

MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES



SUMMER STORM



Plus!

Electric Customer Choice

Co-op News

Annual Meeting A Success



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and it isn't just corn.

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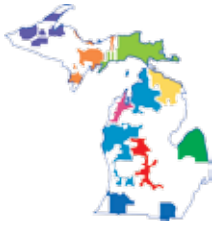
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Change of Address:
Please notify your electric cooperative.
See page 4 for contact information.

IN THIS ISSUE

ON THE COVER*

The 4,300-square-mile Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, located on Lake Huron in Alpena, protects one of America's best-preserved and nationally-significant collections of shipwrecks.

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

Photo courtesy of NOAA Thunder Bay NMS

IN YOUR WORDS

Our new question of the month section of *Michigan Country Lines*. Let us know your answer and it may appear in the next month's issue or on your electric co-op's social media site. Please answer the question in your own words at <http://bit.ly/1Mg17W5>.

Now the question:

What in your life are you most thankful for?

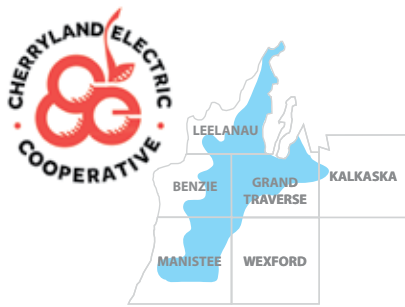
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Electric Customer Choice



Tony Anderson
General Manager

In recent weeks, you may have seen a TV ad that indicates Michigan is in a very precarious position in the area of future power supply. For some utilities in our state that may be true, and those ads cast a very ominous cloud over Michigan and what could happen.

However, I want to share with you how Cherryland Electric Cooperative (CEC), and its power supplier, Wolverine Power Cooperative (Wolverine), ARE investing for the future power supply needs of our members. Furthermore, I want to provide you some details on who is behind those rather gloomy TV ads and what they hope to achieve.

First, I want to point out that CEC and Wolverine are currently investing approximately \$140 million in the development and construction of the Alpine Power Plant near Gaylor. This 430-megawatt natural gas-fired power plant, which will become operational next year, will meet the future electric capacity needs of CEC and four of our fellow electric cooperatives well into the future. We are proactively working hard to meet your future electric needs.

Now, let's talk about those ads that you frequently see during the 6 o'clock news on your local stations. Those ads are the work of one of our state's largest public relations firms, in conjunction with Detroit Edison and Consumers Energy—Michigan's two largest electric utilities.

Their multi-million advertising campaign has one very simple goal—to eliminate electric competition in Michigan. It is our understanding that they are spending between \$2 and 3 million on those ads in an effort to enact changes in state law by raising the doubts and fears of electric consumers and our elected officials in Lansing.

Michigan law, enacted in 2008, allows 10 percent of an electric utility's customers to choose another supplier. Michigan's electric cooperatives believe that the threat of 10 percent of our sales base leaving us for another supplier has made us more attentive to member needs and competitive pressures.

In fact, I am proud to point out that CEC has NEVER lost a member to another supplier—even though our two largest members have had that option since 2000. We believe that competitive rates and high quality service are the reason our large members have chosen to stay with CEC.

The big utilities in our state, in conjunction with their Lansing public relations firm, are attempting to use those scare tactics to change state law and eliminate competitive options for their large customers. They say they need greater assurance that their customers won't leave for other suppliers before they can build additional generating plants. They said the same thing in 2008 when state legislators reduced their risk by capping the market at 10 percent.

In the end, we have an obligation to serve your needs affordably, and we take that obligation seriously. ■

Wonder what system upgrades are happening in your area?

Join us on Tuesday, Sept. 15, to find out! We will discuss what areas will receive upgrades over the next year and how decisions are made about where to focus our efforts. Learn more and give us feedback on where you would like to see us next!

Tuesday, Sept. 15, at 6 p.m.
Cherryland Electric Cooperative
5930 US 31 S.
Grawn, MI 49637

Next Member Input Session Is Sept. 21

The board of directors at Cherryland Electric Cooperative is offering another opportunity for members to provide direct input to the board on a quarterly basis. Members will be able to talk to the board next on Monday, Sept. 21, at 9 a.m. at the company office in Grawn.

Members are asked to come to the lobby and request to speak to the board. Members are asked to keep their comments to 5 minutes. Member attendance at the board meeting is allowed for the public input portion of the meeting only.

Cherryland members are afforded a chance to meet with the board on a quarterly basis during meetings in March, June, September and December.

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, Sept. 21. The deadline for applications is Friday, Sept. 11.

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.

Cherryland Blood Drive is Sept. 17

Cherryland Electric Cooperative will host a blood drive on Thursday, Sept. 17, in the co-op's parking lot.

The bus from Michigan Blood will be set up from Noon to 4 p.m. that day. Walk-ins are welcome. ■

Fuel Mix Report

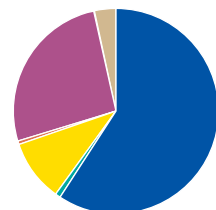
The fuel mix characteristics of Cherryland Electric Cooperative as required by Public Act 141 of 2000 for the 12-month period ended 6/30/15.

COMPARISON OF FUEL SOURCES USED

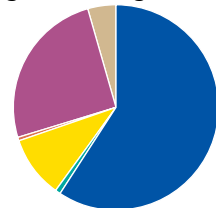
Regional average fuel mix used		
Your co-op's fuel mix		
FUEL SOURCE		
Coal	58.4%	60.4%
Oil	0.6%	0.7%
Gas	10.3%	8.9%
Hydroelectric	1.4%	0.5%
Nuclear	20.9%	24.6%
Renewable Fuels	8.4%	4.9%
Biofuel	0.9%	0.7%
Biomass	0.3%	0.4%
Solar	0.1%	0.1%
Solid Waste Incineration	0.0%	0.0%
Wind	6.7%	3.2%
Wood	0.4%	0.5%

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 Average 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	1,559	2,170
Oxides of Nitrogen	1.7	2.0
High-level Nuclear Waste	0.0072	0.0083

*Regional average information was obtained from MPSC website and is for the twelve-month period ending 12/31/14.

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

PORTABLE GENERATOR SAFETY TIPS



Always read the Owner's Manual and instructions for your generator. Do NOT cut corners when it comes to safety.

These tips are merely supplemental and are not intended to substitute reading of the Owner's Manual.

Carbon Monoxide and Ventilation

- Using a generator indoors CAN KILL YOU IN MINUTES. Exhaust contains carbon monoxide, a deadly poison gas you cannot see or smell.
- NEVER run a generator indoors or in partly enclosed areas, such as garages.
- ONLY use outdoors and far from windows, doors, vents, crawl spaces and in an area where adequate ventilation is available and will not accumulate deadly exhaust gas.
- Using a fan or opening doors and windows will not provide sufficient ventilation.
- It is recommended that you install battery operated carbon monoxide alarms/detectors indoors according to manufacturer's instructions/recommendations.

Gasoline, Fueling and Burn Safety

- If tank is over-filled, fuel can overflow onto a hot engine and cause fire or explosion.
- Do not overfill the fuel tank. Always allow room for fuel expansion.
- Never add fuel while unit is running or hot. Allow generator and engine to cool entirely before adding fuel.
- Never store a generator with fuel in the tank where gasoline vapors might reach an open flame, spark or pilot light.
- Many generator parts are hot enough to burn you during operation and while the generator is cooling after turning off. Avoid coming into contact with a hot generator.

Electrocution Hazard and Electrical Shock Hazards

- Connecting a portable electric generator directly to your household wiring can be deadly to you and others. A generator that is directly connected to your home's wiring can "back feed" onto the power lines connected to your home and injure neighbors or utility workers.
- Do not connect your generator directly to your home's wiring or into a regular household outlet.
- Always start or stop the generator only when no electrical loads are connected.
- Overloading your generator can seriously damage your valuable appliances and electronics. Do not overload the generator. Do not operate more appliances and equipment than the output rating of the generator. Prioritize your needs. A portable electric generator should be used only when necessary, and only to power essential equipment.
- Use the proper power cords. Plug individual appliances into the generator using heavy-duty, outdoor-rated cords with a wire gauge adequate for the appliance load. Overloaded cords can cause fires or equipment damage. Do not use extension cords with exposed wires or worn shielding.
- Do not operate the generator in wet conditions such as rain or snow.
- The generator must be properly grounded. If the generator is not grounded, you run the risk of electrocution. Check and adhere to all applicable federal, state and local regulations relating to grounding.

Generator Placement and Operation

- Allow at least five feet of clearance on all sides of the generator when operating.
- Generators can be used during a wide variety of weather temperatures, but should be protected from the elements when not in use to prevent shorting and rusting.
- Operate the generator only on level surfaces and where it will not be exposed to excessive moisture, dirt, dust or corrosive vapors.
- Inspect the generator regularly.
- Always disconnect the spark plug wire and place the wire where it cannot contact the spark plug to prevent accidental starting when setting up, transporting, adjusting or making repairs to the generator.

Source: American Red Cross with technical advice from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Fire Protection Association (publisher of the National Electric Code®) and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. ■



Maintain Your Home's Heating System Efficiency

By James Dullely

With the heating season soon upon us, make sure your heating system is running at its maximum efficiency. Doing a simple heating system tune-up yourself improves its efficiency, resulting in significant annual cost savings.

However, don't skip your regular professional maintenance calls just because you have done your own heating system mini-tune-up. There are many areas within a heating system that only a qualified technician can evaluate and adjust properly.

The first items to check are for safety. With a gas or propane furnace, put several drops of soapy water on any gas-line fittings you find. If the water bubbles at all, there are leaks. Leave your house *immediately* and call your gas company to have it repaired. With a heat pump, check to make sure the insulation on all of the external wiring looks correct. You can inspect potential 'bad spots'—damaged or frayed areas—more carefully once you turn the circuit breaker off.

Turn off the electric power to the heating unit at the circuit breaker panel. Remove its side cover to gain access to the blower. Using a vacuum cleaner brush attachment, clean any dust deposits off the blower. You may find bearing oil cups on the blower motor of older systems. Put a drop of oil in each cup.

Find the fan control switch and adjust the temperature setting lower. Common settings are on at 135 degrees and off at 100 degrees. Try using 110 and 90 degrees. This starts the blower sooner and

keeps it running longer as the heat exchanger heats up and then cools down.

Replace the cover and make sure all the cabinet screws are tight. Also, check the tightness of any cabinet screws you can find. Having the cabinet well-sealed improves efficiency by maintaining the proper air flow through the coils or over the heat exchanger surfaces. With a heat pump, also check the cabinet screws on the outdoor condenser unit.

Set up the thermostat so the furnace starts. Hold a stick of lighted incense near all the joints in the ductwork, both return and supply air ducts, to check for air leaks. If you find leaks, wipe dust off the surfaces and use mastic (a gooey, non-hardening material) around the leaking joints.

This is a good time to change your furnace filter or clean a central air cleaner element. Consider installing a more effective filter element than the low-cost fiberglass ones that many systems use. This may not help indoor air quality much, but it can keep the air-flow paths cleaner for more efficient heat transfer.

Check the accuracy of the wall thermostat. You may actually be keeping your house warmer than you realize. Tape a bulb thermometer on the wall next to your furnace. Check the thermometer reading when the furnace shuts off and note the difference between it and the thermostat setting. Now you will know where to set the thermostat to get the indoor temperature you desire. If it is inaccurate, replace it with a new electronic setback model. ■



SEAFOOD FAVORITES

Flavorful seafood recipes you will love!

Lobster Mac & Cheese

Doreen Zuznis, Clio

- kosher salt
- vegetable oil
- 1 lb. cavatappi (tubed corkscrew pasta)
- 1 qt. milk
- 8 T. (1 stick) unsalted butter, divided
- ½ c. all-purpose flour
- 12-oz. Gruyere cheese, grated (4 c.)
- 8-oz. extra-sharp cheddar, grated (2 c.)
- ½ t. freshly ground black pepper
- ½ t. nutmeg
- 1½ lb. cooked lobster meat (langostinos)

Preheat oven to 375°. Drizzle oil into a large pot of boiling salted water. Add pasta and cook according to the directions on the package, 6 to 8 minutes. Drain well. Meanwhile, heat the milk in a small saucepan, but don't boil it. In a large pot, melt 6 T. of butter and add the flour. Cook over low heat for 2 minutes, stirring with a whisk. Still whisking, add the hot milk and cook for a minute or two more, until thickened and smooth. Turn off the heat, add the Gruyere, Cheddar, 1 T. salt, the pepper, and nutmeg. Add the cooked macaroni and lobster meat and stir well. Place the mixture in a large casserole dish. Melt the remaining 2 T. of butter, combine them with the fresh bread crumbs, and sprinkle on the top. Bake for 30 to 35 minutes, or until the sauce is bubbly and the macaroni is browned on the top.



Crab Casserole

Virginia Rubingh, Ellsworth

- ½ lb. fresh/frozen crab meat
- ½ c. sour cream
- 1 T. lemon juice
- pinch garlic salt
- 1¼ c. cheddar cheese, divided
- 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened
- 2 T. Hellman's® mayonnaise
- 1¼ t. Worcestershire® sauce
- 1 T. milk

Mix all ingredients together in a casserole dish. Sprinkle half of the cheddar cheese on top. Bake at 325° for 25–30 minutes.

Seafood Pasta Salad

Betty Poradek, Stephenson

- 8-oz. pkg. imitation crab meat, cut up
- 8-oz. bag frozen mini shrimp, thawed (optional)
- ½ cup chopped celery
- 1–2 T. chopped green onion (including some tops)
- 1 can water chestnuts, chopped
- 8-oz. frozen peas, thawed
- 1 lb. bag rotini noodles, cooked
- dash dill weed
- 1½ c. Miracle Whip®
- 8-oz. sour cream

Mix all pasta together and chill for several hours. Keeps up to three days in fridge.

Dilly Fish

Gertrude Romanchuk, Traverse City

- fresh pan fish
- dill pickle juice
- instant potato flakes
- peanut oil

Wash fish and dry well with paper towels. Soak fish in dill pickle juice for 15–30 minutes. Roll in potato flakes and fry in peanut oil, turning once. Fry until golden brown. Very tasty!

SUBMIT YOUR RECIPE!

Thanks to all who send in recipes. Please send in your favorite "Easy Chicken" recipes by **Sept. 10**, "Chili" recipes by **Nov. 1** and "Gluten Free" recipes by **Dec. 1**.

Enter your recipe online at countrylines.com or send to (handprinted or typed on one side, please): *Country Lines* Recipes, 201 Townsend St., Suite 900, Lansing, MI 48933. 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)!

Dill Shrimp Salad (pictured)

Mary Babcock, Port Austin

- 4 c. cooked small shells or penne pasta
- 1 lb. cooked fresh shrimp, diced
- 1 c. frozen peas
- 1 c. small diced celery
- ½ c. chopped green onions, including tops
- ¼ c. minced fresh parsley
- 10 oz. plain Greek yogurt
- 1 c. mayonnaise
- ¼ c. fresh lemon juice
- 2 T. snipped fresh dill
- ½ t. salt
- ¼ t. white pepper

In a large bowl combine pasta, tuna, celery, onions, peas and parsley. In a small bowl combine yogurt, mayonnaise, lemon juice, dill, salt and pepper. Pour sauce over pasta, toss gently. Cover and refrigerate at least two hours. Serves 10.



STATE OF MICHIGAN

BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Case No. U-17780

In the matter, on the Commission's own motion, regarding the regulatory reviews, revisions, Case No. U-17780 determinations, and/or approvals necessary for Cherryland Electric Cooperative to fully comply with Public Act 295 of 2008.

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

On November 24, 2014, the Michigan Public Service Commission ("Commission") ordered the Cherryland Electric Cooperative ("Cherryland") to file an energy optimization plan ("EOP") on or before August 1, 2015 to comply with the "Clean, Renewable and Efficient Energy Act," 2008 PA 295, MCL 460.1001, et seq., in Case No. U-17770 et al.

After July 27, 2015, any interested person may review the filed EOP on the MPSC website under Case No. U-17780 at: www.michigan.gov/mpscedockets, at Cherryland's offices, located at 5930 US 31 South, Grawn, Michigan 48875, or at the office of the Commission's Executive Secretary, 4300 West Saginaw, Lansing, Michigan 48917, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Written and electronic comments may be filed with the Commission and must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on October 5, 2015. Written comments should be sent to the: Executive Secretary, Michigan Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 30221, Lansing, Michigan 48909, with a copy mailed to the Cherryland Electric Cooperative, 5930 US 31 South, Grawn, Michigan 48875. Electronic comments may be e-mailed to: mpscedockets@michigan.gov. All comments should reference Case No. U-17780. Comments received in this matter will become public information, posted on the Commission's website, and subject to disclosure.

The Commission will review the energy optimization plan together with any filed comments and provide a response within 60 days of the filing of the application indicating any revisions that should be made. If the Commission suggests revisions, the Cooperative will file a revised EO plan no later than 75 days after the filing of the application. A Commission order will be issued on or before the 90th day following the filing of the application.

The Commission will review the EOP together with any filed comments and provide a response within 60 days of the publication of notice indicating any revisions that should be made. If the Commission suggests revisions, Cherryland will file a revised EOP no later than 75 days after the publication of notice. A Commission order will be issued on or before the 90th day following the publication of notice.

POP QUIZ

ENERGY USERS

Can you rank the following appliances based on energy use?

1 = uses the most energy

4 = uses the least energy

- Refrigerator
- Clothes washer
- Microwave
- Hair dryer

Answers: 1. Refrigerator 2. Microwave 3. Clothes washer 4. Hair dryer

Source: energy.gov

Looking Back on **CHERRYLAND'S 77TH ANNUAL MEETING**



Held at Incredible Mo's

More than 1,200 Cherryland Electric Cooperative members attended the co-op's 77th Annual Meeting on June 11, at Incredible Mo's in Grawn.

There were activities inside and outside to entertain members, along with a big tent that hosted the business meeting. At that meeting, Terry Lautner and Betty Maciejewski were re-elected to the board of directors.

Inside, there was a free food buffet, bowling, laser tag and arcade games. Entertainment was provided by two of Traverse City's most popular performers—Levi Britton and Kevin Reeves.



Next year's Annual Meeting is scheduled for June 16, back at Incredible Mo's.

Summer Storm by the Numbers

The Damage

Number of Members without Power: **12,800 at 5 p.m. Sunday**

Power Poles Replaced: **75**

Number of Members Restored in First 24 Hours: **10,000**

Last outage restored:

Friday, August 7 at 4:00 a.m.



The Restoration Effort

Line Crews Working Throughout System: **22**

Tree Trimming Crews Working Throughout System: **6**

Gallons of Gas: **2,600**

Number of Minutes Logged on Engineering and Operations Manager's Cell Phone: **1,790**

Steps Logged on Employee Fitbits: **3,321,000, approximately 1,572 miles**
(the distance from TC to Fort Lauderdale!)

Number of Sandwiches Consumed by Line Crews: **445**

The Power of Communication

Hours Logged on Cherryland's Phone System: **557 hours**

Phone Calls Handled by Cherryland Member

Service Reps: **1,679**

Visits to Cherryland Website Outage Map: **30,368**

People Reached on Facebook: **112,358**

Comments on Facebook: **2,571**

New Likes on Facebook: **768**



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[Facebook.com/CherrylandElectricCoop](https://www.facebook.com/CherrylandElectricCoop)



August Winds Take Cherryland by Storm

By Nick Edson

Three years after the “Storm of the Century” hit Cherryland members in March 2012, the sequel proved to be just as memorable... and devastating.

When ominous clouds moved into the area and the skies turned a pale green on Sunday, Aug. 2, northern Michigan residents took cover and waited out the storm. As winds gusted to nearly 100 miles-per-hour and driving rains pelted the region, people fled to safety.

Luckily, there were no fatalities among Cherryland members associated with the storm, but the amount of damage in the region was estimated to be in the millions of dollars.

“Both the 2012 storm and this storm were huge,” said Cherryland operations manager Frank Siepker. “The difference in this storm was that it literally changed the landscape. There were a lot of big, healthy trees that were blown down and did a lot of damage.”

Joe Townsend, who oversees Cherryland’s purchasing and warehouse, said that the 2012 storm was different because it came in March when temperatures were colder and members scrambled to stay warm.

“This time, the biggest concern we heard from members was about keeping perishable items in their refrigerators and freezers from spoiling,” he

said. “We were lucky with the temperatures. They were in the 70s and that made it better not only for our members, but for the workers we had trying to restore power.”

That effort started with tree trimming crews clearing the way for lineworkers to get to the downed lines.

Of the 34,000 Cherryland members, about 12,800 lost power at some point.

“Every area had some sort of damage,” said Siepker. “But the hardest hit were Leelanau County and the Yuba area.”

Cherryland General Manager Tony Anderson guided the cooperative during the week while Siepker was instrumental in placing crews in proper locations.

“I’m proud of the response from our employees to this storm,” he said. “They proved themselves during a trying time yet again. That’s no surprise to me, but it’s also something we never want to take for granted. Cherryland members are blessed to be served by an employee group that is willing to do what it takes to restore power in a safe and efficient manner.”

Anderson thanked Cherryland members for their “patience and understanding” during the storm. He also lauded the assistance of outside crews that consisted of statewide contractors, municipal utilities and fellow Michigan cooperatives. ■

SUNKEN TREASURE

THUNDER BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

By Emily Haines

The eerie romance of a shipwreck is something that seems saved for epic adventure novels or blockbuster Hollywood movies. But just off the coast of Lake Huron, near unassuming Alpena, MI—is one of the most treacherous stretches of water in the Great Lakes—a place called Thunder Bay.

If the name itself sounds ominous, it's because Thunder Bay offers up unpredictable shifts in weather, alarming gales, fog banks and notoriously rocky shoals that play ghostly host to an area fittingly called—Shipwreck Alley. There lies the remains of over 200 ships, only about 100 that have been physically discovered. While it's difficult to imagine the friendly beaches of the Great Lakes as anything but welcoming, these deep and traitorous waters were once bustling byways for both recreational and business mariners, not all that ended at their intended destination.

"It's easy to stay motivated and excited in your work when you're dealing with such a robust historical landscape," said Stephanie Gandulla, maritime archeologist and media coordinator for Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary. "There are so many stories lying just below the surface of the Great Lakes."

Those stories just increased substantially as the marine sanctuary has grown from 448 square miles to a remarkable 4,300 miles as of last September. This means expanding both research and educational programs as well as a multi-year plan to "characterize" every known shipwreck in the sanctuary. Characterizing can mean a variety of informational components including having a site map, photography, data and sonar images, or even knowing the name and vessel information.

"It's no wonder our student programs appeal to our younger visitors," said Gandulla. "You don't have to be able to scuba dive 300 feet to have an interaction with maritime history. We provide and encourage hands-on experiences both in and on the water."

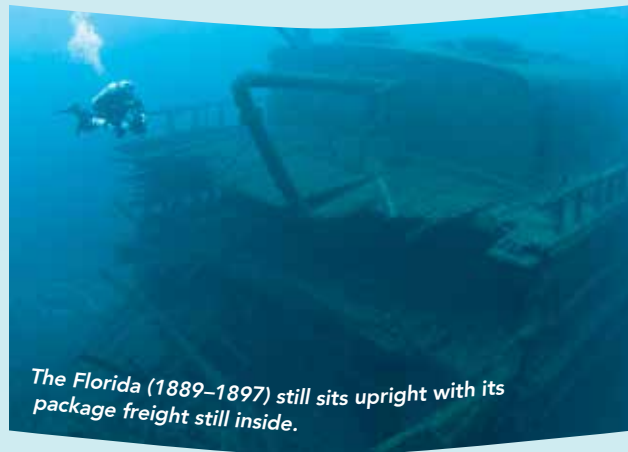
The experiences are anything from a class trip to the sanctuary's impressive Visitor's Center, with over 10,000 feet of exhibits, participating in a program on shipwreck archeology, or building underwater robotics. There are also glass bottom boat tours that allow visitors to view shipwrecks without ever getting their feet wet. Gandulla says it's not uncommon for students who have had a field trip in elementary or high school or invested themselves in a Shipwreck Alley class to later become a volunteer as an adult.



Twisted hull of the German freighter Nordmeer (1954-1966).



The bow of the schooner E.B. Allen (1864–1871).



The Florida (1889–1897) still sits upright with its package freight still inside.

While all of this is available in our state's backyard, people from around the world come to marvel at these maritime catacombs, as well.

"Beyond the rich and special maritime history of this area, it's also a remarkable place to vacation," said Gandulla. "We have world class recreational opportunities available to us in Michigan and we feel very strongly about sharing them with people from around the globe." ■



The Monohansett, lies only 18 feet below the water's surface.

Visit

If you're interested in a trip to the Visitor's Center, visit thunderbay.noaa.gov/visit. Or, to book a glass bottom boat tour go to alpenashipwrecktours.com/. For more information call 989-356-8805.

Project Shiphunt

On July 13, 2011, the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary (NMS) announced the discovery of two Great Lakes shipwrecks. The discoveries were part of Project Shiphunt, an exciting archaeological expedition, sponsored by Sony and the Intel Corp, that included five high school students from Saginaw. For more on the project, visit thunderbay.noaa.gov/shiphunt.html

Monohansett Site

For a sneak peek at the kind of discoveries you can expect, take a look at the Monohansett, a ship wrecked in 1907 that lies in three sections just 18 feet below water. thunderbay.noaa.gov/shipwrecks/monohansett.html

Photo below: With the hull broken just forward of the boiler house and the ship listing hard to port, the wreck of the Norman, which claimed the lives of three sailors, is an intense dive experience.

Photos by NOAA, Thunder Bay NMS



Cherryland is Part of International Effort

The beauty of Guatemala’s land, seen in the mountains that are surrounded by trees and blue skies, makes the country look like a paradise upon first glance.

But then you go into the villages and see the day-to-day primitive life. The families live in huts that pass as houses. The people dress simply in what they can afford, which isn’t much.

Their power source isn’t electricity, it’s the sun. So when the call went out to help these people improve the quality of their lives, cooperatives responded. Cherryland Electric Cooperative is one of several cooperatives in Michigan sending help.

Cherryland line superintendent, Jim Carpenter, went on a scouting trip in June along with other co-op supervisors to see what materials would be needed to install electric lines and work side-by-side with the people in the villages to get the work done.

Their goal is to bring electricity to 133 homes in the small villages of Soledad and Buena Vista. They will join two teams of employees from other Michigan electric cooperatives who will construct approximately 10 miles of line. They will also become part of a 53-year national co-op tradition to help bring power to the world’s developing countries.

“This cooperative effort to bring electricity to Guatemala should sound familiar to our members,” said Cherryland General Manager Tony Anderson. “We started from scratch 76 years ago to build our

“We started from scratch 76 years ago to build our own lines in northern Michigan. It changed many lives, just like this effort will do.”





own lines in northern Michigan. It changed many lives, just like this effort will do.”

Carpenter’s scouting trip included scaling some rugged terrain to make it to the small villages.

“The locals who live in the mountains plant crops anywhere a seed will grow,” said Carpenter. “The mountain soil seems to be a type of sandstone, but the crops seem to grow well. It’s a good thing because that is their main food source.”

Their main power source will be electricity after the cooperative group completes its work later this year.

In November, Cherryland lineman Tom Ulatowski, will be among a group of Michigan electric cooperative workers heading to Guatemala to spend two weeks constructing power lines and working to improve life for these people.

“The villagers are anxious to get electricity—one let us know where the pole should go for his home and another man ran down a hill and took down three trees with a chainsaw in no time, so we could get electricity right to his house,” said Carpenter.

Carpenter and his scouting group spent several days in Guatemala. The small village they were in started its day early.

“Daylight is signaled by dogs barking and roosters crowing about 5 a.m.,” he said. “It’s especially beautiful in the morning, when you watch the sun come up over the mountains. We enjoyed hearing the laughter of the villagers as they got up and about. But because of their culture, we saw very little of the women and children. They stayed at a distance. The men were friendly and hard-working. We know they are going to appreciate how their lives will change when they get electricity.” ■



Communicating in the Age of the Emoji

By Jack O'Malley

A few years ago my son stood before a display of old rotary phones in an antique store, puzzled by the seemingly ancient devices. "How did people text with those?" he asked. I chuckled before the thought occurred to me. An entire generation now exists who've never known life without mobile phones, text messages, Google or social media.

In today's world of technology a new digital language based on acronyms and emojis has emerged, allowing people to communicate instantly with little more than a few letters and characters. In the old days, we huddled around the handset during a long-distance call, everyone listening and talking at the same time because the calls were too expensive for everyone to have a separate turn talking. I guess I'm officially an old fogie! LOL

Mobile phones have become such an essential part of our lives, we have a hard time functioning without one. Like an extra appendage, we rely on a cell's convenience, intelligence and sheer ability to do almost anything. Want to play Scrabble? Download the app. Want to enhance a photo? Download an app. Want to check Facebook? Download the app. Want to shop? Download an app. There are apps (short for "applications," programs designed specifically for use on portable devices) for everything. Just ask my wife. She'll tell you. SMH (that's **s**haking **m**y **h**ead for all you rookies out there.)

Our reliance on digital technology can only be ascertained when we forget our cell. Ever reached for your phone to make a quick call or send a text



only to realize you left your cell on the charger at home? Panic ensues. I've actually broken into a sweat and driven an hour round trip just to have my phone on hand! :)



Jack O'Malley

Times have sure changed since I was a lad. These kids might run circles around me when it comes to their smart phones, but I had something they didn't. The most popular rotary phone ever made, an original Fisher-Price Chatter Telephone toy. And let me tell you, it was GR8! ■



«« Where in Michigan is This?

Every co-op member who identifies the correct location of the photo at left by **Oct. 10** will be entered in a drawing to win a \$50 electricity credit from their electric co-op.

We do not accept Mystery Photo guesses by phone. Enter your guess at countrylines.com or send by mail to: *Country Lines Mystery Photo*, 201 Townsend St., Suite 900, Lansing, MI 48933. Include the name on your account, address, phone number, and name of your co-op.

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