

# MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES

DOAK'S NEW COURSE:

DOUBLE  
THE FUN



## Plus!

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At The Bear Golf Course

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April 2015  
Vol. 35, No. 4

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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

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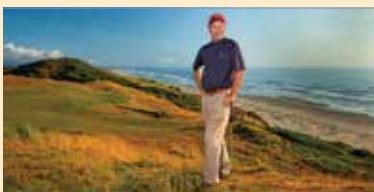
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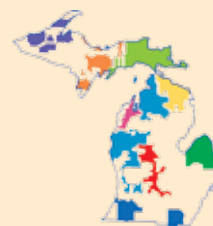
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Photos - Renaissance Golf Design

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



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## 100 Percent Renewable?

**I t seems that more and more lately**, people or businesses are using the term “100 percent renewable.”

Because they wear clothes shipped in by truck, drive cars fueled by gasoline, or wear eyeglasses made in factories, I am “assuming” they are talking about the energy used to power their homes and businesses.

Then, I scratch my head because I know they are connected to the electrical grid. For Cherryland members making such a claim, a quick walk to the billing department verifies that they indeed do pay a monthly electric bill.

How then can they make this “100 percent” claim? Well, they will tell you that their solar array, wind generator and/or renewable credits purchased from some distant project generate enough electricity over a 12-month period to cancel out any energy they take off the electrical grid.

While this might be true (I remain skeptical because I have no real proof), I take a more purist view of 100 percent. In my mind, if you are 100 percent renewable, you are disconnected from the grid. You are one of the hardy souls that have made the personal sacrifice to use only what you can produce on-site. My hat goes off to these people who truly are “walking the talk”.

On the other hand, when a person or entity claims to be 100 percent renewable while remaining connected to the grid, I find this a bit misleading. This may not be Brian Williams misleading but nonetheless, certainly not entirely accurate.

They are using the grid and central station power to operate their home or business when the sun doesn't shine or the wind doesn't blow. In reality, I am “okay” with being “used” in such a manner until they bash on coal, natural gas or nuclear generation. If traditional forms of generation are so bad, why not add a few more wind towers or solar panels and completely disconnect from the grid?

Well, you know why they don't do this? Granted, this is just my stuck-in-my-ways utility guy opinion, but I believe it is because they simply can't. The price of battery storage is too high and the stand-alone reliability of 24/7/365 electricity from renewable sources like wind and solar is far from 100 percent. They need the traditional utility model to keep them in power when the renewable sources can't do it.

Ultimately, this is all good and fine. The traditional utility model and renewables can co-exist. I believe we have proven this at Cherryland Electric Cooperative. Our portfolio will be more than 20 percent renewable in the next couple years while our rates have become lower than our biggest area competitor.

I simply see the 100 percent claim as unwillingness from some to admit that they need their reliable, stable utility. I don't need anybody to say they like my product or even need it (I know they do!) but I would like to see them be 100 percent honest about their use of renewable energy. ■



**Tony Anderson**  
General Manager

# Rachel's Role: Reaching Out to Members

**L**ike many cooperative employees, Rachel Johnson wears several hats at Cherryland.

She is the manager of member services, coordinates the grassroots efforts of members and legislators, and oversees the co-op's social media.

We sat down with her recently and asked her to tell us about her role in reaching out to members like you.

**Question:** Please tell us what you do at Cherryland.

**Answer:** I oversee our member services department and our energy use services.

Calling to set up service? You'll talk to someone on my team. Looking for a rebate to upgrade to more efficient appliances? Yep, that's us too. Hoping to make arrangements to pay your bill? You guessed it, my team.

I also spend a lot of time improving member engagement for Cherryland's members. This involves educating them on issues that affect their cooperative, communicating about services we provide, and most importantly, listening to them.

Basically, if PR, marketing, and customer service had a love child...it would be me.

**Q:** How did you wind-up at Cherryland?

**A:** I was new to the area and looking for a job. Cherryland was looking for someone with a communications background. I had one. It was love at first interview.

**Q:** What are some of the unique challenges of your job?

**A:** People are really busy, and engaging with their electric cooperative often falls really low on the priority list. I get it. But, we all depend on reliable, affordable energy to power our homes and businesses. It's a high stakes issue. If most of the population is disengaged or uninformed, it could lead to really negative outcomes for the average electric consumer.

So, regardless of whether a member has 3 minutes or 3 hours, I have to find ways to get them involved and educate them on issues affecting our industry. That takes quite a bit of creativity.

**Q:** What do you consider your strengths at Cherryland?

**A:** I'm a digital girl living in a digital world. I love social media and I think I've brought that passion to my job here. We are doing a lot more than we used to with online communications. Check out our blog ([cherrylandelectric.coop/blog](http://cherrylandelectric.coop/blog)), like our Facebook page, and follow us on Twitter. If podcasting is your gig, you can find ours on SoundCloud or iTunes.

I also think one of our strengths at Cherryland is that we approach all of our work as a team effort. I work well and am my most creative when I have a good team. My team here is the best I've ever worked with.

**Q:** How does working for a cooperative differ from other jobs you've had?

**A:** We work for the members we serve. We aren't beholden to stakeholders. All of our decisions are made with our members' best interests in mind. It is both humbling and inspiring. I love working for the co-op and being a member of the co-op. I am #CoopProud. ■



Want to talk energy in 140 characters or less?  
Follow Rachel on Twitter @RachelOnEnergy.



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## Improve Home Comfort By Choosing Materials Carefully

**I**f 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](http://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

# THE DAY I CADDIED

## — For Jack Nicklaus —



Jack Nicklaus tees off as Nick Edson tends to his golf bag.

### Jack Nicklaus studied his putt on the first green of The Bear and looked puzzled.

That, in itself, was amazing because A) He's the greatest golfer who ever lived, and B) He designed The Bear golf course at Grand Traverse Resort & Spa, where he was playing an exhibition back in 1987.

So he did what all good golfers do. He asked his caddy for advice. In this case, that was me.

As a member of the media at the time, I had been asked to caddy for Nicklaus for three holes, one of three media members to get the invitation since he was only playing nine holes. I couldn't reply fast enough to the invitation.

Since I had played the course a half dozen times and was yet to break 90 for 18 holes on The Bear (a record that's still intact), I was the very person he shouldn't have asked for advice about his putt.

But since I have what I call a "quarterback's confidence," I gave him a quick reply when he asked, "What do you think, Nick?"

"I think it's going to break right about 3 feet before the cup," I said.

"That's what I thought you'd say," he said with a laugh, and the gallery around us also laughed as Nicklaus motioned that he thought the putt would break left—the other way—just before the hole.

Guess what? He was right. So he started his day with a birdie. And the first of my three holes was finished as his caddy.

I thought picking up his bag and walking three holes with him was going to be a breeze. Wrong.





Spectators react with a laugh as Jack Nicklaus and Nick Edson disagree on how a putt will break.

After we shook hands near the first hole, he asked to see me sling his golf bag around my shoulder. As it turns out, it was the heaviest bag I'd ever lifted.

"Geez, what do you have in this thing," I asked, as he smiled.

"Well, I piled everything I could think of in there to get back at you media people," he laughed.

As the sports editor of the local paper, I had interviewed him before and always found him down-to-earth and very accommodating. That's not true of many "big name" athletes I encountered but was true of the guys I called my heroes—athletes like Al Kaline, Gordie Howe and Barry Sanders.

As we walked the three holes on The Bear, I found that Nicklaus not only enjoyed talking about the game he loves, he also enjoyed sharing stories about his impressive high school basketball career and his family.

I asked him how he juggled all his roles—golfer, golf course designer and family man.

"Priorities," he said. "Priorities and a very understanding and wonderful wife."

I stood off to his side—he told me exactly where to stand—when he hit his shots. He was like a machine—pounding his long irons, long woods and short irons to within a few feet of the pin. He was gracious with the fans who came out to see him put his blessing on The Bear.

He also surprised me by asking me about myself and my family as we strolled along the fairway. To say I was impressed would be an understatement.

As I handed off the golf bag after three holes, he asked me if I was going to stick around. I did and I was rewarded with a hilarious moment a few holes later.

He landed in one of the deep sand traps he had designed. His first attempt to get out hit the top of the trap and rolled back in.

"Now I'm going to do an impression of several of you golfers," he said, smiling. So he picked up the golf ball and threw it onto the green.

The crowd roared. It was Jack Nicklaus at his best—making the "average Joe" feel like a "special Joe".

The great ones—not the great athletes but the great people—have a way of doing that. ■



**Nick Edson**

“ I asked him how he juggled all his roles—golfer, golf course designer and family man.

‘Priorities,’ he said. ‘Priorities and a very understanding and wonderful wife.’ ”

# 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

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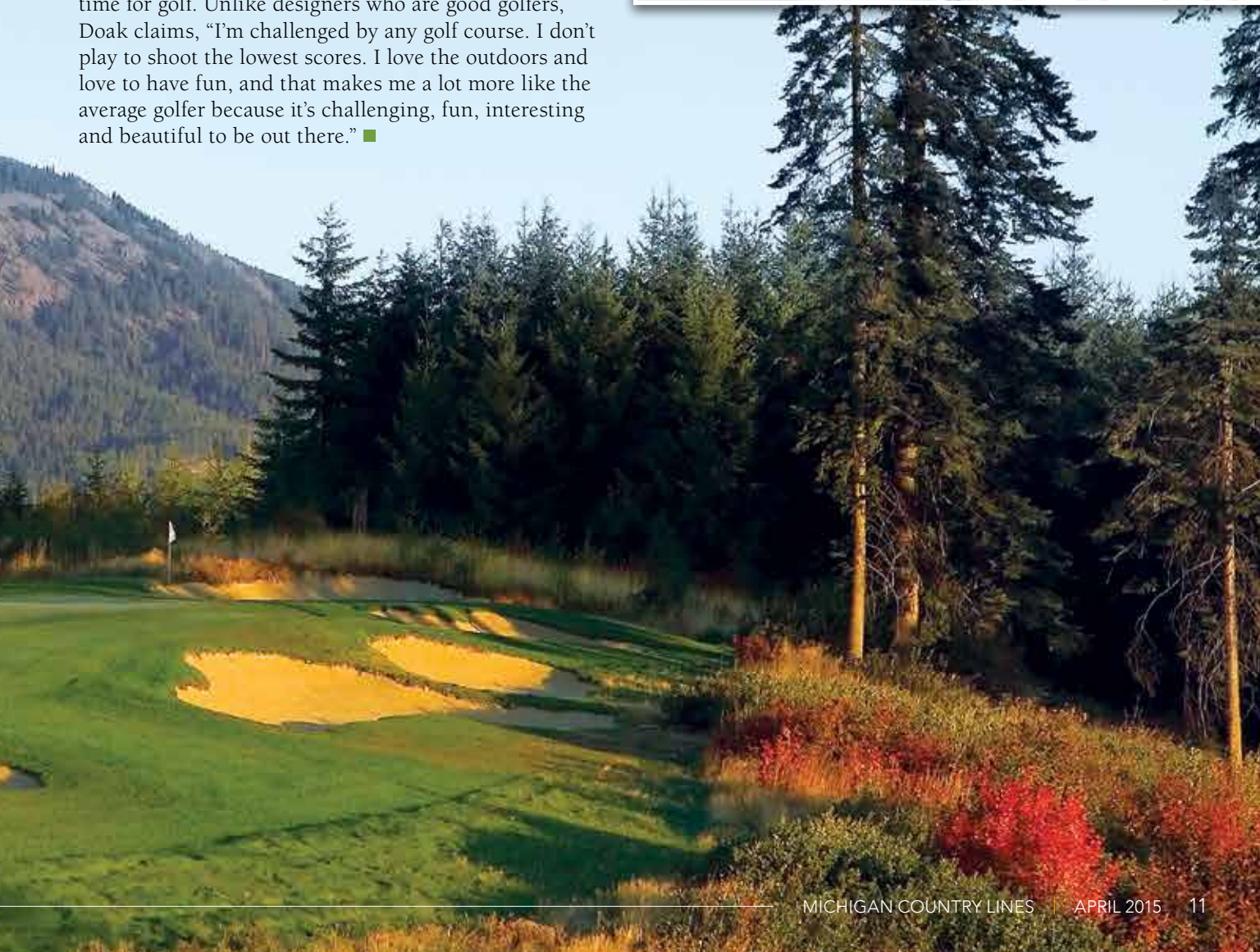
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Photo — L.C. Lambrecht Photography  
Rock Creek Cattle Golf Course, Deer Lodge, MT

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.” ■



# Co-op News

## 2015 Residential Rebate Program Announced

Cherryland residential members can take advantage of the cooperative's 2015 rebate program with the purchase of new Energy Star® rated appliances.

To simplify the program, \$20 rebates will be given for the following: Clothes washer (with electric water heater); clothes dryer (electric); dishwasher (with electric water heater); dehumidifier; refrigerator; freezer; televisions (21-inch or greater, limit 5); programmable thermostat.

Rebates are also available to residential members on lighting, recycling older working refrigerators or freezers and HVAC equipment. The rebate applications are available on our website [cherrylandelectric.coop](http://cherrylandelectric.coop) or at our office.

## Annual Meeting is Thursday, June 11

Cherryland Electric Cooperative's annual meeting will be held on Thursday, June 11 at Incredible Mo's in Grawn.

Festivities will start at 4 p.m. and include live entertainment by popular keyboard player and singer Kevin Reeves; face painting for kids; free arcade games and bowling plus pizza, salad and soft drinks. At 5:30, the Cherryland business meeting will be held outdoors underneath a big tent. From 6:30 to 8 p.m., members are encouraged to take part in the games, grab a bite to eat and talk to Cherryland employees and directors.

It's the second year the annual meeting will be held at Incredible Mo's.

## Cherryland Cares Seeks Grant Applications

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

Cherryland Cares is a five-member board, made up of Cherryland Electric Cooperative members, who distribute money from Operation Round Up to area non-profits. The next quarterly meeting of Cherryland Cares is Monday, June 15. The deadline for applications is Friday, June 5.

Operation Round Up money comes from Cherryland members who elect to round up their bills to the nearest dollar every month. This amount averages \$6 per year.

To receive a Cherryland Cares grant application or to join Operation Round Up, contact Nick Edson at Cherryland. His direct line is 231-486-9222 or e-mail him at [nedson@cherrylandelectric.coop](mailto:nedson@cherrylandelectric.coop).

## Cherryland Offers Scholarships

Cherryland offers five scholarships each year—three worth \$4,000 (\$1,000 for four years) for high school seniors and two \$1,000 adult scholarships (post high school).

**HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS:** High school seniors whose parents or guardians currently receive electric service from Cherryland and live in our service area may apply for the \$4,000 scholarship.

Selections are based on grade point average, extracurricular activities, community involvement and/or after school employment. A minimum required GPA is 2.75 on a 4.0 system.

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.

**ADULTS:** Must be a Cherryland member to apply for one of the \$1,000 Adult Education Scholarships.

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.

Applications can be downloaded on the Cherryland website. Members may also request applications by e-mail to Nick Edson at [nedson@cherrylandelectric.coop](mailto:nedson@cherrylandelectric.coop) (please include your name and address), or by phone at 231-486-9222 or by mail to Cherryland Electric Cooperative, 5930 U.S. 31 South, Grawn, MI 49637. ■



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

**P**ower 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 the power surge 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

**A**s 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 Cherryland Electric Cooperative general manager, Tony Anderson "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."

Cherryland Electric Cooperative 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

**T**he 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](http://miwoodcarvers.com) to learn more about the Patriot Cane/Memorial Project. ■

*Jim Carpenter is the line superintendent for Cherryland Electric Cooperative.*



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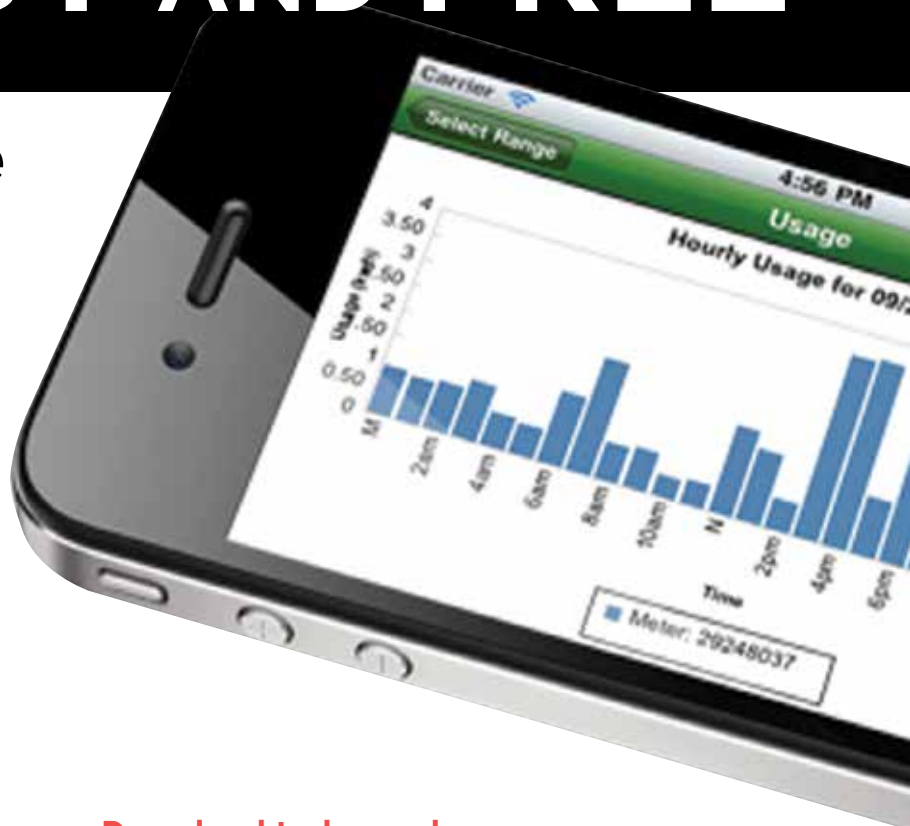


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