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# NC Irrigation Contractors' Licensing Board Newsletter



October 2010

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## New Posters Available



The Board has designed and printed 8x11 and 16x20 " It's the Law posters. These are available for you to display in your place of business and distribute to local departmental offices of inspection and permitting offices and other locations where you think they are appropriate. To obtain copies call the Board office at 919-872-2229 or e-mail [Lisa@nciclb.org](mailto:Lisa@nciclb.org).

As you can see, the Board and our staff maintain a full schedule administering the

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

To help keep licensed contractors informed, the Irrigation Board will publish a quarterly newsletter. We hope that this second issue, along with the Board web site ( [www.nciclb.org](http://www.nciclb.org) ) will keep you connected with the pertinent information you need regarding irrigation licensure in North Carolina.

The Board has met monthly for the last several months focusing on Enforcement, Rules and Frequently Asked Questions. Reports on these activities follow below.

Ronald Sneed, Chair

## 2011 License Renewal and Continuing Education

**License Renewal:** Renewal notices have been mailed to all licensed contractors, corporations, partnerships and LLC's. To renew the license, an individual must have completed ten hours of approved Continuing Education by December 31, 2010, either completed in 2010 or carried forward from 2009. Six to eight hours of landscape and turf irrigation related classes are required and two to four hours are required to be business related. Individuals who fail to complete the required Continuing Education in the appropriate areas will forfeit their license and the only way to regain the license is to apply to the Board for licensure through examination and take and pass the Board examination ( 89G.9.b ).

A licensed contractor, corporation, partnership or LLC has twelve months to renew the license, but any renewal not postmarked by December 31, 2010 will have to pay the license renewal fee and a \$50.00 late renewal fee. Licensees have twelve months to renew the license. An individual who does not renew by December 31, 2011 will forfeit his/her license and the only way to regain the license is to apply to the Board for licensure through examination and take and pass the Board examination. During the time the license is not renewed, the individual, corporation, partnership or LLC cannot legally perform irrigation contracting.

**Surety Bonds:** A small number of individuals, corporations, partnerships and LLC's have allowed their Surety Bond to expire and their license has been suspended until the Surety Bond is renewed. During the time the Surety Bond is not in effect, the individual, corporation, partnership or LLC cannot perform or advertise irrigation contracting on projects where the cost exceeds \$2500.00.

**Rules:** The Board is working on Rules which will be submitted to the Office of Administrative Hearings for approval. Once the Rules are approved by that office the Rules will be reviewed by the Rules Review Committee for final approval.

law, answering inquiries, following up on complaints, and offering service to the licensees. Please keep in touch and let us know how we can be of better service to you.

**CONTINUING EDUCATION**

The board would like to remind its licensees of a critical deadline that is fast approaching. Your 10 hours of Continuing Education (CEU's) must be completed by December 31, 2010. The purpose of CEU's is to increase the skill level of all licensed contractors and increase water use efficiency as it relates to irrigation systems.

State Statute 89G-9 (b) states "As a condition of license renewal, a licensee shall meet continuing education requirements set by the Board. Each licensee shall complete 10 continuing education units per year. Failure to obtain continuing education units shall result in the forfeiture of a license. Upon forfeiture, a person shall be required to submit a new application and retake the examination as provided in this chapter". The language is very clear that if you don't get the CEU's required you will have to start over. The board has adopted a policy that allows its licensees to carry over up to 10 CEU's per year with up to 2 being business.

A list of preapproved classes is available at [www.nciclb.org/courses.cfm](http://www.nciclb.org/courses.cfm). There are 20 preapproved classes offered in October, November and December plus three online classes available. The list is updated as classes are approved by the board. There are other opportunities for CEU's such as teaching a class, attending a trade show, judging a competition or classes that you attend for other licenses. If the class or event is not preapproved there is a risk that the board will not grant approval or grant fewer hours than asked for. The training must be landscape or turf irrigation related. A licensee may submit an event for preapproval as well. Go to [www.nciclb.org/files/ceu\\_categories.pdf](http://www.nciclb.org/files/ceu_categories.pdf) for a list of CEU categories and guidelines.

The board will audit 10% of its licensees to verify continuing education. Each licensee is responsible for maintaining records to prove attendance of the classes or events claimed on the renewal form. The board does not rely on the class vender to verify attendance at this time.

The licenses issued by the NCICLB represent a significant investment by each licensee. Don't take a chance and lose out because of a lack of time. Act now.

**UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS**

November 10, 2010  
December 15, 2010

**Complaints:** The Board and legal counsel are working on a number of complaints that involve both unlicensed installers and licensed contractors. In dealing with complaints, one concern has surfaced that the Board should protect the name of the individual making the complaint. As of September 28, 2010, for complaints on unlicensed installers and for most other complaints, the name of the person making the complaint will not be provided to the investigator. If the investigator needs information from the person making the complaint, he will contact the Board office and Administrative staff will obtain the information and provide it to the investigator. If an investigation results in a hearing or legal action, it may be necessary to identify the person making the complaint, but the Board will take every action possible to ensure that the person making the complaint remains anonymous.

**ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS**

The following is a summary of regulatory actions since the last newsletter (May 2010).

- 25 Complaints Received
- 29 Cease and Desist letters sent
- 38 Cases Closed
- 39 Cases referred to investigators
- 22 Cases sent to legal

If you see unlicensed work being performed, or work that obviously does not meet the minimum standards required by law, make sure to submit a complaint. The forms are available online at [www.nciclb.org](http://www.nciclb.org). Complainants' names are kept confidential.

**LICENSEE UPDATE**

As of the date of this publication, there are 949 active individual and 560 active corporate licensees in the State.

The following licenses were suspended due to non-renewal of the required surety bond.

FIRST	LAST	COMPANY	IND LIC#	CORP LIC#
William	Clark	C & C Irrigation & Lighting, Inc.	653	
William	Clark	C & C Irrigation & Lighting, Inc.		C-331
Matthew	Sandberg	Carolina Custom Lawn & Landscape, Inc.	808	
Matthew	Sandberg	Carolina Custom Lawn & Landscape, Inc.		C-574
Seth	Phillips	Clearsprings Landscaping, LLC	661	
Seth	Phillips	Clearsprings Landscaping, LLC		C-335
Ryan	Bradshaw	Coastal Landesign, Inc.	705	
Ryan	Bradshaw	Coastal Landesign, Inc.		C-378
Timothy	Mastin	EnhanceScapes Inc.	563	
Timothy	Mastin	EnhanceScapes Inc.		C-407
Zane	Stoneman	Head2Head Irrigation, Inc.	221	
Lee	Harvey	Lee T. Harvey Plumbing	181	
Wallace	McAnulty	McAnulty Landscaping, LLC	259	
Wallace	McAnulty	McAnulty Landscaping, LLC		C-135
Matt	Peters	Mountain Advantage, LLC		C-192
Matthew	Peters	Mountain Advantage, LLC	376	
Tino	Bleimann	Premier Landscaping dba Bleimann Ent.	344	
Sandra	Taylor	Salmon Creek Nursery	361	
Russell	Kee	SKE	225	
Darrell	Kiser	"Special K" Farms - Landscape Division	202	

All meetings are held at the NCDA Agronomics Building 4300 Reedy Creek Rd., Raleigh, NC unless otherwise noted. The meetings are scheduled to begin at 10:00 am and are open to the public. Please notify the Board office if you will attend.

**UPCOMING EXAMS**

January 12, 2011 - Greensboro

Additional dates to be advised.

**BOARD MEMBERS**

**Chairman** Dr. Ronald Sneed  
**Vice Chair** John Marmorato  
**Treasurer** David Collins  
**Secretary** David Williams  
**Members** Michael Currin  
 Lindsey Griffin  
 Charles Nieman  
 Bob Peter  
 Maeneen Klein  
**Board Counsel** Barry Bloch  
**Board Admin** Barbara Geiger  
 Lisa Deubler

**IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

- Renewals due 12/31/2010.
- Must complete 10 credit hours (2 min/4 max business hours, balance irrigation hours).
- Proof of Surety Bond required with renewals.
- Contact the Board with changes in address or contact information.
- Contact the Board with changes to the corporate qualifier.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

[WWW.NCICLB.ORG](http://www.nciclb.org)

- To view Frequently Asked Questions.
- To view the minimum standards and best management practices.
- To review the law.
- To view Board approved continuing education activities.
- To download continuing education activity approval forms.
- To file a complaint
- For a schedule of Board meetings and Exams.
- To view a full listing of Licensed Irrigation Contractors and Licensed Irrigation Contracting Companies.

Kenneth Suggs	Sunshine Lawn Care, Inc.	365	
Kenneth Suggs	Sunshine Lawn Care, Inc.		C-237
Ryan Pope	The Earthscape Company, Inc.	222	
Ryan Pope	The Earthscape Company, Inc.		C-117
Thomas Ellingson	Thomas G. Ellingson	471	
Tripp Thomas	Urban Landscape Design		C-447
Stephen Wilson	Wilson Landscaping Contractors	823	
J. Wright	Wright Irrigation Company	549	

**MINIMUM STANDARDS**

The licensing law requires that minimum standards be created and published by the Board. These standards have been in effect since July 1, 2009. All turf and landscape irrigation systems installed in North Carolina must meet these minimum standards. Along with continuing education, this is one of the most important aspects of the irrigation licensing law. Each licensee and their employees should be very familiar with these standards.

The Board will review and update these standards on a yearly basis. Please provide the Board any input you would like considered for the current update by the end of October.

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ's)**

Board staff has been keeping track of common questions asked by licensees and potential licensees and has been working with the Board to publish a list of frequently asked questions and answers on the website. The list is undergoing its final edit and will be placed on the website in the next few weeks. Please visit the website at [www.nciclb.org](http://www.nciclb.org) to review this and other pertinent information.

**NEW CITY OF RALEIGH IRRIGATION ORDINANCE**

The City of Raleigh has enacted a Smart Controller ordinance (see below). This ordinance originally included a requirement for all new irrigation systems to be audited prior to approval and permanent use. The Board met with members of the GIC and CIA to review the ordinance and all had concerns with the audit requirement. The Board's letter to the City regarding the new ordinance applauded the City for its pro-active approach in water conservation. At the same time, the letter pointed out the concerns regarding the required system audits. A portion of that letter follows

Regarding the required new irrigation system audit, we have several concerns.

1. In many cases, the installer is not the designer of the system. If the contractor is hired to install a system designed by others, the system is installed per the plans and specifications, and the system does not pass the audit criteria, the contractor is put by the City in a very awkward position between the designer and client.
2. The audit requirements include full inspection of the system as it is being installed. Again, this is a task for a third party, not for the installing contractor.
3. A full irrigation audit can cost thousands of dollars. We do not see a benefit to the public in incurring this cost.

The City has since rescinded this portion of the ordinance. The following is the current ordinance information provided by the City. At the Board's request, the required permit may be pulled by the irrigation contractor so long as they provide the name and license number of the plumbing contractor that will be installing the backflow prevention device.

### Residential Lawn Irrigation Systems

As of June 30th, 2008 State Law requires a separate meter (House Bill 2499) for all in-ground irrigation systems and many systems must be installed by a NC Licensed Irrigation Contractor (HB89G). See the Bill for exemptions.

With the installation of an irrigation meter you will be charged for water only, no sewer fees will apply. These recommendations became part of the City Code and implemented in January of 2007.

A plumbing permit from the City of Raleigh's Inspections Department is required for the installation of any in-ground irrigation system.

ALL new in-ground irrigation systems are required by City Ordinance to:

1. Be installed by a NC Licensed Irrigation Contractor (North Carolina HB89G), if the total project is over two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500). Please refer to the Bill for further exemptions.
2. Have a separate meter.
3. Have a Smart controller which will have two Weather-Based Sensors connected as an add-on device. These sensors must measure local weather conditions such as rain, temperature, wind, soil conditions and/or evapotranspiration, and be incorporated to suspend irrigation cycles according to set parameters. The City Code requires each system to incorporate two (2) sensors, each monitoring a separate weather characteristic, to be used as an add-on device to suspend irrigation cycles when watering is deemed unnecessary by the conditions of the sensor.
  - a. One sensor must be a rain sensor.
  - b. The second weather-based sensor may monitor any of the remaining characteristics, as long as that device meets the City's definition of a weather-based sensor.

Before visiting your local Inspections or Permitting Department within the Raleigh water system please review the following information.

Be prepared to:

- Identify the size of the irrigation service you will need to run your system. Minimum ¾"
- Know if you need a new tap or a split on your existing water service.
- Determine if you want the City to install the tap or split on existing service (¾" or 1") or use a private utility contractor licensed to work in the ROW.(fee quoted by contractor)
- Pay for a meter that matches the size of your tap or split.
- If a new tap is required be prepared to pay an acreage (availability) fee.
- Acquire a plumbing permit for installation of a Reduced Pressure backflow assembly

System Installation:

1. A service split shall not be larger than the original service size.
2. A service valve is required after the meter and prior to the backflow assembly on private property.
3. The stand pipes for a backflow assembly are required to be of brass or copper.
4. ALL systems must be installed by an NC Licensed Irrigation Contractor. If a private licensed utility contractor is used a stub permit is required.
5. Residential lawn irrigation backflow preventers must be tested for proper operation every 3 years and is the responsibility of the property owner.

Please see the following cost estimates:

#### City Installed New Irrigation Tap

A new service tap from the public main to your property as installed by City staff.

Acreage Fee - \$326.00

Tap Fee - ¾" - \$2,314.00

1" - \$2,545.00

Meter Fee - ¾" - \$197.00

1" - \$250.00

Plumbing Permit for Backflow Assembly - \$74.00

**City Installed New ¾" Split**

A service split installed when the potable water service to your property as installed by City staff.

New Split - ¾" - \$463.00  
1" - \$788.00

Meter Fee - ¾" - \$197.00  
1" - \$250.00

Plumbing Permit for Backflow Assembly - \$74.00

**City Installed Existing ¾" Split**

A split installed on an existing water service prior to the domestic water meter as installed by City staff.

Existing split- ¾" - \$953.00  
1" - \$1276.00

Meter Fee - ¾" - \$197.00  
1" - \$250.00

Plumbing Permit for backflow assembly \$74.00

**Contractor Installed New Irrigation Tap**

A new service tap from the public main to your property as priced and installed by a Private Licensed Utility Contractor .

Acreage Fee - \$326.00  
Meter Fee - ¾" - \$197.00  
1" - \$250.00

Plumbing Permit for Backflow Assembly - \$74.00

Stub Fee - \$74.00

**Contractor installed existing and new split - ¾" or 1"**

A split installed on an existing water service prior to the domestic water meter as priced and installed by a Private Licensed Utility Contractor.

Meter Fee - ¾" - \$197.00  
1" - \$250.00

Stub Fee - \$74.00

Plumbing Permit for Backflow Assembly -\$74.00

For more information please contact:

Cinnamon Black, Water Conservation Specialist  
919.857.4540

[Cinnamon.Black@raleighnc.gov](mailto:Cinnamon.Black@raleighnc.gov)