

MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES



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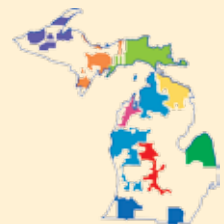
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ON THE COVER*

Josh and Jodie Kieliszewski and their boys have made beekeeping a fun, family affair and started a buzzing business, but honeybees are also an important, and endangered, part of our food supply.

Photo Courtesy—*David Trumpie/trumpiephotography.com*

*Some co-op editions have a different cover.



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Co-op Membership: What's In It for Me?

Exploring the unique benefits of co-op membership.



Steve Boeckman
Great Lakes Energy
President/CEO

Great Lakes Energy is more than just a utility provider that you pay each month for electricity. We have more to offer—and we want you, our members, to know about these unique benefits.

Great Lakes Energy (GLE) is one of the more than 900 electric co-ops in the U.S. that together serve 42 million members. We serve over 123,000 members with over 14,000 miles of lines stretching across 26 counties in western lower Michigan. So, what makes being a member of an electric co-op unique?

We're all in this together. You are a member of Great Lakes Energy—not a customer. And that means you have a voice when it comes to the way we do business. You have the option to vote for your board of directors, who play a key role in making important decisions and represent your voice as members in the process.

We're local. It's likely that you know a Great Lakes Energy employee. Our employees—your friends and neighbors—share the same concerns for our community that you do. Each year, we participate in local parades, youth leadership programs and home shows. We also hold electrical safety demonstrations, energy seminars and member luncheons. Through donations gathered from generous GLE members that average 50 cents per month, we've awarded over \$2.5 million in grants to local community causes and charities since the start of our People Fund program in 1999.

We're not-for-profit. Great Lakes Energy doesn't offer profits to investors—we return money over and above operating costs to you, our members, based on the amount paid for our electric service. Annually, electric co-ops nationwide return millions of dollars to members through this "capital credits" process. A total of \$34.3 million in capital credits have been retired and returned to Great Lakes Energy members since 2003.

We're here for you. Our mission is to provide you with safe, reliable, and affordable electricity. We care about our members' quality of life, which is why our employees are continuously finding innovative ways to improve our service and keep the lights on for you.



Youngsters who visited the Great Lakes Energy booth at the spring home show in Petoskey learned how to generate electricity by pedaling a bike.

For more information about Great Lakes Energy and the services we offer, visit gtlakes.com or visit us on Facebook. ■

GLE Members In Three Districts Will Vote

Great Lakes Energy members in three districts will vote this year for candidates seeking election to the electric cooperative's board of directors.

Members recently voted by a margin of over 85 percent to replace at-large voting for directors with district elections. Three of the nine directors will be elected each year from a different district. Each will serve a three-year term. Great Lakes Energy members will vote once every three years for a director from their district.

Members who will receive mail-in ballots with the July/August 2014 issue of *Michigan Country Lines* will be those residing in District 3 (Antrim County), District 4 (Otsego, Montmorency, Oscoda, Crawford counties) and District 5 (Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Manistee, Missaukee and Wexford counties).

In 2015, members in District 1 (Emmet County), District 2 (Charlevoix, Cheboygan counties) and District 7 (Oceana, Muskegon counties) will receive mail-in ballots with the July/August issue. Members in District 6 (Mason, Lake counties), District 8 (Osceola, Clare, Newaygo, Mecosta counties) and District 9 (Ottawa, Kent, Montcalm, Allegan, Barry counties) will receive mail-in ballots in 2016.

The change to districts allows GLE's large service area to be more equally and locally represented by the nine-member board.

Keep Your Mailing Address Current

GLE members who travel are reminded to keep their mailing address current with us in order to receive *Michigan Country Lines* without interruption.

Please inform us of any address changes so you can continue to enjoy this magazine and exercise your voting rights as a member-owner of an electric co-op. ■

New Solar Display Dedicated

The Great Lakes Energy board of directors and senior staff dedicated the cooperative's new solar display in a ribbon-cutting ceremony this spring outside their Boyne City office. It will be used to educate cooperative members about alternative renewable sources of energy. Data on the amount of electricity it generates will be shared with you in future issues of this magazine, on our website, and through a live monitor in our Boyne City office lobby. The 10-kilowatt system is large enough to provide the energy needed for an average residential GLE member's home. ■



GLE's Student Leaders

Representing Great Lakes Energy at the spring Youth Leadership Summit were, top from left, Andrea Glaspie (Jackson), Isaac Deslover (Gaylord) and Devin Whitney (Mears); Middle: Emma Durfee (Fife Lake) and Kelsey Miller (Howard City); and front: Sydney Hogerheide (Elmira) and Samantha Goltz (Paris). Students from electric cooperatives throughout Michigan gathered at SpringHill Camps in Evart to learn about leadership, career opportunities in the electric industry and getting involved in the democratic process.



Historic Farm Honored

Congratulations to Bryan and Daryl Shooks, of Central Lake, whose Antrim County farm received state centennial farm certification.

Great Lakes Energy is a sponsor of the Michigan Centennial Farm Program that honors residents whose farms have been owned and operated by the same family for 100 years. Once a farm is certified through the program, the owners receive a certificate as well as a display marker for their farm.

GLE members can request an application or receive more information about the program by contacting The Historical Society of Michigan, 517-324-1828, or by visiting the Programs section of their website, centennialfarms.org.



SOUTHERN COMFORT

For good old fashioned Southern comfort, try out some of these hearty, homestyle recipes from down south.

Louisiana Red Beans and Rice

4 cans 16-oz. kidney or red beans, rinsed and drained
 14.5-oz. can diced tomatoes, undrained
 1 lb. smoked sausage, sliced
 1 c. chicken broth
 3 celery ribs, chopped
 1 lg. onion, chopped
 1 med. green pepper, chopped
 1 sm. red pepper, chopped
 6 garlic cloves, minced
 1 bay leaf
 ½ t. crushed red pepper flakes

Combine all but sausage in slow cooker. Cover, cook on low for 6 hours. Add sausage. Continue to cook 2 hours more. Stir before serving. Serve over rice.

Tommie Schmidt, Union

Squash Cornbread

1 box corn muffin mix (Jiffy™ 8.5 oz.)
 1 package frozen winter squash (10 oz.), defrosted
 1 egg
 3 T. whole berry cranberry sauce (optional)

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

Grease a 5"x 9" loaf pan.

Southern cooking means cornbread. Here is a quick, easy, and delicious one my family hopes all of yours will enjoy. Blend corn muffin mix, squash & egg to just combined and pour into prepared pan. Drop the cranberry sauce into batter & swirl gently with a knife.

Bake at 375° for 25–30 minutes. Serves 6.

Nan Couyoumjian, Bellaire

Sausage Gravy and Biscuits

1 lb. ground sausage
 4 T. butter
 ⅔ c. Kentucky Kernel (fry batter mix)
 (You can use all or part flour for less spice)
 ⅔ to 1½ c. milk, to desired consistency
 Grands!®, Bisquick™, or homemade biscuits



Brown sausage. Add and melt butter. Stir well and cook until light brown. Add fry batter mix. Slowly pour in milk until thickness desired. Serve over biscuits. This is a great meal for breakfast, brunch or dinner!

Linda Miller, Grayling

SUBMIT YOUR RECIPE!

Thanks to all who send in recipes. Please send in your favorite "All About Snacks" recipes by **July 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

Keep Cool With Attic Radiant Barriers

Q My air-conditioning costs are high, but we still feel too warm at times. Ads for radiant barriers say they save a lot. How do they work, do they save much, and what is the cost?

A: Ads about “huge” energy savings from installing attic radiant barriers are often the very maximum possible and are exaggerated for a typical retrofit installation. But, proper installation in a specific house can yield a reasonable payback and better comfort.

Before deciding if your home is a good candidate, it’s wise to understand how a house loses and gains heat. Most importantly, the rate that heat flows from a hot to cold area is determined by the temperature difference between the spaces.

Conduction heat flows through solids that touch each other. This is how an iron skillet’s handle gets hot. The walls and ceiling of a house also lose or gain heat this way because the materials are all nailed together.

Convection is where heat flows through a moving fluid or gas, which increases the flow rate. An example is how your skin loses heat faster on a windy, winter day (wind chill factor creates a lower temperature).

Radiation heat flows directly from one object to another via a vacuum, air, glass, etc. It is not dependent on touching or fluid flow. This is how you feel warm by a fire.

Radiant energy is unique because it’s affected much more by temperature difference. For conduction and convection, if indoor/outdoor temperature differences double, heat flow doubles. With radiation, the flow is 16 times greater when the difference doubles.

This is why radiant barriers are most often used in the attic to block heat flow through the roof. On a hot day, the temperature of a dark shingle roof can reach 150 degrees. The roof conducts heat to its sheathing, and radiation carries it down through the insulation and ceiling, and into your house.

Radiant barriers require an air gap to keep them from touching the hot surface or they will conduct like any other material. Reinforced aluminum foil was typically used as the radiant barrier, but now many use a reflective plastic film. Be sure to check the barrier emittance level (should be lower than 0.25, or 25 percent) before buying it or signing an installation contract. Aluminum foil is well below 0.25. There are also reflective paints, such as Low/Mit (solec.org) that can be sprayed under the roof sheathing.



To install a radiant barrier, you will need a hand construction stapler, utility knife, and a long straight edge.

Photo—James Dulley

To get a good energy savings payback, install the barrier yourself. Companies like Innovative Insulation, Inc. (radiantbarrier.com) sell double-sided reflective foil for about \$130 for a 4 x 250-foot roll. Invest in a hand construction stapler, utility knife, and a long straight edge, and you are ready to install it.

The easiest way is to cut the barrier into lengths and staple them under the roof rafters. It is not important how neatly it is installed, but it must have adequate attic ventilation—preferably both a soffit and a ridge vent. With single-sided foil, face the reflective side down to take advantage of its low emittance. It requires less radiant barrier to lay it flat over the attic floor insulation. The barrier will collect dust and may become less effective over time, so use perforated barrier material so it breathes and moisture does not get trapped in the insulation.

Savings from installing an attic radiant barrier varies considerably, depending on your climate, specific house, and orientation to the sun. The Oak Ridge National Laboratory estimates air conditioning savings can range from \$150 annually for very hot climates to only \$40 for cold ones. Attic radiant barriers provide little positive or negative effect in the heating season. If your electric co-op offers time-of-use rates, the savings may be somewhat higher. ■



1



2



3

Learning About Forestry and Power Lines

Fifth graders at Fife Lake Elementary planted four maple trees at their school this spring and learned about forestry and power line maintenance, too.

It was all part of an Energy for Wildlife project that Great Lakes Energy brought to their school to celebrate Arbor Day.

Two red maples and two autumn blaze maples were provided by the Great Lakes Energy Vegetation Management Department and Trees, Inc., its tree-trimming contractor.

Vegetation management staff helped students plant the trees and representatives from Wolverine Power Cooperative (WPC), GLE's power supplier, explained basic forestry practices to the youngsters. Each student was given a white pine seedling to plant at home, courtesy of GLE and Wolverine.

"Students learned that safe tree planting involves planting the right tree in the right place so it won't one day grow into the power lines," explains GLE's Jeff Matelski, who coordinated the event.

In addition, GLE lineworkers showed students the equipment they wear to work safely with high voltage power, and Trees, Inc. representatives spoke about their job trimming trees near power lines.

GLE's vegetation management staff has held an Energy for Wildlife event each year since 2008. The first project involved Boyne City High School students who planted low-growing, fruit-bearing shrubs along a power line right-of-way (ROW) to provide food for wildlife.

The Energy for Wildlife program is run by the National Wild Turkey Federation, which works with utilities to improve power line rights-of-way for wildlife habitat. It also encourages hands-on learning activities for youth in land and wildlife management practices so they develop a better understanding and appreciation of their natural resources.

Earlier projects included tree plantings at schools in Boyne Falls, Pellston and Shelby. In 2011, GLE's vegetation management staff planted clover along a ROW, creating another wildlife food source within the Barry State Game Area. ■

Photos:

1. Fife Lake Elementary students planted four maple trees at their school with the help of Great Lakes Energy's vegetation management staff.
2. Great Lakes Energy lineworker Derek Maki helped youngsters try on his gear.
3. Students get a lesson in basic forestry from Joe Hazelwinkle, with Wolverine Power Cooperative. The cooperative is the power supplier for Great Lakes Energy.

"Students learned that safe tree planting involves planting the right tree in the right place so it won't one day grow into the power lines"

—Jeff Matelski

GREAT LAKES ENERGY COOPERATIVE CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET*

as of December 31, 2013

ASSETS**Electric plant:**

Distribution plant	\$ 409,127,735
Construction in progress	6,669,023
	<u>415,796,758</u>
Less accumulated depreciation	113,587,558
Net electric plant	<u>302,209,200</u>

Other assets and investments:

Nonutility plant, net of depreciation	1,043
Investments and memberships	109,469,275
Notes and other receivables	329,609
Total other assets	<u>109,799,927</u>

Current assets:

Cash	3,707,634
Accounts receivable, net of bad debt reserve	22,631,064
Materials and supplies	2,610,385
Other current assets	2,073,140
Total current assets	<u>31,022,223</u>

Deferred charges

	7,400,691
--	-----------

Total assets

\$ 450,432,041

EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES**Equities:**

Memberships	\$ 519,740
Patronage capital	165,057,286
Donated capital	3,651,828
Accumulated other comprehensive expenses	4,073,555
Total equities	<u>173,302,409</u>

Long-term debt, net of current portion, and non-current accrued expenses:

Long term debt	233,305,050
Non-current accrued expenses	7,028,398
Total long-term debt and non-current accrued expenses	<u>240,333,448</u>

Current liabilities:

Current maturities of long-term debt	5,432,934
Note payable	158,239
Accounts payable	13,281,893
Accrued expenses	8,827,775
Customer deposits	1,433,689
Total current liabilities	<u>29,134,530</u>

Deferred credits

	7,661,654
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Total liabilities and equities

\$ 450,432,041

GREAT LAKES ENERGY COOPERATIVE CONSOLIDATED OPERATING STATEMENTS*

for the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012

	2013	2012
OPERATING REVENUES	\$ 183,742,114	\$ 178,556,612
Operating expenses:		
Cost of power	116,435,795	115,100,436
Distribution system operating and maintenance expenses	22,533,899	24,519,938
Customer service and information expenses	8,297,961	7,464,202
Administrative and general expenses	7,806,623	7,631,705
Depreciation and amortization	12,200,566	11,754,281
Other operating expenses	196,831	174,637
Total operating expenses	<u>167,471,675</u>	<u>166,645,199</u>
Operating margins before fixed charges	16,270,439	11,911,413
Fixed charges, interest expense	10,026,432	9,765,228
Operating margins after fixed charges	<u>6,244,007</u>	<u>2,146,185</u>
Non-operating margins:		
Interest income	1,546,632	1,217,549
Other expenses, net of other income	(212,116)	(286,498)
Total non-operating income	<u>1,334,516</u>	<u>931,051</u>
Capital credits from associated organizations:		
Wolverine Power Company	9,565,374	8,436,633
Other associated organizations	913,896	388,703
Total capital credits from associated organizations	<u>10,479,270</u>	<u>8,825,336</u>
Net margins	<u>\$ 18,057,793</u>	<u>\$ 11,902,572</u>

*A copy of the audited financial statements and the auditors' report is on file at the Cooperative's office in Boyne City, MI



Backyard Beekeeping: What's the Buzz About?



Ask most people what bees contribute to the world and they'll name three things: honey, wax and stings.

Put the question to Josh and Jodie Kieliszewski and you'll get a longer list: soap, body creams, ointments, lip balms...

Another unusual fact about the Kieliszewskis: While describing the wild swarm of bees that set up housekeeping in a hollow maple tree near their home in 2007, they call it a "blessing."

One person's threat is another's opportunity. The swarm might have caused the average person to summon a pest control company. Josh and Jodie, who share an interest in the natural world, found the bees fascinating.

"We saw intelligence...a social structure," Jodie says.

The swarm moved on, but not before the Kieliszewskis were bitten by the beekeeping bug—a passion that eventually became Bee Lovely Botanicals, LLC (beelovelybotanicals.com)—a home-based business offering handmade, all natural bee-related products sold at Michigan farmers markets and on the internet.

Honeybees have taken a beating in recent years. Colony Collapse Disorder—the result, experts believe, of pesticide overuse, has forced many commercial beekeepers out of business. This is an agricultural crisis because honeybees are essential for pollinating crops like apples, blueberries and cucumbers, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) notes that one-third of the food we eat is pollinated by bees.

Recognizing the importance of honeybees in our food supply, the USDA will, according to the *Associated Press*, pay farmers and ranchers in Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin and North and South Dakota to reseed pastures with clover,

"Publicity surrounding Colony Collapse Disorder has ignited interest in honeybees and backyard beekeepers, like the Kieliszewskis, are stepping up to fill the gap."

alfalfa and other plants that attract bees. Publicity surrounding Colony Collapse Disorder has ignited interest in honeybees, and backyard beekeepers like the Kieliszewskis, are stepping up to fill the gap.

Josh and Jodie live in Unionville, Mich., with their three sons, where they are members of Thumb Electric Cooperative. A certified athletic trainer, Jodie now divides her time between her boys and the

family business. Josh, a fisheries and wildlife biologist, is a quality-control scientist in his day job, but beekeeping, he says, has transcended from a hobby to a second job.

Not that he's complaining. "It's all fun; it's not really work," he explains.

The business, however, is not without setbacks. This winter's extreme cold took a heavy toll on the Kieliszewskis' bees, with only five out of 40 hives surviving. An average hive holds 60,000–70,000 bees



at its peak occupancy. But the heavy losses won't stop the Kieliszewskis—they switched to a hardier breed called the Carnolian honeybee.

The Kieliszewskis pride themselves on keeping their operation friendly—to their bees, the environment, and the people who use their products.

"We do a lot of research, and are really careful about our ingredients," Jodie says. "We personally use all the things we make."

They also resist using chemicals on their hives—even if it means taking bigger losses in harsh weather.

Josh says that he's been stung "a time or two"—especially in the beginning, when he didn't own the proper gear. His dark hair doesn't help. Bees, he explains, equate the color black with bears and other predators.

Jodie casually mentions the time a swarm chased her 300 feet, and stung her 20–30 times. Bees, she says, have different personalities, and this swarm was particularly ornery.

Naturally, the Kieliszewskis know something about bee sting remedies—both conventional and unusual—noting they have "tried almost every bee sting remedy known to man." Jodie likes meat tenderizer, while Josh prefers a remedy that's free and always available: spit. It has enzymes, he says, that break down the venom. ■

Smart Savings Solutions

Receive a free online energy audit for your home.

Did you know that certain household problems are signs of energy issues?

Problems such as mold, mildew, ice dams, and overall discomfort can be attributed to inefficiencies in your home. Help improve your home by assessing its energy performance.

Use Great Lakes Energy Cooperative's Home Energy Optimizer, a free online home energy assessment tool, to learn about your energy use and how to save more energy and money. You'll be asked important questions about your home—everything from square footage to typical thermostat settings. The more detail you provide, the more customized your results will be. Either way, you'll be saving energy in no time. Completing the online interactive survey takes only 15–30 minutes.

The Energy Optimizer *automatically estimates your energy use and projected heating, cooling, hot water, appliance and lighting costs*. It also calculates your energy savings cost potential in each category to help you see where to get the highest payback for efficiency improvements. You can even review a list of recommended upgrades with simple ways to lower your energy use.

Benefits

- Free and useful
- Convenient—ability to save and edit responses or finish later
- Customized for your city and climate
- Do-it-yourself, affordable, energy-saving actions
- Completion entitles you to a free energy-saving kit

FREE Energy-saving Kit

When you complete the Home Energy Optimizer, we will send you a free energy-saving kit that contains:

- 5 CFLs
- 1 energy-efficient bath aerator
- 1 energy-efficient kitchen aerator
- 1 energy-efficient shower head.

Next Steps

Here's how to get started today:

1. Go to michigan-energy.org/greatlakes and click on "Home Audit."
2. Write down your session number.
3. Answer questions as best you can. (It's okay to skip questions if you have to.)
4. Finish the audit to receive your free energy-saving kit.
5. Install all kit items. Keep other Energy Optimization programs and rebates in mind for future purchases. ■



Saving energy starts online!

Looking for simple ways to save energy at home? With the Home Energy Optimizer—a free online home energy audit—you can receive personalized, do-it yourself tips to reduce energy waste. Get started today at michigan-energy.org/greatlakeshomeaudit for a more energy-efficient, durable, and comfortable home!

ENERGY TIP: Complete an online audit and receive a FREE energy-saving kit!

ONLINE: michigan-energy.org PHONE: 877.296.4319



Energy Optimization programs and incentives are applicable to Michigan service locations only. Other restrictions may apply. For a complete list of participating utilities, visit michigan-energy.org.

How Much Did I Earn Last Year?

Part of the value of being a Great Lakes Energy member is that you are entitled to a share of the margins or profits the cooperative earns.

We maintain an annual record of your share of these margins. Your share is referred to as a “capital credit allocation” and remains with the cooperative until financial conditions permit us to return the earnings to you.

A short message will appear on your June 2014 bill to inform you of the capital credit allocation amount you earned in 2013. This amount is *not* a refund, but a record of your annual investment in your cooperative.

You will be notified when part of your allocations are to be returned to you as a refund, which is expected in December or January. Details will be shared later in *Michigan Country Lines*.

How is my share determined?

Capital credits are allocated based on the total amount members pay each year for electricity. If the total you paid last year was more than your neighbor's, your allocation amount will also be larger.

What does the co-op do with my capital credit allocation money?

Capital credits represent operating capital provided by the membership to the cooperative and are a major source of equity and operating funds for Great Lakes Energy. Capital credits help make it possible for us to secure loans, improve electric service reliability, and expand our system to meet the demands of our membership.

At Great Lakes Energy, you are more than just a customer—you're a member. The capital credits program is another way we look out for you. ■

YOUR SMALL CHANGE MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE



Can you give a few cents a month to help your community? The People Fund program works because there is power in numbers. A contribution of less than \$1 each month adds up fast when thousands of Great Lakes Energy members get involved.

The needs of our local communities continue to grow, and you have the power to give the People Fund a bigger role in meeting those needs. We round up your electric bill to the next dollar and the amount, which averaged just 44 cents a month in 2013, goes into the People Fund. There are no administrative costs. All donations are returned to our local communities.

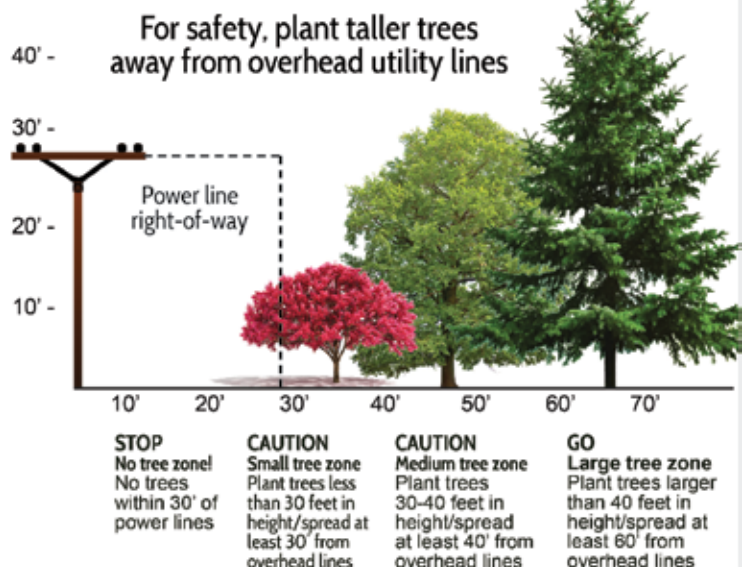
We Need Your Help!

Enroll in the People Fund today.

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Plant the Right Tree IN THE RIGHT PLACE





Growing Future Leaders

The Youth Leadership Summit (YLS) is designed to grow leaders through team-building skills, including hands-on classroom exercises and a high-ropes challenge (over 30 feet in the air!). Sponsored by their electric co-op, students from across Michigan gathered at SpringHill Camp near Ewart in April and tested their decision-making skills, learned how to respond in emergency situations, and received valuable career information.

A number of students attending the Summit were then considered for participation in the Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., this month.

Learn more about both programs at miYLS.com. ■

The Hunt Is On!

Enter the *Country Lines* Deer Blind Contest.

If you think you have the best deer blind in Michigan, then we want to see it. There will be one lucky winner from each deer blind category below:

Most tricked-out. What personal touches have you added to spruce up your blind? Perhaps carpet, a frig or a custom paint job? Uniqueness counts.

Best story behind the deer blind. Tell us the story of how yours came to be. The entertainment value scores you points.

Most interestingly-engineered. Impressive architecture or strange contraption, the more interesting the better.

The 2014 *Country Lines* Deer Blind Contest starts on June 15 and ends Aug. 15. Enter online at countrylines.com/deer-blind-contest or mail a photo (a high quality print photo—not from a computer printer)



of your blind to CL Deer Blind Contest, 2859 W. Jolly Road, Okemos, MI 48864. Make sure to include your name, a short description of what makes your blind great, and your contact information. The three winners will each receive a \$50 credit on their electric bill and have a picture of their blind published in *Michigan Country Lines*. ■

'Mega' Geothermal Energy Fair is Family Friendly

A “mega” geothermal energy fair is coming June 27–28 to the Ingham County fairgrounds in Mason.

“This fair will be for everyone, and we will have workshops, exhibits, seminars, food, music, and even a kids area,” says Larry Kaufman, MGEA executive director.

Sponsors are the Michigan Geothermal Energy Association (MGEA) and the Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association (GLREA), and anyone is welcome to attend. On June 27, the offerings are more technical (for dealers and professionals), with an emphasis on technology, including a new product called a portable room geothermal system.

On June 28, the day will be geared towards learning about geothermal for a home or business. Topics include available rebates; an “Ask the Expert” (wind, solar, bio energy, geothermal) session; and updates on energy legislation, bio energy, electric cars, success stories, case studies, and other energy topics.

There will also be dealer booths where you can ask about specific interests or needs, such as replacing a furnace or air conditioner. Visit glrea.org or call 269-384-9915. ■

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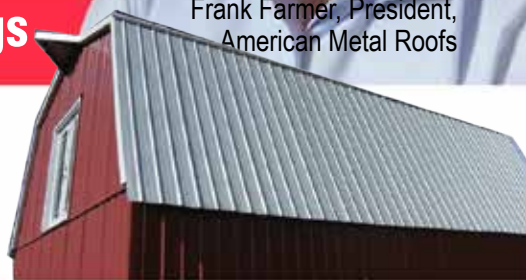
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Your Co-op. Your Board. Looking out for you.



Putting their combined 127 years of board experience to work for you are Great Lakes Energy directors (front, L-R) Paul Byl, Paul Schemanski, Mark Carson, and Richard Evans; (back, L-R) Robert Thurow, Larry Monshor, Richard Walsworth, Robert Kran and Dale Farrier.

Great Lakes Energy directors put members first...

- Major system improvements in the last 11 years have increased service reliability to all GLE members.
- GLE accomplishes more with less, ranking it in the top 3% of the most productive electric cooperatives nationwide¹.
- Profits earned are returned to you. Total of \$34.3 million in capital credit refunds returned to members since 2003.
- Eight local offices deliver quick and courteous service, especially when big storms roll in.

¹ Based on number of members per employee statistics compiled by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Directors work for you and you alone.
That's the cooperative difference.