

# The SOUTHEASTERN Light

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative Eldorado, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

## President's Comments



Dustin Tripp  
President/CEO

## Help us control vegetation

One of the many advantages of living in Southern Illinois is the beauty of this area including the Shawnee National Forrest and the great variety of trees and vegetation that grow throughout the region. Although your Cooperative realizes the significance of this important natural resource and are advocates for retaining as many local trees as possible, we must implement a sound vegetation management program to ensure you with reliable energy solutions.

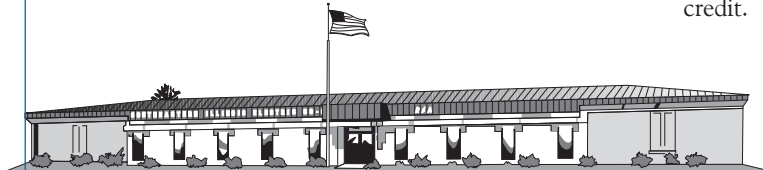
SouthEastern's current vegetation management program sets the goal of trimming on a four-year cycle. This means that what is trimmed or cut today will be trimmed again in four years. Your Cooperative feels that if this goal can be achieved, you as Cooperative members will experience less momentary blinks, less outages and faster restoration times which increases the quality and reliability of your electric service. Over the past few years, your Cooperative has experienced extreme storms resulting in devastating damages which reminds all of us of the importance of a sound vegetation management program.

In order to achieve this goal, SouthEastern needs to trim and cut trees along approximately 900 miles of power line per year. The maps displayed on page 16b and 16c show the areas where your Cooperative will be trimming trees, removing trees and applying necessary herbicides. As you can

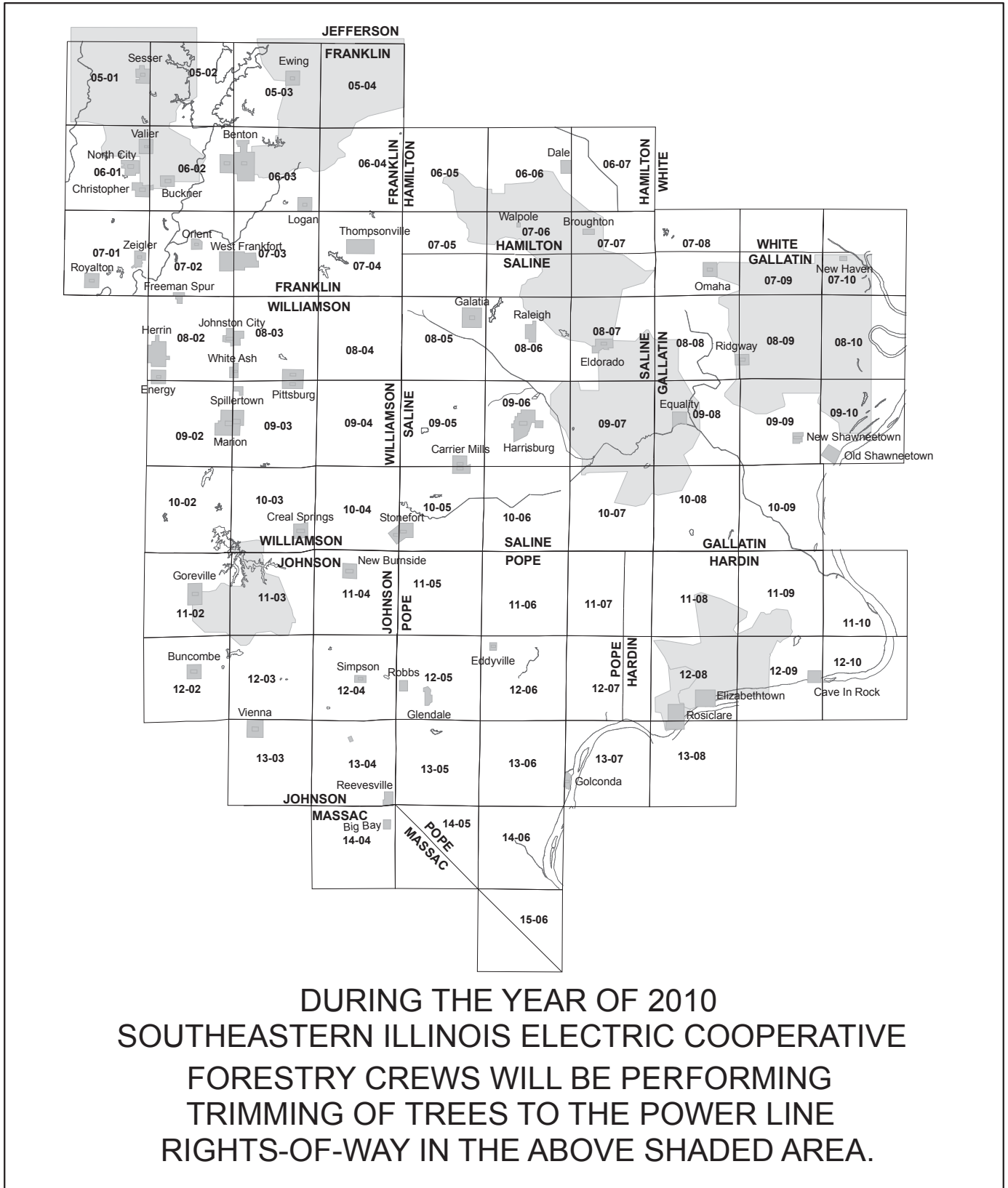
see, the Cooperative is working diligently to provide a sound vegetation management program. As Cooperative members and owners, you can help us maximize the use of your money and improve your electric service by allowing us to achieve proper trim clearance on your trees and participating in other programs. Your Cooperative initiated a program several years ago known as "Swap a Tree". The "Swap a Tree" program has been enhanced to allow members an additional option. If you allow the Cooperative to remove a lawn tree that is interfering with primary lines and is being periodically trimmed by the Cooperative, you are eligible to receive one of the following two options:

1. SouthEastern will cut the tree down, cut it up into firewood-length pieces, chip the small brush and plant a new tree of your choice such as oak, maple, tulip poplar, willow, pear or gum (additional species are also available) approximately 40 feet from the primary line.
2. SouthEastern will cut the tree down, cut it up into firewood-length pieces, chip the small brush and allow members a \$2.00 per inch in diameter cash credit for lawn tree stump removal and provide a \$75 per lawn tree cash credit.

READERSHIP PRIZE WINNER:  
  
Philip Bailey  
Harrisburg, IL



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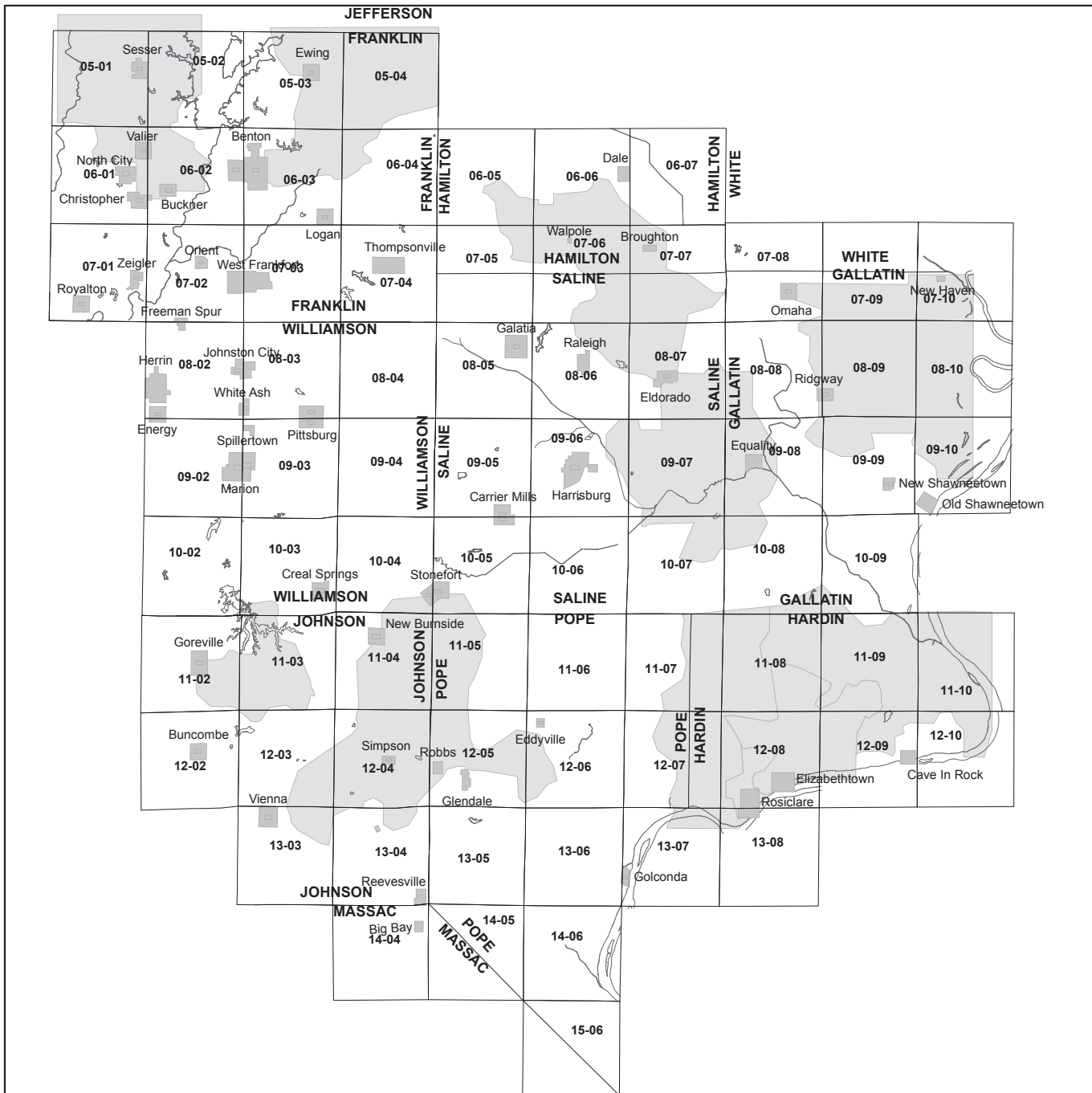


A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



*The power of human connections*





DURING THE YEAR OF 2010  
 SOUTHEASTERN ILLINOIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
 FORESTRY CREWS WILL BE APPLYING CHEMICAL  
 HERBICIDE TREATMENT TO THE POWER LINE  
 RIGHTS-OF-WAY IN THE ABOVE SHADED AREA.



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## President's Comments

*(Continued from 16a)*

If you are interested in participating in this program, which will increase the reliability of electric service to yourself and your neighbors while helping to preserve our environment, please call Jeff Crisp, Property and Right-Of-Way Control Manager, at (800)-833-2611 ext. 165 and he will help you get started with these options.

See you next month and as always, "We'll keep the lights on for you."



The office will be closed Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup> in observance of Presidents' Day.

# POWER OUTAGE

If your power goes off, we offer these suggestions

1. Check the fuses or circuit breakers in your service panels. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "ON" position.
2. If you have a meter pole, check the main breaker panel just below the meter socket. If the breaker is in the "OFF" position, check all of your wiring from the meter pole to your various buildings. If the wiring appears to be okay, reset the breaker to the "ON" position.
3. If you still do not have power, check with neighbors to see if they have power.
4. To report a power failure or other emergency, please phone 1-877-399-8405. This phone number is monitored around the clock, 365 days per year to accept your outage and emergency calls.
5. Your phone call will be handled by SouthEastern's automated outage reporting system and will be identified automatically through ANI (Automatic Number Identification). An outage record will then be generated for your location. Please note that the phone number from which you place the call will be the number used to generate the record. If the system fails to recognize your phone number, members having touch-tone phones may simply enter their seven-digit phone number (without area code) in order to report the outage. Members not having touch-tone phones will be asked to leave a message. It is important you leave your name, phone number and location of the outage. Retrieving messages and entering them into the system is time consuming; therefore, please leave only a message that will help in restoration of electric service. Do not remain on the line for an operator because a live operator is not there to respond. In order to keep a current listing of all numbers, it is important that you notify the Cooperative of any changes in your telephone number.
6. Handling outage calls electronically allows you to report power failures very quickly. Once your outage has been reported, it will be dispatched to repair personnel who will restore your outage as soon as possible. Calling back repeatedly will not shorten the length of the outage, but may hinder the efforts of other members who are trying to report outages.

## Outage Calls Only 1-877-399-8405

### SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Inc.

585 Highway 142 South • P.O. Box 251 • Eldorado, Illinois 62930

618-273-2611 or 800-833-2611 • Office hours: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. M-F