

MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES

Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association

Interlochen

Making Beautiful Music
In Northern Michigan

Attend The Annual
Meeting June 13—
Details On The Back Cover

**Alger Delta's 2017
Annual Report**

Electrical Safety Tips
For Kids





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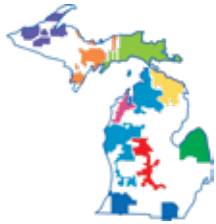
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Michigan's Electric Cooperatives
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Executive Editor: Casey Clark

Editor: Christine Dorr

Copy Editor: Heidi Spencer

Design and Layout:
Karreen Bird

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POSTMASTER: SEND ALL UAA TO CFS.

Association officers are **Robert Kran**, Great Lakes Energy, chairman; **Mark Kappler**, HomeWorks Tri-County Electric, vice chairman; and **Eric Baker**, Wolverine Power Cooperative, secretary-treasurer. **Craig Borr** is president and CEO.

CONTACT US/LETTERS TO EDITOR:
Michigan Country Lines
201 Townsend St., Suite 900
Lansing, MI 48933
248-534-7358
editor@countrylines.com
countrylines.com

 [facebook.com/
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In This Issue

June 2018 // Vol. 38, No. 6

ON THE COVER

Located in northwestern Michigan, Interlochen Center for the Arts offers arts education programs for students in grades 3-12 and adults of all ages. Interlochen also hosts hundreds of concerts and events.

Photo courtesy of Interlochen Center for the Arts



6 MI CO-OP COMMUNITY

A place for you to share, win and belong. Learn how to win bill credits and cash with *Country Lines*.

7 SAFETY

Safety Tips On How To Prevent Electric Shock Drowning

10 MI CO-OP KITCHEN

Spice It Up With These Recipes Packed Full Of Flavor

Christin McKamey & Our Readers

Interlochen Shares Their Indulgent Cookie Bar Recipe

[Enter Our Recipe Contest And Win A \\$50 Bill Credit!](#)

14 FEATURE

Interlochen: Making Beautiful Music In Northern Michigan

Emily Haines Lloyd

18 MI CO-OP COMMUNITY

MEMBER GUEST COLUMN:

Anything Is Possible While Fishing In The Dark

Andy Duffy, Great Lakes Energy Member

[Submit A Guest Column And Win \\$150!](#)

I Remember...

We invite members to share their fondest memories.

Guidelines

1. Approximately 200 words
2. Digital photos must be at least 600 KB
3. *Country Lines* retains reprint rights
4. Submit your memory at: countrylines.com under the MI Co-op Community tab.

Country Lines
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Board Of Directors

District 1—Big Bay

Darryl Small
906-345-9369 • smallwld14@gmail.com

District 2—Harvey/Deerton

Karen Alholm
906-249-1095 • karenalholm@gmail.com

District 3—Grand Marais

Mike Lawless
906-494-2080 • mclawless79@gmail.com

District 4—Cedar River/Palestine

Dave Prestin
906-424-0055 • cedarriverplaza@gmail.com

District 5—Gourley/LaBranche/Cornell

David Anthony
906-466-2932 • anthony@hannahville.org

District 6—Nathan/White Rapids

Paul Sederquist
906-753-4484 • sedergrrove@gmail.com

District 7—Stonington/Rapid River

Kirk Bruno
906-399-1432 • kbruno.algerdelta@gmail.com

District 8—Nahma/Isabella

Ray Young
906-450-1881 • kyoung@uplogon.com

District 9—Hiawatha/Maple Ridge

Doug Bovin
906-573-2379 • dorobo22@icloud.com

CEO

Tom Harrell
tharrell@algerdelta.com

Headquarters:

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

Office Hours

Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–4 p.m. (ET)

Alger Delta Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

algerdelta.com

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facebook.com/algerdeltaelectric



The Good Stuff

Tom Harrell, Chief Executive Officer

This month will be my 13th Annual Meeting with Alger Delta Cooperative. It has been interesting to look back and consider how the Annual Meeting has evolved over the years. In terms of location, we've gone from the Ruth Butler Building at the U.P. State Fairgrounds to a church gymnasium, to a high school auditorium, and then to the Miracle of Life Building back at the State Fairgrounds. The food has been reasonably consistent. We've had ham and turkey buffets and hamburger and brat cookouts wherever we met. We've given away a lot of prizes at the past 13 Annual Meetings, too.

One of the best things to happen is the consistent improvement in the cooperative. Power supply and rates are stable; and reliability, power quality and service have improved steadily over the past 13 years.

At the 2018 Annual Meeting, we'll report that the trend toward improvement is continuing. We'll tell you about our solid financial position, the aforementioned stability and certainty—especially in power supply—and other things that are the cornerstones of Alger Delta.

Alger Delta is investing in technology, equipment and facilities, safety, and our workforce to better serve you.

In technology, we've implemented mobile workforce solutions to speed the routine handling of service orders, work orders and outage response. Our lineworkers and field service providers have mobile devices at their fingertips to improve communication and response. This results in working more effectively and efficiently.

Upgrading our equipment and facilities have improved our work environment and contributes to productivity. Reduced downtime, maintenance costs and delays result in better service and better response to members.

On a daily basis, our goal is for every employee to go home as good as—or better than—when they come to work each day. This can be measured in a lot of ways and safety is one of the most important. We invest to ensure our staff have the tools, skills, personal protective equipment, and know the safety-related work practices that will see them through every job, every day.

We continue to improve and grow in order to serve you, our members. That's the good stuff.

Your Board In Action

At its April meeting, the board addressed several administrative items, including review and approval of membership applications, the previous month's expenditures and operating expenses.

The board took the following actions:

- Listened to a presentation on the proposed 2018–2021 Construction Work Plan by Pat Wheeler, P.E., of the cooperative's engineering firm, Utility Systems Engineering (USE) Inc.
- Voted to approve the 2018–2027 Load Forecast and the 2018–2021 Construction Work Plan. The board also voted to approve a request that loan funds associated with the Construction Work Plan be advanced through Guaranteed Federal Financing Bank loan funds as such are available.
- Listened to a progress report from the Policy Committee concerning a review of the bylaws.
- Listened to a report from the Finance and Rates Committee concerning a recent cost of service study and rate structures.
- Voted to approve the official notice of the Annual Meeting.

The minutes of each board meeting are posted on the cooperative's website at algerdelta.com under "About Us/Board of Directors/Board Meeting Minutes." Minutes are posted after they are approved by the board.

Alger Delta Office Hours To Change June Through August

Alger Delta's office hours will change beginning June 4. Alger Delta will transition to working four, 10-hour days on June 4 and will continue that schedule through August 31.

Outage calls and any other issues or problems will be answered as they are now. Alger Delta's after-hours answering service takes calls anytime outside of regular hours. For more information or to report a problem, call Alger Delta at 906-428-4141.

Period	Days of the Week
June 4–August 31	Mon–Thurs
Office Hours	For Service or Outage
7 a.m. – 5 p.m. (Eastern)	Call: 906-428-4141

Have A Safe And Happy

★ **FOURTH OF JULY!** ★

Alger Delta will be closed for Independence Day on Wednesday, July 4. Payments may be made at the drop box or online at algerdelta.com. To report a power outage, please call 800-562-0950.



Look For The Blue Ribbon
For Chances To

WIN
BILL CREDITS
& CASH!

MI CO-OP Community

A place for you to share, win and belong.

As a *Michigan Country Lines* reader, not only are you the heart of your co-op, you are the heart of this magazine. The recipes, memories, photos and stories you share are what make our magazine one-of-a-kind. It brings us together as a community, and we want to encourage more of it. Thanks to the new MI Co-op Community page on countrylines.com, it's now easier than ever to share your content and to read content submitted by other members. Better yet, we don't expect you to work for free. Many submissions are rewarded with cash and bill credits. Just look for the blue ribbon—and we'll look forward to your content.



1.

Monthly Recipe Contest And MI Co-op Kitchen

If you're in need of some food inspiration, look no further than MI Co-op Kitchen—our online cooking community. MI Co-op Kitchen is an interactive space where you can share your recipes and food ideas with other like-minded members. Submit a recipe for our monthly contest and you could win a \$50 bill credit and have your recipe published. A winner is selected every month.



2.

Where In Michigan Is This? Our Mystery Photo Contest

Have you traveled much in the mitten state? If so, it could pay off. Correctly identify our mystery photo and you could win a \$50 bill credit. A new "Where in Michigan Is This?" mystery photo is published in our January, March, May, July/August, September and November/December *Michigan Country Lines* issues. Each correct guess is placed into a drawing and one lucky winner is selected.



3.

I Remember—Members Share Their Fondest Memories

The best stories come from the people who've lived them, so share yours with us. If we publish your story, you receive a \$50 check! Just send us your memory up to 200 words; photos are always a great addition!



4.

Our New Guest Column

We know many of our members are talented and have great ideas—so we invite you to share that talent in *Country Lines*! We will pay \$150 for stories we publish. Let the ideas flow! Stories could be about a significant or memorable event, a person in your life, life lessons learned, educational topics, Michigan recreational activities—and more! Please keep stories to approximately 350 words. Photos are always welcome!



NEW!

Best Of Michigan

Do you have a favorite spot you bring out-of-state guests? What about a favorite Michigan ice cream store you can't resist or a Michigan-inspired treat you always buy? We want to know! Our new Best of Michigan column is a way for you to submit your favorite treats, sites, restaurants, opinions and activities.

We will publish many submissions for the Best Of Michigan section—so there is no monetary reward. However, your name will be published!

Best Beaches!

Tell us your top toes-in-the-sand, sun-soaking beaches along Michigan's coastline.

Submit your answers at countrylines.com under the MI Co-op Community tab by June 20.

HOW TO PREVENT ELECTRIC SHOCK DROWNING

Each year 3,800 people die from drowning. Electric shock drowning occurs when an electric current escapes boats, docks and lights near marinas, shocking nearby swimmers. There are no visible signs of current seeping into water, which makes this a hidden danger. The electric shock paralyzes swimmers, making them unable to swim to safety.



ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS FOR:

Swimmers

- **Never swim near a boat or launching ramp.** Residual current could flow into the water from the boat or the marina's wiring, potentially putting anyone in the water at risk of electric shock.
- If you feel any tingling sensations while in the water, **tell someone and swim back** in the direction from which you came. Immediately report it to the dock or marina owner.

Boat Owners

- **Ensure your boat is properly maintained and consider having it inspected annually.** GFCIs and ELCIs should be tested monthly. Conduct leakage testing to determine if electrical current is escaping the vessel.
- **Use portable GFCIs or shore power cords** (including "Y" adapters) that are "UL-Marine Listed" when using electricity near water.
- Regularly have your boat's electrical system inspected by a certified marine electrician. **Ensure it meets your local and state NEC, NFPA and ABYC safety codes.**

IF YOU SEE ELECTRIC SHOCK DROWNING TAKING PLACE:



TURN POWER OFF



THROW A LIFE RING



CALL 911

DO NOT enter the water. You could become a victim, too.

Agribusinesses: Save Energy And Money Now

Reducing the amount of energy used to power your farm equipment is a smart way to cut costs! Upgrade your outdated equipment today to save energy *and* receive cash incentives from the Energy Optimization program.

Rebates for Energy-efficient Products and Equipment:

Receive cash back when you purchase and install energy-efficient measures such as low-energy livestock waterers, fans and controls, milk-handling equipment, variable speed pumps, dairy refrigeration tune-ups, lighting upgrades and controls, water heaters, and more.

Farm Energy Audit:

The Energy Optimization program has partnered with the Michigan Farm Energy Program (in conjunction with Michigan State University Extension) to offer a \$500 rebate

toward the cost of a farm energy audit. The audit will help you identify where and how to implement practical, energy-saving alternatives to outdated, inefficient equipment.

Rebates for Custom Projects:

Have an energy efficiency project in mind, but don't see it on our list? The Energy Optimization program provides rebates for innovative and unique energy efficiency projects designed to meet specific needs, such as long-day lighting systems, milk harvesting and cooling equipment, high-efficiency, in-floor radiant heat, and more.

These are just a few of the energy-saving offers currently available for Michigan agribusinesses. View all farm services incentives at michigan-energy.org or call 877-296-4319 for details.



Energy savings for agribusiness.

We are proud to support Upper Peninsula farmers by providing cash incentives toward the installation of energy-saving equipment. Reduce electricity consumption by upgrading to energy-efficient lighting, pumps, compressors, irrigation, fans, and more.

Go green and save big!

Greener pastures

ONLINE: michigan-energy.org

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.



Photo Contest

Outdoor Adventures

1. "Checking out the Sawdust Hole near Tippy Dam" *by Erika Girven*
2. "The colors of pure Michigan" *by Mandy Schram*
3. "Exploring is what we do best" *by Caitlyn Morrison*
4. "Sunrise while backpacking across Isle Royale" *by Mike Palko*
5. "Cats enjoying the first spring hike with their kids!" *by Anne Grant*



Share Your Photos!

Alger Delta invites members to share their amazing photos. Selected photos will be published in *Michigan Country Lines*.

Upcoming Photo Topics And Deadlines:

Fall Colors, deadline: July 20 (September issue)

Pumpkin Faces, deadline: August 20 (October issue)

Celebrations, deadline: September 20 (November/December issue)

To submit photos go to <http://bit.ly/countrylines>

We look forward to seeing your best photos!



Spice It Up

These recipes are packed full of flavor.

Photos—Robert Bruce Photography

Spiced Red Lentil Soup With Cilantro (pictured above)

Cynthia Hodges, Ontonagon REA

- | | |
|---|---|
| 4 tablespoons unsalted butter | 4 cups chicken or vegetable broth |
| 1 large onion, chopped fine | 2 cups water |
| $\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoon ground coriander | $10\frac{1}{2}$ ounces ($1\frac{1}{2}$ cups) red lentils, picked over and rinsed |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon ground cumin | 2 tablespoons lemon juice, plus extra for seasoning |
| $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon ground ginger | 1 teaspoon paprika |
| $\frac{1}{8}$ teaspoon ground cinnamon | $\frac{1}{4}$ cup fresh cilantro, chopped |
| $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon pepper | |
| • pinch cayenne powder | |
| 1 tablespoon tomato paste | |
| 1 garlic clove, minced | |

Melt butter in large saucepan over medium heat. Add onion and 1 teaspoon salt and cook, stirring occasionally, until softened but not browned, about 5 minutes. Add coriander, cumin, ginger, cinnamon, cayenne, and $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon pepper and cook until fragrant, about 2 minutes. Stir in tomato paste and garlic and cook for 1 minute. Stir in broth, water, and lentils and bring to simmer. Simmer vigorously, stirring occasionally, until lentils are soft and about half are broken down, about 15 minutes. Whisk soup robustly until it is coarsely pureed, about 30 seconds. Stir in lemon juice and season with salt, pepper and extra lemon juice to taste. Ladle soup into individual bowls, sprinkle with paprika and cilantro, and serve.



Watch a video of this recipe at
micoopkitchen.com/videos

Chicken Hot Legs

Stanley Pohl, HomeWorks Tri-County

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 4–5 pounds of chicken legs | 1 cup Drake's Crispy Fry Mix |
| 2 eggs | $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups Frank's RedHot™ sauce |
| • salt and pepper | $\frac{1}{2}$ stick butter |

Preheat oven to 425 F. Pull skin over the meat (do not remove the skin). Beat eggs; add some salt and pepper. Dredge legs in eggs then coat well with Drakes mix. Cover a cookie sheet with aluminum foil and grease generously with butter. Bake until the bottom side gets crispy, then turn over and bake again until bottom is crispy.

For the spicy sauce: Mix together the butter and hot sauce in a large bowl.

Toss the chicken legs in the spicy sauce until well coated. Place the drumsticks back on the cookie sheet and continue baking an additional 10 to 15 minutes.





FEATURED GUEST CHEF



Buffalo Chicken Tacos

Nancy Popa, Cherryland

- | | |
|---|--|
| 2 boneless chicken breast halves | 2 tablespoons buttermilk |
| 2 tablespoons hot sauce (such as Frank's RedHot™) | 2 tablespoons mayonnaise |
| 1 teaspoon butter, melted | 1 ounce blue cheese crumbled (about ¼ cup) |
| ½ teaspoon ground red pepper | 2 cups shredded romaine lettuce |
| | 1 celery stalk, thinly sliced |
| | 8 6-inch corn tortillas |

Heat a grill pan over medium-high heat; coat with oil. Cut the chicken breasts in half lengthwise to make 4 cutlets. Season well with salt and pepper. Cook chicken 2–3 minutes on each side until done. Remove from pan and let the chicken sit a few minutes before slicing thin. Combine hot sauce, butter and red pepper with a whisk. Add sliced chicken to mixture and coat. Combine buttermilk, mayonnaise and blue cheese; mash with a fork. Add lettuce and celery to the mixture. Warm the tortillas as the package directs. Place chicken mixture in tortilla and top with cheese mixture. Serve with tortilla chips or rice.



Cookies And Cakes: due July 1

Cocktails And Drinks: due August 1

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

Go to micoopkitchen.com for more information and to register.

Enter to win a
\$50
energy bill
credit!

Interlochen Cookie Bar

Stone Cafeteria at Interlochen Center of the Arts works hard to nourish the body and creative spirits of the students, faculty and staff. While menus are managed weekly to take advantage of local and seasonal produce, the menu occasionally includes an indulgent treat. So, when the Cookie Bar hits the menu, it's music to everyone's ears.

- ½ cup butter or margarine, melted
- 1½ cups graham cracker crumbs
- 1 (14-ounce) can EAGLE BRAND® Sweetened Condensed Milk
- 2 cups semisweet chocolate morsels
- 1⅓ cups flaked coconut
- 1 cup chopped nuts

Heat oven to 350 F (325 F for glass dish). Coat a 13x9-inch baking pan with non-stick cooking spray. Combine graham cracker crumbs and butter. Press into bottom of prepared pan. Pour sweetened condensed milk evenly over crumb mixture. Layer evenly with chocolate chips, coconut and nuts. Press down firmly with a fork. Bake 25 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool. Cut into bars or diamonds. Store cookie bars covered at room temperature.

Read the full story about Interlochen Center of the Arts on page 14, and find this recipe and others at micoopkitchen.com.

2017 Alger Delta Cooperative ANNUAL REPORT

By CEO Tom Harrell

Our 2017 audit is complete and, once again, the auditors rendered a “clean opinion” on Alger Delta’s books, stating they “present fairly” in all material respects.

Alger Delta’s financial performance complies with the obligations required by lenders and regulators.

In 2017, Alger Delta had net margins of \$1.154 million. Although we are a nonprofit corporation, we are required by various regulations and agreements to achieve and maintain certain margins. Lenders and regulators monitor our financial performance to ensure margins provide adequate working capital and the ability to pay debt. In 2017, Alger Delta’s financial position and resulting ability to meet loan and other financial obligations complies with mortgage and loan covenants, rules and requirements set by lenders and regulators.

The four most closely monitored financial measurements that provide an overview of our financial position are TIER, Operating TIER, Debt Service Coverage (DSC) and Operating DSC. All four of these ratios are within the ranges required by lenders and regulators that monitor our position.

Alger Delta’s financial performance is influenced by many factors, including wholesale power costs, financial and operational management, financial planning, returns on invested capital and other factors. Sound fiscal

management has kept rates stable while maintaining our overall financial and operational performance.

Margins are allocated, or assigned, to the members.

Margins have been allocated or assigned to members. In March, the Alger Delta Board of Directors allocated 100 percent of 2017’s margins—or patronage capital—to members. In a future year, 2017’s patronage capital will be paid back to the members whose electric usage helped create the margin.

Alger Delta members benefit from a long-term wholesale power supply agreement.

Wholesale power is our single largest expense. Your cooperative enjoys the benefits of affordable and stable power costs through a long-term power supply agreement with WPPI Energy. Our power requirements are aggregated into an energy portfolio managed by WPPI and this helps reduce market risk and rate volatility. It also ensures energy security for all members thereby helping to keep energy affordable. Alger Delta’s contract with WPPI will provide a safe, clean and reliable wholesale power supply extending through 2055.

Alger Delta and WPPI lead in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Alger Delta and WPPI lead in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. WPPI’s

portfolio of generation resources is one of the lowest in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of any power supplier in the upper Midwest. Our position with green energy continues to improve with the addition of 100 megawatts of solar generation in WPPI’s energy portfolio. Alger Delta enjoys exceeding the compliance threshold for Michigan’s Renewable Portfolio Standard or RPS. Alger Delta’s power from renewable resources includes wind, solar, hydro and energy from biofuels.

Alger Delta gives back to the community.

Alger Delta uses its standing in the community to give back to those we serve. We do this by supporting service organizations and charities that work hard to lend a hand to the people of the Upper Peninsula. In 2017, Alger Delta helped the YMCA, the Bonifas Center for the Arts, U.P. Honor Flight, Toys for Tots, the Salvation Army and others throughout the year.

Alger Delta is improving every day.

In summary, Alger Delta is meeting or exceeding its financial obligations to lenders and regulators, striving to provide better service and reliability, improving its system and investing in its employees. We do this to deliver on the promise of being your partner for safe, efficient and reliable energy and to help keep electricity affordable.

Alger Delta Electric Cooperative Financial Statements *(audited)*

BALANCE SHEET		
Year ended December 31	2017	2016
ASSETS		
Electric Plant	\$ 36,512,495	\$ 35,647,348
Investments	2,105,679	1,974,655
Current Assets	4,182,580	2,177,091
Deferred Debits	466,423	427,085
Total Assets	\$ 43,267,177	\$ 40,226,179
MARGINS & EQUITIES (NET POSITION)		
Membership & Equities	\$ 589,639	\$ 455,441
Patronage Capital	14,742,548	14,161,462
TOTAL MARGINS & EQUITIES	\$ 15,332,187	\$ 14,616,903
LIABILITIES		
Long-Term Debt, net	\$ 24,142,682	\$ 22,466,400
Current Liabilities	3,368,409	2,936,084
Deferred Credits	423,899	206,792
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 27,934,990	\$ 25,609,276
TOTAL NET POSITION & LIABILITIES	\$ 43,267,177	\$ 40,226,179

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND PATRONAGE CAPITAL		
Year ended December 31	2017	2016
OPERATING REVENUE	\$ 15,009,407	\$ 14,226,714
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Purchased power	\$ 6,870,018	\$ 6,481,509
Distribution Expense	2,863,579	2,292,278
Consumer & Customer Service Expense	331,145	340,640
Depreciation	1,615,225	1,532,574
Taxes	482,491	448,830
General & Administrative Expense	1,113,931	1,066,460
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 13,276,389	\$ 12,162,291
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	\$ 1,733,018	\$ 2,064,423
Interest Expense	\$ (1,065,346)	\$ (1,103,815)
Interest Income	277,699	262,239
Other Non-Operating Revenues (expenses), net	209,128	210,067
CHANGE IN NET POSITION	\$ 1,154,499	\$ -



Interlochen Making Beautiful Music In Northern Michigan

By Emily Haines Lloyd // Photos courtesy of Interlochen Center for the Arts



In Interlochen, Michigan, nestled within 1,200 acres of woods with not one, but two crystal blue lakes sparkling with glints of light, is an idyllic setting worthy of an opening sequence in a movie. With its rustic-looking cabins, noticeable absence of technology, and campers rushing off to their activities, it's not unlike other summer camps.

But, as they say, it's all about the details.

Take a closer look to see campers in their iconic blue polo shirts, walking along with instrument cases, sheet music, scripts, portfolios and a variety of accessories that display the fact that Interlochen is no ordinary summer camp. Each year Interlochen plays host to approximately 2,500 third through 12th-grade students from around the world who want to make something beautiful over their summer vacation.

"The Interlochen Arts Camp experience gathers students and teachers from all over the country and the world in an intensive, inspiring artistic experience that trains and rejuvenates young artists," said Jason Hubbard, vice

president of academy programs. "The reservoir of skills and experiences informs their practice and continues to inspire their work throughout the year."

Interlochen Arts Camp, formerly called National High School Orchestra Camp, has been in operation since 1928. It expanded its efforts in 1962 when it opened its year-round boarding school—Interlochen Arts Academy, which now hosts approximately 500 students each year from grades nine through 12. Both programs offer young artists opportunities to explore their craft in a variety of disciplines like music, theater, creative writing, dance, film, visual arts and more, while building in authentic camp experiences like off-campus field trips or lake activities.

While you'll find a large number of campers and students who hope to one day have a career in the arts, there are just as many who will one day find careers as software designers, teachers, or accountants, but the long-term impact can be equally significant.

"Students come to Interlochen to find their voice, to develop in their artistry, and to find their people," said Leslie Donaldson, director of engagement.

This finding of one's tribe is a common theme. Famous alumnus Josh Groban, an actor and vocalist, talked about his experience as a camper at Interlochen Arts Camp on Bloomberg TV in 2015.

"You're surrounded by nature, on a lake, and you're also surrounded by kids from all over the country and all over the world who share the same passion for the arts as you do," said Groban. "It was the first place I realized I was not an outcast."

Interlochen provides world-class instruction in the arts for its campers and provides a variety of performances, shows and interactions for art lovers from the region. In 2018, Interlochen announced a new Day Camp program that invites local residents in grades six through 12 the opportunity to attend three and six week programs at a substantially discounted rate. Now, community members can more than enjoy the performances against the camp's idyllic backdrop, they actually have the opportunity to participate.

Yes, Interlochen is brimming with talented artists, unlike your average camp program. But at its core, it is all about the students and the opportunity for them to produce beautiful art, make lifelong friends and create cherished memories. So maybe, at its heart, Interlochen is exactly what summer camp is all about.



Tickets for the 2018 Interlochen Arts Festival are now on sale!
Buy your tickets today!
See all featured events online
at tickets.interlochen.org or
call 800-681-5920.

Residential Battery Storage Is The Energy Trend To Watch

By Anne Prince

In this case, “battery storage” does not refer to the drawer where you put the extra AA batteries for your flashlight! Instead, it refers to an emerging energy trend. Batteries and battery storage are evolving much like the way LED bulbs and lumens have transformed how we light our homes.

What’s driving battery storage?

Rooftop solar costs are dropping, and community solar options are increasing in popularity. In 2017, wind and solar electricity generation set a record by exceeding 10 percent of U.S. energy generation, according to the Energy Information Agency (EIA). News in the automotive world was dominated by announcements of major automakers stepping up production of electric vehicles (EVs), or in some cases, phasing out gas-powered engines altogether. As EVs gain popularity, charging stations are popping up in places of business and in other public spaces.

So, what does this all mean? Consumers are clearly looking for more renewable energy options. But intermittent power from wind and solar

sources creates a need for energy storage. This is where batteries come into play. An increase in research and development in this energy sector is being driven by EVs and renewable energy trends. While the current focus is primarily on commercial applications, the impact on residential use will eventually follow. We can see improvements in the energy efficiency of lithium-ion batteries. For example, phone, computer and other types of batteries/charging stations are holding their charge longer and powering more energy-intense devices. There are hundreds of lithium-ion batteries, all of which have different capabilities and voltages.

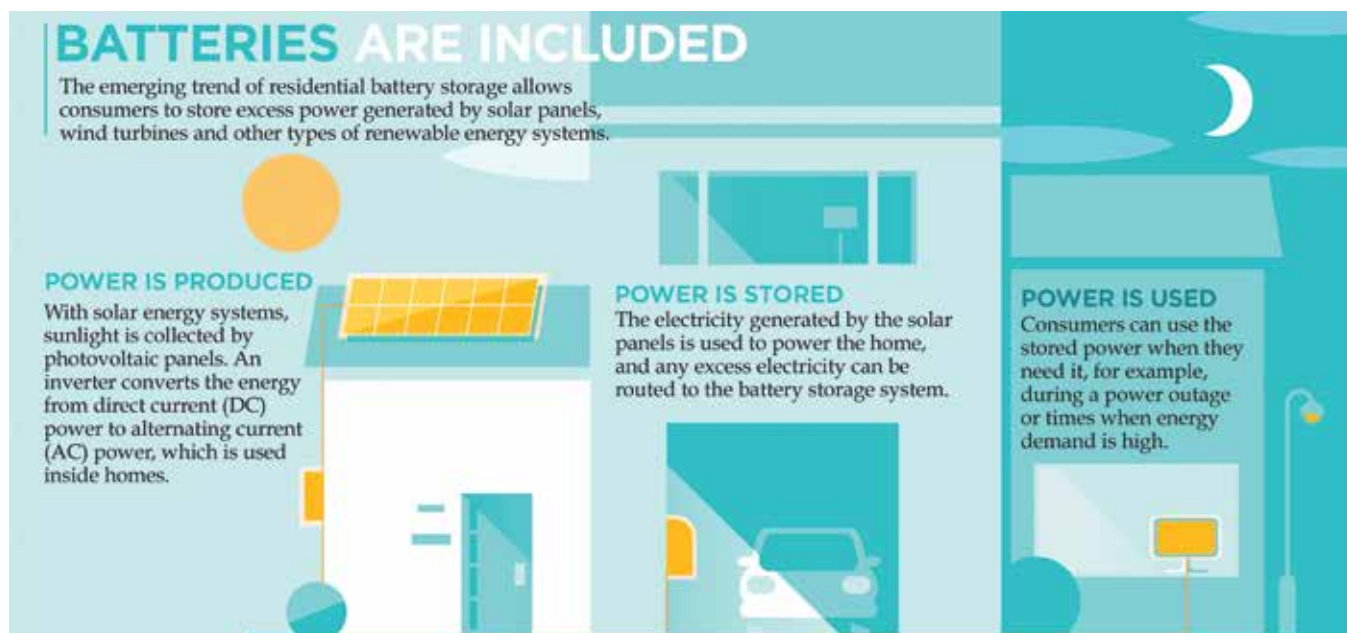
Does better battery storage mean you can go “off the grid” now?

While consumers using rooftop solar or other renewable energy sources have the most to gain, it’s not as easy as you would think to go off the grid completely. Powering the average consumer’s home, including HVAC systems, lights, appliances and the big screen TV, requires a tremendous amount of energy. Significant weather

variation is another complicating factor. Going off the grid would require a solar array coupled with battery storage that is properly sized based on your energy consumption. Because battery storage technology is evolving and battery banks are not widely available, it is still not yet cost-effective for the average consumer to purchase.

The energy service advisor at Alger Delta is knowledgeable when it comes to energy efficiency and energy choices. Talk to us about your options, which might include a home energy audit, installing solar or wind generation or other options that can help you save energy and money. If you decide to purchase an EV, let us know—your current electric service wasn’t designed and sized to meet that kind of demand and we can help ensure that your new EV has access to all the energy it needs. We can also tell you about the ideal charging times, like during off-peak hours, which helps conserve energy.

As your energy needs evolve, look to Alger Delta for guidance on how to save energy.



ELECTRICAL SAFETY LESSONS

for kids 

Children often do not understand the dangers of electricity. At Alger Delta, we encourage you to share these electrical safety tips and lessons with your little ones as often as possible:



1

Instruct them to avoid any downed power lines. In fact, it is best to avoid power lines, transformers, and substations in general. A downed power line can still be energized, and it can also energize other objects, including fences and trees. Make sure your kids understand the potential dangers of coming in contact with a downed power line or low hanging wire. And, if they encounter a downed power line, ask them to tell you or another adult to call for help.



2

Point out electronics in your home that are not in use and how to keep appliances safely away from liquids.



3

Discuss fire prevention and create a family fire drill plan.



4

Never put metal objects in outlets or appliances.



5

Do not overcrowd electrical outlets.



6

Never mix water and electricity.

No matter the ways you enforce electrical safety with your children, Alger Delta is here to help.

GUEST COLUMN

Anything Is Possible While Fishing In The Dark

Love or monsters: Take your pick.

By Andy Duffy, Great Lakes Energy Member

"You and me going fishing in the dark," wrote a brace of country song lyricists. My dad was a fan of the idea.

Dad grew up when white pine stumps remained from the logging days. Lakes were pristine. I don't know where he got his fishing knowledge, but he knew about fishing in the dark.

We lived on some derelict farmland perched beside a winding river. I was just a kid with a compulsion to fish. Dad told me to try fishing at night with a black, Arbogast Jitterbug.

I had the Jitterbug. My yard-mowing income saw to that. My empty tackle box compartments always outnumbered my full ones because I lost lures as fast as I bought them. Trees, old bridge pilings and rocks were anglers' adversaries, and they beat me often. Because of my dad's recommendation, though, I always had a Jitterbug.

So, one June night after the final rays of sunlight disappeared in the evening sky, I made my way down the winding path, between patches of poison ivy and snake grass, to the sandbar that lined the river. Mosquitoes descended on me. I swatted.

Still, I dutifully went about my fishing. I made a cast, and then another.

I had little room to fish. Upstream and down, the stream wasn't safe for someone my age. I was restricted to 30 feet of shoreline. So, I decided to make one last cast and call it a night.

In the dark, I could hear my lure, but I couldn't see it. When the plug was right at my feet, an unholy commotion shook my world. Water splashed. A maelstrom opened, and I thought it would suck me in. My heart leaped into my throat. My rod bent. Line zipped through the line guides. I realized I had a fish on. I played it in. It was a smallmouth bass, the first one I ever caught. The world became a magical place for me that night.

Today, Michigan remains an enchanted place. As the song suggests, the magic may come with falling in love in the middle of the night. Or, it might come as a raging monster surging from the water to devour a young angler. A person can take his pick: One type of magic is probably just as enchanting as the other.

Left: Sam Shaffer of Concord knows that at the time of the summer solstice, magical things can happen. A kiss probably won't turn a fish into a princess, but anything is worth a shot.

Below: Janet Day of Clark Lake fishes one of Michigan's country lakes. The lakes are magical places where anything can happen.



A proponent of the bucolic life, Andy lives in co-op country in a rural area near Evart. There, he engages in a wide variety of outdoor activities including hunting, fishing and gathering.

Country Lines Invites Members To Submit A Guest Column

Country Lines will pay \$150 for stories we publish. In general, great columns are those that talk about a significant or memorable event or person in your life, and the lessons learned. If we choose to publish your column, we will contact you via phone or email.

Guidelines

1. Approximately 350 words
2. Digital photos must be at least 600 KB
3. *Country Lines* retains reprint rights
4. Submit your guest column at countrylines.com under the MI Co-op Community tab
5. Please include a head shot photo and a couple sentences about yourself

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Daniel M. - Manistee, MI



"We're saving \$1,500 per year and would recommend Well-Connect to anyone."

Roger and Judy R. - Atlanta, MI



"With a Well-Connect, we now fill our propane tank only ONCE per year vs. every 7 weeks!! Well-Connect also keeps our home cool and comfortable all summer. We love it!"

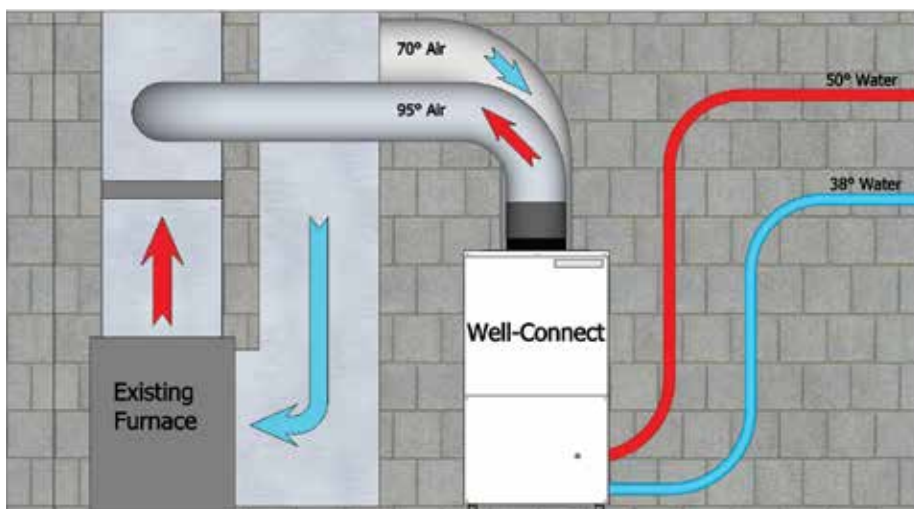
Steve & Miriam - Owosso, MI



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Wednesday, June 13 • Island Resort and Casino, W399 Hwy. 2 & 41, Harris, Mich.

Celebrating our 80th year of business, Alger Delta is treating you to a sit-down dinner. Reservations can be made online at algerdelta.com or by calling 906-428-4141. (limit: 2 attendees per member).

Along with a delicious dinner, there will be drawings for prizes. The business meeting is an important part of our Annual Meeting as we introduce you to newly elected directors, talk about the cooperative's past performance, future expectations and more.

Call 800-562-0950 to reserve your spot or visit algerdelta.com.