

# MICHIGAN Country Lines



## Lineworker Detectives



Special  
Garden Issue

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## Tight Supply, High Demand = Growing Costs

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[www.cherrylandelectric.com](http://www.cherrylandelectric.com)

### TO SUBMIT A METER READING:

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

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**W**HAT IS THE FUTURE of electricity prices? This is now a common

question because we are all riding the gasoline roller coaster as well as dealing with propane and natural gas cost increases.

The shortest answer holds both good and bad news. The good news is that electricity prices will not go up as fast and furious as gasoline. The bad news is that we may be entering a period where we see several years of increases.

The “why” becomes more complicated as it is rooted in fuel costs in the U.S. as well as economic growth in the Far East. The first place to look is natural gas, a fuel used to generate over 17 percent of the electricity in our country. This is expected to grow to 20 percent by 2010. As recently as 2002, natural gas was a bargain at \$2 per million Btu (British thermal unit). This led us through the last decade, where virtually every new power plant constructed was fueled with natural gas.

Then in 2005, natural gas went as high as \$14 per million Btu. The most optimistic reports predict that prices will stay in the \$6 to \$8 range – an increase of as much as 400 percent. This hot and trendy bargain fuel succumbed to the age-old equation of supply and demand. Increased demand for energy due to a summer that was 19 percent warmer than normal in 2005 caused natural gas supplies to dwindle and prices to escalate more rapidly.

We all know what last year’s hurricane season has done to domestic oil and gas supplies. Out of sight and outside our borders, countries such as India, Brazil and China are rapidly industrializing and their energy needs are evolving. According to the Energy Information Adminis-



*By Tony Anderson*  
General Manager

tration, world energy consumption is projected to increase 57 percent by 2025.

While the U.S. continues to use the most power of any nation in the world, we are seeing a more modest growth in this demand than developing countries. Rising natural gas costs in the U.S. could be somewhat offset by increased investment in nuclear or coal-fired plants (regulatory hurdles

aside, of course) and increased conservation by consumers. Regardless of the type of energy used, consumers should seek out the most energy efficient appliances, whether it is something as small as a light bulb or as large as an air conditioner.

Another future problem will be repairs and maintenance on the nation’s high-voltage electricity transmission system. Attempts to deregulate the electric industry over the last 10 years have contributed to the reluctance of many utilities to invest in transmission infrastructure. To make matters worse, some new power plant construction and growth in new homes and businesses has resulted in more than a 100-fold increase in activity on the transmission grid.

This brings us to today’s situation. Recently, the Michigan Public Service Commission completed a capacity needs report that revealed the need for at least two new power plants in Michigan. If built during the coming 10 years, these plants will greatly increase the load on the present transmission system. In turn, this will necessitate much-needed transmission improvements that will put further upward pressure on prices to the end users.

Overall, the situation is far from desperate or hopeless. It simply calls for a more concentrated effort on multiple fronts. Utilities have to build more

# The Story of Ruth

A 40-year Cherryland employee is a member advocate. **Nick Edson**

**R**UTH LONG read the classified ad in the *Traverse City Record-Eagle*. “HELP WANTED – Utility company looking for office worker. No experience needed. We can train you.”

Ruth was about to graduate from Traverse City St. Francis, and needed a job. So, she answered the ad in the paper and wound up getting hired.

Her first day of work was June 13, 1966, almost 40 years ago. Back then, Cherryland Electric Cooperative was located on Cass St. in Traverse City.

“I didn’t have a car, so I rode to work with a lady who worked just down the street from Cherryland,” said Ruth. “I remember being real nervous on the way to work that first day. I was very shy. But the idea of starting out at \$1.30 an hour was exciting to me.”

Her first day of work was spent sorting meter cards.

“People had to read their meters, write down the numbers on a postcard, then send them in to us,” explained Ruth. “When we got the cards, we put them in these pigeon holes by alphabet.”

Working eight hours a day was new to her, since she came from a big family and made money before then by babysitting.

With her paychecks that first year, she paid her folks a living expense, paid the woman she rode to work with for gas money, and started putting money away.

“After a year, I had enough money saved to buy a car,” she said.



She was literally “off and running.”

Her job has changed several times during her years at Cherryland. She has worked in billing, mail, data processing, and spent several years meter reading.

“We didn’t bill in cycles like we do now,” she said. “We sent out one huge mailing every month. It was a challenge.”

Being out in the field doing meter readings and disconnects presented other challenges.

“I’ve had some close calls, but I was only terrified once,” she said. “I was putting a notice on a door and a huge dog was on a chain in back of me. It had been snarling and barking. All of a sudden, I heard the chain break and he started heading toward me. I started screaming and ran for the car. Luckily, I made it.”

Ruth is currently a member service representative who fields calls and answers questions Cherryland members have about their bills and service. She has worked the Cherryland phones in the middle of the night many times in her career. To her, it’s not an imposition, just an opportunity to reassure members that the power will be coming back on.

She has three children and three grandchildren. She and her husband, Leon, stay active at St. Patrick Church and at Cherryland. She is the head of Cherryland’s Adopt-A-Mile road cleanup project.

Ruth Long is popular with her coworkers at Cherryland for many reasons.

“Ruth is a hard working, kindhearted person,” said coworker Brenda Burrows. “Her philosophy is that our members are the reason we’re here and she goes out of her way for them.”

Ruth agrees that she is an advocate for Cherryland members.

“I have a lot of empathy for people,” she said. “Because my parents are older, I sympathize with people who are on a fixed income and have a hard time paying their bills. I come from a big family, so I know it’s hard to make ends meet sometimes.”

“I guess, in a way, I feel like our members are my extended family.”

## Growing Costs, *continued*

electricity generation of all kinds (coal, nuclear, solar, wind). Transmission lines have to be upgraded or built from scratch to get this generation to the areas that demand it. Politicians, environmentalists and the general public must cooperate to make it all happen in a timely, cost-effective manner while you and I, the everyday users, will be required to pay whatever it does cost for it all in the end.

Our job at Cherryland Electric

Cooperative (CEC) is to do all we can to lessen the rate impact such state, national and world realities have on our members. Electric bills at CEC today are 14 percent higher than 10 years ago. And, there is no guarantee that future increases will be less than 2 percent annually over the coming 10 years, but it is a benchmark that will be watched as we keep our supply of electricity flowing to meet your demands at the best price possible.

# Win a trip to Washington, D.C.

Michigan Electric Cooperative **TEEN DAYS**  
 April 19-21, 2006  
 Rural Electric **YOUTH TOUR** to Washington  
 June 9-15, 2006



If you're a 10th or 11th grader at any public, private, or home school whose family receives their service from Cherryland Electric Cooperative, you are eligible to apply to win.

Students chosen to attend Teen Days—a three-day camp, April 19-21, 2006, to learn about electrical safety and meet other teens from around the state—will automatically be considered for the Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., June 9-15, 2006. Both trips are all-expenses-paid.

Request an application and return it to Cherryland Electric no later than **April 7, 2006**. You will also be asked to submit a typed or printed letter with the following information: parents' or guardians' names; your grade level and age; activities you participate in, such as sports, drama, band, clubs, etc.; your grade point average; any awards or honors you may have received; and a brief explanation of why you wish to attend Teen Days.

For more information, or to apply, call or write:

**Nick Edson**  
 P.O. Box 298, Grawn, MI 49637  
 231-486-9222  
 E-mail: [nicke@cecelec.com](mailto:nicke@cecelec.com)

More information is also available at:  
[www.countrylines.com](http://www.countrylines.com)  
 Click on "Youth Programs"



## Cherryland Offers \$2,400 Student Scholarship

**H**IGH SCHOOL SENIORS whose parents or guardians currently receive monthly electric service from Cherryland and live in our service area, may apply for a \$2,400 college scholarship (\$600 for each of four years).

Selection is based on extracurricular activities, community involvement and/or after school employment. A minimum required GPA is 2.75 on a four-point system. To

continue receiving the scholarship, a student must maintain a minimum college course load of 12 credits per term or semester and receive a 2.5 grade point average.

Applications are due by Friday, *April 7, 2006*. Students may apply in three ways:

1. Complete the form below; or,
2. Contact your high school guidance counselor; or,
3. Call Nick Edson, coordinator of

public/member information at Cherryland Electric, 231-486-9222, Ext. 222, or e-mail [nicke@cecelec.com](mailto:nicke@cecelec.com).

**Send application to:** CEC Student Scholarship, 5930 U.S.-31 South, P.O. Box 298, Grawn, MI 49637.

### Cherryland Offers Adult Scholarship

CHERRYLAND ELECTRIC Cooperative is offering a \$250 Adult Education Scholarship to one of its members.

The scholarship goes toward covering the cost of a course or courses taken in a calendar year.

The scholarship will be awarded based on need, grades and community service. It is a one-time scholarship award.

Members may request an application by e-mailing Nick Edson with their name and address at [nicke@cecelec.com](mailto:nicke@cecelec.com), calling him at 486-9222, or writing him at Cherryland, 5930 U.S.-31 South, Grawn, MI 49637.

#### Cherryland Electric 2006 Student Scholarship Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cherryland Account # \_\_\_\_\_

## Copper Ridge Honored By State

OVER 150 government and community leaders were on hand Jan. 27 when the Community Revitalization Award was presented to Copper Ridge developers Connie and Rick Deneweth, Ron Deneweth and Dennis Fedorinchik.

Pete Strom, chairman of the Grand Traverse County Brownfield Authority, made the presentation. Copper Ridge is the first Brownfield redevelopment site to contribute substantial property tax dollars back to the state of Michigan.

In just one year, Copper Ridge has provided \$354,000 to the local Revolving Loan Fund, which is used to clean up other sites. Copper Ridge has also sent nearly \$580,000 in new property tax revenue dollars to the state and school aid fund.

Over the next four years, total contributions to those two funds will be nearly \$6 million from Copper Ridge.



Pete Strom (left) presents an award to Denny Fedorinchik, Rick Deneweth and Connie Deneweth.

## Community Caring Board Makes Two Awards

CHERRYLAND'S COMMUNITY CARING BOARD made two awards during its January meeting.

The board gave \$2,500 to the American Red Cross for the group's Aquatic Safety Training Camp, and a Cherryland member received \$600 toward bills.

The Caring Board is part of Cherryland Electric Cooperative's Operation Roundup. Members are asked to volunteer for the program, which rounds participating members' electric bills up to the nearest dollar. The money is then given to needy groups and individuals in northern Michigan.

To sign up for Operation Roundup, call Cherryland's Brenda Burrows at 486-9266.

## Glass is Gatorade State Player of the Year

CHERRYLAND'S ALISA GLASS, a Cherryland Electric Co-op member, was recently named the Gatorade Michigan Player of the Year in volleyball.

The 6-foot senior holds national and state records for career kills, career service aces and aces in a season. She was also selected to the USA Youth National team the last two years.

Glass has a 3.7 grade point average and has received a scholarship to play volleyball at national power Penn State beginning next fall. Glass is a four-time All-State player in volleyball and a two-time All-State player in basketball. Her mother, Laurie, is her volleyball coach and her grandfather, Larry, was her basketball coach.

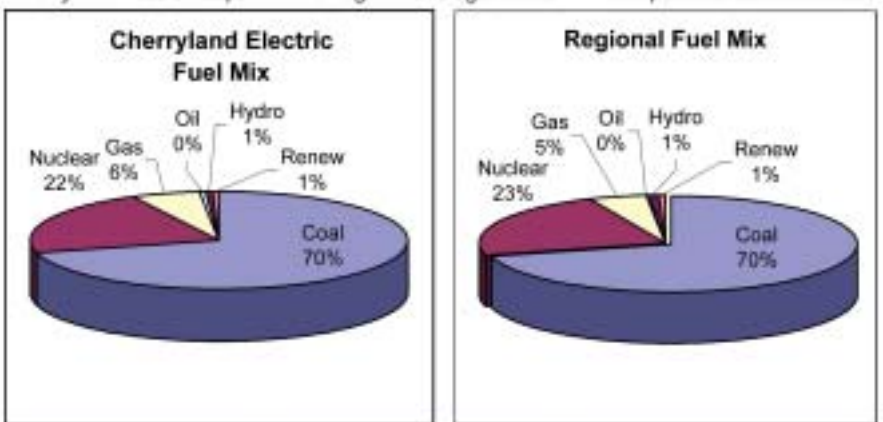
A feature story about Alisa will appear in the April issue of *Country Lines*.

## Cherryland Electric Cooperative

The environmental characteristics of your electricity as required by Public Act 141 of 2000.

### Comparison of the Fuel Sources Used to Generate Electricity

Cherryland Electric Cooperative vs. regional average for the 12-month period ended 12/31/2005



Fuel Sources	Percentage of fuel types used to produce Cherryland Electric Cooperative electricity.	Percentage of fuel type used to produce electricity in Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Wisconsin.
Coal	70.76	70.74
Nuclear	21.64	22.73
Gas	5.91	4.79
Oil	0.47	0.46
Hydroelectric	0.69	0.73
Total Renewable Fuels	0.53	0.55
Biomass	0.02	0.02
Biofuel	0	--
Solid Waste Incineration	0.2	0.21
Wind	0	0.1
Wood	0.3	0.33
Solar	0	--

Note: (1) Biomass above excludes wood; solid waste incineration includes landfill gas, and (2) "--" indicates not applicable or negligible. Wind less than 0.1%.

### Airborne Emissions and High-Level Nuclear Waste Comparison

Cherryland Electric Cooperative vs. regional average for the 12-month period ended 12/31/2005.

Type of emission/waste	Cherryland Electric average lbs/MWh	A regional average of all generation in Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Wisconsin
Sulfur Dioxide	13.5	13.8
Carbon Dioxide	1,949	1,922
Oxides of Nitrogen	7.3	7.4
High-level nuclear waste	0.007	0.0074

Note: Cherryland Electric purchases 100% of its electricity from Wolverine Power Cooperative, which provided this fuel mix and environmental data.



# What To Do When the Lights Go Out

**W**E KNOW THEY ARE COMING. Every spring, they march into northern Michigan and knock out power to our homes.

The storms of spring are often filled with thunder, lightning and driving rain.

It is an inconvenience for Cherryland Electric Cooperative members.

It is an inconvenience for co-op employees, too, especially the lineworkers. They are the ones out in the storm, making sure your power is restored.

So, in what order does Cherryland restore power?

Primary lines serving hundreds of customers are serviced first, and then the secondary lines serving just a few customers are serviced. Medical facilities and individuals on life-support systems are given top priority.

When your lights go out, look outside and see if your neighbors are also in the

dark. If they're not, check your fuse box or circuit breaker to see if you can locate the problem.

If the outage has affected your neighbors, call in to Cherryland to let us know.

Outages that occur in severe weather or last for an extended period of time can place a heavy burden on the system at the moment power is restored. To prevent an overload on the system and possibly another outage, take these steps:

- ▲ Turn off every inside light except one.
- ▲ Turn down your thermostat.
- ▲ In cold weather, close windows and

drapes to save heat. Pick one room on the warm side of the house (preferably one with a fireplace). Close the door to the rest of the house and use blankets to insulate your windows.

- ▲ If the outage lasts over 60 minutes, turn off your electric water heater.

▲ Make sure your kitchen range is off, both the surface and the oven. Never use it for heat.

▲ Turn off all unnecessary appliances.

▲ Avoid opening the freezer door. A full, freestanding freezer will keep food at freezing temperatures about 2 days; a half-full freezer about 1 day.

▲ Leave your porch light on so Cherryland workers will know when your power has been restored.

When power comes back on, slowly switch your appliances and lights back on and gradually return your thermostat to its normal setting.

*Tim Keenan is assistant safety director for Cherryland Electric Cooperative*



## Do You Have "Cold Spots"?

**D**OES YOUR OLDER HOME have "cold spots"?

In older homes, these cold spots could be caused by several different problems. Some are easier to remedy than others. Below are the most common causes, and how to fix them.

**1.** Some older homes have little or no insulation in the walls and/or ceilings. In homes that were insulated to acceptable levels of the time, settling can occur up to 2 feet in the walls, and over 50 percent in ceilings. Of homes built prior to 1980, only 20 percent were found to be well insulated.

**Remedy:** The easiest way to add insulation is usually in the attic, using a "blown in method." Other, more costly fixes, include applying new siding, while at the same time installing a foam board product first.

**2.** Windows. Most older homes have single pane windows with little or no E-value. These windows create cold spots as well as high energy bills. In older

homes, windows can account for between 20 and 25 percent of the home's heating and cooling costs!

**Remedy:** The best remedy is to replace the windows with high quality double pane windows. However, this can be a costly venture. If you can't do all your windows at once, start with the room or rooms that you spend the most time in. In the meantime, make sure you cover the older windows you have left with a weather guard product in the winter.

**3.** If you also have an older furnace, it can sometimes be as much as 50 percent less efficient than the new, high efficient models that are out today. For example, today we know that you need at least as much or more return air ducts as you have hot air ducts. This was not thought to be the case 20 to 30 years ago.

**Remedy:** Of course, the best remedy would be to replace your old furnace with a new one. If this is not in your budget, you should have a reputable HVAC



(heating/ventilation/air conditioning) technician do a thorough inspection and cleaning for both safety and performance. If your old furnace still passes all safety inspections, he may recommend adding more heat ducts and a cold air return to a larger room (such as your living room) to help reduce cold spots and make your home more comfortable.

If you have any other questions please call me, Steve Coger, at Cherryland Electric Cooperative (231) 486-9238.

*Steve Coger is Cherryland's energy use advisor*



# Baseball Legend “Bunny” Brief

**H**OW DOES A BUNNY become the greatest Traverse City baseball player of all time?

Well, it wasn't easy.

Anthony “Bunny” Brief had a long and distinguished minor league career—one of the best in baseball history.

But it's a career that wouldn't have happened if his folks hadn't come to the United States from Poland in the late 1800s.

“They had a long last name,” recalled Bunny Brief's great nephew, Joe Brief. “So when they got off the boat and went to immigration, they were asked about their last name. Bunny's dad said, ‘Just change it to something brief.’ So that's how our family got our name in America.”

Bunny's career started with the Traverse City Resorters in the old Michigan State League. But his reputation for hitting became legendary and pro scouts came calling.

“When the scouts came, he was actually known by two different nicknames,” said Joe Brief. “He was Uncle Bundy to our family and Bunny to everyone else.”

He was born in 1892 and by the time he



“Bunny” Brief

was 19-years-old, he broke into the major leagues with the old St. Louis Browns in the American League.

He showed promise, hitting .310 in 42 at-bats. That earned him some more playing time at first base and in the outfield for the 1913 season. He batted 258 times, but hit only .217 with one home run and 26 RBI.

After that, it was a struggle for him to get back in the majors, but his minor league career was sensational. He played in 2,426 games and had a career average of .331 with 342 home runs and 1,584 RBI. If those numbers were posted in the major leagues, Bunny Brief would be a Hall of Famer today.

“I don't know what happened when he got to the majors,” said Joe Brief, a Cherryland Electric Cooperative member who lives in Grawn. “He hit at every level of the minors. In fact, he was known as one of the greatest minor league hitters of all time. The good thing is, he still holds some records that are almost 100 years old.”

One of those is for knocking in 181 runs in a season. That feat has been bettered only three times in the majors. Hack Wilson drove in 190 runs in 1930, Lou

Gehrig had 184 RBI in 1931, and Hank Greenberg 183 in 1937.

“One of the problems that Bunny encountered was that he was homesick,” said Joe Brief. “He was only 21 years old in 1913 and he got on a train to come home to Traverse City. The team got wind of it and offered a relative of Bunny's \$1 a day to stay with him so he wouldn't get lonesome. The team thought that was the problem.”

The Browns expected Bunny Brief to hit like he did in the minors, when he batted .351 in 1911 and .353 in 1912 before getting called up late in the season by St. Louis.

He was sent down to Kansas City in the minor leagues during the second half of the 1913 season. He rebounded by hitting .318 and knocking in 123 runs with 12 home runs.

Major league scouts took notice again. This time he signed with the Chicago White Sox for the 1915 season.

“I have his 1915 contract with the White Sox and it called for him to make \$2,250 that season, a pretty good living in those days,” said Joe Brief.

But he hit .214 in 154 at-bats and hit two homers with 17 RBI. Back to the minors he went, this time to Salt Lake City.

In 1916, he had a monster year in the Pacific Coast League. He hit .314 for Salt Lake City and hit 33 home runs, breaking the league's home run record.

He was purchased by the Pittsburgh Pirates to start the 1917 season. He batted 115 times and hit two runs with an average of .217. It turned out to be his last hurrah in the major leagues.

But he was far from done in baseball. He returned to Kansas City for a seven-year stay in 1918. Starting in 1920, he led the American Association in RBI four consecutive years and in home runs three straight seasons. From 1921 through 1926 he never hit below .338.

Bunny was sold to Milwaukee at the height of his fame in 1924 and played his last four years with the Brewers, retiring after the 1928 season.

“Bunny was a fun-loving, ball-playing man,” said Joe Brief. “He enjoyed baseball and he enjoyed people. He had a good life. He came back to Traverse City many times to visit family and bring barnstorming teams. He loved it here.”

After retirement, Bunny stayed in Milwaukee. He was supervisor of Milwaukee's Youth Baseball Program for years and remained a hero to Milwaukee's large Polish-American population.

He died in 1963 in Milwaukee at the age of 70—a Brief name with a long, special spot in baseball lore.

## You Can Serve on Cherryland's Board

**A**NY QUALIFIED Cherryland Electric Co-op member can be elected to serve on the cooperative's board of directors.

To be nominated in 2006, candidates should file a petition with the secretary of the cooperative not earlier than the first day of March and not later than 4 p.m. on the last business day of March.

Nominating petitions shall be signed by not less than 25 active members of the cooperative in good standing, and all signatures must be obtained within 60 days prior to the date the petition is filed. Nominating petitions shall be in the form prescribed by the board. They are available at Cherryland's headquarters in Grawn.

Nominating petitions must specify the geographic service area for which the candidate is being nominated.

The term of the office is three years. Three directors are elected at each annual meeting.

In 2006, three directors will be elected—

one from Grand Traverse/Kalkaska and the other two are at-large seats.

Potential nominees must meet the qualifications for the office of director as set forth in the bylaws under Section 2 of Article III. Any member interested in becoming a candidate is invited to visit the cooperative's office and learn about the duties performed by the directors.

In the event no qualified candidate is nominated to fill the vacancy of a director whose term has expired, the newly elected board of directors will appoint sufficient directors to fill the vacancies.

The election will be by a majority vote of the board and must be done within 60 days of its first meeting. Directors elected in this manner will serve until the next annual meeting, when members will be given an opportunity to nominate and elect directors to fill the balance of the regular three-year term.



# Cherryland Electric Cooperative



## **Marathon**<sup>®</sup> WATER HEATERS

The last water heater you will ever buy!!!!

Seamless Polybutylene tank will never rust, corrode, or leak.

**\$150 OFF**

for Cherryland members only.



**Cherryland Electric Cooperative**

Call Steve Coger 231-486-9238  
1-800-442-8616, Ext. 238

## Beat the Rising Cost of Comfort with Electric Heat!

Average household heating expenses have surged this winter.



	Average for 1999-2004	Winter of 2004-05	Winter of 2005-06	Pct. Change From 2004
Natural Gas	\$586	\$742	\$1,096	47.6%
Heating Oil	\$865	\$1,199	\$1,577	31.5%
Propane	\$885	\$1,102	\$1,427	29.5%
Electricity	\$685	\$717	\$755	5.4%

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT CHERRYLAND'S INTERRUPTIBLE HEAT RATE CONTACT STEVE COGER, ENERGY USE ADVISOR AT 231-486-9238