

# MICHIGAN Country Lines

## Adventure Travel



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# Backyard Consensus Needed on Electricity's Future

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## TO SUBMIT A METER READING:

- 1) Call or use our 24-hour touch tone voice-mail hotline, ext. 207
- 2) E-mail your meter reading at:  
[CEC@cherrylandelectric.com](mailto:CEC@cherrylandelectric.com)
- 3) Fax your meter reading at: 231-486-9404

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IT IS A WELL-KNOWN FACT that Michigan's power plants are aging while the demand for electricity continues to grow. The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC), through its "21st Century Energy Plan," and Gov. Granholm have identified the need for new sources of power in our state.

Many agree that our local economy has little chance for growth without new sources of generation. Future power problems can only be avoided by careful and immediate planning that is followed by actual construction...soon. Further agreement on the type of plant to build can be reached as all heads are nodding that now is the time for new base load generation. "Base load generation" is the utility term for a power plant that will run 24/7/365 to meet the everyday needs of our state every hour of every day.

Michigan has the least amount of base load plants in the Midwest. The traditional low-cost options for fueling this type of generation have been coal and nuclear, and this remains true today.

For many years, we have used natural gas peaking-plants to get us through the periods of the day when usage is the highest. Our 24/7/365 loads have simply increased to the point where peaking plants are a poor band-aid. We have also seen the volatility of gas prices push the economies of natural gas generation to unacceptable levels. We now have consensus that gas has priced itself out of the largest part of our long-term future.

Renewable energy is also a hot topic right now. The MPSC has publicly stated they will be recommending that utilities be required to get 10 percent of their electricity from renewable sources. The governor went so far as to mention a 20 percent figure in her state-of-the-state address. Utilities will soon agree to some level of mandated renewable energy.

While fuel costs for renewable sources such as solar and wind are obviously very low, they are far from reliable in Michigan. So far, the electricity produced by these sources is more expensive than traditional

sources. Thus, they are not suitable for the 24/7/365 electricity that is needed. Heads are again nodding in agreement when someone states that renewable energy will have a place and continue to grow, but the role will not be a major one.

So that takes us back to the traditional base load sources of generation—coal and nuclear. In Michigan, coal generation exceeds nuclear by almost seven times.

New clean energy technologies and a large supply of coal nationwide will keep coal in the forefront of future plant construction. Nuclear, while slowed by the storage question, seems to be at the beginning of a new cycle of construction across the country.

Once again, agreement can be reached on the fact that coal is still the best viable source for future base load generation even though nuclear may be the most cost-efficient, and both will play vital roles in coming construction necessary to meet our 24/7/365 electricity needs.

If there is general agreement on the statements above, where are the disagreements? 'Location, location, location' would be my best reply. But nobody wants them in their backyard. Everyone wants all the conveniences electricity brings, such as a vibrant economy now so lacking in Michigan.

Yet, the brakes come on when a new plant location is suggested. Opposition even comes out when it is suggested that an addition be put on an existing facility. Transporting power in from other states requires improved right-of-way paths with related tree- and brush-clearing. Again, opposition is raised and costs added to the project.

If a plant can't be enlarged at a present site, put in a new location, or given a larger path from the outside, what are we going to do?

Somewhere and someday soon, all parties involved must reach a compromise or Michigan simply will not move forward. As a state, we need to reach a consensus on which backyard we will cross, expand or start fresh in...soon.



By Tony Anderson  
General Manager

# Your Co-op Helps Prevent Identity Theft

**I**DENTITY THEFT. It's the most serious threat to hit the Internet since it was created. Any computer connected to the Internet, either by dial up or high speed, is subject to being hacked and confidential information being exposed.

At Cherryland Electric Cooperative, we understand that and have a responsibility to our members to protect their personal information from theft. This is why we have invested in security technologies to protect our system from attacks.

All data that comes into and leaves the building must pass through two Intrusion Detection and Prevention devices that monitor all traffic for suspicious activities. These devices are monitored continuously by an external monitoring company and any suspicious activity is dealt with immediately. Located between these devices is a firewall, which provides additional protection. In all, our information is inspected by three separate devices.

In addition, to assure that our member self-serve site (<https://secure.cecelec.com/css>) remains secure and trusted, we employ the daily scanning services of ScanAlert, which scans

our Web site looking for security flaws and alerts us if one is found. In the upper left corner of the site you will find their HackerSafe™ logo with the date the system was last scanned. For more information about HackerSafe, click on their logo.

All incoming and outgoing mail from Cherryland Electric Cooperative is scanned for viruses and spam by Message Labs, a leading international provider of these services.

The mail is inspected for questionable content such as viruses, spam and phishing scams to help protect our members and employees. Most identity-stealing programs come in as e-mails to the unsuspecting user's mailbox.

These programs (viruses or spyware) will collect information from the user's computer and send it back to a collection location. From there, the information can be used to steal your identity.

Within our office, all workstations have a commercial antivirus and anti-spyware solution installed to protect them from attack. The workstations are also connected to a central server that handles all updates to the computers. If a

virus outbreak is detected, this server will place the network in a lock-down mode to help prevent further spread of the virus.

Critical personal information, such as social security numbers and credit card numbers are stored encrypted in our database. Without the proper encryption key, this information appears as garbage. Access to this information is limited to only key co-op personnel and is not accessible by our member service representatives or field representatives.

All of these steps help to assure that your information at your cooperative is safe and secure against theft. Cherryland Electric Cooperative will continue to keep your safety and security in the forefront and will investigate new technologies to continue to assure that the information entrusted to us remains secure.

Look for articles in future issues of *Michigan Country Lines* for tips and tricks on protecting your personal computer.

*Steve Weaver is the head of information and technology at Cherryland Electric Co-op*



# Add An Energy Check to Yearly Cleaning List

**W**ARM WEATHER has a way of making things grow: flowers, grass, your to-do list. So what's one more task? While you're scrubbing and inspecting your home this spring, check for energy-efficiency around the house. Making a few energy-related repairs could help lower your electric bill all year long.

- While you're cleaning the windows, check for loose or leaky panes, and identify any single-paned windows. These energy "no-no's" allow cool air to escape from your home during the summer and steal heated air during the winter. That can raise your utility bill, no matter the season. Replacing old,



inefficient windows now is an investment that will pay for itself in energy savings.

- Light bulbs looking dim? Wipe them down to remove excess dust, and trash those incandescent bulbs. Compact fluorescent bulbs (see story, p. 10) come in almost every size and mimic the glow of incandescents while using less energy. They last up to 10 times longer, too.

- Replace your dirty air filters. Dusty filters make your air conditioning system work harder.

- Open the windows. If it's not warm enough yet to turn off the heat and enjoy the fresh air, install a programmable thermostat, which automati-

cally adjusts the temperature so you use less energy to heat your home when no one is there. The device can save you up to \$100 a year on heating and cooling bills.

- Vacuum under and behind the refrigerator to remove dust buildup that decreases efficiency. If you use an extra fridge or freezer in the basement, turn it off when not in use. If you use it year round, keep it stocked or fill gaps with extra jugs of water or trays of ice so it will operate more efficiently.

- Before you scrub major appliances like refrigerators, ovens and washers, check to see if the model is Energy Star certified. If not, consider upgrading—Energy Star models use loads less energy and are worth the purchase price, even if your older, less-efficient appliance is still in working order.

# Reeling Them in With Rod and Brush

An artistic angler captures wildlife on the Pine River.

**Linda Kotzian**

**J**ERRY HORAN is an avid fly fisherman who will happily fish “eight nights a week,” so he is seldom at a loss for wildlife subjects for his work.

The electric co-op member (Great Lakes Energy, Boyne City) retired as a commercial artist to become a full-time wildlife artist at his Leroy home. He uses a “glazing” technique that requires little water and produces bright watercolors. In addition to fish and bird paintings, he does commission paintings of barns, old farmhouses, hunting dogs and other subjects from photos.

“I immortalize memories for people,” Horan explains.

For years, he harvested driftwood from the Pine River and sold some as home decor. Last summer, he began sculpting the driftwood into bird and fish carvings that he paints with watercolors. It’s a natural metamorphosis of wood into wildlife: a fish appears to swim out from behind driftwood; wood ducks with driftwood wings take flight. He combines the beauty and authenticity of his painting with the three-dimensional aspect of the driftwood to create his unique art.

Horan also uses Audubon books as



Jerry Horan poses with some of his artwork that is displayed at Lakeside Charlie's restaurant in Cadillac. He grew up fishing on the Pine River near where he now lives.

reference for his ducks, geese, swans, blue herons, sandhill cranes, woodcocks, and other winged subjects.

One of his trout paintings placed second in the 1996 Michigan Trout Stamp competition, earning acclaim from fellow anglers and wildlife artists. His work has also appeared on the cover of a Reed City/Big Rapids phone directory. The modest

recognition hasn't changed him.

“I really like my low profile,” he says. “I enjoy getting to know my customers.”

*Jerry Horan's wildlife art—including limited edition prints of 23 paintings—can be seen in Cadillac at Lakeside Charlie's restaurant and Brinks Custom Framing and Art Supplies. For more details, visit [www.jerryhoran.com](http://www.jerryhoran.com), or call 231-829-3727.*



Cherryland member Marty Mugerian, left, attended the 2006 Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. Posing with Marty before the Washington Monument are Brittney Benjamin and Victoria Kowalczyk of Great Lakes Energy.

## Last Chance For Teens To Win A Free Trip To D.C.!

Two teenagers whose parents or guardians are Cherryland Electric Co-op members are eligible to win a trip to Washington, D.C., this summer.

Four Cherryland teens will be selected to attend Teen Days in Cadillac in April, where they will learn about electrical safety, electric cooperatives, and mix with teens from other Michigan co-ops. Teens must be in 10th or 11th grade to be eligible.

Two of the four teens will then be picked for a week-long, all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., in June.

To receive an application, call Leah Olson at 231-486-9254 or write to her at Cherryland Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 298, Grawn, MI 49637. For more details about Teen Days and Youth Tour, also visit [www.countrylines.com](http://www.countrylines.com), and click on “Youth.”

# Check Power Lines *Before* Planting Trees

ONE OF THE BIGGEST challenges we face at Cherryland Electric Cooperative every year is making sure tree limbs don't interfere with electric lines.

When they do, outages occur.

Sometimes, that is unavoidable because trees grow and limbs that were a safe distance

away from lines two years ago can suddenly become an outage problem.

That's why we have crews working all summer to maintain the rights-of-way along our power lines. But you, as a co-op member, can also help prevent outages: *Before you plant trees in your yard, find out how tall they*

*will grow and find the right spot for them.*

Trees placed too close to overhead power lines pose a threat to your family. They can cause your home to lose power and become a very dangerous place where children and grandchildren play, if the tree limbs grow near an energized 7,200-volt power line.

Falling trees and limbs are the major cause of outages and blinks for Cherryland members. The tree type, location, growth pattern and the voltage size of the power line all determine the amount of trimming required for us to maintain adequate line clearance.

Some healthy trees may need to be removed if they pose an immediate threat to your electric service and safety. Trees may also need to come down if they are weak, diseased, dying, or severely damaged.

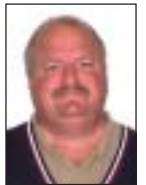
Also, be aware of underground power lines and other buried utility wires before you start digging.

If you have questions about our tree-trimming program along power line rights-of-way, call me at Cherryland at 486-9224, or 800-442-8616, Ext. 224.



Please review the guidelines above before planting, and be aware of underground utility lines by calling 1-800-647-7344 (MISS DIG) three days before you dig. In May 2007, there will be a new MISS DIG phone number – for details and other helpful information, visit <http://www.call811.com>. If you hit an underground utility line while digging, you can harm yourself or others, disrupt service to an entire neighborhood and potentially be responsible for fines and repair costs.

*Tim Keenan is assistant safety director for Cherryland Electric Co-op*



# Try Geothermal for Heating/Cooling Needs

IF YOU ARE PLANNING to build a new house or replace your heating system, you may want to consider a geothermal heat pump (GHP) system.

While residential GHP systems are usually more expensive initially to install than conventional heating and cooling, their greater efficiency means the investment can be recouped in two to 10 years.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, geothermal heat pumps can save homeowners 30 to 70 percent on heating costs and 20 to 50 percent on cooling costs over conventional systems.

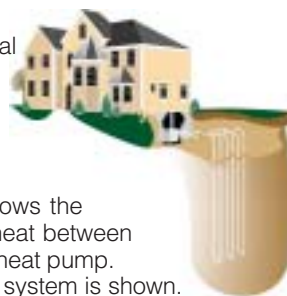
Ongoing energy and maintenance costs are much less than conventional heating and air conditioning systems.

Geothermal systems work by harnessing the earth's temperature to provide a natural

source of heating and cooling, depending on the time of year. The ground-source heat pumps use the natural heat storage capacity of ground water to provide energy efficient heating and cooling.

Open loop systems, as opposed to closed loop, extract heat from well water. The water is then returned to the earth either through a drainage field, pond or another well.

In a geothermal heat pump system, the ground loop, which is invisible after installation, allows the exchange of heat between the earth and heat pump. A closed-loop system is shown.



While the water is inside the heat pump, it passes through the refrigerant-filled primary heat exchanger for ground water systems. The heat is transferred to the refrigerant, which boils, to become a low temperature vapor, and then the ground water is pumped back out and discharged back to the earth.

The cooling cycle is basically the reverse of the heating cycle. The direction of the refrigerant flow is changed by the reversing valve. The refrigerant picks up heat from the house air and transfers it directly to ground water. The heat is then pumped outside into a water body or return well.

If you want to reduce your monthly energy costs, this is a time-tested option that's worth looking into.

– Bill Garey, Cherryland energy use advisor

# Cherryland Bulletin Board



Cherryland member Jan Croton of Lake Ann is presented with a TV set from energy advisor Bill Garey.



## Cherryland Member Jan Croton Wins TV

Jan Croton of Lake Ann won a big screen TV from the co-op during the Traverse City Homebuilders Show in February.

Members were asked to fill out a questionnaire about their experiences with the co-op and make suggestions about how the company can improve.

Those members who filled out the forms were entered into the drawing for the TV. The two-day show at Traverse City East Junior High, a Cherryland member, resulted in hundreds of visits to the cooperative's booth.

## Community Caring Board Makes Two Awards

Cherryland Electric Cooperative's Community Caring Board made two awards at its February meeting.

Two individuals were given \$1,050 toward their bills.

The Community Caring Board takes money from Operation Roundup and gives 100 percent of the funds to needy individuals and organizations in northern Michigan.

Cherryland members "opt in" to Operation Roundup and their electric bill is "rounded up" each month to the nearest dollar. That money is then distributed by the Community Caring Board on a monthly basis.

You can contribute, too. By asking us to "round up" your electric bill each month to the next dollar, you give to the Community Caring Fund. It amounts to about 50 cents a month and, combined with all who contribute, gives thousands of dollars back to help friends, neighbors and groups in your community. Call Brenda Burrows at 486-9266 to sign up.

## AMR Installation Making Good Progress

Cherryland Electric Cooperative's automatic meter reading (AMR) program continues to make good progress.

"We now have about 10,000 AMR meters installed and are planning to have another 10,000 finished by the end of 2007," said Cherryland's Karrie Yanska, who is overseeing the project.

Once an AMR meter is installed, a member no longer has to take meter readings – the reading will automatically be relayed to Cherryland's office in Grawn.

"We are currently installing residential AMR meters around West Silver Lake Road and Veterans Drive in Grand Traverse County," Yanska said. "Also, at our Brethren substation in Manistee County. We send a notification letter before we install."

If members have questions, they can call Cherryland at 486-9200.



Nick Edson

## Mr. Sunshine Faces His Biggest Battle

**P**HILIP GARNO has a big heart and an even bigger smile.

We miss him here at Cherryland because he was one of those coworkers you looked forward to seeing every morning.

He was the first to offer a kind word or a good joke. He was always in the middle of some good-natured teasing.

Then he'd be off to work for a day in the field, where he'd do MISS DIG. That's where he'd leave flags in the ground to let utility workers and developers know not to dig there.

He was a hard worker and a valued employee. But his value went beyond his worth ethic. Way beyond.

Philip Garno doesn't just love people, he embraces them with his zest for life.

In other words, people enjoy being around him. He's what I call a "feel good" person.

So it isn't surprising that Philip found out awhile back that his heart is wearing out. It was simply overworked.

The truth is, Phil is on disability because his heart won't let him work full-time at Cherryland anymore.

He tried for awhile, but found that he needed to rest more and more. Heart problems run in his family. His father died at a young age and Philip doesn't want to have that happen to him.

So, he's literally fighting for his life.

When he sends us e-mails or stops by the office to update us on his situation, you never get the impression he feels sorry for himself.

He is always asking people how *they* are doing and bringing smiles to their faces.

In the corner of his soul that he will let you peek into, he is afraid. He doesn't want to lose his wife Donna, his kids, grandkids, or any of his many friends. There is simply too much fishing and laughing and loving left to do.

That's why when you think of Philip Garno,

you wish God would make him a special heart that will run for several more decades.

He's the kind of person who is the goodwill ambassador for smiling. I've never seen him go a minute without flashing his trademark smile.

He and Donna recently made a trip to the University of Michigan so they could talk to Philip's cardiologist about his future.

They told him to prepare for a heart transplant. They told him to lose weight and be prepared to use an external heart pump.

And how did Philip react? He smiled.

He looked death in the face and punched it with a grin.

Now he will play the waiting game. He'll do what his doctors tell him. He'll be thinking of fishing on the Boardman River or in the Upper Peninsula all the while.

He'll surround himself with his family because he knows that time might be his most precious commodity right now.

What he won't do is spend much time feeling sorry for himself.

So I'll be in charge of that for him. If there was a Man of the Year Award given for a special person, Philip would win in a landslide.

That's why I'm telling you about him.

That's why I'm asking you to pray for him.

Or, if you could take a few moments, drop him a line. You can mail him at 4981 W. Blair Town Hall Rd., Traverse City, MI 49684, or e-mail him at P2171@aol.com to offer him encouragement.

Philip might get mad at me for writing this. But that's a chance I'm willing to take. It will be a side of him that I've never seen before.

In fact, I keep waiting for him to get angry about what has happened to him. But he's not one of those people who feels he's entitled to things. He doesn't take things—or life—for granted.

He simply enjoys every day that God gives him. And he spreads that joy to everyone around him.

He is Mr. Sunshine in a world that desperately needs more people like him.

## Clean Out a Rotten Refrigerator

**I**F YOU HAVE LEFTOVERS from last Tuesday lurking in your refrigerator, it's time to pull on your latex kitchen gloves and clean it out.

You could be putting your family at risk for food poisoning should somebody decide to snack on the smelly scraps.

It's true that a refrigerator operates more efficiently when it's fully stocked. But if it's full of the rank remains of once-healthy, usable food, you need to remedy the wrong.

Try these tips to clean out and organize your refrigerator. You may find out you have more room than you thought—enough to unplug the extra refrigerator or freezer that might be eating up electricity in the basement.

- Gather the kids for a total fridge clean up. Arm them with a trash bag, and have them throw away old leftovers. Make sure they check the expiration dates on rarely used condiments and dressings, and toss any that are past their prime.

- If you store foods in the fridge and they spoil before you eat them, vow to freeze them in the future.

- Adjust the height of each shelf so food is easier to see and reach. This could free up space. Designate a space for fruits, vegetables, meats and drinks, so nothing is "out of sight, out of mind" and left to rot.

- Store leftovers in transparent containers and label them with the date the food was prepared so children don't eat spoiled food when they raid the fridge.

- Cool hot foods before you put them in the refrigerator to save energy.

- Vacuum the refrigerator coils monthly. Dust trapped underneath the



**There's too much fishing, laughing and loving left to do... and joy to spread.**



# \$200 REBATE!

FOR CHERRYLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBERS ONLY. ADDITIONAL INCENTIVES ARE AVAILABLE FOR QUALIFYING NEW HOME CONSTRUCTION.

## THE LAST WATER HEATER YOU WILL EVER NEED

Marathon is recognized as the leader in water heaters. Here's why:

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**Cherryland Electric Cooperative** has teamed with MENARDS of Traverse City to pass on greater savings to our members!

For more information about the \$200 rebate, ask a Menard's team member, or call a Cherryland Electric member service representative at **1-800-442-8616**.