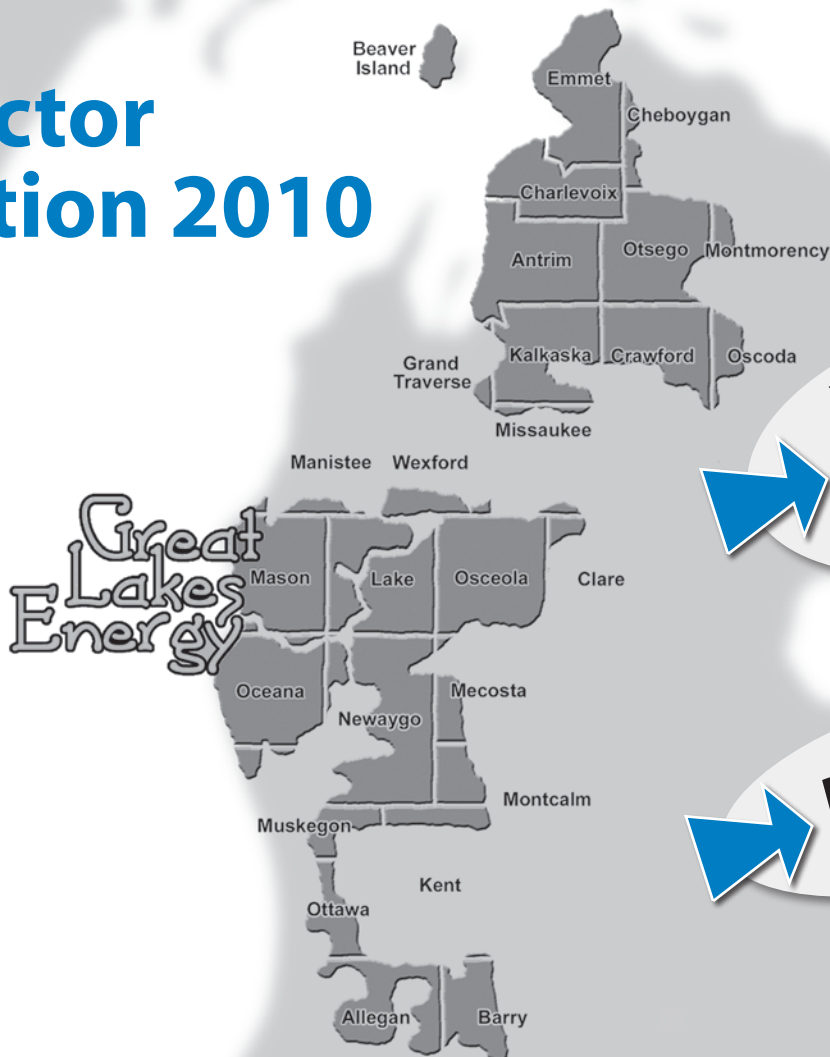


MICHIGAN Country Lines

Director Election 2010



**Your Official
Mail-In Ballot
Is On The
Back Cover**

**Return Ballot
By Aug. 19**

- ✓ **Notice of Annual Meeting – Inside Front Cover**
- ✓ **Nominations by Petition Statement – p. 29**
- ✓ **Director Candidates – p. 29**

NOTICE OF 2010 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF GREAT LAKES ENERGY COOPERATIVE

Date of Notice: July 10, 2010

Please be advised that pursuant to Article III, Section 1, and Article III, Section 4, of the Great Lakes Energy Cooperative Bylaws, the annual meeting of the Members of Great Lakes Energy Cooperative is called by the Secretary of the Cooperative. The purpose of the annual meeting is to announce the results of the ballots cast and the election of the Great Lakes Energy Cooperative Board of Directors and to act on any other business properly brought before the membership. This annual meeting of the Members of Great Lakes Energy Cooperative shall occur at the offices of Great Lakes Energy Cooperative, 1323 Boyne Avenue, Boyne City, Michigan, promptly at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 25, 2010.

Great Lakes Energy Cooperative



Susan Scott, Secretary

BEFORE YOU VOTE, READ THIS:

As a member and owner of an electric cooperative, you decide who will represent you on the Great Lakes Energy Cooperative Board of Directors.

Please read the information about the candidates on p. 29 of this magazine, and then cast your vote on the ballot on the back cover.

Two positions are open on the board.

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ENERGY
Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative

July/August 2010

MICHIGAN Country Lines



See the Soo

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Affects Your Rates**

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Digital Home Advantage plan requires 24-month agreement and credit qualification. If service is terminated before the end of agreement, a cancellation fee of \$1750/month remaining applies. Programming credits apply during first 12 months. Free HD for life of current account; requires Agreement, AutoPay with Paperless Billing. HBO/Showtime offer requires AutoPay with Paperless Billing; credits apply during first 3 months (\$72 value); customer must downgrade or then-current price applies. Requires continuous enrollment in AutoPay and Paperless Billing. Free Standard Professional Installation only. All equipment is leased and must be returned to DISH Network upon cancellation or unreturned equipment fees apply. Limit 6 leased tuners per account; lease upgrade fees apply for select receivers; monthly fees may apply based on type and number of receivers. HD programming requires HD television. HD channel availability will vary based on package. 200 HD channels require subscription to additional packages and VIP® 922 receiver. All prices, packages and programming subject to change without notice. Local channels may not be available in all areas. Offer is subject to the terms of applicable Promotional and Residential Customer Agreements. Additional restrictions may apply. First-time DISH Network customers only. Offer ends 9/28/10. HBO® and related channels and service marks are the property of Home Box Office, Inc. SHOWTIME and related marks are registered trademarks of Showtime Networks Inc., a CBS Company. InfinityDISH charges a one-time \$49.95 non-refundable processing fee.

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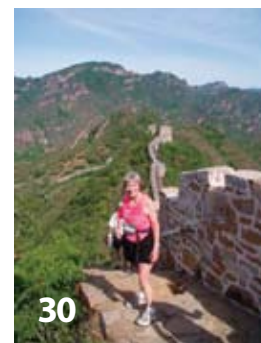
Michael Peters



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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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Association officers are **Brian Burns**, PIE&G, chairman; **Ken Swope**, Midwest Energy, 1st vice chairman; **Tony Anderson**, Cherryland, 2nd vice chairman; **Eric Baker**, Wolverine Power, secretary-treasurer; and **Louis Wenzlaff**, Thumb, past chairman. **Michael Peters** is president and CEO.

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

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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*

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How the Cooperative Difference Affects Your Rates

At Great Lakes Energy the people who receive electricity are not just customers, they are members of our cooperative. Members enjoy certain rights that customers don't have with other electric providers. For instance, as a member of Great Lakes Energy, you can choose to run for a board seat. Because you can vote for the board candidates of your choice, our board is composed of people who live and work in the very territory that Great Lakes Energy serves. In fact, your mail-in ballot is attached to the outside of this magazine, so be sure to vote!

Many people, however, don't understand the various ways their membership in a cooperative affects their electric rates. At Great Lakes Energy, our rates are based on two main components—the actual cost of the wholesale power we buy from our supplier, and the cost for us to get that power to you.

Our power supplier, Wolverine Power Cooperative, sets wholesale power costs. Our membership in the Wolverine cooperative ensures that they will work hard to control power supply costs while guaranteeing a stable supply of electricity. Great Lakes Energy has a seat on Wolverine's board of directors. Power supply costs account for about 65 percent of your electric bill.

The second component—the cost for us to get power to you—is all other operational costs, including the cost for poles and lines, maintenance of trucks and buildings, employee wages and benefits, and costs associated with maintaining records, such as bill printing and mailing. These costs for the electricity and service

we deliver to you account for the other 35 percent of your bill. Much of that goes toward maintaining and improving our power line distribution system.

One of the biggest advantages of being served by a cooperative is that we work only for you—not stockholders expecting dividends. We are a not-for-profit enterprise, which means we're working only to provide you with economical, reliable service. We do collect some money, which is figured into your rates, that is used for capital improvements. It helps us fund the expensive investments that are improving your reliability and service. Any money collected in excess of those required funds is allocated to each member's account as "patronage capital."

Patronage capital, or "capital credits" as they are often called, represents your investment in the cooperative and all its



Steve Boeckman
Great Lakes Energy
President/CEO

“One of the biggest advantages of being served by a cooperative is that we work only for you—not stockholders expecting dividends.”

assets. Each year, we determine whether we are financially able to return some of these investment dollars to our members. Returning capital credits to members is a practice unique to the co-op form of business and represents one of the seven co-op principles—members' economic participation. So, when figuring our overall rates, members need to consider patronage capital in the quotient. Great Lakes Energy has issued annual capital credit refunds for the last seven years totaling over \$17.7 million. *That's* the cooperative difference.

2010 Coloring Contest Winners



Joanna Stewart of Custer with her mom, Christine.



Cassie Cormany of Pentwater with her mom, Vicky Staples.



Sophie Hagedorn of Gaylord with her mom, Janet, and grandma, Virginia.

Thanks to all the kids who entered our coloring contest this year. First place winners received art supplies and other winners received new crayons and markers. Congratulations to our winners!

4 years and under

- 1st place: Joanna Stewart, Custer
- 2nd place: Chloe Erwin, Gaylord
- 3rd Place: Arianna Cross, Petoskey

5-7 years old

- 1st place: Cassie Cormany, Pentwater
- 2nd place: Jack Ledig, Pellston
- 3rd Place: DeLayni Brown, Gaylord

8-10 years old

- 1st place: Sophie Hagedorn, Gaylord
- 2nd place: Savanna Cupp, Boyne City
- 3rd Place: Evie Wilcox, Petoskey

Eagles Hopefully Will Not Land Here

In cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Great Lakes Energy is working to discourage large birds from getting too dangerously close to power lines in an eastern area of Otsego County where eagles were sited.

“The Eagle has landed’ was good news for our American space program, but it’s something we want to avoid when it involves large birds and power lines,” explains Gus Paz, GLE’s system engineer.

Along a two-mile stretch of line near the Johannesburg substation, devices that discourage perching were recently installed on the crossarms and pole tops where large birds are most apt to roost. Each device has two plastic strips fastened together to form an inverted “V” shape (see photo).

“We hope the devices will prompt them to find safer locations to land,” Paz says.

The devices will help protect many GLE members in that area whose electric service could be threatened if large birds were to contact the power lines and cause an outage.

Power lines are often not a danger to smaller birds that can safely light on an over-



Lineworker Scott Robinson installs the third inverted v-shaped device to keep large birds away from power lines.

head wire. Birds with large wingspans are at greater risk because their wings could more easily touch more than one wire or other piece of electrical equipment at the same time, potentially causing electrocution.

Some large birds are attracted to power lines because it’s a convenient spot to wait for prey, while others select the lines to build

nests. Several years ago, GLE lineworkers relocated an osprey nest on power lines near the Clam River substation in Antrim County. The nest was moved to a platform mounted on top of a utility pole that lineworkers set near the power lines. The birds return annually to nest in the safe home that GLE helped to build.

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."

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."



Mike Schlappi and McKenna Wolf

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



Centennial Farm Honors

We would like to honor Great Lakes Energy members Eldon and Barbara Lutz of Cedar Springs whose property in Kent County was recently designated as a Centennial Farm.

The Centennial Farm program recognizes residents throughout the state whose farms have been owned and operated by the same family for 100 years.

Great Lakes Energy members can request an application or receive more information about the program by contacting The Historical Society of Michigan, 517-324-1828, or visit centennialfarms.org.

Visit 'Maranda's Park Parties' This Summer!

This summer, WOOD TV8 is pleased to partner with two electric cooperatives, Great Lakes Energy and HomeWorks Tri-County, as a 2010 Maranda's Park Party sponsor. Park Parties are large scale community events. Each party features two hours of free food, games, prizes, rides, entertainment and local resources. Best of all, everyone is invited and everything is totally free!

Below is a list of remaining Maranda's Park Parties for summer 2010. All parties take place on Thursdays from noon to 2 p.m. For more details, visit marandatv.com. We hope to see you there!

- | | |
|---------|--------------------------------------|
| July 8 | Barry County Expo Center – Hastings |
| July 15 | Kollen Park – Holland |
| July 22 | Upjohn Park – Kalamazoo |
| July 29 | Allegan County Fairgrounds – Allegan |

Rate Increase Being Sought

An overall average rate increase of 2.77 percent that would raise an estimated additional \$4.107 million is being sought by Great Lakes Energy to fund more reliability improvements and help maintain adequate margins.

The percentage increase for individual members will vary according to their rate class and electric usage.

The energy use charge for year-round residential members is proposed to increase from \$0.09735 to \$0.09981 per kilowatt-hour (kWh). Seasonal members would see an increase from \$0.13859 to \$0.16659/kWh.

The monthly charge for year-round members and quarterly charge for seasonal members will remain the same.

An increase in the outdoor lighting service rate is also proposed.

The new rates are tentatively scheduled to take effect later this year, subject to Michigan Public Service Commission approval.

It will be the first rate increase in three years and will allow the cooperative to continue making large investments in improving reliability.

Due to big investments made in recent years, Great Lakes Energy has:

- ▼ met its annual reliability goal for four straight years by reducing average outage minutes;
- ▼ met state-mandated performance standards for electric service and reliability for three straight years;
- ▼ witnessed an increase in the number of members who rate their electric service as "excellent" or "above average," from 75 percent in 2006 to 85 percent in 2009;
- ▼ funded major improvements to 80 line circuits that serve over 69,000 members and have the worst record for outages and blinks, and an additional 9,400 members will benefit from more upgrades planned this year;
- ▼ re-cleared trees along more miles of power line rights-of-way each year and added more sectionalizing devices that have helped limit the number of members affected by outages.

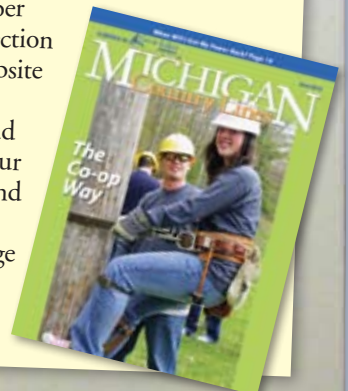
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Dial 888-485-2537 or visit

the member services section of our website at gtlakes.com, found under "Your Home," and then click on "Change of Address Request."





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.

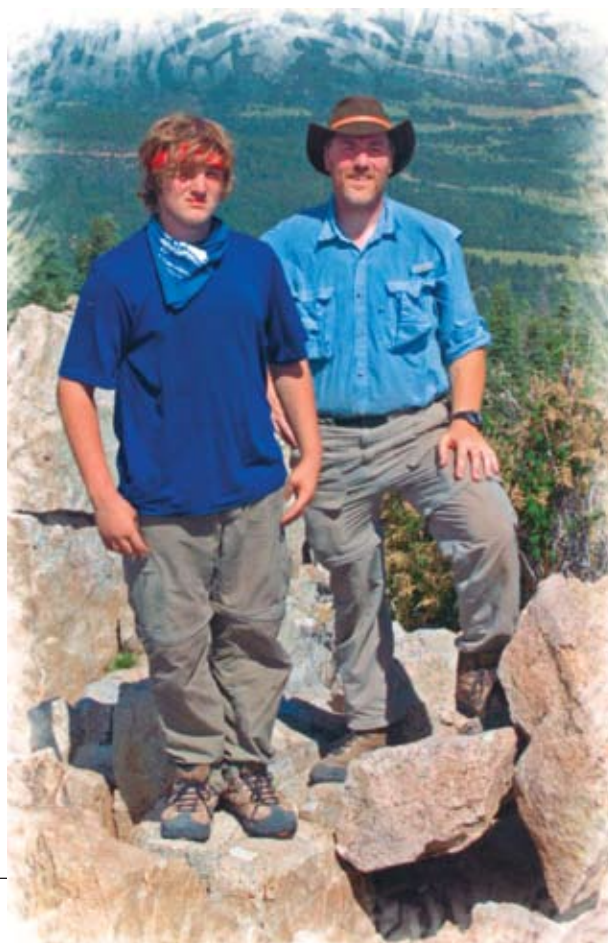
6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives

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.

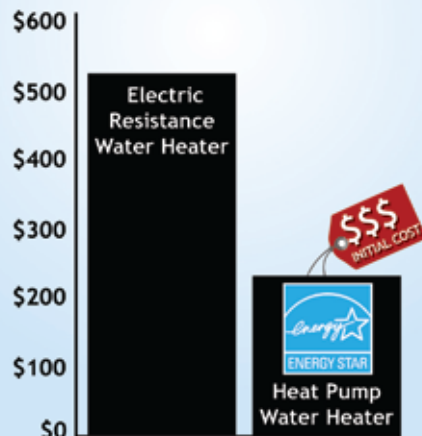
Alice Clamp is a technology writer for the Cooperative Research Network, a service of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

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.”

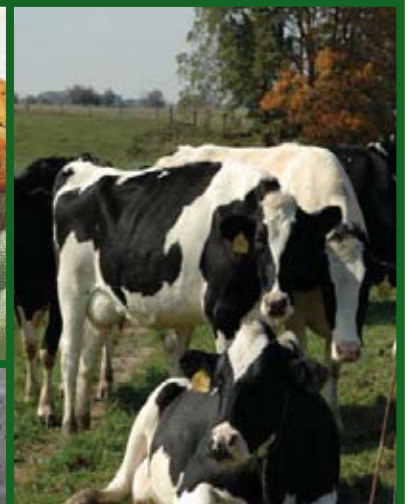
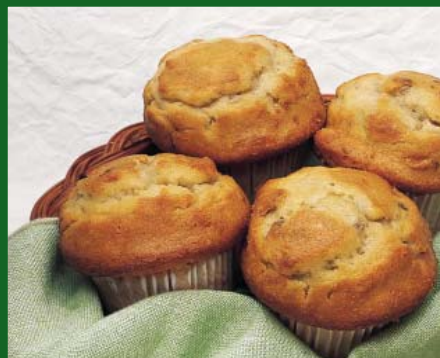
RESOURCES

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).

SOY



Little BEANS - Big BENEFITS!

Soybeans play an important role in Michigan's economy. According to the latest census, the soybean crop is 2nd only to corn in value of field crop production with a total impact of over \$1 billion. Over 2 million acres are planted to soybeans annually in Michigan. Instate soybean processing represents a total economic impact of \$44 million and soybean farming results in nearly 7,000 jobs. Soybeans are little beans with big economic benefits!

*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

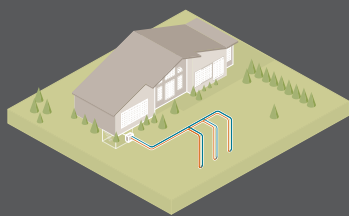
In a large bowl, combine chicken and butter. Add remaining ingredients; mix well. Chill before serving. Serve in a pita pocket, alongside a croissant, or on top of a tomato cut into eighths served on a bed of lettuce.

Jeanne Stewart, Lansing

► **Send in your recipes!** If published, you'll receive a free kitchen gadget. Send in: **SANDWICH recipes by Aug. 10, STIR FRY recipes by Sept. 10, and your ALL-TIME FAVORITE previously published Country Lines recipe by Oct. 10** (no gadgets this category). Mail to: Country Lines Recipes, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864; or email jhansen@countrylines.com.

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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 Dafter, 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.

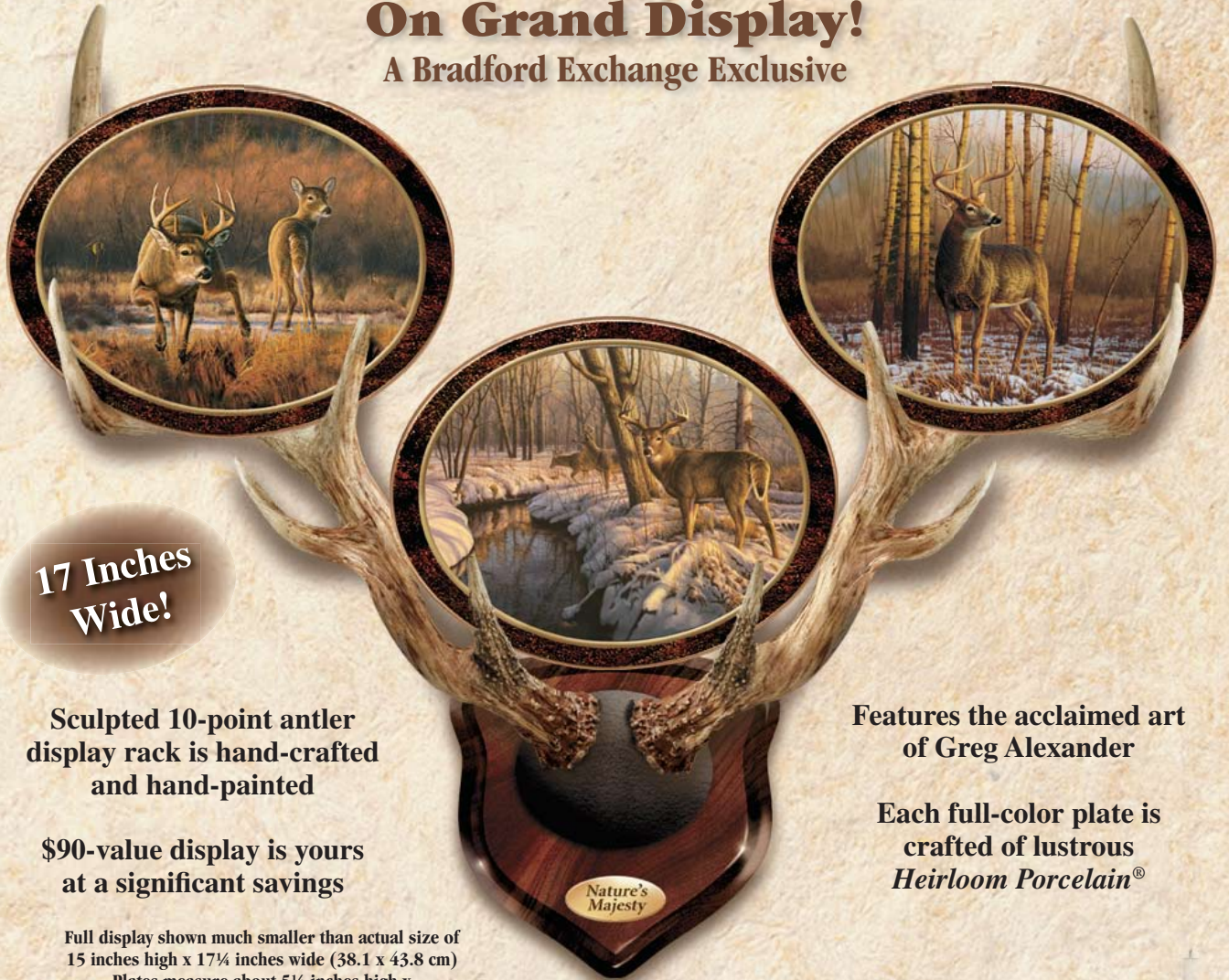
Steel roofing is another option becoming more popular on homes. Painted standing seam or tile steel roofing is very durable. Instead of trying to simulate some type of standard roofing material, their bright colors and unique appearance are signatures of upscale homes. The finish coating on aluminum 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, met-alshingle.com; Follansbee Steel, 800-624-6906, follansbeeroofing.com; and Met-Tile, 909-947-0311, met-tile.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
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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)

Paving The Way For Others

A People Fund grant aids a Free Soil children's farm. **Linda Kotzian**

Nancy Supran, owner of Circle Rocking S Children's Farm in Free Soil, delights in bringing simple pleasures to people with special needs. A recent \$4,000 Great Lakes Energy People Fund grant helps.

Circle Rocking S houses a variety of animals that are trained in "touch therapy." They provide recreation and relaxation to visitors by allowing themselves to be petted. The animals have learned not to mind the occasional erratic gesture, loud voice, or even wheelchairs. However, Supran explains, "We sometimes had problems getting our visitors to the barns."

The country barns housing the animals sit down a long driveway that until recently was unpaved. Some visitors—especially those in wheelchairs or unsteady on their feet—had difficulty getting to them. Buses and cars carrying visitors had to park far away or risk getting stuck when the driveway was soggy or slippery.

Supran used the People Fund grant to asphalt the driveway to the barns and add turnaround space for safer and easier access. Now, the 1,000-plus visitors who come to the farm each year can get to the barns without difficulty, regardless of weather or season.

"With the economy the way it is, it's hard to get projects like this done without help," Supran explains. "This is something we talked about doing for years. We were jumping up and down excited when we heard we got the People Fund grant!"

Supran and a number of volunteers have been conducting weekday tours of the farm



Owner Nancy Supran feeds lambs that are just a few of the furry attractions at her Circle Rocking S Children's Farm.

for 16 years. Visitors learn about local history and the family farm, plus get to see and touch many animals, including horses, ducks, rabbits, chickens, cats and dogs.

To provide safety and structure in the visits, animals are brought individually to guests for one-on-one interaction. Supran

says the animals have a soothing effect on their special needs visitors. A few visitors have even become volunteers at Circle Rocking S, helping to care for the animals on a regular basis.

After the free tour, each special needs visitor takes home a "hug" in the form of a stuffed animal donated by individuals from all over the Midwest. It provides a warm reminder of their experience at the farm.

Supran also welcomes the general public on tours for a small charge, and holds several annual events the public is welcome to attend. Regular events include an Easter egg hunt in April and a kids' barn dance/potluck in June. The most popular event—a combination blessing of the animals/farm Olympics/silent auction—occurs Sept. 19.

"We're fortunate that so many Great Lakes Energy members have the compassion to donate a little to the People Fund each month," Supran says. "Some of the grants made possible by those funds help organizations like ours bring wonderful experiences to our special needs community."

"We thank you!"

Circle Rocking S Children's Farm is located at 5487 N. Tuttle Rd., Free Soil, MI 49411. For more information or to schedule a tour, call 231-462-3732, or visit their website at circlerockingsfarm.org.

Power In Numbers

If every Great Lakes Energy member who participates in the People Fund got just one other person to join, it would easily double the amount of money available to help local food pantries, senior citizen centers, youth programs, and more.



The People Fund program works because there is power in numbers. A Great Lakes Energy member's average contribution of 50 cents a month or \$6 per year isn't much, but it adds up fast when thousands of members get involved.


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MUSKEGON COUNTY – 3-bedroom home, walkout basement with 90-foot frontage on a private lake, good fishing. Call 231-329-2857.

LAKE COUNTY, 5 ACRES – Bordering federal land. Great hunting with lake and river access, electric, and seclusion. Low down payment. John at North West Realty. 231-745-4646.

MASON COUNTY – 80 wooded acres bordering federal land with over 1,000 ft. on Cranberry Lake. What an opportunity, \$195,000. More adjacent acreage available. Pere Marquette River, prime river frontage including frontage on Beaver Lake, also borders federal land. What a buy, \$89,900. Zero down, land

contract terms, hunting acreage available. Call John for more information. More listings at cbnwr.com. North West Realty, LLC, 231-745-4646.

VACATIONS

3-BEDROOM, BREVORT – Lakefront vacation home. 20 minutes north of the bridge. lindafarquhar@cox.net 316-721-3420 lakefrontvacationrental.com

MARTINY WATERFRONT COTTAGES – Completely furnished, air and boats included. Pontoon rental available. 616-897-5062.

PETOSKEY, 5-BEDROOM, 3-BATH – Sleeps 10. Only 3 miles from downtown and bay, 7 miles to Boyne Highlands, and 30 miles to Mackinac Bridge, weekly and weekend rental. 231-348-3169.

3-BEDROOM, U.P. MI – Brevort Lake lakefront. 15 minutes north of Mackinac Bridge, trophy fishing. Kwhite49760@aol.com 239-222-7772. Vacationhomerentals.com

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BUYING OLD WOODEN DUCK – Goose, fish, decoys. 248-877-0210.

BUYING GUN RELOADING EQUIPMENT – Bullets, ammo, gun parts, old stock and more. 517-623-0416.

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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 czuker@countrylines.com.

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What to Wear, Lineworker-style

You know that Great Lakes Energy employs highly qualified lineworkers to keep the lights on for you.

But do you know how much of your co-op investment it takes to properly outfit each one of GLE's 76 lineworkers?

Lineworkers use special equipment to build and maintain the electric distribution system that brings power to you. They rely on clothing and equipment that allows them to work safely and efficiently with high-voltage power lines.

The investment in this gear adds up to a good value for GLE members by keeping lineworkers safe while they bring you the reliable service you expect and deserve.

Here's a cost breakdown of what the well-dressed GLE lineworker wears, as modeled by Newwaygo working foreman, John Graves.

- 1. Safety glasses. \$5
- 2. Hard hat \$20
- 3. Hard hat flashlight \$30
Canvas bags for storing sleeves and gloves (*not shown*). \$47
- 4. Tool pouch \$50
- 5. Rubber gloves and leather glove protectors. \$67
- 6. Fire retardant rain pants \$86
- 7. Pole strap \$115
(secures lineworker to pole while climbing to leave hands free)
- 8. Arm protector sleeves. \$123
(dielectric-tested, seamless, vulcanized molded rubber that protects lineworker arms from unintentional contact with energized power source)
- 9. Fire retardant rain jacket. \$130
Safety harness. \$200
(for working in elevated bucket (*not shown*))
- 10. Tool belt \$300
- 11. Gaff climbers. \$430
(triangular metal points attached to straps that go around legs. Points jab into pole as lineworker climbs.)
- 12. Hinged hot stick \$560
(insulated, dielectric-tested fiberglass tool for moving or adjusting live electrical equipment)
- 13. Knowledge gained through hours of safety training and ongoing education ...
PRICELESS

Total investment per lineworker. \$2,163*

* Not including cost of testing equipment. Certain equipment and supplies are tested daily by lineworkers and sometimes sent out to third-party vendors for further mandatory or discretionary testing on a six- to 12-month basis. Also not including items purchased by lineworkers, including work boots (\$250), fire retardant shirt (\$60), and hand tools.



Board of Directors Candidates



Benjamin Harris

Home: Bitely

Occupation: Retired

Co-op Member:
33 years

I seek this position to ensure that GLE continues to provide cost-effective and reliable energy, and its highly professional management team maintains its high standards of quality and performance. Most importantly, I will maintain a very close oversight on the financial well being of GLE; and, when the opportunity arises, I will be the first one to lead the effort to reduce our electric bill.

GLE must seek out all technological advancements in the production of electricity.

Having lived in Alabama and Chicago, I served in the military from 1968–1977 and was honorably discharged.

I majored in international business and pre-law at Ferris State College and worked nearly eight years with a Pontiac law firm. My business experiences include construction project management, law enforcement and retail sales.

I don't talk much because I believe every word a person utters should count.

I ask for your support and vote.



Robert Thurow

Home: Scottville

Occupation: Dairy/grain farmer

Co-op Member: 35 years

Co-op Director: 10 years

Thank you for the privilege of serving you on the Great Lakes Energy Board of Directors. While serving, I have kept abreast of the issues pertaining to electrical power through educational seminars, special committees, working with governmental agencies, and serving on the Wolverine Power Supply board.

In the immediate future, our board will be making crucial decisions for supplying our electrical needs. I believe my experience would be a valuable asset to our board in making these complex decisions.

As a cooperative board member, I feel my primary purpose is to serve you, our members. I will listen to your concerns and questions, and give you a voice in our decision-making process.

My two sons and I operate a dairy and grain farm. Like you, it is very important that we have the best reliable service at an affordable cost.

I would appreciate your vote of support.



Richard Walsworth

Home: Mears

Occupation: Retired farmer

Co-op Member: 47 years

Co-op Director: 24 years

My wife Marcia and I have been farmers for 35 years and have recently retired. Our son Ryan and his wife Janice are continuing the third generation to operate our family farm.

I have had the pleasure of representing Great Lakes Energy members for 24 years and would look forward to the opportunity to serve again. I serve as Great Lakes Energy's representative on the Wolverine Power Cooperative board.

I am credentialed as an electric cooperative director by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

If elected, I look forward to continuing to build on the benefits that our merger has afforded us and work to continue to improve the reliability and power quality that members expect.

I ask for your support. With the experience and desire to serve, I will strive to help make the decisions that serve the best interest and needs of our cooperative and its members.

Please Vote!
Your ballot is part of
the special cover wrap
on this magazine.

Great Lakes Energy Cooperative *Candidates for Board of Directors*

To Be Elected At The 2010 Annual Meeting • Nominations by Petition • Date Posted: June 14, 2010

The following individuals have been nominated by Petitions verified by the Secretary of the Cooperative for the two (2) open positions on the Board of Directors:

1) **Benjamin Harris**

9284 W. Railroad Avenue
Bitely, MI 49309

2) **Robert Thurow**

819 W. Chauvez Road
Scottville, MI 49454

3) **Richard Walsworth**

3701 N. 48th Avenue
Mears, MI 49436

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.

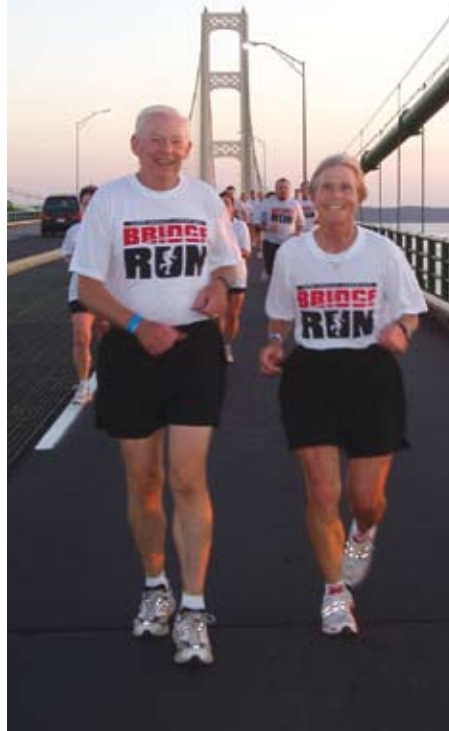
Let's be honest, most of us who participate in these races aren't in them to win. We're in them to get a little exercise, certainly, but mostly we run on weekends to join friends, get a t-shirt and a snack, and help out a cause we believe in.

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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- ▶ Replace your electric water heater with a model rated with a .93 efficiency factor (EF) or higher and receive a \$50 rebate.
- ▶ Install 5 feet of pipe wrap to your electric water heater outlet pipe and receive a \$4 rebate.
- ▶ Replace your standard thermostat with a programmable thermostat and receive a \$20 rebate.

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gtlakes.com



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Download the rebate application form at **gtlakes.com** or call us at **1-888-485-2537, ext. 8957** to request your form. You can also email us at **glenergy@glenergy.com**.

Send your completed form, with all required documentation, to:

Great Lakes Energy
P.O. Box 70
Boyne City, MI 49712
Attn: Marketing

ELIGIBILITY* The Energy Optimization HVAC and water heater rebate program serves residential customers, in Michigan only, in single family dwellings who purchase and install new water heaters, programmable thermostats, replacement furnace blower motors, and new furnaces with qualifying blower motors. See the terms and conditions on the application form for complete eligibility information and restrictions.

To participate in the program, you must meet these eligibility requirements in *addition* to the terms and conditions on the rebate application:

- ▶ You must be an electric cooperative member or a customer of an Upper Peninsula municipal utility.
- ▶ The equipment or energy-saving measure you install must meet the efficiency requirements set forth by the program guidelines.
- ▶ All measures must have been installed by a State of Michigan licensed contractor (except water heaters), who must be identified on the incentive claim form.
- ▶ The incentive claim form must be completed in its entirety and submitted with all required documentation within 30 days of installation.
- ▶ Your application must be for equipment purchased on or after Nov. 20, 2009. Installation in new homes does not qualify – you must be replacing old equipment.

* Incentives (rebates) are subject to change and availability.

Ballot is on back of this page. Please vote first and return here for mailing instructions.

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MAIL BALLOT AND INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **WHO MAY USE:** Anyone who is a member of Great Lakes Energy Cooperative at the time the mail-in ballot is submitted, whether or not the member plans to attend the annual meeting of the members to be held at the offices of Great Lakes Energy Cooperative, 1323 Boyne Avenue, Boyne City, Michigan, on Wednesday, Aug. 25, 2010, at 1 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time, or any adjournment thereof, for the purposes described in the Notice of Annual Meeting of Members dated July 10, 2010. Either cosigner of a joint membership may sign the ballot, but only one ballot may be cast per joint membership. A person receiving electric service at more than one premise shall sign only one ballot.

2. **HOW TO VOTE:** Vote for no more than two (2) candidates, print and sign your name, write in your account number, and use this self-mailing page to send it. ONLY SIGNED BALLOTS ARE VALID AND CAN BE COUNTED, SO BE SURE TO SIGN THE BALLOT IN THE SPACE INDICATED BELOW.

3. **WHEN TO VOTE:** To be counted, ballots must be sent to Bunker, Clark, Winnell & Nuorala, P.C., 2301 Mitchell Park Drive, Petoskey, Michigan 49770 and **RECEIVED by Thursday, Aug. 19, 2010** (not later than three business days before the annual meeting).

4. **RETURNING THE BALLOT:** More instructions on how to prepare this ballot for mailing appear on the back of this page.

Members shall vote by mail for the election of the directors.

GREAT LAKES ENERGY COOPERATIVE ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS – MAIL-IN BALLOT Aug. 25, 2010

Director Candidates – Vote for no more than two (2).

Benjamin Harris

Robert Thurow

Richard Walsworth

The undersigned acknowledges the receipt of the Notice of Annual Meeting, dated July 10, 2010.

Member Name *Please Print* _____

Member Signature _____

Account # _____
(Your account number appears immediately above your name on the mailing label on front cover)