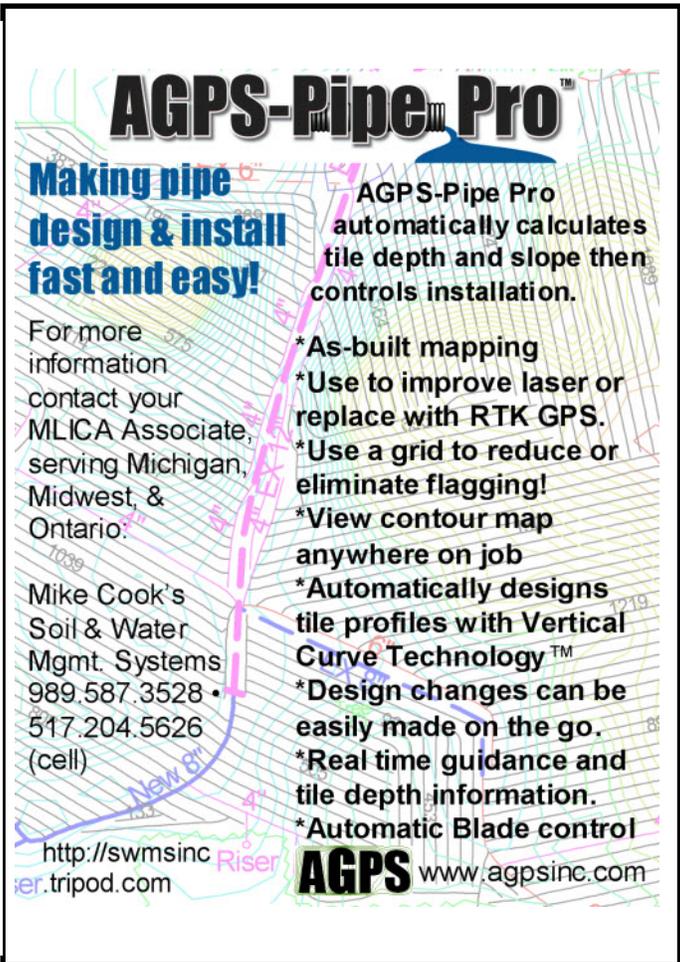
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Event Calendar

Interesting Web-Sites

February 2009

11-15 National LICA Winter Convention
 Nashville, TN (630) 548-1984
19 Michigan LICA Legislature Day
 9:00 AM State Capital Building
 Lansing MI

March 2009

5 Michigan LICA Board Meeting
 4:30 PM Lansing Best Western
 Midway Hotel

July 2009

15-18 National LICA Summer Meeting
 Des Moines, IA (319) 334-9884

<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>
<http://www.michigan.gov/>
<http://www.micountyroads.org/page.cfm/22/>
<http://www.michigan.gov/mdot>
<http://www.truckingsafety.org/>
<http://www.michiganfarmbureau.com/>
<http://michiganlica.org/>
<http://www.licanational.com/>
<http://www.drainage.org/>
<http://www.bigodrain.ca/>
<http://www.agpsinc.com/>
<http://d-outlet.cfans.umn.edu/>
<http://www.bronrwf.com/>

Michigan Legislature
 Michigan Government
 Seasonal county weight restrictions
 Michigan DOT website
 Michigan Center for Truck Safety
 MI Farm Bureau
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2009 Overholt Drainage School March 23-27, 2009

Early Registration Deadline March 11 Final Registration Deadline March 18

REGISTRATION FORM - PLEASE Complete and Mail this Form with Payment

Name(s) _____

Organization/Company _____

Work Type (circle): waterways, drainage, on-site systems, design, excavation, consulting, site prep, other _____

Address (circle which): Home or Business _____

City, State, Zip _____ Email _____

Phone: Daytime: _____ Evening: _____ FAX: _____

Registration must be in advance, in hard-copy accompanied by check, money order, purchase order reference, etc.
State/Federal Agencies processing purchase orders - **Contact Dr. Brown before March 6.**
Companies/Organizations registering 3 or more employees may request discount. **Contact Dr. Brown before March 6.**

▶ **Full-Program Registration (Sessions 1 and 2), March 23-27, 2009 (5 Days)**

Number of Persons _____ X \$550 (\$650 per person if register received after March 11) = \$ _____

▶ **Individual Sessions**

◆ **SESSION 1, Laser Surveying, Topographic Mapping, GPS Mapping - March 23-24 (1 1/2 Days)**

Number of Persons _____ X \$220 (\$320 per person if register received after March 11): = \$ _____

◆ **SESSION 2, Agricultural Subsurface Drainage Design, Drainage Installation, Drainage Water Management, Controlled Subsurface Drainage Design - March 24-27 (2 1/2 Days)**

Number of Persons _____ X \$440 (\$540 per person if register received after March 11): = \$ _____

TOTAL NUMBER PERSONS REGISTERED: = _____ TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: = \$ _____

- ▶ Make payment payable to: The Ohio State University
- ▶ For: OVERHOLT DRAINAGE SCHOOL
- ▶ List special needs (dietary, meals, disability, etc.) in box to right.
- ▶ Make copy of completed form for your records.

Special Needs:

Return registration form and payment before March 11 to:

**OVERHOLT DRAINAGE SCHOOL
c/o Larry C. Brown
OSU Food, Agric., and Biol. Engineering
590 Woody Hayes Dr.
Columbus OH 43210-1057**

Questions/Meeting Location/Hotels? 614.292.3826 or brown.59@osu.edu



Official Use Only:

Date Received: _____

Check or P.O. Number: _____



**Water Management Systems
to Help Balance Production
and Environmental
Objectives**

Overholt Drainage School

March 23-27, 2009

Wooster, Wayne County, Ohio

- ▶ **Laser Surveying, Topographic Mapping, & GPS Mapping**
- ▶ **Agricultural Subsurface Drainage Systems Design**
- ▶ **Drainage Water Management: Controlled Drainage System Design and Installation**

Sponsored by: Overholt Drainage Education and Research Program, Food, Agricultural, and Biological Engineering, OSU Extension, OARDC, The Ohio State University, in cooperation with USDA-NRCS, USDA-ARS, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Ohio Land Improvement Contractors and Associates

ADVANCED REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Register for full program or either of two sessions. Registration includes: tuition, lunches, refreshments, materials, supplies, manuals, guides, design notebooks, certificates of completion, etc.

Deadlines: Early registration March 11. Final Registration March 18.

Confirmations/directions mailed upon receipt of registration/payment. Partial refund if cancellation made by March 11.

Bring: calculator; warm clothes and boots for field.

Programming Objective: Continuing education for land improvement contractors, soil and water conservation technicians, farmers, engineers, consultants, sanitarians, and others interested in advancing their knowledge of basic concepts, principles, and skills related to the

purpose, design, layout, construction, and management of Soil and Water Conservation Systems, with emphasis on Water Management and Water Quality. Instructors include Land-Grant University faculty/staff, SWCD/NRCS engineers and technicians, ARS engineers and scientists, and experienced OLICA contractors and associates.

SESSION I: March 23-24 1 1/2 days

Laser Surveying, Topographic Mapping, & GPS Mapping

Extensive fieldwork, classroom instruction, evening work sessions. Basic knowledge of elevations required.

Monday noon to 9:00 PM
Tuesday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

- Overview of Laser Surveying; Lenker Rod
- Field Notes Laser/ Using Lenker Rod
- Hands-on Field Layout and Survey
- Field Notes/Interpretation of Data
- Topographic Features and Contours, Plotting Field Data, Drawing Contours
- Developing Topographic Map
- Using Topographic Map Information
- Computer Applications
- GPS Applications, Drainage Systems Mapping & Demonstrations

SESSION 2: March 24-27 2 1/2 days

Part 1: Agricultural Subsurface Drainage, Design and Installation

Extensive classroom instruction, work sessions, field trip possible, evening work sessions, programs. Working understanding of drainage and leveling required.

Tuesday 6:00-9:00 PM; Wednesday 8:00 AM to 9:00 PM; and Thursday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

- Agricultural Drainage Concepts; Soils Basics
- Drainage Guides
- Subsurface Drainage Design Concepts, Procedures, Sizing Laterals and Mains
- Design Exercises, Work Sessions
- Design Problem for Monday's Field Site

- Benefits and Economics of Drainage
- Environmental Considerations
- Installation Basics, Methods, Research
- Design/Installation - Common Mistakes

Part 2: Drainage Water Management: System Design, Installation and Management

Thursday 6:15-9:00 PM; Friday 8:00 AM to noon

- Midwest Agricultural Drainage Water Management Initiative: Concepts/Practices
- Controlled Drainage Concepts, Purpose, Benefits
- Regional Projects and Research
- Controlled Drainage Design
- Considerations for Laterals and Mains
- Drain Spacing and Depth Alternatives
- Design Problems, Layout
- Installation, Operation and Management
- Other Applications - Drainage Collection and Pumping Plants; Outlets and Buffers; Liquid Manure Application; Bio-Reactors, etc.

Questions/Meeting Location/Hotel List?

Contact Larry C. Brown at 614.292.3826 or brown.59@osu.edu

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