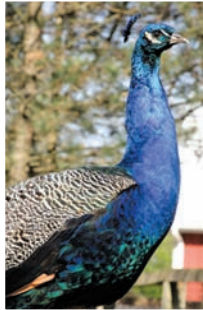


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ILLINOISTM COUNTRY LIVING

Volume 68, No. 2, June 2010



COVER STORY ■ PAGE 10

CAPITALIZE ON THIS GETAWAY

Springfield offers the perfect family vacation with something for everyone.

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Illinois Country Living is a monthly publication serving the communications needs of the locally owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives of Illinois. With a circulation of more than 176,000, the magazine informs cooperative members about issues affecting their electric cooperative and the quality of life in rural Illinois.

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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.

Take time to be politically involved

Energy issues shuffled, but loan legislation in the mix

In May, 85 cooperative leaders from across Illinois took time off from their jobs and farm work to travel to Washington, D.C. to show grassroots support for the National Association of Electric Cooperatives' (NRECA) legislative efforts. These citizen-lobbyists joined more than 2,500 fellow co-op members from across the U.S. in a blitz of Capitol Hill. They were asking for support of fair, affordable and achievable energy-climate legislation, a "timeout" on the EPA using the Clean Air Act to regulate greenhouse gas emissions and support for maintaining Rural Utility Services funding.

I want to publicly thank these co-op leaders for their efforts. It is a difficult time for many of them to leave their jobs or farms when they are in the middle of planting season. But they realize this legislative work is a high priority, too. They realize the old saying – you need to make hay while the sun shines — is true. And I can't imagine a more critical time to be politically involved.

It's amazing how much Congress has on its plate at this time. They just completed healthcare reform and moved on to financial reform due to all the Wall Street issues. It looked like climate change legislation was the next issue, front and center. However, Arizona's immigration law now has this politically challenging issue competing for the attention of Congress.

Now there is some uncertainty about what will come next, immigration or climate change? Or will climate change legislation be cut back and only the energy piece of that puzzle addressed? We worry about the cap and trade component of the current climate change bill because we see that as a cap and tax and very costly for electric cooperative members and the economy.

So, if climate change legislation is slowed up that is not necessarily bad. We have to get it right. But make no mistake, we would rather have the certainty of legislation than the uncertainty of the EPA putting in rules and regulations that we really can't live with, and the EPA is moving forward with carbon regulation right now.

There is, however, some good news. A new bill could help electric co-ops assist members with low interest energy efficiency improvement loans.

The Rural Energy Savings Program Act is tailored for the rural cooperative member because many of our members are on fixed incomes or low incomes, but may not qualify for the programs of our community action agencies. This program would allow them, through very low-interest loans, to make energy efficiency improvements. The electric co-op would make the loan from funds provided by RUS and then repay the federal loan as members pay back their loans. So it would have a very low cost to taxpayers.

We think this will have wide bi-partisan support. Members of Congress including Sen. Roland Burris (D-Ill.), and Rep. Phil Hare (D-Ill.) said in our meetings with them in May that they would be co-sponsoring that legislation. I'm sure we will see others agree to help pass this. So stay tuned.

This also dovetails nicely into the stimulus grant to the Illinois electric cooperatives through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). It is a \$1.5 million program that will help Illinois co-op members make energy efficiency improvements. Read more about this on page 20.

We also realize we need to engage, inspire and educate the next generation of co-op leaders. That is why we sponsor the Youth Day in Springfield program and the Youth to Washington Tour. In April, we had 250 young leaders at the state capitol building and they met with their state senators and representatives. They also heard from Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias, who is the Democrat candidate for U.S. Senate. In June, we will be sending a select group of young leaders to Washington, D.C. and they will meet with our U.S. Congressional representatives.

This is an election year. I urge all of you to stay informed and participate in the process. To learn more go to www.ourenergy.coop. ■

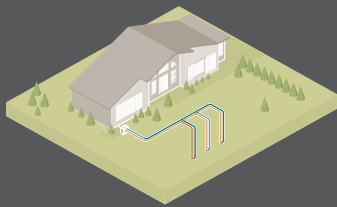
"I can't imagine a more critical time to be politically involved."

Duane Noland, President/CEO of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives is a former state senator, active on his family farm near Blue Mound and a member of Shelby Electric Cooperative.



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State Treasurer encourages youth to serve others

State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias told 250 young leaders attending the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day on Wednesday, April 21, at the state capital that serving others is very rewarding and encouraged them to take active roles in government.

He shared briefly his own background and that of his immigrant parents who came to the United States without money or an education. He grew up in Chicago and came to believe the next generation – his generation – should become more active in public service.

“While making money is great, finding ways to help other people is so much more important,” he said. It is his belief that talented, capable, hardworking young men and women in politics, have the ability to make the world a better place.

Giannoulias first ran for office at the age of 29. He said he did not have the support of his party, but that just made him work harder. “I learned a lot of life lessons during that campaign.” He said you have to really believe in your dreams, work hard and follow those dreams. Now at the age of 34, Giannoulias has turned his attention to the U.S. Senate, winning the primary in February to be the Democratic nominee.

Answering the students’ questions he voiced his concern over the government’s failure to focus on



Three students representing Farmers Mutual Electric Company were among 250 young leaders who met with State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias in April. From the left are Austin Conrad, Garrett Donaldson, Treasurer Giannoulias, Joseph Manna and Farmers Mutual Electric Vice President Doug Darby.

the next generation of jobs, noting that the U.S. has a real opportunity to be globally competitive on the energy front.

Giannoulias said, “Thomas Jefferson had a great quote that I think of all the time. ‘Politicians worry about the next election, leaders worry about the next generation.’ And that’s what I’m doing and I hope to one day be one of those leaders.” ■

Learn more about Illinois wind energy



The Illinois Wind Working Group (IWWG) will host its fourth annual Advancing Wind Power in Illinois Conference, July 14 - 15, 2010, at the Peoria Civic Center in Peoria. The conference covers many aspects of wind energy including large, community and small wind. Speakers include Michele DesAutels of the U.S. Department of Energy and Larry Flowers of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

Breakout seminars and panel sessions will include economic development, what landowners need to know about wind farms, small wind “how to,” commercial and community wind, net metering, wind assessment and forecasting methods, siting and zoning, construction issues, wind for schools, the Indiana Bat, wildlife and environmental issues, how to get a job in wind energy, property value guarantees, and more. For the full conference agenda and registration information, please visit: <http://renewableenergy.illinoisstate.edu/wind/conferences/AnnualConference2010.shtml> ■

Winners of 2010 Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives' Memorial Scholarship announced

Don Wood, Vice President of Government Relations for the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, announced in April the following winners of the 2010 Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship:

- Josiah Moore of Camp Point, whose family receives electricity from Adams Electric Cooperative.
- Brian Buss of Bowen, whose family receives electricity from Western Illinois Electrical Coop.
- Ramie Boyer of Lerna, whose family receives electricity from Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative.
- Devan Dirks of Robinson, whose family receives electricity from Norris Electric Cooperative.

In the "son or daughter of an electric cooperative employee or director" category, the winner of the "Earl W.

Struck Memorial Scholarship" is Kate Henderson of Flora. Kate is the daughter of Clay Electric's Line Foreman Daniel Henderson.

The two winners of the scholarships reserved for use at an Illinois Community College are:

Anthony Vaughan whose family receives electricity from Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative. Anthony is the son of David Vaughan, WWCEC Journeyman Lineman.

Jonathon Moss. Jonathon's family receives electricity from Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative and he is the son of Robert Moss, IREC Area Serviceman.

The amount of each scholarship is \$1,250 and 269 applications were received this year. ■

Expansion of offshore oil and gas development on hold

As part of the Administration's comprehensive energy strategy President Barack Obama and Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced details of efforts to strengthen our energy security including expanded oil and gas development and exploration on the U.S.



Photo by Sky Truth, courtesy Flickr

Outer Continental Shelf. The announcement was made before the tragic fire and oil spill at BP's Deepwater Horizon drill rig on April 20 in the Gulf. With the accident it is likely that the President's proposal for offshore drilling expansion is now in very politically rough waters.

Also included in the Administration's strategy are new car and truck fuel standards, key efforts being carried out by the Department of Defense to enhance energy security and an effort to green the federal vehicle fleet.

"I want to emphasize that this announcement is part of a broader strategy that will move us from an economy that runs on fossil fuels and foreign oil to one that relies on homegrown fuels and clean energy. And the only way this transition will succeed is if it strengthens our economy in the short term and the long term. To fail to recognize this reality would be a mistake," said President Obama. ■

Find a job through new 'Put Illinois to Work' Employment Program

Put Illinois to Work is an initiative of Governor Pat Quinn to create jobs throughout Illinois and provide employment experience to those hardest hit by this recession. Put Illinois to Work is funded by the State of Illinois and federal funding made available by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Through Put Illinois to Work, unemployed and underemployed Illinois residents can be placed into subsidized employment positions for up to six months. Under the subsidized employment model, the wages of the participant are provided by state/federal funding, and the employer must provide supervision and training of the participant for the duration of the placement.

If you are a potential employer or job seeker, visit www.PutIllinoisToWork.Illinois.gov. ■



Co-op leaders meet with Illinois congressional delegation

A delegation of 85 Illinois electric cooperative leaders met with Sen. Roland Burris, Sen. Richard Durbin and other Illinois Congressional representatives in Washington, D.C. May 3-5. They joined more than 2,500 co-op leaders from across the nation at the National Rural Electric Cooperatives 2010 Legislative Conference.

NRECA CEO Glenn English asked the local co-op leaders to spread across Capitol Hill on behalf of their members back home and ask Congress for policies that preserve the quality of life in rural America.

"This is not about fuel. This is not even about climate change," English told participants at the conference. "This is about trying to make certain that those 42 million people served by electric cooperatives are going to continue to have affordable electric power and that their quality of life is going to be maintained and improved, as we go forward," he said.

English asked the co-op leaders to persuade members of Congress to co-sponsor legislation that blocks or delays the Environmental Protection Agency from regulating greenhouse gases from stationary sources under the Clean Air Act. That regulation is proceeding even

as Congress remains deadlocked on legislation to address the issue. EPA regulation will drive up energy prices and English called the Clean Air Act the wrong tool for the job.

Other issues at the conference included support for the Rural Utilities Service, and legislation to expand co-ops' role in energy efficiency by providing low interest loans to co-op members.

The Obama administration has proposed a \$2.5 billion reduction in the Rural Utilities Service Electric Loan program for fiscal 2011, with restrictions on RUS loans for natural gas generation and environmental upgrades.

The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative President/CEO Duane Noland said the Illinois delegation gained support from both House and Senate members for a measure that will help co-op members with energy efficiency upgrades through a low-interest loan program handled through the Rural Utilities Service and operated by co-ops.

"We urged our members of Congress to co-sponsor the Rural Energy Savings Program Act, H.R. 4785 and S. 3102, as a way of minimizing electric bills for our members and their rural constituents,"

said Noland. During the meetings with co-op leaders both Sen. Roland Burris and Rep. Phil Hare promised they would cosponsor the legislation.

Noland said, "Everyone can agree on the need for increasing energy efficiency, but there is a lot of uncertainty about when and how the Senate will address climate change legislation. It could be next week, or it could be next year after the election. Right now we are hopeful they will pass some kind of legislation that will delay EPA regulation on green house gases until Congress does find a way to pass legislation that is fair, achievable and affordable."

Noland, a former Illinois state senator, urged other Illinois citizens to join co-op leaders and get involved in the political process. "The political process is messy, but for democracy to truly work we need grassroots citizen involvement in the process."

He said the electric co-ops have made it easy by creating a website — www.ourenergy.coop — where people can go to learn more and to send a message to their elected representatives. "This is an election year," said Noland. "It's time we all got involved and exercised our right to vote and participate in the process."

Co-op leaders from across Illinois thanked Sen. Roland Burris for his support of climate change legislation that treats Illinois consumers fairly. Sen. Burris joined 13 other Senate Democrats in a call for fairness in climate change legislation. In a letter coordinated by Iowa Sen. Tom Harkin, the group declared it's essential for Congress to fairly distribute emissions allowances to all Americans, no matter where they live. "We are grateful to Sen. Burris for taking the stand that he did, and we look forward to continuing to work with him and Sen. Durbin toward achieving climate change legislation that is fair to co-op members," said Duane Noland, President/CEO of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.




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Saving money on electricity may seem hard but it really isn't. It's about changing habits... like turning off lights when you leave the room, remembering to unplug appliances when they're not in use and lowering blinds during the day to keep the summer heat out. Your Touchstone Energy® co-op wants to help you save on your electric bill. Visit www.togetherwesave.com and see how the little changes add up.

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Association of Illinois
Electric Cooperatives

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Capitalize on this getaway

By Jonie Larson

Stay in state and visit
Springfield's sites



It's summertime. While it's customary for families to take advantage of the warmer months to get away for a week or two, many people are feeling the crunch of smaller personal budgets. Because of that, vacations to U.S. and worldwide hot spots may not be in the cards this year. But why forego the pleasure of a getaway when you have a state capital city packed with sites for the most discerning and for those who just want to have fun. There are museums, historical homes, Route 66 stops, some of the best car shows, the capitol building itself, all kinds of musical entertainment and an outdoor fun park for the kids. And of course the Abraham Lincoln sites, alone, can keep you busy for a full day or more.

Springfield is centrally located, just four hours from the farthest destinations in the state. It has modest to higher-end hotels, numerous RV parks and wonderful bed and breakfasts. Getting away for relaxation doesn't require leaving the state. Make lifetime memories this summer in your state capital.

(Editor's note: Times are subject to change. We encourage you to phone ahead to confirm hours of operation and admission prices before making travel plans.)

Above: Old State Capitol, Springfield

OLD STATE CAPITOL

1 Old State Capitol Plaza,
Springfield

The fifth capitol of the state of Illinois still stands. Located downtown, the Greek Revival-styled building stands as a monument of its time. Constructed in 1837, it was in use when Abraham Lincoln argued cases before the Supreme Court and where he delivered his “House Divided” Speech. It more recently served as the backdrop for current President Barack Obama to announce his candidacy. Sangamon County used the old capitol building until 1961 when it was restored to serve as a landmark. The old state capitol is available for visiting and tours. Donations are accepted.

Call: 217-789-2360 to book group reservations for more than 15. Hours: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Tues. – Sat.



STATE CAPITOL

2nd and Capitol, Springfield

The Illinois Capitol being used today is the tallest non-skyscraper capitol in the U.S. It has stood in Springfield since March of 1869. It is the sixth capitol to serve the state since 1818. Built in French Renaissance architectural style, it is domed in zinc.

Open to the public Monday through Friday. Security requires that visitors walk through a metal detector. Only the first floor of the capitol is open on Saturdays and Sundays.



DANA THOMAS HOUSE

301 E. Lawrence Ave., Springfield

Named after two of its owners, the Dana Thomas house is best known, not for those who lived there, although affluent. Instead, it is the architect who built it that keeps a steady stream of visitors gracing its doorway year after year.

The home is one of the masterpieces of famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright. The 12,600 square-foot home with its 35 rooms, was built by Wright between 1902 and 1904. The house has been restored to look as it might have looked at the time it was constructed and contains more than 100 pieces of original Wright furniture.

Site Superintendent Chet Rhodes says 30,000 visitors took the tour last

year, despite the fact the previous governor had cut funding, closing it until April 23 of 2009.

While funding at many state historic sites has been reduced, art and other connoisseurs gave generously to the facility. More than \$100,000 was donated last year.

The home is open for tours every week throughout the year and hosts several events, the most popular around the Christmas season. The home is decorated with many luminaria with plans for this season already under way. Rhodes says this year those planning the holiday event intend to have the home’s five fireplaces roaring with Christmas crackle.

Call: 217-782-6776

Open for tours, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wed. – Sun. each week.

VACHEL LINDSAY HOME

603 S. 5th St., Springfield

It’s a home steeped in history – one that predates the Lincolns and moves into the 1900s as the home of a famous poet. The Vachel Lindsey Home, a two-story structure in Springfield is a must on a trip to Springfield.

The two-story house, built in the 1840s was owned early on by Clark Smith, who was married to Mary Todd Lincoln’s younger sister Ann. He resided there from 1855 until 1865, and it was there the Lincoln’s partied on the night before Abraham left for the White House.

But the home is best known for the family that would reside there beginning in 1878. Dr. Vachel Thomas Lindsay, father of later-known famous poet Nicholas Vachel Lindsay bought the house that year as a private family residence.

The son was a poet, writer and artist who became known as one of the Three Prairie Poets – the others being Carl Sandburg and Edgar Lee Masters, who was originally from Petersburg. A small home there has also been maintained through volunteer help.

Jennie Battles, on-site administrator for the Vachel Lindsay historical home, says Lindsay the poet enjoyed what was comparable to a “rock star phenomenon.” She said he performed in every state in the union and even during the depression, people would pay \$5 a ticket to see him.

The Vachel Lindsay Home, located just south of the Illinois Executive Mansion, is open to the public and is furnished with 95 percent of the family’s original furnishings.

Call: 217-524-0901

Open: Year-round, Tues. – Sat. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

All things Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum,
212 North 6th St., Springfield
Lincoln Home National Historic Site,
426 South 7th St., Springfield
Lincoln Tomb, Oak Ridge Cemetery,
1441 Monument Ave., Springfield
Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site,
15588 History Lane, Petersburg

If for no other reason, Springfield is the place to go to see some of the most spectacular sites related to Abraham Lincoln, his early days as a young man, his law days and those during his short reign as the country's 16th president.

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, a 100,000 square-foot facility, opened in 2005. Coupled with the library across the street that houses the world's largest collection of Lincoln-related materials and the Illinois State Historical Library, the total complex is 200,000 square feet – the largest presidential museum complex in the country.

The museum is a host of wonders that take visitors on a journey through Lincoln's life. Using advanced technologies normally reserved for theme parks, yet maintaining rigorous standards of scholarship, the museum presents a fully immersive theatrical experience.

Among the highlights are two presentations that inform and entertain. Union Theater features the 17-minute "Lincoln's Eyes," a multi-screen, multimedia surround experience introducing the Lincoln as seen through the eyes of supporters and detractors. A second presentation, "Ghosts of the Library," is an SBC Holavision® Theater show which mixes live acting and special effects to highlight the facility's collection.

A new temporary exhibit about harness racing featuring original lithographs and historical artifacts opens at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library at noon on Kentucky Derby Day, May 1, 2010. The centerpiece of "The Story of Harness Racing by Currier & Ives" will be 35, framed original, pristine condition Currier & Ives lithographs depicting equestrian scenes from the 1800s. These color illustrations will be complemented by original artifacts from the Presidential Library's collections. The exhibit may be viewed weekdays free of charge through Aug. 31, 2010.

Been to the museum? Well, how about Lincoln and Mary's restored home in a Springfield neighborhood, where you will get you a guided tour – all for a donation. Pick up a free ticket at the Park's Visitor Center. Or tour the Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices on the corner of 6th & Adams Streets.

Need a little quiet time to take it all in? Head out to Lincoln's Tomb where a rich story awaits. Did you know the body of the late president had to be protected from thieves? Were you aware that Lincoln's body was moved 11 times before it came to rest?

No doubt, you may need a break at this point, maybe even a night's rest. But whenever you are so inclined, you won't want to miss New Salem, just 20 miles Northwest of Springfield. It is here that Lincoln spent some of his early adult years, landing there on a flatboat and holding several jobs in the village. The cabins are still standing. Take it in with other tourists or come to visit when there's an event at the New Salem site.

- For the **Lincoln Museum**, call: 1-800-610-2094 or 217-782-5764. Hours: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. daily; closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day.
- For the **Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices**, call 217-785-7289. Hours: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. May to Labor Day, Mon. – Sun.; post Labor Day to April, Tues. – Sat.
- For the **Lincoln Home National Historic site**, call 217-492-4241. Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. daily except Jan.1, Thanksgiving Day, and December 25.
- For the **Lincoln Tomb**, call 217/782-2717. Open: May-Labor Day in September, Mon. – Sun. 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Post Labor Day in September-November, Tues. – Sat 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. December-February, Tues. – Sat. 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. March-April, Tues. – Sat. 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- For **New Salem site**, call: 217-632-4000 Hours of operation: Vary by month, call ahead.



KNIGHT'S ACTION PARK 1700 Knight's Recreation Dr., Springfield

Do the kids need a place to unwind after seeing all those museums and historical wonders? A trip to Springfield wouldn't be complete without an adventure at Knight's Action Park, where there's family fun for everyone.

Located on the south side of Springfield, Knight's Action Park and Caribbean Water Adventure is packed with activities. The family business opened in 1930 and moved to its present location in 1976. It added water park features in 1980 continually enhancing those. In 2002, the original drive-in theater was reopened showing family-friendly movies.

The complex, which gets an estimated 325,000 visitors each year, primarily in summer, hosts regular guests, corporate functions and visitors.

This year marks the grand opening of The Bermuda Triangle, a 53-foot tower with three slides. It will open on May 22.

General manager, Doug Knight, said the dry attractions are opening now and the drive-in will be opening for the season on April 2.

Everything from putting and miniature golf to batting cages and go-karts are part of the fun.

*Call: 217-546-8881
Hours vary per activity.*

HENSON ROBINSON ZOO 1100 East Lake Drive, Springfield

A warm sunny afternoon is the perfect time to take in the quaint Henson Robinson Zoo, located just off the lake since its opening in 1970. It is home to more than 300 animals. Depending on the season, a guest may see from 60 to 80 animals as they wind around across its bridges and walkways, taking in the serenity the animals experience daily. The types of animals are too numerous to mention, but children and adults can appreciate everything from the tree-swinging monkeys to the laxidasical swim-by of the swans or wandering peacocks. Admission prices vary. Call for more information.

*Call: 217-753-6217
Hours March – October: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.,
Mon. – Fri.; 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Sat. and Sun.
Hours Nov. – Feb. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.
Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day,
Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.*

SHEA'S GAS STATION MUSEUM 2075 Peoria Road, Springfield

This private collection of gas station and Route 66 memorabilia has brought in visitors from 75 different countries says owner Bill Shea. The porcelain-panel station is flanked by gas pumps of yesteryear, and contains collections dating back 50 years or better. Shea says he bought some and traded for some and "just keeps collecting." The station is tucked away in Springfield. Follow maps to the address listed above.

*Call: 217-522-0475
Hours: Tues. – Fri. 7 a.m. – 4 p.m.;
Sat. until noon.*

KOREAN WAR NATIONAL MUSEUM Dennis Healy Freedom Center, 9 Old State Capitol Plaza, Springfield

Located on the plaza, just across from the Old State Capitol building, is the year-old temporary location for the Korean War National Museum, called the Denis J. Healy Freedom Center. Connor Homann, Operations Manager, says the site houses memorabilia from the war era including field equipment, uniforms, medical equipment and more. Fundraising efforts are under way to build an elaborate museum in Springfield in coming years. Group tours can be arranged for the Freedom Center by calling in advance. Donations of \$3 are accepted.

*Call: 217-523-7230
Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tues. – Sat.
(May be extended during tourist season.)*

ELIJAH ILES HOUSE 628 South 7th Street, Springfield

Built around 1837, the Elijah Iles House is believed to be Springfield's oldest house. Some believe this Greek Revival-style home evidence may have been designed by the same architect who designed the Old State Capitol. It has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1978.

*Call: 217-492-5929
Tours Wed. and Sat. 12 – 4 p.m. from
April through mid-December,
or by appointment.*

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC MEMORIAL MUSEUM 629 South 7th Street, Springfield

If Civil War memorabilia gets you attention, then you'll want to make a stop at the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Museum, located in its current facility since 1963. Those at the museum say there are literally thousands of artifacts from the Civil War, which have come from all over the country. They still receive donations, often from finds in the attics of relatives. Estimated visitors are 10 to 100 a day. Donations are accepted.

*Call: 217-522-4373
Hours: Tues. – Sat, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.;
closed January and February.*

ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM 502 Spring St., Springfield

If you're into knowing about the natural history of Illinois, the Illinois State Museum is a must see for you, says Katherine Wooldridge, director's assistant of the facility. It's a family friendly environment with lots of things for little ones to engage in. And this summer, a world-class blacksmith, Brent Kingston, will have his sculptures on display in the gallery.

*Call: 217-782-7386
Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.,
Mon. – Sat.; noon – 5 p.m. Sun.
Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day
and Christmas Day.*

ILLINOIS STATE FAIR 801 Sangamon Avenue

The Illinois State Fair was introduced in 1853 to the residents of Illinois. The Fair promoted not only improved methods of agriculture and raising livestock, but also displays of improvement for labor, industry, education, arts, and sciences.

For 158 years, the Illinois State Fair has continued the tradition with quality family entertainment at affordable prices: carnival rides, great food, auto sports, entertainment and more. Admission to the fair is only \$5 for adults and \$2 for children ages 5 – 12.

*Dates: Aug. 13-22
Getting to the fair:
The fairgrounds is located 2 miles from
Interstate I-55's Sangamon Ave. exit
(exit 100 B). For more information:
www.illinoisstatefair.info.*

Severe storm season is here

How to prepare for the worst-case scenario

The months of April through July represent the most active months for severe storms, lightning strikes and tornadoes. Storms can kill and so can conditions after the storm.

The employees working for your electric co-op work very hard to repair the downed power lines quickly after a storm. They understand the dangers of lightning and how dangerous high voltage lines can be after a storm. They know that you can't tell if the lines are hot or not just because they've been blown to the ground. They also want you to be prepared for outages that could last for a while.

Take just a minute to review these tips and share them with your family and friends.

Before the storm:

- Assemble a kit of essentials, like battery-operated flashlights and radios, as well as matches and candles. Keep a list of emergency phone numbers that includes the electric utility. Be prepared for the possibility of a prolonged outage due to power line and electric equipment damage.
- Fill spare containers with water for washing, and keep a supply of bottled drinking water on hand. Maintain a supply of non-perishable food items, along with a hand opener for canned food.
- During an outage, switch off lights and appliances to prevent overloading circuits and damaging appliances when power is restored. Leave one lamp or switch on as a signal for when your power returns.
- Lightning can travel up to 10 miles away from a storm, so seek shelter as soon as you hear thunder.

- Be sure to tune into your local weather station if you suspect severe weather is brewing. Understand the National Weather Service warning classification system. A tornado or severe storm watch means that conditions are favorable for those weather conditions forming. A warning means that dangerous

weather conditions are developing and imminent.

- Consider having Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) professionally installed or purchasing a portable GFCI. GFCIs can cut off power if there is a problem and are recommended for outdoor outlets and areas of the home that are prone to water exposure such as basements, bathrooms, kitchens, laundry rooms, etc.

After the storm:

- When venturing outside after a severe storm, stay away from downed power lines and be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard. Assume that any dangling wires you encounter are electrical, and treat all downed or hanging power lines as if they are energized. Warn others to stay away and contact the electric utility.
- If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, stay in your vehicle, warn others to stay away and contact emergency personnel or electric utility. Also when driving, be careful at intersections where traffic lights may be out. Stop at all railroad crossings, and treat road intersections with traffic signals as a four-way stop before proceeding with caution.
- Before re-entering storm-damaged buildings or rooms, be sure all electric and gas services are turned off. Never attempt to turn off power at the breaker box if you must stand in water to do so. If you can't reach your breaker box safely, call your electric utility to shut off power at the meter.
- Never step into a flooded basement or other area if water is covering electrical outlets, appliances or cords. Be alert to any electrical equipment that could be energized and in contact with water. Never touch electrical appliances, cords or wires while you are wet or standing in water.
- Cleaning up and using water-damaged appliances also carry safety risks. Electric motors in appliances that have been drenched or submerged should be thoroughly cleaned and reconditioned before they are put back into service. It may be necessary to repair or replace electrical appliances or tools that have been in contact with water. Do not use any water-damaged appliance until a professional has checked it out.

For more information about electrical safety, please visit www.SafeElectricity.org or www.weather.gov for more information on electrical safety and severe weather preparedness. ■

"If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, stay in your vehicle, warn others to stay away and contact emergency personnel or electric utility."

Molly Hall is the Director of Safe Electricity. E-mail: mollyh@illinois.edu and for more information visit www.SafeElectricity.org. Safe Electricity is a program of the Energy Education Council, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting electrical safety and energy efficiency.



Can you tell if this power line is still energized?



The answer is NO.



Every downed power line is potentially energized and dangerous until utility crews arrive on the scene to ensure power has been cut off. Stay far away and keep others away from downed power lines.

Teenagers Lee and Ashley found themselves in an auto accident with a power line and because of what they recently learned, they took the correct actions to avoid tragedy. They stayed inside their car and phoned for help, almost always the safest action to take in this kind of accident.

TLC Teach what you know.
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Safe
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Watering that works

How to give your plants a proper drink of water

Right now, we could be in the midst of a drought, or keeping our waders by the backdoor. The past two years have been more than kind in their amounts of rainfall, to the point that we sometimes wished someone would turn off the sky faucet.

On the other hand, rain is great for most garden plants, and even more fantastic for the wallet. Not having to pay for water is one of a gardener's little life pleasures.

But forecasters are essentially higher class fortune tellers, who can determine with relative foresight what the weather conditions will be for the next day or two, but have a harder time delivering what will occur over the next several weeks or months.

That means it's up to us to be prepared as Boy Scouts to keep our plants actively growing if and when Mother Nature decides to plug the clouds.

So, let's look at a few facts about watering plants, including which ones to water.

First, if push comes to shove with time, energy and water availability, forego the lawn. It sucks up water faster than a sponge and then wants more. If we're lucky, the lawn will go dormant and stay that way until cooler temperatures and more rainfall shows up in September and October.

If not, and the lawn does die, it can be replaced with seed or sod. Within six weeks, you'd have a hard time knowing that it was gone.

That's not to say that lawns aren't important. But in the grand scheme of it all, mature trees and shrubs are much more important. They can't be replaced that quickly. As the foundation to your landscape, it's more important to keep them actively growing.

I'll go out on a limb and say that the trees and shrubs are even more important than your vegetable garden if you have one. While we like to think our tomatoes and peppers are valuable, they really don't have much monetary value. On the other hand, they are worth more than the lawn and our annual flowers.

To water most plants properly, you need to provide them with an inch of water when plants are growing and the temperatures are less than 85-90

degrees. Over that temperature, you may need to double the amount of water.

The point of the inch of water is to penetrate the ground at least 8 to 12 inches. While you may not have many roots down that deep, you want to drive them deeper. That way, they stay cooler, and develop a more extensive root system in search of water.

Next, if you have to water, water so that it actually benefits the plant.

So many folks think that turning the sprinkler on for 20 minutes is good enough. It's not. You need to keep the water flowing through a sprinkler for at least 90 to 120 minutes to supply that inch of water.

Wetting just the top few inches keeps the roots up close, where they are exposed to the warmer temperatures that dry out the soil. In other words, the plant will wilt faster and more often.

Trickle and drip irrigation hoses are a little more difficult to figure out. While you can turn them on and walk away, it's harder to gauge when they've wet the soil 8 to 12 inches deep. Typically, and it's not a guarantee, you may have to leave them on for at least 6 to 8 hours. However, some ooze water faster while others are just the opposite. Your best bet is to start with four hours, and then see how deep the soil is wet beneath the hose by insert a trowel or steel rod.

The advantage with slow irrigations is the fact that you can water by the plants, and not in the areas where there isn't any growth. However, you may not be forcing roots to spread out, especially if you place the irrigation hose right next to the plant.

Don't water any faster than the soil can absorb the water. It's terrible to watch all the water pool around plants, or even worse, to run down the hill taking some of your soil with it. You may have to adjust your water pressure from your faucet or choose another type of sprinkler.

And finally, don't forget to mulch. It's always the best way to cut down on water loss. Two to four inches is ideal for just about all plants. ■

"To water most plants properly, you need to provide them with an inch of water."

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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Efficiency commandment No. 4

Thou shalt provide adequate air

Oh my word, it's summer-time again! And time to turn the thermostat to cool.

This means that your air conditioner's compressor will start churning out that cold air and the electric meter will run faster.

Well, for many of us that is what will happen, but for many others the thermostat will be turned to cool only to find that the air conditioning unit won't cool.

Some systems are just old and worn out. However, some are only a few years old and not working. So you call the local heating and cooling company and a technician comes to your house, takes his gauges out of the truck and goes directly to the outdoor air conditioning unit. He soon returns to tell you that the unit has a mechanical problem or is low on freon. If it is low on refrigerant gas, he charges the system and says, "it's OK now."

You turn the unit on and sure enough, good cold air is coming out of the registers. All is well for perhaps another year or two and it happens again. Freon is again added and all is well for a couple more years when you find that the compressor is now bad.

Let's think about this. If your unit is only three or four years old, why did it lose the freon?

A neighbor might have the same unit as you and never have a problem with his/her unit. If the leak is not fixed, it is sure to leak again.

Air conditioner failures can be caused by a number of things. It may be a manufacturer's problem or an installer's mistake. But there's another

cause you may not be aware of — restricted air flow. Restricted air flow will shorten the system's life and reduce the system's performance.

Please remember this famous Doug Rye quote, "An air conditioner cannot blow more air out than it can suck in."

In some cases, restricted air flow can be caused by furniture placement. However, it is usually caused by a dirty filter or an undersized return air filter grill.

How often do you need to change the AC filter in your house? Some say every month, but I'm telling you it is "as needed." Some may need to change



them monthly, some every two months, some every six months, etc.

As related to return air filter grills, one needs approximately two square feet of filter grill per ton (12,000 British thermal units) of cooling. So, if you have a three-ton air conditioning system, you need six square feet of return air filter grill for the system to operate at maximum capacity and not stress the equipment.

Remember, it is impossible to oversize the return air system — the larger the return air, the better.

I know what many of you are thinking, "Well, my return air is only half the size it needs to be!" Well, the next time the technician comes to your house to add freon or other repairs, ask him about increasing the size of your return air filter grill.

Stay cool and see you next month! ■

P.S. Before you start calling me, I am very much aware that most air conditioning refrigerant is not now freon, but all readers recognize that term.

"Remember, it is impossible to oversize the return air system — the larger the return air, the better."

Doug Rye, the "Doctor of Energy Efficiency—the King of Caulk and Talk" can be heard on several different Illinois radio stations. Or you can go to his Web site at www.dougyrie.com, e-mail him at info@philliprye.com, or call 501-653-7931. You can also sign up for a free newsletter and order his "how to" videotapes.





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Help is here for your home's energy efficiency

Co-op members eligible for up to \$1,500 for efficiency improvements

The State of Illinois announced a \$1.5 million grant to assist the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) and its member cooperatives in implementing a new energy efficiency initiative. Through the new electric cooperative Home program, participating co-op members will receive incentives of up to \$1,500 for equipment upgrades and other measures to reduce their energy consumption.

"The state's investment in energy efficiency programs like Home reinforces our commitment to building a stronger, and greener, economy in Illinois," said DCEO Director Warren Ribley. "Through this program, we're demonstrating how environmental protection and economic development go hand-in-hand by creating jobs,

improving our energy consumption and saving money for hard-working Illinois families."

Through the Home program, electric cooperatives can make rebates for members who own their homes and make qualifying energy efficiency upgrades. Members must start the process by having an energy assessment done by their local electric cooperative. There will be a small \$25 fee to partially cover the cost of the assessment. Based on the recommendations from the assessment, the member will be eligible for rebates for heating-cooling upgrades, installation of a heat pump water heater or insulation and weatherization.

"The electric cooperatives of Illinois are heavily invested in energy efficiency education and incentives for their member-owners. The Home program is a great asset to that effort and should provide an excellent incentive for cooperative members to make these improvements right away, improving the energy efficiency of thousands of homes," said N. Duane Noland, presi-



dent and CEO of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

Noland said 98 percent of co-op members are residential or farmers. He said this program, while not intended for low-income families, is a plus for those on fixed or marginal incomes.

"Co-op members who qualify for low-income weatherization programs are eligible for incentive programs available through the Illinois community action agencies in each county," said John Freitag, Vice President of Operations for the AIEC. "This program is just for those co-op members who do not qualify for low-income weatheriza-



You could receive a rebate for \$1,500 for a new geothermal heat pump.



tion programs. In other words it reaches out to help middle-income families improve their energy efficiency.”

The grant was awarded through a component of the state’s Energy Plan, administered by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) and funded by American Recovery and Reinvestment Program (ARRA).

Jonathan Feipel, Deputy Director of the Commerce and Economic Opportunity, which oversees the state’s Energy Office, addressed electric cooperative employees who will oversee the program locally at a May 7 kickoff meeting in Springfield. “This is one of the programs we wanted to benefit right off the bat,” Feipel said, explaining later that the \$1.5 million to be distributed to qualifying co-op members comes from the \$100 million allocation to the state of Illinois in what is called the State Energy Program by the federal government.

The program has the ability to help the economy in two ways, Feipel said. He said “green stuff” as it was originally termed was thought by many to cost people money.

“Actually, the reverse is true,” Feipel said. First of all, families that invest in energy efficiency improvements get lower energy bills. Then the “broadening of the dollars” results because those families tend to buy more groceries or go to the movies or any number of other things with the money saved. Generally that money is spent locally, Feipel said.

Another benefit of the program is to the labor market. In exchange for the money, there is an accountability



Jonathan Feipel (left), Deputy Director of the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), which oversees the state’s Energy Office, met with Marcelyn Love, Communications Manager for DCEO, and John Freitag, Vice President of Operations for the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives on Friday, May 7, to announce a new \$1.5 million HomE energy efficiency rebate program for electric co-op members. Members will be eligible for up to \$1,500 in rebates for home energy improvements. For more information contact your local electric cooperative or go to www.aiec.coop.

requirement by the distributing agency. It must estimate the number of jobs created or retained.

Feipel said the state is expected to report back to the federal government by September that dollars have been spent. The AIEC expects money allocated to it to go quickly. By proving that it can be effective in distributing the grant money, it hopes to improve its chances for getting additional money in the future.

Freitag said that combining the HomE grants with federal income tax credits, manufacturer incentives and

incentives from local electric co-ops, makes investing in energy efficiency right now a “no-brainer.”

But he warned, “Even though we have \$1.5 million to work with, that money could go fast. We’ve already seen that happen with other new energy efficiency grant programs. The rebates will be available until funds are exhausted.”

For more information on the program, including eligibility details, contact your local electric cooperative or visit the Illinois Electric Cooperatives website at www.aiec.coop. ■

HomE Energy Rebates

Geothermal heat pumps	\$1,500
Air-source heat pumps	\$1,000
Central air conditioning	\$350
Natural gas or LP furnace	\$350
Heat pump water heater	\$250
Insulation/air sealing	30% of project costs, Maximum \$500

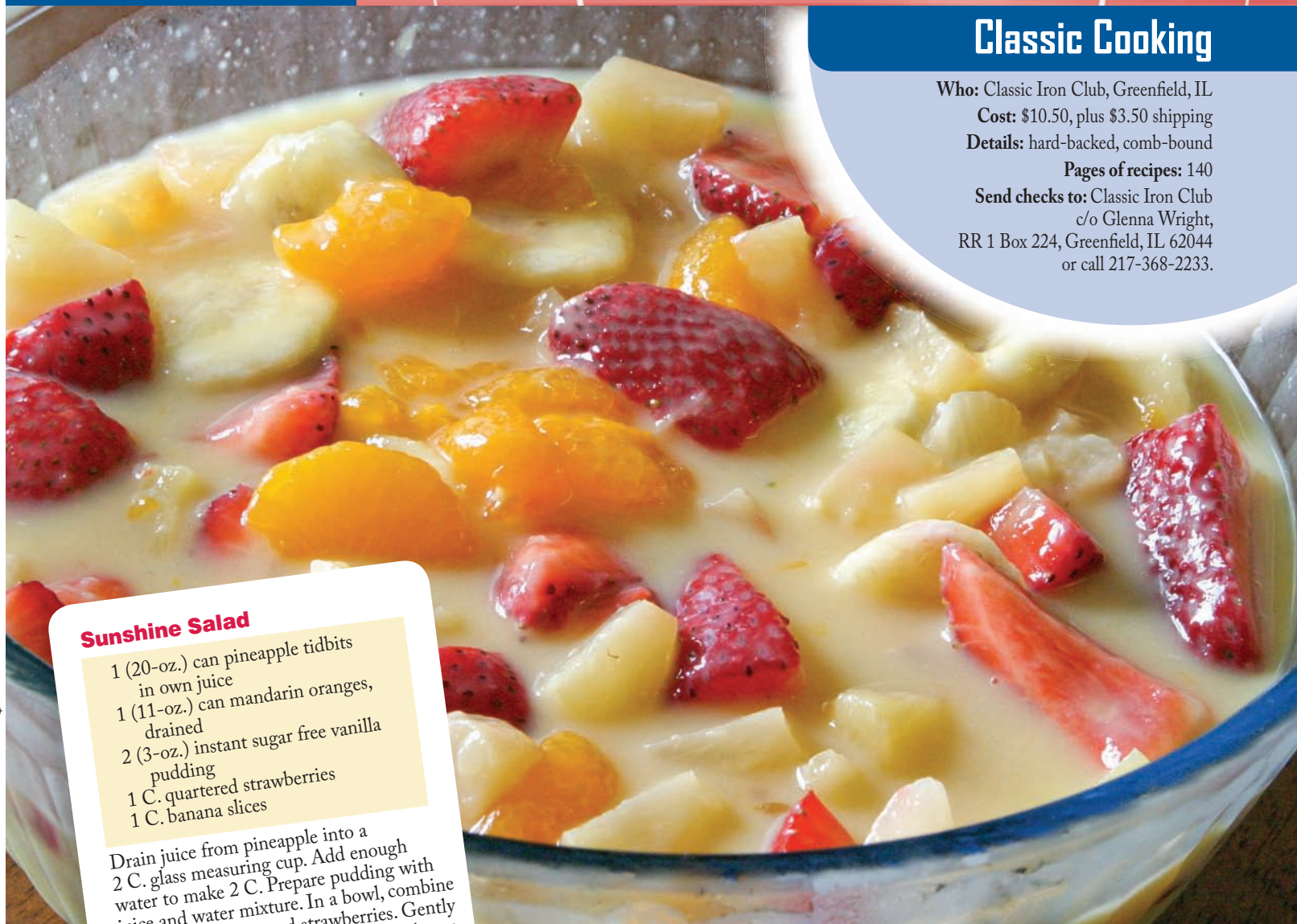
Total household rebate \$1,500 maximum

Minimum Energy Efficiency Requirements

Geothermal closed loop	14.1 EER or 3.3 COP
Geothermal open loop	16.2 EER or 3.6 COP
Air-source heat pump	16 SEER
Central air conditioning, split	16 SEER
Central air conditioning, package	14 SEER
Natural gas or LP furnace	95% efficiency
Heat pump water heater	2.0 energy factor

Classic Cooking

Who: Classic Iron Club, Greenfield, IL
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Pages of recipes: 140
Send checks to: Classic Iron Club
 c/o Glenna Wright,
 RR 1 Box 224, Greenfield, IL 62044
 or call 217-368-2233.



Sunshine Salad

- 1 (20-oz.) can pineapple tidbits in own juice
- 1 (11-oz.) can mandarin oranges, drained
- 2 (3-oz.) instant sugar free vanilla pudding
- 1 C. quartered strawberries
- 1 C. banana slices

Drain juice from pineapple into a 2 C. glass measuring cup. Add enough water to make 2 C. Prepare pudding with juice and water mixture. In a bowl, combine pineapple, oranges and strawberries. Gently fold into the pudding. Chill at least 2 hours. Add bananas just prior to serving.

Angel Chicken

- 6 chicken breasts
- 1/4 C. butter
- 1 env. Italian dressing
- 1 can golden mushroom soup
- 1 C. chicken broth
- 1 (8-oz.) ctn. Chives and onion cream cheese
- Angel hair pasta, prepared

Place chicken in a slow cooker. In a saucepan, melt butter and combine with rest of the ingredients, except pasta. Pour sauce over chicken and cook on low for 6 hours. Serve over pasta.

Unforgettable Chicken Casserole

- 3 C. deli roasted chicken
- 2 C. finely chopped celery
- 1 C. grated Cheddar cheese
- 1/2 C. slivered almonds
- 1/2 C. light sour cream
- 1/2 C. light mayonnaise
- 1 (10-3/4-oz.) can cream of chicken soup
- 1 (4-oz.) can water chestnuts, drained and chopped
- 1-1/2 C. French fried onion rings

In a large bowl, combine all ingredients except onion rings. Spoon into a lightly greased 9x13-inch pan or baking dish. Bake at 350° for 40 minutes. Remove from oven and sprinkle onion rings evenly on top. Bake 5 more minutes or until bubbly around the edge. Let stand 10 minutes before serving.

Creamy Red Potato Salad

- 3 lbs. red potatoes, quartered
- 1/2 C. sour cream
- 1/2 C. mayonnaise
- 1/4 C. fresh parsley
- 2 scallions, chopped
- 1 T. Dijon mustard
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. pepper

In a large pot, over high heat, combine potatoes with enough salted water to cover by 4 inches. Bring to a boil. Cook until tender, 20-25 minutes. Drain and cool. Combine other ingredients in a serving bowl. Add potatoes, toss until coated. Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve.

Photos by Catrina McCulley Wagner

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Lemon Lush

Crust

- 1-1/2 C. butter or margarine
- 1-1/2 C. flour
- 1/2 C. chopped nuts

Mix butter, flour and nuts together with a pastry blender or fork and press into a 9x13-inch pan. Bake at 300° for 20 minutes. After the crust has baked and cooled, make first layer.

Layer 1

- 1 C. powdered sugar
- 1 (8-oz.) block of cream cheese, softened
- 1 C. Cool Whip

Mix powdered sugar, cream cheese and Cool Whip together and spread over crust.

Layer 2

- 2 small pkg. instant lemon pudding (or any flavor)
- 2-2/3 C. milk

Mix pudding and milk together until pudding starts to thicken. Spread over cream cheese layer. Spread remaining Cool Whip over top and refrigerate.

Crispy Onion Roasted Potatoes

- 1 pkg. Lipton onion or onion-mushroom soup mix
- 1/2 C. margarine, melted
- 1 tsp. thyme leaves (opt.)
- 1 tsp. marjoram leaves (opt.)
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 2 lbs. potatoes, quartered
- Chopped parsley, (opt.)

In a shallow baking pan, thoroughly blend soup mix, oil, margarine and seasonings. Add potatoes and turn to coat thoroughly. Bake at 450°, stirring occasionally, for 60 minutes or until potatoes are tender and golden. Garnish, if desired, with chopped parsley.

Cheese Garlic Biscuits

- 2 C. biscuit mix
- 2/3 C. water or milk
- 1/2 C. grated Cheddar cheese
- 1/2 C. melted butter
- 1/4 tsp. garlic powder

Preheat oven to 450°. Mix biscuit mix, milk and cheese until soft dough forms. Beat vigorously for 30 seconds. Drop by spoonfuls onto an ungreased baking sheet. Bake 8-10 minutes or until golden brown. Mix butter with garlic powder and brush over warm biscuits before serving from baking sheet.

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

Apricot Jell-O Salad

- 1 (3-oz.) pkg. apricot Jell-O
- 1 (16-oz.) can crushed pineapple
- 5 T. milk
- 1/2 C. sugar
- 2 C. Cool Whip
- 1 (8-oz.) pkg. cream cheese

Cook pineapple and sugar together and boil. Add Jell-O and let set, then cool. Blend cream cheese and milk together until smooth. Add Cool Whip and fold in Jell-O. Mix and refrigerate until set.

Bald Knob Cross is being saved

With your help landmark cross will be resurrected this summer

In 1936, Wayman Presley, a rural mail carrier, and Rev. Bill Lirley, a rural preacher, envisioned a dream of an ideal spot for an all-denominational Easter Sunrise Service. Both agreed that Bald Knob Mountain, the highest point in Southern Illinois (elev. 1,034 ft.), would be that ideal place.

This vision evolved and expanded over the next several decades with the help of many volunteers and partners, not the least of which was Myrta Clutts, affectionately known as the “pig lady.” These three founders are remembered as primarily being responsible for the construction of Bald Knob Cross of Peace, a 111-foot tall structure situated on the pinnacle of beautiful Bald Knob Mountain, nestled in the Shawnee National Forest, near Alto Pass, Ill.

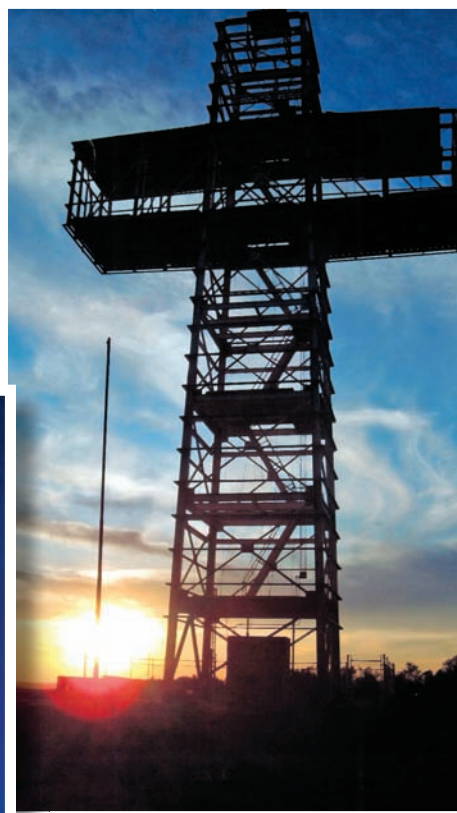
The bright white cross created a spectacular night site which could be seen for 7,500 square miles after it was illuminated with 40,000 watts of lighting. The Cross quickly became the most popular tourist attraction in Southern Illinois, attracting visitors from literally all over the world.

After the passing of the founders of the cross, it became the responsibility of a new generation. That generation held up the legacy for a decade or so, but as generations continued, interest waned in its existence. In a lot of ways, it was just “taken for granted.”

“If and when we wanted to go visit it, we (the community or visitors) just expected it would be there and that someone was taking care of it,” says Malcolm Todd, one of those involved in the project. As a result, the beloved “old friend” fell on hard times and nearly met its demise.

Fortunately, a wakeup call brought about the current project being carried out by two groups and many other volunteers to raise funds to restore Bald Knob Cross. In addition to interested parties serving on a Bald Knob Friends of the Cross board, the courts also established a Transition Board, headed by President

Bald Knob Cross is located southwest of Carbondale, Ill., just 5 miles off Illinois Route 127 near scenic Alto Pass, Ill. Bald Knob, rising 1,034 feet above sea-level, overlooks the Mississippi River flood plain and the beautiful Shawnee National Forest. The view from the top of Bald Knob is spectacular and breath-taking.



Steve McKeown, to proceed with this not-for-profit restoration of the cross.

Last year, about \$175,000 was raised and has provided for removal of exterior panels, structural engineering inspection, structural steel repair, rust and corrosion removal and rustproof painting of the structural steel framework. Contractors, engineers and architects have provided bids for work and materials that are well under the normal cost of doing business.

When complete, the base of the cross will be 4-inch thick, granite stone panels. The remainder of the cross will consist of a 4-inch thick, sandwiched panel of heavy gauge steel and polyurethane foam insulation painted a brilliant white with a Kynar paint, which resists fading. These panels will be solidly attached to the steel framework and have tongue and groove joints

with a weatherproof sealant. And lights will shine upon the panels, making it visible for many miles.

At this point in time, about \$150,000 is needed to complete all the work by this summer’s construction season — approximately July 2010.

The next major event of the Friends Board will be the 3rd Annual Crosswalk, June 12. Buses take folks to the top of Bald Knob for them to trek the 5 miles back down to town. Those interested can log-on to the website www.friendsofbaldknobcross.com for an application as well as for general information on our activities and contacts. You may also call Debbie Nash at 618-893-2612 or Ruby Lingle at 618-893-2314. For sending in applications or donations mail to Friends of the Cross, P.O. Box 81, Alto Pass, Ill. 62905.

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43 acres, Johnson County, Lake of Egypt, stocked ponds, newer double-wide mobile home, large machine shed. \$175,000. Call 217-493-3332.

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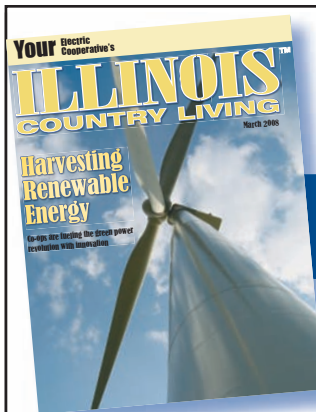
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Deadlines: August issue - June 21;
September issue - July 20.

We reserve the right to reject any advertisement. Ads postmarked after the deadline will be placed in the next available issue.

Buy a more efficient room A/C

Smart consumers can realize big savings

By Brian Sloboda, Cooperative Research Network

Cooling generally becomes the largest energy expense homeowners face during the summer. A room air conditioner may seem like an easy-to-install, low-cost way to add comfort to a home, but it's easy to waste energy and money in the process.

A room air conditioner, costing between \$100 and \$1,000, tends to last a long time with minimal maintenance, so selecting the right unit can save significant amounts of energy.

Room air conditioners rated by Energy Star, an energy efficiency program under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Energy, are at least 10 percent more efficient than the federal standard. An energy efficiency ratio (EER)-the ratio of the cooling capacity in British thermal unit's (Btu) per hour to the power input (in watts)-measures each unit's efficiency. The higher the EER rating, the more efficient the air conditioner will be. National appliance standards require room air conditioners built after January 1, 1990, to have a minimum EER of 8.0 or greater.

Energy Star-qualified units have advanced compressors, drawing more heat efficiently from the air than conventional compressors. The high-efficiency motors in these units use less energy to circulate air and run more quietly. However, they do cost slightly more. Energy savings depends on how often the unit operates.

Nationally, an average consumer saves approximately 76 kWh per year-about \$8-with an Energy Star-rated room unit. Residents in hot and humid states could save up to \$30 per year, while residents in cooler states may only save \$4. Over the life of the unit a consumer could save between \$50 and \$250, depending on the model and climate.

You should look for models with timers and programmable thermostats. These features offer better temperature control, allowing users to cool spaces according to their preferences.

Installing a room air conditioner is typically an easy job. Most units fit in a window. Another option is to create a custom opening in the wall. Large-capacity units often require a dedicated electrical circuit or may have specific wiring and breaker requirements. These units may need to be installed by a professional.



Room air conditioners come in a variety of sizes. Many people buy the largest unit they can afford, assuming more power is better. While that may be true in racing, it's not necessarily the case when buying an air conditioner. A unit that is too large will cool the room too quickly to properly remove all of the humidity, leaving the room feeling cool, but also wet and clammy.

If you are replacing an existing unit with a more efficient unit don't throw the old unit away. Air conditioners contain refrigerant that should be removed by a trained technician before the unit is recycled or thrown away. Contact a local solid waste organization for information on how to properly dispose of old air conditioners.

Before You Buy

Before buying a room air conditioner, take some easy and inexpensive energy-saving measures in your home. Any of these measures will maximize the cooling power of your air conditioner.

- Add caulk and weather stripping around doors and windows
- Add insulation to attics and exposed walls
- Move furniture or obstacles away from room air conditioners
- Close blinds or curtains during the day

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1-4, Beecher Fourth of July Celebration in Beecher. Carnival, food, raffles, live music, beer tent, bingo. Parade on July 4th. Something for everyone-bring the entire family! 708-946-2261.

2-4, Thee Old Time Farm Show at Perry Farm Park in Bradley. Learn about the early farm life through actual working tractors, threshers and steam engines from the past century. Stroll down the rows of old tractors and equipment, visit the operating exhibits of old gas engines, the steam engine, the sawmill, threshing and corn shelling. Ask the operators to explain their exhibits and learn about the agricultural equipment that is part of America's heritage. Contests, petting zoo, food concessions and live entertainment round out the activities. 815-935-7390.

3, Taste of Grayslake on Center Street in Grayslake. Fun and entertainment for the whole family. Fireworks at dusk. 847-223-6888.

3-4, Capital City Celebration in Downtown Springfield. Music, food and drink Saturday until midnight. Sunday, kick off at 3 p.m. with family fun, food and entertainment for all. Fireworks at dusk on Sunday. 217-544-1723.

3-4, Shenandoah Days Pro Rodeo at the Shenandoah Riding Center in Galena. Two rough riding rodeos. Free dance and fireworks each night after the rodeo. 815-777-2373.

3-4, Lakeside Music and Arts Festival at Lake Decatur/Nelson Park in Decatur. Art festival including glass, wood, photography, pottery/ceramic, sculpture, jewelry, painting and mixed media categories. Children's art shop and patriotic art project. Four entertainment stages spotlight local talent and fireworks show nightly. 217-422-2867.

3-5, "8 Miles of AG-TIQUES" in Orangeville. This event begins on Highway 26 north of Orangeville and runs 8 miles north to Monroe, Wisc. There will be different stops along the way, and each stop will feature different tractors including John Deere, Massey Harris, International Harvester, Oliver, Minneapolis-Moline, Allis Chalmers and other old machinery from the Good Old Days. There will be food, craft shows and fun. 815-281-4571.



3,10,17,24,31 Concerts in the Vineyard at Mackinaw Valley Vineyard in Mackinaw. Live music concerts performed Saturdays from 7-10:45 p.m. featuring local classic rock music groups. Bring your own folding chair or blanket for lawn seating or call to reserve a spot on the deck for a small fee. Pizza and cheese and crackers available or bring your own picnic. Admission is \$5 per person. www.mackinawvalleyvineyard.com or 309-359-WINE.

3, Southern Gospel Music at The Barn in Pana. Enjoy the Todd Allen Family at 7 p.m. Donations accepted. 217-562-3526, 217-539-4221 or www.thebarn-pana.com.

4, Salute to Freedom at the Mt. Vernon Airport in Mt. Vernon. Largest fireworks display for July 4th celebration in southern Illinois. 618-242-3150.

5-10, Dean's Bluegrass Reunion And Jam Session in Flora. The sound of Vigor, Virtue & Vitality. Come and enjoy an acoustic-only bluegrass jam. Everyone welcome and free admission to spectators. Camping is available on site in Charlie Brown Park and hotel accommodations available in Flora. 618-662-5646.

7,14, 21, & 28, Downs Village Market in Downs. Buy local produce, baked goods, honey, plants, crafts and other handmade items. Master gardeners will be available to answer your gardening questions. 309-378-4223 or 309-378-4294.

7-11, Morgan County Fair at the Morgan County Fairgrounds in Jacksonville. The 63rd Annual Morgan County Fair includes fun for the whole family! Carnival, entertainment, livestock judging and more. Saturday night performance by country star Craig Morgan, singer of hits "International Harvester," "Redneck Yacht Club" and "That's What I Love About Sunday." 217-243-5678.

8 & 22, Summer Community Nights in Fulton. 6 - 8 p.m. Relax and enjoy an old fashion community gathering during Fulton's summer night programs. Activities include games, music and food for all ages. Most activities are free. For information, contact the Fulton Chamber of Commerce at 815-589-4545 or www.cityoffulton.us.

9, Park 'N' Cruise on Macomb's Historic Downtown Square for an array of antique, vintage and muscle cars from as far away as Missouri and Wisconsin. Free entertainment, live bands and grilled sandwiches available, or check out one of the many great restaurants in downtown Macomb. All Cruises are from 6-9 p.m. www.macombareachamber.com

9-18, Fiesta Days in McHenry. One of the regions favorite family-oriented summer festivals. Top name entertainment, arts and crafts, midway rides and games, food fest, Family Faith Night and a parade. 815-385-4300.

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10, Farm Fun Day at the Galena Territory Marina in Galena. 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. A great program for kids that allows them to get a taste of agriculture by participating in several educational stations. Children can make their own ice cream, milk a cow, get up close to the farm animals, make a circle of earth bracelet, make butter and more. 815-858-2235.

10, Albion Pork Day USA in Downtown Albion. Imagine the best pork products you've ever tasted cooking on grills that stretch for hundreds of feet! Parades, crafts and entertainment also accompany this festival. 618-445-2303.

10, The 10th Annual Family Fun Day Play Day in Godfrey. An old fashioned day of family fun in the park. Carnival games, a washers tournament, dunking booth, climbing wall, an inflatable slide, music, the unveiling of the maze design and much more! 618-466-1483.

10, 14*, 15 & 16 The Galena Festival of the Performing Arts will be celebrating its 10th anniversary of bringing a series of concerts to the Mid-West region. All concerts are held at 7:30 p.m. at the Grace Episcopal Church on 309 Hill St., Galena, except for the Noon *library (Galena Public Library at 601 S. Bench Street) concert. Programs are subject to change. 815-777-9211 or ohmspam@yahoo.com

10-18, Jersey County Fair in Jerseyville. Food, merchandise, vendors and more. A weeklong annual county fair offering rare glimpses of livestock, agriculture competitions mixed with nightly entertainment. Don't miss the tractor and truck pulls, rodeo, demo derby and Queen competitions. Admission is \$2 per person, children under 13 free. 618-498-3422.

11, Summer And Strawberry Festival at Pere Marquette Lodge in Grafton. See how tasty summer can really be. Free. 618-786-2331.

13-18, Stephenson County Fair in Freeport. Old fashioned county fair, with food, carnival rides, animals, entertainment, tractor pulls, business displays, 4-H and more. 815-235-2918.

15-18, Old Settlers Days 2010 in Rockton. Bring the whole family for the parade, music, carnival rides, Trading Post, food booth, fireworks and more at this annual festival. Concerts include an all-star lineup from Country to Rock. 815-624-7625.

16-17, Chatham Jaycees Sweetcorn Festival at Chatham Community Park in Chatham. Illinois sweetcorn and cow chip throw contest are the main events at this traditional Midwestern summer festival. Complete with games, rides, food and entertainment. 217-414-2639.



16-18, East Central Illinois Antique Farm Equipment Club Annual Show at the Coles County Fairgrounds in Charleston. This year's feature tractor is the Minneapolis Moline. Enjoy a tractor parade, threshing demonstrations, antique tractor pulls, horse pulls, live music, flea markets and more. Free. 217-348-8898 or terrydale-farms@yahoo.com.

17, "A Few Good Murders," Murder Mystery Dinner Theater at Collver Family Winery in Barry. 217-335-3279.

17-18, Savanna Festival of Wheels Car Show and Craft Fest at the Savanna Depot Park north of Savanna. Free. Saturday: 100 percent payback Poker Run (\$5 per car) and Car Cruise in Mt. Carroll. Sunday: Festival of ANYTHING on WHEELS, Swap Meet and Craft and Flea Market. 563-451-7458 or sadmuseum@hotmail.com.

17-18, Heritage Days And Sweet Corn Dinner in Golden. Vendors, food, tours of mill and museum, talent contest, baby contest, parade and many other events to entertain you, plus a delicious sweet corn dinner. 217-445-3151.

17-18, The Seventh Annual Day At The Strip at the Mid American Air Center in Lawrenceville. Pre-registration by July 1st - \$25 (\$35 after July 1st) includes car show entry, SCCA autocross course (on Saturday if desired) and timed quarter-mile drag runs (on Sunday if desired), also two tickets for BBQ dinner on Sunday. T-shirt and dash plaques for first 150 registered. Activities start Saturday at 3 p.m. with a cruise-in and SCCA autocross course designed to test driver skill and vehicle handling. Sunday begins at 8 a.m. with registration, drive-thru judging, kids area, BBQ dinner and timed single run passes down the drag strip. Custom wooden trophies presented at 3 p.m. 618-943-3516.

18, Art and Wine Festival at Mackinaw Valley Vineyard in Mackinaw featuring local and regional Midwest artisans displaying and selling their artwork. The artists invited specialize in ceramics, glass, wood, jewelry, oil painting and fiber. Live music will be performed throughout the day and wine tasting will be available as well in our tasting room and new deck bar area. Free. www.mackinawvalleyvineyard.com or 309-359-WINE.

22 - 8/1, "Meet Me in St. Louis" at the Country Theatre Workshop in Cissna Park. 815-457-2626 or www.countrytheatre.org.

24, The Best of The Barn in Pana. 6 p.m. The Chosen Ones, One Voice Trio, The Patriots and Joanne Clark. Reserved Seating. Tickets \$15. At 4 p.m. enjoy a catered Kentucky fried chicken meal for \$7. 217-562-3526 or www.thebarn-pana.com.

31, Lincoln In Bloomington Festival at the David Davis Mansion, Vrooman Mansion, McLean County Museum of History, and the Burr House in Bloomington. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Enjoy a variety of activity ranging from traditional craft demonstrations, children's activities, period dancers, musical performances, period costumes and a flag-raising ceremony on the square. 309-827-0428.

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.

Deadline: June 15 for September Events. **Mail to:** Illinois Datebook, PO Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708. **E-mail to:** lrigoni@aiec.coop



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Jansen's Heating & Air
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