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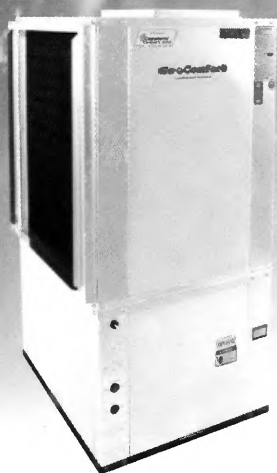
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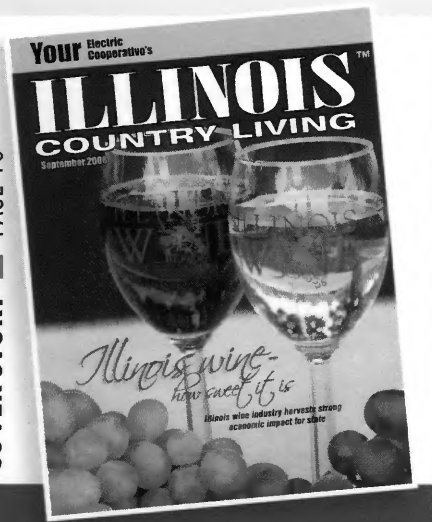
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ILLINOISTM COUNTRY LIVING

Volume 66, No. 5, September 2008

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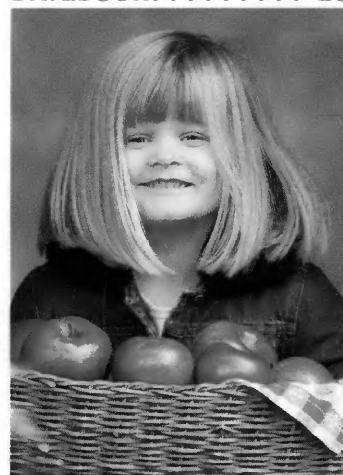
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The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives and 25 Illinois electric cooperatives are members of Touchstone Energy, a national alliance of 660 electric cooperatives. Touchstone Energy cooperative employees adhere to four core values — integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community.

Bringing Energy Solutions Back to School

Students take on the challenge of wrestling with waste

Energy rates are on the increase; school budgets are not. What's a school administrator to do? The solution can be found in the classroom, in the hallways and on the playground. Our children have wrestled energy wasting behaviors to the ground while learning and applying math, science, language arts, technology and life skills.

Over the past 14 years, Educational Dividends has been providing schools with age-appropriate, solutions-based learning, focused on energy, technology and life skills. EnergyNet is a powerful example. Since 1994, hundreds of Illinois schools have enjoyed average energy savings of 15 percent, increased student motivation and learning, and built relationships within their sponsors and communities.

Your electric cooperatives have been an integral part of our team. Working with the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative (EIEC) and others is a perfect fit for EnergyNet. The electric cooperatives understand their members' needs and we've found they are focused on long and short-term solutions.

For example, EIEC asked us to develop the Home Energy Management teaching unit to help students take their energy skills into the residential community. "We're preparing them to make informed energy decisions whether they are managing their own home's energy use, or they choose a career in the building trades," says Bob Dickey, EIEC Marketing Manager. "At the same time, we're letting our young people and their families know the cooperative is a reliable source of energy information."

"Finding solutions to our educational and energy is a team effort."

Oh Yes, They Can!

The major complaint we hear about school is "it's boring!" We underestimate our children. They crave learning experiences that are important and challenging.

Consider the experience of Kristi and Jeena, freshmen at GCMS High School in Gibson City. When they were first told they'd be part of a team who would audit the energy use of the school, they thought it sounded like a lot of work. "Honestly, I

thought Ms. Wade really didn't like us," says Jeena.

"I was sure I wouldn't understand it, so I just pretended," says Kristi, a competitive young lady who didn't want to admit that the "big words" she was hearing were foreign to her. In short order, their opinions began to change.

"It felt more like they really wanted us to experience things and not just sit there and talk about it. We learned how things actually worked and they respected us," Kristi adds.

Over the course of four years, Kristi, Jeena and their team, sponsored by EIEC, applied for and received a \$31,728 lighting retrofit grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation, and were critical to negotiations for a \$1.3 million dollar performance contract to install energy improvements in all three buildings within the school district. Those improvements included new windows in the high school, a new gym roof and the transformation of a chemistry lab into a vocational building.

Elementary students have enjoyed tremendous success with the program as well. Whether serving as Energy Detectives or Auditors, students at all levels appreciate the opportunity to apply their learning to a real world issue.

Proven Solutions

Educational Dividends understands the importance of customer service and results. On-call customer service is a priority. We know we're achieving our goals when teachers recruit other teachers by saying "anything we needed, they helped with."

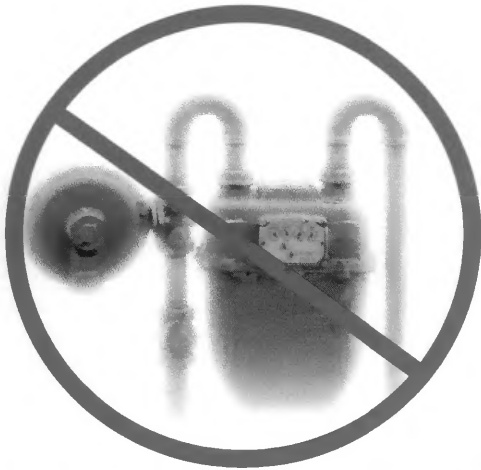
EnergyNet has developed a strategic partnership with Rapid Improvement Associates to provide schools with variety of Internet based tools that increase the students' ability to achieve their energy reduction goals and provide a reliable view into the teams' activities and achievements.

When we have partners in our schools and business community who are willing to trust our students with important and challenging work. Solutions to our educational and energy becomes a team effort. ■

Carol Timms is President of Educational Dividends and Director of EnergyNet, Carol@educationaldividends.com, 877-359-9444, www.educationaldividends.com.



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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Somewhere Over the Rainbow...

This photo was taken by Farmers Mutual Electric Company's Board Member Tom Zwica. The outage on July 21 was caused by a windstorm that blew through Henry County damaging an Ameren transmission line feeding the co-op's substation between Atkinson and Geneseo. Zwica is an avid photographer and specializes in aerial photography. He says, "The rainbow picture was just being in the right place at the right time." ■

IDNR Offers Assistance for Private Forest Landowners

Private forest landowners may soon be heeding the call of a growing wood demand. In order to do so, forest landowners will need to focus some effort toward sustaining their land for potential harvest and re-harvesting. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) offers an assistance program for the 169,000 forest landowners to produce sustainable and economically stable rural forests.

Demand for wood is expected to increase about 25 percent in the next 25 years and the demand is shifting to non-industrial private forestlands.

About 90 percent of Illinois forest land is privately owned. Of

those landowners, more than 80 percent haven't received professional forestry management assistance according to the IDNR.

The Illinois forestry assistance program is designed to help forest landowners maintain ecological processes, achieve land management objectives and to encourage landowners to become good land stewards.

Some qualified landowners may also be eligible for the department's Forestry Development Cost Share Program. The cost share program can reimburse eligible landowners for a portion of the costs for various land management practices such as tree planting

plans, reforestation, fire-breaks and more. Eligibility requirements and application forms can be found on the IDNR Web site at <http://dnr.state.il.us/conservation/forestry/IFDA/index.htm>

Specific questions and inquiries can be handled by a district forester. Find your district forester online at <http://dnr.state.il.us/conservation/forestry>.

Visit the IDNR Web site for more information at <http://dnr.state.il.us/> or visit the University of Illinois Extension Web site on forestry at <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/forestry/home.html>. ■

Kill the Energy Vampires

Tonight when the sun goes down look around your house. You'll see blue and orange twinkling lights. These represent just some of the energy vampires in your home, electronic devices that suck power as you sleep. If it charges a battery, or converts current, which is anything with a power adapter brick as part of the cord, then it is probably using electricity even when you are not using the device.

The Department of Energy estimates that by 2010 appliances in standby mode will be responsible for 20 percent of the average utility bill. You can stop some of this blood letting by unplugging rechargeable items once they are charged. For computers, printers and other electronics that convert current with a power brick on the cord, you can plug them into a surge suppression power strip, and flip the switch on the strip when the device is not in use. If you can't power down your computer, check the power management settings. You could save up to \$75 a year just by better managing your computer's energy use, according to the Department of Energy.

Check out the power use of that new flat screen TV you bought. You might be surprised at how much it uses. There are a lot of other items in your home that add up to your total energy bill, and often they are using energy whether you flip a switch or not. Find out more ways to save energy from your local electric cooperative. ■



Learn How to Cut Your Energy Costs

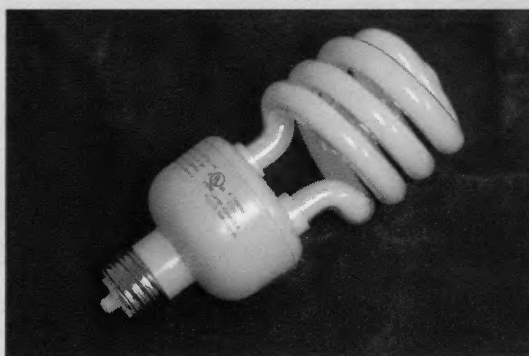
In September and again in October you can learn how to save energy in your home or business. The Illinois Energy Education Council will host five "Energy Solutions Workshops" throughout Illinois during September. In addition, the Association of Professional Energy Consultants will have a conference and expo titled "Financial Incentives for Energy Efficiency" Oct. 2-3 in Bloomington.

The Energy Education Council's Energy Solutions Workshop is tailored for businesses and is a comprehensive day-long workshop covering a wide range of resources to help organizations understand their options for undertaking efficiency upgrade projects. Participants will learn about top efficiency recommendations, business energy programs, new incentive programs and other financial resources as well as what's on the horizon in renewable energy.

The Energy Education Council's workshops will be: Sept. 9 in Quincy, Sept. 10 in Springfield, Sept. 11 in Mt. Vernon, Sept. 16 in Morris and Sept. 17 in Moline. For more information or to register go to www.EnergyEdCouncil.org, or contact Valerie Cheatham, 217-546-6815, VCheatham@EnergyEdCouncil.org.

The Association of Professional Energy Consultants' Conference and Expo will offer presentations on the newly developed financial incentives available to Illinois residential, commercial, industrial and public consumers as well as provide exhibits of the latest in energy efficient technologies. The conference and expo will be at the Parke Hotel and Convention Center in Bloomington.

In addition to the new financial



programs, energy presentations are planned on how geothermal heating/cooling operates, thermal imaging services for residential and commercial consumers, new lighting technologies and energy management systems.

For additional information contact Julie Elzanati, President of the APEC Central Illinois Chapter julie.elzanati@heartland.edu, 309-268-8160, or contact Don McGee don.McGee@hotmail.com, 217-243-2110. ■

Cooperatives' Public Service Awards Given to Demuzio, Brauer

State Senator Deanna Demuzio (D-Carlinville, 49th District) and Representative Rich Brauer (R-Petersburg, 100th District) received the 2008 Illinois Electric Cooperatives' Public Service Awards at the AIEC 67th annual meeting held Aug. 1 in Springfield. The awards were given in recognition of their dedicated public service to all citizens of the state of Illinois and for outstanding contributions to the rural electrification program.

Among her committee assignments, Sen. Demuzio serves as chairperson of the State Government and



State Senator Deanna Demuzio told electric cooperative leaders to continue to keep her informed about issues important to electric co-op members. State Representative Rich Brauer encouraged the co-op leaders to stay involved. "The world is run by people that show up. It is important to participate," he said.

Veterans Affairs Committee, and as vice-chairperson of the Education Committee. She is also a member of the Agriculture and Conservation Committee as well as the Senate Committee on Commerce and Economic Development. Demuzio is a past small-business owner and education curriculum planner and has been a dedicated volunteer within the community.

"The Demuzio name is synonymous with outstanding public service and advocacy on behalf of rural Illinois and electric cooperatives," said former State Senator Duane Noland, who currently serves as President and CEO of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

Rep. Brauer is a sixth generation family farmer and a lifelong resident of the 100th District. He has served in the House of Representatives since 2003 and is the Republican Spokesperson for the House Drivers Education and Safety Committee. Among his other committee assignments, he serves on the House committees on Appropriations-General Service, Appropriations-Higher Education, Financial Institutions, Personal and Pensions, Registration and Regulation, Transportation and Motor Vehicles, Environmental Health, and Licenses and Registration.

"Rich has been a champion for family farmers, rural Illinois and cooperatives in the General Assembly. He helped pass legislation to combat copper theft, which is a big concern of our electric co-ops," Noland said. ■

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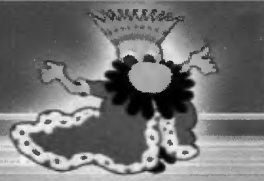
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Illinois wine how sweet it is



Baxter's Vineyard is the oldest winery in Illinois and is located in Nauvoo. They host a homemade wine making contest annually. Photo by Baxter's Vineyard.

Illinois wine industry harvests strong economic impact for state by Lisa Rigoni

It's harvest season in the vineyards across the state and wineries celebrate by offering travelers a memorable experience with festivals, tastings, grape stomps and unique opportunities to meet with and learn from Illinois vintners. September marks the state's fourth annual Illinois Wine Month, which was first designated by Gov. Rod Blagojevich in 2005.

French settlers in La Ville de Maillet (now Peoria) brought winemaking expertise of their homeland to our state in 1778. In 1857 Emile Baxter and Sons opened a winery in Nauvoo along the banks of the Mississippi River. By 1880 there were more than 600 acres of grapes and 40 wine cellars in Nauvoo alone, noted in the Baxter's Vineyard's historical information.

While Baxter's continues to thrive under the leadership of a fifth generation of Baxters - Kelly and Brenda Logan - some things have changed. In 1885, wine sold for 25 cents a gallon and \$12.50 per barrel. According to a 2005 study on the impact of wine and winegrapes in Illinois, prices now vary from \$7 to \$38 a bottle depending on the fruit used to produce it. The business of making and selling wine has grown by leaps and bounds adding significantly to the state's economy.

Industry Perspective

There were 77 wineries in the state as of the last count. That number is growing rapidly as more vineyards are established - a third more vineyards in just the last five years.

Bill McCartney, Executive Director of the Illinois Grape Growers and Vintner's Association (IGGVA) said, "The industry is strong, and we expect to see continued growth. In 1997 we had 14 wineries in Illinois. In 2004 there were 45 wineries and 68 in 2005."

A 2007 study done by the IGGVA and the Illinois Department of Agriculture showed that 78 of the 102 counties in Illinois have at least one vineyard and 46 counties have at least one winery. Eighty-three percent of the reporting vineyards

Economic impact of Illinois wine and winegrapes

- Retail value of Illinois wine: More than \$21 million.
- Tourists' expenditures: \$31 million.
- Illinois taxes collected due to wine industry: \$11.9 million to \$22.9 million.
- Gallons of wine produced: More than 500,000 gallons.
- Total economic impact on state: More than \$253.8 million.

Illinois boasts:

- 235 vineyards
- 450 grape farmers
- Nearly 80 wineries

Information provided by Megan Presnall, External Relations Director of the Illinois Grape Growers and Vintners Association.

and wineries in the state were established in the last 10 years. In the last five years, vineyards have increased by 34 percent and the number of wineries has grown by 48 percent.

In 2006 Illinois designated \$400,000 to assist the state's wine industry. Those funds were used by the University of Illinois and Southern Illinois University, the IGGVA and to hire a viticulturist. The state also granted \$150,000 to the Illinois Bureau of Tourism to help create an awareness campaign.

IGGVA's McCartney has toured a number of the establishments personally and sampled the different wines. "It's part of my job," he said as he grinned. "In all seriousness, I do get to go to the various wineries and see how everything is going."

It is going well from McCartney's point of view.

"I've been on the Shawnee Wine Trails, attended the Vintage Illinois Festival and stopped at other wineries. Besides having award-winning

wines at so many of our Illinois wineries, the folks that run the wineries and vineyards are not afraid to share with someone who wants to get started in the industry," he said. "They are more than willing to share their experience and help someone else move forward."

When asked what his favorite wine is he hesitated, not wanting to name a specific wine, though he said he prefers a semi-dry wine.

"I used to like the sweeter wines." He said that his taste, as someone who has retired and now reentered the workforce, is likely different than that of a 20- or 30-year-old, for example.

"Oftentimes, those who first begin drinking wine prefer the sweeter taste to the dry."

Hopewell Winery's Owner/Operator Jeremy Wombles agreed.

"I've found that when people first begin to experience wine, they tend to lean toward sweeter varieties. Over the years those tastes may change,

though, and move from dessert wine, to a blush, to a semi-dry and later, land on a dry wine. Though it really is a matter of personal preference. Often times, it also depends on what someone is eating as to which type of wine they might select."

One of the state's newer wineries, Hopewell Winery, named for the Hopewell Indians in Pike County, is located near Pittsfield. They are members of Illinois Rural Electric Co-op.

"We opened on Sept. 1 of 2007," said Wombles. "Our festivals have gone well. We had a shrimp and crawfish festival and it was the biggest festival we've had so far." It was such a success that he's already got it marked on next year's calendar.

"It will always be the first weekend in June." Typically, Hopewell will have 40 to 60 people in on a Saturday, 10 to 20 on an open weekday, and on a festival weekend already has 300 or so visitors.

"Our goal is to have 1,000 people on festival weekends. We continue to



Jeremy Wombles is proud of progress Hopewell Winery has made in it's first year. The winery is attached to the Hopewell Views Hunting Club.



Bill McCartney is Executive Director of the Illinois Grape Growers and Vintner's Association. He says the wine industry continues to grow steadily adding to the state's economy.

grow, and it has mostly been by word of mouth," he said.

Word of mouth reputation is important in the winery business, as the wineries tend to recommend fellow wineries to their guests. Wombles always tells his guests about the Collver Family Winery in Barry.

"It's close, and they have great dinner theater programs ... murder mysteries. It's family-owned and is well-established," says Wombles.

Hopewell Winery is a family-owned winery, too. Wombles said many people would recognize it. It is located in the carriage house where his grandmother used to have her antique business – Bonnie's Carriage House. The winery joins an existing family business, as well, Hopewell Hunting Club, run by Wombles' father, Rick Wombles.

"We have hunters come in especially in the fall and winter to stay in the attached lodge," Rick says. "We have strict rules regarding hunting and drinking, and have not had a

problem. All hunters sign in and no one who is drinking at the winery is permitted to hunt.

"We use the lodge more as a bed and breakfast during the spring and summer," Rick said. "It's a good complement to the winery, and allows folks to come in for an overnight getaway, if they like. Jeremy is also our chef ... and the menu includes grilled shrimp, salmon, steak and manicotti. He's gotten great reviews!"

Bella Terra Winery is located in Creal Springs and is part of South-

eastern Illinois Electric Cooperative. Proprietor, Ed Russell, says Bella Terra is family-oriented.

"We have a regulation Bocce Ball court, horseshoes, washers, wide-screen TVs, soda, iced tea, ice cream and pizza." All of those amenities, of course, are in addition to the 15-acres of vineyards that provide six varieties of grapes for the winery.

"We have 13 different wines from dry to sweet," Russell said. Bella Terra averages between 500 and 600 visitors a week and opened in May 2007.

Recently, Russell was interviewed by Mike Maniscalco, a historian at the Illinois State Museum in Springfield.

"He spent six hours here, talking with me and touring the winery and the vineyards," Russell said. "He is doing a project about Illinois agriculture, and I represented the wine industry from this region."

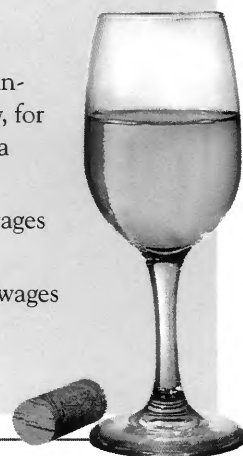
Maniscalco said the project is an oral history of Illinois agriculture funded by a \$500,000 grant through the Institute of Museum and Library Services out of the federal government in Washington, D.C.

"We are taking existing interviews from the '70s and '80s, adding 50 new interviews and combining them into an oral history of Illinois agriculture. Ed Russell was one of our new interviews. We want to make sure we have good representation from across the state – north, south, east and west," said Maniscalco. "We also want to show that while corn and soybeans are important to our state, they are not the only produce that makes a difference. I was impressed as Ed talked about Grape

Statewide wine industry workforce

- The Illinois wine and winegrape sectors, and allied industries provide employment, directly and indirectly, for nearly 2,300 full-time equivalent jobs, representing a total payroll of more than \$59.7 million.
- State wineries employ a total of 186 persons, with wages totaling nearly 2.8 million.
- State vineyards employ a total of 834 persons, with wages totaling nearly \$8.9 million.

Stats as of 2005



Growers Associations and Vintners Associations and how more are popping up, because they want to market the area and how the wineries are working together to accomplish that.”

Traveling the Illinois Wine Trails

While the wineries are scattered across the state, there are five distinct wine trails in Illinois.

The Northern Illinois Wine Trail is located one to two hours northwest of Chicago and features 22 different wineries including August Hill Winery and Illinois River Winery both in Utica; Fox Valley located in Oswego, Sandwich and Geneva and the Tasting deVine Tasting Room in Wheaton.

Stretched across the southwest portion of the state is Illinois' Heartland Wine Trail with wineries along the Mississippi River nestled in the rural communities. You'll find Genkota Winery in Mt. Vernon, Piasa Winery in Grafton, and Mary and Michelle Winery and Vineyards in Carrollton, to name a few.

If your plans have you going south you are in luck. There are two wine trails at your disposal. The Shawnee Hills Wine Trail runs through Jackson and Union Counties and includes 10 wineries along the 30-mile trail. It has wineries with something to suit every taste, including Blue Sky Vineyard in Makanda, Owl Creek Vineyard in Cobden, and Hedman Orchard and Vineyards in Alto Pass.

For additional wineries travel the well-established Southern Illinois Wine Trail. There you'll find Bella Terra Winery, Shawnee Winery in Vienna, Cache River Basin Winery in Belknap and a number of others.

Illinois River Wine Trail is the newest trail being developed in the central region of the state. Wineries included along the path are: Hill Prairie Winery, Mackinaw Valley Vineyard and Willett's Winery & Cellar.

(For a complete list of Illinois wineries, including those along the wine trails visit www.icl.coop.)

Who's growing what?

- An estimated 1,666 tons of grapes were marketed by Illinois vineyards.
- About 93 percent of harvested grapes were for use in winemaking.
- Vineyards typically produce three tons of grapes per acre.
- Average Illinois vineyard size is 4.6 acres.
- 83 percent of all wine made in Illinois was made with Illinois fruit.
- 53 percent of the wineries use Illinois fruit exclusively.
- 564,270 gallons of wine were produced.

Top five varieties of grapes grown in Illinois:

- Chardonnay (106 acres)
- Chambourcin (94 acres)
- Vignoles (72 acres)
- Traminette (57 acres)
- Norton (59 acres)

Forging Ahead

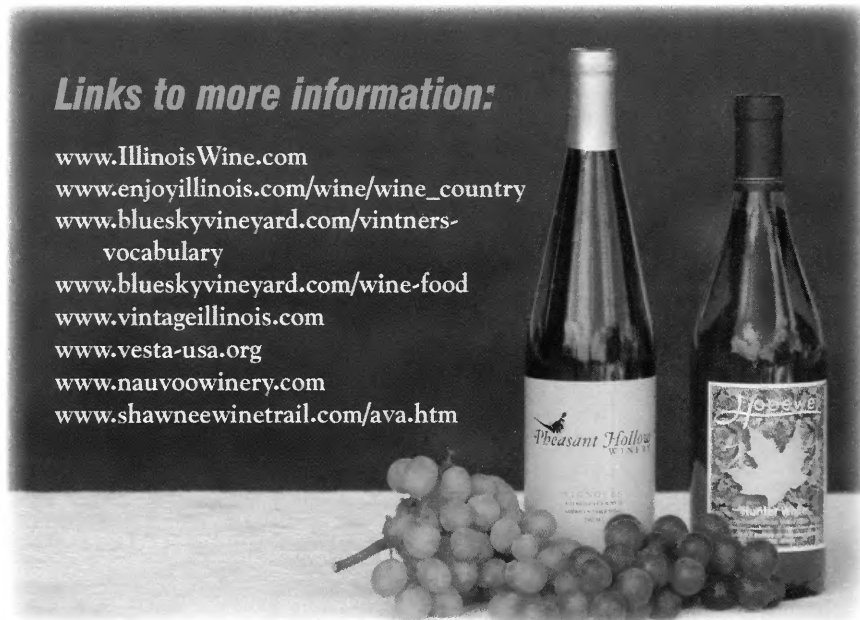
There is no sign of slowing down for the wineries and vineyards in Illinois. It is expected that by 2009 harvested acres of grapes in Illinois will increase by about 50 percent, going from 659 acres to 988 acres.

Between 2007 and 2012 experts expect 76 new grape acres to be planted in vineyards across the Land of Lincoln. The IGGVA and the Illinois Department of Agriculture

estimated that total grape acres were estimated at 1,083 acres in Jan. 2007. A record 564,270 gallons of wine was produced and comprises about 67 percent of capacity (844,372 gallons.) Expansions planned by existing wineries will increase that capacity to 1,078,764 gallons. It is expected that 91 percent more wineries will be established in the next five years. How sweet (and dry) it is!

Links to more information:

www.IllinoisWine.com
www.enjoyillinois.com/wine/wine_country
www.blueskyvineyard.com/vintners-vocabulary
www.blueskyvineyard.com/wine-food
www.vintageillinois.com
www.vesta-usa.org
www.nauvoowinery.com
www.shawneewinetrail.com/ava.htm



The Safe Zone for Dating

Help your teen learn how to have safe relationships

How do you decide when it's safe to let your teenagers begin dating? Attraction can be thrilling. Feelings can be so intoxicating they can sometimes keep teens from recognizing warning signs. One of the hardest jobs for teens to learn in building healthy relationships is not to let emotions get ahead of their ability to discern a person's real character.

In "How to Avoid Marrying a Jerk(ette)," John Van Epp, Ph.D, teaches five crucial steps to staying safe in relationships. Parents should ask their teens these questions.

1. **Know.** How well do you know this person?
 - a. How does this person treat others during a conflict. Is it something to be admired or bothered by? The way others are treated by this person is how you will eventually be treated.
 - b. How does this person listen when you share something important with him/her?
 - c. Do you know this person in more than one setting? Meeting someone at camp or on vacation when everyday responsibilities are often absent, can give an unrealistic picture of a person. Knowing someone only through the Internet limits how well you know the person.
 - d. What is this person's family like? Families are a big predictor of how people understand and act in relationships. Are the values that are important to you and your family, also important to this person?

Only after you really know someone, is it safe to move to the next step for a healthy relationship.

2. **Trust.** Can you trust this person?
 - a. The time you take to get to know someone will tell you whether or not you can trust him/her. It's not wise to put your trust in someone you really don't know well.
 - b. When someone is cute, fun and exciting, it's easy to want to trust him/her with your heart, but are these good reasons to put your trust in someone?
 - c. What qualities do you need to see that help you know a relationship is safe enough

to trust someone with your heart and emotions?

- d. Is this person asking you to trust him/her before you feel comfortable doing so?
3. **Rely.** Can you rely on this person?
 - a. Only when you know someone is trustworthy, will you know you can rely on him/her. It's not safe to rely on someone you have not first learned you can trust.
 - b. What happens if you begin to rely on someone you cannot really trust?
 - c. What qualities in a person help you know you can rely on him/her?

How well you know and can trust someone will guide your heart in relying on him/her.

4. **Commit.** How committed are you to this person?
 - a. Only when you know you can safely trust and rely on someone will you know how committed you want to be to him/her.
 - b. What happens if you begin to commit yourself to someone whom you can't rely on?
 - c. What qualities help you know if you want to commit your life to someone?

How well you know, trust and can rely on someone will guide your heart in how committed you can be to this relationship.

5. **Touch.** How physically intimate are you with this person?
 - a. Only when you are ready to make a commitment to someone with both your head and heart, will physical intimacy be safe.
 - b. What happens if you begin to be physically intimate with someone you aren't ready to commit your life to? What physical risks do you open yourself up to? What emotional hurts do you open yourself up to?
 - c. Can you be physically intimate with someone and it not affect you emotionally?
 - d. What qualities do you want a person to have who you are physically intimate with? ■

"Feelings can be so intoxicating they can sometimes keep teens from recognizing warning signs."

**Patti Faughn, Family Life Educator,
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Springfield Center, 217-782-6515,
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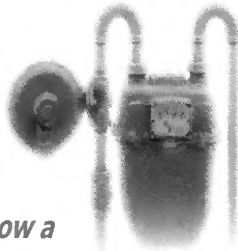
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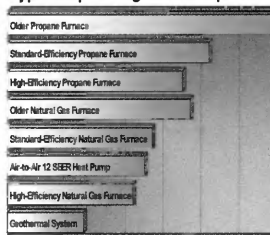
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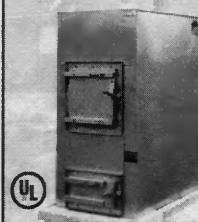


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Tender Loving Tree Care for Your Trees

Fall is a good time to take care of feeding your trees

A child is born. You feed it and change its diapers for a couple of years. However, if you're lucky, you only have to feed it for about 18 more years. Hopefully by the time it's someplace between 18 and 22, you can let it go, hoping it can fend for itself.

People can live to be 80 to 100 years old. So can trees.

A tree is planted. You water it a couple times, and then within two months, you declare that it's on its own.

Do you see the inequity there?

We can expound on and on about the value of trees. They become a part of the family. They don't ask for money or the car keys. They don't want the latest in fashions. They don't backtalk or listen to music you can't begin to understand.

The trees are there year after year, providing cooling summer shade and maybe shelter for a family of cardinals.

Yet we leave them to their own devices, to live or die dependent on the whims of nature.

Now, I'm not advocating you treat your kids the same way you do trees. Just the opposite – treat your trees like your kids. Make an investment in your trees and hopefully they'll be around in your old age.

That means when they're young you need to give them that glass of water for the first two or three years, not two or three months.

And you need to continually provide them some food, even after they should be old enough to fend for themselves.

Which brings us to right now. Fall is a great time to fertilize trees.

Ideally, tree feeding should be based on how much the tree is growing.

That can be determined by looking at the terminal bud scale scars and measuring the growth between each set. On the down side, it's difficult on older trees to get up in the branches with a ruler. It's easy on younger trees, looking for the rings stacked on top of each other that circumvent the limb.

Ideal and reality sometimes don't mix, and it might be better to just decide that it's time to fertilize the tree.

Now, lots of folks will say if you fertilize your lawn regularly, say two to three times a year, you're

probably providing enough food for your trees as the nitrogen leaches down, especially if you received excessive rain this year which washed nitrogen past grass and tree roots.

Other folks will point to the woods and say "who fertilizes those plants?" Well, the response is two-prong.

First, trees get fed in the wild by nitrogen in rain, decomposing leaves and animal droppings.

Second, forested trees have a different soil environment than urban trees. We tend toward the manicured lawns, removing grass clippings and tree leaves that might recycle some of the nutrients.

So, that leads us back to fall fertilizing, which won't benefit the tree this fall but definitely help it grow next spring.

It's an easy process that involves a bag of 10-10-10 (or close) garden fertilizer without weed killer (important), a three-quarter inch metal rod at least 2 feet long (rebar is great), a hammer and a 6 ounce cup.

As soon as you see leaves start to turn color, at the end of September to the middle of October, start at the drip line of the tree and drive the rod 18 inches deep. Pull the rod out, which is why you want it at least 2 feet long, and move 3 feet around the tree. Hammer the rod in again. Pull it out, move 3 feet. Keep doing this until you've gone around the tree.

This is your initial line. Do the same thing 3 feet toward the trunk of the tree.

Now, move 3 feet past the drip line of the tree and create a third ring of holes. It should be a square pattern, with each hole about 3 feet from the next.

Fill each hole with about 6 ounces of the garden fertilizer.

Make sure the area receives moisture throughout the fall, winter and early spring.

Feeding a tree probably won't help a tree that's dying or diseased severely.

And don't overfeed. You may add too much nitrogen in the groundwater, which doesn't benefit anyone. ■

"Make an investment in your trees and hopefully they'll be around in your old age."

David Robson is an Extension Educator, Horticulture, at the Springfield Extension Center, University of Illinois Extension, P.O. Box 8199, Springfield, IL 62791. Telephone: 217-782-6515. E-mail: drobson@uiuc.edu.



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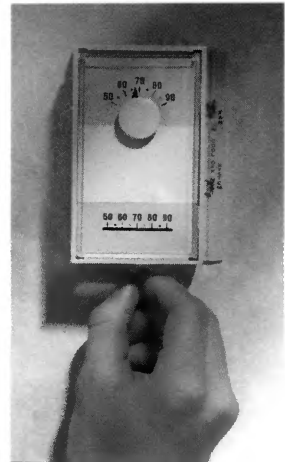


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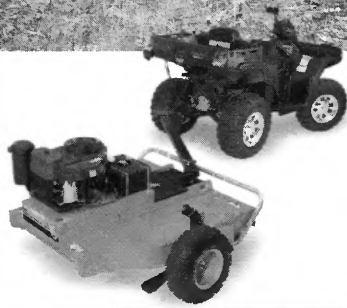
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Energy Efficiency 101: From the Ground Up

Easy tips for building an energy-efficient home

If you're going to build a new house or want to make your existing house more energy efficient, it's best to first prepare a plan. You might be surprised to know that more than half of the folks who send their house plans to me for an energy analysis have already started construction. In fact, in many cases, the house is already framed. I am still able to help them, but I could have helped them much more if they had contacted me before construction began.

For example, everyone I know would like to have instant hot water in the master bathroom. But when it comes to house plans, it appears that water heaters are just afterthoughts as most don't even show the location of the water heater. Based on a large percent of the houses I have seen, one would think the plumbing code must require the water heater be located at the farthest point from usage. On most plans, the water heater will be installed anywhere from 40 to 75 feet from the master bath. That means when you turn on the faucet that has an H on it, you have to wait for what seems like forever for the water to be hot.

Does this sound like your house?

The solution is really not that difficult. By planning ahead there is often a simple no extra-

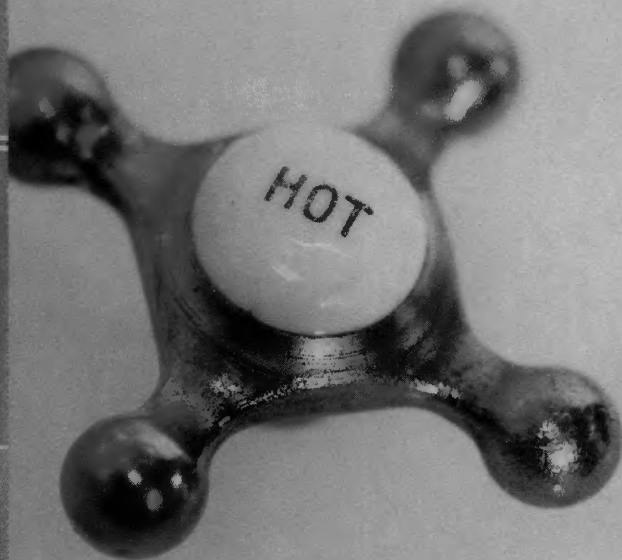
cost solution. When we built our new house, I promised my wife that we would have instant hot water. I certainly did not want to install a central hot water circulating system, as often seen in a hotel, because that system adds a significant amount of kilowatt-hours to the monthly utility bill. Just think about it. Circulating hot water through the house 24/7 in the summer. The circulating system is helping heat the house, therefore the air conditioning system has to run much more. The circulating pump uses energy and the water heater really never cuts off. So instead of this kind of system, what can you do?

If the house has a crawl space, install an energy efficient, lifetime warranted Marathon low-boy water heater (48 inches tall) right under the bathtub and shower. Place another Marathon water heater exactly under the kitchen appliances. Bingo! The water heaters are close to where the hot water is needed. Of course, it would be the same solution if the house has a basement. But remember this. If the rough plumbing is already installed before you learn this, it can be quite expensive to change. So plan ahead.

If the house has a slab floor, planning ahead is absolutely essential. In this case, the floor plan should reflect a location(s) for the water heater to be close to the areas that need hot water. Remember to always insulate hot water pipes, even under a slab and don't put a water heater in the attic. And what about those tankless water heaters you've heard about? First of all, I do not encourage you to use them and we will explore that in a future lesson.

Summary of Lesson 1: Plan ahead and have that instant hot water you've always wanted without higher utility bills. For those of you wanting instant hot water in your existing home, check out www.gothotwater.com for an acceptable solution. See you next month! ■

"When it comes to house plans, it appears water heaters are just afterthoughts."



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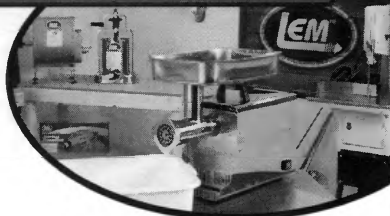
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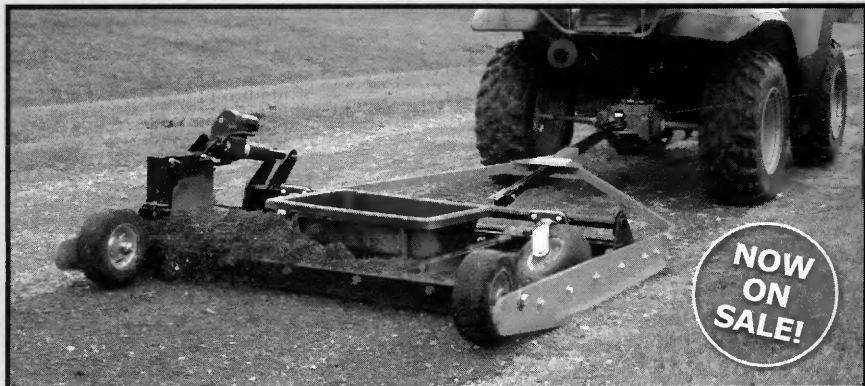
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Our Energy, Our Future

NRECA leaders: We must take on the fight to keep electricity affordable and reliable

In Mecklenburg County, Virginia, Helen Mull, a retired senior citizen, worries about increasing costs of food and fuel.

"Some months, if I didn't have a little bit of money in reserve, I wouldn't be able to pay all of my bills," she said.

Last month her entire social security check — a mere \$1,000 a month — went to paying county

taxes and home insurance. And it isn't just those living on fixed or lower incomes feeling the pinch. From the grocery store register to the gas pump, most folks are being squeezed by increasing prices.

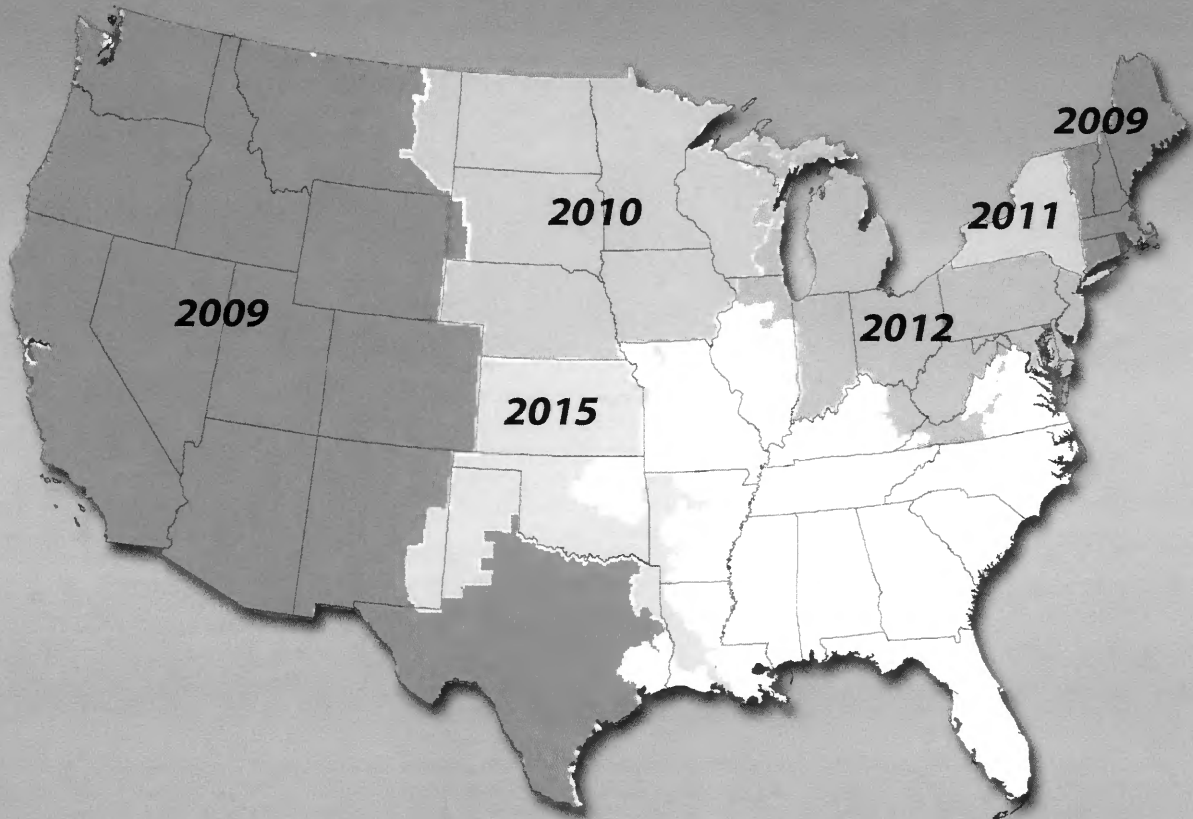
Escalating costs for fuel, including coal and natural gas, and power plant construction materials like steel, concrete and copper, are pressuring electric cooperatives as

well. Co-ops remain committed to providing safe, affordable and reliable electric power. But as prices for the basics continue to rise, affordability will be at risk if elected officials don't advocate for sound solutions that protect consumers.

"This is the biggest consumer challenge electric cooperatives have faced since the inception of the rural electrification program," said Glenn

When will generation resources fail to meet demand?

While demand for electricity is predicted to increase by 18 percent over the next decade, capacity to generate electricity will only increase by 8.4 percent, according to the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC). Unless additional generation comes on-line, the need for power will not be met as early as 2009 in some regions.



Sources: NERC, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

English, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

“And all of this is happening before the implementation of any climate change policy. Curbing greenhouse gas emissions from power plants, while ensuring that our nation’s power needs are met, must include a blend of energy efficiency programs, advanced clean coal, nuclear, natural gas and renewable generation sources.”

Across the country, electric co-ops are stepping up to the challenge to keep electricity affordable in the face of what has become an industry-wide “perfect storm.” In looking out for their members, electric co-ops lead the utility industry in implementing energy efficiency programs and supplying power from renewable energy and other technologies still in development.

“Co-ops are on the cutting edge when it comes to testing and deploying new technologies, such as carbon capture and storage, plug-in hybrid electric vehicles and advanced meter reading devices,” said John Holt, NRECA Senior Principal for Generation & Fuel. “Electric cooperatives are also recognized industry leaders in promoting energy efficiency to help consumer-members reduce electricity consumption and save money.”

But there is no simple, single solution to tackling the nation’s energy challenge, and even exciting new technologies like renewable energy resources aren’t a silver bullet. For example, to fully utilize the potential of renewable energy, at least 30,000 miles of high-voltage transmission lines (230 kV and greater) will need to be constructed to move energy generated at remote wind farms and other facilities to urban load centers. This will cost billions alone.

Siting and erecting transmission towers has long been a struggle, said Revis James, Director of the Energy

Assessment Center at the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), a Palo Alto, Calif.-based non-profit consortium whose members include electric co-ops.

“Planning and permitting approvals take many years and run a gauntlet of not only federal, state and local governments, but also citizen and environmental activists. Even building 75 miles of transmission line poses a big challenge because of NIMBY [Not In My Backyard],” James said.

“While renewable generation sources are good assets and help address climate change, too much focus on them short-changes attention from how we’re going to address the greater generation capacity crunch facing the country,” Holt said.

According to the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), which oversees the reliability of the bulk power grid covering the United States, electricity use nationwide will grow more than twice as fast over the next 10 years as committed power generation resources. Unless additional power plants are brought into service quickly, NERC predicts that many parts of the country could fall below targeted capacity margins within two or three years, setting the stage for frequent brownouts and blackouts.

Nearly half of electricity generation in our nation comes from coal-fired power plants. But mounting pressures to lower greenhouse gas emissions have made it more difficult and costly to build these facilities. As a result, natural gas has become the “bridge” fuel of choice for keeping the lights on, at least until new low-emission technologies are developed on a large scale.

Natural gas plants are usually smaller than coal-fired or nuclear plants. They can be built faster, and typically face less public opposition than other power generation options, making them a convenient

alternative. But natural gas also has its drawbacks.

The price of natural gas has tripled since 2002 and jumped 93 percent since August 2007. Price fluctuations combined with limited domestic reserves and a greater reliance on imports make natural gas highly volatile. As more natural gas is used for electricity, electric bills are likely to increase as well.

With so many variables at play, the future of safe, affordable and reliable electricity will depend on public policy decisions made by elected officials. Will Congress adopt quick-fix legislation that drives electricity bills up so high that people are forced to use less, or will it take a more long-term, sustainable path by investing in new technologies that provide long-term solutions to energy concerns?

For all who pay electric bills every month, including those struggling to make ends meet like Helen Mull, allowing American know-how to tackle the problem seems like the obvious solution.

To ensure that electric cooperatives can continue to meet consumer energy needs, co-ops across the country are engaged in a grass-roots awareness campaign called “Our Energy, Our Future: A Dialogue With America.” This campaign seeks to engage lawmakers on critical energy questions, such as how to balance growing electricity needs and environmental goals, and how much all of this will impact electric bills.

Please visit www.ourenergy.coop to get the conversation started. Affordability should remain the measure by which our elected officials judge any energy legislation.

By Jennifer Taylor who writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Sources: National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Electric Power Research Institute, North American Electric Reliability Corporation



Who: Holy Cross Church of Stockton, IL

Cost: \$10, plus \$3 shipping

Details: soft-backed, comb-bound

Pages of recipes: 115

Send checks to: Carol Roberts
233 N. Main St., Stockton, IL 61083
or call 815-947-3022 or 815-947-2545

Soft N' Chewy SPLENDA Cookies (left)

- 2 1/4 C. flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. salt
- 2 sticks butter or margarine, softened
- 1/3 C. SPLENDA® Sugar Blend for Baking
- 3/4 C. packed brown sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 2 lg. eggs
- 1 (12-oz.) pkg. semi sweet chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 355°. Combine flour, baking soda and salt in small bowl. Beat butter, SPLENDA, brown sugar and vanilla extract in large mixer bowl until creamy. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Gradually beat in flour mixture. Stir in morsels. Drop by rounded tablespoon onto ungreased baking sheets. Bake for 9 to 11 minutes or until golden brown. Cool on baking sheets for 2 minutes; remove to wire racks to cool completely.

Soft N' Chewy SPLENDA Cookies

BLT Pasta Salad

- 1 (7-oz.) pkg. elbow macaroni
- 8 slices bacon
- 1 lg. tomato
- 1/4 C. chopped green onion
- 4 C. thinly sliced lettuce

Dressing:

- 1 C. mayonnaise
- 1/3 C. chili sauce
- 1/4 C. lemon juice concentrate
- 2 tsp. chicken bouillon
- 2 tsp. sugar

Cook and drain elbow macaroni. Cook and crumble bacon. Seed and chop tomato. Toss macaroni, bacon, green onion, lettuce and tomato together.

Dressing: Mix mayonnaise, chili sauce, lemon juice, bouillon and sugar together. Pour dressing mixture over salad.

Dr. Pepper Baked Beans

- 1 (29-oz.) can pork and beans, drained
- 1 onion, chopped fine
- 1 green pepper, chopped fine
- 1 tomato, chopped fine
- 1/2 C. dark brown sugar
- 1/3 C. Dr. Pepper soda
- 1/8 tsp. ground cloves

Preheat the oven to 350°. Pour beans into a baking dish. Gently mix in onion, pepper and tomato. Combine sugar, Dr. Pepper and cloves until sugar is dissolved. Pour evenly over bean mixture, mixing well. Bake, covered for 30 minutes. Serves 4-6.

Visit www.icl.coop to see an archive of past Illinois Country Living recipes.

Swiss Mushroom Chicken

- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 1 egg
- 1 C. butter flavored cracker crumbs
- 3/4 tsp. salt
- 1 T. butter
- 1/2 lb. mushrooms
- 4 slices ham
- 4 slices Swiss cheese

Flatten chicken to 1/4 - inch thickness. In a bowl, beat egg. Combine cracker crumbs and salt in a shallow dish. Dip chicken in egg, then cracker crumbs. Melt butter and cook chicken. Remove chicken from pan and cover chicken with foil. Sauté mushrooms in chicken pan. When mushrooms are done, top each breast with ham, sautéed mushrooms and cheese. Melt the cheese and serve.

Heavenly Delights

Cookies and Cream Cake

- 1 pkg. white cake mix
- 1-1/4 C. water
- 1 C. coarsely crushed Oreos
- 1/3 C. cooking oil
- 3 egg whites

Frosting:

- 1 C. shortening
- 1 T. vanilla
- 4-1/2 C. sifted powdered sugar
- 3-5 T. milk

Drizzle:

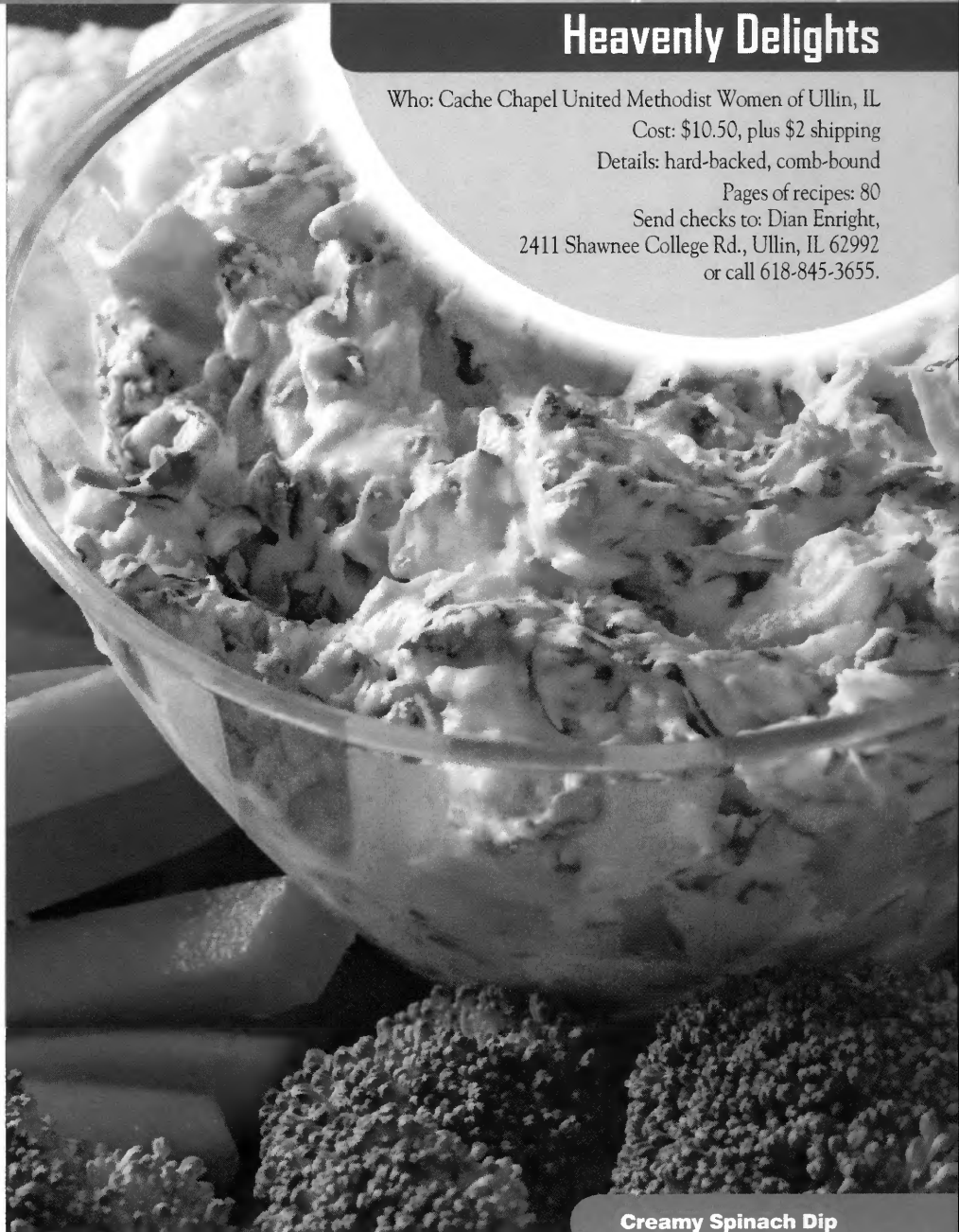
- 2-oz. semi sweet chocolate
- 1 tsp. shortening

Prepare cake mix according to package directions, using water, oil and egg whites. Fold in crushed cookies. Pour into two greased and floured 9x1-1/2-inch round cake pans. Bake at 350° for 25-30 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean. Cool for 10 minutes in pans on wire racks. Remove from pans and cool cake layers. Prepare creamy frosting. Frosting: Beat shortening and vanilla together for 30 seconds. Slowly add 2-1/2 C. powdered sugar, beating mixture well. Add 2 T. milk. Gradually beat in 2 more cups of sifted powdered sugar and 2-3 T. more milk to make a spreadable frosting. Fill and frost the cake layers. Drizzle: In a heavy saucepan, melt semi-sweet chocolate and shortening over very low heat. Drizzle the melted chocolate around the top of the cake. Garnish with additional Oreos if you wish.

French Lace Cookies

- 1/2 C. light corn syrup
- 1/2 C. shortening
- 2/3 C. packed brown sugar
- 1 C. flour
- 1 C. finely chopped pecans
- Melted chocolate, opt.

Heat oven to 375°. Grease a cookie sheet lightly. Heat corn syrup, shortening and brown sugar to boiling in a 2 quart saucepan over medium heat, stirring constantly. Remove from heat. Gradually stir in flour and pecans. Drop batter by teaspoonfuls about 3 inches apart onto a cookie sheet. (Keep batter warm by placing the saucepan over hot water; bake only 8 or 9 cookies at a time.) Bake about 5 minutes or until set. Cool for 3-5 minutes and remove from the cookie sheet. Drizzle with melted chocolate if desired. Makes about 4 dozen cookies.



Who: Cache Chapel United Methodist Women of Ullin, IL

Cost: \$10.50, plus \$2 shipping

Details: hard-backed, comb-bound

Pages of recipes: 80

Send checks to: Dian Enright,
2411 Shawnee College Rd., Ullin, IL 62992
or call 618-845-3655.

Creamy Spinach Dip

Pecan Cranberry Spread

- 1/2 C. cream cheese, softened
- 1/4 C. chopped pecans
- 1/4 C. dried cranberries
- 1/8 C. orange juice concentrate
- 1 box Keebler Town House crackers

Using an electric mixer beat cream cheese at medium speed until soft and fluffy. Transfer to a small bowl and add pecans, cranberries and orange juice concentrate and stir to combine. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate until flavors blend, at least 30 minutes. Serve cold with crackers.

Creamy Spinach Dip (above)

- 1 C. mayonnaise
- 1 pkg. Knorr vegetable soup mix
- 1 (10-oz.) pkg. frozen chopped spinach, thawed and squeezed dry
- 1 (16-oz.) ctn. sour cream
- 1 sm. can water chestnuts, chopped, opt.

Combine all ingredients together. Chill for two hours. Serve with fresh vegetables or crackers.

Photos by Catrina McCulley Wagner

Co-op Leaders Work on Big Picture Energy Issues

More than 300 locally elected Illinois electric cooperative board members and managers met July 30 through Aug. 1 in Springfield to celebrate 67 years of cooperation at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives' (AIEC) annual meeting. Co-op leaders discussed future power supply, renewable energy and climate change policy.

AIEC Board Chairman Robert Inman of Grand Chain said, "Cooperatives are taking the initiative in advancing new and renewable sources of electricity. Wind turbines are popping up everywhere, biomass generation is becoming a reality, and new clean generation with Illinois coal is becoming a reality. However, it takes time to develop these new energy sources. It doesn't happen overnight."

Inman urged the electric cooperative leaders to speak up and continue to educate local co-op members and members of Congress about the challenges facing electric cooperatives. He said in addition to the need for clean, reliable and affordable power supply, electric co-ops are challenged by increasing material and fuel cost, and even a shortage of qualified employees to replace retiring baby-boomers.

AIEC President/CEO Duane Noland told the co-op leaders that environmental and energy issues facing electric co-ops are unprecedented. He urged them to be focused on the "big picture and help position co-ops for the future during a climate of change."

Noland thanked the co-op leaders for already addressing some of these changes in a proactive way. For example, all of the Illinois electric co-ops passed a net metering policy one month prior to a mandate requiring investor-owned utilities to provide the same benefit to owners of solar or wind generators.

Illinois electric cooperatives are also proactively addressing power supply by building wind generators, the state's first biomass powered generator, participating in a new National Renewables Cooperative Organization that supports the expansion of renewable energy resources, and participating in the 1,600 megawatt Prairie State Energy Campus project.

"The surplus generation built in the late 1970s and early 1980s is virtually exhausted. The Department of Energy forecasts that the U.S. economic growth will drive a 17 percent increase in demand between 2006 and 2020, requiring a capacity increase of 118,000 megawatts," Noland said.

"Overlaying this immediate need to build new generation and implement aggressive efficiency strategies is the environmental concern of climate change. As bad as Congress would like for it to happen, there is no silver bullet that will solve this issue. We need to have a dialogue with our elected officials."

Noland urged the co-op leaders to log on to the Web site www.ourenergy.coop and ask elected leaders how they will address power supply, fund energy research, and balance environmental goals to keep energy affordable. So far, Illinois electric co-op members have sent nearly 7,000 e-mails to members of Congress.

During the meeting the co-op leaders honored State Senator Deanna Demuzio (D-Carlinville, 49th District) and State

Representative Rich Brauer (R-Pertersburg, 100th District) with the 2008 Illinois Electric Cooperatives' Public Service Award. Noland said both Demuzio and Brauer have been strong supporters of rural Illinois issues and outstanding public servants.

After the meeting, the AIEC board of directors reorganized and elected Douglas Darby of Geneseo, chairman; Stan Prox of Macomb, vice-chairman; Darrell Shumard of Stewardson, secretary, and Cary Dickinson of Breese, treasurer.

Based in Springfield, the AIEC provides legal, engineering, communications, safety training, legislative and other services to 27 electric cooperatives. AIEC member cooperatives serve more than 278,000 farms, homes and businesses in 90 counties, with 55,237 miles of line. AIEC is a member of Touchstone Energy® an alliance of more than 660 local, consumer-owned electric utilities around the country, committed to providing superior service based on four core principles: integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community.



At the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives' Annual Meeting, President/CEO Duane Noland told more than 300 locally elected Illinois electric cooperative leaders to continue to be proactive in addressing energy issues. Noland said there isn't a silver bullet that will solve all these issues. He urged co-op leaders to start a dialogue with members of Congress through the new Web site www.ourenergy.coop. Local co-op members can also go to the site to send a message to Congress, Noland said.

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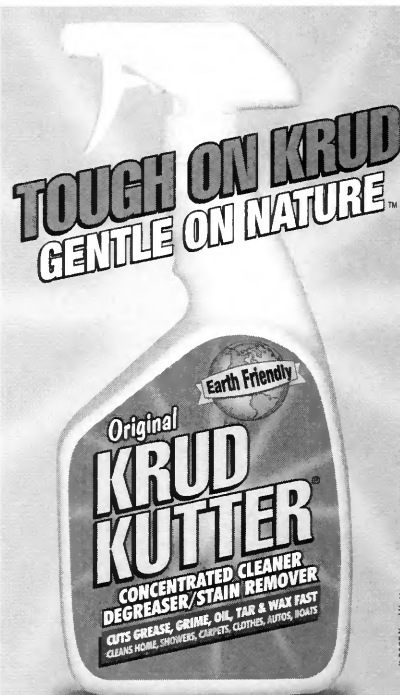


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Of Antiques and Elephants



The Pink Elephant Antique Mall offers more than curios for the curious

By Jen Danzinger

A giant pink elephant greets travelers on a stretch of Route 66 that winds through Livingston, Ill. The statue is the mascot of The Pink Elephant Antique Mall, and is part of a collection of oddities displayed amongst the collectibles inside.

"The elephant came from a convenience store in Granite City. My daughter-in-law bought it for her husband [Dave Hammond, Jr.] as a birthday present," Dave Hammond, Sr. explains. After a thoughtful pause, Dave adds, "He's into that weird stuff."

Both father and son are partners in The Pink Elephant Antique Mall, which used to be housed in Benld's Coliseum Ballroom, but moved into the vacant Livingston High School almost three years ago. The move gave them more square footage and a location convenient to I-55, where drivers moving parallel to old Route 66 can see the tempting stop for antique hunters and roadside attraction buffs alike.

In addition to the pink elephant, there are two smaller grey elephants and a giant inexplicably dressed in swim trunks displayed outside the antique mall. Inside, strategically stationed beside booths are "Hank" (a 12-foot-tall Muffler Man), an 8-foot-tall Jolly Green Giant and mannequins dressed for the wild west.

When asked why the Hammonds paired statues with antiques, Dave Sr. answered "We figured it would be an attention-getter. There are people coming in and taking pictures of them all the time." Visitors from countries such as China, Brazil and Germany have stopped at the Pink Elephant Antique Mall before continuing on their Route 66 journey.

One would think that today's record-breaking gas prices would cause people to cut back on road trips, but Dave Sr. hasn't seen a decline in business. "A lot of people are like me: if they want to go somewhere, they're going to go," he explains.

For those more interested in shopping for treasures than taking snapshots of statues, the mall has about 40 dealers and every booth is filled with furniture, jewelry, toys, collectibles, crafts and more. The entire old gymnasium, including the stage, houses antiques, and the booths continue into classrooms in the lower and upper levels of the high school.

Dave Sr. touts convenience and friendliness among the mall's assets. "The people who work here are very helpful and friendly. They have a good time working here. And we always have the coffee pot on."

The Pink Elephant Antique Mall

Just off I-55, Exit 37
Livingston, Ill.
618-637-2236

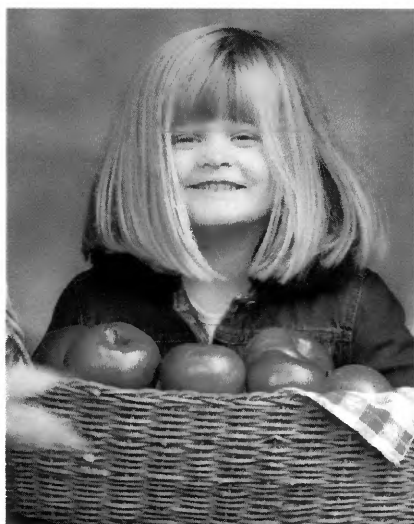
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1-28, Country Bumpkin

Pumpkin Patch in Kansas. Try one of seven mind-stumping mazes, play hill-billy golf, see the barnyard animals, ride the Bumpkin Express and pick your own pumpkins. 217-946-4279 or www.countrybumpkin.net.

2-4, Greenup Fall Festival in Downtown Greenup. Thursday: 7 – 10 p.m., Queen pageant and Little Miss contest; Friday: 6 – 10 p.m., Free legends entertainment and Saturday: 6 a.m. – 10 p.m., a pancake breakfast, parade, car show, horseshoe tournament, quilt show, scavenger hunt, crafts, food, entertainment and more. 217-923-3751 or bpmadcow@hotmail.com.



2-5, Annual Barry Apple Festival in Downtown Barry. More than 50,000 people join this quaint historic town to celebrate the apple industry. Old-time crafts, specialty food, entertainment, a car show, and a parade are highlights of the weekend of festivities. 217-223-1000.

3-4, Candlelight Tour of New Salem in Petersburg. Bring the family to experience New Salem village after dark. Interpreters in period clothing will welcome you into the reconstructed log homes of the historic village where Abraham Lincoln lived for six years. 217-632-4000 or www.lincolnsnewsalem.com.

3-4, Harvest Festival in Robinson. Come to the home of the Heath Candy Bar and enjoy a craft fair, food, a parade, a Heath Toffee Recipe Contest, live entertainment and more. 618-546-1557.



4-5, 11-12, 18-19, 25-26, Scarecrow Fest and Maze Days on Meadowlands Farm in Newark. An open market with handmade, homemade, and home grown items. Enjoy demonstrations, a scarecrow contest, live music, a corn maze, wagon rides, a hay pyramid, pumpkin bowling, a corn box and more. Admission is \$4. 815-695-5821 or www.MeadowlandsFarm.com.

3-5, Flatcon Gaming Convention in Bloomington. Three full days of gaming. Games include miniature, board and card games. Tournaments will be played and a variety of genres will be represented and vendors will be displayed. 309-829-3976 or www.flatcon.com.



4, Chili Cook-Off in Greenfield. Event features nearly 20 chili recipes to sample as well as pork chop sandwiches and pie. Crafts, children's activities, games and entertainment. 217-368-2613.

4, Galena Oktoberfest on the Galena Riverfront. Second annual German celebration featuring live music, kids games, wiener dog races and lots of food and beverage. Adults and teens \$3, children free. 815-275-4881.

4-5, Cider and Cinnamon Arts and Crafts Fair in Rockford. More than 50 exhibitors show their creations. Also enjoy hot apple cider and fresh cinnamon doughnuts, plus fall specials. 815-226-0212 or www.edgebrookshops.com.

4-5, Harvest Frolic and Agricultural Fair in Lerna. Harvest festival and agricultural fair featuring period artisans, craft makers, music, entertainment, food, rides and more. 217-345-1845 or www.lincolnlogcabin.org.

4-25, Haunted Historic Rivertown Tours in Quincy. Every Saturday in October, a two-hour guided tour showcasing haunted historic sites in Quincy aboard the London double-decker bus. 217-223-1000 or www.seequincy.com.

Visit our Web site, www.icl.coop.

4-25, Haunted Harvest in Libertyville. The Haunted Harvest of Lambs Farm is a spooky celebration full of fun and adventure for thrill-seekers of all ages, featuring our unique Train of Terror! This event transforms the Farmyard with delightfully frightening activities including the Creature Walk, Graveyard Golf, an Enchanted Carousel and the Monster Midway. This is a kid-friendly event. All Night Pass \$15 per person, kids under 3-years-old are free (with purchase of adult pass). Individual activity pricing also available. 847-362-4636 or www.lambsfarm.org.

5-7, Ladies Getaway Weekend in Galena. A weekend dedicated to the celebration of women. Registration includes a commemorative tote bag with a keepsake ornament and a chance to win a \$300 Galena shopping spree. Also enjoy a fashion show, hypnotists, special brunches, an all women's art show and more. Register on-line at www.galenchamber.com.

10-11, The Central Illinois Braggin' Rights KCBS BBQ Competition in Downtown Arthur: 40-plus teams, BBQ food stands, live entertainment, \$9,000 prize money and more! 800-722-6474 or www.cibr-bbq.com.

10-12, Art in the Park at Lindendale Park in Highland. Free. Fun for the whole family. 618-654-3721.

11, Ghost Stories at Allerton Park and Retreat Center in Monticello. The evening begins with not-so-scary stories for the younger crowd and gets creepier and scarier for the second set! 217-762-2721 or www.allerton.uiuc.edu.

11, Oktoberfest 2008 Craft Fair at Sesser City Park in Sesser. A one-day festival with craft booths, a farmer's market, music, entertainment, a motorcycle show, jump rides and more. 618-625-5566 or www.sesser.org.

11, The Fifth Annual Waterloo Chamber of Commerce Health Fair and Fall Fest in Downtown Waterloo. Dozens of crafters, music, food, family and fun. www.enjoy-waterloo.com.

11, Stinson Memorial Library Tour in Anna. Tour the library that was designed by Walter Burley Griffin, a colleague of Frank Lloyd Wright. Activities will include a book sale, a flea market, crafts, jewelry, food and music. 618-833-2521 or www.stinsonlibrary.org.

11-12, Frontier Skills and Folklife Fair in Elizabeth. Join costumed interpreters and learn the fine arts of hide tanning, sausage making, meat jerky preparation, gunsmithing and blacksmithing. Recipes for spirits preparation will be part of the festivities. Enjoy root beer and other fare. 815-858-2028 or www.applerverfort.org.

11-12, Galena Country Fair at Grant Park in Galena. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. More than 150 vendors will be selling original, handmade arts, crafts and fine arts. Farmers' market with apples, pumpkins and honey; country bake shop offering home-baked breads, pies and pastries; Gazebo Garden serving a European breakfast and local wines. Fair favorites including caramel apples, hand-cut French fries, funnel cakes and baked potatoes. Live entertainment, children's games, silent auction and raffle. \$2 donation. www.GalenaCountryFair.org 815-777-0817.

12, Second Sunday Celtic Music at White Owl Winery in Birds. Join us the second Sunday of each month for the turbulent and tantalizing strains of Irish music. Enjoy wine tasting and toe-tapping music! Bring your friends! This event is free. 618-928-2898.

12, The 36th Annual AALA Fall Historic House Tour in Alton. Take a self-guided tour of the beautiful historic homes, buildings and churches of Alton, some of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. There will be 10-12 sites on the tour. Tickets will be on sale and available beginning Saturday, Oct. 6 at the Alton Regional Convention and Visitors Bureau at 200 Piasa Street. 618-463-5761 or www.altonlandmarks.org



11-12, Broom's Orchard's Pumpkin Festival in Carlinville. The farm market will be stocked with the usual goodies including several apple varieties and sweet cider. You can search for the perfect jack-o-lantern at the five-acre pumpkin patch, or choose from a pre-picked selection of pumpkins, gourds and fall decor. Try the corn maze or straw maze, play in the playground, see the live entertainment, and take a ride on a wagon through the orchard. Cider slush, hot dogs, nachos and homemade caramel apples will be available for purchase. 217-854-3514 or www.broomorchard.com.

16, Abraham Lincoln Courthouse Lawn Restaging in Lincoln. This historic event was a rally held on the courthouse lawn in 1858, in which Abraham Lincoln addressed a crowd of approximately 5,000 people. Witness and be a part of this historic restaging. The commission is also looking for volunteers to assist with the setup for the event, as well as to be period re-enactors in the crowd. 217-732-8687.

18, Heart of Jacksonville Porky Days and Applefest in Jacksonville. Come join us in downtown Jacksonville for tasty pork sandwiches, apples and a large flea and craft market. Lots of fun, plenty of parking and free admission. 217-245-6778 or www.jacksonvilleil.org/tourism.



18-26, Boo! at the Zoo Festival at the Brookfield Zoo in Brookfield. Crazy costumes, treat bags, haunted hayrides and pumpkin-carving demonstrations. The not-so-scary event will begin at 11 a.m. each day and will include one of Chicago's largest costume parades; an impressive costume showcase; Zoo Chats featuring bats, snakes and owls; and frightfully fun activities for the entire family! 708-485-0263 or www.brookfieldzoo.org.



24-25, Calhoun County Church and Quilt Tour. Scenic Calhoun County hosts a tour of its historic churches; each adorned with a display of quilts by local quilters. The quilts range from antique to contemporary in a variety of sizes and patterns. Other featured activities include a quilt appraiser (reservation required), a quilt raffle, antique and historic displays, fabric crafters, quilting supply vendors and a local photographer's art gallery. Participants can spend a day (or two) enjoying Calhoun's natural beauty, fresh produce and wonderful restaurants! Tickets sold in advance and on event days. 618-232-1268 or 618-576-9640.

18-19, ArtEAST in Edwardsville. ArtEast was started in 1998 as a way for artists to pool their resources and bring attention to the extraordinary talent in the Metro East area. Art lovers get a map to artist studios to watch demonstrations and view exhibitions. 618-656-3348 or www.arteasttour.com.

19, The Third Sunday Market in Bloomington. Thousands of Midwestern collectors to show the finest in antiques, collectibles and crafts. The indoor/outdoor sale features more than 450 top dealers, representing 17 states. Whether you're looking for the finest in antique furniture, Americana, folk art, vintage advertising, sport memorabilia or antique linens and clothing you're likely to find it here. 217-202-2847 or thirdsundaymkt@aol.com.



19, Garden Harvest Festival and the Quad City Botanical Center in Rock Island. 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Shop for garden crafts from dozens of vendors at the country market, learn about history from old world demonstrators who will be making pottery, spinning and weaving, making quilts and more. Enjoy Native American songs, dances and stories. Kids will especially like the petting zoo, free hayride and pioneer games. Vote for your favorite scarecrow. 309-794-0991 or info@qcgardens.com.

25, Fall Follies in Oblong. Crafts, flea market, food booths, high school marching band field competition, entertainment, pancake supper and a night parade. 618-592-4355 or www.theonlyoblong.com.

30-31, The Ninth Annual Conference on Illinois History at the Prairie Capital Convention Center in downtown Springfield. Featured topics will include politics, geography, community studies, Abraham Lincoln, African American history, and the Civil War. Teachers will benefit from workshops on a variety of topics offered. Register by Oct. 24. 217-785-7933.

To be considered for inclusion, please submit events in the format used above. Preference is given to events sponsored by non-profit entities. Submitting an event is not a guarantee of publication. Photos are welcome, but will not be returned unless a self-addressed and stamped envelope is provided. Events are subject to change, so please contact the event sponsor for confirmation.

Deadlines: September 15 for December Events, October 15 for January Events **Mail to:** Illinois Datebook, PO Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708 **E-mail to:** cwagner@aiec.coop





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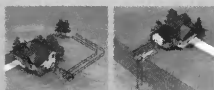
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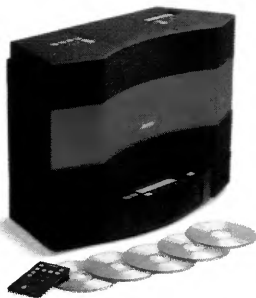
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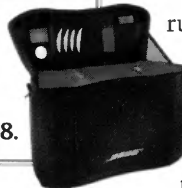
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