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Maze days

Fall on the farm
is for family fun

SC RECIPE

Squash appeal

SC BACKSTORY

Missile memory



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TRANSACTION WITH TRUST

Visitors pick their way through the corn maze at Clinton Sease Farm in Lexington.

14 Maze craze

As the weather cools and the fields turn golden, South Carolina farms transform into fall fun destinations.

4 CO-OP NEWS

Updates from your local co-op.

6 AGENDA

Self-care for community

Alena Goveas understands the importance of recreation at every stage of life. Her kind idea won her \$5,000.

8 SC ENERGY

Seal to save

Energy and money could be slipping right through the cracks in your home's air ducts.

10 SC RECIPE

Squash appeal

Pumpkins, zucchini and squash—oh, my! These versatile veggies are packed with nutrients and flavor.

12 SC BACKSTORY

Meet me at the missile

As the State Fair approaches, learn the surprising history behind this iconic rallying point.

13 SC STORIES

Shaping the sound

Crafting custom guitars by hand for decades, an Upstate luthier believes he still hasn't made his ultimate masterpiece.

18 CALENDAR

19 FISH & GAME CHART

20 SC GARDENER

Sympathy for the devil's walking stick

These spiky stalks bring intrigue and fluttering suitors to the landscape. But tree huggers, beware!

22 HUMOR ME

Go ask Albert

Who ever birthed a brilliant idea from a clean desk anyway? A little clutter (or a lot) never bothered Jan A. Igoe.



Belinda Sandlin's 8-year-old granddaughter, Reagan, runs through the West Farm corn maze. Photo by Thomas Hammond.



tri-countyelectric.net

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Chad T. Lowder

CO-OP NEWS EDITOR

Sheila D. Rivers



Plan to attend!

Annual Meeting Nov. 21

AS A MEMBER of Tri-County Electric Cooperative, you are invited to attend the 2026 drive-thru Annual Meeting to

be held Saturday, Nov. 21 at the co-op's main office, 6473 Old State Road in St. Matthews.

Drive-thru only registration

Tri-County Electric employees will guide you to the registration lanes where you will present your registration card and valid photo ID. Each registered member will receive a \$25 bill credit and will also be automatically entered into the prize drawings. You will be able to drive up and register without leaving your vehicle.

Please note that members are limited to one registration per membership and may not register for other members who are not in attendance.

Registration postcard

Please check your mail for your registration postcard the first week of November. All members registering at the drive-thru-only Annual Meeting are encouraged to bring their official registration card and a valid photo ID. This will speed up the registration and voting process.

Virtual Business Meeting

No in-person member attendance. The business meeting will be available via



All members—and their furry friends—are encouraged to drop by our main office at 6473 Old State Road in St. Matthews Saturday, Nov. 21 for our 2026 Annual Meeting drive-thru registration event. Tri-County employees will be on hand to welcome you and help you with registration.

livestream on our YouTube. A recording of the meeting will be posted on our website, tri-countyelectric.net, for those unable to view it live.

Prize Drawings

The prize drawings will be held immediately following the virtual business meeting. Winners will be notified, and the results of the drawings will be posted on our website and Facebook page.

Chad T. Lowder

CHAD T. LOWDER

Chief Executive Officer

Co-ops: a powerful idea

COOPERATIVES LIKE Tri-County Electric have always been built around the powerful idea that when people work together, they can improve life for their neighbors and strengthen the communities they call home.

Tri-County Electric was created in 1939 by neighbors who came together to bring electricity to an area that other utilities weren't willing to serve. While a lot has changed in nine decades, the co-op remains faithful to its original purpose.

We're still here to provide power and make decisions with our community's best interests in mind.

October is National Co-op Month, and there's no better time to highlight what makes the cooperative model better for you. We're celebrating an idea that has endured for generations. As a member of Tri-County Electric, you're more than a customer. You're part of something that belongs to the community.



Equipment auction

Tri-County Electric taking bids on vehicles, heavy equipment, shop equipment

TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC Cooperative will take bids on the equipment shown below. Sealed bids must be received in the St. Matthews office by close of business on Monday, Nov. 16. Tri-County reserves the right to reject any and all bids.



LOT 1

**2013 CHEVROLET
EQUINOX LS FWD**

- ▶ 2.4 DOHC
- ▶ 6 speed automatic transmission
- ▶ Power windows and locks
- ▶ Cruise control
- ▶ AM/FM radio

138,539 miles



LOT 2

**2015 CHEVROLET
TRAVERSE AWD 2LT**

- ▶ 3.6 V6
- ▶ 6 speed automatic transmission
- ▶ Power windows and locks
- ▶ Cruise control
- ▶ AM/FM radio

202,995 miles



LOT 3

**2017 CHEVROLET
COLORADO 4WD**

- ▶ Extended cab
- ▶ 3.6 DOHC
- ▶ 8 speed automatic transmission
- ▶ Power windows and locks
- ▶ Cruise control
- ▶ AM/FM radio

NOTE: Transmission shifting issues.

212,146 miles



LOT 4

**2018 CHEVROLET
2500HD 4WD**

- ▶ Double cab
- ▶ 6.0 V8
- ▶ 8 speed automatic transmission
- ▶ Power windows and locks
- ▶ Cruise control
- ▶ AM/FM radio

NOTE: Body damage on lower passenger side rear door. Transmission shifting issues.

283,589 miles



LOT 5

**2006 INTERNATIONAL
7300 4X4 WITH ALTEC
755L BUCKET**

- ▶ International DT466 with Allison 3000
- ▶ 5 speed automatic transmission
- ▶ Manual windows and locks
- ▶ Cruise control
- ▶ AM/FM radio

NOTE: Will need leveling cables.

153,277 miles



LOT 6

**2009 INTERNATIONAL
7300 4X4 WITH ALTEC
DM 47 DIGGER DERRICK**

- ▶ International DT466 with Allison 3000
- ▶ 5 speed automatic transmission
- ▶ Manual windows and locks
- ▶ Cruise control
- ▶ AM/FM radio

115,261 miles



LOT 7

2019 SNAP-ON EEWB331B

- ▶ Motorized wheel balancer



QUESTIONS?

If any further information is needed, please contact the cooperative's Fleet Maintenance Supervisor at (803) 874-1215 or 1 (877) 874-1215.

Self-care for community

Teen wins Bennett Scholarship with wellness fair for seniors

ALENA GOVEAS HAS A LOT on her plate.

The senior at River Bluff High School in Lexington excels academically, helps with the school's social media and has a long list of other extracurricular activities that keep her busy.

Still, Goveas understands the importance of recreation at every stage of life.

"I'm really passionate about mental health and giving everyone the opportunity to participate in activities where they can relax," says Goveas, who was sponsored by Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative on the 2026 Washington Youth Tour.

It was that passion that led Goveas to create Senior Summer Self-Care, a wellness fair at Lexington Medical Center Extended Care that offered residents a special opportunity to play board and card games, color, craft and listen to music. Goveas also provided snacks and beverages.

"A lot of these residents don't get the opportunity to engage in self-care practices," says Goveas, who has been volunteering at the facility since she was in



JOSH P. CROTZER

Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative CEO Bob Paulling presents the R.D. Bennett Community Service Scholarship to Alena Goveas in September.

ninth grade. "I think the coloring station was their favorite. They also seemed to like the bracelets that had positive messages on them."

Goveas' Senior Summer Self-Care project earned her the \$5,000 R.D. Bennett Community Service Scholarship award from the Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina. A panel of judges selected her work from among seven community service projects completed by fellow Washington Youth Tour students this summer.

"I think it shows that when you put in hard work and dedication to a project that you're really passionate about, it can pay off," says Goveas, who logged 104 hours of work on the project over four months and raised more than \$800

"A lot of these residents don't get the opportunity to engage in self-care practices."

—SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT ALENA GOVEAS

for supplies. "If you're passionate about anything, I would recommend that you reach out to a community and just try to give back in any way. Even a small difference is a difference."

The R.D. Bennett Community Service Scholarship is named for the first general manager of the Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina. Bennett believed that electric cooperatives should support their local communities beyond providing power. The scholarship is given annually to a Washington Youth Tour participant who best exemplifies the cooperative principle of "Concern for Community."

"I knew Mr. Bennett," says Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative CEO Bob Paulling. "I know he would be very proud of Alena." —JOSH P. CROTZER

AI supercharges scam risks

Con artists have always been a problem, but artificial intelligence has made it even easier for scammers to trick people and steal their money and personal information. AI tools can look authentic on the surface. They can mimic familiar voices and create videos, emails and websites that are designed to make you reveal credit card and bank account numbers, make electronic money transfers and give out personal details.

Be vigilant.

TIPS TO HELP PROTECT YOURSELF

PAUSE BEFORE YOU ACT. Be suspicious of urgent requests for money or personal information.

VERIFY THE SOURCE. Contact the person or organization through a trusted phone number or official website—not contact information in a letter or email.

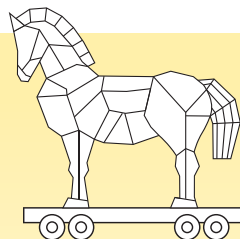
LOOK BEFORE YOU CLICK. Check the website address for legitimacy. Check addresses and email links for misspellings or other red flags.

SET A FAMILY CODE WORD OR PHRASE. Don't share it online, and ask for it to verify an emergency call. A cloned voice won't know it.

USE SECURE PAYMENT METHODS. Never pay with gift cards, wire transfers or cryptocurrency, as these payments are difficult (and sometimes impossible) to recover.

REPORT SCAMS to the Federal Trade Commission at reportfraud.ftc.gov.

—CATHY CASH



IS THIS FOR REAL?

Scammers can build websites that resemble those from your electric co-op. They might pose as co-op employees and call or email you demanding immediate payment via gift cards, wire transfers and even cryptocurrency, threatening to shut off power if you don't pay.

What should a co-op member do in this situation?

Stop. Treat any unexpected demand for immediate payment or personal information as a scam, and contact the co-op directly using the phone number on your power bill.



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Seal ductwork for savings

Properly sealing your home's ducts can reduce wasted energy and help with indoor air quality

BY MIRANDA BOUTELLE

ONE OF THE BIGGEST energy wasters in your home might be out of sight: your ducts.

Around 20% to 30% of the air you pay to heat or cool is lost through leaks, holes or poorly installed ductwork in the average home, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. That's energy—and money—slipping right through the cracks, regardless of how stingy you are with the thermostat setting.

Properly sealed ducts can also improve indoor air quality. Leaking return ducts can pull dirty, dusty air from attics and crawl spaces. And if you have gas appliances—such as a gas water heater, dryer or furnace—leaking return ducts can cause backdraft, introducing combustion gases back into the home instead of outdoors where they belong.

You can seal ducts yourself or hire a professional. For a do-it-yourself approach, start by determining your duct type. Most homes have flexible or metal ducts.

Metal ductwork can be round or rectangular and vary in size, with assorted options for turns and connections. Insulate ducts when they run through unconditioned spaces, such as crawl spaces, attics and garages. If your metal ducts are insulated, you must remove the insulation to seal them properly, then reinsulate.

Flexible ducts typically have an inner and outer layer with insulation in between. The inner layer is made of bendable plastic reinforced with wire, like a stretched-out Slinky covered in plastic. The outer layer holds the insulation in place. The inner liner in flexible ducts can become brittle over time, cracking and causing leaks. If your inner liner is in bad shape, replace the flexible duct.

Vanquish the air leaks in your ducts

► **Check for any obvious disconnections, gaps, extra bends or sagging ducts.** Improve airflow by using short, straight, taut runs. Avoid sags and excess turns.

► **Fasten metal ductwork at each joint using sheet metal screws.** Make sure your ducts are properly supported to keep the joints from separating over time. For flexible ducts, use Panduit straps.

These heavy-duty nylon zip ties offer long-term durability and a tensioning tool specifically designed to tighten them.

► **Use products designed for the job.** Seal every joint and seam with **duct-sealing mastic**—a thick paste you can apply with a paintbrush or gloved hand. When it dries, mastic creates a flexible, airtight seal that eliminates duct leakage.

Use **mesh tape** to bridge larger gaps before applying mastic.

Remove register covers inside the home to seal the joints and seams there.

You also want a good seal where the duct meets drywall or flooring.

In easier-to-reach areas, you can use UL-listed **foil-backed tape** designed for ductwork.

► **Do not use duct tape**, as temperature fluctuations can cause the adhesive to fail.

► **Duct sealing is messy, so protect yourself and your home.** Use drop cloths to protect flooring. Metal tape and the edges of metal ducts are sharp, so wear coated work or garden gloves under nitrile or latex disposable gloves. To protect your arms, wear a long-sleeve shirt tucked into your gloves.



SEAL IT UP A side-by-side comparison shows where to apply mesh tape and mastic to close gaps around metal ducts.

AFTER AIR SEALING, have an HVAC professional test the airflow during your next annual maintenance visit.

If you don't feel comfortable getting your hands dirty, hire a professional. Most companies that install ductwork or heating and cooling systems can also seal ducts.

Sealing your ductwork gives you peace

of mind that your home is not wasting energy or introducing unhealthy air into your living space. ☺

MIRANDA BOUTELLE writes on energy efficiency topics for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing nearly 900 electric co-ops.

MIRANDA BOUTELLE, PIONEER UTILITY RESOURCES



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American River Otter.
Photo by Richard Hernandez

SQUASH appeal

BY BELINDA SMITH-SULLIVAN

BUTTERNUT SQUASH SOUP WITH SCALLOPS

MAKES ABOUT 8 CUPS, OR 5 BOWLS

SOUP

- 1 butternut squash (about 3–4 pounds)
- Extra virgin olive oil
- ½ large onion, peeled and sliced
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 3 cups chicken broth, more if needed
- ½ teaspoon cardamom
- 2 tablespoons Madeira wine or sherry (optional)
- Kosher salt
- Fresh ground black pepper

CROSTINI

- 1 baguette
- Extra virgin olive oil
- Granulated garlic
- Minced parsley

SCALLOPS

- 8 sea scallops
- Fresh ground black pepper

Pumpkins, zucchini and squash—oh, my! We pass them every time we visit the produce section, often with little notice. But these versatile veggies are dense with antioxidants and packed with health benefits. It's time for a closer look at squash.

Preheat oven to 350 F. Spray a 13-by-9-by-2 glass baking dish with vegetable spray. Cut squash in half lengthwise and place cut side down in prepared baking dish. Bake until squash is tender, about 45–60 minutes. Heat olive oil over medium heat in a deep, medium-sized skillet or small Dutch oven. Add onions and sauté until soft, about 5 minutes. Add garlic and cook an additional minute.

Using a large spoon, scrape half of squash from skin into food blender. Add half of onion mixture and purée until smooth. Transfer to a clean pot, cover and keep warm. Repeat with second half of squash and onion mixture and add to pot. Stir in broth, cardamom and Madeira (if using) and bring to a simmer; season with salt and pepper and continue to simmer uncovered, about 15 minutes, until thickened. Remove from heat, cover and keep warm.

Increase oven to 400 F. Slice baguette into ½-inch slices. Brush with olive oil and sprinkle lightly with granulated garlic and minced parsley. Place on baking sheet and bake for 8–10 minutes, turning once, until slightly brown around the edges.

Sprinkle scallops with pepper and chill for 30 minutes. Heat oil in a skillet over medium-high heat until hot. Sauté scallops until just cooked through, about 2–3 minutes per side. Transfer to a paper towel. Spoon warm soup into individual bowls. Add a crostini to the top of soup (it will float), and top crostini with a scallop.



CHEF'S TIP Sea scallops versus bay scallops. Sea scallops are larger (1½–2 inches), firmer and ideal for searing. They are found in deep ocean waters. Bay scallops, found in shallow protected waters, are smaller, sweeter and best suited for soups, pasta and quick cooking.

GINA MOORE



GWENELL LE VOT

SUGARY OVEN-ROASTED PUMPKIN

SERVES 4

- 1 small sugar or pie pumpkin (about 2–3 pounds)
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar, packed
- 2 tablespoons pure maple syrup
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon fresh ground black pepper
- ½ teaspoon smoked paprika
- Fresh rosemary or thyme sprigs

Preheat oven to 425 F. Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper. Use a vegetable peeler to remove pumpkin skin, then cut pumpkin in half and scoop out seeds and pulp. Cut into small slices following the indentation lines, then cut slices into 1-inch cubes. In a large bowl, toss pumpkin pieces with olive oil, salt, brown sugar, syrup, cinnamon, pepper and paprika until evenly coated. Place on baking sheet and roast in a single layer for 20–30 minutes or until pumpkin is fork tender and edges are slightly caramelized. Garnish with fresh herbs and serve warm.

SOUTHERN STEWED SQUASH AND ZUCCHINI

SERVES 4–6

- 3–4 tablespoons unsalted butter or olive oil
- 1 medium sweet onion (Vidalia), cut in half and sliced into half-rounds
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 3–4 medium yellow summer squash, sliced in ¼-inch rounds
- 3–4 medium zucchini, sliced in ¼-inch rounds
- 1 28-ounce can fire-roasted diced tomatoes, with juice
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- ½ teaspoon fresh ground black pepper
- Pinch red pepper flakes
- 3 tablespoons fresh chopped basil, divided

In a large skillet over medium heat, melt butter. Add onion and sauté until soft; add garlic and cook an additional minute. Add squash, zucchini and tomatoes to the skillet. Reduce heat and add salt, pepper, red pepper flakes and 2 tablespoons basil. Cover and simmer 10–20 minutes or until squash reaches desired tenderness. If a thicker sauce is desired, let simmer uncovered for the last 5 minutes. Garnish with additional basil before serving.



KAREN HERMANN



JULIA NEDRYGALOVA

PUMPKIN GINGER SCONES

MAKES 8 SCONES

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- ⅓ cup light brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon cardamom
- ½ teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 stick (½ cup) unsalted butter, cut into ½-inch cubes and chilled
- 2 tablespoons crystallized ginger, finely chopped
- ⅓ cup currants or raisins
- ¼ cup pecans, chopped
- ½ cup pumpkin purée, bought or homemade (see *Chef's Tips*)
- ⅓ cup buttermilk, more if needed
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- ¼ cup heavy cream
- 1 tablespoon sugar

Preheat oven to 400 F and place rack in the center of oven. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or spray with cooking spray. In a large bowl, whisk flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda, cardamom and salt. Using a pastry cutter or two knives, cut the butter into the flour mixture. The mixture should look like coarse crumbs. Stir in crystallized ginger, raisins and pecans. In a separate bowl, mix pumpkin purée, buttermilk and vanilla. Make a well in the center of the flour mixture and pour in buttermilk mixture. Mix until the dough just comes together. Do not overmix. (If dough seems too dry, or all flour mixture does not come together, add more buttermilk, 1 tablespoon at a time, until dough comes together like a biscuit dough.)

Transfer dough to a lightly floured surface. Knead gently four or five times, then pat dough into a circle about 7 inches round and 1½ inches thick. Cut circle in half, then cut each half into four pie-shaped wedges (triangles). Place scones on baking sheet. Brush tops with heavy cream and sprinkle with sugar.

Place baking sheet inside another baking sheet to prevent the bottoms of the scones from overbrowning. (This is particularly important if your oven's heating element is on the bottom of the oven. If your oven is convection, one baking sheet is sufficient.) Bake for about 20 minutes or until golden brown and a cake tester inserted in the middle of a scone comes out clean. Transfer to a wire rack to cool.



CHEF'S TIPS Make it from scratch. Find Chef Belinda's instructions for making your own pumpkin purée and homemade baking powder (no metallic aftertaste!) at SCLiving.coop/food/chefbelinda/squash.



IT'S A MATTER OF TASTE.

SC RECIPE IS SPONSORED BY SC DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Meet me at the ... nuclear missile?

BY JEFF WILKINSON

"MEET YOUR MOMMA AT THE ROCKET" is as ubiquitous a phrase in South Carolina as "Go 'Cocks" or "Dang, it's hot."

When the South Carolina State Fair opens this month in Columbia for its annual run, the Rocket will once again become a rallying point for family and friends from across the state.

But the Rocket has a darker side. It's actually a nuclear missile.

Specifically, it is a 1950s-era medium-range ballistic missile that, when armed, was capable of devastating Russian cities from 1,500 miles away. If detonated over the fairgrounds, the mushroom cloud alone would be about a mile wide. (But trust there's no danger of that.)

The Jupiter-class missile was designed to carry a 1.5-megaton nuclear warhead 75 times more powerful than the bombs dropped on Japan at the end of World War II. The team that designed it was led by Wernher von Braun, a former German Nazi officer recruited by the United States after the war to help lead America's ascension into space.

The Jupiter missiles' presence in Europe was central to the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis, when the Soviet Union deployed nuclear missiles just 90 miles from the Florida coast. In particular, the 70-foot-tall rocket named *Columbia* was decommissioned in 1963 after the U.S. quietly removed the Jupiters from Turkey—a secret deal that helped diffuse the crisis.

The rocket was donated to Columbia (the city) by the U.S. Air Force later that year "to stand as a monument to deterrence, adding prestige to the glorious military traditions of South Carolina," Air Force Maj. Gen. Emmett B. Cassidy announced at the time.

But it was six years before the missile was erected at the fairgrounds, according to the book "Meet Me at the Rocket" by Rodger Stroup.

Before the Rocket arrived, the annual



The Rocket is a towering landmark on the state fairgrounds in Columbia that, in some years, has been painted to highlight local organizations.

The Rocket has a darker side. It is a 1950s-era medium-range ballistic missile that, when armed, was capable of devastating Russian cities from 1,500 miles away.

football game between the University of South Carolina and Clemson University defined the fair. The game was played from 1896 until 1959 on a Thursday during the fair.

Big Thursday, as the game day was called, was so popular that it was proclaimed a state holiday, culminating in the State Ball that evening. It was played in USC's football stadium across from the

GET THERE

South Carolina State Fair

WHEN: Oct. 15–25.

TICKETS: \$20 at the gate, discounts for purchases online and at Circle K stores. \$15 for seniors, and free for children 5 years old and younger. On opening day, all tickets are \$5.

MORE INFO: scstatefair.org

fairgrounds until Clemson complained that Big Thursday gave the Gamecocks an unfair home field advantage.

The game was scrapped in favor of an annual home-and-home tilt at the end of the season, which is still played today.

The missile was erected at the fairgrounds 10 years after Big Thursday's demise and has since become a defining symbol of the fair. It was placed near the Rosewood Drive entrance and soon became a rallying post for guests and a waypoint for lost children. The public address announcer will broadcast across the fairgrounds for friends to gather there and for wandering little ones to "meet your momma at the Rocket."

In 2015, the Rocket was raised on a 12-foot platform so it could be seen above trees that didn't exist when it was first erected. After all, you can't meet your momma at the Rocket if you can't see it, the fair's then-manager Gary Goodman told *The State* newspaper at the time.

For the past decade, the Rocket has occasionally been brightly painted, often to highlight charitable organizations or anniversaries. This year, it has been refurbished and painted with its original military design, an homage to its past.

From a lethal weapon during the Cold War to a beacon for lost children, the Rocket is a South Carolina icon and an indelible part of the state's collective soul. ☺

Shaping the sound

As a kid growing up in the Soviet city of Alexandrov, Nikolai Goudkov told his mother he needed a board. She worked at a sawmill, so she found him one. His father, a bulldozer driver, sourced leftover paint from a construction site. With these crude materials, Goudkov built his first guitar, fastening the strings with nails.

It would not, however, be his last guitar.

Decades later, after a career as a working musician and self-taught radio engineer in Russia—where he wound his own pickups, built his own amplifiers and fashioned guitars for musicians because Soviet-made instruments were, as he says, nearly unplayable—Goudkov immigrated to the foothills of upstate South Carolina to live near his son and family.

Now in West Union, Goudkov operates a small luthier's shop in a woodshed, where he makes custom electric guitars and restores damaged ones, sourcing tonewoods by feel and experience. Sometimes the materials come from Home Depot, and once from a neighbor's ruined piano that Goudkov disassembled and recycled.

He builds by instinct more than blueprint, starting with a body, shaping a neck and letting new ideas surface as he goes.

"He doesn't start with a concrete plan and finish with that," his son Dmitri explains, translating his father's Russian into English. "It's fluid—in the process of the moment."

Goudkov's client list has grown to include local musicians and collectors. Recently, a guitarist who once played with the pop star Pink came in to have a guitar set up before an Atlanta concert.

But Goudkov's philosophy hasn't changed since those first nail-strung strings in Alexandrov. A guitar isn't its price tag nor its country of origin. It's the way it feels in a player's hands.

"Pick it up," he says. "Play it. If it's yours, it's yours."

As for his great masterpiece, Goudkov says he hasn't made it yet. Each guitar he makes, he believes, might be the one.

"It's like a carrot in front of a donkey," he says. "You see it, but you never get there."

—HASTINGS HENSEL | PHOTO BY MATTHEW FRANKLIN CARTER

Nikolai Goudkov

AGE: 72.

RESIDES IN: West Union.

CLAIM TO FAME: Luthier and guitar restorer.

BEAR NECESSITIES: When a musician from a North Carolina band called Bearfoot asked Goudkov to build him a custom guitar in the shape of a bear's paw, Goudkov asked only for a hand-drawn sketch. "If you send me a sketch," he says, "even drawn by your own hand, pencil, whatever—we can work with that."

PRICE RANGE: Goudkov's custom guitars run \$250–\$450. Walk-ins are welcome, and he recommends coming in person so you can play before you buy.

MAZE

South Carolina farms transform into fall fun destinations

BY BENJAMIN CULBRETH | PHOTOS BY THOMAS HAMMOND

CRAZE

“GRANDMA, IT’S THIS WAY!”

Eight-year-old Reagan and her 6-year-old brother, Jackson, holler that phrase more than a few times as they navigate the labyrinth that is the West Farm Corn Maze.

They’re leading their grandmother, Belinda Sandlin, a Berkeley Electric Cooperative member, through rows of corn, often scattering in opposite directions as they try to escape the stalks.

Reagan and Jackson aren’t maze rookies. This is their third one. But according to them, the West Farm puzzle poses the biggest challenge yet.

Across South Carolina, a crispness in the air and leaves that go from summer’s green to shades of yellow, orange and red indicate fall is (nearly) here, and many kids (and grandparents) will be winding their way through mazes and pumpkin patches. And for several farms across the state, autumn means it’s time to put the plows away and

A-MAZING FUN Above: Visitors wend their way through the corn maze at Clinton Sease Farm in Lexington. Right: Reagan and her brother, Jackson, lead grandmother Belinda Sandlin through the stalks at West Farm in Moncks Corner.

begin the transition to harvesting tickets rather than crops.

A handful have even turned to new pastures, converting their farms to full-time agritourism operations.

Regardless of the approach, turning a working farm into a day of family fun is no small feat. It’s a lot of work to manage the eager guests who want to lose themselves in cornfields, enjoy the tastes of fall and experience life on the farm, if only for the day.

Here’s how they do it and what visitors can expect to enjoy on farms throughout the state.

West Farm Corn Maze

1542 Cooper Store Road, Moncks Corner
(843) 704-0618

West Farm’s corn maze is a serious challenge for even the most seasoned maze wanderer, winding nearly 3 miles through rows of stalks. West Farm has been in the corn maze business for more than two decades now, though, according to owner Charlotte West, the concept seemed a little far-fetched at first.

The idea originated when her sister-in-law called her father-in-law



with a “crazy idea” that he should start a corn maze. His response?

“Nobody’s gonna pay us to walk through corn,” she recalls him saying.

When West and her husband took over the farm, they decided to give that crazy idea a shot. The first year was a bit of trial and error, but they knew they were onto something. Now, more than two decades later, they host thousands of guests over five weeks in the fall.

“We would personally take families around and do all the activities with them, and then it just got bigger and bigger. And now we do over 50,000 people in five weeks,” West says.

The maze has a distinct theme and design each year. The 2025 edition featured dogs, with the maze meandering in the shape of man’s best friend and supporting local animal organizations.

“We’ve partnered with all these rescues and other organizations to help raise money,” West says.

The 7.5-acre maze was designed and mapped by MazePlay from Firth, Idaho.

This year’s maze design honors America’s 250th anniversary, featuring the Statue of Liberty and an eagle’s head.

Once you make your way out of the rows, take a load off with a hayride through the property, or let the kids enjoy the farm-inspired play area. There are plenty of animals to spend time with and feed, and vendors offer an assortment of fall goodies for the whole family.

Clinton Sease Farm

382 Olde Farm Road, Lexington
(803) 730-2863

“IT WAS AN ACCIDENT.”

That’s how Clinton Sease describes his farm’s path to starting a corn maze. In the early 2000s, Sease ran a roadside stand, and one day, a special set of visitors stopped by.

“A group of people came by that were going to Harmon’s Tree Farm as part of a convention out of Charlotte,” Sease explains. That convention was part of the International Agritourism Association.

After a few conversations with the folks who got off the bus, Sease’s wife and sister went to the same conference to learn about agritourism and how they could start welcoming people to their farm. By 2004, Clinton Sease Farm was in the corn maze business.

Now, the farm has become a staple Midlands attraction. It’s come a long way since its early maze days, when Sease cut pathways through the cornfields himself with a lawnmower and help from workers on the farm.

“The first three years, we lined it off by hand,” Sease says. “I went through with twine and a bucket.”

Today, GPS has made it less of a manual process. In addition to the maze, which features a lookout tower, Clinton Sease Farm has a pumpkin patch and games for kids of all



A DAY ON THE FARM In addition to navigating corn mazes, families can enjoy activities such as meeting farm animals at West Farm (top) and tractor rides and pig “racing” at Clinton Sease Farm. Don’t forget to peruse the pumpkins! Pick out a few to take home to carve or decorate your front porch.



FARM FUN

Cooley Farms—Strawberry Hill USA

3097 Hwy. 11 West, Chesnee
(864) 461-7225

Don't be deceived by the name. Strawberry Hill USA, operated by Cooley Farms, is a year-round operation, and its fall festivities are just as big a deal as its springtime fruit namesake. The farm dates to 1900 and has been in the Cooley family since the beginning.

Strawberry Hill's 10-acre corn maze is a doozy and a go-to place for fun in the Upstate. Once you make your way out of the maze, homemade ice cream awaits as a prize, and pumpkins are ready to be picked.

And make a stop at the Strawberry Hill USA Café, famous for its cat head biscuits.

McLeod Farms

29247 Hwy. 151, McBee
(843) 335-8611

Farming has long been a cornerstone of life in McBee, and McLeod Farms embodies it as one of the area's oldest farms, first established in 1916. The farm's corn maze and pumpkin patch are highlights of the fall experience, but visitors can also enjoy yard games and wagon rides through strawberry fields and the peach fields that have made McLeod Farms famous.

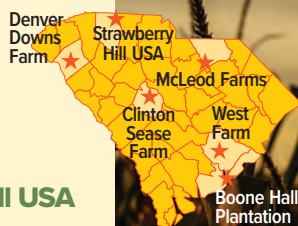
The on-site store has plenty of homemade goods, including delicious ice cream, and a burger from Big's Meats & More is a must-have.

Denver Downs Farm

1515 Denver Road, Anderson
(864) 556-3394

The Upstate farm, owned by the Garrison family since 1869, is steeped in history. Denver Downs has gone full fun after years as a working plot. It has staples including a pumpkin patch and corn maze, but this farm takes fall fun to a whole new level.

More than 30 activities are available for kids and the whole family, including weekend entertainment. Pumpkin Nights allow visitors to experience the farm after the sun goes down and enjoy the Candy Corn Forest trail, rent a private bonfire and catch live music.



ages. And this year, a jumping pad and apple cannon will make their debut.

This year's maze design will also honor the celebration of America's 250th anniversary.

Boone Hall Plantation

1235 Long Point Road, Mount Pleasant
(843) 884-4371

WHILE MANY FOLKS ASSOCIATE THE MOUNTAINS or rural farms with pumpkins and corn mazes, historic Boone Hall Plantation has hosted fall festivities for more than two decades. And it's been farming for a lot longer.

Boone Hall Plantation is still in use as a production farm, and its history stretches back to well before the country's founding, having been established in 1681.

The Lowcountry landmark is a popular destination on cooler autumn days and offers plenty of farm fun.

"The corn maze is just one portion of our whole Pumpkin Patch festival," says Jason Young, Boone Hall's director of marketing. "We have a wagon ride through the woods with different fall (and) Halloween scenes for kids, entertainment shows, petting zoo, mini golf, live music, photo ops, food, cider, pumpkins and so much more."

This year's corn maze has something special in store for visitors. Berkeley Electric Cooperative, which sponsors Boone Hall's corn maze, has chosen to use the logo of Bright Ideas as the design for this year's 8-acre maze. Bright Ideas is a Berkeley Electric-funded program that gives grants to teachers to help fund innovative classroom experiences. ☺



WHAT TO PACK FOR A DAY IN THE MAZE

COMFORTABLE SHOES

There's lots of walking in store at a corn maze (sometimes a few miles!). Comfortable walking shoes are a must.

BOTTLED WATER

Even though it's fall, it's not unusual for days to be in the 70s, or even warmer. Be sure to stay hydrated during all that walking and fall adventure.

LIGHT JACKET

While the day may be warm, if you plan to start early or go later in the evening, expect the temperature to drop.

FLASHLIGHT

Several mazes are open into the evening hours, and the sun sets fast as fall deepens. A dependable flashlight can help you navigate the path.

REMEMBER A FLASHLIGHT

Dusk turns to dark quickly in the fall. You don't want to get lost in the Clinton Sease Farm corn maze at night!





SCLiving.coop/calendar

Our mobile-friendly site lists even more festivals, shows and events. You'll also find instructions on submitting your event. Please confirm information with the hosting event before attending.

Upstate

OCTOBER

16–17 Storytelling Festival & Liar's Competition, Hagood Mill Historic Site, Pickens. (864) 898-2936 or visitthagoodmill.com.

16–18 Walhalla Oktoberfest, Highway 183 Sertoma Field, Walhalla. thewalhallaoktoberfest.com.

17 Creative Slingers of Ink Fall Book Festival, 215 Randall St., Greer. creativeslingersofink.com.

20–24 Union County Agricultural Fair, 120 Kirby St., Union. (864) 424-8272 or itsmyfair.com.

22–24 24th Annual New Play Festival, Centre Stage, Greenville. (864) 233-6733 or centrestage.org.

22–25 Finding Nemo Jr., Greenwood Community Theatre, Greenwood. (864) 229-5704 or greenwoodcommunitytheatre.com.

23–24 Pickens Appalachian Folk Festival, Hagood Mill Historic Site, Pickens. pickensappalachianfolkfestival.org.

23–Nov. 1 Into the Woods Jr., Clemson Little Theatre, Clemson. (864) 646-8100 or clemsonlittletheatre.org.

25 SC Comicon Fall Edition, Greenville Convention Center, Greenville. (864) 324-6695 or sccomicon.com.

NOVEMBER

14–15 Greenville Open Studios, downtown art studios, Greenville. (864) 467-3132 or greenvillearts.com.

21 Native American Celebration, Hagood Mill Historic Site, Pickens. (864) 898-2936 or visitthagoodmill.com.

26–Dec. 25 Anderson Christmas Lights, 150 Rose Valley Blvd., Anderson. (864) 314-8600 or andersonchristmaslights.org.

Midlands

OCTOBER

23–24 Blythewood Fall Championship Rodeo, Prisma Health Arena, Blythewood. blythewoodrodeo.com.

23–24 Jack-O-Lantern Jubilee, downtown, North Augusta. (803) 441-4310.

25 Three Rivers Bridge Dinner, Gervais Street Bridge, Columbia. threeriversbridgedinner.com.

30–Nov. 8 The Thanksgiving Play, Workshop Theatre, Columbia. (803) 799-6551 or workshoptheatreofsc.com.

31 Aiken Fall Steeplechase, Aiken Steeplechase Racecourse, Aiken. (803) 648-9641 or aikensteeplechase.com.

31 Columbia Korean Festival, Korean Community Presbyterian Church, Columbia. facebook.com/sckoreanfestival.

NOVEMBER

6 Fall Back Fest, 100–300 blocks of State Street, West Columbia. (803) 791-1880 or westcolumbiasc.gov.

6 Richland Creek Antique Fall Festival and Tractor Pull, Richland Creek Farms, Ward. (803) 730-0702 or richlandcreekantiques.com.

6–7 Pelion Peanut Party, downtown, Pelion. facebook.com/pelionpeanutparty.

6–8 South Carolina Underground Film Festival, Nickelodeon Theatre, Columbia. sc-uff.org.

7 Fort Mill Fall Festival, Town Square, Fort Mill. (803) 591-9898 or fortmillsc.gov.

7–8 Midlands Christmas Arts & Crafts Market, South Carolina State Farmers Market, West Columbia. (803) 553-4912 or midlandcrafters.wixsite.com.

11–14 The Outsiders, Aiken Community Theatre, Aiken. (803) 648-1438 or aikencommunitytheatre.org.

13–14, 20–21 Disney's Frozen, Rock Hill Theatre, Rock Hill. (803) 326-7428 or rockhilltheatre.org.

14 Jingle Bell Bazaar: Indoor Holiday Market, Gateway Conference Center, Richburg. (803) 581-2030 or artschester.com.

19–Dec. 13 Annie, Chapin Theatre Company, Chapin. (803) 404-0015 or chapintheatre.org.

20 NEON Joy Holiday Laser Light Show, Five Points, Columbia. (803) 748-7373 or fivepointscolumbia.com.

20–22 Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show, Jamil Temple, Columbia. cgms.rocks.



CAROLINACUP.ORG

FLYING HORSES Start off your Thanksgiving week at Colonial Cup Races in Camden on Nov. 22.

20–Dec. 13 Cult of Love, Trustus Theatre, Columbia. (803) 254-9732 or trustus.org.

20–Dec. 23 Wild Lights, Riverbanks Zoo, Columbia. (803) 779-8717 or riverbanks.org.

20–Jan. 3 Fireflies Holiday Lights, Segra Park, Columbia. (803) 726-4487 or firefliesholidaylights.com.

21 Come to the Manger—A Celebration of the True Spirit of Christmas, Beulah United Methodist Church, Gilbert. beulahmethodistgilbert.org.

22 Colonial Cup Races, Springdale Race Course, Camden. (803) 432-6513 or carolinacup.org.

22–Jan 1 Children's Garden Christmas and Kids' Walk, Edisto Memorial Gardens, Orangeburg. (803) 533-6020 or orangeburg.recdesk.com.

28 Christmas in the Backcountry, Colonial Times Living History Park, North Augusta. (803) 510-7885 or colonialtimes.us.

Pee Dee & Lowcountry

OCTOBER

17–18 Georgetown Wooden Boat Show, Front Street, Historic Downtown Georgetown. woodenboatshow.com.

22–Nov. 1 Eastern Carolina Agricultural Fair, Eastern Carolina Agricultural Fairgrounds, Florence. (843) 665-5173 or ecafair.com.

23–25 Pat Conroy Literary Festival, various locations, Beaufort. patconroyliterarycenter.org.

24 Barks & BOoze, Moore Farms Botanical Gardens, (843) 210-7582 or moorefarmsbg.org.

24 Charleston Beer Fest, Riverfront Park, North Charleston. chsbeerfest.org.

24 Edisto & Beyond Tour, various historic sites, Edisto Island. (843) 869-1954 or edistomuseum.org.

29–31 Hilton Head Concours d'Elegance & Motoring Festival, 10 Club Drive, Hilton Head Island. hhiconcours.com.

29–Nov. 8 Coastal Carolina Fair, Exchange Park, Ladson. coastalcarolinafair.org.

31 Andrews Heritage Festival, downtown, Andrews. (843) 264-8666 or townofandrews.sc.gov.

NOVEMBER

4–8 FestiVELO Cycling Festival, 113 Neyle St., Walterboro. (919) 924-3039 or festiVELO.org.

4–8 Nuovo Cinema Italiano Film Festival, Queen Street Playhouse, Charleston. nuovocinemaitaliano.com.

6–14 One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Florence Little Theatre, Florence. (843) 662-3731 or florencelittletheatre.org.

6–15 Charleston Literary Festival, Dock Street Theatre, Charleston. charlestonliteraryfestival.com.

7 Harvest Festival, Johns Island County Park, Johns Island. (843) 795-4386 or ccprc.com.

7 Hilton Head Oyster Festival, Lowcountry Celebration Park, Hilton Head Island. hiltonheadoysterfestival.com.

7 SC Pecan Music and Food Festival, downtown, Florence. sspecanfestival.com.

7–8, 14–15 Mythical & Medieval Fest, RH Acres, Myrtle Beach. (843) 723-1090 or mythicalmedievalfest.com.

8 Lowcountry Nosh Jewish Food & Heritage Festival, 90 Hasell St., Charleston. (843) 723-1090 or kkbce.org/lowcountry-nosh.

12–14 Heritage Days Celebration, Penn Center, St. Helena Island. (843) 838-2432 or penncenter.com.

12–15 Dickens Christmas Show & Festivals, Myrtle Beach Convention Center, Myrtle Beach. dickenschristmasshow.com.

13 Garden Open—Fall is Here, Moore Farms Botanical Garden, Lake City. (843) 210-7582 or moorefarmsbg.org.

13–14 YALLFest—Charleston Young Adult Book Festival, multiple venues, Charleston. yallfest.org.

13–Dec. 31 Holiday Festival of Lights, James Island County Park, Charleston. (843) 406-6990 or ccprc.com.

14 Colonial Trades and Harvest Day, Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site, Charleston. (843) 852-4200.

14 Holy Smokes Lowcountry Barbecue Festival, Riverfront Park, North Charleston. holysmokeschs.com.

15 Steeplechase of Charleston, Stono Ferry Racetrack, Hollywood. (843) 534-0172 or steeplechaseofcharleston.com.

15 Summerville Italian Feast, downtown, Summerville. (706) 414-9222 or summervilleitalianfeast.org.

23–Dec. 30 The Great Christmas Light Show, North Myrtle Beach Park & Sports Complex, North Myrtle Beach. (843) 280-5570 or parks.nmb.us.

27–Jan. 1 Harbour Town Lights, Harbour Town, Hilton Head Island. (843) 842-1979 or seapines.com.

27–Jan. 3 Nights of a Thousand Candles, Brookgreen Gardens, Murrells Inlet. (843) 235-6000 or brookgreen.org.

28 Intracoastal Christmas Regatta, Little River Inlet to Dock Holidays Marina. christmasregatta.com.

29–Dec. 20 A Christmas Carol, The Historic Dock Street Theatre, Charleston. (843) 577-5067 or charlestonstage.com.

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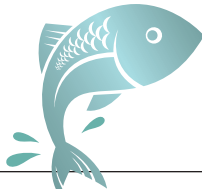
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FISH & GAME CHART

The Solunar forecast provides feeding and migration times. Major periods can bracket the peak by more than an hour, minor periods by a half-hour before and after.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
OCTOBER				
16	10:31	4:19	10:57	4:44
17	11:25	5:12	11:50	5:37
18	—	6:03	12:15	6:27
19	12:39	6:50	1:02	7:13
20	1:23	7:34	1:45	7:56
21	2:03	8:14	2:25	8:36
22	2:42	8:53	3:04	9:15
23	3:20	9:31	3:42	9:53
24	4:00	10:11	4:23	10:35
25	4:44	10:56	5:09	11:22
26	5:34	11:48	6:02	—
27	6:33	12:18	7:02	12:48
28	7:38	1:22	8:09	1:53
29	8:47	2:31	9:19	3:03
30	9:57	3:42	10:29	4:13
31	11:05	4:49	11:35	5:20
NOVEMBER				
01	—	5:51	12:05	6:19
02	11:59	5:46	—	6:12
03	12:22	6:33	12:45	6:57
04	1:04	7:15	1:26	7:38
05	1:43	7:54	2:05	8:16
06	2:21	8:32	2:43	8:54
07	3:00	9:11	3:23	9:34
08	3:43	9:55	4:06	10:18
09	4:29	10:42	4:54	11:06
10	5:20	11:04	5:45	—
11	6:14	12:01	6:40	12:27
12	7:10	12:57	7:36	1:23
13	8:06	1:53	8:31	2:19
14	9:01	2:48	9:25	3:13
15	9:52	3:41	10:16	4:04
16	10:41	4:30	11:03	4:52
17	11:26	5:15	11:48	5:37
18	—	5:57	12:08	6:18
19	12:26	6:37	12:47	6:58
20	1:04	7:15	1:27	7:38
21	1:43	7:56	2:08	8:20
22	2:27	8:40	2:53	9:06
23	3:16	9:30	3:45	9:59
24	4:13	10:28	4:44	11:00
25	5:17	11:33	5:50	—
26	6:26	12:10	6:59	12:43
27	7:37	1:22	8:09	1:53
28	8:46	2:31	9:16	3:01
29	9:49	3:35	10:16	4:02
30	10:44	4:32	11:09	4:57

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OCTOBER
IN THE GARDEN

■ Plant flower seeds in autumn? Sure, especially if they are biennials and hardy annuals such as lunaria, bells of Ireland, sweet alyssum, cornflower, foxglove, Johnny jump-ups, sweet William, larkspur, hollyhocks, snapdragons, sweet peas, or Virginia stock that actually need the cold of winter to properly develop in time for next spring.

■ Would you like your Halloween pumpkin to hang around long enough to also be a Thanksgiving decoration? Remember that the one you pick will last longer if it still has a few inches of stem attached. Keeping the rind intact will also help, meaning carved pumpkins will have a shorter show-off life.



EXTEND YOUR LATE HARVEST Pick green tomatoes before the frost arrives and carefully store them until they ripen.

TIP OF THE MONTH Are your tomato plants still going strong in the veggie patch? With cooler temperatures coming soon, you can either gorge yourself with every fruit on the vines until they die, or you can save some of what you have for an extended supply of home-grown tomatoes. For the latter (and, I am sure, preferable) option, simply harvest unblemished green tomatoes, wrap each in individual pieces of tissue paper and store them inside in a cool, dry place out of direct sunlight. Then, check them every week or two, taking out—and enjoying—mature fruits as they slowly ripen.

Sympathy for the devil's walking stick

BY L.A. JACKSON

AMID OCTOBER'S lengthening shadows, a plant with ties to the devil lurks in the wilds of our state.

But before you start locking doors and peeping out windows, let's unpack the facts. The devil's walking stick (*Aralia spinosa*) is a small tree native to the eastern U.S. The ominous appellation comes from an overabundance of nasty, hard thorns that ring its slender canes, making it a definite challenge for any dedicated tree hugger.

Despite menacing spikes—and a menacing name—the deer-resistant devil's walking stick can still be an interesting landscape addition. The upper parts of its stalks support broad fans of compound leaves, which, in the summer, are crowned with clusters of small, sprite-like, white flowers. Butterflies and bees do love these blooms, and I have often seen so many of both jockeying for the best blossoms that it reminds me of saloon brawls in old Western movies.

Dark purple drupes form in early autumn, and they attract another rowdy crowd: birds, and plenty of them. Robins, bluebirds, cedar waxwings, wood thrushes and other feathered garden buddies sense the changing season and eagerly gobble up these nutritious eats.



FEEDING FRENZY Devil be darned, butterflies do love this walking stick's flowers. But human tree huggers, beware of its thorny canes!

After leaf fall, only bare canes remain. Their sharp spines on gray wood, made obvious in the low winter sun, create otherworldly visual moments that, depending on your disposition, range from cool goth to horticulturally haunting.

Devil's walking stick can grow 20 feet high or more. I don't let mine get that big—I cut off older, taller stalks to keep the plants restrained at around 10 feet in height.

Just for the heck of it, I sometimes give away culled canes to friends as weird souvenirs from my garden. They're a bit light for use as actual

walking sticks, but they sure will start a conversation!

As far as finding such a strange beauty, in spite of it being native, devil's walking stick is not a common sight at garden centers. But still check with your local favorites, just in case. While you can find it online, also contact the South Carolina Native Plant Society (scnps.org), as a chapter near you might be offering it at their fall plant sale. ☺

L.A. JACKSON is the former editor of *Carolina Gardener* magazine. Contact him at la.jackson1@gmail.com.

PHOTOS BY L.A. JACKSON

Go ask Albert

BY JAN A. IGOE

BEFORE I COME

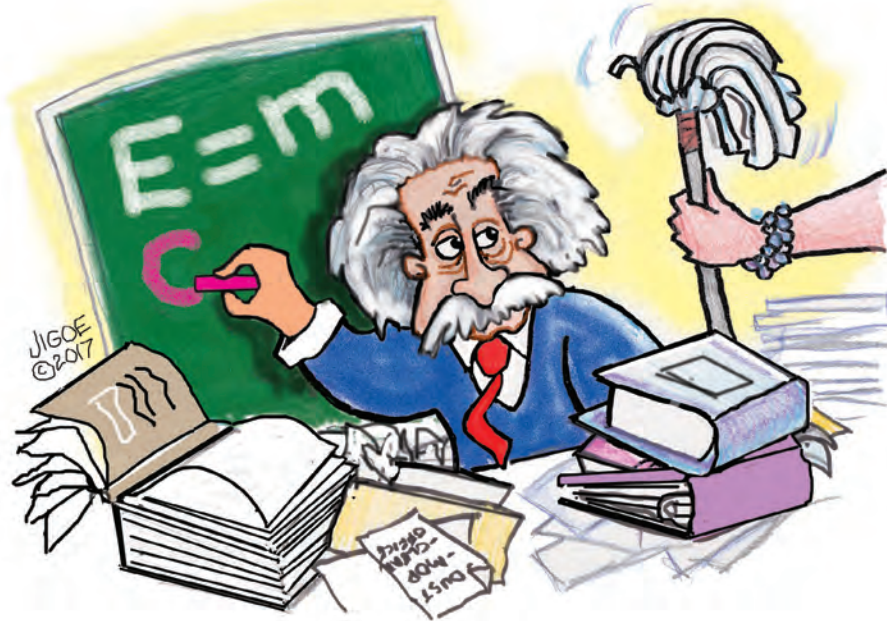
RIGHT OUT and admit that I'm messy, let's award some points for good intentions.

Every spring, I renew my annual pledge to scrub the house, clean out all my drawers, declutter each shelf and clear off all the tables last seen before Christmas. None of this comes naturally to me. Many females are born with a neatness chromosome, but it must have been bundled with mathematical aptitude and distributed in a line I totally missed when parts were being handed out.

My neighbor Joni is my polar opposite. Her home is always spotless. The woman can detect incoming dirt a few towns away. She can smell it with one nostril tied behind her back. Joni vacuums three times a day, and her cats signed a no-shed contract. Of course, you could eat off her floor. (Actually, you could do that at my place, too. Sometimes, there's a buffet.)

While piles of unfolded laundry tend to make extended pit stops in my living-room recliner, hers magically transport from dryer to dresser at the exact moment the dryer timer beeps. (It's possible Joni is a witch.)

I've tried to master her tricks, but despite owning every mop, steamer and germ killer on the market, some of us just aren't wired for championship cleaning. We're wired to collect pine cones and watch *Hoarders* to feel better about not



You're more likely to come up with brilliant solutions to the world's problems at a desk covered with books and notes than a sterile one. Great ideas might need a little chaos to incubate.

having any dead cats in the kitchen. Yet.

If Joni's OCD—Obsessive Cleaning Disorder—were contagious, I'd be sniffing her baseboards trying to catch it. Being messy isn't voluntary. It causes me physical pain to tear up a \$9 Food Lion receipt. As I ponder parting with it over the shredder, the voices in my head start to argue.

Voice 1: "Stop! You might need it for taxes."

Voice 2: "Toss it. You'll lose it anyway."

Voice 3: "You simply file receipts alphabetically."

Voice 4: "Shred the sucker. You don't own a file cabinet."

There's some good news for clutter-holics, though. Researchers recently figured out that clutter can be a good thing. Studies have shown that neatness kicks creativity to the curb. It may be fine for

doing your taxes, but you're more likely to come up with brilliant, out-of-the-box solutions to the world's problems at a desk covered with books and notes than a sterile one. Great ideas might need a little chaos to incubate.

Did you know that Albert Einstein—the father of modern physics—was messy? Steve Jobs and Mark Twain were supposedly prolific pilers, too. We can assume that the theory of relativity, the iPad and Huck Finn weren't born on tidy desks. For natural pack rats, this is redemption.

"If a cluttered desk is a sign of a cluttered mind," Einstein asked, "of what, then, is an empty desk a sign?" ☺

EDITOR'S NOTE: South Carolina Living is reprinting some of Jan A. Igoe's previous columns. This "Humor Me" originally appeared in the March 2017 issue. Visit SCLiving.coop/news/in-memory-of-jan-igoe.



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