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Illinois Country Living

Published by

Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives
6460 South Sixth Frontage Road East,
Springfield, IL 62712

www.icl.coop

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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 181,000, the magazine informs cooperative members about issues affecting their electric cooperative and the quality of life in rural Illinois.

Illinois Country Living (ISSN number 1086-8062) is published monthly and is the official publication of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, 6460 South Sixth Frontage Road East, Springfield, IL 62712. The cost is \$2.50 plus postage per year for members of subscribing cooperatives and \$10 per year for all others. Periodical postage paid at Springfield, Illinois, and additional mailing offices.

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

ADVERTISING: Contact Lisa Rigoni, Advertising Manager – 1-800-593-2432 or lrigoni@aiec.coop. Acceptance of advertising by the magazine does not imply endorsement by the publisher or the electric cooperatives of Illinois of the product or service advertised. Illinois Country Living is not responsible for the performance of the product or service advertised.



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Learning from our history

Change requires a vision for the future and leadership

If you're a teenager, seventy-five years seems like an eternity. If you're middle-aged you realize it's not so long after all. And if you're a senior, you're wondering where did all that time go? As we look at the rural electric program many of our co-ops are just now celebrating a milestone of 75 years of service to rural Illinois. The first electric cooperative was founded in 1936 and so between that period and 1940 all 25 electric cooperatives were formed in Illinois.

Just this past month I had the privilege of attending Norris Electric Cooperative's annual meeting in Newton, Ill. Norris Electric gets its name from Senator George Norris, a U.S. Senator from Nebraska, who was the driving force for creating legislation that resulted in the Rural Electrification Administration, better known then and now as the REA.

We forget today what it was like when there were no lights in the countryside. It was just a dark place. Rural living required a lot of hand labor and hard work the way it had been done for centuries. Those early leaders probably did not realize the transformation that was happening in 1936 and the full extent of what those power lines would mean to rural people.

It took visionaries, it took sheer will and determination and oftentimes that came from a single individual. It may have been the county cooperative extension agent. In the case of Norris Electric Cooperative it was leaders from the Jasper County Farm Bureau and a Catholic priest, Father Nell from Island Grove, who believed his rural community needed the same benefits of electricity that folks in town enjoyed. His church needed electricity and so did his flock. Many times you'll find that it was women

who saw the true need for electricity and provided the determination and leadership to make it happen.

Some rural leaders with this character of determination are still with us. An example in that video was Delbert Mundt. Delbert served long and hard on his electric cooperative board and also was one of the founders of the largest rural water cooperative in Illinois, EJ Water Cooperative, based in Dietrich, Ill. He just had a tenacious desire to bring electricity, and then water, to rural Illinois. Thank you Delbert.

It makes you pause and wonder, who will replace those leaders in the next decade or the next 50 years? Who will be that Father Nell or Delbert Mundt who rises to the challenge? That's why youth leadership programs are so important, programs like 4-H, FFA, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts come to mind. But the rural electric cooperatives also have a youth leadership program. We sponsor Youth Day at the Capitol, which is a trip to our state capital that is held in April each year.

The transformation that took place in the late 1930s was dramatic when electricity came to rural homes. From a single light bulb hanging from the ceiling to the electric motors that did so much for easing farm labor, we've been successful in providing rural electric service, so much so that it is now taken for granted.

Today, electric cooperative leaders are not resting with that accomplishment. The boards of directors and cooperative employees are still looking for ways to improve the quality of life in rural Illinois. A good example we've already mentioned is rural water systems. Jobs are also critical and many cooperatives have partnered with the USDA and

its Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) program, which helps retain and create jobs in rural communities.

It's no secret that the next big effort will be bringing broadband service to rural areas. This new infrastructure and service is transformational just like electricity was in the 1940s. Prairie Power Inc., a generation and transmission cooperative serving central Illinois, recently formed a consortium with several rural telephone cooperatives and a rural cable provider to expand fiber optic service throughout the rural areas they serve. This has a double benefit of providing secure smart grid communications infrastructure to all the co-op's substations, and also allowing schools, libraries, hospitals and government services in rural communities to have the same high speed broadband service enjoyed by those in metro areas. From there it will grow to expand the economic development opportunities in these rural areas.

Over the past 75 years the mission has been the same...it has been locally-owned, locally-governed cooperatives who have made it their business to improve the quality of life for the members they serve. That is still taking place in rural America today. The needs will change, the leadership will change, but the principles and purpose will remain the same. Amen!

Former Illinois State Senator N. Duane Noland is the President/CEO of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, Springfield and a member of Shelby Electric Cooperative.





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Hempen represents Illinois Youth Tour at national meeting

Sarah Hempen of Columbia represented Monroe Electric Co-Operative in Washington, D.C., during the annual "Youth to Washington" Tour, June 15-22. She and other Illinois students met with Congressman Jerry Costello and were among 75 rural Illinois youth leaders selected for the trip.

During the trip, Hempen was chosen by her peers to represent Illinois on the Youth Leadership Council (YLC) of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

The YLC is a year-long appointment and Hempen will represent Monroe County Electric and the state's cooperatives at national and state meetings and events until a new YLC is chosen in June. In February she represented Illinois at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association annual meeting in New Orleans, La. ■



Grants will open new markets for fresh produce in Illinois

The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) is accepting applications for federal specialty crop grants. The funds from the USDA are intended to strengthen the competitiveness of the state's specialty crop industry.

"Expanding access to nutritious, homegrown Illinois food is one of my top priorities," Agriculture Director Bob Flider said. "If we could increase local food purchases to just 10 percent of our grocery bill, it would generate more than 20 billion dollars in new economic activity every year, create thousands of jobs in the farming and food industries and revitalize both rural and urban communities."

The USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service defines specialty crops as fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits and horticulture and

nursery crops (including floriculture).

According to a 2010 Illinois Specialty Crop Survey, more than 101,000 acres of Illinois farmland are devoted to growing specialty crops, producing nearly \$392 million in annual sales for Illinois farmers.

Nationally, Illinois ranks first for its pumpkin production and in the top ten in the production of specialty crops such as asparagus, cauliflower, peas and lima beans.

The IDOA will accept grant proposals until April 15, 2013. Request for Proposal packets can be found online at www.agr.state.il.us/Grants/specialtycrops.html or by contacting Delayne Reeves. She can be reached by phone at (217) 524-9129 or by e-mail at delayne.reeves@illinois.gov. ■



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Ridenour receives Touchstone Energy Cooperatives Distinguished Service Award

Aaron Ridenour, manager of marketing and business development at Prairie Power, Inc., received the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives Distinguished Service Award during the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Annual Meeting held in New Orleans, February 15-21.

The Distinguished Service Award is the highest honor bestowed by Touchstone Energy Cooperatives and is presented annually to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the development and success of the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives brand at the national level. Ridenour is just the 17th award recipient since the brand's inception in 1998.

Ridenour was praised for his tireless efforts in working with the national staff as well as always offering a hand to forward the brand to Illinois' cooperatives. His efforts were critical nationally to the development of SitesAcrossAmerica.com, Touchstone Energy Cooperatives' Web-based site selection clearinghouse, and the Co-op Connections member benefit program. Ridenour was also praised for his work to develop and promote the Energy Efficiency Wall, which has educated consumers across the country about measures they can take to reduce their energy use. ■



Carson elected NRECA secretary-treasurer

Phil Carson (left) a board director for Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Mount Vernon, was elected secretary-treasurer of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) at the organization's annual meeting on Feb. 20, 2013 in New Orleans. Carson joins newly elected NRECA officers Mel Coleman, NRECA board vice-president and CEO of North Arkansas Electric Cooperative; Curtis Nolan, NRECA board president and board member for Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative; and Jo Ann Emerson, the new NRECA CEO.

Carson is the first Illinois electric cooperative representative to serve as an officer on the NRECA board of directors. NRECA is the national service organization that represents the nation's more than 900 not-for-profit, member-owned electric cooperatives. These locally-owned cooperatives generate, transmit and distribute electricity to the homes, farms and businesses of 42 million members in 47 states.

Carson has been a director at Tri-County Electric Cooperative in Mt. Vernon since 1998 and has served on the NRECA board since 2006. In addition, he is a director for Egyptian Telephone Cooperative Association, Southern Illinois Power Cooperative and the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC). Carson is a former dairy farmer who retains an interest in a 160-year old farm, and



is the pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Nashville.

Duane Noland, President/CEO of the AIEC, upon hearing the election results remarked, "I am pleased the NRECA board recognized Phil's passion to serve electric cooperatives both in Illinois and nationally, and elected him as their secretary-treasurer. Phil is highly respected for his integrity and insight and he takes his responsibilities seriously. On behalf of the entire community of electric cooperatives in our state, we congratulate him on this honor." ■

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Leaving a Legacy

Farm estate planning helps keep the family together

By Les O'Dell

There are a couple of things more important in life than just about anything—even money. Faith, family, friends and forgiveness are just a few of life's most important things. Another thing important to many Illinois families is the family farm. It's where roots are put down literally and figuratively. It represents more than a business. It's home. It's memories. But without proper estate planning it could also fracture a family forever.



“The families that are successful in transferring the farm or any sort of wealth are the ones that have mastered the art of talking about what is inevitable.”

There’s an old saying that some topics just shouldn’t be discussed at the dinner table, namely the touchy subjects of religion and politics. There’s one other seemingly taboo topic, however, that needs to be addressed, especially by everyone involved in a family farming operation. While uncomfortable to bring up, what happens to the farm when mom and dad are gone is almost always a pressing issue. The subject is too often ignored until it is too late.

Grant Noland, an eighth generation family farmer helping manage a 3,800-acre farm near Blue Mound says, “As land values have greatly appreciated over the past five years, estate planning has been a staple at meetings, workshops and conventions that I have attended. For the long-term health of the family and the farm operation, those with an ownership interest in the business must discuss and implement an estate plan. Although the easiest approach is to table the discussion to a later date, delaying the conversation could be devastating to the dynamics of the family and farm operation. As a member of a multi-generational farm operation, I clearly see the value in establishing an estate plan to protect our greatest assets—family

relationships and the land we own.”

Tom Deans, author of “Every Family’s Business,” a book on succession planning for family enterprises, calls silence “the great destroyer of wealth” in family farming situations.

“If the children raise the subject, they look greedy; so they don’t say anything. If the parents start the conversation, they’re afraid it will spin out of control and lead to family in-fighting. So they simply don’t have the conversation and there is no plan,” he says. “Yes, there is risk in having the conversation, but there is far bigger risk in leaving it until it is too late.”

Deans says it is never too early to begin working on a farm estate plan.

“The key thing is to start the conversation in the family early on,” he explains. “The families that are successful in transferring the farm or any sort of wealth are the ones that have mastered the art of talking about what is inevitable.”

Careful consideration of the “what ifs” and “whens” is especially important for farm families, perhaps more now than ever before. With land prices in some parts of the country at or near all-time highs, the values of even the most modest farms, and the

resulting estates, can be staggering. And with those increased values come a greater risk of large tax bills, hard feelings and even the unwanted sale of the family farm.

Farmland values have been going up in recent years also making estate planning more important. For example, a 173-acre farm in Champaign County sold at auction in February for \$15,375 per acre, possibly setting a new record for the area. “This is the first time I’ve seen farmland prices without development potential exceed \$15,000 per acre in Champaign County,” said Joe Bubon, executive vice president of Murray Wise Associates, which is a leading national agricultural real estate marketing and auction company based in Champaign.

“The biggest difference in estate planning in agriculture is that the family really cares about what they are passing along and that is the family farm,” explains attorney Curt Ferguson of The Estate Planning Center in Salem. “Stock portfolios or IRAs are all just the same. They’re just dollars and can be liquidated, but a farm is sacred in and of itself. That’s something a family usually wants to hold together and that makes things difficult.”

Complex family dynamics,



especially if some children are involved in the day-to-day operation of the family farm, make estate planning even more complicated.

“With farming children and non-farming children, you need to be sure that everyone understands what the plan is,” urges Gary Hoff, a taxation specialist with the University of Illinois Extension Service. “If everyone doesn’t understand what the plan is, the kids may not be talking after your death.”

Ferguson outlines several scenarios:

“Do you give more of the farm to the ones who are farming, or more to the ones that don’t farm because you’ve already helped those who are farming?” he asks. “There are two

sides to that coin and there’s jealousy involved on both sides. Some would say that the ones who are farming have already had opportunities handed to them, so in some ways, they are protected. The other side is that if the farming child or children didn’t stay and farm, perhaps none of the operation would still be there. Those are the kinds of questions that owners need to grapple with.”

Hoff points out that in some cases heirs who have remained on the farm and worked for less than normal wages

have received an inheritance no larger than those who have moved off the farm, contrary to their expectations. He adds that sometimes what parents plan, is not what children want.

“Communication is key,” Hoff says. “It’s important on the farming side to know what the heirs want. Dad and mom may set up an entity that all of the children are involved in, but the siblings may not want to farm together.”

Ferguson adds, “Shared ownership can be a hotbed for problems. As can

“Everybody will have some different ideas and you need to hear all of them before you decide what combinations of ideas you will use.”

A simple to-do list for making it easier for your family

While wills, trusts, directives and other complex documents are always required as a part of estate planning, there are some very simple ways to also make things easier for your family members during their time of grief. Here are a few:

- ❑ Keep a master list of assets and where they are located. Hoff says this list should include all of the credit cards, bank accounts and safe deposit boxes. “The kids may not know about some of these, and if they go unfound for years, they eventually are turned over to the state,” he says.
- ❑ The Wycliffe Foundation suggests including a list of passwords, user names, personal identification numbers and combinations so that heirs can get to the documents they may need.
- ❑ Simple documents including a monthly budget and funeral instructions should be left, the Wycliffe Foundation also advises, so that your final wishes are carried out and regular household operations may continue.
- ❑ Author and radio host Dave Ramsey recommends that listeners establish a “Legacy Drawer” as a single location for all-important documents. On his website, he suggests including financial statements, insurance policies and basically everything related to your financial life.

“Most people, when they die, leave a mess,” Ramsey posts on his site. “The grief is exponentially larger because you’re mad at the person who died because they left you with a mess. Leave a legacy. Have a drawer in your home that has all the details.”

leaving it up to the heirs to decide. Remember that farm prices have astronomically appreciated and farm machinery can be an asset valued in the millions. If someone is going to farm, but doesn’t yet have his or her own farming operation, how do you do that? Do you leave the equipment and land to do that one individual, or do you set up some sort of preferential way he or she can buy it from the other kids?”

For that reason, Deans often suggests a somewhat controversial approach: the farm needs to be sold.

“The gifting of the farm is what I think causes all of the problems,” he says. “When families can answer the question of who will buy the family farm, either inside the family or outside, all of the acrimony and family dynamics end. It means the rules of commerce are used and respected.”

Both Deans and Ferguson say that when all of the parties involved understand and talk about the plan, even if it involves selling the farm to one of them, everyone is able to plan for and be comfortable with the eventual outcome.

“Most clients agree that they would rather their children still have family reunions after they are gone, versus leaving them land and money and never having them talk to each other again,” Ferguson says.

He encourages his clients to apply what he calls the “snapshot” approach to estate planning. By that he means developing a picture in their minds of what they would like things to look like after they are gone and then working to make that “snapshot” a workable plan.

Regardless of how the assets will be distributed, Hoff says estate planning needs to happen sooner rather than later.

“Most farmers probably have a will, but many haven’t gone much further than that,” he says. “I get too many phone calls saying ‘I really need to think about doing some estate planning. I have a will, but it’s 40 years old.’

I tell them to get planning quickly.”

Hoff says he recalls a meeting with clients whom he immediately referred to an attorney because when he saw the will the couple had, he realized it no longer would accomplish what they wanted. In fact, it left a substantial portion of the estate to the farmer’s ex-wife, not his current spouse.

“What if something would have happened on their way home,” asks Hoff?

The planning needs to start early and be an on-going process, but it also must be thorough and well thought out. Additionally, planning should probably involve more than just the parties involved.

“The ultimate plan needs to be a team effort with your attorney, your accountant, financial planners, life insurance agents and others,” Hoff says. “Everybody will have some different ideas and you need to hear all of them before you decide what combinations of ideas you will use.”

Tax implications must always be considered in agricultural settings. While the first \$5.25 million of an estate is exempted from the so-called federal “death tax,” Illinois imposes taxes on estates exceeding \$4 million in value.

“The first few dollars over \$4 million can be as much as 20 percent,” Ferguson explains. “Just the tax between \$4 million and the federal mark at \$5.25 million can be hundreds of thousands of dollars.”

Experts says estate planners can help farm families achieve their goals and handle excessive tax burdens through a variety of tools including wills, trusts and gifts. Most importantly, however, Hoff says, make sure you completely grasp how your own assets, your own legacy, will be handled.

“Make sure you understand your plan and review it every few years,” he says. “Have somebody else read it and tell you what they think it says. If it’s the same as what you think, then you’re good.” ■

Don't create a hazard for the future

Plant the right tree in the right place

A properly selected and planted tree can add beauty, value and energy efficiency to your landscape. On the other hand, a poorly selected and planted tree can become high maintenance, expensive, dangerous and short-lived. The Energy Education Council has advice to help you select the tree that is best for your yard.

Spring is a good time for tree planting. April weather is known for being wet and not too cold or hot for a new tree. In fact, Arbor Day—a national observance and celebration of the importance of trees—falls in April. Here in Illinois it is the last Friday of April each year.

This is an excellent time of year for tree planting. With research and preparation, your tree will be a healthy and beautiful addition to your home for years to come.

One of the first considerations is the purpose of your tree. Will your tree be needed for shade, a windbreak or beauty? These considerations will affect what tree is suitable for you, and where it should be planted.

Dense evergreens provide a good wind block, while leafy deciduous trees provide shade in the summer. No matter what purpose, the best option is always native trees. They require less maintenance and will live longer. You can get more information about native growing trees from a regional University Extension office. The Arbor Day Foundation has a free tree wizard tool that will help you select the best tree for your needs. It is available at www.arborday.org/shopping/trees/treewizard/intro.cfm.

The next step is to decide where you will plant your tree. For a windbreak, plant trees to the north and northwest. For shade, plant trees to the east and west of your home.



Remember that fast-growing trees are more brittle, and likely to be damaged in a storm. Plant these trees farther from your home to protect your home from damage.

Select planting locations that will not interfere with your utility lines or power poles. Tall growing trees with a mature height of greater than 40 feet should be planted 50 feet away to avoid future pruning. A mature height of less than 25 feet is recommended for trees planted near power lines. Keep in mind that trees should never be planted directly under power lines, near poles, or too close to electrical equipment. Besides creating the potential for outages and blinking lights, trees planted close to power lines can become a real hazard for children climbing in trees, or someone trying to trim the tree limbs close to the power lines. This is a job always best left to professionals.

Shawn Miller can tell you why planting trees close to power lines can lead to future disasters. Shawn was hanging Christmas lights at his mother's house like he did every year, when tragedy struck. The string of lights Shawn held made contact with a power line as he threw it into a

tree. Shawn suffered 27 exit wounds, the loss of one hand, and a finger on another but miraculously survived. Shawn and his mother hope their lesson can save other families from harm. You learn more from Shawn and others by going to safeelectricity.org and our safety videos under the Information Center.

Finally, don't forget there can be unseen dangers underground. Before planting, take proper precautions to stay safe. Contact JULIE the Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators service at 8-1-1 or 800-892-0123 a few days before you want to plant. This free service will mark underground utilities, so you can dig far from these hazardous underground utilities. For more information go to illinois1call.com. ■

Molly Hall is 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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Thompsonville, IL. horse farm has nicely remodeled farmhouse, 2 barns, stalls, auto waterer, workroom pastures w/runouts & public water. Near riding trails. 13 acre farm is \$199,999 or also available as 33 acre farm for \$265,000.



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Companion planting uses the buddy system

With a little help from their friends some plants help a garden grow

As the garden season commences you probably are getting the itch to plant something in the ground. We're constantly looking at the forecast and feeling the ground, hoping it's dry enough we can sink a transplant into the soil.

For years, gardeners looked to plants to help each other out. For example, we know that legumes can take nitrogen out of the air and convert it to nitrate fertilizers to help them grow. It's possible they produce enough to help surrounding plants.

Okay, yes I know that it really is the microorganisms that fix, or change, the nitrogen for the legumes and not the plants themselves. This fixing is perfectly legal unlike what Wall Street barons and politicians do. If you pull up the roots of any legumes, from beans to redbuds to locust trees, you can find the swollen nodules on the roots.

Which means if you are applying fertilizer on any legume, you're wasting your money. The air is free!

Planting "helpers" next to other plants is sometimes called companion planting or buddy planting, though the last term makes it sound like the plants have their arms around each other and are sharing a beer.

One way to help plants is to plant fall cover crops such as buckwheat, alfalfa and clover and then tilling them up in the spring, making sure they die. As they decompose, they'll release a significant amount of nitrogen to help your other vegetables along. Think of the vegetables that don't get big and take up lots of space, though. Tomatoes and the vining squashes and melons may still need some extra feeding.

Turning over last year's debris will also provide some nutrients as the plants decompose. Just remember to remove disease-ridden plants first.

Seasoned gardeners, which means



those who have seen more full moons, aren't apt to follow the spacing listed on the seed packages. They can take the same 10' x 20' garden plot and plant things in the same space or tightly together, knowing that some plants are going to be removed before the remaining ones get large.

It's sort of like kids sharing rooms when they're young, and then begging for their independence and then leaving for college.

For example, you can plant a row of radishes and carrots together. The tops don't look anything alike. So, pull out the radishes when they mature in 45 days leaving the carrots the ability to spread for the next 60 days.

Instead of planting lettuce in two rows spaced like the package says, plant them back to back with about 6 inches between. Or plant the leafy vegetables in patches, constantly harvesting the little leaves as they mature leaving the others to get larger.

That patch of early greens can be the location of summer tomatoes or bush cucumbers. Once the vegetable

is done producing, rip it out and put it in the compost pile. Then, plant something else in that spot.

However, contrary to popular April 1 belief, planting onions next to potatoes won't make their eyes water, helping them grow.

Some plants release chemicals that limit soil problems. These tend to be the onion family, which does more than control vampires. Some plants such as the Brassicas, cabbage, kale, cauliflower and broccoli, tend to be resistant to some of the sucking creatures such as aphids and mites, but they end up with the caterpillars attacking regularly.

Some people think some plants repel pests. Well, they do. But that's only around that plant. There is no magic force field that goes up to the clouds that the insects won't fly over. They will. You might get up to 12 inches of repelling activity, but that's it. And that could be stretching it.

Probably the best way to cut down on insect pests is to encourage birds, bats and other insects in your yard. That's best achieved by diversity. Plant lots of different trees, shrubs, vines, groundcovers and perennials. The wider the variety, the fewer the pest problems.

And don't get carried away with the sprays. Just squish the pests between bricks or under your shoe. If touching a caterpillar makes you squeamish, nip it in half with a pair of clippers or jab it with a sharp stick. ■

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



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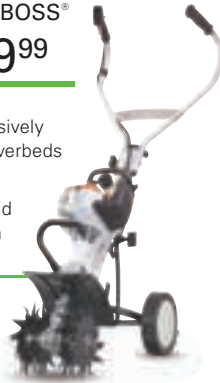
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The science of conduction

A good conductor of heat is not a good insulator

Recently, I was driving to St. Louis to conduct seminars. With plenty of windshield time, I thought about the great opportunity I've been given to help folks across this country enjoy more comfortable homes with lower utility bills.

As I looked at hundreds of houses over the six-hour drive, a recurring thought came to my mind. How can building science and energy efficiency become important action items for all Americans? How do we generate the interest or motivation for Americans to build or make their existing homes more energy efficient? That thought never ceases to overwhelm me. What a gigantic, almost unbelievable, opportunity we have.

Notice that I said we, not I. There was a time only about 35 years ago when a handful of energy efficiency pioneers were among the industry vanguard. Over time, nationwide interest in building science and energy efficiency began to grow. The Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas were among the early pioneers following in my footsteps. Electric cooperatives across the country also took up the cause of helping their members improve the energy efficiency of their homes.

And now there are hundreds of energy efficiency professionals who have the experience and training to help you test your house and provide you with a list of needed improvements. Your local electric co-op that is sponsoring this column through this magazine, and may also sponsor my radio show, will most likely have such a person who can help you. And because you are a co-op member, your co-op wants to help you. It's what co-ops do.

In last month's issue, Lesson No. 1 reminded us that all energy as we know it comes from the sun. So,

for Lesson No. 2, let's discuss basic energy as it relates to heat in some form or fashion. The sun is a really big blob of heat. I expect that you already knew that, but let's look at how that heat affects practically every aspect of our lives.

First, I think that it is neat, and not by coincidence, that our earth seems to be the only planet that is just about the right distance from the sun to support life as we know it. If we were much closer to the source of all energy, it might be too hot. And if we were farther away, it might be too cold.

The sun always shines and affects the earth every second of every day. It is estimated that about half of the heat from the sun is absorbed by something on earth. It is not possible for us to list all of the things that absorb and benefit from the sun's heat, but it is possible to explain how that heat affects our daily lives.

Heat travels three ways — by conduction, convection and radiation. The better we understand these principles, the better we can understand how a house uses energy. I am going to do my very best to explain these to you with examples that are easy to understand, but remember that the only reason I am known as the doctor of energy efficiency is because my initials are D.R.

According to the Webster dictionary, conduction is the passing of heat from particle to particle. That means conduction will occur anytime that one substance of a certain temperature touches another substance of a different temperature. Your foot touching a cold floor or stepping into a hot tub of water is conduction. Your hand touching a cold windowpane or a hot pan in the oven is conduction.

Generally speaking, conduction does not occur in gases such as air. That would be convection and will be covered in the next issue.

The speed of the conduction can be very fast or very slow. If the water in the shower is 105 degrees, you say, Aaahhh that feels great. But if the first blast is 140 degrees, like some motels, you may scream instead.

Remember that a good conductor of heat is not a good insulator and vice versa.

Insulation slows the rate of conduction. A rug or a piece of carpet on that cold floor will make that bare foot feel a lot warmer. **Heat always moves toward cold**, and, in this case, the heat simply does not leave your foot as fast as before. Furthermore, not all conduction is a bad thing. Take for instance an electric water heater. The electric element touches the colder water within the storage tank and heats it by conduction. That is a useful form of conduction. Other useful examples are a coffee maker, a frying pan cooking an egg and a waffle iron. Bet you didn't know building science could whet your appetite!

Next month, I'll describe how conductive heat often changes to convective heat. The springtime warmth provides us many examples. Stay tuned for the next lesson. ■

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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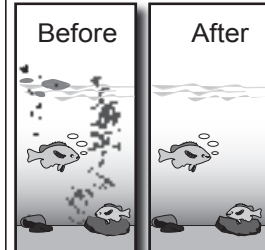


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A small town preserves its roots and prospers

Bishop Hill where you can find a little bit of Scandinavia in Illinois



From April through December special events are held in Bishop Hill, Ill. Here traditional Swedish dances are performed during one of the festivals.



Several museums are open for tour and feature exhibits illustrating Bishop Hill life in the mid-1800s.

By Marilyn Jones

The festival was in full swing when I drove into the tiny village with Swedish-American roots in western Illinois. Traditionally dressed dancers were performing a Swedish folk dance in the shadow of an ornate gazebo as visitors meandered along flower-laden streets walking in and out of the village's historic buildings and gift shops.

This is Bishop Hill, a small village west of Kewanee, Ill. The village has just 128 citizens according to the 2010 census, but they have managed to both preserve its history and use it to create a tourism business for the area. Bishop Hill is a National Historic Landmark listed in the National Register of Historic Places and an Illinois State Historic Site set aside to remember the 19th century Scandinavian immigrants.

Touring the Village

The Janssonist, led by charismatic religious leader Erik Jansson, were the first noteworthy group of men and women to move to the United States from Sweden. Letters to friends and family told of America's heartland and the excellent farming opportunities spurring immigration of Swedes for several decades.

As much as Bishop Hill is about the Janssonists, more importantly it is about Swedish-Americans making a new life in Illinois and the Midwest.



Several gift shops are located in the village including The Colony Store.

Today guests can visit museums, shop for Swedish gifts and imports, and dine on traditional Scandinavian meals. Several buildings date back to 1846 when the colony was founded, but the Bishop Hill of today has redefined itself beyond its origins by creating a destination visited by thousands every year.

The two-story frame Colony Church was built in 1848. When there was a housing shortage, the basement and first floor were used to house 20 families in 100 square foot single-room apartments. The second floor contains the Janssonists' sanctuary, complete with original handmade walnut pews. Nearby is the three-story Colony Hotel, built in 1852. It served commercial travelers and was a popular stop between Rock Island and Peoria, Ill. Today the hotel is a museum with displays pointing more to Swedish-American heritage than the commune of the mid-1800s.

The Boys Dormitory is a small two-story frame structure believed to have provided housing for boys making the transition to working adulthood. There's also the Colony Barn that was relocated to the site of the original Hotel stable.

Several gift shops and art galleries are located in the heart of town including The Colony Store where you find everything from dalahästarna (carved and painted dala horses) to ekstroms blabarssoppa (blueberry fruit soup).

Restaurants, including the Colony Inn, PL Johnson's Dining Room & Gift Shop, The Bishop Hill Bakery & Eatery and The Filling Station, serve up Scandinavian and American specialties.

Overnight accommodations are available at The



The three-story Colony Hotel was built in 1852 and is now a museum celebrating Swedish-American heritage.

Gallery Inn, located on the second floor of the Colony Administration Building, built in 1856 by the Swedish colonists to house offices and apartments for the Bishop Hill Colony Trustees.

If you go:

Historic buildings are open Wednesday through Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. between March and October. From November to February, the buildings are open Wednesday to Sunday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is no admission charge.

For more information check the website www.bishophill.com.

Bishop Hill's Beginnings

In Sweden, Erik Jansson preached to his followers the abominations of the Lutheran Church and that the faithful were without sin. As Jansson's ideas became more radical, he began to lose support from many of his sympathizers and was forced to leave.

Bishop Hill was communal in nature, as dictated by Jansson. Everything was owned by everyone and no one had more possessions than another. At one time, the colony owned more than 12,000 acres of farmland. Their best known crops were flax for linen and broom corn.

According to Jansson, Bishop Hill would become the "New Jerusalem" where he and his heirs would reign until the end of time. More than 1,000 colonists relocated from Sweden to their new home. Jansson thought of himself as a

God-sent prophet, the restorer of the true doctrine, the greatest light since the time of the Apostles and the Vicar of Christ on earth.

He once wrote, "I am come in Christ's place to bring grace. Whoever despises me despises God." He taught that a true Christian has no sin and no shortcomings, or at least cannot be guilty of the same sin twice.

When Jansson was murdered over a family conflict, colonists expected Jansson to rise on the third day because he had presented himself as a messianic leader who was bringing God's kingdom. He was laid in state for three days and then, failing to fulfill the colonists' expectations, was buried.

The colonists decided to dissolve the corporation in 1861. Four years later former trustee Olof Johnson

assessed each former member ten dollars for each acre the member had been allotted. In 1868 an additional eleven dollars per acre was assessed. The colonists investigated the books and found a discrepancy of \$42,759 between two sets of books. It is estimated that Olof Johnson and the other trustees owed the colony a total of \$109,619. The ensuing court battle lasted until 1879, spanning 12 years.

After the final division, many of the Janssonists left Bishop Hill. Raised Lutherans, then becoming Janssonists, many sought new religious homes.

Even with its somewhat unorthodox beginning, visitors will find in Bishop Hill a place to remember the hearty souls who carved a place for themselves in the American heartland and helped start the Swedish emigration in earnest.

Saybrook Christian Church 2010 – Celebrating 150 Years

Who: Saybrook Christian Church

Cost: \$12, including shipping

Details: soft-backed, comb-bound

Pages of recipes: 123

Send checks to: Linda Beatty,
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or call 309-475-8241.



Sausage Rice Casserole

- 1 C. wild rice
- 1/2 lb. ground pork sausage
- 1 med. onion, chopped
- 1/2 C. celery, chopped
- 1 med. green pepper, chopped
- 1 (4 oz.) can mushrooms
- 1 (10.75 oz.) can condensed cream of mushroom soup
- 1 (10.75 oz.) can condensed cream of chicken soup

Cook rice according to package directions, rinse and drain. Brown sausage; add onion, celery and green pepper. Cook until tender. Add rice, mushrooms and soups, and then stir. Pour into a greased 3-quart casserole dish; cover and bake at 325 degrees for one hour.

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Blueberry Salad

Iced Cream Crunch

- 4 C. crushed cornflakes
- 1 C. coconut
- 1 C. chocolate chips, chopped small
- 1/2 C. brown sugar
- 3/4 C. butter
- 1/2 gallon softened ice cream

Melt brown sugar and 3/4 cup butter and pour over cornflakes, chocolate chips and coconut; blend. Put half mixture into a 9x13-inch dish. Then place softened ice cream on top and sprinkle remaining crumb mixture over top and freeze.

Blueberry Salad (above)

- 2 small boxes raspberry Jell-O
- 2 C. hot water, no cold water
- 1 can blueberry pie filling
- 1 lg. can crushed pineapple, drained
- 1 sm. ctn. Cool Whip

Heat the water to hot, but not boiling. Mix Jell-O and water together, stirring well. Add pie filling and drained pineapple, set until firm. Top with small tub of Cool Whip.



Oriental Pasta Salad (left)

- 2 (12-oz.) bags rotini pasta
- 2 whole boneless cooked chicken breasts, cooled and diced
- 1 onion, chopped
- 4 stalks celery, chopped
- 2 cans mandarin oranges, drained
- 1 can pineapple tidbits, drained
- 4-oz. almond slices
- 1/2 lb. red seedless grapes
- 1/4 C. orange juice
- 1/4 C. cider vinegar
- 1/4 C. vegetable oil

Cook pasta according to package directions. Drain and cool. Combine chicken, onion, celery, oranges, pineapple, almonds and grapes with pasta in a large bowl. Mix orange juice, vinegar and oil. Pour over pasta. Toss. Better if allowed to sit in the refrigerator over night.

Oriental Pasta Salad



Chili Dip

Chili Dip (above)

- 1 (8-oz.) pkg. cream cheese
- 1/2 to 1 (15-oz.) can chili without beans
- 1 (8-oz.) pkg. shredded cheese
- Tortilla chips

Spread softened cream cheese in a glass plate or square dish. Spread chili over cream cheese. Top with shredded cheese. Heat in 350 degree oven or microwave until cheese is melted. Serve with tortilla chips. You may also cook a little ground beef and sprinkle it on cheese.

Photos by Catrina McCulley Wagner

Lemon Silk Pie

- 1 sm. box lemon pie filling (not instant)
- 4-oz. cream cheese
- 2 egg whites
- 1/4 C. sugar
- 1 sm. ctn. Cool Whip
- 8 or 9-inch baked pie shell

Cook lemon pie filling according to directions on box for pie. After boiling, add cream cheese. Continue to cook until cream cheese is smooth. Remove from heat; cool completely. Beat egg whites until stiff; add sugar. Fold into lemon filling. Pour into baked pie shell. Refrigerate. When set, cover with Cool Whip.

Recipes from the Heart

Who: The Lighthouse Shelter For The Homeless, Marion, IL

Cost: \$13 including shipping

Details: soft-backed, comb-bound

Pages of recipes: 239

Send checks to: The Lighthouse Shelter, 1101 N. Madison, Marion, IL 62959 or call 618-964-1663.

Chocolate Chip Pie

- 2 lg. eggs
- 1/2 C. flour
- 1/2 C. sugar
- 1/2 C. brown sugar, packed
- 1-1/2 sticks butter, softened
- 1 C. semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 C. chopped nuts
- 1 unbaked 9-inch deep-dish pie shell
- Sweetened whipped cream, or ice cream, opt.

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Beat eggs in a large mixing bowl on high speed until foamy. Beat in flour, sugar and brown sugar. Beat in butter. Stir in chocolate chips and nuts. Spoon into pie shell. Bake for 55 to 60 minutes, or until knife inserted halfway between outside edge and center comes out clean. Cool on wire rack. Serve with sweetened whipped cream or ice cream.



Ham Delight

Ham Delight (left)

- 1 (16-oz.) pkg. egg noodles, cooked and drained
- 2 (10.75-oz.) cans cream of mushroom soup
- 1 (8-oz.) tub chives and onion cream cheese
- 1 C. milk
- 3 C. chopped baked ham
- 1 (16-oz.) pkg. frozen broccoli, thawed
- 1 (8oz.) pkg. frozen carrots, thawed
- 1 C. shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1 C. shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 C. crushed seasoned breadcrumbs

Stir the soup, cream cheese and milk together. Add noodles, ham, broccoli and carrots. Put half of the mixture in a lightly greased 2-3-quart casserole dish. Combine shredded cheeses and sprinkle half of the cheese mixture on top of the ham mixture. Spoon on the remaining ham mixture. Combine breadcrumbs with the remaining cheese and sprinkle on top. Bake at 400 degrees for 30 minutes.

The trouble with Java (continued)

Last month I told you about the bug with Java you probably had installed on your computer. Since then, many of you have contacted me asking the same question: “I installed the latest version of Java on my computer, but now it says I have all of the older versions as well. What do I need to do now? My computer is showing I have three different versions installed!”

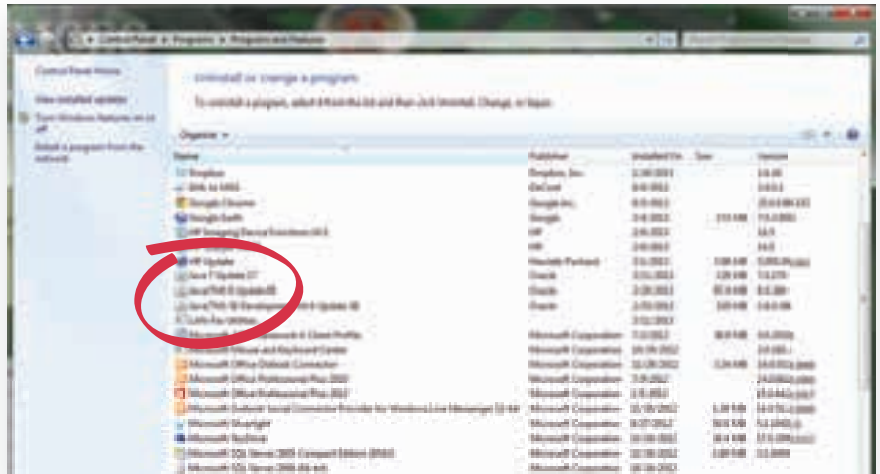
I have to apologize. I should have included this possibility in my first column. The reason you have multiple versions installed is because of the way Java updates. Unlike most programs, when you update Java it doesn't remove the list of the older versions in your programs within Control Panel. Instead, it does the upgrade but leaves files from the older versions listed. For that reason, there are a few extra steps you should take.

First, go ahead and uninstall all versions of Java you have installed. Yup! Even the one you just installed. That way you know you're starting fresh. In case you're not clear on how to perform the uninstall, just go to Start, then Control Panel, then Uninstall a Program. Once the list of programs populates, you should see the various versions. You will have to remove them one at a time. After they are all removed, go ahead and reboot your computer. Rebooting isn't 100 percent necessary, but I find that it helps with making sure everything is cleared out correctly.

Now that your computer is back on, go ahead and open up a browser (Internet Explorer, Firefox, Chrome, etc.) and go to www.java.com. Download the latest version and then follow the prompts to do the install.

Click through the screens slowly!

Just like last month, you will need to watch for checkboxes to uncheck so that you don't get some random software installed. I believe that Java right now is coming with either an extra toolbar or an antivirus software.



Personally, I don't like it that the checkbox is automatically checked. It seems a bit sneaky to me to try to slip that by those who are just looking for the Java client.

I have also gotten a few e-mails about other software that needs updating on your computer. In particular, many of you seem concerned with knowing how to tell if a prompt is legitimate or not. For instance, is that Adobe update prompt real? Or, is it a virus pretending to be an update? Differentiating between legitimate and non-legitimate prompts gets harder every day!

Designers of those fake prompts are getting sneakier. The fact is, they may look exactly like the real thing! So, here are two things you can do to tell the difference.

First, where did the prompt originate? Did you have a browser window open and see it open in another window behind that one? If so, it's probably not a good idea to click. In general, I avoid all pop-up prompts. But, did the prompt appear as a tiny box stemming from the lower right-hand corner of your computer? In that case, it's probably a software already installed on your computer that is just needing to do an update.

Second, do you recall installing the software in the first place? If you don't, then you can check to see if you have

it installed by visiting Control Panel like we discussed earlier. If it's not there in the first place, then why do you need to update it?

Keep in mind that if you're not sure, you can always install the update manually by visiting the developer's website. Just don't do it by clicking a link to get there. Instead, manually type in the web address so you're sure you are going where you want.

And as always, take a moment to think about whether or not you even need the software prompting you for an update. If you don't know the answer, try uninstalling it and going without. If you find that you can't do something, you can always reinstall the software later.

Reply Online

Have a technology issue and want some advice? Visit www.icl.coop and click on Powered Up to respond. Your response might even be included in a future column.

Ed VanHoose is the Digital Communications Administrator/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.
Deadlines: June issue - April 19;
July issue - May 20.

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

From Concept to Delivery!



The advertisement features a central logo for "Cooperative Design & Print" with a stylized 'C' made of three curved lines. To the left, there is a stack of various printed materials including brochures and newsletters. To the right, four vertical panels represent different services: "Design" (with a grid icon), "Print" (with a stack of paper icon), "Mail" (with an envelope icon), and "Web Design" (with a computer screen icon). Below these panels, text describes the company's 40-year history and commitment to cooperatives.

Cooperative Design & Print has faithfully served cooperatives and other businesses for more than 40 years as part of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

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Our team of editors and graphic designers can help bring your ideas to life.

Web sites Signage Newsletters Stationery Annual Reports Brochures

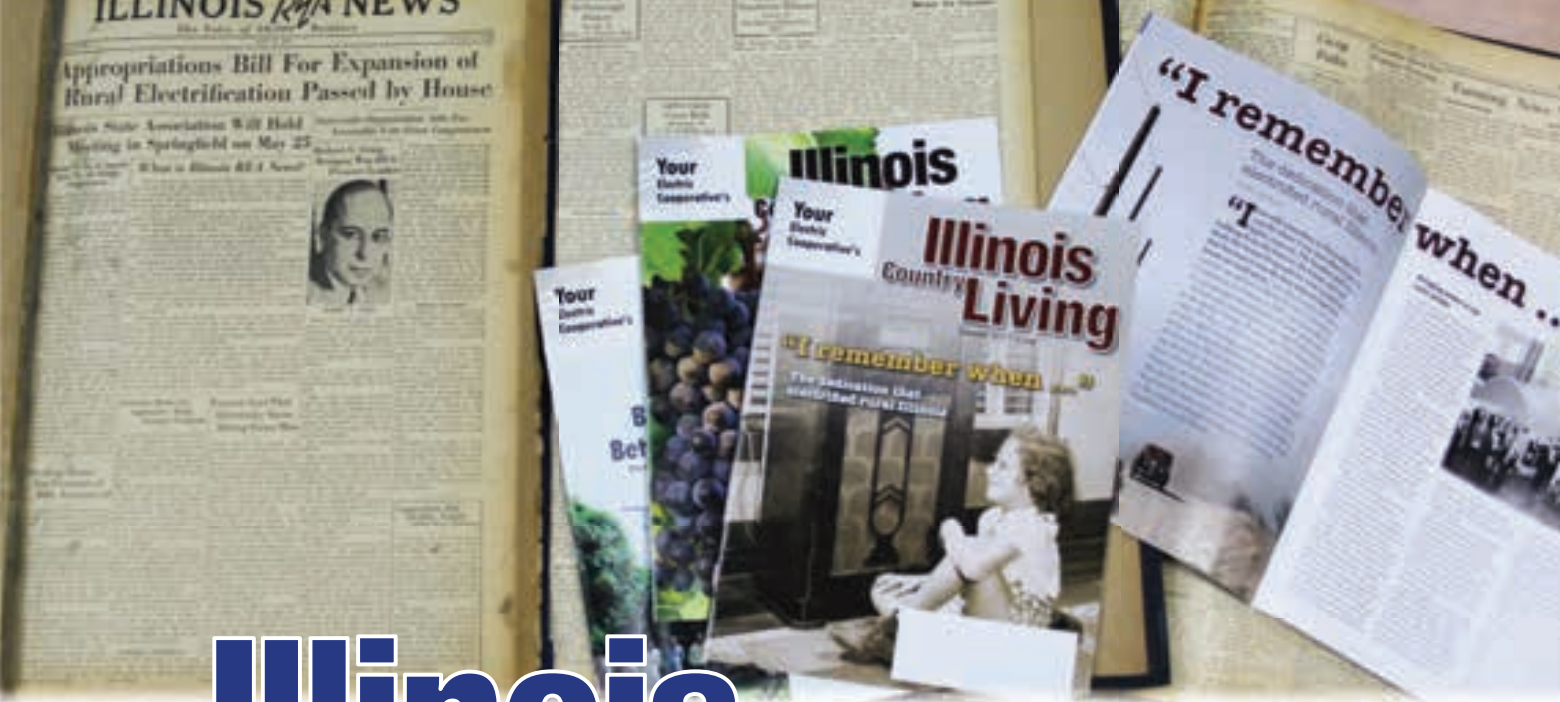
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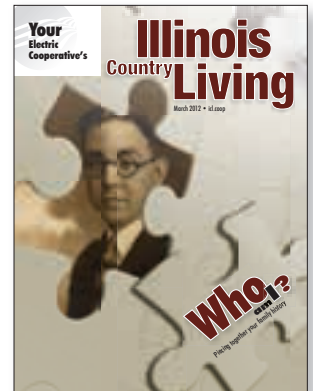
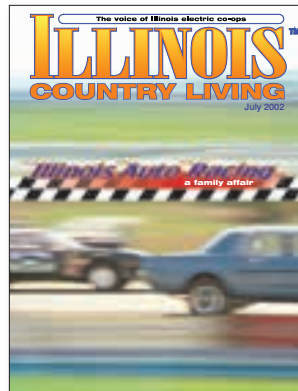
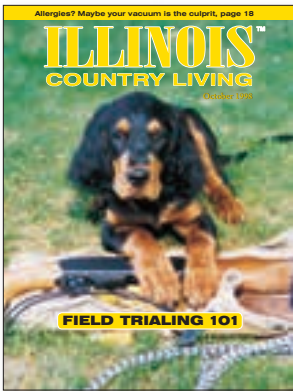
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or LRigoni@aiec.coop



By Valerie Cheatham

It was so peaceful, that grove of trees with snow-covered branches. It somehow took me back to my childhood and reading *Little House in the Big Woods* by Laura Ingalls Wilder. I wanted to be part of the family as they visited Grandpa's house and went out to tap the maple trees and watched, and of course tasted, the maple syrup Grandma made.

The tradition

The grove of sugar maples I'm standing in is known as Funks Grove. It was discovered by Isaac Funk in 1824, and his children were contemporaries of the Ingalls family. Isaac and his children made maple sirup and maple sugar for their family's consumption. It wasn't until 1891 that Arthur Funk began selling maple sirup for \$1 per gallon.

In the early 1920s, Hazel Funk Holmes took over the business. There were about 600 buckets hung from the trees and about 240 gallons of sirup made each year.

Today, the sugar maple grove is in a family trust set up by Hazel to protect the tradition for generations to come. In her trust, Hazel expressed her wish that the product always be referred to as "sirup", which was the Webster's preferred spelling for the boiling down of sap without adding sugar. The family retains that spelling to this day as they continue the maple sirup tradition. Mike and Debby Funk are the current operators with help from their children, Jonathan and Katie, along with their nephew Sean and his wife.

The process

Starting in mid-February more than 3,000 trees are tapped with around 7,000 spouts. The majority of the sap is still collected in buckets, like they've done for generations. As the temperatures rise and fall the pressure inside the trees changes causing the sap to flow from the roots up to the branches to help feed new growth. Optimal conditions have night time temperatures in the 20s and day time in the 40s.

Once the sap is flowing, you can hear the clanging of the



Maple sirup the sweet tradition of Funks Grove

metal buckets as the sap-gathering crew walks from tree to tree removing the buckets and pouring the collected sap into their carrying buckets. As they get full, the crew pours it into a large gathering tank pulled by a tractor. As the gathering tanks fill up they are pumped into an even larger tank on the back of a trailer. Once that tank is full it is driven back to the sap house and run through a filter into a large holding tank.

When the sap is flowing quickly each four-gallon bucket can fill up in as little as 12 hours, so collection is an ongoing process.

In 2011, the Funks added high-vacuum tubing to parts of the grove. Three vacuum pumps gently suction the sap through the tubing, which then flows to a collection tank. If overnight temperatures are above freezing they can leave the pumps on and collect all night.

Explaining the process Mike Funk says, "A reverse osmosis system separates about half of the water from the sap, which is only two to two-and-a-half percent sugar. The concentrated sap is then pumped into a 300-gallon evaporator heated with two oil burners, which boils the sap to remove the water." Sap boils at seven degrees above water, or 219 degrees, and is closely monitored by Mike. The process boils up minerals which are filtered out to make the finished product the clear amber color we expect.

The evaporator system is automated so that as the water evaporates and sirup is pulled off, new sap is pumped in. The process produces so much humidity, my glasses steamed up upon entering the sap house. According to Mike, the entire process takes about 40 gallons of sap and one to one-and-a-half hours to make one gallon of sirup.

Finished sirup is held in drums until it is heated one more time upon bottling. Sirup is usually available in early March until they run out sometime in August or September. On the average they produce 1,800 gallons each year, depending on the weather.

The finished sirup

When you step inside the sap house your senses immediately detect the sweet maple smell wafting up from



the evaporator in the back. Your taste buds will be tempted by the sirup, maple cream and candies they sell.

Funks Grove sits beside historic Route 66 outside of Shirley, Ill. Many tourists come in as they are traveling the route and according to Debby Funk, "It is not unusual for European tourists to stop by. And, once they've tried the sirup they want it again. Twenty percent of our business is done through mail order and we have shipped it all over the United States and as far away as Japan."

To learn more about Funks Grove, or to order their products, visit the website at www.funkspuremaplesirup.com, or take a trip down Route 66 and see for yourself. Funks Grove is just south of Bloomington, Ill. and on the west side of I-55.

Want to try your hand at making maple sirup?

With a bit of planning you can make your own maple sirup. Any maple tree will work but the sugar maple (also called hard or rock maple) has the sweetest sap. The tree needs to be at least 12 inches in diameter and healthy. A few minutes of research online will give you a wealth of knowledge about how and when to tap the trees. You will also find information on gathering, storing and processing your sap into sirup as well as videos that show you the step-by-step process.

Here are a few websites to get you started:

www.tapmytrees.com

<http://recipes.howstuffworks.com/food-facts/question71.htm>

www.youtube.com/watch?v=OAmuFLz8TEk



Jonathan helps to collect the sap.



Sap-gatherers pour it into the gathering tank.



Sap boiling in the evaporator.



Mike Funk checks the sap for sugar sand.

- 1-19 The Iris Farm**, Il Hwy 15 & Markham City Road, Bluford. Located in the heart of the heartland, near the Shawnee Forest, Rend Lake and Fort de Chartes. Ten thousand irises may be seen at peak bloom time. Admission is free and most irises are for sale. 618-732-8430.
- 2-4 IHSA Bass Fishing Event**, 801 Lake Road, Carlyle. Illinois is the first state in the nation to have its high school sports association sanction high school largemouth bass fishing. High school fishermen from all over the state descend on Carlyle to show their bass fishing skills. The city sponsors food/vendor events to coincide with the Bass Finals. 618-594-5253 or www.carlylelake.com.
- 3-4 Dutch Days Festival**, Downtown Fulton. Free to the public, join us for events celebrating our Dutch heritage – windmill tours, quilt show, 5K walk/run, traditional street scrubbing, Dutch dancing, a fashion show of traditional Dutch costumes and a parade at 3 p.m. on Sunday. Includes arts and crafts, food concessions, and displays and demos of stippling and hindeloopen painting. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. www.cityoffulton.us or dutchdaysfestival@yahoo.com.
- 3-5 Dutch Days @ Heritage Canyon**, 515 N. 4th Street, Fulton. The Early American Crafters portray pioneer living at Heritage Canyon. Demonstrations include open fire cooking, weaving, spinning, music and more. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 815-589-4545 or www.cityoffulton.us.
- 4-5 Illinois Route 66 Red Carpet Corridor Festival**, 19600 North 1960 East Road, Towanda. It's all about family fun on Route 66. This annual festival invites everyone to experience life in the slow lane. All-day events include area garage sales, antiques, food, entertainment and Route 66 memorabilia at North Park. 309-728-2169 or www.i66redcarpetcorridor.org.
- 5 Spoon River China Art Guild Annual China Show**, Donaldson Center, 250 S. Avenue D, Canton. Hand painted china displays, door prizes, china painting demonstrations and refreshments. Free admission, donations accepted and appreciated. Hours: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 309-647-3390.
- 17-19 Fans, Feathers and Flowers Bishop Hill Quilt Show**, 500 W. Main St., Bishop Hill. The annual show continues to grow and over 100 quilts and quilted pieces are entered in this judged show at Colony School. Be sure to visit the Village Smithy and VagnHall Galleri to see additional quilts on display. Fri. & Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 309-927-3851 or www.bishophill.org.
- 18 8th Annual Mechanicsburg, IL Magic Car and Truck Show**, Uptown Village Park, Mechanicsburg. Registration from 9 a.m. to noon with participant voting from noon to 1 p.m. Awards at 3 p.m. or earlier. Dash plaques and goody bags go to the first 100 vehicles. Awards include Best of Show, Top 50 and Long-Distance. Pre-register by 5/12 for \$10, registration on 5/13 is \$12. 217-364-4888 or email galaxieguyandgal@ctiwireless.com.
- 18-19 Old Capitol Art Fair**, Old State Capitol Grounds, between 5th and 6th Streets, Springfield. One of the most popular juried art fairs in the country you will find art in the form of jewelry, sculpture, photography, glassware, pottery, wood, metalwork, oils, watercolors and other media. Free to the public. Hours: Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Go to www.socaf.org for more info.
- 18-19 Grafton Winery Blues Festival**, 300 W. Main St., Grafton. Enjoy the 4th Annual Grafton Winery & Brewhaus Blues Festival featuring free non-stop blues concerts both days. Check www.TheGraftonWinery.com for a list of performers. Sat. 1 – 9 p.m., Sun. Noon – 7 p.m. 618-786-3001.
- 24-26 Springfield Mile/Amateur & Pro TT Motorcycle Races**, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 E. Sangamon Ave., Springfield. Amateur TT races on Friday, TT races on Saturday and Springfield Mile on Sunday. Pro motorcycle racing at its best with a jump – riders from 5 years old through adults. Fast-paced action and non-stop thrills of national level motorcycle racing. Admission charged. 217-782-6661.



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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: April 15 for July events. **Mail to:** Illinois Datebook, PO Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708. E-mail to: datebook@iiec.coop.

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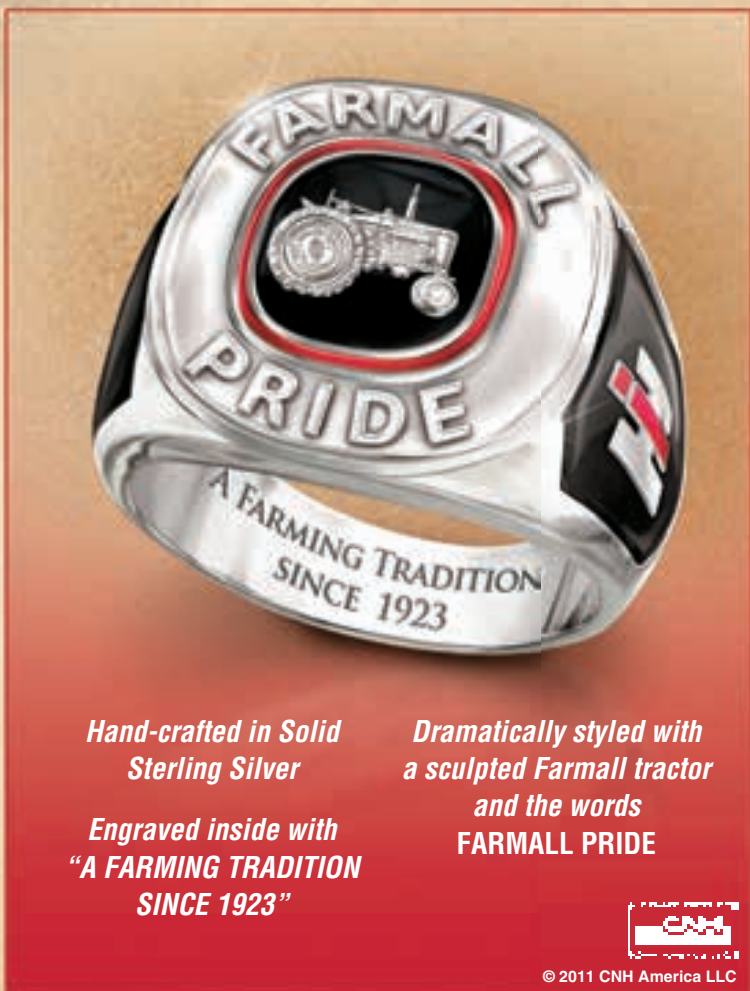
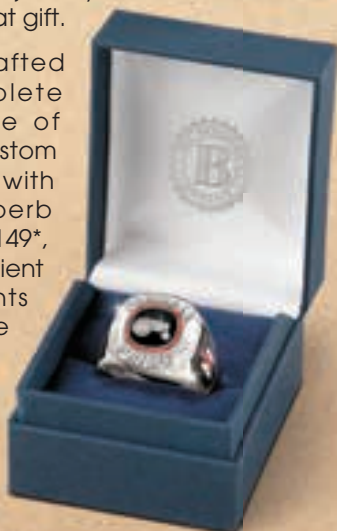
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