



# United Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

**United Electric Cooperative, Inc.**  
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## From the President & CEO



### The life of a lineman

*Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 11*

By Brenda Swartzlander

NATIONAL Lineworker Appreciation Day honors the hard work, innovation and dedication of America's electrical lineworkers. Providing safe, reliable electric service to our members depends on a lot of things, but ultimately it comes down to the dedication and skill of our linemen.

They wake before dawn, pour steaming cups of coffee, kiss their families goodbye and head off to work. After receiving their assignments for the day, they load up the required material to perform their tasks and climb into their trucks and head out. Our linemen are a well-trained team, dedicated to delivering safe, reliable electricity to United Electric Cooperative's members.

We often take power — and those who provide it — for granted. Let's take a moment and stand in their boots. Our linemen have to work safely, wisely and efficiently, all while 40 feet in the air wearing specially designed protective equipment and

thick rubber gloves. On a typical day, our linemen maintain electric distribution lines or build service to new homes and businesses throughout our service territory. However, when our dispatch center calls with an outage, everything else takes a backseat.

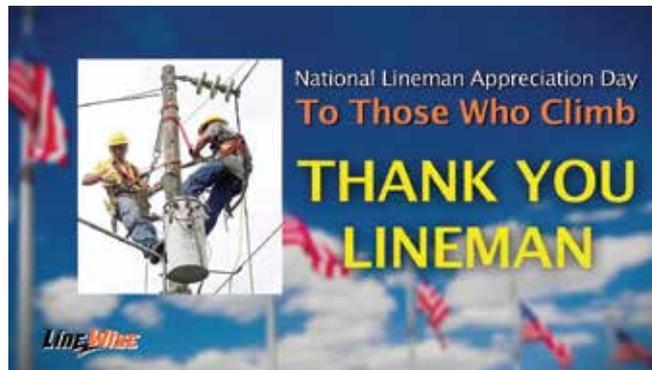
Restoring power to a member takes priority. These dedicated folks are always on-call. We have 20 linemen standing by to serve you 24 hours a day, whether it's the middle of the night, the wee hours of the morning, the weekend or a holiday — and no matter the weather conditions. Without the exceptional dedication and commitment of these hardworking employees, we simply would not have the reliable electricity we need for everyday life.

This is why we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 11. Our highly skilled linemen are here to keep the lights on in our homes and businesses every day. They are called on to work

in harsh weather and put in long hours, all to make our lives and our families' lives better. After all, linemen are the power behind your power.

Until next time,

  
 Brenda



Rustic Views

# A season to hope

By Glenn Schuckers

WELL, it looks as though we have made it to April. A couple of months ago, we may have had our doubts. Then, the landscape was either white or brown; the snow around here was about a foot deep and coupled with a coating of ice that was going to make sure no melting took place.

The snow has finally melted, and even though the grass may not grow for another few weeks, we can start thinking about spring.

That is not to say that we have seen the last of the snow. I can recall a number of years when we had enough snow to cover the ground this month, and even though it did not last long and may not have done much damage, we should not be surprised to see some snowflakes dancing around.

I have trimmed all the fruit trees I planned to trim for this year, and it may now be time to prune the few stone fruit trees that are around. Pruning peach and cherry trees while snow covers the ground is a good way to kill them in a climate like ours. This is just another way of saying that everything has its season, and trying to do in one season what belongs in another is a recipe for failure.

Early spring is the time for “getting ready” out in the country. It’s too early to plant seeds and seedlings outside, but it may be too late already for those who plant things like tomatoes and peppers inside. By now, those plants should be up and growing, maybe 3 or



4 inches tall. Most people who grow their own plants usually like to plant them around the middle of March, about eight weeks before the middle of May.

This month, however, is a good time to plant things like fruit trees. As soon as all the frost is out of the ground and I can dig holes big enough to bury the roots so that just the “crown” is above ground level, that’s when I know it’s a good time to plant bare-root plants. The trees will most likely still be dormant, with no new growth and buds that are still lightly closed.

Trees like that will begin to grow, just as the older trees will later this month, and if there are blossoms,

**SPRING IS IN THE AIR:** This is the month for daffodils. They may be the most carefree flowers anywhere. Just plant them and wait for spring. When the bloom is over, just cut them off and wait for next year. What could be easier?

we all hope they will stay closed until about the second week in May. By then, we hope it will be past the time of frosts, and the blossoms will develop into fruit.

Notice I said, “We hope.” When it comes to farming and gardening, there is always a lot of hope.

No one who ever planted a seed or set a plant in the ground ever did it without a degree of hope.

We can select the best plants, get the best seeds and do everything in



**Glenn Schuckers**, a longtime member of United Electric, operated Schuckers’ Orchard in Luthersburg until the mid-1990s. He is a retired high school teacher and a contributing writer for *The Courier Express*.

We are pleased to have Glenn provide our *Penn Lines* readers with his take on rural life.



PHOTO BY GLENN SCHUCKERS

our power to make sure those seeds and plants grow, but some things are always out of our control, and every farmer and gardener knows it. No matter how carefully we plan, no matter how much we know about gardens and fields and orchards, there have always been and always will be things that are out of our control — so we plant and tend with hope.

Farming and gardening are not occupations for anyone who needs to be in complete control of everything. Once the seeds, plants or trees are in the ground, I have to realize that even though I may have done everything right ... everything to ensure success ... I have to hope nature will

cooperate. I have to hope the beans I plant will come up in May, but if I have used good seeds, I'm on the right track. Once I have set out tomato and pepper plants, I have to hope they will grow and that no pests will eat the stems before they bear a crop.

I planted 12 semi-dwarf fruit trees five years ago and actually had two apples last year. One of the 12 did not survive, and I have replaced it with another tree this spring. The new tree was a good, bare-root tree from a nursery with a good reputation, so I have every expectation it will grow. I also replaced a peach tree that did not survive, even though it was a variety that was developed in Canada. It was

supposed to be hardy, according to its description, but catalogs can say what they want; the proof is in the product. I learned what I should have known all along: Catalogs are designed to sell products.

The new trees are in the ground. They will soon have green leaves and new growth. I put up a fence around this little "orchard" the same year I planted the trees so deer have not been a problem, but it would be possible for rabbits and mice to get in. So far, they have not been a problem, and I try to keep the grass very short close to the trees so that those pests don't have a "bed and breakfast" next to them.

I will plow the garden soon. The tomato and pepper plants are "hardening off" now and will go into the garden next month. As usual, I'll do all I can to make sure they have a successful season. I have cut back to just tomatoes, peppers, beans and squash in the garden, but I'll also plant some cucumber seeds since I need to renew the supply of lime pickles.

Am I sure it will be a successful summer? No. That will depend on things like rainfall, no Japanese beetles, no hail storm in July, no blight and not having so much rain in June that nothing can grow but the weeds.

Will it be what I envision now: a beautiful, completely weed-free garden of pure delight? Probably not. Ann's grandfather, Merley, was a master gardener. He could count the number of weeds in his garden on one hand, and I always envied that. He would walk across his rows of eggplants and pluck out the one weed that had sprung up. Me? I'll cultivate the rows of beans and squash and pull weeds from around the tomatoes and peppers. I'll watch the skies for signs of thunderstorms or hail, but along with that, I'll hope that in a few months I'll reap the rewards of the time and effort I spent.

Just as I hoped the winter snows would melt as they have, I will hope the season will be successful and that yours is as well. ☀



### LINWORKER APPRECIATION DAY

We thank lineworkers for their courage and commitment to powering our community.

**APRIL 11**

**FREE REGISTRATION GIFT!**

### ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, May 18, 2022 - 7:00 p.m.  
Brady Township Community Center  
Luthersburg, PA

- Report of Directors
- Business Session
- CEO's Report
- Results of Director Election in Districts 1 & 7

DOOR PRIZES FOR REGISTERED MEMBERS

### Office Closing

The United Electric Cooperative office will be closed April 15 in observance of Good Friday.



**DREAM.**  
**SHINE.**  
**ACHIEVE.**

#### ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE SHINE THE LIGHT SCHOLARSHIP

All Students  
Attending or  
Planning to Attend  
Higher Education\*

Application  
deadline is  
**April 15, 2022.**

Contact **Kristy Smith:**  
888-581-8969, ext. 8507  
ksmith@unitedpa.com  
www.unitedpa.com

\*Must be a United Electric Cooperative member or dependent. Directors, employees and their families are ineligible to apply.

