



# United Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

**United Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

Post Office Box 688  
 DuBois, PA 15801-0688  
 Customer Service: 888-581-8969  
 www.unitedpa.com  
 Outage: 800-262-8959  
 Office Hours: M - F 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Chairman**

**Stephen A. Marshall, District 5**  
 1030 Donahue Rd.  
 Luthersburg, Pa. 15848  
 814-583-7320

**Vice Chairman**

**Timothy D. Burkett, District 6**  
 5059 Hamilton Markton Rd.  
 Punxsutawney, Pa. 15767  
 814-938-7991

**Secretary/Treasurer**

**Eileen Pisaneschi, District 2**  
 1964 River Hill Rd.  
 Frenchville, Pa. 16836  
 814-263-4491

**DIRECTORS**

**Shanelle Hawk, District 1**  
 502 Pine Run Rd.  
 Mayport, Pa. 16240  
 814-365-5646

**Arden E. Owens, District 7**  
 505 Trout Run Rd.  
 Shawville, Pa. 16873  
 814-765-6458

**Richard Petrosky, District 3**  
 P.O. Box 612  
 DuBois, Pa. 15801  
 814-371-8672

**David W. Walker, District 4**  
 631 Olanta Rd.  
 Olanta, Pa. 16863  
 814-236-3321

**President & CEO**  
 Brenda Swartzlander

**Consumer Advocate**  
 Debra Horner, ext. 8508

**Richard Heverley, Editor**

## From the President & CEO



# Generators provide emergency electricity, as well as risks

By Brenda Swartzlander

AS YOUR electric cooperative, United Electric keeps your electricity safe, reliable and affordable. However, there are times when Mother Nature has a differing opinion, which is why weather-related occurrences are the No. 1 cause of major power outages for all electricity providers. United Electric continually strives to provide reliable service to you, our members, but there will always be the occasional power outage. When outages do occur, some of our members turn to their portable generators to meet their needs.

Generator pricing has come down, and many people find them appealing for different reasons. It's important for anyone using or considering purchasing a generator to be aware of any potential hazards that may impact the safety of your family and our employees.

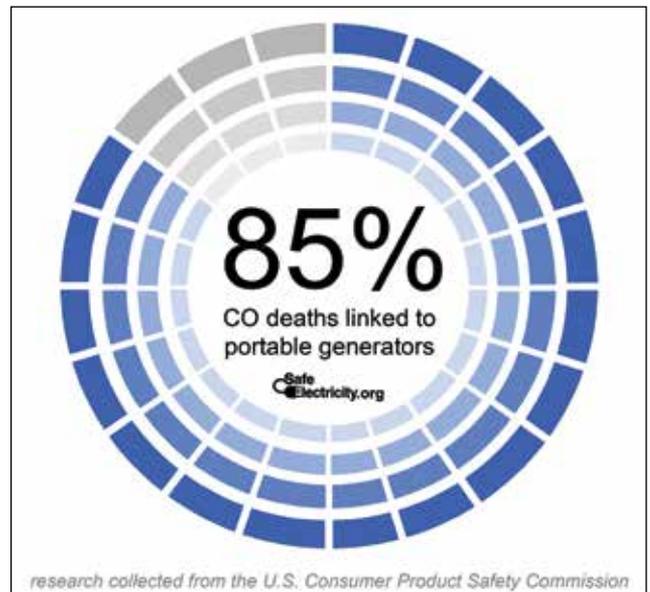
If you are thinking of using a portable generator, please take a moment to review the following facts and risks in order to keep everyone safe:

- ▶ Know the capability of your generator. What size is it? What items can it power in your home?
- ▶ Never set up a generator indoors or in a garage. Carbon monoxide poisoning causes fatalities.
- ▶ Before refueling your generator,

make sure the engine is off and cool to the touch. This will prevent a fire caused by a flammable liquid.

- ▶ Most portable generators are not meant to run continuously. Give yours a break.
- ▶ Avoid using generators in wet areas to reduce the risk of electrical shock.
- ▶ Make sure to use properly sized, heavy-duty cords to prevent fires or shocks.
- ▶ Only connect items to the generator when it is fully running. Remember to disconnect items before stopping the generator. This protects your generator and your electrical items from damage.
- ▶ NEVER connect your generator to your breaker panel or house outlet without a transfer switch.

*(continues on page 12d)*



Rustic Views

# We reap our rewards

By Glenn Schuckers

FOLKS who farm and garden look for the rewards of their labor during this month. Where May and June saw them planning and planting, and July and August were devoted to hoeing and weeding, this month we get to enjoy the rewards of that planting and weeding and hoeing. For people who work in the soil, September is a time to rest the knees, stretch the backs, sit back with a morning cup of coffee and an evening glass of iced tea, and enjoy.

Nothing I have ever tasted can compare with the flavor of a tomato just picked from the garden. There have been times, I'll have to admit, when a tomato did not even make it out of the garden. There have been times when after I picked a basket of tomatoes and one did "not quite fit" in the basket, it just had to be eaten right there in the garden. The same goes for green beans and even a small cucumber. They may have had a lump or two of dirt, but I was reminded of my mother's advice that everyone needs to eat some dirt every year to stay healthy.

So, this month is devoted to rewards.

Last month, we were able to taste the fresh, ripe peaches from an orchard in the southern part of the state. I used to bring in truckloads of them to sell at the stand at our orchard, but then as prices inched up first to just over \$10 and then to \$20 and now to over \$30 a bushel, bringing in a truckload was no longer feasible. When they had cost \$5 or \$6, losing a few was no



PHOTO BY GLENN SCHUCKERS

big deal. At \$30-plus, losing a bushel was unsustainable. So now I just take orders from the "regulars" every year and bring back enough for our own use and theirs.

I have been getting them from the same orchard, one of the few remaining in Franklin County, for over 10 years. The owner is an experienced fruit grower who takes great pride in his fruit. Over the years, we have become more than just customer and seller, and now we get to meet and compare stories during this annual event. And the best part is that my "customers" get a bushel or two of the sweetest and best peaches in the world.

That, after all, is what this month is about.

When our orchard was in opera-

**THAT TIME OF YEAR:** It's the season for "canning." I can still hear a Dutch teacher of mine who was fond of a saying about this time of year: "We eat what we can, and what we can't, we can."

tion, we offered some 30 different varieties of apples and plums. From Yellow Transparent and Lodi in July to Winesap and Northern Spy in November, each had its own followers. One woman who worked for my dad and then for me claimed there was nothing as good as applesauce made from a Wealthy apple; another employee was especially partial to September Rambo.

My own favorite of all the varieties we grew was Northern Spy. It is not an easy apple to grow, and the tree usually did not bear fruit for as many as 10 years after being planted, but the wait was, in my opinion, worth it.



**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.



It also requires more calcium in the soil than a lot of others. When I asked Doc Ritter about the little brown spots under the skin of Northern Spy, he quickly diagnosed the trouble as a lack of calcium. The cure, he said, was to get some salt water on the branches and trunk before any leaves appeared, then in the fall scatter a handful of calcium chloride under the trees. Once I did that, the spots disappeared and the large, mostly green apples were not only beautiful, but also delicious.

There is, in my humble opinion, nothing that even comes close to the taste of an apple dumpling made from one Northern Spy apple with a little cinnamon sprinkled on top, swimming in a bowl of milk. It's about as close to heaven as I'll get here on Earth.

But enough about my rewards. Just

what is it that makes a reward?

Going back to Emerson, he once wrote that the more difficult it is to reach a reward, the more value it has. "It is," he said, "effort alone that gives things value." The older I get, the more I am convinced that he was correct. In other words, while it is a lot easier to pay someone else to plan, plant, weed, hoe, and then pick something like a peck of tomatoes, they will never have quite the same value as the ones we plant, weed, mulch, and then pick ourselves. That which we obtain too easily never has the same value as that for which we must work and sweat.

That is why I look to the people who know what it is to work. Workers, I am sure, are the salt of the earth. Whether they work in fields planting and harvesting, in forests cutting and sawing, in shops repairing engines, in factories assembling, and yes, office workers whose work is different than that of others, and teachers whose work may be hard to see but necessary nonetheless, workers are the ones who know the values of their labors.

It may be easy to say that the rewards of workers are in his or her paycheck. The truth is that a paycheck is just a symbol, an excuse for the reward for the work he or she does. We all too often assume that those who get the biggest paycheck do the most important or most skilled or the most valuable work. Where, after all, would a rocket scientist be if he or she did not have food on the table? Where would the most skilled lawyers be if they could not buy a pound of potatoes?

I'll make no excuses for it: I like people who have dirt under their fingernails, whose hands show the wrinkles of a lifetime of work. Their rewards may not be a huge bank account or a big house and fancy car, but make no mistake, they have their rewards. And without their work, none of us could survive. Rewards come in many forms, but when they come in September, we can be sure of what they are. ☀



## 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](http://www.ready.gov)

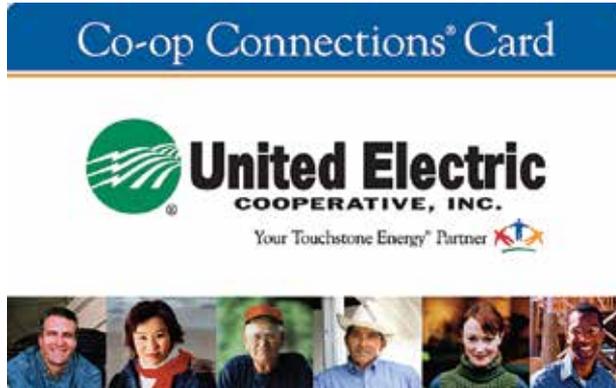


AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

Source: American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

# New look for connections.coop

Haven't logged into connections.coop in a while? That same Co-op Connections Card that you use at the pharmacy for discounts can get you much more than ever before! That includes free roadside assistance, cash back on things you normally buy, and deep discounts at hotels, resorts, and more. Log in today and rediscover hotel deals that have been proven to be better than most of the big-name discount travel websites. Need an account? Go to connections.coop and sign up (it's free), or download the app to your smartphone for even quicker access. Don't forget about the great local deals that have always been offered from places like Dunham's, Cooper Tire and Auto, Merle Norman and Firehouse Pizza. Just show your Co-op Connections Card!



## From the President & CEO

*(continued from page 12a)*

Transfer switches are required anytime a generator is going to be used through the panel box to provide power to things such as furnaces, well pumps or lighting. This is the only way to safely isolate your generator from our distribution lines. If you do not use a transfer switch, the electricity generated by your generator will flow up to the transformer and back onto the electric lines, creating a dangerous, possibly even deadly, situation for our lineworkers and your neighbors.

Transfer switches can be installed by a qualified electrician with a free temporary disconnect by our lineworkers. United Electric even sells manual transfer switches that can be purchased from us for your electrician to install, or you may choose to have our lineworkers install the switch for an added fee.

For more information on generators and transfer switches, give our Member Services Department a call at 888-581-8969, extensions 8506 or 8507. We will be happy to help you with your generator-purchasing decision process and any safety concerns you may have.

United Electric is dedicated to the safety of our employees as well as our members and the public as a whole. Stay safe around all electrical devices, but please take extra caution when using an emergency generator.

*Brenda*

Until next month,  
Brenda



**OFFICE CLOSING**  
**UNITED ELECTRIC'S**  
**OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED**  
**MONDAY SEPTEMBER 7,**  
**IN OBSERVANCE OF**  
**LABOR DAY.**