

April 2011

# NEWS

**Committed to those we serve**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



## Annual Meeting Highlights

The 74th annual meeting of the members of Goodhue County Cooperative Electric Association was held at the Zumbrota/Mazeppa High School Auditorium on March 19th with 145 registered voters. The election of directors was held and Gerald Puppe, Ed Bauman and Mary Lindahl were reelected to the board of directors.

General Manager Douglas Fingerson reported that sales were up in 2010, together with safety and reliability. The Cooperative returned \$147,000 in capital



*Over 300 people enjoyed Dad's Belgian Waffles prior to the start of the meeting.*

credits in December. To meet our financial obligations, we are likely looking at an increase in the monthly cost-of-service charge in 2012.

Some of the challenges we face are the rising cost of power, the increasing cost of equipment and materials, rising fuel costs and ever-increasing regulations.

Our Great River Energy Director, David Hernke, reported that the Coal Creek Generating Station is using new technology called "dry-fining" where they use waste steam heat to pre-dry the coal from 38.5 percent to 29.5 percent. This results in increased BTU's and efficiency and less emissions. The EPA wants to declare fly ash a hazardous waste. This will cost GRE around 62 million dollars annually in disposal fees.

Will Kaul, GRE Vice President of Transmission, updated the members on Great River Energy, our power supplier. GRE is the second largest utility in Minnesota. Their triple bottom line is rates, reliability and the environment. GRE's nonmember revenue is down

significantly since 2008 and the economic collapse, mainly due to the drop in the sale of electricity to nonmembers.

*See page two for more annual meeting highlights.*

## Transmission Outage Affects Cannon Falls and Hader Substation Area

On Sunday March 27th nearly 2,000 members lost power due to ice loading on a Xcel transmission which caused a post insulator to break off. What was expected to be restored in 30 minutes turned into a few hours.



When Xcel's crews went to energize the backfeed for the transmission line, the switching equipment failed. Goodhue County Cooperative Electric's crews were finally notified at 11:20 a.m. that we would need to backfeed both substations through the distribution feeders for temporary power restoration.

We apologize for the inconvenience the outage caused. We wish we had more control over the restoration of the transmission line, but we have to work through Great River Energy and Xcel.



Printed on recycled paper containing 10 percent post-consumer waste.



*Dale & Karen Schuette of Dennison won a blooming plant.*



*Gary Esterby reported on the Operation Round-Up Program. Gary serves as President of the Operation Round-Up Board.*

## Annual Meeting Prize Winners

**\$100 cash prize** ~ Wally Gardiner III

**\$25 cash prizes**

|              |              |                  |
|--------------|--------------|------------------|
| Joe Jacobson | Gary Esterby | Earl McNamara    |
| Ben Boege    | Ray Poncelet | Joyce C. Johnson |
| Allan J. Lee | Stan Klair   | Jerry Clemenson  |
| Leon Bollum  |              |                  |

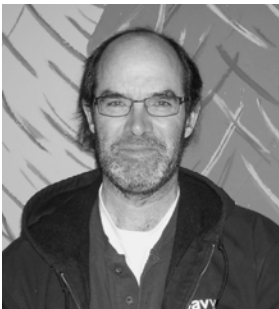
**3-Pack CFL's** Charles Syverson Les Kyлло  
Stanley Swanson Gwen Carlson

**Surge-protector strip** Nick Luhman

**Crock Pot** Mariam Hinrichs

**Blooming Plants**

Harold Fredrickson Dale & Karen Schuette  
Deb Yulga



*Wally Gardiner III of Welch won the \$100 cash prize.*



*The "Downhome Band" from the Wanamingo area entertained our members prior to the start of the business meeting.*

## METER NUMBERS

Bob Melhouse of Dennison, Vance Stemen of Goodhue, Richard Zwart of Zumbrota, Lisa Gobin of Cannon Falls and Alva King of Dennison found their meter numbers in the February newsletter and received credit accordingly on their electric bills. Alan Chrysler of Cannon Falls missed his meter number.

The following meter numbers are worth \$10.00 each. If your meter number is one of the following numbers, notify us by May 4th 2011 and you will receive a \$10.00 credit on your electric bill:

**3516 30-4461 30-4083 30-2794 30-2787**

## GOODHUE COUNTY COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC

1410 Northstar Drive • Zumbrota MN 55992

(507) 732-5117 or (800) 927-6864

Office Hours Monday - Friday

7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Web site: [www.gcea.com](http://www.gcea.com)

For Underground Locations

Call Gopher State One-Call 1-800-252-1166

### STAFF

Doug Fingerson, General Manager

Dennis Wilson, Financial Manager

Darel Birmingham, Member Services

Doug Borgschatz, Line Supt.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ed Bauman, President Dist. No. 2

David Hernke, Vice-President Dist. No. 4

Rob Tate, Secretary Dist. No. 5

Gary Shelstad, Treasurer Dist. No. 8

Gerald Puppe Dist. No. 1

Mary Lindahl Dist. No. 3

Richard Sviggum Dist. No. 6

Gene Bang Dist. No. 7

Don Buck Dist. No. 9

# What Do We Get for Our Money?

By Mark Glaess

Minnesota Rural Electric Association

The Interstate highway system stretches more than 48,000 miles. That was funded largely by gas tax. Income and sales tax pay for police, schools, national defense, public radio and whatever else is covered by this country's \$3.6 trillion budget. We may disagree about funding this and that, but at least we know that our tax dollars actually produce something.

Not so with the nearly \$100 billion that has been spent since 1998 on climate change. What exactly do we get with that enormous sum spent addressing climate change? Has the earth cooled commensurate with the money spent? Has the tons of carbon emissions world-wide decreased with the passage of the 1996 Kyoto Treaty which would have countries reduce their carbon emission by 5.2 percent based on what was emitted in 1990? Why that target? Will that reduction actually reduce carbon emissions?

We don't know. Here's what we do know: 192 countries signed the Kyoto Treaty in 1996 (the United States did not). However 155 countries were not bound by the carbon emission reduction. With a nod to China, these countries (including China) said convincingly we need to use coal, oil and other carbon emitting sources to fuel our economy. Between 1990 to 2010 the use of coal in China increased by 475%. More importantly, that country's gross domestic product, an indicator of wealth, soared by 375%. 3.6 billion people have no access or limited access to electricity. Make no mistake; they want the same things this country has enjoyed.

Each year, according to James Fallows who writes in The Atlantic, the world produces 36 billion tons of carbon dioxide. That will not diminish. Think not? A major terminal is being built in the state of

Washington for the sole purpose of shipping Power River Basin Coal to developing countries.

Scientists like NASA's Jim Hanson said the "tipping point" for carbon dioxide concentration is 385 parts per million (ppm). Today, again according to Fallows, we stand at 390 ppm with an additional 2 ppm emitted annually. Said another way, the world's production of CO2 will continue to escalate – not decline. If Hanson is right, there is no righting the climate change due (or not) to carbon emission concentrations.

In 2007 then Governor Pawlenty promoted renewable energy, conservation mandates and a goal to reduce carbon emissions. Four years later every Minnesotan has higher energy rates as a result. We now know that the wind mandate has cost this state close to \$100 million because that breeze occurs when it is least needed. Those costs will only get worse as the renewable mandate increases until we hit 25% by 2025. How about the cost to reduce Minnesota's carbon emissions (which in the world-wide scheme does not matter)? According to a research paper authored by Peter Nelson for the "American

Experiment," the cost of carbon reduction statewide costs, on average, \$208 per ton. Your electric co-op, which must spend more to meet conservation demand because our loads are largely residential, spend an "average" of \$473 per ton of CO2 – double the state's average. Australia is pushing for a \$25 tax per ton of carbon emissions. How long can the State of Minnesota pay magnitudes more? Which again raises the question legislators who mandate this and mandate that must ask: What, exactly, are we getting for our money?



*Mark Glaess is the General Manager of our state-wide association, the Minnesota Rural Electric Association*

Mark Glaess, Manager  
Minnesota Rural Electric Assn.  
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Maple Grove, MN 55369

## Remember to call 1-800-252-1166

For all your underground facilities locating needs.

**GOPHER  
ONE STATE  
CALL**



The Cooperative will locate only up to the meter; it is the Member's responsibility to have the underground wires beyond the meter located.

## Fluorescent Bulb Recycling

Due to budget cuts by Goodhue County, we are no longer a drop-off site for used fluorescent bulbs. Goodhue County accepts bulbs at all household hazardous waste collections and at the Goodhue County Recycling Center during regular hours. Ace Hardware of Zumbrota also accepts bulbs for a small fee.

## Operation Round-Up

The Operation Round-Board will be meeting again in June. If you know of a nonprofit organization in our area that would like to submit an application for a donation, please call our office for an application form. The application form is also available on our website, [www.gccea.com](http://www.gccea.com) under customer service. Completed applications should be returned to our office by June 13th. If you would like more information about the Operation Round-Up Program, please give us a call.

## MONTHLY RECIPE CONTEST

Members of GCCEA are asked to send in their favorite recipes. We will then select two winners each month to print and they will each receive a \$10 credit on their electric bill so send in your favorite recipes today.

*Marta Garbarino of Cannon Falls  
sent her recipe for*

### **Bacon-Wrapped Chicken Breasts**

4 chicken breasts, can be boneless/skinless or regular (if too big, cut in half)  
8 slices of bacon, cooked til just limp  
4 oz chipped dried beef slices  
can cream of mushroom soup  
1 C sour cream

Line baking pan (glass pan works too) with slices of dried beef. Wrap two bacon slices around each chicken breast and place on top of dried beef. Mix soup and sour cream and pour over chicken. Bake at 275 for about 2 to 2 1/2 hours.

*Marta says this dish is delicious with a rice side dish and a green vegetable. Be sure to pour the soup mixture that is left in the pan over the chicken breasts when serving.*

*LuRene Taube of Cannon Falls  
sent her recipes for*

### **Mock Baby Ruth**

2/3 C butter                      4 C quick oatmeal  
1/4 C corn syrup                1 C brown sugar  
1/4 C peanut butter

Melt butter, add syrup and peanut butter. Mix in oatmeal and sugar and spread in 9x13 buttered pan. Bake at 350 for 10 min or so.

Melt and have ready 12 oz chocolate chips, 6 oz butter-scotch chips and 2/3 C peanut butter. Add 1 C peanuts. Pour over baked crust.

### **Salted Nut Rolls**

1 1/2 T butter  
12 oz Reese's peanut butter chips  
1 can sweetened condensed milk  
10 oz bag miniature marshmallows  
16 oz jar dry-roasted peanuts

Melt butter & chips together. Remove from heat & add sweetened condensed milk. Stir in marshmallows & peanuts. Press into 9x13 buttered pan.