



August 2012 - September 2012

MNLICA

NEWS

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11:30 Lunch & 12:30 Shotgun Start

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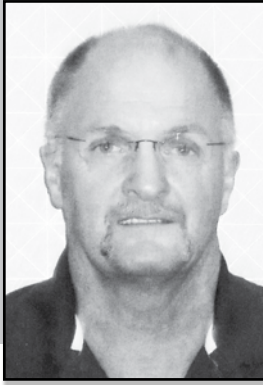
MNLICA STATE CONVENTION

January 17-18, 2013

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**GREETINGS
From Your
PRESIDENT**

After one of the mildest winters in history , Minnesota LICA members had a busy and early spring . Because nearly all MNLICA members work with the land in some way , soil moisture is critical for all facets of our work . We went from literally powder dry subsoil to normal and even above normal soil moistures in a matter of months . We in Minnesota are very blessed .

On March 20 , we spent the day in St. Paul meeting with 15 Legislators and several aids . Our main topics are :

Farm Taps . The problem of unmarked gas lines in construction causing a huge safety concern .

MSHA . The unfair /inconsistent citations being issued in the aggregates and mining industries .

SSTS . The changing laws in the septic industry that are not consistent and cause confusion .

Prevailing Wage Laws . Concern about conservation work requiring increased wage costs .

Tiling . Educating people about ag drainage and water management options .

We had a very productive day with our Legislators and we will continue to make progress on our issues in the future . We did find out after our visits , that our GSOC (Gopher State One Call) center has added some helpful info on their web site to make people aware of the Farm Taps issue . I am sure this was a direct result of our continued efforts with Don Loken and the LICA to address this problem . We still can't get them to locate them , but it is a start .

We are now planning for our summer board meeting and Best Ball Golf day , for our scholarship fundraiser . It is being held at Gopher Hills Golf course by Cannon Falls , Mn. on August 24 at 11:30 with a shotgun start at 12:30pm.

We also are making plans for our MNLICA State Convention being held on January 16-18, 2013 at the Best Western Hotel in North Mankato, Minn.

Respectfully submitted ,

Mark Morreim , MNLICA President .

T
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FEATURES

Presidents Report	2
Requirements for non-registered tanks MPCA	5-6
Just Get One—Member	7
Safety: Heat Exhaustion	
MNLICIA at Manhattan, KS	8
DOT Compliance Training	9
National LICA Benefits	11
LiDAR Training's	12
Recipe: Backyard Burgers	
Farm Bill information	13
Directors Report	14
Spiced Peach Shortcake	
Membership Application	15
Membership Benefits	
Best Ball Scholarship Golf	16
Meddlesome Federal Agencies J. Peterson	17
Upcoming Events	19



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SSTS Bulletin

July 2012

Requirements explained for using non-registered tanks

By Barb McCarthy

This is the first construction season that requires the use of tanks registered with the MPCA. The agency received many tank-related questions earlier this spring, but now things seem to be moving along more smoothly. Sixteen manufacturers have registered 440 tank models for use in Minnesota. In addition, 33 manufacturers are in the process of testing and evaluating tanks for registration. The MPCA thanks the manufacturers who have or are in the process of registering tanks, as well as the local governments and installers who have been working through issues and getting things done.

At the SSTS Advisory Committee meeting on June 14, there was a recommendation the MPCA remind SSTS permitting authorities about options for using sewage tanks that are not on the approved list. Yes, that's right, there is a way to use tanks that are not currently registered or in the process of being registered; however, they must meet both of the following provisions. They must be

1. certified by a licensed Professional Engineer, and
2. approved by the Local Unit of Government.

These provisions are also required for poured-in-place sewage tanks, an option some maintainers have asked about for storing up to 50,000 gallons of septage. For more information on conditions that must be met for storing up to 50,000 gallons of septage, refer to the Program Management Decision on Septage Storage .

Grants awarded to counties for low-income SSTS upgrades

In the June SSTS Bulletin, we outlined a grant offering to help low-income homeowners make needed upgrades. There were 47 counties that applied for funds and each was awarded about \$20,000. Funds will be disbursed to counties by the Board of Water and Soil Resources this summer in conjunction with the Natural Resource Block Grants.

Counties receiving funds were:

Aitkin, Beltrami, Big Stone, Carlton, Carver, Cass, Chippewa, Chisago, Clearwater, Cook, Cottonwood, Crow Wing, Dakota, Dodge, Douglas, Hubbard, Isanti, Jackson, Kandiyohi, Koochiching, LacQuiParle, Lake of the Woods, Lincoln, Marshall, McLeod, Morrison, Norman, Olmsted, Pennington, Pine, Pipestone, Polk, Pope, Red Lake, Roseau, Scott, Sibley, St. Louis, Stearns, Steele, Todd, Traverse, Wadena, Waseca, Washington, Wilkin, Winona and Yellow Medicine.

HIV risk from septage deemed nil, good habits limit more likely threats

Recently, the MPCA has been getting questions about potential infection hazards for SSTS professionals. Specifically, there were concerns as to whether HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, can infect someone maintaining an SSTS. First, it is important to follow the basic precautions necessary to avoid any infections when working with sewage. Here is an excerpt from the University of Minnesota's manual:

"Wastewater should be assumed to be infectious. All workers should keep their hands and fingers from their noses, mouths, and eyes while working with wastewater. A good rule is to keep your hands below your collar while you work. Before eating, drinking, or smoking, be sure to wash up thoroughly, and, preferably, change your clothes. You should provide yourself with a way to change out of your work clothes and wash up before entering a food store, restaurant, or even your car or home. In addition, SSTS professionals should maintain current vaccinations against typhoid, paratyphoid, tetanus, hepatitis A and B, and polio."

Continued on Page 6

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MPCA: Continued from page 5

By following these common-sense practices, the risk of contracting an infectious disease is reduced. Looking at the question of HIV infections, the Center for Disease Control found "... studies have shown that HIV is rapidly inactivated by a range of physical and chemical agents such as low levels of heat, pH extremes, and a variety of chemicals. These observations, coupled with the enormous dilution factors in sewage systems, suggest that on-the-job HIV risk factors for sewage workers are virtually nonexistent. ... Because there is no epidemiologic or laboratory evidence that HIV can be transmitted by the fecal-oral route or by air, fears associated with HIV transmission by other types of contact with sewage are not warranted."

References for this article:

Onsite Sewage Treatment Program, University of Minnesota. 2011.
Manual for Septic System Professionals in Minnesota, 2nd Ed. St. Paul, MN.

Now showing: "Hard Answers to Hard Questions"

The Wilkin County SSTS Inventory Project (2002-2012)
wilkin2

Wilkin County in western Minnesota was one of the first to complete a full inventory of all septic systems and fix those that were found to pose a threat to human health or groundwater. But it didn't happen overnight. A brief (under 10 minutes) video (Wilkin County SSTS Inventory Project, 2001-2012) was produced to highlight how the county accomplished this project over a period of 10 years and factors that contributed to its success.

Reminder: use new tank reporting form

This is a reminder from the June edition that the MPCA has made revisions to the tank fee reporting form that are designed to improve the process. Installers need to use the new MPCA Tank Fee Submission Form from now on.

In addition, toward the end of this construction season, installers are encouraged to check with the local unit of government(s) they work with to compare records of the installations the installer performed this season to ensure they agree with one another. That way, any discrepancies can be resolved in a timely manner. The process of reconciling records can get backed up if it doesn't begin before winter.

If you have any questions about this form, please contact Wendy Gardner-Pritchard at 651-757-2090.



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Landowners are becoming increasingly aware of the difficulties in dealing with wetlands, drainage and acquiring permits. The DNR, NRCS, Corps of Engineers, county and local governments all may have interests that must be addressed.

Our work involves wetlands, drainage, and other water related issues, permits — areas of law that are constantly changing and becoming more specialized.

If you're facing a challenge in any of these areas, or are wondering if you could benefit from legal help, call Kurt, John or Gary at (320) 251-6700.

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HEAT EXHAUSTION

Heat stress is one of the top hazards of concern in the construction industry according to OSHA. Dehydration, heat exhaustion & heat stroke—which can be fatal—are a progressive series of conditions that occur when the body is unable to cool itself by sweating.

Because physical labor causes the body to generate heat & lose fluids rapidly, you face an increased risk of heat-related illness compared to someone who is only exposed to hot temperatures. To help keep your body cool, wear lightweight, light colored, loose fitting clothing & a wide-brimmed hat.

Drinking coffee or soda with caffeine rather than water is a common mistake workers make. Drink approximately (1)one-cup of water every (15)fifteen minutes, avoid alcohol & caffeinated drinks even the day prior to working in a hot environment.

Know the signs/symptoms of heat-related illness, & call 911 if you suspect a co-worker is suffering from heat exhaustion or heat stroke.

Dehydration—Decreased perspiration, thirst, headache, dark colored urine.

Heat Exhaustion—Headache, dizziness, lightheadedness or fainting, weakness, irritability, confusion, vomiting.

Heat Stroke—No perspiration, bizarre or combative behavior, loss of vision or consciousness, convulsions.

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MNLICA AT MANHATTEN, KANSAS

President Mark Morreim, Don Loken & Nordis Estrem attended the NLICA Summer Convention at Manhattan, KS with many interesting seminars and tours. The tours for men were to Cat Works, Case and Landoll Corporation (Trailers). Mostly women went to the Oz Museum & Winery, Flint Hills History Center, Kansas State U (they do food safety & research for the USDA), a Butterfly Garden, toured the plant where they make their own ice cream, cheese, milk and meat also sold at their store where we enjoyed homemade ice cream, HyVee with a demonstration on healthy alternatives to fast foods or make your own at home with less fat and crabs. We went to Munson Farms where we ate a great lunch with horseback and wagon rides around their working farm (the crops are almost burnt up down there).

June Board Meeting

Nine members helped to finalize plans for the MNLICA state convention on **January 17-18, 2013**, and the **SSTS (6 hour) U of M training on January 15, 2012**.

The convention will be held at the Best Western Hotel in North Mankato. **Note the change of days, we will start with SSTS on Wednesday and then the Tradeshow and seminars on Thursday and Friday.**



DOT Compliance Training

Are you ready for a DOT audit?

What are your CSA score?

How about your vehicle inspection and driver qualification files... up to date and accurate?

Do you have a plan for accident investigation?

Vehicle inspection and maintenance files current?

Moyson Resources will be coordinating a DOT Compliance Training Training will be provided by JJ Keller

Date: Thursday August 23, 2012

Time: 8:00 - 4:00

Location: Hawkeye Community College / Center for Business and Industry
5330 Nordic Drive
Cedar Falls, IA

Cost: \$175.00/person (price includes materials, lunch and certification of attendance)

Note: *If you have a laptop please bring it. We will be looking up CSA profiles. If you do not have one let me know and I will have one available for you.*

Course topics include:

- DOT Update
- Hours of Service (log books and time cards)
- Pre-operation Inspection requirements and record keeping
- Load Securement
- Compliance and Safety Accountability (CSA)
 - Driver Record and Company Profile
 - How to contest violations on your CSA profile

To register for this training (registration due by August 15, 2012)

1. Fill out the form below
2. Check payable to Moyson Resources (\$175.00/person)
3. Mail to: Moyson Resources

1474 Benson Avenue
Fairbank, IA 50629

If you have any questions please contact Linda at:

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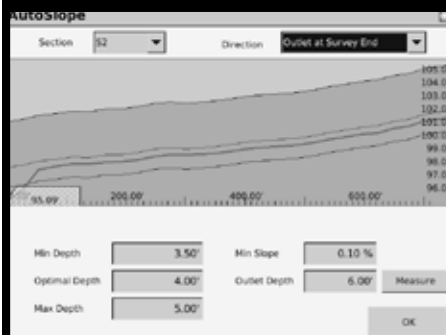
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EXCLUSIVE NATIONAL LICA BENEFITS**National LICA Contractor Magazine**

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

LICA Contractor Safety Management Plan

The purpose of this comprehensive safety manual is to provide LICA members with recommended safe operating procedures and to outline techniques that are essential for the protection of the industry's greatest asset "its people and equipment".

It is 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. For your convenience a complete CD of the manual is included. This manual is worth thousands of dollars and is Free to every contractor member.

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Hundreds of million of dollars of mobile equipment is stolen from construction sites and farms throughout North America every year. Most of this equipment is never recovered.

Since 2001 NER has been developing comprehensive databases of equipment ownership, theft reports and machine identification characteristics. NER's services have assisted law enforcement in recovering millions of dollars of heavy equipment and greatly increased the risk of arrest for equipment thieves. Buyers of used equipment can now also request searches of the NER database through IRONcheck.

LICA members can register their equipment on the NER HELPtech database at a 20% discount off the regular registration fees. New Member Benefit: All new LICA members will receive a 30% discount if they register their equipment within 3 months of joining LICA. This is a special introductory offer to new LICA members. Visit www.nerusa.com for more information.

Petrocon

This program will generate savings for LICA members. Members will receive a minimum of 10% savings on their oil, tires, electric, cellular expense and possibly much more, pending the geography the member resides in.

The program contains 3 primary goals:

1. The Petrocon program is designed to reduce operating costs and expenses for LICA members from 10-40% for commodities such as lubricants and greases, antifreeze, tires, electric (some states only), and even wireless cellular expense.
2. The Petrocon program is designed for all sized companies,

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Petrocon continued:

3. All membership dues have been waived for LICA members, this represents a savings of \$2500.00 annually!

All LICA members are eligible for this program, pending credit approval.

For more information: call 1-866-548-8750 or e-mail jdgiouv@petrocon.org.

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This program offers packages with volume rebates of up to 3 cents off per gallon. All Universal Premium Cards automatically receive 3 cents off each gallon within the Fuelman Discount Network, every gallon, every day.

Contact Joe Giovinazzo for more information. Call 301-730-0114, e-mail jdgiouv@petrocon.org.

LiDAR Trainings

The final "Conservation Applications of LiDAR" training workshops, organized by the University of Minnesota, will be held in July and August this year. Public or private professionals needing this low-cost training should sign up now.

Information and registration is found at <http://tsp.umn.edu/lidar>.

These workshops address the use of LiDAR-acquired high resolution elevation data in soil and water conservation, hydrology, wetland mapping, and engineering. They are designed for people who regularly use GIS or CAD-Civil 3D software in their work and plan to use Minnesota's new high resolution digital elevation data. No further workshops will be available through this project except as arranged by specific user groups.

Workshop materials are available through the above link.

This project is sponsored by the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

Remaining sessions:

Basics of Using LiDAR Data (Prerequisite: Intermediate skill with ArcGIS)

- August 14, 9:00-4:00 St. Cloud, MN

Terrain Analysis (Prerequisite: Basics of Using LiDAR Data)

- August 15, 9:00-12:00 St. Cloud, MN

Wetland Mapping (Prerequisite: Basics of Using LiDAR Data and Hydrologic Applications)

- August 2, 9:00-12:00 Mankato, MN
- August 8, 9:00-12:00 Morris, MN

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The Land Improvement Contractors of America


John Peterson, LICA Director of Government Relations

The Land Improvement Contractors of America (LICA) applaud the Congressional House and Senate Agriculture Committees for their commitment to conservation.

Lisle, IL, July 20, 2012. The Land Improvement Contractors of America (LICA) applaud leaders of both the federal Senate and House Agriculture Committees for recognizing the significant value of conservation in supporting America's long-term environmental and economic stability. In language released in both their versions of the 2012 Farm Bill, the leadership in both political parties demonstrated strong bipartisan support for locally-led soil and water conservation efforts.

"We fully recognize the need to get our nation's financial house in order, and we understand that means cuts in federal programs," said LICA President Merlin Welch of the California LICA Chapter. "We are very pleased that the federal committee leadership has developed a balanced plan that recognizes the critical value of local leadership at the landscape scale. The two Farm Bills propose about a 10% cut over 10 years, approximately \$6 billion, to Farm Bill Title II Conservation Programs (the Farm Bill has 11 titles). That is more than the ill-fated super-committee proposed in 2011, and even more than what the agriculture share of the federal budget represents, about 2%. LICA hopes other aspects of society bear their fair share of the federal budget cuts, as agriculture and conservation have demonstrated they will do."

"Investing in conservation simply makes sense," Welch continued. "Not only do Farm Bill conservation programs play a key role in supporting clean water, air, and healthy, productive soils, they also help producers avoid unnecessary regulation, and support our nation's long-term economic and food security. As we face increased pressure to produce food, feed, fuel, and fiber for a growing population, we simply cannot afford not to invest in natural resource conservation." The federal Farm Bills have always had strong bipartisan support. LICA's members in every state appreciate their opportunity to provide input throughout the legislative process. Specifically they are pleased to see bill language that: 1) protects critical conservation program funding, and 2) supports program consolidation for increased efficiency and ease of use for producers. LICA has always supported locally-led, voluntary incentives-based approaches to conservation delivery through our nations Soil & Water Conservation Districts.



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DIRECTORS REPORT

WELCOME all the new MNLICA Members and Associates. We appreciate your membership and looking forward to meeting your company at a meeting or training in the future. If you want a special training in your area during this year or at the next January State Convention please call Nordis at 507-649-1771 or e-mail: nordisestrem@frontier.com. (note new e-mail address).

Jeanie & I have been busy along with some board members planning for your educational seminars at the 2013 MNLICA State Convention on January 17-18, 2013 (Thursday & Friday). Wednesday, January 15 will be the SSTS 6 hour accredited training given by MNLICA & U of M. Look for more information in the October/November issue.

MNLICA has planned a Scholarship Best Ball Golf outing on August 24, 2012 (Friday). We will start with an 11:30am lunch and then a 12:30pm Shot Gun start with complementary beverages. We will try to be finished by 3:30pm. There will be cash prizes for the best team, longest & shortest drive (men & women) longest putt (a putter). So plan to attend now as a single or a two or three-some. It's fun even for those who do not golf on a regular basis, just come and meet new people and have a great time. SEE YOU THERE!!

SPICED PEACH SHORTCAKE

Filling:

- 4-cups thinly sliced peaches
- 1/4-cup
- Plus 2-Tablespoons sugar (use separately)
- 1-cup whipping cream
- 1-teaspoon vanilla
- Mix in a large bowl, peaches and 1/4 cup sugar. Cover and refrigerate for 30 minutes.
- Whip cream with 2 tablespoons sugar and vanilla until stiff peaks.

Shortcake:

- 2-cups flour
- 1/2-cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1-Tablespoon baking powder
- 2-teaspoons pumpkin pie spice
- 1/2-teaspoon salt
- 1/2-cup butter
- 3/4-cup buttermilk
- 2-eggs, beaten
- Mix in a medium bowl, flour, brown sugar, baking powder, pumpkin pie spice and salt. Cut in butter until resembles coarse crumbs.
- Add buttermilk and eggs, stirring just until dry ingredients are moistened (DO NOT OVERMIX). Spread batter in 9" round cake pan.
- Bake 25-30 minutes or until wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool 10 minutes.
- To serve, slice cake in-half horizontally. Place on cake plate, cut side up. Top with 1/2 whipped cream & then peaches. Repeat ending with fruit. Serve immediately.
- Serves 8

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please enroll me as a Member of the Minnesota Land

Improvement Contractors Association. I understand

That I will receive all member benefits, and that they will begin as soon as my application is approved and

My dues are received in the State Office. My membership fee includes membership in the National Land

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Name: _____

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6. **MSHA TRAININGS**
7. SSTS TRAININGS
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- _____ Please assign me to a threesome.
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Name	Reg. Fee \$75/each
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OFCCP, one more meddlesome federal agency.
By J. Peterson, LICA Director of Government Relations.

In the past year I have written about a number of federal agencies that many LICA members had problems with. MSHA and PHMSA come immediately to mind. Now I find that the Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) is another of those agencies that is not good for business. I didn't even know something call OFCCP existed.

OFCCP is getting ready to issue an edict compelling government contractors to adopt a 7% hiring quota for disabled job applicants. This radical personnel change could damage the productivity of more than 170,000 companies with government contracts, including some of our LICA members. Since the 1970's, the OFCCP has done more than any other federal agency to impose racial and gender hiring quotas, but the administration thought it was too soft on businesses. OFCCP Director Patricia A Shiu promised in 2010 "We are going to be extremely proactive and aggressive. It's a new day at the OFCCP."

OFCCP's Federal Register notice on its disability mandate contained more than 53,000 convoluted words. And businesses are saying that the OFCCP has greatly understated the costs of this requirement. And as part of the new regulatory regime, OFCCP proposed requiring companies to invite all job applicants to label themselves as "disabled" prior to being hired. All that will do is give the OFCCP ammunition to then challenge the non-hiring of individuals with disabilities who were not qualified to perform the jobs.

The Associated General Contractors (AGC) has complained that many construction positions are inherently unsuited and far too perilous for physically disabled persons. I think our LICA members would agree. But intelligence and prudence has not deterred the OFCCP in the past. In 1994, OFCCP debarred Kentucky's Commonwealth Aluminum Corp. from federal contracts for refusing to hire applicants with serious back injuries and hernias for jobs that required heavy lifting. In 1995 they punished an Amarillo, TX firm for refusing to hire a man who suffered from uncontrollable epileptic seizures to drive a truck full of hazardous waste.

And, with a straight face, the OFCCP says its latest proposal is not a quota. In my opinion there are far better ways for helping the handicapped rather than by empowering a federal agency putting them in situations for which they are unqualified and could be injured. This is pure foolishness and dangerous.

When did our federal government lose the ability to exercise good judgment?

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2012 UPCOMING EVENTS
 MNLICA Web-site: www.mnlca.org
 2012

August 24	MNLICA Board Meeting Scholarship Golf	McArthur's Gopher Hill's
Fall	Soils Day with U of M	to be determined
Nov/Dec	MNLICA Board Meeting	Western MN

2013

January 16-18	State Convention (note Change)	North Mankato, Best Western
January 16	SSTS (6-hr accredited training)	North Mankato, Best Western



MNLICA

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and yet many unthinkingly and unknowingly pass the land by.
What man finally does with the land
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