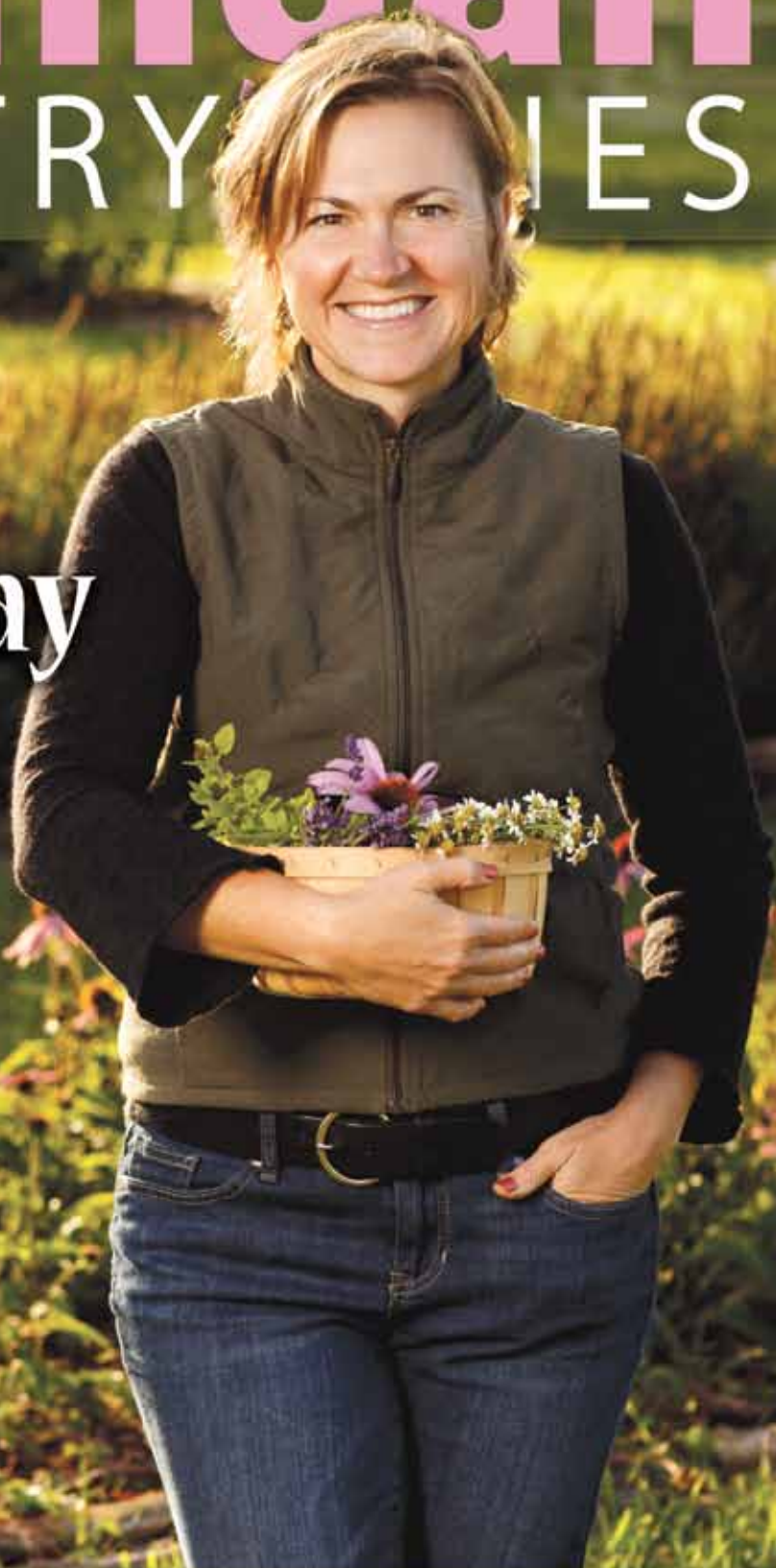


A Service of **Cherryland Electric Cooperative**

October 2013

# Michigan COUNTRY LIVES

## Tea at the Light of Day



2 Co-ops Are  
'One Big Family'

6 Historic Barns At Grand  
Traverse Commons

7 Co-op Member  
Helps Veterans

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## YOUR CO-OP

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## On the Cover

A Cherryland Electric Co-op member, Angela Macke, owns the unique Light of Day Organic Farm & Tea Shop near Traverse City.

Photo – Beth Price Photography/[bethpricephotography.com](http://bethpricephotography.com)



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## MANAGER'S MESSAGE

# Co-ops Are One Big Family

October is National Cooperative Month (also see page 5). For years, we have been telling our members about their

local electric cooperative. This month, I would like to spend time writing about the size and scope of the cooperative family nationwide with the use of data from our national organization, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

There are about 860 cooperatives like Cherryland in the United States. This family of cooperatives serves 42 million people in 47 states. Only Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut do not have at least one electric cooperative.

These 42 million people populate 18 million businesses, homes, schools, churches, farms, irrigation systems and other establishments in 2,500 of the 3,141 counties in the U.S.

While the electric cooperative family serves 75 percent of the land mass in our great country, these 42 million people are only 12 percent of the nation's population. Obviously, this means that 88 percent of the population exists on only 25 percent of the landmass. This has always been a very amazing statistic to me. Cooperatives were born to serve the sparsely populated areas of the country. Some 75 years later, we are still a vital and viable business model successfully accomplishing that goal.

Cooperatives across the country own 954 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy generation and have long-term purchase power agreements for another 4.3 million MW. To put this into a local perspective, Cherryland's peak load is in the neighborhood of 60 MW.

If you include federal hydropower, cooperatives own or purchase over 10 percent of the renewable capacity in the U.S. This includes over 9 percent of

the country's wind capacity. Currently, 94 percent of the nation's electric cooperatives offer renewable energy options to 40 million Americans.

While cooperatives have only 10 percent of retail electricity sales, they are responsible for 20 percent of the actual peak reduction in the country. Cooperatives are responsible for nearly 25 percent of the residential peak load management capacity (Energy Information Administration).

According to a 2011 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission survey, over 21 percent of electric customers enrolled in a demand response program are co-op members.

There are 720 Touchstone Energy® cooperatives, like Cherryland, participating in the only national utility-sponsored campaign to promote



**Tony Anderson**  
General Manager

***As a Cherryland Electric member, you are part of a co-op family that is 42 million strong.***

energy efficiency, TogetherWeSave.com. Efficiency programs are in place at 96 percent of electric cooperatives (2009 NRECA market research) and 70 percent offer financial incentives to promote greater efficiency.

While each electric co-op service territory is unique due to the terrain, locality, climate, location, population, employees and many other attributes, each cooperative is part of a big family. Like your families, we lean on each other in times of trouble and learn from each other when seeking to improve.

As a Cherryland member, please be aware that you are special to us and also part of a co-op family that is 42 million strong.

As we move past our 75th year, I believe we have a bright future ahead because we are part of a "cooperative" family that stretches from coast to coast.



# Townsend Is No Ordinary Joe

By Nick Edson

**H**e's no Ordinary Joe. Joe Townsend is a U.S. Air Force veteran who has worked in management positions around the country—Oregon, New Mexico, Colorado and Minnesota.

But when he and his wife Mary—his high school sweetheart—had an opportunity to return to their home state of Michigan, they jumped at the chance.

Joe is the operations supervisor at Cherryland Electric Cooperative and joined the 34,000-member co-op two years ago.

“What Joe has brought to Cherryland is a new and different way of looking at things,” said General Manager Tony Anderson. “His diverse background and wealth of experience outside the utility arena has been refreshing to the cooperative. His way of looking at things allows us to step back and look at ourselves in a different way.”

After high school, Joe spent four years in the Air Force. He and Mary were stationed in Denver and San Antonio, where their daughter Jessica was born.

“When I got out of the service, I took advantage of the G.I. Bill and studied computer science and business administration in college while working full time,” said Joe, a graduate of Grand Haven High School.

He began work for Georgia-Pacific Corp. in Grayling in 1982. Thirteen years later, he was sent to New Mexico to manage the Albuquerque branch, then four years later on to Minneapolis/St. Paul to manage those branch facilities. He also spent some management time in Denver.



Joe Townsend is Cherryland's operations supervisor.

“Then in 2006 I was enticed away from Georgia-Pacific to manage Keith Brown Building Materials—a chain of 22 lumberyards in three states—and we lived in Oregon,” said Joe.

“Mary and I have been lucky to experience and live in several beautiful places around the country. The vistas of the West and Southwest are something to behold. But Traverse City is such a beautiful area and Michigan will always be home for us as family is ultimately the reason for being where you are.”

As operations supervisor, Joe works with 21 employees. He's careful to point out that he “works with.”

“There are 21 employees that work with me, I only supervise when they need me to,” he said with his characteristic smile. “I try very hard to be consistent and fair in my job. I do my best to listen and gain complete understanding of a situation before I take action.”

Joe oversees the work of Cherryland's linemen, scheduling, transportation and

warehouse functions.

His No. 1 priority at Cherryland, he said, is safety.

“The work carried out by the people I supervise at Cherryland has significantly greater safety considerations than most jobs,” he said. “My respect for the inherent dangers involved with this work surpasses anything I have experienced in my past.”

“The people at Cherryland exhibit daily a professionalism and approach to their work that is reflected in our goal of sending our employees home safe every day.”

When Joe isn't working at Cherryland, he and Mary enjoy their new granddaughter Avery, motorcycling, their church and spending time with their family.

And that “family feeling” is what Joe also enjoys about Cherryland.

“Having spent the bulk of my career in a corporate environment, I can say with certainty that Cherryland is a great place to be employed,” he said. “It feels like home.”



## White Deer Spotted in Great Lakes Energy Service Area

Rob Nielsen, assistant vegetation management supervisor at Great Lakes Energy (GLE), took these photos while working near Irons after an August storm caused 23 broken poles (left) and power outages to over 10,000 of the co-op's members. "I was patrolling line and bird-dogging a line crew from our Kalkaska service center when the white deer casually crossed the road in front of us. My co-worker slowed the truck so we wouldn't scare it, and I had enough time to get my phone and take a few pictures. I had seen a white deer in this area a few years ago, so maybe it was the same one."

After GLE posted the deer photo on Facebook, a few members noted seeing one in the same area, and an employee commented that a white deer is good luck. It did bring good luck, as all members had power restored the next day and Nielsen and the crews worked safely, but GLE hopes the luck continues through this winter, as last year brought two very large storms—causing the worst damage in decades—that resulted in nearly \$4 million in restoration costs.

## Teaching Students About Electricity...

► *There's an app for that!*



From nuclear power plants to solar powered homes, a free app called "Tesla Town" allows young students to explore and learn about different energy sources used to make electricity.

Named after Nikola Tesla, a Serbian-American engineer and inventor best known for his contributions to the alternating current (AC) electrical supply system, the app is aimed at teaching students in third through eighth grade about electricity generation and delivery.

Tesla Town, created by the Trustworthy Cyber Infrastructure for the Power Grid, is available for the iPad from the iTunes App Store or for use online at [tcpig.mste.illinois.edu/teslatown](http://tcpig.mste.illinois.edu/teslatown).

### Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

Properly installed shades can be one of the most effective ways to improve windows' energy efficiency. Lower them during summer; in winter, raise during the day and lower at night on south-facing windows. Dual shades, with reflective white coating on one side and a heat-absorbing dark color on the other, can be reversed with the seasons and save even more energy. Learn more at [EnergySavers.gov](http://EnergySavers.gov).

Source – U.S. Department of Energy

**HOW TO CHANGE YOUR MAILING ADDRESS** Please call or mail information directly to your electric co-op, as they maintain the mailing list. See page 2 for your co-op's contact information.

# How We're *Special*

Every October since 1930, nonprofit cooperatives of all kinds have recognized National Cooperative Month as a way to educate the public about how co-ops work and to appreciate their many member-owners.

This year, we highlight the seven guiding principles of co-ops. But why should this interest you? Because these concepts lead electric co-ops—like the local one where you're an actual owner and it provides your electricity—to operate in a better way each day. Here are real-life examples of how these guides affect your co-op.

## 1 Voluntary & Open Membership

Co-ops are voluntary organizations, open to any person (in the case of electric co-ops, anyone who moves into their service area) willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination. In Michigan, and nationwide, annual or district meetings serve as a way for members to get to know the people who run their co-op and get updated on business matters.

## 2 Democratic Member Control

“Democratic Member Control” means members control their co-op (in most, by one member, one vote) by actively participating in decision-making and setting policies. This happens by voting for other members to represent them on a board of directors that governs the co-op and is accountable to all members.

Annual or district meetings serve here as the forum for electing directors, or some co-ops use mail-in ballots. Some also have member advisory groups or hold regular luncheons and focused meetings by inviting a small number of randomly chosen members to meet one-on-one with co-op staff, board members, and managers.

## 3 Members' Economic Participation

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the co-op's capital by allocating any surpluses for the following: developing the co-op, possibly by setting up reserves; benefitting members in proportion to their transactions with the co-op; and sup-

porting other member-approved activities.

Because electric co-ops are owned by their members, they do not create profits for distant shareholders. Any excess revenue (“margins”) is allocated back to the members as capital credits, or patronage capital. Capital credits are “retired” and paid back to members based on their electricity purchases. Margins are used as working capital for a time, and as financial conditions allow, are paid back to members.

Allocating and retiring revenue that is

**LOCAL.  
TRUSTED.  
SERVING  
YOU.™**

above operating and maintenance costs to members helps distinguish co-ops, and they are proud to support their communities by putting money back into the pockets (and local economy) of the people they serve.

Nationally, electric co-ops have retired \$11 billion in capital credits since 1988, and \$768 million in 2012 alone.

## 4 Autonomy & Independence

Electric co-ops form a vast network across 47 states, and their power lines cover 42 percent of our nation's land mass. Those in Michigan (nine distribution and one generation and transmission co-op) serve over 50 percent of the state's land in providing power to over 700,000 people through 42,000 miles of line.

But what's unique is that each co-op is an autonomous, independent business.

And while they work “cooperatively” with neighboring co-ops, their members are the sole governors, and member-elected directors approve policies that mold the way they do business. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure the members' control and maintains the co-op's autonomy.

## 5 Education, Training & Information

Co-ops have a charge to keep their members informed—not just about co-op business and industry issues, but topics like energy efficiency, safety and community contributions.

For example, *Michigan Country Lines* magazine is one way your co-op keeps you updated on relevant news (you can also visit [countrylines.com](http://countrylines.com) and choose your co-op's name under the “My Co-op” menu), and some are present on Facebook and other social media. Plus, all Michigan electric co-ops offer Energy Optimization programs that help save money on your energy bills, plus youth programs that help the next generation learn about leadership, co-op careers, and other benefits.

Co-ops also train directors, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to co-op development. They also inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

## 6 Cooperation Among Co-ops

While co-ops are independent entities, they still rely on one another to share resources, information and, in some cases, manpower. They have a long history of helping each other restore power after severe weather emergencies. Called “mutual-aid agreements,” when your co-op needs extra hands after a storm or other disaster, co-ops from neighboring towns and states help get the power back on that much faster.

A Michigan example is the raging winter 2012 storm that swept nearly the entire northern lower peninsula and a good swath of the U.P. Mutual aid among co-ops here and from other states brought the lights back on.

Co-ops serve their members most effectively and strengthen the co-op movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

## 7 Concern for Community

Possibly the most visible principle of all is the last, as it drives electric co-ops to be good stewards of the communities they serve. While keeping member service foremost, co-ops undertake a variety of community projects—from food drives or charity fundraisers to school electrical safety demos and economic development efforts.

Even if there was no “concern for community” principle, every person who works at your electric co-op “lives there, too” – they're your friends and neighbors first.

# Historic Barns: A Perfect Blend of Old and New



**T**here's more to the Grand Traverse Commons' Historic Barns' Park than meets the eye. The soaring ceilings of the Cathedral Barn are a sight to behold, but down below lies a hidden treasure years in the making.

Below the floors of the Cathedral Barn you will find two inconspicuous-looking pipes.

Don't be fooled.

Those pipes are the end-point of a 4,950-foot geothermal loop system that will eventually help heat and cool the facility. A geothermal heat pump system uses Earth's natural heat to warm buildings in the winter and cool them in summer by extracting heat and returning it back to the ground.

Those pipes also represent an unprecedented collaboration between three area utilities—Cherryland Electric Cooperative, Consumers Energy, and Traverse City Light & Power.

The mission of the Grand Traverse Commons' Historic Barns has always been to sustain the community with the resources found on the land.

From 1880 to 1953, the 56-acre site was the agricultural production area for the former Traverse City State Hospital. At its peak, it fed 3,500 patients and staff. Through the community agriculture sites and farming demonstration projects sponsored by SEEDS (Social Entrepreneurship Environmental

Design and Stewardship), it is still feeding members of our community.

Just a few feet below the community gardens, lies the newly installed geothermal heat exchange system. The symbolism is not lost on Matt Cowall, executive director of the Traverse City and Garfield Township Recreational Authority.

"The same land that is once again providing food will now also provide heating and cooling for the Cathedral Barn," he said. "It's a unique blend of old meets new, and we hope it will be a great demonstration for what's possible."

Cherryland Electric Cooperative spearheaded the sponsorship by working with the Michigan Public Service Commission to get permission to use Energy Optimization (EO) funds for the project.

The Barns are served by Consumers Energy, but all three utilities were able to claim EO credit. The combined contribution of the three utilities funded the \$64,000 project.

The EO credit was just a bonus, as Cherryland's general manager, Tony Anderson, points out. "This is a community project and our members will certainly use the Barns once they are opened to the public."

In addition to promoting sustainability and efficiency, the geothermal system supports the park's community education goals.

"The completed park will serve an important educational function in our community,"

**Top photo:** The Cathedral Barn.

**Inset:** Matt Cowall, executive director of City of Traverse City and Charter Township of Garfield Recreational Authority at the site where the loop will connect to the future geothermal unit.

said Anderson. "People who use the barns will get to see and experience a working geothermal system."

Plans for the park include a permanent sign that will show visitors where the horizontal loop is installed and explain how it works. The long-term plan calls for an "Energy Farm" that will involve an ongoing series of innovative and interesting energy demonstrations.

While the Barns will not be open to the public until 2014, the botanical garden welcome center is nearing completion. If you get a chance to stop by and enjoy this beautiful piece of our community history, make sure you take just a moment to look down and think about what's going on beneath the surface.

*Rachel Johnson is the grassroots advocate at Cherryland Electric Cooperative.*





# Cherryland Member Drives Area Veterans

By Al Parker

**J**eff Mugerian never served in the military, but the 51-year-old is now doing his part to help those who did.

The Leelanau County resident and long-time Cherryland Electric Cooperative member is a volunteer driver for a transportation network that carries military veterans to medical appointments in Saginaw, Ann Arbor and Detroit.

Mugerian became a driver in March at the urging of his 20-year-old son Sean, a college student who serves in the army reserves.

“My dad was in the Army during World War II and my father-in-law was in World War II, but I never served,” says Mugerian. “I wanted to do something, so Sean urged me to get involved. How else could I serve at 51 years old and 50 pounds overweight?”

He’s glad he did.

“I love talking with these veterans, both men and women,” says Mugerian. “They have great stories and I just love them. Most are so gracious, so grateful for this service that helps them get to their appointments. I’m so blessed to discover this opportunity. I’m thrilled to do it.”

This vital program, which serves those who served the nation, is in need of some assistance. It needs volunteer drivers, and hopefully by the end of the year.

“Typically we make trips five days a week, Monday through Friday,” explains John Leffler, a Vietnam War veteran who voluntarily serves as the program’s coordinator. “We usually transport 10 to 20 veterans each week.”

The transport network is run by the Grand Traverse Area Disabled American Veterans Chapter #38. In order to get those northern Michigan veterans to their downstate appointments, Leffler relies on a team of volunteer drivers. When he took over the program in January 2013, there was only one driver.



Cherryland Electric Co-op member Jeff Mugerian is a volunteer driver for northern Michigan veterans.

This vital program, which serves those who served the nation, needs volunteer drivers.

To learn more about the transportation network, call John Leffler at 231-313-9357 or visit [gtadav.us](http://gtadav.us).

“Since then we’ve been able to recruit some drivers,” says Leffler. “Now we have 14, but I’m looking to get that up to about 30.”

With winter approaching, Leffler is particularly concerned since several drivers are snowbirds who leave for weeks or months at a time. Volunteer drivers must pass a physical examination, possess a valid driver’s license and have a good driving record.

For a typical run to Detroit, Mugerian rises at 3:30 a.m. to get to the veteran’s clinic in Traverse City where the transportation van is parked. He leaves there by 4:30 to begin picking up veterans. Some have appointments in Saginaw, others may have appointments beginning as early as 9 a.m. in Motown.

Depending on the veteran’s appointment times, Mugerian usually gets home by 8 p.m. It’s a long day, but worth it, he says.

On one recent run, Mugerian drove to Grayling in the early evening to pick up three area veterans who had been in Saginaw for appointments. Another driver brought them north to Grayling and Mugerian went there to pick them up, dropping one in Kalkaska and two in Traverse City.

One Air Force veteran had been in Saginaw for two weeks undergoing therapy following a hip transplant. Two others, both U.S. Army Vietnam vets, had gone down at 5 a.m. the same day for appointments for a liver problem and eye condition. Both endured 14-hour-days to get treated.

“It’s a shame that some of these guys have to spend 12 or 14 hours on the road for a 30-minute eye exam,” says Mugerian. “That’s just not right. It’s hard to believe they can’t be treated locally for something like that. My heart just aches for these guys.”

# Shale Shock: Natural Gas May Edge Out Coal as Nation's Primary Power Source

This is fourth in a series on how electricity is generated. The others covered clean-coal technology, nuclear and wind power. Watch future issues for stories about renewables and other fuel sources.

Over the past decade, the North American natural gas industry has experienced a dramatic renaissance due to a combination of horizontal drilling and a shale fracturing technique called “hydraulic fracking.” With this technology, previously unrecoverable gas reserves located in shale formations deep underground are now flooding the market and it's expected to continue for several decades.

This “shale gas revolution” promises to have a major impact on our nation's energy future, particularly in shifting reliance from burning coal for power generation. The U.S. will overtake Russia as the world's largest

gas producer by 2015, according to International Energy Agency Chief Economist Faith Birol. She notes the resulting cheap domestic supply should lead electric utilities toward a heavier reliance on natural gas for generating power.

Given the fact that consumption of natural gas for producing electricity has increased every year since 2009, Birol's predictions appear to be under way. The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) reports that the natural gas share of U.S. electric power generation will increase from 25 percent today to 28 percent by 2035, with renewable energy's share growing from 10 to 15 percent, and coal falling from 48 to

38 percent. However, early 2012 numbers indicated that pace may be accelerating.

When it comes to electricity, natural gas is most commonly used to fuel peaking plants—power stations that operate for brief periods during times of high electricity demand—and intermediate plants—those whose output changes daily in response to changes in electricity demand. Today, gas accounts for about 15 percent of the power produced by generation and transmission co-ops and 16 percent of all electric co-op power requirements nationwide.

Over the past two years, the relatively low price of gas combined with increasing federal and state regulation of power plant

This map shows shale gas “plays” across the 48 lower U.S. states. The term “play” is used in the oil and gas industry to refer to a geographic area that has been targeted for exploration.



Source – U.S. Energy Information Administration based on data from various published studies. Updated: May 9, 2011

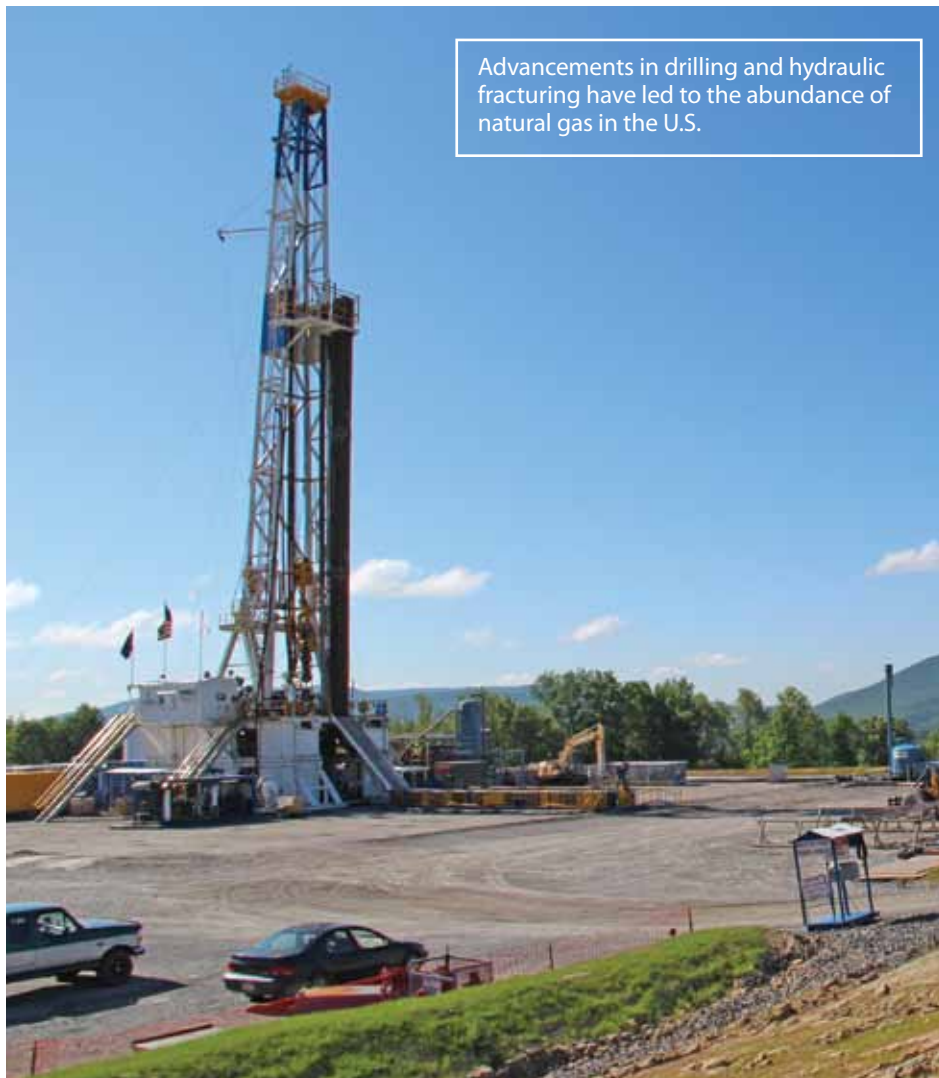
emissions have led to natural gas-fired plants being run for longer periods, while many older coal-fired baseload power plants—those providing dependable electric power year-round at a low cost—are being shut down or converted to gas operations. In fact, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed a New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) rule that aims to curb the release of carbon dioxide and six other greenhouse gases blamed for contributing to climate change from new fossil fuel-fired power plants. The rule could also be expanded at some point to cover existing generation. The EPA is proposing an emissions cap of 1,000 pounds of carbon dioxide per megawatt-hour—a nearly impossible standard for coal-fired power plants, which average over 1,800 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions per megawatt-hour, to achieve.

“The only way to meet it is with carbon capture and storage [CCS] technology, which is prohibitively expensive and years away from being commercially viable,” David Hudgins, member and external relations director at Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC), a generation and transmission co-op based in Glen Allen, VA, told the U.S. House Subcommittee on Energy and Environment in June 2012. “No company will take the risk to invest billions of dollars in a power plant in the hopes that CCS will be developed.”

The new standards, as outlined, will push power plants away from coal and toward natural gas baseload generation because most newer combined-cycle gas facilities produce emissions within range of the new limit. But natural gas prices are more volatile than coal, making the fuel a dicey option.

“Historically, natural gas prices have varied widely, making reliance on gas as the sole fuel to provide affordable future baseload power risky at best,” says Rae Cronmiller, environmental counsel for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the trade organization representing over 900 electric co-ops in the U.S. “These risks are significantly enhanced because the cost of electricity derived from natural gas is largely driven by cost of the fuel itself. This differs from coal power, which is driven by capital costs. Also, natural gas in quantities necessary to provide year-round baseload generation is unavailable in some geographic areas.”

Despite this, utility experts believe that natural gas production will continue to increase and that the “blue flame” will surpass coal as the nation’s leading source of electric energy.



Advancements in drilling and hydraulic fracturing have led to the abundance of natural gas in the U.S.

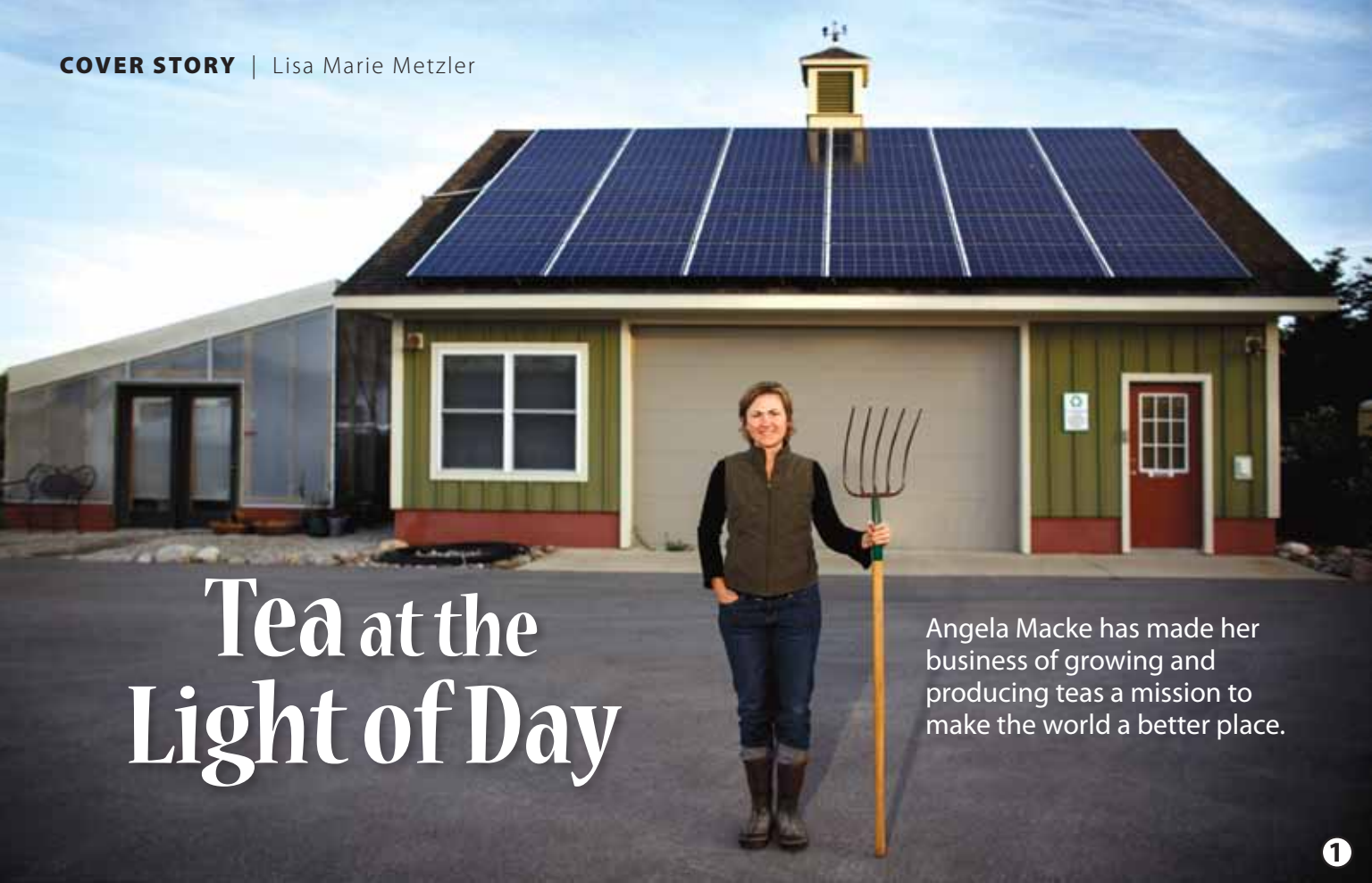
Source – Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association

### *Keeping it in perspective...*

Many shale formations are so large that only a limited portion has been extensively tested for its natural gas potential. The availability of large quantities of shale gas should enable the United States to produce more natural gas than it consumes for decades to come.

- According to Penn State University, Marcellus Shale—a shelf of black porous rock stretching from southwestern New York across northern and western Pennsylvania into eastern Ohio and down through West Virginia—could become the second largest natural gas field in the world, with a potential of over 500 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.
- Barnett Shale covers at least 24 counties in north Texas. It is one of the most active shale plays in the U.S., and estimated to contain nearly 26 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.
- Primarily in Louisiana and Texas, Haynesville Shale could contain as much as 251 trillion cubic feet of recoverable resources.
- Antrim Shale covering much of Michigan and Eagle Ford Shale in Texas are the latest examples of the still-emerging wealth of North American natural gas supplies.

Source – U.S. Energy Information Administration



# Tea at the Light of Day

Angela Macke has made her business of growing and producing teas a mission to make the world a better place.

1

**W**hen we think of tea, it is often in reference to afternoon tea, or a soothing drink to sip on a chilly day. Usually, it's just dropping a tea bag into boiling water and maybe adding a little milk or honey. At the Light of Day Organic Farm and Tea Shop in Leelanau County, it is so much more. They embrace the whole tea culture, including everything from the seeds to preparing and brewing "the perfect cup."

Angela Macke, an RN and mother of two, started Light of Day Organics because of her own personal experience with tea. "I love tea, and have experienced healing from this miracle of agriculture that decreases inflammation, and am continually intrigued by the people and culture that surround the practice of tea worldwide."

In fact, Macke has successfully managed

her own Crohn's disease, rheumatoid arthritis and lupus by incorporating tea into her daily life. She says even the name for the business she created came from a spiritual place for her, as "All good things good are from the light."

## Leaves of Wellness

Plenty of good things are definitely growing and brewing in the light at this impeccably maintained, 25-acre farm located just 8 miles west of Traverse City. Step inside the charming, cozy tea shop, and immediately you are met with wonderful aromas and a warm atmosphere. This is a no-pressure place.

Of course, they are in the business of selling tea, but Macke's mission is more about nurturing the body and soul and helping customers find the tea that not only suits their taste buds but helps bring wellness and balance to the body. "Every day I get emails

of testimonials on how tea has improved the quality of someone's life," she adds.

According to Macke, it's a four-day labor of love for each pound of tea. "Full-leaf tea is harvested by hand to ensure a high-quality, full leaf," she says. "It takes 70,000 tea leaves, chamomile blossoms, rose hips, clover tops, lavender, and others petals for one finished pound of tea."

While "true" tea is made with *Camellia sinensis* leaf, the tisanes Light of Day offers are made from blending components such as herbs, spices, seeds, bark, fruit and other ingredients. Tisane teas are caffeine-free.

## Balance and Harmony With The Earth

Light of Day isn't your ordinary farm in other ways, too. It is a Green America partner, which means they strive to be as paperless as



2

3



Photos — Beth Price Photography

possible, use only environmentally-friendly inks, and recycle everything they can.

Another exemplary attribute is they are Michigan's only Demeter-certified biodynamic farm. "These farms, including ours, abide by standards that exceed that of the National Organic Program and produce some of the most tasty, nutrient-dense food possible," Macke explains. The criteria for this international certification aren't easily met, but that didn't sway her from pursuing it. "It is a preventative approach and I believe it to be the kindest, most holistic practice that one can do for our planet."

The farm first had to be certified organic with the National Organic Program for three years. This involves following a Lunar calendar for growing, harvesting and seed collection, providing on-farm fertility, and using homeopathic remedies throughout the



- Light of Day Organic Farm & Tea Shop**  
**Website:** [LightOfDayOrganics.com](http://LightOfDayOrganics.com)  
**Email:** [Orders@LightOfDayOrganics.com](mailto:Orders@LightOfDayOrganics.com)  
**Phone:** 231-228-7234  
**Tea Shop:** 3502 E. Traverse Hwy., Traverse City; Noon – 5 p.m.
- (1) Angela Macke, a member of Cherryland Electric Cooperative, owns and operates the Light of Day Organic Farm and Tea Shop.
  - (2) Light of Day Organics is a honey bee sanctuary and has four thriving hives.
  - (3) *Camellia sinensis* tea leaves. Tea is the most labor intensive crop. 70,000 buds picked locally by hand are used for 1 pound of tea at Light of Day Organics.
  - (4) Harvesting herbs—lemon balm, feverfew, echinacea, lavender.
  - (5) Ceremonial grade matcha green tea is enjoyed in smoothie form.
  - (6) Employee Susie McConnell packages the loose leaf teas.

growing season to support the plants' growth and development.

In keeping with her philosophy of balance and harmony with the earth, solar panels are used to help lower their electric bills, as the irrigation system and food dryers use a lot of energy. Plans for 2014 include expanding their solar array and adding an architecturally-designed functional stand to hold the panels and create a shaded area that visitors can sit under and enjoy their teas during a visit.

### Fruits of Labor

Managing a farm, employees and family is no easy task, but Macke's family pitches in

when they can. Her 12 and 14-year-old boys have been helping since they were toddlers. "They are excellent botanical harvesters, planters, preparation helpers, weeders, and assist with mowing, apple coring, packaging up bags and labeling tins. They have done it all," she says proudly.

About her role on the farm, Macke says, "This is the most meaningful and hardest work I've ever done."

*Lisa Marie Metzler is a certified trainer and freelance writer specializing in health and fitness. Her articles have appeared in magazines such as Healthy & Fit, IDEA Fitness Journal, Positive Thinking, Hope for Women, and more.*

# What's for School (or Your) Lunch?

School lunches can include local food, and be healthy and waste-free too!



**S**chool is back in swing, and lunches may have already become repetitive and limited. But there are many healthy, locally-available foods that can add zing to school or other lunch options.

Choosing an exciting, varied menu from local foods for “brown bag” lunches doesn’t have to be challenging, either. Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) offers an availability chart to help you track what’s available-when, and there’s a lot of fruits and veggies that are still in season. And, farmers’ markets aren’t the only place to find fresh fare—many local grocery stores or chains also take pride in offering locally-grown, produce. Many locally-made artisan foods are offered, too, including breads and bakery items, cheeses, deli meats, salsas, sauces, pickles, jams, and jellies.

## Fruits, Veggies Still In-season

Fresh broccoli, cauliflower, bell peppers, zucchini, cucumbers, carrots and raw green beans

can all go into a lunch as crunchy vegetable sticks. Including a dip or peanut butter adds one more thing kids love to eat and do.

Fresh fruits include apples, peaches, plums, pears, raspberries and grapes. Second plantings of lettuce, onions, celery, spinach and other greens are also can also be found. Paired with a protein of cheese or meat slices, or a nut-based spread on crackers or bread, you have easily increased your menu options.

## Don't Forget Pumpkins!

Besides the fun of carving them, make your family smile by preserving and drying pumpkin and its seeds, and making pumpkin preserves.

A how-to fact sheet from MSU Extension called “Michigan Fresh: Using, Storing and Preserving Pumpkins,” includes suggested varieties, a yield chart and processing times,

plus storage and food safety tips for choosing them and avoiding cross-contamination. Find this and other fact sheets on various topics at [msue.anr.msu.edu/program/info/mi\\_fresh](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/info/mi_fresh), and more will be featured throughout the new growing season.

## More Quick Tips

Cutting up vegetables and fruits in advance and pre-packaging them in small lunch-sized containers can save lots of time when you are packing lunch, and serve as fast after-school snacks that kids can help themselves to with minimal fuss.

Involve your kids in helping to package items for the week’s lunches. Research cited recently in *Science Daily News* shows that kids who are involved in food preparation are more likely to eat healthier foods.

— Beth Clawson

# Schools to Serve Michigan Fruit

**S**tarting this fall, public school students in 114 districts will enjoy Michigan-grown fruit, thanks to a partnership with growers, Cherry Capital Foods, and Chartwells School Dining Services.

“This may be the largest farm-to-school project to date in the country,” says Kelly Lively, special projects and school liaison for Cherry Capital Foods.

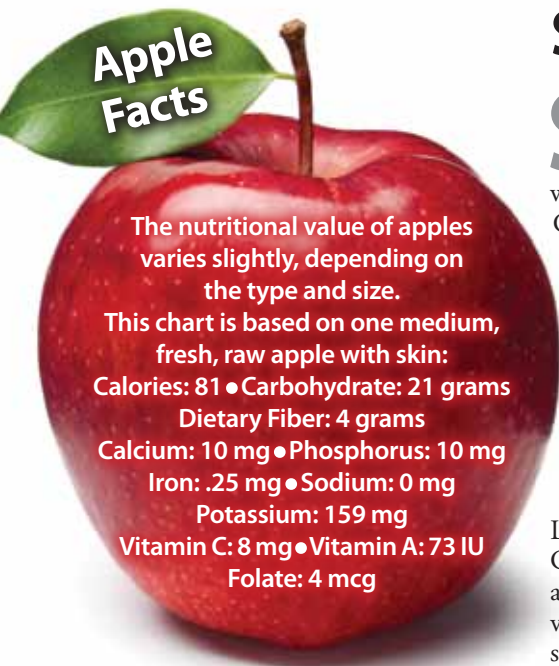
The Traverse City food distributor will gather, store and coordinate the transportation of apples to districts statewide, including parts of the Upper Peninsula. Growers such as Friske Orchards, a Great Lakes Energy Co-op member in Antrim County, Gavin Orchards in Coopersville, and dozens of other farms, will provide many varieties throughout the year, in different sizes specialized to the ages of students in

each school. Educators at MSU Extension and other regional experts expect a bumper crop this year.

“Through our partnership, we’re able to provide fresh, local foods that are at the height of their nutritional value to Michigan students,” explains Brain Casey, Chartwells’ regional vice president. Because supplies allow it this year, peaches and possibly pears will also be available to schools.

Cherry Capital is also hosting a statewide event called “Michigan’s Apple Crunch!” that encourages people of all ages to bite into an apple on Oct. 24. It’s part of Food Day, a national promotion of healthy, affordable and sustainable food. For more information, visit [cherrycapitalfoods.com](http://cherrycapitalfoods.com) or call Kelly Lively at 231-943-5010.

— Kendra Wills



Find an Extension expert in your area by calling 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464) or visit [expert.msue.msu.edu](http://expert.msue.msu.edu)

# Top 10 Myths About Geothermal Heating, Cooling

(with apologies to David Letterman)

**10.** *Geothermal heat pumps can only be installed in rural areas.* About 15 years ago, the first McDonalds (at Ford and Hix Road in Westland, MI) to have an energy efficient geothermal system was installed, and it made CNN news. Later, a geothermal system was installed at CanField Lofts in downtown Detroit. Both are very urban areas.

**9.** *It is too cold in Michigan to use geothermal heat pumps.* Geothermal heat pumps have been installed north of the arctic circle and 1 degree from the equator and everywhere in between (of course then, including Michigan).

**8.** *You need a well to install geothermal.* There are three types of geothermal systems—open, ground source, and closed loop. Closed loop geothermal systems do not use a well.

**7.** *Geothermal units blow cold air (as opposed to me, who is full of hot air).* Old, less-efficient furnaces blow very hot air at around 130 degrees, then shut off. The house gets hot and then cold, and then repeats that cycle. Geothermal units are designed to run more continuous (like cruise control), blowing air at around 100 degrees. This way, a house stays consistently far more comfortable. When compared with an old furnace it does feel a bit colder, but 100 degrees is more than enough to maintain a comfortable house.

**6.** *Geothermal units have a bigger carbon footprint than gas or propane furnaces.* A large engineering study done for the Michigan Public Service Commission showed that geothermal units either have the same carbon footprint as gas furnaces or a 5 percent less carbon footprint. Because geothermal units run on electricity that is generated from coal it is not as clean as natural gas, but they are so much more efficient that it balances out to a smaller carbon footprint.

**5.** *Geothermal units are more expensive than other furnaces.* The first cost of a

geothermal unit is higher than a gas or propane unit. But when you add the operating cost over the geothermal unit's lifetime, it will usually come out less expensive than gas, and significantly less than propane. Think about a car, for example. One costs \$10,000 and gets 10 miles per gallon. The other costs \$20,000 and gets 40 miles per gallon. When you calculate the total expense over the next 200,000 miles, the car that gets 40 miles per gallon is cheaper. Besides, the same geothermal unit can serve both as a furnace for heating and provide air conditioning in the summer, which helps save even more energy and money.

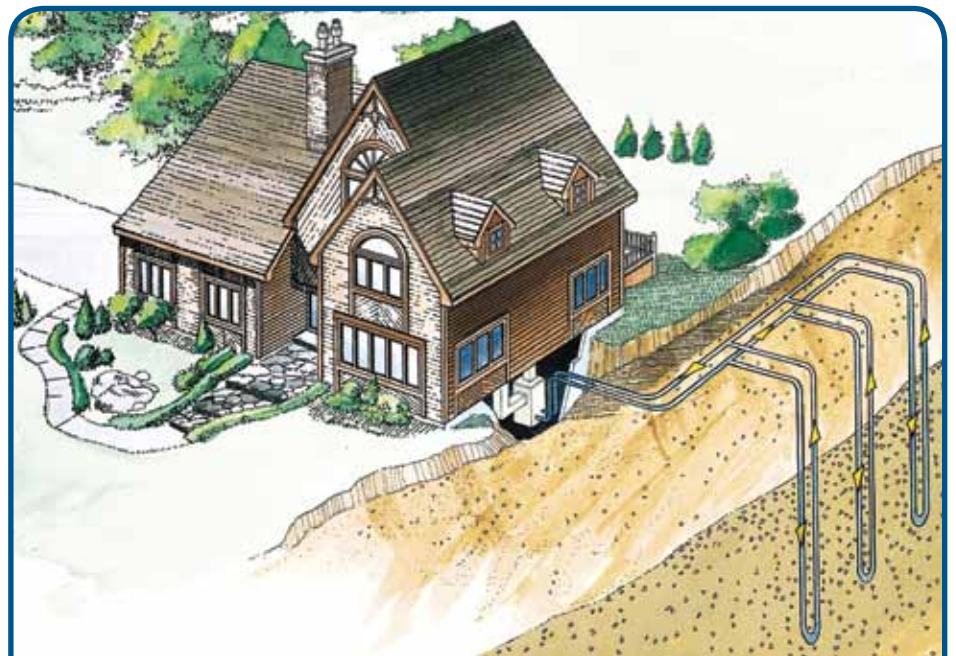
**4.** *You must put a geothermal heat pump in the basement.* A geothermal unit does not have a flame, therefore it requires no venting and can be placed anywhere.

**3.** *A geothermal unit eliminates the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.* A geothermal unit has no flame, so it produces no carbon dioxide. However, you may have other gas appliances, such as a gas dryer, fireplace, stove or gas water heater that could cause a gas leak.

**2.** *I was elected executive director of the Michigan Geothermal Energy association because of my good looks and incredible intelligence.* Anyone who knows me knows better.

**1.** *You say you can't afford a geothermal system.* If you're building a new home or looking to replace your existing heating and air conditioning system and plan on staying in your house more than five years, I say you can't afford not to go with a geothermal system. Geothermal can provide a potential of 30 percent or more savings vs. gas, and 60 percent or more vs. propane.

Larry Kaufman is executive director of the Michigan Geothermal Energy Association.



The Michigan Geothermal Energy Association (MGEA) was formed in 1993 by geothermal contractors, manufacturers, distributors and electric utilities to promote high quality geothermal energy systems that meet the comfort, efficiency and environmental needs of customers. Earthcomfort.com, MGEA's informative site for consumers, is the best place to learn about geothermal energy and find a geothermal contractor.



# Eat Together

How to reclaim the tradition of eating together at the family table.

**T**hese are busy days and most are over-scheduled with family members headed in different directions. Families are likely to eat only a meal or two together each week. Are we missing out if we don't eat together?

The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University conducted a 2011 study that showed families who have fewer dinners (less than a few nights a week) together had teens who were four times more likely to use tobacco, twice as likely to use alcohol and two-and-a-half times more likely to use marijuana. But a more recent study in the *Journal of Marriage and Family* (June 2012) suggests the benefits of family dinner aren't as strong or lasting as previous studies suggested. After doing interviews with middle or high school adolescents, and again between ages 18 and 26, the study suggests the *extent* of parental involvement in their kids' daily lives—not just at the dinner table—is most important.

But the dinner table is still a time-honored tradition that offers a great way to connect that is unlike any other. Neil Kosofsky, a marriage and family therapist at the Relationship Institute in Royal Oak, MI, says gathering for dinner is an opportunity to feel connected and strengthen a sense of security and attachment to parents and loved ones. Simply eating dinner at the same table every day, he adds, doesn't guarantee families will grow more emotionally attached or kids will have a stronger feeling of security. "What is essential is the time spent together, sharing an experience, engaging, and speaking and listening to each other."

## Make a Reservation

"Create family rituals. Schedule a weekly Friday night or a Sunday brunch," Kosofsky suggests. Make it something everyone looks forward to, and connect it to something meaningful—like visiting grandparents, or a fun, family game night.

Teens may not relish family dinners at first, but strive for at least one night a week and let them pick a favorite dinner to make or bring home. Younger kids may enjoy theme dinners or picnics in the living room. Get the whole family involved with prep, and keep



Photo Courtesy - Dodie Ferguson

When the Ferguson family, members of Cherryland Electric Cooperative, eats together it's a chance to discuss their day and what's on their minds. Mom Dodie also says it's a good time to talk about friends or family who are in need of prayer and find out how everyone is doing in school.

the mood light. The food doesn't have to look perfect. Help create regular memories they will later cherish.

"It is certainly hard to get everyone together and have a healthy dinner at night," agrees Dodie Ferguson, a Michigan parent of five. "My 15-year-old son has found that he really enjoys cooking and we love the help. Some days dinner can be a little 'different', but it's always fun and its worth having the extra hand."

Kids may not appreciate the rituals now, but as they grow into adulthood, they will treasure those times and model them for their own families, Kosofsky adds.

## Be Fully Present

"The most important thing our kids want from us is our time and attention," says Karen Friend Smith, author of "Reclaim Dinner." If you come to dinner fully present, your kids will look forward to it because they know they have your attention, and it provides time to learn table manners, listen, and take turns in a conversation.

Here are some conversation starters:

? If you could be an animal, what animal would you be?

? If you could pick your own name, what would it be?

? If you could have any super power, what would it be and why?

? What was your high point of the day and low point of the day?

? If you won \$1,000, what would you spend it on?

? Do you have a recurring dream?

? If you had free lessons for a year, what would you want to learn?

? What kind of music are you listening to?

## Take the Challenge!

A website called [reclaimdinner.com](http://reclaimdinner.com) offers a free, 30-day challenge to raise awareness about the benefits of family dinner and is a stimulus to get started. You simply make the pledge to eat dinner at home more often. A daily email is sent to keep you motivated with ideas, conversation starters, recipes, and more.

"Some days will be magical. Others will be a disaster," Smith says. "But collectively, over time, you will be amazed at what this one simple practice does for you and your family."

*Lisa Marie Metzler is a freelance journalist who's written over 200 articles for magazines such as Healthy & Fit, Positive Thinking, and Families First.*





# Mute Swans Are Crowding Other Species

Swans have a special place in art and literature. Youngsters are told about the ugly duckling—a young bird that is ostracized by the others until it grows into a beautiful swan. Swans also figure prominently in several major operas and Tchaikovsky's famous "Swan Lake" is among the most-performed of all classical ballets.

But, as with any species, there can be a downside. In Michigan, mute swans are the largest and most numerous, and have become a nuisance.

Why? There are just too many. Mute swans are often overly aggressive toward other waterfowl and humans. They are not native to Michigan and are crowding out other wildlife, doing considerable environmental damage to wetland habitats, and at times creating a public safety hazard.

Among the largest waterfowl in the world, mute swans can measure up to 5 feet long and weigh over 30 pounds, with a wing span of nearly 10 feet. So named because they make little sound—except for hissing when they're agitated—they contrast dramatically with the aptly named trumpeter swans, which are a native species on Michigan's threatened list.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has partnered with other conservation groups for over a decade to increase trumpeter swan populations here. Although the effort is beginning to bear fruit, there is evidence that mute swans are getting in the way.

Mute swans were brought from Europe in the mid-1800s to adorn parks and private estates. The first Michigan pair was introduced in Charlevoix County in 1919, and we now have the largest population of them in the United States.

The DNR estimates breeding mute swan numbers at about 15,500—three times the number a decade ago—and expanding at about 10 percent a year. Long-lived (close to 20 years) birds capable of producing five cygnets per pair annually, they have few natural enemies.

Numerous mute swan attacks on small boaters (canoeists, kayakers, jet skiers) have been documented, some resulting in injury, and in one case death (in another state), when an angry bird capsized a canoeist. These birds will attack people on land who wander too close to their nests or young and drive other waterfowl—ducks, geese and other swans—



from suitable habitat. For example, a nesting colony of black terns (also a species of concern) on the Michigan shore of the U.P. declined when mute swans nested nearby and drove them away. Black tern counts have been depressed in the area ever since.

Mute swans congregate in huge flocks and can inflict significant damage on aquatic habitat, feeding heavily on vegetation that is food and cover to fish and other wildlife. Anglers complain that swans virtually wipe out weed beds in some lakes.

But population-control efforts can bear fruit, as removal of mute swans has resulted in other species moving back into the habitat. At Crow Island State Game Area (near Saginaw), a pair of trumpeters took up residence after the mute swans were removed.

The DNR has long removed mute swans from game areas, where protecting native wildlife is the goal. But as the mute swan population continues to grow, the DNR has increased efforts to reduce them to 2,000 by 2030.

"If we didn't do anything to reduce mute swan populations, we could have 24,000 in

five years," explains Barbara Avers, waterfowl and wetlands specialist with the DNR's Wildlife Division. "If we allow this to happen, Michigan's wetlands and wildlife would suffer and there would be unacceptable levels of conflict with people."

Many conservation groups—including the Michigan Audubon Society, Ducks Unlimited and the Kellogg Biological Station of Michigan State University—are on board with the DNR's goals.

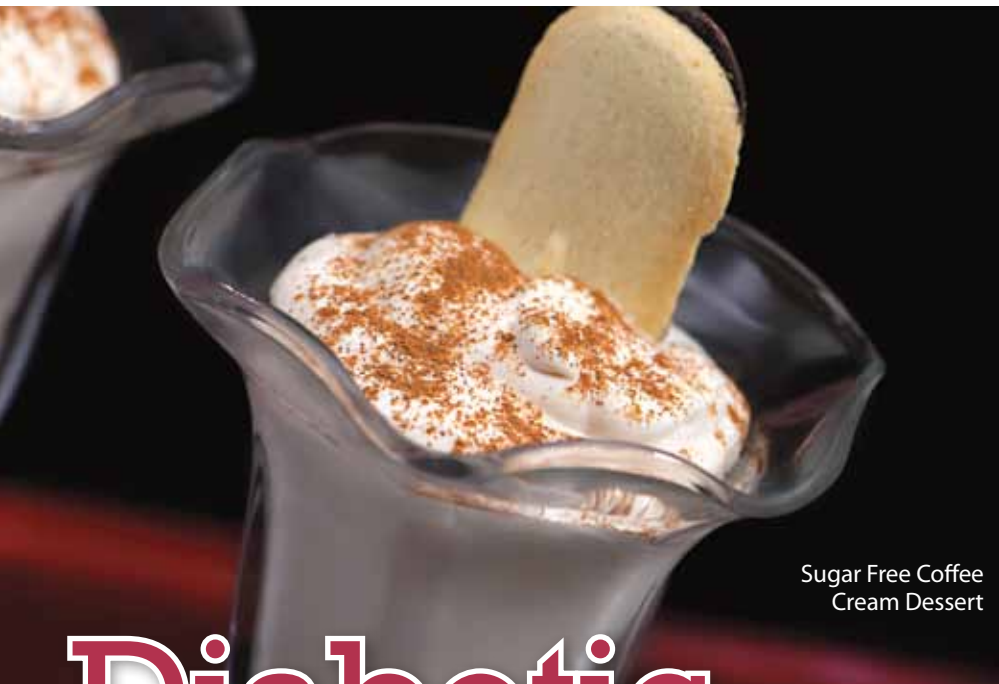
The DNR dispatches aggressive mute swans that cause conflicts with humans and issues permits for private property owners to remove them or their nests or eggs. In the case of commonly held private property—such as a private lake—the DNR has rules to make sure a majority of the landowners agree before these permits are issued.

Adult mute swans are easily identified by their orange bills. Native species—trumpeter and tundra swans—have black bills.

The DNR has a long way to go in bringing mute swans within their management goals, but considers it an important step in maintaining other native waterfowl populations, such as ducks, geese, and even other swans.

*Bob Gwizdz is an avid outdoor writer featured in many hunting and fishing publications.*





Sugar Free Coffee Cream Dessert

Photos – 831 Creative

# Diabetic Favorites

Diabetic dishes don't have to be bland. These diabetic-friendly recipes allow you to have the flavor without all the guilt.

## Sugar Free Coffee Cream Dessert

8 ozs. cream cheese, softened  
 1 c. strong coffee, cooled  
 1/2 c. lowfat milk  
 1 1-oz. box white chocolate sugar free pudding  
 8-oz. tub sugar free Cool Whip®  
 graham cracker crumbs, dash of cinnamon,  
 Nilla wafer or Milano cookies, optional  
 Beat first four ingredients together and fold in the Cool Whip. Spoon into Sunday cups. Top with 1 tablespoon crushed graham crackers and a sprinkle of cinnamon or stand a Nilla wafer cookie in the top.

Nita Ringler, White Cloud

## Baked Tilapia or Flounder With Peppers and Tomatoes

4 6-oz. flounder filets  
 1/4 t. salt  
 freshly ground pepper, to taste  
 2 bell peppers, red and yellow  
 cooking spray  
 1 sweet onion, chopped  
 3 large garlic cloves  
 2 tomatoes, seeded and chopped

1 T. minced fresh tarragon or 1 t. crushed dried tarragon  
 1 T. balsamic vinegar  
 Preheat oven to 375°F. Place the filets in an oven-proof baking dish; sprinkle with salt and pepper and set aside. Char the bell peppers using either a gas range burner or the broiler. Quickly place in a paper bag to steam. Remove when cool enough to handle. Remove the skin and seeds; chop. Coat a non-stick skillet with cooking spray. Sauté the onion and garlic until onions are transparent; add the bell peppers and tomatoes and cook stirring over high heat for 3 minutes. Stir in the tarragon and vinegar. Spoon the vegetable mixture over the fish fillets; bake for 15 to 18 minutes until the fish is just opaque. Serve immediately.

Carole Buskirk, Dowagiac

## Dieters Raspberry Torte

1-lb. box graham crackers  
 1 23-oz. jar natural applesauce  
 1 large (6-oz.) box sugar free raspberry (or strawberry) gelatin  
 1 large carton frozen light whipped topping

Line a 9 x 13-inch pan of whole graham crackers. In medium bowl, stir together the applesauce and dry gelatin powder. Mix well. Spread 1/4 of apple sauce mixture in a very thin layer over crackers. Cover with a layer of whipped topping. Repeat layers 3 times. Refrigerate 3 to 4 hours before serving.

Marcella Sturm, Byron Center

## Low Fat Gravy

1/2 c. finely chopped onion  
 1/2 c. finely chopped mushrooms  
 2 T. chopped, fresh parsley  
 2 c. reduced beef or chicken broth, divided  
 2 T. cornstarch  
 pinch of pepper  
 Sauté onion, mushrooms and parsley in a 1/4 cup of broth. Combine pepper, cornstarch, and 1/2 cup of broth; stir until smooth. Add to pan with remaining broth. Bring to boil and cook for 2 minutes, stirring occasionally. Makes 2 cups.

Norma Francel, Edwardsburg

## Cream Puff Dessert

1 c. water  
 1 stick butter  
 1 c. flour  
 4 eggs  
 8 ozs. cream cheese (softened)  
 3 1/2 c. milk  
 2 small pkgs. sugar free instant pudding mix  
 8-oz. carton sugar free Cool Whip  
 Bring water and butter to a boil over medium heat. Add flour all at once and stir until smooth ball forms. Remove from heat and let stand for 5 minutes. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Spread into greased 9 x 13-inch pan and bake at 400° for 30 to 35 minutes or until puffed and brown. Cool completely. Beat cream cheese while gradually adding milk. Add pudding mixes and blend until smooth. Spread over puff and top with cool whip. Keep refrigerated.

Karen Muir, Niles

## Fettuccine Alfredo

2 t. margarine  
 3 cloves garlic, chopped  
 4 1/2 t. all-purpose flour  
 1 1/2 c. fat-free milk  
 1/2 c. grated Parmesan cheese  
 3 1/2 t. Neufchâtel cheese  
 1/4 t. white pepper  
 4 ozs. fettuccine  
 1/4 c. chopped fresh parsley  
 Melt margarine in medium saucepan. Add garlic; cook and stir 1 minute. Stir in flour; gradually stir in milk. Cook until sauce thickens, stirring constantly. Add cheeses

and pepper; cook until melted. Cook fettuccine without salt, drain; top with sauce and parsley. Serves 4.

*Amy Breimayer, Westphalia*

## Diabetic Chocolate Pudding Cake

1 box reduced sugar Pillsbury® Devil's Food cake mix  
1¼ c. water  
1/2 c. oil  
3 eggs  
1 large box sugar free chocolate pudding, prepared as directed

Set oven to 350°. Prepare cake as directed on box in a 9x13-inch pan. Bake for 31 to 35 minutes or until a toothpick inserted comes out clean. After cake is done and still warm, poke holes throughout the cake with a knife and spread the prepared pudding over the top. The pudding will soak into the cake making it super moist. Top with whipped topping and refrigerate immediately.

*Laura Russman, Portland*

## Bottomless Chicken Pot Pie

1 can condensed cream of chicken soup  
1/4 c. fat free milk  
3 c. cooked chicken, cubed  
16-oz. bag frozen mixed vegetables, thawed and drained  
pepper  
1 prepared pie crust

Preheat oven to 425°. Mix together soup, milk, chicken, vegetables and pepper and place into deep dish pie pan. Cover with pie crust, sealing it to the side and cut slits for steam vents. Place on baking sheet to catch boil-over and bake for 40 to 45 minutes. Let sit for a few minutes; cut and serve. Without the bottom crust and by using a small serving, this is only 22g carbohydrates per serving. Add a salad and you have a healthy meal. Serves 8.

*Lois Phelps, Stanwood*

## Peach Tapioca

1 c. reduced-fat milk  
1½ T. quick cooking tapioca  
1/2 egg lightly beaten  
¾ c. peaches, peeled and coarsely chopped  
1½ T. no-sugar-added apricot spread  
few drops vanilla extract

Combine milk, tapioca and egg in 1-quart saucepan; let stand 5 minutes. Stir in peaches and apricot spread. Cook and stir over medium heat until mixture comes to rolling boil; cook 1 minute more. Remove from heat; stir in vanilla. Cool slightly; stir. Place plastic wrap directly on surface of pudding;



Diabetic Chocolate Pudding Cake

chill. Makes 2 servings (about 1/2 cup per serving). If fresh peaches are not in season, use frozen peaches and add 1 to 2 packets sugar substitute to milk mixture.

*Julie Ann Bentz, Scottville*

## Tuna Melt

2 whole wheat english muffins, halved  
1 6.5-oz. can tuna in water, drained  
¾ c. coleslaw mix  
1½ T. light mayonnaise  
1 T. dijon mustard  
1 T. dried dill weed  
1 green onion, chopped  
1/3 c. reduced fat cheddar cheese, shredded  
pepper to taste

Mix mayonnaise, mustard and dill weed in a medium bowl. Add drained, flaked tuna, coleslaw mix and green onion. Mix well. Lightly toast english muffins. Put tuna mixture on each half, dividing cheese among the 4 halves. Broil 4 inches from heat until cheese is melted.

*Vicki Blaauw, Vanderbilt*

## Texas Caviar

2 t. olive oil  
1 small eggplant, peeled and chopped  
1 c. onion, chopped  
1 jalapeño pepper, seeded and finely chopped (optional)  
1 15-oz. can salsa-style chunky tomatoes, undrained  
1 15-oz. can black-eyed peas, drained and rinsed  
1 t. ground cumin  
1/2 c. minced fresh cilantro  
Baked fat-free tortilla chips

Coat large nonstick skillet with cooking spray and heat oil over medium heat until hot. Add eggplant, onion and jalapeño pepper; cook and stir 10 minutes. Stir in tomatoes, black-eyed peas and cumin. Cook 5 minutes, stirring frequently. Remove from heat; stir in cilantro. Serve with tortilla chips.

*Amy Breimayer, Westphalia*

## Sugar Free Creamsicle Cake

1 pkg. sugar free yellow cake mix  
2 small boxes sugar free orange jello  
1 small box sugar free vanilla instant pudding  
1 c. 2% milk  
2 t. vanilla

1 tub sugar free whipped topping  
Bake cake as directed in 9x13-inch pan. Cool completely. Poke holes in cooled cake (with a meat fork). Mix 1 box sugar free orange jello with 1 cup boiling water. When dissolved, add 1 cup cold water and mix well. Pour over cake. Cover and refrigerate for 4 hours. Mix sugar free instant pudding with cold milk, other box of jello and vanilla. Beat with whisk until thick. Fold in whipped topping. Frost cake with pudding mix.

*Chris Gonnering, Hawks*

## Healthy Eating Tips

- Pay attention to labels. Look for heart healthy ingredients, such as whole wheat flour and oats.
- Avoid unhealthy ingredients, such as hydrogenated or partially hydrogenated oil.
- Look at total carbohydrates, not just sugar.
- Divide up your plate. Fill half with vegetables, one quarter with a lean protein such as fish, beans or tofu, and the other quarter with a whole grain, such as brown rice, quinoa or whole wheat pasta.

**Submit your recipe!** Contributors whose recipes we print in 2013 will be entered in a drawing to win a prize: Country Lines will pay their January 2014 electric bill (up to \$200)! The 2013 winner will be announced in the January 2014 issue.

Thanks to all who send in recipes! Please send in your favorite "Baked Goods" recipes by **Nov. 10** and "Cooking For One" recipes by **Dec. 10**.

Mail to: Country Lines Recipes, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864; or email [recipes@countrylines.com](mailto:recipes@countrylines.com).



Visit recipe editor Christin McKamey's new website, [veggiechick.com](http://veggiechick.com), for healthy, vegetarian recipes and info!

## Red Wings Enjoy TC Training Camp

For the 15th year, the Detroit Red Wings of the National Hockey League held their training camp at Centre Ice near Traverse City in September. The Wings didn't hold training camp last year because of a players' strike.



Centre Ice, a Cherryland Electric Cooperative member, hosted the perennial Stanley Cup contenders for a week in mid-September.

Several hundred volunteers, including many Cherryland members, took part in the training camp at Centre Ice.

## Next Member Input Session Is December

The board of directors at Cherryland Electric Cooperative is offering another opportunity for members to provide direct input to the board on a quarterly basis. Members will be able to talk to the board next on Monday, Dec. 16, at 9 a.m. in the company office in Grawn.

Members are asked to come to the lobby and request to speak to the board. Members are asked to keep their comments to 5 minutes. Member

attendance at the board meeting is allowed for the public input portion of the meeting only.

Cherryland members are afforded a chance to meet with the board on a quarterly basis during meetings in December, March, June and September.

## Pay Your Cherryland Electric Bill Online

Want to save money and pay your Cherryland Electric Cooperative bill online?

It's easy to do. You can set up your account to get only an e-mail bill—no more paper bills.

If you would like to do this, access your account on [cherrylandelectric.com](http://cherrylandelectric.com). It will prompt you immediately after you sign in to make a decision on whether or not you want the paper bill to continue; if you do, check the box. If not, simply press "update."

Questions about online payments can be answered by Cherryland's Member Service Department at 486-9200.

## Cherryland Cares Seeks Grant Applications

Area nonprofit agencies that 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 Roundup to area nonprofits. The next quarterly meeting of Cherryland Cares is Monday, Dec. 16. The deadline for applications is Friday, **Dec. 6**.

Operation Roundup money comes from Cherryland members who elect 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 Roundup, contact Nick Edson. His direct line is 486-9222 or email him at [nicke@cecelec.com](mailto:nicke@cecelec.com).

## Assistance Fund Won't Be Taxed

The September issue of *Country Lines* indicated in the article "New Heating Assistance Law Passed" (pg. 3) that the Low Income Energy Assistance Fund surcharge of 99 cents per meter was going to be subject to sales tax.

However, the Michigan Department of Treasury has indicated that this surcharge will not be subject to sales tax. The charge of 99 cents per meter will hold until such time as the Michigan Public Service Commission revises this amount.



For the latest news and events, follow Cherryland Electric Cooperative on **Facebook**.

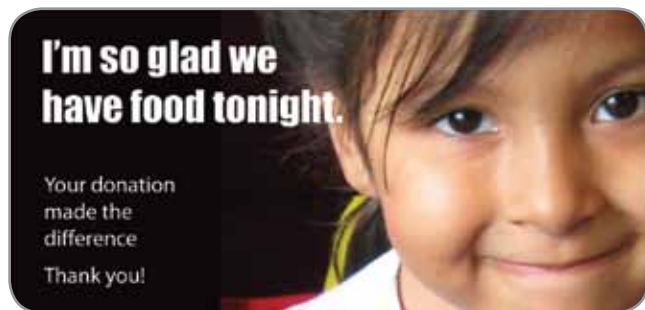
## About 50¢ a Month Makes a Difference to Your Northern Michigan Neighbors in Need.

So far, 4,000 of you have signed up for Operation Round Up, which means you are volunteering to round your monthly electric bill up to the next dollar. That generosity has provided much-needed funding to dozens of local organizations in the last year. Plus, just for signing up you'll be entered to win \$50!

Share the LOVE and win \$50. Sign up at:  
**[facebook.com/cherrylandelectriccoop](https://facebook.com/cherrylandelectriccoop)**  
or on our website at:  
**[cherrylandelectric.com/cherrylandcares](http://cherrylandelectric.com/cherrylandcares)**.



 [facebook.com/cherrylandelectriccoop](https://facebook.com/cherrylandelectriccoop)



**Cherryland Electric Cooperative** 

# Oryana and Cherryland: 2 Cooperatives = 1 Successful Business Model

Is there a reason businesses that are “cooperatives” are thriving during these challenging economic times?

The simple answer is yes.

Just look at two Traverse City area cooperatives as examples: Our own Cherryland Electric Cooperative and Oryana Natural Foods Market in Traverse City.

Cherryland is celebrating its 75th year in business and is returning a record \$2 million in patronage capital to its 34,000 members this month—which just happens to be National Cooperative Month.

Oryana is celebrating its 40th year in business, and general manager Steve Nance estimates that 2013 will bring in more than \$13 million in sales to its 5,500 member-owners.

“I believe co-ops are seeing increased interest for a couple of reasons,” Nance explains. “It seems that many people have embraced co-ops after the economic turndown of the last few years, typically having become concerned that corporations did not have our best interests at heart.

“Co-ops, on the other hand, exist to serve their members and their communities,” he said. “People also believe in businesses that have values, and cooperatives like Oryana and Cherryland share the basic seven Cooperative Values that have evolved since our early days.”

Those seven cooperative principles are:

- 1) Voluntary and open membership;
- 2) Democratic member control;
- 3) Member participation;
- 4) Autonomy and independence;
- 5) Education, training and information;
- 6) Cooperation among cooperatives; and
- 7) Commitment to Community.

One of the values that has helped both Oryana and Cherryland is being up front with their members.

“Members have insisted that their enterprises have honest dealings with them,” Nance says. “This, in turn, has led to honest dealings with non-members and



Nick Edson

a unique level of openness.”

Building trust takes time, of course.

Oryana opened in 1973 with what Nance calls very humble beginnings.

“We had a small core of people who would drive to Ann Arbor, make bulk buys and come back to Traverse City,” he says. “We provided whole foods and lots of local produce and products—which is still a big part of what we sell today.”

In those early days, Oryana members invested not only \$5 to join the cooperative, but also provided “sweat equity” in committing to work at least an hour each month at the co-op. Oryana had an early location on Randolph St. in Traverse City where they produced tofu and tempeh... and sales hit \$375,000.

In 1996, Oryana purchased the Brown Lumber building at the corner of 10th and Lake St. in Traverse City and sales jumped to \$2 million. After a 2007 expansion, Oryana now has 9,000 square feet and sales now top \$13 million.

“We offer local, organic, non-GMO,

gluten free and other high quality items as well as prepared foods, coffee, a juice bar, a wellness department, and our own Lake Street Café,” he says.

As a result of its success, Oryana paid out its first-ever patronage capital back to members in 2013.

“Our members also like the fact we give back to the community through our support of ecology, economic issues and social justice issues,” Nance says.

But Nance and his staff aren't sitting still after 40 years.

“We are looking forward to the future and have created a vision we call ‘Oryana Imagined, 2022,’” he adds. “That includes considering a second location and adding more members as we head toward our 50th year.”

As Cherryland and Oryana can attest, the cooperative business model works because—above all else—the members are the bosses.

Our boards of directors are made up of members who shape the policy and set the tone for what we do. And members seem to like—and trust—what we do since we've combined for 115 years of service and are still going strong... the cooperative way.



Steve Nance is the general manager at Oryana Natural Foods Market.

Photo Courtesy – Oryana Natural Foods Market



## Severe Storm Preparedness Kit Checklist

- Water** – fill up bathtubs and containers with water for washing, and also stock up on bottled water for consumption.
- Food** - at least enough for 3 to 7 days, non-perishable packaged or canned food, juices, foods for infants or the elderly, snack foods, non-electric can opener, cooking tools, fuel, paper plates and plastic utensils.
- Blankets, Pillows and Seasonal Clothing Items**
- First Aid Kit / Medicines / Prescription Drugs**
- Special Items - for babies and the elderly**
- Toiletries / Hygiene items / Moisture wipes**
- Flashlight / Batteries**
- Radio and Clock** - Battery operated, also consider purchasing an NOAA weather radio
- Telephone** - Fully charged cell phone with extra batteries and a traditional (not cordless) landline telephone
- Emergency Numbers** – Keep a list of emergency telephone numbers including the local utility company
- Cash (with some small bills) and Credit Cards** - Banks and ATMs may not be available for extended periods
- Keys**
- Toys, Books and Games**
- Important documents** – (in a waterproof container or bag) insurance cards, medical records, bank account numbers, Social Security card, birth certificates etc.
- Tools** - keep a set with you during the storm. Some items include duct tape, screw drivers, work gloves, safety goggles, etc.
- Vehicle fuel tanks filled**
- Pet care items** - ample supply of food and water, proper identification, immunization records, medications, a carrier or cage, muzzle and leash.
- Keep family and friends out of flooded basements to avoid electrical shock.**
- Keep family and friends away from all downed power lines during or after a storm.**
- Be sure to follow all manufacturers' recommendations when using a generator to avoid tragedy. Never plug it into a wall outlet or directly into the home's wiring.**

For additional safety information, please visit:



# Gadgets Help Save Water, Energy

Low-flow showerheads and other low-cost devices use less water and heat.

**Q:** *Both my energy and water bills are increasing, so I plan to install low-flow showerheads. I tried them before, but my family didn't like them. Are they any better now, and how do I pick a good one?*

**A:** Bathing uses a lot of water for most families, and hot water drives the monthly cost up. Low-flow showerheads can help cut down on both.

For years, all showerheads sold in the United States have been limited to a maximum water flow rate of 2.5 gallons per minute (gpm) at a water pressure of 80 pounds per square inch (psi), as mandated by federal energy efficiency standards. Some older showerheads may use as much as 5 gpm without even providing an adequate, forceful water flow.

Many of the new low-flow showerheads provide good water flow using even less than 2.5 gpm. There are also significant differences in showerhead sprays for ones with identical flow rates. The most efficient units are as low as 1.5 gpm, and the savings in water and energy use can pay back their cost in just a few months.

There are a number of factors determining how much water and energy will be saved. Water savings is affected directly by the gpm rating for the showerhead, while energy savings is determined by both the gpm rating and how much hot water has to be mixed with cold for a comfortable shower.

The type of spray pattern chosen has an affect on how warm the water feels on your skin. Showerheads with larger water droplets feel warmer because the droplets have a lower percentage of surface area, so they cool down less before reaching your body.

Some needle-type, low-flow showerheads create tiny water droplets. These may lose more heat as they move through the air. If this happens, people tend to set the faucet

handle to a greater percentage of hot water and may actually end up using more hot water—and more electricity—than before. Some showerheads also add air to the spray for more force, but this might also cool the water spray.

It's easy to distinguish a narrow needle-spray design because they are usually small. For a fuller spray, look for ones with many holes across a larger face. Some may appear to have a large face with many spray holes. If they have adjustable patterns, not all the holes are used simultaneously so they may actually create a needle spray if you desire that at times.

A handheld adjustable showerhead is very effective. Some models have four spray settings selected by rotating the head, and water flow can be directed where you want it, which saves water.

There are also two inexpensive add-on devices that can help reduce water use on any showerhead. One is a tiny push/pull trickle valve (also called a lathering valve) that's mounted between the shower arm and showerhead. When you don't need water, push the button to slow the water to a trickle without having to readjust the temperature at the faucet each time.

Another water-saver is a Lady Bug valve by ShowerStart (also called Evolve). People often turn on the hot water and walk away while they're waiting for the water to heat, which can waste gallons of water before getting into the shower. With the Lady Bug, when the water temperature reaches 95 degrees, the flow is automatically slowed to a trickle so very little goes down the drain. When you're ready to get in, pull the string on the handle to return the full flow.

Send inquiries to James Dulley, *Michigan Country Lines*, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244 or visit [dulley.com](http://dulley.com).

Source - ShowerStart



This showerhead uses only 1.59 gallons per minute and produces a full spray pattern. The attached "Lady Bug" slows water flow to a trickle once hot water reaches the showerhead. Pull the string to start the shower flow.

This hand-held showerhead has four spray patterns by turning the head. Notice the add-on push-button trickle valve.

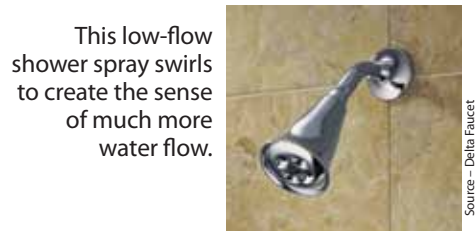


Source - James Dulley



Source - Delta Faucet

This 1.6 gpm (gallon per minute) showerhead produces larger water droplets to make the shower water feel warmer when it reaches your skin.



This low-flow shower spray swirls to create the sense of much more water flow.

Source - Delta Faucet

## More showerhead info...

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

800-345-3358

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

800-289-6636

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

800-732-8238

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

480-496-2294

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

800-537-2107

**James Dulley** is a nationally recognized mechanical engineer writing about home energy issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



# Stay Safe and Warm!

**Never** place a space heater close to a water source. While there are waterproof electric heaters, many models are not intended for use in bathrooms, so be sure to check the manufacturer's safety instructions.

Source - SafeElectricity.org

## Tips for Using Space Heaters, Electric Blankets

**D**on't let your efforts to stay warm put your safety at risk. Space heaters and electric blankets can be efficient ways to warm up, but they can also be dangerous. We encourage you to understand the dangers of heating devices before you use them.

"Space heaters and electric blankets are not appropriate for all people or all situations," explains Molly Hall, executive director of the Energy Education Council. "However, in the right circumstances, space heating can save energy and money."

Try these tips for using space heaters and electric blankets safely:

- Read and follow all safety instructions for each unit.
- Cords should not be frayed, brittle or cracked, and the blanket should not have any charred or dark areas.
- Turn them off when not in use.
- Look for a space heater that has guards from heating elements and automatically shuts off if tipped over.
- Choose a unit with a safety certification (look for the UL®, ETL, or CSA mark, which means the product has been safety-tested).
- One of the biggest causes of fires is the most easily avoidable. Many fires start when flammable products are placed too close to heating devices. Keep space heaters at least 3 feet from blankets, clothing, paper and other flammables.
- Place space heaters out of high-traffic areas and on a level, hard, nonflammable floor surface—NOT on carpets, furniture, or countertops.
- Never allow pets to sleep on top of electric blankets, and the wires should never be bent or tucked under a mattress.
- Do not try to warm your entire home with space heaters. They are useful in small areas, such as a study or living room. For large areas, however, your heating system will do the job more efficiently.

Visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org) to learn more about avoiding all electrical hazards.

## Help Prevent Electrical Fires

**E**ach year, electrical failures and malfunctions cause 43,900 home fires, resulting in 438 deaths, 1,430 injuries, and \$1.47 billion in property damage. Many home electrical fires can be prevented by understanding basic safety principles and practices:

▶ Use a licensed electrician to perform all electrical work in compliance with local and national safety standards.

▶ Consider replacing circuit breakers with arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs), which provide enhanced fire protection by detecting dangerous arcing conditions.

▶ Make sure all electrical panel circuits are properly labeled. Always replace fuses or circuit breakers with the correct size and amperage.

▶ Keep the area around the electrical panel clear so you can easily shut off power in an emergency.

▶ Use the TEST button monthly to check smoke alarms and make sure that ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) at outlets and AFCIs are working properly.

▶ Be aware of warning signs, such as outlets and switches that are warm or make crackling, sizzling or buzzing noises.

▶ Regularly check cords, outlets and switches, and do not use damaged electrical devices.

▶ Do not use extension cords on a permanent basis, and never use them with space heaters or air conditioners.

▶ Avoid overloading outlets.

▶ Do not use lightbulbs that exceed the recommended wattage of the light fixture or lamp.

▶ Install smoke alarms in each bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level.

▶ Create a family fire escape plan that includes two ways out of each room.

▶ Pick an easy-to-find meeting place outside, a safe distance from your home.

▶ Practice your escape plan by having at least two fire drills a year. One should be at night while your family is sleeping.

▶ If anyone in your household is deaf, or if your own hearing is diminished, consider installing a smoke alarm that uses a flashing light or vibration to alert you to a fire emergency.

Visit [esfi.org](http://esfi.org) for more electrical safety information and Fire Prevention Week (Oct. 6-12) resources.



# Co-op Lighting Lessons

Brighter efficiency standards and savings on lightbulbs will appear in 2014.

As federal efficiency standards phase out traditional incandescent lightbulbs, electric co-ops are testing which lighting technologies work best for consumers. Co-ops have long championed compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), the first cost-effective, energy-saving alternative to traditional bulbs.

“Michigan electric co-ops have given free CFLs and rebates on purchasing them through our Energy Optimization program,” says Art Thayer, energy efficiency director for the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association. “It’s a quick, low-cost way our members can start saving on their electric bills.”

By 2014, household lightbulbs using between 40 watts to 100 watts will need to consume at least 28 percent less energy than traditional incandescents. Because incandescents use 90 percent of their energy producing heat, upgrading saves Americans between \$6 billion and \$10 billion in

lighting costs every year.

More lighting changes will roll out in coming years. The federal Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 requires that lightbulbs become 70 percent more efficient than classic bulbs by 2020 (LEDs already exceed this goal.)

Lighting accounts for roughly 13 percent of an average household’s electric bill. Hardware store shelves are filled with lightbulb options. So, what works best for co-op members?

Electric co-ops teamed up on lightbulb testing with the Cooperative Research Network (CRN), the research and development arm of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, an Arlington, VA-based service arm of the nation’s 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric co-ops.

“We found most residential consumers still prefer to use CFLs over more expensive, but more energy efficient, LEDs [light-emitting diodes],” remarks Brian Sloboda, CRN senior program manager specializing in energy efficiency. “The price of LEDs for home use has substantially dropped, so we may begin to see more LEDs as it becomes more economically feasible to buy them.”

A helpful addition to lighting products is the Lighting Facts Label. Much like nutrition labels on the back of food packages, this version shows a bulb’s brightness, appearance, life span, and estimated yearly cost. This label was created by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to help consumers understand the product and buy the most efficient lightbulb.

Consumers’ energy-efficient lighting options include:

**Halogen incandescents:** Use 25 percent less energy; last three times longer than regular incandescent bulbs.

**CFLs:** Use 75 percent less energy; last up to 10 times longer.

**LEDs:** Use between 75 percent and 80 percent less energy; last up to 25 times longer. Federal lightbulb standards have the poten-



GE’s hybrid halogen lightbulbs combine CFL and halogen technology, creating a product that lasts eight times as long as traditional incandescent lightbulbs. The 60-watt replacement uses only 15 watts, while the 75-watt replacement uses 20 watts.

tial to save consumers billions of dollars each year. For an average American house with about 40 light fixtures, changing just 15 bulbs can save about \$50 a year per household, DOE reports.

A word of warning when purchasing new types of bulbs: You generally get what you pay for.

“Some manufacturers exaggerate claims of energy savings and lifespans, and cheaper models probably won’t last as long as higher-quality bulbs,” Sloboda cautions. “If you look for the ENERGY STAR® label, that means the bulb exceeds minimum efficiency standards as tested by the federal government.”

The best way to benefit from this fast-changing technology is to buy a more energy efficient lightbulb the next time one goes out, Sloboda concludes.

— Amber Bentley

Sources: Cooperative Research Network, U.S. Department of Energy

Lighting Facts Per Bulb	
<b>Brightness</b>	510 lumens
<b>Estimated Yearly Energy Cost</b>	\$7.83
Based on 3 hrs/day, 11¢/kWh Cost depends on rates and use	
<b>Life</b>	1.8 years
Based on 3 hrs/day	
<b>Light Appearance</b>	
Warm <span style="display: inline-block; width: 100px; border-bottom: 1px solid black; position: relative; top: -5px;"> <span style="position: absolute; left: 0; top: -5px;">▲</span> <span style="position: absolute; right: 0; top: -5px;">▼</span> </span> Cool	
2650 K	
<b>Energy Used</b>	65 watts
<b>Contains Mercury</b>	
For more on clean up and safe disposal, visit <a href="http://epa.gov/cfl">epa.gov/cfl</a> .	

The new Lighting Facts Label, created by the U.S. Department of Energy, is similar to nutrition labels on food packaging. It shows a bulb’s brightness, appearance, life span, and estimated yearly cost.

- Learn about lighting options: [energysavers.gov/lighting](http://energysavers.gov/lighting)
- Shopping tips: [ftc.gov/lightbulbs](http://ftc.gov/lightbulbs)
- This article uses information from the U.S. Department of Energy’s video “Energy 101: Lighting Choices,” and blog post “Shopping for Lighting” found on [energysavers.gov](http://energysavers.gov)

# Inspired By Todd

**T**wenty seven seasons of attending the National Trout Festival in Kalkaska, MI, has provided me with a cherished collection of memories. I've enjoyed it all, but browsing at the flea market and craft show is my favorite activity. I've met many interesting people whose handcrafted works bring joy, sometimes inspiration, to others.

Beth Donahue, of Johannesburg, is one such person. She made her Festival debut this year by selling sun catchers—those shimmering, eye-catching ornaments one might find dangling from the a back porch or the low branches of a tree. Her creations, which include elegant silk flower arrangements, are beautiful. But even more beautiful is the story of how these wonderful creations came to be.

Beth's son, Todd, was diagnosed with Jeune's syndrome not long after his birth in 1982. It's an aggressive disease that attacks specific vital organs. In Todd's case, his kidneys were severely damaged and by age four, he was undergoing frequent dialysis. By the time he was a teenager, he had endured several unsuccessful kidney transplants, but he kept a positive outlook towards better things to come.

In his personal life, Todd excelled in nearly everything he did. He was fair-minded, well-liked and approached everything with a positive attitude. When he graduated from high school in 2000, his entire class gave him a standing ovation. He responded by waving his diploma in the air, first running, then jumping across the stage, rock-star style.

On Jan. 10, 2003, Todd died. For Beth, life seemed suddenly empty.

"I thought I could get through the grief on my own," she said. "But I couldn't." She sought counseling, and then reached out to good friends she hadn't seen since before Todd was born. Through these friends, Beth met Kevin Donahue, fell in love, and got married.



Beth Donahue and Todd.



Eventually, the couple moved from Berkley to Johannesburg, making it difficult to visit and place fresh flowers regularly on Todd's gravesite. So, Beth began making silk floral wreaths that would last indefinitely. It wasn't long before she was making wreaths and flower arrangements for friends, as well.

One day, Beth was sitting on the porch, looking at a wind chime. A glint of light bounced off the mirrors attached above the chimes. She thought it would be interesting to attach beads, instead of chimes, to the tiny mirrors. And she thought of Todd. She said it was as if he was sending her a message: 'You can do it, Mom.'

It didn't take long for the idea to come alive, and with it came the beginning of a small business.

"I've never created anything," Beth said. "I spent 34 years at the phone company. I was a businesswoman, not an artist...but I wanted to do it."

In the beginning, Beth was thinking about naming the business Suncatchers, Etc. But then a friend suggested that she spell Suncatchers with an 'o' instead of a 'u' in honor of her son, Todd. Soncatchers, Etc. was born.



Photos Courtesy - Beth Donahue

Beth works from home now, creating sun catchers and floral arrangements to sell at local craft shows. She also does custom orders for events such as weddings, graduations and funerals.

"I've never had artistic abilities," she said. "Flower arranging...me? But I gave it a try and it took off."

As for the sun catchers, Beth said the ideas just keep flowing.

"Todd's inside me, somewhere. I know he is. And he keeps on telling me, 'Mom, you can do it!'"

Todd's strength of character, and the love his mom has for him, will always be a precious memory of love and inspiration for me, too, not only because I acquired two of his mom's sun catchers at this year's Trout Festival, but for a more personal reason: Todd is my husband's son. He's my son's older brother. And, yes, he's my stepson. He'll always be loved. And he'll never be forgotten.

Rock on, Todd. We miss you.

*Margaret Thompson and Beth Donahue are both members of Great Lakes Energy Cooperative. Margaret is a freelance writer and retired nurse, and Beth is in the midst of starting a home business featuring her Michigan-made products—especially sun catchers and silk floral arrangements and wreaths. Find Beth at: SONCATCHERS, ETC., 586-557-5488, beth4u2c@gmail.com.*



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## IS METAL ROOFING THE BEST OPTION FOR YOUR CHURCH?

ONE OF OUR CHURCHES PROVED IT!

*Dozens of Michigan churches have found that installing an American Metal Roof can save thousands of dollars in future roofing related expenses. One church we worked with conducted their own independent 50 Year Cost Analysis. The result? Proof positive of the long term savings offered by an American Metal Roof. Contact us today about a church roof and we'll give you a copy of their 50 Year Cost Analysis to study and compare with your church's situation. We believe you'll see what they saw; investing now for long-term savings is a wise use of precious resources. Whatever it takes, American Metal Roofs will design a program to fit the needs of your church. We Promise.*



cherrylandelectric.com



As a member-owner of Cherryland Electric Cooperative, you have the privilege of participating in the political affairs of our cooperative. That includes your unique right to make financial contributions to the campaigns of candidates for political office who support our electric cooperative.

The Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE) is the political action committee of the nation's electric cooperatives. ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action gives you, the member-owner, the opportunity to raise your voice on behalf of the cooperative.



For more information on ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action, contact Rachel Johnson at [rjohnson@cecelec.com](mailto:rjohnson@cecelec.com) • 231-486-9275