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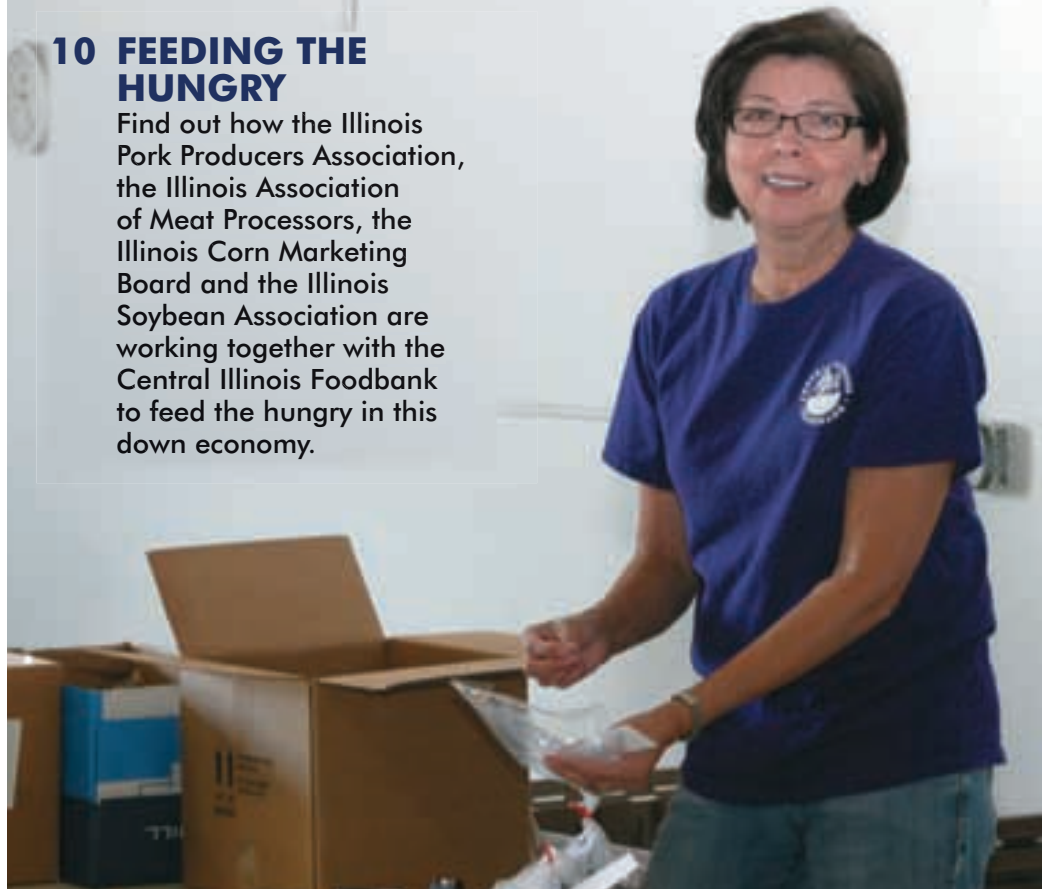
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The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives and 25 Illinois electric cooperatives are members of Touchstone Energy, a national alliance of 660 electric cooperatives. Touchstone Energy cooperative employees adhere to four core values — integrity,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

10 FEEDING THE HUNGRY

Find out how the Illinois Pork Producers Association, the Illinois Association of Meat Processors, the Illinois Corn Marketing Board and the Illinois Soybean Association are working together with the Central Illinois Foodbank to feed the hungry in this down economy.



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Recognition for female veterans

Women have always volunteered for military service

Since the founding of this great land, men have always been counted on and expected to defend the country, home and family. Women were not supposed to fight unless to defend their family. Guess what? Times have changed and definitely for the better. Very few are aware that several women, during the Civil War became combatants and fought. One of them was Mary Hays McCauley, better known as 'Molly Pitcher'. She carried water to cool the cannon that her husband was firing. After her husband became injured during the fighting, Mary picked up his ramrod and continued to fire his cannon, thus becoming one of the first combatants during that war. This strength of character has continued through the decades and subsequently led to what women are now doing today in combat.

They have always been volunteers. The draft was started just after World War II and ended after the Vietnam War, but only for men. Men are required to register with the Selective Service at 18 years of age, but not women. Women have ALWAYS VOLUNTEERED!!!

There are monuments and statues all over this country commemorating the different eras of war but very few strictly honor women for what they have sacrificed.

In 2009 Illinois DAR State Regent Luann Bruckner started a project that culminated with the second statue in Illinois honoring women military veterans. With the assistance of The American Legion of Illinois supplying donations for the base of the statue, it was dedicated on June 18 of this year at the C.E. Brehm Library in Mt. Vernon, Ill. Honoring women



veterans for what they have done and continue to do is something that has long been overlooked and way past due for recognition. That statue has the likeness of two women, past and present, Mary Hays McCauley and Major L. Tammy Duckworth. Tammy just happens to be from Illinois.

At present, after research, I have been able to find only 14 statues nationwide honoring female veterans and only five honor all women veterans. Two of those five are located in Illinois. The second one is at the Rock Island Arsenal National Cemetery.

When you look back at everything that women have done in the recent past (since 1900) many of us are not aware of just how much women have contributed to the war and how many there were. During WWI, 35,000; WWII, 400,000; Korea, (in theater) 1,000; Vietnam (in theater), 7,500; Grenada (deployed) 170; Panama, (deployed) 770 and Desert Storm (in theater), 41,000 and counting.

You can't imagine when I go to the VA Hospital and watch veterans going in and out of the different clinics that I don't see many women. That is because we've been conditioned to look for men as being the ones with injuries and illnesses, not women. They can be injured and become sick just as easily. They are out there doing what they are trained to do and going into combat with men. Maj. Duckworth is an example of what I am writing about. She almost lost her life in Iraq. She is a double amputee, but still serves in the Illinois Army National Guard. She still considers it her duty to serve her country. Patriotism does not come with a box to check for male or female. Believe me, women are just as passionate about this country as men.

In closing I would like to say that if you are a parent and your daughter is contemplating joining the military, help her with that decision. If she has already joined, encourage her to further her education while she is serving. When she leaves the military, have her take immediate advantage of the G.I Bill. It is a benefit she has earned. And last but not least, thank her for her service. She just gave a part of her life defending all of your freedoms.

Finally, to all of the women veterans in Illinois, I thank you for your service, and Welcome Home. ■

Richard Groharing is the Past Department Commander with the American Legion in Illinois. He continues to assist, wherever needed, to insure that all veterans get access to all of the benefits they are entitled.



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Leaders say rural broadband needed for jobs

At a House Agriculture Subcommittee on Rural Development field hearing hosted at the University of Illinois at Springfield by Committee Chairman Tim Johnson, R-Ill., leaders discussed the urgent need for expansion of rural broadband infrastructure.

Johnson said, "The Internet is supposed to be a great equalizer to break down the traditional barriers of distance. It drives economic growth. Improving rural broadband is one piece of arresting the decline in rural America."

Subcommittee Ranking Member Jim Costa, D-Calif., said that as Congress considers reauthorizing the 2012 farm bill, they would carefully consider the suggestions made at the hearing. Costa said, "As we look at the RUS rural telephone loan and loan guarantee program, the broadband loan program, ways to increase local control and challenges of startup businesses, Congress should strive to achieve a "level playing field."

Several co-op leaders testified before the hearing. Les Fowler, Government Affairs Manager for McDonough Telephone Cooperative, said that the Universal Service Fund and intercarrier compensation are crucial in deploying communications in rural areas. It's critical to maintain broadband loan programs and other communications programs at RUS, said Fowler.

Also testifying that the promise of the "smart grid" can't happen without broadband communications was Jay Bartlett, CEO of Prairie Power, Inc. Prairie Power is an Illinois generation and transmission cooperative that serves an area just slightly smaller than the combined area of New Jersey, Connecticut, Delaware and Rhode Island, yet it serves Illinois co-op members that equal slightly less than the



Sue Campbell, (left) Chief Executive Officer of the Community Memorial Hospital, Staunton Hospital in Staunton, discusses the need for rural broadband infrastructure with Jay Bartlett CEO of Prairie Power, Inc., before a Congressional field hearing on the role of broadband access in rural economic development. The hearing was hosted by U.S. Rep. Tim Johnson at the University of Illinois in Springfield.

population of Springfield, Ill. Bartlett helped build a fiber optic network in Springfield while working for the municipal utility there, and he understands both the huge economic benefit and the financial difficulty in building broadband infrastructure in sparsely populated areas served by co-ops.

It is just common sense that building rural broadband infrastructure will be expensive, says Bartlett. But equally clear is the need. He said, "There is no room for failure in the endeavor of keeping rural America economically stable. Telecommunications systems needed for our communities to thrive have not materialized. So, we have elected to go it on our own." ■

Purple Paint Law

Senate Bill 1914, dubbed the Purple Paint Law, allows land-owners or lessees to use purple paint to mark trees or posts on their property to serve as a "no trespassing" notice. The law does

not include real property in municipalities with populations exceeding 2,000,000 residents. Until January 1, 2013, land-owners must still continue to properly convey "no trespassing"

notices, in addition to the purple paint. For more information, visit the Illinois Department of Natural Resources www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/Pages/PublicAct97-0477.aspx. ■

Illinois co-ops back copper theft bill

Property used by utilities would be off-limits for Illinois scrap dealers, under a copper theft bill making its way through the state legislature with co-op support.

Sellers would have to show written authorization to sell copper that is “associated with use by governments, utilities, or railroads” under the measure introduced Sept. 29.

The bill would also require dealers to record all transactions, eliminating the state’s existing \$100 threshold. Cash payments would be eliminated, with sellers being paid by check three business days after a transaction. And anyone with a felony drug conviction would be banned from selling metal for 10 years.

While much of the onus would be on recyclers, the bill’s sponsor, state Rep. Mike Unes, stressed that they are not being singled out.

“The intent of this is not to hurt them. The intent is to hurt the criminal and deter the criminal from stealing,” Unes said.

Tazewell County Sheriff Robert Huston said that so far this year, his office has dealt with more than three dozen cases of metal theft. Huston said if the proposed law had been on the books two years ago, “our job would have been much easier, and these crimes may have been prevented by reducing the incentive for the criminals to commit them.”

Co-ops in the state have been victimized by copper thieves, so the bill has the backing of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

“The electric co-ops of Illinois sincerely appreciate Rep. Unes for sponsoring this bill,” said Duane Noland, president/CEO of the statewide.

“Almost all of the Illinois electric cooperatives have been impacted by this epidemic of copper theft,” Noland said. Just two weeks ago, EnerStar Power in Paris, Ill., was broken into.

“Approximately \$3,000 in salvaged copper wire was stolen,” Noland said. “To add insult to the break-in, the thieves used a co-op truck to haul the wire a few miles from the office where they abandoned the truck.”

“In addition to the cost and safety issues,” Noland added, “now that copper thieves are breaking into co-op property, there is a new security concern.” ■

Source: Electric Co-op Today, Michael W. Kahn



Illinois state Rep. Mike Unes (left) and Tazewell County Sheriff Robert Huston are looking to crack down on copper thieves. (Photo By: Rep. Mike Unes’ Office)

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE — STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION (Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

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/s/John Lowrey

Defense Department speeds clean energy move

The U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) is accelerating clean energy innovations to reduce risks to the military, enhance energy security, and save money, according to a report released September 21 by The Pew Charitable Trusts. DOD's clean energy investments increased 300 percent to \$1.2 billion between 2006 and 2009.

DOD's priorities for energy efficiency and renewable energy sources have been driven by recent experience in Iraq and Afghanistan, where fuel shipments account for 80 percent of all supply convoys. The report finds that DOD's major energy challenges include risks associated with transporting liquid fuels to the battlefield, growing oil price volatility, the impact of fuel dependence on operational effectiveness, and compliance with federal energy policies.



The Pew report documents how DOD is helping accelerate the development and deployment of clean energy technologies in three key areas: vehicle efficiency, advanced biofuels, and energy efficiency and renewable energy at bases. DOD spending to harness clean energy technologies for air, land, and sea vehicles is projected to grow to \$2.25 billion annually by 2015.

The branches of the military are also embracing the use of advanced biofuels. For example, the Air Force intends to use biofuels for 50 percent of its domestic aviation needs by 2016, and the department is speeding up research and testing of biofuels. And, DOD is looking to improve energy efficiency in its more than 500,000 buildings and structures at 500 major installations around the world. ■

Tree killing beetle found in southern Illinois

A destructive pest that feasts on ash trees has been confirmed in two new Illinois counties. The emerald ash borer (EAB) recently was discovered just north of Salem in Marion County and at the Green Creek Rest Area on Interstate 57 in Effingham County.

The beetle now has been confirmed in 20 counties in Illinois, with the latest detections being the first time the insect has been located in southern Illinois.

The emerald ash borer is a small, metallic-green beetle native to Asia.

Its larvae burrow into the bark of ash trees, causing the trees to starve and eventually die.

EAB is a sneaky traveler, which is why it is important that everyone, even in those counties not currently inside the quarantine zone, put the quarantine guidelines into practice by keeping all firewood and untreated wood products from movement outside of its county of origin, said Warren Goetsch, Illinois Department of Agriculture Bureau Chief of Environmental Programs.

The emerald ash borer is difficult to detect, especially in newly-infested trees. Citizens should watch for metallic-green beetles about half the diameter of a penny on or near ash trees that are showing signs of disease or stress.

Since the emerald ash borer was first confirmed in the Midwest in the summer of 2002, more than 25 million ash trees have been felled by the beetle. Anyone who suspects a tree has been infested is urged to contact either their county Extension office or village forester. For more information, visit www.IllinoisEAB.com. ■



Signs of emerald ash borer infestation in ash trees include D-shaped holes in the bark of the trunk or branches and shoots growing from its base.



It's Their Day

Veterans Day. Is it a day off from work or a day to remember those who have sacrificed so much for our freedom? Our soldiers are fathers, mothers, sons and daughters. This Veterans Day, honor them with the respect they deserve.



Association of Illinois
Electric Cooperatives

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A person wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and a red apron is shown from the waist up, holding a large cardboard box. The box is filled with several cans of food. The person's hands are visible, one resting on the top edge of the box and the other on the side. The background is a solid teal color.

Feeding the Illinois Hungry

*Farmers and Central Illinois
Foodbank partner for hunger relief*

By Kaleigh Friend

Warehouse staff Phillip Walker helps an agency load in its food order.



The ground trembles with the ignition of box truck engines. Forklifts beep as they whizz by, moving pallets of food onto trucks. It is morning at the Foodbank and food is moving out as trucks roll in.

A walk through the warehouse at Central Illinois Foodbank may surprise you as you pass through aisles of towering pallets. Nearly as astounding as the sheer volume of food held at the Foodbank is the reality that the equivalent of the entire storage of the warehouse, 700,000 pounds, will have rotated out to the Foodbank's 21-county service area in a month's time. Because of the very limited warehouse space in comparison to the large volume of food, the products must move quickly.

Established in 1982 by a coalition

of churches, Central Illinois Foodbank now operates out of a 22,000 square foot warehouse in Springfield, distributing over eight million pounds of food annually to about 150 agencies in central Illinois. The Foodbank is a member of Feeding America, the nation's largest domestic hunger relief organization.

As the economy continues to lag, the number of people seeking aid has increased. The Foodbank has noticed an increase of 40 percent on average over the past two years. With this greater need comes an increased

demand for food. That's where donations come to the rescue.

The Pork Power program began full scale in 2008 in coordination with major partners including the Illinois Pork Producers Association (IPPA), the Illinois Association of Meat Processors, the Illinois Corn Marketing Board, and the Illinois Soybean Association. Since its inception, Pork Power has provided over 200,000 pounds of pork to hungry families in Illinois.

The donation process takes the pig from the farm to the family. Pork

Pork producer Phil Borgic shows Kaleigh Friend how the stalls work within the hog shed.



producers can take donated pigs to cooperating processing facilities where they will be made into 2-pound ground pork packages. The slaughter fee is waived at the processing plant for all donated pigs, and after processing, the meat is distributed to the eight foodbanks in the state through

Feeding Illinois. Pork producers then get a form for their donation and a receipt from the Foodbank for tax deduction purposes.

One farmer from central Illinois knows the donation process inside and out. Phil Borgic is a local pork producer and former president of

the IPPA who has been a part of the Pork Power program since the beginning. As a member of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative and a resident of Montgomery County, Borgic's farm in Nokomis has been a family operation since his parents purchased it in 1955. He and his wife Karen now own the farm and have been in the pork producing business for more than 30 years.

His farm, made up of 275 acres, includes grain bins, environmentally-controlled hog sheds and about 200 acres of corn used for feed. The temperature-controlled facility sees about 80,000 pigs each year with almost 250 piglets born each day.

Borgic has always donated pigs locally, so being an early adopter of the Pork Power program was no surprise. Just within the last year, he has donated 17 pigs for a total donation of about 5,000 pounds of meat. Borgic said he encourages other producers

Get involved with the Foodbank

1. Hold a fundraiser
2. Organize a food drive
3. Collect non-food items
4. Volunteer at a mobile pantry

Contact the Foodbank at 217-522-4022 or kfriend@centralilfoodbank.org.

If this Foodbank doesn't serve your area, locate a local pantry and donate some food.

to get on board with the program, but there are not as many producers as there were 10 years ago. As the economy has worsened, many producers have chosen to exit the market.

Borgic has managed to stick with it, and since graduating from the University of Illinois where he studied Agricultural Economics, he has been dedicated to farming in the same way his parents did before him. The aspect of being a pork producer that Borgic most enjoys is the birthing process which brings new life to the farm. It is also the most labor-intensive, but is the most rewarding experience in his opinion.

When it comes time to make a donation, it takes a conscious effort on the behalf of the pork producer. Most issues relate to ensuring health and safety standards when donating pigs. Logistically, it can be difficult to take just a few animals to the packer because of post-transportation – the trailers must be disinfected to ensure sanitation. Producers then cannot re-enter the sheds for the rest of the day because of possible traces of infectious bacteria on shoes and hands picked up at the processing center.

There are some other options, however. Producers can also contribute by donating pigs/sows at marketing locations that will be sent to the nearest participating processor. Or they may donate the cash value of any pigs/sows sold at marketing locations where the money will be sent to IPPA to be used to purchase pork for the fall donation.

The IPPA usually presents the fall donation near the end of the year when all of the money from producers and donations are collected. The IPPA then purchases a large quantity of pork



Volunteers Sylvia Miller, Karen Shaub, and John Smith help repackage donated chocolates for distribution.

and presents it to Feeding Illinois, who distributes it to the eight state-wide foodbanks. Last year's donation totaled nearly 45,000 pounds.

As for obstacles for the pork producer in general, it's certainly no easy job. One of the biggest challenges as a pork producer, Borgic says, is managing the costs, and 60 percent of those costs come from feed for the animals. The pigs' diet consists largely of corn, and as corn prices become increasingly volatile, the more expensive it is for the producer to feed his/her pigs.

At the end of the day, Borgic knows it's worth the hard work and obstacles. He's seen the food move from the farm to the family, and has been to Central Illinois Foodbank several times to see the process come full circle. At the Foodbank, he was impressed by the sheer quantity of food within the warehouse, and the fact that nearly 700,000 pounds are distributed every three to four weeks. "Getting quality protein to these families is so important," Borgic said. "The Pork Power program participants do whatever they can every day to take care of their animals and make sure

there is protein available for families who can't afford it."

In his own community, he has seen people and organizations work together to actively battle hunger. Both the need and the number of families seeking aid has increased in the past five years, and members of the community have worked together to fight rural hunger. Within Montgomery County, there are eight agencies working to feed families in coordination with Central Illinois Foodbank.

In your community, there are ways to contribute as well. You can plant an extra row in your garden to donate, create a fundraising challenge among co-workers and friends, or host a food drive. Donations from corporations and associations down to the local community member make all the difference. Hunger exists 365 days a year, and no matter how big or small the contribution, it makes a world of difference to families in need.

Kaleigh Friend is the Public Relations Manager at the Central Illinois Foodbank.

Heaters and blankets:

Keep electric ones close but not too close

It was 4 a.m. and she was asleep in her Lanesborough, Mass., mobile home. The cold March temperatures required an electric space heater to provide enough heat. But it did more than asked for and set fire to a couch that was just too close. The occupant of the mobile home escaped with only minor burns, but she watched her home go up in flames in the \$40,000 fire.

The tragic lesson that she learned was to keep the heater away from drapes, furniture or other flammable materials, and to place the heater on a level surface away from areas where someone might bump it and knock it over.

Space heaters and electric blankets may provide needed comfort, but they can also be deadly if they are not used with care. A Centreville, Va., man died from smoke inhalation and thermal burns in a fire, which inspectors blamed on an electric heater and an electric blanket which were too close to combustible materials.

Authorities express concern about blankets that are more than 10 years old, since their wiring can be damaged by creasing, flexing, fraying and ordinary wear and tear. Their suggestion is to replace any electric blanket that is worn or torn, where the electric cord is frayed or where the temperature control is damaged. They also advise turning your electric blanket off when not in use. Many older models have no internal temperature control to shut the blanket off when it gets too hot; if your blanket has no such internal control, consider replacing it with a newer model.

Some other tips include refraining from using more than one electric blanket (or heating pad) at a time. The heat generated by the combined appliances can cause serious burns.



And do not plug your electric blanket into an outlet that is controlled by a light switch; the blanket could be switched on accidentally. Unplug your blanket if you smell smoke or if any scorching is evident; discoloration of the blanket may indicate that it is burning internally.

Although it cannot be seen, the heating element in an electric blanket is fragile. Do not pile toys, pillows, blankets, or other materials on top of an electric blanket or tuck electric blankets underneath mattresses or other items; excessive heat may build up to the point where the blanket could ignite. Do not sit or lay on top of an electric blanket; this may damage the blanket's internal coils and expose the heating element to combustible fabric. And finally, never ball up an electric blanket and leave it on; excessive heat may allow the blanket to ignite.

Never wash an electric blanket; the twisting, tugging, and turning action of the washing machine will damage the internal coils. Do not dry clean electric blankets; the chemicals used

in the cleaning process may damage the heating insulation and increase the risk of fire. Never use an electric blanket that is wet; do not turn an electric blanket on to dry it out. Refrain from using electric blankets and hot water bottles together.

After using the blanket, it should be stored flat. If that is not possible, roll it up or fold it with as few creases as possible; be careful when folding the blanket to protect the internal coils. Replace any blanket where the embedded heating wires have been displaced or damaged. Check by holding the blanket up to light; the wires should be evenly spaced and not touch each other anywhere. If you have any doubt about its safety, discontinue using it, or use it as a regular blanket, without plugging it in.

Space heaters do have to be energized to work, but common sense and safety should prevail in their use. When buying a space heater, look for one that has been tested and labeled by a nationally recognized testing facility. Also keep the heater at least 3 feet away from drapes, furniture or anything that might catch fire. If an extension cord is required, ensure that it is a heavy duty cord marked with a power rating at least as high as the heater. And never leave a space heater unattended or running while you sleep.

For more information and videos on electrical safety, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.

Molly Hall is the Director of Safe Electricity. E-mail molly-hall@SafeElectricity.org. Safe Electricity is a public awareness program of the Energy Education Council www.EnergyEdCouncil.org.



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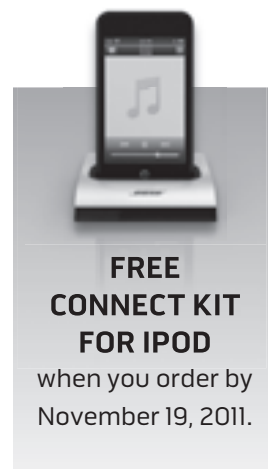
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Beware of tiny home invaders

How to keep the creepy crawlies out in the cold this winter



As the temperature cools and the sweaters come out of storage, we think how warm and snuggled in we will be for the winter months. Yet, we are not alone.

There are many creatures outdoors that would prefer our temperatures instead of the subzero we're bound to get.

Insects are cold-blooded creatures and that is why you find few in the shade. Most prefer the full sun where they can soak up the rays.

And when it gets cold, they have only a few options.

First, they can head south like the geese, though most don't.

Second, they can go into the reproductive stage with the females laying eggs that will survive during the winter. That's what many aphids and bagworms do with the latter hanging on to the tree and the former laying eggs in cracks, crevices or any other location.

Third, the insect can bury itself deep in the ground, usually below the frost line. They may not feed, but at least they won't be killed by penetrating cold.

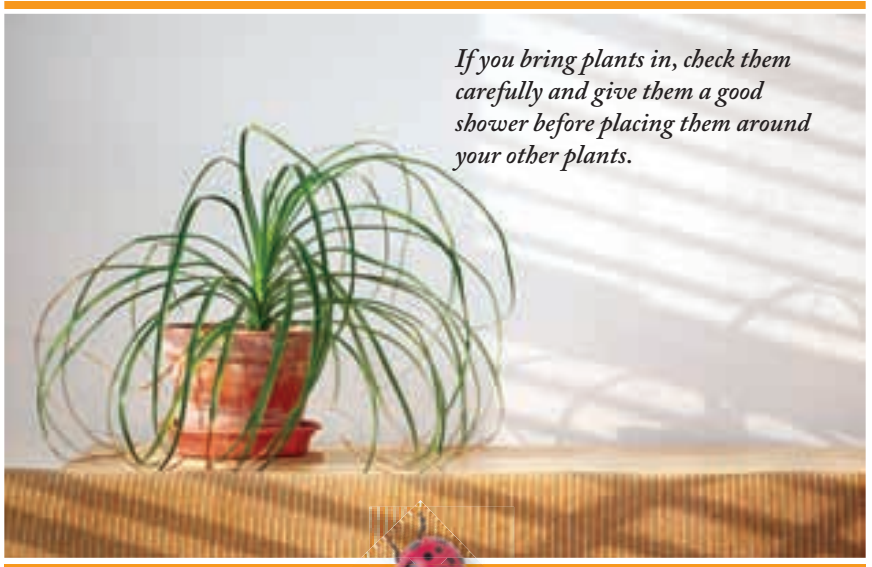
In this category are most of the grubs, though the Japanese beetle grub doesn't move as fast as other grubs and can get caught with deep cold. Don't shed a tear on them, though.

Some will burrow into a tree, or pupate, resting between the larva and adults stages.

Finally, and the most annoying, many will try to find some form of warmth, and that usually means our homes.

The big three are probably spiders, crickets and lady beetles, though spiders aren't technically insects since they have eight legs.

The Asian multi-spotted lady beetle is probably the most annoying. They will bite if you stick your hands too close. They'll ooze a blood-like substance from their joints that stinks up the place. In other words, they have



If you bring plants in, check them carefully and give them a good shower before placing them around your other plants.

great defense mechanisms to prevent other creatures from feeding on them.

Spiders may or may not bite. Most prefer the dark damp confines of the basement. When lights come on, they scurry away to some corner or under some box.

Crickets are plain annoying, with their chirping popping up at 2 in the morning when you're sleeping.

The good news with the last two is that they'll die out with no food sources, though it may take a month or two. A good cat will go into search mode when crickets sound, though they usually will only eat part of them, leaving the carcass someplace, which usually is in a pair of shoes.

These creatures don't magically transport themselves inside. You probably bring some in when you bring cushions, pots, chairs and garden hoses from outdoors inside for the winter. Check them thoroughly. Rinse the outside of pots off. If you bring plants in, check them carefully and give them a good shower before placing them around your other plants.

Sadly, most insects and related creatures enter through cracks and crevices in the foundation and siding. They might squeeze through dryer vents or around pipes that aren't caulked well. Which means, besides them coming in, your heat is escaping.

Weatherproofing is one of the best ways to prevent these little invaders. Insulate around windows and outlets. Keep doors and windows securely closed and tight. Make sure screens are repaired with no gaps around the window frame.

If you still have problems, keep your vacuum cleaner out with the wand attachment on. Suck up the bugs in the bag. They won't escape. But don't forget to empty the bag monthly so it doesn't start smelling of decomposing little creatures. ■

David Robson is Extension Specialist, Pesticide Safety for the University of Illinois. drobson@illinois.edu





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Tinting: Not just for your car windows

Well, the summer of 2011 has gone on record as one of the hottest ever in our state. Just like many of you, we received the highest electric bill that we have ever received. Every month I try to teach you ways to keep your utility bills as low as possible. Remember that most energy efficiency tips are attempts to lower the heating and cooling costs of the house. As I am always looking for ways to help you do just that, I had the opportunity this summer to find another affordable tool for your energy efficiency arsenal. It is window tinting. I actually looked at window tinting years ago, but I didn't like the fact that it seemed to have to be silver, gold, or really dark to work very well.

Both of our automobiles have tinted glass and I knew that they were more comfortable and better on the eyes than most of the rental cars that I had used where the glass was not tinted. So, it put me to thinking.

This past spring I was conducting a seminar for Ozarks Electric Cooperative in Fayetteville, Ark. After the meeting, a fellow asked me why I didn't tell folks about the benefits of window tinting. I told him I really didn't know that much about the subject and I had doubts about window tinting meeting all the claims that I had heard. He gave me a nice package of material from 3M, a well-known company. I told him I would read the material. I did and was impressed with the claims, but I remained cautious, as experience has taught me that many claims are just sales pitches. But I thought, 3M is a large and well-respected company, the warranty looks great, and if it performs anywhere near as good as it claims, I want to give it a try.

So I called a dear friend who performs energy audits on a daily basis and asked him to find a house that might benefit by installing window tinting. He found the perfect house. It was a 2,000-square-foot brick veneer house



with eight-foot ceilings and about an equal number of windows on all sides of the house. The windows were single-hung aluminum with double-glazing and in good condition. The lady of the house said she couldn't use the dining room on the really hot days because of the extreme heat coming through the west windows, and that she couldn't enjoy her morning view of the mountains because of the heat through the east windows.

Let's make the rest of the story short. I called the company and asked if they would do one house to prove that their product works as claimed. They said "yes."

We met the crew at the house to measure the windows. It was 100 degrees at noon. The house thermostat was set on 75 degrees but the house stayed at 80 degrees. We met the next day to install tinting. It was 102 degrees at noon.

Tinting was installed on all windows. The temperature where the sun was hitting the carpet went down about 10 degrees. The house temperature went down about 5 degrees, which is huge on a hot summer day. The claim was that the tinting would reject 56 percent of the total solar energy, 97 percent of the infrared rays, and 99 percent of the UV rays, which practically eliminates fading. You could not tell by looking that

there was tinting, but there was much less glare. I believe it passed the test. The house was more comfortable and as the lady of the house said, "I got my room and view back." If your windows are still in good condition, this may be an affordable energy solution for you.

Another success story with 3M tinting recently took place during the 2010 Energy Efficiency Makeover sponsored by the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas. The home of Bill and Mary Quilhot of Gassville, Ark., won the grand prize and as part of the energy efficiency makeover, the couple's prized picture window, which provides a view of their beautifully landscaped yard and nearby woods, was tinted. An infrared thermal imaging camera showed that the tinting reduced the heat gain inside the house by 15 percent. I hope this gives you yet another energy efficiency option for your home. And, as always, you may call me for more information at 501-653-7931.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING! ■

Doug Rye can be heard on several different Illinois radio stations. You can go to Doug Rye's Web site at www.dougrye.com, e-mail him at info@philliprye.com, or call 501-653-7931.



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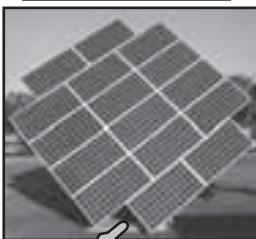
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Cooperative helps museum cut expenses

— *Stories by Brenda Rothert*

It takes a lot of electricity to power a sprawling three-story museum with exhibits that span centuries. But these days, it takes a lot less than it used to.

Dickson Mounds Museum Director Dr. Michael Wiant said he and the staff at the rural Lewistown museum took a comprehensive look at energy consumption when he became director in 2003. He was “astonished” by the museum’s high usage. He immediately met with representatives of Spoon River Electric Cooperative, the museum’s electricity supplier, and Prairie Power, Inc., the cooperative that supplies Spoon River’s electricity.

Wiant found out that an interruptible rate was available. The rate, available

to members with higher usage, is lower, but it allows for the cooperative to tell the member to significantly lower usage during peak alerts.

Drawing 240 kilowatt-hours at full load, the museum staff had to find a way to cut down to 40 kWh when needed and keep the museum open. They did, and in the process they also identified many other ways to save energy.

Exhibit lighting was redesigned. Motion sensors were added to exhibit areas. The boilers were even adjusted to run more efficiently.

“We did have peak alerts and we learned we could handle it,” Wiant said. “It has been a substantial savings.”

Now everyone who works at the museum is aware of the savings

achieved even with small changes, like always turning off the lights when they leave a room, keeping blinds closed and powering down computers when not in use. For a museum focused on providing a quality experience to its visitors, these changes free up more money for improving exhibits.

“If it means the staff wears sweaters, that’s a great trade in my view,” said Wiant.

The impetus for the changes, both big and small, was the effort to work with the museum’s cooperative, Wiant said.

“It all began with Spoon River Electric Cooperative, who said, ‘You know what, we can work together.’”



Prairie Power Manager of Marketing and Economic Development Aaron Ridenour, left, Dickson Mounds Museum Director Dr. Michael Wiant and Spoon River Electric Cooperative Manager of Engineering Mark Balbinot stand outside the museum with an energy-efficient LED exit sign. Prairie Power donated 50 exit signs to the museum, which are projected to drop the cost of power for the signs from more than \$1,700 annually to less than \$100.



Dickson Mounds Museum Director Dr. Michael Wiant gestures as he leads a tour of the museum recently. Tours of the museum are available to large and small groups and can be scheduled by calling the museum at (309) 547-3721. Museum admission is free.

Artifacts on display at Dickson Mounds Museum in rural Lewistown have been excavated from the area around the museum, which is rich in ancient pieces of pottery, weapons and tools used by American Indians and French explorers.



Discovery still intrigues

The curiosity of a chiropractor more than 80 years ago led to the stunning discovery of the remains of 230 American Indians, interred around 900 years ago.

Dr. Don Dickson began digging in an ancient burial mound on his family farm in 1927. He did not remove the bones or artifacts he discovered, but moved the earth away to expose them. As the scope of Dickson's discoveries increased, he covered the excavation with a tent, and later with a building. To support his operation, he opened the burial to the public with an admission charge. More than 90,000 people visited in the first two years.

The Dickson site was later sold to the state of Illinois, and in 1972, the present building was opened. It was constructed around the mound and

includes three full floors of exhibit space. The museum's attendance remained high, with people coming from near and far to get a close-up look at the burial exhibit.

But times changed for Dickson Mounds Museum in 1990. A controversy arose over the efforts of museum staff to close the burial exhibit to public view. American Indian activists felt it was inappropriate to display the bones of their ancestors. The controversy drew nationwide attention and eventually became political. The burial was closed to the public in April 1992, and the museum was redesigned and reopened later that year.

Today Dr. Michael Wiant is the director of the museum. Some still lament the closing of the burial, he said.

"There is a lot of memory – positive memory – that what people saw here was engaging," he said.

To bridge the gap between the divergent opinions on the burial, museum staffers have developed a new exhibit that digitally recreates the positions of the remains and artifacts in the burial exhibit. Wiant envisions a touch-screen exhibit that will allow visitors to learn more about the lives and deaths of the people in the burial than ever before.

Nestled in the scenic Illinois River Valley next to the Nature Conservancy's massive wetland restoration called The Emiquon Preserve, Wiant said the museum continues to evolve as a place for reflection and education about the hundreds of generations who called the area home.

"We have a big story here," he said.

Country Cookin'

Who: Nortonville Community Club

Cost: \$20, including shipping

Details: soft-backed, spiral-bound

Pages of recipes: 247

Send checks to: Shawn Crow,
2287 Nortonville Road, Murrayville, IL 62668
or call 217-882-4430

Cranberry-Vanilla Chip Cookies (above)

1/2 C. butter, softened
1-1/3 C. sugar
2 eggs
1 tsp. butter flavored extract
1 C. dried cranberries
1-3/4 C. flour
1 C. quick oats
1-1/2 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. salt
2/3 C. vanilla chips

Mix butter and sugar together until fluffy. Add eggs and butter extract. Add flour, oats, baking soda and salt. Mix well. Stir in cranberries and chips. Drop onto a greased cookie sheet and bake at 350 degrees for 12-14 minutes.

Sausage-Rice Casserole

1-1/2 lb. bulk sausage
1 med. onion, chopped
1 C. celery, chopped
1 green pepper, chopped
1 C. uncooked rice
4-1/2 C. boiling water
2 pkgs. Lipton noodle soup
1 C. slivered almonds

Brown sausage. Remove from pan and set aside. Saute vegetables. Add soup to boiling water and allow to cook for 7 minutes. Mix all ingredients together. Pour into a casserole dish and bake at 325 degrees for 1-1/2 hours.

Squash Pudding

3 eggs
3/4 C. sugar
Pinch of salt
1/2 tsp nutmeg
1-1/2 C. milk
2 T. honey or molasses
1 T. flour
1 tsp. ginger
1-1/2 C. squash, peeled and chopped
2 T. butter

Mix all ingredients together well. Pour into a casserole dish and bake for 1 hour and 15 minutes at 350 degrees.

Ranch Potatoes

4 lg. potatoes
1/4 C. sour cream
1 C. Cheddar cheese, shredded
1/2 C. milk
1 pkg. dry ranch dressing mix
4 green onions, finely chopped
4-oz. cream cheese, softened
1/2 C. onion, finely chopped
1/2 C. bacon, cooked and crumbled
1/4 tsp. salt

Bake potatoes in the microwave for 10 minutes. Set aside to cool. Combine sour cream, cream cheese and 1/2 C. onion in a large bowl. Add half of the Cheddar cheese, salt and bacon. When potatoes are cool enough to handle, scoop out pulp and add to sour cream mixture. Stir in milk and ranch dressing mix. Grease an 11x17-inch baking dish. Spread potato mixture in the pan. Bake uncovered for 30 minutes. Sprinkle remaining cheese, bacon and green onion on top and continue to bake an additional 5 minutes or until cheese is melted.

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

Photos by Catrina McCulley Wagner

Great Pumpkin Cookies

- 2 C. flour
- 1 C. uncooked quick oats
- 1 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 C. butter or margarine
- 1 C. firmly packed brown sugar
- 1 C. granulated sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 C. Libby's pumpkin
- 1 C. semi-sweet chocolate chips

Combine flour, oats, baking soda, cinnamon and salt. Cream butter, add sugars, beat until light and fluffy. Add egg and vanilla, mix well. Alternate dry and wet ingredients, mixing well after each addition. Stir in chips. Drop onto cookie sheet and bake for 10-15 minutes at 350 degrees.

Gluten Free Pizza Rice Casserole

- 1/2 C. rice, cooked
- 1-1/2 C. cottage cheese
- 3/4 lb. ground beef
- 1 med. onion, chopped
- 2 C. tomato sauce
- 1/4 tsp. garlic salt
- 1 tsp. sugar
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 dash pepper
- 1/4 tsp. oregano
- 1 tsp. parsley flakes
- 1/2 C. shredded Mozzarella cheese

Combine cottage cheese and rice together and set aside. Brown ground beef and onion together. Drain. Add tomato sauce, garlic salt, sugar, salt, pepper, oregano and parsley flakes. Cover and simmer for 15 minutes. Spread 1/3 of the rice/cottage cheese mixture into the bottom of a buttered 9x13-inch casserole dish. Top with 1/3 of the tomato sauce mixture. Continue to alternate layers ending with tomato sauce layer. Sprinkle with cheese and bake at 325 degrees for 30 minutes or until hot and bubbly.

Gluten Free Scandinavian Salad (right)

- 1 sm. bag frozen peas
- 1 sm. bag frozen white corn
- 1 (16-oz.) can green beans
- 1 C. chopped red onion
- 1 sm. jar diced pimentos
- 1 C. sugar
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 C. vegetable oil
- 1/2 C. white wine vinegar
- 1/2 tsp. pepper

Drain green beans and pimentos. Combine all ingredients together and chill for 24 hours. Freezes well.



Chicken Crunch

Who: Valley Evangelical Covenant Church of Stillman Valley, IL

Cost: \$13, including shipping

Details: soft-backed, spiral-bound

Pages of recipes: 113

Send checks to: Judy Jolly,
319 South Maple St., Stillman Valley, IL 61084
or call 815-645-2502

Chicken Crunch (above)

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1/2 C. chicken broth | 1 C. diced celery |
| 1/4 C. diced yellow onion | 1 C. sliced mushrooms |
| 1 (15-oz.) can sliced water chestnuts, drained | 1 pkg. frozen baby carrots, thawed |
| 1 (3-oz.) can chow mein noodles | 1 pkg. frozen broccoli, thawed |
| 1 (10-oz.) can cream of mushroom soup | 3 C. cooked, diced chicken |
| 1 (10-oz.) can cream of chicken soup | 1/2 C. sliced almonds |

Mix chicken broth, onion, water chestnuts, chow mein noodles, soups, vegetables and chicken together and pour into a large casserole dish. Sprinkle with almonds and bake for 1 hour at 350 degrees.



Gluten Free Scandinavian Salad

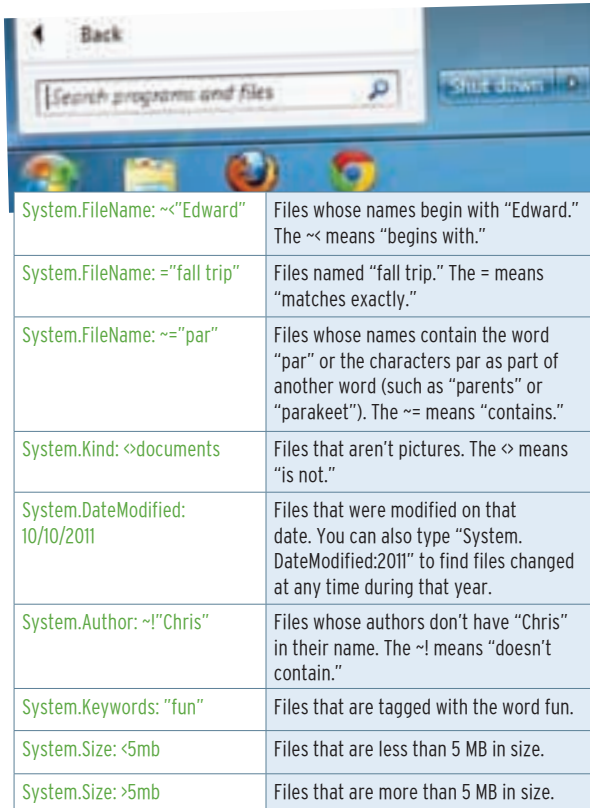
Land of the lost files

It's Monday and you just got a new computer. Luckily, your files were all transferred over without incident. However, as you begin to organize your new workspace you quickly realize that over the last few years you've amassed a large amount of data, and you don't really remember where everything is stored. And, at this moment, you need a file from last year so that you can save yourself a ton of work in completing a report your boss wants by Wednesday. When you look, you just can't seem to locate the file.

I find myself presented with cases like this one all the time. For various reasons, people just have trouble organizing and finding files on their computers. Believe me, I'm no different! However, I have learned some tricks to finding things. I'm going to share a few of those tips with you in this column. Keep in mind that the tips you're going to see here will most definitely work in Windows 7. And, they should work in other operating systems, but you may find that they won't work in all. All of the tips below involve typing information in a search box. The search box that you will most generally use is located in the start menu, just above the start button you use to open the menu.

Adding operators

One simple way to refine a search is to use the operators AND, OR and NOT. When you use these operators, you need to type them in all capital letters. That way you won't be searching for the actual words "and, or and not" themselves. For example, if you type squirrel AND tree your search will only return files that



System.FileName: ~<"Edward"	Files whose names begin with "Edward." The ~< means "begins with."
System.FileName: ="fall trip"	Files named "fall trip." The = means "matches exactly."
System.FileName: ~="par"	Files whose names contain the word "par" or the characters par as part of another word (such as "parents" or "parakeet"). The ~=" means "contains."
System.Kind: <documents	Files that aren't pictures. The < means "is not."
System.DateModified: 10/10/2011	Files that were modified on that date. You can also type "System.DateModified:2011" to find files changed at any time during that year.
System.Author: ~!"Chris"	Files whose authors don't have "Chris" in their name. The ~! means "doesn't contain."
System.Keywords: "fun"	Files that are tagged with the word fun.
System.Size: <5mb	Files that are less than 5 MB in size.
System.Size: >5mb	Files that are more than 5 MB in size.

Here are some of the keywords associated with specific search filters. Left-hand column is the search filter. Just type it in. The right-hand column is the explanation.

contain both words. If you type in squirrel NOT tree, then you will only see files that contain the word squirrel without the presence of the word tree. Finally, if you type in squirrel OR tree, you will get files that contain either one. The last example can also return files that have both words in them.

Nesting

What happens when you need to look for a phrase? The easiest way to accomplish this is by nesting items in your search. Nesting is accomplished by using quotation marks around the phrase. For instance, you want to find some photos you've stored of the St. Louis Cardinals playing the Chicago Cubs. But, you're an avid photographer and hold season tickets, so you have thousands of photos to search. To narrow it down a bit

you might perform the following nested search "St. Louis Cardinals" AND "Chicago Cubs." If you've tagged your photos with those names, you'll only get back photos that have both tags.

Filters

Search filters are a new feature in Windows 7 that make searching for files by their properties (such as by author or by file size) much easier. Some search filters are automatically associated with the location in which files are stored. For example, if you open the Documents folder, and click the search box before typing anything in it, you'll see a drop-down menu of filters you can apply. Because you're in the Documents folder, Windows assumes you want a document and limits the available search filters to those most commonly associated with documents, in this case:

Author, Type, Date Modified, and Size. You can, however, simply type in a filter, followed by your search terms and have the filter applied. Personally, I use this feature in the general search box located in the Start menu. (See graphic for some examples of filters you can apply.)

There you have it! I hope these tips help you with finding files you've misplaced on your computer. I know these searches have certainly helped me.

Ed VanHoose is the Digital Communications and IT Manager for the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in Springfield.



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- 4) Mail to: Illinois Marketplace, P.O. Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708, by deadline.

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Duty, Honor, Country

Tour of duty rewarded with tour of honor

By John Lowrey



There is a code of honor expressed in many ways by the veterans that have served our country. There are also seven principles that all co-ops follow and the seventh principle is concern for community. Co-op employees also live by that principle, and Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative Journeyman Lineman Craig Costello is a good example.

to honor the veterans he had taken care of for the past 27 years. After retiring from the Air Force in 1998, Morse was hired by the Department of Veterans Affairs to work in a small clinic in Springfield, Ohio. In May of 2004, the World War II Memorial was finally completed and dedicated in Washington, D.C. and quickly became the topic of discussion among his World War II veteran patients.

Costello's concern was for the World War II veterans in his community. More than 16 million of the "Greatest Generation" served their country during that war and about 2 million are still alive. According to the World War II Illinois Veterans Memorial, 987,000 Illinois residents served during World War II. Of those, 22,000 gave their lives.

Morse repeatedly asked these veterans if they would ever travel out to visit their memorial. Most felt that eventually, somehow, they would make it to D.C., perhaps with a family member or friend.

As summer turned to fall and then winter, these same veterans returned to the clinic for their follow-up visits. Morse asked if they accomplished their dream of visiting the World War II Memorial. By now, for most of the veterans he asked, reality had settled in; it was clear to most that it simply wasn't financially or physically possible for them to make the journey. Most of these senior heroes were in their 80s and lacked the physical and mental wherewithal to complete a trip on their own. Families and friends also lacked the resources and time to complete the three- to four-day trip to the nation's capital.

Here in Illinois Ray Wiedle is Chairman of the Land of Lincoln Honor Flight.

"My wife and I moved from Chatham, Ill. to Saint Ann, Mo. in 2007," Wiedle said. "Our real estate agent was chairman of the Franklin County Honor Flight in Missouri. I had two uncles who were WWII

To help honor their service Costello became a lifetime member and volunteer with the Land of Lincoln Honor Flight, which is part of the nationwide Honor Flight program. The Honor Flight network

is dedicated to providing WW II veterans with a free trip to Washington, D.C. to visit memorials honoring their service and sacrifice.

The Honor Flight Network program was conceived by Earl Morse, a physician assistant and retired Air Force Captain. Morse wanted





veterans, but they passed away before the memorial was completed. He asked me to be a guardian for their flights and I went on three flights as a guardian.”

Then Wiedle met Bob Matteson, a WWII veteran from Springfield, Ill., on one of the flights. “He told me there was very little information about the Honor Flight Network in the Springfield area,” said Wiedle. “I told him I would help start a hub in Springfield. We talked to some of our friends and they were interested in forming a hub. They asked me to be the Chairman of Land of Lincoln Honor Flight. We were recognized as an official hub of the Honor Flight Network in March of 2009.”

LLHF is a 501 (c) 3 organization that receives no government funds. All monies are donated by individuals, business and organizations. The veterans fly free and the guardians pay for the flight.

Costello joined the group as a guardian volunteer in part to honor his son who serves in the Air Force.

The most recent trip was with a group of veterans and volunteers who left on Sept. 13.

“I felt I needed to do my part to honor the vets. It is a one-day trip and when they come back to the airport in Springfield around 9 p.m. after a long day, the airport is packed with people, relatives, news people and color guards. The vets don’t know this is coming, but when they get home to this crowd of friends and family it is so amazing.”

Costello says Wiedle came to the electric co-op’s annual meeting this year. “We were giving away veterans’ pins to all the veterans. And Ray signed up several at the meeting at his booth.”

Wiedle says, “I just hope they feel we’ve given them just a little bit of the thanks for what they’ve done for us.”

Observing the returning veterans on Sept. 13 as they received the hugs, kisses and thanks from family and friends in the airport terminal it was obvious from the smiles that they truly welcomed the “little bit of thanks.”

To donate:

Make donations via mail to Land of Lincoln Honor Flight, 57 Country Place, Springfield, IL 62703.

Land of Lincoln Honor Flight also sells memberships — \$10 annually, or \$50 for a lifetime membership (World War II veterans may join for free). Membership forms are available at landoflincolnhonorflight.org.

More information:

More information can be seen on the website www.landoflincolnhonorflight.org or on the national website www.honorflight.org. Or contact Ray Wiedle, Chairman arwiedle@sbcglobal.net, 217-622-1473.

- 2-4, **Bird Parks Lights Spectacular** in Kankakee. 815-939-1311 or www.kvpd.com.
- 2, **Bradley Lighted Christmas Parade** in Bradley. 815-932-2125.
- 2, **Celebrate The Season** in Downtown Genoa. 815-784-2212 or www.genoaareachamber.com.
- 2-4, **Chocolate Weekend** in Sycamore. 815-895-3456 or www.sycamorechamber.com.
- 2-3, **Hometown Christmas** in Belvidere. 815-547-4357 or www.belviderechamber.com.
- 2-11, **She Loves Me** in Chicago Heights. 708-755-3444 or www.dramagroup.org.
- 2, **The Manhattan Transfer Christmas** in Bloomington. 309-434-2787 or www.artsblooming.org.
- 2-4, **The Nutcracker**, Twin Cities School of Dance 30th anniversary of performing The Nutcracker, Braden Auditorium, Illinois State University. Bloomington-Normal, Melissa Trauner, 309-663-9333.
- 2-4, **Village of Tinley Park Holiday Market** in Tinley Park. 708-444-5678 or www.tinleypark.org.
- 3, **The 20th Annual Lights Fantastic Activities & Parade** in Carbondale. 618-529-8040 or www.cctb.org.
- 3, **Christmas at the Apple River Fort** in Elizabeth. 815-858-2028 or www.appleriverfort.org.
- 3, **Christmas at the Mill** in Golden. 217-696-4254.
- 3, **Christmas in the Village** in Cobden. 618-833-9928 or www.southernmostillinois.com.
- 3, **Christmas Parade** in Metropolis. 618-524-2714 or www.metropolistourism.com.
- 3, **Galena Territory Holiday Housewalk**, Galena. 815-777-2000 or www.thegalenaterritory.com.
- 3-4, **Christmas Trees at Dr. Charles M. Wright House**, Altamont. 618-483-6397 or www.wright-mansion.org.
- 3-4, **Kankakee Kennel Club AKC Dog Show** at the County Fairgrounds in Kankakee. 815-683-2393.
- 3-4, **Lunch With Santa On A Train** in Monticello. 217-762-7921 or www.monticellochamber.org.
- 3, **Mistletoe Ball – A Victorian Holiday Dinner and Dance** in Galena. 815-777-9129 or www.galenahistorymuseum.org.
- 3, **Once Upon a Holiday** in Downtown Bloomington. 309-829-9599 or www.downtownbloomington.org.
- 4, **Annual Radio Control Swap Meet** at the Cedarville Community Center in Cedarville. 815-233-5208 or www.freeportilr-cmodelers.com.
- 4, **Christmas Home Tours** in Golconda. 618-683-9702 or www.mainstreetgolconda.org.
- 5- **The 22nd Annual Windmont Park Lighting/Drive of Lights** in Kewanee. 309-852-2175 or www.kewanee-il.com. (*open through 1/1/12*)
- 6-24, **Donny and Marie – Christmas** in Chicago. 312-977-1700 or www.broadwayinchicago.com.
- 7- **Christmas With The Lincolns** in Springfield. 217-391-3246 or www.nps.gov/liho. (*playing through 1/8/12*)
- 8, **Cherish The Ladies – A Celtic Christmas** in Grayslake. 847-543-2300 or www.clcillinois.edu/tickets.
- 10-11, **LEGO Train Show** in Wheaton. 630-668-5161 or www.cantigny.org.
- 10-11, **Olde Tyme Christmas and Living History** in Metropolis. 618-524-9321 or www.metropolistourism.com.
- 10, **Salt Creek Ballet – The Nutcracker** in University Park. 708-235-2222 or www.centertickets.net.
- 10, **Shootout At The Hall** in Champaign. 217-333-5000.
- 10-11, **The Magic Of The Nutcracker** in Waukegan. 847-782-2366 or www.geneseetheater.com.
- 11, **Christmas Candlelight Tours** in Quincy. 217-222-3432 or www.quincypreserves.org.
- 11, **Farm Toy Show** in Effingham. 217-342-6565.
- 14, **Winter Wetland Botany** in Ingleside. 815-344-1294 or www.dnr.state.il.us.
- 15, **Gaither Christmas Homecoming** in Bloomington. 309-434-2843 or www.uscellularcoliseum.com.
- 17, **Christmas At The Mansions** in Bloomington. 309-828-1084 or www.daviddavismansion.org.
- 17, **Night Of The Luminaria** in Galena. 815-777-9050 or www.galenachamber.com.
- 17-18, **The Nutcracker** in Grayslake. 847-543-2300 or www.clcillinois.edu/tickets.
- 20- **La Cage Aux Folles** in Chicago. 312-977-1702 or www.broadwayinchicago.com. (*playing through 1/1/12*)
- 27-30, **State Farm Holiday Classic** in Bloomington. 309-665-0033 or www.theclassic.org.
- 31, **DuPage Children's Museum Bubble Bash 2011** in Naperville. 630-637-8000 or www.dupage-childrensmuseum.org.
- 31, **Noon Year's Eve** at the Children's Discovery Museum in Normal. 309-433-3444 or www.childrens-discoverymuseum.net.

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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: November 15 for February events. **Mail to:** Illinois Datebook, PO Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708. E-mail to: Lrigoni@aicc.coop.



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