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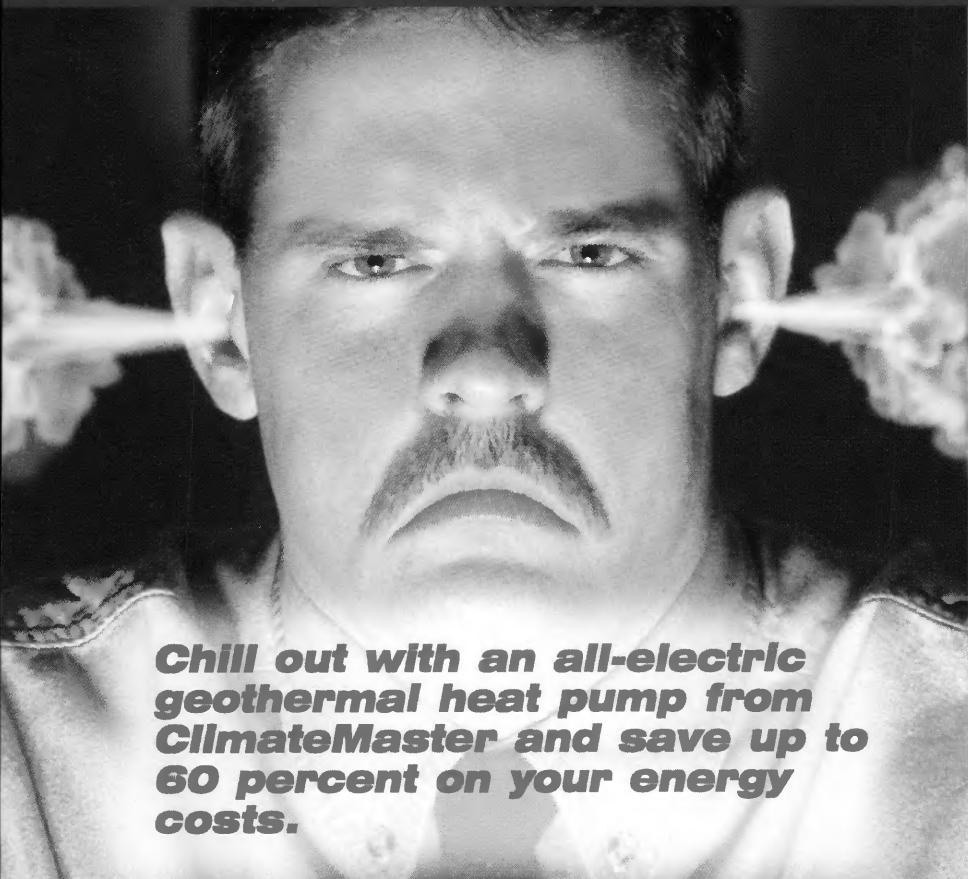
October 2001

### Wild Illinois

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## COVER STORY

### 10 Bringing back wild Illinois habitat

On the cover: (l to r) Stuart Allison, director of Knox County College's Green Oaks Research Station; Cal Williams, Corn Belt Energy's manager of vegetation and safety; Randy Lusher, vegetation specialist for BASF; Randy Chamberlain, owner of Chamberlain Tree Service and Mike Nelson, manager of construction and maintenance for Corn Belt's northern region found a way to bring back prairie habitat in the co-op's right of way. Find out how others are also bringing back a little bit of wild Illinois.

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While the kids are out getting chocolate filled goodies, why not make some treats of your own. Try Brownie Swirl Cheesecake from the recipe collection of Ladies Aid of Bell Ridge Christian Church, or Magic Cookie Bars from the recipe collection of Hamilton County Homemakers Extension Association.



### 29 ILLINOIS DATEBOOK

This month, celebrate Illinois' history by attending the Susan Lawrence Dana Memorial Birthday Celebration at the Dana-Thomas House in Springfield, the Harvest Frolic and 1845 Agricultural Fair at Lincoln Log Cabin State Historical Site in Lerna, and the Candlelight Tour of New Salem Homes at Lincoln's New Salem in Petersburg.

# Illinois COMMENTARY

## Co-ops managing deregulation's changes

As individuals, change is difficult for us to accept. As a nation any kind of major change becomes a political nightmare, fraught with special interests and diverse agendas. However, change does occur and those companies that manage the process the best tend to meet with consistent, long-term success.

The cooperative program has met the challenge of change numerous times since its humble beginnings.

Our business model has truly withstood the test of time.

Today, with deregulation, co-ops are once again faced with the challenges of change. By following co-op principles, they're doing quite well.

Although the economy has cooled, America's economic strength over the past few years has brought substantial electrical load growth. While there were a few isolated power supply

problems in the summers of 1998 and 1999, there has not been a major crisis in most co-op operating areas. There is a general belief that the problems of California are unique. So, one might ask, what has changed and why should co-ops be doing something now?

What has changed? Basically, wholesale power has been deregulated. The power supply and transmission components of the electric industry are no longer totally regulated. This creates significant price and operational risk for the power supply segment of the cooperative program. It can have an indirect effect on the distribution segment if not managed properly.

Generation and transmission cooperatives

David Tudor joined the Alliance for Cooperative Energy Service (ACES) Power Marketing in 1999. ACES Power Marketing is a national wholesale energy and risk management cooperative owned by seven generation and transmission cooperatives, including Southern Illinois Power Cooperative. Before joining ACES, Tudor was in charge of risk management and software for Pacific Gas and Electric.

The opinions and views of guest commentators are their own and may not represent those of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives or the electric co-ops of Illinois.

(G&Ts) usually have a fixed price and floating-load sales contract with their distribution cooperative owners. However, in the wholesale power supply market co-ops can no longer rely on "cost based" economics. Instead co-ops have been thrown into a world of volatile prices and reliability uncertainty. Since most G&Ts do not generate all of their power, they have substantial price risk for the rest of the power supply they need to meet their members demand for power.

One other problem few in the media have explained is the lack of transmission line access. Like a large pipeline for electricity, transmission lines that before only delivered power from one specific point to another, are now being asked to ship power in an open market. The transmission grid that once served virtually closed markets is now asked to become the interstate highway system for electricity. Electricity must be moved in "market value" directions. Because the transmission grid was not designed for this, reliability risks have surfaced.

Over the past five years a frenzy of mergers has occurred in the investor-owned utility sector creating utilities that have both product (natural gas, oil and power) and geographic diversity. Basically, they have become nationally-focused energy companies versus regional utilities.

Many of these large utilities have created regulated and unregulated divisions of their corporations. They continue to earn regulated rates of return on their regulated utility operation and utilize the cash flow and earnings to invest in their unregulated businesses. The earnings of some of these unregulated subsidiaries have been phenomenal.

These unregulated entities flourish on price volatility. Their integrated operations allow them to make "pancake" returns as they trade natural gas and oil, supply their own merchant power plants, and sell power into the daily market. The flexibility in their asset portfolio and trading positions allows them to make money all along the value chain.

There is nothing illegal or even immoral about their methods. In fact, what they do is the essence of "free enterprise." However, this creates significant problems for G&T co-ops and their distribution co-op

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**David Tudor,**  
ACES President/CEO

problems in the summers of 1998 and 1999, there has not been a major crisis in most co-op operating areas. There is a general belief that the problems of California are unique. So, one might ask, what has changed and why should co-ops be doing something now?

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Above statements are extracted from letters received by the publisher from readers

\* Testimonials are atypical, your weight loss may be more or less.

## Tree care display a hit at fair

**Right-of-way maintenance is sometimes a controversial subject. Trees too close to power lines have to be trimmed or removed to provide safe and reliable power without blinks and outages. To help members understand proper pruning techniques and tree care, the Illinois Touchstone Energy® co-ops sponsored a display at this year's state fairs in Springfield and DuQuoin.**

**Cal Williams, manager of vegetation and safety for Corn Belt Energy, Bloomington, built the display. It's obvious he really appreciates and understands trees. Not only does he live in a log home, one of his hobbies is carving massive wood creations, like a 7-foot grizzly bear, with a chainsaw. "My grandfather started my interest in trees," says Williams. "He used to have a nursery. We would gather nuts in the fall and he helped me learn to identify different trees."**

**Williams has helped train other co-op right-of-way employees so they understand how to make selective cuts**



Cal Williams (center) of Corn Belt Energy talks to state fair goers about proper tree pruning techniques. Proper pruning can train a tree to grow away from power lines or a house, and keep it healthy and strong.

**as an arborist would. "Number one we have to deliver reliable service at the lowest possible cost, but at the same time we try to not make a severe impact on trees," he says. An improperly pruned tree can become weak and**

**diseased. Eventually it may fall into a power line or house.**

**For more information go to: [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org) or [www.isa-arbor.com](http://www.isa-arbor.com).**

## Illinois Commentary

(Continued from page 4)

owners. The cooperative business model is based on providing reliable power at the lowest price possible in a non-profit manner. Cooperatives do not want price volatility. Instead they prefer consistent, low prices and efficient operations.

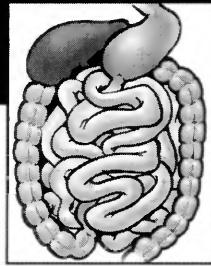
G&Ts find themselves in a very different world today and have been forced to change. The most efficient changes are difficult to identify in advance and to prioritize. The very essence of the cooperative business model is under attack both commercially and politically. So, how do we change to meet the operational demands of the market and not abandon our business model? The answer lies in our time-tested cooperative principles.

I believe that in order to meet the challenges of the deregulated wholesale world, we must follow the principles that have guided us through the years. G&Ts must cooperate on a national basis, federate

their services in this new business, and meet the change head-on. Many G&Ts are proactively modifying their power supply strategies to manage this new risk. For example, the organization I am so fortunate to represent, ACES Power Marketing, has federated 18 G&Ts into one national risk management organization.

The size and strength of the G&Ts working together on a national front will allow them to be competitive on a regional basis. We do not need to abandon our business model, instead we need to use it as the guide to again manage change and strengthen our cooperative foundation. Change does not necessarily mean adopt. Sometimes it simply means focus. As co-op members and leaders, let's focus on how we can use the principles of cooperation to manage our businesses through deregulation.

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## **Energy bill passes the House**

The House passed a national energy policy bill—H.R. 4, Securing America's Future Energy Act—in early August. It resembles parts of the President's energy strategy.

The bill raises automobile fuel economy standards; authorizes increased spending for Department of Energy research and development programs; provides tax incentives to the tune of \$33.5 billion over 10 years for clean coal, renewable energy and energy efficient technologies; and allows for oil and gas drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR).

**Co-op gains included limited tax relief—specifically relief from the 85/15 non-member income test. Under current tax laws, 85 percent of an electric cooperative's income must come from its members in order for the co-op to retain its tax-exempt status. However, in a restructured electricity market, co-ops may be required to engage in activities that could put their tax-exempt status in jeopardy.**

Source: NRECA; *Electric Power Daily*

## **Sign up for a hunter safety education class**

All hunters born on or after Jan. 1, 1980, must successfully complete this course before they can receive their first hunting license. For more information or to put your name on a waiting list for the next scheduled class in your area, phone (800) 832-2599. Information about these classes can also be found on the IDNR's web site at <http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/education/safety/index.htm>.

## **Co-op role continues to grow as industry changes**

The electric cooperative movement will have an important role in the deregulated energy markets, says National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) CEO Glenn English.

In a recent press briefing for electric industry and consumer reporters, English, said that precedents set by deregulation of other industries were not encouraging for rural residential consumers and small businesses. The main beneficiaries of restructuring are often large companies, leaving residential customers and smaller businesses to miss out on the promised lower prices.

"After restructuring, we're going to find lawmakers scrambling to deal with all these people that get left by the side of the road," said English. And electric cooperatives, he concluded, have always been there to provide electricity for people that IOUs find to be unprofitable.

Sources: NRECA; *BNA Daily Report for Executives*

## **Energy plan moving in right direction**

President Bush's national energy policy, which calls for producing more energy, revitalizing the electric utility transmission system, developing clean coal technology and other broad energy goals, is "moving in the right direction, generally speaking," said National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Chief Executive Officer, Glenn English.

"We're very pleased with the approach the administration is taking toward recognizing that coal-fired generation can be made cleaner," English said. He noted that while coal-generated energy has tripled over the past 20 years, emissions from coal-burning plants have been cut by one-third.

Turning to the issue of regulating the electric industry, the NRECA chief said he is concerned about the plan's recommendation to repeal the Public Utility Holding Company Act.

Although the law is decades old, the "need for consumer protection still exists," he said perhaps even more today with the power that utility holding companies wield in the market.

Bush formally released his policy on May 17 at Touchstone Energy Place, St. Paul, Minn.

Source: *Electric Cooperative Today*, Bill Pritchard

## **Affordable housing key to rural growth**

One limiting factor to growth in rural Illinois communities is access to affordable housing. It is also key to retaining youth and in meeting the special needs of the elderly. The Illinois Rural Housing Task Force was formed as a Rural Partners working group to develop strategies for improving access to affordable rural housing.

As one of its first steps the task force is sponsoring a conference on affordable housing, which is scheduled for December 4 and 5 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield. The conference is designed to provide community leaders needed information and to identify resources that will help them address this critical rural issue. For more information, contact Cynthia Struthers at [CB-Struthers@wiu.edu](mailto:CB-Struthers@wiu.edu) or go to [www.iira.org](http://www.iira.org) and select News and Events.

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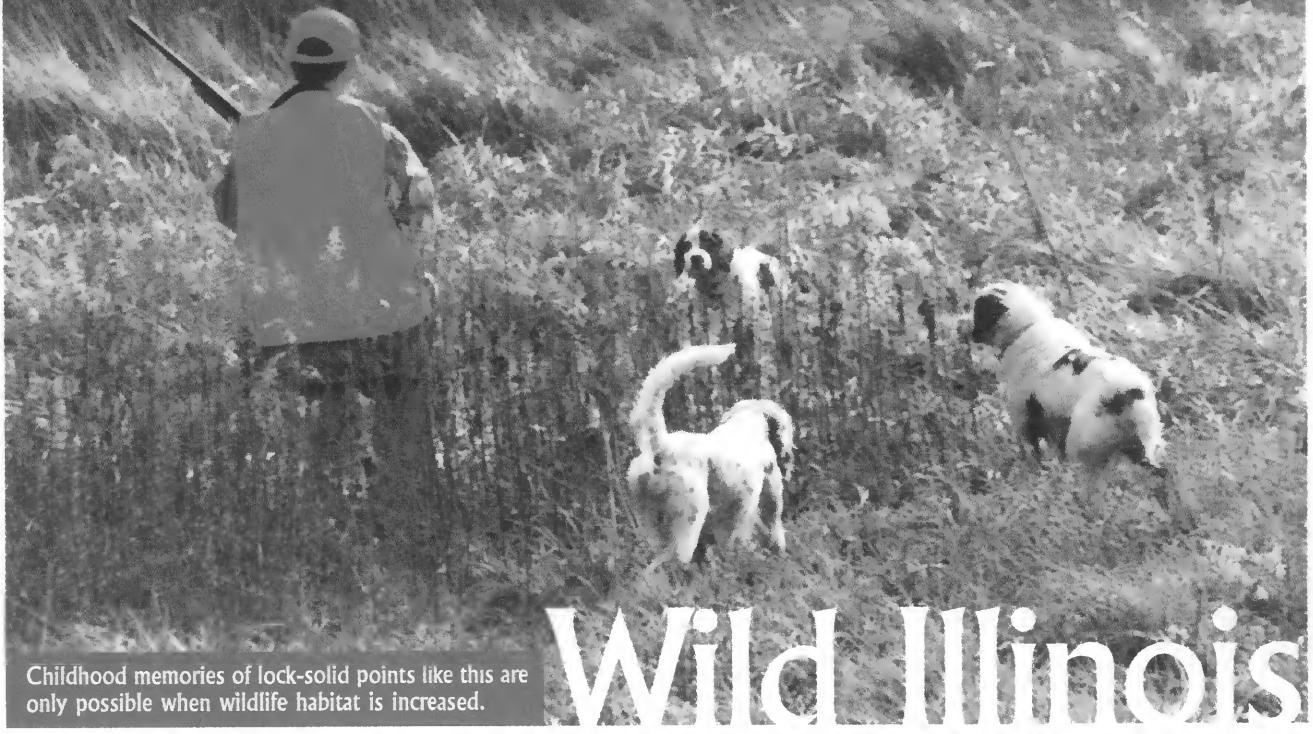
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Childhood memories of lock-solid points like this are only possible when wildlife habitat is increased.

# Wild Illinois

Farmers, homeowners and co-ops bringing back a little bit of prairie paradise

by John Lowrey

"Most of us recall our childhood when there were a lot of rabbits and a lot of wild game," says Keyser.



Programs like CRP and Pheasants Forever help increase game bird and non-game populations alike.

Watching the sun come up, my son Andrew and I drove south to meet Sheldon Keyser and his son Alex for our first quail hunt of the season. An overgrown and abandoned railroad bed ran between the road and open fields of rich, black Illinois dirt. I nearly spilled my coffee when, out of the corner of my eye, I noticed a flash of color. It was a brightly colored cock pheasant strutting his stuff on top of a large round bale.

Although he looked like the king of the hill, that poor pheasant really didn't have much of a kingdom. The railroad right of way was overgrown with weeds and grass, but it wasn't very wide. Yet it offered the only food and shelter for miles.

At Keyser's farm near Hoyteton it is a different story. Land around a creek and other areas of erodible land have been enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), and it's become a wildlife

paradise in just a few years.

The CRP is a natural win-win program for the environment, wildlife and farmers. Keyser says, "You may not make quite as much money on the Conservation Reserve Program as you would farming in a good year, but farming highly erodable land has a high risk factor anyway. With the Conservation Reserve Program, you know what you are going to get for the next 10 years. If you enjoy hunting and you enjoy wildlife like I do, it is a natural."

Keyser also likes the challenge of learning what it takes to promote wildlife habitat. "Most of us recall our childhood when there were a lot of rabbits and a lot of wild game," says Keyser. "Today it simply isn't there. We went from many farmsteads and a lot of woven wire fencerows, to a situation now where we have more open land, less shelter, less cover and more predator problems. The chal-

lenge now is to try to bring back some of that wildlife."

It's worked. Wildlife has come back. "I have higher populations of deer, quail, turkey and some rabbit than in any other place in the surrounding area," says Keyser.

Wildlife habitat enhancement has been a success, but one of the core reasons for CRP, and many other conservation programs, is watershed improvement. By planting habitat-enhancing trees, grasses and food plots, landowners are also reducing soil erosion and improving water quality. "Water coming off my ground enters the streams, and that is the water supply for the town next door," says Keyser. The program also benefits native fish populations and can assist in flood control.

Governor Ryan signed an agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in August that expands the state's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) to the entire Illinois River watershed. An additional 32,000 acres can now be enrolled. This is in addition to the 100,000 acres that were part of the initial 15-year, \$459 million program that started in 1998. Already 88,000 acres have been enrolled and Illinois is approaching the 100,000 acre cap. CREP payment, at 130 percent of the dry land cash rental rate for the county, offers roughly twice the annual rent of CRP. Nationwide last year the average CRP payment per farm was \$4,833. Illinois is number eight out of the top 10 CRP states.

It seems like everyone wants to reform the 1996 "Freedom to Farm" bill, and the U.S. House Agriculture Committee recommended passage of "The Farm Security Act of 2001" (H.R. 2646). The House is ahead of the Senate on its version of a farm bill and H.R. 2646 devotes \$16 billion over 10 years to soil, water and wildlife programs. This is a 75 percent increase in spending, and reauthorizes CRP through 2011 with a 39.5 million acre enrollment cap. This is less than many

habitat enhancement groups like Pheasants Forever and many farm organizations hoped for, but it does recognize the success of a program that was set to expire in December 2002.

H.R. 2646 also reauthorizes the Wetlands Reserve Program, the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program and the Grassland Reserve Program. These programs can help landowners by providing cost-sharing payments for establishing the conservation practices. CRP is administered through the Commodity Credit Corporation and Farm Service Agency, with support provided by Natural Resources Conservation Service, Cooperative Research and Education Extension Service, state forestry agencies and local soil and water conservation districts.



Forests provide shelter but grassland habitat is needed for grazing.

"I have higher populations of deer, quail, turkey and some rabbit than in any other place in the surround-

ing area," says Keyser.

## Co-op's powerful habitat project



Project Habitat is converting co-op right of way to wildlife food, nesting and cover.

Illinois electric co-ops manage 54,740 miles of right of way in a never-ending cycle of cutting, trimming and mowing. Just imagine maintaining an overgrown backyard that is thousands of miles long. Mechanical methods of right-of-way maintenance are expensive, labor intensive and have to be repeated.

Corn Belt Energy Corporation, a cooperative headquartered in Bloomington, has found a better way. It's called Project Habitat. By using low-volume selective herbicides after mechanical clearing, the co-op is taking out tall growing woody plants and allowing natural grasses to take over the right of way. These native grasses then help choke out future growth of trees and brush that cause blinking lights and outages. The result is a grassy fringe area perfect for wildlife food and nesting areas.

Running along the 760 acre Green Oaks Research Station, which is managed by Knox County College, is a power line maintained by Corn Belt Energy. Not long ago the line was overgrown with trees, and blinking lights and outages were common, says Mike Nelson, manager of construction and maintenance for the co-op's northern region. "We've seen a real decrease in our outages and blinking lights throughout our northern region," says Nelson. And he adds that a well-maintained right of way with fewer obstacles makes it easier for linemen to repair outage problems when they do occur.

Working with the college, Corn Belt Energy first enlisted the help of Chamberlain Tree Service to clear the trees. Next, the co-op started the Project Habitat demonstration. Project Habitat is sponsored by Quail Unlimited, the National Wild Turkey Federation, Quality Deer Management Association, Buckmasters, Butterfly Lovers International and BASF. Project Habitat enhances wildlife habitat and creates a long-term, low-cost answer for dramatically reducing blinking lights and outages.

"Once we establish control, we just go in with backpack sprayers and do low-volume treatment and just treat the small woody plants," says Cal Williams, right of way superintendent for Corn Belt Energy. Williams takes his work seriously and is one of the state's first certified utility arborists.

Knox College restored about 40 acres out of the 760 to native prairie grass. Now the old abandoned strip mine area is a wildlife oasis and an asset for the college and community. Stuart Allison, director of the Green Oaks Research Station, says, "This spring I was walking through the woods and I almost stepped on a wild turkey. He came up just like a pheasant and almost gave me a heart attack."

Mike Davidson, manager of Oak Run, a golf course and residential community of 500 homes, also likes the results of Corn Belt Energy's Project Habitat work. Al-

though he says it may make it harder on golfers who can't keep the ball in the fairway, he likes the texture of the natural grasses and wildflowers in the right of way. He has also noticed a wildlife comeback. "On my way over from the golf course to meet with Cal, I saw a momma Turkey and eight little ones following behind," he says. He is also working with a local Pheasants Forever chapter to establish native grass habitat.

Consumer education is essential to both wildlife enhancement

and right-of-way management. It is a strong suit for Williams. He has developed a show and tell program for member meetings that shows the cross section of trees that have been pruned properly and improperly. He shared his arborist training and knowledge with thousands of consumers at this year's state fairs in Springfield and DuQuoin. He advises members to plant low growing species like Red Bud near power lines and homes, and to have a trained arborist properly prune tall growing species.

## Your backyard habitat



Natural landscaping provides fruits, nuts, seeds and nectar that can attract birds and other wildlife to your yard.

We all love our nice green lawns, but they are a pretty sterile habitat for wildlife. Nationwide these small areas of green represent an area twice the size of Pennsylvania (50 million acres), consume 30 to 60 percent of the water we use and create 18 percent

of the landfill waste. And lawns are a pain to mow.

It really doesn't matter where you live or how much land you have, you can improve the wildlife habitat on your property with little effort or expense. Start by cutting your lawn in half. Then select na-

tive grass, ground cover, shrubs, flowers and trees. Native plants will support 10 times more species of wildlife and be easier to maintain than non-native plants. It costs \$700 per acre per year to maintain a lawn, but just \$30 per acre for a

wildflower meadow.

Remember, besides food and shelter, water is essential. Instead of a birdbath, why not create a small pond that will benefit more than just the birds in your area?

Finally, you can benefit wildlife

and your aching back by leaving that brush pile. Next, put out some high calorie foods such as sunflower seed and suet. Then get out your binoculars and enjoy the wild show.

**Native plants will support  
10 times more species of  
wildlife and be easier to  
maintain than  
non-native plants.**



This SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative right of way in the Shawnee National Forest was cleared and planted in partnership with the National Forest Service and National Turkey Federation.

## For more information

CRP and CREP – contact your local USDA Service Center, Farm Service Agency office or Soil and Water Conservation District office. Information is also available at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

Illinois Department of Natural Resources – [www.dnr.state.il.us](http://www.dnr.state.il.us)

Pheasants Forever – [www.pheasantsforever.org](http://www.pheasantsforever.org)

Project Habitat – [www.4vegmgmt.com](http://www.4vegmgmt.com)

Quail Unlimited – [www.qu.org](http://www.qu.org)

The National Wild Turkey Federation – [www.NWTF.org](http://www.NWTF.org)

Quality Deer Management – [www.qdma.org](http://www.qdma.org)

Buckmasters – [www.buckmasters.com](http://www.buckmasters.com)

National Wildlife Federation's Backyard Habitat - <http://nwf.org/habitats/>

National Bird-Feeding Society – [www.birdfeeding.org](http://www.birdfeeding.org)

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, database of native American plants – [www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org)



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# Safety AROUND YOUR HOME

## Protecting trick-or-treaters from non-monster dangers

It's time again for ghosts and goblins, fairy princesses and cowboys to come creeping through your neighborhood, trick-or-treating their way to as much candy as will fit in their sacks. Children love Halloween. Outfits are planned months ahead of time and mouths drool in anticipation of all the candy to come. When the day finally arrives, they can hardly contain their excitement. But, too often, what should be a fun evening can turn deadly. The real danger to trick-or-treaters comes not from monsters lurking in the night, but from unsafe costumes and the hazards associated with traveling from house to house.

You can help make your home safer for visiting trick-or-treaters by clearing your yard of anything difficult to see in the dark, such as dog leashes and flower pots. Secure your pets as they often become frightened by the Draculas and Dr. Evils that invade your yard.

Light the jack-o'-lantern's fierce face using a battery powered candle, or place pumpkins well away from where children will be walking or standing. Be sure any flammable decorations won't blow into the flame.

When you're driving your children around or running to the store to replenish the candy bowl, remember to drive

slowly. Small Batmans and Pokemons may dart between parked cars, cross the street slowly, be wearing dark colors, or just be too excited by the prospect of more candy bars to look and listen properly for cars.

Be sure your own trick-or-treaters are safe as they traipse through the surrounding streets. Start by making safe decisions about their costumes. Look for a flame resistant label on all masks, beards, etc. Avoid billowing skirts or long baggy sleeves.

Decorate costumes with reflective tape that will glow brightly in a car's headlight beam. This tape is usually available in hardware or sporting goods stores.

Make sure your children can walk properly by shortening long pants/skirts and decorating strong, sturdy shoes that fit properly, even if it takes away from the costume. Falls are the number one cause of injuries on Halloween.

Be sure your child can see clearly by tying hats and scarves so they don't slip down over their eyes. Provide them a flashlight and make sure masks fit securely. A better choice for visibility may be face

paint. Accessories should be soft and flexible, no hard pointy swords for your little pirate as he/she or another child could be harmed by it.

Walk with your children, especially those under 12. But, if your children are going out on their own, make sure they have quarters or a cell phone in case they need to phone you. Also, provide them with a watch that is easily visible in the dark so they can commit to the curfew you provide. Be sure they know how to properly cross the street at night and they know to walk on sidewalks where available. Urge them to avoid walking through people's yards, as unseen hazards may be lying about.

Remind them not to approach any pets. Though the animal may know your child, it may be edgy on this night. Children should only approach houses with porch lights on. They should never enter anyone's home or take unwrapped candy. Also, be sure to check all your child's candy before allowing him/her to eat it. Though it is rare, sometimes tampering does occur. Make your child eat dinner first so their temptation to sneak a piece may not be so overwhelming.

Stomach aches from too much candy are common on Halloween night, and hopefully, by following these safety tips, that is the only tragedy your child will have this year.



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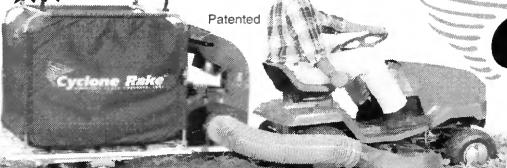
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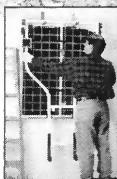


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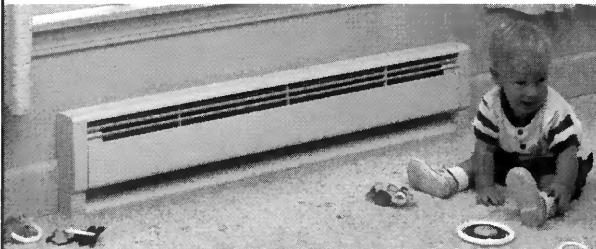
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# Your YARD AND GARDEN

## Fall gardening cleanup chores

For some reason, the word "chore" has a spine-shivering connotation to it. A "chore" doesn't seem to be something that's pleasurable. It's one more thing that you are required to do. Like making your bed, making sure you don't leave toothpaste in the sink, or washing your hands before you eat, when spitting and rubbing them on your pants won't do, when you were living with your parents.

Gardening "chores" never conjure up something pleasant or something you are just so thrilled to get out of the house and do. Chores equate to work, and that means sweat and smelly and dirty and messy and washing your hands before you eat, if your folks happen to drop in.

Now, one can look at chores as work where the reward is the satisfaction that comes with contentment this fall and readiness next spring. Or just as work that few appreciate.

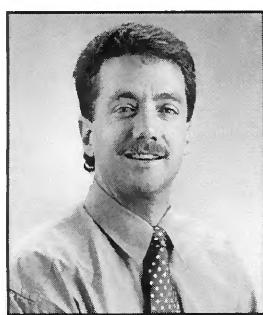
October is the season of chores. It's essentially the month of getting ready for next year while finishing up this year.

It's the month when a killing frost will probably hit, somewhere around the middle of the month, give or take two weeks either way. Sorry I can't be more specific. Trust your weatherman. (Okay, I know. But you probably needed to chuckle about now.)

Plants collapse into a gooey, mushy mess. Hardly anything in the ground is exempt from hostas to peonies to tomatoes to geraniums to pumpkins, though some can survive and even seem to thrive on a touch of the cold. That cold is what makes fall lettuce, radishes, broccoli and cauliflower so tasty. But other plants seem to lose all their backbones and become masses of spitball-like material.

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David Robson

So, you have the chore of cleaning up that mess. You could leave it, and some of it will disappear by spring. You could move and let someone else worry about it.

A good deep snow will cover a lot of it over. That is, until the snow melts and you see an even worse mess. Garden gloves can keep the slimy stuff off your fingers, and it's not like it will kill you. It just involves a lot of cutting, pulling and carrying the debris someplace, or stuffing it into buckets or bags.

Some gardeners will just dig or till the debris into the ground, and let the freezing and thawing and heaving action of the soil break it down before next spring. That's a good practice, provided the material wasn't riddled with disease spots and wilts. Putting diseased material back in the ground is asking for trouble next year.

Raking leaves seems more chore-oriented than a fun day at the beach. You rake and rake and rake, and the leaves still keep coming.

If you live in the country, you have it made. Just rake the leaves next to a corn or bean field, and let the wind blow them away. Make sure the wind is blowing away from your yard, by the way. You might even be able to rake them up and burn them. Again, make sure you know which way the wind is blowing.

Others of us can't rely on the wind, or if we could, our neighbors would be a little peeved. So we are left raking, or mowing the leaves to small pieces. There are ways to make the time go faster, such as singing a song, or just whistling while you work. The song *Autumn Leaves* comes to mind, but then you realize it's

really a depressing song though with a great tune. Sad songs and chores don't go hand-in-hand. So you need a jauntier melody. What song dealing with raking leaves could be escapes me. So, it remains a chore. At least with planting tulips there is an obvious happy song. Can you name that tune?

One of the last chores is cleaning all the tools and putting them away. They need to be free of dirt and rust, dry and oiled. Drain and coil garden hoses. Keep tools and equipment off the floor; in other words, hang everything up.

The good news is if you clean the tools thoroughly before eating, your hands should look pretty clean. Unless you still have to deal with your parents.





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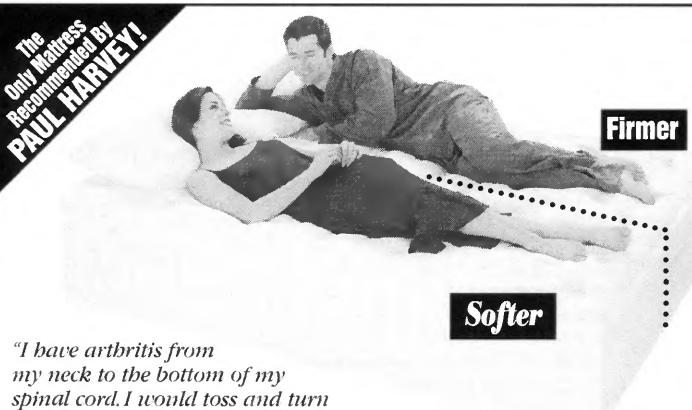
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## Bathroom remodeling that conserves energy and water

**Q:** Dear Jim: We are planning a full remodeling job of our master bathroom. We want it to be comfortable and contemporary, yet energy and water efficient. What efficient products and heating methods should we consider using in it?

- Ann M.

**A:** Dear Ann: With all the new products available, bathroom remodeling is one of the most common major home improvement projects today. In addition to creating a relaxing, enjoyable room, improving your bathroom can substantially increase the future resale value of your home. If you are doing much of the work yourself and your budget is limited, just make gradual improvements over a year or two.

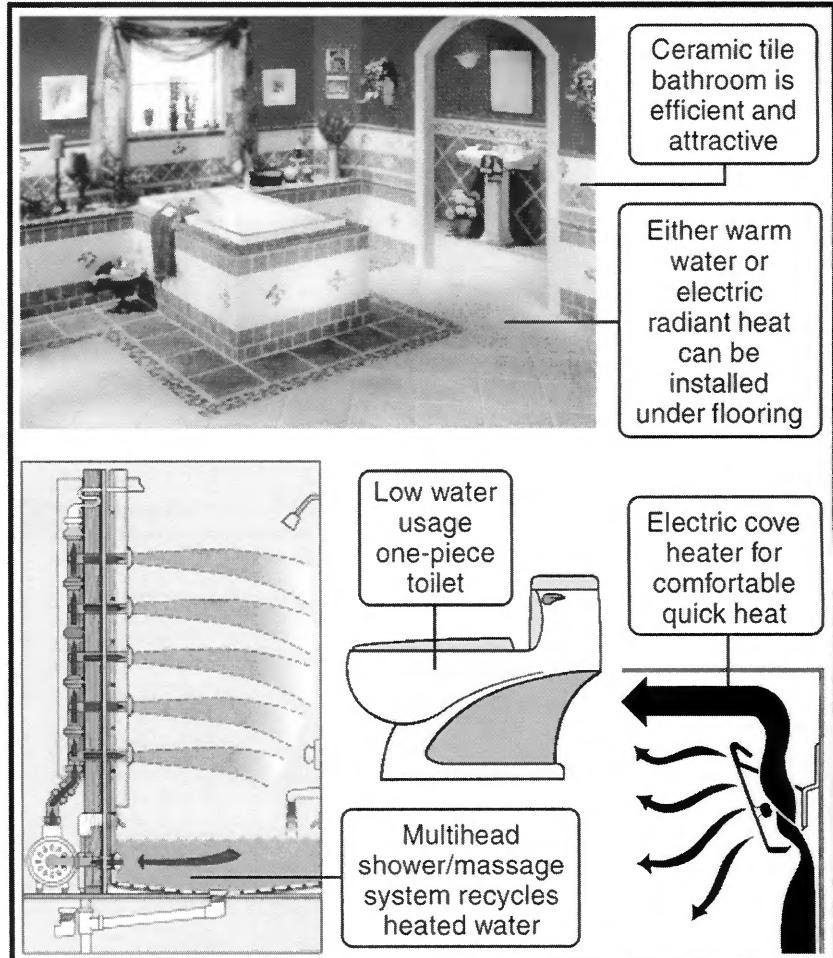
Other than your kitchen, your bathrooms (especially a master bath) are the rooms that consume the most energy and water in the typical home. By making the proper design improvements and selecting the proper new products, you can make your bathroom much more efficient. Luckily, many of the newest, most efficient products and improvements also provide the best comfort.

When remodeling a bathroom, the first item to consider is how you will heat it. Selecting the best heating method is somewhat complicated because bathrooms are used at many different times. You know it will often be used early in the morning when you wake and late at night, when you retire. You must also plan for it being used at sporadic times during the night and day.

A combination of various types of radiant heat is often the most efficient and comfortable heating

*James Dulley is a mechanical engineer who writes on a wide variety of energy and utility topics. His column appears in a large number of daily newspapers.*

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Methods to remodel bathroom efficiently

method for all uses. It is gentle, quiet and can provide rapid heating for the best comfort. These radiant heating methods include wall and ceiling heating panels, and cove and electric warm floor heating units.

A wall or ceiling radiant panel provides heat quickly without chilly breezes. It heats like walking into the sunshine. This allows you to keep the bathroom cooler when it is not being used which results in energy savings. These heating units can be hidden in the ceiling or mounted against a wall or ceiling. It would be difficult to accomplish the same rapid, quiet heating effect with forced-air heating units.

Electric warm floor radiant heating provides the

ultimate comfort when you step out of a shower. It is ideal for use under decorative ceramic tile that tends to hold the heat and radiate it slowly and continuously. Since a radiant floor does not provide rapid heat like the wall or ceiling panels, consider putting it on a timer. Turn it on only during regular high usage times in the morning and at night.

If you have ever used a towel warmer after bathing in a hotel, you know how great it feels. There are many attractive home-size models available that plug in to a standard wall outlet. If you are tearing out the walls during your remodeling, hard wire them in. They are made of brass, real oak and chrome and are designed to mount on a wall or on door hinges to save space. Using one lets you set the bathroom air temperature lower.

Most people add a whirlpool or hydro-massaging, multi-head shower when remodeling. Some

five-head showers use a small pump that re-circulates the warm water to reduce water usage and the energy to heat it. If you use a single showerhead, select a low-flow model. Most of the new special filtering heads remove chlorine and save water.

Select one of the new super-quiet automatic combination vent fan/lights. If you tend to forget to switch the fan off like most people, consider getting one with motion and humidity sensors. These insure that the light and fan run neither too long nor too little. If you get up often at night, consider a model that also has a built-in nightlight. Many new models use decorative and ornate beveled glass to complement the fanciest bathroom decor.

In addition to obviously using water, a toilet can consume energy in the winter. Each time you flush a toilet, all of the incoming cold water from the city supply or a well, gradually heats up to room

temperature by drawing heat from the air in the bathroom.

Definitely install a new low-water-usage toilet. The one-piece models, although more expensive than two-piece models (separate bowl and tank) are usually the most attractive. Pressure-assist toilet designs provide a positive, quick flush with low-water usage, but they are sometimes slightly noisier than standard gravity toilets.

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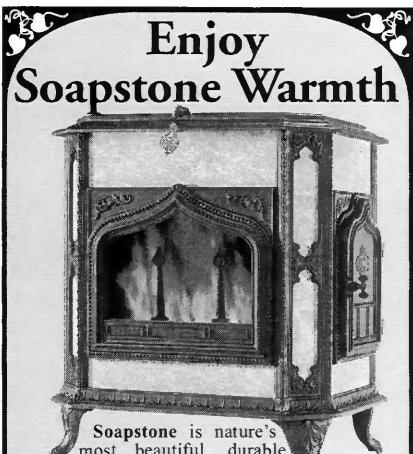
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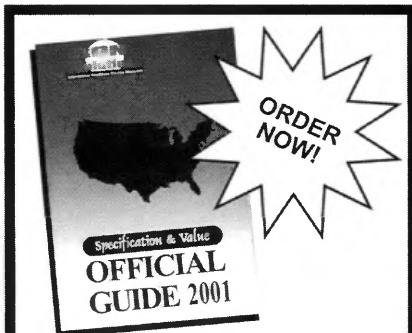
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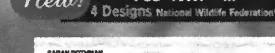
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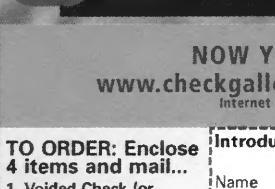
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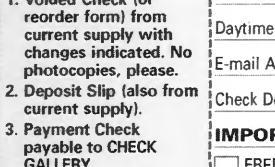
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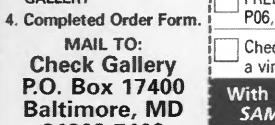
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The Ladies Aid of Bell Ridge Christian Church in Paris submits their 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary cookbook, which is a hard-backed easel, three-ring-binder style and contains 191 pages of delicious recipes. The book sells for \$10 plus \$3.50 postage. To order, contact Debbie Wilson, 10345 E. 250<sup>th</sup> Rd., Paris, IL 61944 or call her at (217) 465-5161.



### Easy Hot Snacks

Plain bagels (Lenders are good) Margarine spread  
Shredded Cheddar cheese

Toast bagels to desired doneness. Butter the bagels with margarine. Sprinkle shredded cheese over the bagel and microwave for 15-25 seconds to melt cheese. Eat plain or sprinkle your favorite topping over and enjoy. Optional toppings - minced garlic, taco cheese, salsa or bacon bits.

### Taffy Apple Salad

3 C. diced apples, not peeled	1 tub Cool Whip
1 can crushed pineapple	1 (3-oz.) pkg. butterscotch pudding
1 C. dry roasted nuts	Mini marshmallows

Mix all ingredients together and chill.

### Tuna Sunflower Casserole

2 (7-oz.) cans tuna fish, flaked	3/4 C. Fisher salted roasted sunflower nuts
1 (4-1/2-oz.) jar sliced mushrooms, drained	2/3 C. milk
2 (10-1/2-oz.) cans of cream of mushroom soup	1/4 C. chopped pimento
1/2 C. crushed potato chips	

Combine the tuna mushrooms, cream of mushroom soup, sunflower seeds, milk and pimento. Spoon into a buttered 1-1/2 quart casserole dish. Sprinkle with potato chips. Bake at 350° for 30 minutes.

### Holly Cash

### Chicken Enchiladas

12 corn tortillas  
1 (10-oz.) jar red chili sauce  
1 whole chicken, cooked and de-boned  
3 C. Monterey Jack cheese, shredded

In a small sauté pan cook onion until tender in a small amount of vegetable oil. Shred chicken meat and combine with cooked onion. Set aside. Preheat oven to 350°. Quickly fry corn tortillas in a hot vegetable oil for approximately 15 seconds. Tortillas should remain soft. Dip each tortilla in red chili sauce and fill with chicken and onion mixture. Place in baking dish seam side down and repeat procedure. Pour remaining red sauce over tortillas and top with cheese. Serve immediately with lettuce and tomato on the side.

### Yogurt Pie

1 sm. box sugar-free strawberry gelatin, dry  
1 sm. strawberry yogurt

Combine dry gelatin and yogurt, mix thoroughly. Mix in Cool Whip. Pour into graham cracker crust and refrigerate. Other flavors can also be used such as raspberry gelatin and raspberry yogurt, cherry gelatin and cherry yogurt, etc.

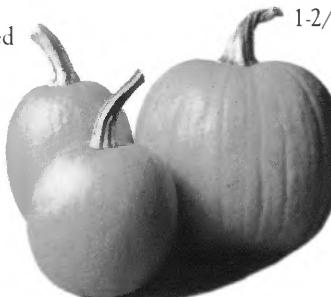
### Brownie Swirl Cheesecake

1 (8-oz.) pkg. brownie mix	1 tsp. vanilla extract
2 (8-oz.) pkgs. cream cheese, softened	2 eggs
1/2 C. sugar	Whipped cream (opt.)
1 C. milk chocolate chips, melted	Mini chocolate kisses (opt.)

Prepare brownie mix according to package directions for chewy fudge brownies. Spread into a greased 9-inch springform pan. Bake at 350° for 15 minutes (brownies will not test done). Cool for 10 minutes on a wire rack. Meanwhile, in a mixing bowl, combine cream cheese, sugar and vanilla and mix well. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Pour over the brownie crust. Top with melted chocolate; cut through the batter with a knife to swirl chocolate. Bake at 350° for 35 to 40 minutes or until center is almost set. Run a knife around the edge of pan to loosen. Remove sides of pan and refrigerate for at least 3 hours. Garnish with whipped cream and chocolate kisses.

### Hilary Higginbotham

3/4 C. Fisher salted roasted sunflower nuts	3/4 tsp. salt
2/3 C. milk	1/4 tsp. baking powder
1/4 C. chopped pimento	1 tsp. baking soda
	1/2 tsp. cinnamon



### Heather Dean

1 C. lettuce, shredded  
3/4 C. onion, chopped  
1/2 C. tomato, diced

### Sara Goddard

1 (8-oz.) tub Cool Whip, regular or light  
1 graham cracker crust

### Lori Higginbotham

1 tsp. vanilla extract
2 eggs
Whipped cream (opt.)
Mini chocolate kisses (opt.)

### Pumpkin Bread

1/3 C. shortening	3/4 C. sugar
1-1/2 C. sugar	1/2 C. water
1/2 C. water	2 eggs
2 eggs	1 C. canned pumpkin
	1-2/3 C. flour

Mix shortening, sugar, water and eggs. Sift dry ingredients together and add to egg mixture, mix well. Pour into greased loaf pan. Bake at 350° for 1 hour.

### Susie Drake

1/2 tsp. nutmeg	3/4 C. flour
1/2 C. nuts	

# Hamilton County Homemakers Extension Association

The Hamilton County Homemakers Extension Association submits their cookbook containing 116 pages of wonderful recipes. The book is soft-backed and spiral bound and costs \$9.50, including postage. To order, contact Cheyrl Ventress, 111 Silas Avenue, McLeansboro, IL 62859 or call her at (618) 643-4004.



Hamilton County Homemakers Extension Association

## Strawberry Punch

**Norma Collins**  
4 (16-oz.) bottles strawberry soda    1 qt. orange sherbet  
1 lg. bottle ginger ale

Pour strawberry soda and ginger ale into punch bowl. Scoop orange sherbet in chunks and place on top of mixture. Do not mix. Ice cream will fizz and float on top of punch.

## Five-Minute Fruit Salad

**Cheryl Ventress**  
1 can peach pie filling  
1 can pineapple chunks  
1 can mandarin oranges, drained  
1 pkg. frozen strawberries, thawed  
4 bananas

Combine all ingredients into a large bowl and mix. Chill before serving. You may add pecans and whipped cream, if desired.

## Incredible Rice Frittata

**Geraldine Barker**  
1/2 C. finely chopped onions  
1 T. butter  
8 eggs  
1/2 C. milk  
1 tsp. salt  
1 tsp. Worcestershire  
4 to 5 drops hot pepper sauce

In a 10-inch skillet over medium heat, cook onions in butter until tender. Beat eggs with milk and seasonings. Stir in rice, chilies and tomato. Pour in pan. Reduce heat to medium-low. Cover and cook until top is almost set, about 12 to 15 minutes. Sprinkle with cheese. Cover, remove from heat, and let stand about 10 minutes. Makes 4 servings.

## Chicken Tetrazzini

**Becky Howe**  
2 C. chicken diced  
1 (8-oz.) pkg. raw spaghetti  
1/2 sm. onion chopped  
1/4 C. pimentos, chopped and drained  
1/4 C. chopped green pepper  
1 can mushroom soup, undiluted

Cook spaghetti as directed on package. Drain and rinse well. To spaghetti, add all of the above ingredients except 3/4 C. cheese. Mix well. Put in 9x13-inch pan and sprinkle the remaining cheese on top. Bake in 350° oven for 30 minutes. Serve hot.

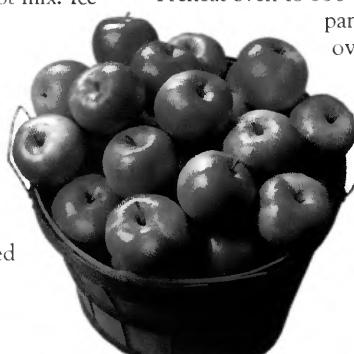
## Magic Cookie Bars

**Jerry Jones**  
1/2 C. margarine or butter  
2 C. graham cracker crumbs  
1 (14-oz.) can sweetened condensed milk

1-1/2 C. semi-sweet chocolate chips  
1 C. flaked coconut  
1 C. nuts, chopped

Preheat oven to 350° (325° for a glass dish). In a 13x9-inch baking pan, melt margarine in the oven. Sprinkle crumbs over margarine and press to form a crust.

Sprinkle with chocolate chips, then coconut and nuts. Top with sweetened condensed milk poured evenly over all ingredients. Bake 25 to 30 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool. Chill if desired. Cut into bars. Store loosely covered at room temperature.



## A Few Good Recipes!

Calling all cooks! Illinois Country Living needs your help. Send us your favorite recipes and they could be used in the Illinois Country Living Cookbook - Coming soon to a kitchen near you! Send recipes to: Catrina McCulley Young, Illinois Country Living, P.O. Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708. Or e-mail them to [mcculley@aiec.org](mailto:mcculley@aiec.org). Please make sure recipes are either typed or printed neatly. Please include your name and phone number in case we need to contact you.

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Come browse at COUNTRY CORNER TREASURES, 938 N 1150 St, Flat Rock, IL 62427. (618) 584-3588. Crafts/gifts. Gift certificates available. Directions: S. Flat Rock Junction on Rt. 1, turn at tourist activities sign.

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Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the ad copy below to run \_\_\_\_\_ times starting with the \_\_\_\_\_ issue. Charges for each month's insertion, co-op members: \$8 for the first 20 words or less and 30 cents per additional word. Non-members: \$1.20 per word with a \$24 minimum for 20 words or less.

- All ads must be in one paragraph form. No centered copy. Maximum of four all-capital words per ad.
  - **Check/cash/money order payable to Illinois Country Living and member's address label must accompany order.**
  - Please type or print your ad neatly. You may use a
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separate sheet if needed. Include your name, address and phone number. I am a member of \_\_\_\_\_ electric cooperative.

- The publisher reserves the right to reject any advertisement.
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**Mail to:** Illinois Marketplace, Illinois Country Living  
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**Deadline for December issue: October 15**

NEED 5GAL. SIZE White Mountain hand crank ice cream freezers for church annual social. Bill. (217) 453-6632. 1075 East County Rd. 2000, Nauvoo, IL 62354.

FOR SALE: ANTIQUE, permanent wave machine, rollers, clamps, dryer, shampoo board. \$800 or best offer. Henry Strange. RR1 Box 257, Flora, IL 62839. (618) 662-4055.

KOI, BUTTERFLY KOI and pond plants. Call the Koi Farmer, Canton, IL. (309) 668-2488. (Also have air pumping windmills for large farm ponds for healthier water and fish.)

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DO YOU WANT standing timber? I have seven trees that may be removed. Located near Dawson, IL. Phone (217) 364-5287.

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HOME and GARDEN PARTY. Looking for a party plan that pays? Check out Home and Garden Party's high commissions. No inventory, no deliveries. Call Mary (800) 609-7095. Email: homegrdn@aol.com.

WE HEM PANTS, make curtains, repair leather, replace zippers, custom sewing. Nita's...Sew What! Town Square, Auburn, Il. (217) 438-6914.

CANADIAN RENTAL. Looking for individuals or companies interested in leasing options for cabins at Red Deer Lodge on Lake of the Woods in N.W. Ontario. Money is returned at end of lease option. Tremendous opportunity. Call toll free (866) RDL-ODGE. Leave message or call in evenings.

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4-FOOT WHITE PINE TREES delivered, planted, mulched. \$44.50 per tree. Buy 10 get one free. Call (217) 886-2316 for prices on other sizes or varieties. Order now for Fall delivery. Leave message if not at home. Prices may vary depending on geographical location.

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FOR SALE: 5 year old COYOTE hound along with several tracking collars and box. Phone (309) 776-4657 after 5 or leave message.

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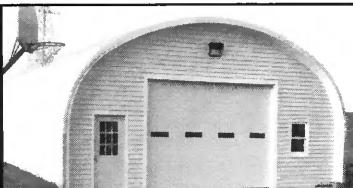
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October

# DATEBOOK

**1, Fall Outdoor Decorating Contest** in DuQuoin. Walk the sidewalks of downtown and view beautiful outdoor displays created by merchants. (618) 542-6686.

**1-6, Ceramic Sculpture and Watercolor Paintings** at the Galesburg Civic Art Center in Galesburg. Ceramic sculpture by Michael Schwegmann of Champaign and watercolor paintings by Chinese artist I-Hong-Cou. (309) 342-7415.

**1-11/4, Life in Madison County**, a special exhibit at the Madison County Historical Museum that offers visitors the opportunity to compare life during 1975-2000 with life in the early 1900s through featured items and documents in the museum. (618) 656-7562.

**4-29, Salute to Our Veterans Exhibit** at the Old Market House State Historic Site in Galena. A display of military uniforms from the Civil War to Desert Storm, various military supplies and weapons. (815) 777-9406.

**5-6, Candlelight Tour of New Salem Homes** at Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site in Petersburg. Interpreters in period clothing will greet visitors in candlelit cabins at the reconstructed historic village where Abraham Lincoln lived for six years. (217) 632-4000.

**5-7, Illinois Trappers Convention** at the 4-H Fairgrounds in Eureka. How-to demos, supplies and more. (618) 284-7346.

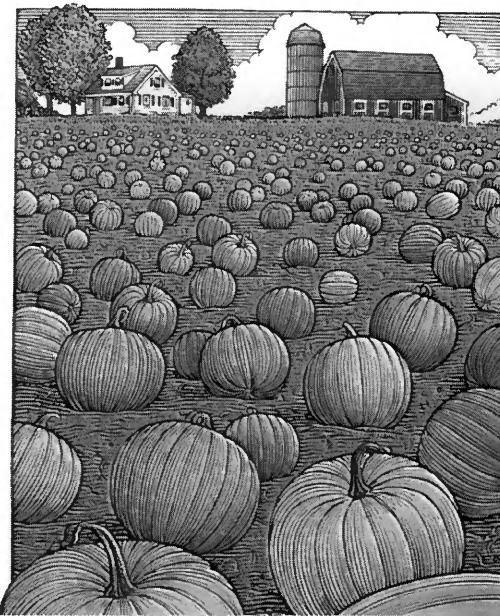
**5-7, Pioneer Days** at the Historical Village in Mt. Vernon. Step back in time and enjoy visiting the authentic log homes and businesses including a blacksmith shop, a print shop, a one-room schoolhouse, a jail, a museum, a gift shop and a church. (618) 246-0033.

**6, The Southern Illinois Bluegrass Harvest Festival** at Saline Creek Pioneer Village in Harrisburg. Illinois State Banjo Pickin' Contest, seminars on different instruments, Bluegrass stories, food and much more.

**6-7, The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Galena Country Fair** at Grant Park and Green Street Emporium in Galena. Juried arts and crafts show with 180 artists and artisans; non-juried exhibitors. Family fun including games, contests, raffles, prizes, Galena's famous Civil War General, entertainment, fine foods and spirits. (815) 777-1048.

**1-31, Northwest Illinois Trail of Terror** throughout 10 counties in northwest Illinois. Haunted happenings, pumpkin patches and festivals. (800) 678-2108 or <http://www.trail-of-terror.com>.

**6-21, Arnold's Farm Festival and Pumpkin Patch** on a working family farm near Elizabeth. Outdoor fall festival on an 1890s farmstead with a pumpkin patch, a petting zoo, a hay maze, hayrides, live country music, concessions, a market stand and local country crafts. (815) 858-2407.



**6-7, Southern Illinois' Largest Antique Show and Flea Market** at the East Side Grade School in McLeansboro. More than 150 dealers will be on hand selling their goods. (618) 643-4527.

**6, Ava Down Home Craft Festival** in Ava. More than 75 craft vendors will set up booths on Main Street. Great food, continuous activities throughout the day, old-fashioned games and fun.

**6, Chowder, Arrowhead Swap and Show Meet** at MCP Happy Holler Park in Falmouth. Surprise visit from frontiersman, wagon rides, artifacts on display dating back more than 900 years, and night-time entertainment. (618) 783-4555.

**6-7, Harvest Frolic and 1845 Agricultural Fair** at Lincoln Log Cabin State Historical Site in Lerna. Enjoy an old-fashioned harvest gathering complete with music, games and food. A separate display of crafts and trades will also be featured, as well as hayrides, a barn dance, and candlelight tours of two farms. (217) 345-6489.

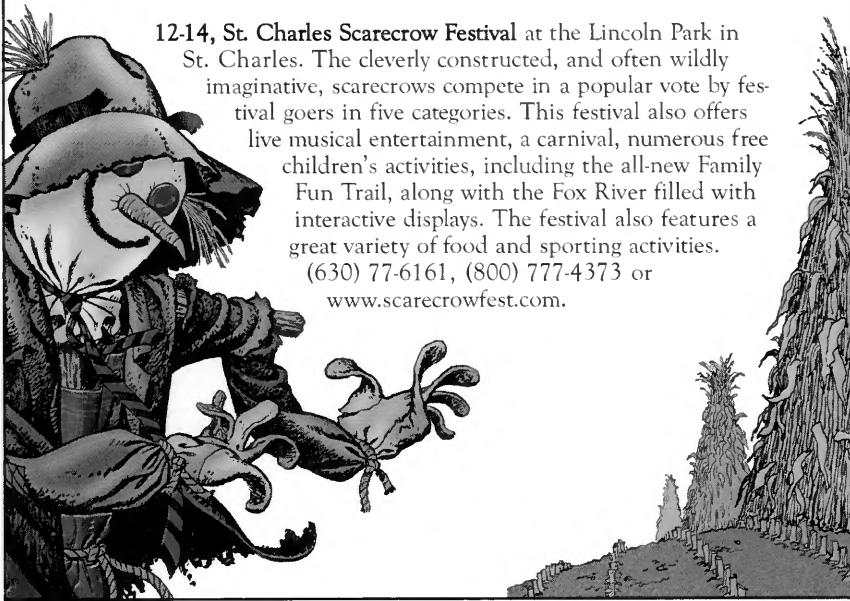
**6-7, Kane County Flea Market** at the Kane County Fairgrounds in St. Charles. Up to 1,000 dealers will display and sell antiques and collectibles both indoors and outside. A country breakfast will be served on Sunday. (630) 377-2252.

**7, 13-14, 20-21, Oconee Sacred Heart Church Annual Fall Festival** south of Pana in Oconee. Enjoy plenty of great food, a straw maze, barnyard golf, horse-driven hayrides, face and pumpkin painting, a petting zoo, crafts, a thrashing demo and great fun for the entire family. (217) 539-4527.

**7 and 14, Harvest Days Festival** at Garfield Farm Museum in St. Charles. Enjoy 1840s music, storytellers, re-enactors, tours of the 1846 Garfield Inn, prairie walks and many 1840s demonstrations. (630) 584-8485.



**12-14, The Fourth Annual Barn and Historic Sites Tour** in Monticello. Barn lovers and historians will learn about the founding of the township while they travel scenic roads, exploring the many Centennial Farms and their barns. Historic sites including pioneer cemeteries, schools, churches and homes will be noted. The blazing colors of fall as a backdrop for some of the most fertile farmland in the world mixed with turn of the century historic homes will make this tour a delight for photographers. (217) 762-4731.



**12-14, St. Charles Scarecrow Festival** at the Lincoln Park in St. Charles. The cleverly constructed, and often wildly imaginative, scarecrows compete in a popular vote by festival goers in five categories. This festival also offers live musical entertainment, a carnival, numerous free children's activities, including the all-new Family Fun Trail, along with the Fox River filled with interactive displays. The festival also features a great variety of food and sporting activities.

(630) 77-6161, (800) 777-4373 or [www.scarecrowfest.com](http://www.scarecrowfest.com).



**20, Auburn Harvest Festival** on the town square in Auburn. ICS chili cook-off, crafts, a flea market, city-wide garage sales, a 4-H petting zoo, a magic show, a haunted house, pumpkin carving and window painting contests, music, cloggers and entertainment on the newly-built bandstand. (217) 438-3405 or [www.auburnctnet.com](http://www.auburnctnet.com).

**12-14, HogRocktoberfest** at Cave-In Rock. This event is for motorcycle enthusiasts of all kind. Enjoy live music, contests, camping, vendors and more. Enjoy the fall foliage of the Shawnee National Forest during the Poker Run on Saturday. (866) HOGROCK or [www.hogrock.com](http://www.hogrock.com).

**13, If Tables Could Talk - The Fine Art of Table Design** at the George T. Dennis Visual and Performing Arts Center at Southeastern Illinois College in Harrisburg. (618) 252-5400, ext. 2600.

**13-14, Fall Festival at Heritage Canyon** in Fulton. Early American crafters, Civil War reenactments and other historical groups take us back in time as they re-create history in the mid 1800s. (815) 589-4545.

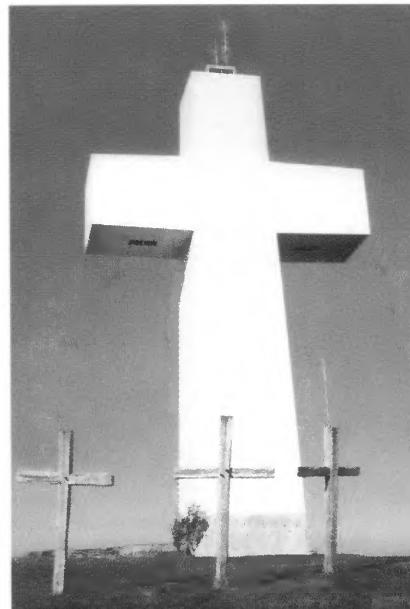
**13-14, The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Chillifest** at Manner's Park in Taylorville. The fun includes a classic car show, a carnival, craft and food vendors, stage entertainment including an Elvis impersonator, music dancers, a lip sync contest, a punt, pass and kick competition and lots of great chili. (217) 824-4919.

**13 and 27, Ghost Walk With Annie Wiggins at Annie Wiggins' guest house in Galena.** Take a ghostly walking tour of Galena and hear some of its spookiest tales. (815) 777-0336.



**13-14, Old Settlers Days** in Kampserville. Come and see demonstrations of old time skills, a quilt drawing, food specialties, live entertainment, children's activity area, a fiddle contest, mountain men activities, carriage rides, Civil War reenactments.

**14, The Susan Lawrence Dana Memorial Birthday Celebration** at the Dana-Thomas House in Springfield. Come celebrate the birthday of Susan Lawrence Dana, the Springfield socialite who commissioned architect Frank Lloyd Wright to build her showcase house. Visitors can tour the turn-of-the-century house. Live music will be played throughout the house and gardens, and a puppet show will also be presented. Refreshments will be served. (217) 782-6776.



**20, Cookout** at Bald Knob Cross near Alto Pass. Come and enjoy arts, crafts and a flea market. (618) 893-2170.

**20-21, The Seventh Annual Southern Illinois Arts and Crafts Fall Festival** at the SIU Arena in Carbondale. Explore the goods of more than 80 vendors. (618) 942-6987 or email: [bnix1210@hotmail.com](mailto:bnix1210@hotmail.com).

**26-31, Haunted Park** at MVP Happy Holler Park in Falmouth. Come and visit with all of the spooks, as the whole park will be haunted. (618) 783-4555 or [mvp@psbnewton.com](mailto:mvp@psbnewton.com).

**27, People, Pets and Pumpkins** in Galesburg. Halloween fun in the Seminary Street Historic Commercial District. Featured attractions include horse-drawn carriage rides, treats for everyone from the Wandering Witch, \$500 in prizes, and a best costume, pet and pumpkin contest. (309) 342-1000.

**27, The Sixth Annual Illini Prairie Quilt Guild Quilt Show 2001** at the Masonic Lodge in Oblong. (618) 592-3193 or (618) 592-4134.

*Illinois Country Living publishes event listings as space allows, giving preference to events of regional or statewide interest. Event listings are provided by the event sponsors and the Illinois Bureau of Tourism. The magazine assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of information submitted for publication and advises calling ahead to confirm dates and times. To be considered for inclusion, send listings and photographs (If sending photographs please include self-addressed stamped envelope) to Illinois Datebook, Illinois Country Living, PO Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708-3787. The deadline for submission is 45 days prior to the publication date.*

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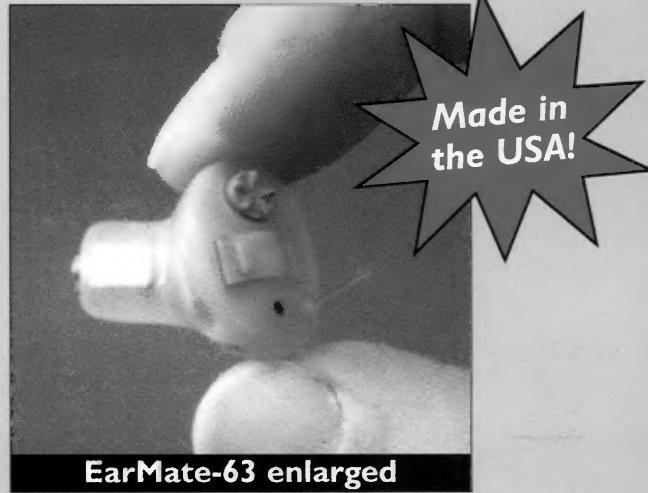
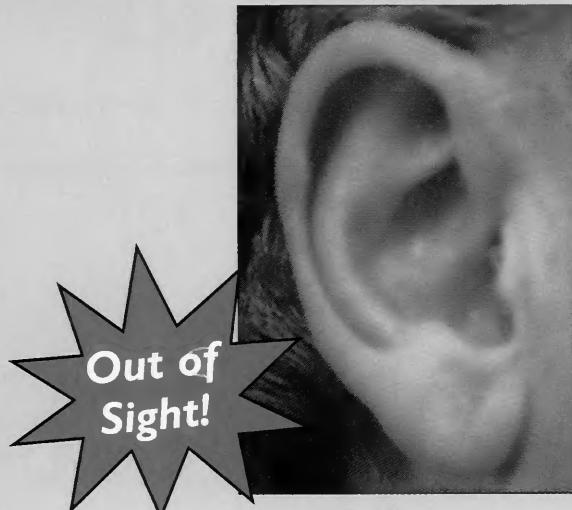
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