

Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association

February 2017

# MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES



## YOUTH TOUR

The Power Of Our Future

Meet Director  
Dave Anthony

Youth Tour  
Leadership Opportunity

Restoring A  
Railroad Artifact





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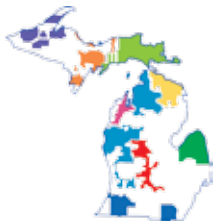
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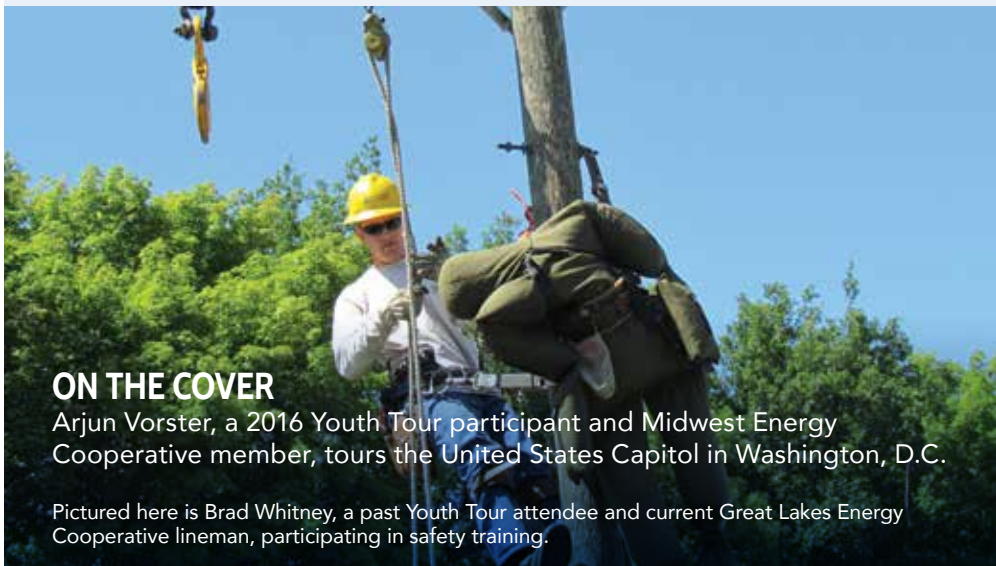
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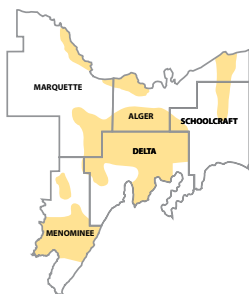
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## READER'S PAGE

I Remember—The Wonder Of Michigan Always  
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Submit An 'I Remember' Story And Earn \$50!





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*Alger Delta Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

**[algerdelta.com](http://algerdelta.com)**



## You Matter



**Tom Harrell**  
Chief Executive  
Officer

When I'm talking about the co-op, I refer to the people we serve as "members." Sometimes the person I'm talking to gets a quizzical look on their face because they're thinking...what is he talking about? Members? If you take electric service from Alger Delta, you're a "member" of the cooperative and members matter.

Members are the actual owners of the cooperative. That's right! You and the rest of the roughly 10,000 members have a vested financial interest in the co-op. You also have a voice. You raise your voice when you vote for a director who sits on the board, and that director makes decisions about how the co-op is run. You can raise your voice in other ways, too. For example, when you example when you attend a district or annual meeting or communicate with your elected representatives about energy issues that affect your co-op, you are letting your voice be heard.

You also matter in other ways. Collectively, members are the economic engine of the cooperative. Because of this, you share in the rewards of economic growth and development through the payment, or retirement, of patronage capital.

As a member, you should be proud of what Alger Delta has accomplished. We are an economic driver in the central Upper Peninsula through our support of the local communities, townships and counties in which we serve. We have helped bring better education and business services to the central Upper Peninsula—all through providing an indispensable service—electricity—to rural consumers.

Part of our mission is to keep energy safe, affordable and reliable. Alger Delta is part of something special—a nationwide network of electric systems that are owned and controlled by people like you—members. That is why you matter. ■

# Meet Director Dave Anthony

**A**lger Delta Electric Cooperative Board President Dave Anthony grew up in several U.P. locations, but primarily in Marquette where he graduated from high school. The Bark River resident never strayed far from his roots and proudly states, "I am a born and raised Yooper!"

According to Anthony, his career in public service was the result of events that occurred during his high school and college years. "During those years," he recalls, "There was a lot of discussion about the aftermath of the Vietnam conflict, public policy, pay equity and civil rights." His interest in these topics prompted him to become involved in student groups where these were points of discussion, and subsequently, he began taking classes in political science. "I decided that rather than teaching, I wanted to be actively involved," he remarks. While still in college, he started volunteering in local political campaigns and this experience resulted in landing his first job managing field operations for a senatorial candidate. "What you learn in school is important, but what you learn in the field is invaluable," he says.

After graduating from Northern Michigan University in 1978 with a double major in political science and history, Anthony embarked on a diverse career that now spans more than 40 years. During this time, he has served on a variety of community and state boards, acted as a regional representative for Senator Carl Levin and represented the U.P. for four terms in the Michigan House of Representatives. Anthony currently acts as the Director of Community Development & Government Affairs for the Hannahville Indian Community.

Electricity in the U.P. was the impetus for him to run for the Alger Delta Board of Directors. "The U.P. has unique issues with electrical power," he remarks. "I have a long history of being versed on power issues during my career and realize what a critical role it plays in the stability of the U.P." A firm



believer in the adage 'A rising tide floats all boats', Anthony says he asked himself, "What will it take to keep the community growing?" He is pleased with the direction the cooperative is currently headed. "I think we have a general manager who has done an exceptional job of taking a difficult situation and, in a few short years, with the confidence of the board behind him, putting us on the proper course."

Along with serving on the Alger Delta Board, Anthony enjoys being a farmer and an award-winning winemaker. In 2011, he and Susie, his wife of 17 years, began Northern Sun Winery. While he had no previous farming experience, he found himself enjoying the challenges that novice farmers often experience. "I spent a considerable amount of time corresponding with MSU Extension for assistance," he humbly states. Now an experienced vintner, he concludes, "I love growing grapes, fixing tractors and machinery and making wine. The creativity it takes to make good wine is not far from what it takes to create good public policy." ■

# 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 the 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, poisonous 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, and crawl spaces and in an area where adequate ventilation is available and deadly exhaust gas cannot accumulate.
- 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 the 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 the unit is running or hot. Allow the 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.

- Only start or stop the generator when no electrical loads are connected.
- Overloading your generator can seriously damage your valuable appliances and electronics. Do not overload the generator. Prioritize your needs; do not operate more appliances and equipment than the output rating of the generator. 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 related 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.*



# Wind Energy Is Full Of Wins For Michigan

By Kelley Welf,  
Communications Manager,  
Wind On The Wires

Michigan farmers, business owners and taxpayers have a lot to gain by embracing wind energy. It offers a drought-resistant cash crop, requires very little land, creates family-supporting jobs in rural areas, and injects much-needed revenue sources into rural communities at a time when many are struggling—all while generating low-cost, clean energy. Everybody wins with wind power!

For generations, farmers have harnessed the power of the wind, but it wasn't until the 1980s that the industry was able to accomplish it on a utility scale. Since then, technological advancements and the growth of domestic manufacturing have driven the cost of wind projects down considerably. The price consumers pay for wind power has dropped 66 percent over six years.

Currently, wind provides more than four percent of Michigan's electricity needs, with 1,531 megawatts (MW) of installed capacity and another 330 MW under construction. The Department of Energy projects that Michigan could produce enough wind energy by 2030 to power the equivalent of 710,000 American homes.

Wind farms ensure farmland is protected over the long term. The average wind farm leaves 98 percent of land undisturbed, so they don't significantly impact crops or livestock production. Many farmers have found access roads built or improved for wind projects to be convenient during harvest time. Plus, wind developers make annual land-lease payments to farming families and other rural landowners. In 2014, wind developers paid \$4.6 million to Michigan landowners. This extra income goes a long way toward helping families meet their household budgets, send their kids to college, or keep the family farm. It is also reinvested in the community through spending at local businesses, restaurants and other establishments.

Wind developments increase the tax base, which helps keep more money in the pockets of citizens. From 2011–2015 the counties with the most wind farms—Gratiot, Huron and Tuscola—saw the largest increase to their tax base. This new source of tax revenue paid by wind developers brings in millions of dollars every year, and is often used to help pay for schools, county and township services, police and fire departments, and programs for seniors and veterans.

The economic impact of wind development ripples through local economies. With 26 wind manufacturing facilities, Michigan ranks fourth in the nation in wind manufacturing and enjoys about 2,000 wind energy jobs. Businesses also benefit from wind projects, as developers use local service stations, hardware stores, restaurants and hotels in their day-to-day operations.

Harvesting the wind and investing energy dollars locally is a winning strategy. Wind developments offer the opportunity to capitalize on jobs and economic development while ensuring Michigan's farm families and rural lifestyle stay economically viable. ■

*Wind On The Wires is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in St. Paul, MN, that works to advance renewable energy in the Midwest.*

[windonthewires.org](http://windonthewires.org)

# Look For The ENERGY STAR® Label

Making the switch to LED bulbs is a smart way to save energy. But, just like all other products, some LEDs meet a higher standard of quality and performance than others. To ensure you are selecting the best LEDs, always look for the ENERGY STAR®!

What is ENERGY STAR? ENERGY STAR is a trusted brand for quality products that use significantly less energy than required by minimum federal standards. The ENERGY STAR label can be found on hundreds of items, including light bulbs, electronics, major appliances, and even certified homes and buildings.

For a LED to bear the ENERGY STAR label, it must pass rigorous testing to ensure maximum energy savings, while also proving it will display the following characteristics:

- Brightness equal to or greater than that of other existing technologies
- Well-distributed light
- Excellent color quality
- Light output that remains constant over time
- Light that comes on instantly when turned on

- No flicker when dimmed
- Does not use power when turned off

## Other tips for choosing the right LED bulb:

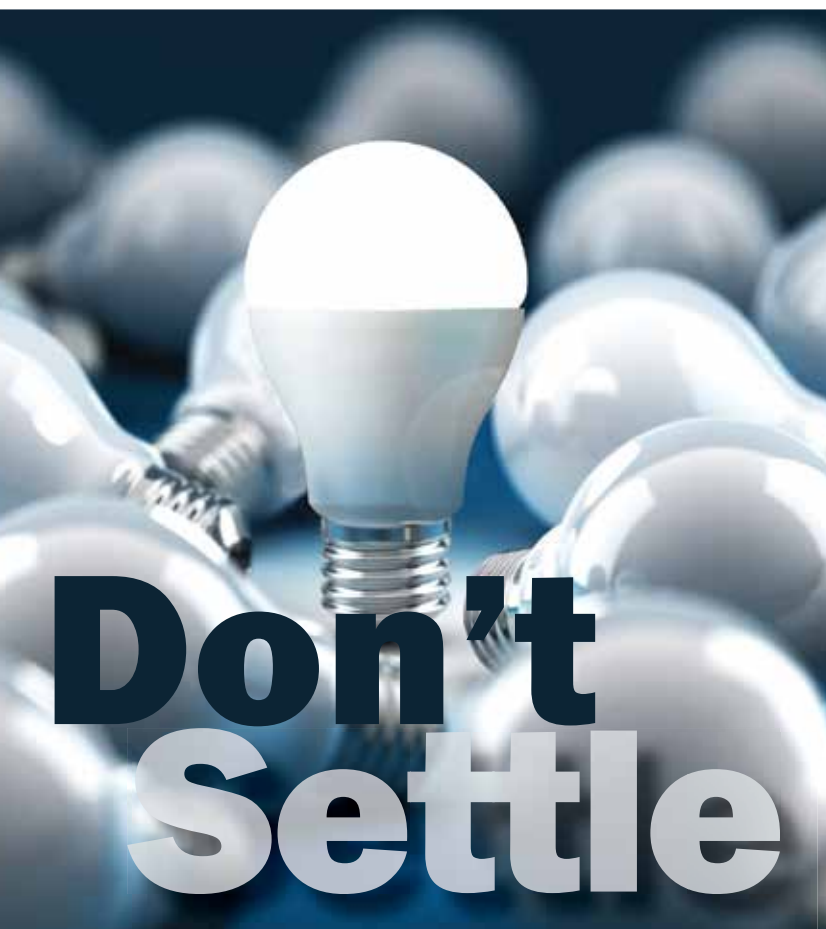
Choose the right brightness. Instead of watts, look for lumens when purchasing LEDs to gauge the brightness of the bulb.

Choose the appropriate color. LEDs come in a broad range of colors, which are measured by temperature on the Kelvin scale (K). Lower K emits a warmer, yellowish light, while higher K produces cooler, bluer light. ■

By replacing your home's five most frequently used light fixtures or bulbs with ENERGY STAR® LEDs, you can save up to \$75 each year.

## REBATES NOW AVAILABLE

Visit [michigan-energy.org](http://michigan-energy.org) or call 877-296-4319 for additional energy-saving information and incentives.



# Don't Settle

## All LEDs are not created equal!

You know LED bulbs are the most efficient lighting solution for your home. To save as much energy as possible, look for the ENERGY STAR® label!

### Why ENERGY STAR LEDs?

- Highest quality and performance
- Exceptional color quality and light output
- Thoroughly tested and verified to back up claims

**ENERGY TIP:** Visit a participating retailer near you to receive instant in-store savings on LED bulbs and fixtures!

ONLINE: [michigan-energy.org/RetailersSearch](http://michigan-energy.org/RetailersSearch)

PHONE: 877.296.4319



Energy Optimization programs and incentives are applicable to Michigan electric service locations only. Other restrictions may apply. For a complete list of participating utilities, visit [michigan-energy.org](http://michigan-energy.org).





ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE  
**YOUTH TOUR**



# Michigan Co-ops Inspire Tomorrow's Leaders Today With **YOUTH TOUR 2017**

An exclusive summer highlight for the best and brightest youth in the state.  
**June 10–15, 2017**

Designed to inspire the leaders of tomorrow, Youth Tour teaches the brightest students of Michigan about their past—and helps equip them with the skills they need to be Michigan's next generation of energy-minded leaders. This is a once-in-a-lifetime, all-expenses-paid leadership travel opportunity for high school sophomores and juniors (going into their junior or senior year this summer) and is sponsored by Michigan's electric cooperatives.

Youth Tour offers a unique opportunity to build leadership and public speaking skills, enhance students' knowledge of the cooperative form of business, and build life-long friendships with other student-leaders from across the country.

**Youth Tour applications accepted  
between now and Feb. 28.**

#### **Trip Highlights Include:**

- Visit the Gettysburg Civil War battlefields
- See Fort McHenry, birthplace of "The Star Spangled Banner"
- Explore the Washington, D.C., monuments and memorials
- Attend a theater performance at the Kennedy Center
- Explore the museums of the Smithsonian Institution
- Pay respects at Arlington National Cemetery
- Meet with Michigan Senators and Congressmen
- Batter up! Enjoy a Washington Nationals baseball game

Additional information and online application are available at [CooperativeYouthTour.com](http://CooperativeYouthTour.com).



# CHIP DIPS

These dips are a slam dunk for your next gathering.

## Philly Tomato Basil Dip

Nancy Popa,  
Cherryland Electric  
Cooperative

- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 2 plum tomatoes, chopped
- 2 tablespoons zesty Italian dressing
- 2 tablespoons shredded Parmesan cheese
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped basil

Spread cream cheese in a 9-inch pie plate. Mix tomatoes and Italian dressing, then spoon over cream cheese. Sprinkle Parmesan and basil on top. Serve with thick chips or crackers!







## Southern Pimiento Cheese

Annie, Great Lakes Energy

- 2 cups shredded extra-sharp Cheddar cheese
- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- ½ cup mayonnaise
- ¼ teaspoon garlic powder
- ¼ teaspoon ground cayenne pepper (optional)
- ¼ teaspoon onion powder
- 1 jalapeno pepper, seeded and minced (optional)
- 1 (4 ounces) jar diced pimiento, drained
- salt and black pepper, to taste

Place the Cheddar cheese, cream cheese, mayonnaise, garlic powder, cayenne pepper, onion powder, minced jalapeno, and pimiento into the large bowl of a mixer. Beat at medium speed, with a paddle if possible, until thoroughly combined. Season to taste with salt and black pepper. Serve cold with crackers or toasted baguette slices, at room temperature as a dip with tortilla chips, or as a spread for a grilled cheese sandwich.



## Cheesy Hot Crab Dip

Janice Harvey, Great Lakes Energy

- 8 ounces imitation crab meat
- 2 cups mayonnaise
- ½ medium onion, chopped
- ¼ cup fresh parsley, chopped
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- 2 cups shredded mild cheddar cheese
- assorted crackers or chips

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

In a medium bowl, shred imitation crab meat. Stir in mayonnaise, onion, parsley and pepper. Stir in cheese. Spoon into shallow 1-½ quart baking dish. Bake, uncovered, for 20–25 minutes or until heated through. Serve with crackers or chips.

MI  
co-op  
KITCHEN

Submit your favorite recipe for a chance to win a \$50 bill credit and have your recipe featured in *Country Lines*:

- “Breakfast & Brunch” due March 4
- “On The Grill” due April 4

Go to [micoopkitchen.com](http://micoopkitchen.com) for more information and to register.

## U.S. SENATE BEAN SOUP

*In honor of the annual Youth Tour Washington, D.C. trip application deadline, we share this favorite recipe. Since the 1940s, the traditional U.S. Senate Bean Soup, pictured above, has been on the Senate's menu every day.*

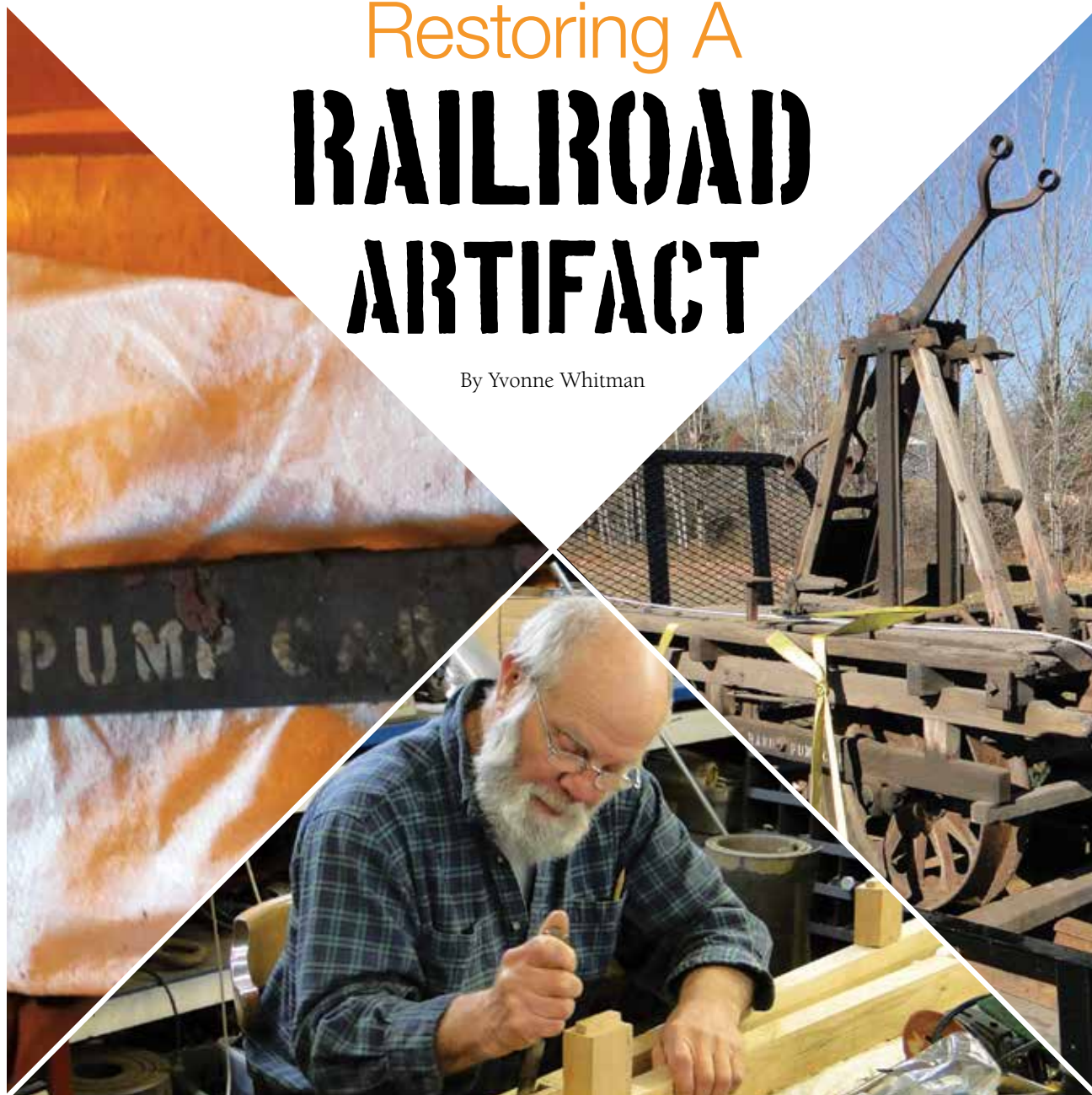
- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| • 1 pound dry navy beans                                | • ¼ cup chopped parsley    |
| • 1 meaty ham bone                                      | • 1½ teaspoons pepper      |
| • 1 cup chopped onion                                   | • 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg |
| • 2 garlic cloves, minced                               | • 1 teaspoon oregano       |
| • 1 cup chopped celery                                  | • 1 teaspoon basil         |
| • ¾ cup mashed potato flakes or 1½ cups mashed potatoes | • 1 bay leaf               |
|   | • salt, to taste           |

Wash and sort beans; in a large kettle, cover beans with 6–8 cups hot water. Bring to a boil and boil 2 minutes; remove from heat, cover, and let stand for 1 hour. Add another 2 quarts of cold water and ham bone, then bring to a boil; reduce heat and simmer 1½ hours. Stir in remaining ingredients; simmer 20–30 minutes until beans are tender. Remove ham bone, trim off meat and return meat to soup; remove bay leaf. Serve hot, or freeze for later.

See Youth Tour cover story on page 14 and visit [micoopkitchen.com](http://micoopkitchen.com) for this recipe and others.

# Restoring A RAILROAD ARTIFACT

By Yvonne Whitman



Left: An original piece from the car. Center: Gerry at work on the car. Right: The pump car in the original condition it arrived in before Gerry began working on it.

Photos—Shirley Lamma

**P**eering inside a shed in 2013, Copper Country resident Gerry Lamma had no idea that his curiosity would result in a three-year restoration project. That day, while assisting his friend, Ron Whiting, with some volunteer work at the Quincy Hoist Mine in Hancock, Gerry happened to notice an old, dilapidated shack with the door ajar. Looking inside, he immediately noticed what appeared to be an old railway pump car. "It was bent and twisted, and in very rough shape," he recalls, but for the man who has had a lifelong interest in trains and history, it was a diamond in the rough.

Some investigating revealed that the four-man pump car had originally been used by mine workers to patrol the rail line that ran between Calumet and Hancock. Checking for washouts and general railway repair work, the car was readily able to be lifted off the railway by the men when an oncoming train warranted quick evacuation from the tracks.

The pump car was another historic remnant of the magnificent copper mining history of the area. The Quincy Hoist Mine, in operation from 1846 to 1945, was the most successful of the 1840s-era mines



and, in 1863, was the country's leading copper-producing mine. When the mine ceased production in 1945, the shaft number two was, at 9,260 feet, the world's deepest shaft. After the heyday of the mining era had ceased, the Quincy Mine, along with other Copper Country mining sites remained defunct. But, in 1992, when the Keweenaw National Historic Park was established, the Quincy Mine Hoist and surrounding areas became a part of it and are now a popular tourist attraction.

After initially spotting the car, Lamppa approached the Quincy Mine Association Board of Directors with a proposal to restore the car. The Board agreed and, in the fall of 2013, the car was transported to the heated garage of Gus Haapala, one of Gerry's neighbors. He immediately got to work on the pump car but quickly discovered that it was going to take some patience to bring the car back to life. "There were no blueprints or guide books to refer to," he recalls. "I just had pieces, so there was a lot of, 'measure, drill, measure again.'"

In the spring of 2016, he brought the car to a barn at his own home where he began to reassemble a working car. A true stickler for detail, Gerry states, "Anything less than perfect and I wasn't going to

be a happy camper." But three years later, and an estimated 400 hours of painstaking restoration, he was satisfied with the outcome and recalls thinking, "Thank you, Lord."

None of this came as surprise to Shirley, Gerry's wife of 44 years. "He's always loved trains." As for his dedication to the project, she states, "He's done a lot of things very well in his life. If he pursues it, he can do it."

In October 2016 the car was returned to the Quincy Mine, good as new, and was met with an appreciative review. According to Whiting, "Gerry's work is impeccable. He is known for his unique carpentry work, and he is extremely attentive to detail. The restored car truly reflects this."

Lamppa had support and assistance with the project from Michigan Tech's Foundry Department, Peninsula Powder Coating, and other friends who all stepped up.

To see what the restored car looks like, visit the Quincy Hoist Mine when it reopens in the spring of 2017. ■

**Visit [quincymine.com](http://quincymine.com) for more information.**



Gerry and his wife, Shirley, pictured with the restored pump car.

Photo—Yvonne Whitman

*"If we don't care about our past, we cannot hope for the future."*

—Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis



Historic photo of the Quincy Mine when it was in operation.

Photo—MTU archives.



# YOUTH TOUR

## The Power Of Our Future

By Emily Haines Lloyd

"We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future." – Franklin D. Roosevelt



Arjun Vorster, shown rock climbing, says Youth Tour had an impact on how he wants to make a difference in the world and his own life.

Energy is more than the ability to do work. Energy powers our imaginations and fuels positive change. That is why, for the last 50 years, approximately 1,800 students from at least 45 states have participated in the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program each year. This five-day trip is a high-energy, interactive experience designed to help young people grow as leaders and takes place June 10–15.

Through an application and interview process, rising juniors and seniors are selected and sponsored by their local co-ops to travel to Washington, D.C., for a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Together with students from all across the country, the selected Michigan students learn about co-ops, leadership, history and the importance of civic engagement.

"The experience changed me quite a bit," said Arjun Vorster, a junior at Mendon High School and 2016 Youth Tour participant sponsored by his electric co-op Midwest Energy.

It wasn't the travel that impressed Vorster, who was born in South Africa and has traveled around the





Brad Whitney, who participated in Youth Tour eight years ago, is shown with fellow students from Great Lakes Energy at a Michigan Rural Electric Teen Days event.



Today, using some of those same principles he learned as a young man, Brad serves his community as a Great Lakes Energy Cooperative Lineman.

world, including living in seven different countries before moving to the United States.

"Washington, D.C., is a really impressive place," said Vorster. "You are surrounded by so much history, and you and your fellow students are right in the middle of it all. It's pretty amazing."

Vorster, who wants to study environmental engineering in college, noted that having the opportunity to see the historical monuments, visit various museums and interact with the other student participants were some of the most impactful moments of his trip.

"I met so many interesting people," said Vorster. "I was surrounded by people who wanted to make a difference, and it made me more resolved to make a difference in my own life too."

Youth Tour can have long-lasting effects on attendees. The impact of leadership training, a unique experience of living history at our nation's capital, and significant information on the future of electric power, makes quite an impact on the students.

Brad Whitney was a participant at Youth Tour in 2009 and the influence it had on him has been long lasting.

Whitney is currently a lineman at Great Lakes Energy Cooperative. He attended Youth Tour and followed up his trip with a summer job related to line work. Eventually, Brad became the recipient of a GLE scholarship, earning his lineman certification from Alpena Community College and Great Lakes Energy.

"It was a great experience that I'll never forget," said Whitney. "I hope this program is available when my kids grow up—I'd want them to go and have an experience as amazing as mine." ■

Visit [CooperativeYouthTour.com](http://CooperativeYouthTour.com) for applications. Applications are due February 28.

# Living the Log Cabin Dream

By Yvonne Whitman

**H**andcrafted in Michigan's Upper Peninsula for more than 40 years, Koski Log Homes has built quality log homes that can be found in states as far away as Wyoming.

Jerry Koski, an award-winning forest surveyor for 32 years, descends from a long line of Finnish craftsmen and put those skills to work by starting his Koski Log Homes business in 1974. With his wife Linda, who is the company's office manager and treasurer, they have built more than 160 homes.

Using the handcrafted Scandinavian full-scribe method of log building, and using only full-length logs with no butt joints, these homes have an insulation R-value of 20 to 30, and are suited for any climate. "We use the new wool batt on the



Linda and Jerry Koski are the owners of the Koski Log Homes company in Ontonagon.

market right now, which is made specifically for this application," Jerry explains, noting that it is excellent in heat or cold with the large diameter logs they use. "We build a double-insulated roof system using both styrofoam and fiberglass insulation," he adds. "This system has an R-Value of 42 +."



Log homes need large eaves on the roof and a good wood finish, applied every four to five years. The Koskis have tested many products and found Sikkens® provides the best finish. This is a Koski Log Home built for one of their customers.

Photos courtesy of Linda Koski





People looking for a log home contractor should compare quality of the products and have confidence in the builder they choose for both present and future needs.

Operations are located on U.S. Hwy-45 in Ontonagon, where all of the homes are built before taking them apart and reassembling them at locations throughout 48 states. The special building process starts with preparing the logs in spring, when temperatures reach above 32 degrees. Using prime red and white pine logs cut only during late fall to early spring from U.P. and northern Wisconsin forests, the bark is removed and a fungicide applied. The logs are then stacked and covered with a special tarp that allows air circulation to dry them. They are stored for one to three years before a log is chosen for a particular spot on a house. When the logs will be used, they are peeled with planers and draw knives for a smooth finish.

The "scarf notch" method of building is used, which gives an exact fit that gets tighter as the building shrinks and settles. After the house is completed, the logs are numbered and the building is taken apart, loaded onto semi-trucks and delivered to the site. Koski craftsmen then reassemble the log home in one day, taking another day to put on the roof.

Koski Log Homes is not a "kit floor plan" dealer. Instead, they work one-on-one with the customer

to design a floor plan that perfectly suits their specifications and aim for a "dream come true" home. Jerry and Linda's own home does double duty as the floor model for their work. Customers are also welcome to visit the log yard to see homes in progress and visit other homes they have built in the area.

The Koskis have been married for nearly 40 years and Linda says that at 75, "Jerry is not showing any signs of slowing down." Their daughter, Kristie, and her husband, Jim, live nearby in Mass City, and Linda takes care of grandson, Jimmy, two days a week. Jimmy is named after the Koski's only son who, at age 35, was tragically killed in a motorcycle accident in 2006 when he hit a deer. The Koskis made the greatest gift known when they agreed to organ and tissue donation, and Linda says heartfully, "Now Jimmy has helped people in 19 states." ■

**To learn more, visit [koskiloghomes.com](http://koskiloghomes.com) or call 906.884.4937.**

# *I Remember...*

## *The Wonder Of Michigan Always Brings Us Home.*

The eldest of five siblings, I was the only one born in Michigan while my father was in boot camp. We were stationed in Alaska until I was nine and my youngest brother was almost two when my father decided to end his military career and move us all back home to Michigan. Picture two vehicles, a blue and white van and a tiny Isuzu truck, packed to the gills with two adults, five children, snacks in bulk, and a potty training toilet. What a sight we must have been!

It is a credit to both my parents and chocolate animal crackers that I fondly remember the 3,000-mile trek.

The best trips I remember as a child were to Sleeping Bear Dunes, Tahquamenon Falls, the Iron Mountain Iron Mine, Fort Mackinac on Mackinac Island, Fort Michilimackinac in Mackinaw City, and hiking on various trails.

In 2009, I moved to Arkansas with my husband, and there we had two children of our own.

In 2015, we could not resist the magnetic pull of the 45th parallel and moved back home to Michigan.

Since then my children have experienced the wonderland that is Michigan and have made memories of their own—their first snow angels, local farms and orchards, and the magic of the Great Lakes.

Home.

*Kalico Casady, Great Lakes Energy*



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