

Shelby Electric Cooperative announces scholarship winners

Three area youths were recognized and awarded \$1,000 scholarships during Shelby Electric Cooperative's 75th annual meeting of members, Friday, June 14th.

This year's winners were Jared Beeson of Oconee, Taylor Damery of Blue Mound and Mallory Jefson of Shelbyville.

Jared is a recent graduate of Pana High School and will be attending St. Louis University to study pre-medicine. He is the son of Jeremy and Jennifer Beeson.

Taylor is a recent graduate of Merdian High School and will be attending the University of Illinois to study biology with a pre-medicine focus. She is the daughter of Brian and Mindy Damery.

Mallory is a graduate of Shelbyville High School and will be attending Cedarville University where she will be studying education with a minor in Bible. She is the daughter of Scott and Jamie Jefson.



Shelby Electric Cooperative announced the winners of their 2013 scholarships at their 75th annual meeting of members. This year's winners pictured from left are **Mallory Jefson** of Shelbyville, **Taylor Damery** of Blue Mound and **Jared Beeson** of Oconee.

"We are always pleased to be able to provide our scholarships each year to these outstanding students as a way to give back to the communities we serve," noted Cooperative Board Chairman Darrell Shumard.

Heidi Hall, who coordinates this program for the cooperative, will begin notifying schools within the cooperative's service territory in January about

the 2014 scholarships. You can also learn more about the scholarships on the cooperative's website, www.shelbyelectric.coop under the "Our Community" menu tab. Like our Facebook page by going to www.facebook.com/YourCoop and clicking on "Like."

Cooperative and subsidiary offices will be closed September 2nd for Labor Day.



Two farm girls at heart

Saying Goodbye



Surrounded by some of her critters, Marla Eversole said goodbye to Shelby Electric Cooperative as member services representative at the end of June to go back to her roots as a farm girl. Pictured going clockwise from top, Happy, Marla, Hunter, Saint and Tim and Eric known as the "other Kids"

Saying Hello



Heidi Hall pictured with her husband Jason, were married in the back yard of her parents farm. They wanted to pay tribute to Heidi's family's farming legacy. Heidi started as the new member services representative at Shelby Electric Cooperative July 29, 2013.

What is that old saying, "Once a farm girl, always a farm girl"? Well, that saying still rings true for Marla Eversole and Heidi Hall. Steeped in many traditions, Marla and Heidi loved growing up on their family farms and even with their recent careers vested in the

electric cooperative families, both continued to keep their hands in the farming community. Both loved their roles in improving their cooperative's members' way of life and enhancing their cooperative's image with their work not only in the office but also within the communities in which they live.

Regrettably, we had to say goodbye to member service representative "farm girl" Marla Eversole at the end of June. Marla grew up on her parents' farm south of Tower Hill. Her parents were grain and beef cattle farmers. She helped with planting beans and the always fun, walking beans, which basically means walking the rows of beans with a hoe and cutting the weeds out. Of course there was the work with the cattle and showing them at fairs. She also did all kinds of odd jobs that are part of farming. Marla said she is thankful for those memories she had growing up on the family farm with beef cattle and the view of Williamsburg Hill just

to the east. By the same token, she is also thankful for the memories she had as member services representative for the cooperative.

Marla came to Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) in 2006 and made an impact with the schools as she coordinated the "Youth Day", "Youth to Washington Tour" and SEC scholarships. Most notably, she helped to create a monthly column in the member newsletter called "Real Life Real Power" which later became her own column by adding a "Getting Real with Marla" subheading. She said she will miss being an energy detective for members trying to discover the causes of high electric use in their homes.

Marla left the cooperative to return to her roots as a farm girl. Marla and her husband, Larry, hope to expand the variety of farm animals on their "hobby" farm to include raising Berkshire pigs for meat. They currently have over 100 hills of pumpkins and gourds planted at her mother's farmstead.



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While those of us in the cooperative family will miss her wit, charm and professional attitude she brought to her job at SEC; we also wish her well with her farm adventure and family of husband Larry, sons Levi and Dakota Pruemmer, stepdaughters Chelsea and Caitlin Eversole and one granddaughter Aubree.

Fortunately, we get to say hello to "farm girl" Heidi Hall who started at SEC the last week of July. Heidi came to SEC from Jo-Carroll Energy based out of Elizabeth, Illinois. She had worked in a similar position at Jo-Carroll since 2008. Jo-Carroll is not only an electric cooperative, they also serve members natural gas needs. Additionally, they started an Internet subsidiary, Sand Prairie Wireless, patterned after SEC's PWR-net Wireless Internet.

Heidi grew up in Chadwick, Illinois on the 4th generation Weber Family Farm where they raised 750 acres of corn, soybeans and alfalfa

hay along with a 30-head cow/calf herd. When she wasn't cultivating relationships with schools and community groups on behalf of the cooperative, she could be found running the grain cart or combine during harvest, chisel before winter, raking hay in season and assisting with the cattle.

Hey Marla, sound familiar?

Heidi could also be found as a competitor in tractor pulls, where she admits she still hasn't been able to beat her father. Heidi has a strong farming background and list of accomplishments in the agriculture community. She also brings with her to SEC a strong background and list of accomplishments in the cooperative community. We look forward to the young, high-energy attitude she brings to the job and to hearing new ideas and ways to better SEC and its members.

When she isn't in work mode you can find Heidi enjoying 4-wheelers,

camping, crafting and spending time with two dogs, family and friends. Speaking of family, Heidi recently married Jason Hall, who grew up in Shelbyville, and she looks forward to watching her stepson participate in youth activities as he goes through school.

One day, in the distant future, she hopes to find herself back in Northern Illinois continuing on what will be the 5th generation family farm; until then, SEC looks forward to having Heidi on board and helping SEC provide its members with safe, affordable and reliable electricity. Heidi promises to keep the cooperative spirit alive for SEC and looks forward to meeting members of all ages now and well into the future.

To two, dedicated "farm girls" we say best wishes Marla Eversole and welcome to Shelby Electric Cooperative Heidi Hall.

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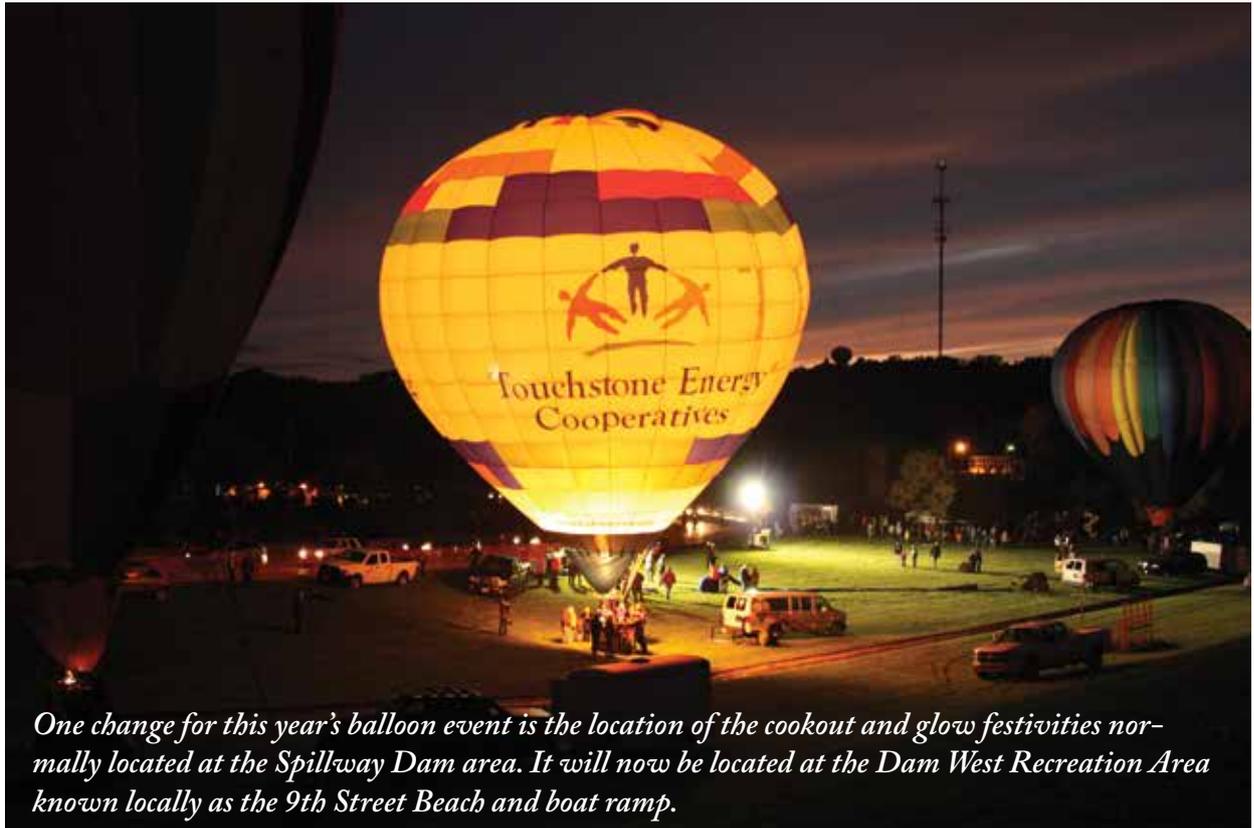
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Mark your calendar

Touchstone Energy Hot Air Balloonfest on Lake Shelbyville October 11th – 13th



One change for this year's balloon event is the location of the cookout and glow festivities normally located at the Spillway Dam area. It will now be located at the Dam West Recreation Area known locally as the 9th Street Beach and boat ramp.

Shelby Electric Cooperative and several other Illinois Touchstone Energy Cooperatives have teamed up to bring the Touchstone Energy Hot Air balloon team to Lake Shelbyville for the 4th annual hot air balloon festival.

Come see pilots from Chicago, Iowa, Missouri and Central Illinois float above Lake Shelbyville with flights Friday night, Saturday and Sunday mornings. Saturday night

enjoy a nightglow, charitable cookout and other festivities which will be located at the Dam West Recreation Area off 9th Street in Shelbyville.

The Touchstone Energy Balloonfest is being held in conjunction with Shelbyville's Scarecrow Daze providing plenty to see and do Columbus Day weekend, October 11th – 13th.

For more information about the

balloonfest or how to volunteer as a crew member for a balloon, contact the cooperative at 217-774-3986 or go online at www.lakeshelbyville.com and click on the event calendar. See a schedule of events in the October 2013 Shelby News insert in Illinois Country Living magazine. Follow the event on facebook by searching Lake Shelbyville Balloonfest.

Editor's note: Due to lack of space in the August issue, we were unable to publish the winners of our \$25 bill credit drawing for members who mailed in their ballot for the election of directors. Members who voted by mail were entered into a drawing. The following members were selected and received their bill credit on their July bill: Romona Hazen, Joseph Woodall, Kent Kull and Marilyn Healy all of Shelbyville, Chad Peterson of Edinburg, Walter McCollom Jr. of Western Springs, Dora Eck of Pana, Michael Brewer of Bethany, Corey Getz of Mt. Zion and Robert Swiney of Cape Coral, Florida.