

MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES

Jack Barnwell Is
**Mackinac's
Master
Gardener**

Plus!

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Of Electricity
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Use Survey
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Are 'The Hope Of
Our Future'



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Executive Editor
Casey Clark

Editor
Gail Knudtson

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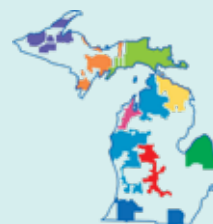
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ON THE COVER*

Jack Barnwell and his crew are responsible for creating many of Mackinac Island's wonderful gardens and landscaping layouts. And, it's accomplished without motorized vehicles.

Photo—Ian Smithers

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



Michigan's Electric
Cooperatives
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PRESIDENT & CEO

Robert Hance

CASSOPOLIS OFFICE

P.O. Box 127 (901 E. State Street)

Cassopolis, MI 49031-0127

M–F, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Drive-up window: M–F, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

TELEPHONE

269-445-1000 or 800-492-5989

Fax: 269-445-3792

PAW PAW OFFICE

59825 S. LaGrave

Paw Paw, MI 49079

M–F, 8 a.m.–1 p.m. and 1:30–4:30 p.m.

ADRIAN OFFICE

1610 E. Maumee St.

Adrian, MI 49221

M–F, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

TELEPHONE

517-263-1808 or 800-492-5989

INTERNET TeamMidwest.com

E-MAIL info@teammidwest.com

EDITOR

Patty Nowlin

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Beware and Be Aware



Robert Hance
President/CEO

Within a 48-hour period just before the long Memorial Day weekend, tragedy was both averted and realized in two different events within our service territory.

The first occurred when a farmer hit a three-phase pole with his machinery, bringing down the pole and wires. Somehow, he walked away unscathed. About 200 people were without power for several hours as crews rebuilt the damaged system, but tragedy was averted.

Sadly, tragedy was realized just two days later as a man and his sons attempted to erect a 40-foot TV antenna near the overhead power lines. They appeared to have a plan to maneuver the equipment around the lines, but lost control. The man was holding the tower as it fell into the lines and died on the scene from the electrical contact.

My heart aches for this family and the grim memory that will undoubtedly haunt their sons for the rest of their lives.

I share these stories because they represent the very real danger of the electric infrastructure that exists all around us. Poles and wires are such a prevalent part of our everyday landscape that we don't really notice them. It's like the artwork hanging on your living room wall—it's always there, but rarely noticed.

My message is simple: Beware and Be Aware.

Most of us have experienced the sting of small electrical jolts around the house, and that becomes our frame of reference for the danger of electricity. But even regular household current can cause serious injury or death. A child playing near an uncovered wall outlet, or any combination of water and electricity are both everyday recipes for tragedy. Electricity is dangerous. Beware.

We're less mindful about the dangers that lurk outside our walls, and that's the higher-voltage current above and below us. Power lines criss-cross yards, farms and neighborhoods across the vast landscape of our communities, and for the most part we are oblivious to the very existence of this intricate system. Being aware of what's around you, both overhead and underground, is critical to your safety. Electricity is dangerous and anything that comes in contact with power lines can create a direct path for electricity.

Picture a homeowner positioning an extension ladder to clean leaves from the gutter, or a child reaching out from the branches of a favorite tree to retrieve a kite, or a farmer transporting machinery to the field.

Picture a father and his two sons installing a TV antenna.

Electricity provides comfort and convenience. It lights our way, cools our homes, entertains our senses and powers our communications. It's literally all around us and an integral part of life and living. But it's also dangerous.

Beware. And Be Aware. ■



Co-op SmartHub Service Gets Excellence Award

Midwest Energy Cooperative was honored in May with an “Expanding Excellence Award for Best Mobility Implementation”. The award recognizes outstanding contributions, innovations and excellence in utility customer service. The submission featured the 2013 upgrade of the customer self-service portal to SmartHub, and implementation of the SmartHub mobile application.

SmartHub is an online and mobile platform that provides access and two-way communication with Midwest Energy online or through a mobile device. It allows users to make payments, review billing, access current and historical usage, report outages and other service issues, receive account-related notifications, and contact Midwest. It's a free, safe and secure method

for members and customers to manage their electric and propane accounts and service experiences.

“In today's technology-driven world, customers expect options to manage their service experience. We have long provided an online customer service portal through our website, but lack of reliable internet service in our rural geography makes it challenging for many to use an online platform,” says Candy Riem, vice president of marketing, member and information services. “SmartHub meets our members and customers where they are and offers innovative solutions to conduct business at their convenience and using the platform of their choice.”



(L) Candy Riem, vice president of marketing, member and information services, and Meghan Tarver, customer care supervisor, receive Midwest Energy's Expanding Excellence award from CS Week CEO Rod Litke.

The Expanding Excellence Award was presented during CS Week, a premier customer service/smart infrastructure utility education conference. Riem and Meghan Tarver also presented the SmartHub program and implementation during one of the conference sessions. ■

Watch for Your Energy Use Survey

Knowing more helps us serve you better.

The more we know about our members and how they use electricity, the better able we are to provide innovations and solutions, and to help as your energy resource. That's why we're asking you to take a few minutes later this summer to provide us some information that will ultimately help us serve you better.

A survey will be included in your August bill (and available online if you prefer an electronic version). It is intended to provide us with your latest contact information and detailed information about your home and energy use. Relevant information will be added into your account to equip us to more effectively answer your questions and help you understand and manage your energy use.

Please take a few minutes to complete and return (or submit) the survey. The information will be used only by Midwest Energy and not made available to any outside entities. Random drawings for special prizes will be held for members who complete and return the survey. Look for details about the survey and don't miss your chance to win!

Please watch your August bill for the survey, or visit TeamMidwest.com beginning Aug. 1 to complete it online. Thanks for helping us serve you better! ■

Offices Closed for Labor Day

Midwest Energy offices will be closed for Labor Day on Monday, Sept. 1. Payments may be made at the drop box and will be posted on the next open business day.

Have a happy and safe Labor Day weekend.



PACK A PERFECT PICNIC

Pack the perfect picnic basket with these make-ahead, portable creations.

Black Bean, Tomato & Mozzarella Salad

1 can black beans, drained and rinsed
 1–2 green onions, chopped, include greens
 ½ c. cilantro, roughly chopped
 ½ c. finely chopped celery
 1 pt. grape tomatoes, halved
 ½ c. mozzarella cheese, cut in small cubes
 zest of one lime
 3 T. or more lime juice
 1 T. lemon juice
 3 T. olive oil
 ½ t. sugar, or to taste
 Optional—avocado slices

In a glass bowl, combine beans, onion, cilantro, celery, tomatoes and mozzarella.

Whisk together zest of lime, lime juice, lemon juice, olive oil and sugar. Pour lime/lemon dressing over the ingredients and mix gently. Refrigerate at least 2 hours before serving. Add avocado just before serving. This salad is very colorful and easy to take on a picnic. Everyone who tastes it wants the recipe.

Barbara Steele, Charlevoix

Old-Fashioned Coney Dog Sauce

1 lb. ground beef, browned and drained
 1 c. ketchup
 2 c. chopped onion
 ½ c. dark corn syrup
 ¼ c. brown mustard
 2 T. vinegar
 1 T. chili powder

Simmer all ingredients in saucepan, stirring occasionally. Serve over hot dogs.

Tommie Schmidt, Union

Banana Cupcakes

2 c. flour
 2 ½ t. baking powder
 ½ t. baking soda
 ½ t. salt
 ½ c. shortening
 1 ¼ c. sugar
 1 t. vanilla
 2 eggs
 1 ½ c. mashed ripe bananas

Sift together flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Cream shortening. Slowly add the sugar while still beating the shortening. Add vanilla and eggs and continue beating for a total of 2 minutes. Add mashed bananas while alternating with the flour mixture. Beat 1 more minute. Bake at 375° in 18 cupcake lined pans for 25 mins. or till done. Cool. Frost with your favorite frosting.

Mary Jean Troyer, Fairview

SUBMIT YOUR RECIPE!

Thanks to all who send in recipes. Please send in your favorite "Best Original" recipes by **Aug. 10**.

Mail (handwritten or typed on one side, please) to: Country Lines Recipes, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864; or email recipes@countrylines.com.

Contributors whose recipes we print in 2014 will be entered in a drawing and Country Lines will pay the winner's January 2015 electric bill (up to \$200)!

Find more of our readers' recipes at countrylines.com

Photos—831 Creative

Energy-Saving Tips for Manufactured Homes

If you own a manufactured home (formerly called mobile homes), you may feel like the only option you have to make it more energy efficient is to replace incandescent lightbulbs with CFLs or LEDs. In fact, there are many actions you can take that will save energy for years to come.

Following are four areas where you can increase efficiency and comfort. If you are mechanically able, you can perform many of the tasks yourself. If not, contact your nearest professional for assistance.

1. FURNACE

Make sure the furnace is safe and burns fuel efficiently. Clean your fuel-oil furnace every year; gas-fired furnaces every two to three years. Hire a contractor with a good track record on manufactured homes and check company references.

For the highest energy savings, replace the old unit with a high-efficiency condensing furnace. The extra cost can be offset within the first few years of operation. It is essential to seal all ceiling gaps or cracks above the furnace with caulk and sheetrock (Fig. 1).

2. DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Once the furnace is in top order, ensure that the heat and AC can be freely delivered to all rooms without restrictions or duct leakage. Clean or replace the filter to assure good air-flow through the furnace; replace all registers that are flattened; and inspect the AC evaporator coil for dust.

You can achieve *major* savings by sealing holes and gaps in the ductwork, but first you must find the leaks! Remove the registers and look for gaps at the boot and trunk. Then, use a flashlight and mirror to inspect ducts, if accessible. Use a high quality aluminum or butyl tape to seal gaps once you have cleaned the surfaces (see how-to resources below).

3. UNDER YOUR HOUSE

The road barrier on your home's underside should be intact to ensure that it is retaining heat. When entering the crawl space, lay down plastic or cardboard. Start under the furnace and water heater, where damage usually starts. Patch any holes on the outer edges using ½-inch foil-faced foam board. Large holes between the I-beams require a "sling-patch" made of 1x2 boards and air-barrier material, such as TYVEK® (Fig. 2). Before patching, seal any duct leaks and install insulation where possible, especially under the ductwork, using the widest material available. Do not isolate the water lines from heat, or they may freeze in winter.

4. AIR LEAKS IN SHELL

Large holes can often be found around the tub, furnace, under sinks, and behind cove molding in newer homes. Seal these openings with spray foam, caulk, or sheetrock.

Some newer manufactured homes can also be retrofitted to improve energy efficiency and incorporate renewable energy technologies, such as installing a geothermal heat pump (for permanently-sited homes), and solar water heating. Other measures to consider include spray or roll-on roof coating to reflect summer's heat. ■



Cove molding



Fig. 1—A large chimney hole is a huge energy loser. It can be sealed with sheetrock, then caulked air-tight.



Fig. 2—Underneath the home, a "sling-patch" can be screwed into the inner side of the I-beam. It stretches to the other I-beam and holds insulation under the ductwork in place.

Photos—Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corp.

Other Resources

Visit <http://energysavings.togetherwesave.com/Manufactured-Housing> for a handy graphic that shows a full list of areas where you can make energy-saving improvements. Find other resources at YOUTUBE.com: Sealing ductwork in a mobile home; <http://energy.gov/energysaver/articles/energy-efficient-manufactured-homes>; and a book, "Your Mobile Home: Energy and Repair Guide for Manufactured Housing" (John Krigger).

And, installing CFLs, LEDs and using other energy efficiency tips that work for any home, really do help, too!



William Riethman shares a smile with friends from the Muscular Dystrophy Camp.



Allison Pellerito interacts with a patient at the Mattawan Animal Hospital.

Co-op Scholarship Winners Are 'The Hope of Our Future'

Four **honor roll students** who are leaders in their high schools and communities will each move on to different colleges this fall with a \$1,000 scholarship from Midwest Energy Cooperative. Driven by strong personal values, they represent four great reasons to feel hopeful about our future.

Family, hard work and integrity are the driving values behind Taylor McClinchey's success, and something she will take with her to the University of Georgia. "My family is my constant support system. No matter where I go in life, they will be there to keep my feet on the ground and remind me of who I am," the Tecumseh High School graduate said. She is the daughter of Steve and Sherri. The importance of family loomed large over the last year when Steve was transferred to Georgia. The entire family will be reunited as they move to Georgia later this year.

Allison Pellerito, daughter of Philip and Debra, is driven by dedication and has actively lived that value as an employee of the Mattawan Animal Hospital. She shared the story of Bella, a dog hit by a car late one workday. "When the call came in, I knew the pet and its owner were my top priority," the Mattawan High School graduate said. Her dedication was rewarded when Bella went home with her owner a few days later.

"Bella's case taught me the value of dedication and giving my all in everything I do," Allison shared. "Animals get sick and it's not on anyone's schedule; to work in that field you have to be driven by dedication." Allison will attend the University of Findlay in Ohio.

Throughout high school, William Riethman realized

success alone does not create a fulfilling life and that being grounded in friendship and service are key. The Mattawan High School graduate and son of Joe and Cheryl volunteered in the Big-Little Mentorship Program at Mattawan Early Elementary, where he worked with a young boy in need of a male role model and friend. "He played an important part in the development of my patience, understanding and compassion, and it humbles me to know how he looked forward to seeing me each week."

William also served as a summer camp counselor for kids with muscular dystrophy. "I was deeply moved by how these kids overcome adversity every day of their lives; their determination reminds me of how lucky I am." He will attend Clemson University in South Carolina.

Jennifer Stickle is guided by a quote from Michelangelo: "The greatest danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it, but that it is too low and we reach it." The daughter of Mike and Theresa graduated from Ross Beatty Jr./Sr. High School and will attend Lake Michigan College.

Appreciation is one of the values guiding Jennifer's life. "I think about all of the people who have supported me, including my family, friends, teachers, co-workers and others," she said. "They have motivated me to stay on a successful path and to never stop doing what I love."

Jennifer is also strongly driven by leadership, and wants to help others achieve and never aim too low. "Like Michelangelo, I aim high and sometimes miss, but my values are what help me succeed." ■

The daily care of her 4-H animals is one of the ways Jennifer Stickle aims high.



Hard work helped make Taylor McClinchey an accomplished violinist in the Tecumseh High School Chamber Orchestra.



Midwest in the Community

Giving back to our communities is one of Midwest Energy's core values. We believe in doing what we can, individually and as a family of employees, to strengthen and support the communities in which we live, work and serve. Following are some of the ways we impacted our communities over the last few months.

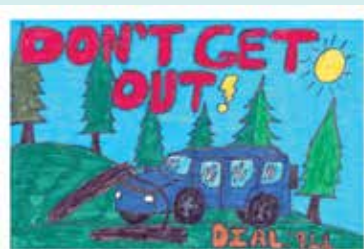
Field Trips for Safety Month Contest Winners

Nearly 80 fourth grade students finished their year with memory-making field trips to two regional museums, courtesy of Midwest Energy. The students were part of the winning classrooms in the co-op's 2014 Safety Contest.

In April, Midwest delivered hotline safety demonstrations to over 600 fourth grade students from six school systems across its service territory. After the program, students designed a poster to demonstrate something they learned during the program. One winning design was selected from each school and printed on t-shirts for students to wear on their field trip.

Students from Sand Creek, Morenci and Madison Elementary schools in southeast Michigan visited the Museum of Natural History at the University of Michigan, while their peers from Constantine Riverside, Three Rivers Park and White Pigeon Central Elementary toured the Kalamazoo Valley Museum.

"Field trips are rare these days as a result of school budget cuts, and the Midwest-sponsored trips are always a highlight for students in the winning classrooms," says Patty Nowlin, community relations director. "It represents another interactive and educational opportunity as part of our whole Safety Month outreach effort, and creates a great memory for the students." ■



One grand prize winner was named in each service area, and those designs will also be featured on billboards this summer. In the southeast Michigan service area, Emma Loar, a student in Mrs. Whaley's class at Sand Creek Elementary, won with her design "Water and Electricity Don't Mix!"; Alexis Harrison, a student in Mrs. French's class at Constantine Riverside Elementary, won in the southwest area for her design, "Don't Get Out – Dial 911." Other school winners included: Haley Russell and Mallory Palpant, Madison Elementary; Gabriel Wotring and Trey Nieman, Morenci Elementary; Caleigh Barth, Three Rivers Park Elementary; and Todd Hollingsworth, White Pigeon Central Elementary.



A White Pigeon student enjoys an electrical demonstration at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum.



The tectonic basin exhibit at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum grabs the attention of a group of students from Constantine.



A Madison Elementary student explores a display at the Museum of Natural History.



Bigger than life! Morenci students gaze in awe at dinosaur bones at the Museum of Natural History.

Jack Barnwell Is Mackinac's Master Gardener

Mackinac Island has been getting a facelift. It's the kind that requires rakes and shovels, because it's a facelift in flowers and plants.

Barnwell Landscape & Garden Services has been designing and planting picturesque gardens for six years—with boatloads of colorful flowers—around Mackinac's stately Victorian homes and historic businesses. Jack Barnwell and his crew are painting the island, which is served by Cloverland Electric Cooperative, with a fabulous array of dazzling petunias, sweet-smelling alyssum, and gorgeous larkspur, to name a few.

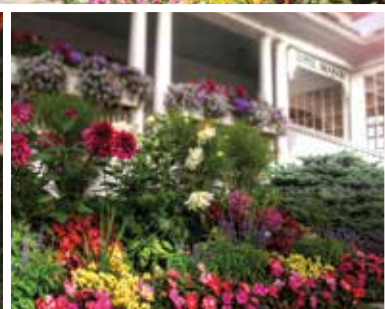
"We've more or less created what has become the 'Mackinac Island look,'" says Barnwell, who spends much of the winter coming up with new designs for over 130 island clients.

It seems Islanders didn't know they needed Barnwell's services until he started sprucing things up. Now, he says people can't wait to get their landscaping done as early as possible. This creates a crunch for his crew who must rely on boats, bikes, horse-drawn buggies and strong backs to tote their plants and tools because motorized vehicles aren't allowed on the island (except for emergency vehicles and snowmobiles).



Photo—Kathy Holt





Photos—Mike Lanzetta

It all starts before the sun comes up over Lake Huron. “The boats arrive at 3 a.m. with annual flowers,” Barnwell says. “We’ll get the hanging baskets up downtown before it gets busy with tourists.” The remainder are bedding plants that must go directly into the ground. This all has to happen as soon as the weather starts getting nice, including accepting the delivery of six semi-trailer loads, brought over by Shepler’s Mackinac Island Ferry. “We have trusted them with hundreds of unique loads,” says Barnwell, whose company also plants trees, installs irrigation, and does stone work.

Dealing with the spring demand can be a challenge. “It’s such a short season to make their money,” he explains of the businesses he caters to. “My clients depend on it (the flowers) so much for their image.”

Barnwell relies on 12 workers to get the job done without pickup trucks, loaders and skid steers. They make it all work with horses, oversized bike baskets, trailers attached to bikes, and ancient ingenuity.

“I often tell my crew to ‘think like an Egyptian,’” Barnwell adds, “because all these concepts are not new. Many were used for 1,000 years to build some amazing structures, some which are still standing today.” For the heavier work, they’ve retrofitted standard ball carts (meaning the root ball of very large trees), used to move large trees and boulders, into three-wheeled swiveling carts that can handle more weight over long distance with less effort.

“We also use a lot of winch and come-along setups, block-and-tackle pulley systems, and good ol’ fashioned leverage,” he says. “It’s amazing what can be moved with the right fulcrum point.”

The Barnwell crew’s work is also a central feature in the Grand Garden Show, a joint venture with the Proven Winners® company, the Grand Hotel, and Barnwell Landscape. The second annual event is Aug. 24–26 (see grandgardenshow.com). ■



Outdoor Lighting Solutions for Businesses

Make the switch to energy-efficient LEDs.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, businesses spend \$38 billion per year on lighting alone—accounting for the largest source of energy consumption among commercial properties. The good news is that with the help of your electric cooperative's Energy Optimization program, Michigan businesses can save energy and money by replacing conventional outdoor lighting with highly efficient light-emitting diodes (LEDs).

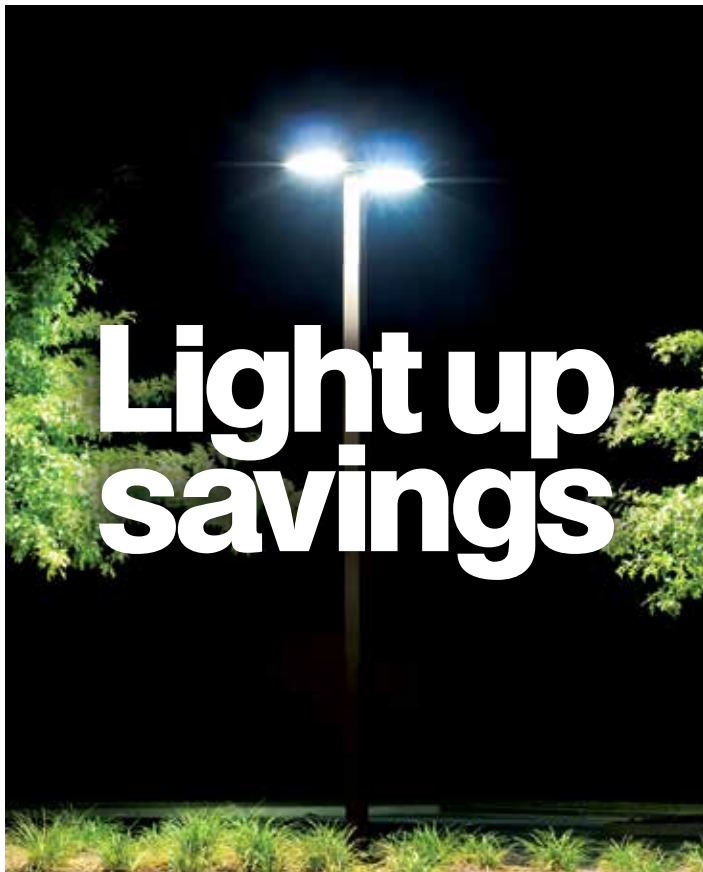
With generous rebates available for lighting upgrades, businesses can start saving instantly by installing LEDs in parking lots, exterior signage, and other outdoor spaces. Specifically, the Energy Optimization program offers rebates for outdoor dusk-to-dawn LED lighting and outdoor illuminated sign lighting, which are calculated on a per-watt reduced basis.

For even greater energy savings, consider incorporating multi-level and wireless control technologies into your facility's LED lighting system. These controls offer an



effective method for reducing energy use even further by dimming or turning lights off based on occupancy or pre-determined schedules.

Go to **michigan-energy.org/midwest** and click on "Commercial and Industrial Services" to view available rebates, download a fact sheet, and find more information. ■



Lead the way with LEDs

Outdoor lighting systems are a necessary—and often costly—expense for your business. But, there is a light at the end of the tunnel: Make the switch to highly efficient LEDs to illuminate your exterior signage, parking lots, and other outdoor areas and start saving your business energy and money! Visit **michigan-energy.org** to view available rebates and get started today.

ENERGY TIP: Utilize wireless controls with LED lights to maximize energy savings.

ONLINE: **michigan-energy.org** PHONE: **877.296.4319**



Energy Optimization programs and incentives are applicable to Michigan service locations only. Other restrictions may apply. For a complete list of participating utilities, visit michigan-energy.org.

Making Memories With Your Co-op Family

Midwest Energy Cooperative invites our family of members to join us for a day of family fun at one of our annual “Member Appreciation Days at the Zoo” events.

Members are invited to join us at either Toledo Zoo on Sunday, Sept. 21, or Binder Park Zoo in Battle Creek on Sunday, Sept. 28. Your Team Midwest family will provide zoo admission, a picnic lunch and an afternoon of family fun that won't soon be forgotten. Events are held rain or shine. Each household is limited to one venue, and a maximum of six guests. Additional tickets may be purchased at the zoo, and any other costs are your responsibility.

Visit TeamMidwest.com/Zoo to sign up or get more information. The reservation deadline is Friday, Aug. 29. A confirmation letter with instructions, including parking

information and a map, will be sent about two weeks prior to your selected event date.

We hope you will join us for a fun-filled day at the zoo! ■



Check Your Boat, Dock, and the Neighbor's, Too!

For water fun and safety, there are items you must legally have on your watercraft—life vests, fire extinguisher, throwable floatation device, and properly working lights—but make sure the boat itself and the dock are safe, too!

July 2012 saw some horrific fatal accidents near boats and docks. A 20-year-old Port Huron man entered the water behind a moored boat and became disabled as he tried to climb onto the swim platform. Friends trying to pull him onboard reported getting shocks. He could not be resuscitated. An investigation confirmed voltage behind the boat, caused by an AC-to-DC fault in the battery charger that energized the underwater gear, and there was no AC-DC bonding connection. In another incident, a young woman was electrocuted by an energized dock ladder.

To help prevent such tragedies, the National Electrical Contractors Association says:

- All installations should be performed by a professional electrical contractor.
- All dock receptacles must comply with the National Electrical

Code, which mandates a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI). A GFCI measures a circuit's current and senses any imbalance (such as a discharge into the water), which trips the GFCI and cuts off the power.

- Test a GFCI at least monthly. Locate it along the ramp to the dock so it can be easily tested by local fire departments.
- Metal dock frames should have “bonding jumpers” that connect all metal parts to an on-shore grounding rod. This means any dock part that becomes energized by electrical malfunction will trip the GFCI or circuit breaker.
- Ask neighbors if their dock electrical systems have been inspected and are up to Code.
- Household wire is not suitable for boats.
- *Do not* use wire nuts (these are for solid conductor wire, which should never be on a boat) or splice connectors (can cut wire strands)!



Photo-Energy Education Council

- Fuses are rated to protect the wire, not the stereo. If a fuse blows continuously, something else is wrong.
- If you rent a dock or boat, notify the owner of safety violations immediately.
- Have your boat's system (especially with onboard generators) checked at least annually, and when something is added or removed.
- Ropes, string, masts and rigging also conduct electricity—don't be the common ground between water and electricity!
- See SafeElectricity.org for more tips. ■

Summer Thrills

Summer means “vacation” to many, and memories of family road trips along with the familiar mantra Mom and Dad grew weary of hearing: “Are we there yet?” I remember traveling to the Detroit Zoo and the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village back in the ‘60s when speed limits were more of a suggestion than law. Dad was known to occasionally hit 100 mph—a great thrill for a young lad!

Today, I still enjoy a thrilling ride with my family while taking in some of the most panoramic Lake Michigan views, thanks to Mac Wood’s Dune Rides in Mears.

A fourth generation family business that’s served by Great Lakes Energy Cooperative, Mac Wood’s began operating in 1930 when Mac started looking for ways to entertain guests at a nearby resort he managed. Mac built the first four-passenger ‘dune scooter’ from a Model A Ford and charged 25 cents per ride.

Things were less restricted back then and like my Dad, with Mac behind the wheel, many described the trips as ‘thrill rides.’ Mac’s granddaughter, Shelby Olson, describes it as a time when “there were no rules. It was a go-anywhere, full-speed fun ride.”

Though times have changed, the dune rides are just as exciting today (open until Oct. 5—see macwoodsdunerides.com) as they were 84 years ago. Between climbs and descents through some of the most beautiful dunes in the state, you’ll stop along the way to enjoy views of Lake Michigan and Silver Lake while learning about the ecology of the dunes.

Today’s dune scooters seat more folks more comfortably (your backside will appreciate it!) so bring a few friends along for the ride.

Working every summer since she was a child, Shelby emphasizes that the dune rides are still all about family,

friends and fun. “Visiting Mac Wood’s is a unique experience that everyone in the family can enjoy from babies to grandparents!” She also says that many former guests are now bringing their kids and grandkids to ride, commenting about riding the dunes “when they were little.” Ah, those family memories. You gotta love ‘em.

There is plenty of time left to enjoy a Pure Michigan summer. Comb the shores for beach glass, dip your toes in one of our Great Lakes, or simply soak up the sunshine.

Family memories await just over the next dune! All you need is a map and the spirit of adventure.

Share a story idea with Jack by email to: jack@countrylines.com or write J. O’Malley, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864. ■



Jack O’Malley

Deer Blind Contest: The Hunt Is On!

If you think yours is the best Michigan deer blind, enter our *Country Lines* Deer Blind Contest by **Aug. 15**.

Categories for entering a photo of your blind are: Most tricked-out; Best story behind it; and Most interestingly-engineered. Enter at countrylines.com or mail it to CL Deer Blind Contest, 2859 W. Jolly Road,

Okemos, MI 48864. Include your name, contact information, and a description of what makes it great. Winners will receive a \$50 credit on their co-op electric bill and have a photo of their blind published in *Country Lines*.



«« Do You Know Where This Is?

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

We do not accept Mystery Photo guesses by phone. Enter your guess at countrylines.com; or send by mail to *Country Lines* Mystery Photo, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, 48864. Include your name, address, phone number and the name of your co-op. Only

those sending complete information will be entered in the drawing. The winner will be announced in the Sept. 2014 issue.

The May contest winner is Luke Bourne, a Great Lakes Energy Cooperative



member from LeRoy, who correctly identified the photo as the LeRoy Hardware store.

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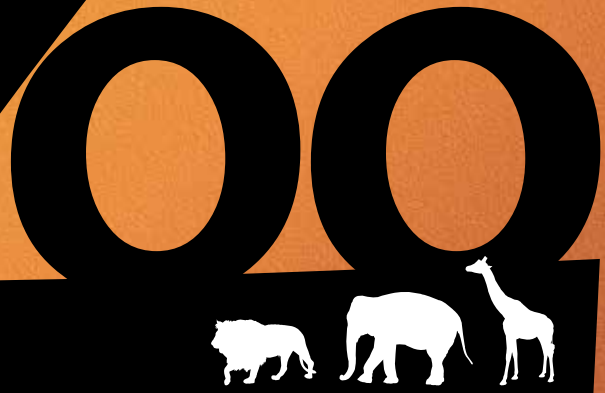
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