

BREAKFAST IS SERVED

Co-op Month Kick-Off is Held at Clark Electric

Each year, in Wisconsin and throughout the nation, October is proclaimed Cooperative Month, and cooperatives and their members make a special effort to educate the public about this unique, member-owned and member-controlled business form. This year Clark Electric Cooperative was chosen as the host for the 2006 Cooperative Month Kick-Off. Participants at the Co-op Month Kick-Off celebration enjoyed a free pancake breakfast, and entertainment for the kids included face painting, pumpkin painting, and brightly colored inflatable slides and play structures.

The event was once again held at the Clark Electric Business Center. Clark Electric Co-op employees gave two electric hotline demonstrations, providing safety tips for dealing with outside electrical wires, as well as electricity in your home. Community participants included the local fire department, which kicked off Fire Prevention Week at the event; local EMTs; and the local hospital, which provided blood-pressure checks and distributed community health-awareness materials.

Presenting the Co-op Month Proclamation to co-op leaders was Secretary of Agriculture Rod Nilsestuen, who appeared on behalf of Governor Jim Doyle. Nilsestuen said, "Wisconsin has built the best co-op infrastructure in the country." He noted how electric, dairy, farm supply, credit, consumer, and other cooperatives have a long and successful track record of meeting the needs and improving the lives of citizens throughout state.



Members and guests enjoy a great pancake breakfast at the Member Appreciation Day. Hope to see you next year!



CEO/General Manager Tim Stewart addresses the crowd during the official proclamation ceremony.

"Cooperatives are important because they are created and controlled by the people who use their services. They don't pull up stakes and leave when the chips are down. Cooperatives are here for the long-term," Nilsestuen said. He added that new co-ops—like those producing ethanol—can help move the state and country toward greater energy independence. In addition to lessening the country's dependence on foreign oil, cooperatives can create good jobs and keep more dollars in the Wisconsin economy, he said.

The proclamation was presented to Tim Stewart, CEO and general manager Clark Electric Cooperative. North Hendren Dairy Cooperative and Heartland Cooperative were co-sponsors of this year's event. Stewart pointed out that this year's state theme for Co-op Month is "The Cooperative Difference," emphasizing how cooperatives are motivated by service to their members, not by profit.

"Concern for Community is an attribute that Clark Electric believes in and lives by," Stewart said. He then took the opportunity to highlight some of Clark Electric Cooperative's activities aimed at supporting the communities it serves, including:

- Awarding 16 scholarships annually to graduating high school seniors.
- Supporting the Youth Leadership Congress, which provides leadership training to young people and teaches them about the cooperative form of business.
- Helping lead economic development activities.
- Making available a host of economic development tools aimed at spurring economic activity through USDA's Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program.
- Operating a \$9,000 revolving loan fund to support efforts aimed at promoting quality job creation and retention.
- Creating the Adler-Clark Electric Community Commitment Foundation to support programs and events that enrich the lives of the people of Clark County and surrounding communities. Last year the Foundation awarded \$29,000 to local communities. ■



Secretary of Agriculture Rod Nilsestuen talks about the importance of co-ops in our state (right) and presents the Co-op Month proclamation to Stewart (left).



Right: The Pancake Man makes the cakes and serves them up as members go through the line. Left: Scott and Mike after a hotline demonstration.

Manager's Notes



Tim Stewart
CEO/General Manager

We certainly had a beautiful day for this year's Member Appreciation Day. Temperatures in the low 70s look pretty good about now. Clark Electric Cooperative hosted the official launch of this year's Cooperative Month celebration on October 7, 2006, in Greenwood, Wisconsin. We certainly had a good crowd as nearly 1,000 members and guests attended the event. Wisconsin Secretary of Agriculture Rod Nilsestuen appeared on behalf of Governor Jim Doyle to present the official proclamation declaring October Cooperative Month in

Wisconsin. This was the first time in many years that Clark Electric Cooperative has hosted the kick-off. Thank you to those members who attended this year's event, and for those who didn't, I hope to see you at next year's event.

As I was reviewing last month's edition of the *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News*, I noticed an article entitled *Co-ops Lead in Metering Technology*. The article reviewed some of the provisions of the 2005 Energy Bill. The article stated that the 2005 Energy Bill required, in part, that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) prepare an assessment of electric demand response resources. The legislation specifically called for a look at advanced metering and communications, existing demand response programs, and the potential of demand response to capture energy savings for purposes of planning to meet infrastructure needs. The report found that electric cooperatives lead other elements of the nation's electric utility industry by a wide margin in deployment of advanced metering technologies. Further, it found Wisconsin to be a leader in advanced

metering use. In fact, Wisconsin ranked second nationally in terms of advanced metering market penetration with 42 percent market share.

I am pleased to note that Clark Electric Cooperative is well ahead of the curve in terms of both advanced metering and demand-side response programs and has been for some time. In terms of demand response resources, Clark Electric Cooperative has been utilizing load management for more than 20 years to help ease load requirements over peak periods of electrical demand. Our load management program helps in the utilization of generation and transmission resources and saves all members money. This year alone, our load management system has saved our power supplier more than \$2,488,371.

In terms of advanced metering, Clark Electric Cooperative began deployment of Hunt Technologies Turtle 2 advanced metering system in 2005 with the goal of full implementation by year-end 2006. The deployment has gone very well as we have deployed the technology to over 99 percent of the system.

To me, these examples typify cooperatives. While other utilities throughout the nation are just starting to embrace these initiatives and programs, we've been focusing on serving our members effectively. ■

Cooperatively Yours,
Tim Stewart




Young members enjoy pumpkin painting. Member Appreciation Day is for Clark Electric families!



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HAVE A POND NEAR YOUR HOME?

Econar Geothermal With a Pond Loop

Ronald Roth, a member of Taylor Electric Cooperative, contracted to Clark Electric Appliance & Satellite Inc. for the installation of an ECONAR Geothermal Unit at his apartment building on Grahl Drive, east of Medford.

With a pond 350 feet from the building, the property was an ideal setup for the pond loop application. A trench was dug out to the pond at 7 feet deep and 3 feet wide. Two 2-inch geothermal lines were run through the trench connecting to 1-1/4-inch geothermal and manifolded to the three 800-foot “slinky” geothermal loops. Slinkys are built using 800 feet of geothermal pipe, coiled every 3 feet and spaced 4 inches apart.

With the use of a row boat, the geothermal technicians from Clark Electric Appliance & Satellite Inc. floated the slinkys to the middle of the pond and weighted them with cement blocks to ensure they would drop to the bottom of the pond.

Glycol and water were then pumped through the loop field, and the energy was absorbed into the liquid and supplied to the heat pump. Pond loops are very efficient and will

produce a more constant temperature as the water circulating around the loop brings the energy to the loop.

Roth’s pond was 10 feet at the center, ideal for the pond loop. The required depth at the middle of a pond is 7 to 20 feet. The total pond area needed to be at least 1/4 acre in size with a 6-foot average depth for a 6-ton system. The slinky loops float even when filled with the water and glycol solution; therefore, they are weighted down with cement blocks.

Water temperature at the bottom of most lakes averages around 39 degrees Fahrenheit during the winter months. Boat anchors are more likely to be a problem than fishermen snagging the coils with their tackle.

ECONAR “Cold Climate” GeoSource heat pumps can save you up to 70 percent on your annual heating and cooling costs. You will see a dramatic reduction in your heating bills and will also benefit year-round with savings of 25 to 35 percent on your cooling costs. ECONAR ground source heat pumps use no combustible gasses, so you get the safest, most comfortable heating system available.



Greg Shaw, Clark Electric Appliance & Satellite’s geothermal installer.

The ECONAR system is so well engineered that it will carry you through the longest winter and hottest summer. Technology enables the contractor to design your heating system around the heating requirements of your home instead of the cooling requirements, as is customary. That means you need no other “back-up” system, even on the coldest day. ECONAR heat pumps boast the highest heating outputs and the hottest output temperatures of any geosource heat pump on the market.

ECONAR GeoSource heat pumps can heat your home through forced air like a conventional furnace or with water for radiant floor heat like a boiler. The ECONAR heat pumps can provide 100 percent of your home’s heating and cooling requirements for approximately 35 cents on the dollar.

Looking at a new heating system next spring? Give us a call. The ECONAR works well as a closed loop system, pond loop system, or if your well maintains a minimum of 12 gpm, an open loop. ■



Technicians install and prepare the pond loop for the geothermal application.