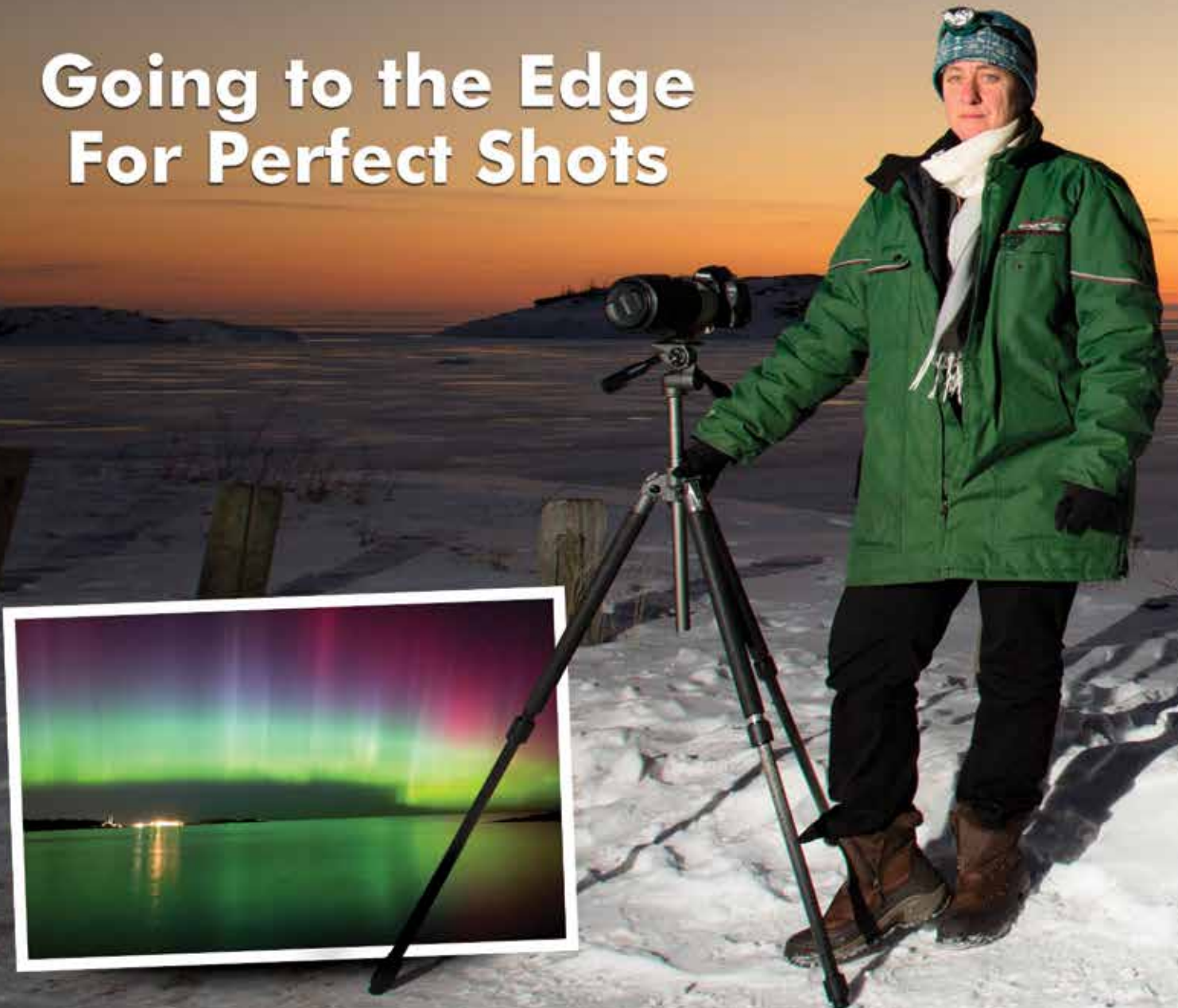


Michigan

COUNTRY LINES

Going to the Edge
For Perfect Shots



4 Co-op Election
Process Approved

5 Co-op Mourns
Director Anderson

12 Wolverine Generation
Projects Ended

1 YEAR.

THOUSANDS

of happy

geothermal

owners.

MILLIONS

of dollars saved.



Real WaterFurnace Owners



Over the last year we've saved thousands of happy homeowners millions of dollars on heating, cooling and hot water using the clean, renewable energy in their backyard! During SEVENbration, we're offering instant savings of \$2100 on the most efficient unit on the planet. With the additional 30% federal tax credit, there's never been a better time to upgrade to WaterFurnace. But hurry, this rebate ends April 30th, so contact your local dealer today—and join the SEVENbration!

Your Local WaterFurnace Dealers

Bad Axe
B & D Htg
(989) 269-5280

Berrien Springs
WaterFurnace
Michiana
(269) 473-5667

Big Rapids
Stratz Htg & Clg
(231) 796-3717

Caro
AllTemp Comfort, Inc.
(866) 844-HEAT
(4328)

Carsonville
Certified Temperature
Innovations
(810) 300-7748

Clifford
Orton Refrig & Htg
(989) 761-7691

DeWitt
S & J Htg & Clg
(517) 669-3705

Grand Rapids
Total Comfort
Resource, LLC
(616) 406-3182

Hart/Ludington
Adams Htg & Clg
(231) 873-2665

Indian River
M & M Plmb & Htg
(231) 238-7201

Ionia
Home Experts
(800) 457-4554

Jackson
Comfort 1 Htg/
Lenawee Htg
(517) 764-1500

Kalkaska
Kalkaska Plmb & Htg
(231) 258-3588

Lapeer
Porter & Heckman
(800) 445-4328

Mount Pleasant
Walton's Htg & Clg
(989) 772-4822

Muskegon
Adams Htg & Clg
(231) 873-2665

Muskegon
Kiessel Geothermal
Htg & Clg
(231) 747-7509

Onaway
Standard Htg
(989) 733-8309

Palms
Lakeshore
Improvements
(989) 864-3833

Portland
ESI Htg & Clg
(517) 647-6906

Traverse City
Geofurnace Htg
& Clg
(231) 943-1000

Traverse City
D&W Mechanical
(231) 941-1215

UPPER PENINSULA
Manistique
Hoholik Enterprises
(906) 341-5065

Marquette
J Goods Plmb
& Htg
(906) 235-5788

Marquette
Swick Plmb & Htg
(906) 228-3400

**Sault Ste Marie/
Kinross**
Great Lakes
Services Inc.
(906) 632-5543



instant REBATE **\$2,100**

Learn more at waterfurnace.com/SEVENbration

IT'S A
SEVEN
bration

March 2014
Vol. 34, No. 3

Executive Editor
Casey Clark

Editor
Gail Knudtson

Publisher
Michigan Electric
Cooperative
Association

Michigan

COUNTRY LINES

IN THIS ISSUE

Michigan Country Lines, USPS-591-710, is published monthly, except August and December, with periodicals postage paid at Okemos, MI, and additional offices. It is the official publication of the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864.

Subscriptions are authorized for members of Alger Delta, Cherryland, Cloverland, Great Lakes, HomeWorks Tri-County, Midwest Energy, Ontonagon, Presque Isle, and Thumb electric cooperatives by their boards of directors. Subscriptions for nonmembers are \$6 per year.

POSTMASTER: SEND ALL UAA TO CFS.

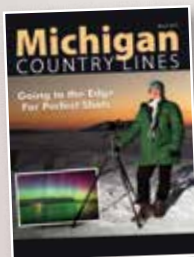
Letters to the editor should be sent to Country Lines, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864. Phone 517-913-3531. Email: gknudtson@meca.coop.

Association officers are Ken Swope, Midwest Energy, chairman; Robert Schallip, Cloverland, 1st vice chairman; Jon Zickert, Cherryland, 2nd vice chairman; Eric Baker, Wolverine Power, secretary-treasurer; and Tony Anderson, Cherryland, past chairman. Craig Borr is president and CEO.

Unsolicited letters, photos and manuscripts are welcome. Country Lines, however, will not be responsible for their safe keeping or return.

The appearance of advertising does not constitute an endorsement of the products or services advertised.

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



6 HOME COOKING
Shakes & Smoothies
*Christin McKamey
& Our Readers*



7 OUR ENERGY
Maintaining Affordable,
Reliable Electricity—You
Can Take Action to Help



10 FEATURE
Going to the Edge for
Perfect Shots
Kath Usitalo



13 SAFETY
Stay Clear of Downed
Power Lines



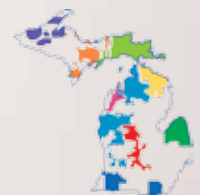
14 READERS' PAGE
Help With Affordable
Health Care Law • Mystery
Photo • Energy Tip



ON THE COVER

Photographer Shawn Malone, who recently opened a studio and gallery in Marquette, literally goes to the edge of cliffs and makes nighttime forays into the wilderness to capture the glory of the Upper Peninsula's land, water and sky.

Photo Courtesy – Shawn Malone/lakesuperiorphoto.com



Michigan's Electric
Cooperatives
countrylines.com



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District 1 – Big Bay

Mike Nason

906-360-1477 • mnason9993@chartermi.net

District 2 – Harvey / Deerton

Sam Simonetta

906-892-8504 • lcell@hotmail.com

District 3 – Grand Marais

Nancy Gardner-Platt

906-494-2772 • rlnkgard@jamadots.com

District 4 – Cedar River / Palestine

Vacant

906-428-4141 • admin@algerdelta.com

District 5 – Gourley / La Branch / Cornell

Kevin Webber

906-639-2937 • kevinwebber.2937@gmail.com

District 6 – Daggett

Paul Sederquist

906-753-4484 • sedergrove@gmail.com

District 7 – Stonington / Rapid River

Vacant

906-428-4141 • admin@algerdelta.com

District 8 – Nahma / Isabella

Clay Peterson

906-280-7127 • claypeterson@nmbank.com

District 9 – Hiawatha / Maple Ridge

Ron Oberg

906-573-2551 • director9-algerdelta@jamadots.com

CEO

Tom Harrell

906-428-4141 • tharrell@algerdelta.com

Headquarters

426 N 9th St – Gladstone, MI 49837

906-428-4141 • 800-562-0950

Fax: 906-428-3840 • admin@algerdelta.com

On the web: www.algerdelta.com

Office Hours

M-F 7:30-4:00 (ET)

algerdelta.com

MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Board Revises Election Process

The Alger Delta Board of Directors has adopted bylaw changes that revise your co-op's director election process. The board adopted these changes following member input at the 2013 district meetings.

Under the new provisions, district meetings will be held between 30 and 45 days prior to the co-op's annual meeting. Members will receive a ballot in the mail in a specially-marked envelope with instructions on how to submit their vote. Ballots can no longer be hand-delivered; they will be

mailed to an independent third party that will tabulate the votes and report the final count to the board president or their designee, and the results will be announced at the district meeting.



Tom Harrell
Chief Executive
Officer

Under the previous process, ballots were mailed to members attached to Country Lines magazine. The board adopted the new procedures in November 2013, and they will allow the voting process to be conducted in a timelier manner and provide for a secure voting and vote counting process.

Your Board in Action

At their Jan. 15, 2014 meeting, your cooperative's board of directors:

- Voted to appoint Kevin Webber as board president; Paul Sederquist as vicepresident; and elected Clay Peterson as secretary/treasurer.
- Set the next regular board meeting for Feb. 19.
- Finalized plans to attend a board governance workshop facilitated by Bob Patton of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).
- Reviewed and approved the check register, director per diem and expenses, and the CEO's timesheets and expenses.
- Discussed and agreed on procedures to follow when adding items of new business or taking action on the agenda.
- Reviewed and approved the check register, director per diem and expenses, and the CEO's timesheets and expenses.
- Attended a Strategic Governance Workshop (Jan. 23-24) that was facilitated by NRECA and hosted by the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association. At the workshop, the board discussed co-op governance fundamentals—including its own role and its relationship with the CEO; reviewed the results of a governance assessment survey; discussed critical issues, concerns, barriers and opportunities for improved governance and reviewed learning practices and trends; and outlined an action plan for future board governance.
- Passed a resolution requesting a \$7 million loan from the Federal Finance Bank to fund projects in the 2013 – 2017 Construction Work Plan that was approved by the board in 2013.
- Received reports from Operations and Finance staff, and from the CEO regarding various business issues.

Co-op Mourns Bessie Anderson

Alger Delta director Bessie Anderson, 66, passed away Jan. 23, 2014, at her home in Menominee, MI. Bessie was a homemaker, and in past years also worked for Sprint, Bell Telephone, and as a manufacturer's rep for new food products at Angeli's supermarkets.



Bessie Anderson

table at the Annual Meeting that June. Bessie immediately engaged in board governance, attending training in August 2012 in Bay City, and earning her Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certificate. At the time of her passing, she was working on earning her Board Leadership Certificate, had attended the 2013 National Rural Electric

Cooperative Association regional meeting and was serving on the co-op's Employee Relations Committee.

Bessie was a kind and caring board member and person who made friends easily and made a strong contribution to the good governance of the cooperative. Bessie Olivia Anderson – Rest in Peace.

In the community, Bessie helped organize Little League Baseball and volunteered with the Special Olympics program. In her spare time, she enjoyed traveling and was a caregiver to many around her home in the Cedar River area, and was a long-time board member at the Cedar River Chapel.

She became an Alger Delta director in April 2012 and took her place at the board

Board Votes for Member Appreciation Event, Redefines Annual Meeting

The Alger Delta board of directors recently passed resolutions to change the co-op's annual meeting format and initiate a member appreciation event in 2014.

"For several years, the board has wrestled with defining the annual meeting and how to get the most value out of that event," says Tom Harrell, Alger Delta's CEO. The board took up the topic in earnest at their December 2013 meeting when director Nancy Gardner-Platt (Grand Marais) submitted two motions: one to make the annual meeting a business affair as described in the bylaws; and the other to host a "member appreciation" event separate from the annual meeting.

Alger Delta's annual meeting – like most electric co-ops around the country – has morphed into an event that is partly business and partly social. "This type of annual meeting causes confusion because some members attend for the business information and some for the dinner and prizes," Harrell adds.

"My motion does away with the meal and prize drawings," Gardner-Platt explains. "I think there is a risk that more members are disappointed than satisfied, and that's why I made the two motions together." Alger Delta can provide more value to members by having an annual meeting that focuses on the co-op's business, she adds, and then offer another event that shows appreciation for members and is more attractive to a broader cross-section of members.

Alger Delta's bylaws require the annual

meeting to be held on the third Wednesday in June. This event typically begins in late afternoon or early evening and is held in Gladstone, which is about 130 miles from Gardner-Platt's district.

"The distance is a factor for members," she says, "not only for the time, but for the cost of gas. That's a long way to drive for a meal. Some members don't like to drive home late at night, either."

The co-op's service area extends about 110 miles to the northwest and 85 miles south and southwest from its Gladstone headquarters. "We keep track of who attends the annual meeting and those who live close-by attend in higher numbers than those who live on the outskirts of the service area," Harrell says.

Gardner-Platt also notes that, "Alger Delta can show that it appreciates its members by having a separate event – something that appeals to whole families, not just the person who pays the electric bill." Added benefits are that a member appreciation event can be set for any date and be associated with other U.P. events.

The second motion Gardner-Platt introduced asks management to develop a proposal for a member appreciation event that is in conjunction with the U.P. State Fair. "The U.P. State Fair has broad appeal and there is something for everyone," she says. The proposal is due at the March board meeting, and event details will be shared in the next issue of *Country Lines*.

Fuel Mix Report

The fuel mix characteristics of Alger Delta Co-op Electric Association as required by Public Act 141 of 2000 for the 12-month period ended 12/31/13.

COMPARISON OF FUEL SOURCES USED		
Regional average fuel mix used		
Your co-op's fuel mix		
FUEL SOURCE	Your Co-op	Regional Average
Coal	61.6%	59.4%
Oil	0.1%	0.6%
Gas	8.1%	9.8%
Hydroelectric	2.5%	0.6%
Nuclear	15.6%	25.4%
Renewable Fuels	12.1%	4.2%
Biofuel	0.03%	0.5%
Biomass	0.07%	0.5%
Solar	0.00%	0.0%
Solid Waste Incineration	0.92%	0.0%
Wind	11.00%	2.7%
Wood	0.10%	0.5%

NOTE: Biomass above excludes wood; solid waste incineration includes landfill gas.

Your Co-op's Fuel Mix

Regional Avg. Fuel Mix

EMISSIONS AND WASTE COMPARISON		
TYPE OF EMISSION/WASTE	lbs/MWh	
	Your Co-op	Regional Average*
Sulfur Dioxide	2.36	7.6
Carbon Dioxide	1,472	2,170
Oxides of Nitrogen	0.96	2.0
High-level nuclear waste	0.0013	0.0083

*Regional average information was obtained from MPSC website and is for the twelve-month period ending 12/31/13. Alger Delta purchases 100% of its electricity from WPPi, which provided this fuel mix and environmental data.

Fat Tire Biking is a New Winter Ride

Get used to seeing more of something unusual this winter – people biking through the snow.

Whether you dub them “fat tire bikes” or “snow bikes,” the popularity of this new winter sport is gaining across Michigan for commuting, racing or just riding.

Fat tire bikes first became popular in Alaska for commuting and recreational use on their many trails and ski pathways. They started showing up in the Lower 48 about three years ago, and have blossomed in popularity over the last few winters.

These bikes sell new from around \$1,700 to \$3,000 and typically run on fat tires that are 4 inches wide. The tires use about 8 PSI or less of air pressure for on-snow use, leaving little print on a hard, groomed surface.

Crystal Mountain (Thompsonville), Timber Ridge Nordic Center (Traverse City), and Boyne Highlands (Harbor Springs) are all offering rentals and groomed trails this winter.

Crystal has about 10 groomed miles of both cross-country and single-track trails for fat tire bikes. Renting for about \$10 an hour, you can ride them on portions of the cross-country trail until 10 p.m. nightly since it is lit for night skiing.

At Timber Ridge, Einstein Cycles is handling rentals (about \$25, including a trail pass), and there’s about 10 kilometers of groomed trail.

The Highlands offers a five-mile groomed loop. A daily trail pass is \$5, and rentals start at \$30 for two hours.

“We found them to be very popular last year at Crystal Mountain, our first winter,” says Chris Remy, who oversees the resort’s program. “We often had a waiting list and have added more bikes for this winter, and more sizes.”

Trails aren’t the only place you’ll see fat tire bikes, however. Jason Lowetz, owner of Einstein Cycles, sees a market for those dedicated commuters who prefer a bike over a vehicle. “I’m seeing a lot more people using them to commute around town and work during winter,” he explains. “It’s the safest bike you can ride this time of year and allows cyclists to commute year-round. The stability of the bike makes it a good choice.”

Traverse City resident Jason Whittaker agrees. “We’re



Photo - Einstein Cycles



Photo - Marquette Photo



Photo - Crystal Mountain Resort

Among others, Crystal Mountain (above), Boyne Highlands, and Timber Ridge offer fat tire biking this winter. These resorts also get electric service from member-owned co-ops. Boyne is served by Great Lakes Energy and Crystal and Timber Ridge by Cherryland Electric.

Places To Ride On Fat Tires

Timber Ridge Campground & Nordic Center

Traverse City • 877-978-3866
timberridgeresort.net

Crystal Mountain Resort

Thompsonville • 800-968-4676
crystalmountain.com

Noquemanon Trail Network

Marquette • 906-235-6861
noquetrails.org

Boyne Highlands

Harbor Springs • 231.526.3000
boyne.com

a one car family with a 20-month-old son. My wife needs the car at home, and the fat-tired bike allows me to safely ride through the snow and slush on the TART (Traverse Area Recreational Trail) to get to work,” Whittaker says. “Before they came along I couldn’t ride the trail, which isn’t cleared in the winter. I had to ride my mountain bike on roadways, which weren’t that safe. I also ride on the VASA Pathway on Fridays for fun.”

TART Trails, which spearheads VASA Pathway grooming, is asking riders to buy a \$25 grooming badge. Fridays are set aside as “Fat Tire Friday,” when cyclists and skiers mix on the 25-kilometer trail, and bikes are allowed on TART’s Leelanau Peninsula, from Traverse City up to Suttons Bay, anytime.

There’s a similar trend in the U.P., around Marquette. “We’re seeing more commuter and trail use in our area over the last few years,” notes Nicole Dewald, Noquemanon Trail Network director. “We plan to groom over 20 miles of single track this winter, and ask riders to support the project by purchasing a ‘Support the Groom’ card.”

Other U.P. places to ride include the Keweenaw Peninsula, and Michigan Tech has 15 kilometers of groomed ski

trail and ungroomed single-track where bikes are permitted, and Swedetown Trails permits them after 6 p.m. on Tuesdays. Ishpeming’s Al Qual Recreation Area ski trails also permit them anytime. A day pass is required for all three locations.

For racing, Einstein Cycle has organized a Northern Michigan Fat Bike Series with three races. Fat Chance was at Crystal Mountain in January; King VASA is at Timber Ridge, Feb. 8; and Fat Camp, Timber Ridge, March 1. Fun Promotions

in Grand Rapids has also organized races, with the next at Addison Oaks, Feb. 8; Shore Acres in Saugatuck, Feb. 16; and Pando Winter Sports Park, March 2. Pando also offers Fat Tuesday, a race every Tuesday night through February.

Another Traverse area fat tire rider, Eric Polard, says, “Riding on snow has been a great alternative to my other winter love, Nordic skiing. Being able to hop on a snow bike is a great way to mix up winter activities and keep it interesting.” Give it a try?



Photo - Marquette Photo

For competition, practical use, or just for fun, fat tire biking can be found around Michigan.

Shakes & Smoothies

Shakes and smoothies are a refreshing treat any time of day. With so many different ingredients and combinations, you'll never get bored. They are also unbelievably easy to make. All you need is a blender.



Photography by: 831 Creative

Coconut Granola Berry Smoothie

- 1/2 c. granola
- 6 fresh strawberries
- 1 T. flax seed oil
- 3/4 c. unsweetened coconut milk
- 3 T. vanilla yogurt
- 7-8 ice cubes

Blend until smooth and enjoy. Makes 1-2 servings.

Christin McKamey, Royal Oak

Kate's Green Smoothie

- 1 c. ice
- 1 c. apple juice
- 2 ripe bananas
- 1 1/2 c. kale
- 3/4 c. chopped celery

Place all ingredients in blender and process until smooth. So simple and so good for you. Enjoy! Rinse out your blender and glasses as soon as you can - this mixture sticks to everything.

Becky Schlatter, Chippewa Lake

Peanut Butter Banana Flip Smoothie

- 1 c. milk of choice
- 2 T. natural peanut butter, creamy or chunky
- 1 t. pure vanilla
- 1 frozen banana, cut into chunks
- 6 ice cubes

Pour milk into blender and add peanut butter, vanilla, banana and ice. Blend on high speed until smooth and serve.

Lorraine Green, South Boardman

Nutty Monkey Shake

- 1/4 c. milk
- 1 banana, cut into chunks
- 1/4 c. malted milk powder
- 2 T. creamy peanut butter
- 2 c. fat-free frozen yogurt

In a blender, combine milk, banana, malted milk powder and peanut butter. Cover and process for 10-15 seconds or until smooth. Add frozen yogurt, cover and process until blended. 5 servings.

Janice L. Thompson, Martin

Blueberry Cherry Cheesecake Smoothie

- 2 c. fresh or frozen blueberries
- 1/2 c. fresh or frozen cherries
- 1 1/4 c. milk
- 1/4 c. (2-oz.) cream cheese
- 1 to 3 ice cubes

Combine blueberries, milk, cherries and cream cheese in blender. Process until mixture is smooth. Add 3 ice cubes if using fresh fruit and 1 to 2 cubes if using frozen fruit. Process until smooth and pour into 2 glasses. Makes 2 (12-oz.) servings.

Tina Bates, East Jordan

Adult Peach Smoothie (Fresh Peach Martini)

- 2 peaches, peeled, pitted and quartered
- 4 oz. vodka
- 1 oz. peach schnapps
- 1-2 oz. simple syrup
- 1 1/2 c. ice

Place all ingredients in blender and process until smooth. Makes 2 drinks.

Becky Schlatter, Chippewa Lake

Coffee Bananas Foster Smoothie

- 1 1/2 c. strong coffee, chilled
- 1/2 t. cinnamon
- 2 T. brown sugar
- 2 small ripe bananas
- 6 oz. vanilla yogurt
- 1/2 c. fat-free half & half
- 1 c. ice cubes

In a blender, combine all ingredients and blend well.

Pat Sullivan, Bozeman

Submit your recipe! Thanks to all who send in recipes. Please send in your favorite "All About Snacks" recipes by **June 10** and "Best Original 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)!



Visit recipe editor Christin McKamey's website, veggiechick.com, for healthy, vegetarian recipes and info!

Help Your Electric Co-op Keep Rates Affordable

A message for all Michigan electric co-op member-owners...
The fight to maintain affordable, reliable electricity continues—and you can help!

Co-op members are needed to step up and let their voices be heard. Electric co-ops across the country are fighting to maintain a balanced energy policy that protects affordable, reliable and environmentally responsible electricity generation.

Co-op members are being asked to join the fight to instill common sense into the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) rule-making process by commenting online at Action.coop. It only takes a few minutes to complete.

Proposed regulations threaten to end the use of coal at new power plants. This is a concern because the regulations, along with the ones EPA has in store for existing plants, have the potential to drive up everyone's electric bills.

Nationwide, coal is responsible for about 40 percent of all electricity generated.

"As not-for-profit, consumer-owned utilities, electric co-ops rely on a diverse fuel mix to provide affordable, reliable electricity to 42 million Americans," explains Jo Ann Emerson, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the trade

association for America's electric co-ops. "We believe strongly in our responsibility both to our environment and to members, who often serve some of the most economically vulner-

thoughts with the EPA. "This is a start, but we can do better, as it's critically important that the voice of co-op members is heard on this issue," says Craig Borr, president/CEO of the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association.

Bringing common sense to the rule-making process is also important as the EPA develops rules for existing plants, which are scheduled for release in June.

In just the last decade, power supply co-ops have invested over \$3.4 billion to reduce emissions and boost efficiency. And, *co-ops are only asking that environmental regulation be balanced with realistic costs and benefits.*

By stepping up to comment, you will be asking the EPA to recognize the unique circumstances of your nonprofit, member-owned electric co-op and to work with co-ops to forge a fair solution that allows them to continue providing you with affordable, reliable power.

Electric co-ops serve over 42 million people nationwide. By joining together, co-op members can make a difference in shaping responsible energy policy.

COOPERATIVE ACTION NETWORK

able populations in this country.

"That's why NRECA continues to urge the administration to reconsider this proposal and the potentially damaging effects it could have on communities and the economy," she adds.

Electric rates are something consumer-owned electric co-ops take personally because they know the tough choices many of us face in trying to live on a budget. That's what sets co-ops apart from other utilities and that's why we must stick together.

Thousands have already answered the call and sent comments through Action.coop, but more are needed. About 609 Michigan co-op members have started sharing their



RENEWABLE ENERGY



NUCLEAR POWER



NATURAL GAS



CLEAN COAL

America needs an
ALL OF THE ABOVE STRATEGY
to keep electric bills affordable

**TELL THE EPA TO RECONSIDER
ITS "ALL-BUT-ONE" APPROACH**

ACTION.COOP

GOING TO THE EDGE



She's dangled over an icy wall and rappelled its glassy facade, come dangerously close to the edge of several cliffs, and inched along narrow paths in the pitch-black night of the Upper Peninsula's wilderness to capture stunning images. Photographer Shawn Malone actually studied music in college, but a decade or so after leaving the Chicago skyline behind, she's developed a worldwide following for her impressions of the natural wonders surrounding her adopted hometown of Marquette.

"I was doing a lot of auditions in major cities and grew weary of all the concrete, traffic, and smog. I realized I couldn't possibly be happy in that environment," Malone says of her past life. So, she and husband Brian took a jaunt to the U.P.

and, she recalls, "We fell in love with the area after seeing Lake Superior for the first time in Grand Marais, and were struck by the quality of the water. I always remember that. We just moved up here, with no jobs, for the quality of life."

Looking to earn a living, Malone picked up a camera and began seasonally capturing the woods, waterfalls, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Lake Superior, and the Mackinac Bridge and lighthouses.

With Brian, also a photographer, she then traveled and sold their work on the art fair circuit for many years, including the Ann Arbor show. Burned out by the traveling grind, however, the couple missed the land they loved. "I moved to the U.P. to be in the U.P.," she says. "The next step was to figure out how to stay in the U.P."

One year ago, they cut all but a few art fairs from their schedule and opened Lake Superior Photo, a gallery and studio in Marquette, where they exhibit and sell prints of all sizes.

Besides landscapes, Malone has pointed her lens to the night sky and captured spectacular Northern Lights images, which have catapulted her into the national and international limelight—especially with the release of her time-lapse video, "North Country Dreamland." She edited 10,000 still images taken throughout 2012 into the 7-minute program, which was the "People's Choice" winner in a 2013 Smithsonian online competition (see lakesuperiorphoto.com).

"The Northern Lights have really caught on with the media," Malone says of her extensive portfolio of sky shots. She believes it's because most people will never see the lights in person. While it's possible to catch the colorful, dancing flares most of the year, conditions must be just right. Even in the best viewing spots, including the U.P., there's no guarantee that clouds won't obscure them. "You might go years without seeing a strong display," she says, citing the spans between activity she witnessed in 2004, 2011, and those in her second video, "Radiance" (Oct. 2013). "Those kinds of displays you remember the rest of your life."

Monitoring space weather websites helps her decide whether to venture out and attempt a photo shoot, but she adds, "A lot has yet to be learned on how the aurora works, but you have a good opportunity to see it with a strong solar flare off the sun that is Earthward-directed." Once she sees some activity, her experience helps to



Lake Superior sea caves—This is one of the photographer's favorites because of the arch portals' composition and reflection in the foreground. The sun only sets through the left portal a few days in the year.

FOR PERFECT SHOTS



▲ **Northern Lights, Crisp Point Lighthouse**—One of Malone's most difficult shots, this 10-frame panoramic shows a 180-degree view, and received an Epson International Panorama Competition Silver Award. Lake Superior had to be flat-calm for the composite to mesh, and aurora borealis made an appearance!

▼ **Mackinac Moonrise**—This shot only happens once a year due to where the moon rises, and the weather.



Photos by Shawn Malone

▲ **Milky Way Road**—A unique shot of the Milky Way on a moonless night, creatively lit by the car's headlights.

judge how much time to invest and whether it will pay off.

Patience and luck are given credit for some of her success, too, especially as she ventures into the wilds where there are no danger warning signs. Recalling a trip to Isle Royale after shooting the Northern Lights at Tobin Harbor, she headed back to her lean-to. "I had a two-mile hike at two in the morning along basically a deer path...a cobblestone, trippy kind of thing." It was so dark that she couldn't see what was around her, but could hear moose sparring nearby. "That sound puts the fear of God in you because you could just feel the power of the animals," she says, shuddering while remembering that

too-close call.

"Getting the shot" also involves experimenting with manual settings and using a tripod to keep the camera steady for long exposures, Malone tells shutterbugs in her teaching workshops.

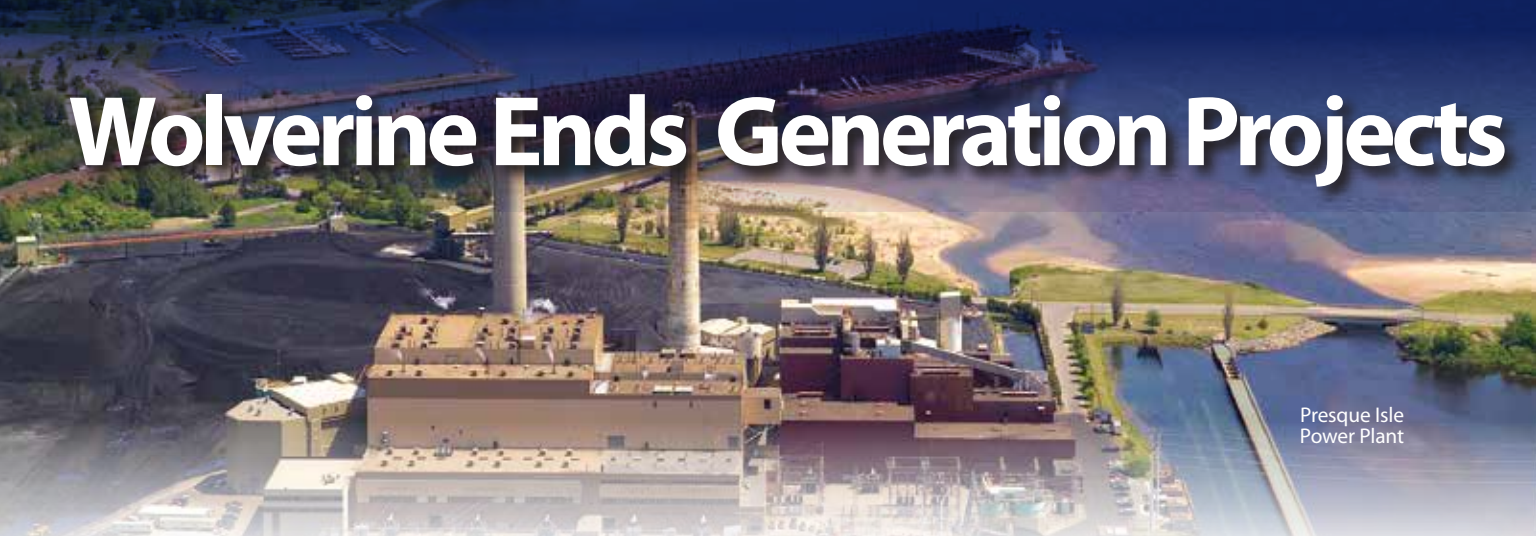
Her imagery also appears in magazines, websites and books, and she freelances as a managing photographer at *Upper Peninsula Second Wave*, an online magazine. Her artwork is also viewable and for purchase at <http://www.lakesuperiorphoto.com>, and this year she'll ponder a book project.

Meanwhile, her camera will be kept ever-ready to record impressions of the land, water and sky she loves.



Photographer Shawn Malone says the difficulty of a shot is related to logistics and understanding what happens at certain times with light and subject matter. Follow her on Facebook at [fb.com/LakeSuperiorPhoto](https://www.facebook.com/LakeSuperiorPhoto)

Wolverine Ends Generation Projects



Presque Isle Power Plant

Wolverine Power Cooperative recently announced that it is ending the development of two generation projects in northern Michigan.

Construction of a 600-megawatt (MW) power plant and a wind turbine farm near Rogers City was proposed by Wolverine in 2006. An air quality permit was approved in June 2011 for the proposed Wolverine Clean Energy Venture power plant, but the co-op significantly scaled back development of the project in late 2011 with the passing of new emissions rules for new plant construction.

"I am very proud of our efforts on the Wolverine Clean Energy Venture," said Eric Baker, Wolverine's president/CEO. "The

project team worked diligently to develop a proposed state-of-the-art power plant to serve co-op members efficiently and cost-effectively."

Wolverine has also brought its joint venture with We Energies (of Milwaukee, WI) at the Presque Isle Power Plant in Marquette to a close. The companies had proposed joint ownership of the plant in January 2012 in exchange for Wolverine's investment in an air quality control system.

"We're disappointed to end the joint venture with We Energies, yet that has become the best option for both parties," Baker explained. "We believe this joint venture would have brought economic and environ-

mental benefits for the region, along with helping to ensure energy reliability."

We Energies plans to evaluate long-term options for the plant and may solicit other potential buyers for some or all of its output.

In keeping with its mission to provide outstanding service to its members, Baker noted that Wolverine will continue to seek reliable, competitively priced power supply that encompasses a mix of fuels and business partners.

Wolverine is the power supplier for Cheryland, Great Lakes Energy, HomeWorks Tri-County, Midwest Energy, Presque Isle Electric & Gas and Wolverine Power Marketing co-ops, and Spartan Renewable Energy.



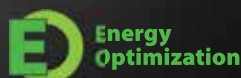
Get in the ring

Knock out energy waste

Tired of high energy bills? Fight your frustrations and keep more money in your pocket with the help of your electric co-op's Energy Optimization program. Whether you choose to replace an energy-guzzling furnace or install a high-efficiency CFL or LED bulb, rebates are available to help you complete just about any energy-saving project at home.

ENERGY TIP: Save up to 40 percent in furnace electricity costs by changing the filter regularly.

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.

STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form.

You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

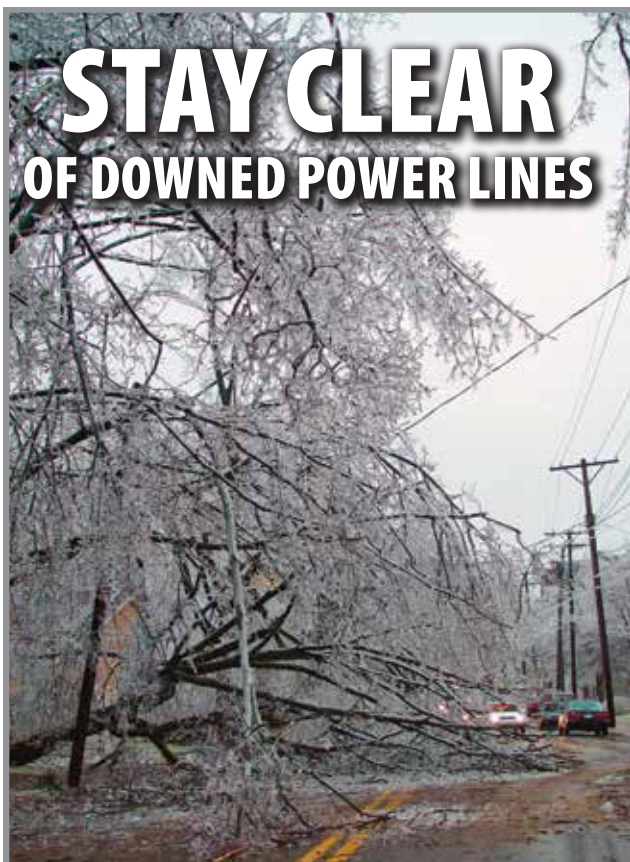
Notice to Members of Alger Delta Electric Cooperative

Case No. U-15813
2012 Renewable Energy Plan Annual
Report Summary

The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) requires all Michigan electric utilities to get approximately 2 percent of their power supply from renewable sources by 2012 and increasing to 10 percent by 2015.

Under this requirement, Alger Delta Electric Cooperative submits an annual report to the MPSC regarding its Renewable Energy Plan. In 2012, Alger Delta purchased power as a member of WPPI Energy. WPPI acquired renewable energy from direct renewable energy purchases and from slice-of-system contracts with major investor-owned utilities. As a WPPI member, Alger Delta has allocated a portion of those resources necessary to meet its renewable energy portfolio standard. WPPI Energy will ensure Alger Delta will have sufficient renewable energy credits to meet the renewable energy standard.

A full copy of the cooperative's Renewable Energy Plan annual report that was filed with the MPSC is available on the cooperative's website at algerdelta.com or by request at the cooperative's office.



STAY CLEAR OF DOWNED POWER LINES

- ▼ **Assume all power lines are energized and dangerous.** Even downed lines that seem "dead" can be re-energized at any time during power restoration efforts or improper use of generators. Lines do not have to be sparking to be live!
- ▼ **Any utility wire, including sagging or downed telephone or cable lines could be in contact with an energized power line, making them very dangerous, too.**
- ▼ **Never touch a downed line—or a person or object that is touching it!** A downed line can cause things around it to become energized, traveling through the ground to chain link fences or other objects.
- ▼ **If someone is injured from electrical contact, do not try to assist. You could be injured or killed, too. Call 911.**
- ▼ **If lines fall on your vehicle, do not drive away or get out.** Stay inside until utility workers say it's okay. Warn others to stay away. If you must leave the vehicle—only in the case of fire—jump free without touching the ground and auto at the same time, keeping both feet together, and hop to safety. A live wire touching the ground causes electricity to fan out, and walking or running allows one foot to move from one voltage zone to another. Your body then becomes the electricity's path, and electrocution results.
- ▼ **Never drive over a downed line,** it could cause poles or other equipment to come crashing down.
- ▼ **Call 911 immediately to report a downed power line.** Then call your electric co-op or the local utility.

Visit SafeElectricity.org for other electrical safety tips.

MSU Extension Offers Help for Understanding Affordable Care Act



Michigan State University Extension wants to help individuals, families and businesses make the right health insurance decision.

Extension has a team of educators that can help residents understand the new rules and requirements, navigate the federal Health Insurance Marketplace, and make a decision that fits both health needs and financial realities.

“People need to be extremely careful when signing up for insurance,” explains Brenda Long, who spearheads MSU Extension’s education efforts. “This is one of the most important decisions a person can make, and they will be dealing with concepts they are often unfamiliar with.”

“We hope to give people the knowledge they need so they can meet with a local certified application counselor, or go to the federal health care site and make the appropriate decisions for themselves and their families.”

Part of the service offered is a series of free, weekly, unbiased educational webinars and a new website that explains changes in the insurance landscape. A list of the webinars, as well as details about the Affordable Care Act, Health Insurance Marketplace, and how both affect Michiganders can be found at Extension’s Affordable Care Act Roadmap (aca.msue.msu.edu).

Organizations that provide health or

community assistance, or employers looking to provide education for their employees can also contact MSU Extension directly at healthinsurance@anr.msu.edu and request information about setting up an in-person training session.

“We aren’t trying to push consumers to select any one specific plan,” Long adds. “We hope to teach people skills they can use so they can decide on the plan that best fits the needs for themselves, their families or their employees.”

The online educational webinars for individuals are held every Monday from 9-11 a.m., 3-5 p.m., and 6-8 p.m.; and for farmers and small-business owners every Monday from Noon-2 p.m.



◀ DO YOU KNOW WHERE THIS IS?

Every co-op member who identifies the correct location of the photo at left by **April 10** will be entered in a drawing for a \$50 credit for electricity from their electric cooperative. **We do not accept Mystery Photo guesses by phone!** Email mysteryphoto@countrylines.com; 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 name of your co-op. Only those sending complete information will be entered in the drawing. The winner will be announced in the May 2014 issue.

The January contest winners are Gary and Elaine Pohl of Westphalia, who are members of both Home Works Tri-County Electric Cooperative and Cloverland Electric Cooperative. The Pohls correctly identified the photo as a mural at the R. E. Olds Transportation Museum near the riverwalk in downtown Lansing.



Programmable thermostats can save up to \$160 a year in energy costs. Match thermostat settings to your schedule: cold when you’re away and warm when you’re at home. In winter, set the thermostat to 68 degrees during the day (lower at night when you’re snug in bed). By turning your thermostat down 10 to 15 degrees for at least eight hours, you can shave 5 to 15 percent from your heating costs.

Source: TogetherWeSave.com, U.S. Department of Energy

Did snow bury your roof this winter?

Watch snow slide off a metal roof*

[YouTube.com/AmericanMetalRoofs](https://www.youtube.com/AmericanMetalRoofs)


Showcase Homes WANTED! Earn Big Discounts

We would like to use your home to showcase a beautiful American Metal Roof. Qualified homes can earn big discounts. Call today to see if your home qualifies. 844.638.2576 (Note: Not all homes will qualify. Not a free roof.)

Frank Farmer, President,
American Metal Roofs

Why choose metal?

- Permanent/Lifetime Guarantee
- Add beauty & value to your home
- Many colors/styles to choose from
- Year round statewide installation
- Senior/Veteran discounts
- Ask about our Do-It-Yourself seminars
- Visit our showrooms:
FLINT • 6140 Taylor Dr.
LANSING • 1875 Lansing Rd.

 facebook.com /AMRmichigan

Call today! 844.638.2576
844.METAL.ROOFS



NEW! Pocket Rib Panel for Rural Buildings

Toughness and low maintenance requirements make metal roofing perfect for the demanding needs of agricultural applications. Each roof is handcrafted and finished with custom trim and accessories by installers with a minimum of 300 hours of training. Available in a variety of colors.

Financing Available
www.AmericanMetalRoofs.com

*When the temperature reaches 40°F outside, snow will slide off the roof.

ELEVATE YOUR FUTURE

YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

>> PRESENTED BY MICHIGAN'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

April 23-25, 2014 | SpringHill Camps | Evert, MI



YOU ARE A LEADER. In the classroom, on the team, and in your community, you guide and inspire others to contribute their best efforts. Join other young leaders like you from throughout Michigan at the **YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT (YLS)**,

presented by Michigan's electric cooperatives. This **FREE**, high-energy experience will help you develop your leadership habits, explore career opportunities in the electric industry, and learn how to be actively involved in the democratic process. You are a leader.



>> PARTICIPANTS WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR AN ALL-EXPENSES-PAID WASHINGTON, D.C. YOUTH TOUR. VISIT miYLS.com TO LEARN MORE.

YOU ARE THE FUTURE.

miYLS.com



>> SCAN THE QR CODE WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE TO LEARN MORE, OR TO APPLY ONLINE