

JUNE 2025

# PENNSYLVANIA LINES

## One Step at a Time

Local Walking Groups Pave the Way for Better Living

**RELIABLE POWER:  
WHY DIVERSITY  
MATTERS**

**COOPERATIVE  
KITCHEN: GET  
'DRESSED' FOR  
SUMMER**

**THE TRUE SIGN OF  
ADULTHOOD**

**INSIDE!  
WHO'S READY  
FOR THEIR  
CLOSE-UP?**





# Saving is believing.

And now it's easier than ever  
with the **30% tax credit**<sup>1</sup>



## THERE'S A TREASURE IN YOUR BACKYARD

You may not realize it, but your home is sitting on a **free and renewable** supply of energy. A WaterFurnace geothermal comfort system taps into the stored solar energy in your own backyard to provide **savings of up to 70% on heating, cooling and hot water**. That's money in the bank and a smart investment in your family's comfort. Contact our WaterFurnace Concierge Team today to learn how to **tap into your buried treasure**.

**Ready to get started?**

Scan the QR to connect with your  
Geothermal Concierge today!



**WaterFurnace.**  
Smarter from the Ground Up™



visit [waterfurnace.com](http://waterfurnace.com)

<sup>1</sup> 30% through 2032, 26% through 2033 and 22% through 2034





**4 FIRST WORD**  
**Wildfires Aren't Just a Problem Out West**  
 Rural electric cooperatives are taking action to extinguish the risks

**6 KEEPING CURRENT**  
**Lights, Camera, Action!, Rooted In Preservation, Rubber Ducky!, and More**

**8 FEATURE**  
**One Step at a Time**  
 Local walking groups pave the way for better living

**12 ENERGY MATTERS**  
**A Diverse Fuel Mix is Essential for Reliable Power**  
 Every fuel resource helps fill a void in the grid

**14 COMMUNITY CORNER**  
 We shine a spotlight on Pennsylvania's rural electric cooperatives and the people who make them special

**14A COOPERATIVE CONNECTION**  
 Information and advice from your local electric cooperative

**16 SMART CIRCUITS**  
**Air Cleaner Options for Your HVAC System**  
 Advice to help you breathe easier

**18 RURAL ROOTS**  
**Summer Fun: Saving Money While Making Memories**  
 Sometimes, all you have to do is look in your own backyard

**22 COOPERATIVE KITCHEN**  
**Get 'Dressed' for Summer**  
 It's not just summer; it's salad season!

**23 POWER PLANTS**  
**The 'Bad' Worm that Could Be Ruining Your Soil**  
 These agitated critters have no place in your garden

**24 CLASSIFIEDS**

**26 PUNCH LINES**  
**The True Sign of Adulthood**  
 And it isn't a diploma

**27 RURAL REFLECTIONS**  
**Sticking Together**  
 Reader photos showcase some special moments



**ON THE COVER**  
 Whether you're participating in a special event – like Stephanie Wolak of Tioga – or in a local group, walking is great for the body, mind and soul. This month, we have tips to help you get started.

PHOTO BY PETER KUTBAY

# Wildfires Aren't Just a Problem Out West

## Rural Electric Cooperatives Are Taking Action to Extinguish the Risks



STEVE BRAME

**IN APRIL, TWO WILDFIRES SCORCHED** more than 2,700 acres of the Michaux State Forest in south-central Pennsylvania — an area most of us don't associate with massive fires. The blazes burned across rugged mountain terrain just outside Shippensburg in Cumberland and Franklin counties, and while no one was injured or buildings damaged, the scope and speed of the fires took many by surprise.

Days later, crews also contained a small wildfire near Raystown Lake, where quick action by our staff at Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc., who oversee the hydroelectric plant at the dam, and local firefighters kept flames from damaging a transmission line that helps power the region.

These events are reminders that wildfire risk isn't confined to the West anymore. Drier seasons and the loss of millions of trees due to invasive species like the emerald ash borer have resulted in decades of fuel buildup on public lands, turning Pennsylvania's forests into potential tinderboxes. What we're seeing now is a new normal — and it calls for smart, coordinated action.

That's exactly what Pennsylvania's rural electric cooperatives are pursuing on the ground and in the halls of government.

In recent weeks, more than 120 co-op leaders from across the Commonwealth gathered in Harrisburg for our annual Legislative Event to speak directly with state lawmakers about wildfire risks and other issues. Many also traveled to Washington, D.C., this spring for a major grassroots lobbying event hosted by our national organization. The message we delivered was clear: Electric co-ops need state and federal policies that keep pace with the challenges we face.

A top priority is commonsense wildfire mitigation. Co-ops are already investing in vegetation management, system inspections and right-of-way maintenance to reduce fire hazards. However, outdated permitting processes — especially on federal lands — can drag some mitigation projects out for months, even years.

That's why we're backing bipartisan federal legislation like the Fix Our Forests Act. This bill would ease the regulatory gridlock, allowing cooperatives to remove hazardous vegetation within a wider buffer zone around power lines and streamline approvals for vital grid-hardening projects.

At the state level, we're advocating for policies that encourage proactive land management on public lands to reduce the fuel load that makes wildfires more likely and more destructive here. We're also asking lawmakers to work with co-ops to ensure wildfire costs aren't unfairly shouldered by rural communities and the people who live there.

These efforts aren't just about protecting electric infrastructure; they're about protecting the people, homes, farms and forests that define our state.

They also reflect the values at the heart of the cooperative model, including the principles of education and concern for community. We're educating policymakers, consumer-members, and the public about the very real wildfire risks we now face in Pennsylvania. And we're doing everything in our power to protect the communities we serve — from the grid we manage to the forests that surround us.

Because no matter how the environment changes or the risks evolve, our responsibility stays the same: to power our communities safely, reliably, and with care. And we're ready to do that in the same way cooperatives have always done things: driven by innovation, collaboration, and a deep commitment to the people and places we call home. 🌲

**STEVE BRAME**  
PRESIDENT & CEO  
PENNSYLVANIA RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION  
ALLEGHENY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

EDITOR

**Peter A. Fitzgerald**

MANAGING EDITOR

**Jill M. Ercolino**

SENIOR TECHNICAL EDITOR

**Michael T. Crawford**

LAYOUT & DESIGN

**Kaylin E. Acri**

ADVERTISING & PRODUCTION

COORDINATOR

**Michelle M. Smith**

CONTRIBUTING COLUMNISTS

**James Duley, John Kasun,  
Anne M. Kirchner,  
George Weigel, Abigail Zieger**

*Penn Lines* (USPS 929-700), the newsmagazine of Pennsylvania's electric cooperatives, is published monthly by the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association, 212 Locust Street, P.O. Box 1266, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1266. *Penn Lines* helps 168,000 households of co-op consumer-members understand issues that affect the electric cooperative program, their local co-ops, and their quality of life. Electric co-ops are not-for-profit, consumer-owned, locally directed, and taxpaying electric utilities. *Penn Lines* is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts. The opinions expressed in *Penn Lines* do not necessarily reflect those of the editors, the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association, or local electric distribution cooperatives.

Subscriptions: Electric co-op members, \$8.52 per year through their local electric distribution cooperative. Preferred Periodicals postage paid at Harrisburg, PA 17107 and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes with mailing label to *Penn Lines*, 212 Locust Street, P.O. Box 1266, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1266.

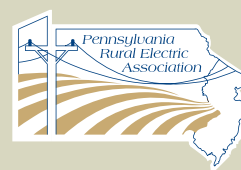
Advertising: Display ad deadline is six weeks prior to month of issue. Ad rates upon request. Acceptance of advertising by *Penn Lines* does not imply endorsement of the product or services by the publisher or any electric cooperative. If you encounter a problem with any product or service advertised in *Penn Lines*, please contact: Advertising, *Penn Lines*, P.O. Box 1266, Harrisburg, PA 17108. *Penn Lines* reserves the right to refuse any advertising.

Board officers and staff, Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association: Chairman, Leroy Walls; Vice Chairman, Tim Burkett; Secretary, Barbara Miller; Treasurer, Gene Herritt; President & CEO, Stephen M. Brame

©2025 Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.

Visit with us at *Penn Lines Online*, located at: [www.prea.com/penn-lines-magazine](http://www.prea.com/penn-lines-magazine).

*Penn Lines Online* provides an email link to *Penn Lines* editorial staff, information on advertising, and an archive of past issues.





# Rechargeable In-Your-Ear Hearing Aid

*"I couldn't believe it!"*

*"I switched to MDHearing aids and so should you. These are better than my \$8,000 hearing aids, and no one can even see them."*

*Joe Namath*

**NEW LOW  
PRICE  
SAVE  
\$100**

OVER  
2 MILLION  
SOLD!

**Joe Namath**

Superbowl III MVP  
MDHearing Aid User

BUY 1  
GET 1

**FREE**

ONLY

~~\$397~~ **\$297**

for a pair

PLUS FREE  
SHIPPING

**PRICE JUST  
REDUCED!**

**SAVE  
\$100**

Can you  
spot the XS  
hearing aid?

**MDHearing™**

The smallest **inside-your-ear** hearing aids from MDHearing... **no one will know you're wearing it!**

**NEW OFFER**

**50%  
SMALLER!**



NEO



XS

**PRICE  
DROP**

~~\$397~~ **\$297**

## What's Included:

- FDA-Registered
- Doctor-Designed
- 20-Hour Battery Life
- Portable Charger
- FREE Shipping
- FREE Lifetime Support
- 100% Money-Back Guarantee

## 45-Day Risk-Free Trial!

If you are not completely satisfied with your hearing aids, return them within 45 days for a FULL REFUND!



**1 (800) 984-3954**



**www.JoeLovesMD.com**

Enter offer code **QD69** to receive FREE Shipping!

**MDHearing Is Now Available Through  
Top Medicare Advantage Plans!**



## MAPS AND LEGENDS

I love maps, always have. As a child, I even made my own pirate maps, inspired by Robert Louis Stevenson's "Treasure Island" and his legendary tales of buried booty. Maps have always stirred my imagination, but I learned early on that they don't always tell the story of what's happening on the ground.

During my Army training days, I had to take a land navigation test where I was handed a map, a compass, and some grid coordinates. To pass the test, I had to locate a number of precise checkpoints on a course within a specified period of time.

This was at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri – or, as we trainees called it: Fort Lost in the Woods in the State of Misery. Soon after hitting the course, I began to understand how it got its nickname. There sure were a lot of trees out here. And I was lost, and feeling pretty miserable.

With the clock ticking, I knew I had to focus on my training and not panic. I had to see the forest and not just the trees in front of me. Once I did, terrain features began revealing themselves – the story on the ground. Contour lines took the shape of hills, and I recognized a ridge here, a valley there. Finding the first checkpoint gave me the confidence to navigate the rest of the course, and I was soon out of the woods – just under the time limit.

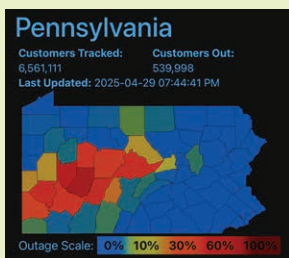
Even with today's advanced GPS technology, maps still don't reveal what's happening on the ground. They can't show us the in-person beauty of our rural areas – or the challenging terrain our line crews encounter in servicing our cooperative regions.

Radar images and outage maps can show up-to-the-minute information about a storm, but they can't tell you about the snapped poles, fallen trees, and impassable roads lineworkers face when responding to a power outage.

Maps can't show you the mutual support from sister co-ops arriving to help a cooperative in need. They also can't show you the dedication and perseverance it takes to respond to a storm and not quit until the lights are back on. That's the story on the ground.

As summer storms roll in, I'll be paying attention to maps. They still stir my imagination, but it's the story on the ground that inspires me.

**PETER A. FITZGERALD**  
EDITOR



THE HERSHEY ARCHIVES

**KISSED WITH FAME:** Filming has started in Pittsburgh for "Hershey," which is all about the life of famed chocolate pioneer – and Hershey Kiss creator – Milton Hershey and his wife, Catherine. Extras are needed for the shoot, which wraps up June 27.

## LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

### 'Hershey' filming in Pittsburgh, extras needed

Have you ever dreamed of being in a movie? Well, you may get your chance IF you're available this month and plan to be in or around Pittsburgh.

The makers of "Hershey," an upcoming motion picture about chocolate pioneer Milton S. Hershey, are looking for extras of all ages, and no acting experience is necessary. Set in the late 1800s and early 1900s, the film reveals how a man who failed in business multiple times created an iconic chocolate empire and channeled his success into education and the community. Filming began in May and continues through June 27.

Extras, who will portray townsfolk, factory workers and community members, need to be available for 12 to 14 hours on shoot days (hours are shorter for minors). The pay is \$225.

Directed by Mark Waters, the film stars Finn Wittrock as Milton Hershey and Alexandra Daddario as his wife, Catherine, and is set for release in 2026.

For more information and to apply, go to [nancymossercasting.com/post/extras-needed-for-feature-film-hershey](https://nancymossercasting.com/post/extras-needed-for-feature-film-hershey).

## ROOTED IN PRESERVATION

### Two Pennsylvania forests added to old-growth network

Two forests in the Pennsylvania Wilds have been added to the National Old-Growth Forest Network (OGFN), the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) says.

**Colton Point State Park** in Tioga County and **Bark Cabin Natural Area** in Lycoming County are the 37th and 38th Pennsylvania forests, respectively, to be inducted into the network and the first in their counties.

Colton Point is on the west rim of Pine Creek Gorge, the 358-acre park also known as the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon. Bark Cabin was established to protect an 82-acre grove of old-growth hemlocks.

DCNR says that while all forests are essential to a healthy ecosystem, old-growth sites are particularly valuable for their unique structure. These areas retain more carbon and nitrogen than younger forests, which improves water and air quality.



Founded in 2012 by Dr. Joan Maloof, OGFN includes more than 285 forests across 39 states. The organization educates the public about the ecological benefits of old-growth forests and speaks out against threats to specific ancient forests.

## AND THE WINNER IS ...

### Route 6 takes first place in byways competition

Pennsylvania Route 6 has been named the winner of Byways Madness 2025, the annual competition hosted by Scenic America to recognize and celebrate the country's most loved scenic byways.

In the final round of voting, Route 6 had 2,913 votes compared to the Blue Ridge Parkway's 765 votes.

Route 6 crosses the state from east to west and includes areas served by a handful of rural electric cooperatives, including Claverack Rural Electric Cooperative (REC), Tri-County REC, Warren Electric Cooperative and Northwestern REC. The state's newest official scenic byway, Route 6 is known for its rolling hills, charming small towns and access to natural wonders, including the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon.

## RUBBER DUCKY!

### Oversized bath toy to make a splash at Idlewild

A six-story-tall bright, yellow inflatable — The World's Largest Rubber Duck



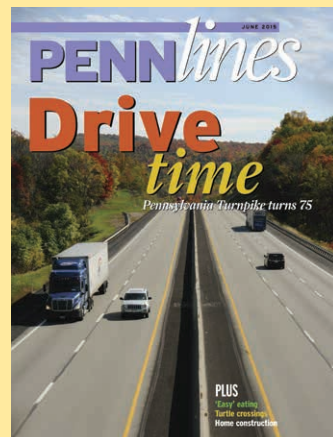
— will be waddling into western Pennsylvania later this month when it returns for a rare appearance. This time it will be making a splash at Idlewild & SoakZone in Ligonier June 27 to 29.

The last time the oversized bath toy, created by Dutch artist Florentijn Hofman, emerged in Pennsylvania was more than a decade ago — in 2013 — at the Pittsburgh International Festival of Firsts. More than a million onlookers showed up then for the duck's three-week stay.

This time, in honor of the inflatable's appearance, Idlewild will be hosting duck-themed activities, and you can always quack your wallet open for limited-edition merchandise.

Founded in 1878, Idlewild is the third-longest operating amusement park in the United States. 🦆

## TIME LINES



A decade ago, *Penn Lines* was commemorating the 75th anniversary of America's first superhighway: the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Immortalized in songs and on postcards, the first section of the turnpike opened Oct. 1, 1940, and paved the way for the Interstate Highway System. Not only that, towns and cities sprouted up along the toll road, which created a faster, safer and more convenient way to move people and goods across the state. Today, the turnpike has stepped into the 21st century with Open Road Tolling replacing the iconic toll booths and their attendants.

## JUNE



### MARS MADNESS

The Mars New Year festival in Mars, Pa., promises to be an out-of-this-world experience. Slated June 6 and 7, the event will feature fun, immersive educational activities for all ages — including a Robotics Village — presentations by NASA and more. Get details at [marsnewyear.com](http://marsnewyear.com).

### GO OUT OF YOUR GOURD

Take a trip to Lebanon, June 12 to 14, for the Pennsylvania Gourd Festival, a unique celebration that brings together artists, craftsmen, and enthusiasts to showcase the versatility of gourds. The event will be held at the Lebanon Valley Exposition Center. Admission is \$3 for adults and free for children under 12. Learn more at [pagourdsociety.org](http://pagourdsociety.org).



FACEBOOK.COM/PAGOURDSOCIETY



### PIEROGIES: YUM!

If you love pierogies, you're gonna love the Edwardsville Pierogi Festival, June 13 and 14, at John Hopkins Park. Enjoy the Pierogi Parade, Pierogi Cookoff, petting zoo, live entertainment and more. Admission is free. Check [edwpierogi.com](http://edwpierogi.com) for the latest details.

### ENCOUNTER HISTORY

Those looking for a unique experience should check out the Encounters with History series, hosted by the Gettysburg Foundation. Join prominent historians, authors and battlefield experts for the free monthly campfire talks. On June 20, the discussion, held at the Rupp House, will focus on the children of Gettysburg. Learn more at [gettysburgfoundation.org/exhibits-tours-events/special-events](http://gettysburgfoundation.org/exhibits-tours-events/special-events).



GETTYSBURGFOUNDATION.ORG









# One Step at a Time

## Local Walking Groups Pave the Way for Better Living

**KATHY HACKLEMAN**

*Penn Lines Contributor*

*“An early morning walk is a blessing for the whole day.”*

*- Henry David Thoreau*

**THE BELIEF THAT EACH JOURNEY** begins with a single step is well accepted by most people.

But the path to a healthy life requires many more, according to Tasha Pratt, wellness director and personal trainer at the Tioga County YMCA in Mansfield, which is also home to Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative (REC).

“The benefits of walking include a reduced risk for heart

disease, stroke and diabetes,” Pratt explains. “If a person with pre-diabetes or diabetes is eating right, walking will help them lose weight. It helps with balance, especially for older people with bad joints. It helps women at risk for osteoporosis, and also aids in digestion.”

Walking also has emotional benefits. “Even 10 or 15 minutes of walking here and there throughout the day,” she says, “can have significant health benefits for someone.”

While walking helps people of all ages — June 14 is Family Health and Fitness Day — Pratt says it becomes more important as people “age into the senior category,” a stage where they often become more sedentary after retiring. The beauty of walking is that it can be done at no cost and on any schedule.

Although you can walk on a treadmill, Pratt recommends

**WALKING FOR WELLNESS:** Staff and friends of the Tioga County YMCA in Mansfield enjoy a spring stroll for physical and emotional benefits. They are, from left, Tasha Pratt, wellness director and personal trainer; Heather Stocum, membership director; Sarah King; and Melissa Sentiff, executive director.



**"You are talking to someone and wandering at the same time, and so you find you walk even longer because you are having a conversation."**

walking outside, which provides the additional benefits of sunshine and nature, which are good for humans, too.

"Everyone should walk," she says. "It's beneficial from the time you take your first step through the end of life."

### **'Healthy in mind, body and spirit'**

Melissa Underwood, executive director of the Mansfield Chamber of Commerce, believes so much in the power of walking that she helped to organize an informal group that brings like-minded friends and neighbors together. The group is an outgrowth of the chamber's Partners in Progress program. The first community walking event was held Jan. 1.

"A lot of us are focusing on getting people in the community to be healthy in mind, body and spirit," she

says, "so we encourage people to meet at the downtown Mansfield Hike and Bike Trail at 3:30 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday."

It's a casual gathering and participants are invited to "come as they wish and walk as long as they wish," Underwood explains. Some participants walk a specific number of miles, while others walk for a specific length of time. Some also jog on the mile-long, paved path. All,

**GROUP GOALS:** Walking is good for your health, but there's a social aspect to it, too. Below, participants in the recent 5K walk/run, sponsored by the Mill Cove Environmental Center in Tioga County, make the trek with smiles and conversation.

PETER KUTBAY





however, are welcome, including “strollers,” who just want to connect with other people while getting a bit of exercise.

Underwood has always been a walker and hiker, but she especially enjoys this program because in addition to health benefits, there’s also a social aspect.

“It provides accountability and fellowship,” she says. “You are talking to someone and wandering at the same time, and so you find you walk even longer because you are having a conversation.”

While the Tuesday-Thursday walking group is a year-round casual event, Mill Cove Environmental Area and Education Center, also in Tioga County, recently hosted a formal 5K walk/run as part of its annual Earth Day celebration.

Sam Vanloon, Tioga County commissioner and president of the center’s board, said this was the first year for the walk/run, but the organization hopes to make it an ongoing part of its Earth Day activities. While the walk/run was timed, many participants just walked for fun and exercise. Medals were presented to everyone who completed the course.

## Something for everyone

If your community doesn’t offer similar walking programs, you can still take part in an organized effort through the free “Everybody Walk Across Pennsylvania” program, an eight-week initiative sponsored twice a year by Penn State Extension.

Laurie Welch, an extension educator for Lycoming and Clinton counties — portions of which are served by Sullivan County REC, Tri-County REC and Claverack REC — coordinates the virtual exercise program.

“People do not get enough physical

## WALKING WORKS WONDERS

Research has shown that walking can boost your heart and brain health and lower your chances of heart disease. Walking at a brisk pace for 150-plus minutes a week can help you think better, feel better and sleep better.

If you’re unable to walk, do what you can to get moving and improve your health, too.

### All you need to get started.

For most people, walking is safe, easy to stick with and a low- or no-cost activity. Many people enjoy walking with family, a friend or a pet. Make a plan to take a walk on a lunch break if you’re having trouble finding time and tune into some music or a podcast.

Here are some other tips:

- ▶ Choose supportive shoes made for walking.
- ▶ Wear comfortable, weather-appropriate clothes.
- ▶ Drink plenty of fluids.
- ▶ Apply sunscreen and wear a hat and sunglasses.

### Lace up, then warm up.

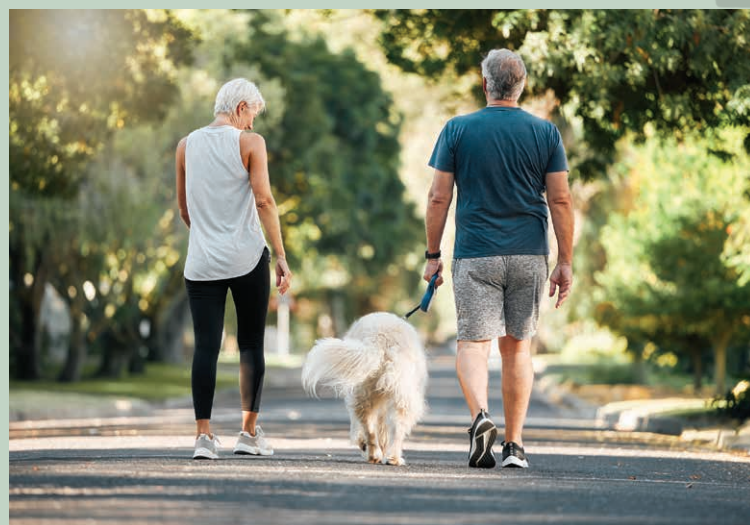
Start with a session that feels doable (say, 20 minutes), then gradually increase your time and distance. Stretch beforehand, warming up your hips, hamstrings and calf muscles. Begin with an easy pace, then try speeding up a little. When you finish, consider stretching again — your muscles may feel looser and warmer.

### Take strides toward safety.

Using trails or sidewalks is best. (If you have to walk on the street, wear light colors and face traffic so drivers can see you, and vice versa.) Don’t forget your flashlight if walking in the dark. If you’re using headphones, keep the volume low enough so you can hear vehicles, bicycles and emergency sirens.

Find out more at [heart.org/walking](https://heart.org/walking).

*Information courtesy of the American Heart Association*



*Continued on page 20*



## A Diverse Fuel Mix is Essential for Reliable Power

**MICHAEL LEITMAN**

**PROVIDING MEMBERS WITH SAFE,** reliable and affordable power is the mantra for electric cooperatives across the nation. Co-op members can see the work necessary to supply reliable electricity locally when they encounter lineworkers maintaining utility poles and wires and repairing them after major storms.

At the regional and national levels, a diverse mix of power generation resources, transmission lines and pipeline infrastructure are essential cornerstones of reliable electricity.

The U.S. electric grid has undergone major changes over the last decade. The share of electricity generated from coal plants has declined significantly, while the share from natural gas and intermittent wind and solar generation has grown. Fuel diversity means your electricity is supplied by a variety of generation technologies, each with their own characteristics and performance capabilities as weather and seasons change.

### When more is better

Dispatchable technologies can be turned on and off as needed. Large steam generation plants (most commonly using coal or nuclear fuels)

are generally considered “baseload,” meaning they are designed to run efficiently 24/7 as the base of the electricity mix. Steam plants, however, are less capable of ramping output up or down to meet grid peaks and dips.

Natural gas is the most versatile fuel, powering large combined-cycle plants that not only can operate as baseload but also are flexible enough to ramp up and down. These capabilities are essential for meeting demand on the hottest and coldest days and for balancing intermittent renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind.


Most hydroelectric power comes from generators inside large dams. In Pennsylvania, for instance, some of the electricity you use as a cooperative member comes from the hydroelectric plant at Raystown Lake in Huntingdon County. The facility, owned by your cooperative and the 13 others in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, is operated by Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Allegheny), your co-op’s wholesale power supplier. Allegheny has also invested in nuclear power, another carbon-free resource, to meet the energy needs of your co-op.

Over the last decade, the share

of electricity generated from wind and solar plants has increased dramatically. These beneficial, “no-fuel-required” plants can deliver low-cost electricity — but they only generate electricity when the wind blows and the sun shines. The production patterns of solar and wind are complimentary to one another. Solar generates during the day and wind tends to generate more at night. Across seasons, wind output is typically higher during the colder months when there is less sunshine. Deployed together, wind and solar technologies can offer a good balance.

While battery energy storage technology is being used more often to store renewable energy and then release it when needed, natural gas plants remain the primary method for “firming” these resources.

Ultimately, our electric grid is most reliable when a wide range of technologies is available. When conditions lead to lower generation from one, others can help compensate.

While the types of power plants used from region to region vary based on weather and infrastructure, America’s electric cooperatives work diligently to ensure a diverse and reliable power supply for the communities they serve. 

**MICHAEL LEITMAN** writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing nearly 900 local electric cooperatives.

\*\*\*

**ALLEGHENY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.,** based in Harrisburg, Pa., is the wholesale energy provider for the 14 rural electric cooperatives in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The cooperative has a proud history of investing in sustainable energy solutions to benefit the communities it serves while providing reliable energy at an affordable price.



**POWERING ON:** The Raystown Hydroelectric Plant in Huntingdon County is owned by the 14 rural electric cooperatives in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The hydropower generated here is part of a diverse mix of resources that keeps your lights on.

# Stay in the home you love with a Stiltz Homelift

*Our home elevators can fit just about anywhere in your home*

## THE MODERN SOLUTION

A Stiltz Homelift is a safe, attractive, & affordable alternative to stairlifts. It requires no special machine room, and no supporting walls.

## ECONOMICAL & FLEXIBLE

A Stiltz Homelift can fit just about anywhere in your house. It has a compact footprint, similar in size to a small armchair. A Stiltz Homelift plugs into a standard home electrical outlet, using less power than a coffee maker.

## YOUR FOREVER HOME

Avoid the expense and distress of relocating, or the disruption of adapting

your home for downstairs living. A Stiltz Homelift helps you live safely and independently in the home you love.

## IT'S NEVER TOO SOON

Some Stiltz customers need a Homelift immediately. But others want to "future-proof" their homes for when the stairs become a challenge.

## HOMELIFT SPECIALISTS

Stiltz is a world leading Homelift manufacturer, so you'll be in good hands. Your elevator will be installed and maintained by Stiltz trained professionals who truly care about your freedom.



### Did you know?

AARP survey data shows that 77% of adults 50 and older want to remain in their homes for the long term. At Stiltz, we're here to help you stay in your home you love. It's easy.



*"I can't imagine what we'd do without it. I wish we had installed our Stiltz Homelift several years ago!"*

— Mr. James, Roanoke, VA

## Why choose Stiltz?

- Affordable
- Small Footprint
- Full Safety Features
- Clean, Quiet Operation
- Low Power Consumption
- Freestanding Design
- Wheelchair Accessible
- Carry Laundry or Pets
- Fast Installation
- Full Warranty



For a FREE BROCHURE or no-obligation home visit

**Call 1-844-216-9473**

or visit [www.StiltzLifts.com](http://www.StiltzLifts.com)

**Stiltz**<sup>TM</sup>  
Homelifts



## Local Lore

### REA Energy Cooperative

#### *A Case of Mistaken Infamy*

Rumors have circulated about ghostly encounters on the outskirts of Elton, an area of Cambria County served by Indiana, Pa.-based REA Energy Cooperative. At Snavelly Cemetery, one particular spirit, whose mortal shell met a fiery end, is said to appear so often that the site is often referred to as Becky's Grave.

But is it really Becky?

Rebecca "Becky" Kring — born Rebecca Wertz on March 18, 1807 — was believed to be a witch who was hung for practicing black magic, according to local lore. Becky's descendants, however, beg to differ.

Local newspaper accounts confirm Becky died along with her husband, Samuel, in a house fire in 1892. The village of Elton — population 200 at the time — "was thrown into a state of great excitement by the breaking out of a fire. Most villagers had retired for the night, and it was the men about Ickes' Hotel who, being still astir, first

discovered the flames."

To this day, the origin of the fire is uncertain. What is known is that the smoke rendered Samuel, 79, and Becky, 83, helpless and unable to escape the flames.

According to a letter submitted to the Laurel Highlands Historical Village, Becky isn't even buried in the cemetery that has her name attached to it. Her grave is instead a few miles away in Dunmyer Cemetery. The Southwestern Pennsylvania League of Apparition Technologists has investigated Snavelly Cemetery but hasn't found any conclusive signs of a haunting there.

Who, then, is this mystery ghost?



**Main Office:** Indiana, Pa.  
**Consumer-members served:** 22,700  
**Website:** [reaenergy.com](http://reaenergy.com)

Let us know your theories (with supporting evidence, please) at [communitycorner@prea.com](mailto:communitycorner@prea.com).

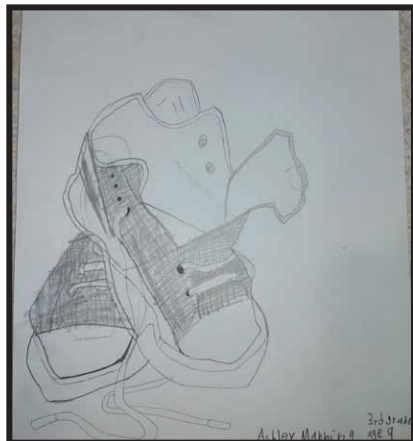


**REST IN PEACE:** Rebecca "Becky" Kring's actual grave is in Dunmyer Cemetery in Salix, Cambria County. Believed to be a witch, Becky passed away with her husband, Samuel, in a house fire. Oddly enough, Becky's ghost reportedly haunts Snavelly Cemetery in Elton, which is several miles away.

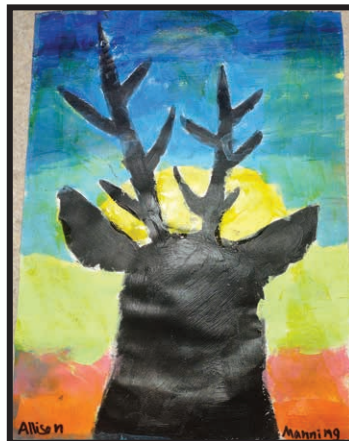
## Two Talented Sisters

This month's artwork comes from Ashley and Allison Manning, ages 9 and 11, respectively. Allison, in honor of the first deer she shot, painted a buck. Ashley, excited to learn she could participate in Community Corner, drew some sneakers. Thank you both for sharing your artwork with us!

*Ashley Manning, age 9,  
 REA Energy Cooperative*



*Allison Manning, age 11,  
 REA Energy Cooperative*



## CALLING ALL KIDS, ages 5 to 17:

Each month, we'll feature the artwork of our young readers (or our readers' youngsters), inspired by something they've read in *Penn Lines*. Paints, pencils, crayons, clay, sand — any physical medium is okay! You may send digital photos of the creation to [CommunityCorner@prea.com](mailto:CommunityCorner@prea.com), but please: no digital artwork.

Please include the artist's name, age and electric cooperative, plus a 25- to 50-word description of the art.



# Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives  
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

## SOMERSET REC

223 Industrial Park Road  
Somerset, PA 15501  
814-445-4106  
800-443-4255

Email: e-mail@somersetrec.com  
Website: www.somersetrec.com

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President

**Jerry L. Engle, District 4**

### Vice President

**Floyd T. Lehman, District 1**

### Secretary/Treasurer

**Lowell L. Friedline, District 3**

**Russ Hillegas, District 2**

**James B. Harrold Sr., District 5**

**P. Timothy Vought, District 6**

**Jason Huston, District 7**

**Joshua C. Sechler, District 8**

**Harvey W. Reckner Jr., District 9**

### Ruston Ogburn

**General Manager**

## STAFF

**Gary Gindlesperger**

*Manager of Information Technology*

**Jonathan Hillegas**

*Director of Finances*

**Andrew Phillippi**

*Manager of Outside Operations*

**Emily Baer**

*Director of Marketing and Member Services*

**Phil Stern**

*Manager of Technical Services*

**Jessi Ditzler**

*Executive Assistant*

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday  
7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

## EMERGENCY OUTAGE NUMBERS

814-445-4106  
800-443-4255

## Weathering the Storms



**RUSTON  
OGBURN**

**YOUR COOPERATIVE REMAINS STEADFAST** in its mission of providing electric service to our members. Our focus on this goal built our capabilities to successfully work through difficult operational, regulatory, and financial issues.

The past several years have introduced new challenges across nearly every aspect of our business. We understand that some issues have not yet been resolved, and we will always face obstacles. However, in several key areas, we believe we have weathered the storms and are stronger for having done so.

## Operations

The massive transition in our generation supply and the projection that data centers will shift load patterns create many unknowns for our electric transmission system and the generation supply that powers it. Nearly all these issues involve regional and national questions that we can provide input on, but ultimately, any solutions will be determined by wider market and regulatory influences. Therefore, we focus our attention on the variables we can more effectively control.

The quality of a distribution system starts with the state of its substations, lines, equipment, and right-of-way maintenance. Since the initial build-out of our system began more than 80 years ago, we have continually updated it to incorporate technological advances and increase the loading capacity. A major priority over the last 30 years has been to increase the back-feeding capability between our substations.

The ability to power a substation from a second source creates a significant benefit for our members during the toughest operational times. Each of our substations has at least one other supply option, and many have multiple back-up sources. This effort took decades to complete but will now be the backbone of our system for generations to come.

It is also worth noting that our substations are either directly connected to a transmission line or can be backfed from a transmission line. These lines are like the interstate highway system for electricity. They have more capacity and higher reliability and become the top priority for restoration after storm damage. Recently, for example, it took utilities north of us five days to restore power to some substations. With redundancy and transmission connections, these times are often cut in half.

Closer to home, the storm that struck the evening before Easter caused heavy damage to the southern portion of our system, breaking 19 poles as wind leveled trees of all sizes. Crews worked through the night and much of Easter Sunday clearing trees and repairing lines. Our Mason Dixon substation lost its power supply in the storm, but crews switched to a backfeed, cutting the restoration time by many hours. Because of this, the number of members without power on Sunday evening went from hundreds to only a few of our most remote members.

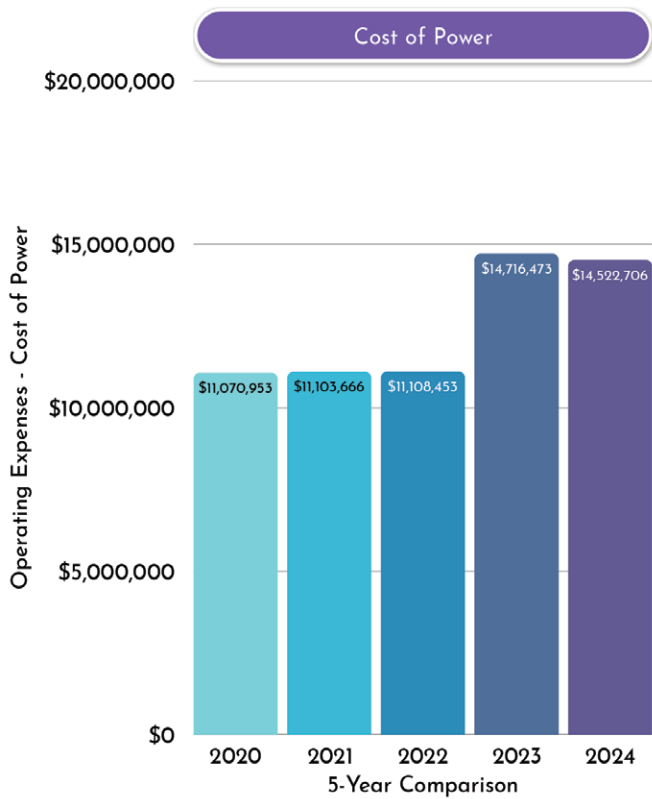
## Supply chain

Disruptions to our supply chain caused us to re-evaluate our business relationships and inventory levels for our field operations and office functionality. As a result, we streamlined the field equipment in our storerooms and added redundancy in our office communication and processing systems. The transition from just-in-time delivery to higher inventory levels required us to increase our expenditures; however, we believe we are now better prepared to handle future disruptions.

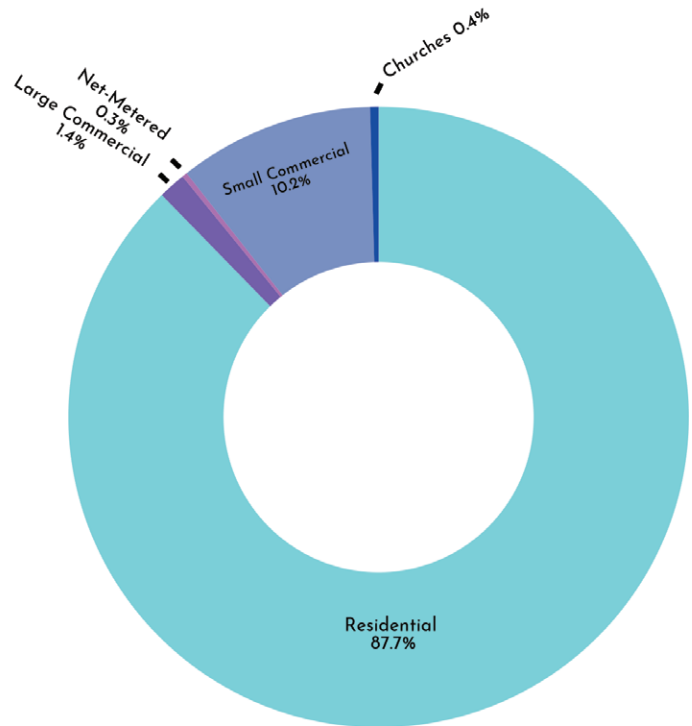
*Continued on page 14D*



## Cost of Power

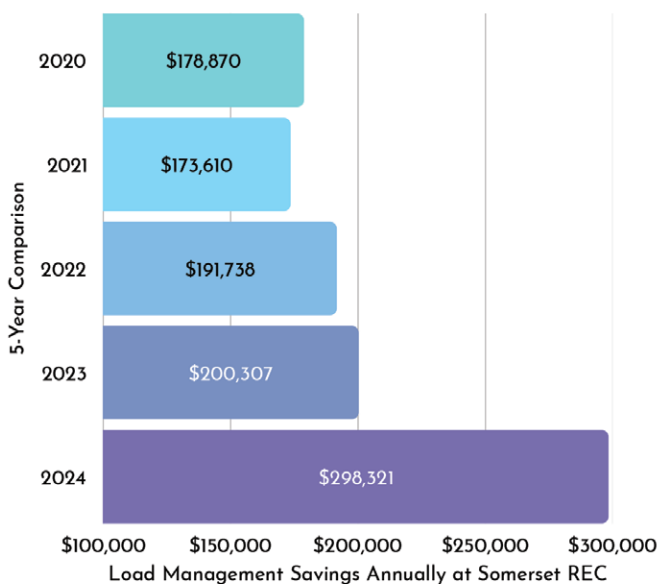


## Member Account Types



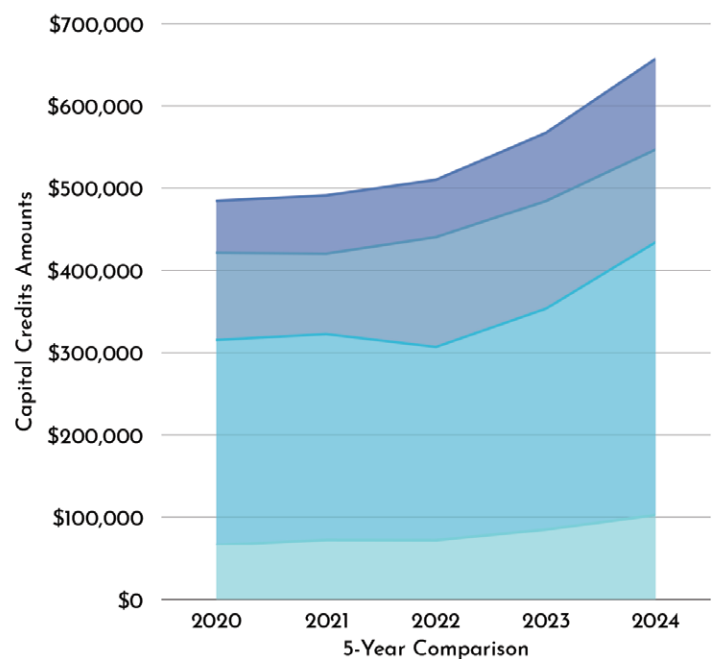
## Load Management Savings

Load management is the process of balancing the supply of electricity on the network with the electrical load by adjusting or controlling the load rather than the power station output.



## Capital Credits

- General Retirement Cashed Checks
- Applied to Electric Account Balances
- Estate Retirement Cashed Checks
- Unclaimed Capital Credits





# Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

## Members' Financial Report of 2024

### Balance Sheets - December 31, 2024 & 2023

	2024	2023		2024	2023
<b>Assets</b>			<b>Equities and Liabilities</b>		
Electric plant in service	\$ 65,923,050	\$ 64,819,689	<b>Equities</b>		
Construction work in progress	\$ 316,661	\$ 465,696	Memberships	\$ 96,735	\$ 99,075
Total Utility Plant	\$ 66,239,711	\$ 65,285,385	Patronage capital	\$ 39,224,791	\$ 37,165,792
Accumulated provision for depreciation	\$(30,073,843)	\$(29,844,633)	Other equities	\$ 1,914,987	\$ 1,797,198
Net Utility Plant	\$ 36,165,868	\$ 35,440,752	Total Member's Equities	\$ 41,236,513	\$ 39,062,065
<b>Investments</b>			<b>Long-Term Liabilities</b>		
Investments in associated organizations	\$ 818,382	\$ 818,382	CFC mortgage notes, less current portion	\$ 4,664,656	\$ 3,709,443
Patronage capital, due from other cooperatives	\$ 10,238,459	\$ 9,289,761	Post-retirement benefit obligation	\$ 974,163	\$ 942,250
Total Investments	\$ 11,056,841	\$ 10,108,143	Total Long-Term Liabilities	\$ 5,638,819	\$ 4,651,693
<b>Current Assets</b>			<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Cash, general	\$ 29,047	\$ 105,046	Current portion CFC mortgage notes	\$ 984,572	\$ 2,493,092
Accounts receivable, consumers, net of accumulated provision for uncollectibles	\$ 2,589,726	\$ 2,405,351	Accounts payable - purchased power	\$ 1,348,302	\$ 1,366,314
Unbilled electric revenues	\$ 550,623	\$ 490,125	Accounts payable - other	\$ 114,361	\$ 243,547
Other receivables	\$ 518,355	\$ 1,197,334	Consumer deposits	\$ 1,203,533	\$ 1,211,149
Materials & supplies	\$ 908,920	\$ 1,023,007	Other current liabilities	\$ 535,204	\$ 541,985
Prepaid expenses	\$ 93,588	\$ 34,186	Deferred credits	\$ 222,371	\$ 588,594
Prepayments	\$ 52,430	\$ 29,469	Accumulated miscellaneous operating provision	\$ 681,723	\$ 674,974
Total Current Assets	\$ 4,742,689	\$ 5,284,518	Total Current Liabilities	\$ 5,090,066	\$ 7,119,655
Deferred Debit	-	-	<b>Total Equities and Liabilities</b>	<b>\$51,965,398</b>	<b>\$ 50,833,413</b>
Total Assets	\$ 51,965,398	\$ 50,833,413			

### Statements of Revenue and Patronage Capital For the Years ended December 31, 2024 & 2023

	2024	2023		2024	2023
<b>Operating Revenue</b>			<b>Operating Margins Before Interest Expense</b>	\$ 1,998,718	\$ 1,311,157
Sales of electric energy	\$ 25,695,835	\$ 24,826,494	Interest expense	\$ 319,633	\$ 272,787
Other operating revenue	\$ 1,273,372	\$ 2,345,557	<b>Operating Margins After Interest Expense</b>	\$ 1,679,085	\$ 1,038,370
Total Operating Revenue	\$ 26,969,207	\$ 27,172,051	<b>Non-operating Margins</b>		
<b>Operating Expenses</b>			Interest income	\$ 39,161	\$ 37,873
Cost of power	\$ 14,522,706	\$ 14,716,473	Gain (loss) on disposition of property	\$ (178,153)	\$ 9,700
Distribution - operation	\$ 2,310,486	\$ 2,357,170	Total Nonoperating Margins	\$ (138,992)	\$ 47,573
Distribution - maintenance	\$ 3,405,204	\$ 3,861,037	Capital Credits	\$ 1,321,528	\$ 701,329
Consumer accounts	\$ 1,007,311	\$ 1,012,738	<b>Net Margins</b>	\$ 2,861,621	\$ 1,787,272
Consumer service & information	\$ 313,632	\$ 326,897	<b>Patronage Capital, Beginning of Year</b>	\$37,165,792	\$ 36,198,946
Administrative & general	\$ 1,319,487	\$ 1,607,829	<b>Retirement of Capital Credits</b>	\$ (802,622)	\$ (708,180)
Depreciation & amortization	\$ 2,091,663	\$ 1,978,750	<b>Patronage Capital, End of Year</b>	<b>\$39,224,791</b>	<b>\$ 37,165,792</b>
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 24,970,489	\$ 25,860,894			

Note: The complete 2024 Audit Report, as audited by Beer Ream Co., is available for inspection at the offices of Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

**FROM THE  
GENERAL MANAGER**

*Continued from page 14A*

## Regulations

It is difficult to quantify the impact regulations have on our cooperative. However, we do know that areas ranging from electric generation to water heaters have driven up costs for our members. Working with our cooperative partners across Pennsylvania and throughout the country, we explain to legislators the impact of these regulations on our members. This work will never be complete. That said, many of the regulatory burdens that were imposed or discussed have been tempered by the understanding that the people at the end of the electric lines will have higher bills and lower reliability if regulations outpace technology.

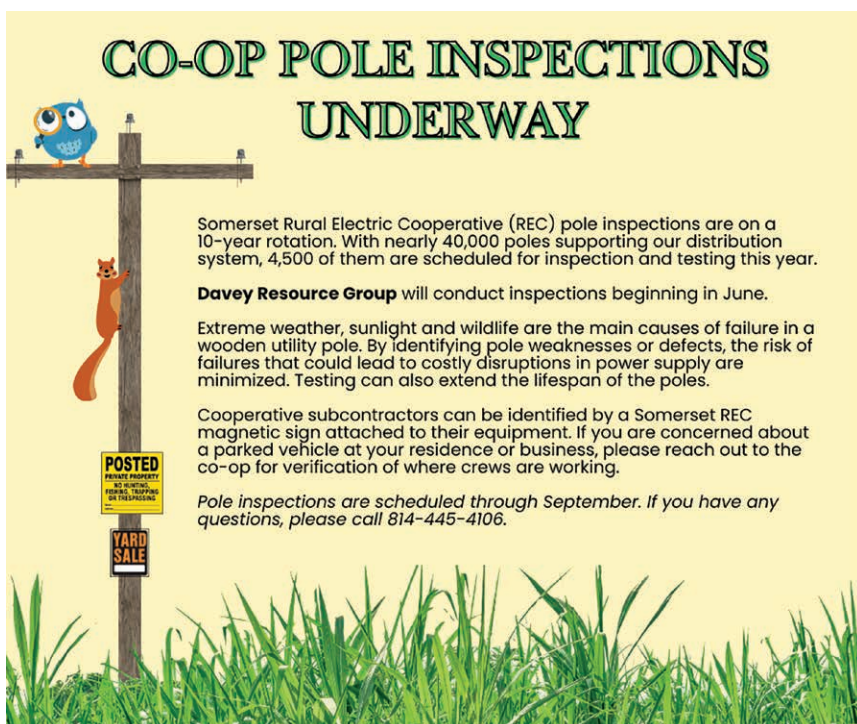
## Finances

The cooperative continues to maintain a high level of equity. We plan to steadily pay down debt and limit our need to borrow, especially during periods of higher interest rates. We believe this financial strength leads to increased long-term reliability by maintaining our options as the electric industry continues to evolve.

Fortunately, if we do need to borrow, we can rely on the relationships developed across the cooperative network. Many of these relationships have been strengthened by financial institutions recognizing the steadiness of electric cooperatives throughout the recent volatility.

Facing these various obstacles in recent years has demonstrated once again that the cooperative model serves our members well. Our work will never be done, but for now, we have weathered these storms and will be ready for what comes next. 🍷

**RUSTON OGBURN**  
GENERAL MANAGER





# DON'T GET OUT

If your machinery, vehicle or other equipment **makes contact with a power line**, guy wire or electrical box, **DO NOT** get out of your cab. Stray power could energize your equipment and the ground.

**To avoid becoming electrocuted:**

- **Call 9-1-1 and wait** for us to arrive to cut the power.
- Wait to exit your cab until the **power is de-energized**.

In rare cases you may need to exit your cab due to smoke or fire. If you must get out, make a solid jump out without touching any part of the tractor or vehicle, and hop away as far as you can, keeping both feet together as you hop.

For more information visit **[SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org)**.



**Safe  
Electricity.org**

# Air Cleaner Options for Your HVAC System

**JAMES DULLEY**

**DEAR JIM:** I need to select an air cleaner for my new HVAC system. We use our fireplace often, and our son has allergies. What type of air cleaner should we consider? – *Kathy H.*

**DEAR KATHY:** Allergen sizes vary significantly, and this will impact the selection of the best air cleaner or filter for your family.

Installing the highest-filtration air cleaner is not necessarily the best choice for every home. Some can

increase the air-flow resistance in the ducts to the point where the HVAC efficiency drops. With lower air-flow rates, fewer allergens will make it to the air-cleaner element to be removed.

## What is a 'MERV'?

The minimum efficiency reporting value (MERV) rating is a good guide for comparing air cleaners. The value is determined by testing how many various-sized particles the filter blocks and can range from 1 to 16. A typical cheap 1-inch-thick fiberglass filter is about MERV 2 at best. A filter used in hospitals for surgery may be MERV 16. My own geothermal heat pump uses a MERV 11 filter.

Many common allergens (pollen, pet dander, dust mites) are relatively large and can be removed by a MERV 4 filter. Mold spores vary in size, but a MERV 7 filter can remove most of them. Removing fireplace and tobacco smoke requires a minimum of MERV 13.

High-MERV replacement filters cost more and must be replaced more often. If your son's allergy tests indicate a high-MERV filter is needed, have your heating contractor install a large air cleaner. Again, this will be more expensive, but each filter should last longer without causing air-flow resistance. The MERV 11 filter in my geothermal heat pump is 30-by-32-by-2-inches.

Most of the filters above MERV 7 use some type of pleated media. This is folded back and forth like an accordion in a stiff paper frame, often with some reinforcing wire mesh. Two-inch thick is most common. Thicker filters, up to 6 inches, do not necessarily filter better, but they can hold more particles before needing to be replaced. This may save some money in the long term.

Keep in mind, a central filter only removes allergens that reach it. This

is why also running a small-room air cleaner is important when trying to manage allergies.

## Other filter options

For families without allergies, installing a 1-inch-thick pleated media filter is adequate. Its main purpose is to keep dust and dirt from getting into the heat exchanger coils inside the heat pump. Dirty coils can inhibit heat transfer and reduce the system's efficiency.

Washable electrostatic air cleaners can be effective, too. The air flowing over the filter media creates a natural static charge, causing particles to stick to it. Rinsing it in the bathtub neutralizes the charge and the particles wash away. These air cleaners are somewhat more expensive, but can last and be effective for years.

The Cadillac of air cleaners uses a combination of thick-pleated media and electrostatic grids, offering the advantages of both. Most furnace manufacturers offer these combination systems which are programmed to work with their computerized thermostats.

Another effective air cleaner option uses electricity to charge collector plates, which particles will then stick to. When the plates get dirty, the assembly can be slipped out and washed with soap and water.

Electronic air cleaners are thick and require extensive duct modifications. The initial cost is high, but there are no regular replacement costs and they use very little electricity. These are most effective for removing tiny smoke particles, rather than larger allergens. 📧



**DUCT WORK:** Because it's much thicker than a standard fiberglass filter, a pleated media air cleaner usually requires professional installation because duct modifications are necessary.

**HAVE A QUESTION FOR JIM?** Send inquiries to James Dulley, Penn Lines, 6906 Royalgreen Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45244 or visit [dulley.com](http://dulley.com).



# Generational Wealth

A future for generations to come



PLACE YOUR  
ORDER TODAY

**\$369** ea.

Minimum order of 5 coins

**GENERATIONAL WEALTH** is of paramount significance as it represents a beacon of financial stability. It serves as **a tangible testament to the hard work, diligence, and financial acumen** of previous generations, offering a solid foundation upon which future generations can build their dreams and aspirations.

**American Gold Reserve** is releasing Government issued **\$5 Gold American Eagles** completely free of dealer mark-up for only \$369 each. These beautiful \$5 Gold American Eagles are a perfect way to enter the gold market. They are set for immediate public release and **will sell out fast**.

## LIMITED OFFER

Special arrangements on orders over \$50,000

Mention vault release code: **AMS-PL55**



- Free of dealer markup.
- Protection against inflation and deflation.
- Gold offers financial cover during geopolitical uncertainty.
- Good portfolio diversifier.

24 hours - 7 days a week

**1-866-852-3346**



**AMERICAN  
GOLD RESERVE**

Strict limit of 10 per house hold, per lifetime. For new clients only.

# Summer Fun: Saving Money While Making Memories

**ABIGAIL ZIEGER**

**AH, SUMMERTIME. FREEDOM FROM SCHOOL,** from waking up early, from homework and from a long list of other activities our kids deem undesirable. With that freedom comes many fun and — let's face it — often expensive alternatives. The cost of camps, amusement parks, pool memberships, trips to the beach and other typical bucket-list activities can add up quickly, especially if you have more than one child.

Thankfully, there are lots of frugal ways to have fun together this summer as a family while also making memories. I asked my family to help me come up with a list of favorite warm-weather pastimes that were either free or inexpensive. They did not disappoint.

## Woods, water and local adventures

The first idea my kids had was going for a hike. Pennsylvania is home to more than 100 state parks and 2.2 million acres of state forest, none of which charge an entry fee. These state lands are wonderful places to explore endless miles of trails, but they also offer plenty of other fun things to do. You can visit natural features like beautiful waterfalls or giant boulders, pack a picnic, or try a new sport like disc golf or canoeing. They're also a great place to learn about wildlife, conservation, traditions and regional history through park programming.

Another one of my kids' favorite summer activities is water fun. Every summer, I put out a cheap kiddie pool along with a hose and some squirt guns. Even though they can't really swim in the shallow water, the kids jump in and splash around to cool off. We've also gotten great deals on Slip 'N Slides and similar things in years past. Our absolute favorite, however, is the creek that runs behind our house. Not much can beat the hours spent floating, hunting for crayfish, and skipping stones — and it's sure hard to beat the price.

Our kids also enjoy going to local events. Small-town summer festivals are a great way to get to know your

neighbors and enjoy activities like car shows, taste tests, live entertainment, and more. Sometimes, historical sites and museums hold special events with re-enactments, demonstrations, and educational talks for little-to-no cost. We are lucky to have a small historic theater in our town that offers free movie days, classes and day camps for kids. And don't forget your local library; ours holds lots of free summer programming for everyone from toddlers to teens.

Sometimes, we go on an adventure to a nearby town. Pennsylvania small towns are known for their charm, and driving just a short distance from home can unveil new treasures. We personally enjoy perusing antique shops,

visiting small museums and checking out local landmarks, whether they're colorful painted statues or covered bridges. Even if your budget isn't large, you can have a ton of fun just exploring a new place.

## Or maybe stay in?

What about rainy nights? Those are the perfect time to stay in, grab some favorite snacks and sit on the couch watching a favorite movie. At times, we opt to dig through memories, looking at old photos or using our "vintage" record player. When thunderstorms hit and the power goes out, we love to break out candles and headlamps and

play a board or card game. Family read-alouds, drawing or even indoor catch are other personal favorites.

As you can see, there are a multitude of fun and frugal activities to try with your family this summer. I bet you can think of even more ideas!

Big family vacations and excursions are wonderful, but if you're looking to save a buck, you often don't have to look much farther than your own town. It doesn't cost a dime to make memories that will last a lifetime. 🍷



**ABIGAIL ZIEGER** is a music teacher and singer by trade, but also enjoys capturing life experiences through writing. When not singing, teaching or typing, she can be found working in her kitchen, helping her kids with school or consuming copious amounts of coffee. A member of Claverack Rural Electric Cooperative, Abigail lives with her husband and four children in northeast Pennsylvania.



# IT'S CONTEST TIME!

*Penn Lines* has a big birthday coming up, and we want you to be a part of our 60th anniversary celebration. Before the confetti flies in 2026, though, **we're kicking off a handful of photo contests this year; enter one — or all three.**

**CONTEST NO. 1 – OLDEST ISSUE OF PENN LINES!** If you have an oldie but a goodie around the house, take a photo of it with you. Please make sure the publication date is visible.

**CONTEST NO. 2 – MOST WELL-TRAVELED PENN LINES!**

Take your favorite copy of *Penn Lines* beyond the borders of the Commonwealth. Send us a photo of you holding the magazine at your destination in front of a recognizable landmark or a sign that tells where you are. Also include a 50- to 100-word essay about where you were and why you brought that issue.

**CONTEST NO. 3 – A DATE WITH PENN LINES!** We'll be honest: We like it when we get to go to some place nice. Take your favorite issue of *Penn Lines* to a special place in your community and take a photo of yourself with it.

**FOR ALL CONTESTS, WE WILL NEED:** your name, address, daytime telephone number, the month and year of the magazine, and the name of the cooperative that serves your home, business, or seasonal residence.

**PRIZES:** \$50 gift card for each contest winner; the winning photos will be featured in a 2026 *Penn Lines* issue.

**DEADLINE:**  
Friday, Oct. 31

**SEND ENTRIES TO:**  
PennLines@prea.com  
(put "60 Years of PL" in the subject line) or  
*Penn Lines* Editor/  
60 Years of PL,  
P.O. Box 1266,  
Harrisburg, PA  
17108-1266



**Selling Land Is Our Pride And Priority!**

Timberland Realty is an owner of the largest land marketing network in the U.S.



- ✓ Rural Properties
- ✓ Recreational
- ✓ Farms, Camps, Vacant
- ✓ Timberland, Investment

Call: (716) 962-9935

Email: info@timberlandrealty.net



Visit [timberlandrealty.net](http://timberlandrealty.net), [LandLeader.com](http://LandLeader.com)  
Member - MyState MLS

**Have something to sell?**

**Place a *PENN LINES* ad today!**

Reach more than 168,000 rural Pennsylvania households!  
Advertise in *PENN LINES*.

Visit our website at  
[www.prea.com/penn-lines-magazine](http://www.prea.com/penn-lines-magazine)  
or call 717.233.5704

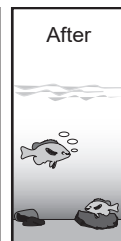


## KILL LAKE WEEDS

Proven **AQUACIDE PELLETS**  
Marble size pellets. Works at any depth.



Before



After

**10 lb. bag**  
treats up to  
4,000 sq.ft.  
**\$140.00**

**50 lb. bag**  
treats up to  
20,000 sq.ft.  
**\$498.00**

**FREE SHIPPING!** Certified and approved for use by state agencies. State permit may be required. Registered with the Federal E. P. A.

**800-328-9350**

**[www.Aquacide.com](http://www.Aquacide.com)**

Order today online, or request free information.

Our 70th year

**AQUACIDE CO.**

PO Box 10748, DEPT 643  
White Bear Lake, MN 55110-0748



*Continued from page 11*

activity,” Welch notes. “We wanted a fun event that all Pennsylvanians could participate in.”

In addition to being an exercise program, Everybody Walk Across Pennsylvania is an educational effort that focuses on different health resources offered by Penn State Extension. Each week, participants receive an email with nutrition information and health tips.

Operating for more than 10 years, the program has many repeat participants. Also, a chart is available that converts other types of exercise into walking so that people who swim, for example, can calculate how many miles they would have “walked” to get the same benefit. Participants are encouraged to average 10 miles of walking or exercise per week.

Walkers can go it alone; however, many sign up in teams of three or five. Each team logs its miles, and members can compare their progress to other teams, setting up some friendly competition. Welch says a number of businesses have multiple teams, based on departments, that compete head-to-head.

“Most people are more likely to exercise if they are

accountable to others on a team,” Welch says.

The virtual program is offered once in the spring and once in the fall, and each session focuses on a different theme. One year the theme was state parks, and Route 66 was highlighted another year. The spring program is currently underway, but registration for the fall session begins this month with a start date in September. Interested participants are encouraged to sign up at [extension.psu.edu/everybody-walk-across-pa](http://extension.psu.edu/everybody-walk-across-pa).

Over the last three years, Welch reports the program had 3,555 registered participants from throughout the United States. Of those, 65% have been part of the program for one to three years. In addition, 97% report increased physical activity; 88% consistently accessed health and wellness articles; 77% explored recipes provided by Penn State Extension; and 49% were motivated to adopt healthier eating habits.

Welch says the program’s statistics speak for themselves: “It’s a fun, educational way to get people more active and involved.” 📌





# TAKE A HIKE!

Visitpa.com, the state's official tourism website, recently released a list of trails in Pennsylvania worth exploring on foot or by bicycle. Many are in counties served by rural electric cooperatives.

Here's a sampling:

- **The Great Shamokin Path in Armstrong County:** Tracing a section of the abandoned Rural Valley Railroad corridor, this trail parallels the Cowanshannock Creek for 3.5 miles. Once a major trail that connected two of the largest Native American towns in Pennsylvania, it offers beautiful views of western Pennsylvania.
- **Standing Stone Trail in Huntingdon, Mifflin and Fulton counties:** The 84-mile trail – named the 2016 Trail of the Year – traverses central Pennsylvania ridges and valleys from Cowans Gap State Park in the south to the Mid-State Trail in the north. More than 80% of the trail passes through state-owned forests and game lands.
- **Pine Creek Rail Trail in Tioga and Lycoming counties:** This trail offers a spectacular, 62-mile journey through Pine Creek Gorge, better known as the Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania.
- **The Allegrippis Trails in Huntingdon County:** Built by the International Mountain Bicycling Association, this trail system wanders around Raystown Lake. At Trough Creek State Park, trek to Balanced Rock, a boulder that has hung on the side of a cliff for thousands of years, and Rainbow Falls, which is along the footpath to Balanced Rock.
- **D&H Trail at Lehigh Gorge State Park in Lackawanna, Susquehanna, and Wayne counties:** This 38-mile path traces the route of the former Delaware and Hudson Railroad, a small but vital rail line during the 1800s. The multi-use trail runs for several miles along the Lackawanna River and alternates between tree-lined sections and open stretches with vestiges of the region's coal-mining heritage.
- **Heritage Rail Trail County Park in York County:** The 21.5-mile trail runs from York to the Maryland border and includes the Howard Tunnel, four railroad bridges, New Freedom Train Station and the Hanover Junction Train Station, all of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- **Great Allegheny Passage in Allegheny and Somerset counties:** One of the nation's most popular rail trails, this trail begins at Point State Park in Pittsburgh and crosses into Maryland, eventually reaching Washington, D.C. Spanning 150 miles from Pittsburgh to Cumberland, Md., the scenic trail connects with the 184.5-mile C&O Canal Towpath, creating a 333-mile non-motorized route between Pittsburgh and the nation's capital.
- **Montour Trail in Washington and Allegheny counties:** The 63-mile multi-use trail system follows the route of the former Montour Railroad and Peters Creek Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad between Coraopolis and Clairton. It connects with Pittsburgh International Airport, the Panhandle Trail and the Great Allegheny Passage.
- **Jakes Rocks Epic Mountain Bike Trail System in Warren County:** These professionally designed and constructed trails, which provide opportunities for all skill levels and ages, wind through natural boulders and scenic forests in Allegheny National Forest. Jakes Rocks was named Pennsylvania's Trail of the Year in 2024.

- **Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail in Fayette, Somerset, Westmoreland and Cambria counties:** Enjoy the picturesque Youghiogheny River and Laurel Mountain during a hike along this 70-mile trail that offers both challenging sections for seasoned backpackers, as well as reasonably easy, level sections for the casual hiker. A must-stop regardless of hiking prowess is the Ohiopyle State Park with breathtaking views and waterfalls.
- **Allegheny National Forest in Elk, Forest, McKean and Warren counties:** Pennsylvania's only designated national forest celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2023. At 96.3 miles, the North Country National Scenic Trail is the longest in the forest and one of three National Scenic Trails in Pennsylvania. It takes visitors to vistas of the Allegheny Reservoir, passing through rock outcroppings, open hardwoods, old-growth forests and stands of hemlock.
- **Pine Grove Furnace State Park in Cumberland County:** Nestled deep in Michaux State Forest near Chambersburg, this park features 4 miles of looping trails, scenic overlooks, and Laurel and Fuller lakes. The park's wooded, mountainous terrain attracts hikers of all skill levels.
- **Ricketts Glen State Park in Columbia, Luzerne and Sullivan counties:** A National Natural Landmark, this park is best characterized by the Falls Trail System, a difficult, 7.2-mile trail that provides views of 22 waterfalls. Other trails traverse the park's 13,193 acres, including the short Beach Trail that runs by the park's swimming area and the Grand View Trail, which leads to the highest point on Red Rock Mountain.
- **Quehanna Trail in Clearfield, Cameron and Elk counties:** This 72.6-mile loop hiking trail in the Moshannon and Elk state forests passes through some of the most wild and beautiful country Pennsylvania offers. The main, orange-blazed trail begins on the western end at Parker Dam State Park. From there, the trail goes east into the Quehanna Wild Area toward Karthaus and Piper, then north toward Sinnemahoning, and finally west through the Marion Brooks Natural Area back to Parker Dam.
- **Presque Isle State Park in Erie County:** The state park offers 11 miles of hiking trails with scenic views of Pennsylvania's only seashore. These sandy trails offer a glimpse at the beautiful coastline of this National Natural Landmark, known as a favorite spot for migrating birds.

## PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK



# Get 'Dressed' for Summer

ANNE M. KIRCHNER

PHOTOS BY ANNE M. KIRCHNER



**ELEVATE YOUR SUMMER SALADS** with homemade dressings. Traditional vinaigrettes include olive oil for the base and a select vinegar. Dijon mustard is often used for flavor complexity and smoothness. Adding a sweetener, such as honey or maple syrup, balances the vinegar, and minced garlic offers a savory taste.

Creamy salad dressings offer a flavorful, mouth-watering option. The thick base works well with mixed greens and meats. Often, the base includes butter-milk or mayonnaise. Mix the base with an acid, such as vinegar or lemon juice. You can also enjoy creamy salad dressings as a vegetable dip. 🥗

**ANNE M. KIRCHNER** focuses her writing on human connections, travel and culinary arts, researching food origins, exploring cooking techniques, and creating new recipes.

## VERMONT KALE SALAD

- 6 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 1 tablespoon maple syrup
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- ½ teaspoon coarse black pepper
- 8 to 10 ounces kale
- ½ cup dried cranberries
- 1 cup blueberries
- ½ cup pumpkin seeds

Whisk together the olive oil, vinegar, mustard, maple syrup, garlic, salt and pepper. Set aside. Tear the kale leaves into bite-sized pieces and place in a serving bowl. Pour the vinaigrette over the kale and massage gently. Add the remaining ingredients and toss. Serve immediately. *Makes 4 to 6 servings.*



## STEAK SALAD WITH PEPPER PARMESAN DRESSING

- ¼ cup buttermilk
- ¼ cup lemon juice
- ½ cup sour cream
- ½ cup mayonnaise
- ½ cup grated parmesan
- 1 tablespoon Italian seasoning
- 1½ tablespoons coarse cracked pepper
- ½ teaspoon kosher salt
- 8 to 10 ounces mixed greens
- 1 pint grape tomatoes, halved
- 1 English cucumber, sliced
- ¼ cup red onion, thinly sliced
- 1 pound sirloin steak, grilled and thinly sliced

Whisk together the buttermilk, lemon juice, sour cream, mayonnaise, parmesan, Italian seasoning, cracked pepper and salt in a small bowl. Refrigerate the salad dressing until serving time. Serve the dressing over a bed of mixed greens topped with tomatoes, cucumbers, red onion and steak slices. *Makes 4 to 6 servings.*



## BLT SALAD WITH THOUSAND ISLAND DRESSING

- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons ketchup
- 2 tablespoons sweet pickle relish
- ¼ cup yellow onion, minced
- ½ teaspoon sweet paprika
- ¼ teaspoon kosher salt
- 8 to 10 ounces mixed greens
- 1 pint grape tomatoes, halved
- 8 ounces bacon, cooked and crumbled
- 1 cup croutons

Whisk together the mayonnaise, lemon juice, ketchup, relish, onion, paprika and salt in a small mixing bowl. Refrigerate the salad dressing until serving time. Serve the dressing over a bed of mixed greens topped with tomatoes, bacon and croutons. *Makes 4 to 6 servings.*



# The 'Bad' Worm that Could Be Ruining Your Soil

GEORGE WEIGEL

**EARTHWORMS HAVE LONG BEEN A** gardener's friend: aerating the soil with their tunneling, breaking down organic matter and leaving behind nutritious "castings" in the process.

But there's a relatively new worm in town, and this one is as destructive to the soil as good ol' earthworms are helpful.

The newcomer is commonly known as the "jumping worm," an Asian species that gets its name from its distinctively hyperactive, thrashing habit.

If you're out there digging this summer and notice worms that seem to be agitated and writhing, you likely have jumping worms. Mid-to-late summer is when they're most active.

## Fidgety, ravenous feeders

Unlike "normal" European earthworms that calmly squiggle and benefit the soil, jumping worms are fidgety, ravenous feeders that deplete the soil of organic matter and nutrition.

They're really not all that new to America, though, since they apparently first arrived on American shores in the late 1800s from Korea, China and Japan. However, it's only been the last five years that jumping worms have become a noticeable problem in Pennsylvania.

The state Department of Agriculture's Invasive Species Council has now classified jumping worms as an "emerging threat," while the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources reports sightings of this soil destroyer throughout Pennsylvania.

"If you poke them, pick them up or dig them up, they flail all about as a defense mechanism against predators," Penn State University entomologist Michael Skvarla says in a Penn State Extension video. "They'll flip all around. It's very obvious once you've seen it."

Also known as the "snake worm,"



**DON'T BE FOOLED:** At first glance, the "jumping worm," above, may look like a typical earthworm, which do wonders for soil. Don't be fooled: These worms are relatively new to Pennsylvania and are destructive.

"Alabama jumper" and "crazy worm," jumping worms consume leaf litter at twice the rate of European worms, Skvarla says.

That leads to the loss of the soil's protective cushion of decaying organic matter — opening forest floors and garden beds to bare spots, erosion and weed invasion.

Instead of a soft, healthy "duff" layer, jumping worms leave behind a soil texture that resembles coffee grounds.

What's more, Skvarla says, jumping-worm castings (i.e., poop) are slow to break down, locking nutrients that otherwise would feed the soil.

## Taking over

Jumping worms grow and reproduce faster than European earthworms, allowing them to completely displace all other worms, according to University of Massachusetts researchers.

Unlike European earthworms that tunnel underground in winter and typically live for three to four years, jumping worms are an annual species. Adults lay egg-containing cocoons that overwinter in soil, then begin hatching in April once soil temperatures reach 50 degrees.

The adults die off in fall once temperatures drop below freezing.

Jumping worms are asexual, meaning they don't need a male

and a female to mate. Even just one jumping worm that rides into a garden on a potted plant or in a load of topsoil is capable of igniting a new colony.

How to head off jumping-worm trouble?

The University of Massachusetts and Penn State Extension offer these five bits of advice:

**1)** Inspect the pots of any new plants for jumping worms before planting. Bag and toss any jumping worms you find.

**2)** Inspect any bulk materials you buy (mulch, compost, topsoil, etc.) before spreading them. Ask suppliers if they've heat-treated the materials to a temperature of at least 130 degrees for at least three days. Otherwise, as a precaution, cover the pile with clear plastic for several days or stick with bagged materials.

**3)** Check your soil and compost for jumping worms, especially if you notice the coffee-grounds-like texture. The worms are usually close to the surface.

Hand-pick, bag and toss manageable populations. To drive jumping worms to the surface, drench the soil with a solution of one-third cup of dry mustard (ground yellow mustard seed) in 1 gallon of water.

**4)** For larger outbreaks, solarize soil in late spring. This involves stretching a sheet of clear plastic over bare areas for at least two or three weeks, baking the soil and killing overwintering cocoons.

**5)** Do not buy or use jumping worms for fishing bait or vermicomposting. Avoid releasing any unused bait into the garden. 🐛

**GEORGE WEIGEL** is a retired horticulturist, author of two books about gardening in Pennsylvania, and garden columnist for *The Patriot-News*/PennLive.com in Harrisburg. His website is [georgeweigel.net](http://georgeweigel.net).

## ISSUE MONTH      AD DEADLINE

August 2025	June 16
September	July 15
October	August 15

Please note ads must be received by the due date to be included in requested issue month; ads received after the due date will run in next issue. Written notice of changes/cancellations must be received 30 days prior to issue month.

**No ads accepted by phone/email.** For more information, please call 717-233-5704.

### CLASSIFIED AD SUBMISSION/RATES:

#### ELECTRIC CO-OP MEMBERS:

\$20 per month for 30 words or less, plus 50¢ for each additional word.

#### NON-MEMBERS:

\$70 per month for 30 words or less, plus \$1.50 for each additional word.

#### SPECIAL HEADINGS:

\$5 for co-op members, \$10 for non-members. The special heading fee applies to any heading not listed under "FREE HEADINGS," even if the heading is already appearing in *Penn Lines*. For ads running a special heading in consecutive months, the fee is a one-time fee of either \$5 (members) or \$10 (non-members) for all consecutive insertions.

#### PAYMENT:

**Please make CHECK/MONEY ORDER payable to: PREA/Penn Lines.** Insertion of classified ad serves as proof of publication; no proofs supplied.

#### SEND COMPLETED AD COPY AND PAYMENT TO:

*Penn Lines Classifieds*  
P.O. Box 1266  
Harrisburg, PA 17108-1266

#### PLEASE SUBMIT A CLEARLY WRITTEN OR TYPED SHEET WITH THE FOLLOWING REQUIRED INFORMATION:

- ☐ Cooperative members should please submit the mailing label from *Penn Lines* as proof of membership.
- ☐ Non-members should submit name, address, phone number, and email address, if applicable.
- ☐ Month(s) in which the ad is to run.
- ☐ Ad copy as it is to appear in the publication.
- ☐ Heading ad should appear under, or name of special heading (additional fee). See below for FREE heading options.

#### FREE HEADINGS:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Around the House         | <input type="checkbox"/> Motor Vehicles & Boats |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Opportunities   | <input type="checkbox"/> Nursery & Garden       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employment Opportunities | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Events                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Recipes & Food         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gifts & Collectibles     | <input type="checkbox"/> Tools & Equipment      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Livestock & Pets         | <input type="checkbox"/> Travel & Tourism       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Miscellaneous            | <input type="checkbox"/> Wanted to Buy          |

# CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

## AA ROOFING

EXPERTS IN HARD-TO-FIND LEAKS! Roof repairs – all types. House, barn roofs painted. Slate work, chimney repairs. Southwestern Pa. for over 40 years. Speedyservice! 814-445-4400.

## AROUND THE HOUSE

CLOCK REPAIR: If you have an antique grandfather clock, mantel clock or old pocket watch that needs restored, we can fix any timepiece. Macks Clock Repair: 814-421-7992.

MARK'S TREE SERVICE. Licensed, insured. Removals, trimming, stump grinding. Serving: York, Hanover, Southern York, Northern Baltimore County. Since 1980. Free estimates. Mark Eric Fix, 717-891-2735.

B&L TREE SERVICE. Topping, removals, pruning, stump grinding, land clearing. Licensed and insured. Please give us a call or text 814-494-1578.

SPECIAL OFFER – BOTH COOKBOOKS FOR \$12. "Country Cooking" – \$5, including postage. "Recipes Remembered" – \$7, including postage. Both cookbooks are a collection of recipes from men and women of the electric co-ops of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Payable to: Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association, P.O. Box 1266, Harrisburg, PA 17108. Write Attention: Cookbooks.

## BUILDING SUPPLIES

STEEL ROOFING AND SIDING. Over 30 years in business. Several profiles cut to length. 29- and 26-gauge best quality residential roofing – 40-year warranty. Also, seconds, heavy gauges, accessories, etc. Installation available. Located northwestern Pennsylvania. 814-398-4052.

FACTORY SECONDS of insulation, 4 x 8 sheets, foil back. R-value 6.5 per inch. Great for pole buildings, garages, etc. Many thicknesses available. Also blue board insulation sheets. 814-442-6032.

## COINS & BULLION

KEYSTONE COIN & BULLION is buying and selling gold, silver, U.S. coins and currency. Collections, estates, gold and silver jewelry, sterling silver flatware, etc. We pay in CASH. Call us today! Christine or Matt at 814-631-6914. Visit us online or follow us on Facebook! [www.keystonecoinbullion.com](http://www.keystonecoinbullion.com).

## CONCRETE REPAIR

WE REPAIR CONCRETE! Concrete resurfacing, patching, sealing and expansion joint caulking. We travel within a two-hour radius of Shippensburg, Pa. Morgan Concrete Services, 717-372-6644.

## CONSULTING FORESTRY SERVICES

RAYSTOWN FORESTRY CONSULTING. Timber sales, appraisals, wildlife habitat management. Dedicated to sustainable harvests for present and future generations to enjoy. 45 years experience. 814-448-0040 or 814-448-2405.

## DUMPSTER RENTAL

ROLL-OFF DUMPSTER RENTAL SERVICE available in Adams, Cumberland, Franklin, and Fulton counties, Pa., and beyond. Contact us for pricing and scheduling. 717-860-6274 or [heckconstruction33853@gmail.com](mailto:heckconstruction33853@gmail.com). Heck Construction, based in Orrstown, PA 17244.

## EXCAVATING & CONSTRUCTION

FULL-SERVICE EXCAVATING, HAULAGE, sewage system, road and pond building needs, Remodeling, building camps of any size, wood or steel buildings, and garages. Licensed contractor. Moore Contracting LLC. 814-590-2084 or 814-541-0231.

## GIFTS & COLLECTIBLES

SPECIAL OFFER – BOTH COOKBOOKS FOR \$12. "Country Cooking" – \$5, including postage. "Recipes Remembered" – \$7, including postage. Both cookbooks are a collection of recipes from men and women of the electric co-ops of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Payable to: Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association, P.O. Box 1266, Harrisburg, PA 17108. Write Attention: Cookbooks.

## HEALTH INSURANCE

DO YOU HAVE THE BLUES regarding your health insurance? We cater to rural America's health insurance needs. For more information, call 800-628-7804. Call us regarding Medicare supplements, too.

## HEATING & COOLING - GEOTHERMAL

SAVE UP TO 70% IN HEATING, COOLING AND HOT WATER COSTS with a geothermal comfort system from WaterFurnace. Benefits include energy savings, comfort, quiet, safety, reliability, and long life. Find out if geothermal is right for you at [waterfurnace.com/Concierge](http://waterfurnace.com/Concierge) or call 1-800-GEO-SAVE.

## HEATING & COOLING

GARY & SONS, INC., HEATING AND COOLING – Beat the heat this summer with new or improved air conditioning! Get a heat pump to provide A/C now and help with winter fuel use – use alone or with your current system. Gary & Sons can provide all your heating and cooling needs, test indoor air quality, and clean air ducts and dryer vents. We are a Lennox Premier Dealer and Mitsubishi Diamond Elite Contractor, but we service all brands. Located in Falls Creek, Pa., visit [garysinc.com](http://garysinc.com) or call 814-204-2633. Payment plans offered. PA192811.

## MEATS

ANGUS FREEZER BEEF. \$3.00/LB. HANGING WEIGHT, plus processing. No antibiotics or hormones, grass-fed, grain-finished, excellent marbling. By the quarter, half or whole – discount for halves and multiple quarters. Allison Farmz, Alexandria, Pa. 814-669-4014.

CALLING ALL MEAT-EATERS! Get ready to fill your freezer with high-quality Black Angus beef. Quarter, half or whole. Our family farm raises all-natural, grass-fed, grain-finished cattle. [www.mcmullenbeef.com](http://www.mcmullenbeef.com). 814-674-2332.



## MISCELLANEOUS

FOR SALE: BUCKETS, FORKS, THUMBS, grapple buckets and pallet forks for skid loaders, backhoes, and excavators. Tires for backhoes, rubber tire loaders and excavators also. Call 814-329-0118.

40' AMERICAN TOWER, FOUR 10' SECTIONS, includes pole mast with plate plus bell antenna rotator. \$500 or best offer. Must pick up in Dover, Pa. Call 717-292-9449 or email [wlkseaside@yahoo.com](mailto:wlkseaside@yahoo.com).

## NURSERY & GARDEN

TREES AND SHRUBS for all your landscaping needs. Rare, unusual, amazing. Bloomfield Nursery, 167 Sproul Mountain Road, Roaring Spring, PA 16673. 814-224-4508.

## POWDER COATING

ALMOST ANYTHING METAL can be powder coated: auto parts, lawn furniture, wheels, etc. Restores, protects, preserves. 1,200-degree manifold coating. Arthurs Powder Coating, 263 Sexton Road, Indiana, PA 15701. 724-349-3770.

## REAL ESTATE

VIRGINIA'S EASTERN SHORE. Fishermen and beach lover's paradise. Access Chesapeake Bay or Atlantic Ocean within minutes. Waterside Village 3/4-acre homesites Near Marina from \$21,900 with fenced and locked RV/camper storage available. Beach access nearby. Waterfront Sites available on bayside and seaside starting at \$115,000. Many free boat ramps within minutes. Low, low taxes. [Kirkwoodontheshore.com](http://Kirkwoodontheshore.com). 757-678-7631.

LOOKING TO BUY OR SELL? Timberland Realty specializes in land, sporting properties, camps, cabins, farms, waterfront, exquisite second homes and timberland since 1987. Call our office at 716-962-9935 or agents by region - Western Pa.: Ron Westover, 724-422-5525. Central Pa.: John Rudy, 717-319-0082. Northern Pa.: Dave Anderson, 585-808-5696. Brian Bullard, Managing Broker, 716-499-5608. [www.timberland-realty.net](http://www.timberland-realty.net).

CEDAR RUN STORE WITH COTTAGE IN LYCOMING COUNTY! Historic building with upstairs apartment and adjacent cottage. Ice cream, lunches and souvenir sales. Seasonal business. \$545,000. Lisa Linn, Davis Real Estate, Inc. 570-748-8550.

CLEARFIELD COUNTY - 9.44 ACRES, four bedrooms, 1 bath, horse barn, shop, pasture, \$249,000. Cambria County - 18.2 acres, mostly fields, gas well, with option to purchase gas rights, \$109,000; Clearfield County - 502 acres, wooded, two streams, wilderness land, \$1,499,000; [www.timberlandrealty.net](http://www.timberlandrealty.net). Ron Westover: 724-422-5525, 716-962-9935.

## RECIPES & FOOD

SPECIAL OFFER - BOTH COOKBOOKS FOR \$12. "Country Cooking" - \$5, including postage. "Recipes Remembered" - \$7, including postage. Both cookbooks are a collection of recipes from men and women of the electric co-ops of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Payable to: Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association, P.O. Box 1266, Harrisburg, PA 17108. Write Attention: Cookbooks.

## TIMESHARE CANCELLATION

STOP BEING A TIMESHARE VICTIM! TimeShareBeGone will get your timeshare legally cancelled. 100% money-back guarantee. A+ BBB rating, 17 years in business. Low payment plans. Call 800-214-4460, [timesharebegone.com](http://timesharebegone.com).

## TOOLS & EQUIPMENT

COMMERCIAL-GRADE GRACO LINE STRIPER, trailer and stencils, \$6,500 or best offer. Infrared asphalt recycler KM 4-48, 6-ft. x 8-ft. long, \$7,200 or best offer. Call or text 814-329-4088.

84" TITAN IMPLEMENT FINISH MOWER. New condition. Built exactly like Land Pride or Woods. Only 33 hours, three-point connection. Paint is still on undercarriage. \$3,000. Call Tom, 267-231-8959.

## TRACTOR PARTS - REPAIR/RESTORATION

ARTHURS TRACTORS. Specializing in vintage Ford tractors, 30 years' experience, online parts catalog/prices, Indiana, PA 15701. Contact us at 877-254-FORD (3673) or [www.arthurstractors.com](http://www.arthurstractors.com).

## TRAVEL & TOURISM

NEW SMYRNA BEACH, FLORIDA, oceanfront condo rental. Two-bedroom, two-bath, deck overlooking beach and pool. \$995/week or \$3,600/month. No pets. Not available Jan. - Mar. Call 814-635-4332 or 814-979-8058.

VACATION RENTAL NORTHWEST PA: An 1855 vintage farmhouse with updated kitchen and bath. Set along the shores of Sugar Lake in northwestern Pa. Fishing, swimming, boating and/or kayaking. See website for other activities. [Sugarlakefarmhouse.com](http://Sugarlakefarmhouse.com). 412-722-7830.

## VAN RENTAL

15-PASSENGER VANS TO MINI-VANS to car rentals. Call Rent-A-Wreck in Erie. Locally owned for the last 37 years. Rent-A-Wreck, 814-833-9941.

## WANTED TO BUY

ANTIQUE AND CLASSIC American and foreign cars, motorcycles, trucks, Broncos, Blazers and Scouts. Any condition. Will buy entire car collections. [krmiller1965@yahoo.com](mailto:krmiller1965@yahoo.com). 717-577-8206.

ANTIQUE AND CLASSIC motorcycles wanted. All makes and sizes. BSA, Norton, Triumph, Honda, Yamaha, Suzuki, Kawasaki, etc. [krmiller1965@yahoo.com](mailto:krmiller1965@yahoo.com). 717-577-8206.

COLLECTORS BUYING PRE-WAR AND POST-WAR Lionel® trains, accessories, Plasticville® buildings, Transformers®, etc. Buying pieces to entire collections. Call John, 814-937-9052 or Mick, 814-656-1634.


LOOKING TO BUY ADVERTISING ITEMS such as signs, clocks, thermometers, globes and gas pumps. Gas and oil, soda, beer, whatever you have. Please call or text 814-952-5449.

JEEP 1940s WILLYS OR FORD ARMY-TYPE JEEP. Rusty, broken down in field. Any condition considered. 570-395-4127. Email: [ironrider111@yahoo.com](mailto:ironrider111@yahoo.com).

ESTATE LIQUIDATOR LOOKING TO BUY quality antiques, old guns, knives, ammunition. Unique kitchen, household, barn and farm items. Plus, any old and unusual items. Call 814-438-2407. Email [richc101.5@gmail.com](mailto:richc101.5@gmail.com).

**Have something to sell?**  
Place a **Penn Lines**  
classified ad today!

Reach more than 168,000 Pennsylvania households! Advertise in **Penn Lines**.  
[www.penn-lines-magazine.com](http://www.penn-lines-magazine.com)  
or call 717.233.5704



# Get the Muck OUT!

**Marble size AquaClear™ Pellets clear your lake or pond bottom.**

Beneficial microorganisms. Restore balance in natural and man made surface waters. Increase water clarity. Improve water quality. Eliminate black organic muck.

**A 10 lb. bag** treats 0.5 to 1.0 acres  
**\$135.00**

**A 50 lb. bag** treats 2.5 to 5.0 acres  
**\$493.00**

Apply weekly for 4 weeks, then monthly to maintain. No water use restrictions!  
**FREE SHIPPING!**

**800-328-9350**

**[www.Aquacide.com](http://www.Aquacide.com)**

Order online today, or request free information.

**AQUACIDE CO.**  
PO Box 10748, DEPT 643X  
White Bear Lake, MN 55110-0748

Our 70th year



**Farms are part  
of our electric  
cooperative.**

# The True Sign of Adulthood

JOHN KASUN

I OPENED THE MAILBOX and was greeted by the first swarm of something that arrives every year in late May and early June. No, not cicadas — high school graduation notices.

I am funny about graduation announcements. I like to match them up with the thank-you notes I've received from the sender for such things as Christmas, birthday, and Easter gifts and the tons of school fundraiser candy I have purchased over the years. With a few exceptions, I don't usually have many matches.

However, those who appreciated my past gifts enough to say thank you are rewarded for their thoughtfulness at graduation time. Those who didn't won't need to thank me now, either, because there will be no reward.

Graduation notices often contain a photograph of the graduate leaning against a tree, shooting pool, playing a guitar or some other leisure activity. I would be more impressed if I got a photo of them volunteering at a soup kitchen, pounding nails at a Habitat for Humanity project or cutting grass for the elderly widow living down the street.

Those little fancy name cards that often are included bug me, too. Did you ever notice these cards contain only the name? Normally, a business card lists some qualifications. For example, it might say, Bill McCall, Master Plumber; John Henry, Certified Electrician; Dr. Joe Smith M.D.; or something as simple as Butch's Hauling, No Job Too Small. I guess these name-only graduation cards are simply saying, unqualified and unemployed.

No, I don't hate kids, and I don't mind giving them a helping hand. I just want to put everything in perspective: Graduation is not the end of anything; it is the beginning of everything.

Graduation is celebrated with a commencement ceremony, and the word commencement means beginning. Graduation truly is the first day of the rest of their lives; however, some seem to have missed that point. Contrary to popular myth, opportunity does not always knock. Sometimes, you have to put down the remote, get off your

butt and open the door to see if it's there.

You know what would impress me when I receive a graduation notice? A note inside that said, "I am graduating and will be looking for a job. I would appreciate if I could use you as a reference;" or "Wanted to let you know I will be starting college in the fall. It will be difficult, but I intend to work hard and learn as much as I can." That would make me feel a lot better when I write the check. At least I would have a fairly good idea the money would not be used for a tongue piercing or tattoo.

I talked to a young man recently who has been out of

high school for a year. When I asked him how his job search was going, he said, "I haven't decided what I want to do yet, so I haven't been looking that hard."

Using my life's experience, I asked, "Do you like to eat and take hot showers?" "Well yeah," he replied, a bit surprised. "Would you like to get a car?" I continued. "Yeah," he said, growing more puzzled.

"Then get off your butt and get a job so you can have those things while you decide

what you want to do with the rest of your life. Life is a trip," I added, "but it's not a free ride."

While many young people flap their wings and declare their independence, they do so from the safety of living at home. I have one rule when it comes to determining if someone is truly on their own: Show me your toilet paper receipt, because if you aren't buying your own toilet paper, you're not on our own.

To all the recent graduates: congratulations, the world is truly yours to conquer. Go out and find that job, learn a skill, continue your education, build a business, make the world a better place and do your parents a favor: Buy your own toilet paper. 🍑



**JOHN KASUN**, a lifelong Pennsylvanian with more than 30 years of writing experience, looks for the humor in everyday life and then tells a story from that perspective. He is a member of Huntingdon-based Valley Rural Electric Cooperative.

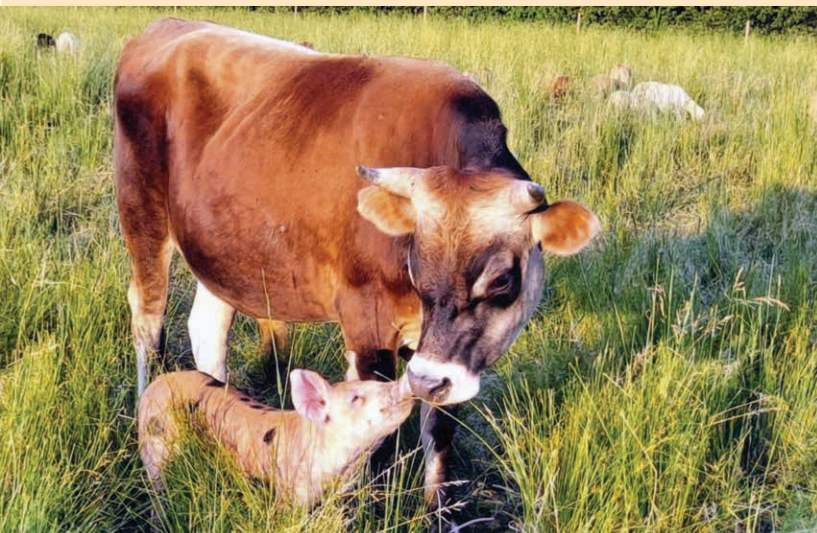




JANET SADY • UNITED ELECTRIC



PAULA SANDERSON • REA ENERGY

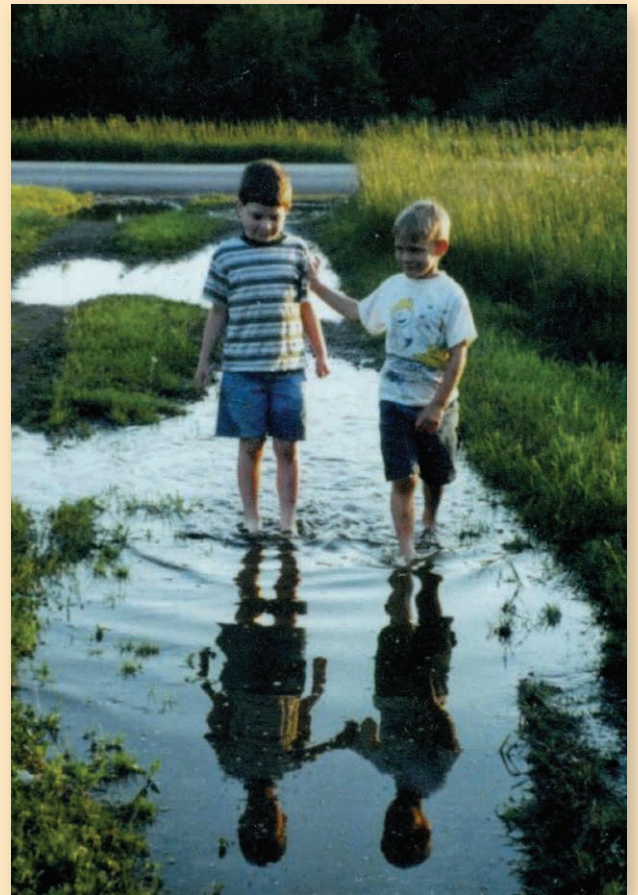


JUSTIN MARTIN • ADAMS ELECTRIC

## Sticking Together

**WHETHER YOU'RE ONE** of a million or one in a million, cooperatives have proven we're all stronger together. Sometimes we may seem the same, other times our differences are all we can see, but the longer we stick together, the more we can achieve. So get out there — and bring your camera — and show the world what you can do. 📷

DARLENE LUCE • NORTHWESTERN REC



## How to enter

**AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS** are encouraged to send photos for the 2025 Rural Reflections contest (no digital files) to: *Penn Lines* Photos, P.O. Box 1266, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1266. On the back of each photo, include your name, address, phone number and the name of the electric cooperative that serves your home, business or seasonal residence.

Remember: Our publication deadlines require us to work in advance, so send your seasonal photos in early. Photos that do not reflect any specific season may be sent at any time. Photos will be returned one year after receipt if a self-addressed, stamped envelope is included.



**ADDRESS CHANGES:**

For change of address, please contact your local electric cooperative. For cooperative contact information, please visit [www.prea.com/member-cooperatives](http://www.prea.com/member-cooperatives)



**RENEWAL  
by ANDERSEN**  
FULL-SERVICE WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT

Get a **FREE** consultation!  
Call **844-501-2570**

## IT'S OUR ANNIVERSARY SALES EVENT!

Save Big on Replacement Windows and Doors!

Buy Two, Get One  
**60% OFF**  
All Windows and Doors<sup>1</sup>

MINIMUM PURCHASE OF 3

AND

**NO** Money Down  
**NO** Monthly Payments  
**NO** Interest for 12 months<sup>1</sup>

MINIMUM PURCHASE OF 3 - INTEREST ACCRUES,  
BUT IS WAIVED IF PAID IN FULL WITHIN 12 MONTHS



**TESTED, TRUSTED, AND TOTALLY PROVEN.<sup>2</sup>**

Offer Ends 7/31/2025

Call for your **FREE** consultation.

**844-501-2570**

[FINDYOURWINDOW.COM](http://FINDYOURWINDOW.COM)



More 5-Star  
Reviews



Than Other Leading Full-Service  
Window Replacement  
Companies<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 7/31/2025. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Buy two (2) windows or entry/patio doors, get one (1) window or entry/patio door 60% off, and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase three (3) or more windows or entry/patio doors between 6/12/2025 and 7/31/2025. 60% off windows and entry/patio doors are less than or equal to lowest cost window or entry/patio door in the order. Subject to credit approval. 12-month Promo Period: while no payments are due, interest accrues but is waived if the loan is paid in full before the Promo Period expires. Any unpaid balance owed after the Promo Period, plus accrued interest, will be paid in installments based on the terms disclosed in the customer's loan agreement. Financing is provided by various financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available at participating locations and offer applies throughout the service area. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License numbers available at [renewalbyandersen.com/license](http://renewalbyandersen.com/license). Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. <sup>2</sup>Based on testing of 10 double-hung units per ASTM E2068 20 years after installation. <sup>3</sup>It is the only warranty among top selling window companies that meets all of the following requirements: easy to understand terms, unrestricted transferability, installation coverage, labor coverage, geographically unrestricted, coverage for exterior color, insect screens and hardware, and no maintenance requirement. Visit [renewalbyandersen.com/nationsbest](http://renewalbyandersen.com/nationsbest) for details. <sup>4</sup>Review aggregator survey of 5-star reviews among leading national full-service window replacement companies. January 2024 Reputation.com. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks Andersen Corporation. ©2025 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. RBA14201