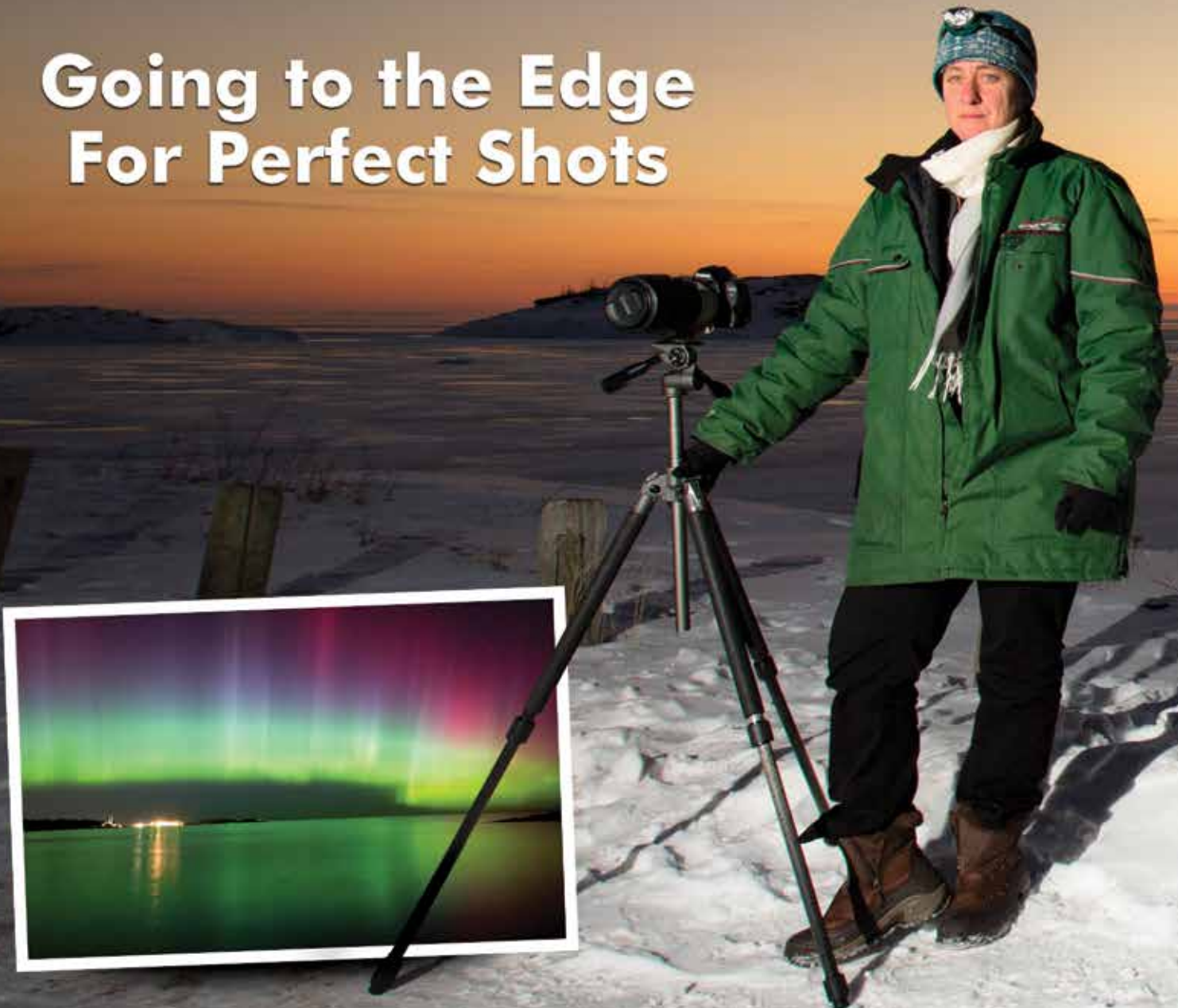


Michigan

COUNTRY LINES

**Going to the Edge
For Perfect Shots**



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12 The Voice of the
Turtle

13 Getting Back to Our
(Grass) Roots

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Michigan

COUNTRY LINES

IN THIS ISSUE

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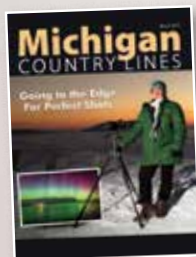
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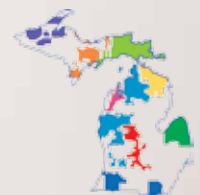
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ON THE COVER

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




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5930 U.S. 31 South, Grawn

MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Balancing Act

The electricity you use comes from two sources: fossil fuels and renewable resources.

Cherryland Electric Cooperative, in partnership with Wolverine Power Cooperative, balances these resources to deliver safe, reliable and affordable power.

Most electricity gets produced by burning fossil fuels or nuclear reaction. Fossil fuels – primarily coal and natural gas – are non-renewable, with limited stockpiles. Nuclear energy, fueled by uranium, also relies on a finite resource.

Renewable energy sources like water, wind, sun, biomass and the earth's heat replenish themselves. When it comes to generating renewable electricity for rural America, electric cooperatives are leading the way. Nationwide, electric cooperatives receive 13 percent of their power requirements from renewable resources compared to 10 percent for electric utilities as a whole.

Renewable energy has its share of challenges. "Green" power resources don't exist everywhere or in sufficient quantity to "keep the lights on all of the time." There's also a need for more transmission lines to move renewable power from the places where it's generated to population centers, and for new technology capable of storing electricity produced by variable wind and solar facilities as a way to make them more reliable forms of generation.

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), which oversees reliable operation of the bulk power grid covering the United States, most of Canada, and a sliver of Mexico, estimates that 39,000 miles of transmission lines need to be built by 2019, with 27 percent dedicated to connecting renewable resources to the grid. Yet getting these lines

constructed poses major regulatory and community challenges. Already, NERC claims that almost 6,500 miles of planned transmission lines are delayed, with the typical delay lasting up to three years.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Energy Information Administration's (EIA) Energy Outlook forecasts that the share of generation coming from renewable resources (including hydro) will grow from

13 percent today to 16 percent in 2040 – mainly in the form of wind. But less than 25 percent of this renewable capacity will be available when consumers need it most, notably during times of peak demand, highlighting the need for research on the development of advanced energy storage options.

It's important to note EIA's prediction for renewables growth is in response to federal tax credits, state-level mandates and requirements to use more biomass-based transportation fuels (electricity can sometimes be

produced as a byproduct of the refining process).

Electric cooperatives are working closely with others to remind Congress to keep the affordability of electric bills in mind when debating energy legislation. A sound approach to renewable energy remains an important element for consideration.

At Cherryland Electric Cooperative, we want you to understand the potential and realities of renewable energy in the areas we serve. Our best example is the community solar project next to our office. We are learning daily about the promise and challenges of solar energy in northern Michigan.

There is no one singular solution for our energy generation future. It will forever remain a balance of coal, gas, nuclear and renewables.



Tony Anderson
General Manager

"Cherryland, in partnership with Wolverine Power, balances fuel resources to deliver safe, reliable, affordable power."



CEC Offers College Scholarships

High school seniors whose parents or guardians get their electricity from Cherryland Electric Cooperative and live in our service area have a shot at three \$4,000 college scholarships.

The three winning seniors will receive \$1,000 a year for four years.

Selection is based on GPA (minimum required is 2.75), extracurricular activities, community involvement and/or after school employment. To continue receiving the scholarship, a student must maintain a minimum college course load of 12 credits per term or semester and receive a 2.5 GPA or higher. Students may apply by contacting their high school guidance counselor; or contact Nick Edson, communications coordinator at Cherryland, as noted below.

The entry deadline is *April 11* at 4 p.m.

There will also be two scholarships awarded for post-high school college classes. You must also be a Cherryland member to apply for these adult education scholarships, worth \$1,000 each.

The scholarship goes toward covering the cost of a course or courses taken in a calendar year and will be awarded on the basis of need, grades and community service. It is a one-time award, and the deadline is also *April 11*.

Members may request an application for either scholarship by emailing Nick Edson at nicke@cecelec.com (please include your name and address), call him at 486-9222 or write him at Cherryland Electric Cooperative, 5930 U.S.-31 South, Grawn, MI 49637.



Incredible Mo's to Host Annual Meeting June 19

There's a new look and location to the Cherryland Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting.

The 76th Annual Meeting will take place at Incredible Mo's in Grawn on Thursday, June 19. Registration will open at 4 p.m., the business meeting will be held from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., and the festivities will come to a close at 8 p.m.

"We had a great six-year run at Wuerfel Park and now we're going to give another Cherryland member the chance to host our meeting," said General Manager Tony Anderson.

There will be an inside-outside look to the 2014 Annual Meeting. Inside will be food, bowling, laser tag and arcade games. The food will consist of pizza, salad and a soft drink or water. Outside will be Cherryland information tables, entertainer Kevin Reeves, and a big tent for the business meeting.

"We're looking forward to hosting this," said Chris Mohrhardt of Incredible Mo's. "There are a lot of fun things for individuals and families to do here."

The business meeting will start later (5:30 p.m.) to give more people time to attend. Incredible Mo's is located on U.S.-31 South at 1355 Silver Crossing Blvd., just down the road from Cherryland's office.

STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

Cherryland Electric Cooperative is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The 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 Cherryland Electric Cooperative

Case No. U-15815

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, Cherryland Electric Cooperative submits an annual report to the MPSC regarding its Renewable Energy Plan. In 2012, Cherryland acquired 15,297 renewable energy credits and 325 incentive credits from its wholesale power supplier, Wolverine Power Cooperative, Inc. Wolverine will continue to generate renewable energy and bank unused renewable energy credits for future use and compliance with statutory renewable portfolio standard requirements on behalf of all of its members.

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 cherrylandelectric.com or by request at any of the cooperative's offices.

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

Fuel Mix Report

The fuel mix characteristics of Cherryland Electric Cooperative 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's fuel mix	Regional average fuel mix used
Coal	54.1%	59.4%
Oil	2.9%	0.6%
Gas	18.1%	9.8%
Hydroelectric	2.7%	0.6%
Nuclear	17.0%	25.4%
Renewable Fuels	5.2%	4.2%
Biofuel	0.4%	0.5%
Biomass	0.1%	0.5%
Solar	0.0%	0.0%
Solid Waste Incineration	0.0%	0.0%
Wind	4.6%	2.7%
Wood	0.1%	0.5%

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

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	5.1	7.6
Carbon Dioxide	1,522	2,170
Oxides of Nitrogen	1.8	2.0
High-level nuclear waste	0.0056	0.0083

*Regional average information was obtained from MPSC website and is for the twelve-month period ending 12/31/13.

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

You Can Serve On Cherryland's Board

Any qualified Cherryland Electric member can be elected to serve on the cooperative's board of directors.

To be nominated in 2014, candidates can file a petition with the cooperative's human resources administrator starting the first day of March until 4 p.m. on the last business day of March.

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

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

The term of office is three years. Two directors will be elected at this year's annual

meeting, which will be held Thursday, June 19, at Incredible Mo's in Grawn. This year's directors will represent Leelanau County and one at-large position.

Nominees must meet the director qualifications set forth in the bylaws under Section 2 of Article III.

Any member interested in becoming a candidate is invited to visit the cooperative's office to learn about a director's duties.

In the event no qualified candidate is nominated to fill the vacancy of a director whose term expires, the newly elected board will appoint sufficient directors to fill the vacancies. The election will be by majority vote of the board within 60 days of its first meeting.

Directors elected in this manner will serve until the next annual meeting, when members will have an opportunity to fill the balance of the regular three-year term.

Cherryland Cares Seeks Grant Applications

Area non-profit agencies that are seeking financial help can apply for a grant through Cherryland Cares.

Cherryland Cares is a five-member board, made up of Cherryland Electric Cooperative members who distribute money from Operation Round Up to area non-profits. The next quarterly meeting of Cherryland Cares is March 17, and the application

deadline is March 7.

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, e-mail nicke@cecelec.com or call 486-9222.

Pay Your Cherryland Electric Bill Online

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

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

To sign up, access your account on cherrylandelectric.com. It will prompt you immediately after you sign in to make a decision on whether or not you want the paper bill to continue; if you do, check the box. If not, simply press "update."

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



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.



Great Lakes
Stainless, Inc.

Curiosity Creative



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Northwestern Michigan



THE BANK OF
northern michigan



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)

The Voice of the Turtle

It was 30 years ago this month – the last week of March, 1984 – that I was covering spring training in Lakeland, FL, and walked into the Detroit Tigers locker room at 9 a.m.

There were very few players around – mostly clubhouse workers – and my friends Tom Gage from the *Detroit News* and Harry Atkins from the *Associated Press*. We came early to talk to two new players the Tigers had just acquired in a trade with the Philadelphia Phillies – relief pitcher Willie Hernandez and backup first baseman Dave Bergman.

Based on their backgrounds, we figured neither one would make much of a difference. We and the entire baseball world were

dead wrong.

Hernandez led the Tigers to the World Series title that year. He was the American League Most Valuable Player and the Cy Young Award winner – given to the best pitcher in the league. Bergman's great defense helped preserve Jack Morris' no-hitter early in the season and he had one of the most memorable at-bats of the season.

He fouled off seven straight pitches off Toronto pitcher Roy Lee Jackson before hitting a game-winning three-run homer in the bottom of the 10th inning at old Tiger Stadium.

Tigers manager Sparky Anderson, the master of hyperbole, later called it “the greatest

at bat I ever saw in my life.”

But that morning in Lakeland, Hernandez and Bergman trudged into the locker room and wondered what kind of team they were joining. Little did they know they were the last pieces of the puzzle. It's the last time the Tigers have won a World Series. And one of the great memories of my life is standing in the locker room at Tiger Stadium in October getting sprayed with champagne as the team celebrated.

So I'm tempted to say that because of the Tigers that 1984 was the main reason it was one of the greatest years of my life. But my only son Christopher was born on May 3 during that 1984 season and he went on to be an excellent baseball player and a fan for life. That's my No. 1 reason for savoring 1984.

That means that the 2014 version of the Tigers is now on the clock to win the World Series.

It's amazing to me how many Cherryland members are great Tigers fans. Men and women, boys and girls of all ages follow the Tigers. And they all have their opinions. That's what I love about baseball in the spring – there is always hope.

They call baseball a microcosm of life. And I believe that is true.

That's why every spring since 1960, the great Tigers broadcaster Ernie Harwell used to recite the verse, “Voice of the Turtle,” before his first spring training broadcast. It's a stanza that celebrates the freshness of spring and renewed life and opportunities.

*“For, lo, the winter is past,
The rain is over and gone;
The flowers appear on
the earth;
The time of the singing of
birds is come,
And the voice of the turtle
is heard in our land.”*

I don't know about you, but after the long winter we've experienced, I'm more than ready for the “Voice of the Turtle”... and some baseball.



By Nick Edson

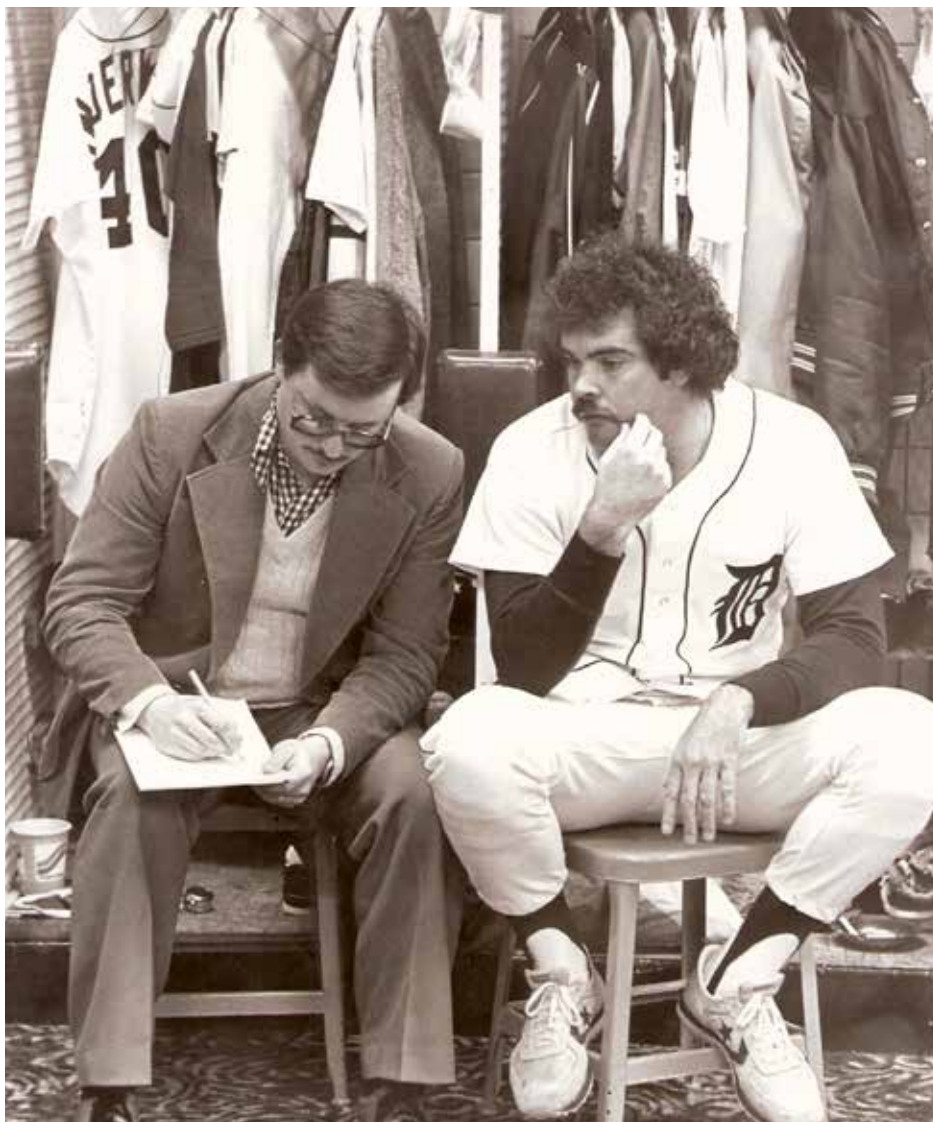


Photo - John L. Russell

Nick Edson interviews Tigers pitcher Kevin Saucier back in 1982.

Getting Back to Our (Grass) Roots

For the past year, we have worked tirelessly to increase our engagement with you, the members of Cherryland Electric Cooperative.

Here's where we stand now:

- 115 member contributions to the national ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action committee
- 24 devoted volunteers for our local member advisory committee
- 250 comments submitted by our members to the EPA about reasonable regulations that keep electric rates more affordable
- 2,000 attendees at our annual meeting
- 3,000 followers on Facebook.

But what do all of these things have in

common? They show that you, our members, are committed to the health and success of your cooperative.

They assure me that the members we serve still believe in our mission. And, they inspire me to continue working to give you opportunities to get engaged with the cooperative's political and community advocacy.

We've focused our attention on two specific areas. First, we have tried to provide you with credible, factual information about the major energy issues that we face. Second, we have created



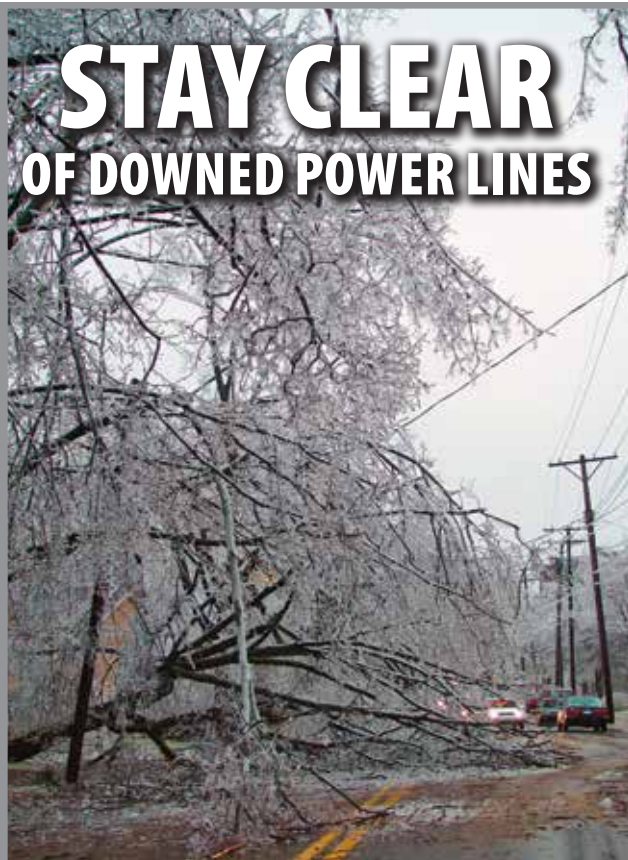
By Rachel Johnson
Grassroots Advocate

more ways for you to get involved and give us feedback.

A year ago, I wrote an article in this magazine about making sure that when you reach out to us, we reach back. That's why we are active on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and other mediums we haven't traditionally used.

Wherever you are, that's where we want to be, too. But, the road goes both ways. So, now, I am going to issue a challenge to you - We are reaching out and asking you to get more engaged, will you reach back?

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

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Frank Farmer, President,
American Metal Roofs

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



cherrylandelectric.com

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