

BUDGET STRETCHING IDEAS

Backyard Entertaining In A Staycation Economy

(NAPS)—Many Americans have found a way to still have fun despite the current economy. Instead of spending big money at some resort, they've discovered creative ways to spend vacations at home.

According to TripAdvisor's Travel Trends Survey, nearly one in five travelers are planning to take a "staycation." The reduced planning stress and increased cost savings lead many people to reconsider the definition of a vacation.

An added benefit of staying at home is being able to enjoy time with friends, family and neighbors. There are few better ways to do so than with a classic backyard barbecue.

Many aspects go into hosting a great outside party. An important one is the condition of the lawn. Using high-quality outdoor power equipment is key to having a beautiful lawn—and the engine matters most in the performance of a lawn mower. You can find out why at the Briggs & Stratton Corp. site, www.enginesmatter.com.

Be The Host With The Most

With the lawn in shape, everything else can fall into place. The following tips can help keep your backyard parties going:



Theme—Plan a party theme and coordinate everything from invites to the menu. For a beach party, greet guests with flowered leis. For a camping feel, cook over a firepit and have s'mores for dessert.

Fun For Everyone—Entertain guests of all ages by scattering toys around the yard. Younger kids will keep busy with squirt guns and horseshoes. Adults can play bocce or volleyball.

Potluck—Ask guests to bring a dish or dessert. Instead of being stuck behind the grill, spend time hanging out with guests. Sharing the cost and responsibility of the party will also make throwing a second or third one much easier.

Tunes—Music can make or break a party. Make sure it is appropriate for your guests and keep volume at a level that doesn't drown out conversation. For ultimate control, burn a CD or create a playlist of songs you know the crowd will love.