

MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES



THE NEW GUYS

MI Local Hops Stands Out
In Growing Hops Industry



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Change of Address:

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

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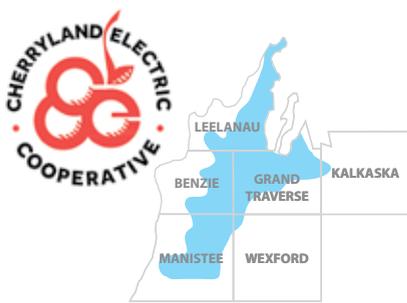
I Remember...

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 or email to cdorr@meca.coop



CO-OP NEWS

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Members Support Local Nonprofits Through Cherryland Cares

Cherryland Cares distributes funds to local nonprofit organizations in need of financial support. The funds distributed by Cherryland Cares are a result of members electing to round up their monthly bills to the nearest dollar. Members can contribute to the Cherryland Cares fund by calling 231-486-9200, signing up through SmartHub, or sending an email to cec@cherrylandelectric.coop.

If you are an area nonprofit agency seeking financial help, please call Shannon Mattson at 231-486-9234 or email smattson@cherrylandelectric.coop. The deadline for third quarter applications is Friday, Sept. 8.

Cherryland Returns To Great Lakes Children's Museum For Day Of Caring

Cherryland will be assisting Great Lakes Children's Museum for the fourth year as part of United Way's Day of Caring 2017. The one-day event matches local businesses with local nonprofit agencies and schools to complete meaningful projects that fulfill agency and community needs. This year's Day of Caring takes place on Thursday, Sept. 14.

Members May Give Input At Monthly Board Meeting

The board of directors at Cherryland is offering an opportunity for members to provide direct input to the board on Monday, Sept. 18, at 9 a.m. at the company office in Grawn.

Members are asked to come to the lobby and request to speak to the board. Members are asked to keep their comments to five minutes. Member attendance at the board meeting is allowed for the public input portion of the meeting only.

Cherryland Takes On New Restoration Project

Earlier this year, several Cherryland employees began restoring one of the co-op's original line trucks, a 1952 Dodge Power Wagon. The truck was returned to the co-op in 2009 after being discovered on the property of an Upper Peninsula resident. The restoration process took a big leap forward this past April when the vehicle was driven for the first time in years.

Follow the restoration of Cherryland's Power Wagon on our Instagram page ([@cherrylandec](https://www.instagram.com/cherrylandec)).



Cracking Eggs



Tony Anderson
General Manager

Longtime members know that I have written about a “not-all-eggs-in-one-basket” energy portfolio more than once. I have always been a proponent of a balanced portfolio of power supply in order to keep prices affordable over a long period of time.

What I am seeing and what I have been reading over the past several months is making me uneasy. It feels like the industry is drifting away from a balanced portfolio of power. I worry that we may one day wake up to find our basket contains fewer eggs.

I recently read that three out of every 10 coal generators have closed permanently in the past five years. By 2023, there may be 54 nuclear plants in operation. This would be down from the 65 that were in operation in 2013.

It doesn't take an industry expert to see that there will be more coal plants closing in the coming decade. The fact that some states are now subsidizing nuclear facilities to keep them open and save thousands of jobs is also clear evidence that the nuclear industry is at a perilous stage as well.

At some point in our future, the biggest eggs in our basket will be natural gas and wind. Solar will remain solid but a very minor egg. The coal and nuclear eggs are clearly showing signs of cracking.

Why? Low natural gas prices and declining renewable costs are the big reasons. Natural gas pricing is all about supply. Today, we have an abundant supply. Renewables are currently competitive due to federal subsidies and declining production costs.

Another publication I came across a short time ago quoted an industry expert who believes that the shale gas boom is not a revolution. He believes that it simply bought the U.S. a decade or so of normal supply before facing another period of scarcity. Before the present gas boom/revolution, similar experts said we were going to run out of natural gas. Your guess is as good as mine as to which expert to believe.

What I do know is that the U.S. Department of Energy came out with a report that said fossil fuels still accounted for 81 percent of all energy used last year. This is the lowest percentage of fossil fuel use in the last 100 years. As the yoke drains from the coal egg, the natural gas shell continues to expand.

What happens when renewable subsidies go away? What happens when states no longer subsidize nuclear facilities? It is a simple process of elimination to conclude that natural gas could become even more important.

What can we do about it? It's an easy answer to type, but a harder one to execute as our options and opportunities seem to be dwindling. However, we simply must continue to try to maintain a diverse portfolio at every turn.

Our coal and nuclear eggs need to be handled with care. The eggs in the renewable basket need to maintain their current declining prices. Finally, we need to be looking at stable, long-term contracts for natural gas eggs. It is a delicate balancing of many baskets as we try to make it back to the house in an ever-swirling environment without cracking any eggs. ■

Michigan Co-ops Empower Future Leaders

Youth Tour Washington, D.C. Highlights

Designed to inspire the leaders of tomorrow, Youth Tour teaches the brightest students of Michigan about their past—and helps equip them with the skills they need to be Michigan's next generation of energy-minded leaders. Youth Tour offers a unique opportunity to build leadership and public speaking skills, enhance students' knowledge of the cooperative form of business, and build life-long friendships with other student-leaders from across the country.

Michigan's electric cooperatives sent 20 high school juniors and seniors to experience Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. this past June. The following pictures tell the story. ■

Information is available at
CooperativeYouthTour.com.



↑ Future Mitten State Leaders

The 20 selected students from across the state toured multiple landmarks, including a guided tour of the U.S. Capitol.

↔ Captivating Congressman

Students enjoyed meeting with several members of Congress, including Rep. Bill Huizenga from Michigan's 2nd District.

↩ The Lincoln Legacy

Part of Youth Tour involves learning about the great historical and political figures of our country. As these young women consider their futures, they will bring Lincoln's values of respect and fairness with them as they rise to become the next generation of Michigan leaders.

Never Forget

Several students found the names of family members or family friends on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.



National Mall

A group of students gathered on the National Mall prior to legislative visits and an opening-night performance of "The Sound of Music" at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

↩ What's Next For Energy-Minded Students

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association staff briefed the students on the many opportunities available for those interested in living, working or studying in Washington, D.C.



FUEL MIX REPORT

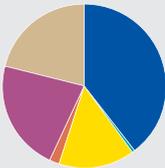
The fuel mix characteristics of Cherryland Electric Cooperative as required by Public Act 141 of 2000 for the 12-month period ending 6/30/17.

COMPARISON OF FUEL SOURCES USED

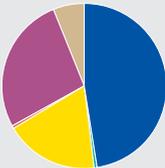
Regional average fuel mix used		
Your co-op's fuel mix		
FUEL SOURCE		
Coal	41.4%	47.7%
Oil	0.5%	0.6%
Gas	14.3%	18.1%
Hydroelectric	1.9%	0.8%
Nuclear	21.1%	26.7%
Renewable Fuels	20.8%	6.1%
<i>Biofuel</i>	0.6%	0.8%
<i>Biomass</i>	0.4%	0.5%
<i>Solar</i>	0.2%	0.1%
<i>Solid Waste Incineration</i>	0.1%	0.1%
<i>Wind</i>	19.1%	4.1%
<i>Wood</i>	0.4%	0.5%

NOTE: Biomass above excludes wood; solid waste incineration includes landfill gas; and wind includes a long-term renewable purchase power contract in Wolverine's mix.

Your Co-op's Fuel Mix



Regional Average Fuel Mix



EMISSIONS AND WASTE COMPARISON

TYPE OF EMISSION/WASTE	lbs/MWh	
	Your Co-op	Regional Average*
Sulfur Dioxide	6.0	7.6
Carbon Dioxide	1,795	2,170
Oxides of Nitrogen	1.6	2.0
High-level Nuclear Waste	0.0069	0.0083

*Regional average information was obtained from MPSC website and is for the 12-month period ending 12/31/16.

Cherryland purchases 100 percent of its electricity from Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative, Inc. which provided this fuel mix and environmental data.

Looking Back On Cherryland's 79th Annual Meeting



Enjoy some of the highlights from this year's Annual Meeting. Be sure to join us next year for our 80th Annual Meeting on June 21, 2018.



Local Students Represent Co-op On Youth Tour

Kaitlin Hozak of Traverse City West Senior High School and Rory Gabriel of Traverse City St. Francis High School were selected to represent Cherryland on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. This nationwide electric cooperative event gathers over 1,500 high school students from across the country for a weeklong tour of our nation's capital. The students tour monuments and historical sites, meet with elected officials, engage in leadership training, and learn about the cooperative difference.

"Visiting our nation's capital with Youth Tour was a great experience," said Gabriel. "I met new friends from Michigan and across the United States while touring many national monuments and historical sites. It also gave me insight into electric co-ops and the role they play in our communities."

Visit cooperativemyouthtour.com to learn more about the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. ■



Kaitlin Hozak (left) and Rory Gabriel (right) pose in front of the U.S. Capitol.

Notice to Members of Cherryland Electric Cooperative Case No. U-16591

2016 Renewable Energy Plan Annual Report Summary

2008 PA 295, as amended, requires all Michigan electric utilities to get 10 percent of their power supply from renewable sources by 2015. Under this requirement, Cherryland Electric Cooperative submits an annual report to the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) regarding its Renewable Energy Plan. In 2016, Cherryland acquired a total of 17,893 renewable energy credits (7,173 credits from Harvest Wind Farm, LLC, 4,481 credits from Thunder Bay—Four Mile, 5,818 credits from Deerfield Wind Farm and two credits from SpartanSolar) and 416 incentive credits from Thunder Bay—Four Mile and three incentive credits from SpartanSolar. All credit transfers were directed through Cherrylands' wholesale power supplier, Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative, Inc. Wolverine will continue to generate renewable energy and bank unused renewable energy credits for future use and compliance with statutory renewable portfolio standard requirements on behalf of all of its members. 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 cherrylandelectric.coop or by request at any of the cooperative's offices.

Notice to Members of Cherryland Electric Cooperative Case No. U-18273 2018–2019

Energy Waste Reduction Plan

2008 PA 295, as amended, requires all Michigan member-regulated electric cooperatives file with the Michigan Public Service Commission an Energy Waste Reduction Plan (EWR). Under this requirement, Cherryland Electric Cooperative submitted its 2018-2019 EWR Plan to continue to offer seven programs including a new solar/distributed program to achieve targeted energy savings. Cherryland proposes to implement the plan using its own resources and does not intend to establish a separate surcharge for the programs. A full copy of the cooperative's Energy Waste Plan that was filed with the MPSC is available by request at any of the cooperative's offices.

AMAZING APPLES

Fall's favorite fruit teams up with sweets and spices to bring you these comforting desserts.

Photos—831 Creative

Apple Cheesecake (pictured)

Rebecca Cronk, Presque Isle

- 1 cup butter
- 1¼ cups sugar, divided
- 1½ teaspoons vanilla, divided
- 2 cups flour
- 1 8-ounce package cream cheese, softened
- 1 egg
- 5–6 Macintosh apples, peeled and thinly sliced
- 1 lemon, juiced
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- ¼ cup almond slices

Preheat oven to 450 F. For the crust, blend 1 cup butter, ⅔ cup sugar, ½ teaspoon vanilla and 2 cups flour. Press into an 8-inch spring form pan—¾ of the way up the pan. For the filling, blend the cream cheese, ¼ cup sugar, remaining 1 teaspoon vanilla and 1 egg. Pour over the crust evenly. For the topping, add the thinly sliced apples to a bowl with juice from a lemon. Stir to coat. Add the remaining ⅓ cup sugar and 2 teaspoons cinnamon. Stir to coat and layer the apples on top of the filling in the pan. Sprinkle almond slices on top. Bake at 450 F for 10 minutes, then lower to 400 F for 20–25 minutes.

▶ Watch a video of this recipe at <https://goo.gl/hbYd7p>

Apple Dapple Cake

Judy Farley, Midwest Energy

For the cake:

- 1½ cups oil
- 3 eggs
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 3 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 cup walnuts, chopped
- 3 cups apples, peeled and chopped

For the sauce:

- 1 cup brown sugar
- ½ cup butter
- ¼ cup milk



Preheat oven to 350 F. Cream oil, sugar, eggs and vanilla. Sift together flour, baking soda, salt and cinnamon; add to creamed mixture. Beat well. Fold in nuts and apples. Bake in a well-greased Bundt pan for

1 hour and 10 minutes. When cake is almost done, mix sauce ingredients in a saucepan. Bring to a boil; boil for 3 minutes. Pour sauce over hot cake and let cake remain in pan for 2 hours. Then turn cake right side up on serving plate.

Apple Butter

Jane Ellison, Great Lakes Energy

- 5½ pounds apples—peeled, cored and finely chopped
- 4 cups white sugar
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon ground cloves
- ¼ teaspoon salt



Place the apples in a slow cooker. In a medium bowl, mix the sugar, cinnamon, cloves and salt. Pour the mixture over the apples in the

slow cooker and mix well. Cover and cook on high 1 hour. Reduce heat to low and cook 9 to 11 hours, stirring occasionally, until the mixture is thickened and dark brown. Uncover and continue cooking on low 1 hour. Stir with a whisk, if desired, to increase smoothness. Spoon the mixture into sterile containers, cover and refrigerate or freeze.



Submit your favorite recipe for a chance to win a \$50 bill credit and have your recipe featured in *Country Lines*:

“Healthy Salads” due November 1

Go to micoopkitchen.com for more information and to register.



Fred “The Beervangelist” Bueltmann is the vice president of brand and lifestyle at New Holland Brewing Co., as well as a nationally-recognized expert on beer and food. He offered up this delicious beer-brined chicken recipe from his cookbook, “The Beervangelist’s Guide to the Universe.”
<http://beervangelist.net/book/>

Beer-Brined Jerk Chicken

This dish requires some forethought and a few days, so plan accordingly.

Brine:

- 2 quarts IPA or pale ale
- 2 quarts chicken stock
- 1 quart water
- 1 cup kosher salt
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- 1 onion, peeled and julienne
- 6 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1 cup chopped cilantro
- 2 tablespoon whole black peppercorns
- 3 bay leaves
- 4 chickens, butchered to grill

Place the water, salt, onion, garlic, parsley, peppercorns, and bay leaves on the stove and simmer for 10 minutes. Remove from the heat and chill completely. Add the beer and stir thoroughly, then add the chicken. Let sit refrigerated for 8–24 hours. Remove the chicken from the brine and rinse under cold water. Pat dry and keep cold.

Jerk Marinade:

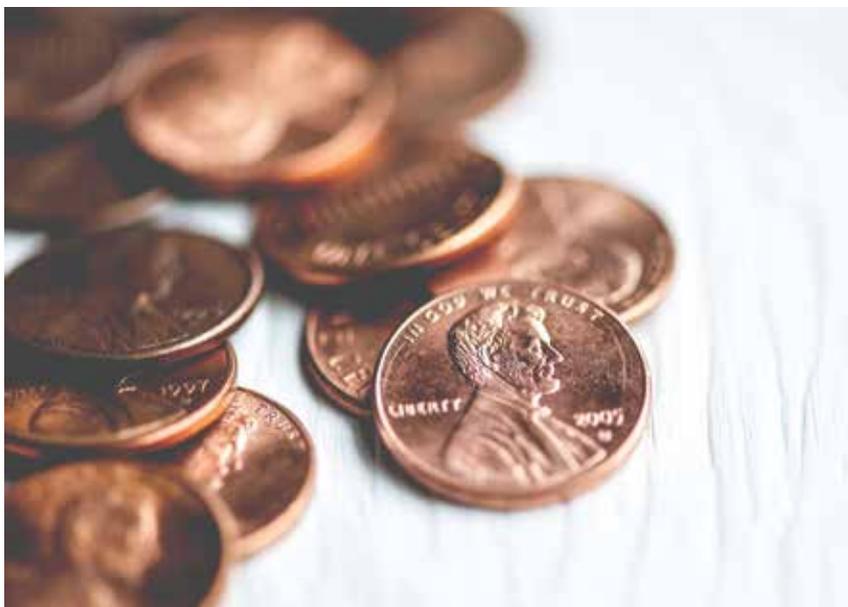
- 1 tablespoon ground allspice
- 1 tablespoon dried thyme
- ½ tablespoon black pepper
- ½ tablespoon sage
- 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 12 cloves garlic
- 2 tablespoon dark molasses
- ¼ cup peanut oil
- ¾ cup apple cider vinegar
- ½ cup lime juice
- 3 green onions, minced
- 1 large yellow onion, minced
- 3 habanero peppers, stemmed
- ¼ cup dark soy sauce

Combine the above ingredients in a food processor and puree until smooth, about 2 minutes. Pour the marinade over the chicken and refrigerate overnight (two nights is best), turning once or twice to redistribute the marinade. Place the chicken on the grill and cook over medium heat, turning often, until done, about 25 minutes. Let rest for 5 minutes and serve.

Read the full story about MI Local Hops on page 14 and find this recipe and more at micoopkitchen.com.

How Much Electricity Does A Penny Buy?

By Curtis Condon, Ruralite Magazine



lightbulb—the equivalent of a 60-watt incandescent bulb—for 11 hours.

You can fully charge your iPhone more than 18 times for a penny, or once every day of the year for only 20 cents.

Not impressed? For a penny, you can: power a 1,000-watt microwave on high for 6 minutes; run a 200-watt desktop computer for 30 minutes; watch 2.5 hours of your favorite shows on a 40-watt, 32-inch, LED television or 1.3 hours on a 75-watt, 75-inch mega TV.

What does a penny buy these days? Not much. The government can't even make a penny for a penny anymore. According to the U.S. Mint, it now costs 1.5 cents to produce one.

About the only thing of value you can still get for a penny is electricity. You might call it "penny electricity."

At an average rate of 10 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh), that's 60 minutes of 1,000 watts of electricity for a dime, so a penny of electricity equates to 100 watts. It's enough to power a 9-watt LED

Unfortunately, we don't always appreciate the value

of electricity. When our monthly electric bill comes, we open it and may complain about the cost. We don't stop to think about the value we received for the money.

Electricity is actually a better deal today than in 1940 when a person paid about a penny per kWh. Today the same kWh of electricity costs an average of 12 cents nationally, which means the price of electricity has increased more slowly than the cost of everything else. If electricity had increased at the same rate, it would now cost 17 cents per kWh instead of only 12 cents. ■



No one can help everyone, but everyone can help someone.

Extend a helping hand to those who need it by rounding up your monthly electric bill to the nearest dollar. Investing your small change into our Cherryland Cares program brings about big change in our community.



Sign up by December 15 and be entered to win a

\$100 bill credit.

Visit cherrylandelectric.coop to learn more.

Commitment To RELIABILITY



Rain or shine, Cherryland is committed to providing its members reliable electric service. That means devoting the time, manpower, and investment to ensure that our poles, wires, and other infrastructure are as strong as ever.



INVESTMENT VS. RELIABILITY

Investment into the co-op's system has a direct impact on our reliability as an electric provider. The more aggressive we are at keeping our infrastructure in tip-top shape, the better we are at keeping outages to a minimum.

Average OUTAGE DURATION By Year

2016
74 Min.

2015
78 Min.

2014
79 Min.

2013
86 Min.

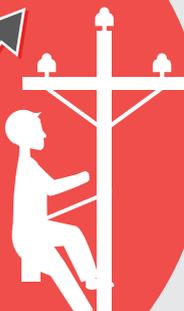
2012
111 Min.

2011
209 Min.

INVESTMENT
Into
Infrastructure

2016
\$3.58
million/
year

2011
\$1.21
million/year



OH "ROW!"

Right-Of-Way Program Facts

Cherryland's right-of-way (ROW) program is important to maintaining system reliability. Trimming and removing trees that pose a threat to our lines ensures that the lights stay on.

Fallen trees cause the most power outages, next to small animals like squirrels, birds, and raccoons.

At any given time, up to seven crews are trimming trees throughout our system's ROWs. They complete an entire loop of our 3,000 miles of line every five years.

The biggest threats to the trees in our area are pests, such as emerald ash borer and beech scale, and diseases, such as oak wilt. Our crews remove these dying trees to avoid further infestation.

Cherryland does not use herbicides to maintain ROWs.

A benefit to ROW crews working throughout our system is that they can identify old and damaged infrastructure that needs attention.



THE NEW GUYS

MI Local Hops Stands Out In Growing Hops Industry

By Rob Marsh



Before your bartender at the local beer tap fills an empty pint glass or you snatch up a six-pack of brew at your hometown liquor store, you may be surprised to learn that many of your favorite beers began their journey to the tap in the rich, fertile soil of Michigan.

Located in Williamsburg, Mich., and a member of Cherryland Electric Cooperative, MI Local Hops (MLH), is a 280-acre farm (plus an additional 100 acres the company cooperatively manages with other growers) with the capability to harvest up to 350,000 pounds of hops annually. At the farm, rows of twisty vines creep up trellises, each in an effort to produce bitter cones that are the heart and soul of almost any Michigan beer.

"The hops industry has become a bit like the music industry," said Mike Moran, sales and marketing manager of MI Local Hops. "Everyone's looking for the next big thing. The next exciting flavor.

But those flavors need to be consistent and dependable. We know the wow factor is nothing without the quality."

A century ago, Michigan's hops industry was decimated by downy mildew. However, with advancements in modern farming and the determination of local hops growers, Michigan is now one of the top growing regions for hops in the United States.

MI Local Hops is now the largest hop farm east of the Rocky Mountains. The magnitude of that statement isn't lost on the owners, as they build the infrastructure to support and sustain that accomplishment.

With "local" in the name, MLH is supplying some of the Midwest's biggest beer players. Providing hops to Bell's, Founders and New Holland, all of whom are based in Michigan but offer national distribution, the Michigan hops agriculture boom has swept the state and the Midwest.





Still, remaining a local supplier is especially important to MI Local Hops. That sentiment is also felt by the local breweries that receive the crop each season. New Holland Brewing Co., out of Holland, Mich., uses MLH hops exclusively in their flagship beer: Mad Hatter, Midwest IPA.

“We have a lot of Michigan pride and want to support local agriculture, but we also want to have the highest quality ingredients,” said Head Brewer Jason Salas of New Holland Brewing Co. “Michigan hop growers have been demonstrating to us their commitment to the brewing industry by turning out unique, high-quality products that allow us to develop beers worthy of our industry. As a brewer, that means a lot.”

MI Local Hops has grown from being the “new guys” to a significant force in Michigan’s growing hops industry. ■



Pictured L to R are several of the MI Local Hops team members: Dan Taber, chief operating officer; Tim Prentice, project and facility manager; and Mike Moran, sales and marketing manager.



The former High Point Golf Course in Williamsburg is now home to MI Local Hops.

Birds And Feathers

Photos With The Highest Facebook Votes!

The votes are in, and we're happy to share the photo with the most Facebook votes (and some favorites) from our photo contest. Thanks to everyone who submitted a photo, voted and spread the word by sharing the post on Facebook.



"Chickadee"—By Zach Adams



"Screaming Peacock"—By Tina Becker



"I'll race you to the middle!"—By James Dahl



"Female ruby-throated hummingbird"—By Bob Mathews



"Feed me!"—By Kasha Houghton



Enter Your Photos And Win A Bill Credit!

Submit your best photo and encourage your friends to vote! The photo receiving the most votes from our Facebook contest will be printed in an issue of *Country Lines* along with some of our other favorites. If your photo is printed in *Country Lines* during 2017, you will be entered to win a credit of up to \$200 on your December 2017 bill.

Our September theme is **Back to School**. Photos can be submitted from **September 1 to September 20** to be featured in our November/December issue.

To enter the contest visit facebook.com/cherrylandelectriccoop and click "Photo Contest" from the menu tabs. If you're not on Facebook, don't worry. You can also enter the contest at cherrylandelectric.coop/photo-contest. Make sure to vote, and encourage others to vote for you, too!

Schneider Appointed To Co-op's Board



Cherryland's board of directors appointed Gabe Schneider to the vacant seat on their board this June.

"We are thrilled to bring Gabe into the board room," said Terry Lautner, Cherryland's board president. "Between his extensive legislative experience and

passion for our mission, we know Gabe will be an enormous asset to the cooperative."

Schneider is the founder and principal of the government affairs consulting firm, Northern Strategies 360, LLC. Previously, he worked for U.S. Senator Carl Levin for 11 years.

Schneider is currently treasurer of the Traverse City Downtown Development Authority, trail champion

volunteer for Traverse Area Recreational Trails, and vice president of the Adams Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

"I am honored to receive this appointment to the Cherryland board," said Schneider. "Not only do I look forward to working with the rest of the board to ensure that the cooperative continues to provide reliable and affordable electricity to our members, but I also look forward to enhancing the cooperative's mission through my business and legislative relationships and experiences."

Schneider's appointment lasts for the remainder of the current term, June 2018, at which time he will have the opportunity to run for additional terms as outlined in the cooperative's bylaws. ■

Learn more about Gabe Schneider on Cherryland's podcast Co-op Energy Talk. Download and subscribe to the podcast on iTunes.

Your Board In Action

June Board Meeting

- Cherryland's green energy rate was approved by the board. The new tariff would give members the opportunity to purchase renewable energy credits in blocks monthly.
- The board elected to again opt out of the Michigan Energy Assistance Program (MEAP). By opting out, members do not have to pay a monthly surcharge to fund the program and the co-op agreed to not disconnect anyone for non-payment from November 1 through April 15.
- Cherryland's engineering and operations manager gave an update regarding the territory exchange between the co-op and Traverse City Light & Power (TCL&P). At the beginning of June, Cherryland successfully transferred the service of over 100 TCL&P members to the co-op in two days.
- Director David Schweitzer was named treasurer of the board. The office was previously held by director Jon Zickert.
- The board approved the process for appointing a new director to fill the vacant Grand Traverse/Kalkaska seat. The seat became vacant after the resignation of Betty Lien.

July Board Meeting

- The board welcomed Gabe Schneider, Cherryland's newest board director. He was appointed to the board at the end of June.
- Cherryland's line superintendent gave a presentation regarding the day-to-day maintenance of Cherryland's infrastructure.
- Cherryland's engineering and operations manager updated the board on the status of the co-op's construction work plan. The co-op is on track to complete their slated construction projects on time.
- The co-op's general manager gave an update on an ongoing conversation with the Michigan Agency for Energy and Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency regarding a pilot program aimed at providing renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions to low-income members. ■

Restoring The Great Lakes Lighthouses

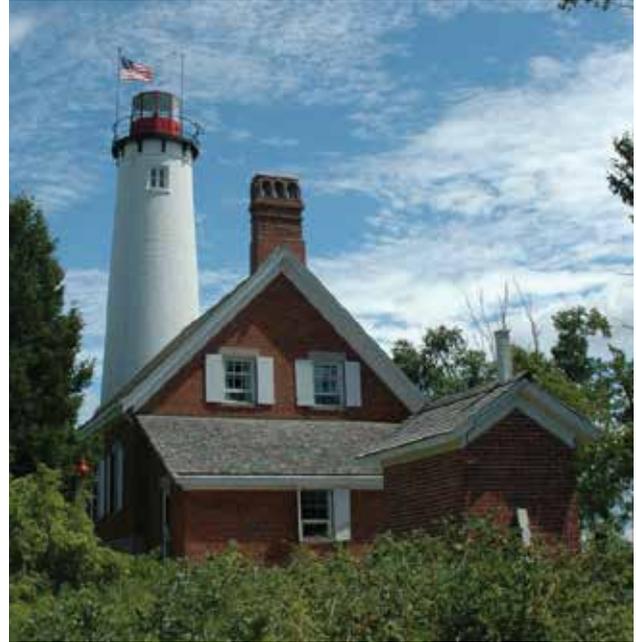
Scattered along Michigan's shoreline and numbering over 200 at their peak, the Great Lakes lighthouses once served as a beacon of hope to the weary seafarer. Today only 124 lights still stand, many in desperate need of repair. Enter the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association (GLLKA).

Founded in 1983, the GLLKA's mission of preserving lighthouses and the stories of those who kept them while fostering a new generation of preservationists came to life when given license to restore St. Helena Island Light Station in 1986. Built in 1873 off the coast of St. Ignace, constant exposure to the elements left St. Helena vulnerable. Abandoned, she endured years of vandalism and theft requiring the removal of several outbuildings. What remained of the station continued deteriorating.

Before arrangements were made for the complete demolition of the structure, members from GLLKA requested permission to restore St. Helena. With the help of countless volunteers including Boy Scout Troop 4 from Ann Arbor, St. Helena slowly came back to life.

Inspiring awe and admiration from thousands of guests each year, the original restoration project began nearly three decades ago. While the threat of theft and vandalism have declined, the elements continue taking a toll. Fortunately, GLLKA volunteers are committed for the long haul, tirelessly maintaining the facility for another generation to enjoy.

In the meantime, GLLKA President Rick Mixer offers guidance and support to groups wanting to preserve lights in their region. In some cases he



can even find old blueprints, making the renovation a true labor of love for those involved in restoring these facilities to their original glory.

Today Great Lakes lighthouses are towering symbols of strength and resilience, often shouldering a much deeper meaning to guests who visit each year. "They brought lost mariners home," explained Mixer. "They represent hope, and we all need a little of that."



Jack O'Malley

Visit gllka.com for information on GLLKA's current projects, a list of lighthouses, and ways to help with the restoration efforts. ■



«« Where In Michigan Is This?

Identify the correct location of the photo on the left by September 15 and be entered into a drawing to win a \$50 electric bill credit. Enter your guess at 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 the name of your co-op.

Our Mystery Photo Contest winner from the July/August 2017 issue is Susan Scherer, a Great Lakes Energy Cooperative member, who correctly identified the photo as a Beaver Island outdoor concert at Baroque on Beaver.

Winners are announced in the following issues of *Country Lines*: January, March, May, July/August, September and November/December.



July/August Photo

Why Is My Roof Failing?

Are you wondering why the roof you had installed less than 15 years ago is failing? You're not alone. Like many homeowners, you listened when the sales guy told you to buy top-of-the-line, 40-year, heavy architectural shingle so you would never have to worry about your roof again. But now you're worried. What happened?



Failed asphalt shingles cracking and peeling.

Did You Miss The Warnings?

Home improvement experts like Bob Vila have been warning consumers for years about bogus asphalt warranties, "While asphalt shingles come with warranties ranging from 20 to as long as 45 years, roofers and builders remain skeptical of those warranties. Since warranties are a marketing device, they are not a reliable predictor of lifespan. In the past decade, there have been many complaints of asphalt shingle failure long before warranties expired."

Manufacturers have also been telling homeowners that today's shingles will not perform like shingles

of old. As far back as 1999, the Certainteed Corporation made the following statement in their own publication: "Due to the severity of the roof environment, even a one-year-old roof may look different from a roof that was just installed. While you may have first noticed the cracks or blistering from the ladder as you were cleaning the gutters, please be mindful that these normal weathering characteristics may not be visible when you view your roof from your front lawn or driveway." (Quoted from 1999 Certainteed Corp. "The Lifecycle of Your Roof.")

Why Is My Asphalt Roof Failing?

Asphalt shingles become dried out by heat and the sun's ultraviolet rays. Eventually, the drying of the heavy oils in your shingles causes the fibers to shrink, exposing the nail heads under the shingle flaps. The shrinkage also breaks up the surface coating of sand granules adhered to the underlying asphalt-coated paper. Without the protection of the embedded granules, the paper begins to tear itself apart.

Once the nail heads are exposed, water running down the roof can seep into your attic around the nail shank, resulting in the rotting of your roof deck. This can cause

moisture damage to your interior ceilings and walls.

What Can You Do?

Since at least 1999, the asphalt roofing industry has known of the problems with modern shingles. The solution is simple: make a shingle like they did 40 years ago. However, in order to do that, the oil content of their shingles would need to be dramatically increased and that would make the product cost prohibitive.

While the asphalt industry has its problems, the metal roof industry continues to grow in market share. This growth has been fueled in part by the shortcomings of asphalt roofs. However, consumers attest that the beauty and maintenance-free benefits homeowners get by installing a metal roof are the true reason for the industry's growth.



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