

MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES



Jack Barnwell is
**Mackinac's
Master
Gardener**

Plus!

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- 5 What's Your Favorite Summer Job?
- 8 Easier Ways To Pay Your Bill



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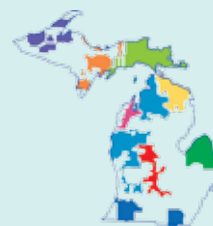
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ON THE COVER*

Jack Barnwell and his crew are responsible for creating many of Mackinac Island's wonderful gardens and landscaping layouts. And, it's accomplished without motorized vehicles.

Photo—Ian Smithers

**Some co-op editions have a different cover.*



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What Can One Person Do?



Tony Anderson
General Manager

I recently had a great conversation with a concerned member about global warming and climate change.

This person was very intelligent, very well-read, and extremely concerned that we were running out of time to clean up our air. There was also an understanding of the corner utilities are getting painted into in regards to safeguarding the environment while attempting to keep costs affordable.

I walked away from the brief meeting wondering two things: 1) Are we running out of time? and 2) What can one person do?

Both questions are worthy of columns of their own so I will attempt to answer the second question. I think there is a lot one person can do to move our world toward a brighter future, including:

1. *Change the bulbs in your house* to CFLs at a minimum, and LEDs if you can afford it. Yes, it is a small thing, but imagine the energy saved if 100 million people did one small thing.
2. *Volunteer.* Freedom Builders is a local nonprofit that performs energy-saving upgrades to mobile homes for the benefit of low income citizens. Every Thursday, as well as the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month, groups, families and individuals meet at the Flap Jack Shack. At 8:30, they head out to install insulation, better windows, roof coverings, air sealing and other conservation measures. All necessary tools are provided. With a few hours and some good, old-fashioned elbow grease, you can make a serious difference in the energy use of a home in need. The website is fbmissions.org.
3. *Walk, bike, car pool or bus to work* on one day each month. Again, what would happen if 100 million people did this?
4. *Join a community solar project.* Cherryland offered a community solar project in 2013. It took 12 full months to lease all 224 solar panels. If we are going to continue this effort, we need to hear from members who truly want to make a difference. Call 486-9200 and ask us to put you on a waiting list for the next project.
5. *Raise your voice in your circle of influence.* Get others to follow in your footsteps or make a positive path of their own. It is too easy to sit in our homes and let others make a difference. Individually, we don't have to influence thousands. Collectively, we can each make a difference if we change the behavior of a dozen.
6. *Compromise.* If we truly want cleaner air, everyone must be ready to compromise. Utilities must do a better job with emissions controls. Environmentalists must tone down the opposing banter and realize that something better than what we have today is more beneficial than keeping old inefficient plants operating. Stop and think what

happens when a new generation project is canceled. Yes, an old dirtier one runs longer and longer. Who wins? Nobody wins.

7. *Advocate.* Pick coal (albeit cleaner), nuclear or natural gas and advocate for more of that generation and better technology. There is no future in any scenario that does not involve at least one of these energy

forms. Each has its faults. Accept them. Pick one, at least one. Stand firm. Talk loud.

What am I doing? I am doing every single one of these seven action items. It is the only way I can sleep at night. Can I do better? Yes. If we are truly running out of time, I can't do it alone. I need your help—one individual at a time. ■

Your Favorite Summer Job?

What was your favorite summer job growing up?

My grown kids have asked me that question many times. My answer isn't always the same.

That's because my jobs were so different that I learned various things about life and about myself, depending on my age and circumstances.

Here is my summer job resume, beginning at age 14 and lasting until age 22, when I graduated from college.

- Paperboy
- Christmas tree trimmer
- Flipping burgers at our Dairy Queen
- Drywall installer
- Internship at weekly newspaper
- Waiter at Shanty Creek Resort

For pure hard work in the hot days of summer, it was hard to beat trimming Christmas trees and installing drywall. Our "battle gear" for trimming trees was a sharp machete and heavy duty gloves and shin guards like those of a baseball catcher. Installing drywall was just plain hard work. We were paid well, but we earned it.

I always thought back to those two hot summer jobs when I was a sports editor. I'd assign a couple stories to a reporter who had never done hard manual labor before. They might complain about having to sit at their desk and make phone calls to write the two stories.

So I'd respond by asking them, "Have you ever done manual labor in your life?"

They got the message.

The direct opposite of those manual labor jobs was doing an internship at a weekly paper and waiting tables at an upscale resort like Shanty Creek during my college years. These jobs were a different kind of hard work. They required finesse and people skills.

The job I miss most is that of a paperboy. I would get up at 5:30 a.m. to deliver the morning Grand Rapids Press. My mom and dad got up early sometimes and came out to talk to me. I enjoyed those talks. I miss those talks.

In both jobs, you encountered people who could get mad at you. Either they didn't like the story you wrote or the food you served. For the most part, 90 percent of the time, the feedback was good. But when it wasn't, you had to be prepared to use your people skills. They were both great life lessons. It's where—when you made a mistake—you learned to admit it and move on.

As I get older, the job I miss most is that of a paperboy. That's because I would get up at 5:30 a.m. to deliver the morning *Grand Rapids Press*. I sat in our enclosed family porch early in the morning after I got dressed and listened to the birds sing. My mom and dad got up early sometimes and came out to talk to me. I enjoyed those talks. I miss those talks.



Nick Edson

So, now when I get up early in the morning during the summer, I hear the same music from those birds.

And I've come to realize that the songs haven't changed, but the singers have. ■



PACK A PERFECT PICNIC

Pack the perfect picnic basket with these make-ahead, portable creations.

Black Bean, Tomato & Mozzarella Salad

1 can black beans, drained and rinsed
 1–2 green onions, chopped, include greens
 ½ c. cilantro, roughly chopped
 ½ c. finely chopped celery
 1 pt. grape tomatoes, halved
 ½ c. mozzarella cheese, cut in small cubes
 zest of one lime
 3 T. or more lime juice
 1 T. lemon juice
 3 T. olive oil
 ½ t. sugar, or to taste
 Optional—avocado slices

In a glass bowl, combine beans, onion, cilantro, celery, tomatoes and mozzarella.

Whisk together zest of lime, lime juice, lemon juice, olive oil and sugar. Pour lime/lemon dressing over the ingredients and mix gently. Refrigerate at least 2 hours before serving. Add avocado just before serving. This salad is very colorful and easy to take on a picnic. Everyone who tastes it wants the recipe.

Barbara Steele, Charlevoix

Old-Fashioned Coney Dog Sauce

1 lb. ground beef, browned and drained
 1 c. ketchup
 2 c. chopped onion
 ½ c. dark corn syrup
 ¼ c. brown mustard
 2 T. vinegar
 1 T. chili powder

Simmer all ingredients in saucepan, stirring occasionally. Serve over hot dogs.

Tommie Schmidt, Union

Banana Cupcakes

2 c. flour
 2 ½ t. baking powder
 ½ t. baking soda
 ½ t. salt
 ½ c. shortening
 1 ¼ c. sugar
 1 t. vanilla
 2 eggs
 1 ½ c. mashed ripe bananas

Sift together flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Cream shortening. Slowly add the sugar while still beating the shortening. Add vanilla and eggs and continue beating for a total of 2 minutes. Add mashed bananas while alternating with the flour mixture. Beat 1 more minute. Bake at 375° in 18 cupcake lined pans for 25 mins. or till done. Cool. Frost with your favorite frosting.

Mary Jean Troyer, Fairview

SUBMIT YOUR RECIPE!

Thanks to all who send in recipes. Please send in your favorite "Best Original" recipes by **Aug. 10**.

Mail (handwritten or typed on one side, please) to: Country Lines Recipes, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864; or email recipes@countrylines.com.

Contributors whose recipes we print in 2014 will be entered in a drawing and Country Lines will pay the winner's January 2015 electric bill (up to \$200)!

Find more of our readers' recipes at countrylines.com

Photos—831 Creative

Energy-Saving Tips for Manufactured Homes

If you own a manufactured home (formerly called mobile homes), you may feel like the only option you have to make it more energy efficient is to replace incandescent lightbulbs with CFLs or LEDs. In fact, there are many actions you can take that will save energy for years to come.

Following are four areas where you can increase efficiency and comfort. If you are mechanically able, you can perform many of the tasks yourself. If not, contact your nearest professional for assistance.

1. FURNACE

Make sure the furnace is safe and burns fuel efficiently. Clean your fuel-oil furnace every year; gas-fired furnaces every two to three years. Hire a contractor with a good track record on manufactured homes and check company references.

For the highest energy savings, replace the old unit with a high-efficiency condensing furnace. The extra cost can be offset within the first few years of operation. It is essential to seal all ceiling gaps or cracks above the furnace with caulk and sheetrock (Fig. 1).

2. DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Once the furnace is in top order, ensure that the heat and AC can be freely delivered to all rooms without restrictions or duct leakage. Clean or replace the filter to assure good air-flow through the furnace; replace all registers that are flattened; and inspect the AC evaporator coil for dust.

You can achieve *major* savings by sealing holes and gaps in the ductwork, but first you must find the leaks! Remove the registers and look for gaps at the boot and trunk. Then, use a flashlight and mirror to inspect ducts, if accessible. Use a high quality aluminum or butyl tape to seal gaps once you have cleaned the surfaces (see how-to resources below).

3. UNDER YOUR HOUSE

The road barrier on your home's underside should be intact to ensure that it is retaining heat. When entering the crawl space, lay down plastic or cardboard. Start under the furnace and water heater, where damage usually starts. Patch any holes on the outer edges using ½-inch foil-faced foam board. Large holes between the I-beams require a "sling-patch" made of 1x2 boards and air-barrier material, such as TYVEK® (Fig. 2). Before patching, seal any duct leaks and install insulation where possible, especially under the ductwork, using the widest material available. Do not isolate the water lines from heat, or they may freeze in winter.

4. AIR LEAKS IN SHELL

Large holes can often be found around the tub, furnace, under sinks, and behind cove molding in newer homes. Seal these openings with spray foam, caulk, or sheetrock.

Some newer manufactured homes can also be retrofitted to improve energy efficiency and incorporate renewable energy technologies, such as installing a geothermal heat pump (for permanently-sited homes), and solar water heating. Other measures to consider include spray or roll-on roof coating to reflect summer's heat. ■



Cove molding



Fig. 1—A large chimney hole is a huge energy loser. It can be sealed with sheetrock, then caulked air-tight.



Fig. 2—Underneath the home, a "sling-patch" can be screwed into the inner side of the I-beam. It stretches to the other I-beam and holds insulation under the ductwork in place.

Photos—Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corp.

Other Resources

Visit <http://energysavings.togetherwesave.com/Manufactured-Housing> for a handy graphic that shows a full list of areas where you can make energy-saving improvements. Find other resources at YOUTUBE.com: Sealing ductwork in a mobile home; <http://energy.gov/energysaver/articles/energy-efficient-manufactured-homes>; and a book, "Your Mobile Home: Energy and Repair Guide for Manufactured Housing" (John Krigger).

And, installing CFLs, LEDs and using other energy efficiency tips that work for any home, really do help, too!



Megan Lajko, a member information representative at Cherryland, demonstrates the SmartHub account management app on her iPad.
Photo – John Russell

An Easier Way to Pay Your Bill

Cherryland Electric Cooperative has recently had a bit of a facelift. A new design for our bill was created to ensure easier understanding for our members. Some of the charges that are listed on your bill might need further explanation, and we are always happy to help, but here's a look at a few of them.

- The Power Supply Cost Recovery (PSCR) charge reflects power supply costs that are acquired by the cooperative but not included in the fixed costs. The PSCR allows us to make a short term modification in our power supply pricing which can vary month to month.
- The Availability charge stays the same every month no matter how much electricity our membership uses; it covers the fixed costs obtained by the cooperative.

Now that you understand your bill, paying a bill at any time of the day is easy: You can use our automated phone system by calling 1-800-442-8616. All you need is your account number. Or, you can access SmartHub online. And yes, there's an app for that!

If you haven't made a visit to our website, cherrylandelectric.com, you're missing out. You can gain useful tips to reduce your energy use and in turn reduce your bill, find out what's going on at the cooperative, and have 24/7 access to your account using SmartHub. At Cherryland, we like to be forward-thinking and are constantly looking for ways to improve your experience. The new bill format and our multiple account management options are evidence of that commitment. ■

—Megan Lajko

Download SmartHub Today!



Download the free SmartHub Android app from Google Play.



Download the free SmartHub Apple app in the iTunes store.

Service Data

Look here for usage date range, meter readings, and your line and pole information. We often update Facebook on outage restoration efforts using line and pole information. Knowing yours will help you stay informed during an outage.

Bill Summary

Displays previous balance, payments, and current charges.

Messages

This box highlights announcements and updates about CEC services like bill payment assistance, energy saving tips, and more.

Your Information

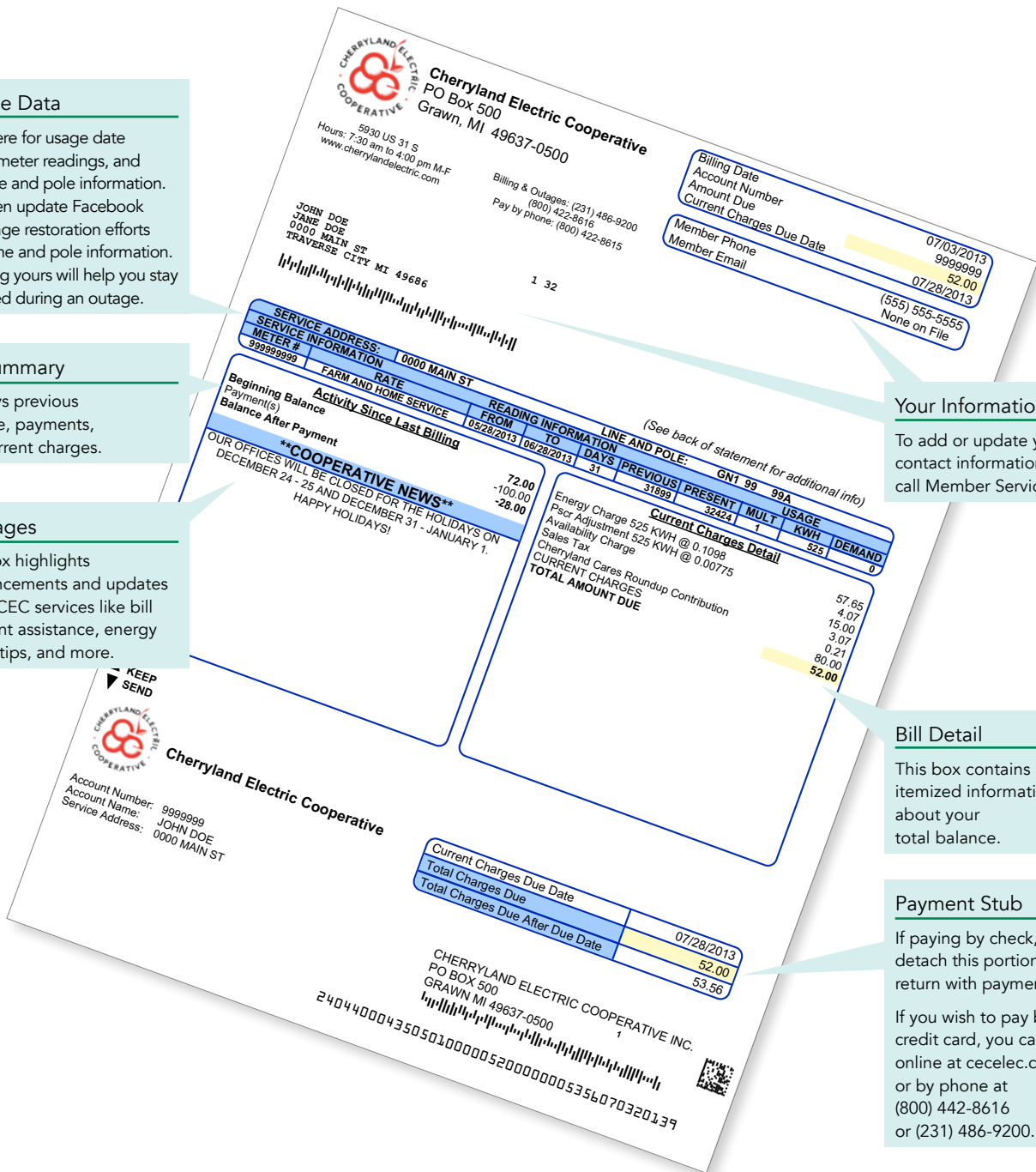
To add or update your contact information, call Member Services.

Bill Detail

This box contains itemized information about your total balance.

Payment Stub

If paying by check, detach this portion and return with payment. If you wish to pay by credit card, you can pay online at cecelec.com or by phone at (800) 442-8616 or (231) 486-9200.



Is Budget Billing For You?

Are your electric bills generally a lot higher in the winter months as opposed to summer, or vice versa? If so, the budget plan is perfect for you! Here's how the plan works. Your monthly budget amount is based on an average of your historical, annual electricity use. We review your budget for accuracy twice a year; once in May—which is the reconciliation month—and then again in December. Call us today at 231-486-9200 to find out if you are an eligible candidate for the budget plan.

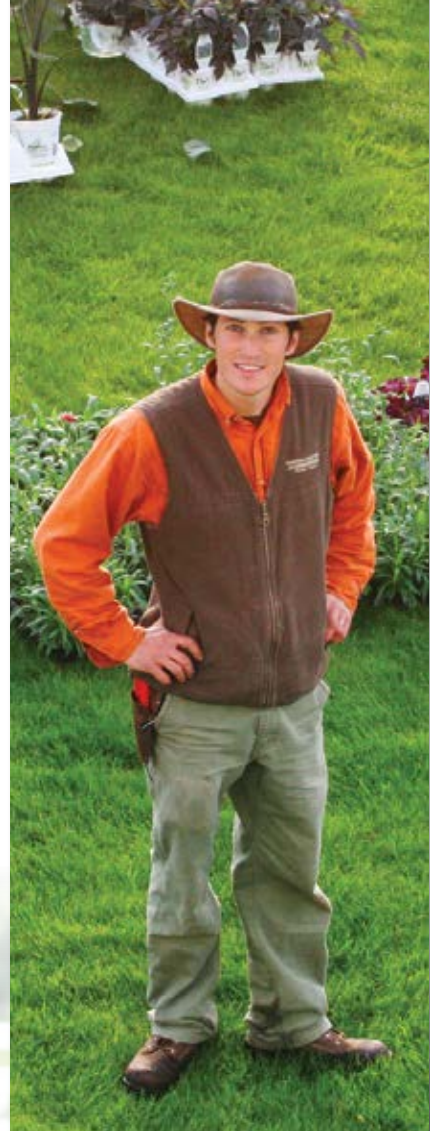
Jack Barnwell Is Mackinac's Master Gardener

Mackinac Island has been getting a facelift. It's the kind that requires rakes and shovels, because it's a facelift in flowers and plants.

Barnwell Landscape & Garden Services has been designing and planting picturesque gardens for six years—with boatloads of colorful flowers—around Mackinac's stately Victorian homes and historic businesses. Jack Barnwell and his crew are painting the island, which is served by Cloverland Electric Cooperative, with a fabulous array of dazzling petunias, sweet-smelling alyssum, and gorgeous larkspur, to name a few.

"We've more or less created what has become the 'Mackinac Island look,'" says Barnwell, who spends much of the winter coming up with new designs for over 130 island clients.

It seems Islanders didn't know they needed Barnwell's services until he started sprucing things up. Now, he says people can't wait to get their landscaping done as early as possible. This creates a crunch for his crew who must rely on boats, bikes, horse-drawn buggies and strong backs to tote their plants and tools because motorized vehicles aren't allowed on the island (except for emergency vehicles and snowmobiles).



Photo—Kathy Holt





Photos—Mike Lanzetta

It all starts before the sun comes up over Lake Huron. “The boats arrive at 3 a.m. with annual flowers,” Barnwell says. “We’ll get the hanging baskets up downtown before it gets busy with tourists.” The remainder are bedding plants that must go directly into the ground. This all has to happen as soon as the weather starts getting nice, including accepting the delivery of six semi-trailer loads, brought over by Shepler’s Mackinac Island Ferry. “We have trusted them with hundreds of unique loads,” says Barnwell, whose company also plants trees, installs irrigation, and does stone work.

Dealing with the spring demand can be a challenge. “It’s such a short season to make their money,” he explains of the businesses he caters to. “My clients depend on it (the flowers) so much for their image.”

Barnwell relies on 12 workers to get the job done without pickup trucks, loaders and skid steers. They make it all work with horses, oversized bike baskets, trailers attached to bikes, and ancient ingenuity.

“I often tell my crew to ‘think like an Egyptian,’” Barnwell adds, “because all these concepts are not new. Many were used for 1,000 years to build some amazing structures, some which are still standing today.” For the heavier work, they’ve retrofitted standard ball carts (meaning the root ball of very large trees), used to move large trees and boulders, into three-wheeled swiveling carts that can handle more weight over long distance with less effort.

“We also use a lot of winch and come-along setups, block-and-tackle pulley systems, and good ol’ fashioned leverage,” he says. “It’s amazing what can be moved with the right fulcrum point.”

The Barnwell crew’s work is also a central feature in the Grand Garden Show, a joint venture with the Proven Winners® company, the Grand Hotel, and Barnwell Landscape. The second annual event is Aug. 24–26 (see grandgardenshow.com). ■





Take Time

How to Help a Kid

One Call

231-486-9214

or

One Click

marathon4kids.com

helps

One Kid

*Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Northwestern Michigan*

WHAT IS IT? Marathon 4 Kids is a fundraiser developed by Cherryland General Manager Tony Anderson to raise money for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Michigan.

HOW DOES IT WORK? Tony's goal is to complete 50 marathons, one in each state. So far, he has run marathons in 20 states.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

100 percent of the money goes towards serving kids in northwest Michigan through Big Brothers Big Sisters.

MORE INFORMATION? Contact Tony at 231-486-9214 or marathon4kids@gmail.com, or visit marathon4kids.com.



Curiosity Creative



Co-op News

Cherryland Cares Seeks Grant Applications

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

Cherryland Cares is a five-member board, made up of Cherryland Electric Cooperative members who distribute money from Operation Round Up to area nonprofit groups. The next quarterly meeting of Cherryland Cares is Monday, Sept. 15. The application deadline is Friday, Sept. 5.

Operation Round Up 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 join Operation Round Up, contact Nick Edson at 486-9222 or e-mail nicke@cecelec.com. ■

Co-op Sponsors Students To Visit Washington, D.C.



In June, Andrew Dyke (L), of Grawn, and Tyler Cobb, Traverse City, were sponsored by Cherryland Electric Cooperative to attend the Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. Both are students at Traverse City West Senior High School. They joined nearly 1,800 other co-op students from across the nation to visit their legislators and tour our capital.

Check Your Boat, Dock, and the Neighbor's, Too!

For water fun and safety, there are items you must legally have on your watercraft—life vests, fire extinguisher, throwable floatation device, and properly working lights—but make sure the boat itself and the dock are safe, too!

July 2012 saw some horrific fatal accidents near boats and docks. A 20-year-old Port Huron man entered the water behind a moored boat and became disabled as he tried to climb onto the swim platform. Friends trying to pull him onboard reported getting shocks. He could not be resuscitated. An investigation confirmed voltage behind the boat, caused by an AC-to-DC fault in the battery charger that energized the underwater gear, and there was no AC-DC bonding connection. In another incident, a young woman was electrocuted by an energized dock ladder.

To help prevent such tragedies, the National Electrical Contractors Association says:

All installations should be performed by a professional electrical contractor.

All dock receptacles must comply with the National Electrical Code, which mandates a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI). A GFCI measures a circuit's current and senses any imbalance (such as a discharge into the water), which trips the GFCI and cuts off the power.

Test a GFCI at least monthly. Locate it along the ramp to the dock so it can be easily tested by local fire departments.

Metal dock frames should have “bonding jumpers” that connect all metal parts to an on-shore grounding rod. This means any dock part that becomes energized by electrical malfunction will trip the GFCI or circuit breaker.

Ask neighbors if their dock electrical systems have been inspected and are up to Code.

Household wire is not suitable for boats.

Do not use wire nuts (these are for solid conductor wire, which



Photo-Energy Education Council

should never be on a boat) or splice connectors (can cut wire strands)!

Fuses are rated to protect the wire, not the stereo. If a fuse blows continuously, something else is wrong.

If you rent a dock or boat, notify the owner of safety violations immediately.

Have your boat's system (especially with onboard generators) checked at least annually, and when something is added or removed.

Ropes, string, masts and rigging also conduct electricity—don't be the common ground between water and electricity! See SafeElectricity.org for more tips. ■

Summer Thrills

Summer means “vacation” to many, and memories of family road trips along with the familiar mantra Mom and Dad grew weary of hearing: “Are we there yet?” I remember traveling to the Detroit Zoo and the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village back in the ‘60s when speed limits were more of a suggestion than law. Dad was known to occasionally hit 100 mph—a great thrill for a young lad!

Today, I still enjoy a thrilling ride with my family while taking in some of the most panoramic Lake Michigan views, thanks to Mac Wood’s Dune Rides in Mears.

A fourth generation family business that’s served by Great Lakes Energy Cooperative, Mac Wood’s began operating in 1930 when Mac started looking for ways to entertain guests at a nearby resort he managed. Mac built the first four-passenger ‘dune scooter’ from a Model A Ford and charged 25 cents per ride.

Things were less restricted back then and like my Dad, with Mac behind the wheel, many described the trips as ‘thrill rides.’ Mac’s granddaughter, Shelby Olson, describes it as a time when “there were no rules. It was a go-anywhere, full-speed fun ride.”

Though times have changed, the dune rides are just as exciting today (open until Oct. 5—see macwoodsdunerides.com) as they were 84 years ago. Between climbs and descents through some of the most beautiful dunes in the state, you’ll stop along the way to enjoy views of Lake Michigan and Silver Lake while learning about the ecology of the dunes.

Today’s dune scooters seat more folks more comfortably (your backside will appreciate it!) so bring a few friends along for the ride.

Working every summer since she was a child, Shelby emphasizes that the dune rides are still all about family,

friends and fun. “Visiting Mac Wood’s is a unique experience that everyone in the family can enjoy from babies to grandparents!” She also says that many former guests are now bringing their kids and grandkids to ride, commenting about riding the dunes “when they were little.” Ah, those family memories. You gotta love ‘em.

There is plenty of time left to enjoy a Pure Michigan summer. Comb the shores for beach glass, dip your toes in one of our Great Lakes, or simply soak up the sunshine.



Jack O'Malley

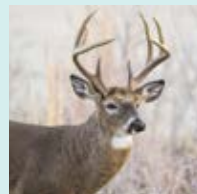
Family memories await just over the next dune! All you need is a map and the spirit of adventure.

Share a story idea with Jack by email to: jack@countrylines.com or write J. O'Malley, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864. ■

Deer Blind Contest: The Hunt Is On!

If you think yours is the best Michigan deer blind, enter our *Country Lines* Deer Blind Contest by **Aug. 15**.

Categories for entering a photo of your blind are: Most tricked-out; Best story behind it; and Most interestingly-engineered. Enter at countrylines.com or mail it to CL Deer Blind Contest, 2859 W. Jolly Road, Okemos, MI 48864. Include your name, contact information, and a description of what makes it great. Winners will receive a \$50 credit on their co-op electric bill and have a photo of their blind published in *Country Lines*.



«« Do You Know Where This Is?

Every co-op member who identifies the correct location of the photo at left by **Aug. 10** will be entered in a drawing for a \$50 credit for electricity from their electric co-op.

We do not accept Mystery Photo guesses by phone. Enter your guess at countrylines.com; or send by mail to *Country Lines* Mystery Photo, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, 48864. Include your name, address, phone number and the name of your co-op. Only

those sending complete information will be entered in the drawing. The winner will be announced in the Sept. 2014 issue.

The May contest winner is Luke Bourne, a Great Lakes Energy Cooperative



member from LeRoy, who correctly identified the photo as the LeRoy Hardware store.

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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 • 231-486-9275