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July/August 2010

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**4 Weathering The
'Perfect Storm'**

5 Annual Meeting Highlights

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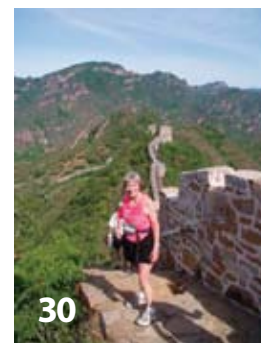
Michael Peters



12



20



30

10 See the Soo

The busy waters of the St. Mary's River ensure that Sault Ste. Marie never loses its undercurrent of excitement and possibility. *Linda Sirois*

12 Unique in the U.P.

Take a Michigan vacation this summer by visiting the Keweenaw Bay in the western Upper Peninsula. *Kath Usitalo*

14 The Next Water Heater

New heat pump water heaters may signal the rebirth of an energy-saving technology. *Alice Clamp*

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COLUMNS

- 9 **Comment** *Michael Peters*
Co-op principles still work after 75 years
- 16 **Our Kids** *Linda Wacyk*
Do the math
- 20 **Gardening** *Neil Moran*
Co-op member gardeners
- 22 **House & Home** *Jame Dulle*
Metal roofs are cool
- 24 **Outdoors*** *Don Ingle*
Summer and sunfish go together
- 30 **Ramblings** *Mike Buda*
Love to run

*Not in all editions

Pages specific to your electric utility are: 1, 4-5, 8, 25, 28-29, 32

COVER *

A scene looking north to the Soo Locks, shot from the deck of the retired ice breaker *Mackinaw* during a summer festival. Building on the left is Cloverland Electric Cooperative's hydroelectric power plant. *Photo* – © *Shawn Malone/LakeSuperiorPhoto.com*

DEPARTMENTS

- 6 **Readers' Pages**
Broadband, scholarships, letters
- 18 **Home Cooking**
Poultry recipes
- 24 **Wolverine Power***
Air permit denied
- 26 **Country Lines Marketplace**
Classifieds from readers



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Weathering The 'Perfect Storm'

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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

Our nation's electric utility industry is heading into a "perfect storm."

While the amount of electricity we use every day steadily increases, the capacity to generate and transmit that power is running short. In the past, power plants fired by fossil fuels were the go-to option to meet growing new demand with proven technology.

But looming federal regulations on carbon dioxide emissions are changing that. The cost of complying with new regulations could make electricity less affordable for everyone.

In December, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), a part of the executive branch, declared that six key greenhouse gases from auto emissions, including carbon dioxide, are "endangering public health and welfare" of current and future generations. Emissions from motor vehicles of four of those greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, were also said to contribute to dangerous air pollution.

The endangerment finding puts a foot in the door for EPA to issue sweeping new rules that could impose strict limits on carbon emissions, including those from power plants. The cost of generating electricity would go up, and in the end those costs would hit consumers in their pocketbooks.

Congress is mulling over its own set of carbon dioxide regulations, and we must continue to ask that any resulting legislation be fair, affordable and technologically achievable. If passed, Congressional legislation should also preempt the use of any other existing laws, which would help avoid a regulatory disaster that would only add to consumer costs and create a mess of overlapping red tape.

Whatever the political outcome, the honest truth is that change will not come overnight. Fossil fuels currently account for over 70 percent of all electricity generated in the United States. New tech-

nology will be key to keeping these traditional options up-to-date and finding new ways to "keep the lights on" affordably. Cleaner use of fossil fuels, increased use of renewable energy, and a big commitment to energy efficiency will all be necessary.

Electric co-ops have a long history of providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity to their members, and no "perfect storm" is going to keep us from continuing to do our job. Co-op research projects are already underway

to remove some of the current limits on renewable energy, make coal and natural gas-fired power plants cleaner and more efficient, and possibly even capture carbon dioxide from plant emissions to keep them stored underground and out of the atmosphere.

The Arlington, VA-based Cooperative Research Network, of which Cherryland Electric Cooperative is a member, was recently awarded a \$33.9 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy, which will support a wide-ranging "smart grid" research project.

The effort brings together 27 electric co-ops in 10 states that will match the grant money awarded to create a pool of nearly \$68 million for ground-breaking technology development.

With a smarter electric grid, we'll be able to deliver electricity to our members more efficiently—cutting the amount of emissions we will need to generate as a result.

Co-ops have stepped up to challenges in the past, and I have no doubt our response to this challenge will be any different in the end.

But we need your help in relaying to Congress just how important it is to keep climate legislation fair, affordable and technologically achievable. To make your voice heard, join the "Our Energy, Our Future" grassroots awareness campaign at ourenergy.coop.



Tony Anderson
General Manager



72nd Annual Meeting Highlights

More than 1,800 Cherryland Electric members turned out on Wednesday, June 16, for the cooperative's 72nd annual meeting.

It was held at Wuerfel Park, home of the Traverse City Beach Bums, an independent minor league baseball team and Cherryland member.

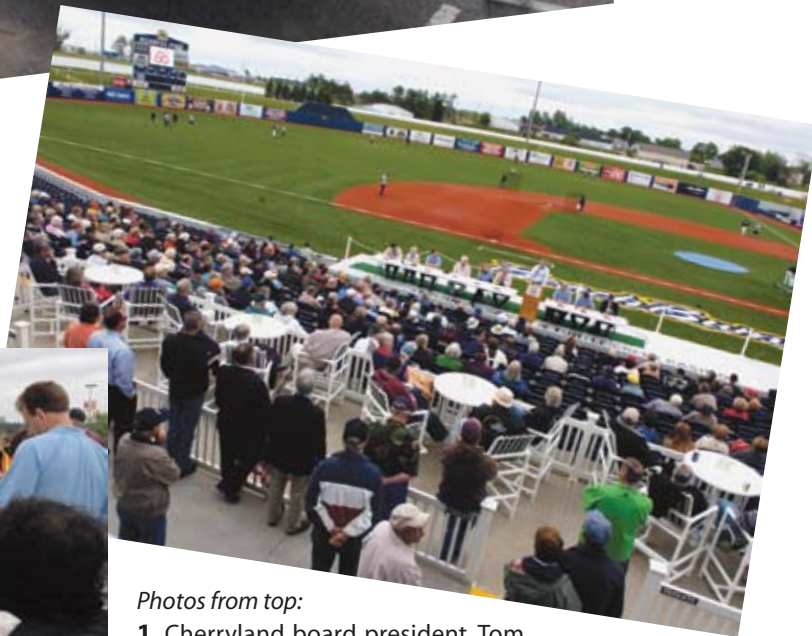
Members were treated to a game ticket, ball park dinner (hot dog, chips and a soft drink), and the one-hour business meeting. Tony Anderson, Cherryland general manager, gave an update on the cooperative's year and Eric Baker, Wolverine Power Cooperative president, talked about power supply in the coming years.

The meeting was called to order and presided over by board president, Tom Van Pelt. Cherryland attorney Greg Jenkins announced the results of voting for the board of directors.

The winners of the two at-large seats were incumbents Melinda Lautner and John Olson. Lautner received 1,148 votes and Olson 1,057. Challengers Dan Paulson and Maureen Charbonneau got 891 and 664 votes, respectively.

Jon Zickert ran unopposed for the Benzie-Manistee-Wexford seat and tallied 1,495 votes, with eight write-in candidates gathering one vote each.

Cherryland members also approved a bylaw change that would allow for internet voting in the future, at the discretion of the board of directors.



Photos from top:

1. Cherryland board president, Tom Van Pelt, addresses the crowd at Wuerfel Park.
2. Cherryland employee Sandra Hall and a member of the Grand Traverse Metro team stand beside a rescue boat that the Cherryland Cares board helped purchase.
3. More than 1,800 members attended the annual meeting.
4. Members voted for board of directors' candidates before entering Wuerfel Park.

Internet Service Mapped in State

The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) has completed broadband availability maps aimed at promoting development of high-speed internet access.

The maps, accessible online at connectmi.org, are a product of the Connect Michigan broadband initiative, a public-private partnership between the MPSC and Connected Nation, a national nonprofit focused on technology expansion in underserved areas.

"This is an important first step as the state seeks to target resources to those areas of the state without high-speed

internet service," said Orjiakor Isiogu, chairman of the MPSC.

The map details where broadband does and does not exist across Michigan by type of broadband service.

The initial maps include data from more than 86 state providers. The key findings show that 95.41 percent of Michigan households have access to broadband service of at least 768 kbps downstream (excluding mobile and satellite service); 4.59 percent of Michigan households are unserved, representing approximately 174,000 unserved households of which 165,128 are rural.

Consumers can search for high-speed internet service providers using their home address, service providers can make informed expansion decisions, and state and federal policymakers can target resources to unserved and underserved communities.

Those who do not currently have broadband access can add their name and address to a secure database of households that would like to subscribe, if given the opportunity.



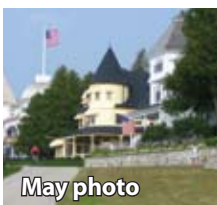
Map of available DSL service on connectmi.com.

MYSTERY PHOTO

Everyone who identifies the correct location of the photo below by **Aug. 10** will be entered in a drawing for a **\$50 coupon redeemable for electricity from your electric cooperative.**

Call in your entry to *Country Lines* at 517-351-6322, ext. 306, email jhansen@countrylines.com, or mail it to *Country Lines*, 2859 W. Jolly Road, Okemos, 48864. Include your name, address, phone number and co-op. The winner will be announced in the September 2010 issue.

The **May** contest winner is **Karen Altman** of Gaylord, who correctly identified the row of "cottages" near the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island.



May photo

Do you know where this is?



National Electric Co-op Youth Tour Means Education, Fun

A group of 13 teens from across the state traveled to Washington, D.C., recently to participate in the Rural Electric Youth Tour. Sponsored by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association, this annual event gives high school sophomores and juniors the opportunity to learn about electric co-ops, politics and current issues.

"I gained so much from this trip..." says Brittany Bonar of Charlevoix, "...new friends, more knowledge about our country, and I found the monuments, memorials and museums to be very intriguing. These are memories that will last forever."

Along with a tour guide and three chaperones, the group toured Arlington Cemetery, the Smithsonian museums, war memorials, Supreme Court and Capitol, and enjoyed a play at the Kennedy Center, a visit to the National Zoo, and a Potomac River boat cruise.

The students also met with Sen. Debbie Stabenow and U.S. Reps. Bart Stupak, Dave Camp, Vern Ehlers, Fred Upton and legislative staff to ask questions and discuss economic and energy-related issues.

And, joining 1,500 electric co-op-sponsored students from across the country, the group also convened for National Youth Day to learn from inspirational

speakers, including Mike Schlappi, a four-time paralympic medalist and two-time world champion in wheelchair basketball. Schlappi shared his inspiring message: "Just because you can't stand up, doesn't mean you can't stand out."



Mike Schlappi and McKenna Wolf

McKenna Wolf, a junior at Constantine High School, was chosen to represent Michigan on NRECA's Youth Leadership Council. She will return to D.C. in July to attend a youth conference designed to strengthen leadership and public speaking skills.

Participating co-ops included Cloverland Electric, Cherryland Electric, Great Lakes Energy, HomeWorks Tri-County Electric, Midwest Energy, and Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op. The students were chosen by their sponsoring co-op after attending Michigan Electric Cooperative Teen Days in April—a three-day camp to learn about electrical safety and energy efficiency, and how co-ops operate.

Learn more about these co-op-sponsored youth programs at countrylines.com; click on "Youth."

Top photo: (back row from left) Marcus Ruff, Jake Smith, Tyler Ashbaugh, Robert Myers, Kevin Bolz, Will Puerner and Luke Smith; (front row) Sen. Debbie Stabenow, Esther Hardies, Karol Chubb, Tabitha Lyon, McKenna Wolf, and Brittany Bonar.



Honda. Why is it so hard to understand that even though the Honda was “assembled” in the USA the purchase supports Japan and not the Michigan workers who pay state taxes and spend their money in Michigan? While traveling through the state I see so many foreign cars, especially around Traverse City.

I could go on, but I’ll make my point. With our income down around 40 percent and job prospects as bad as they are, if my wife loses her unemployment before finding a job, we could lose our vacation home. That will be one more family not spending their money in northern Michigan. When are the people of this state going to learn and stop sending our potential tax revenue to Japan, Korea and China?

Tony Burkel, Macomb Township

“Greener” Lawn

In his article, Brian Sloboda (“A Greener Way to a Greener Lawn,” June 2010) failed to mention another alternative to mowing or trimming a lawn, reducing emissions, and using less oil.

There are new products at golehr.com that you might be interested in: a propane-powered lawn mower and gas trimmer. I have the trimmer myself. It is powered by a 4-cycle motor. Emissions are far less than with conventional fuels. The trimmer and lawn mower use a 16-ounce camping-style canister that lasts two hours. The canister is recyclable and in the future it may be possible to re-fill these containers.

The amazing thing is there is no mixing of oil and the canister can be removed and used anytime with no worry of it becoming “old.” Octane ratings stay the same. The trimmer and lawn mower are a clear alternative to old methods while helping the environment. Cub Cadet makes

a propane-powered zero-turn lawn mower.

Propane is a clean-running fuel and it doesn’t require burning fossil fuels to create the fuel to run it and it is in plentiful supply. I hope others will begin to use this equipment as I have to help reduce emissions that impact our planet.

I plant natural grasses and plants in my yard so that I have reduced my mowing to zero. I trim my yard, but I burn weeds with a propane “Weed Destroyer” so that I eliminate my use of chemical pesticides.

Jim Ege, Pentwater

Propane is a fossil fuel. Propane is cleaner burning than gasoline, but not as clean as natural gas or electricity when used to power equipment. In terms of emissions, from higher to lower, the order is gasoline, propane, natural gas, electricity. —ed.

About Coal & Nuclear

I’d like to respond to a letter in the May 2010 issue of *Country Lines*.

It appears [the writer] is suffering from severe selfishness, preferring to avoid any responsibility for encouraging profligate use of carbon-yielding fuels rather than working, in any way he could, to reduce the negative impact that today’s use of those fuels probably have on his grandchildren—and mine. If he were to adopt an increased sense of altruism he might find that he can look at all children and know that he has done something for all, not just for his personal concepts of what is best for our world.

Look outside your window and you’ll discover there is a world worth working to save.

Jon Wennerberg, Skandia

Physicians for Social Responsibility has information about energy sources people making decisions about those sources should be familiar with.

Gerald Drake, MD, Petoskey

Students Win Scholarships



Ben Schell



Brandon Kieft

Brandon Kieft, a member of Great Lakes Energy Cooperative, and Ben Schell, Cheryland Electric Co-op, have each won a \$1,000 scholarship from the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association (MECA).

Brandon is the son of Paul and Gina Kieft of Rothbury, and a graduate of Montague High School, where he was active in varsity basketball and soccer, and community service and leadership organizations. He plans a career in bio-medical engineering.

Ben is the son of Timothy and Linda Schell of Traverse City and a graduate of St. Francis High School, where he was active in community service and played varsity football, basketball and track. He will attend the University of Michigan and plans to pursue a career in medicine.

A total of 156 scholarship applications were received by MECA, which publishes *Michigan Country Lines* for the state’s nine electric co-ops.

Recycled Paper

Michigan Country Lines is now printed on recycled paper from FutureMark Paper, which taps the “urban forest” of waste paper thrown out in Chicago every day. Using recycled paper reduces the carbon emitted in paper production, the paper deposited in landfills, and water and air pollution. The energy to produce recycled paper is about one-half the amount required to make paper from pulp.

Support Michigan

I am from the Detroit area, lived here for all of my almost 52 years. Most of my family and myself have worked for the auto industry and I have worked directly for Ford Motor Co. R&D for the last 17 years. I am also not embarrassed to say I am a Lions season ticket holder, but go to very few games in October or November. I spend most of those months in northern Michigan. There is nowhere else on earth that I’d rather be in the fall.

We own 20 acres in Manistee county where we just built a vacation home in late 2008. We’ve spent countless vacations in Da U.P., eh! My wife and I have seen over 100 waterfalls there and a large portion of the lighthouses. We purchased a plaque for my mother and stepdad in the Marquette Lighthouse tower that was to be used for restoration. We have gone out of our way to vacation and spend money in Michigan’s north country.

With all the jobs lost in Michigan in the auto industry, it is no wonder tax revenues are down. My wife has been out of work for a year-and-a-half and my income is down over 30 percent, yet we still find a way to visit the north. When are the people of Michigan going to learn to buy products from Michigan/USA, which pay Michigan income taxes, property taxes and corporate taxes and quit buying from companies that send money back to Japan, China and Korea?

A teacher friend was complaining to me about the state’s financial crisis and how his taxes are going up and [he’s] losing benefits, yet he drives a

Cherryland Bulletin Board

Cherryland Entrance Has a New Look

There is a new look to the entrance at Cherryland Electric Cooperative.

There are more windows, a renovated front counter, and a wider drive-thru area.

It's all part of an office renovation project authorized by the Cherryland board of directors to provide members with easier access to the cooperative. Phase I of the program—updating the entrance—was completed in June. Phase II involves renovating the member service area.



Caroline Simaz greets members in Cherryland Electric Cooperative's new lobby area.

Co-op Takes Part in National Cherry Festival

Cherryland Electric Cooperative will be well-represented in the upcoming National Cherry Festival, July 3-10.

Cherryland will play a major part in sponsoring the second Heroes Day on Monday, July 5, and the Touchstone Energy Junior Royale Parade on Thursday, July 8.

"Heroes Day was a big hit in its inaugural year," said Cherry Festival CEO Tim Hinkley. "Cherryland is the sponsor, and we recognize veterans and others who serve the public with beautiful medals."

The Touchstone Energy Junior Royale Parade is also a hit with festival goers, featuring elementary school floats, school bands and various entries featuring children from the Grand Traverse area. The parade starts at 6:30 p.m. on July 8th in downtown Traverse City.

More than 80 Cherryland employees, directors and their families take part in the parade every year.

Cherryland Cares Seeks Grant Applications

Area nonprofit agencies who are seeking financial help can apply for a grant through Cherryland Cares.



Cherryland Cares has a five-member board, made up of Cherryland Electric Cooperative members, who take money from Operation Round Up and distribute it to area nonprofit groups. The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for Sept. 20, and the application deadline is Sept. 3.

Operation Round Up gets its money from Cherryland members who elect to round up their bills to the nearest dollar every month. The average monthly contribution averages only about 50 cents, but it adds up to a lot of help for the community when many members participate. During its last two quarterly meetings, the Cherryland Cares board has given out over \$30,000.

For a 5013C nonprofit agency grant application, call Nick Edson at 486-9222, or email nicke@cecelec.com.

Change to Retail Access Choice Being Considered

Cherryland's board of directors will be considering a change to the cooperative's eligibility requirements for Retail Access Choice at its August meeting.

The meeting is open to all co-op members. In 2000, the Michigan Legislature adopted the "Customer Choice and Reliability Act" (P.A. 141/2000), which required all regulated electric utilities to adopt rates and service rules that allow retail customers to buy their electricity from another supplier, called an Alternative Energy Supplier (AES), and have the electricity delivered to them over the local utility's distribution system.

As required by the new law, your cooperative adopted the necessary changes to its service rates and rules to accommodate AES service. Since the changes were adopted in 2002, there has been no AES offering service to electric co-op members anywhere in the state.

In 2008, the Michigan Legislature amended the law to require cooperatives to only provide retail customer choice to customers with a peak electric load of 1 megawatt (MW) or greater (see MCL 460.10x). For reference, a customer with a peak electric load of 1 MW is comparable to the service required for a Meijer superstore or larger. At the August meeting, your cooperative's board of directors will consider changing the cooperative's eligibility requirements for customer choice service to parallel the new state law.

If the proposed change to the eligibility requirement is adopted, members with a peak load of less than 1 MW would no longer be eligible for choice service. The meeting will be held at 9 a.m. on Aug. 16, 2010, at the cooperative's headquarters, located at 5930 U.S.-31 South in Grawn.

Visit cherrylandelectric.com for more information about co-op services.



Cooperative Principles Still Working After 75 Years

A few years ago I joined my son and his Boy Scout troop on a 10-day backpack trip at the Philmont Scout Ranch, the Boy Scouts' 214-square-mile-high adventure base located in the mountains of northern New Mexico. Since we were a "boy-led troop," our purpose as adult leaders was simply to follow the Scouts and only step in if it became a matter of safety. Each day the boys picked a different trail leader and that scout was responsible for setting the pace and navigating the trails. For the most part, the trails were fairly well marked and getting lost took some effort. However, in some of the more rocky regions there really is no trail and you had to use the compass and map to make sure you were heading in the right direction.

I recall one occasion where the scouts headed off down a path the adult leaders knew was incorrect. We were tired and really didn't want to wait too long to see how far they would go before figuring out we were "lost." In our minds, we were recalling a hike we took five years earlier where we walked 10 miles on a five-mile trail as we dutifully kept following behind a scout who was obviously lost. We didn't want to needlessly add to our trek, but we also didn't want to squash the enthusiasm of the leader. So instead of shouting out that he was wrong or lost, or taking over, we slowed the pace and gave him a chance to figure out we were not heading down the right trail. Fortu-

nately, it only took him about 10 minutes to figure it out. This led to a conversation about the need to stop every so often, look around, and reconfirm that you are on the right trail.

As cooperatives, we follow a more general road map: the seven cooperative principles. These principles have been around for hundreds of years and have guided all types of cooperatives. As we hit our 75th year, it makes sense for us to pause, take a look around, and reconfirm that we are still on the right trail.

Following are the principles that guide cooperatives:

1. Voluntary and Open Membership

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their ser-

vices and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership.

2. Democratic Member Control

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions.

3. Members' Economic Participation

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative.

4. Autonomy and Independence

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members.

5. Education, Training, and Information

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives.

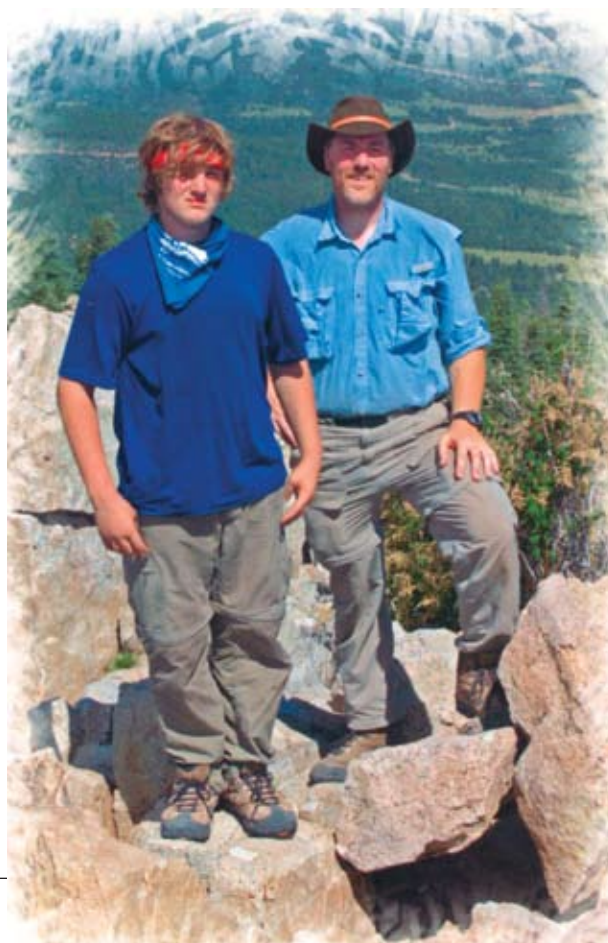
6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together.

7. Concern for Community

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities.

I can think of numerous examples of cooperatives that have stayed true to these principles and are walking the right path.



Michael Peters and his son, Barrett. Peters is president and CEO of the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association. His email address is mpeters@countrylines.com.



Photos – Sault Convention & Visitors Bureau

See the Soo

The busy waters of the St. Mary's River ensure that Sault Ste. Marie never loses its undercurrent of excitement and possibility. **Linda Sirois**

An old French word, “sault” describes the turbulent rapids and waterfalls that have caused river traffic to pause and linger for hundreds of years in Sault Ste. Marie. Since its European settlement in 1668 by Jesuit priest Jacques Marquette, this area where lakes Superior and Huron are joined by the river has been a lively crossroads of trade, travel and activity. Even earlier, generations of Ojibwa people gathered at “the cascading rapids” to harvest the abundant resources of whitefish, maple sugar and fur.

“The river defines the town geographically and historically,” says area resident Will Fowler, who wears many hats as an employee of the local bookstore, member of the Chippewa County Theatre Guild, and employee of Sault Historic Sites. “So many groups have had influence on the area—each group has left its mark.”

A Crossroads and a Destination

Sault Ste. Marie, or “the Soo,” has a tradition of being a place to re-stock provisions and relax. This second largest U.P. city is also the oldest European settlement in the Midwest and combines small town friendliness with enough authentic attractions to please the whole family.

“It’s a very friendly city,” says Linda Hoath, lifelong Cloverland Electric Co-op member and director of the Sault Ste. Marie Convention and Visitors Bureau. The Sault area is an ideal home base for the numerous day trip destinations located just a short distance away. Traveling time is a few minutes by bicycle, foot or car within the compact downtown waterfront area, and a few minutes to a few hours to the natural beauty, history and fun

the eastern U.P. offers.

The International Bridge spans the St. Mary’s to join the U.S. and Canada, and offers easy access to the sister city of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario (call U.S. Customs at 906-632-2631 for border-crossing rules).

History FUN!

Fun is never separate from history in Sault Ste. Marie. The Tower of History features an amazing panoramic view of 1,200 square miles, including the Canadian side of the river, for those who take the high speed elevator 210 feet up to the observation decks.

From the top of the Tower, the Museum Ship *Valley Camp* can be seen a short distance away. This retired Great Lakes freighter has 20,000 square feet of exhibits and re-creations of the ship’s heyday as an iron ore and taconite carrier. Visitors can wander the crew’s quarters and pilothouse, view recovered artifacts from the *Edmund Fitzgerald*, and sense the sheer volume of a Great Lakes ship, which is only about one-half the size of freighters cruising today.

The newly-opened River of History Museum beautifully displays information about the diverse cultures and development of the St. Mary’s River system and Sault area. In the same building is the Interpretive Center for the Sault Tribe of Chippewa, a free learning experience featuring native artwork, craft displays and a tribal library.

Money-saving combination tickets are available for the three venues above (visit sault-historicsites.com or call 888-744-7867).

A national historic site, the American Soo Locks (Visitor’s Center: 906-253-9101) should not be missed. This engineering marvel allows ships that are 1,000 feet long



to narrowly negotiate the 21 feet of difference in water levels between lakes Huron and Superior. The Soo Locks Boat Tour (906-632-6301) uses double-decker boats to take visitors along the St. Mary’s and through the Locks.

Rarely open to the public, the block-long former Edison-Sault Hydroelectric Power Plant—now owned by Cloverland Electric Cooperative—is a dazzling work of circa 1898 cut-stone architecture, with “hidden” lighthouse columns.

Other attractions include the Great Lakes



Photo - Soo Locks Boat Tours



Photos - Linda Sirols



Opposite: The International Bridge to Canada (top), with one of three train bridges behind it, and a freighter preparing to pass through the Soo Locks. The historical homes (bottom) of John Johnson, Bishop Baraga and Henry Schoolcraft flank Sault Ste. Marie's city marina, with the Tower of History museum and its observation decks spiraling in the background.

Above (clockwise, from top left): This eagle fountain on the corner of Portage and Ashmun represents the Soo area's history, according to Lee Brown, director of the Downtown Development Association, and marks the location of the Farmer's Market that sets up for business each Wednesday evening and Saturday morning during the warmer months. • A freighter follows a tour boat through the Soo Locks. • Genny Kaunisto, a Cloverland Electric Co-op member, serves up a smile and delicious drinks and Mexican fare at the colorful, historic Palace Restaurant and Saloon. • This humorous clock face is one of many quirky creations at Riverstone Gallery. The owners recycle outmoded electronics and camera parts into unique clocks and jewelry. • Eric and Kathy Demaray represent 55 local artists in their Sault Realism gallery on Portage Ave., as well as offering printing, mounting, and framing of artwork.

Shipwreck Historical Society, and St. Mary's, Michigan's first Catholic church. The current building is the fifth on this site and dates from 1881.

Local storyteller Jim Couling, also known as "Woodsmoke Jim," delights in leading his Twilight Walking Tours (twilightwalkingtours.com or 906-440-5910), which offer tales that combine history and mystery.

"Each story is a gem," Couling says, adding that he loves sharing his enthusiasm for "cool and creepy untold stories." Some of the untold stories focus on his "Strong Women

of the North" tales. "Their [the women's] stories are compelling," he says. With his wife Mary, who adds her vocal talents, they offer family-friendly evening strolls that depart appropriately across from the Haunted Depot on Portage Avenue.

Historic Sugar Island is just a hop away by ferry. Be sure to try the funky 1949 Clyde's Drive-In restaurant near the ferry landing.

Speaking of Food...

Even eating is more fun in the Soo. Try ship-watching at the riverfront while feasting on

fresh whitefish, fine dining at the Ramada Inn Ojibway (National Historic Landmark), or tasty Mexican specialties at the renovated 1903 Palace Restaurant and Saloon. Zorba's serves up Greek, and Cup of the Day boasts great coffee, specialty sandwiches and homemade soups. Owner Anthony Stackpoole keeps a bowl of fresh water just outside the door for passing four-legged friends.

Unforgettable family dining awaits at the award-winning Antler's Restaurant on Portage Avenue, where about 500 antler racks and animals—real and frankly fake—enliven the atmosphere from their perches on the walls and ceiling. Legend has it that among the names under which it has operated, the "Bucket of Blood Saloon and Ice Cream Parlor" is the most colorful. The Antlers offers homemade hamburger buns, twice-weekly fish fries, and delicious steaks. Their beer-of-the-month feature and traditional Paul Bunyan burgers are in demand by local Lake Superior State University students. (*Hint: the steak bites on garlic bread and s'more cheesecake are amazing.*)

A Lively Arts Scene

Shopping, theaters and art galleries are scattered throughout the Soo. Sault Realism, an art gallery run by Eric and Kathy Demaray, offers a mix of locally-created paintings, jewelry and photography. Some of the retro prints shown were taken by Eric's grandmother, nationally known photographer Marion Stahl Boyer.

Nearby is Riverstone Gallery, specializing in Michigan and Sault art. Owners Gregory and Donna Steele, and daughter Allyson Schwartz, shape one-of-a-kind jewelry and clocks from re-purposed materials.

The Alberta House Art Gallery has traveling exhibits and a gift shop. Mahdziwin, on Ashmun St., is owned by the Sault tribe and offers original Native American artworks. Kewadin Casino also has a large gallery and gift shop with Native creations.

A recent "Cool Cities" grant has allowed the local drama community to renovate and use the historic Stars Theatre (906-632-1930), on Ashmun St.

The river's special energy, collaboration among diverse cultures, and a strategic location make the Soo area an unforgettable destination with a charm found nowhere else.

"Sault Ste. Marie has found its own," explains Hoath. "We are not Mackinaw City, we are not Mackinac Island, we are not St. Ignace. We are Sault Ste. Marie."

To plan your trip to "The Place Where Michigan Was Born," see saultstemarie.com or call 800-647-2858.

Unique in the U.P.

Take a Michigan vacation this summer by visiting Keweenaw Bay in the western Upper Peninsula. *Kath Usitalo*



Bill and Nancy Leonard are the owners of the Einerlei Shop in Chassell. Much of the area is served by Ontonagon County REA.



Teresa Palosaari's Country Craft Cabin offers soaps, rag rugs and honey, among other things.

To know Bill and Nancy Leonard is to wander through their airy, two-story Einerlei Shop at the heart of Chassell in the Keweenaw Peninsula. Every artfully arranged item, from handcrafted jewelry to kitchen gadgets and gourmet foods, garden plants, pet

accessories and books, is a reflection of their interests. *Einerlei*, German for “one and the same,” expresses their goal of combining work and play. It’s a philosophy that has guided them to the 35th anniversary of their one-of-a-kind store, involvement in their adopted hometown, and 45 years of marriage.

The couple had vague plans to “do something on our own” when they left Indiana and their careers—his as an engineer, and hers as a special education teacher—in their VW camper in 1973. “We were kind of Hippie-ish,” says Nancy, when they happened upon Houghton and stayed “to see what it was like to live with a lot of snow.” An avid sailor, Bill says, “Big water attracted us.” They also liked being close to Michigan Technological University.

“Let’s sell something!”

Two years after arriving in the U.P., the couple launched Einerlei on a lark, “because we had store windows,” says Nancy of the building that had housed a restaurant and barbershop. “Let’s sell something!” they said, and opened shop with handcrafted items and furniture they refurbished.

Gradually, they added inventory to reflect their home and garden interests, renovating the building in phases to make room for the works of local artists and musicians, greeting cards, housewares and apparel. The variety appeals to their clientele, a mix of tourists, locals, and the Michigan Tech and Finlandia University communities. “When I buy for the new year, I try to redefine (the shop). We have to constantly change, and that’s great because it keeps us interested,” Nancy says. “I try to find companies that are doing good on their own,” she adds, preferring those that donate to causes, deal in fair trade, and are conscientious about packaging.

Community Center

The couple is also active with local historical, business improvement and tourism committees, and Humane Society fundraising. Bill was township supervisor for 12 years, and Nancy’s passion for vintage clothing inspired “Friends of Fashion,” a volunteer group that preserves historic apparel and presents pageants depicting those who wore it.

The Leonards also serve as the unofficial Chamber of Commerce, readily sharing



The Einerlei Shop has an ever-changing collection of unique clothing.

tips on what to do in the area. In summer, mountain bikers and hikers hit the Chassell Classic cross-country ski trail, and paddlers enjoy Chassell Bay and the Keweenaw Water Trail. The Chassell General Store carries everything from instant toothache pain relief to extension cords, refurbished computers, Vollwerth's sausage, fishing lures and fresh fruit. Across the street, Treats and Eats offers ice cream and makes sandwiches for easy picnics at Centennial Park, with its playground, fishing pier and sandy beach on Chassell Bay.

A Berry Good Time

The waterfront was the site of a sawmill built in 1887, and lumbering reigned until the mill closed in 1928. Farmers realized the area was ideal for growing strawberries and Chassell became a major supplier. The story is told in the "Lumber Kings to Strawberry Kings" exhibit at Chassell's Heritage Center Museum. Housed in a handsome former school, the Center is a Heritage Site of the Keweenaw National Historical Park. It's open summer Tuesdays and Thursdays, with a variety of Thursday evening programs.

A handful of berry growers, some with U-Pick farms, remain in the area and Chassell celebrates with the annual Copper Country Strawberry Festival (July 9-10). It features parades, entertainment, an arts and crafts sale, whitefish "boil" and famous strawberry shortcake. Folks gather at the park pavilion to clean and



In L'Anse, Lynn Ketola built the Ivory Mansion Bed & Breakfast to offer unique lodging and keep her family's homestead.

prepare 1,200 quarts of strawberries for the signature treat.

Along U.S.-41

Roadside attractions near Chassell include the Bishop Baraga Shrine, a towering monument overlooking Keweenaw Bay, and birders flock to the Sturgeon River Sloughs, a designated wildlife viewing area. Teresa Palosaari's Country Craft Cabin is filled with soaps, rag rugs and honey, and a bright red sign signals North Entry Road. A giant bear trap at the Bear Trap Iron Works is a can't-miss photo stop.

Houghton offers a variety of lodging, but for a unique alternative, check into the Ivory Mansion Bed & Breakfast in L'Anse.



Stop at the Baraga Drive-In for a quick meal, ice cream and a friendly welcome.



The Chassell General Store has "a little bit of everything," from garden tools to canned tuna and firewood.

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The Next Water Heater

New heat pump water heaters may signal the rebirth of an energy-saving technology. **Alice Clamp**

Cold showers aren't a pleasant way to start the day, and hot water plays a hefty role in cooking and cleaning, too. As a result, water heating has become the second largest energy user in an average home, accounting for approximately 20 percent of residential energy use.

To save energy, consumers have wrapped water heaters in blankets or wrapped hot water pipes in insulation. While those practices should continue, a new type of water heating product is entering the market, promising to lower energy consumption and save consumers money.

Heat pump water heaters, while not a new technology, are experiencing a rebirth. A handful of small companies produced units in the 1980s and 1990s. But random failures and other issues (such as the need for utilities to install special electric service to power the devices) soured consumers on the technology.

In addition, many electric co-ops offered (and still offer) load management programs that depended on briefly shutting off standard electric resistance water heaters (which can store hot water for many hours) as a way to cut electric use during times of peak demand when power prices skyrocket. These programs, in turn, helped co-ops keep electric bills affordable. Heat pump water heaters, unfortunately, could not be used in these efforts.

Now, some major water heater manufacturers and other appliance companies have entered the market with a new and improved generation of heat pump water heaters. Many electric cooperatives are currently testing these products for possible deployment in their service territories—a critical step in determining whether they will really help consumers save energy and trim electric bills.

How They Work

Heat pump water heaters come in two types. The more expensive “integrated” model replaces an electric resistance water heater with one that combines a heat pump with a storage tank. The second version adds a heat pump unit to an existing electric tank.

In both versions, a heat pump circulates a refrigerant, which absorbs heat from surrounding air before it passes through a compressor to maximize heat output. Essentially, heat drawn from the air transfers to water in the tank.

While a heat pump water heater can produce most of the hot water a family requires, a backup electric resistance element in the tank takes over when outside air becomes too cold or consumers need extra hot water. In summer, cool exhaust air can be released into the vicinity where the heat pump water heater is located, assisting home cooling, or it can be returned outside through ducts.

Because a heat pump water heater uses electricity to move, rather than generate, heat, it consumes roughly half the electricity of a conventional electric resistance model. This



efficiency qualifies integrated heat pump water heaters for an Energy Star® rating, a first for electric water heaters.

But this added efficiency comes with a high price tag. Integrated units sell for \$1,400 to \$2,000—more than twice the cost of standard electric resistance water heaters. However, depending on your co-op's electric rate and the installed cost of a heat pump water heater, including any financial incentives, payback for the purchase can take as little as three years. In areas with low electric rates and limited financial incentives, though, the payback period can be much longer.

Heat pump water heaters are most efficient in warm and damp climates. Homes in those regions also benefit from the appliance's cooling and dehumidifying features.

A heat pump water heater needs space of at least 10 feet square to ensure adequate air exchange. An open basement, a utility room, or—in some areas—a garage, will work.

Noise becomes another consideration when deciding where to place a unit. While conventional electric resistance water heaters operate quietly, most heat pump water heaters boast noise levels similar to window air conditioners.

Heat pump water heaters are not a universal option. Residents in colder climates will see decreased performance during winter. In the Pacific Northwest, for instance, if the heat pump is designed to work at ambient air temperatures of 45° F or higher, the water heater's electric element will operate whenever air temperatures drop below that level, reducing energy savings.

To learn more, visit energystar.gov, and search for heat pump water heaters.

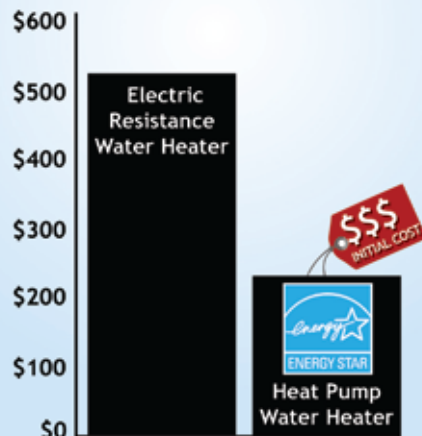
Alice Clamp is a technology writer for the Cooperative Research Network, a service of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Heat Pump Water Heaters Cost More Initially, But May Trim Electric Bills

Energy Star-qualified heat pump water heaters cost almost **twice as much** as standard electric resistance models, but may cut energy costs in half.

Annual Energy Costs (\$/Year)

Based on average household of 2.6 occupants, U.S. Census Bureau, 2006



Source: Energy Star



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Do the Math! Kids Need It; You Can Help!

In the collective rhythm of our lives, summertime has become the mellow jazz of the year, especially for our kids. A growing number of students, however, are picking up the tempo by tackling some summer-time learning.

Adding motivation for high school students are the Michigan Merit Graduation Requirements. Starting with the class of 2011, these standards require *every* student to master rigorous subjects like Chemistry, Physics, and Algebra 2.

Since no subject seems to cause more anxiety than math—Algebra 2, to be exact—I asked math experts for some tips.

STARTING THIS SUMMER

Target your help – Discover where your teen’s strengths and weaknesses were in last year’s math classes. This will uncover areas where you could catch up or get a jump-start on next year.

“Ask for worksheets or assignments for students to work on over the summer,” says Jamie Wernet, a math tutor and high school teacher. “Or explore websites that offer free math games, tutorials, worksheets, and more.

Plan and practice – All too often the summer can slip away, regardless of the best intentions. Schedule study sessions and follow it. Take advantage of summer schools if one is offered.

“Summer schools often offer smaller classes or a different approach to the material,” says Wernet.

Study the standards – Review local and state standards, which explain what your child will be expected to learn each year (see sidebar).

“What does it mean to ‘pass Algebra’? List the topics found in the standards and make sure your child is learning them.” urges W. Michael Kelley, author of a series of math guides for people who don’t “speak math.”

AFTER SCHOOL STARTS

Be visible and accessible – Introduce yourself to teachers early on. Let them know

you’re interested in your child’s progress. Ask if there is a class website or other way to track when assignments are due.

“Send an email early so that the teacher has easy access to your email address,” says Wernet.

Learn what to expect – Ask about the textbook or curriculum used. Does the teacher use a traditional approach, or one that emphasizes group work, problem solving, and investigations? What will a typical lesson look like? How much homework should you expect?

“Math instruction doesn’t always look the same as when parents were in school, and that’s okay!” Wernet says.

Keep students on track – Have a set time to work or study a little every day. Often, success hinges on just keeping up with daily assignments.

MOTIVATING RELUCTANT LEARNERS

Uncover the root – Is it boredom? Discouragement? Confusion? Then match the remedy to the cause.

Create a can-do attitude – Kelley says some parents believe their children will fail math because they, themselves, failed the subject. *Never* give any child the idea that it’s okay to give up on math.

“Avoid comments like ‘I was never good at this stuff’ or ‘I never use this math,’” Wernet says. “If you need to, study the material yourself!”

Use positive peer pressure – Find a compatible study buddy who challenges your teen, and arrange regular homework sessions together. It gets students talking about math, and each might take different things from the lesson. “It’s easier to do anything if you’re not alone,” says Kelley. Plus, a little healthy competition can motivate them to complete work well and on time.

TIME FOR A TUTOR?

Don’t wait – Once a student falls behind—for any reason—or feels discouraged, both Kelley and Wernet urge families to seek help



©iStockphoto.com/Andres

right away—especially if you know your own math skills are rusty.

Look for quality and passion – Ideally, families should look for a certified math teacher, but there are other options: college students, retired or unemployed teachers, tutoring centers, or online tutoring. Look for one that fits your budget and your child’s personality—and who is passionate about math.

Don’t sell yourself short – According to Kelley, parents are willing to help out with just about everything *except* math and science, especially in higher grades. His series of “Humungous” guides (see sidebar) provide very detailed answers to math problems, showing you how to work out every problem, and they don’t skip steps.

“A surprisingly large share of my readers are adults determined to master what they never understood in school,” Kelley says. “Parents are using my books to learn the material so they can help their own children.”

So enjoy the lazy, hazy days of summer, and allow kids time to dance to their own music. But do what it takes to start September on a strong note.

“There is no shame in asking for help,” Kelley says. “Asking for help when you’re already hopelessly lost is too late.”

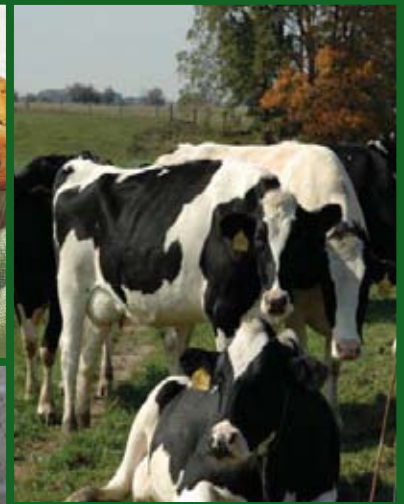
RESOURCES

The Humungous Book series of math study guides by W. Michael Kelley makes the intricacies of math perfectly clear. Look for *The Humungous Guide to Algebra*, and similar titles for Geometry, Statistics and Calculus.

Online math sites like aaamath.com and hotmath.com offer worksheets, games and more.

Michigan’s High School Content Expectations (HSCE) describe what students need to master before they graduate. Review them for math and other subjects at Michigan.gov/mde (select “parents and family” at left).

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For more soybean information visit www.michigansoybean.org.





Chicken

Did you know? Hong Kong is the only place in the world where people consume more chicken per person than the United States. Find many more recipes from readers at countrylines.com.

Sour Cream-and-Dill Chicken

8-10 skinned chicken pieces
 1 10¾-oz. can cream of mushroom soup
 1 envelope dry onion soup mix
 8 oz. sour cream
 1 T. lemon juice
 1 T. freshly chopped dill or 1 t. dry dill weed
 1 4-oz. can sliced mushrooms, drained
 pepper to taste
 paprika
 wide egg noodles, cooked

Place raw chicken in a single layer in a 9x13-inch baking pan. Sprinkle with pepper. Combine mushroom soup, dry soup mix, sour cream, lemon juice, dill and mushrooms; pour over chicken. Sprinkle with paprika. Bake, uncovered at 350° for 1 hour or until chicken is tender. Meanwhile, prepare egg noodles according to package directions. Serve chicken over noodles.

Barbara Palzewicz, Daggett

Tuscan Chicken

1 lb. boneless chicken breasts, cut into cubes
 2 cloves garlic, minced
 2 T. olive oil
 4 c. cubed potatoes
 1 med. bell pepper, diced
 1 jar pasta sauce
 1 10-oz. pkg. frozen green beans
 salt and pepper to taste

Sauté chicken and garlic in olive oil until lightly browned. Add potatoes and peppers and cook 5 minutes; stirring occasionally. Add sauce, beans, salt and pepper; bring to a boil. Reduce heat, cover and simmer for 35 minutes until chicken is cooked and potatoes are tender.

Mary Waterbury, Fenton

Baked Taco Chicken

1 c. all-purpose flour
 2 envelopes taco seasoning
 1 t. salt
 2 eggs
 2 T. milk
 2 3-4 lb. broiler/fryer chickens, cut up

In a large re-sealable plastic bag, combine flour, taco seasoning and salt. In a bowl, beat eggs and milk. Dip chicken pieces in egg mixture, then place in bag and shake to coat. Place chicken pieces on a foil-lined 10x15-inch baking pan. Bake uncovered at 350° for 55-60 minutes or until juices run clear.

Naomi Yoder, Scottville

Cheese Nip Chicken

4-6 boneless chicken breasts
 4-6 crushed Cheez-It® Crackers
 1 c. crushed Cheez-It® Crackers
 8 oz. sour cream
 1 stick butter, melted

Place chicken in a baking dish, spread evenly with sour cream, then sprinkle with crushed crackers. Pour melted butter over crackers. Bake uncovered at 375° for 1 hour.

Helen Benner, Lansing

Wild Rice Casserole

1 c. wild rice
 1 lg. onion, diced
 2 c. diced celery
 1¼ c. diced green pepper, optional

1/2 c. sliced mushrooms
 1 can cream of mushroom soup
 1 can cream of chicken soup
 1 soup can cold water
 2-3 T. soy sauce
 2-3 lbs. cooked, skinless chicken breasts

Wash rice and cover with warm water; let set for 3 hours. Sauté onion, celery and green pepper; combine with soy sauce, soups and cold water. Add rice and mushrooms. Gently fold-in chicken. Place all in a buttered casserole dish. Bake at 325° for 1½ hours.

Mandy Rebone, Interlochen

Tarragon Chicken with White Wine

4 lbs. chicken cut into pieces
 2 T. butter or margarine
 2 T. oil
 1 lg. onion, chopped
 2 T. flour
 1 c. white wine, Inglenook® Chablis is best
 1 T. tarragon
 grated rind of 1 lemon
 chopped parsley for garnish

Brown chicken in combined oil and butter; set aside. Sauté onion in the same butter. Add flour and gradually add wine, stirring in browned pieces from bottom of pan. Add tarragon; cook until sauce has thickened. Return chicken to pan; cover and cook for 50 minutes or until done. Garnish with grated lemon and chopped parsley.

Duane Alvard, Port Sanilac

Chicken Salad

2 c. whole seedless green grapes
 3+ c. cooked and cubed chicken breasts
 1 c. cashew halves
 1/8-1/4 c. sesame seeds
 1 T. butter at room temperature, or melted
 1 c. sour cream
 1/2 c. mayonnaise
 1 T. tarragon vinegar
 1 t. salt
 pepper to taste

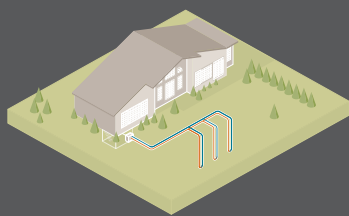
In a large bowl, combine chicken and butter. Add remaining ingredients; mix well. Chill before serving. Serve in a pita pocket, alongside a croissant, or on top of a tomato cut into eighths served on a bed of lettuce.

Jeanne Stewart, Lansing

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Co-op Member *Gardeners*

From the Ohio border to the U.P., gardening is a common interest throughout electric co-op territories in Michigan.

There is no shortage of gardeners among electric co-op members. From vegetable gardening to growing fruits, berries and flowers, co-op members do it all. This spring, while not tending my own garden, I talked to a few co-op folks who garden for fun and profit. They shared their stories and a few green thumb tips.

I'm always looking for an excuse to stop at Burdock Farm Greenhouse, in Dafer, to shop for plants and talk to Karen Bartunek, whom I've known for years. Now retired from the Sault Area Schools, this Cloverland Electric Co-op member runs a small business in a country setting. She sells plants

and gifts to area gardeners. Her business could be described as 'a passion for gardening that got out of hand.'

"It's something that evolved," explains Bartunek. "I grew plants for myself and pretty soon had too many and started selling them to neighbors. So I decided to try it on a bigger scale—this is big enough," she says with a chuckle.

Bartunek mostly enjoys starting plants from seed, though it isn't practical, even on a small scale, to start enough plants from seed to supply to area customers. Still, she manages to plant a number of things inside her house long before the snow melts. She germinates most of her seeds over heat tape and sometimes by placing germination trays on a cookie sheet over the pilots of a gas stove.

Assisting her in this endeavor is her 92 year-old mother, Belma. Karen's mother doesn't let a little arthritis keep her from her passion, which she obviously passed down to her daughter.

With the help of her daughters, who live on either side of her, Belma is able to continue doing something she loves. Each year she starts plants from seed in a spare bedroom, eventually hardening them off in a small greenhouse not far from her front door. With the help of a ramp and walker, Belma can mosey down to the greenhouse each day

At 92, Mrs. Hugo has been involved in growing things for 78 years. Her current garden includes broccoli, onions and garlic.



Karen Bartunek is the owner of Burdock Farm Greenhouse, in the eastern U.P., where she's turned her fondness for growing things into a small business by selling plants and gardening gifts.

to tend to her gardening chores. She uses a chair on wheels and a long-handled water wand to maneuver within reach of the plants in the greenhouse.

Eventually, some of the hundreds of plants Belma raises will be on the retail display racks at Burdock Farms, or they may just get potted up and placed where she can see them from her living room window.

"Oh, I just love it," said Belma, smiling as bright as the sun. "It keeps me going."

Bartunek's rustic garden center is large enough to offer a nice variety of plants, yet small enough for the personal service Karen offers her customers. She says helping her customers is what makes this endeavor worthwhile. "Most people come here in a good mood and leave in a good mood. You're making people happy."

My long-time friend and gardener, Brian Howard, of Blanchard, usually calls about the time asparagus is coming on in my garden. We compares notes on the weather and discuss what each of us is going to plant in the coming year. This year was no exception.

This summer, Brian and his wife, Priscilla, HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Co-op members, are busy adding to the 17 varieties of apple trees in their small orchard. "I grow a lot of apples for cider," Brian explains. "I also grow the Ida Reds for eating." They are also adding another 1,000 strawberry plants to the ones they were already growing for market, and they're planting another large



vegetable garden this year.

Brian understands strawberries—his family has grown them for years in the Remus area. He grows several different varieties, including Jewels, Early Glow, Sparkles (one of his favorites) and a variety that sets flowers a little later in the spring—Ovation—which increases the chances of escaping a late spring frost.

The Howards give away, sell or can what they can't eat fresh. They're always on the lookout for the least toxic controls for insects and disease, which he admits is difficult—but perhaps not impossible, even with apples.

Brian has always been involved in gardening and some type of agriculture. The former beekeeper grew up on a farm near Remus. His father sold farm equipment for Ford in the Mt. Pleasant area, and Brian spent summers helping his grandfather garden and eventually gardened with area 4-H kids. "A lot of my interest in gardening came from my grandfather," Brian says.

Mrs. Hugo (the only name I've known her by), is a new Cloverland Electric Co-op customer due to the Co-op's recent acquisition of Edison Sault Electric. She says she cultivated most of her love for gardening in Germany,

where she lived into her late teens.

Her first exposure to gardening was when she was about 14, and wanted to become a hair stylist. To enter this vocation, she was first required to work for a year, either in a home, doing domestic work, or on a farm. She chose a farm, and today is glad she did. On the farm she learned a lot about gardening.

"It was very fascinating to see a garden grow," she says of her first experience. She shuns the use of chemicals in her backyard garden, and has instead adapted some of the nonchemical insect control techniques of Jerry Baker (gardening author who coins himself 'America's Master Gardener') to grow her tomatoes, carrots and other veggies.

"There is a personal satisfaction when you see the vegetables grow," she says in her German accent. "There is so much pleasure."

Her words of advice? "Start out with a small garden and encourage your children to garden."

Neil Moran is the author of "North Country Gardening: Simple Secrets to Successful Northern Gardening," and "From Store to Garden: 101 Ways to Make the Most of Garden Store Purchases."



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Metal Roofs Are Cool

Metal roofs save energy by keeping homes cooler during summer. And they look good, too.

Many—but not all—metal roofs qualify for the federal energy conservation tax credit for 2010. Metal roofs save energy by keeping your house cooler in the summer, which can dramatically improve comfort and reduce electric bills if your home is air-conditioned. In winter, a metal roof has little impact on the energy efficiency of your house.

Generally, to qualify for the energy tax credit the roof must meet Energy Star® qualification standards. For roofing, this means the TSR (total solar reflectivity) must be greater than 25 percent when new and 15 percent after three years of aging. To be sure the roofing qualifies, ask for the specifications and a manufacturer's certification statement (MCS). It pays to be diligent these days: I recently got quotes on a roof installation, and several roofers told me their asphalt shingles qualified for the tax credit. In actuality, they did not qualify.

The amount of the tax credit is 30 percent of the roofing materials cost (not installation expenses), up to a maximum of \$1,500. Use IRS form 5695 to apply for the tax credit and save the payment receipt and MCS in case of a tax audit.

For my own home, I eventually selected an aluminum roof by Classic Metal Roofing Systems. It is made from 98 percent recycled aluminum, and the one-by-two-foot panels are formed to simulate cedar shakes. It's attractive and certainly unique: many neighbors were stumped trying to figure out exactly what it is.

To install the aluminum panel roof, a special film underlayment was nailed down with plastic clips and stainless steel fasteners over the existing shingles (which saved the expense of tearing off the old shingles). Each aluminum panel interlocks with the adjacent ones on all four sides. The top of each panel is held down by a stainless steel nail through a hole in the upper corner and an aluminum clip attached midway across the top. It is designed to withstand up to a 120-mph wind.

Although it is more expensive to install than an asphalt shingle roof, my new metal roof will never have to be replaced. From a lifetime cost comparison, it is cheaper than



The metal roofing panels are installed over the underlayment. Hidden stainless steel nails and aluminum clips are used to secure each panel.

installing an asphalt roof every 20 to 30 years. I also get a 3 percent reduction on my homeowner's insurance because of the reduced fire hazard.

Most metal roofs reflect more of the sun's heat than asphalt shingles, particularly black shingles. My Classic metal roof has a TRS of 0.43, whereas a black asphalt shingle roof has a TRS of only 0.05. This keeps the roofing materials cooler so less heat is radiated down through the ceilings to the living area. Also, the underside of the aluminum metal surface has lower "emissivity" (the ability to emit heat) than shingles, so even less heat radiates downward.

It was warm, sunny weather when my metal roof and ridge vent were installed, and the second floor was noticeably cooler than before.

The final energy advantage is that Classic's aluminum panels are relatively thin, with the contour of shakes formed into them. This contour creates an air gap between most of the roofing and the sheathing or shingles below it. This gap allows some outdoor air to naturally circulate up under the metal roof panels to keep them cooler. I sealed off my gable vents so outdoor air is now drawn in the soffit vents and exhausted out the ridge vent.

One minor drawback to the aluminum

shake panels is they can dent if you indiscriminately walk on the high points of the contour. This can be avoided by stepping on the lower nailed area of the panels. Contoured insulating foam pieces were placed under areas of the panels to provide walkways on the roof to clean my skylight and service the ridge vents.

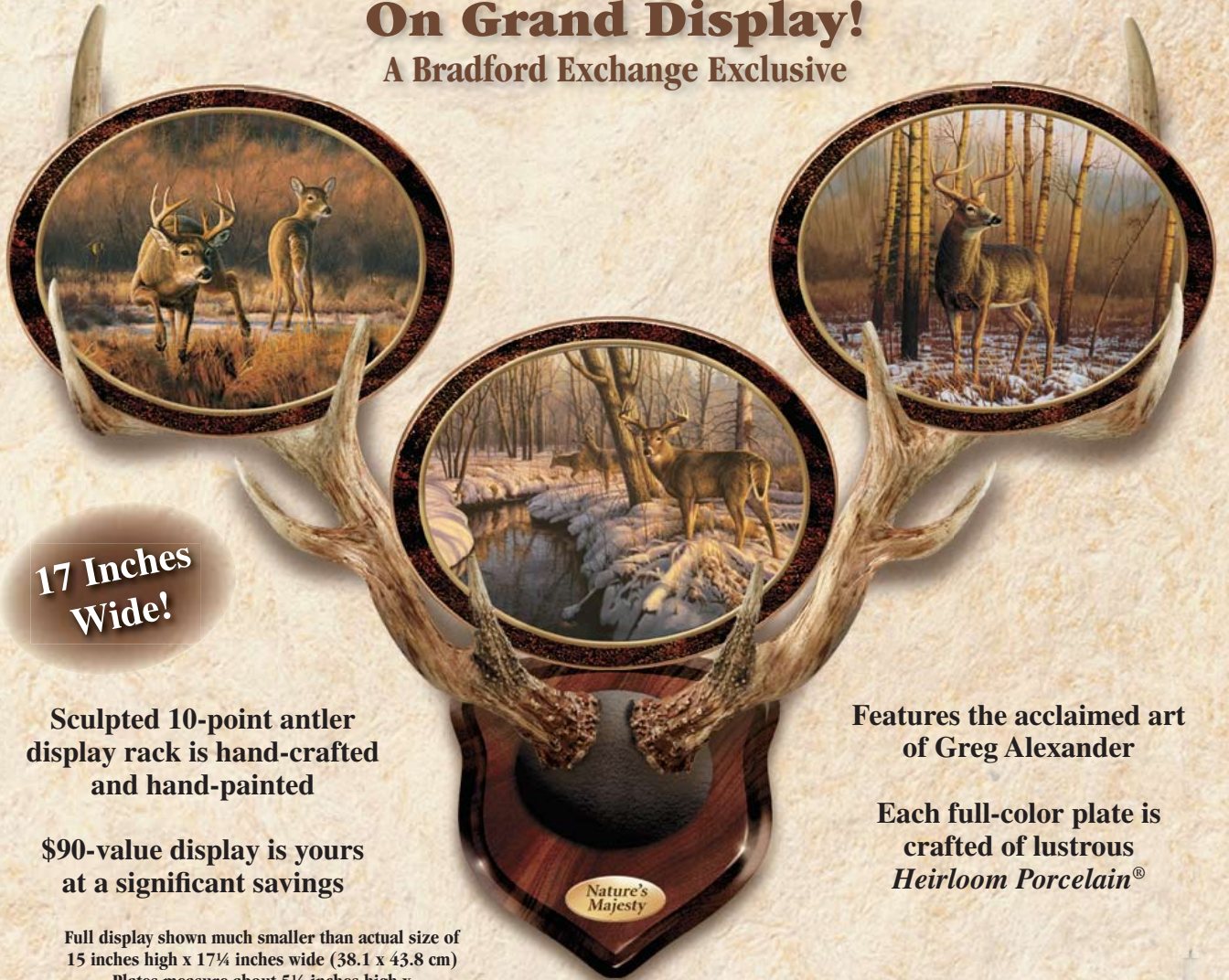
Steel roofing is another option becoming more popular on homes. Painted standing seam or tile steel roofing is very durable. Instead of trying to simulate some type of standard roofing material, their bright colors and unique appearance are signatures of upscale homes. The finish coating on aluminum and steel often uses a Kynar®-based paint with heat reflecting additives in a multistep process.

These companies offer metal roofs: American Metal Roofs, 888-221-1869, americanmetalroofs.com; Classic Metal Roofing, 800-543-8938, classicmetalroofingsystems.com; Conklin Metal, 800-282-7386, metalshingle.com; Follansbee Steel, 800-624-6906, follansbeeroofing.com; and Met-Tile, 909-947-0311, met-tile.com.

Questions? Send inquiries to: James Dulley, Michigan Country Lines, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244 or visit dulley.com.

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State Denies Air Permit For Rogers City Power Plant

The State of Michigan denied an air quality permit for the Wolverine Clean Energy Venture (WCEV) power plant in May. The facility, proposed by Wolverine Power Cooperative for a site near Rogers City, MI, would use state-of-the art technology to generate 600 megawatts of electricity.

After more than 900 days of consideration, the state ruled the WCEV plant was not needed, was too costly, and negatively impacted the environment.

“We strongly disagree with the reasons for the denial,” said Craig Borr, Wolverine’s executive vice president. “The state’s ruling was not based on the technical merits of the permit as it should be, but instead on factors such as cost and need—decisions best made by electric cooperative directors.”

Wolverine submitted its application for the air quality permit to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (MDNRE) in September 2007 and continued working on other permits needed to advance the project. The MDNRE approved both landfill and harbor expansion permits. A decision on the air permit was expected in 2009.

The Wolverine board of directors and management team are currently evaluating options for the WCEV plant, including a possible court appeal of the air permit denial.

“We will continue to focus, as always, on our mission to provide reliable, affordable power to our members,” Borr said. “We remain confident in our ability to do so.”

Headquartered in Cadillac, Wolverine is the power supplier to Cherryland Electric Cooperative, Great Lakes Energy, HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op, Spartan Renewable Energy and Wolverine Power Marketing Cooperative.

Presque Isle County Advance
 Thursday, May 27, 2010 • Volume 132 • Number 21
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DENIED
 State says no to Wolverine's permit request after nearly 1,000 days of consideration

Numbers used are all wrong says Wolverine

Many remain angered and disappointed

Legislators Say State Made Wrong Decision

WOLVERINE POWER COOPERATIVE

Rogers City’s weekly newspaper, the *Presque Isle County Advance*, has covered the Wolverine Clean Energy Venture since the project was announced in May 2006. The paper’s May 27 issue broke news of the air permit denial to community members. Visit piadvance.com to read coverage of this story.

Legislators Say State Made Wrong Decision

“With families across Michigan struggling, it is unreasonable to argue against bringing thousands of jobs to northeastern Michigan while simultaneously generating cleaner energy than before.”

– U.S. Rep. Bart Stupak (D-Menominee)

“The value of the Rogers City project to Michigan and the local region was immense, especially while the state is looking for job creation and setting a foundation to build on for the future... It is unfair for state leaders to not only withhold a help line for so long, but to then block any chance of a positive step being taken.”

– State Sen. Kevin Elsenheimer (R-Kewadin)

“This latest decision is another sad chapter in a pattern of neglect by the administration... The administration is leaving a painful legacy for our region of the state to grapple with for many years to come.”

– State Sen. Jason Allen (R-Alpena)

“I am beside myself that Governor Jennifer Granholm has turned away this opportunity to bring jobs to northeast Michigan. The governor has flown all the way to China to beg Chinese companies to bring jobs to Michigan when all she had to do was to drive up north to find the opportunity.”

– State Rep. Andy Neumann (D-Alpena)

10 Hot Tips for "Green" Cooking

Try these money-saving tips for reducing your carbon footprint.

1. Cook outdoors to reduce the load on your air conditioner. Try a solar cooker or oven—they are the most energy-efficient cooking appliances. They require no fuel, reduce unwanted summer heat in your home by taking cooking outside, and can accommodate any food a slow cooker can. Some solar ovens can reach 500 degrees. To learn more, visit solarcooking.org.



2. Toaster ovens, convection ovens and slow cookers also get the job done with less energy, especially when preparing smaller meals.

3. Use as small a pan, as little water, and as little pre-heating time as possible.

4. Bake in glass or ceramic oven ware instead of metal. You can turn the temperature down by 25 degrees, and foods will cook in the same amount of time.

5. Avoid thawing food in the microwave. Thawing food in the fridge is far more energy efficient, contributes to the fridge's cooling, and is safer than thawing food on the counter top or in the sink.

6. Don't open the door to peek in the oven. Use the oven window instead!

7. Clean burner pans (trays under burners) regularly—they'll reflect heat more effectively to the cookware. Dirty burner pans absorb heat and reduce efficiency.

8. Use flat-bottom cookware that rests evenly on the surface of electric coil burners, solid-disk elements, or radiant elements under smooth-top ceramic glass.

9. Use residual heat. Turn the stove or oven off two minutes before cooking is done—it will keep cooking (cookware stays hot) while reducing energy use.

10. Substitute one or more stove top burners with an induction cooker. The typical efficiency of an induction cooker is 84 percent, and gas stove tops are 40 percent efficient, says the Department of Energy. Induction cookers (require magnetic cookware such as cast iron or enameled steel) also produce as much heat as gas and are less costly to run than a conventional electric burner (visit theinductionsite.com).
—John Bruce

Trust as a Co-op Marketing Tool

Trust. It's the marketing tool Cherryland Electric Cooperative used in the weeks leading up to our 72nd annual meeting on June 16 at Wuerfel Park.

Environmental groups were spending big amounts of money for TV and radio ads—our sources tell us over \$50,000—to try and sway our members into thinking that we were going to double or triple their electric bills in the coming years.

We answered back by simply telling our members about our 72-year history of solid stewardship in the Grand Traverse area. We call it "Trust Equity," and we found out at our annual meeting that it cuts both ways. That is, we asked our members to trust us, and they responded by telling us they do.

So, while more than \$50,000 was spent in a campaign to undermine our credibility, our members told us they weren't



Nick Edson

swayed by big bucks and fancy slogans.

That means a lot to us.

Cherryland answered the negative campaign by writing newspaper forums, telling our story on talk radio, and responding to TV interview requests.

We went back and counted the amount of money we spent on our own campaign. Our members will be happy to know that the number was zero. We didn't spend a dime of their money.

Your co-op has established "trust equity" with a 72-year history of solid stewardship.

We simply reminded our members of our track record over the last 72 years. We told them about our commitment to this community. We stressed that reliability and accountability are the cornerstones of our business.

We didn't go to a third party and tell them to create a message that we could air to blast our critics. We didn't need to. We've found that the truth is always the best defense.




Cherryland Electric's general manager, Tony Anderson, addressing members at the co-op's 72nd annual meeting.

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What Members Collect



Owen Heng of Midland has over 100 nutcrackers in his collection.



Walt Rusin of Muskegon collects old wooden and bakelite telephones from the '20s, '30s, '40s and '50s.

Do you collect something *unusual*? We'd like to hear about it! Please send your name, address/phone, and a color photo (not from a computer printer) of your collection to Editor, *Michigan Country Lines*, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864, or by email to czucker@countrylines.com.

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Getting the Most for Your Energy Dollar

Energy optimization is not the same as energy conservation—instead, it is a way to use less energy to achieve the same result. **Kevin Cragg**

In 1974, Little Caesars® introduced its first 2-for-1 pizza deal. Five years later they coined the slogan “Pizza! Pizza!”, and changed the pizza industry forever.

We all love to get more than we pay for.

That’s true even of gardening, where one kernel of corn produces a stalk full of ears. Who would plant a vegetable garden if it returned exactly what was planted?

Unfortunately, with energy, all too often we “harvest” less energy than we expend. The incandescent lightbulb is a good example.

As the incandescent lightbulb converts electrical energy into light energy, a tremendous amount of heat is created. In most cases, this heat is wasted energy.

Compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs), on the other hand, do a much better job of converting electrical energy into light energy, and therefore waste less energy.

Energy efficiency is simply about comparing energy outputs and inputs. The more output relative to input, the greater the efficiency.

One of the bigger energy users in our homes is the hot water heater. Newer water heaters have an energy factor (EF) rating. The EF is a standardized measurement of the annual energy efficiency of water heating systems. The higher the number, the more energy efficient is the water heater.

A typical gas or propane water heater will have an EF of between 58 and 70 percent efficiency, usually listed as a decimal, such as 0.58. Electric hot water heaters generally have an EF of 90 percent, or 0.90. Electric hot water heaters typically have higher EF ratings than gas or propane.

Nonetheless, what these water heaters do all have in common is an EF less than



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1.0, which means their output energy is less than their input energy.

A relative newcomer to the water heater world is the heat pump water heater. While the typical water heaters mentioned above carry EF ratings below 100 percent, heat pump water heaters boast energy factors greater than 200 percent! In other words, the heat

output energy is more than double the electrical input energy. This is an even better deal than getting two pizzas for the price of one.

Heat pumps are amazing systems that efficiently extract heat from an external

source such as the ground or air. Since the heat pump is, in essence, just transferring existing heat, and not creating heat, it can operate more efficiently than traditional hot water heaters.

In the case of the heat pump water heater, the heat pump transfers the heat in the air around the water heater to the water located in the water heater. As a result, the air temperature in the general vicinity of the heat pump water heater is cooler than it would be otherwise, which, depending on the season, could be a good or undesirable outcome.

Given that the heat pump water heater pulls its heat from the air, it only makes sense that these units operate more efficiently in warmer climates. For cooler climates, like Michigan, the heat pump water heater will occasionally require an assist

Cherryland Electric Cooperative ENERGY OPTIMIZATION 2009 Annual Report

Total Kilowatt Hour (kWh) Credits:

Budget	1,025,187
Actual (audited)	1,579,667

Kilowatt Hour (kWh) Credits by Member Class:

	Budget	Claimed	Audited
Residential	549,166	642,722	642,502
Low Income	164,036	34,545	38,808
Commercial	311,984	518,622	898,357
	1,025,186	1,195,889	1,579,667

Total Revenue: \$111,311

Total Expenses: \$142,225

- Notes:*
- 1) 2009 independent expert evaluation completed by KEMA, Inc.
 - 2) 2009 Annual Report filed with the MPSC on April 28, 2010
 - 3) For more information about Cherryland Electric Cooperative's Energy Optimization program, visit cherrylandelectric.com
 - 4) Energy Optimization is a state mandated program (Public Act 295)

Cherryland Teen Visits D.C.



from water heating elements that are built into the unit. Relying on water heating elements for supplemental heating does reduce the overall efficiency of the unit.

As you might expect, the highly efficient heat pump water heater costs substantially more than a standard water heater. The unit itself sells for about \$1,600. A fully installed unit, including labor, runs about \$2,000.

However, as part of the “American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009,” the federal government is currently offering a homeowner tax credit for the purchase of heat pump water heaters. For qualifying households, this tax credit can total as much as \$500. And the deal gets even better. Cherryland Electric Cooperative is offering up to \$300 in rebates for qualifying heat pump water heaters.

The Cherryland rebate coupled with the tax credit can equal as much as \$800, about half the cost of the heat pump water heater.

Given the heat pump hot water heater’s incredible EF and reduced annual hot water heating costs, coupled with currently available rebates and the opportunity to reduce wasted energy, I encourage you to take a serious look at one of these units.

Visit with a local contractor for more details. If you decide to make a purchase, don’t forget to verify whether or not you qualify for the tax credit. For details about Cherryland’s rebate program, visit our website at cherrylandelectric.com or call 231-486-9200.

For more about heat pump water heaters, see page 14.

Kevin Cragg is the member services manager at Cherryland Electric and oversees the Energy Optimization program.



ROBERT MYERS, OF BEAR LAKE (above), had an unforgettable experience in June when he represented Cherryland Electric Cooperative in Washington, D.C., as part of the national Rural Electric Youth Tour. Joining nearly 1,500 from across the country, including 13 from Michigan, he toured the city’s sites, museums and memorials, including the Viet Nam War Memorial shown here. He also had the opportunity to visit with Sen. Debbie Stabenow and U.S. representatives and their staff members. Shown above (inset) with other students from Michigan’s U.S. Congressional district 2, Robert asked questions and exchanged ideas with Amanda Gill, (left in photo) a legislative correspondent for Rep. Peter Hoekstra.

Learn more about this electric co-op-sponsored program for teens on page 6.

Information For All Customers Of Cherryland Electric Cooperative

Your cooperative offers a program called the Community Caring Fund, which is funded through the voluntary rounding up of your monthly utility bill to the next whole dollar amount. An all-volunteer board of directors

appointed by the member-elected board of Cherryland Electric Cooperative is charged with distributing the funds throughout the cooperative’s service area to support charitable efforts in and around the communities we serve. Funds from the Community Caring Fund have been distributed to educational programs, fire departments, medical emergency groups, recreational organizations serving both the young and old, senior organizations, local economic development initiatives, and numerous local charities.

Your participation in the Community Caring Fund is voluntary. If at any time you wish to discontinue participation in the Community Caring Fund, please let us know and we will be happy to remove you. If you are participating, your monthly bill is rounded up to the next whole dollar amount. For example, if your bill is \$58.42, it would be rounded up to \$59. The 58 cents would then be contributed by Cherryland Electric Cooperative on your behalf to the Community Caring Fund to be used as explained above. A customer’s average annual contribution is approximately \$6. Your annual contribution to the Community Caring Fund is tax deductible and is reported on your monthly statement at the end of the year.

For additional information regarding the Community Caring Fund, you can contact the co-op office by mail (see page 4) or by calling 800-442-8616 (MI).

When Brian Burns, CEO of Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op, recently suggested we might want to do a feature on a woman who lives in his hometown of Indian River and who is running a marathon to raise money for a day care center in Mexico, I balked. I mean, if we run a story on one run-for-a-cause, it could look like an endorsement and open the floodgates to hundreds of requests to publicize other runs for money. Of course, it turns out Dorothy Johnson is not just another runner. She has a compelling life story, and she's written it all down. I read it and it made me tired. Seriously, she needs to put it all in a book.

You've probably noticed there are a lot of people running in Michigan these days. And I don't mean politicians running for everything from sheriff to governor. (There's even a sheriff running for governor.) I'm talking about the fit-and-trim grandmothers, school track teams and just-out-of-rehab heart bypassers who are lacing up running shoes and hitting pavement and trail to run—or walk—in hundreds of 5K, 10K, half-marathon and full-marathon races this summer and fall.

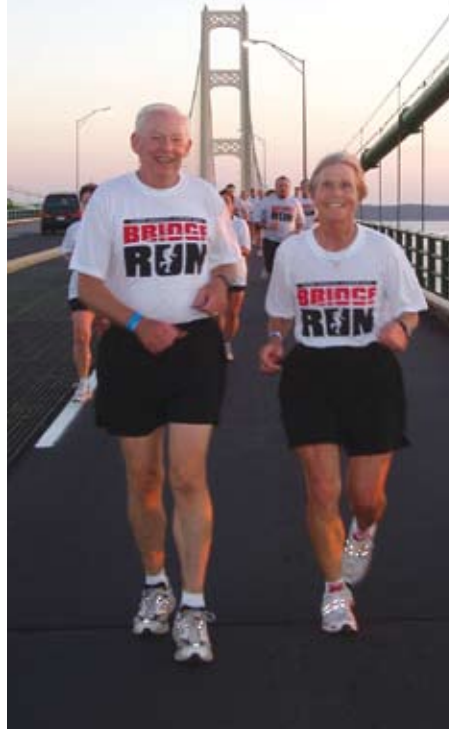
Let's be honest, most of us who participate in these races aren't in them to win. We're in them to get a little exercise, certainly, but mostly we run on weekends to join friends, get a t-shirt and a snack, and help out a cause we believe in.

Sometimes, it's personal. Cherryland Electric Co-op CEO Tony Anderson has pledged to run a marathon in every state to raise money for Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Northwest Michigan because he wants to give back for all the help he got as a kid after his father died. (marathon4kids.com)

Charity runs have become a big deal. The top 30 "thon" fundraising programs generated more than \$1.62 billion in gross revenue for charity in the U.S. last year, according to the Run Walk Ride Fundraising Council, which keeps track of such things. The big winners are Relay for Life (American Cancer Society), \$405 million; Race for the Cure (Susan G. Komen for the Cure), \$120.3 million; March for Babies (March of Dimes), \$100 million; Start! Heart Walk (American Heart Association), \$100 million; and Team in Training (Leukemia & Lymphoma Society), \$98.9 million.

If you're interested in participating and contributing, you'll find 430 big and small run/walk events through the rest of this

Love to Run



John and Dorothy Johnson ran across the Mackinac Bridge on Labor Day.

year on runmichigan.com.

I've run and walked through a few 5K races, and I probably should push myself to actually 'run' longer and more often, but, like many of us, I haven't yet experienced the runner's high that devoted runners say feeds their desire to keep running.

No doubt Dorothy Johnson has experienced that high. She's had fast feet since 1986, when, at 41, she ran the 10-mile Crim race in Flint, where she continues to run every year, and where she and her first husband, Jim, were teachers. (Jim French died in 1997; they'd been married 31 years.)

She must be in constant motion. Even before she started running, she was a "serious" biker in the '70s and '80s, riding in extended events in Michigan and elsewhere. She recorded her longest bike day trip in 1987: 176 miles for the "One Day

Ride Across Michigan." In 1995, she biked 100 miles each day for three consecutive days with her sister, Barbara.

But her love now is running, for both the health and fun of it. "I do race to win, but I don't," she says. "It's really a social thing for me."

She retired in 2004, married John and moved to their vacation home on Burt Lake. She runs with her friends in the Indian River Striders club, which she started in 1999 so she would have someone to walk and run with in her future retirement community. She runs an average of 30 miles a week and walks 12.

She's completed 25 marathons since her first, the Flying Pig in Cincinnati, in 1999. She ran the Boston Marathon for the first time this year and counts the Great Wall of China Marathon as her most interesting. (She's traveled all over the world.) Over the last few years, she's run 1,400 miles annually and 'briskly' walked 600 miles more.

She will be running in this fall's Chicago Marathon—in her first charity run—to raise money for a daycare center in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, where she and her husband have volunteered for four years through the Cross in the Woods Shrine, their parish in Indian River. (marathon.casadelosangeles.org)

The center provides a healthy, safe place for children of low-income, single, working parents. It operates solely on volunteers and donations, Dorothy says. "Not a penny is wasted, and it helps a lot of people."

Given Michigan's problems, maybe the politicians should team up with Dorothy. They could put together a charity run for the state. We could make a dent in the deficit and all lose a few pounds to boot. I think she could pull it off. She may not win all her races, but she finishes what she starts. She was a teacher, after all.

"If they can do it, so can I," she said in the beginning, always the motivator.

"If I can do it, so can they," she says now.



Mike Buda is the founding editor of Country Lines and continues to work on the magazine, as well as other activities of the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association. He's going to run more.

Email Mike at mbuda@countrylines.com.



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