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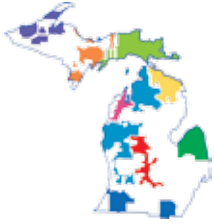


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Please notify your electric cooperative. See page 4 for contact information.

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IN YOUR WORDS

Last month, we asked electric co-op members a question:

If you could be any age for a week, what age would that be?

Thank you for all the responses. Here are some of your answers...

"I would like to be 17 again, when I met and dated my first girlfriend."

"I think of myself as 61 years old. I am really 82, and married 60 years. To be 61 again would be great...the kids are educated and married, our home and cottage are paid for, and we still have date nights!"

"My current age, 76. I'm healthy and can enjoy all the blessings provided by God."

Our new Question of the Month is:

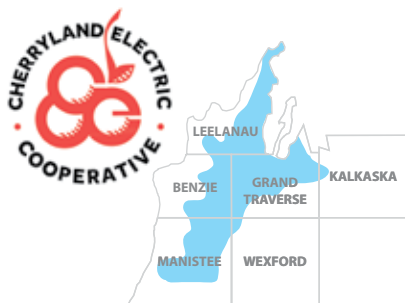
If you had to be trapped in a tv show for a month, which would you choose?

Please submit answers to countrylines.com by May 1.

ON THE COVER*

Tom Lakenen, creator of Lakenenland Sculpture Park in the Upper Peninsula, has created over 80 whimsical sculptures from bits of salvaged iron.

*Some co-op editions have a different cover.



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Co-op News

Annual Meeting is June 23 at Incredible Mo's

The 2016 Cherryland Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting will be held Thursday, June 23, at Incredible Mo's in Grawn. The doors will open at 4 p.m., the business meeting will be from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., and festivities will wrap up at 8 p.m.

Cherryland Offers Five Scholarships

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

Applications for both scholarships are available on the Cherryland website (CherrylandElectric.coop) or by contacting Cherryland's office at 231-486-9200. The deadline to apply is April 15.

Cherryland Participates in Annual Spring 'Clean Up, Green Up' Event

We'll pay you to recycle your old, inefficient appliances. Drop them off on April 17 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at American Waste (280 Hughes Dr). We will be offering rebates to members who drop off refrigerators (\$20), freezers (\$20), air conditioning units (\$15), and dehumidifiers (\$15). All appliances must be in working condition.

Grawn Area Rural Health Fair is April 16

St. Patrick Catholic Church will be hosting a health fair on Saturday, April 16 from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Funded in part by the Cherryland Electric Cooperative Cares Fund, Cherryland members are encouraged to attend and learn about community health resources and get health and wellness tips for the whole family. Free health screenings, healthy cooking demonstrations, car seat safety checks, prescription drug disposal, and more will be offered free of charge.

April 11 is National Lineman Appreciation Day

Thank you to all of Cherryland's line crews for the work they do to help us keep the lights on! ■



Cherryland's lineworkers in 2016. On truck, left to right: Bruce Stocking, Dave Bott, Joe Bennetts, Phil Scott, Dustin Ockert, Dave Lark, Greg Sherman. Standing, left to right: Jake LeMieux, Charlie Johnston, Brandon Hartley, Jerry Carpenter, Andy Bott, Tom Ulatowski, Mark Spangler. Not pictured: Kyle Rector, Paul Mason



A Ted Attack



Tony Anderson
General Manager

Several months ago, Ted Koppel released a book titled, *"Lights Out."* I have not yet read the book, but I have read the summaries and watched a few interviews with Ted.

Mr. Koppel believes that the national electric grid relies heavily on the internet. Thus, the grid is vulnerable. He sounds the alarm for outages caused by terrorist cyber attacks lasting weeks, months, and even years. He believes Homeland Security doesn't have a plan, nobody is paying attention, and the country is woefully unprepared.

Is our national grid vulnerable? Yes, it is as vulnerable as our transportation system, air traffic control, and financial networks that we also count on every day to run the U.S. The more we rely on the internet, the more vulnerable we become in all areas. I don't believe Mr. Koppel is breaking a big news story here.

I believe Mr. Koppel is inaccurate in his assessments. Protecting the nation's electric power grid is an industry priority. Daily, utility personnel are monitoring and responding to events big and small on the bulk electric system. Within the industry, there are planning, coordination, response and resiliency activities that consumers and the media don't see. It's not a 6 o'clock news story when the system works.

There are mandatory and enforceable cyber security standards for the electric utility industry that other industries simply don't have. Electric cooperatives and other utilities have willingly worked with the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) on developing these standards.

Grid security is serious business and has been for decades. Yes, there have been failures in the past. In 1965, 30 million people were left in the dark for five hours. Then almost 40 years later, in 2003, 50 million people were out of power over an eight-state region. The longest outages in 2003 were four days in a few areas. Each time, the industry learned valuable lessons that are protecting us today.

Electric cooperatives are supporting legislation that encourages voluntary cyber security information sharing between government and industry. We believe such sharing is critical to addressing threats against our national infrastructure (most of which is owned by private companies). The more actionable intelligence we can get our hands on, the more prepared we can become.

Last year, President Obama signed a massive federal highway bill into law. To help the U.S. electric grid respond to attacks both physical and cyber, this law directs the Secretary of Energy to develop a strategic reserve of transmission equipment, large transformers and mobile substations.

Cyber security standards, equipment reserves and information sharing are just a few of the ways the U.S. is preparing for attacks on the electric grid. Mr. Koppel's claims that nothing is being done are hollow alarms designed to sell more books.

Nobody can promise 100 percent security. I am by no means claiming that we have nothing to worry about. But I am confident that the electric industry has a proven track record of vigilance, diligence and desire to keep the "Lights ON." ■

Co-ops Launch Voter Engagement Program

Michigan electric cooperatives have joined a national initiative for a non-partisan effort to promote civic engagement and voter participation in the communities they serve.

Through this program, we want to help our members know when elections are, what's at stake, and how to make their voices heard. Who folks vote for isn't really as important as the fact that they do vote.

In keeping with its non-partisan goals, the initiative will not be endorsing specific candidates for office. It's about real people in real places facing real challenges. It's about our co-ops living out the principles of our movement: Concern for community and democratic control.

Visit vote.coop to learn more. ■



Don't forget to vote in the state primary election on August 2 and the general election on November 8.

I'M A CO-OP VOTER



A PROGRAM OF AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES
WWW.VOTE.COOP



Thank A Lineworker On April 11

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, going above and beyond to restore power to their communities. That’s why electric co-ops have designated a National Lineman Appreciation Day. This year, April 11 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.”



Lineworkers everywhere deserve this special day of recognition. As a co-op member, please take a moment to “thank a lineworker” for the job they do and show support for those who help light our lives. ■

Plant A Tree In The Right Place

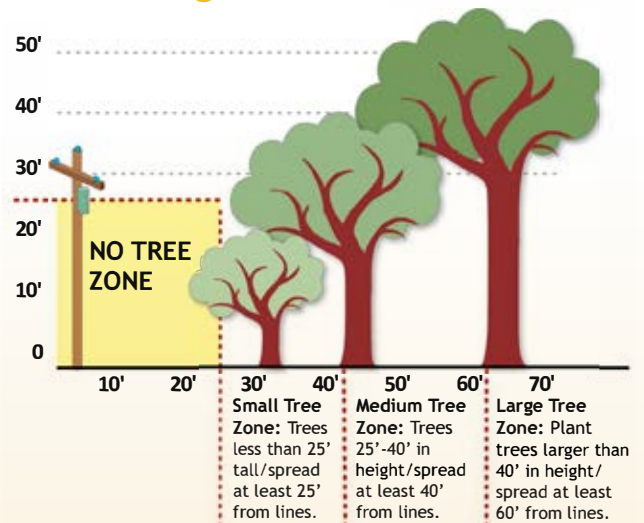
Earth Day is April 22. Show the earth some love, and plant a tree. Choose the right tree for the right place and avoid future problems with power lines.

To avoid future electrical hazards, planting tips include:

- Consider the mature height of trees. Any tree that can grow to 25 feet tall or more should not be planted near overhead power lines. A mature height of less than 15 feet is recommended.
- Do not plant near underground utility services. Tree roots can grow and interfere with underground pipes, cables and wires. Future repairs to these facilities could also damage the health and beauty of nearby plants and trees.
- Keep areas around electric meters, transformers or other electrical equipment free of any vegetation that could limit utility service access.

- Before digging, call 811, the local underground utility locator service so that accidental contact, damage and injuries can be avoided. ■

Tree Planting Guide



Meet The Apprentices

Over 60 percent of our current journeymen lineworkers learned on-the-job through Cherryland's 7,000-hour apprenticeship program.

Faced with looming retirements, we're using them to help us train the next generation of journeymen.

Meet a few of the apprentices who will help us keep the lights on for the next 78 years.

Brandon Hartley— An Evolving Cherryland Career

"As a graduate of the Kingsley High School class of 2000, I discovered pretty early that I needed a job that let me work outdoors. I had one indoor job in a warehouse and I only made it two weeks.

I first came to Cherryland five years ago as a cable locator. As a locator, I worked several storms with our line crews. I saw what they did and I liked it. When I first decided to apply to the apprentice program, I was a little worried I would miss the autonomy I had working solo as a locator. But, one-and-a-half years later I find I really enjoy being part of a team and working with my crew each day. Plus, I like running the big red trucks!"

Dave Lark—The Newbie

"I'm Cherryland's newest apprentice, but not for long because we are hiring several new apprentices this spring. I grew up in Kingsley and have been an apprentice at Cherryland for about a year.



Cherryland's apprentices (L-R) Brandon Hartley, Dave Lark, and Joe Bennetts.

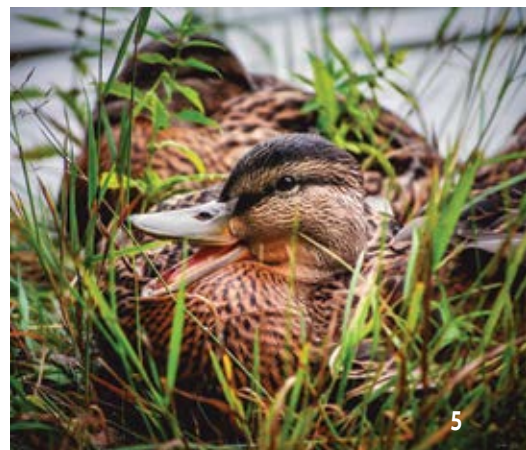
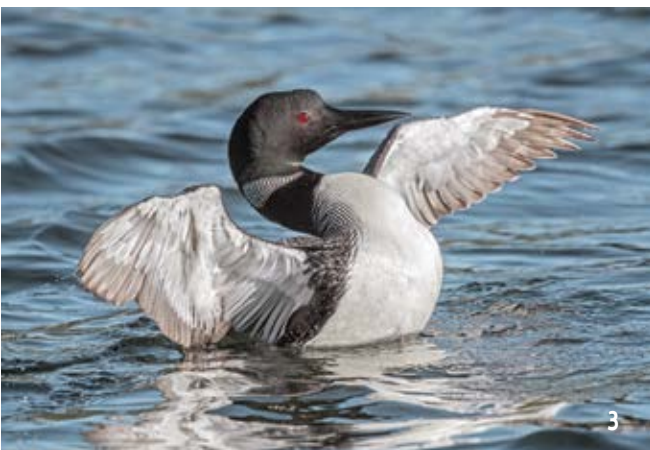
I like line work because it is never boring. I never know what's in store when I get to work each day. Sometimes we are working outside in the most beautiful weather and place on earth, and sometimes we are faced with treacherous conditions. I am challenged mentally and physically on a daily basis. But, I am inspired by getting to do a job that not a lot of people can do. Becoming a journeyman lineman isn't easy, but I look forward to the challenge."

Joe Bennetts—A Family Legacy

"I grew up in Traverse City and am a second generation Cherryland lineman. My dad retired from a 35-year career with Cherryland last year. I'll be finishing up my apprenticeship this year and I love that each day comes with new obstacles and challenges. I thrive on the creativity it takes to work through problems. And, to top it all off, my 'office' most days is the shores of Lake Leelanau or the bluffs of Lake Michigan. I can't complain about that!"

Most people have no idea what it takes to keep the lights on—it's gratifying to do our jobs so well that our members can take electricity for granted. I think it's awesome how all of our employees will drop whatever they're doing in their personal lives to restore power during outages or storms. We have a really close-knit community and I truly enjoy my workmates." ■

Birds Of Beauty Photo Gallery



Birds Of Beauty Photo Gallery

Enter Your Photos And Win!

Every month we will be announcing a new theme, all you have to do is submit your best shot and encourage your friends to vote! The photo receiving the most votes on our Facebook contest will be printed in an upcoming issue of *Country Lines* along with some of our other favorites. If your photo is printed in *Country Lines* during 2016, you will be entered to win a credit of up to \$200 on your December 2016 bill.

Our April theme is **"Fishing."** Photos can be submitted from April 1 to April 20 to be featured in our June issue.

Our May theme is **"All About Michigan."** Photos can be submitted from May 1 to May 20 to be featured in our July/August issue.

Ready to submit? Just visit facebook.com/cherrylandelectriccoop and click "Photo Contest" from the menu tabs. If you're not on Facebook, don't worry. You can also enter the contest at cherrylandelectric.coop/photo-contest.

Make sure to vote, and encourage others to vote for you, too!

1. Mark Miller photographed this male ruby-throated hummingbird in his backyard.
2. Sue Jennings captures sandhill cranes lifting off over the Platte River in Nebraska.
3. Sandy Witvoet caught this shot of the symbol of the North, the common loon.
4. Rebecca Lessard releases an eagle from the Wings of Wonder rescue program. Photo by Jennifer Grochowalski
5. Kimberley Kroupa tells us this female mallard was not too keen on her getting too close to her throne.

CLEVER SIDE DISHES

Complete your meal with these simple sides.

Spicy Roasted Brussels Sprouts

Cynthia Hodges, Calumet

- 1 ½ lbs. brussels sprouts
- 2 T. extra-virgin olive oil
- ¼ c. white wine vinegar
- ¼ c. honey
- 4 T. Sriracha, or more to taste
- kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

Preheat the oven to 400°F. Cover a baking sheet with foil. Trim the base away from the brussels sprouts and discard. Cut the sprouts in half. In a large bowl, whisk the olive oil with the vinegar, honey and Sriracha to combine. Add the brussels sprouts and toss until fully coated. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Spread the brussels sprouts on the foil-lined baking sheet, cut sides down. Pour any extra olive oil mixture onto the pan and tilt the pan around to distribute it. Roast until the sprouts are crispy on the outside and golden and caramelized on the cut sides, 20 to 30 minutes. Serve immediately.

Broccoli Salad (pictured)

Karen Armstrong, Webberville

- 1 head broccoli, cut into bite size florets
- ½ red onion, chopped
- ½ c. crumbled bacon
- 1 ½ c. shredded cheese
- ½ c. mayo
- 1 T. cider vinegar
- ½ c. sugar (or to taste)

Mix all ingredients together; toss with broccoli. Serve.

German Potato Salad

Joan Nachtman, Ellsworth

- ½ lb. bacon, cut into small pieces
- 1 medium onion
- 2 T. flour
- ½ c. sugar
- ⅔ c. white vinegar
- 1½ c. water
- salt and pepper, to taste
- 6–8 large potatoes, peeled and cubed

Fry bacon and remove from pan; leave the fat from bacon in the pan. Add the onion and fry in the bacon grease for 3 to 4 minutes. Add flour and cook for a couple minutes, stirring. Mix in sugar and white vinegar. Boil the potatoes in water until done. Drain and add potatoes with bacon and sauce. Best made one day ahead, cover and refrigerate.

Sauerkraut Salad

Lorraine Hartley, Wolverine

- 16 ozs. sauerkraut, drained and rinsed
- 1 med. green pepper, diced
- 1 c. celery, diced
- 1 med. onion, diced
- ¾ c. to 1 c. sugar
- ½ c. apple cider vinegar
- 2-oz. jar diced pimentos, drained

Combine all ingredients. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Stir and serve.

Apple Slaw

Robin Musselman, Charlotte

- 2 c. chopped apples
- 2 c. shredded red cabbage
- 2 c. shredded green cabbage
- 1 med. carrot, finely chopped
- 1½ c. Miracle Whip
- 2 T. honey
- spiced or sugared pecans, optional

Mix Miracle Whip and honey; set aside. In a large bowl, combine apples, carrot and both cabbages. Mix in Miracle Whip/honey mixture. Chill. Serve as is or with pecans on top.



Swiss Vegetable Medley

Terry Baxter, Alanson

- 1 bag (16 oz.) frozen vegetables (broccoli, carrots, cauliflower), thawed and drained
- 1 can (10 ¾ oz.) condensed cream of mushroom soup
- 1 c. (4 oz.) shredded Swiss cheese
- ⅓ c. sour cream
- ¼ t. pepper
- 1 can (2.8 oz.) French fried onions

Preheat oven to 350°. In a large bowl, combine vegetables, soup, ½ c. cheese, sour cream, pepper and ½ can of French fried onions. Pour into shallow (1 qt.) rectangle baking dish. Bake covered for 30 to 40 minutes. Sprinkle remaining cheese and onions in diagonal rows across top; bake uncovered 5 minutes or until onions are golden. Makes 6 servings.

SUBMIT YOUR RECIPE!

Thanks to all our readers who send in recipes. Please send in your favorite "BBQ" recipes by **May 1** and "Dessert" recipes by **July 1**.

Enter your recipe online at countrylines.com or send to (hand print or type 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.

A RECIPE WINNER EVERY MONTH!

Contributors whose recipes we print each month will be entered in a drawing and Country Lines will pay a \$50 credit on the winner's electric bill! A winner will be selected every month.

The Well-Dressed Lineworker

By Jim Carpenter



Hard Hat
\$23

Ear Protection
35 cents to \$350

**Fall Restraint
Harness**
\$192

Rubber Gloves
\$170
Rated and tested
every three months

Strap for Pole Climbing
\$715

Smile
priceless

Safety Glasses
up to \$250

Rubber Sleeves
\$455
Rated and tested
twice per year

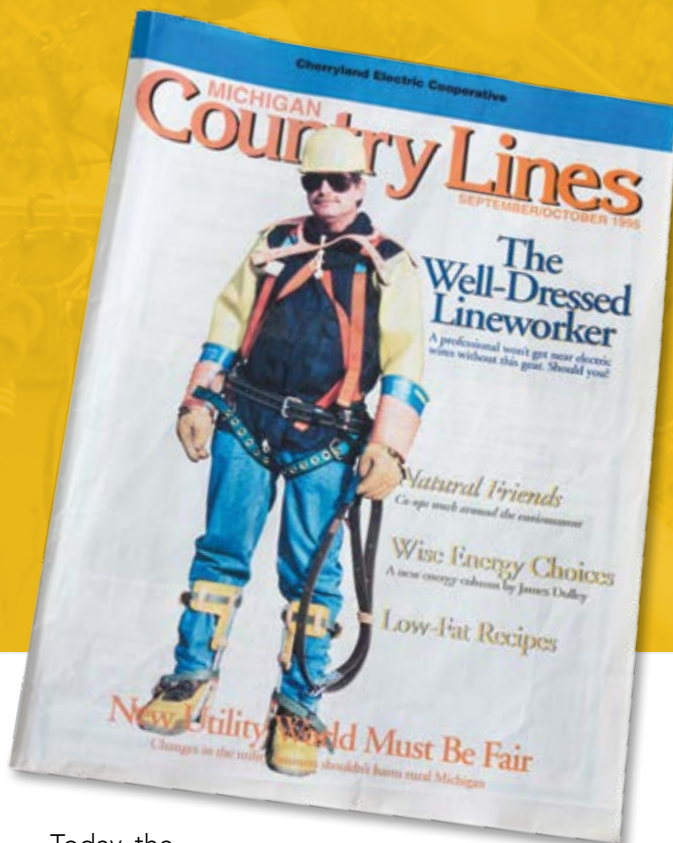
Arc-Rated Clothing
\$1,587
Clothing designed to reduce
impact of burn-related injuries

Lineworker's Belt
\$480

Leather Protectors
\$24

Climbing Gear
\$355

In the September/October 1995 issue of *Michigan Country Lines*, Michigan Electric Cooperative Association safety instructor, Mike Stelter, showed readers the gear it takes to keep lineworkers safe.



A little over 20 years ago, *Michigan Country Lines* featured an article titled “The Well-Dressed Lineworker.” The article featured a picture of an old friend, Mike Stelter, outfitted in the proper safety equipment of the day.

The picture included the cost of Stelter’s personal protective equipment with a combined price tag of approximately \$1,500. That was in the fall of 1995.

What else was going on in that time period? The DVD was announced as a form of disc media storage. EBay was founded, *The Washington Post* and the *New York Times* published the Unabomber’s manifesto, and Steve Forbes announced he was a Republican presidential candidate. O.J. Simpson was found “not guilty” and Quebec independents narrowly lost a referendum for a mandate to negotiate independence from Canada. There were no CFL or LED lightbulbs and no electronic meters on your home.

Indeed, much has changed.

Twenty years ago, lineworkers provided their own belt and hooks. Fire retardant clothing was a “best practice,” but not a requirement. Almost no one wore the high-priced clothing that was often heavy, hot and uncomfortable. Lineworkers wore cotton and other natural fabrics. Wearing man-made fabrics like nylon, rayon and acetate have long been forbidden in line work.

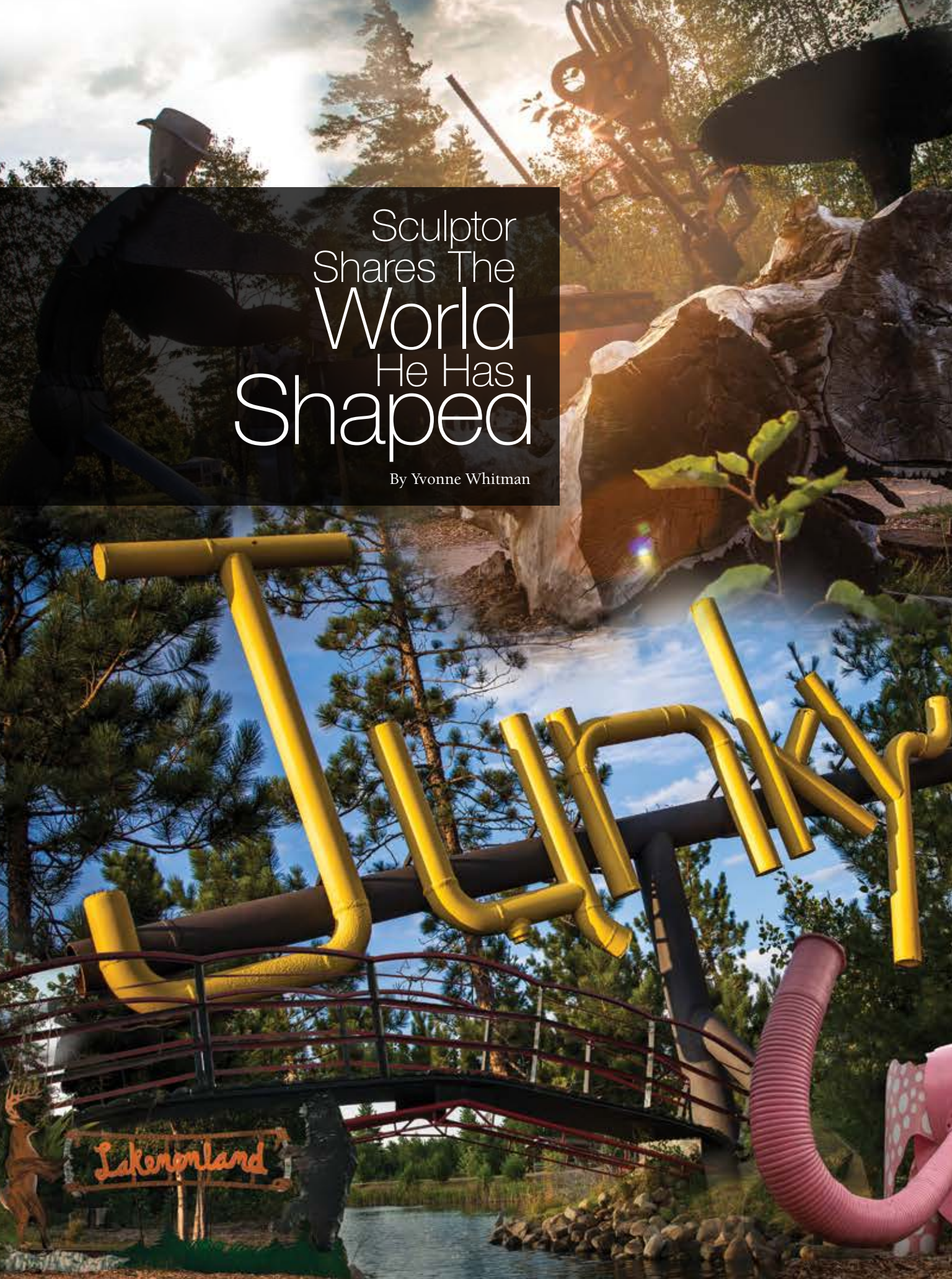
Today, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires that workers exposed to high voltage arcs be protected with appropriate fire retardant clothing. And, it is up to the employer to provide these items. Now, OSHA requires that the employer also provide employees with belts and hooks. The cost to do so is substantial. Today, it costs over \$4,000 per lineworker to create the same “Well-Dressed Lineworker.”

As the years have passed, the safety training that is provided for all of our employees has changed, as well. An example of these changes is in injury prevention training. Much of the work done in the field is rigorous and physically demanding. The work isn’t just about being strong enough. It’s about flexibility, positioning, and understanding the mechanics of our bodies. We didn’t take a whole-body approach years ago, but now this type of training helps avoid injuries on and off the job.



Jim Carpenter
Line Superintendent

Here at Cherryland Electric Cooperative, our mission is “Member Focused: Safe, Reliable, Affordable.” Our employees are like family, and making sure they go home safely every day is one of our deepest values. ■

The image is a collage. The top half features a dark, semi-transparent rectangular area containing white text. Behind this text, a sculptor wearing a hat is seen working on a large, dark sculpture. To the right, a large, abstract sculpture made of dark, textured material is visible, with a hand-like shape at the top. The bottom half of the image shows a vibrant water slide structure with yellow and black pipes, set against a backdrop of pine trees and a blue sky. A pink, corrugated slide is also visible on the right. In the bottom left corner, a wooden sign reads "Lakemontland" in a stylized font, with a small sculpture of a deer nearby.

Sculptor Shares The World He Has Shaped

By Yvonne Whitman

Lakemontland



Highway M-28, east of Marquette, is a typical stretch of U.P. road—until you notice the startling, out-of-place objects emerging from the nearby woods. Some say the experience is like stumbling upon a north woods “Jurassic Park.” In truth, you have entered the fantastical and far-friendlier world of Lakenenland Sculpture Park.

Yes, you will find a dinosaur or two roaming the nearly 40-acre woodland park. But they’re gentle giants—over 80 whimsical sculptures created by a single artist from bits of salvaged iron. Each of the works scattered throughout the park are the creation of a local iron sculptor, Tom Lakenen, 53.



Pat Lakenen putting the finishing touches on another one of her son’s creations.

The park is the result of a major lifestyle change and grew from a single project. “I traded beer drinking and bar stools for metal sculpting,” Lakenen says with a wide grin. Working in his garage, he first crafted “Eight Dancing Wolves,” which he hesitantly displayed in his front yard. “No one threw eggs at my house, so I decided to make something else,” says Lakenen, a boilermaker by trade. These were soon joined by a motorcycle-riding skeleton and other imaginative creatures. His neighbors didn’t appear to mind his installations, but his output soon overflowed his yard. And thus was born the Lakenenland Sculpture Park.

“In 2003, I remortgaged my house for the next 100 years!” Lakenen jokingly exclaims about buying 37 acres “to scatter my ‘junk art’ around.” After years of clearing trees and building roads by himself, the park has evolved to include a visitor pavilion, band shell, two fishing ponds and a lean-to warming shack for the many winter visitors arriving by snowmobile. The park is open year-round and there is no admission fee.

Most winter weekends find Lakenen stoking the bonfire for snowmobilers and offering free hot chocolate, coffee and snacks to upwards of 150 people. (Snowmobile Trail #417 runs through the park). His generosity is matched by his resourcefulness, since he’s become adept at bartering. In fact, Lakenen traded sand from the property with both a neighbor and a road crew, who removed enough earth to create the two large craters that became the ponds he now stocks with fish.

Lakenenland and its contents are financed solely by the sculptor himself—with one fine exception. An area doctor, Ken Buran, once left a \$2,000 donation. Buran subsequently asked Lakenen if there were any other improvements he wished to make in the park. “A pavilion,” Lakenen told him, “so guests can eat their lunch in shade.” The pavilion arose from a \$10,000 second donation. “Tom and his wife, Lisa, are good people,” Buran says. “They do a lot for the community. His park is unique, and I thought it worth preserving and building upon. Communities need these places as a cultural heritage and identity.”

And indeed, Lakenenland represents more than a sculpture park. It stands as a testament to creativity, determination, generosity and—above all—community. And you can’t put a price on that. ■

Visit lakenenland.com for more information on the park.





Harnessing The Power Of Loop Feeds

By Frank Siepker

On Sunday, Jan. 10, 2016, the sun rose over a cold morning in Lake Ann. With projected temperatures in the low 20s, over 3,000 Cherryland members awoke to find their power out.

The problem would turn out to be a failure in the Lake Ann substation that would take crews from Wolverine Power Cooperative seven hours to repair.

Despite the extensive repairs Wolverine undertook, Cherryland crews were able to restore power to our members within the first few hours by backfeeding everyone affected from our nearby Interlochen substation.

Ten years ago, this wouldn't have been possible. Cherryland's distribution system is among the most robust in the industry because we are continually investing in our infrastructure, to the tune of about \$3 million each year.

One key design feature that Cherryland builds into these infrastructure projects is "loop feeds."

Historically, power distribution systems used a radial structure that allowed only one possible path for power to flow. Electricity flowed from the hub (substation) down the radial "spokes" to the member's load. If something interrupted that flow of power, the member was left without power until the original path could be restored.

Over the last decade, we have been building loop feeds throughout our system. Put simply, these

loop feeds are created when two radial lines are built so that their ends connect to each other with a switch that is normally off. If the flow of power is interrupted in one of the two radial lines, power can be turned back on from the other direction by "flipping the switch," or backfeeding power.

The majority of Cherryland substations are now connected with loop feeds. In addition, most subdivisions with over 20 homes also have loop feeds. These system improvements help reduce outage duration and frequency for our members.

With the support of your board of directors, Cherryland has made significant infrastructure investments to keep our system strong and vibrant. With these investments, we've been able to bring our system reliability up to 99.9 percent.

While this January it was our Lake Ann members who benefited from these improvements, next time it might be you.



Frank Siepker
Engineering and
Operations Manager

So, the next time the power goes out, remember that Cherryland is actively working on both long-term upgrades with loop feeds and our line crews are out in the elements working around-the-clock to repair power safely and swiftly. ■

Above: Sunrise over Cherryland's East Bay substation.

Perspective—It's A Powerful Thing

By Rachel Johnson

This column comes to you from 30,000 feet. Literally. Recently, I watched presidential hopefuls debate their vision for the future of our nation and today I'm flying over a big chunk of the country.

I love flying. I have always loved the opportunity to get up high enough to look down on the world and see it differently.

I also love watching planes from the ground, experiencing the grace and beauty of flight from below.

From above, I can't help but notice the vastness of rural America. But, when I listen to our politicians debate, it would seem that urban America dominates the political landscape.

Flying and watching a plane fly overhead are not the same.

Perspective is a powerful tool. It can help us solve problems that seemed insurmountable from in the trenches. It can help us better understand problems that seemed simple from outside the trenches.

Of the candidates running for president at the time of this writing, none grew up in rural communities.

They hail from New York, Chicago, Miami, Pittsburgh, Houston. They have never been in our trenches.

Rural populations are declining, taking precious votes and political influence with them.

It's up to those of us still here to reinvigorate the rural voice.

We need equitable funding for rural schools, better access to high quality healthcare, and reliable, affordable electricity to grow our local economy.

Big city politicians aren't going to fight for these things for us. We must advocate for ourselves.

That's why America's electric cooperatives have launched a new initiative to help the members we serve register to vote, find key election dates, and learn about the candidates and issues.



Rachel Johnson
Member Relations
Manager

Check out [Vote.coop](#) and help us spread the word and get out the vote. Together we can make 2016 the year of the rural vote. ■



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6. Submit your memories online: countrylines.com



Jampot Bakery Offers A Divine Experience

By Yvonne Whitman

For area residents and tourists alike, no drive along the Keweenaw Peninsula's scenic lakefront is complete without a stop at The Jampot. The shop is operated by a small order of Byzantine monks and well-known for everything homemade, from jams and jellies to fresh-baked goods. The signature thimbleberry jam is heavenly.

Monastery founders Frs. Basil and Nicholas arrived in the area in 1983, seeking a place for quiet prayer and peace. Hearing that the Upper Peninsula was "a place of small towns and wilderness," noted Basil, they purchased a quaint lakeside resort. "The Holy Spirit led us here. The first winter our business was just finding a way to survive," Basil explains. In order to support themselves, they quickly became familiar with the tradition of harvesting a local fruit—the thimbleberry—long used to make jam for winter sustenance. They decided to try jam-making by default, as there wasn't much else in the rugged, sparsely-populated land.

Welcoming area residents helped the monks as they worked to establish their business. "Community members embraced us and that made all the difference," Basil says. "They shared the best locations of berry patches and the local grocer sold us the jars at cost." That first year, they produced 120 cases of jam, selling them to a local distributor for use in gift baskets. In 1986, they opened the



Photo courtesy of The Jampot

doors of The Jampot, adding unique bakery items to their product line that receive rave reviews.

However, the main focus of their lives remains prayer, to which they devote every possible waking hour, and The Jampot exists to support a place of religious devotion. Visit societystjohn.com to learn more about the monastery's fascinating story. ■

The Jampot is located on M-26 between Eagle Harbor and Eagle River. The store's season is late April through mid-October. Products are also available year-round by online mail order. Store hours are Monday - Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit store.societystjohn.com for more details.



AMERICAN METAL ROOFS President, Frank Farmer



“Your new roof, from purchase through installation, should be an outstanding experience.”

I have been selling home improvements across Michigan since 1986. Over the years, one thing always worried me about what I saw in my customer's eyes - no matter what I said or did, deep down, I could tell that many of them just didn't trust me.

And I understood that lack of trust.

After all, home improvement companies have a long history of deceptive practices, shoddy workmanship and spineless warranties and I was just another salesman from another home improvement company who might be there to rip them off.

I knew things had to change.

So, in the winter of 1999, I sat down to plan the perfect home improvement experience - *from the homeowners perspective*. Armed with a cup of good coffee and a legal pad, I went to work. Several hours and several pages later, the plan for American Metal Roofs was born.

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