

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT / TREE TRIMMING

Planting a Tree? Know Where Your Power Lines are Located, First!



Tim Stewart
CEO / General Manager

Spring is sure slow to arrive. As I write this article we have had temperatures in the upper 20s and it actually snowed yesterday! However, my thoughts are more positive as I'm sure warm weather will eventually come. One of my family's annual spring traditions involves sprucing up the yard by planting flowers and adding several new trees. I would like to remind all of you of some of the important aspects in selecting the perfect spot for your new tree.

There are many things to consider when planting a tree. After all, an investment in a tree is an investment you hope to enjoy for many years. If you're thinking of planting a tree, take a moment to identify where power lines are located. Also, research how tall your tree will grow and how far it will branch out.

Planting tall-growing trees directly under overhead lines and near underground lines can eventually lead to the need for your electric cooperative to prune the tree to maintain safe clearance from the power lines. Because safety and reliability are concerns when trees touch power lines, your local cooperative strives to prevent these occurrences. Tall-growing trees near overhead lines can cause service interruptions when trees contact wires. Children or adults climbing in these trees can be severely injured or even killed if they come in contact with the wires.

If we do find it necessary to prune trees to address safety and reliability concerns, the work will be performed by the cooperative's

qualified vegetation management staff or contractor. Because pruning does cause stress to the tree and affect its appearance, we believe that the best way to avoid the process is to carefully plant the tree in a suitable location.

Proper selection and placement of trees in and around overhead utilities can lessen potential public safety hazards, reduce expenses for the cooperative and our member-consumers, and improve the appearance of landscapes.

Trees are much more than just what you see overhead. The biggest danger to underground lines occurs during planting. Before you plant, make sure that you are aware of the location of any underground utilities. To be certain that you do not accidentally dig into any lines and risk serious injury or a costly service interruption, call Diggers Hotline at 1-800-242-8511. Don't assume that utility lines are buried deeper than you will be digging—often, utility lines are very close to the surface. Another thing to consider is that many times the root area is larger than the branch spread above ground. Trees planted near underground lines could have their roots damaged if the lines need to be dug up for repairs.

For more information on planting trees, visit the International Society of Arboriculture's web site at: http://www.treesaregood.com/treecare/avoiding_conflicts.asp. This web page is also an excellent source to attain information on specific topics, to answer questions, and to locate an ISA Certified Arborist near you. ■

Tim Stewart
CEO / General Manager

THE FIRST TURTLE



A Chapman Metering representative is shown here installing the first Turtle AMR meter. The AMR meters will send back meter readings automatically to the cooperative office. When a new AMR meter is installed, the old meter is tested and retired. The new meter is also tested before it is installed. The entire project is expected to take two years. ■





YOUTH & EDUCATION

A Formula For Success

Congratulations to this year's winners of the Clark Electric Cooperative scholarships, which are funded through the unclaimed capital credits of members of the cooperative. Each student was awarded a \$750 scholarship, which will be paid in two installments after verification of the student's grades. Clark Electric is proud to be able to award these scholarships to these students. Awarding the scholarships is an important task undertaken by your board of directors. ■



Samantha Gajewski
Abbotsford High School



Jennifer Helfert
Colby High School



Liana Kuehn
Granton High School



Brett Bushman
Greenwood High School



Jenna Potter
Loyal High School



Jessica Tysver
Marshfield Sr. High School



Amy Schott
Neillsville High School



Jay O'Konski
Owen-Withee High School



Amanda Kops
Spencer High School



Ryan Kodl
Thorp High School



Nicholas Sydow
Columbus High School



Maria Driet
Home Schooled

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

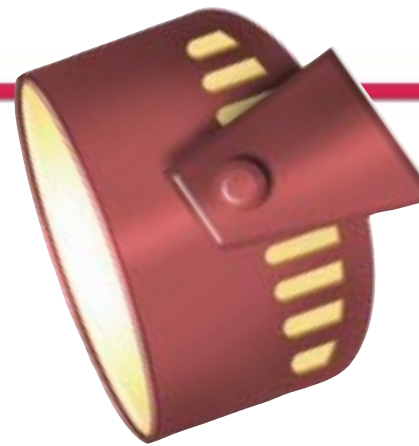
Are you looking for a fun time for your family that's close to home and won't break the bank? That place is south of Loyal, and it meets all the criteria for a fun time! Cedar Mill Park is a small, family-run amusement area that has go-carts, bumper boats and cars, and miniature golf. There is also a campground right on the grounds.

Cedar Mill Park also has a shelter for parties and family outings—all you need to do is call and check for group rates and times. Cedar Mill is closed on Monday, except holidays. The park is open from noon until 6:00 p.m. on Tuesdays through Fridays and Sundays and from noon to 8 p.m. on Saturdays. You can contact Cedar Mill Park at 715-255-8711 for more information and for group reservations. ■

CEDAR MILL PARK



LOYAL, WISCONSIN



Great family fun is had by all in the picnic shelter, on the playground, and on the go-cart track.



Evergreen™

YOUR ENERGY CHOICE FOR THE FUTURE

Evergreen is a renewable energy program available to your home, farm, or business through Clark Electric Cooperative. Evergreen is for you if you are willing to pay a little bit more to purchase a portion or all of your electricity from renewable energy sources. In addition to paying your normal monthly electric bill, you volunteer to pay a small, additional charge each month to offset the extra cost of supporting renewable energy.

Evergreen renewable energy comes from the wind and waste-to-energy sources, such as landfill gas and livestock manure. Dairyland Power Cooperative purchases energy from wind farms, and methane digesters convert waste from landfills and livestock confinements to bio-gas that is used to generate electricity.

By participating in this program, you are investing in the future. Your purchase of one 100-kilowatt hour block of Evergreen renewable energy each month has the same environmental benefits (CO2 reduction) as planting one-half acre of trees or not driving a car 2,400 miles (source: EPA).

By participating in our Evergreen program rather than purchasing renewable energy equipment, you will have a much larger impact on environment and the cooperative.

YES! I want to participate in the Evergreen Renewable Energy program. Please sign me up at the following level:

Number of blocks of energy	Amount added to my monthly energy bill
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 block (100 kwh)	\$1.50
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 blocks (200 kwh)	\$3.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 blocks (300 kwh)	\$4.50
<input type="checkbox"/> 4 blocks (400 kwh)	\$6.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 5 blocks (500 kwh)	\$7.50



Other. Please specify number of blocks: _____

Please provide me with more information

I understand that this amount is in addition to my monthly energy bill. I also understand that my commitment is for one year and will continue monthly thereafter until I notify my cooperative that I no longer wish to participate.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Acct. No. _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Return to: Clark Electric Cooperative,
124 N. Main St., P.O. Box 190, Greenwood, WI 54437

YLC

Now is the time to sign up to go...it's not too late yet!

Summer fun—sounds good, doesn't it? If you are going to be a sophomore or junior this year in high school and would like to represent your school at the Youth Leadership Congress (YLC), contact your FFA or FBLA advisor and ask to go. If school is out, contact Clark Electric and ask for Tracy to see if your school is represented yet. Clark Electric will also be sponsoring two home-schooled students to attend YLC this summer.

The YLC will be held July 20, 21, and 22 on the UW-River Falls campus. Remember—this trip is paid for by your cooperative.



Above: Participants have fun while working on team-building skills, one of many YLC activities. Below: Clark Electric's 2004 YLC representatives.



SEVERE WEATHER SEASON Be Prepared—Be Informed

Clark Electric Appliance & Satellite, Inc. is offering a weather alert radio while supplies last. The radio will be available at the Appliance & Satellite office. Severe weather can strike at anytime; be prepared—be informed. The National Weather Service has installed a new weather station that transmits information for Clark County and the surrounding areas.

\$40⁰⁰



MDL74200



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