

Save 50 percent with a new heat pump, page 18

ILLINOISTM

COUNTRY LIVING

March 2001

FINDING A HOME



**The search for
affordable housing
in rural Illinois.**

Frustrated with Skyrocketing Natural Gas & Propane Bills?

Winter heating bills for people who use natural gas could be more than 50% higher this coming winter than last winter.—*Department of Energy, 8/00*

Call an independent WaterFurnace Dealer near you for a **Free Energy Analysis** to see how much you can save.

Special electric rates may also be available.

Arnold Brothers Heating & Cooling
Macomb 309-833-2852

BEL-O Sales & Service, Inc.
Belleville 618-235-6626
Columbia 618-281-8118

Boyce Electric
Cissna Park 815-457-2700

Burgess & Son, Inc.
Girard 217-627-2665

Charlie's Air Conditioning
Carterville 618-985-2502

Collins Plumbing & Heating
Springfield 217-793-8031
Petersburg 217-632-3670

Den-Son Inc. Cooling & Heating
Brighton 618-372-8375

Design Air Heating & Air Conditioning
Decatur 217-429-1105
1-800-452-7845

Easley Mechanical
Canton 309-647-3450

Electro Electric
Flora 618-662-4520

Energy Specialists
Toluca 800-782-7491

G-M Specialists
Canton 309-647-5700

Hinrichsen
Goodfield 309-965-2769

Holloway Heating & Air Conditioning
Mt. Vernon 618-242-5481

Houston Plumbing
Paxton, Gibson City
1-800-379-2165

Hoveln Heating & Cooling
Thomasboro 217-643-2125

Jeckel Plumbing & Heating
Delavan 309-244-8265

Jansen's Heating & Air Conditioning
Effingham 217-347-5223

Kupferschmid, Inc.
Pontiac 815-842-3812
Forrest 815-657-8147

LD Mechanical Contractors, Inc.
Charleston 217-345-9633

Macari Service Center
Shelbyville 217-774-4214
Pana 217-562-3631

McCords Heating and Air Conditioning
West Frankfort 618-932-3745

Middleton Heating & Cooling Inc.
Cobden 618-893-2821

Mike's Heating & Air
Vienna 618-695-2756
Metropolis 618-524-3270

**Peters Heating & Air
Conditioning, Inc.**
Quincy 217-222-1368
Pittfield 217-285-1600

R & M Electric
Watseka 815-432-4062

Stein Heating & Cooling
Hardin 618-576-2313

Snell's Plumbing & Heating
Virden 217-965-3911
Litchfield 217-324-4560

Toennies Service Co.
Damiansville 618-248-5130

Tracy Electric
Lawrenceville 618-943-2243

Triangle Heating & Cooling
Tuscola 217-253-5400

Turczyn Heating & Air Conditioning
Peru 815-223-0715

Williams Air Conditioning & Heating, Inc.
Murphysboro 618-684-3606
Steelville 618-965-2040

Yard Heating & Cooling
Taylorville 217-824-4737

WaterFurnace®

Geothermal Heating and Cooling. Affordable by Nature.

Published by
Association of Illinois
Electric Cooperatives
www.aiec.org

John Lowrey
Editor
Jack D. Halstead
Senior Editor
Nancy R. Nixon
Carrina McCulley Young
Michelle Reed
Associate Editors
Sandy Wolske
Advertising Coordinator
Erin Weller, Kara Henning
Graphic Designers
Derek Squires
Graphic Technician/Designer
Angie Bingenheimer
Circulation Coordinator

Illinois Country Living is a monthly publication serving the communications needs of 21 locally owned, not-for-profit Illinois electric cooperatives. More than 160,000 families receive the magazine as part of their electric cooperative membership. Monthly columns and stories provide information about topics and issues that affect the quality of their lives.

Illinois Country Living (ISSN number 1086-8062) is published monthly and is the official publication of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, 6460 South Sixth Frontage Road, Springfield, IL 62707. The cost is \$2.40 plus postage per year for members of subscribing cooperatives and \$5 per year for all others. Periodical postage paid at Springfield, Illinois, and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: *Illinois Country Living*, P.O. Box 3787, Springfield, Illinois 62708.

CO-OP MEMBERS: When requesting an address change, please include the name of your cooperative.
Telephone: (217) 529-5561

Advertising and editorial inquiries should be directed to *Illinois Country Living*, P.O. Box 3787, Springfield, Illinois 62708. National advertising representative: The Weiss Group, 14826 North 54th Place, Suite 101, Scottsdale, AZ 85254 (602) 482-8844. Acceptance of advertising by ICL does not imply endorsement by the publisher or the electric cooperatives of Illinois of the product or service advertised. Advertisers are screened by the publisher and every effort is made to protect the subscriber, but ICL is not responsible for the performance of the product or service advertised.

EDITORS: Articles appearing in *Illinois Country Living* may be reprinted upon consent of the editor. For permission phone (217) 529-5561 or write to John Lowrey, editor, *Illinois Country Living*, P.O. Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708.

COVER STORY

10 Looking for housing

Efforts are underway to solve rural Illinois' shortage of affordable rural housing, and several people and organizations are working toward solutions now, using a variety of possible cures.



DEPARTMENTS

4 ILLINOIS COMMENTARY

Earl Struck, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, says an energy crisis like California's is unlikely in Illinois.

6 ILLINOIS CURRENTS

When your cooperative holds an electrical safety demonstration, pay attention! People really learn from them. Read some shocking examples.

14 SAFETY AROUND YOUR HOME

Jim Nevel, manager of regulatory compliance for the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, reviews some house wiring safety tips.

16 YOUR YARD AND GARDEN

See which plants provide year-round enjoyment.

18 TODAY'S TECHNOLOGY AND YOU

Find out why heat pumps are a year-round energy saver.

22 ILLINOIS' FINEST COOKING

As winter melts into spring, take advantage of the last few chilly days with a steamy cup of Hot Mocha Warmer from the recipe collection of Vermilion County Home and Community Education Association. And if sweet is your craving, you'll love Graham Cracker Chocolate Chip Cake from the recipe collection of The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Sherman.

28 ILLINOIS MARKETPLACE

29 ILLINOIS DATEBOOK

If Celtic and Irish Festivals are your forte, you will find plenty of things to do this month. Visit Galena and celebrate St. Patrick's day with a hometown parade, or take a trip to Danville for their St. Patrick's Day dance.



Illinois COMMENTARY

California energy crisis unlikely in Illinois

"A colossal and dangerous failure" is how California's governor has termed his state's electric deregulation plan. Coupled with classic supply and demand problems, California's deregulation law has created a nightmare of rolling blackouts and rate increases.

We in Illinois can't help but ask, "Can it happen here?" The answer is a cautious "Probably not."



Earl Struck

Illinois legislators thoroughly examined all aspects of the issue before approving our deregulation law. They did not act in haste, as the California legislature did. And Illinois electric cooperatives, as well as other utilities, are building new generating capacity. No new large power plants have been built in California in more than a decade and power blackouts have been the result.

Illinois lawmakers also had the wisdom to allow co-ops and municipally owned utilities to continue to be self-governed and self-regulated. Locally elected co-op directors are best qualified to make decisions about the future for their members, and are making progressive, informed decisions that will benefit those members.

Two years ago, Illinois came close to an energy crisis as temperatures climbed and electricity usage hit record levels. Because a number of plants were shut down for maintenance, and because there were transmission bottlenecks that prevented the importing of electricity from neighboring states, we were headed for trouble. Fortunately, the weather moderated and the demand for electricity decreased. All of us in the industry breathed a huge sigh of relief.

Since then, Illinois electric co-ops have taken steps to improve the supply situation. Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Greenville, built a new 45-megawatt gas turbine peaking plant, and Corn Belt Energy Corp., an electric cooperative headquartered in Bloomington, has added to its energy mix by

installing five mobile peaking units throughout its service territory.

Corn Belt is also spearheading cooperative efforts to build a new coal-fired generating plant near Williamsville. It will be the first coal-fired power plant built in Illinois in many years. Using Illinois coal will provide an economic boost for our state, and the plant will utilize new clean coal technology. Using our vast Illinois coal reserves in an environmentally responsible manner will help keep electric rates as low as possible.

EnerStar Power, an electric cooperative headquartered in Paris, is coordinating the construction of a new 225-megawatt peaking plant. It will be built on reclaimed strip mine land just east of Tuscola, in Douglas County. This is an ideal location, as it will utilize an abandoned site without taking valuable farmland out of production.

Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC) in Marion, a generation and transmission co-op serving six distribution co-ops, is repowering some of its existing boilers to make them cleaner and more energy-efficient. These improvements will allow SIPC to continue to meet the energy needs of co-op members in southern Illinois and continue to utilize Illinois coal. SIPC will also add gas combustion turbines for peaking power.

SIPC also joined with three other Midwest generation and transmission (G&T) co-ops to form the Alliance for Cooperative Energy Services (ACES). Together these co-ops will be better able to coordinate the power demand of their members and the co-op's generating assets. It's a business plan for the deregulated market that makes perfect sense and follows an old but proven co-op principle — cooperation among cooperatives.

Soyland Power Cooperative recently entered into a strategic alliance with Allegheny Electric Cooperative of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and created a new entity known as Continental Cooperative Services. Continental will provide wholesale power to nearly 300,000 co-op members in three states. By joining forces, the new organization will be better equipped to negotiate the risks involved in a deregulated market.

Can the California debacle happen here? Through innovation and investment, Illinois electric cooperatives are working hard to see that it doesn't.

Earl Struck is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

Apple Cider Vinegar Tablets – The Key to Lasting Weight Loss!

"I was over-weight... until I found VinTabs Plus!..." *J.S. Cleveland, OH*

"I went down to 183 from 280, I just wanted you to know what apple cider vinegar did for me..." *V.S. Meridan, MS*

"...I have already lost one and a half inches in my waist in one and a half weeks..." *Z.L., Pensacola, FL*

Are you tired of struggling with diet and weight-loss plans that don't work? Lets face it, most fad diets are worthless. You usually end up weighing more than you did before you started. Recent studies have proven that yo-yo dieting actually *increases* obesity and raises the risk of cancer.

Apple Cider Vinegar is all natural and a well known remedy for everything from soothing coughs and sore throats to relieving varicose veins and the pain of arthritis. It is loaded with essential amino acids and helpful vitamins, minerals and, enzymes.

All the benefits of Apple Cider Vinegar in an easy-to-swallow tablet!



No measuring! No taste!

No messy liquids!



VinTabs Plus® Can Be Your Secret To Permanent Weight Loss!

VinTabs Plus® may help you to lose weight – safely – with **no** serious side effects!

VinTabs Plus® actually helps your body to burn fat thus reducing the number of fat cells!

VinTabs Plus® will help fight osteoporosis by improving the health of your bones and joints!

VinTabs Plus® will help you to:

- Improve your metabolism
- Ease indigestion
- Relieve arthritis
- Regulate blood pressure
- Fight infection
- Reduce cholesterol
- Promote cardiovascular health
- Much, much more!

Satisfaction Guaranteed!



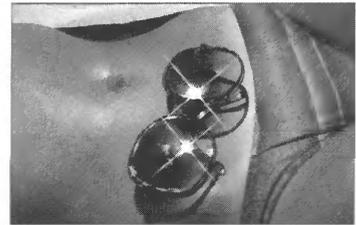
All Natural
No Side Effects
100% Guaranteed

Don't settle for cheap imitations!
Choose VinTabs Plus®!

You may have seen other vinegar pills on the market for as little as \$3.95 a bottle. Just remember the old adage "you get what you pay for..."

Similar vinegar pills on the market fall short in supplying the healthy benefits contained in VinTabs Plus®. Remember, if it is cheaper, it's probably mostly filler.

Don't settle for a "nothing" pill. Choose what is good for your body, choose what will fight the fat, choose what will get rid of the weight, choose *VinTabs Plus®!*



**VinTabs Plus®
Can Do This For YOU!**

VinTabs Plus® is pure apple cider vinegar. It is full of healthy enzymes and minerals needed to maintain a healthy body. This popular natural remedy is now available in an easy-to-swallow tablet. Just take as few as 2 a day. Apple cider vinegar actually strengthens the body's ability to burn calories. This results in the reduction of ugly body fat – faster and safer than ever before!

©2001 SH VINT0107S

**CALL THE TOLL FREE WEIGHT LOSS HOTLINE
1-800-772-7285, Dept. VINT565**

- Yes! I'm ready to start losing weight with VinTabs Plus®.
- Send me **100 Tablets** (50 day supply) for only \$15.94 postpaid.
- Send me **250 Tablets** (125 day supply) for only \$27.93 postpaid. **Save \$7.50!**
- I want to save even more!** Send me a new supply of 250 tablets every 125 days and I **save \$5 more**. Bill my credit card automatically for only \$22.93 per shipment. I can cancel this at any time.

Name _____

Address _____

State _____ City _____ Zip _____

For Credit Card Orders MasterCard Visa

Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Send your check or money order to: Scientific Health
724-12th St. N.W., Canton, OH. 44703-1964

No-Risk Money-Back Guarantee!

VinTabs Plus® is available exclusively from Scientific Health. As a dietary supplement, this product has not been evaluated by the FDA and is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease. Consult a health care professional. *Testimonials are atypical, your weight loss may be more or less.

**Free Bonus
Gift
72 Secrets to
Look Younger**

Listen, learn, and live

In Kentucky, a 16-year-old girl washed her car and then decided to vacuum the inside. The extension cord was frayed and the girl, standing in water, got shocked. Her younger brother saw what was happening and used a dry wooden board to knock the vacuum from his sister's hands. The girl was burned a bit but recovered well, and her brother was unharmed.

In Wisconsin, a young woman whose car struck a utility pole, bringing energized power lines down on her car, knew to jump out of and away from the car without touching it or the surrounding ground. She was uninjured.

A 12-year-old boy found a garbage truck in contact with a live power line and found the driver unconscious. He dialed 911 for help, but when the 911 operator asked the child to touch the driver to see if there was any response, the boy knew those instructions were dangerous, and ignored them. The driver died but the boy was safe.

What these people had in common was their attendance at electrical safety demonstrations sponsored by their electric cooperatives. The brother of the 16-year old girl and the 12-year-old boy both learned that touching someone who is being shocked will simply shock them as well. The young woman whose car was wrecked knew the dangers of touching the car's metal and the ground in the presence of those live electric wires.

When your cooperative holds a safety demonstration, be sure your children attend, and learn from them! It could save your life.

Source: The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Heating bill assistance available

Governor George H. Ryan announced that Illinois is receiving an additional \$26.6 million in Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP) funds from the federal government, which will allow the state to help more families pay their heating bills this winter.

The increased federal money means that more than 47,000 new households in the state will be eligible for LIHEAP assistance. In September, Governor Ryan worked with the Illinois Congressional delegation to secure an additional \$24.7 million in federal LIHEAP funds, and since then has twice directed the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs (DCCA) to increase benefit levels. This fall, Ryan supported legislation to raise the eligibility level for LIHEAP from 125 percent of the federal poverty level to 150 percent.

Once the new eligibility guidelines take effect, it's estimated that over 317,000 households will be served by LIHEAP this winter.

Recently, Governor Ryan announced that benefit levels for LIHEAP clients who heat with natural gas were increased by 35 percent from last year. "Now the Governor is working with federal officials and state lawmakers to make sure more households are served by LIHEAP this winter, which is crucial considering the fact that heating prices are heading up as temperatures are dropping," added DCCA Director Pam McDonough, whose agency administers Illinois' LIHEAP program.

Under the higher eligibility levels, a family of one can have a monthly income of no more than \$1,044, compared to \$870 under the existing guidelines; a two person household no more than \$1,406, compared to \$1,172; and a family of four an income no greater than \$2,130, compared to \$1,776. Benefits are provided directly to the household's gas or electric utility or delivered fuel dealer for households that heat with fuel oil or propane.

LIHEAP is operated throughout the state by a network of local agencies that work with utilities, determine eligibility and provide benefits to households. Anyone wishing to apply should contact the local agency in the county where they live. Additional assistance is available by calling the toll-free LIHEAP information line at 1-800-252-8643.

Winter storm information available at www.aiec.org

You can find out if winter weather is going to cause travel problems by going to the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative's (AIEC) website at www.aiec.org and clicking on the current Illinois winter road conditions. You'll be linked to the Illinois Department of Transportation's road condition site. Weather forecast information is also available as well as road conditions in other states.

The University of Illinois Extension website at <http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/winter/index.html> also has weather information.

Subjects on the site also include other topics besides current weather conditions. Subjects include: understanding winter storms, weather, getting around in the snow, home, health and safety, and fun in the snow.

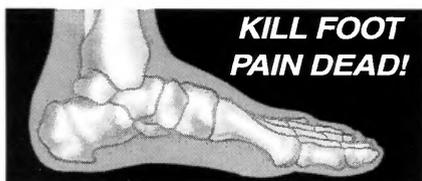
For weather conditions you can link to the following: Chicago metro forecast, current weather conditions at O'Hare International Airport and Chicago Midway Airport, Illinois forecasts, Illinois county forecast, all 50 state forecasts, northeast Illinois radar image, U. S. radar images, current U.S. weather warnings, meteorological calculator and weather terms.

“If I told you that I can end a lifetime of foot pain instantly, you probably wouldn’t believe me...”

“Half a million other men and women didn’t either... until they tried this revolutionary European discovery that positively killed their foot pain dead!

“Don’t live with foot pain a moment longer! If you’re ready to recapture the vitality and energy that healthy feet provide, I’ll give you 60 days to try the remarkable foot support system I discovered in Europe. You will immediately experience relief and freedom from foot ailments. I GUARANTEE IT!

“How can I make such an unprecedented guarantee? Because I personally lived in constant, agonizing foot pain for years



before my exciting discovery. What started out as simple

aching from corns and calluses grew into full-blown, incapacitating misery only a few other foot pain sufferers could understand.

“Believe me, I tried all the so-called remedies I could get my hands on (and feet into), but none of them really worked. It wasn’t until my wife and I took a trip to Europe that I discovered a remarkable invention called Flexible Featherspring® Foot Supports. Invented in Germany, these custom-formed foot supports absorb shock as they cradle your feet as if on a cushion of air.



Harvey Rothschild,
Founder of Featherspring Int’l.

“Imagine my complete surprise as I slipped a pair of custom-formed Feathersprings into my shoes for the first time and began the road to no more pain. The tremendous pain and pressure I used to feel every time I took a step was gone! I could scarcely believe how great a relief I felt even after walking several hours. And after just a few days of use, my pain disappeared totally - *and has never returned.*”

“Whatever your problem—corns, calluses, bunions, pain in the balls of your feet, toe cramps, fallen arches, burning nerve endings, painful ankles, back aches, or just generally sore, aching feet and legs — *my Feathersprings are guaranteed to end your foot pain or you don’t pay a penny.*”

“But don’t just take my word for it: Experience for yourself the immediate relief and renewed energy that Feathersprings provide. Send for your FREE kit today on our no risk, 60-day trial offer!”

Visit our website at www.featherspring.com

Please send FREE INFORMATION KIT!

FEATHERSPRING INTERNATIONAL, INC.
712 N. 34th Street, Dept. IC031
Seattle, Washington 98103-8881

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Look for a **LARGE PINK ENVELOPE** containing all the details. No obligation. No salesperson will call.

Foreign aid co-op style

Some have criticized foreign aid as wasteful spending, but the electric cooperatives have practiced a form of aid that really works. It's hands-on, face-to-face giving by employees who bring the gift of light to those who can least afford it.

For example, James Buggar, a lineman at Corn Belt Energy in Bloomington recently went to the Dominican Republic to help restore electric service in December. Buggar and five other linemen from electric cooperatives across the U.S. have volunteered to spend two weeks helping the local utility rebuild and replace infrastructure lost during Hurricane George's 1998 rampage across the island nation.

"I remember seeing the news coverage," said Buggar. "It looked like a monster storm then, but knowing that these folks need our help now, years later, really makes you appreciate how bad it was." Buggar and his fellow linemen helped the local utility rehabilitate primary and secondary power distribution lines.

"Co-op employees who volunteer for this type of service are indeed a special breed," said National Rural Electric Cooperative Association CEO Glenn English. "Electric cooperatives have a proud tradition of helping neighbors in need; whether they're in the next county or the Caribbean makes little difference."

Sam Surratt, an Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative lineman is another example of the face to face foreign aid co-ops practice. Surratt also worked for two weeks in the Dominican Republic.



Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative lineman Sam Surratt (left) with the new friends he made in the Dominican Republic. "There's a lot these people can learn from us, but we can also learn from them. For instance, how can you have so little and work so hard, and be so happy," said Surratt.

He put in 10-hour days replacing lost electrical facilities.

"These people are so poor it's hard to believe," said Surratt. "I couldn't believe how bad the system was, but we fixed a lot of it."

NRECA's International Programs were launched in 1962. NRECA has sent more than 500 American electric co-op specialists to 65 nations. NRECA-assisted rural electric projects worldwide provide electric service to more than 38 million people.

Illinois enterprise zones produce jobs

Governor George H. Ryan signed legislation that expands the state's enterprise zone program to allow targeted areas throughout Illinois to continue revitalization and economic development efforts.

House Bill 1991 increases the maximum number of years an enterprise zone may be in effect, from 20 to 30 years.

The first group of eight enterprise zones was designated on July 1, 1983 and would have expired within three years had this legislation not been enacted. There are now 93 enterprise zones statewide.

"Enterprise zones have been useful tools in helping to encourage investment and stimulate areas in need of new economic activity," Ryan said.

"Since their establishment, Illinois' enterprise zones have helped to create 190,000 new jobs and assisted 23,000 Illinois companies statewide, and that's why it is important for us to support this program."

An enterprise zone is a specific area designated by the State of Illinois in cooperation with a local government, that allows businesses within the zone to receive various tax credits and exemptions on utilities and building materials, and for job creation and investments made.

"The key component of the enterprise zone program is the partnership that exists with local governments to help spur new business activity in these areas," said Department of Commerce and Community Affairs Director Pam

McDonough. "We believe that economic development begins at the local level and the enterprise zone program is a perfect example of that philosophy in action."

Over the last 17 years the enterprise zone program has generated over \$17 billion in new investment in Illinois.

GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICES



OTHER SHAPES AVAILABLE

BUILD A BETTER BUILDING

FACTORY DIRECT

- Sizes 500-20,000 sq. ft.
- Strongest for Wind & Snow
- Heavy 24, 22, 20 & 18 ga. steel
- Maintenance Free

STEEL BUILDINGS

http://www.pioneersteel.com

1-800-668-5422

SALE PRICE

\$3,844

FOR EXAMPLE - 25' X 40'
FRONT END OPTIONAL

Revolutionary Soft Hearing Aid—Free Information

Tiny Hearing Aid with Remarkable Sound!

The Exciting New EarMate-63 Hearing Aid

If you miss some words, the EarMate-63 may be your solution.

Are you one of the millions of Americans suffering from gradual hearing loss? You say "What?" more often because it sounds to you like people are mumbling. Family members complain that you play the TV too loudly. You avoid conversations because you don't hear the higher tones in speech. It happens to almost everyone—you hear but don't understand.

U.S. Army research concluded hearing loss associated with aging is a normal, predictable process. In today's noisier world that loss occurs at younger ages. You may not even be aware it's happening.

Now you don't have to sacrifice your quality of life because of your mild to moderate hearing loss. The EarMate-63 amplifies the higher tones which you've been missing. You have nothing to lose by trying this tiny hearing aid—it may be the perfect solution for you!

Scientific Breakthrough!



Out of Sight!

Now you may dramatically improve your hearing with the new EarMate-63. The outer casing is made of a soft material that conforms to the shape of your ear canal. Its revolutionary soft casing remains soft and pliable. You are assured a secure and comfortable fit which minimizes the chance of squealing or whistling. You can have the best fit possible from a ready-to-wear hearing aid.

© Hearing Help Express, DeKalb, IL 60115

The Hearing Help Express Guarantee

Use your EarMate-63(s) for 45 days and you will rediscover the better hearing you once took for granted. If you are not completely satisfied, return your EarMate-63(s) for a full refund.

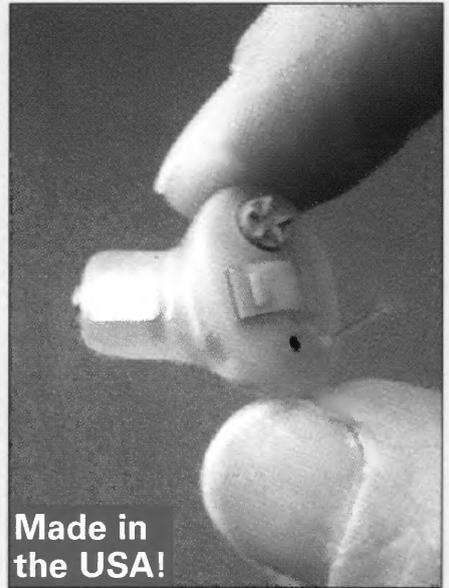
The Hearing Help Express Warranty

You will receive a one year warranty against defects in materials or workmanship.

Clearer & Cleaner Sound

You will be amazed by the quality of the sound you hear with the EarMate-63. Its superior Class D circuitry gives you a clearer, more natural sound with less distortion. You will also discover that your batteries last twice as long with Class D circuitry, so you spend half as much on batteries.

For less than \$300 with an introductory offer, you can try this revolutionary hearing aid for yourself. You can be assured that quality is not sacrificed. Compare the EarMate-63 to hearing aids selling for more than \$1,000 and decide for yourself which works best for you.



Made in the USA!

EarMate-63 enlarged to show detail.

"It is one of the best. I've got one for my left ear and now one for the right."
R.M., Dover OH

"These are the most comfortable hearing aids I have ever worn. You have a customer for life."
J.W., Bishopville, MD

FREE information!
Call 1-800-843-3773
FREE SHIPPING!

Hearing Help Express

105 N First St, Dept 19-127
DeKalb, IL 60115-0586

YES! Please rush me details on the EarMate-63 introductory offer. I understand there is no obligation and no salesperson will call.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

FINDING A HOME

Building affordable housing in rural Illinois.

Nationwide, more than 11 million households have severe cost burdens, paying over half their incomes for housing, and more than 3 million of those families live in rural areas.

And it's a pretty safe bet that downstate Illinois has at least its fair share of people who are struggling with the need for decent, affordable housing, and others who are living with family and friends.

It has been known for a long time that there is a housing crunch in some areas, and co-op leaders realize that a lack of affordable housing and financing difficulties contribute to a lower quality of life for many in their service territories. The problem also stifles local economic development efforts.

Illinois Rural Housing Task Force

Several organizations have formed the Illinois Rural Housing Task Force, and are putting together a booklet that's designed to help people in rural areas and small towns come to grips with the housing short-fall. Entitled "Building a Brighter Future... Bringing Affordable Housing to Your Community", it is in the production stages. It will be free. It was commissioned by Rural Partners, the Illinois public/private partnership for rural development, and should be available from that organization (See sidebar for address and other information).

It discusses just what affordable housing is, and what rural people need to do to overcome obstacles

that stand in the way of building new housing.

Unfortunately, there are many obstacles, ranging from a lack of infrastructure to the reluctance of many homeowners to have housing projects located near them.

USDA Rural Development

Sheldon Keyser, rural development coordinator for USDA's Rural Development, says, "One of the biggest problems is the lack of builders in rural areas. There were quite a few of them years ago, but the high interest rates and inflation in the early 1980s forced a lot of them out of business. And they haven't been replaced as time went by.

"And to make matters worse," he continues, "we've seen an incredible decline in the number of building trades classes in schools, virtually all over the country. We just don't have enough skilled people to do all the construction that we need."

That may be changing for the better, now. Classes that were once generically lumped into the category called "shop" a few decades ago were designed primarily as a place to park non-college-bound youths. Often, skills taught in such classes involved building birdhouses, hammering ashtrays out of copper sheeting and making piles of sawdust out of good lumber.

Fortunately, things are looking up for the old shop classes. They've gained new respect as "building trades classes," and are designed to teach skills that will enable young people to find good jobs and to get into a line of work that's really needed.



Sheldon Keyser, rural development coordinator for USDA's Rural Development, left, and John Lowrey, editor and manager of information for the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, discuss production of the book.



Chatham Jr. High Building Trades Program

Bob Holquist, instructor at Glenwood Junior High School in Chatham, notes that he gets young people interested in the building trades early. "When I go to conventions and workshops," he says, "I'm the only one there who has a junior high program. Everyone else represents high schools."

He emphasizes that today's classes are light years away from the old shop classes, and that there are many bright, interested kids in them.

"I have nine different classes, and there are anywhere from 18 to 23 kids in each. There are a total of 187 kids enrolled in my classes this year, and about half are girls."

Holquist's classes are different from many in that he has the kids build small houses — indoors — then takes them apart and sells them as storage buildings.

"We usually build two buildings, each 8 feet by 16 feet. We'll build a third if we have it pre-sold. We build them with a real electrical service entrance, flooring, carpeting, studs on 16-inch centers, drywall, and everything. The kids sweat-solder joints in copper tubing, wire outlets, install insulation, install and rig a toilet and sink, build trusses, and put on a roof, just like they were building a full-sized house.

"When I go to conventions and workshops, I'm the only one there who has a junior high program. Everyone else represents high schools."

— Bob Holquist

"When we get done, we rip out everything down to the studs, and sell the shell."

Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative Co.(RECC), Auburn, helped with the materials, donating a sink, countertop, and an electric meter loop with its attendant hardware. Holquist notes that RECC personnel occasionally help with his electricity classes, too.

While getting construction people trained is an important part of a solution to the puzzle of affordable rural housing, there is more to it than that. In fact, there are so many disciplines involved, and so many different pieces to the puzzle, that even getting everybody moving in the right direction may well be a Herculean chore.

Raising money can be a problem for some, and the "Affordable Housing" booklet notes that getting money for

rural construction can be much like pulling teeth. USDA's Keyser emphasizes that the fragmented nature of rural housing efforts increases the cost of money, and that the still-diminishing rural population poses a problem, too.

"Some 60 rural counties in Illinois are basically just holding their own, with low growth," he says, "and there are lots of people in low-paying entry-level jobs. In poor areas, high interest rates and the lack of skilled construction workers is a real problem. You have difficulty finding people to build homes, and there's often a two-year waiting period for those who already have their financing lined up."

In addition, rural areas suffer from a lack of respect from the financial community. Borrowers in counties that have a Metropolitan Statistical Area (city), can get a better interest rate than people in non-MSA areas (most of downstate Illinois).

"Those in MSA counties benefit because there's more competition," Keyser says, "and there are fewer lenders in really rural areas. The volume isn't enough to excite loan brokers, who often play a big part in financing. And lenders may not have a widely known presence in rural counties."

Many people, he adds, are shocked by the cost of both rural property and the price of a building to put on it. While many people perceive that "rural" means "cheap," that's not really the case. While rural lots may be less expensive than urban ones, property costs have gone up dramatically in the last couple of decades. Those who haven't kept track of such things are in for a real awakening when they go looking for a place to live.

Habitat for Humanity

In the meantime, many people are taking the direct approach and building affordable houses for those who need them. Habitat for Humanity, a nondenominational ministry made famous by former President Jimmy Carter, is far and away the

best-known of such organizations, and is growing by leaps and bounds, as the need becomes more and more recognizable.

Habitat, realizing that it's vital for the new homeowner to bond with the house, insists that the recipient put hours of "sweat equity" into the home by helping with the construction process. Each adult in the family must put in 250 hours. Many would-be donors of money, materials or labor are often gun shy about giving, for fear that the new homeowner might just sell his or her new home and make off with the money. The organization holds a "hidden mortgage" on the structure to prevent such an event.

The Springfield chapter has an unusual source of labor. Inmates from the Shelbyville Correctional Center, some 50 miles southeast of Springfield, build prefabricated sections of homes, which are then assembled by volunteers on site. Such creative thinking enables Habitat for Humanity to reduce costs while still coming up with a quality product.

Southern Illinois Coalition for the Homeless (SICH)

The Southern Illinois Coalition for the Homeless (SICH) in Marion does a similar job, but it refurbishes older homes. In the past, notes Sharon Hess, executive director, the Marion-based group sold homes, with no thought given to people who might want to rent. Now, it both sells and rents.

She notes that many people perceive the homeless to be lazy. In fact, she says, many of the homeless or under-housed are actually low-paid working people suffering from the twin problems of poverty and a lack of affordable housing.

"We look for older vacant homes," she says, "that don't have a great deal of 'curb appeal.' We get them for as little as possible, and we refurbish them. We work with several government agencies, other organizations and volunteers, to bring them back up to first-rate condition."

The organization has bought

Sharon Hess, executive director of Southern Illinois Coalition for the Homeless, is pictured with one of the houses that organization likes to obtain and refurbish. It will take a lot of work, but this old house will look just fine after SICH volunteers work their magic.



and rehabilitated 43 homes in 12 counties. As of now, 11 of those homes have been bought by their formerly homeless occupants. Others are in various stages of the process, or are being rented.

The houses, she notes, get new wiring, plumbing, insulation, roofing, furnaces and whatever else it takes to get them ready for their new owners. SICH seeks a match for the house, a low-income family that's looking for a home. The family then signs a six-month occupancy agreement and pays 28 percent of its gross income monthly. "At the end of six months," Sharon says, "we offer them a lease-to-purchase agreement."

"Under this agreement, a case manager works with the family for two years, to help them get ready to buy their home through conventional financing. The family then becomes homeowners."

This is one of the differences between SICH and some organizations. Long after the family moves into its home, the organization is still there to help, working with

them to complete their education and helping them adjust. While most of us have grown up in homes and have adjusted to the trials and tribulations of home ownership, some haven't.

They need to be reminded that there are expenses and difficulties that must be overcome. For example, it's one thing to make a mortgage payment, and another to pay for electricity, gas, water, sewer and maintenance.

Since 1989, SICH and its members have served 10,000 homeless and near-homeless in 24 southern Illinois counties, providing support services and housing counseling. Much of its work involves helping people obtain their GED (General Education Degree), and working with them in helpful ways short of providing homes. Most of the recipients – by far – receive this kind of help. While Illinois electric co-ops aren't involved in housing, some in other states are. Alfalfa Electric Cooperative in Cherokee, Oklahoma, is busily marketing first-

class modular homes to people in its service territory, and notes that a prospective buyer can have a carefully-built, energy-efficient home in just a couple of months. The homes, unlike many modulars, are indistinguishable from any that might be found on any rural lot or suburban subdivision. Alfalfa Electric offers two homes, available in a choice of floor plans, for less than \$90,000, and they can be insured and financed just like a site-built home.

Sac County REC, in Sac City, Iowa, doesn't sell houses, but it helps its community with a program similar to Chatham's Holquist's, but with some added touches.

High school students revitalize older homes, or build new ones in the mid-price range. In a recent project, art students drew up house plans, while media students got involved in videotaping the procedure. The computer-assisted drafting (CAD) class came up with alternative floor plans, and the building-trades classes did the construction work.

The FFA chapter and the school's football team built retaining walls and helped with landscaping. Elementary kids got involved by writing essays, and got a bit of exposure to the building trades.

Since the construction students worked with area contractors, they were exposed to job opportunities they might not otherwise have had.

Even though there is a shortage of affordable rural housing, and a shortage of people to build such housing, there are a lot of creative people working to find a solution. And electric co-ops are there, too, doing what they can.

For more information about AIEC and its member cooperatives visit us at: www.aiec.org

INFORMATION



Those looking for a solution to the rural housing problem may wish to begin by contacting the following organizations:

To learn more about Habitat for Humanity, write:

Habitat for Humanity International
121 Habitat Street
Americus, GA 31709-3498

Telephone: (229) 924-6934
Web site: www.habitat.org

Sheldon Keyser, rural development coordinator for USDA's Rural Development, can be reached at:

265 South Mill St.
Nashville, IL 62263

Telephone: (618) 327-8822, Ext.107
Fax: (618) 993-4013
E-mail: skeyser@rurdev.usda.gov

Habitat for Humanity's Springfield office is located at:

1525 E. Phillips St.
Springfield, IL 62702

Telephone: (217) 523-2710
Fax: (217) 523-2790
Web site: habitat@citystate.net

Rural Partners, the organization that commissioned the "Affordable Housing" book, is headed up by Paul Galligos, partnership manager. He can be reached at:

Rural Partners
3085 Stevenson Dr., Suite302
Springfield, IL 62703

Southern Illinois Coalition for the Homeless is located at:

1311 W. Main
Marion, IL 62959

Telephone: (618) 993-0094
Fax: (618) 993-4013.

Telephone: (217) 585-8233
E-mail: ruralpartners.org

The web site where the Housing booklet will be hosted is:

<http://www.icaanet.com/publctns.htm#non-icaa>

From there, you'll need to go to "Outside Publications," and follow directions from there.

Illinois electric cooperatives are involved the "Certified Comfort Home Program." They realize that just being able to pay a mortgage often isn't enough, and that homeowners will be better off if they live in energy-efficient homes.

The book is full of energy conservation tips to help reduce the cost of heating, cooling and water heating. It's available from your local co-op, and it's free.

Safety

AROUND YOUR HOME

**Be safe —
install outlets
correctly**



Jim Nevel

If your house was built in the last 20 years or so, chances are that your electrical outlets, often called receptacles or receptacle outlets, have three holes for you to plug lights or appliances into.

Earlier homes had two-hole outlets. Generally speaking, the three-hole outlets are safer than the earlier ones, and the National Electrical Code (NEC), requires their installation in new construction, and when replacing old ones.

The third hole, the round one, was added years ago as a safety feature, and gradually found its way into many homes. But it's there for a reason. It leads to a ground that will help prevent electric shocks or fires.

If you'll look carefully at a three-prong plug, you'll note that two of the prongs are flat, while the other is round or U-shaped. Look even more carefully, and you'll see that it's also a little longer than the others are. That's a safety factor, too.

NEC has tried to engineer plugs and receptacles for maximum safety to prevent any injury when a plug is unplugged carelessly. Since the third prong is a little longer than the two flat ones, it ensures that the last electrical connection to be opened in the circuit will be the ground connection. This will always be true, if the plug is pulled straight out of the outlet.

Unfortunately, most are not. Ergonomic studies have shown that those lower outlets along the walls make it difficult to pull the plug straight out, without kneeling on the floor beside the receptacle. Rather than doing that, most people pull outward and upward as they unplug cords.

Engineers have worked hard to figure how to build things so people will be safe, even if they don't unplug

correctly. With that in mind, it makes more sense to have your electrician wire your receptacles so that the round hole is above the slots for the flat prongs. With the receptacle in that position, pulling outward and upward ensures that the longest prong is the last to break contact. That's the way it should be.

Outlets placed at the countertop level are different. Students of such things note that people tend to pull downward and outward when they're unplugging cords from countertop outlets. With that in mind, you need to ask your electrician to wire those outlets with the round hole below the slots for the flat prongs.

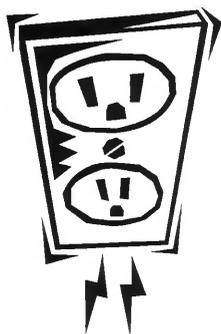
NEC doesn't actually specify how outlets should be mounted, but it does require that safe wiring practices be followed.

But what if your home has two-prong receptacles? Many older homes do. Two-prong outlets have no safety ground electrode and no ground wire. NEC no longer permits installing two-prong receptacles in homes.

There are several ways to address this problem. If the wiring is done through conduit or BX cable and the conduit is continuous back to the service panel, you can connect the new receptacle to the metal receptacle box.

If there is a metallic cold water pipe going nearby, and you're sure it's electrically continuous to the main house ground point, you can run a conductor to it from the third ground wire terminal connection. Another wiring safety procedure would be to run a ground wire back to the service panel.

The easiest solution might be to install a ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) receptacle. The ground lug should not be connected to anything, but the GFCI protection itself will serve as the protection. The NEC requires those three-prong receptacles without a ground that are protected by GFCI must be labeled as such.



Jim Nevel, manager of regulatory compliance for the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

FREE HEARING CATALOG!
 • 45 DAY TRIAL
 • \$199 & UP
BETTER HEARING
 DEPT B34, Brookport, IL 62910
 1-800-320-3300 EXT B34

ARE YOU DIABETIC?

Do you have Medicare or private insurance? Under a new law, you may qualify for FREE DIABETIC SUPPLIES even if you are on an oral medication or diet control. Call for details:

1-800-500-6995

Medical Support Foundation
 No Obligation
SATISFACTION GUARANTEED
www.busdir.com/medicalgro

ATTENTION! MOBILE HOME OWNERS

Our Mobile Home Roofover System Offers:

- ✓ Improved Appearance
- ✓ One Foot Over-Hang
- ✓ NO More Roof-Rumble!
- ✓ Lifetime Warranty Against Leaks
- ✓ Commercial Quality Steel Roofing
- ✓ 2"-3" Insulation/Lower Utility Bills

IMPROVE YOUR QUALITY OF LIFE!

12 inches
6 inches

BEFORE AFTER

PERMA-ROOF
 Mobile Home Roofover Systems
Southern Builders
 "INSTALLING ROOFOVERS SINCE 1983!"

1-800-633-8969
 on the web: www.roofover.com

AMERICAN STEEL BUILDINGS

www.americansteelmfg.com



Buy factory direct
 Mini-storage

Commercial & Industrial



Agricultural & Church

Your choice for steel components and accessories

Call today for a FREE quote:
1-800-240-3688

\$339¹⁵ FACTORY DIRECT!

The New-for-2001 DR® TRIMMER/MOWER™ is the easiest-to-use, best performing trimmer-on-wheels ever!

- **NEW MODELS** — from the easy-handling SPRINT®...to the lowest-priced-ever 6.0 HP PRO...to the powerful 6.75 HP COMMERCIAL!
- **NEW FEATURES** — instant cord attachment/height adjustment, anti-wrap, edging and optional brush cutting and bulb planting attachments for all DR® Models!

• **FACTORY-DIRECT, TO-YOUR-DOOR SERVICE** — no hassling with traffic, parking, pick-up, or hauling!
 Takes the place of both your rotary mower and your hand-held trimmer!



SATISFACTION GUARANTEED TRIAL!

PATENTED MADE IN THE USA

CALL TOLL FREE 1(800) 847-0300

Now there are DR® models for every property!

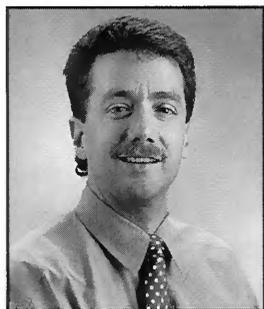
SO, before you buy any trimmer or mower this season, send for your FREE CATALOG on the ALL-NEW DR® TRIMMER/MOWER™!

For your FREE, 24-page DR® TRIMMER/MOWER™ CATALOG, including how you can try out a DR® RISK-FREE on your property for 30 days, mail this coupon today!

Name _____ WCG
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
DR® COUNTRY HOME PRODUCTS®, Dept. 38666X
 Meigs Road, P.O. Box 25, Vergennes, VT 05491
www.drtrimmers.com

Your YARD AND GARDEN

Plants that go the distance



David Robson

During the winter months, when there was snow covering everything, and my furnace was liquefying my savings, I surveyed my vast 1/100th of an acre behind my house and thought about starting over. Ripping things out. Creating compost fodder. Supporting the nursery industry.

Now, there's nothing wrong with keeping some plants around forever. Cutting down a large white oak or sugar maple seems a tad too much, unless the tree is ready to topple on top of your house. But if the enjoyment of a plant has passed, or you've realized that the blue hydrangea will never flower in your yard, get rid of the plant. When you realize that the flowering lilac only provides beauty for about 10 days a year, and there are tons of other plants that can provide 365 days of enjoyment, find the chainsaw.

It was that 365 days of enjoyment that got me going. Now, I like the smell of a lilac and the purplish-blue color. In fact, I enjoy the one my neighbor has behind her garage, where she doesn't have to see the mildew-covered green leaves all summer, or the stale brown color the leaves turn in October. In fact, it's a perfect place for the lilac. Over the years, as plants have come and gone, and the yard keeps looking more like a somewhat contained urban jungle, I've decided if a plant can't provide at least two or three seasons worth of interest, it's no longer welcomed.

How difficult is that? Well, it's easier to remove the plants, especially after some internal liquid lubrication (myself, not the plants) than it is to find plants that can provide interest throughout the year. There are some, though.

Oakleaf hydrangea probably is in the

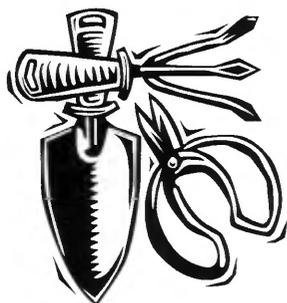
top five. The leaves are a rich, hunter-green during the summer with a fuzzy rust color underneath. They are rather large, which provides more of a contrast with the delicate foliage of most flowers and shrubs. That's one characteristic. The plant's flowers are large white panicles that show up in May and June, without scent (one negative) that dry a pale pink and remain on the plant until next spring. Characteristic two, fall color is outstanding, a rich purplish burgundy, sometimes with a smattering of orange. Greatness number three, once the leaves are off, you get a glimpse of the cinnamon-orange colored peeling bark. Bingo! That's year-round interest.

Oakleaf hydrangeas prefer to grow in light shade, though some specimens will do well in full sun. Just make sure the soil is slightly acidic and well drained.

Another plant is the blueberry. Yep, the muffin fruit. Blueberries have one of the glossiest green leaves you can find. It almost looks like someone coated them with candle wax. In May, you'll notice little white, bell-like flowers hanging from the bush in clusters. The flowers are slightly fragrant, but you'll probably have to stick your nose in one to really get a whiff.

Of course, after the flowers comes the blue fruit, which of course might be enough in most people's book.

In the fall, the leaves can match a burning bush's for intensity, except there are more yellow, orange, red and purple hues. When the leaves do fall, you'll notice the reddish-orange stems that persist through the winter. It's tough to find four-season plants. Sometimes you have to settle for three, such as the viburnum, forsythia and holly. Sometimes for two. But never settle for just one season's worth of interest, even if for 10 days the plant is spectacular. Let someone else grow those, and go visit them. And then ask for some lilac flowers to take home and stick in a vase. I'll try to provide a list of other plants, common and rare, throughout the next couple of months.



David Robson is an Extension Educator, Horticulture, at the Springfield Extension Center, University of Illinois Extension. You can write to Robson in care of Illinois Country Living, P.O. Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708. Telephone: (217) 782-6515.

E-Mail: robsond@mail.aces.uiuc.edu or SOLUTIONS: www.ag.uiuc.edu/~robsond/solutions.

POND LINERS
 Custom sizes, reinforced material,
 642 psi puncture strength.
 USDA/NRCS approved.
 \$.39 sqft or less depending on volume.
 Cistern liners, hay & truck tarps.
Bend Tarp & Liner, Inc. 800-280-0712

DIABETIC?
 Your Medicare and/or private insurance may
 qualify you for **NO COST** diabetic supplies!
 Free delivery 1-800-453-9033 x25
AMERICAN DIABETIC SUPPLY, INC.

America's Oldest & Largest Rare Breed Hatchery
FREE COLOR CATALOG
 Over 140 varieties of Baby Chicks, Bantams,
 Turkeys, Guineas, Peafowl, Game Birds,
 Waterfowl. Also Eggs, Incubators, Books,
 Equipment and Medications.
 Call 1-800-456-3280
(24 hours a day)
 Website: <http://www.mcmurrayhatchery.com>
Murray McMurray Hatchery,
 C132, Webster City, Iowa 50595-0458




**Low Cost
 Financing
 for Public
 Improvements**

Bond Bank bonds are exempt
 from Illinois and federal taxes &
 backed by the moral obligation
 of the state

- schools
- sewer systems
- libraries
- water systems
- roads
- fire equipment
- parks
- correctional facilities
- airports
- public buildings

Illinois Rural Bond Bank
 427 East Monroe, Suite 202
 Springfield, Illinois 62701
 217-524-2663
 email: bondbank@bondbank.org
 Lt. Gov. Corinne Wood, Chairman

**The best sawmill
 value...ever**

9hp \$3795
 13hp \$4120
 20hp \$4695

FREE INFORMATION - USA & CANADA
 1-800-661-7746 ext. 362 **NORWOOD
 INDUSTRIES INC**



**The Super-Shield Insulated Roof
 Gives You More . . .**



**IF YOU'RE FED UP WITH LEAKS, NOISE,
 COATING & HIGH ENERGY BILLS...
 THE APOLLO SUPER-SHIELD INSULATED ROOF
 IS THE SOLUTION TO THESE PROBLEMS.**

800 333 9562
 SERVING • INDIANA • ILLINOIS
 • KENTUCKY • OHIO • SINCE 1987




**HERITAGE
 BUILDING SYSTEMS**
Established 1979
800-643-5555

BUILD IT YOURSELF AND SAVE

24 x 40 x 10	\$4,060
40 x 60 x 12	\$6,950
50 x 80 x 16	\$12,514
80 x 200 x 18m1	\$40,561
100 x 200 x 20m1	\$50,055

Commercial all steel buildings and component
 parts from America's largest distributor since
 1979. Any size is available featuring easy
 bolt up rigid frame design for Industry, office,
 mini-storage, shop, farm and all steel homes.
 Call us today for a free information package
 and quote on the best buildings made.

**Mini Warehouse Sale
 Any Shape Any Size
 www.metalbldg.com**

**NEW! 3-MINUTE
 TREE TRANSPLANTING!**



- Move trees & shrubs in minutes
- Transplant perennials even faster!

Neatly dig, extract and transplant anything that grows Fast, easy, fool-proof.

Made in USA

Call TOLL FREE 1-888-479-7400 EXT. 2015
 e-mail: jearling@TreeToad.com
 Tree Toad, Dept. 2015
 2165 Colin Dr., Long Lake, MN 55356

YES! Rush me all the facts on Tree Toad® Transplanters including the SAVINGS OFFER currently in effect!

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____



WINNING SMILES BEGIN HERE

Orthodontics General Dentistry Dentures Hygiene Crowns & Bridges Implants

DENTURES BASIC \$245 **CROWNS BASIC \$245**



**OUR BEST, FOR LESS, IN A DAY
 DENTAL CENTER**
2 Locations!

Drs. Hildreth, Alvarez & Smith **Drs. Hildreth & Campbell**

Located at
MID-AMERICA DENTAL & HEARING CENTER
 I-44 • Exit 44
 1050 W. Hayward Drive
 Mt. Vernon, MO 65712
800-354-1905
www.midamericadental.com

Located at
MID-AMERICA DENTAL CLINIC
 I-44 • Exit 46
 558 Mt. Vernon Blvd.
 Mt. Vernon, MO 65712
800-372-4554

Today's

TECHNOLOGY AND YOU

Heat pumps are a year-round energy saver

Q: Dear Jim: Our heat pump is about 15 years old. It blows out chilly air each time it starts and is noisy. What is new in heat pumps and are new ones more efficient and comfortable? How much can we expect to save on our electric bills? -

Meg S.

A: Dear Meg: If your heat pump is 15 years old, you will be amazed at the improved comfort with a new system (both outdoor compressor and indoor blower units). I know because I just replaced an old heat pump in my home with an entirely new system that uses new ozone-friendly R410A refrigerant instead of freon.

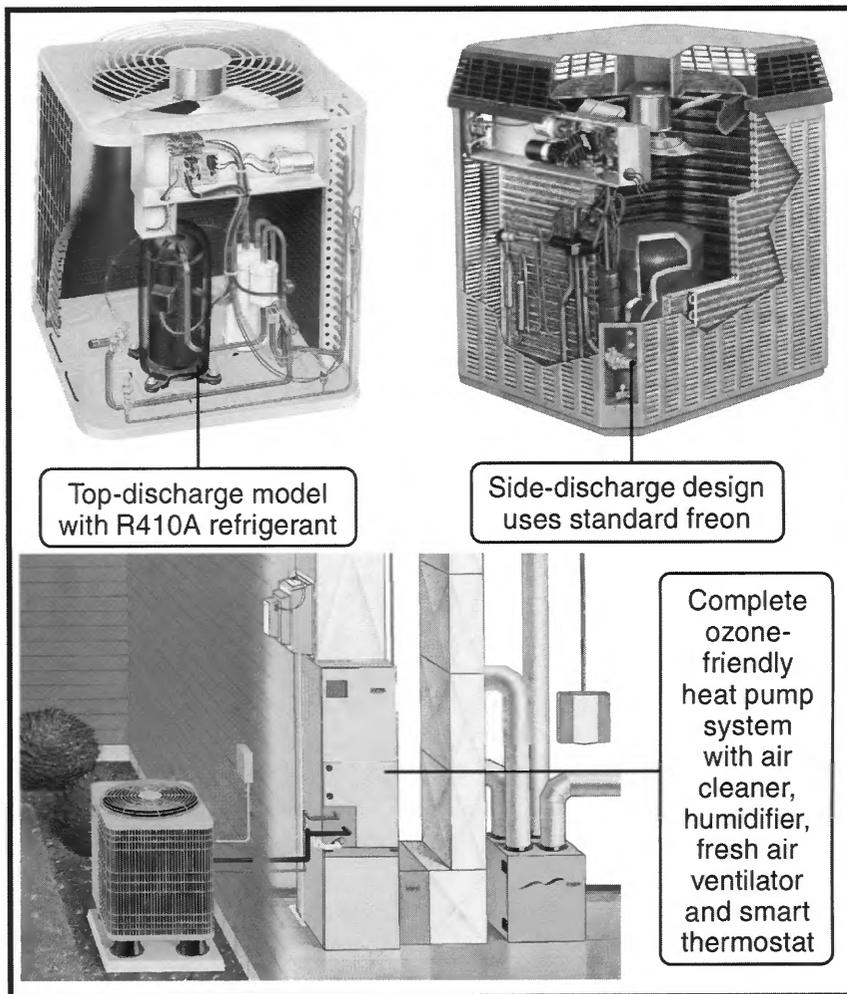
Since a heat pump is used year-round, the utility bill savings often justify replacing your old unit now, even though it is still running. Depending on the efficiency of your old heat pump, it is not unreasonable to expect an annual savings as high as 50 percent on your heating and cooling electric bills.

The heating efficiency of a heat pump is called its Heating Seasonal Performance Factor (HSPF) and the cooling efficiency is called Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER). The new models, like the one I installed, have HSPF's of about 8 and SEER's of 13. The contractor's computerized analysis shows that it will use about 41 percent less electricity than my old one.

You have many new efficient heat pump options from which to choose depending on your comfort needs, your budget and your interest in the environment. Whatever type you select, make sure to have

James Dullely 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.

Copyright 1999 James Dullely



New heat pumps can cut utility bills in half

the indoor coil (the blower unit in your basement or utility room) matched to the outdoor compressor unit. Without it, efficiency will be sacrificed and it may not adequately dehumidify your house as it cools in the summer.

The newest models use R410A refrigerant instead of freon which attacks the ozone layer. These R410A compressors (usually scroll designs) run at higher internal pressures, so heavy-duty compressor parts and coil materials are required. This improves overall reliability and the extra mass of the components reduces the noise level and lowers its tone.

If your budget is not tight and you want the best comfort and absolute highest efficiency, select a two-

level output heat pump. These models use one of two designs: 1) two separate compressors in the outdoor unit or 2) a single two-speed compressor motor. Both designs run on the low-output level much of the time.

By having a low-electricity-usage, low-output (heating or cooling) mode, the heat pump will not start and stop as often. This greatly improves the comfort, maintains even room temperatures and is beneficial for allergy sufferers who need effective air cleaning. The entire unit, whether heating or cooling, operates super efficiently when it is in the low-output level mode.

Another comfort and efficiency advantage of two-level models is the indoor variable-speed blower motor that they use. These special motors automatically fine-tune the air flow for the best comfort, efficiency and quiet operation. Most have a slow "ramp-up speed" start feature. This is quieter and

reduces that initial blast of chilly air from the registers whenever the heat pump kicks on.

For budget concerns, most homeowners will probably install a single-level output heat pump model like I have. Most models use a simple scroll compressor with either freon or new R410A. An optional variable-speed blower motor can also be used with these models for better comfort. With this optional motor, the efficiencies are usually about one point higher.

Using a variable-speed blower motor coupled with a special new temperature/humidity thermostat (called a thermostad) allows you to adjust the humidity and temperature independently. The smart variable-speed blowers use only about 30 percent as much electricity as a standard blower motor. Over an entire year, this results in a substantial electricity savings.

A thermostad is particularly effective for savings in the summer because you can set your thermo-

stat a degree or two higher without sacrificing comfort. For example, if your house is too humid, the thermostad will select a blower speed for extra dehumidification with little cooling so the house is not overcooled.

The outdoor compressor unit on the new models is sometimes slightly larger than the old one (to accommodate the greater condenser coil area), but most should fit on the same concrete pad without modification. The new indoor blower units should be about the same size as your old one.

Write for (instantly download - www.dulley.com) Utility Bills Update No. 824 - buyer's guide of the 14 most efficient, comfortable heat pumps listing output levels, efficiency, size, blower type, comfort features, and a savings/payback chart. Please include \$3.00 and a business-size SASE. James Dulley, Publication Name, P.O. Box 54987, Cincinnati, OH 45254.

DENTURES
IN ONE-DAY SERVICE

Custom Upper and or Lower
Opposing Imp. \$15
ADA Approved Materials
Appointment Highly Advised

\$99 EA.

GENERAL DENTISTRY
AND
OTHER DENTAL SERVICES AVAILABLE

WHERE SEE MAP

Adult Care Dentures
DR. THOMAS ARNOLD
101 Marshall Place
CARMI, IL 62821
Information or appointment
Call
1 800 825 8044
or **618 382 8010**

Also Extractions and simple oral surgery at reduced fee with Dental appliance all at Dr.'s quote

to St. Louis MO
to KY
to KY

Wabash River

Marion IN

Evansville IN

to KY

to KY

WCG

VISA

MasterCard

No personal checks please.

Wildflower Gardening

Begins with Wildseed Farms' Reference Guide and seed Catalog

- 52 pages of beautiful color photographs.
- 70 varieties to choose from.
- Easy to follow planting instructions.
- Detailed plant descriptions and cultural information.
- Regional Mixtures, Packets, Ounces and Pounds available.
- Order Direct from the nation's largest wildflower seed producer with over 1,000 acres of production and save!

THE HARVEST OF JOHNNY WILDSEED®

Spring is the time to plant!!
Request your free catalog today.

Call 1-800-848-0078
or write to:

Wildseed Farms
425 Wildflower Hills
P. O. Box 3000
Fredericksburg, TX 78624
www.wildseedfarms.com

Professional Power...
DR® CHIPPER
Makes Brush Piles DISAPPEAR!

- Devours branches up to 4-1/2" thick!
- Turns fallen limbs, storm damage, tops from felled trees into useful wood chip mulch in MINUTES!
- 3 to 4 times FASTER than ordinary homeowner chipper/shredders which were originally designed for grinding up garden wastes as opposed to heavy chipping.
- Sold FACTORY-DIRECT at great savings!

18 HP twin-cylinder, Electric-Start, and Road-Towable model shown.

Made in the U.S.A.

CALL TOLL-FREE
1(800)847-0300

Please mail coupon today for FREE DETAILS about the Revolutionary DR® CHIPPER including prices of models from 10 to 18 HP and Factory-Direct Savings now in effect.

Name _____ WCG, Inc.
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

DR® COUNTRY HOME PRODUCTS®, Dept. 38667X
Meigs Road, P.O. Box 25, Vergennes, VT 05491
www.drchipper.com

© 2001 CHP, Inc.

Mobile Home Owners: ROOF KING

Mobile Home Super Insulated
Roof Over Systems
40 Year Warranty
Factory Direct From Roof King
1-800-748-0645

LOWEST COST Term Life Insurance

Issue ages through 90

AGE	\$100,000	\$250,000
45	10.71	18.92
55	16.71	34.15
65	27.93	61.99

Rates figured on monthly cost for female non-tobacco users.

RAMLET & ASSOC, INC.
(800) 933-6354

AGL Life Assurance Company Form No. TC-191

RESPIRATORY MEDICATION

Free Pharmacy Consultation
CALL TOLL FREE
1-877-796-9088

Do you have

COPD, Emphysema, Bronchitis, Asthma

...or take any respiratory
medication such as:

- Albuterol • Proventil • Ventolin
- Atrovent • Ipratropium • Cromolyn

Do you use a metered dose
inhaler? If so, we can save
you money!

Respiratory
Medication delivered
to your home!



We bill
MEDICARE
or private insurance.
NO
**OUT-OF-POCKET
EXPENSES**
in most cases.

Visit our web site at: www.phsameds.com
PHARMACY SERVICES OF AMERICA
7282 Plantation Rd., Ste. 104
Pensacola, FL 32504

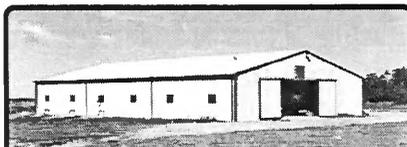
FREE Poultry Catalog Showing All Kinds of Poultry in Color



Over 70 Varieties, Baby Chicks, Exotic
Rare Breeds, Fighting Games, Guineas,
Turkeys, Ducks, Bantams.

MasterCard, Discover & Visa
Fax No: 660-647-3999
E-mail: martip@iland.net

MARTI POULTRY FARM
Box 27-7, Windsor, Missouri 65360
Telephone — 660-647-3156



Arco Quality Steel Buildings Over 20 years in service

Visit us at our web-site - www.arcosteel.com

1-800-241-8339

40X60X12.....	\$ 7,947
50X75X10.....	\$10,172
60X100X12.....	\$15,750
60X75X12.....	\$12,263
50X100X12.....	\$13,186
100X100X12 w/column.....	\$22,977
100X150X14 w/column.....	\$34,981

FOB Plant-All sizes available
Local codes may affect prices

Arco Building Systems, Inc.
3300 Holcomb Bridge Rd., Suite 201
Norcross, Georgia 30092

**"I make more profit
from a 1/4 acre
greenhouse...than
from 100 acres of
row crops!"**

— Jeff Balduff, farmer and
greenhouse vegetable grower

**Call 800-321-5656 for FREE
Greenhouse Farming Pack!**

Farmers all over the country are increasing their
incomes dramatically with greenhouse farming —
the new, hi-tech, profitable family farm for the
21st century. With greenhouse farming...

- You grow fresh, premium quality vegetables year-round.
- You sell locally, in off season when prices are highest and demand is great.
- Your crop is protected from bad weather; cash flow is more dependable.
- You have low overhead; you only need 1/4 acre.
- You work inside, in "spring like" environment all winter long.
- You have technical and marketing assistance from CropKing at all times.

Ask about our
**FREE VIDEO
OFFERS!**
(\$4.95 s/b charge)

Request our **FREE Greenhouse Farming Information Pack** for details on choosing a greenhouse, getting set up, marketing, etc. You'll also learn about our **Grower Training Workshops, Training Videos, Newsletters, Books** and other resources.

CropKing Inc., 5050 Greenwich Rd.,
#WG/IL, Seville, OH 44273-9413
fax: 330-769-2616; email: cropking@cropking.com
<http://www.cropking.com>

We're CLOSING OUT New Leftover 2000 POOLS!



BUY EARLY AND SAVE!

THE MARINER
15' X 24' Family
Size Pool
19' x 30' O.D.

\$888
ONLY

Includes: sundeck,
fence & filter

100% FINANCING!
Installation
Arranged!

HOMEOWNERS ONLY-CALL NOW!
CALL TOLL FREE-FREE HOME SURVEY

1-800-852-7946

Limited area

P. ANDERSON, INC.

YOUR FAMILY POOL COMPANY

Create Your Own Outdoor Room...In Just Seconds!



LIMITED WARRANTY TO CONSUMER
Good Housekeeping
 Promises
 REPLACEMENT OR REFUND IF DEFECTIVE

NEW! Motorized Model Now Available!

**LOW
 Factory
 Direct
 Prices!**

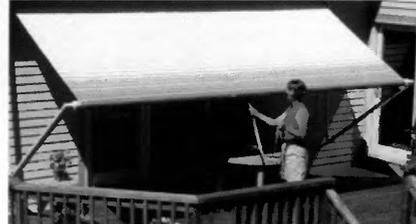
**Opens & Closes In
 Less Than 30 Seconds!**

Introducing The Revolutionary SunSetter® Retractable Awning!

If you're tired of having your outdoor enjoyment rained on...baked out...or just plain ruined by unpredictable weather.

At last there is a solution! One that lets you take control of the weather on your deck or patio! It's the incredible SunSetter® Retractable Awning! A simple... easy-to-use...& affordable way to outsmart the weather and start enjoying your deck or patio more...*rain or shine!*

The SunSetter® is like adding a whole extra *outdoor room* to your home... giving you instant protection from glaring sun...or sudden showers! Plus it's incredibly easy to use...opening & closing effortlessly in *less than 30 seconds!*



Just pull on the handy strap & your SunSetter® unrolls effortlessly!



You choose full sun, partial shade or total protection in just seconds!



**FREE!
 Catalog
 & Video**

**Retractable
 Awnings**

So, stop struggling with the weather...& start enjoying your deck or patio more!

**Call for a FREE Catalog & Video!
 1-800-876-8060 Ext. #8483**

FREE Catalog & Video

Call Toll-Free: 1-800-876-8060 Ext. 8483

Yes! Please send your FREE Catalog & Video...including Special Savings now in effect...**TODAY!**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____

(if we may contact you via e-mail)

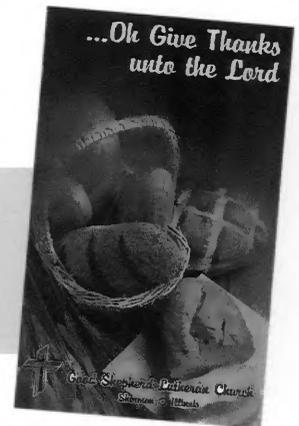
SunSetter®
 RETRACTABLE AWNINGS

184 Charles Street, Dept. 8483
 Malden, MA 02148

©2001, SunSetter® Products

FINEST COOKING

The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Sherman, IL submits its cookbook filled with 20 sections of delicious recipes. The book is soft-backed and costs \$10 plus \$2 postage. To order, contact Regina Hartnett, 1008 Griffiths Ave, Springfield, IL 62702, or call her at (217) 789-2965.



The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Sherman

Breakfast Quiche

Pie pastry (9-inch)
1-1/2 C. Swiss cheese, shredded
1/2 C. onion, chopped
1/2 C. fresh mushrooms, chopped
Nutmeg

Beat eggs well; add milk and mix lightly. Fold in remaining ingredients except the meat. Fry your meat and cut up into fine pieces. Add meat and pour into prepared crust. Sprinkle with nutmeg. Bake uncovered at 425° for 15 minutes. Reduce heat to 325° and bake an additional 25 minutes. Quiche is done when inserted knife comes out clean. Let stand 10 minutes before cutting.

Taco Dip in French Bread Loaf

1 lb. hot sausage, browned and drained
2 C. shredded sharp cheddar cheese
1 loaf French bread

Mix all ingredients together well and place in hollowed bread loaf. Reserve 1/2 C. cheese for topping. Bake at 350° until bubbly. Top with remaining cheese and continue baking until cheese is melted. Serve with tortilla chips or anything appropriate for dipping.

Chunky Clams and Pasta

1 can (19-oz.) chunky clam chowder
1 tsp. dried parsley flakes

In a saucepan, combine soup, parsley and garlic powder. Add pasta. Stir over medium heat and serve.

Grilled Chicken Parmesan

2 pieces tin foil
2 chicken breasts
1 egg white, beaten
1/4 C. bread crumbs
1/4 C. Parmesan cheese
Pepper

Spray foil generously with cooking spray. Combine crumbs, Parmesan, salt, pepper and basil (season to taste). Wash and dry chicken. Dip chicken into egg white and then into dry mix until heavily coated. Place chicken on foil and wrap up into packet. Grill 10-15 minutes per side, turning a couple of times. Serve with heated spaghetti sauce over pasta.

Joyce Walasek

1 can evaporated milk
1 tsp. salt
1/4 to 1/2 tsp. pepper
3/4 C. sausage, ham or bacon
3 eggs

Chicken Chow Mein

8-oz spaghetti or angel hair pasta
2 tsp. oriental sesame oil
3 T. chicken broth
3 T. soy sauce
1 tsp. cornstarch
1/8 tsp. pepper
1 clove garlic

Cook pasta according to package. Drain and rinse with cold water. Transfer pasta to a medium bowl. Add sesame oil and toss until coated. In a small bowl, stir together broth, soy sauce, cornstarch and pepper. Set broth mixture aside. Lightly spray a large unheated skillet with no-stick spray. Heat chicken over medium-high. Add garlic and stir-fry until no longer pink. Remove chicken from skillet and cover to keep warm. Add cabbage, carrots, mushrooms, onions, bamboo shoots and chives to the skillet. Stir-fry for 2 minutes. Remove from the skillet and set aside. Add pasta to the skillet and stir-fry for 3 minutes. Add the broth mixture, vegetables and chicken to the pasta. Stir-fry 2 more minutes.

Graham Cracker Chocolate Chip Cake

1 devil's food chocolate cake mix
1-1/4 pkg. graham crackers

Crush graham crackers with rolling pin in a baggie or on wax paper (not real fine); set aside. Melt a stick of margarine and mix with graham cracker crumbs. Prepare cake mix as directed; pour in greased and floured pan. Sprinkle graham cracker crumbs over top of cake mix. Sprinkle chocolate chips over graham crackers. Bake at 350° until cake pulls away from sides of pan (about 35 to 38 minutes). Serve with Cool Whip.

Pineapple Texas Cake

3 eggs
2 C. sugar
2 C. flour
1/2 tsp. salt

Frosting:

8-oz. cream cheese, softened
1 lb. powdered sugar

Mix together eggs and sugar. Sift together flour, baking soda and salt. Add to egg mixture. Add crushed pineapple, undrained. Add nuts. Pour into greased and floured jellyroll pan. Bake for 20-30 minutes at 350°. Mix frosting ingredients together and spread on warm cake.

Peggy Melcher

8-oz. skinless, boneless chicken breasts cut into strips
2 med. carrots, shredded
1 C. sliced fresh mushrooms
1/2 C. chopped onions
1/2 C. sliced bamboo shoots
1/3 C. chopped fresh chives
2 C. finely shredded cabbage

Cheryl Cryer

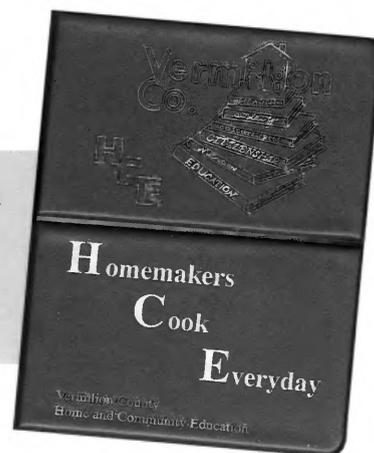
1 stick margarine
6-oz. chocolate chips
Cool Whip

Joyce Kirk

1 (#2) can crushed pineapple
2 tsp. baking soda
1/2 C. nuts

4 T. butter
1 tsp. vanilla

The Vermilion County Home and Community Education Association submits its cookbook filled 143 pages of appetizing recipes. The book is hard-backed, three ring binder style which folds to create an easel for easy use. To order, contact Norma Davis, 3779 E. 2600 N. Rd., Armstrong, IL 61812, or call her at (217) 776-2293. The cookbook sells for \$10 including postage.



Vermilion County Home and Community Education Association

Hot Mocha Warmer

4 C. milk
1/4 C. sugar
6 T. unsweetened cocoa
Whipped cream and ground cinnamon (opt.)

In a large saucepan, over medium heat, combine milk, sugar, cocoa and cinnamon. In a small bowl, with a wire whisk, dissolve coffee granules in boiling water; add to saucepan. Cook and stir until mixture is heated through. Serve hot, topped with whipped cream and sprinkled with cinnamon if desired. Makes about 6 servings.

Creamy Potato Soup

4 med. potatoes, peeled and cubed
1 C. chopped onion, or 1 T. dried onion
1 C. chopped celery
1 tsp. salt

Cook potatoes, celery, onions, water and salt in large kettle until potatoes are tender. Do not drain. Mash most of the potatoes. Stir in rest of ingredients and return to heat. Simmer until cheese melts, stirring occasionally, and soup is hot. Remove from heat and serve hot.

Rice Cheese Soufflé

1 C. cooked rice
1 C. grated sharp cheese
1 C. milk
1/2 can mushroom soup

Beat egg yolks with salt and dry mustard. Add milk, cheese and rice. Beat egg whites until stiff. Gently fold into other ingredients. Pour into greased bottom of straight-sided casserole. Bake at 350° for 40 to 45 minutes. Heat 1/2 can mushroom soup (undiluted) for topping.

Up-Side-Down Pizza

2 lb. hamburger
1/4 C. onion, chopped
1 pkg. dry spaghetti sauce mix
1 (16-oz) can tomato sauce
1-1/2 C. grated Mozzarella cheese

Brown meat and onion; drain. Add spaghetti sauce mix and tomato sauce. Simmer to allow flavors to blend. Spread meat mixture into 9x13-inch pan. Layer with cheese and sour cream. Top with crescent rolls and spread out flat over mixture. Brush with melted butter and sprinkle with Parmesan cheese. Bake at 375° for 20 to 30 minutes.

Becky Smith

1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
1/4 C. boiling water
1 T. instant coffee granules

Elizabeth DeNeal

2 C. water
1 T. parsley flakes
1/2 tsp. caraway seeds
1/2 tsp. pepper
2 C. Velveeta cheese, diced or cubed

Marita M. Webb

2 eggs, separated
1 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. dry mustard

Judy Siddens

1/2 C. sour cream
1 (8-oz) can refrigerated crescent rolls
2 T. melted butter
1/3 C. Parmesan cheese

Sour Cream Supreme

1-1/2 lb. ground beef
1 clove garlic, chopped
1 tsp. sugar
1 tsp. salt
dash of pepper
2 (8-oz.) cans tomato sauce

Brown ground beef and garlic in large skillet. Add salt, sugar, pepper and tomato sauce; simmer 20 minutes. Cook macaroni. Blend cream cheese and sour cream until smooth; add onions. Grease large casserole dish. Add layer of macaroni, layer of cream cheese mixture and a layer of meat sauce; repeat. End with meat sauce. Top with grated cheese. Refrigerate overnight. Bake at 350° for 45 minutes.

Frosted Chewies

1 C. sugar
1 C. light corn syrup

Frosting:

1 (6-oz.) pkg. semi-sweet chocolate chips

Place sugar and corn syrup in a medium saucepan; stir. Cook over medium heat, stirring frequently, until mixture boils. Remove from heat immediately. Add peanut butter; mix well. Add Special K cereal; stir until evenly coated. Press mixture evenly and firmly in a buttered 9x13x2-inch baking pan; cool.

Frosting: Melt chocolate and butterscotch chips together in small saucepan over low heat, stirring constantly. Remove from heat and spread evenly over cereal mixture. Let stand in cool place until firm. Cut into bars to serve.

S'Mores Sheet Cookies

1 pkg. refrigerated sugar cookie dough
1 C. chocolate chips
1 C. white chocolate chips

Cut cookie dough in 1/2-inch slices and place on a round stone or cookie sheet. Press together, making a large, round cookie. Bake at temperature recommended on package directions, or until golden. Remove from oven and let cool. Sprinkle chips, nuts and marshmallows on top of cookie. Return to the oven and bake until marshmallows puff up and turn light golden brown. Remove from oven and drizzle caramel topping over warm cookie. Let cool before cutting.

Lemon Freeze

1 (3-oz) box instant lemon pudding mix
1 C. milk

Mix first 3 ingredients and pour into graham cracker crust. Freeze.

Eileen Rouse

1 sm. pkg. cream cheese
1 C. sour cream
1 (8-oz.) pkg. macaroni
5 green onions, chopped
1/2 lb. Cheddar cheese, grated

Ruth Anne Metz

1 C. peanut butter
6 C. Kellogg's Special K cereal

1 (6-oz.) pkg. butterscotch chips

Ann Poshard

2 C. mini marshmallows
3/4 C. chopped roasted peanuts
1/2 jar caramel ice cream topping

Kathryn Hoskins

2 C. ice cream
1 graham cracker crust

*Propane bills making you uncomfortable?
Lower your heating & cooling bills and experience...*



**THE AFFORDABLE
COMFORT OF GEOTHERMAL**

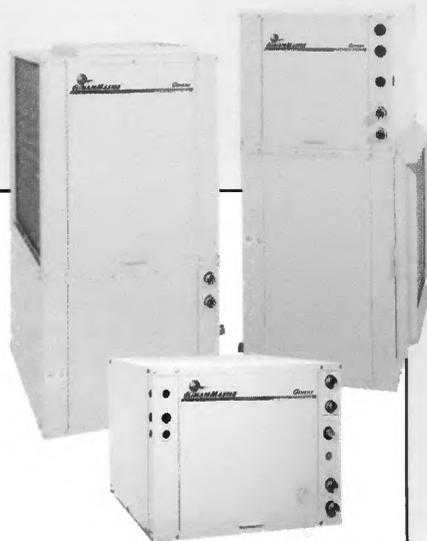
Propane
65% Efficiency
8 SEER A/C **\$2327**

Propane
92% Efficiency
12 SEER A/C **\$1691**

Heat Pump
12 SEER **\$1634**

ClimateMaster
Geothermal **\$1058**

** Annual operating costs above include air conditioning, heating and hot water. Fuel costs used to compute these costs are \$0.08 kW electricity, \$1.10 winter and \$0.90 summer propane. Operating costs shown are for relative comparison purposes only and will vary depending on location. Your local ClimateMaster dealer will provide information specific to your location.



**Stevens Heating
& Air Conditioning**
Quincy, IL, 217-222-5220

**Thomas Plumbing
& Heating Company**
Galesburg, IL, 309-343-1101

Weidner Refrigeration, Inc.
Pawnee, IL, 217-625-3451

Advantage Comfort Systems
Paxton, IL 217-379-6305

Atteberry & Marshall
Charleston, IL, 217-348-8888
Sullivan, IL, 217-752-6867

B & C Refrigeration
Pinckneyville, IL, 618-357-8951

Blievernicht Heating & Air
Effingham, IL, 217-342-2787

Bosco Mechanical
Belleville, IL, 618-235-7463

**Bratcher Heating
& Air Conditioning, Inc.**
Bloomington/Normal, IL,
309-454-1611

Bryan's Heating & A/C
Murphysboro, IL, 618-684-6002

Davis Electric
Rushville, IL 217-322-6677

DeRousse Heating & Air
Red Bud, IL, 618-282-2224

Ernst Heating & Cooling
Hamel, IL, 618-633-2244

Fowler Heating & Cooling
Marion, IL, 618-997-5288

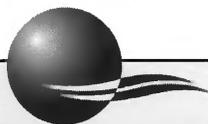
**Garber Heating
& Air Conditioning**
Morton, IL, 309-266-9372

**Jesse Heating and
Air Conditioning**
Decatur, IL, 217-422-1744
Champaign, IL, 217-352-8511

Long Heating & Cooling
Macomb, IL, 309-837-4303

New Air
Girard, IL, 217-965-5578

**Sigman Heating
& Air Conditioning**
Belleville, IL, 618-234-4343



CLIMATEMASTER®

**Or Call 1-888-436-3783
for the Dealer Nearest You!**

Illinois

MARKETPLACE

USED MEAT SAWS, slicers, grinders, tenderizers and other butchering equipment. 2615 South 1st, Springfield, Illinois. Phone (217) 522-3934.

INSULATION - 4 x 8 sheets, foil-backed foam - also rolls of foil-bubble-pak insulation. All factory seconds. Contact Ken Nichols at (800) 424-1256.

USED AND NEW restaurant and concession EQUIPMENT. Ice machines, grills, fryers, sinks, poppers, ice cream machines, etc. Erio Sales, 2615 So. 1st, Springfield, IL. (217) 522-3934.

PLAY GOSPEL SONGS by EAR! Add Chords, Piano, Organ. 10 easy lessons \$7.50. Guaranteed. Davidsons, 6727R1 Metcalf, Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66204.

CUSTOM SAWMILLING with Portable Woodmizer. Your place or mine. Call Jim Virkler, (815) 692-2890.

WANTED: ALL SPECIES STANDING TIMBER. Free estimates, no obligation. Call Paul Jones, Ridgway, IL 62979. Phone (618) 272-3031.

FIBERGLASS, CORRUGATED, 26-inch wide. 8-10-12 foot long. 8 ft. \$4. 12 ft. \$6. Large supply, all colors. Dongola, IL. (618) 827-4737.

SWENEY'S LLAMAS: Quality breeding since 1978. Exceptional sires and bred females. OUTSTANDING BABIES, beautiful llamas ready for a new home. Farm visits welcome. Avon, IL. (309) 465-3847.

EZ MATIC® PET DOORS. Totally weather-tight, super quiet, safe, easy to install/use. Sizes for any dog/cat. Free brochure. E-mail tom@riversidespooner.com. Riverside Products W7909 Green Valley Road, Spooner, WI 54801. Toll free: (866) 635-2644. www.riversidespooner.com.

CREDIT CARD STRESS? Lower payments. Reduce and eliminate interest. Non-profit. No fee, confidential. American Credit and Debt Management. (800) 442-9243.

RECEIVING PAYMENTS ON PROPERTY SOLD?? We pay cash for real estate notes, mortgages, annuities, structured settlements, land contracts... Nationwide... Highest prices paid!! Quick closing!! Investor Mortgage Service, Call Steve at (800) 254-3373.

AUTHORIZED RAINBOW DISTRIBUTOR. New and used rainbows. Repairs, supplies and service. Living air purifiers. L & L Distributing, 116 S. Van Buren St., Newton, IL 62448. (877) 783-3755.

ARE YOU INTERESTED in home-based business? Representing a company with integrity, family values and genuine concern for others, while also making a great income? Leading 11-year-old Food Science Company, publicly held, looking for people with a heart for helping people. Serious inquires, call Sabrina Walsh at (888) 545-9797.

ATTN: CISTERN & WELL OWNERS. Gauge mounts in your home show how much water you have. Hellborn Innoventions, 8036 Blinds Hollow Road, Sparta, IL 62286. SALE: (888) 333-7194.

FOR SALE: Used electric kilns and potter's wheels for pottery and ceramics, 220 volt-one phase. Evenings: (217) 483-3223.

WATER CONDITIONER with no salt, no maintenance, no electricity, no replacement parts. Call (800) 500-3303, Tower Hill, IL. Ask for Bob.

MAGNETIC THERAPY is reported by many to give relief from: pain, migraine, headaches, allergies, arthritis, etc. (800) 500-3303, ask for Bob.

VITAMINS/MINERALS/HERBALS WHOLESALERS! Stop paying retail for your vitamins/minerals/herbals. For more information, send your name, address and phone number to Terry and Associates, RR 1 Box 80, Congerville, IL 61729.

Are WE POISONING OUR CHILDREN? The answer may shock you. For a free brochure, send a SABSE to Terry and Associates, RR 1 Box 80, Congerville, IL 61729.

ARE YOU SICK 'N' TIRED of feeling sick 'n' tired? Try Barley Green for energy and stamina. Feel better! Great for pets, too! Toll free (877) 301-8460.

AMERICA'S BEST SECRET: WATKINS since 1868. Top 10 home business with 375 products everyone uses. Start under \$50. Free packet. (800) 352-5213.

LLAMAS and MINIATURE DONKEYS, registered and from good quality stock. \$250 and up. E-mail: llamas@shawnee link.net or call (618) 783-2169.

MORTGAGE BUYERS SINCE 1970. Any size - any state. References on request. Buying seller-financed loans, our specialty. For free brochure, call Dale at (800) 526-0461.

WANTED TO BUY: Standing timber and logs. Timber harvesting specialist. Direct markets for grade logs and veneer. Prices unbeatable. (618) 426-3065.

WANTED TO BUY: LP's, Record albums and 45's in good condition. Paying cash. Call (618) 724-9259.

MORTGAGE LENDING. SEARCHING for a LOAN? Give us the opportunity to beat your bank's rate. Contract for Deed payoff. New purchases. Debt consolidation and cash out to 125%. 1st and 2nd mortgages. Home Equity line of credit. No application fee. Conventional, V.A., first time homebuyer, and non-conforming. Bankruptcies, past/present credit problems o.k. Competitive Fannie Mae rates! Call (800) 254-4431 or (877) 579-8811 for a free consultation or pre-qualification. Priority One Financial, Inc., One Sunset Hills Executive Park, Edwardsville, IL 62025. We are an Illinois Residential Mortgage Licensee and Equal Housing Lender.

ATTENTION: 100 PEOPLE WANTED to LOSE WEIGHT and get paid \$\$\$ to lose up to 30 lbs. in the next 30 days!!! *Natural *Guaranteed* Dr. Recommended. This is an incentive program and only serious people need to respond by calling (888) 880-0443.

WHY WAIT? GET CASH now! For your insurance settlements, lottery and prize winnings, trust funds and inheritances. Call (800) 269-9510.

FOR SALE: a BUNDLE of HARDWOOD LUMBER, \$497. (618) 842-9588.

WANTED TO BUY: STANDING TIMBER. All species. Pay top price. Clear or select cut. Call (815) 434-4141.

SICK CAMPER REFRIGERATOR? Specializing in rebuilding cooling units. New and used units available. Camper repair. Crutcher's RV, Cropsey, IL. (309) 377-3721.

NO PAINTING! - vinyl replacement windows, patio rooms, decks, fences, gazebos - ANDERSON OVERHEAD DOOR - (618) 985-6776. Serving all Southern Illinois - service and sales.

HAY - QUALITY MIXED GRASS. No rain-mold. \$1.50 - \$1.70 Bale. 12' Bumper - 16' Gooseneck Trailer. Newton Lake. Ingraham, IL (618) 752-5931.

CHILDREN'S PLAYSCAPES, GAZEBOS, LAWN FURNITURE, lighthouses, portable storage buildings, composting toilets. Hillside Hideaway, we deliver. Rt. 117 one mile north of Goodfield. Ph. (309) 965-2586.

WANTED TO BUY: new old stock parts for older IH tractors. Will buy a farmer's single unused part or a closed dealership's entire inventory. (618) 783-4102.

FOR SALE. CASHMERE GOATS. \$75.00 and up. Males and females. Call (618) 275-4336.

TRANQUILITY LLAMAS has a llama just for you! Need a sheep guard? Pet? Bred female? Stud? Young male or female? We've got them all, guaranteed to meet your needs, at affordable prices. We offer lifetime "technical support" and FREE DELIVERY in Illinois. Come visit soon. Your llama is waiting! (309) 963-4553.

MANAGERS NEEDED IN ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCTS \$50,000 - \$75,000 First year will train. Part time or full. Call (888) 210-6528.

COLLOIDAL MINERALS \$5.97 per quart. Colloidal Silver \$5.97 per pint. CoQ10 90-100mg capsules \$20.41. Beef Cartilage (Gelatin) \$5.97 per pound. (800) 999-9345. Website www.4cornersminerals.com

REGAIN YOUR HEALTH through a natural baseline of products. High blood pressure, hormone health, weight loss. (618) 544-8166. www.gandp.healingamerica.com.

WANTED: STANDING TIMBER and cut LOGS, top prices paid for all species. Call (217) 285-5992 or write Vernon W. Helle, Box 212, Griggsville, IL 62340.

BANTAMS, GAMES, RARE BREEDS, standard breed chicks. Shipped safely to your local Post Office. Incubators, books, medications. Free color catalog. Crow Poultry, Box 106-0, Windsor, MO 65360. Phone: (660) 647-2614. Fax: (660) 647-3999.

EARN MONEY WITH LITTLE EFFORT! Zigonline - the ultimate money making system. With \$20 a month you can build a global business from your home. www.zigonline.com/12397 or Email: stars1938@hotmail.com.

REGISTERED MINIATURE DONKEYS. Pet, show, breeding quality. Gray duns, chocolates, spotted. (309) 647-7162. www.copperascreek.com.

AMISH HANDCRAFTED FURNITURE and homemade CANDIES delivered right to your door! Visit www.amishlegacies.com or call (888) 887-2836.

PURPLE MARTIN BIRD HOUSES \$29.95, Gourds, telescopic poles, flag poles, finch feeders, gourd hangers. Factory direct. Free catalog. Call (800) 658-8908! www.sk-mfg.com.

FREE home business information. Be your own boss! For FREE MONEY-MAKING reports call (618) 687-1654 or www.info-nexis.com.

ATTENTION LIVESTOCK FARMERS: Open pollinated seed corn \$32. Out-produces hybrids for silage. Yields high protein grain. Quantity discount. (217) 857-3377.

WANTED TO BUY, SELL OR TRADE, Illinois Chauffeur badges, dashboard discs, and early IL license plates. Phone (309) 787-1617. Jack Wilson, 1306 113th Avenue, Milan, IL 61264.

HOME BASED BUSINESS. NOT MLM. No personal selling. \$5-10K/mo PT. \$10-20K/mo FT. Call (800) 320-9895 Ex. 0160.

NEED EXTRA INCOME? www.grabyourshare.com - Pin# 16936. www.itgetsevenbetter.com.

WORK FROM HOME and get up to \$1200/\$1500 PT or \$6000/\$8000 month FT. No experience needed. Call (888) 692-7653.

ASTHMA - ALLERGIES? PURE AIR - PURE WATER. Ozone plates. A solution to indoor air pollution. Call (877) 866-0640.

\$\$\$PAYING CASH for older Wurlitzer, Rockola, Seeburg, AMI jukeboxes, slot, soda machines. Fender, Gibson, Martin, Gretsch GUITARS. Movie Posters. (636)978-2788.

REVERSE AGING! Build a MULTI-MILLION \$ BUSINESS from home around a revolutionary new product that reverses aging and can turn back the clock 20 years. (Patent pending) Product and Business have an unconditional Money Back Guarantee! Rita and Ralph Taylor. Call (888) 251-1538.

LET THE GOVERNMENT FINANCE your new or existing small business. Grants/loans to \$2,200,000. (www.usgovernmentinformation.com) Free recorded message: (707) 449-8600 (HX7).

FILTER QUEEN/DEFENDER sales, service, and supplies, factory authorized. In-home air filtration system since 1928, offering more consistent, allergen-free indoor air quality with our total home care system. For free information, call (800) 753-5401 or write She-N-I, Inc., RR 1, Allendale, IL 62410.

PLANNING A FLORIDA VACATION? Fish Haven Lodge on beautiful Lake Juliana is the place for you. Located in central Florida, only 30 min. from Disney World. Lakefront housekeeping cottages, adult mobile home park and large RV lots are available. Some of Florida's most reasonable rates. Write Fish Haven Lodge, 1 Fish Haven Road, Auburndale, FL 33823. Phone (941) 984-1183.

REMOVE LIMESCALE while conditioning your water naturally. GMX saves money - no salt, chemicals, extra plumbing or maintenance ever! Money-back guarantee, lifetime warranty. Distributorships available. (888) 357-7792.

TWO YEAR OLD KATAHDIN RAM for Sale or Trade. Purebred not registered. Docile, dog broke. Days (217) 373-6033. Nights (217) 346-2980.

WHITETAIL DEER FOR SALE - Fawns for bottle feeding - mature bucks and does - Coop's Creek Deer Farm - (217) 734-2790.

AROMATHERAPY PRODUCTS FOR BODY, mind and spirit. Herbal lotion, hemp massage oil, mineral bath salts and more. Handcrafted in southern Illinois. Visit: Greenridgeherbals.com.

HOME AND GARDEN PARTY. Unique home décor. Demonstrators needed. High commissions. No inventory. No delivery. Low start up cost. Mary (800) 609-7095.

FUNDRAISERS. QUALITY AMERICAN MADE products. 30-40% profit. New and different. Good participation levels. Call Mary (800) 609-7095. Email - homegrdn@aol.com.

WANTED - TOY TRAINS: Lionel, American Flyer, Ives, Dorfan, Marx. Condition determines price. William E. Timpner, Pinckneyville, IL 62274 or call (618) 357-8112.

TORNADO SHELTERS. LOCAL DEALER of Illinois & Indiana. One piece fiberglass molding, no leaking, seating for ten people, five year warranty, Financing and delivery available. Call (800) 852-0400.

CANDLES AT WHOLESALE PRICES. Hand poured in pint jars. Call Kati for details and scents. (217) 868-2856. Kline5@effingham.net.

GREAT TASTING HEIRLOOM MUSK-MELONS and tomatoes. Tomatoes 6 ft. tall when staked. Produces till frost. 75 seeds, 6.50 postpaid. Joseph Borries 16293 E 1400 Ave., Teutopolis, IL 62467.

WANTED TO BUY: INDIAN ARTIFACTS of all kinds. One piece or entire collections (309) 543-3847 evenings or leave message.

WWW.DRAGONFLYSOAPS.COM - fine, handcrafted soaps. Beautiful soaps made in the heartland. We're back online! Accept all major credit cards. Wholesale available.

WWW.REDPLANETNETWORK.COM - Connecting the communities in the heartland. Free ads, forums, article submissions, links.

LLAMAS - AFFORDABLE. Handled to develop TRUSTING and GENTLE natures. Registered show and pet stock. All colors/sizes. Will deliver. Visitors welcome. (618) 351-1337.

NATIVE PRAIRIE GRASS SEEDS. Big blue stem, Indian grass. Great for wild life. CRP. Sold as pure live seed. Phone (618) 648-2216.

CEMETERY RECORDS COMPUTERIZED! Easy entry access to information. Genealogy, individual data, master reports, etc. For more information visit our website at: www.LifesRecord.com or call (217) 624-3017.

WANTED TO BUY: OLD TELEPHONES - 1940 or older - pay phones - desk phones - candlestick phone - telephone parts (309) 352-2130.

Classified Ad Order Form

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 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.

Mail to: Illinois Marketplace, Illinois Country Living
P.O. Box 3787 • Springfield, IL 62708

Deadline for May issue: March 15

WANTED TO BUY: JOHN DEERE model 530 or 620 farm tractor. Phone: (309) 965-2814.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS COOKBOOK. Spiral-bound cookbook contains just under 400 recipes collected from my family and friends, compiled by me and published by Morris Press, 1999. Contains "old" comfort food recipes (several Danish and German) and lots of new ones; most are easy with few ingredients. Send \$6.50 to Jean Lehman, 364 W. Wachter Road, Galena, IL 61036.

FOR SALE: REBAR 5'5" BAR, painted, 34 pieces. \$50. (618) 995-1432.

"HAVING THE LAST WORD!" - 86 pages. Weird, comical epitaphs - 50 years research - \$14.95 postpaid. Paul Jones, P.O. Box 608, Ridgway, IL 62979.

WHOLE HOUSE WATER PURIFICATION unit and smaller units. Call (618) 253-7790.

THE MIDDLEMAN always MAKES the MOST! Let our staff make sales for you! Start making \$1000's. Free info. Call (800) 408-2219 ID#4765.

VENDING! NEWEST concept to the industry. MULTIPLE machines per location. More info, LSASE. Vending, 10871 Cedar Grove, Marion, IL 62959.

WANTED TO BUY: HONDA 50 and 70 trail bikes. All years. Complete or for parts. Call (618) 945-7373.

MIDWEST BIRD AND ANIMAL swap and sale. March 25 and April 29 at Monroe County Fairgrounds, Waterloo, IL. From 6 to Noon - (618) 939-6809.

WE HEM PANTS, repair leather, remodel fur coats, make curtains. Nita's...Sew What! West Side Square, Auburn, IL. (217) 438-6914. www.nitasewwhat.com.

START/GROW HOBBY CERAMIC business! Retired, must sell. 800+ used mold \$3,000 or best offer (some \$100+ new). (636) 296-3220.

4 FOOT WHITE PINE TREES delivered, planted, mulched. \$39.50 per tree. Buy 10 get one free. Call (217) 886-2316 for prices on other sizes or varieties. Order now for Spring delivery. Leave message if not at home. Prices may vary depending on geographical location.

TRAILS TO RAILS. A comprehensive work on transportation in Illinois from earliest French explorers through 1934. Full of details, maps and illustrations about early Indian and settler trails, wagon roads, canals and a comprehensive history of the building of railroads in Illinois. A must for all Illinois railroad and history buffs. \$12.95. Cherry Productions, PO Box 466, Mossville, IL 61552.

BABY CORN SEED. Free information. SASE to Sue McGlasson, RR2 Box 2802, Pittsfield, IL 62363 or mcglsln@yahoo.com.

PURPLE MARTIN HOUSE. Gourd seed - 30 plus instructions \$3.00. Send stamped, addressed envelope to Bill Moake, 601 S. Bentley, Marion, IL 62959.

STONE CARVING, ARTOR SCRIPT. Anything cut in stone. Reasonable rates, your place or mine. Mike McNeese. (217) 286-3240.

BLEACHER RECLINER - Superior quality portable bleacher seat. Excellent for fans, scorekeepers, boats, floor or as a gift. (800) 621-2605 or www.BleacherRecliner.com.

FOR SALE in SCHUYLER COUNTY. Two bedroom trailer with fireplace and a room added on. Has timber and creek, good hunting, 3+ acres. Call (217) 323-3758 for appointment.

FOR SALE: ALADDIN LAMPS, old - new and replacement parts. Call Don after 5 p.m. (217) 453-6391.

BASEBALL CARD COLLECTION for SALE. Old stars and 80's cards and sets. Some football cards. Call (309) 772-2254 to make appointment.

EVERGREENS, DECIDUOUS, FRUIT, NUT trees and landscape shrubs available for spring planting. For information write: Woodstock Nursery, W6291 Hwy. 95, Neillsville, WI 54456 or call toll free (888) 803-TREE.

FOR SALE: BECK'S-LAKE. 10 acres ground - 8 acres lake. 5 rental properties - PH. (618) 483-5629 anytime.

TEXAS LONGHORN CATTLE, great for cleaning up underbrush in timber. Bred cows, calves starting at \$400. Rosalie Brackebusch, Divernon. (217) 438-3117.

WANTED: CHECKER PLAYERS. Learn to play championship checkers. Southern Illinois Checker Club. Gene Ellison, Illinois Checker Association. Phone (618) 962-3321.

KITTENS - SHOW, PET and BREEDERS available. Bobcat look-alikes that enjoy being mauled by children. Birthplace of Tecumseh, judged by CFA congress to be the first American Bobtail admitted to CFA. Website <http://catfancy.net>. Call (217) 324-2678.

WANTED: IH CUB CADETS, Looking for older cubs and attachments. Running or not. Call Mike at (217) 459-2223.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY - The Party in a Box™. All occasions, delivered to your door. Receive a free catalog. WE'RE EXPANDING, work from home. Lisa (618) 426-3211.

CAPTAIN RON'S CAMPGROUND near Savanna, IL. On Mississippi backwaters. Full hookup sites rent at \$750 for the season. (319) 289-3768. www.geocities.com/captainronscampground.

THE MIDDLEMAN always MAKES the MOST! Let our staff make sales for you! Start making \$1000's. Free info. Call (800) 408-2219 ID#4378.

2 SEAT BIKE

Drives Like a Car!
Multi-speed
Street Legal
Easy to Pedal
1, 2 & 4 Seater
Cargo Carrier



RHOADES CAR

Free Literature
615 822-2737 Ext. 9986

WARM FRIENDLY FLOORS



SANGAMON RADIANT

WIRSBO aqua pex tubing products for agricultural, commercial shop floors and homes Made in the USA

(217)522-3934 • FAX (217)522-3933

Evening (217)483-3223 John D. McMillan - Owner

Holland America

A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

ALASKA CRUISE TOUR

AUGUST 1, 2001
12 DAYS
FAIRBANKS TO VANCOUVER
INCLUDING 7 NIGHT SOUTHBOUND
DISCOVERY CRUISE ON THE
MS STATENDAM

NEW ENGLAND CRUISE

SEPTEMBER 27, 2001
10 DAYS ON THE
MS AMSTERDAM
NEW YORK TO MONTREAL
PRIME FALL FOLIAGE



THE TRAVEL COMPANY

ESCORTED
LIMITED AVAILABILITY
CALL NOW:
1-800-872-8420



Save **BIG** on Quality Steel Buildings

Bigger Garage? Build It Yourself!



BUY NOW!
Save Up to **60%**

CUSTOMIZED ENDWALLS



AUTOS & TRUCKS • RVs & ATVs • BOATS
AUTO BODY SHOPS • BACKYARD WORKSHOPS

SAVE THOUSANDS ON SELECT SIZES
25x34 • 30x46
40x56 • 50x116
Additional Sizes Available



Proudly Made in the U.S.A.

www.us-buildings.com

1-800-463-6062

FREE BROCHURE & FACTORY PRICE LIST

Introducing the Revolutionary

DR® POWER WAGON™

• HAULS NEARLY 1/2 TON with never-before-ease! • BIG POWER-DRIVEN WHEELS & 4-speed transaxle let you move even loose soil up to 800 lbs. uphill or down. POWER REVERSE gets you out of tight spots!



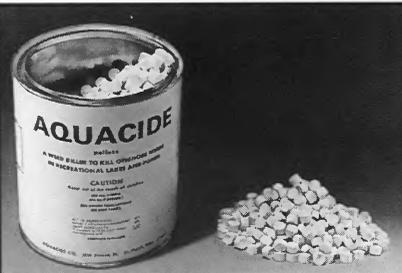
Patented
• Dump bed makes for easy unloading of gravel, soil, firewood, and rocks. • Ride-on option available!
• Made to order for country property owners, pays for itself over and over in time and labor saved!

Please mail this coupon today for FREE DETAILS about the Revolutionary DR® POWERWAGON™ including prices and specifications of Manual- and Electric-Starting Models, and Factory-Direct Savings now in effect. There is no obligation.

Name _____ WCG
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
DR® COUNTRY HOME PRODUCTS®, Dept. 38668X
Meigs Road, P.O. Box 25, Vergennes, VT 05491
www.drpowerwagon.com

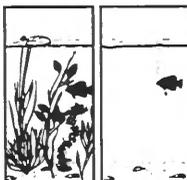
SO EASY!

TOLL FREE
(800)
847-0300



KILL LAKE WEEDS

Proven Aquacide pellets destroy unwanted underwater weeds.



Spread marble sized pellets like grass seed. Effectively kills weeds at any depth.

Registered with Federal Environmental Protection Agency.

Certified and approved for use by state agencies.
10 lb. can treats 4,000 sq. ft. of lake bottom, \$64.95. 50 lb. carton treats 20,000 sq. ft. of lake bottom, \$250.00. Prices include delivery charges. State permit may be required. Delivery terms F.O.B. White Bear Lake, MN.

CALL TOLL FREE 1-800-328-9350
Call 651-429-6742 • Fax 651-429-0563

Or write for free information to:
AQUACIDE CO.
Our 46th year.
1627 - 9th Street, Dept. 337, Box 10748
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
www.killlakeweeds.com



info@killlakeweeds.com

Dr. Jack Setzekorn DDS
&
Dr. Kenneth Ausmer DMD

offers you a quality

ONE-DAY DENTURE \$124.00

Extractions at Drs. Quote
OVER 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE

(217) 479-8444

1-877-565-8981 (toll-free)

Only cash, Mastercard or Visa. No checks please.

1201 West Walnut St.,
Jacksonville, IL 62650

30 miles west of Springfield



March DATEBOOK

1-4, "The Two Gentlemen of Verona" at the University of Illinois in Champaign. Enjoy one of William Shakespeare's popular plays in the Colwell Playhouse. (217) 333-6280 or (800) 527-2849.

1-4/21, **Amusement Park Science** at SciTech in Aurora. Families can explore the physics behind the fun at amusement parks. This new traveling exhibition features 12 hands-on components, including a create-a-coaster area and interactive computer kiosks. (630) 859-3434.

2-4, **Country Treasures Folk Art and Craft Show** in Quincy. More than 100 booths filled with handmade treasures, featuring folk art, country, primitive, wearable art, furniture, dolls, gourmet foods and more. There's something for everyone. (217) 539-3395.

2-4, **The Third Annual Quincy Arts and Crafts Expressions** at the Quincy Mall in Quincy. (312) 751-2500.

2-4, **The 22nd Annual Rockford Home Show** at the MetroCentre in Rockford. This exhibition features two floors of new home products, ideas, concepts, seminars and more for your home. (815) 968-5222 or www.centreevents.com.

3, "Peter Pan" at the Paramount Arts Centre in Aurora. The perfect family musical. Join Peter Pan as he flies through the air with Wendy, Tinkerbell and Captain Hook on this magical adventure complete with pixie dust. (630) 896-6666.

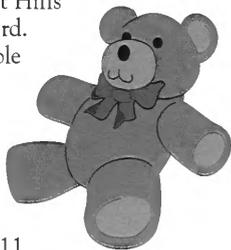
3-4, **Plastic Model Show** at the Midway Village and Museum Center in Rockford. Realistic models, including military and civilian vehicles and planes will be on display. Make-it and take-it projects will be available on Saturday, demonstrations both days. (815) 397-9112 or www.midwayvillage.com.

4, **Doll, Toy and Teddy Bear Show and Sale** at the Forest Hills Lodge in Rockford.

Antique-collectible and modern toys, dolls and teddy bears will be featured.

There will be 59 dealers from 11 states with displays.

(815) 654-2212 or illinoisdollshows.com.



4, **Horticulture Heaven...A Sunday Afternoon in the Garden** at the Elizabeth Community Building in Galena. A gardening and landscaping workshop for the home horticulture enthusiast. The program begins with a nutritious lunch at noon. (815) 858-2273.

4, **Children's Play, "Storyteller Theatre"** at the Decatur Civic Center in Decatur. Professional quality stage production of a children's classic. Fabulous sets, costumes and special events. Lively characters, comedy and action. (217) 422-8535.

8-10, **Knox-Rootabaga JammJazz Fest** at Cherry Street Restaurant and Bar and at the Orpheum Theatre in Galesburg. Kurt Elling and Quartet, Mark Colby, a dozen high school bands, and many more regional artists combine for the 21st Annual Jazz Festival. (309) 343-2485.



9-10, **WGEM Home and Living Show** in Quincy. The area's largest show dedicated to the newest in home and living products and services. Everything from saunas to steaks, cabinets to cosmetics, pagers to pools. (217) 228-6600.

9-11, "Symphony in Bloom" **Lawn, Garden and Flower Show** at the QCCA Expo Center, in Rock Island. This event features more than 30 live gardens, guest lecturers, specialty events, a children's area and retail marketplace. Proceeds benefit symphony and conservation projects. (309) 788-5912 or (309) 322-0931.

16-18, **Spring Folk, Craft and Art Metro Expo** at the MetroCentre in Rockford. More than 200 exhibitors featuring distinctive accessories for you and your home. Country, folk, fine arts and crafts, demonstrations and more. (815) 968-5222 or www.centreevents.com.

17-18, **Agricultural Show** at the Northfield Square Mall in Bradley. (815) 937-4241.



10, **Frontier Twirlers Square Dance/St Patrick's Dance** at the First Presbyterian Church of Danville.

16-18, **St. Patrick's Day Celebration** in Rock Island. Enjoy a parade, music, dance, food, cultural exhibits and more. (309) 788-2341.

17, **St. Patrick's Day Parade** in downtown Galena. A small town parade with bands, floats, groups and individuals competing for prizes. Everyone is invited to join in the parade. (815) 777-0467.

17, **The 23rd Annual St Patrick's Day Parade** in downtown Rockford. A celebration of Irish heritage. (815) 639-6732.

17, **St. Patrick's Day Parade**, downtown Decatur. An Irish celebration with entertainment and floats. (217) 428-7000.

18, **Standing Stones** at the Paramount Arts Centre in Aurora. Enjoy St. Patrick's Day weekend as this group performs a blend of traditional Irish songs and stories. (630) 896-6666.



17-18, Covered Bridge Quilter's Guild Quilt Show - "Quilting into the Millennium" in Princeton. Come and see more than 200 quilts on display belonging to guild members plus door prizes, mini demonstrations and much more. (815) 664-4557.

17-4/4, Galex 35 Exhibit at the Galesburg Civic Center in Galesburg. National art exhibition and competition. This prestigious show is among the longest-running of its kind in the nation. (309) 343-2485.

17, Sugar Maple Festival at the Red Oak Nature Center, north Aurora. Discover how animals, native Americans and pioneers tapped maple trees to make syrup. Choosing, sizing and tapping trees; carrying and boiling the sap; and grading and tasting syrup are all part of the fun. This program is for all ages. (630) 897-1808.

17-18, Kankakee County Gun Collectors Gun Show at the Kankakee County Fairgrounds, in Kankakee. (815) 939-7572.



18, Maple Syrup Festival at the Double Eagle II Environmental Center in Pecatonica.

23-25, 30-31, "Pinocchio," at the Historic Lawford Theatre in Havana. Come enjoy a wonderful stage version of this classic children's tale. (309) 543-GRRR.

24, Northwestern High School Spring Craft Show in Sciota. This event will feature wood, ceramic, and fabric crafts, along with entertainment, concessions and a bake sale. All profits will benefit the Northwestern High School class of 2003 After Prom. (309) 456-3537 or (309) 456-3642.

25, The 14th Annual Class Pack Auto and Cycle Swap Meet at the Effingham County Fairgrounds in Altamont. (217) 235-6634.

30, Kankakee County Health Fair at the Northfield Square Mall in Bradley. (815) 937-4111.

31-4/1, Quilt Spectrum 2001: Quilts and the stories they tell. This show features a display of more than 200 quilts, a raffle quilt, a silent auction, the sale of quilted items, and a merchant's mall. (309) 963-2046.

K KENTUCKY STEEL TRUSS BUILDINGS
20/70
 24' x 30' x 8' \$ 3,701
 30' x 40' x 8' \$ 5,001
 40' x 60' x 10' \$ 8,001
 50' x 70' x 12' \$ 12,001
 60' x 70' x 12' \$ 14,901
 75' x 80' x 14' \$ 19,801

FREE CATALOGUE
 1-859-745-0606
 www.kstbuild.com

AMERICA'S BEST BUY
 since 1986

FARM • CHURCH • SPORTS • HORSE • CAR • PLANE
 ALL STEEL • ALL COLOR • 25/50 WARRANTY

Hawaii Farm Tour

The Best Escorted Vacations, You'll Ever Find

15 Days From **\$1924**
 4 Islands Add \$110 for some departure cities

Departs Mondays and Thursdays January 14th thru the 31st, 2002. Includes airfare. Hawaiian owned hotels, transfers, baggage handling, Escort flying with you from island to island, staying in OAHU, HAWAII (Kona & Hilo), MAUI & KAUAI. Sightseeing includes Honolulu City Tour with Pearl Harbor, Volcano National Park, Kona Coffee Plantation Tour, Parker Cattle Ranch Museum, Orchid Nursery, Macadamian Nut Factory Tour, Wailua Riverboat Cruise, Fern Grotto, Guava Plantation, plus more as listed in brochure.

YIMTVACATIONS
 Your Man Years • Affordable Travel Since 1967

Open Sunday - PPOD - Groups Welcome

1-800-888-8204
 Our 34rd Year - Over a million satisfied customers

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.

BIG! SAVINGS

SPRING GARDEN SPECTACULAR!
Our Most Popular Plants At Low, Low Prices!

42 FREE BONUS BULBS!

AND A SURPRISE FREE GIFT!



3-in-1 Butterfly Bush \$5.99 ea.

BLOOMS IN 3 COLORS!

You'll enjoy fragrant flowers in white, purple and soft lavender, plus the clouds of colorful butterflies that flock to them! This stunning decorative wonder will draw compliments all summer long. Blooms profusely from June to September, and will bloom the very first summer after planting. Plant in well-drained soil in full sun to partial shade. Grows 10' - 12' tall. 3-1/2" pot.



Fruit Cocktail Tree

Enjoy Up To 5 Fruits From One Terrific Tree!
Pick Luscious Fruit By The Bushel--In Your Backyard!

When mature, this amazing, specially grafted tree will produce up to 5 popular fruits: tasty peaches, juicy nectarines, tangy apricots, plump, red and purple plums. One or two trees could supply your family with plenty of fresh fruit, plus enough left for mouth-watering jams, jellies and pies! Best of all, it takes up only a few feet of space in a sunny backyard. And it's the perfect height for easy picking--just 12' to 15' fully grown. You get strong, well-rooted 3'-4' trees guaranteed to grow. Order today, and enjoy! Not available in WA.

Now Only
\$19.99

\$10.00 SAVINGS
compared to similar trees sold elsewhere

A. Creeping Phlox (6 plants)
B. Sweet William (3 plants)
C. Hibiscus, Mixed (2 plants)
D. Mixed Carnations (3 plants)
E. Shasta Daisy (3 plants)
Total number of plants: 17
Approximate planting time: 1 hour

SPECIAL BUY!

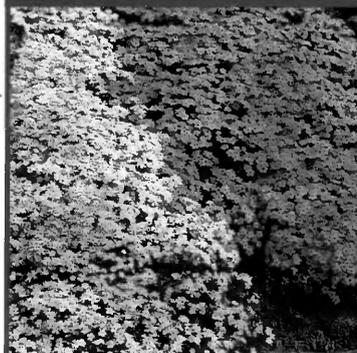
Perennial Starter Garden \$9.99

A fail-proof perennial garden for only \$9.99! Perfect for beginners!

If you've admired other people's perennial gardens, yet thought it might be complicated or expensive to put together such a garden of your own, here's great news. This 6' x 6' Perennial Starter Garden will get you off to a sure-fire start! Our professional designers created this delightful bed using 17 of the easiest-to-grow perennial plants — for guaranteed success in your yard. Plant in full sun. You'll have glorious blooms every year for decades to come. 1-year-old plants.

FREE Planting Guide and Diagram Included with Every Order.

BUY ONE GET ONE FREE



Creeping Phlox
6 FOR ONLY \$6.98
PLUS 6 FREE!

Say goodbye to all those hard-to-mow areas of your yard! This low-growing mat of tufted green spreads vigorously to cover even the most troublesome areas of your yard. In late spring, the foliage gives way to a thick blanket of ankle-high flowers in rose-purple, vivid blue and snowy white. 6 plants cover 10 square feet. Order yours today! 1-year-old plants.

Mosquito Repellent Plant

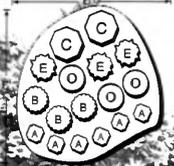
FOR ONLY \$6.98
PLUS 1 FREE! **6 ea.**

Throw away those foul-smelling sprays, greasy lotions and other expensive repellents. Just a couple of Mosquito Plants will help keep your home mosquito-free! This incredible plant emits a scent that people love - but mosquitoes can't stand! So rid yourself of these pests once and for all! 2-1/4" pot.



More Great Bargains On Next Page!

PP-S01



MORE SUPER VALUES!



◀ Mixed Calla Lily

You could easily pay \$5.99 each for elegant Calla Lilies in rare and exotic colors like these. But for a short time only, we'll send you 3 bulbs for \$5.99—all absolutely guaranteed to grow! What's more, your mix may include rare and lovely reds, pinks, yellows, lavenders, whites—even bicolors! Order your value-priced Calla Lilies now!

75-Piece Bulb Garden ▶

ONLY \$9.98 ea.

This spectacular 75 pc. Summer Bulb Garden is a super value at \$9.98. With each color-filled garden you'll receive 25 Mixed Glads, 3 Crocosmia, 24 Peacock Orchids, 16 Mixed Anemones, 3 Patio Dahlias and 4 Camellia Double Begonias. That's a total of 75 beautiful flowering bulbs in all for less than 14¢ a piece. An incredible value at an extraordinary price. Order today!

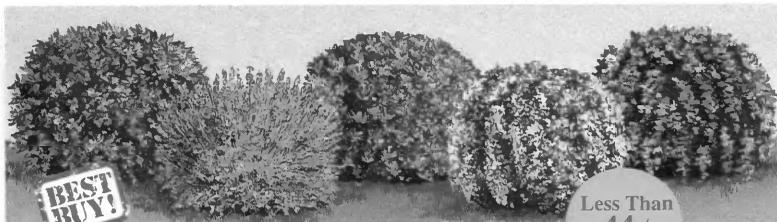


Honeysuckle Vine

ONLY \$2.99 ea.

This carefree vine has more to offer than its good looks. It's also incredibly fragrant! Honeysuckle grows and spreads very quickly—it also attracts butterflies. Order today, and let it perfume your garden all summer long. For a unique garden look, try climbing this vine on an arch or trellis.

FREE Planting Guide Included with Every Order.



BEST BUY!

Less Than **44¢** Per Foot!



CARDINAL SHRUB

FORSYTHIA

ROSE OF SHARON

WHITE SPIREA

PINK SPIREA

30-ft. Flowering Fence

No wooden fence can compare with the Flowering Fence! Enjoy colorful blooms, privacy and reduced noise. Makes your yard look like a million for less than 44¢ per foot! You get 2 each of these 5 shrubs: **Cardinal Shrub** features rosy-pink flowers. **Forsythia's** yellow blooms are favorites. **Rose of Sharon** boasts fragrant pink flowers. **White Spirea's** flowers are so thick they almost cover the branches. And **Pink Spirea** shows off dainty pink blooms. Just plant in a sunny location. These 12" to 18" plants thrive in almost any soil. Blooms spring to fall. Prune as needed to maintain desired height.

10 flowering shrubs for only **\$12.99**

The Best Guarantee In the Business!

LIFETIME GUARANTEE

If you're not happy with any item you order from us, simply notify us within 30 days for a full refund or replacement, whichever you prefer. Any items that do not grow and flourish to your complete satisfaction will be replaced FREE - with no time limit - for as long as you garden.

Order at **michiganbulb.com**
Use code **PP**.

MICHIGAN BULB COMPANY S01
1950 WALDORF, N.W., GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49550-0500

YES! Please send my order as indicated for spring delivery. Include all FREE bonus items to which I am entitled. All items are covered by your no-risk LIFETIME GUARANTEE.

MISS
MS.
MR.
MRS.

Please Print

PP 6137 A 1

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOW MANY	CAT. NO.	ITEM	COST
	58222	3-in-1 Butterfly Bush (\$5.99 ea.)	
	16416	Perennial Starter Garden (\$9.99 ea. - 2/\$18.98)	
	78444	Fruit Cocktail Tree (\$19.99 ea. - 2/\$34.98)	
	05996	Creeping Phlox (6/\$6.98) Plus 6 FREE	
	00893	Mosquito Repellent Plant (\$6.98 ea.) Plus 1 FREE	
	00715	Mixed Calla Lily (3/\$5.99 - 6/\$10.98)	
	36756	75-Piece Bulb Garden (\$9.98 ea.)	
	04325	Honeysuckle Vine (\$2.99 ea. - 2/\$5.78)	
	16367	30 ft. Flowering Fence (\$12.99 ea. - 2/\$22.98)	
10	FREE	Oxalis with any order.	0.00
12	FREE	Mixed Gladiolus if your order totals \$10.00.	0.00
20	FREE	Peacock Orchids (plus 12 Mixed Gladiolus) if your order totals \$20.00.	0.00
1	FREE	Surprise FREE Gift - A \$5.00 Value (plus Mixed Gladiolus and Peacock Orchids) if order totals \$30.00.	0.00

Payment enclosed. Bill on my credit card below.

Subtotal \$
Postage & handling 4.95

Exp. Date

MasterCard VISA

Amer. Express Discover/NOVUS

Credit Card #

SALES TAX:
MI add 6%
TN add 8.25%
MO add 4.225%

Grand Total \$

FREE catalog at www.michiganbulb.com!