



## ***From Here to There***

*By Michael Wade, President and CEO*

Thanks to everyone who joined us for our 77<sup>th</sup> annual meeting at the Rosholt High School. It is always a pleasure to visit with you and discuss matters of importance. I am grateful we have a membership that takes an active interest in the cooperative and participates in our business meetings. If you didn't have a chance to come, we hope you will be able to attend our member appreciation pancake breakfast in October.

I would like to say a special thank you to state Reps. Gary Tauchen (6<sup>th</sup> district) and Dave Heaton (85<sup>th</sup> district) for allowing me to visit with them in Madison to discuss cooperative matters. It is wonderful to be able to drive to Madison, walk into the capital, and spend time with our elected officials to discuss cooperative and rural issues. Thanks again to Gary and Dave for their hospitality.

April and May represent the time when electric cooperative leaders converge on Madison and Washington,

D.C., to discuss issues of importance with our elected officials. We leave our partisan views at the door and focus our attention on ensuring that rural electric concerns are fully articulated and legislative solutions are placed on the table. You should be proud that your directors are so heavily involved in the political process and are working to represent your interests not only in the board room, but also in the political arena.

Your cooperative continues to focus on the work that will allow us to build on our success. We are focused on finding ways to lower our operating costs and upgrading our electric distribution system to meet the reliability needs of our members. We are investing resources into our automated meter reading system and load management program to make them effective tools for lowering wholesale power expense. We are making organizational changes to streamline our operation and make us a more effective organization. As always, we value your input and ask that you reach out to us to let us know how we are doing.

In honor of Memorial Day, I want to thank all of the men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces. Your sacrifices to our nation came with a price, but it is because of your sacrifices that we remain a free nation with an abundance of opportunities. May God bless each of you. ■

## **Youth Leadership Congress July 15-17**

If you'll be a high school sophomore or junior in the fall, this conference is for you! This three-day, all-expense paid program is jammed with fun, hands-on activities and seminars designed to help you identify and develop your leadership skills. It is planned by high school students just like you and features nationally recognized speakers.

This year's event will be held July 15-17 at UW-River Falls. If you are interested in being a sponsored representative of CWEC, please contact your high school guidance counselor or Brenda Mazemke at 715-677-2211 or by email at [brenda.mazemke@cwecoop.com](mailto:brenda.mazemke@cwecoop.com). ■





# Spring into Electrical Safety with Your Children

“Children often do not understand the danger of electricity and electrical equipment. In their innocent and imaginative minds, what can be potentially dangerous may go unnoticed, or even appear enticing and fun,” Safe Electricity Director Molly Hall said. “Take an opportunity to point out overhead power lines and any other electrical equipment to children and explain what they are.”

Safe Electricity recommends teaching children to follow these rules:

- Never climb trees near power lines. Even if the power lines aren't touching the tree, they could touch when more weight is added to the branch.
- Kites and model airplanes should only be flown during good weather conditions in large open areas like an open park or a wide field. They should stay away from overhead power lines or other electrical equipment such as substations. If a kite gets stuck in a tree that's near power lines, don't climb up to get it. Electricity can travel down kite strings or wires. Contact your electric cooperative for assistance.
- Never climb a utility pole or tower. The electricity carried through this equipment is extremely high voltage and could kill you.
- Don't play on or around pad-mounted electrical equipment. These are often green metal “box” transformers on cement pads.
- Never go into an electric substation for any reason. Electric substations contain high-voltage equipment; even raising your hand inside one can cause an arc that may result in an electric shock. Never attempt to retrieve a pet, ball, or any toy from these areas. Call your electric co-op instead.
- Immediately seek shelter if lightning or thunder is present while playing outdoors.

When designing a tree house or outdoor play area for children, take preventive precautions before starting your project. Do not install playground equipment or

swimming pools underneath or near power lines. Installation of either will require some digging; be sure to call 811 to have buried lines marked so you can avoid serious injury and damage.

Protect all family members from serious shock and injuries by installing Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) on outdoor outlets and in interior rooms where water is present. GFCIs shut off power instantly if they detect a problem. Use portable GFCIs for outdoor outlets that don't have them.

Be careful using electrical appliances outdoors, even if plugged into GFCI-equipped outlets. Never touch an electrical appliance while in a pool or hot tub, and keep all electrical appliances at least 10 feet away from pools, ponds, and wet surfaces. Teach your kids that it is never safe to swim in a pool or lake when a storm is brewing. Also keep in mind that you should never use appliances with extension cords that are frayed or damaged, and always be sure the ground prong is intact.

“Water often attracts kids, but water and electricity never mix,” warned Hall. “Teach older children to exercise caution before plugging in a radio, CD player, or any electrical gadget outdoors, and never leave any electrical appliances outside.”

When you are done using a radio, CD player, or any other electrical gadget outdoors, bring it inside. If it rains, the electrical device could get wet and cause an electrical shock when used later.

“Spring showers bring more than tempting puddles for kids to splash in. They can also leave electric hazards behind,” Hall added. “Flooded areas are never safe spots to wade or play in, and may be in contact with energized electrical equipment or fallen power lines.”

Make sure all of your family members know to stay away from downed power lines and wires, and tell children to report any fallen or dangling wires to an adult. Always assume that any power line is fully charged and stay far away. Call your electric cooperative immediately if you or your child encounters a downed power line, and include this number with other posted emergency phone numbers. ■



## Tree Planting Season is Here!

### Select the Right Tree for the Right Place in Your Yard

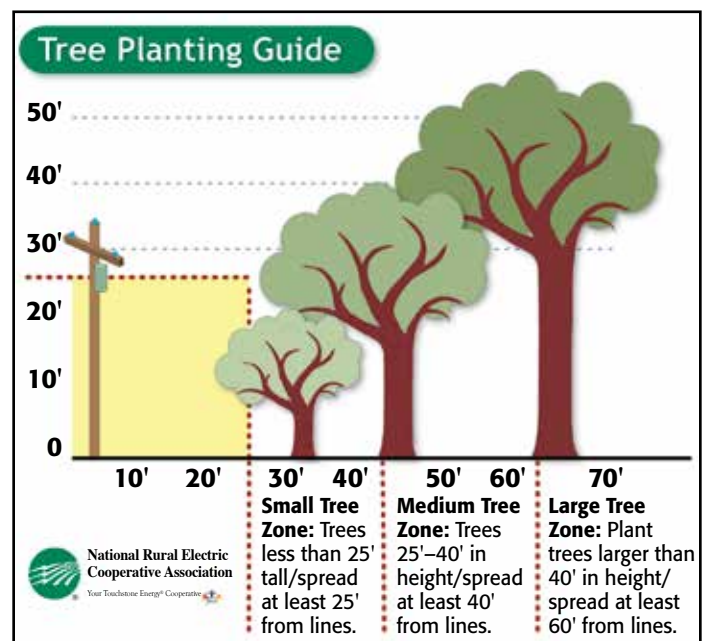
A properly selected and planted tree can add beauty and energy efficiency to your landscape. A poorly selected and planted tree can become high maintenance, dangerous, and short-lived. Trees can add beauty and shade, but also increase the value of your property and savings on your utility bill. One well-placed shade tree can lower your summer air-conditioning bills by 25 percent, which can really add up!



- **Select the right tree.** You can contact your local nursery or county extension office for suggested varieties. A Red Maple is a great tree to plant. It is one of the first trees to show off red flowers in the spring and displays a most magnificent scarlet fall color. It is a fast grower, so it quickly makes shade. It's considered a medium-large tree of about 40 to 70 feet. Red Maples are very tolerant and will grow in nearly any condition.
- **Select the right location.** Be sure that you have all underground utilities located prior to digging, and look overhead for power lines. Call Diggers Hotline at 1-800-242-8511 at least three days before digging.
- **Dig a shallow, broad planting hole.** Make the hole wide, up to three times the diameter of the root ball, but only as deep as the root ball.
- **Identify the trunk flare.** The trunk flare is where the roots spread at the base of the tree. This point should be partially visible after the tree has been planted. Identifying the trunk flare will help you determine how deep the hole needs to be for proper planting.
- **Place the tree at the proper height.** Before placing the tree in the hole, check to see that the hole has been dug to the proper depth—and no more. The majority of the roots on the newly planted tree will develop in the top 12 inches of soil; if the tree is planted too deep the new roots will have difficulty developing because of lack of oxygen. Remove the container or cut back burlap.
- **Straighten the tree in the hole.** To avoid damage when setting the tree in the hole, always lift the tree by the root ball and never by the trunk. Before you begin to backfill the hole, have someone view the tree from several directions to confirm that the tree is straight.
- **Fill the hole gently but firmly.** Fill the hole gently, but firmly pack the soil around the base of the root

ball to eliminate air pockets. It is not recommended to apply fertilizer at the time of planting.

- **Stake the tree, if necessary.** If the tree is grown and dug properly at the nursery, staking for support will not be necessary in most home landscape situations. However, protective staking may be required where lawn mower damage, vandalism, or windy conditions are concerns. Remove support staking and ties after the first year of growth.
- **Mulch the base of the tree.** Mulch is simply organic matter applied to the area at the base of the tree. A two- to four-inch layer is ideal. Keep mulch three inches away from the trunk.
- **Provide follow-up care.** Keep the soil moist, but not soaked; overwatering causes leaves to turn yellow or fall off. New trees need one inch of water per week. ■





## Have a Safe and Happy Memorial Day!

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative will be closed on Monday, May 25, so that we may honor those who have fought for our freedom. We will reopen for business at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 26. Members can make payments in the drop boxes in Iola or Rosholt throughout the holiday weekend. Even though our offices are closed, standby crews are available 24 hours a day. If you need to report a power outage, please call 715-677-2211 or toll free 800-377-2932.

## Dates to Remember in May

### Annual Potato Pancake Feast and Fund Raiser

Sunday, May 3  
9 a.m.—1 p.m.  
Adults \$9; Children ages 6–12 \$4, children ages 5 & under free. Tilleda Community Center, Tilleda. Sponsored by the Tilleda Advancement Association. For more information call 715-787-4241.

### Iola Bump & Jump – Wisconsin Off Road Series (WORS)

Sunday, May 3  
WORS is America’s largest mountain bike racing series. Held at the Iola Winter Sports Club, Iola. The Iola Bump & Jump course offers a great place to race or spectate an incredible race. For more information go to [www.wors.org/schedule/iola](http://www.wors.org/schedule/iola).

### Wittenberg Rummage-O-Rama

May 9–10  
7:30 a.m.–4 p.m.  
Sponsored by Wittenberg Area Chamber of Commerce, Wittenberg. For information call 715-253-3525.

### Iola Lioness Club’s 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Citywide Rummage Sale

Saturday, May 9 • 8 a.m.  
Maps available in town the day of the sale or at [www.ischamber.com](http://www.ischamber.com) after May 6. Sponsored by the Iola Lioness Club, Iola. For more information call Lioness Sherry at 715-445-3482.

To submit your community events email [brenda.mazemke@cwecoop.com](mailto:brenda.mazemke@cwecoop.com) or call Brenda at 715-677-2211.

### Embarrass River Lions Wild Game Feast

Saturday, May 9  
4 p.m.–8 p.m.  
Adults \$10, at the door \$12; children 10 & under \$5, at the door \$6. Tickets available from any Embarrass River Lion member. Numerous raffles. Morris Town Hall, Tigerton. For more information call Larry Roth, 715-535-2775.

### Mother’s Day

Sunday, May 10

### Iola Lions 5th Annual Memorial Day Weekend Brat Fry

Saturday, May 23  
10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
Proceeds will go to the Iola-Scandinavia Chamber Fireworks fund. Iola Sentry Foods, Iola.

### Rosholt American Legion/Auxiliary Memorial Day Services

Sunday, May 24  
11 a.m.  
Chicken dinner to follow. Rosholt. For more information call Christine at 715-592-4648.

### Tigerton Memorial Day Program

Sunday, May 24  
11 a.m. at Veteran’s Memorial

### Memorial Day Observed

Monday, May 25  
CWEC office will be closed

### American Legion Sheveland –Taylor Post 14 Memorial Day Parade

Monday, May 25 • Iola

## Service Milestone



CWEC would like to recognize and congratulate Allan “Allie” Thulien, who just celebrated 35 years of service as a journeyman lineman. Thank you, Allie!



## Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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