

MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES

DOAK'S NEW COURSE:

DOUBLE
THE FUN



Plus!

4 Forecast For Power

5 Announcing The
Good Member Award

8 Meet Your Director Candidates

Easy financing meets the comfort of geothermal.



5 Series Special Financing

Geothermal just got more affordable. WaterFurnace units can save you up to 70% on heating, cooling & hot water by capturing the clean, renewable energy in your backyard. Plus, we're offering special financing on the most popular dual capacity geothermal heat pump around—the 5 Series—from now until June 19, 2015. Just order a 5 Series unit with select installation accessories to receive this special limited-time offer on financing. Don't need financing? We'll give you a \$500 instant rebate just for purchasing the 5 Series with installation accessories. Visit your local WaterFurnace dealer for more information.

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 Plbg & Htg
(231) 238-7201

Ionia

Home Experts
(800) 457-4554

Jackson

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

Kalkaska

Kalkaska Plbg & 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

Kiessel Geothermal

Htg & Clg
(231) 747-7509

Palms

Lakeshore
Improvements
(989) 864-3833

Portland

ESI Htg & Clg
(517) 647-6906

Sunfield

Mark Woodman Plbg & Htg
(517) 886-1138

Traverse City

Geofurnace Htg & Clg
(231) 943-1000

D&W Mechanical

(231) 941-1215

UPPER PENINSULA

Kinross

Great Lakes
Services Inc.
(906) 632-5543

Manistique

Hoholik Enterprises
(906) 341-5065



waterfurnace.com/SpecialFinancing

April 2015
Vol. 35, No. 4

Executive Editor
Casey Clark

Editors
Christine Dorr
Gail Knudtson

Publisher
Michigan Electric
Cooperative Association

Design and Layout
Ciesa Design

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. 517-913-3531. E-mail: cdorr@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.



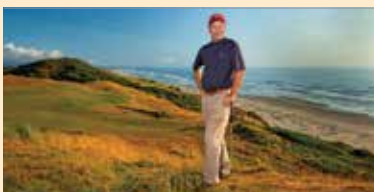
IN THIS ISSUE



6 OUR ENERGY
Improve Home Comfort and Save Energy
James Dullely



7 HOME COOKING
Healthy and Nutritious Recipes
Christin McKamey & Our Readers



10 FEATURE
Tom Doak Designs Golf Courses In Michigan And Around The World
Kath Usitalo



13 SAFETY
How To Protect Electronics From Power Surges



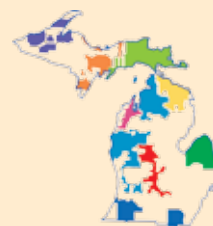
14 READERS' PAGE
Honoring Veterans With Hand-Carved Personalized Canes
Jim Carpenter

ON THE COVER*

Traverse City's Tom Doak, of Renaissance Golf Design, shares his passion for creating challenging courses around the globe.

Photos - Renaissance Golf Design

*Some co-op editions have a different cover.



Michigan's Electric
Cooperatives
countrylines.com

Board of Directors

District #1

Big Bay
Mike Nason
906-360-1477
mnason9993@charter.net

District #2

Harvey-Deerton
Sam Simonetta
906-892-8504
lcellc@hotmail.com

District #3

Grand Marais
Nancy Gardner-Platt
906-494-2772
rlnkgard@jamadots.com

District #4

Cedar River/Palestine
Dave Prestin
906-424-0055
cedarriverplaza@gmail.com

District #5

Gourley, LaBranche & Cornell
David Anthony
(906) 466-2932
anthony@hannahville.org

District #6

Nathan, White Rapids
Paul Sederquist
906-753-4484
sedergrrove@gmail.com

District #7

Stonington/Rapid River
Sue Alexander
906-399-3666
smalexander55@yahoo.com

District #8

Nahma/Isabella
Ray Young
(906) 644-2488
kyoung@uplogon.com

District #9

Hiawatha & Maple Ridge
Ron Oberg
906-573-2551
director9-algerdelta@jamadots.com

What's the Forecast?



Tom Harrell
General Manager

When we hear the word “forecast,” we typically think of the weather. But electric cooperatives are tasked with providing a different type of forecast—a *load forecast*. A load forecast is exactly what it sounds like—an estimate or prediction of how much electricity will be needed in the future. We all depend on power to meet our daily needs, but the amount we use varies from season-to-season, day-to-day and even hour-by-hour. This is why WPPI Energy, Alger Delta’s power supplier, needs a load forecast—so they can plan far in advance and ensure there is enough power available to meet our members’ electricity demands.

As demand fluctuates, WPPI Energy is prepared to add or subtract generation resources to maintain energy flow and keep the system running efficiently. This means extensive planning—even up to 20 years in advance. Alger Delta works closely with WPPI, evaluating areas of growth and predicting demand patterns on our system. It might surprise members to know that the peak demand for energy on Alger Delta’s system frequently occurs on weekends and holidays—which is exactly the opposite of most utilities.

Planning ahead improves reliability, and projecting the amount of electricity that will be purchased ensures the best economic price for power. So, whatever the energy need—Alger Delta is ready and able to provide our members with safe, reliable, and affordable electric service. ■

Official Notice of District Meetings

Pursuant to the Bylaws, notice is hereby given that the Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association shall convene a District Meeting of the Members of the Cooperative in the Districts identified in the chart below, on the following dates and at the stated locations and times:

District	Description	Date and Time	Location
3	Grand Marais	Monday, May 11, 2015 6:00 p.m. ET	Frank Mead Community Center E21738 Brazel Street Grand Marais, MI 49839
2	Harvey/Deerton	Tuesday, May 12, 2015 6:00 p.m. ET	Chocolay Township Hall 5010 US 41 South Marquette, MI 49855
4	Cedar River	Wednesday, May 13, 2015 6:00 p.m. CT	Cedarville Township Hall N8235 Old Mill Lane Cedar River, MI 49887

Each district meeting shall be called to order at 6:00 p.m. local time.

Each district shall complete the following items of official business:

- Election of one (1) person to serve on the board of directors for a term of three (3) years.
- Presentation and consideration of reports by the officer(s) and/or director(s) of the cooperative.

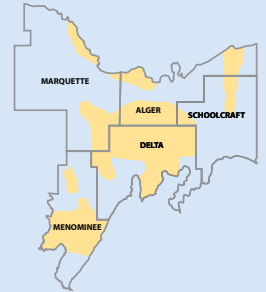
Alger Delta Announces First ‘Good Member Award’

Alger Delta Cooperative plans to honor three of its members with a “Good Member Award.” The awards are to recognize members for outstanding contributions, volunteer service and commitment to the co-op principle of “Concern for Community.”

“Alger Delta wants to recognize and support members who are giving their time and service to a worthy cause,” says Tom Harrell, Alger Delta’s CEO. “This is a great way for the cooperative to connect with members and to show that we care for them, even as they care for their friends, their neighbors and their communities.” Alger Delta will honor the member’s concern for community by donating \$100 to the organization or charity of their choosing. The winners of the “Good Member Award” will be announced at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 13.

A non-member may nominate an Alger Delta member for this honorable award. Members must be nominated by someone other than themselves, and must be a member of Alger Delta Cooperative. To complete a nomination form, visit algerdelta.com and click on the “Good Member Award” link. You can complete and submit the form online. If you prefer a paper copy, call one of our member service representatives at 906-428-4141 and the form will be mailed to you.

Don’t wait, please submit your nomination today! ■



CEO

Tom Harrell
tharrell@algerdelta.com

Headquarters:

426 N. 9th St
Gladstone, MI 49837
906-428-4141
800-562-0950
Fax: 906-428-3840
admin@algerdelta.com
www.algerdelta.com

Office Hours

M–F, 7:30–4:00 (ET)

Alger Delta Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

algerdelta.com

Curtains Up! Alger Delta Sponsors Play At Local Schools

Getting kids excited about electricity and how to use it safely and wisely requires creativity and humor. To help get the message across, Alger Delta Cooperative is sponsoring live performances by The National Theatre for Children at local schools.


The Theatre uses professional actors who perform an action-packed adventure combined with high energy comedy to teach students educational messages. “The Energized Guyz: Daylight Savings Crime” features two actors who play a variety of characters in the 25-minute program. Students learn about energy efficiency while cheering on the play’s hero, a lightbulb store owner who needs to stop an evil villain that is wasting all the energy in town. The performances are presented to K through 6th grade students. Each show includes grade-appropriate workbooks for each student, teacher guidebooks, and classroom posters.

The play will be performed at the following schools:

- Rapid River Public Schools: April 10 at 8 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.
- Wilson Seventh Day Adventist Junior Academy: April 13 at 8:20 a.m.
- Powell Township School: April 27 at 9 a.m.
- AuTrain-Onota Public Schools: April 29 at 8:30 a.m.
- Burt Township Schools: April 29 at 1 p.m.
- Wells Township Schools: April 30 at 2:30 p.m.

Alger Delta Co-op sponsors the performances in coordination with the community’s not-for-profit power supplier, WPPI Energy. “National Theatre for Children puts on a show that’s as entertaining as it is educational,” said General Manager Tom Harrell. “It’s fun to see the kids laughing while they’re learning.” ■





Improve Home Comfort By Choosing Materials Carefully

If you're looking to improve your home's comfort, consider increasing its thermal mass. Increasing thermal mass means having the house structure and interior objects absorb and hold as much heat as possible. The heavier the item, the more mass it has to better absorb heat. As the outdoor temperature changes, thermal mass helps moderate indoor temperature swings to improve comfort and efficiency.

There are several ways thermal mass can save energy. By reducing indoor temperature swings in the winter, less heat is lost through walls and windows. This is particularly true in rooms where heat is generated, such as the kitchen, bathroom, or rooms with large south-facing windows. Also, heat produced by the furnace is absorbed by the home's thermal mass and then released at night to warm it.

In summer, high thermal mass will keep rooms cooler, delay the need for using air conditioning, and keep it from cycling on-and-off throughout the day. Unless high humidity is an issue, opening windows at night and running a whole-house or window fan allows the thermal mass to lose the heat stored from the daytime. Close the windows in the morning and the cooled thermal mass absorbs heat coming in without causing the room temperature to rise as fast. The thermal mass of air is extremely low, so the cold outdoor air quickly absorbs heat from the indoor thermal mass.

Increase thermal mass by selecting the proper high mass (heavier) materials. They should be located throughout the home, but concentrate on rooms that generate heat or overheat in summer. When building a house or adding rooms, use heavy foam insulating sheathing on the outside of the wall framing, which allows it to become part of the interior thermal mass.

The thermal mass of various materials is rated by heat capacity properties. Water has a high heat capacity of 62.4 per cubic foot, compared to drywall at only 1.3 per cubic foot. Wet soil rates about 55, concrete about 31, brick about 27, and stone or tile ranges from 18 to 36. Their natural thermal properties, in addition to densities, determine these numbers.

For example, installing a dark, ceramic-tile flooring near a door or window is a great source of thermal mass. Decorative solid-brick walls work well in a room with a fireplace or large windows. Heavy granite or slate countertops in a kitchen or bath, and wood floors are also effective. The idea is to replace lighter materials with heavier ones.

Even the damp soil in large potted plants can store much heat, and plants help purify indoor air. For emergencies, storing milk jugs full of water under cabinets and near your heating system can also increase thermal mass. ■



HERE'S TO YOUR HEALTH

Delicious and nutritious recipes for living healthy.

Energy Balls *(pictured)*

- ¼ c. unroasted almonds or any kind of nut or seed
- ¾ c. old fashioned rolled oats, uncooked
- 2 T. ground flax seed
- 2–3 T. cocoa powder, depending on how chocolatey you want them
- 10 oz. dates
- 1–2 T. coconut oil, melted

Place almonds in the bowl of a food processor. Pulse until finely chopped. Add oats, flax seed, and cocoa powder. Pulse a few more times to combine. Place dates into the food processor and turn on for about 30 seconds, or until finely chopped. Mixture should be crumbly at this point. Drizzle 1 T. coconut oil over the top of the date mixture and process for 5–10 seconds. Test mixture by squeezing between your finger and thumb. If it's too dry to stick together add more coconut oil (up to 1 T. more). Using your hands, roll mixture into 1-inch balls. Refrigerate for about 20 minutes, or until firm. Store in an airtight container in the refrigerator. This Energy Ball recipe is a little something that I enjoy for an afternoon snack with some green tea. It's a great and healthy pick-me-up. Makes 24.

Julie Barr, Manistique

Quinoa and Cucumber Salad

- 2 c. cooked quinoa
- 3 baby English cucumbers, sliced
- 1 can chickpeas, drained and rinsed
- 1 box sweet cherry tomatoes
- 1–2 handfuls feta cheese crumbles

Toss all ingredients in a bowl until evenly combined. Zest and juice one lime over salad and add fresh ground pepper to taste. Toss to combine. Can also add a tablespoon or two of olive oil, if desired. This is a flavorful and filling 'go to' recipe for a quick side or portable lunch.

Denise Chapel, Gaylord

Spinach Pasta Salad

- ½ bag of store-bought spinach or 2 handfuls fresh, washed and torn (tearing spinach over cutting is preferred)
- 8 oz. pasta, cooked according to pkg. directions (cork screws, bow ties, wheels, work best)
- fat free, light, or regular Caesar dressing (your brand preference)
- 1 c. shredded parmesan cheese
- fat free croutons
- Extras: grilled chicken, bacon pieces, tomatoes, diced boiled egg



In a large bowl, mix pasta with a generous amount of dressing to coat evenly. Add cheese & spinach to bowl (and chicken/bacon/tomatoes/eggs) and mix well. Serve cold and top with croutons. Note: Don't add croutons to the salad or they will get soggy.

Renee (Kohn) Coyer, Cooks

SUBMIT YOUR RECIPE!

Thanks to all who send in recipes. Please send in your favorite "Burgers/All American" recipes by **May 1** and your favorite "Fresh Seafood" recipes by **July 1**.

Enter your recipe online at countrylines.com or send to (handprinted or typed on one side, please): *Country Lines Recipes*, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864. Please note the co-op from which you receive your electric service.

Contributors whose recipes we print in 2015 will be entered in a drawing and *Country Lines* will pay the winner's January 2016 electric bill (up to \$200)!

Photos—831 Creative

Meet The Director Candidates

DISTRICT 2 HARVEY / DEERTON



KAREN ALHOLM

Occupations:

Marquette County Commissioner
 Adult Learning Systems – U.P. Director
 Marquette/Alger Resolution Services –
 Volunteer Mediator (intern)

Candidate Comments:

I look forward to serving on the Alger Delta board of directors. I am an Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association member of long-standing, receiving services in both the Deerton and Harvey areas.

A focus of the co-op should be to provide efficient and economical services to its members. The co-op's rates appear excessive, however, exploring options to lower members' rates is a priority. Also, the co-op board of directors operations and proceedings need to be open and transparent, with co-op information readily accessible to members. After all, the co-op exists to serve its members.

My experience as an attorney will be valuable in analyzing co-op and board issues, as will be my experiences as a Marquette County commissioner; an adult learning systems U.P. director; and trained Marquette Alger resolution services mediator.

I will bring a fresh perspective to the Alger Delta.

I would appreciate your support and vote.



GERALD KRIEG

Occupations:

Retired
 Test Energy at AC Electronics
 U.S. Navy Environmental Space Lab
 Milwaukee School of Engineering
 TC Sales & Service
 Pinewood Lodge B & B (Owner)

Candidate Comments:

I have been very active in my community. I have been on the town planning commission; served as zoning administrator; involved in amateur radio, and served on the school board. I have also served on the Alger Delta Cooperative board of directors for 18 years, including serving as president. I also was a member of the UP Travel and Recreation Association (UPTRA) and served as their chairman for six years.

As a past member of the Alger Delta board of directors, I have a depth of knowledge and interest with the operations of the board and the co-op operations. I believe that I am able to represent the members of the co-op and I am asking for your support.

DISTRICT 3 GRAND MARAIS

**NANCY GARDNER-PLATT****Occupations:**

Alger Delta Cooperative Board Member
 Community Emergency Response Team/
 Medical Reserve Corp. Volunteer
 Sunday school teacher

Candidate Comments:

I've been a co-op member since 1986. You first elected me to the board in 2009 and again in 2012. Thank you for the privilege and honor of representing and serving you.

I'm proud of Alger Delta's progress. As chairperson of the finance and rates committee, we've held rates and fees while improving the financial position of the cooperative. I am also on the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association (MECA) board. I receive the latest information on political and operational issues affecting our co-op and others in Michigan. Together, we work hard to help keep electricity reliable and affordable.

I am a Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) and continually work on your behalf to bring affordable, reliable electric service through long-term energy planning under guidance from management. It's a humble privilege to serve you, our members, and I ask for your vote so that I may continue to do so. Thank you.

DISTRICT 4 CEDAR RIVER/PALESTINE

**DAVID PRESTIN****Occupations:**

Cedar River Plaza – Owner/Operator
 Alger Delta Cooperative– Board Member & Vice President
 Cedarville Township VFD – Assistant Fire Chief
 Mid-County Rescue – Medical First Responder
 Menominee County Department of Human Services –
 Board Member
 Pinecrest Medical Care Facility – Board Member

Candidate Comments:

I've been a co-op member since 2007. I was appointed to the board in March; elected vp in June 2014; and serve on the Employee Relations Committee.

I have 18 years' experience running my own businesses, including the Cedar River Plaza on M-35. Since purchasing the station, I have expanded our product lines to that of a general store/restaurant and created a stable business model.

I am the assistant fire chief in Cedarville Township and a Medical First Responder for Mid-County 114 in the Cedar River and NE Ingallston Township area. In December of 2014, I was appointed to the Menominee County Department of Human Services board and the Pinecrest Medical Care Facility board.

Your electric rates are my electric rates. So, I will always consider lowering costs and increasing reliability as my mandate on the Alger Delta Cooperative board of directors. I would appreciate your vote.

DOAK'S NEW COURSE: DOUBLE THE FUN

A golfer's bucket list of courses likely includes "Top 100" links by golf course architect Tom Doak, such as Pacific Dunes in Oregon and Tasmania's Barnbougle Dunes. With his new project at Forest Dunes Golf Club in Roscommon, MI, Doak's own bucket list—of golf courses he'd like to design—is shorter by one.

Doak, whose Renaissance Golf Design is based in Traverse City, has conceived a reversible 18-hole golf course, playable from two directions with the greens yielding different layouts. "I'd been thinking about it for a long time," he says. "I saw something in an old architecture book and I had it in the back of my mind: 'Okay, I'd like to try that sometime.'"

Enter Forest Dunes owner Lew Thompson's quest for a companion to his highly-acclaimed Tom Weiskopf course. "When I first met Lew and went to look at the property and saw it was fairly open, fairly flat, I thought it would work for this idea." Importantly, Doak adds, "Thompson didn't say anything about it being ranked in the Top 100 courses—he already has one of those. He wanted something that would make people say 'Wow.'" And, Thompson admits, he wanted something to keep golfers for another day of play-and-stay at his Adirondack-style lodge.

The location is a bonus for Doak, who has called northern Michigan home since 1989 when he completed his first solo project, High Pointe Golf Club, near Traverse City. The Cornell University graduate was just 26 when Fred Muller, the golf pro at



To keep up to date on the new course, please visit

RENAISSANCE GOLF DESIGN

www.renaissancegolf.com

FOREST DUNES

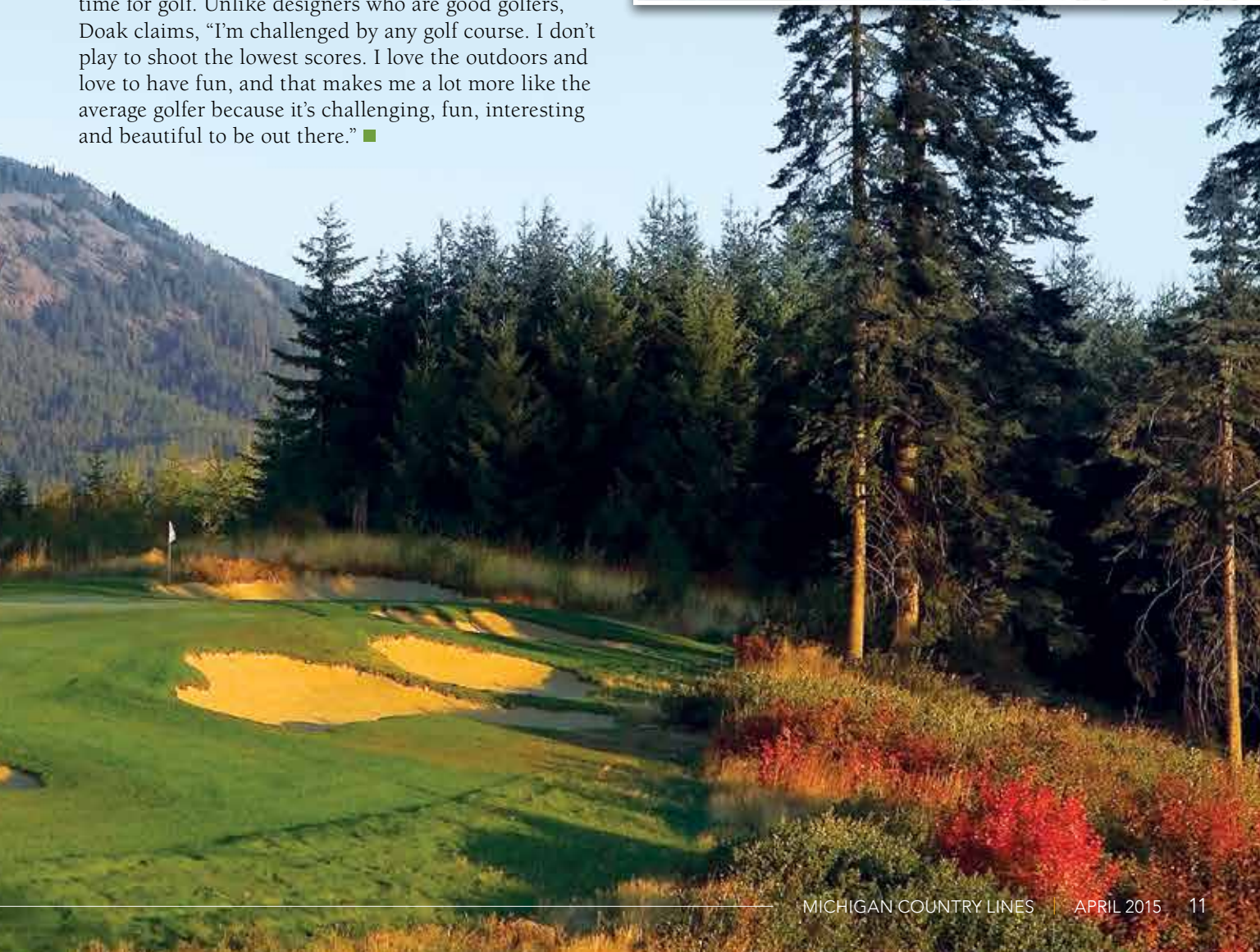
www.forestdunesgolf.com

Photo — L.C. Lambrecht Photography
Rock Creek Cattle Golf Course, Deer Lodge, MT

Crystal Downs Country Club in Frankfort, recommended him for that job. Muller met Doak when the college student came to play Crystal Downs because its designer, Alister MacKenzie, was his hero. After graduation Doak spent nearly a year playing the great courses around the world and caddying at St. Andrews in Scotland, and three years working for another hero, Pete Dye. “I’m still sort of amazed that the owner of High Pointe hired me at that age. I think the key was that I was going to build the golf course—not just design it. I was pretty ridiculously confident.”

Doak’s second Michigan course was Black Forest, at Wilderness Valley in Gaylord (“one of the hardest courses I’ve ever built”); since then, he and his team have handled new courses and renovations across the U.S. and around the globe, from Mexico to Scotland and China. Doak is looking forward to more time with his family as he and associate Brian Slawnik develop the Roscommon project, due to open in 2016.

Michigan’s four seasons remind Doak of growing up in Connecticut, but he’s not a fan of winter. He laughs, “It’s really easy to be here all summer,” when he finds time for golf. Unlike designers who are good golfers, Doak claims, “I’m challenged by any golf course. I don’t play to shoot the lowest scores. I love the outdoors and love to have fun, and that makes me a lot more like the average golfer because it’s challenging, fun, interesting and beautiful to be out there.” ■



Save Smart With a Free Home Energy Audit

You know your home best. Many common problems, such as mold, mildew and ice dams can be directly attributed to inefficiencies in your home. Other issues, such as room temperature inconsistencies, drafts and even noise are felt, not seen.

Use Alger Delta 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.

Completing the online interactive survey takes a quick 15–30 minutes. **After completion, you'll receive a free energy-saving kit** that contains

five CFLs, one energy-efficient bath aerator, one energy-efficient kitchen aerator, and one energy-efficient shower head.

The Home Energy Optimizer *automatically estimates your energy use and projected heating, cooling, hot water, appliance and lighting costs.* It's

customized for your region's climate and 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. ■

Here's how to get started today:

- Go to michigan-energy.org/AlgerDelta and click on "Online Home Audit."
- Write down your session number.
- Answer questions as best you can. (It's okay to skip questions if you have to.)
- Finish the audit and receive your free energy-saving kit.
- Install all kit items. Use other EO programs and rebates for future purchases.



SMART SAVING

FREE ONLINE HOME AUDIT.

Did you know that some problems with your home can be signs of major energy waste—while costing you money? Problems such as mildew, ice dams, and overall discomfort can be attributed to inefficiencies in your home. Help improve your home by assessing its energy performance using the Home Energy Optimizer.

BENEFITS

- Convenient—ability to save and edit responses or finish later
- Do-it-yourself, affordable, energy-saving actions
- Completion entitles you to a **FREE** energy-saving kit

Get started today at michigan-energy.org/Stephenson and click on "Online Home Audit."



Energy
Optimization



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.

What's The Best Way To Protect Electronics From Power Surges?

Power surges can cause major damage to electrical items in your home. Did you know there are ways to protect your products from electrical surges?

A surge is an unexpected increase in voltage in an electrical current that causes damage to electrical equipment. A surge will enter a home through any number of avenues. The most obvious is through the power lines. Less obvious is through the telephone lines, cable/satellite connections, water lines and any other metallic system that connects to your home. So, to protect against surges, you need to take a three-pronged approach.

1. Get an electrician to survey and test your home's grounding system.

2. Protect your electrical service entrance with a surge device. It can be installed behind the meter or at the main electric panel. The device will "clamp" the surge and reduce its power. These devices destroy themselves rather than allowing the surge to pass through.

3. Protect expensive electronics at their point of use. Computers and entertainment equipment are prime examples. Use a quality power strip or wall device product with a surge protection feature from a manufacturer such as Monster, Belkin, Tripp Lite, or APC, to name a few. Look for one with a joule rating of at least 1,000, a connected equipment warranty and compatibility with digital signals from cable and satellite. Some have a "smart" strip that turns off all but one connected device when not in use. ■

Help Us Celebrate National Lineman Day

As the "first responders" of the electric co-op family, lineworkers perform around-the-clock in dangerous conditions and challenging situations to keep power flowing and protect the public's safety. That's why electric co-ops have designated a National Lineman Appreciation Day. This year, April 13 is the day we honor the hard-working men and women who keep the lights on.

Resolutions adopted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) explain it best:

"Whereas linemen leave their families and put their lives on the line every day to keep the power on;

Whereas linemen work 365 days a year under dangerous conditions to build, maintain and repair the electric infrastructure;

Whereas there would be no electric co-ops without the brave men and women who comprise our corps of lineworkers."

"Electric lineworkers do not often receive the recognition they deserve," said Alger Delta Cooperative general manager, Tom Harrell "They work all hours of the day, often in hazardous conditions far from their families, going above and beyond to restore power to their communities. Our lineworkers, and those across the nation, truly deserve this special day of recognition."

Alger Cooperative Electric Association invites you, as a co-op member, to take a moment to "thank a lineworker" for the job they do and show support for those who help light our lives. ■



Honoring Veterans One Cane At A Time

The idea came about in 2004 when Jack Nitz of Tulsa, OK, watched a news segment about wounded post-9/11 veterans.

The visions of vets with leg wounds and amputations weighed on his mind. Nitz knew that as a woodcarver and cane maker, he could make a difference in the lives of these heroic veterans.

Nitz proposed the idea of making unique canes that veterans could proudly use to the Eastern Oklahoma Woodcarvers Association. His eagle-head cane has since spawned a program that enlists thousands of woodcarvers across the nation to support and honor U.S. veterans.

In 2007, Jim Wilsford from Tennessee came to Michigan to teach a class about making these eagle-head canes for veterans. Members of the Michigan Wood Carvers Association (MWCA) were so impressed they also decided to sponsor the project. To date, over 2,500 canes have been presented by MWCA.

During a visit with my friend and carving mentor, master carver Dick Lamphier of Elk Rapids, MI, he showed me an eagle-head cane that he was working on, and explained who the canes were being made for. I was very impressed by the whole project.

Initially, Lamphier had no interest in carving eagle heads. While at a seminar in Midland, Lamphier had the opportunity to witness the presentation of one of these canes to a veteran of the Vietnam War. There were about 250 people in attendance, and hardly a dry eye in the place. Witnessing the feelings and emotions that were on the faces of so many, Lamphier became determined to do what he could to assist with this healing program. Since that day, on two separate occasions, he has witnessed veterans from Afghanistan walking with these personalized canes.



Jim Carpenter works on the details of his carving.

In each instance, he complimented the veteran on the beauty of his cane. Each raised his cane with a BIG SMILE to acknowledge the compliment. Clearly, they held them up with great pride! Currently, 12 local carvers are working with Lamphier to create these tokens of thanks to our veterans.

Recently, while inspecting an overhead electrical line in the Suttons Bay area, I found a large basswood near a line that had found favor with woodpeckers. The tree was a potential power outage and needed to come down. The property owner agreed to donate the wood and another Cherryland employee, Dave Bott, volunteered his sawmill to cut the logs into usable material. This wood has been donated to the Michigan Wood Carvers Association and after it has cured, will be used to create more canes.

Visit miwoodcarvers.com to learn more about the Patriot Cane/Memorial Project. ■

Jim Carpenter is the line superintendent for Cherryland Electric Cooperative.



We Need Your House!

For Our 2015 Pilot Home Discount Program



How It Works:

American Metal Roofs is actively looking for homes we can use in our 2015 Pilot Home Program. Qualified homes will be featured in our advertising to promote American Metal Roof products. The money we save on advertising is passed along to you as a discount. That means if your home qualifies, you will receive a deeply discounted price on your new American Metal Roof.

Call now to see if your home qualifies!

PHONE: 844.638.2576
844.METAL.ROOFS

Financing Available
Do-It-Yourself and Save 50%
Details Online

VISIT OUR SHOWROOMS:

FLINT - 6140 Taylor Drive

CHARLOTTE - 1875 Lansing Road



AmericanMetalRoofs.com

See dozens of pictures • Enter to win a Metal Roof • Request a Quote

Save the Date

ALGER DELTA COOPERATIVE'S ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, June 13, 2015 U.P. State Fairgrounds



Knowing more about your electric cooperative helps you stay involved, and that helps us run Alger Delta for the benefit of you and your neighbors.

Our annual membership meeting will include a carnival complete with food and games, followed by our business meeting. Members are encouraged to take part in the games, grab a bite to eat, and talk to Alger Delta employees and directors.

FOOD and FUN for the Whole Family! See you there!