



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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 Customer Service: 888-581-8969
 www.unitedpa.com
 Outage: 800-262-8959
 Office Hours: M - F 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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From the President & CEO



Don't be a victim of a scam

By Brenda Swartzlander

WHEN A member calls United Electric's customer service department, our customer service representatives are happy to address their inquiries with competence and reassurance. I say this to lead into a story that, thankfully, has a happy ending for some members due to our constant watchful eye on "the next big utility scam."

A while ago, a member called, upset and questioning what he thought was someone from United Electric calling him moments before demanding payment on a past due account. Our customer service representative assured him that his account was paid in full and that nobody from our office had placed a call to his number. The United representative also inquired about the phone number that this mystery person had called from. Our representative explained to this member that the number was not associated with our office in any way and gave him the correct phone numbers that are (888-581-8969 or 814-371-8570). After our member saw this for what it was (a scam), he thanked our customer service representative for helping him and reassuring him that what his gut had already told him was correct and his account was in fact, current. As a side note, one of our supervisors called the number that was given to us by the member and it just rang and rang unanswered.

I share this story with all of our

members because unfortunately, in today's world, scams are inevitable and being able to recognize them may help one of our members in the future. Even the most cautious member can be duped, however, since scammers are developing new tactics every day. Scammers call/text/email you with everything from threats of legal action to scams that actually spoof our real phone numbers on your caller I.D. (software for this is widely available).

How you can help

Scams work when people forget the age-old principle: What sounds incorrect or too good to be true almost always is. Please help alert your family, neighbors, and friends by sharing the scammers' tactics described in this article or any others you have heard about. If you're social media savvy, help raise awareness and warn others by reposting scam awareness information. Please remember, if you feel uneasy about a call you received from someone claiming to be with United Electric, go with your gut, hang up and call us at 888-581-8969 or 814-371-8570. We will always be here to help you with your questions.

Until next time,


 Brenda

Rustic Views

“To every thing there is a season”

By Glenn Schuckers

WELL, we made it through March (came in like a lion and out like a lamb, or is it vice versa?), April, with all its promises and disappointments, and May, so now we look forward to June. This is the month I believe should be the beginning of the new year.

A lot gets started this month. Although fruit trees may have been in bloom last month, fruit trees like apples, peaches, pears and cherries will most likely have fruits formed by this month. This is when we have the traditional “June drop,” when fruits that were not completely pollinated drop off the trees. Even if they survived a May freeze, they may still not be out of danger.

We have had seasons when killer frosts hit when fruit trees were in full bloom in May. If the temperature gets down into the 20s, most fruit blossoms will be killed. The only salvation could be that if the trees bloomed early enough that fruits themselves have formed, and then most of the young fruits (apples, pears or cherries) will survive. But there is that period of time, generally about two weeks in length, while blossoms are welcoming friendly bees. That is a danger zone.

Apples especially need to be cross-pollinated, meaning that pollen from one variety needs to be deposited on the blossoms of another variety. Not all kinds need it, but many do. That’s why nurseries often recommend planting more than one variety in a home orchard and even suggest which varieties make the best “neighbors.” And that’s why we have a “June drop.”



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

LILACS IN BLOOM: These lilacs bloomed in early June, which was a little late, but the warm days and nights just enhanced both their beauty and aroma. Lilacs like these are always worth waiting for.

The other danger zone for fruits during that time is constant rain. As to the rain, bees, like many of us, don’t operate well in the rain. Like most farmers, when we operated an orchard, I worked outdoors in the rain. But only when I had to. Rainy days were often times used to work on equipment, clean out the barn or catch up on paperwork. But if bees don’t fly when it’s raining, fruit blossoms don’t get pollinated and the fruit doesn’t develop.

All said, there is still a lot that can go wrong in June, and that is not limited to fruit.

We have some lilac bushes that we transplanted from the old house to the new one. It was our way of having something from the past to hold on to. The crew that did our landscaping was good enough to dig and move some five or six of the bushes to their new locations, and the aroma of lilacs in bloom is both a welcome and familiar tie to the past and a promise that good days will follow.

But even lilacs, which for the most

part are pretty indestructible, have their limits. A couple of years ago, the weather was so warm in late April that the lilac flowers began to swell and open. Then, just as they were about to bloom in May, the temperature dropped into the mid-20s and all that remained were dead brown petals. Ever since, I look at twigs, buds and blossoms hoping that they will stay tightly closed until they reach their appointed time.

“To every thing, there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.” Ecclesiastes 3:1. Nothing could be truer because everything, whether it is in nature or the nature of humans, has a season. And it’s also true that there is not much I or anyone else can do to change an appointed time. I could do almost nothing to stop those lilacs from blooming, even though I had a pretty good idea that they were about to be killed. And I could not stop the rain even if I knew it would probably stop fruit from developing.

That’s where patience comes in. But

patience also has another side. The Serenity Prayer by Reinhold Niebuhr says: “God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, Courage to change the things I can, And wisdom to know the difference.” It is that last phrase that I like to keep in mind; the part about knowing the difference between what I cannot change and must accept, and the things I can change and must have the courage to work on.

At one time, a disease killed off all the American chestnut trees — trees that at one time were one of the most prevalent trees in eastern America. But in the first half of the 20th century, a blight destroyed them. Following the blight, most people thought nothing could be done about it. They believed the loss of those majestic trees was something they just had to accept.

But a few scientists had the thought that things could be changed. They started experimenting, first with creating a sort of hybrid tree that would resist the blight. When those results

didn't produce an acceptable result, they turned to the science of genes. Gradually, over many experiments, failures and generations, I have read there is now a true American chestnut that is resistant to the blight. It is not yet a proven fact since the trees don't mature for many years, but it looks as though the death of American chestnut tree is not something that must be accepted.

So maybe we should not be so hasty to “accept the things we cannot change.” Could there be a chemical that when applied to apple trees or lilac bushes will slow down their development and protect their flowers from a freeze? Is a cure for a now deadly disease just down the road?

It may sound out of reach, but when I think about all the things everyone thought impossible when my dad first started planting apple trees in 1944, but which are just about commonplace today (such as cellphones), I know I have to pause and wonder what “purposes under heaven” are still to be found. ☀

Tips for Protecting Yourself from Scams

- Do not assume the name and number on your caller I.D. is legitimate.
- Do not click links or call numbers in unexpected emails or text messages.
- Be cautious of who you are dealing with before offering up personal information.
- If you receive an unsolicited call threatening disconnection of your power and suspect it may not actually be United representatives you're speaking with, hang up and call United Electric directly at 888-581-8969 or 814-371-8570.
- If someone comes to your home unsolicited, claiming to be from United Electric, call us. Our vehicles are clearly marked and each United employee has company-issued identification.
- If you make an over-payment on your account, United will automatically apply a credit to your account or we will mail you a check upon your request. We will NOT call and ask for bank account information to return the money to you.
 - While United Electric does offer net metering for those who install renewables, we do NOT sell or offer any discount plans for it.



United Electric
COOPERATIVE, INC.
A Touchstone Energy® Partner



BE PREPARED BEFORE A STORM STRIKES

In the event of a power outage, be prepared by keeping the following items in an easy-to-find emergency supply kit.



■ WATER

Three-day supply, one gallon per person per day.



■ TOOLS

Flashlight, extra batteries, manual can opener, battery-powered or hand-crank radio, NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert.



■ FIRST AID KIT AND PRESCRIPTIONS

First aid supplies, hand sanitizer and at least one week's supply of prescriptions and medications for the family.

Learn more at www.ready.gov



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

Source: American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

FOR SALE TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER!

United Electric is accepting bids for vehicles to be sold AS IS to the highest bidder!

Sealed bids must be received at United Electric's office no later than 4 p.m. Friday, July 9, 2021. Bid forms can be picked up from outside our lobby door and may be placed in the night deposit slot once completed and sealed.

Items can be viewed at United Electric's office (29 United Road, DuBois, Pa.) on **June 24 and 25 ONLY**. Please drive to the gate on the left side of our building to gain access for viewing between the hours of 8 a.m.-4 p.m.



Unit 29 2008 Dodge Caravan
66,056 miles.



Unit 125 2014 Dodge Ram 1500 4 x 4
177,865 miles.



Unit 119 2010 Ford Escape AWD
82,748 miles.



Unit 39 1997 GMC 1 ton 4 x 4
57,103 miles.

COMMON UTILITY SCAMS: BOGUS BILLS



Scammers send suspicious emails that include a bill that appears to be from us. Never open these attachments or click links in suspicious emails.