



# Rural HILIGHTS

Local News from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

## RECC service project assists Sangchris Lake State Park

Nine RECC employees spent an afternoon at Sangchris Lake State Park on May 18, hauling and spreading gravel on a winding trail to the historic Taylor Cemetery in the park. With some custom modifications to the co-op's heavy duty flatbed truck, several loads of "turkey grit" gravel were distributed over the trail to provide safe walking for visitors. The path also provides access to the dozens of

grave sites that include a member of the infamous "Donner Party" that passed through in 1846 and a Civil War soldier.

"Sangchris Lake State Park is a popular camping and activity site for many of our employees, as well as other residents in the area," said President/CEO David Stuva. "We know their manpower is reduced with the budget problems the state is facing, and we wanted to

help keep the park in great shape. Plus, with the 80th anniversary of our cooperative this year, we thought this would be a great way to give back and support our community."

In an email from Park Manager Randy Hawkins, he commented "RECC is a wonderful partner to Sangchris Lake State Park." Glad to help, Randy!



*From left, RECC employees Ken Williamson, Dave McCarty and Chris Bridges unload small-grit gravel along a walking path at Sangchris Lake State Park.*

*RECC volunteers spread gravel over about 1,200 feet of a narrow path to Taylor Cemetery.*

## North Mac student receives co-op scholarship

Madalyn Crawford is one of nine winners of this year's Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship. Madalyn is a graduating senior at North Mac High School and is the daughter of Stan and Shay Crawford, members of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative, in Girard.

The Thomas H. Moore IEC Memorial Scholarship Program is designed to assist deserving students in the "electric cooperative family," while also providing a means for co-ops and individuals to honor deceased members of the co-op family through memorial gifts.

Madalyn competed for the scholarship with a total of 242 other students from across the state of Illinois.

Her \$2,000 award will be applied at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, where she plans to study nursing.

Candidates were judged on grade-point average, college entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities, and a short essay demonstrating their knowledge of electric cooperatives. Congratulations to Madalyn, and good luck in your college studies!



*Madalyn Crawford was awarded a \$2,000 scholarship at the North Mac High School Awards Program on May 6. Presenting a plaque from the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives was Dana Smith, manager of member and public relations at Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative.*

## The path to efficiency independence

While fireworks and Independence Day parades are synonymous with the Fourth of July, no such fanfare comes to mind when discussing energy efficiency. Perhaps it should. If you think about it, energy efficiency not only benefits individuals and families, but the country as a whole. Energy efficiency combined with energy conservation and advances in technology in the utility industry, ultimately help our country on a path toward greater energy independence. And that's worth celebrating.

### Benefits of efficiency

At its essence, greater efficiency means less energy is used for the production of goods and services. For individual consumers, a reduction in energy use usually translates to a tangible financial benefit – more money in your wallet at the end of the month. If your co-op neighbors are also using

less energy, collectively, it means the overall cost of providing that electricity could be lower and may result in reduced costs for co-op members. For many, this is reason enough to strive for greater energy efficiency.

On a national level, energy efficiency, sometimes called the "fifth fuel," has a more profound impact. It can potentially boost the economy by allowing consumers and businesses to invest in other areas. As importantly, greater energy efficiency may slow the rate at which domestic energy is depleted, and therefore reduce or diminish the need for foreign energy.

### Strike up the band

There's no need to wait for the first exploding burst of fireworks in the night sky to start your energy efficiency efforts. Every American can take charge of their own energy use, regardless of the date on the calendar.

Small steps can lead to a big difference for you and your neighbors, whether across the road or across the country.

You might choose to make a mechanical change in your home, such as replacing an older HVAC unit or less efficient appliance with a new ENERGY STAR model. Less expensive actions include improving the seal of your home's "envelope" by caulking exterior windows and doors and sealing openings where pipes and ductwork meet the outside. Swapping out the last incandescent bulbs (inside and outside) with LEDs also makes a noticeable difference.

Regardless of the path you take on the road to energy efficiency and independence, RECC can help you on the journey. For information about energy efficiency and home energy audits, contact Dana Smith at (217) 438-6516.

# Weidner Refrigeration wins geo award

## First "Top Job" competition in Illinois

Weidner Refrigeration of Divernon is the recipient of the Illinois geothermal heat pump industry's Top Job award for 2017. Weidner, a geothermal heat pump contractor, won the residential category honor for its installation at a Springfield area home.

Weidner designed and installed the geothermal heating and cooling system for the home, which features an indoor pool with radiant heated floors. The project was completed last year on Springfield's west side.

The geothermal system heats and cools the indoor pool, as well as heating the pool area floor and basement floor with radiant in-floor heat. The geothermal loop field installation was done by Durbin Geothermal of Beecher City. The installation is unique in that the pool is heated for significant parts of the year at no cost,



Employees of Weidner Refrigeration accepted the Residential Top Job award at the IL Geothermal Conference on March 28. From left are Levi Steinacher, Matt Nagel, Derek Clayton, GAOI Board Chairman Chad Mayes, owner Dave Weidner, Robert Selinger, Robert Hillemeier, and Mike Weidner.

using a heating byproduct of the geothermal operation.

The presentation was made at the IL Geothermal Conference in East Peoria in March. The conference and the Top Job competition are coordinated by the Geothermal Alliance of Illinois.

The GAOI recognized the two top jobs in the geothermal heat pump industry in Illinois, in commercial and residential categories. The Commercial award was won by Bratcher Heating and Air Conditioning of Normal, Ill.

## New business offers for Co-op Connections cards



We have some new offers to announce for RECC members showing their Co-op Connections cards at local businesses! All Rural Electric members should have the free cards, which can be used for local as well as national savings. If you need a replacement card, please contact us.

To see all of our local offers, go to Co-op Deals at [www.connections.coop](http://www.connections.coop),

and enter your ZIP code to find Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative's participating businesses. You can also find more information on pharmacy discounts and other benefits of the

card program at this site.

Thanks to these new businesses for joining the Co-op Connections program!

- **Viriden Hardware** – 15 percent off the purchase of three or more regular priced light bulbs
- **Auburn Subway** – 10 percent off any order
- **Trends Terra Bella, Chatham** – \$20 off any spa service over \$50
- **Kruse Enterprises Auto Sales, Girard and Viriden** – \$150 on pre-owned vehicles
- **Kruse Enterprises Service Centers, Girard and Viriden** – 15 percent off any service over \$50
- **Kruse Enterprises Lawn Care, Viriden** – Free pickup and delivery for riding mower service (30 mile limit)



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## Part-time interns join RECC



President/CEO David Stuva welcomes Tyler Maxwell.

Two part-time interns started at RECC in May, working with our crews on line projects and tree trimming.

Tyler Maxwell is a 2016 graduate of the LLCC/AIEC Electrical Line Distribution/Lineman Program. He graduated with high honors from Lincolnwood High School in Raymond in 2015 and was a three-year letterman in football and basketball. Tyler worked as a water technician for Bloome Water in Raymond, where he lives.

Zach Stuhmer is a 2009 graduate



Zach Stuhmer is congratulated by Lou DeLaby, Manager of Operations and Maintenance.

of Auburn High School, and also graduated from the LLCC/AIEC Electrical Line Distribution/Lineman Program. He served as a Petty Officer Third Class on the USS Nimitz Nuclear Aircraft Carrier from 2011 to 2015. He was responsible for maintenance and upkeep of hydraulic and auxiliary equipment/components onboard the carrier. Zach and his wife Kolette have a son, Tristan, and live in Auburn. He is also an Auburn Volunteer Fire Fighter and former EMT-B.



### RECC Annual Meeting report is online

This newsletter went to print before RECC's Annual Meeting on June 8, so we'll have the full meeting report in this Rural Highlights section of the August Illinois Country Living magazine. For news about the 2017 Annual Meeting, visit our website at [www.recc.coop](http://www.recc.coop).



In observance of the Independence Day holiday, RECC's office will be closed on Tuesday, July 4. Remember to celebrate safely!