

# MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES



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WINS HEARTS OF THE PUBLIC  
*Twice*

**Plus!**

Three Generations On The Line

Where A Shipwright's Career Begins

Webster Makes "Yooper" Official



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**Change of Address:**

Please notify your electric cooperative.  
See page 4 for contact information.

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## IN YOUR WORDS

Last month, we asked electric co-op members a question:

**If you could spend the day with any celebrity, who would it be?**

Thank you for all the responses. Here are some of your answers...

**"Shirley Jones. I fell in love with that woman when she played Marian the Librarian in The Music Man. That face, that voice."**

**"The NCIS crew, Definitely! I could hang out with Gibbs, and his crew in DC to see all the monuments; Pride, and his crew in New Orleans for some of that Cajun cookin' and Dixieland jazz; then Hettie and her crew in LA for some California dreaming."**

Our new Question of the Month is:

**Where can you get the best burger in Michigan?**

Please submit answers to [countrylines.com](http://countrylines.com) by September 1.

### ON THE COVER

Ann and Steve Loveless of Beulah, MI, stand in front of the winning panoramic landscape that they brought to life at the 2013 Michigan ArtPrize competition.

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

*Photo-Steve Loveless*



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**Date of Incorporation:** Sept. 30, 1937

**Fiscal year-end:** Dec. 31

**countrylines.com/coops/ontonagon**

*Ontonagon County REA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

# Celebrating Co-op Independence



**Debbie Miles**  
General Manager

July is the time we celebrate our nation's independence. In the midst of apple pies and hot dogs, fireworks and parades, I can't help but think about the independent streak that inspired groups of farmers around America's countryside to band together and improve their quality of life.

Aside from President Franklin Roosevelt's promise of federal aid in the form of low-interest loans and engineering expertise, rural Americans didn't have much help in bringing electricity to their homes. They pulled themselves up by their proverbial bootstraps and did it themselves.

This independence not only tends to inspire cooperatives; it's a guiding principle. The Fourth Cooperative Principle, "Autonomy and Independence," means that no matter what contracts Ontonagon REA might enter into, we will always remain an independent entity.

Each year, Ontonagon REA's annual meeting becomes an independence celebration. You vote for candidates on the board of Ontonagon REA, and we discuss co-op business. We share a meal and have some fun.

Electric cooperatives form a vast network across the country, from coast to coast. Co-op lines are strung in 47 states, serving 42 million people—a different world from 1935, when much of America remained dark. This Fourth of July, as we recognize the hard-fought war that created the United States, I'll also tip my hat to Ontonagon REA's founders, who beat incredible odds to make life better for themselves and their neighbors. ■



## Offices Closed For Labor Day

Cooperative offices will be closed for Labor Day on Monday, Sept. 5. Payments may be made at the drop box and will be posted on the next open business day.

From our family to yours, have a happy and safe Labor Day weekend.

# Still On The Line: Three Generations At Ontonagon REA

A career in the power industry certainly appeared to be a foregone conclusion for Ontonagon REA lineman Kelly Clark—it just took him a while to see it that way. His grandfather, Cyril Clark, had been general manager of the co-op during the 1960s and 70s, his father Bob retired as a line supervisor, and his brother was working as a lineman for Great Lakes Energy. So, when Kelly graduated from Ontonagon High School in 2001, he was determined to buck tradition and explore other options.

Climbing behind the wheel of a dump truck, Kelly began working in the construction industry, traveling to locations throughout the country. Most memorable for him was spending considerable time engaged in the cleanup of New Orleans following the city's devastation by Hurricane Katrina. In fact, Kelly's fondness for dump trucks has never quite left him. In his spare time, he enjoys tinkering with his collection of heavy equipment, hoping to use it to expand on the hobby farm he and his wife are creating.

"I resisted going into the power industry my whole life," says Kelly. But in 2008 he had a change of heart, attending and receiving certification from a lineman's school in Idaho. That year he became the third generation of the Clark family to work for Ontonagon REA. "He is in an interesting situation. He is the lineman with the least seniority and yet perhaps the most experience due to his family's history in the power industry," says Line Superintendent Bill Tucker.

When asked what he considers the best part of his job, Kelly quickly responds, "Being outside. It's awesome because there aren't many jobs where you are paid to work outside the majority of the time. I feel very lucky." As for power outages? "I enjoy them. They're an adrenaline rush, and I always like a challenge. The best part, though, is when we get the power restored, especially for customers who've been without it for a while."

Tucker is grateful to have Kelly as part of the OntoREA team. "Kelly brings his enthusiasm to work every day. He is always looking for innovative tools and equipment to make things better. He is a hard worker and doesn't shy away from the hard stuff. As the guy on the bottom of the seniority pole, he, of course, takes a lot of ribbing from the



Lineman Kelly Clark is proud to call Ontonagon a family business.

rest of the crew. He can't wait for us to hire another lineman so he can finally play the seniority card." And along with a great work ethic he also brings a great sense of humor, "Kelly is our comedian-amongst-comedians," Tucker concludes.

Kelly is just one of the Ontonagon REA Co-op's dedicated team of employees that strive to provide their members with reliable and cost-effective power every day. ■

## **NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF ONTONAGON COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ASSOCIATION 2014 RENEWABLE ENERGY PLAN ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY CASE NO. U-16595**

The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) requires all Michigan electric utilities to get approximately 2 percent of their power supply from renewable sources by 2012 and increasing to 10 percent by 2015.

Under this requirement, Ontonagon County Rural Electrification Association submits an annual report to the MPSC regarding its Renewable Energy Plan. In 2014, Ontonagon acquired 2,447 renewable energy credits and 104 incentive credits.

A full copy of the cooperative's Renewable Energy Plan annual report that was filed with the MPSC is available on the cooperative's website at [ontonagon.coop](http://ontonagon.coop) or by request at any of the cooperative's offices.

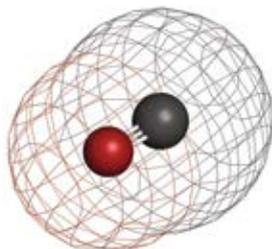


# Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

**Y**ou can't see, taste or smell carbon monoxide, but it can be deadly. Carbon monoxide, or CO, is a gas that is found whenever fuel is burned. Known as the "silent killer," CO causes an average of 430 deaths per year and more than 20,000 hospital emergency room visits according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

## Where does carbon monoxide come from?

CO is in fumes produced by items that burn fuel, including kerosene, propane, and gas space heaters, improperly working furnaces, gas water heaters and dryers, wood stoves and fireplaces. Car, truck and boat exhaust fumes contain CO as do fumes from fuel-powered generators and power washers.



## How can carbon monoxide poisoning affect your health?

CO is dangerous because it blocks your body from absorbing the oxygen it needs. CO poisoning can occur suddenly or happen over a long period of time. Symptoms depend on the amount of CO a person is exposed to, the length of time exposed, and the general health and age of the person. Mild symptoms

may seem like the flu and include: mild headache and weakness, dizziness, sleepiness, shortness of breath, tightness in the chest, nausea and/or vomiting. High levels of CO or lower levels of CO exposure that last a long time can cause confusion, loss of muscle control, blurred vision, extreme headache, weakness, fainting, convulsions and even death.

## Who is most at risk of harm to their health?

Anyone can be at risk for carbon monoxide poisoning. However, those most at risk are:

- infants,
- the elderly, and
- people with heart disease, lung disease, or anemia.

## What should you do if you have symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning?

- Go outside and get fresh air immediately!
- Call 911 and tell them you think you have carbon monoxide poisoning, or go to the emergency room if you are able to get there without help.

A simple blood test done at the hospital can usually detect carbon monoxide poisoning. Medical treatment is available. ■

# What can you do to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning?

- **DO** purchase and install carbon monoxide detectors that meet Underwriters Laboratories (UL) standard 2034-95. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for proper placement, use and maintenance. If the detectors plug into the wall, be sure they have a battery backup.
- **DO** leave the house if the alarm sounds on your CO detector. Go to a hospital emergency room or call 911 if anyone is feeling sick. If no one is sick, call the emergency number for your heating service or 911. Stay out of the home until your heating service or fire department says it's okay to go in.
- **DO** have a heating professional inspect, clean, and adjust your fireplace, wood stove, gas appliances including furnaces and water heaters, and chimneys/vents every fall—before the start of home heating season.
- **DO** purchase gas appliances that vent their fumes to the outside. Have them installed by a heating professional.
- **DO** read and follow all of the instructions for any fuel-burning devices.
- **DO** make sure that your car, truck, or boat has a working, airtight exhaust system. Repair exhaust leaks immediately.
- **DO** pay attention to symptoms (headache, dizziness, tiredness and/or a sick feeling in your stomach), especially if more than one person is feeling sick or if people and pets are feeling sick.



- **DON'T** operate fuel-powered machines such as generators, power washers, or mowers in buildings or semi-enclosed spaces.
- **DON'T** cook or heat with a grill indoors, even if you put it inside a fireplace.
- **DON'T** run vehicles in the garage, even if the door is open. Carbon monoxide can build up quickly and enter your vehicle and home.



- **DON'T** sit in a parked vehicle with the engine running for a long period of time, especially if your car is in snow.
- **DON'T** use gas stoves or ovens to heat your home.
- **DON'T** use an un-vented gas or kerosene space heater indoors.
- **DON'T** close the damper to the fireplace unless the fire is completely out and the coals are cold.
- **DON'T** ride in covered pickup truck beds or campers. Air moving around the vehicle can draw exhaust in.
- **DON'T** swim or play near the back of a boat where the motor gives off exhaust.
- **DON'T** ignore symptoms! You could die within minutes if you do nothing.

For more information, contact the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services by calling **1-800-648-6942** or visit **[michigan.gov/carbonmonoxide](https://michigan.gov/carbonmonoxide)**.

# Recycle And Save!

**D**o you have an old refrigerator or chest freezer taking up valuable space in your basement or garage? While you may not think about these older appliances often, they can be costing you hundreds of dollars each year. Ontonagon REA's Energy Optimization program offers free pick up and recycling of older functioning appliances. You can even earn \$50 for proper removal and disposal of each secondary refrigerator or freezer.

## Program Includes:

The free pick up and recycling of the units is handled by the Energy Optimization team. Even more, while our drivers are at your home to pick up your old or inefficient refrigerator or chest freezer, we can also recycle window air conditioners and dehumidifiers. All items must be in working condition.

## How To Participate

Contact the Energy Optimization team at **877-296-4319** to schedule an appointment. A representative from our team will come to your home for the pick up, and a cash incentive will be mailed to you. It's that simple!

## More Ways To Save!

Are you working on a remodeling project? Your electric utility's Energy Optimization program offers cash incentives for qualifying ENERGY STAR® appliances from refrigerators, washers and dryers, ceiling fans, room air conditioners, televisions and more. Visit [michigan-energy.org](http://michigan-energy.org) for a complete list of cash incentives for your home.

Please visit [michigan-energy.org](http://michigan-energy.org) for more information, or call **877-296-4319** with any questions.

## Cash Incentives Are Available For The Following Functional Appliances:

Appliance Type	Pick up or Ride-Along Item	Incentive Amount
Refrigerator	Pick up	\$50
Chest Freezer	Pick up	\$50
Window Air Conditioner	Ride-Along	\$15
Dehumidifier	Ride-Along	\$15

Limit two appliances per year, per residence.



## Ready to upgrade or get rid of an old refrigerator or freezer?

**Recycle it and save!** Earn cash incentives for recycling your old, functioning appliances.

- **Refrigerator = \$50**
- **Freezer = \$50**
- **Dehumidifier (ride along item) = \$15**
- **Window Air Conditioner (ride along item) = \$15**

Contact the Energy Optimization team to schedule a free pick up.

## Shopping for new appliances?

Energy Optimization offers cash incentives for qualifying ENERGY STAR® appliances. Visit our website for a complete list of savings opportunities.

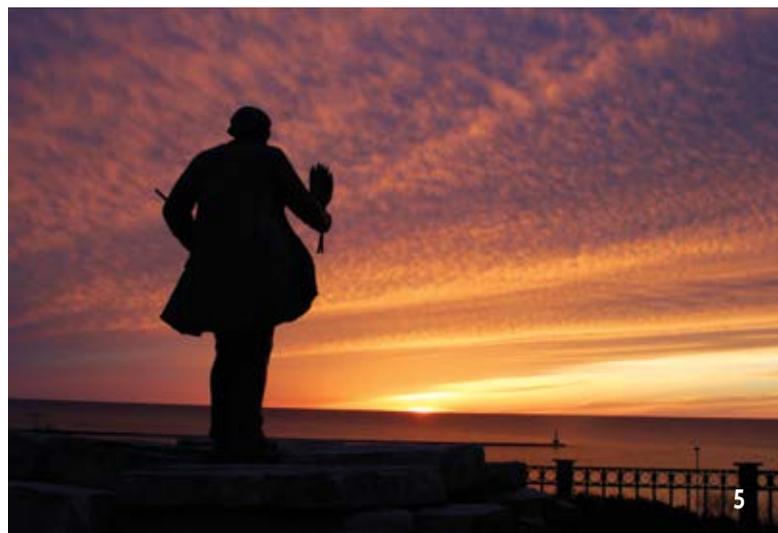
**ONLINE:** [michigan-energy.org](http://michigan-energy.org)

**PHONE:** 877-296-4319



Energy Optimization programs and incentives are applicable to Michigan electric service locations only. Other restrictions may apply. For a complete list of participating utilities, visit [michigan-energy.org](http://michigan-energy.org).

# Amazing Michigan! Photo Gallery



## Photo Fun

Ontonagon REA invites members to share their amazing photos. Selected photos will be published in *Michigan Country Lines*.

Upcoming topics and deadlines are: **Sports/Outdoor Fun**, due July 25 for the **September/October** issue, and **Country Roads**, due **Sept. 25** for the **November/December** issue.

Details and instructions for photo submission—including rules, topic list, publication date, and submission deadlines—can be found at <http://bit.ly/countrylines>. We look forward to seeing your best photos!

**Go to <http://bit.ly/countrylines> to submit photos!**

1. Took this on the Fourth of July, right place right time!  
*By Pat Lippe*
2. One of our favorite places to visit is Isle Royale National Park on Lake Superior. We will return this summer for our fourth visit. One morning, as we were refueling our friend's boat, a moose swam by the dock. She was totally uninterested IN (insert in) us as she was on a mission for food. *By Terry Euper*
3. Beautiful Pier Cove, MI. *By Elsie Jones*
4. Point Betsie Lighthouse in Frankfort. Established in 1858 it is still an active navigation aid today. In the winter its landscape changes daily when ice formations add to the beauty of the picturesque Michigan icon. *By Lori Gelinas*
5. A silhouette of the statue of Chief Ignatius Petoskey at sunset overlooking Little Traverse Bay of Lake Michigan in Petoskey. *By Mary Jane Ulrich*

# BBQ FAVORITES

These Great Recipes Make Summer Sizzle!



## Shredded BBQ Beef

Esther Maginity, Thompsonville

- 1 lean boneless beef chuck roast (about 5 lb.)
- 3 T. cooking oil, divided
- 2 large onions, chopped
- 1 c. ketchup
- 1-2 small cans beef broth\*
- $\frac{2}{3}$  c. chili sauce
- $\frac{1}{4}$  c. cider vinegar
- $\frac{1}{4}$  c. packed brown sugar
- 3 T. Worcestershire sauce
- 2 T. prepared mustard
- 2 T. molasses
- 2 T. lemon juice
- 1 t. salt
- $\frac{1}{8}$  t. pepper
- $\frac{1}{4}$  t. cayenne pepper
- 1 T. liquid smoke, optional
- 12-16 hamburger buns

In a Dutch oven, brown roast on all sides in 1 T. oil. Meanwhile, in a large saucepan, sauté onions in remaining oil until tender. Add remaining ingredients to the saucepan. Reduce heat and simmer, uncovered for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Pour sauce over roast. Cover and bake at 325° for 2 hours, turn roast and continue to bake 2 more hours until roast is very tender. Remove roast from oven, shred with fork and return to Dutch oven with sauce. *\*If too stiff, add more beef broth to the right consistency. If there is extra, just freeze in containers.*

Photos—831 Creative

## Chicken BBQ

Cora Kuiper, Grand Rapids

- 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  c. cooked chicken, shredded
- 2 T. butter
- $\frac{1}{2}$  c. chopped onion
- $\frac{1}{2}$  c. chopped celery
- $\frac{1}{2}$  c. chopped green pepper
- 1 c. ketchup
- 1 c. chicken broth
- 3 T. vinegar
- 2 T. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 t. prepared mustard
- 2 T. brown sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$  t. salt
- $\frac{1}{2}$  t. pepper

Cook onion, celery and green pepper in butter until tender. Add chicken and remaining ingredients. Simmer 20 minutes. Serve on buns.

## BBQ Chicken Pizza

Mindy Aves, Charlotte

- 1 refrigerated pizza dough or your favorite dough mix
- ¼ c. Sweet Baby Ray's BBQ sauce
- ½ c. shredded, cooked chicken (leftovers work great)
- ¼ c. thinly sliced red onion
- ½ c. fresh sliced baby portobello mushrooms
- 1 c. mozzarella cheese
- 1 c. sharp cheddar cheese

Prepare crust according to package directions. Spread crust on a 12-inch pan and brush with olive oil. Add BBQ sauce, chicken, red onions and mushrooms, followed by cheese. Bake at 375° for about 14-18 minutes or until crust is golden brown and cheese is melted.



# Gather Round The Co-op Kitchen Table

A **NEW** and **EXCLUSIVE** online cooking community for our electric co-op members.

Members can submit recipes online for a chance to win a \$50 electric bill credit; plus there's more! We will print the winning recipe in *Country Lines* with a photo of the dish and create an instructional "how to" video for [micoopkitchen.com](http://micoopkitchen.com).

Ready to pull up a seat?

**GREAT!** Go to [MICOOPKITCHEN.COM](http://MICOOPKITCHEN.COM) and register.

Please submit your favorite "World Cuisine" recipes by August 1 and "Casserole" recipes by Sept. 1.

Enter your recipe online at [micoopkitchen.com](http://micoopkitchen.com) or send to (handprint or type on one side, please): *Country Lines* Recipes, 201 Townsend St., Suite 900, Lansing, MI 48933. Please note the co-op from which you receive your electric service.

[micoopkitchen.com](http://micoopkitchen.com)





# Where A Shipwright's Career Begins

By Yvonne Whitman





The Great Lakes Boat Building School (GLBBS) in Cedarville, MI, began when a group of residents brainstormed for an idea they hoped would bring economic opportunities to their community. By combining their money and energies, they came up with the idea to create a boat building school, which seemed to be a perfect fit for the long and storied history of boats in the beautiful Les Cheneaux Islands of Lake Huron. This grassroots group purchased waterfront property on which to build the school, and in 2006 ground was broken.

The only licensed proprietary school of its kind in the state, GLBBS is housed in an impressive 12,000-square-foot facility, designed and built specifically for the teaching of woodworking, basic design, traditional and modern boat building, and yacht joinery. In 2007, Patrick Mahon, a master boat builder, marine surveyor, and instructor with more than 30 years of experience, was recruited to act as program director. Mahon developed the core program and, in the fall of 2007, the first group of students stepped through the doors of the new facility.

Students attending the Great Lakes Boat Building School represent a great diversity of backgrounds, ages, hometowns, skills and goals, but all are bound by their love of fine craftsmanship and their passion for wooden boats. With students coming from all walks of life and from all over the U.S., Canada and internationally, there is a wide range of experiences, perspectives, and skills to contribute and share. When combined with the talents and experience of the school's instructors and staff, it adds up to a focused, rewarding and enjoyable educational environment.

The school offers students the choice of a nine-month "Comprehensive Boat Building" program in which wood composite boat building techniques are taught or they can return for the advanced nine-month "Career Boat Building" program. This second-year program offers instruction on mechanical systems and yacht joinery, which includes techniques of finishing interiors. The school can accommodate up to 25 students and according to Mahon, "We are always interested in



applications from new students to fill those spots." Graduates are in high demand with the school boasting a placement rate of nearly 100 percent.

In a short time, GLBBS has earned a distinguished reputation for graduating skilled craftsmen. In 2015, proof of this was given by the United States Navy. The school was commissioned to build a 32-foot pilot 'gig' boat to be used on the USS Constitution or, as it is more fondly known, "Old Ironsides." Once completed, the boat, named "August Glory," was delivered by GLBBS staff and students to its final destination at the Charlestown Naval Yard in Boston, MA (now called the Boston Navy Yard) for delivery to the U.S. Navy. As Mahon proudly recalls, "It was an honor and privilege to deliver "August Glory" to Boston. A team of dedicated students created a beautiful example of traditional wooden boat building. They built a seaworthy vessel which will be used by the Navy for many years. The boat reflects the craftsmanship and skill of GLBBS students, and being able to take part in the delivery was something I will always treasure." ■

To learn more about the school, visit [glbbs.org](http://glbbs.org) or call 906-484-1081. Tours of the school are given daily to the public Monday through Friday at 2 p.m.



# art

## WINS HEARTS OF THE PUBLIC

### *Twice*

Artists are often seen as “rule breakers”—bumping up against the norm and defining new and different ways of both viewing and doing things. Few artists have been called “rule makers,” but that’s exactly what husband and wife duo, Steve and Ann Loveless, have become.

In 2013, Ann won the prestigious Public Vote Grand Prize at ArtPrize with her unique landscape quilt art piece “Sleeping Bear Dune Lakeshore.” Her unique collage and quilting technique dazzled visitors from around the globe with its 20-by-five-foot tall stature. The piece, inspired by her husband’s landscape photograph, put both Ann and northern Michigan on the map.

In 2015, Ann and Steve set out to create a piece together—melding Steve’s panoramic photography and Ann’s collage quilting techniques. The result? *Northwoods Awakening*—a huge quilt and photographic print hybrid that depicts a woodland panorama.



“Northwoods Awakening” earned the 2015 Public Vote Grand Prize at ArtPrize.



Ann's 2013, "Sleeping Bear Dune Lakeshore" quilt won the prestigious Public Vote Grand Prize at ArtPrize.

"Our creation begins as a traditional photographic print on the left," says Ann, "Then blends various fabrics and textiles to metamorphose into an entirely quilted textile on the right."

The two spent more than 1,100 hours on the piece, which assembles at an impressive 25 feet wide by 5 feet tall.

The ArtPrize crowds fell in love once more and awarded the couple the Public Vote Grand Prize—again.

Ann and Steve, whose art gallery is in downtown Beulah and who live near Crystal Lake in Benzie County—are never short on inspiration. Surrounded by water, woods and natural treasures like Sleeping Bear Dunes—there is always a new scene to capture.

"We've learned never to take our surroundings for granted," said Steve. "It's one thing to look at a scene, but another to actually see it."

While inspiration is plentiful, the artwork itself is quite technical. Steve's multi-row panoramic

photography process can include capturing as many as 50-60 close-ups panning rows and columns.

They eventually combine to make one panoramic photograph. It's not dissimilar to the collage stitching that Ann does on the quilting end.

"The hardest part of working together isn't the long hours," said Ann. "It's trying to combine the idea that's in Steve's head with the idea that is in my head. Communicating your vision is the challenge."

The two certainly have overcome the communication challenge. So well, in fact, that ArtPrize has amended their rules—which no longer allows an artist to win the Grand Prize more than once, making Ann the only artist in ArtPrize history who will ever have won twice.

Just when you thought breaking the rules was pretty cool, it turns out that being responsible for the making of rules is the real artist's way. ■



Photos-courtesy of Steve Loveless

# Perseverance Carves Out Yooper's Place In Dictionary

By Frances Donnelly, *Detroit News* Staff Writer

Opening a package in 2011, an editor at Merriam-Webster slowly realized what it contained—a bribe. What she didn't know: The briber was a county prosecutor.

The parcel contained a keychain, refrigerator magnet and chocolate bar, all bearing the word "Yooper."

For 12 years, package-sender Steve Parks had tried to get Yooper into the dictionary. Clearly, the man was getting desperate.

He was ultimately successful and the word, which means a native or inhabitant of the Upper Peninsula, joined the lexicon last year, ensconced between "yore" and "yoo-hoo."

The way such an unassuming word made the big time, ascending to the premier dictionary of the U.S., is quite a story, residents say. It involves blandishments, false identities, wild tales, Scrabble, and enough perseverance to fill the peninsula.

"It was really quite a ride," said Parks, 60, who now is a district judge in the U.P.'s Delta County.

Residents, past and present, are tickled to be included in such an august tome.

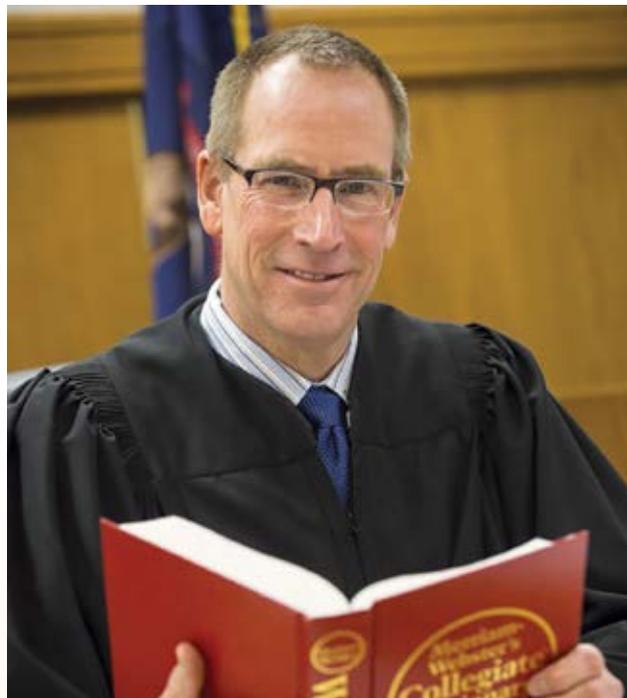
Janet Stupak, a librarian in Springfield, MA, who grew up in the Upper Peninsula, said she has been teaching co-workers and friends about the word for years. Now she can just point them to the dictionary.

"I'm totally loving this," she said.

The story begins in the U.P., Naubinway, to be exact, where Parks was playing Scrabble in 2002.

He used the word "Yooper" and, after a friend objected, Parks was stunned when he couldn't find it in the dictionary. The term was common in Michigan, he said. Its usage dates to 1977, said lexicographers.

The puckish Parks thought it was an oversight that would be easy enough to fix.



He wrote to Merriam-Webster in 2002 objecting to the absence of Yooper in a dictionary that had swear words and "big words no one uses."

He was told that while Yooper may be popular in Michigan, it wasn't common anywhere else. He wrote again the following year but received the same reply. Try again in five or 10 years, harrumphed the dictionary.

## 'Yooper' Usage Documented

When Parks resumed his campaign in 2010, the Merriam-Webster worker he had dealt with was no longer with the company. His new contact was Associate Editor Emily Brewster.

Brewster, who grew up in Pennsylvania and lives in Massachusetts, had never heard of a Yooper.

She searched and found the word in newspapers in Florida, California and New York, and in national magazines *Harper's* and the *New Republic*.

How conservative Yoopers ended up in the liberal *New Republic* sounds like it could be a story in itself.

The word seemed to be shedding its regional bonds and moving toward general discourse, Brewster told Parks. She encouraged him to keep at it.

"It was a good candidate," she said.

Whenever Parks came across usages of the word, he contacted Brewster.

Rush Limbaugh said it on a radio broadcast. Stephen King wrote it in his novel "Duma Key." The Boston Globe used it as a clue in a crossword puzzle, which Parks' mother clipped and mailed to him.

Parks also sent Brewster items with Yooper on them: mug, postcard, T-shirt, more chocolate. He said he wasn't trying to bribe the editor, but did offer to make her an honorary citizen of the Upper Peninsula.

Brewster, who said her work cubicle never looked so good, wasn't sure what to make of the titular title.

"I haven't found a way to cash that in," she chuckled.

Parks regaled Brewster with tall tales of U.P. characters who ate pasties and played mumblety-peg, where one player puts a knife in the ground and the other retrieves it with his mouth.

One Yooper nearly lopped off his leg with a chainsaw. Another dealt with the travails of a backed-up septic tank.

A third, a sarcastic lawyer, told Parks he had as much of a chance of getting Yooper in the dictionary as swimming across Lake Superior.

Parks wrote under pen names, Clayton and then Claymore Parks. Claymore was the dutiful son carrying on the quest of his late father, who was a member of the elite airborne unit, the Super Duper Yooper Troopers.

### **Word Declared Dictionary Worthy**

In 2013 Merriam-Webster's director of defining rendered his judgment: Yooper was a worthy word. It would be in the company's Collegiate Dictionary the following year.

Brewster relayed the good news to Claymore Parks.

One week later Brewster was mildly alarmed to receive a call from a county prosecutor in the U.P.

It was Steve Parks confessing there was no Claymore or Clayton or Clay-anything.

Parks, a private practice lawyer when his quest began in 2002, became a prosecutor in 2005 and district judge last year. He changes jobs as often as *nom de plumes*, but the jobs are real.

"They allowed me to take on a different persona," he said about the pseudonyms.

Yoopers celebrated their entry into the dictionary by holding a ceremony at the U.P. State Fair in Escanaba last year.

Gov. Rick Snyder attended the event, held next to the fairgrounds' Barn Yard Review Stage. Brewster was there, too.

News of the word's inclusion traveled far and wide. Parks' brother-in-law called from California to say it was trending on Facebook, then had to explain what the meaning of "trending on Facebook" meant.

While Parks had fun with his quest, its aim was serious.

An Owosso native who moved to the U.P. in 1985, he's proud to be a Yooper. His dad was one, too.

"The word has meaning to people up here," he said.

The entire peninsula feels like home to him. He loves everything about it: the land and lakes, the hunting and fishing, the distinct identity and culture. Residents in the rural outback are resilient, independent, hard-working and community minded, he said.

While Parks succeeded in getting Yooper into the dictionary, he still can't use it in Scrabble.

As a proper noun, it's ineligible. ■

*Reprinted with permission, The Detroit News.*



# The Glamping Trend

By Jack O'Malley

**glamping** \glamp-in\ *verb* glamorous camping

If your idea of roughing it means finding the ice machine on another floor of your hotel, glamping might be for you!

Glamping or "glamorous camping" combines the intimacy of camping with the perks of a luxury hotel. Amenities can include everything from bath and laundry facilities to clubhouses and recreation halls. Accommodations will vary, but typically includes Airstreams and other trailers, barns, farmhouses, cabins, huts and teepees. You can even go glamping in a tree house!

Perfect for the vacationer who wants to enjoy nature without getting dirty, Michigan's first glamping eco-resort opened recently, with limited facilities, in Antrim County. Bella Solviva (Swedish for beautiful hope) covers more than 200 acres on the western edge of the Jordan River Valley, and will offer glamping grounds with restrooms, a fitness center, free firewood, and ice, as well as catered meals.

The owner, Brad Carlson, believes glamping will be a fun trend in the very traditional world of vacationing in Michigan. "Glamping will appeal to those who want to rejuvenate in nature but prefer doing so comfortably," said Carlson.

In the plans are several different-themed getaways. For the most adventurous traveler, Neverland Escapade offers hobbit huts and tree dwellings to stow-away yachts and authentic teepees. Vacationers who prefer a more nostalgic experience will enjoy Bella Solviva's Route 66, featuring vintage RVs and tent sites for the do-it-yourself glamper. Bella Solviva will even offer a replica of the M\*A\*S\*H unit complete with swamp tents, a supply hut and mess tent for larger gatherings.



The eco-chic resort embraces environmental stewardship by finding the perfect balance between recreation and sustainability. Bella Solviva uses nontoxic cleaning agents, organic sheets and towels, bulk amenities and non-disposable dishes, on-site transportation with green vehicles and meals prepared with locally-grown food. Future plans include reliance on solar, wind and hydro power.



Jack O'Malley

They say seeing is believing and "Five billion stars beat a five-star hotel any day," Carlson says. ■

Visit [bellasolviva.com](http://bellasolviva.com) for more information on availability.

## I Remember...

We invite members to share their fondest memories. Country Lines will pay \$50 for stories we publish.

### Guidelines

1. Approximately 200 words
2. Digital photos must be at least 600 KB
3. Only one entry per household, per month
4. Country Lines retains reprint rights
5. Please include your name, address, email, phone number and the name of your electric co-op
6. Submit your memories online: [countrylines.com](http://countrylines.com)



## «« Where In Michigan Is This?

Every co-op member who identifies the correct location of the photo at left by **August 18** will be entered into a drawing to win a \$50 bill credit from their electric co-op. We do not accept Mystery Photo guesses by phone. Enter your guess at [countrylines.com](http://countrylines.com) or send by mail to: Country Lines Mystery Photo, 201 Townsend St., Suite 900, Lansing, MI 48933. Include the name on your account, address, phone number, and name of your co-op.



Our Mystery Photo Contest winner from the May 2016 issue is Arthur Kuznicki, a Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op member who correctly identified the photo as the Holland Harbor Light, more commonly known as Big Red, located at the channel connecting Lake Michigan and Lake Macatawa at Holland State Park.



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