

MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES

Jack Barnwell Is

**Mackinac's
Master
Gardener**

BARNWELL LANDSCAPE
& GARDEN SERVICES
Mackinac Island

Plus!

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Change of Address: Please notify your electric cooperative. See page 4 for contact information.



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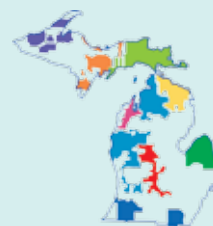
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ON THE COVER*

Jack Barnwell and his crew are responsible for creating many of Mackinac Island's wonderful gardens and landscaping layouts. And, it's accomplished without motorized vehicles.

Photo—Ian Smithers

**Some co-op editions have a different cover.*



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Voting Change Reminder



Steve Boeckman
Great Lakes Energy
President/CEO

If you're a Great Lakes Energy (GLE) member who lives in District 3 (Antrim County), District 4 (Otsego, Montmorency, Oscoda, and Crawford counties) or District 5 (Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Manistee, Missaukee, and Wexford counties), a mail-in ballot for voting on board of directors candidates is included with this issue.

Other Great Lakes Energy members will not receive a ballot this year. They will either receive their next ballot with the July/August 2015 or 2016 issue. Information on when elections will be held

in the other districts will appear in future *Michigan Country Lines* and *PowerTalk* bill inserts. Details are also online at gtlakes.com.

This is the first year GLE members will be elected to the board of directors by district. Earlier this year, Great Lakes Energy members voted in favor of switching from at-large to district elections for electing members to the board.

Each year, there will be an election in three of the nine newly-created districts to fill three openings on the board. Great Lakes Energy members will vote for a director to represent their district once every three years. Directors serve three-year terms.

With director election districts, our large 26-county service area can be more equally and locally represented by the people you elect to serve you on the board.

If you live in districts 3, 4, or 5, please read about the candidates in this issue and then cast your vote. You're a co-op member. Your vote counts. ■

Budzynski Historic Farm Honored

Congratulations to Helen, George, Thomas, Gayle and John Budzynski, whose Mason County farm has received state centennial farm certification.

Great Lakes Energy is a sponsor of the Michigan Centennial Farm Program that honors GLE members whose farms have been owned and operated by the same family for 100 years.

Once a farm is certified through the program, the owners receive a certificate and a display marker for their farm.

Great Lakes Energy members can request an application or receive more details about the program by contacting The Historical Society of Michigan, 517-324-1828, or by visiting centennialfarms.org and clicking on the "Programs" section. ■



What Can a 10-kilowatt Solar Array Power?

Great Lakes Energy's (GLE) new solar display outside the Boyne City office will be used to educate its members about alternative renewable sources of energy. The 10-kilowatt (kW) array is large enough to provide the energy needed for an average residential member's home.



A sign next to the Great Lakes Energy solar display in Boyne City gives some quick facts about the educational project.

What could you power with this solar array? Please remember that the amount of power generated by a 10 kW solar array will vary from zero to 10,000 watts, depending on the time of day and weather conditions. When the demand for energy in your home exceeds 10 kW, the additional electricity needed to power your home would be supplied by Great Lakes Energy.

The appliance list shown on this page could also be very short if, for example, the electric clothes dryer and electric water heater were operating at the same time. Together, they can draw 10 kW of energy.

The system's power generation data will be shared with GLE members in *Michigan Country Lines* magazine, on the gtlakes.com website and through a live monitor in the cooperative's Boyne City office lobby. ■

At peak generating times, 10 kW of solar energy could power the following:

Appliance	Typical Wattage*
36-inch color TV	133
Refrigerator (16 cu. ft. frost-free)	725
Large microwave oven	1,100
Computer/monitor in use	270
DVD	25
Large water pump	1,100
Toaster	1,400
Coffee maker	1,200
Hair dryer	1,875
Clothes iron	1,000
Stereo	400
Ceiling fan	175
Clothes washer	500

TOTAL **9,903**

*Department of Energy appliance wattage data



Hot Water for Life.

Saving is easy as 1-2-3:

When you purchase and install a new Marathon electric water heater through Great Lakes Energy, you can save three ways:

1. Unit rebates from \$250-\$500
2. \$50 rebate for a model rated with a .93 EF or higher
3. Up to \$8 (80 cents/ft.) for pipe wrap used to insulate the water outlet

Members may also qualify for our controlled water heating program and save up to \$90/year. Restrictions may apply, call for details.

Marathon is not regulated by the Michigan Public Service Commission

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PACK A PERFECT PICNIC

Pack the perfect picnic basket with these make-ahead, portable creations.

Black Bean, Tomato & Mozzarella Salad

1 can black beans, drained and rinsed
 1–2 green onions, chopped, include greens
 ½ c. cilantro, roughly chopped
 ½ c. finely chopped celery
 1 pt. grape tomatoes, halved
 ½ c. mozzarella cheese, cut in small cubes
 zest of one lime
 3 T. or more lime juice
 1 T. lemon juice
 3 T. olive oil
 ½ t. sugar, or to taste
 Optional—avocado slices

In a glass bowl, combine beans, onion, cilantro, celery, tomatoes and mozzarella.

Whisk together zest of lime, lime juice, lemon juice, olive oil and sugar. Pour lime/lemon dressing over the ingredients and mix gently. Refrigerate at least 2 hours before serving. Add avocado just before serving. This salad is very colorful and easy to take on a picnic. Everyone who tastes it wants the recipe.

Barbara Steele, Charlevoix

Old-Fashioned Coney Dog Sauce

1 lb. ground beef, browned and drained
 1 c. ketchup
 2 c. chopped onion
 ½ c. dark corn syrup
 ¼ c. brown mustard
 2 T. vinegar
 1 T. chili powder

Simmer all ingredients in saucepan, stirring occasionally. Serve over hot dogs.

Tommie Schmidt, Union

Banana Cupcakes

2 c. flour
 2 ½ t. baking powder
 ½ t. baking soda
 ½ t. salt
 ½ c. shortening
 1 ¼ c. sugar
 1 t. vanilla
 2 eggs
 1 ½ c. mashed ripe bananas

Sift together flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Cream shortening. Slowly add the sugar while still beating the shortening. Add vanilla and eggs and continue beating for a total of 2 minutes. Add mashed bananas while alternating with the flour mixture. Beat 1 more minute. Bake at 375° in 18 cupcake lined pans for 25 mins. or till done. Cool. Frost with your favorite frosting.

Mary Jean Troyer, Fairview

SUBMIT YOUR RECIPE!

Thanks to all who send in recipes. Please send in your favorite "Best Original" recipes by **Aug. 10**.

Mail (handwritten or typed on one side, please) to: Country Lines Recipes, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864; or email recipes@countrylines.com.

Contributors whose recipes we print in 2014 will be entered in a drawing and Country Lines will pay the winner's January 2015 electric bill (up to \$200)!

Find more of our readers' recipes at countrylines.com

Photos—831 Creative

Energy-Saving Tips for Manufactured Homes

If you own a manufactured home (formerly called mobile homes), you may feel like the only option you have to make it more energy efficient is to replace incandescent lightbulbs with CFLs or LEDs. In fact, there are many actions you can take that will save energy for years to come.

Following are four areas where you can increase efficiency and comfort. If you are mechanically able, you can perform many of the tasks yourself. If not, contact your nearest professional for assistance.

1. FURNACE

Make sure the furnace is safe and burns fuel efficiently. Clean your fuel-oil furnace every year; gas-fired furnaces every two to three years. Hire a contractor with a good track record on manufactured homes and check company references.

For the highest energy savings, replace the old unit with a high-efficiency condensing furnace. The extra cost can be offset within the first few years of operation. It is essential to seal all ceiling gaps or cracks above the furnace with caulk and sheetrock (Fig. 1).

2. DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Once the furnace is in top order, ensure that the heat and AC can be freely delivered to all rooms without restrictions or duct leakage. Clean or replace the filter to assure good air-flow through the furnace; replace all registers that are flattened; and inspect the AC evaporator coil for dust.

You can achieve *major* savings by sealing holes and gaps in the ductwork, but first you must find the leaks! Remove the registers and look for gaps at the boot and trunk. Then, use a flashlight and mirror to inspect ducts, if accessible. Use a high quality aluminum or butyl tape to seal gaps once you have cleaned the surfaces (see how-to resources below).

3. UNDER YOUR HOUSE

The road barrier on your home's underside should be intact to ensure that it is retaining heat. When entering the crawl space, lay down plastic or cardboard. Start under the furnace and water heater, where damage usually starts. Patch any holes on the outer edges using ½-inch foil-faced foam board. Large holes between the I-beams require a "sling-patch" made of 1x2 boards and air-barrier material, such as TYVEK® (Fig. 2). Before patching, seal any duct leaks and install insulation where possible, especially under the ductwork, using the widest material available. Do not isolate the water lines from heat, or they may freeze in winter.

4. AIR LEAKS IN SHELL

Large holes can often be found around the tub, furnace, under sinks, and behind cove molding in newer homes. Seal these openings with spray foam, caulk, or sheetrock.

Some newer manufactured homes can also be retrofitted to improve energy efficiency and incorporate renewable energy technologies, such as installing a geothermal heat pump (for permanently-sited homes), and solar water heating. Other measures to consider include spray or roll-on roof coating to reflect summer's heat. ■



Cove molding



Fig. 1—A large chimney hole is a huge energy loser. It can be sealed with sheetrock, then caulked air-tight.



Fig. 2—Underneath the home, a "sling-patch" can be screwed into the inner side of the I-beam. It stretches to the other I-beam and holds insulation under the ductwork in place.

Photos—Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corp.

Other Resources

Visit <http://energysavings.togetherwesave.com/Manufactured-Housing> for a handy graphic that shows a full list of areas where you can make energy-saving improvements. Find other resources at YOUTUBE.com: Sealing ductwork in a mobile home; <http://energy.gov/energysaver/articles/energy-efficient-manufactured-homes>; and a book, "Your Mobile Home: Energy and Repair Guide for Manufactured Housing" (John Krigger).

And, installing CFLs, LEDs and using other energy efficiency tips that work for any home, really do help, too!

Rebuilding A Popular Trail

Photo—Courtesy of Oceana's Herald-Journal

Among the contributors to an estimated \$4.4 million project to reconstruct the 22-mile William Field Memorial Hart-Montague Trail is the Great Lakes Energy People Fund.

Recognizing the trail's importance as "a major recreational and economic development facility" in western Michigan, the Hart City Council last fall approved a \$25,000 contribution to the project and challenged local agencies and private and corporate entities to show their financial support, as well.

Among the groups meeting the challenge is the Great Lakes Energy People Fund, whose local directors awarded a \$4,000 grant to the city earlier this year. Participating Great Lakes Energy members contribute to the People Fund through a billing round-up program.

Two state agencies, the Natural Resources and Transportation departments, committed \$3.2 million

to the project, contingent on the balance being raised from other sources.

Work will include widening the existing trail from 8 feet to 10 feet, repaving the surface that is deteriorating with age, and other improvements that will allow it to meet more stringent trail standards.

"The improvements will help ensure that the trail retains its popularity with hiking, bicycling and snowmobile groups from throughout the Midwest and locally," says Hart City manager, Stan Rickard.

The trail was built in the early 1990s on a former railroad right-of-way, and is a local recreational attraction for Muskegon and Oceana county residents.

Reconstruction is planned to begin next year, with completion expected sometime in 2016. ■

YOUR SMALL CHANGE MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE



Can you give a few cents a month to help your community? The People Fund program works because there is power in numbers. A contribution of less than \$1 each month adds up fast when thousands of Great Lakes Energy members get involved.

The needs of our local communities continue to grow, and you have the power to give the People Fund a bigger role in meeting those needs. We round up your electric bill to the next dollar and the amount, which averaged just 44 cents a month in 2013, goes into the People Fund. There are no administrative costs. All donations are returned to our local communities.

We Need Your Help!

Enroll in the People Fund today.

1-888-485-2537 • gtlakes.com



GLE in the Community

Concern for community is one of seven cooperative principles that Great Lakes Energy follows.



Co-op members within the Boyne service district learn about power line technology improvements that help reduce outages from GLE's Dave Matz. Luncheons are held each year throughout our service area to give members a chance to learn what their co-op is doing to provide them with the service and value they expect.



Dressed to work on the power lines is Andrew Stevens. Great Lakes Energy line tech specialist Tom Urman spoke with students about power line work at a career day held at Boyne Falls High School.



Reed City elementary students received a Touchstone Energy® grant from Great Lakes Energy for a Kindle Fire reading project. The co-op awarded over \$16,000 in technology grants this school year to 13 schools across its service territory.



Great Lakes Energy's Bev Bumstead and retiree Rodger Freeman use a portable, energized power line to give Charlevoix students a demonstration on electrical safety.

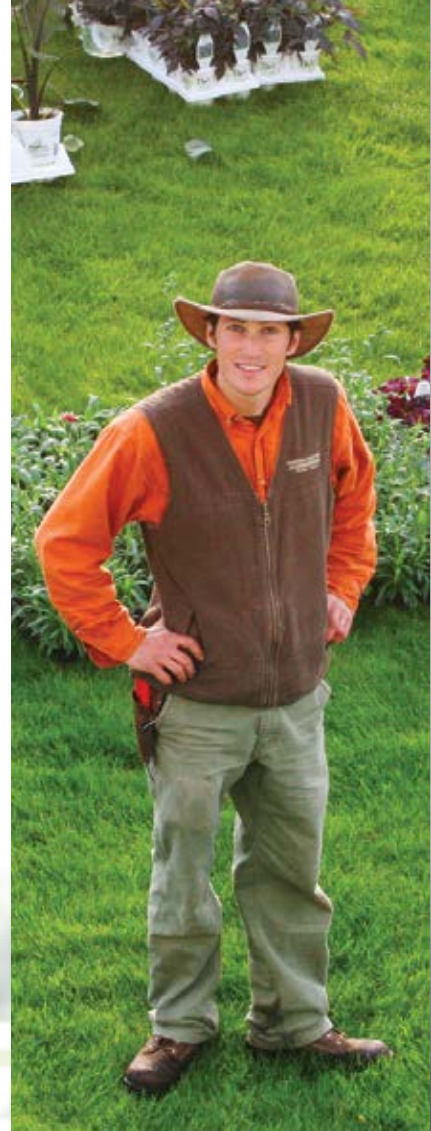
Jack Barnwell Is Mackinac's Master Gardener

Mackinac Island has been getting a facelift. It's the kind that requires rakes and shovels, because it's a facelift in flowers and plants.

Barnwell Landscape & Garden Services has been designing and planting picturesque gardens for six years—with boatloads of colorful flowers—around Mackinac's stately Victorian homes and historic businesses. Jack Barnwell and his crew are painting the island, which is served by Cloverland Electric Cooperative, with a fabulous array of dazzling petunias, sweet-smelling alyssum, and gorgeous larkspur, to name a few.

"We've more or less created what has become the 'Mackinac Island look,'" says Barnwell, who spends much of the winter coming up with new designs for over 130 island clients.

It seems Islanders didn't know they needed Barnwell's services until he started sprucing things up. Now, he says people can't wait to get their landscaping done as early as possible. This creates a crunch for his crew who must rely on boats, bikes, horse-drawn buggies and strong backs to tote their plants and tools because motorized vehicles aren't allowed on the island (except for emergency vehicles and snowmobiles).



Photo—Kathy Holt





Photos—Mike Lanzetta

It all starts before the sun comes up over Lake Huron. “The boats arrive at 3 a.m. with annual flowers,” Barnwell says. “We’ll get the hanging baskets up downtown before it gets busy with tourists.” The remainder are bedding plants that must go directly into the ground. This all has to happen as soon as the weather starts getting nice, including accepting the delivery of six semi-trailer loads, brought over by Shepler’s Mackinac Island Ferry. “We have trusted them with hundreds of unique loads,” says Barnwell, whose company also plants trees, installs irrigation, and does stone work.

Dealing with the spring demand can be a challenge. “It’s such a short season to make their money,” he explains of the businesses he caters to. “My clients depend on it (the flowers) so much for their image.”

Barnwell relies on 12 workers to get the job done without pickup trucks, loaders and skid steers. They make it all work with horses, oversized bike baskets, trailers attached to bikes, and ancient ingenuity.

“I often tell my crew to ‘think like an Egyptian,’” Barnwell adds, “because all these concepts are not new. Many were used for 1,000 years to build some amazing structures, some which are still standing today.” For the heavier work, they’ve retrofitted standard ball carts (meaning the root ball of very large trees), used to move large trees and boulders, into three-wheeled swiveling carts that can handle more weight over long distance with less effort.

“We also use a lot of winch and come-along setups, block-and-tackle pulley systems, and good ol’ fashioned leverage,” he says. “It’s amazing what can be moved with the right fulcrum point.”

The Barnwell crew’s work is also a central feature in the Grand Garden Show, a joint venture with the Proven Winners® company, the Grand Hotel, and Barnwell Landscape. The second annual event is Aug. 24–26 (see grandgardenshow.com). ■



Outdoor Lighting Solutions for Businesses

Make the switch to energy-efficient LEDs.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, businesses spend \$38 billion per year on lighting alone—accounting for the largest source of energy consumption among commercial properties. The good news is that with the help of your electric cooperative’s Energy Optimization program, Michigan businesses can save energy and money by replacing conventional outdoor lighting with highly efficient light-emitting diodes (LEDs).

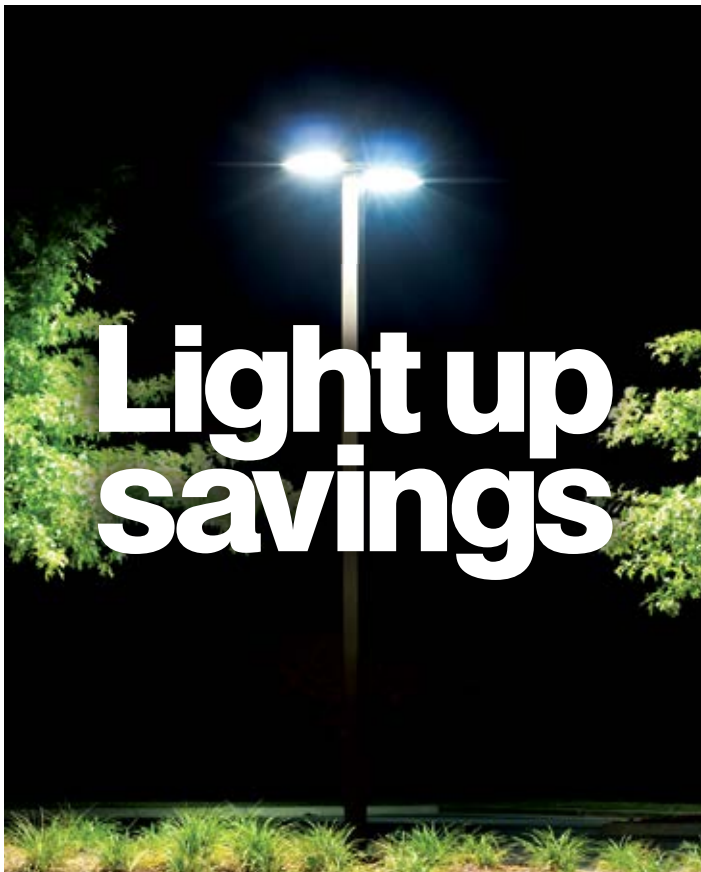
With generous rebates available for lighting upgrades, businesses can start saving instantly by installing LEDs in parking lots, exterior signage, and other outdoor spaces. Specifically, the Energy Optimization program offers rebates for outdoor dusk-to-dawn LED lighting and outdoor illuminated sign lighting, which are calculated on a per-watt reduced basis.

For even greater energy savings, consider incorporating multi-level and wireless control technologies into your facility’s LED lighting system. These controls offer an



effective method for reducing energy use even further by dimming or turning lights off based on occupancy or pre-determined schedules.

Go to michigan-energy.org/greatlakes and click on “Commercial and Industrial Services” to view available rebates, download a fact sheet, and find more information. ■



Lead the way with LEDs

Outdoor lighting systems are a necessary—and often costly—expense for your business. But, there is a light at the end of the tunnel: Make the switch to highly efficient LEDs to illuminate your exterior signage, parking lots, and other outdoor areas and start saving your business energy and money! Visit michigan-energy.org to view available rebates and get started today.

ENERGY TIP: Utilize wireless controls with LED lights to maximize energy savings.

ONLINE: michigan-energy.org PHONE: 877.296.4319



Energy Optimization programs and incentives are applicable to Michigan service locations only. Other restrictions may apply. For a complete list of participating utilities, visit michigan-energy.org.

Check Your Boat, Dock and the Neighbor's, Too!

For water fun and safety, there are items you must legally have on your watercraft—life vests, fire extinguisher, throwable floatation device, and properly working lights—but make sure the boat itself and the dock are safe, too!

July 2012 saw some horrific fatal accidents near boats and docks. A 20-year-old Port Huron man entered the water behind a moored boat and became disabled as he tried to climb onto the swim platform. Friends trying to pull him onboard reported getting shocks. He could not be resuscitated. An investigation confirmed voltage behind the boat, caused by an AC-to-DC fault in the battery charger that energized the underwater gear, and there was no AC-DC bonding connection. In another incident, a young woman was electrocuted by an energized dock ladder.

To help prevent such tragedies, the National Electrical Contractors Association says:

- All installations should be performed by a professional electrical contractor.
- All dock receptacles must comply with the National Electrical Code, which mandates a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI). A GFCI measures a circuit's current and senses any imbalance (such as a discharge into the water), which trips the GFCI and cuts off the power.
- Test a GFCI at least monthly. Locate it along the ramp to the dock so it can be easily tested by local fire departments.
- Metal dock frames should have “bonding jumpers” that connect all metal parts to an on-shore grounding rod. This means any dock part that becomes energized by electrical malfunction will trip the GFCI or circuit breaker.
- Ask neighbors if their dock electrical systems have been inspected and are up to Code.
- Household wire is not suitable for boats.
- *Do not* use wire nuts (these are for solid conductor wire, which should never be on a boat) or splice connectors (can cut wire strands)!
- Fuses are rated to protect the wire, not the stereo. If a fuse blows continuously, something else is wrong.
- If you rent a dock or boat, notify the owner of safety violations immediately.
- Have your boat's system (especially with onboard generators) checked at least annually, and when something is added or removed.
- Ropes, string, masts and rigging also conduct electricity—don't be the common ground between water and electricity!
- See SafeElectricity.org for more tips. ■



Summer Thrills

Summer means “vacation” to many, and memories of family road trips along with the familiar mantra Mom and Dad grew weary of hearing: “Are we there yet?” I remember traveling to the Detroit Zoo and the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village back in the ‘60s when speed limits were more of a suggestion than law. Dad was known to occasionally hit 100 mph—a great thrill for a young lad!

Today, I still enjoy a thrilling ride with my family while taking in some of the most panoramic Lake Michigan views, thanks to Mac Wood’s Dune Rides in Mears.

A fourth generation family business that’s served by Great Lakes Energy Cooperative, Mac Wood’s began operating in 1930 when Mac started looking for ways to entertain guests at a nearby resort he managed. Mac built the first four-passenger ‘dune scooter’ from a Model A Ford and charged 25 cents per ride.

Things were less restricted back then and like my Dad, with Mac behind the wheel, many described the trips as ‘thrill rides.’ Mac’s granddaughter, Shelby Olson, describes it as a time when “there were no rules. It was a go-anywhere, full-speed fun ride.”

Though times have changed, the dune rides are just as exciting today (open until Oct. 5—see macwoodsdunerides.com) as they were 84 years ago. Between climbs and descents through some of the most beautiful dunes in the state, you’ll stop along the way to enjoy views of Lake Michigan and Silver Lake while learning about the ecology of the dunes.

Today’s dune scooters seat more folks more comfortably (your backside will appreciate it!) so bring a few friends along for the ride.

Working every summer since she was a child, Shelby emphasizes that the dune rides are still all about family,

friends and fun. “Visiting Mac Wood’s is a unique experience that everyone in the family can enjoy from babies to grandparents!” She also says that many former guests are now bringing their kids and grandkids to ride, commenting about riding the dunes “when they were little.” Ah, those family memories. You gotta love ‘em.

There is plenty of time left to enjoy a Pure Michigan summer. Comb the shores for beach glass, dip your toes in one of our Great Lakes, or simply soak up the sunshine.



Jack O'Malley

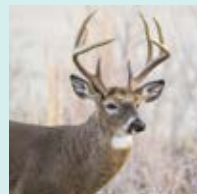
Family memories await just over the next dune! All you need is a map and the spirit of adventure.

Share a story idea with Jack by email to: jack@countrylines.com or write J. O'Malley, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864. ■

Deer Blind Contest: The Hunt Is On!

If you think yours is the best Michigan deer blind, enter our *Country Lines* Deer Blind Contest by **Aug. 15**.

Categories for entering a photo of your blind are: Most tricked-out; Best story behind it; and Most interestingly-engineered. Enter at countrylines.com or mail it to CL Deer Blind Contest, 2859 W. Jolly Road, Okemos, MI 48864. Include your name, contact information, and a description of what makes it great. Winners will receive a \$50 credit on their co-op electric bill and have a photo of their blind published in *Country Lines*.



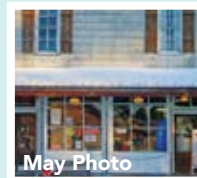
«« Do You Know Where This Is?

Every co-op member who identifies the correct location of the photo at left by **Aug. 10** will be entered in a drawing for a \$50 credit for electricity from their electric co-op.

We do not accept Mystery Photo guesses by phone. Enter your guess at countrylines.com; or send by mail to *Country Lines* Mystery Photo, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, 48864. Include your name, address, phone number and the name of your co-op. Only

those sending complete information will be entered in the drawing. The winner will be announced in the Sept. 2014 issue.

The May contest winner is Luke Bourne, a Great Lakes Energy Cooperative



member from LeRoy, who correctly identified the photo as the LeRoy Hardware store.

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