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February 2003

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COVER STORY



Turkeys travel power path..... 10

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, in cooperation with the National Forest Service and the National Wild Turkey Federation, has found a new way to manage its right of way and enhance wildlife habitat.

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ILLINOIS COUNTRY LIVING™

February 2003 Volume 60 Number 10

DEPARTMENTS

ILLINOIS COMMENTARY 4

Dan Kelley, a farmer from Normal, and GROWMARK Chairman of the Board and President says cooperatives are an accountable alternative.

ILLINOIS CURRENTS 6

Youth to Washington alumni where are you now?

SAFETY AROUND YOUR HOME 14

Duane Friend, Natural Resources Management Educator at the Springfield Extension Center, says don't take chances with lightning.

YOUR YARD AND GARDEN 16

Beat the winter blahs with your own tropical paradise.

TODAY'S TECHNOLOGY AND YOU 18

Find out the most efficient and secure types of doors available.

ILLINOIS' FINEST COOKING 22

Cook a romantic dinner for your sweetie and include Italian Crescent Casserole from the recipe collection of Bel-Tronics Relay for Life Team 2002. And for dessert, try Raisin Oatmeal Cookies from the recipe collection of The Illinois Coalition for Community Services.

ILLINOIS MARKETPLACE 25

ILLINOIS DATEBOOK 29

This month, take your special someone to the Chocolate Tasting Fest in Canton, or to the Winter Carnival in Merengo.





Dan Kelley

Cooperatives — an accountable alternative

The lives of more than 100 million Americans are improved by nearly 48,000 cooperative private businesses that generate more than \$100 billion in annual economic activity. Co-ops enrich our communities, large and small. Through co-ops, those who work together to build a business can attain all its benefits and those who need service can receive it on their terms.

There are critical differences - advantages - of the cooperative way of doing business. As co-op members, we should understand and appreciate the co-op difference. No matter how big or small they are, co-ops were built by and for the members. Co-op boards of directors are elected from and by the members. Co-ops are accountable to their members.

Cooperatives have principles; core values that all co-ops use as their foundation. They are: voluntary and open membership; democratic member control; member economic participation; autonomy and independence; education, training and information; cooperation among cooperatives; and concern for community.

Americans have lost a great deal of faith in corporate America. The accounting scandals of late have demonstrated that the goal of some corporate executives is to get rich quick, regardless of who pays the tab. And, sadly, too many corporate directors have looked the other way.

But America's 48,000 cooperative businesses, like the GROWMARK system of FS and grain marketing cooperatives, are a more accountable alternative to the 120 million consumers who

belong to them. These successful businesses operate in every sector of the economy, competing head to head with publicly traded companies, which co-ops outnumber by four to one.

Why are co-ops different? They are owned and governed by the people who buy the company's products or use its services, such as farmers, credit union members,

At this time of heightened attention to corporate accountability, cooperatives are businesses people can trust because they are businesses they can own and control.

the customers of the grocery store, the homeowner who buys electricity, the resident of a housing co-op, and so on.

And they are different because those owners rely on the business to meet their needs. Sure, when stock prices fall, investors in a publicly traded company lose money. But if a co-op fails, its members lose access to goods and services they need. That's why co-op members have a real, long-term stake in the business.

The lack of director accountability and independence and the failure of corporations to directly involve shareholders in meaningful elections are core causes of the recent corporate scandals. But again, co-ops are different. Co-op member-owners directly elect the

board of directors from among the membership in competitive, democratic elections. That democracy creates built-in accountability.

Fundamentally, co-ops lack any incentive to misrepresent the financial position of the company because they are not about generating short-term return to shareholders or producing riches for management. Instead, co-ops are about service to members - it is their only reason to exist. That creates an entirely different set of motivations for management, directors and member-owners.

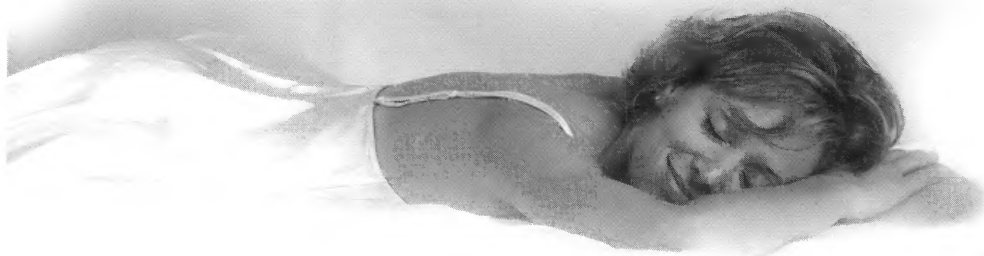
At this time of heightened attention to corporate accountability, cooperatives are businesses people can trust because they are businesses they can own and control. I'm proud to be a member of a cooperative system started by Farm Bureau members 75 years ago, and still governed by Farm Bureau members today.

To remain effective and responsive the co-ops you belong to need your active participation. Go to the annual meeting. Read the newsletter. Support the products and services your co-op provides. And finally, if you are really interested, run for the board of directors. You can. You're a co-op member.

Dan Kelley of Normal is a farmer and GROWMARK Chairman of the Board and President.

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





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Rural Community Economic Development Conference

The Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs, in conjunction with Rural Partners and the Governor's Rural Affairs Council, is hosting the 14th Annual Rural Community Economic Development Conference on March 12-13, 2003 at the Holiday Inn City Centre in Peoria. The conference will feature sessions and workshops on technology, health care, volunteerism, and rural issues in Illinois. The conference brochure and registration information can be viewed on the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs Web site, www.iira.org after January 15, 2003. Conference materials can be requested from Carol Harper, Western Illinois University, 523 Stipes Hall, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455 (800) 526-9943 or (309) 298-2637 e-mail: CS-Harper@wiu.edu.

Youth To Washington alumni — let us know where you are now?

Staying in touch with old friends isn't easy. We move, change phone numbers and soon old friends slip away. We are trying to help reunite old friends who went on the "Youth to Washington" tour. To kick things off we are featuring a few of the great people who have already responded to our alumni roundup notice.

John Schmitt 1971

"I must say that the trip had an amazing impact on me, and is one of the major reasons that I went on to college and majored in Political Science," says Schmitt. "I received my BA (1976) and MA (1978) from Eastern Illinois University (EIU) in Political Science."

After college John worked for the Illinois State Senate for five years. He then worked for Governor James R. Thompson's advisor for the environment. "I left the state for a period of five years and relocated to Chicago where I presently live. I am now back working for the state of Illinois as the Executive Director of the Illinois Conservation Foundation (www.ilcf.org). I am responsible for leading the fund raising efforts on behalf of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). In seven-plus years, more than \$15 million has been contributed for various program needs of the IDNR," says Schmitt.

Schmitt says keeping in touch with friends was hard. "For a few years after my Youth to Washington tour several of us would get together on an annual basis as a type of reunion of sorts. I kept in contact with a couple of the tour participants who attended EIU such as Anita Hart (Menard Electric Cooperative) and Bonnie Fansler (Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative)."

If you'd like to contact an old "Youth to Washington" friend, or add your name and contact information to our database, contact Linda Comstock at the AIEC at (217) 529-5561 or lcomstock@aiec.coop. Let us know what you remember about the trip, sponsoring co-op, the year you went and what you're doing now.

Taking the pulse of rural America reveals contradictions

A new series of surveys on how political leaders and the public perceive rural America reveals a complicated, often contradictory picture.

"It was a paradox," says Rick Foster, Vice President for food systems and rural development of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, which commissioned the surveys. On the one hand, the public perceived that "everybody in rural America lived an idyllic, self-sufficient lifestyle," Foster says. "The other was that the biggest issue was commodity prices." This finding comes despite the fact that fewer than 12 percent of non-metro residents in the United States are farmers or work in agricultural-related jobs. Other contradictory perceptions:

- Rural life is more relaxed than city life, but harder and more grueling.
- Rural people are friendly, but intolerant of outsiders.
- Rural areas have a rich community life, but are populated by rugged individualists struggling to survive.

Members of Congress were also surveyed. They expressed concern that there are no recognized "champions" or strong advocates for rural America.

In the surveys, poverty was identified as one of the most pressing problems facing rural America.

"We're hoping the studies will influence policy," Foster says. The surveys were conducted as the Farm Bill was being debated. Now that the Farm Bill has been passed, the hope is that other concerns can come to the fore. "The Farm Bill is not a rural bill—it's a feeding-program bill [i.e., food stamps], and a subsidies bill that guarantees income for some segments of production agriculture," Foster says. "But it does little to help rural communities."

The Kellogg Foundation hopes to focus political attention on issues such as economic development, telemedicine and distance learning, Foster says. Social issues, such as teen pregnancy and drug use (which is greater among rural youth than urban), also need to be addressed, he adds.

To view the studies, visit www.wkcf.org.

Source: September 2002 issue of Rural Electric Magazine©



Carbon monoxide kills 500 a year

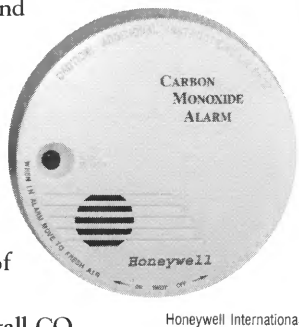
As furnaces and heaters are fired up and windows are closed for the winter, you should be aware of the heightened dangers of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. CO kills about 500 Americans each year and sends 10,000 to the emergency room.

Carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fossil fuels such as gasoline, wood, coal, propane, oil and methane burn incompletely.

Symptoms of CO poisoning feel like you are getting the flu — headaches, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, sleepiness and confusion. Severe symptoms include difficulty breathing and loss of consciousness.

To prevent CO poisoning you should properly install CO detectors. First select an alarm that is certified by an independent testing laboratory and follow the manufacturer's directions for installing the alarm. Test your CO alarms at least once a month. Alarms can fail to sound, so it's important to be aware of the symptoms of CO poisoning.

If the alarm sounds, open the windows immediately to ventilate the area and move people in the house to fresh air. Then call your fire department and gas utility.



Honeywell International

Don't get burned — follow these safety tips

To help ensure a safe and warm heating season, the National Electrical Safety Foundation offers the following tips:

- Have your heating systems inspected by a qualified service professional at least once a year. This inspection should include lubrication and cleaning, replacing filters, a check of belts and thermostats and having vents cleared of obstructions, as necessary.
- Use products only for their intended purposes. Hair dryers aren't intended to thaw frozen pipes, dry clothing or worm bedding.
- When using a portable electric heater, keep flammable materials at least three feet away even if it has safety features such as cut-off switches or heating element guards.
- If you use an electric blanket to keep warm on a cold night, follow the manufacturer's instructions and make sure you turn it off and unplug it when it's not in use. Never tuck in an electrical blanket.

Source: www.nesf.org

Are you warming up with space heaters?

As the temperature drops, many families may use portable electric space heaters to help warm their homes. The Electrical Safety Foundation International warns that space heaters could cause fires and injuries if not used properly. Follow these few simple precautions:

- Read the manufacturer's instruction manual before using any space heater. Check to make sure the heater bears the mark of a certified testing organization.
- Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from any combustible materials such as bedding, clothing, draperies, furniture and rugs.
- Keep space heaters away from areas with water.
- Don't use space heaters in rooms where children are unsupervised.
- Avoid using an extension cord with a space heater. If you must use one, make sure it is the right wire gauge size.
- Do not use portable heaters in areas where flammable liquids such as gasoline or kerosene are used or stored.

Source: ESFI

Getting rural communities on the Internet at warp speed

With high speed Internet service, rural communities are no longer isolated and there is great potential for business and job creation, and the delivery of educational programs, social services and health care services. The Rural Information Technology Planning Program, designed by the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs (IIRA) at Western Illinois University, is a strategic visioning program that helps rural communities focus on information technology.

According to Dawn Moyer-Myers, IIRA technology specialist, this program helps leaders in rural communities better understand their technology infrastructure; assess telecommunications needs and make informed development decisions. The Rural Information Technology Planning Program (RITPP) was created with assistance from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs, U.S. Department of Agriculture-Rural Development and the Governor's Rural Affairs Council.

"Rural communities are geographically isolated from important markets and services, and technology has great potential for making these communities more competitive with larger urban areas," Moyer-Myers said. "However, the high cost of serving rural areas has made some telecommunications companies reluctant to make the necessary investments. The RITPP assists communities in determining how to best use information technology for the economic development of their communities."

Moyer-Myers added that rural communities could combine business, government, educational and private needs, and present a business case to local telecommunication providers. Communities interested in learning more about the RITPP should call Moyer-Myers at (800) 526-9943 or e-mail dc-moyer-myers@wiu.edu.



Illinois Products Expo 2003

If you were to take a drive through Illinois, you would surely see corn and wheat fields, hog and dairy farms, and other agricultural ventures. But Illinois has a lot more products to offer than just what meets the eye. Illinois farmers are beginning to diversify their commodities, and small companies are creating unique and delicious agricultural goods.

A great place to learn about these products is at the Fifth annual Illinois Products Expo in Springfield. This event showcases small and large companies in Illinois that produce food and other agricultural products.

The event offers consumers the chance to sample and/or buy these goods. From homemade pickles and honey to "Butch's Pizza" and "Chilli Man Chili," the choices are endless. The biggest decision visitors to the Expo will have to make is where to start.

While tasting and discovering new products, visitors can also learn about safe cooking tips and new preparation methods. Howard Helmer, recognized as the "World's Fastest Omelet Maker" and representing the American Egg Board, will entertain audiences with humorous demonstrations.

"It's a great food show for consumers," says Larry Aldag, Marketing Representative of the Illinois Department of Agriculture, "This year's Expo will have more than 50 booths set up and more than 80 companies present." At least 15 of those merchants will be included in the Illinois Wine and Cheese Garden at the Expo.

Any company that produces, packages or processes food in Illinois can participate in the Expo. Currently, there are more than 1,800 companies in Illinois involved in food production. "We focus on small to medium sized companies. We want to help the little guys who can't afford to participate in the large national food shows," says Aldag.



And supporting Illinois merchants supports Illinois' economic growth. Agriculture is the largest industry in the state, and Illinois is one of the top states in the country for numbers of employees involved in the food processing industry. By supporting Illinois products, consumers are supporting Illinois jobs.

The Department of Agriculture seeks to support all Illinois products, and the Expo is a great way of doing this. "The Expo accomplishes three things for participants. They sell their products at the expo, introduce their products to consumers, and hopefully earn new business with buyers and stores. The ultimate goal is to get Illinois companies long-term into store markets," says Aldag. Last year, food companies at the event did nearly \$35,000 in business, not to mention the publicity they gained.

"This event continues to grow every year," says Aldag. "Our number of visitors has increased by about 2,000 persons each year." And these visitors leave the expo with a renewed sense of appreciation for Illinois products, and with knowledge of how to support food merchants in their own state.



Consumers then know which Illinois products to ask for at their local supermarkets.

The Expo happens Friday, Feb. 28 from 4-7 p.m.; Saturday, March 1 from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; and Sunday, March 2 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. in the Orr Building at the Illinois State Fairgrounds, Springfield. Adult admission is \$2 per person, children 10 and under are free.

If you are unable to attend the Expo, but wish to learn more about Illinois products, visit the Department of Agriculture's Web site at www.agr.state.il.us. The site has a complete listing of local companies with links to individual Web sites. For additional information, call Larry Aldag at the Illinois Department of Agriculture at (217) 524-3012.



HONEST ABE



Honored again in central Illinois

by: Angie Bates

Illinois will once and for all be, "The Land of Lincoln" in the summer of 2004. Why? Because the current construction of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum in Springfield will be complete and will join the new Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. The library will serve as the center for research and study of the life and times of Lincoln and the American Civil War. It will house the world's largest and most complete collection of Lincoln documents and artifacts. Priceless items that have never been viewed by the public will be included. The museum will make the era "come alive" with façades, life-like figures and intriguing special effects.

The museum tour begins at "The Gateway," where visitors can plan their visit while finding out what special events are occurring that day. "The Plaza" follows, featuring building displays and realistic figures. From here, visitors have access to all other areas of the museum. Children can then be entertained at "Mrs. Lincoln's Attic," a hands-on exhibit where they can try on Lincoln-era clothing, play with 19th century toys and construct a log cabin.

"The Journey, Part 1" begins after the children have their fun. Here you can get to know Lincoln in his pre-presidential days and the early events that shaped his life. You will then proceed to the "Special Effects Theater," which seats 250 visitors. Dave Blanchette, Public Information Officer for the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, says, "You might find a battle scene where cannons are fired and the seats may vibrate to make it feel like you are actually on the battlefield. There will also be, depending on what is on the screen, certain



effects that can be felt that will enhance the experience."

"The Journey, Part 2" follows the theater and it portrays Lincoln's family, their new life in the White House, and Lincoln's fight for racial equality. A full-scale recreation of the War room, Civil War drama and Lincoln's death, respectively, are all depicted. The "Treasures Gallery" is next, which contains original versions of the 13th amendment and the Gettysburg address. There are also many rare personal items that belonged to Lincoln and his family.

After you leave the gallery you will enter the 250 seat "Holavision® Theatre." A live actor will interact with holographic images from the audience's viewpoint, the live actor and the holographic images will appear as one. Blanchette says, "That particular presentation is called 'Ghosts of the Library' and is intended to excite people about the historic detective work that historians, librarians and researchers do in presidential libraries. It reveals the excitement that they have when they discover a new historic fact, uncover a previously unknown historic document, or learn something new about a historical event or figure."

The idea for the museum and the library came into play due to "the state of Illinois having the world's largest collection of Lincoln materials at 46,000 items, but hav-

ing no adequate place to display them," says Blanchette. "We like to joke that the idea for the facility came about on April 16, 1865, which is the day after Lincoln was assassinated, but it really began to gather steam in the early 1990s."

Then-Congressman Dick Durbin (who is now a U.S. Senator) secured federal money for a feasibility study for the complex. In the late 90s before

he left office, Governor Jim Edgar hired an architect and an exhibit designer for the project. When Governor George Ryan took office he gathered the construction money and began the construction of the building. The library building is completed, and the museum is half completed.

The groundbreaking ceremony was on February 12, 2001, and the dedication for the library was on November 18. The library is located at 112 N. 6th St., and the museum is located at 212 N. 6th St. The number 212 was chosen because that is the month and day of Lincoln's birthday. Funding for the project came from a combination of sources. A little more than half is state funding. The balance was paid with federal funding, city of Springfield funding, and private funds. In total, the museum and library cost \$115 million to build.

Video footage has been captured throughout the demolition and construction process. Footage is still being recorded and will periodically be added to the Web site.

To view the videos, log on to: www.state.il.us/HPA/preslib/default.htm. For more information about the library and the museum, write the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, 500 East Madison, Springfield, IL., 62701, call (217) 785-1511, fax (217) 785-7937, or e-mail info@ihpa.state.il.us.



Turkeys

Travel Power Path



Steeped in tradition, hunting wild turkeys dates back many years, even before the first European settlers set foot in North America. But by the early 1900s, the American icon dwindled to less than 30,000 birds due to unregulated harvesting and loss of habitat.

With the help of several state and federal agencies and wildlife conservation organizations like the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF), wild turkeys came back from the brink of extinction to a population that is estimated at more than 5.6 million. It is a great wildlife management success story.

With chapters throughout Illinois and other states, NWTF continues its strong support of wild turkey conservation and preservation of the hunting tradition. Their work is carried out through trap and transfer projects, habitat enhancement, wildlife research, educational and outreach programs and now the help of electric co-ops and other utilities.

"Trapping wild birds is a practice that dates back to the 1940s," says Scott Vance, National Wildlife Biologist for NWTF. "Early restoration attempts focused on releasing wild turkeys raised in captivity. Unfortunately, these releases failed due to lack of feed-

ing and predator-avoidance skills. In recent years, the success of restoration efforts is the result of innovative trapping methods that trap and release birds into suitable habitats."

Most biologists agree optimal turkey habitats are a mixture of forested and open areas, thus making properly managed utility right of ways a biodiverse gold mine.

"Many utilities use integrated land-management techniques to maintain low-growing herbaceous plants along right of ways," says Vance. "These same areas provide great turkey habitats, because low-growing, open areas are required for nesting and reproduction."

The wild turkey's diet is also dependent on its habitat. Comprised of 90 percent vegetation and 10 percent insects, turkey diets are a mix of plant leaves, stems, seeds, hard and soft mass – such as acorns and berries and insects when available.

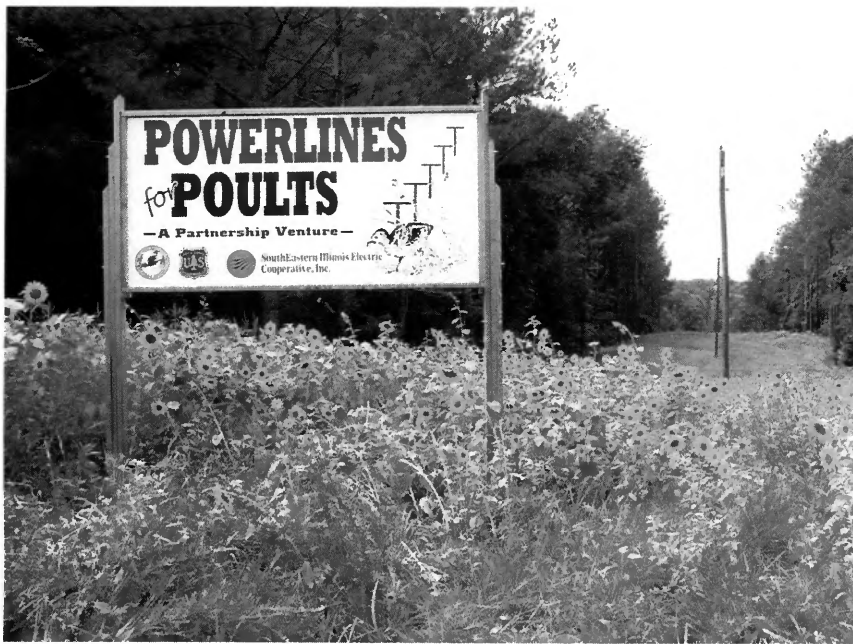
Understanding these basic needs, NWTF developed numerous programs to enhance turkey and wildlife habitats. NWTF works with private landowners, as well as state and federal wildlife agencies nationwide.

Spearheading yet another program, NWTF recently launched its newest conservation program – "Energy for Wildlife."

"While NWTF is primarily known for its wild turkey habitat projects, a multitude of other wildlife species benefit from these habitat enhancements," says Jay Jordan, Coordinator of the Energy for Wildlife program. "This program's aim is working with utilities to develop plans for managing company right of ways in a manner most beneficial for a variety of wildlife."

For utilities that manage vegetation with biodiversity in mind, NWTF makes management recommendations that offer economically sustainable practices and optimal wildlife habitats.





SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative's right of way and habitat enhancement demonstration project was one of the first in the nation.

"We don't tell companies what products or equipment to use. We leave that to vegetation managers," Jordan says. "However, we do demonstrate how certain vegetation management techniques can be more beneficial for wildlife habitats and economically sustainable."

"Ultimately, the goal is to remove woody brush and tree species, allowing herbaceous plants to acquire more sunlight for better growth," Vance explains. "We know the best way to produce this effect is with prescribed fire. Unfortunately, utilities cannot safely burn thousands of acres of right of way. The alternative is identifying vegetation management techniques that mimic summer fires. One of the best options is low-volume applications of selective herbicides, which create preferred habitats for songbirds, quail, grouse, deer, small mammals and especially wild turkeys."

"Energy for Wildlife is a win-win program for everyone," Jordan says. "This program benefits all aspects of the environment

and everyone from the utility to the nature enthusiast."

One of the first utility right of way projects was with SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative in the Shawnee National Forest of southern Illinois. Bob Kielhorn, Property and Right of Way Control Manager for the electric co-op,

worked with Mike Spanel, Wildlife Biologist for the Shawnee National Forest, and NWTF to start the new program. The first phase of the project included clearing the 40-foot right of way, removing stumps, disking and then seeding with sunflowers. The second phase included disking the land again and sowing with wheat and clover. The plants attract insects, which add critical protein to the young turkey poult's diet.

With 3,700 miles of right of way, Kielhorn has a "big backyard" to keep mowed and clean. Kielhorn says, "This program enhances the wildlife habitat and it does the co-op a tremendous favor because we are getting help with clearing and maintaining the right of way."

Mick Cummins, Executive Vice President/General Manager of the co-op, says right of way maintenance on 3,700 miles of line is expensive, costing more than \$1.5 million annually. However, Cummins says keeping the right of way clear avoids



long expensive outages. "With this program our initial expenses are higher, but the cost goes down over time and reliability of electric service goes up."

The co-op had a small ice storm last year. Storms like that remind Cummins that the money spent on right of way maintenance is worth it. He says, "You can always look at your budget — and this is one of the largest items — and say let's cut that in half. You can get by for a while, until an ice storm or a windstorm comes through. Then you are going to spend more than that getting everyone back on."

Cummins says the co-op is asking for members' help too. "We would be willing to do this on any individual landowner's property where we have right of way. We would pay up to \$300 for seeding and disking." By removing brush and trees, treating with herbicides, then planting grass cover, trees can be kept out of the right of way and a long-term solution



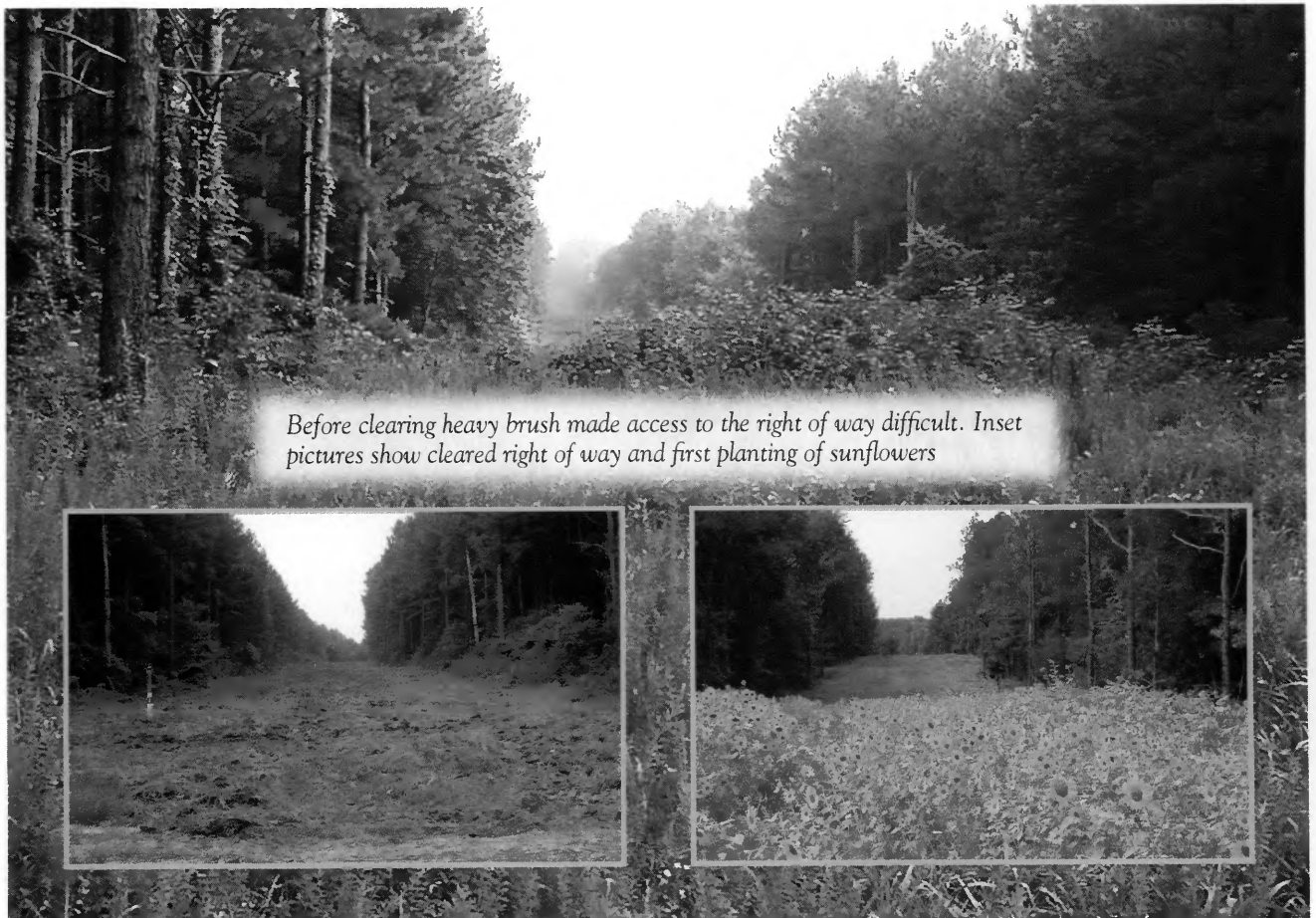
John Adams, a local contractor, helped with seeding the cleared right of way.

is achieved. The co-op also has a trade a tree program. When members allow the co-op to completely remove a problem tree from the right of way, crews will plant a tree outside of the right of way.

Spanel says the turkey population has increased substantially in the project area. "This spring we will disk again and plant native prairie grasses so we can get some nesting cover. Hopefully after that

it will be more or less self-maintaining except for mowing."

Spanel helped expand the idea to include two natural gas line companies' right of ways in addition to the co-op's. "The initial project cost was \$6,000," says Spanel. "One-fourth was paid by the electric co-op, another fourth by Trunk Line Gas. The other \$3,000 came from the National Wild Turkey Federation." Then Centennial Gas Company joined



Before clearing heavy brush made access to the right of way difficult. Inset pictures show cleared right of way and first planting of sunflowers





The right of way was damaged by four-wheel drive vehicles and had to be reseeded.

the project and added another \$3,500 for a section of their right of way.

Spanel says the only problem with the project so far is that someone destroyed the first planting in the gas line's right of way by driving 4-wheel vehicles through the area. "There are proper places for all-terrain vehicles and this is not one of them. We need people to help stop this and let us know if they see this going on," said Spanel.

Spanel won this year's "Making Tracks Award" presented by the U.S. Forest Service and the NWTF. The annual award recognizes best project or employee nationally that "has contributed substantially to improving turkey habitat in a national forest."

Spanel says, "I hope we can work with Mick (Cummins) and the co-op and try and expand the opportunities. The National Wild Turkey Federation really took this idea and ran with it nationwide. This was just a small demonstration plot. Look what we could do on larger areas."

For landowners interested in improving the wildlife habitat on their property, Spanel recommends contacting the Illinois

Department of Natural Resources regional wildlife biologist. "They can help an individual landowner manage their land for wildlife. That is really part of their mission," says Spanel. He also says other groups like Quail Unlimited and Pheasants Forever can provide support, advice and seed.

Spanel recommends planting annuals that will be non-invasive and using clover, wheat, milo or soybeans for food strips. "Stay away from exotics and use native

species as much as possible," he says. "I and other wildlife biologists helped create a real problem back in the 60s when we recommended planting autumn olive, an exotic shrub that everyone planted for wildlife. Now it is getting out of hand and taking over."

Leland Banks, secretary treasurer for the Saline Valley Strutters, a local Illinois chapter of the NWTF, says seed companies also help. "Quail Unlimited and our chapter both get leftover seed from the seed companies."

Banks is proud of the local project and hopes more companies and local landowners will get involved. "This was one of the original starting points. Mike (Spanel) is pretty good about getting things like that started and getting the ball rolling and knowing who to contact."

Hunting has a positive impact on the local economy. "Turkey hunting helps the economy tremendously," says Banks, who is a pharmacist in Carrier Mills, when he isn't turkey hunting. "A lot of turkey hunters come from upstate and a few from out of state who are fortunate enough to get a non-resident permit. It is exciting. Just being out in the woods and hearing nature and seeing all of the animals is well worth it," he says.

For more information:

With more than 2,000 state and local chapters and more than 450,000 members, the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) is one of the largest and fastest-growing, single-species conservation organizations in the world. NWTF has raised and spent more than \$150 million for habitat enhancements, conservation education, hunting heritage and turkey restoration, in addition to funding research through universities, as well as state and federal wildlife agencies.

Contact Information:

The National Wild Turkey Federation (www.nwtf.net) at (800) THE-NWTF (843-6983) or contact Scott Vance at: svance@nwtf.net





Duane Friend

Don't take a chance with lightning

Exceeded only by floods, lightning is the second largest killer associated with storms. Lightning reportedly kills an average of 73 people each year in the United States.

As thunderstorms develop, areas of positive and negative charges build within a cloud. Negative charges are concentrated in lower regions and positive charges build in upper areas. A positive charge is created below the cloud. Since air is a poor conductor of electricity, it takes tens of millions of volts to overcome this resistance. Before a lightning bolt is seen, a pathway of ionized air is produced. Called a stepped leader, it follows the path of least resistance, giving it a crooked appearance. The stepped leader starts from the cloud and when it is within a few hundred feet of the ground, a ground charge called a streamer rises up to meet it. Once the pathway is complete, the lightning bolt is seen.

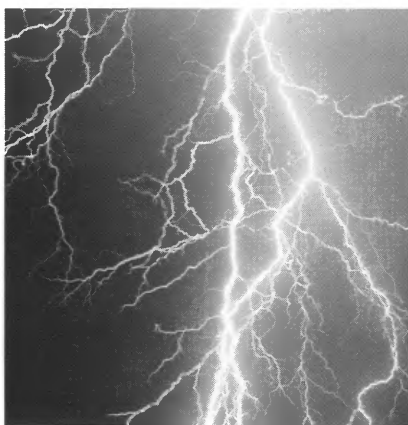
There are several considerations for protection from a lightning strike. First, when a storm is approaching, don't wait for rain to begin before moving indoors. If you can hear thunder, lightning is close enough that it could strike your location at any moment. Lightning can occur as far as 10 miles from rainfall.

Do not stand under or next to a tree. If you cannot get to an indoor location, crouch in the open, keeping twice as far from a tree as it is tall.

If there is a group of people outdoors, keep several yards distance from each other. Unless well grounded, open pavilions or other small shelters will not provide adequate protection.

Lightning can enter a building

through a direct strike, through wires or pipes that extend outside the structure, or through electrical, phone, plumbing and radio/television antennas. Metal wires or bars in concrete walls or floors may also be pathways. If you are indoors, avoid contact with corded phones or contact with electrical equipment. Avoid contact with plumbing. Do not lie on concrete



floors or lean against concrete walls. Stay away from windows and doors and stay off of porches.

According to the National Weather Service, lightning can cause significant damage to personal property. Typical surge protectors may not protect equipment from a strike. During a storm, appliances and electronic equipment, including antenna connections, should be unplugged to the extent possible. Contact a local electrician or your local electric cooperative for more information on whole-house surge protection equipment and proper grounding.

When outside during a thunderstorm, avoid water. Boating, fishing, and other-related activities account for 13 percent of lightning deaths and

6 percent of injuries. Avoid high ground. Also avoid open spaces. Open spaces, fields and ballparks account for 28 percent of lightning deaths and 29 percent of lightning injuries. All metal objects including electric wires, fences, machinery, motors and power tools should not be used. In addition, canopies, small picnic or rain shelters, or near trees are all UNSAFE places to be. Standing under trees, in fact, accounts for 18 percent of lightning deaths and 13 percent of injuries.

If lightning is very close and no building is nearby, you should crouch down and put your feet together. Place your hands over your ears to minimize hearing damage from thunder. Avoid being closer than 15 feet from other people.

If someone is struck by lightning, call 911 or other emergency services. Check the victims breathing and pulse, and begin CPR if necessary and you are trained to do so.

Where lightning entered and left the body, burns may be present. In addition, other problems such as broken bones, loss of hearing or eyesight, and other nervous system damage may be present. After being struck, the victim does not carry any residual charge, so a rescue person should not be afraid of being shocked.

Duane Friend is the Natural Resources Management Educator at the Springfield Extension Center. For more information contact him at Springfield Extension Center, P.O. Box 8199, Springfield, IL 62791-8199, telephone (217) 782-6515, or e-mail friend@uiuc.edu.



Old Cookbook Reveals

"Amazing Details of Washington's Dining Habits"

by Guy Coalter,
Special Features Writer

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hundreds of servants at her command... a person would think our first First Lady was a woman of leisure.

Not so... according to a new historical discovery. A long out-of-print volume entitled, "*The Martha Washington Cook Book*" shows Mrs. Washington personally supervised her entire household staff... and especially the kitchen and dining room servants.

Martha made sure every dish served at Mount Vernon... as well as in the first Presidential "*White Houses*" in New York and Philadelphia... was prepared exactly as called for in her personal cookbook.

The family cookbook was given to Martha at the time of her first marriage.

In 1749, beautiful seventeen-year-old Martha Dandridge married Daniel Parke Custis. As a wedding gift, the Custis family presented Martha with a family cookbook entitled *Booke of Cookery and Booke of Sweetmeats*.

Handwritten by an unknown hand, there is evidence the recipe book had been in the Custis family for generations. It is quite likely this was a family heirloom dating back to the early 1600s. In all, there were over five hundred classic recipes, dating largely from Elizabethan and Jacobean times, the golden age of English cookery.

Later, Martha Custis became a widow and in 1759 she married Col. George Washington. Washington was to become the Father of our country and its first President. Martha, of course, became our very first, "*First Lady*."

Martha kept and used her family cookbook for over fifty years. In 1799, she presented the book to her granddaughter, Eleanor Parke Custis as a wedding gift when she married Lawrence Lewis.

The cookbook was handed down from mother to daughter until 1892 when the Lewis family presented it to The Historical Society of Pennsylvania where it still resides today.

In 1940, the Society gave permission to historian Marie Kimball to study the manuscript and prepare a cookbook entitled, "*The Martha Washington Cook Book*." Although now long out-of-print,

an Ohio publisher was recently commissioned to reprint a limited edition of this rare and amusing piece of Americana.

Accordingly, a limited number of copies are being made available to the public at this time. Each volume is numbered and when the present printing is exhausted, there is no contract to print more. These cookbooks could very easily become valuable collectors items.



Martha Washington

"*The Martha Washington Cook Book*" includes facsimile copies of several actual pages from the one-of-a-kind original manuscript. Then, Mrs. Kimball chose over 200 delicious unique recipes from Martha Washington's personal cookbook and completely modernized them so you can easily prepare them in your own kitchen!

The original recipes were written for a huge household including numerous servants. Many called for dozens of eggs and gallons of one thing or another. Marie Kimball "*trimmed*" each recipe to quantities of ingredients for a family of six.

You'll get dozens of delicious recipes for Soups, Fish, Meats, Meat Pies, Poultry and Game, Sauces, Eggs - Mushrooms and Cheese, Fritters and Pancakes, Pastry - Pies and Tarts, Cakes, Creams and Jellies, Puddings, Preserves, and Beverages.

Perhaps more interesting for us history buffs is the detailed description of the kitchen and dining habits in the George Washington household. Martha sat at the head of the table with her husband at her side to the right.

Despite dozens of servants around the table, either Martha or George always carved the meats to be served!

You'll absolutely love dozens of other interesting details of this historical dining room.

"*The Martha Washington Cook Book*" is a beautiful perfect bound book you will be proud to display on your coffee table, bookshelf, or where ever you keep your very best books.

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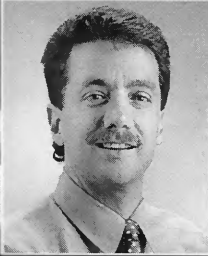
Act within the next 15 days and the publisher will include a free bonus... *a selection of delightful recipes from the personal cookbook of President Thomas Jefferson!*

"*The Martha Washington Cookbook*" makes an appreciated gift for any gift-giving occasion. Readers of this publication may request a second copy for only \$16.02 postpaid. (Total of \$49.95 for both.)

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David Robson

Beat the winter blahs with your own tropical paradise

Every time I visit the Missouri Botanical Gardens in St. Louis I wish I had a greenhouse. Well, at least the money to heat one and the plants to fill it.

Of course, the MBG Climatron is relatively large for most suburban lots. I'd have to encroach on my neighbors, and while they are pleasant and nice and provide free food every now and then, they'd probably not appreciate this big glass structure covering every inch of their yard and house. And think about what all that humidity would do to the siding. On top of that, none of us likes to clean windows.

Most of us think of greenhouses as places for tropical plants. In fact, that's why they originally were created centuries ago when explorers pillaged the rainforests and deserts for that rare plant that no one had ever seen.

Many people look at small greenhouses as a means to start flower and vegetable plants. Building the greenhouse now will get you ready for March and April when you sow the seeds.

While the wealthy and nobility could build immense steel and glass edifices, some people made do with smaller buildings. And some even made do with little indoor glass greenhouses long before large blue water bottles weren't returned in the 70s.

My dream is to someday put a greenhouse on my yellow house, as opposed to seeing a greenhouse on my neighbor's green house. She wants one also, but as an educator, has to contend with a green house and a greenhouse.

Unfortunately, my greenhouse would have to be on the north side of my house, which isn't the best location for it. South, west and east

would all be better. The north would be perfect in the summer, but that's also the time when most of the tropical plants would be outside enjoying the tropical Illinois humidity.

A northern exposure feels the blasts of winter winds, driving up heating costs and potentially chilling the plants if temperatures are low enough and winds strong enough.



Old greenhouses were built with single panes of glass. You could create something similar with old wood storm windows. It would take lots of storm windows, but you probably wouldn't have to look too far to find people who would be happy to donate all of theirs stacked in a garage or barn. Or find a spouse who would let you take them when the other one isn't at home. Just make sure your better half doesn't mind the build-up of your own stock.

While you're out collecting the windows, start collecting old 50-gallon drums. These can be the basis for benches, as well as a means of cutting down on heating cost. Get a can of black paint at the same time and paint the outside of the drums.

Lean-to greenhouses are a better

first-time option than a large free-standing type. You also cut down the heating bill by having one less wall of glass, if possible the north wall.

The painted black drums should be stacked against the north wall and filled with water. I can tell you from experience, it helps to fill one level at a time. That saves on chiropractic bills.

The drums will provide a source of passive heat. Sunlight warms the black containers and water, which in turn, release their heat at night. They won't do away with the need for some other form of heat. Drums can also be used to support planks for the plants.

The goal of a hobby greenhouse isn't really to try to duplicate natural conditions unless you've won the Lotto. Humidity should be well above 60 percent. Temperatures may hit as high as 80 degrees F. on bright sunny days, but probably more likely will hover around 65 degrees F., which is still high enough when the outdoor temps are in the below zero range. Night temperatures in the 50s are considered adequate for many plants.

Auxiliary heaters can be used. Just make sure to use proper ventilation unless you use electric heaters. You don't want to catch your greenhouse on fire, nor do you want to fumigate your plants or yourself with all sorts of heating by-products.

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: drobson@uiuc.edu



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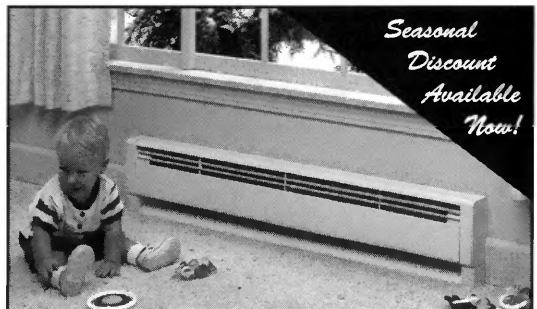
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James Dulley

Behind this door is energy savings and security

Q: Dear Jim: I am considering replacing my warped, leaky wood front door with an insulated steel door for lower utility bills and greater security for my family. I have seen attractive steel doors that resemble natural wood. Are steel doors a good choice for homes? - Ned B.

A: Dear Ned: For overall performance, efficiency, security, and reasonable cost, insulated steel front doors are difficult to beat. When you consider the total perimeter length on a front door, the airtight weatherstripping on steel doors can significantly reduce air infiltration and chilly drafts. Most doors are prehung, so it is not difficult to install one yourself and save even more.

Even though steel is a good conductor of heat and these doors have a steel skin, the thick insulated core gives steel doors a much higher R-value than solid wood doors. The most efficient steel doors have a thermal break between the indoor and outdoor steel skins. The thermal break is made of a non-conducting material, often a plastic-type material, to block the direct heat path through the skins.

The new steel doors are made with modern manufacturing processes to produce crisper edge and panel details that rival painted real wood doors. With optional decorative glass and sidelights, it is difficult to distinguish a steel door from a wood door until you actually touch it.

The "natural-wood" steel doors you are referring to have a stainable coating over the steel skins. The thick

coating is applied at the factory and then authentic wood graining is rolled into the surface so you can feel the grain just like on real wood.

Each door manufacturer offers its own staining kits, often in oak and walnut, so you or the installation contractor can produce the natural wood look you desire. Once it is stained, it is finished somewhat similar to a real wood door.

The windows you select for your steel front door have a tremendous impact on its appearance, energy efficiency and security. The most decorative-looking glass is beveled, etched or leaded. For the best energy efficiency and security against break-ins, choose smaller windows, such as ornate ovals.

Selecting the proper type of glass for the windows is also important. Triple-pane decorative glass is probably the all-around best. The decorative pane, made of glass or crystal clear plastic, is often sandwiched between two smooth outside panes. This creates two insulating air gaps and makes cleaning easier.

For the optimum security, order special super-tough, high-security glass panels that are clear or decorative. These use a break-resistant plastic material that is almost twice as tough as tempered glass. In addition to its high security benefits, it blocks more outdoor noise than glass and stops nearly all the sun's fading ultraviolet rays from passing through.

Although most steel doors look similar on display in the store, there are significant quality differences among them. The thickness of the steel skin is an indication of quality.

Just a slightly thicker steel skin provides significantly better stability, dent resistance and security against break-ins. The steel skin is measured in the "gauge" of the steel used. A lower gauge number indicates a thicker steel material. Heavy gauge steel from 22 to 24 is considerable good quality.

The hardware (hinges, latches, etc.) used on the door also indicates overall quality. An insulated steel door, especially one with a lot of decorative glass panels, can get quite heavy and place a load on the bearings. Ball-bearing hinges will provide the smoothest operation. High-security, triple-point locking mechanisms have two additional latches that all operate from the standard single handle. Heavy-duty wood lock blocks inside the door in the latch area are most secure.

All steel doors have a core. Foamed-in-place polyurethane insulation has the highest R-value. Another efficient option is a piece of polystyrene insulation fitted between the steel skins. Magnetic weatherstripping, similar to refrigerator gaskets, provides the most airtight seal. It also has an extremely long life as compared to standard compression-type weatherstripping. Adjustable thresholds with a multi-fin sweep seal are common on most of the doors.

Write for (instantly download - www.dulley.com) Utility Bills Update No. 409 - buyer's guide of 12 insulated steel front door manufacturers. Please include \$3.00 and a business-size SASE. James Dulley, Illinois Country Living, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244.



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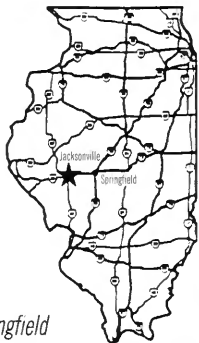
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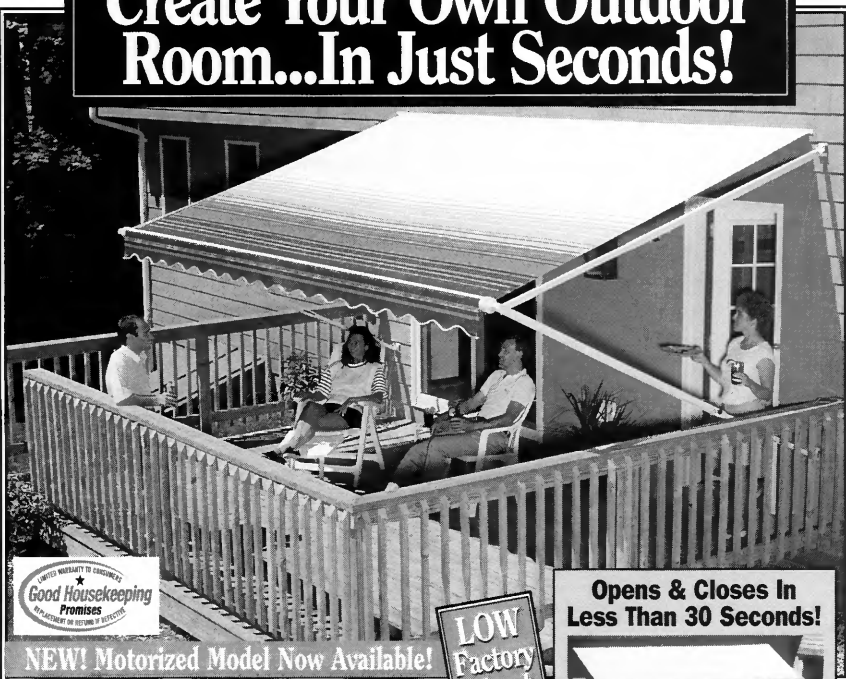
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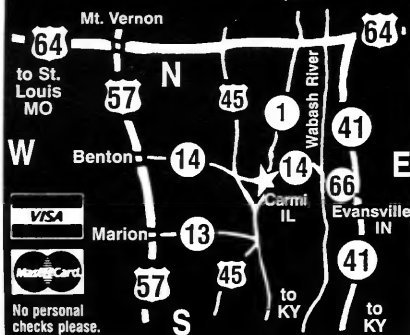
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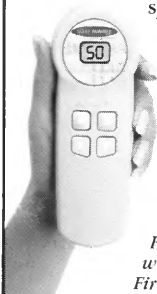
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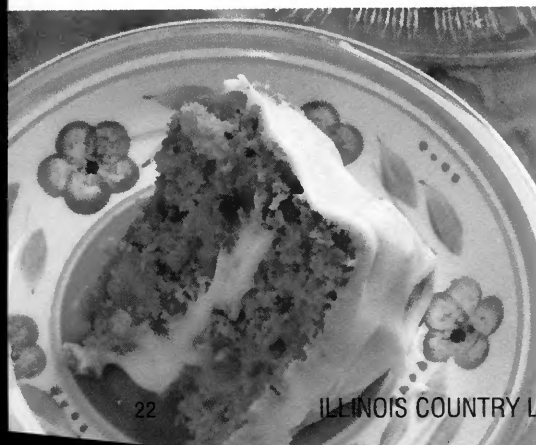
Carrot Cake Leticia Hearle

- 1 (18.25-oz.) pkg. yellow cake mix
- 1 (3.4-oz.) pkg. vanilla instant pudding mix
- 2/3 C. fresh orange juice
- 1/2 C. vegetable oil
- 4 lg. eggs
- 2 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 3 C. grated carrots
- 1/2 C. raisins
- 1/2 C. nuts

Frosting:

- 1 (8-oz.) pkg. cream cheese, room temperature
- 1 stick butter
- 3 C. confectioners sugar, sifted
- 2 T. fresh orange juice
- 1 T. grated orange zest

Cake: Place rack in the center of an oven. Preheat oven to 350°. Grease two 9-inch round cake pans and dust with flour. Shake out excess flour. Blend cake mix, pudding mix, orange juice, oil, eggs and cinnamon in a large bowl on medium speed for 3 minutes. Fold in carrots, raisins and nuts with a spatula. Divide evenly into the pans. Bake 30-35 minutes. Remove from the oven and let cool.
Frosting: Blend cream cheese and butter on low speed for 30 seconds. Add confectioners sugar a bit at a time until blended in about 1 minute. Add orange juice and zest and beat on medium for about 1 minute until smooth and fluffy. Place cake from first pan on a plate, upside-down. Frost top. Place second cake on top of frosting, right side up; frost top and sides.



B.J.'s Spinach and Bacon Salad Norma Leathers

- 1 lb. fresh spinach, torn
- 1/2 head Iceberg lettuce, torn
- 4 slices bacon, cooked and crumbled
- 1/2 C. cider vinegar
- 2 T. sugar
- 1 T. poppy seeds
- 1 T. onion juice
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. dry mustard
- 3/4 C. large-curd cottage cheese

Combine spinach, lettuce and bacon in a large salad bowl; toss lightly. Combine the next 7 ingredients in a jar. Cover tightly and shake vigorously. Stir in cottage cheese. Pour dressing over spinach and toss lightly.

Champagne Salad Nancy Leak

- 1 (8-oz.) pkg. cream cheese
- 3/4 C. sugar
- 1 sm. pkg. frozen strawberries
- 1 lg. can crushed pineapple, drained
- 2 bananas
- 1 C. pecan pieces
- 1 (10-oz.) ctn. Cool Whip

Stir all ingredients together thoroughly. Press in a 9x13-inch pan and freeze. Serve frozen.

Lemon Supreme Pound Cake Debbie Dannels

- 1 pkg. Duncan Hines Deluxe Lemon Supreme cake mix
- 1 (4-serving) pkg. lemon instant pudding mix
- 1/2 C. Crisco
- 1 C. water
- 4 eggs

Glaze:

- 1 C. confectioners sugar
- 2 T. milk or lemon juice

Preheat oven to 350°. Blend all ingredients in a large bowl; beat at medium speed for 2 minutes. Bake in a greased and floured tube or bread pan at 350° for 45-55 minutes or until the center springs back when touched lightly. Cool right-side-up in pan for about 25 minutes, then invert onto serving plate. **Glaze:** Blend confectioners sugar with either milk or lemon juice. Drizzle over cake.



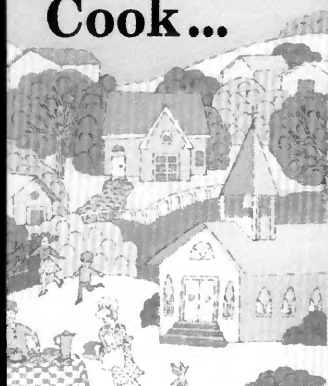
Italian Crescent Casserole Stacy Greenwalt

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1/4 C. chopped onion
- 1 C. spaghetti sauce
- 1-1/2 C. Mozzarella cheese
- 1/2 C. sour cream
- 1 can refrigerator crescent rolls
- 1/3 C. Parmesan cheese
- 2 T. butter, melted

Heat oven to 375°. In a skillet, brown beef and onion together; drain. Stir in spaghetti sauce; heat. In a medium bowl, stir together Mozzarella cheese and sour cream. Pour heated mixture into an ungreased 2-quart baking dish. Spoon cheese mixture over meat. Unroll crescent rolls and place them over cheese mixture. In a small bowl, combine Parmesan cheese and butter. Spread gently over dough. Bake at 375° for 18-25 minutes or until golden brown.



Cook...



The Illinois Coalition for Community Services in Springfield, IL submits their cookbook of 484 recipes. The book is soft-backed and comb-bound and sells for \$10, plus \$1.50 shipping and handling. Checks should be made to ICCS. To order, contact Doris Greer at 510 Apple Orchard Road, Suite 100, Springfield, IL 62703, or call her at (217) 522-2378 or (800) 728-1523.

Skroodle Noodle Casserole *Brenda Minder*

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 box Skroodle noodles
- 1 sm. can sliced mushrooms
- 1 sm. onion, chopped
- 1 C. golden mushroom soup
- 1 T. garlic powder
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. pepper
- 1/4 lb. Velveeta cheese

Boil noodles. While they boil, brown ground beef. Drain. Over medium heat, in a large skillet, add onion, mushroom soup, sliced mushrooms with liquid, garlic, salt and pepper. Stir thoroughly. Drain noodles. Stir noodles in with meat mixture. Slice a little more than half of the Velveeta cheese. Tear it up and mix in with meat mixture. Spray a 12-inch square baking dish. Pour all ingredients in. Slice the remainder of cheese and layer on top. Bake at 350° for 15 minutes.

Spanish Noodles N' Ground Beef *Marilyn Morehead*

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 sm. green pepper, chopped
- 1 sm. onion, chopped
- 3-1/4 C. med. egg noodles, uncooked
- 1 (14-1/2-oz.) can diced tomatoes, undrained
- 1 C. water
- 1/4 C. chili sauce
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/8 tsp. pepper
- 4 bacon strips, cooked and crumbled

In a large skillet, over medium heat, cook the beef, green pepper and onion until meat is no longer pink; drain. Stir in the noodles, tomatoes, water, chili sauce, salt and pepper; mix well. Cover and cook over low heat for 15-20 minutes or until the noodles are tender, stirring frequently. Add bacon.

Cherry Jell-O Salad *Nancy Tosetti*

- 1 lg. pkg. cherry Jell-O
- 2 C. boiling water
- 1 sm. can crushed pineapple
- 1 can cherry pie filling
- Topping:**
- 1 (8-oz.) pkg. cream cheese
- 1 C. sour cream
- 3/4 C. sugar
- 1/2 C. pecans, chopped

Dissolve Jell-O in water. Add crushed pineapple (with juice) and cherry pie filling. Mix all together thoroughly. Put into a 9x13-inch pan and refrigerate. **Topping:** Mix together all ingredients. When Jell-O is set, spread topping over entire surface. Can be served with assorted crackers.

Raisin Oatmeal Cookies *Loretta Fichtner*

- 2 C. raisins
- 1 C. water
- 1 C. shortening
- 2 C. white sugar
- 3 eggs
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 3 C. flour, sifted
- 1-1/2 C. oatmeal, regular
- 1 C. nuts
- 3/4 C. coconut

Boil raisins in water for 5 minutes, cool slightly. Cream shortening and sugar. Add eggs. Mix well. Add vanilla and raisins. Mix dry ingredients, then mix small amounts of dry mixture to creamed mixture until all is combined. Drop by teaspoonful onto a greased cookie pan. Bake for about 12 minutes or until brown at 375°.

Wedding Soup *Stewart Sisson*

- 1-2 lbs. Sausage
- 1 box frozen chopped spinach
- 1 med. onion, chopped
- 2 stalks celery, chopped
- 3 cans chicken broth
- 1 sm. box small pasta balls

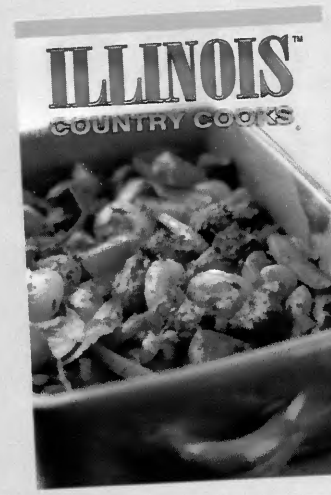
Brown the sausage. Add onion, celery, spinach and broth. Bring to a boil and add pasta. Boil until pasta is soft and serve topped with Parmesan cheese.

Photos by Catrina Young



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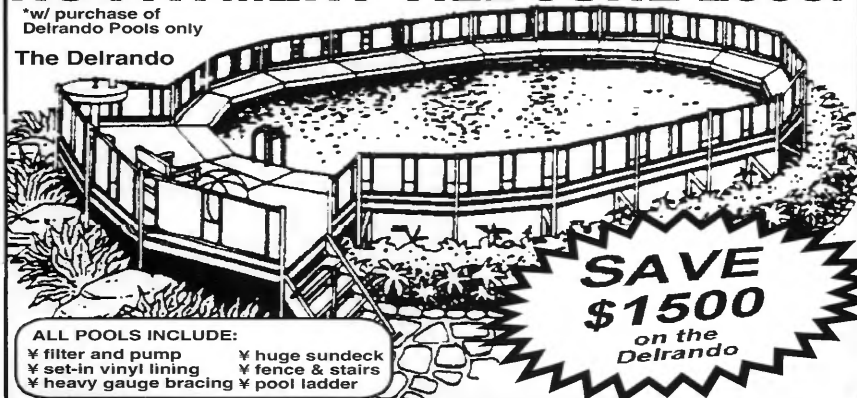
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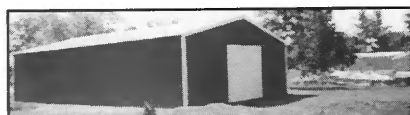
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1-14, Sweetheart Sale at State Street Market Shops in Elgin. During all market shop hours. Closed on Monday. Come find something special for someone. (847) 695-3066 or www.statestreetmarket.com.

2, Hearts and Art at the Galena Public Library in Galena. Hundreds of cards made by local artists available for purchase. These unique cards are suitable to frame or send. Card-making demonstrations. Refreshments. \$2. (815) 777-9500.

2, Heart and Soul – Sweetgrass in Concert at the Grace Episcopal Church in Galena. A bluegrass and gospel music concert by Mike and Amy Finders with Annie and Stacy Savage-Webster. Freewill offering. (815) 777-2590.

2, Ski Down Cancer at Chestnut Mountain Resort near Galena. A charity skiing event to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. Participants collect donations and pledges. (815) 397-5023.

2, What's Up With Waterfowl at Dickson Mounds Museum in Lewistown. Dr. Stephen P. Havera presents information on the diverse waterfowl populations of the Illinois River Valley. Havera grew up along the Illinois River, and his research has focused on the waterfowl and wetlands of the Illinois and Mississippi rivers. He has worked for the Illinois Natural History Survey since 1978, and is Director of the Forbes Biological Station and the Frank C. Bellrose Waterfowl Research Center at Havana. (309) 547-3721.

4-6, Illinois Special Olympics at Chestnut Mountain Resort near Galena, plus other tri-state venues. Athletes from all over the state compete in a variety of winter events. Volunteers needed. (800) 394-0562.

8, Open House for Lincoln's Birthday at historic Mt. Pulaski Courthouse in Mt. Pulaski. Celebrate Abraham Lincoln's birthday in a historic setting, with period music, a speaker and the lighting of more than 100 candles at dusk. Donations accepted. (217) 732-8930 or (217) 792-3919.

8, Chocolate Tasting Fest at the historic William J. Orendorff House in Canton. A chocolate lover's dream. Tickets are \$6. (309) 647-5079.

8-9, The Greater Springfield Garage Sale at the Prairie Capital Convention Center in Springfield. This annual show features aisles and aisles of new and "good-as-new" items. (217) 788-8800.

9, Winter Carnival at Indian Oaks Park in Merengo. Family fun with snowmobile rides, a bonfire, ice sculpting, games, music and crafts for kids. (815) 568-5126 or www.marengoparkdistrict.com.

12, Taste Galena at Eagle Ridge Inn and Resort near Galena. Local restaurants serve their favorite dishes for the public to savor. Tickets are \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door. (815) 777-2248.

13-14, Valentine Craft Fair at Southern Illinois University Student Center in Carbondale. Are you in the mood for love? If so, then stop by this annual craft fair where you'll find Valentine's Day gifts, crafts and T-shirts sure to please that special someone. (618) 453-3636.

13-16, Orchids, Planes, Trains, Stamps and Quilts at University Mall in Carbondale. This annual event is hosted by a partnership of stamp collectors, orchid growers, quilters and model train collectors. This event offers quite a collection of items of exhibit. Model trains and miniature displays of cityscapes and rural area are a big hit with youngsters. Free. (618) 724-4913 or (618) 867-2227.

14-16, Valentine's Day at Crowne Plaza Hotel in Elgin. One or two night packages in a luxurious suite available. Dinner, roses, chocolates and breakfast can be included. (847) 488-9000 or www.greatlakesco.com.

14-16, Southern Illinois Garden and Hobby Marketplace at the Carbondale Civic Center in Carbondale. Gardens at their best! Featuring specialty landscaped gardens, tea gardens, gardening workshops, juried standard flower show, raffles, door prizes and more. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. \$1 admission. (800) 526-1500 or (618) 529-4451.



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14-22, *Woman in Black* at Turner Hall in Galena. A spine-tingling tale in which the locals believe that anyone who sees the "woman in black" will die. Based on the novel by Susan Hill. Adults \$10, children and seniors \$7. (815) 777-4319.

15, *Murder Mystery Dinner Show - Murder at Mardi Gras* at Milk Pail Restaurant in East Dundee. An audience participation murder mystery dinner show, which includes appetizers, dinner, beverages, tax and gratuity. Group rates available. (847) 742-5040 or www.themilkpail.com.

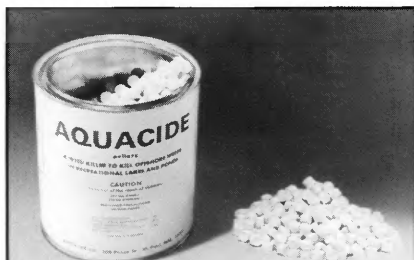
15-16 and 22-23, *Maple Syrup Time* at Lincoln Memorial Garden in Springfield. Learn how to make maple syrup first-hand, from tapping the trees to cooking the syrup. Hourly demonstrations are held at the nature center between 1-3 p.m. (217) 235-3432.



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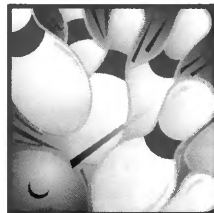
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21-23, *The 2003 Illinois Deer and Turkey Classic* at Bloomington's Interstate Center in Bloomington. Through an entertaining and educational program, Dan Snyder and his crusty old sidekick, Bucksaw the puppet, bring woods life and lore to youths, to encourage life-long commitment to land stewardship, conversation, ethics and safety. They stress the continued importance of hunting, trapping and other traditional outdoor skills. (309) 467-2707 or www.bucksawoutdoors.com.

22, *Bowl for Kids' Sake* at Esposito's Country Lanes in Elgin. A fund-raising event for Big Brothers, Big Sisters of the Fox Valley.



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or www.bbbsfoxvalley.org.

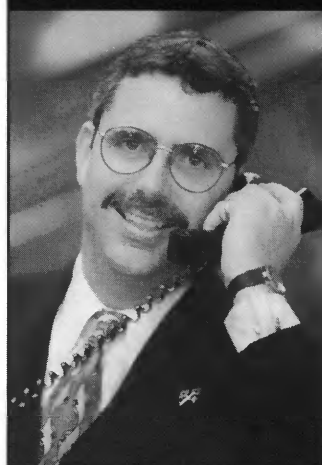
22-23, *Winter Carnival* at Chestnut Mountain Resort near Galena. Mardi Gras-themed weekend. Ice sculptures, on-slope barbeque, games, entertainment, sky divers and fireworks. Cajun food and drink specials. (800) 397-1320.

23, *The Status of Grasslands Birds of Illinois* at Dickson Mounds Museum in Lewistown. Dr. Jim Herkert introduces the varied species of grassland birds that inhabit Illinois, and the environmental changes that are causing a decline in their populations. He specifically addresses the bobolink, a songbird with a population decline of 90 percent. Herkert is Director of Conservation Science for the Nature Conservancy in Peoria, and oversees the science activities of Listing Coordinator for the Illinois Endangered species Protection Board. He has monitored the Illinois bird population since 1987. (309) 547-3721.

28-3/2, *The Fifth Annual Illinois Products Expo* at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in the Orr Building in Springfield. More than 80 Illinois food companies and agricultural groups will be sampling and selling their food products. In addition, at least 10 Illinois wine companies and five Illinois cheese companies will sample and sell their products in the "Illinois Wine and Cheese Garden" at the Expo. Food experts will also present food cooking and food safety tips. Mr. Howard Helmer, representing the American Egg Board, will provide humorous egg-cooking demonstrations. Numerous door prizes will also be given away. A "Children's Area" will also be available, featuring face painting, coloring, games and other fun activities. Other agricultural based items will also be promoted and for sale, including soy candles. Friday, 4-7 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday 11 a.m.-4 p.m. \$2 for adults, children 10 and under free. (217) 524-3012 or www.agr.state.il.us.

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

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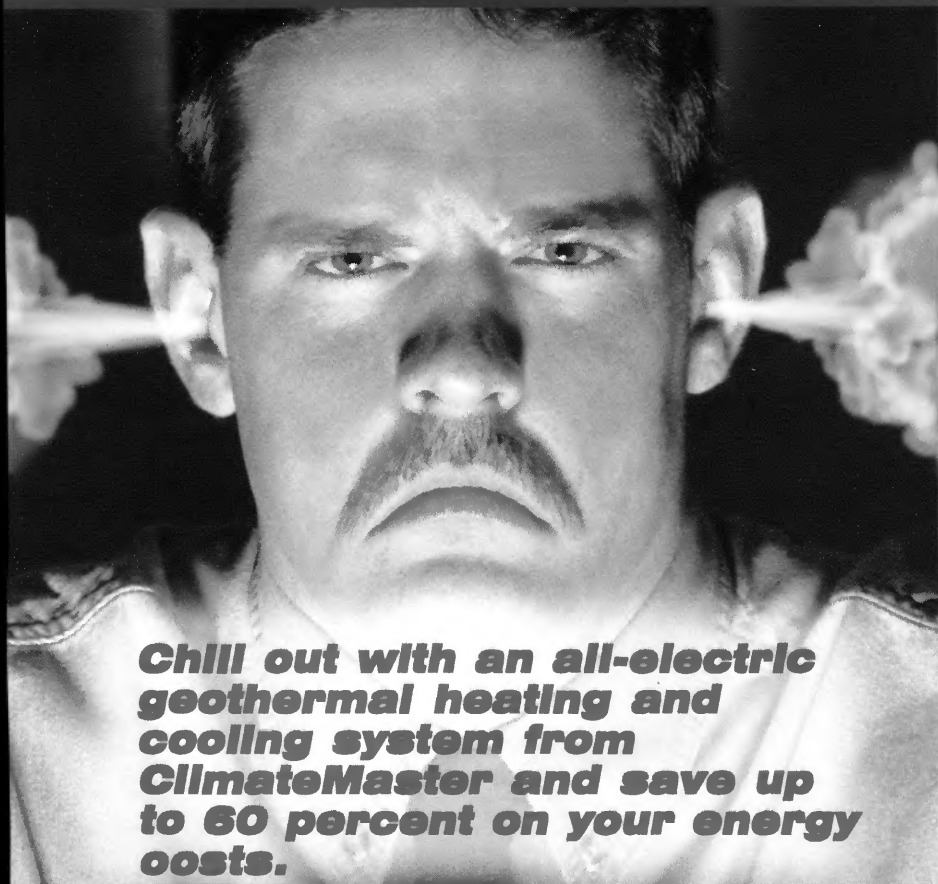
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RED HOT SPECIALS



SUPER HARDY HYBRID WILLOWS

Easy to grow! Fast growing! Long lived!

(*Salix Hybrid*) These are the fastest growing trees we know of for shade, privacy, wind protection and soil conservation. They grow up to 1/3 faster than our hybrid poplars! Small, one foot cuttings planted at a university reached from 14 to 20 feet the first year! **These Hybrid Willows are very hardy, very disease resistant and can withstand extreme weather conditions.** They survived in most areas of Canada and grow as far south as Florida! They thrive in dry soils and help dry out boggy land. Zones 3-8.

- ▲ 1-year old
- ◀ 2-years old

Excellent for landscaping!

Hybrid Willows are tall and upright growing. They do not have brittle wood. These trees often reach 80-100 feet tall with lateral branches from the ground up. This provides a full dense cover that makes them ideal for use as shelter belts. The fastest growth period is in the first five years.

Great screens and shelter belts!

These make great screens, as well as good sound and dust barriers. Trees do not spread by seed or sucker. Plant 3 feet apart in single rows for a dense cover about 8-15 feet wide within the first year. Excellent where severe winds are prevalent. **Prevent wind and soil erosion.** Animal fodder — shoots and leaves are an excellent source of green, tasty, non-toxic feed in dry summer months. Healthy 2-3 foot trees.

20/\$14.99 **10 for \$7.75**

10 for \$7.75



COLORADO BLUE SPRUCE

Add value to your property!

The ultimate in specimen evergreens with glistening, steel blue coloring and graceful conical shape. So dense growing these make superb wind breaks or privacy screens. Will grow to 50' or more in 35 to 50 years. Does best in full sun and moist soil. Will survive in light, dry soil if watered while root system is becoming established. Nicely branched, 5 year old transplanted trees at least 1-2' tall. Well developed root system.

3/\$5.50 6/\$10.95 12/\$19.95 **\$1.99 each**



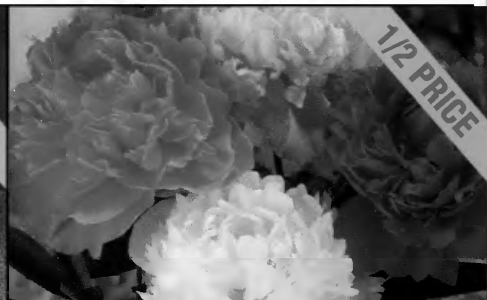
BUTTERFLY BUSH

Blooms all summer!

Buddleia davidii Fragrant 8-10" flower spikes. Grows 3-6' tall. A friend of butterflies and hummingbirds. One of the most prolific sources of massed color, blooms from July to frost. The long flower trusses provide a never-ending source of cut flowers. They die back to the ground in colder climates but grow more vigorously the next spring. **We send assorted color of our choice** which may include rich purples, orchid-pinks, lilacs, vibrant reds and pure whites.

1 for \$2.49

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GIANT DOUBLE PEONIES

Nothing equals the peony for Memorial Day decorations. We send you hand select root divisions that will produce beautiful, giant blooms for years to come. **Use for borders and cut flowers. We send a rich color assortment of our choice:** Satin Rose, Blood Red, Crimson, Snow White, Salmon, Bright Red and Pearl Pink. All are choice varieties that normally sell for much more. Order now!

~~\$4.95 each~~ **\$2.47 each**

2 for ~~\$9.85~~ **2 for \$4.92**

4 for ~~\$18.95~~ **4 for \$9.47**

6 for ~~\$27.49~~ **6 for \$13.74**



STARGAZER LILIES

Award winning! A hardy, upward facing Oriental lily ideal for growing in gardens, patio pots, along foundations, walks or driveways. Pleasant fragrance. Long-lasting cut flower bouquets. Plant in April or May for a profusion of blooms in June and July. 10-12 cm. bulbs.

3 for ~~\$5.98~~ **3 for \$2.99**

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	N7287	HYBRID WILLOWS	
	N6172	COLORADO BLUE SPRUCE	
	N6201	BUTTERFLY BUSH	
	N6331	GIANT DOUBLE PEONIES	
	B6458	STARGAZER LILIES	

Check or Money Order enclosed. IL Residents add 6.25% Sales Tax \$ _____

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