

LINKS

Your Link to Lifelong Learning

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Greener Pastures Ahead

By Tom Conway, Jr.
*Blue Green Alliance, Regional
Program Manager*

We live in an exciting time for the American manufacturing, despite the economic slow down in the U.S. and across the globe. President Obama has made his priorities clear, and they include restoring America's working-class, making our country energy independent, and combating global climate change. This set of priorities is shared by the Blue Green Alliance, a national partnership between labor unions and environmental organizations of which the USW was a founding member.

The demand for energy in the U.S. is growing at an incredible rate; fortunately, exciting technologies can help meet that demand without contributing to climate change. Renewable Energy production and Energy Efficiency measures have the potential to trans-

form the American economy, if done in the right way.

In early February, the Blue Green Alliance hosted the second annual



GoodJobs/GreenJobs conference in Washington D.C. It was an exciting event, coinciding with the USW's Rapid Response conference. 2,700 people attended as Labor, Environmental, Business and Government representa-

tives made the case for a Green Economy that will immediately combat the devastating unemployment and lay the long-term foundation for energy independence, a healthier planet, and a strong middle-class.

I was in attendance with other members of the ICD staff, and we were all struck by the exciting potential that this presents for Local Career Development Programs. Your JobLink benefit is ready, willing and able to offer educational opportunities in Renewable Energy, such as Wind, Solar and Geothermal and also in Energy Efficiency for the home and workplace. These skill sets will be in high demand in the years to come and an industry standard certification in any one of these areas will carry a lot of weight in the emerging green jobs market as well as help you learn how to ease the pain of that monthly utility bill.

Reaching your Goal: Listening and Learning

In the fall of 2004 Rodney Dobbins, Safety Advocate from Field Forces had a conversation that changed his life. An outside contractor gave him some sage advice. "You've got the experience now in safety, so if you go out and get some education, when you reach your 30 in five years, you'll be able to write your own ticket." He decided to see what Purdue had to offer in safety classes.

So in spring of 2005 Rodney began to pursue a Safety Certificate at Purdue Calumet. The program consisted of five safety related courses. "The good thing about certificates is that you can build on them," says Rodney. And that's just what he did. He recently finished another certificate, this one in Emergency Management.

"A professor convinced me of the value of getting a certificate in Emergency Management (EM). This involves preparing for and then dealing with a disaster: mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. What was cool about this is since there was an overlap in the requirements between the Safety Certificate and the Emergency Management; I could complete the second certificate with just four extra courses.

"Dean Larson was the professor who suggested that I continue my education in Emergency Management. He said this

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From Diane's Desk

*Diane Lentz
JobLink Coordinator*

JobLink celebrates 19 years this July!

JobLink is having a good year with some new efforts. JobLink started a new series of Telecast courses to introduce electrical principles and improve skills for steelworkers who are interested in MTE and/or MTM and passing the Ramsay test. In addition, JobLink continues to add more telecast courses. Telecast courses make it easy for you to make-up a missed class or review material from the convenience of your computer.

In addition, we are looking at **ALL** of our courses to determine which ones can be more Earth friendly and taught in a green way. This also means that we are looking at courses that will prepare steelworkers for green jobs after retirement or for part-time employment (not to mention, the rebates that are available when you remodel with green technology).

So what was participation this year by Local 1010 steelworkers?

In 2008, there were 3865 steelworkers eligible for JobLink courses. Our participation rate was 27.8% (that's 1073 students. Each steelworker is counted once for the participation rate.) Our utilization rate was 67% That's 2585 classroom seats.

So 2008 was a good year, and we are hoping for even a better one this year. Our teachers and staff work hard behind the scenes to bring you new courses and deliver their best in the courses that they offer.

Thank you for making JobLink the success it is.

...Viewpoints...

*Steve Wagner
Local 1010 Representative*

Can we really afford to stop learning?

Now is the time to stay focused on our educational objectives! While we are all pinching our pennies as we live through this depressed economy, it is good to see 1010 members participating in Joblink classes. Learning at this time in our lives can be fun and actually save us some money by making our own improvements around the house. Remember that the education benefits that we have extend well beyond the classes offered at Joblink. We have customized classes offered at Joblink and other career development sites and we have the Tuition Assistance Program type classes offered at various educational institutions. Remember that your Career Development Benefits can help you prepare for a future job opportunity, continue to progress on your current job, or improve your skills with personal development classes.

Please be aware that even if you were recently laid off, you may still participate in Joblink.

Economic times are tough but so are Steelworkers. Let's keep our eye on our future by utilizing our union negotiated education benefits today!



*Roger Hughes
Management Representative*

"Give a person a fish; you feed him for a day. Teach a person to fish; and you have fed him for a lifetime." This adage identifies the essence of training and the "need to learn." The "need to learn" is never ending; it keeps us youthful, vibrant and alive. It expands our perceptions and broadens our horizons culturally, socially and economically. Moreover, the "need to learn" responds to changes that occur in our personal life, family life and work life. In this uncertain economic climate, change is happening all around us; recognizing there is a learning center like JobLink, and other ICD facilities, gives hope that change can be positive and is not always a negative.

"Hello" to all who participate in the many programs offered at JobLink. Since this is my inaugural article in the newsletter it is fitting that I share a bit of information about

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The Links editorial staff would like to thank our assistant editor Joe Woessner for all his help over the years. Joe retired the first of this year and we wish him all the best!

Joe, thanks for a great job!

***Links** is a student publication of the Bernard Kleiman JobLink Learning Center*

Student Editor: Tom Zmigrocki Contributing Editor: Marcia L. Taylor

JobLink Subcommittee: Diane Lentz, Roger Hughes, Steve Wagner

“Know Maintenance” for the Summer Garden

By Wayne Gruber
Gardens on the Prairie, Lowell, IN

The concept of sustainable gardening is quickly becoming very trendy. But maybe this trend, is not a trend at all as gardening becomes more accountable. In Roy Diblik's new book, Small Perennial Gardens - the Know Maintenance Approach, Roy explains the concept of sustainability through maintenance. His practical, “know maintenance” approach to gardening is quickly becoming evident in the city of Chicago where he is involved in several high profile landscape design and installation projects.

As our gardening season begins to heat up, my thoughts turn from spring renewal and excitement to summer heat, drought and a little bit of burn-out. Now is a great time to incorporate sustainable plants and “nativars” into our client's gardens. Once established, these plants will begin to require less care and have less impact on natural resources. Furthermore, it is still all about knowing maintenance.

A few things to consider: 1) Right plant, right place which is the “Know Maintenance” approach. It is important to know your site and the conditions the plant must reside in. Once the site and conditions are established, you can devise a list of successful plants for your garden. 2) Realize that all plants need an establishment period from several months up to a year which means that watering and weeding are critical. A drought-tolerant plant will sustain dry conditions only after it has a well-developed, established root system. 3) Select plants that are sustainable and consider natives and “nativars” (Native Cultivars as devised by Allan Armitage). Most of these plants are not new, but rather underused and in many cases unknown to the general public.

Let's start thinking about the “BIG” picture. Roy has a great concept, combine plants into communities that live and thrive together and be accountable for our landscape work. It all starts with a few small steps. Get to KNOW the plants, KNOW the maintenance, and you will KNOW how to become accountable and sustainable in your landscape designs/installations.



The plants and combinations are endless so this is just a beginning:

Allium angulosum ‘Summer Beauty’ (Allium) – Beautiful, globe shaped lilac flowers that bloom in late June into late July. Can reach 18” tall by 18” wide. Best grown in average to well drained soil in full sun. Zones 4-9.

Eryngium yuccifolium (Rattlesnake Master) – Greenish white globe shaped flowers that bloom in June through September. Can reach 5’ tall by 3’ wide. Sprawling habit when planted in fertile soil or part shade. Best grown in full sun. Zones 3-8.

Echinacea tenesseeensis (Tennessee Coneflower) – Charming light purple flowers from mid June into September. Can reach 22” tall by 20” wide. Grows best in well drained soil in full sun. High organic matter and frequent irrigation will shorten the life of this plant. Zones 3-9.

Eupatorium dubium ‘Little Joe’ (Joe Pye Weed) – Medium to rich purple flowers from mid August to late September. A short version of ‘Gateway’ only reaching 4’ tall by 3’ wide. Grows best in average to moist soil in full sun to light shade. Great for attracting butterflies! Zones 4-8.

Stachys monieri ‘Hummelo’ (Lambs Ear) – Rich purple flowers appear early July into August. Can reach 22” tall by 12” wide. Average to moist fertile soil in full sun to light shade. Zones 4-8.

Panicum virgatum ‘Northwind’ (Northwind Switch Grass) – Beautiful blue foliage with a very upright habit. Seeds in September with very erect plumes. Will reach 5’ tall by 3’ wide. Full sun. Zones 5-9.

Panicum virgatum ‘Shenandoah’ (Shenandoah Switch Grass) – June through Fall foliage is a deep, burgundy red with a very upright habit. Will reach 3-4’ tall by 3-4’ wide. Seeds are reddish pink from July through February. Prefers medium to wet soil conditions, but will tolerate sand or heavy clay. Grows best in full sun to part shade. Zones 4-9.

Molina caerulea ‘Moorhexe’ (Purple Moor Grass) – Clumps of green leaves with a very upright habit. Seeds June through August. Can reach 3’ tall by 3’ wide. Prefers medium to moist soil, tolerates low soil fertility. Full sun to part shade. Zones 5-8.

Sesleria autumnalis (Autumn Moor Grass) – Evergreen foliage into January with a mounding habit. Seeds start green and white maturing to brown from August through November. Can reach 16” tall by 16” wide. Likes average to well drained soil. Grows best in full sun to part shade. Zones 5-11.

Staff News

Who's Doing What at JobLink?

Christine Rath at JobLink

By Rick Wold



I recently attended three new classes being offered by JobLink. The classes covered "Real Estate Investment", "Landlording" and "Remodeling". All three focused on methods to save money, make money and spend the least amount of money possible to accomplish your task. Since all three classes were only one-day sessions, my expectations were to receive a light overview of the subjects being covered. I couldn't have been more wrong. I received more tips and insights than I can ever remember receiving in a one class session.

Christine Rath was the instructor for these classes and she proved to be very knowledgeable as well as able to present the material on a level that was easy to understand and applicable to the topic. Christine herself started as an investor nearly 20 years ago by accidentally purchasing her first property at a home auction. You'll have to sign up for her class on real estate investing to get the full story.

She possesses a wealth of practical tips and techniques based on her own hands-on experiences. Christine brings her passion for teaching to many topics.

Christine is also currently working on a couple of books as well as a new class entitled "How to Travel the World without Spending a World of Money".

I highly recommend you attend her classes!

Words To Remember!

Memory is man's real possession. In nothing else is he rich; in nothing else is he poor.

Alexander Smith

(Continued from page 1) *Reaching your goal!*

would tie in with my Safety Certificate and would look good on a resume. He also recommended that I get a safety certification as an OHST, Occupational Health and Safety Technologist. This requires five years minimum of actual safety experience plus college."

In 2008, Rodney became an OSHA Outreach Trainer in both General Industry and in the Construction Industry. Again an outside contractor gave some valuable advice.

"He suggested how useful it would be for me to have an OSHA 500 trainer card so when I retire from here it would make me more employable. This card authorizes you to teach and issue 10 and 30 hour construction OSHA cards. I also went after the 501 OSHA training card for General Industry. I figured if one was good for employment, two would be better covering you for both industries."

Rodney also got his OHST certification in March 2009 by taking a four-hour 200 question computer-based test which he passed the first time he took it. Officially on 6/01/09, Rodney is eligible to retire with 30 years service from Arcelor-Mittal Indiana Harbor. For nearly 17 years he was a mechanic, but since July 1996 he has been a full time Safety Advocate for Field Forces.

"Everything that I've done in school has helped me on the job as a Safety Advocate and prepared me for future employment after I leave here. JobLink has been great helping me with the costly expenses of going to school. Because I was pursuing a career goal, I could access both customized funding and TAP funding totaling \$3,800 a year. These courses add up in a hurry."

Now Rodney's giving others advice: "You are never too old to go back to school. Set a goal and stick to it."



A big thanks to our retiree participants

JobLink's window boxes are full of flowers. Each box has been planted and cared for by retirees. They will compete in the fall for the best looking window box. Our gardeners are: Ronnie Rogers, Tina Villareal, Hilario Gonzalez (with Linda Golden), plus Art Martinez & Joe Magura.

Answers to the back page quiz:

1. c Human activities such as burning fossil fuels have caused the increase.
2. d. Phytoplankton in the oceans produce 70% of atmospheric oxygen.
3. a. Appro. 97% of earth's water is ocean—salt water.
4. d. What a waste!

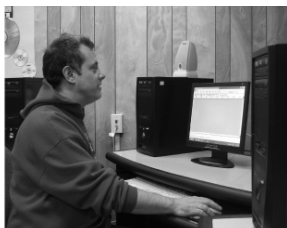


A degree in pajamas



By Marcia Taylor

John Tomaselli has 80 credits towards a degree in Information Technology and he's never been on campus. Empire State University began as the online college of SUNY, the State University of New York. Since the ICD negotiated a cooperative plan with them, steelworkers have been able to take advantage of competitive pricing for college degree programs.



John, an electrician from 2 Steel Producing, first got a certificate in electronics long ago from Prairie State College in Illinois. He went on to finish the apprenticeship program here in the mill. But since 2000, he's been slowly working towards a bachelor's degree in Information Technology by taking distance education classes. He's about two-thirds of the way there.

"Life sometimes gets in the way," says the father of three grown children, and now a grandfather. He's taking a break right now, but hopes to pick up more credits during summer or fall semester.

"Sometimes you go five days without going online, then you go another five days of going online all the time."

As a shiftworker, being able to get onto the Internet at any time is more than beneficial. John thinks it's the only way he would have been able to earn all of the credits he has.

"I can come home at 11:00 at night, go online and get stuff done. Or even after midnights. But you have to discipline yourself. The classes are lengthy, but excellent."

(Continued from page 2) Roger Hughes

me. I have just completed my 29th year of service in the steel industry. I began my career with the Inland Steel Company. I spent eight years as a supervisor in the Blast Furnace Department and then transferred to Labor Relations, spending 20 years there. One year ago, I was offered the assignment as Training Coordinator and eagerly accepted it. The reason I was so eager to accept the assignment stems from my past experience in education as a teacher in the Crown Point Community School System. I enjoyed teaching and the educational environment. I often thought that I'd like to get back to it some day. Now it feels like I have. Yeah! My loving wife is Laurie; I have three children: Vanessa, Rodman and Gerald, and I live in an historic home in Valparaiso. Now, that's enough about me.

I recently visited the JobLink web site to familiarize myself with ICD principles, the JobLink mission statement, and the programs offered. I was immediately struck by the professionalism exhibited. What affected me the most was a testimony offered by a JobLink student. As a closing thought, I'd like to share that testimonial with you.

"JobLink has given me the courage to dream. I can now see myself in the expanding world of knowledge-based opportunities, because I have become an efficient learner. JobLink has enabled me to pursue that dream by providing me with the skill building help that I needed."



Joblink Reminder

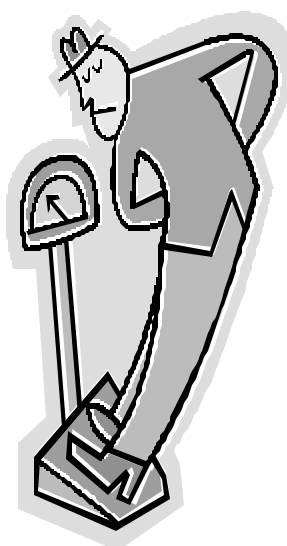


*Enjoy your summer...
JobLink's summer hours are:*

*Monday—Thursday
8:30 am to 5:30 pm
Closed on Fridays
from June 13 through July 31*

How do you
gain by losing?

*With Weight Watchers -
We are proud to announce
that so far JobLink Weight
Watcher students have lost
**1970.6 pounds -
NEARLY A TON!**
**Sign up for the fall-
Weight Watcher Class***



Bernard Kleiman *JobLink* Learning Center

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JobLink Friends:

Rick Barna	[3 C/S E 80" Tandem]
Ken Bogucki	[Utilities 5A/C]
Jaime Calderon	[#2 Cold Strip]
Tom Christman	[80" Hot Strip]
Jesse Flores	[Plt. 4 Maint.]
Julian Gonzales	[MHS]
Bob Guevara	[Plt. 1 Galv.]
Randy Hendrix	[Plt. 2 Electrician]
Kevin Kelly Sr	[IN Harbor Coke]
Ed McHaskell	[Coke Energy]
Mike Nelson	[4BOF Mech Turn]
Gail Richardson	[3 Cold Strip West]
Luis Rodriguez	[Integrated Quality & Prod Dev]
Phillip Rodriguez	[5 AC/Utilities]
John Shultz	[3 Cold Strip West]
Genfu Tai	[R & D]
Jerry Torres	[MEU]
Nick Valle	[Union Hall]
Dan Vertucci	[3 Cold Strip, Mechanical]
John Walker	[#4 S.P.]
Tom Zmigrocki	[Plt. 1 Machine Shop]

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The Greendex Quiz *(from a project sponsored by National Geographic)*

1. What is the primary cause of the recent increase in Earth's temperatures?

a. The atmospheric ozone hole, b. increased output from the sun c. an increase in carbon dioxide in the atmosphere d. changes in the earth's orbit

2. What percentage of the oxygen we breath is from the oceans?

a. 1 % b. 15 % c. 30 % d. over 50%

3. What percent of the Earth's water is considered fresh water?

a. Less than 5 % b. 10% c. 15 % d. over 40%

4. Approximately how much electricity used in an incandescent light bulb is wasted because it is turned into heat instead of light?

a. 15% b. 30 % c. 60% d. 90%



Check you answers on page 4. Also check out the website: www.nationalgeographic.com/greendex

What's Inside The Link?

Did you notice?
This is our green
issue.



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Page 2: From our committee: Diane, Steve and Roger

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