

Michigan COUNTRY LINES

Valerie Donn's

Garden Art

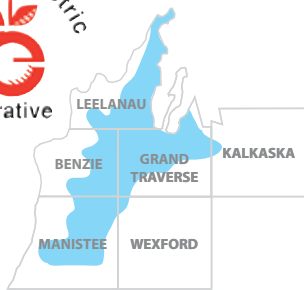
SPECIAL
GARDENING
EDITION



4 Find A Penny

5 Angela Saxon – Award-winning Artist

21 Cherryland Academy Awards



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MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Find a Penny...

As kids, we have all heard the rhyme: "Find a penny, pick it up—all day long you will have good luck!"

As an adult, have you ever walked past a penny on the ground while thinking: "I am too busy. I have too much to do. Besides, pennies are virtually worthless."

I certainly know that I have been guilty of such thinking over the years. Well, recently I did a review of the donations that Cherryland Electric Cooperative (CEC) made in the community from its general funds in 2011 and came to the realization that pennies *can* add up.

The 2011 list of donations from CEC to area organizations is quite long. A quick scan of the list comes up with names like Crystal Mountain Women's Open, Lake Ann Lions Club, YMCA, Copemish Historical Society, Interlochen Eagles, Meals on Wheels, Traverse City VFW, TC Firefighters, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Northern Michigan College, Kaleva Historical Society, Benzie Sunrise Rotary, Grand Traverse Sherriff, and Traverse City Area Public Schools, to name just a few.

When I mention the CEC general fund, I mean dollars that come straight out of the rates we charge. These donations should not be confused with Cherryland Cares dollars that are voluntarily given by members who round up their monthly bills to the nearest dollar. General fund donations are often small amounts ranging from \$100 to \$2,000. Last year, these donations totaled \$14,600.

This may seem like a lot to the average member, but let's consider the fact that gross revenues were \$44,449,000 in 2011. Thus, donations from general funds come to .0004 percent or four one-thousandths of 1 percent. If we get back to thinking about pennies, we can take \$14,600 and divide it by the 34,000 members we serve. This equals less than 43 cents per year per member, or less than 4 pennies monthly

per member. So, you see how pennies really do add up to something useful.

Now, you are probably asking yourself some questions: "Why would a utility with a monopolized service territory spend any money on community organizations? Can't you lower my rates instead?"



Tony Anderson
General Manager

The lowering of rates question is the easiest to answer and the most obvious. The amount is so small that members would not notice whether we lowered their bill by 4 cents per month or not. If we didn't make the donations, it would be easier to give

back the annual 43 cents in a future capital credit check.

The monopoly issue is a better question and one that will always be open for good debate. As an electric utility with a defined service territory, technically we are really not in competition with other utilities *until* a vacant piece of land requires service. Depending on the location of utilities, vacant property owners do have some limited options for choosing their electric supplier. In these rare instances, a track record of being a good corporate citizen can be helpful. However, this is not a real reason or excuse for making community donations.

The real reason is the cooperative principle of "commitment to community." Cherryland is here to serve our members and the communities they live in. Donating to causes supported by our members is one way that we can show this commitment.

These donations help to build goodwill with individual members as well as commercial customers. I think the small amount involved with community donations is proof we guard your pennies wisely, but significant enough to show we are responsive to needs beyond just keeping the lights on.

Sharing these pennies across our service territory brings everyone "luck" for far more than just one day.



Her First Paintings Were With Toothpaste

Cherryland member is now an award-winning artist. **Al Parker**

Artist Angela Saxon looks up briefly from her latest oil painting, gazes out a window over the snow-covered Leelanau County landscape, and says she knew early-on that she wanted to devote her life to art.

“Oh yeah, I was an art kid,” laughs Saxon, who grew up in Gary, IN. “Art was always in our lives. My parents had a life membership in the Chicago Art Institute and both were very creative. We always had sketchbooks. It was just a part of my life.”

And, she started her art career in an interesting medium.

“I did paintings with toothpaste as a kid,” she recalls with a smile. “And I was also an entrepreneur. I took Elmer’s Glue and put color in it and sold colored glue.”

Since those early Colgate-on-cardboard days, she’s become an award-winning landscape artist whose oil works hang in collections and galleries across the country. At the recent Northwest Michigan Regional Artists show at the Dennon Museum in Traverse City, Saxon’s “The Sky Above the Lake” was a \$250 award-winner.

“Angela is celebrated as one of northern Michigan’s best landscape artists,” says Sue

Ann Round, owner of the Michigan Artists Gallery in Suttons Bay, where several of Saxon’s works are on display. “Her brush strokes are unmistakable, as she beautifully executes the broad expanses of our beloved land and waterscapes.”

Saxon’s works can also be found at Gallery 50 in Traverse City, as well as galleries in Douglas, MI, Cleveland, OH, and Atlanta, GA.

Saxon and her husband have been Cherryland Electric Cooperative members for 25 years since moving to Leelanau County in 1987. In 1996, they built their home on Watkoski Road and later added the freestanding studio where she works.

Almost all of Saxon’s lush landscapes are done “plein air”—on-site in the outdoors—and many capture the beauty of Leelanau County.

“I begin all my paintings direct from the landscape, focusing on expressive movements in nature,” she explains. “I continue to develop the paintings in my studio until the work has reached a very finished level. At this point, I return to what drew me to the scene in the first place, searching for aspects of the painting that are most com-

elling to me.”

But why “plein air”?

“I mostly work plein air,” she says. “It’s often windy, cold, the flies are biting. It’s just where it all starts for me. I can’t work from photos. I can’t explain it, but it’s just so darn exciting.”

When looking at a landscape, Saxon is drawn to specific places within a scene, such as intimate details of light glimmering through a stand of trees, or the

Angela Saxon in front of one of her landscapes.

bands of color that embrace a shoreline.

After high school, Saxon

earned a bachelor of fine arts degree in painting from Indiana University. At IU, she met and married Erik Saxon. Eventually they moved to Chicago, settling in the artsy community of Pilsen. In 1987, Erik suggested moving to northern Michigan.

“It was a bit of a culture shock for me,” says Saxon. “But one of the things I really came to like was the community of artists here. Art is so lonely when you’re just working in the studio or out in a field by yourself. You have to stay connected. I’m involved in a dinner group with other artists and we meet monthly to share a potluck meal and bring works to share. It’s very sustaining.”

In recent years, Saxon has also been working in encaustic—a mixture of beeswax, damar (a resin used in paint) and pigment. This process requires both timing and dexterity.

“The encaustic paint is kept in a liquid state on a heated palette,” she explains. “The artist must work quickly with the warm, melted paint as it dries quite quickly when on the brush and away from the heat. In many aspects it is very similar to my process of working with oils, as it is also built up in layers.”

Each successive layer of the encaustic must be gently heated so it can fuse with the previous layer of wax. Some of the layers are transparent, revealing previous layers. Sometimes a layer will melt right into a previous layer.

“There is certainly an element of chance in this process,” she says. “This keeps the work fresh and exciting for me and hopefully for the viewer, as well.”

For more about Saxon and her work, visit angelasaxon.com.



Cherryland Members Can Serve on Board

Any qualified Cherryland Electric Cooperative member can be elected to serve on the co-op's board of directors.

To be nominated in 2012, candidates can file a petition with Cherryland's administrative assistant beginning the first day of March

meeting, which will be held Thursday, June 14, at Wuerfel Park. This year's directors will represent Grand Traverse/Kalkaska counties plus one at-large position.

Nominees must meet the director qualifications set forth in the bylaws under "Section

The term of office is three years. Two directors will be elected at this year's annual meeting, which will be held Thursday, June 14, at Wuerfel Park.

and up until 4 p.m. on the last business day of March.

Nominating petitions shall be signed by at least 25 active members of the co-op, in good standing, and all signatures must be obtained within 60 days prior to the date the petition is filed.

Nominating petitions shall be in the form prescribed by the board and are available at Cherryland's headquarters in Grawn. The nominating petitions must specify the geographic service area for which the candidate is being nominated.

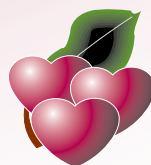
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2 of Article III." Any member interested in becoming a candidate is invited to visit the cooperative's office and learn about the duties performed by directors. In the event no qualified candidate is nominated to fill the vacancy of a director whose term has expired, the newly elected board will appoint sufficient directors to fill the vacancies. This election will be by majority vote of the board and must be done within 60 days of its first meeting. Directors elected in this manner will serve until the next annual meeting, when the members will be given an opportunity to fill the balance of the regular three-year term.

What is Operation Round Up?

It's a voluntary program that allows us to round your Cherryland Electric Cooperative bill up to the nearest dollar and donate the difference to our Cherryland Cares program. During the last five years, you have donated \$120,000 from Cherryland Cares to those in need.



CHERRYLAND CARES

Your donations have helped, among others: Father Fred; Michael's Place; Child & Family Services; Freedom Builders; Boots For Kids; Traverse Health Clinic; GT Dyslexia Association; Love, Inc.; Leelanau Christian Neighbors; Third Level; GT Industries; Benzie Christian Neighbors; Children's Bereavement; United Way; Big Brothers, Big Sisters

**Sign up today for Operation Round Up!
See p. 20 to learn more, and how to apply for a grant.**

Fuel Mix Report

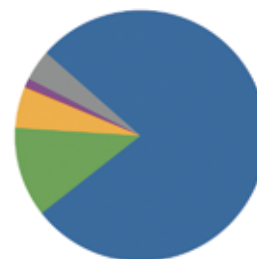
The environmental characteristics of Cherryland Electric Cooperative as required by Public Act 141 of 2000 for the 12-month period ended 12/31/11.

COMPARISON OF FUEL SOURCES USED

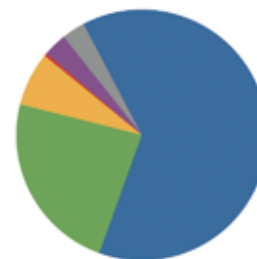
Regional average fuel mix used		
Your co-op's fuel mix		
FUEL SOURCE	Your Co-op	Regional Average
Coal	77.9%	64.7%
Nuclear	11.6%	24.0%
Gas	5.3%	7.1%
Oil	0.1%	0.4%
Hydroelectric	1.1%	3.1%
Renewable Fuels	4.0%	3.1%
Biomass	0.1%	0.4%
Biofuel	0.0%	0.1%
Solid Waste Incineration	0.1%	0.4%
Wind	3.7%	1.7%
Wood	0.1%	0.4%
Solar	0.0%	0.0%

NOTE: (1) Biomass above excludes wood; solid waste incineration includes landfill gas, and (2) inclusion of long-term renewable (wind) purchase power contract in Wolverine's mix.

Your Co-op's Fuel Mix



Regional Avg. Fuel Mix



EMISSIONS AND WASTE COMPARISON

TYPE OF EMISSIONS/WASTE	lbs/MWh	
	Your Co-op	Regional Average*
Sulfur Dioxide	5.9	8.2
Carbon Dioxide	1,804	2,186
Oxides of Nitrogen	2.0	2.0
High-level nuclear waste	0.0042	0.0083

*Regional average fuel mix data was compiled from Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Wisconsin.

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

Keeping Lines Clear

Each year, Cherryland Electric Cooperative attempts to re-clear about 15 percent of the overhead power lines serving our members.

Trees growing under or near these lines are a potential hazard. When combined with thunderstorms, high winds, sleet and snow, trees are the most common cause of outages on our system.

Cherryland has a 30-foot easement for our overhead primary lines. We must maintain clearances not only for the reliability of our system, but also to maintain safety for you—the members—and for our employees.

The amount of pruning that is necessary varies, depending on the tree species and the type of power line.

The lines that run directly to your home need to be clear, so the trees and branches surrounding them are normally trimmed. The branches are trimmed away enough so that even if they loaded with snow, the trees will not cause wear on the wire or cause an outage.

Primary lines, which carry heavier loads (7,200 volts), serve large numbers of members and require increased clearances. We attempt to keep trees and branches about 10 feet away from these lines.

In some cases, entire trees are removed. Those trees are either diseased, weak or dying. Some species do not respond well to trimming, and it makes sense to remove the tree at the time we are trimming instead of coming back to remove a dead tree later.

In most cases, brush and limbs smaller than 6 inches in diameter are chipped and hauled away from member's lawns. Larger wood is cut to manageable pieces and left for the property owner.

However, diseased trees create a different issue. Crews will still chip up the brush and limbs, but the chips of diseased trees are left with the property owner for disposal.



Photo – Great Lakes Energy

This year, Cherryland will perform right-of-way maintenance in parts of Benzie, Grand Traverse, Leelanau and Manistee counties. Members will receive a post card if tree trimming will occur on their property. If you have any questions, please call.

In our next issue I will discuss the various pests and diseases that are attacking trees in northern Michigan.

*Jim Carpenter
is line superintendent at
Cherryland Electric Cooperative.*



Cherryland Offers Scholarships

STUDENTS: High school seniors whose parents or guardians currently receive monthly electric service from Cherryland and live in our service area may apply for a \$4,000 college scholarship (\$1,000 for each of four years).



Selection is based on GPA, extracurricular activities, community involvement and/or after school employment. A minimum required GPA is 2.75 on a four-point system. To continue receiving the scholarship, a student must maintain a minimum college course load of 12 credits per term or semester and receive a 2.5 GPA. Students may apply in three ways:

1. Complete the form at right; or,
2. Contact your high school guidance counselor; or,
3. Contact Nick Edson, communications

coordinator at Cherryland, as noted below.

ADULTS: Cherryland Electric Cooperative is offering a \$500 Adult Education Scholarship to one of its members.

The scholarship goes toward covering the cost of a course or courses taken in a calendar year, and will be awarded on the basis of need, grades and community service. It is a one-time award.

Members may request an application by emailing Nick Edson with their name and address to nicke@cecelec.com, calling him at 486-9222, or write to him at Cherryland Electric, 5930 U.S.-31 South, Grawn, MI 49637.

**All scholarship applications are due by
Friday, April 6, 2012.**

2012 Student Scholarship Application Request

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Cherryland Account # _____

Mail to: CEC Student Scholarship
5930 U.S.-31 South
P.O. Box 298
Grawn, MI 49637



TCAPS superintendent Steve Cousins receives an EO check from Cherryland's Kevin Cragg.

Cherryland's Energy Optimization Helps TCAPS

Kevin Cragg, Cherryland's member service manager, presented Traverse City Area Public Schools superintendent Steve Cousins with an Energy Optimization (EO) rebate check in the amount of \$1,539.56 for energy saving projects completed in 2011.

Traverse City schools served by Cherryland are: Blair, Cherry Knoll, Courtade, Interlochen, Silver Lake, Westwoods, East Middle School, Traverse City High School and West Senior High School. The qualifying projects included new energy efficient lighting and controls in the Traverse City High School gymnasium, as well as the installation of Vending Misers – an electronic control that significantly reduces vending machine energy use.

West Middle School science teacher Heather Wares had her students verify the energy savings by monitoring vending machines with and without the Vending Misers. The students confirmed that the Vending Misers reduce energy use by about 40 percent, and these units have now been installed at all TCAPS buildings.

Annual Meeting Set for June

Cherryland Electric Cooperative's 74th Annual Meeting will be held Thursday, June 14, 2012, at Wuerfel Park.

The Traverse City Beach Bums, of the independent Frontier League, play their home games at Wuerfel Park, which gets its power from Cherryland.

Cherryland's business meeting will run from 5-6 p.m., followed by the Beach Bums home game at 7:05.

Members who attend the game will receive a free ticket and a coupon that entitles them to a ballpark dinner—a hot dog or brat, chips, and a soft drink.

More details about the annual meeting will be upcoming in *Country Lines* magazine.

Cherryland Cares Seeks Grant Apps

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

Cherryland Cares is a five-member board, made up of Cherryland Electric Cooperative members, who distribute money from Operation Round Up to area nonprofits. The board's next quarterly meeting is Monday, March 19. The deadline for applications is Friday, *March 9*.

Operation Round Up money comes from Cherryland members who volunteer to round up their bills to the nearest dollar every month. This amount averages \$6 per year.

To receive a Cherryland Cares grant application or to join Operation Round Up, contact Nick Edson at Cherryland. His direct line is 486-9222 or email him at nicke@cecelec.com.

Member Input Session Set For March

The next Cherryland Electric Cooperative quarterly member input session is planned for March.

Co-op members can address the board of directors at 9 a.m. on Mon., March 19, at the start of the regular monthly meeting. Each member has up to three minutes to speak to the board.

Following the March member input session, the next one is scheduled for Monday, June 18.



'Like' Us!

For the latest on your co-op, visit cherrylandelectric.com and click "follow us on Facebook" at the bottom left corner of the home page. Or, search "Cherryland Electric Cooperative" from Facebook.

And the Oscar Goes To...



Photo - Jesse Donald, 1961

You probably thought that the Academy Awards season was over when the Oscars were handed out in late February. Well, the first Cherryland Academy Awards haven't been handed out yet... until now. We have our own Oscars to hand out. These are handed out in any category we see fit. They run the gamut from greatest inventions to greatest rock 'n' roll band to greatest TV western. So without any further ado, here we go.

GREATEST INVENTION: The nominees – **1.** The Lightbulb. **2.** The Automobile. **3.** Flush Toilets. **4.** Television. **5.** The Internet. Critic's Choice: The Lightbulb.

And the Oscar goes to... *Flush Toilets* in an upset. If you've ever been "rustic" camping or been caught without electricity, you know I'm right.



Nick Edson

BEST ACTOR: **1.** Don Knotts; **2.** Red Green. **3.** Chevy Chase. **4.** Marlon Brando. **5.** Marlin Perkins. Critic's Choice: Marlon Brando.

And the Oscar goes to... *Don Knotts*. Versatility was the tie-breaker. From playing Barney Fife to *The Incredible Mr. Limpet* to the landlord Mr. Furley on *Three's Company*, Mr. Knotts was a scene stealer. An easy choice.

MOST POPULAR HOLLYWOOD PERSON (Non-Talent Category): **1.** Kim Kardashian; **2.** Paris Hilton. **3.** Nicole Richie; **4.** Khloe Kardashian. **5.** Snooki (don't ask). Critic's Choice: Whatever.

And the Oscar goes to... *Kim Kardashian*. Like, whatever.

MOST POPULAR HOLLYWOOD PERSON (Talent Category): **1.** Zoey Deschanel; **2.** George Clooney; **3.** Kristin Chenoweth; **4.** Meryl Streep; **5.** Emma Stone. Critic's Choice: Meryl Streep – she does win everything, you know.

And the Oscar goes to: *Kristin Chenoweth*. She sings the National Anthem with meaning; outstanding stage, TV and movie actress. Dynamic.

MOST POPULAR DETROIT

ATHLETE: **1.** Nicklas Lidstrom, Red Wings; **2.** Prince Fielder, Tigers; **3.** Justin Verlander, Tigers; **4.** Calvin Johnson, Lions; **5.** Matthew Stafford, Lions. Critic's Choice: Ben Wallace, Pistons. (Must be a Lifetime Achievement Award).

And the Oscar goes to: *Prince Fielder*. A no-brainer. Prince is golden until the season starts.

MOST DISLIKED NATIONAL ATHLETE:

1. Kris Humphries (Kardashian); **2.** Tiger Woods (also got votes for most admired); **3.** Kobe Bryant (All rise...); **4.** John Daly (One step forward, two steps back); **5.** Mike Tyson (from feared to pitied). Critic's Choice: Kris Who?

And the Oscar goes to: *Kobe Bryant*. It's all about you all the time.

BEST 1960s TV SITCOM: **1.** "My Three Sons"; **2.** "Andy of Mayberry"; **3.** "I Dream of Jeannie"; **4.** "Bewitched"; **5.** "Lassie." Critic's Choice: The Hollywood Foreign Press went for Jeannie, especially the French.

And the Oscar goes to... *"My Three Sons"*

in an upset over "Andy of Mayberry." (I know, I know. You thought because Don Knotts won for best actor that Andy of Mayberry was winning this category. I'm not a one-trick pony. Give me Fred MacMurray and the boys for a good laugh.)

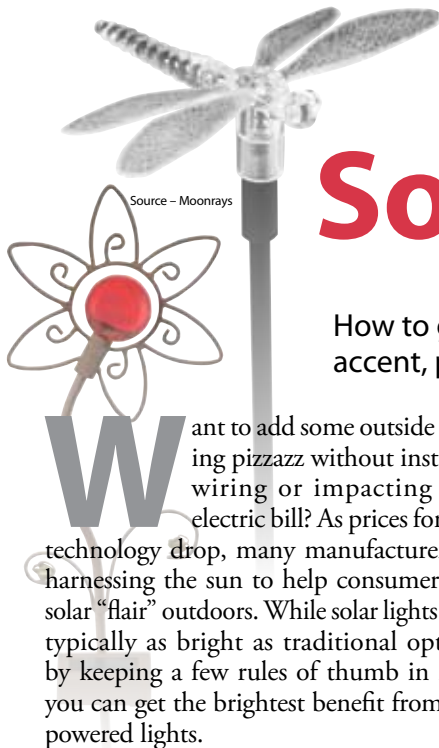
BEST 1960s TV WESTERN: **1.** "Gunsmoke"; **2.** "Bonanza"; **3.** "Paladin"; **4.** "Rifleman"; **5.** "Rawhide". Critic's Choice: They went for a tie between Chuck Connors as "The Rifleman," just because Connors used to play first base for the Dodgers. And they went with "Rawhide," because Clint Eastwood was one of the stars.

And the Oscar goes to... "Bonanza," are you kidding? "Gunsmoke" was a close second. And if Matthew would have had the guts to marry Miss Kitty, or even ask her out on a date, they would have won.

GREATEST ROCK 'N' ROLL BAND: **1.** Rolling Stones; **2.** Dave Clark Five; **3.** The Beatles; **4.** Moody Blues; **5.** The Monkees. Critic's Choice: Moody Blues, with The Monkees a close second. (See why people don't listen to the critics?)

And the Oscar goes to... *The Beatles*. Are you kidding? Nobody else really had a chance. Okay, the Stones really did make a good run at the Boys From Liverpool.

Thanks for your attention. The statues will be mailed before the next Leap Year.



Source – Moonrays

Solar Flair

How to get the brightest benefits from solar accent, path, and task lighting.

Want to add some outside lighting pizzazz without installing wiring or impacting your electric bill? As prices for solar technology drop, many manufacturers are harnessing the sun to help consumers add solar “flair” outdoors. While solar lights aren’t typically as bright as traditional options, by keeping a few rules of thumb in mind you can get the brightest benefit from sun-powered lights.

What to Consider

Solar lighting takes many forms: stakes, lamp-posts, hanging jars, and more. But every unit follows the same basic principle: the mechanism generates and stores energy during the day, then releases it at night.

Each light includes a miniature solar panel, typically a four-cell array measuring 2-by-2 inches. On the inside of the light fixture, the solar panel attaches to a rechargeable battery, at least one light-emitting diode (LED), a controller board, and a photoresistor (light sensor) to manage when the light shines and when it recharges.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) advises consumers to consider geographic and site-specific variables. Solar lights will only work if they receive about eight to 12

hours of sunlight a day. Fewer hours translates into fewer hours of yard light—shorter winter days typically result in a 30-50 percent output decline.

Avoid shade from shrubs, trees or buildings, and check the miniature solar panels periodically for bird droppings, leaves, insects or other debris that might block the sun. Not only does a lack of sun impact light output; receiving less sunlight than recommended can shorten the battery life, too.

Before buying solar lights, think about the need it will fill. There are three different types of outdoor lights: accent, path, and task lights.

Accents

Accent lights add a glow to a landscape, but do not illuminate spaces well. Offering a lower light output, they’re generally more affordable than other solar options.

Search for solar lighting on Etsy.com, a popular online handmade marketplace, and on any given day almost 200 options appear. Creative recyclers use Mason jars, soft drink bottles, lamp bases, bird cages, and other lidded antiques to house the light. The fixture’s base doesn’t matter—interchangeable lids contain the solar array and bulb.

Accent lights can be colorful—online retailers like Earthtech Products offer illuminated glass-blown bulbs or stylized glass flowers. Amber LEDs are often used as an alternative to white, casting a softer glow but still revealing only a limited amount of area outside the light.

Consider using accent lights to mark hazards (stones, low walls) or as part of a garden feature, but do not rely on them for visual aid at night.

Path Lighting

Solar lights fill an important role for path lighting. Commonly sold in sets of four or eight, they often come with stakes or hanging hooks

to be placed along a path or driveway.

Path lights focus light downward and typically illuminate an area up to 20 feet away from the base, depending on the light strength. Some sets offer automatic on/off settings triggered by outside light; others include a six-hour or 10-hour setting. An on/off switch may also be included, allowing owners to soak in the sun for several days, then turn the lights on for a special nighttime event.

Suspended lights are not the only option; manufacturers like HomeBrite Solar produce stepping-stone solar lights, with styles that blend in with the environment.

Task Lighting

The sun also fuels practical outdoor lighting needs like floodlights and security motion sensors. These generally provide high light output—though not as bright as traditional spotlights—and are more expensive than other solar options.

Solar lampposts from manufacturers like Gama Sonic offer between eight and 10 hours of light with an output equivalent to 450 lumens (40 watts). Security lights are often ready-to-mount on a wall, but be sure the building or trees do not block the solar array. Some models have the solar array separate from the light to allow for prime sun placement.

Practical Matters

Although LEDs work well in cold temperatures, consider bringing accent and path lighting solar fixtures inside during harsh weather (freezing temperatures, heavy downpours, etc.). All outdoor solar lighting should be water resistant, but task lighting tends to be hardy and can withstand fiercer weather. And, while it’s fun to bring some solar flair inside for parties, remember to put them back outside to charge—leaving a solar jar on a windowsill will not work due to UV protection films and overhangs on many windows.

Read user reviews before buying a product. Some solar lighting sets may not last long, and the DOE advises consumers to make sure replacement bulbs and batteries are available. A variety of options are available at stores like Target, Home Depot, Lowe’s, and several online retailers. To learn more about these and other lighting options, visit energysavers.gov/lighting.

Sources: *How Stuff Works.com, Gardeners.com, U.S. Department of Energy*



Source – Lowe’s

Source – Lowe’s

Use Portable Electric Generators Safely

Portable electric generators can offer many benefits when a long-term electrical outage occurs. However, if generators are not used properly, things could turn deadly.

After Hurricane Katrina, for example, many people relied on generators. But the misuse of them caused five deaths, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The CDC also reported 51 cases of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Follow these tips for the safe use of your generator:

- ▲ Follow the manufacturers' directions for installation and operation.
- ▲ To prevent electric shock, make sure your generator is properly grounded. The operation manual should provide correct grounding procedures.
- ▲ Use it only in a well-ventilated and dry area located away from air intakes to the house. Do not use it in an attached garage.

▲ Operate this or other fuel-powered machines outside, where deadly carbon monoxide fumes cannot enter the home.

▲ Do not overload the generator by operating more appliances and equipment than it can handle. The operating instructions should list an output rating.

▲ Individual appliances should be plugged directly into the generator's receptacle outlet using appropriately-sized extension cords to carry the electric load. Make sure the cords are rated for outdoor use, have a grounded, three-pronged plug, and are in good condition.

- ▲ Do not run extension cords under rugs.
- ▲ *Never* connect generators directly to your home's wiring. The reverse flow of electricity can electrocute an unsuspecting utility worker.
- ▲ *Never* plug a generator into a household outlet.
- ▲ Only store fuel outside of living areas



and away from heat sources, such as water heater pilot lights.

- ▲ Do not refuel while it is running.
- ▲ Turn off all equipment powered by the generator before shutting it down.
- ▲ Keep children and pets away.

– Chris Grammes



Stay Clear!

A downed power line may not be a dead line. It could cause serious injury or death.

Follow these tips from your electric cooperative to stay safe:

- ▶ **Assume all power lines are energized and dangerous.** Even lines that are de-energized could become energized at any time.
- ▶ **Never touch a downed power line!** And never touch a person or object that is touching a power line.
- ▶ **If someone is injured as a result of contact with electric current, do not try to assist him or her.** You could be injured or killed. Call 911.
- ▶ **If a power line falls across your vehicle while you are in it, stay inside until help arrives.**
- ▶ **Call 9-1-1 immediately to report a downed power line.** Then call your electric cooperative.



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STUDENTS!

WIN A TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.



Are you a leader? If you're a high school sophomore or junior who will be 16 or 17 by June 2012, and your family receives electric service from Cherryland Electric Cooperative, you may be eligible to attend the **FREE** co-op-sponsored Youth Leadership Summit.

The fun takes place April 18-20 at the 4-H Kettunen Center near Cadillac. You'll join students from other Michigan electric co-ops for a unique, high-energy experience to help you develop leadership skills and explore career opportunities in the electric industry. Plus, you'll get a chance to learn more about your electric co-op, and even try climbing a utility pole in full lineworker gear. Students chosen to attend the YLS will automatically be considered for a **FREE** trip to Washington, D.C., June 16-21, as part of the Rural Electric Youth Tour.

Apply online or download an application at **CherrylandElectric.com**. For more information, call Amanda Olds at 231-486-9254 or email aolds@cecelec.com. Applications are due by **March 21, 2012**.



Youth Leadership Summit
PRESENTED BY Michigan's Electric Cooperatives