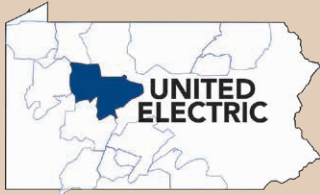




# United Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

## UNITED ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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

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#### Vice Chairman

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Brenda Swartzlander

**Consumer Advocate**  
Lauren Gustafson, ext. 8501

**Manager of Marketing & Member Services**  
Kristy Smith

## Co-ops Power Communities with Purpose



**BRENDA SWARTZLANDER**

**COMMUNITIES COME IN ALL SHAPES** and sizes. Some are based on location, some on shared interests or hobbies, and some can even be found in virtual spaces, like social media. Regardless of where or how they are formed, communities bring people together and create a sense of belonging.

United Electric is deeply committed to our members, and we're glad you are part of our electric cooperative community.

This month, more than 30,000 cooperatives across the U.S. are celebrating National Co-op Month. It's a time to reflect on what sets them apart from other types of businesses. More important, it's a time to celebrate the power of co-op membership.

Electric cooperatives are not-for-profit utilities built by the communities they serve, and United's mission has always been to provide you with safe, reliable, and affordable electricity. We care about your quality of life, and because we are locally operated, we're uniquely suited to meet our members' evolving energy needs.

Beyond the business of electricity, our employees and directors are equally invested in our community because we live here, too. We work hard to support local economic development projects, youth programs and scholarships, charitable giving initiatives, and additional programs that make our community a better place to call home.

All co-ops, including United Electric, are guided by seven principles that embody the values and spirit of the cooperative movement. The following seven principles provide a framework that helps all co-ops navigate challenges and opportunities while remaining true to their purpose:

- 1. Open and Voluntary Membership.** Co-op membership is open to any and all individuals who can use the co-op's services.
- 2. Democratic Member Control.** Members make decisions that shape the cooperative because co-ops are created *by* the members, *for* the members. United's annual meetings and director elections are some examples of membership control.
- 3. Members' Economic Participation.** Members contribute money to the co-op to ensure it runs smoothly. At United, this happens through the payment of your energy bills.
- 4. Autonomy and Independence.** All co-ops are independent and operate on their own, which ultimately benefits the members.
- 5. Education, Training and Information.** Co-ops continuously focus on education to ensure directors and employees have the necessary training and information to make the co-op successful. We also educate the public about electrical safety and where to find more information.
- 6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives.** Co-ops share with and learn from other cooperatives. We help each other in times of need, like providing mutual aid following severe storms, because we want other co-ops to thrive.
- 7. Concern for Community.** All cooperatives work for the greater good of the communities they serve. Co-ops give back to their communities to

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## Rustic Views

# The Most Recognizable Fruit

GLENN SCHUCKERS

October is National Apple Month. When we operated the orchard, we made a pretty big deal about it. We often had visits from school kids, which I always enjoyed. They would look at the trees and the bushel bins and almost

always ask, “How do you pick all these apples?” I would usually reply, “One at a time.”

People often asked if they could get a tree of Macintosh apples to grow if they planted a seed. The short answer is “no.”

Planting the seed from any variety of apple will produce a tree but not the variety of the seed. The only way to get more trees of the same variety is by grafting a twig or bud from one tree onto a seedling. So, the story about John Chapman, aka Johnny Appleseed, is probably true. Sort of.

Johnny would visit the cider mills of his time and collect seeds from apple pulp that had been ground up to make cider. He carried those seeds with him to farms on the frontier, planted them and moved on. Undoubtedly, many of the seeds sprouted and grew into apple trees. But more likely, the apples they produced would be sour to the point of being bitter. That made no difference to the settlers since the apples were not meant to be eaten; they were for making cider, which was immensely important because safe drinking water was at a premium.

## Good things take time

That leaves us with the problem of creating today's varieties of edible apples. Creating a new variety, it turns out, can take up to 20 years. Pomologists (people who study and cultivate fruit) must first decide which fruit trees they wish to cross breed. In the case of one of my favorite varieties, Cortland, they chose Macintosh and Ben Davis. Then they must visit each variety when it is in bloom, take pollen from each tree, isolate the blossoms and follow the development of the fruit that grows from those blossoms. Once those apples are ripe, they collect seeds to save and plant.

From the thousands of seedlings that grow, they watch for them to begin to produce fruit. They find a few dozen that produce something like the fruit they want and follow those trees while they grow. When they have a few trees that seem to have the kind of apple they want, researchers will invite a panel of judges to pick the new variety that will be introduced to

GLENN SCHUCKERS



**ONE OF THOUSANDS:** This is our 5-year-old Honeycrisp, a new variety we like. This is its first crop, along with 10 other semi-dwarf trees, and we look forward to having more fruit in the future.



orchards. Twigs or buds from that variety are then grafted onto seeding stock, which are the trees we see advertised in catalogs. It is a long and involved process, making it all the more surprising that orchards in America now have some 2,500 different varieties of apples.

Our orchard did not have anywhere near that many. We had about 25, most of which my dad bought from a nursery. We had a few heritage varieties — like Snow, Fameuse and Sheepnose — that Dad grafted into existing trees in local orchards. We started with Yellow Transparent in late July and finished with either Winesap, Rome Beauty, or Northern Spy in late October or early November.

All varieties have good qualities and some that are not so good, depending on your personal taste. Yellow Transparent are early but do not keep well and tend to bear fruit every other year. My own favorite, Northern Spy, bears fruit every year and keeps well but tends to need extra calcium in the soil. It also has tender skin and bruises so easily that I asked some of the pickers to wear gloves.

When you think about it, apples may well be one of the most versatile fruits. We eat them fresh or use them to make sauce, butter, pies, strudel, cobbler, dumplings, cake and even stew. We make candied apples and spiced apple rings. We have apple snacks, Apple Jacks and even Apple Betty. We grind them up and squeeze out the liquid to make cider or juice, and we allow the cider to ferment to make vinegar. We put them in a tub and make a game of “bobbing” for them.

### From China to computers

Also, did you know a bushel of apples weighs 42 pounds? Apples came from mountainous countries in southeast Asia and were discovered about 6,000 years ago. European immigrants brought seedlings from England in the 17th century, and the country producing the most apples today is China.

Apples are grown in all 50 states, although only a few varieties can be grown much farther south than Virginia since southern states do not have enough “chill hours” (temperatures between 35 and 45 degrees).

I love growing apples, and the dozen trees we now have at the new house are my pride and joy. I don’t know if there is a national month for peaches, plums or cherries. I do know that Winchester, Va., has an apple blossom festival, and Lincoln, Ark., is the site of the annual Arkansas Apple Festival. Steve Jobs picked Apple as the name for what was to become the most profitable corporation in the world with computers, phones and even watches. He said that “apple” seemed like a friendly name — it’s certainly the most recognizable fruit. 🍏

### CO-OPS POWER COMMUNITIES

*Continued from page 16A*

help them thrive and grow. United gives back in many ways, including offering scholarships, making donations and supporting programs like Youth Tour.

As we celebrate the power of membership, I hope you will recognize the many aspects that set electric cooperatives apart from other utilities. Our mission may be the delivery of safe, reliable and affordable electricity, but our purpose is to empower people in the communities we proudly serve. 🍏

Until next time,



**BRENDA SWARTZLANDER**  
PRESIDENT & CEO

### ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

If you recently made or plan to make energy efficiency upgrades to your home, you may be eligible for federal tax credits. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022 empowers homeowners to save up to \$3,000 annually to lower the cost of efficiency upgrades by up to 30%. A few upgrades covered through the IRA include new exterior doors, windows, insulation, heating/cooling equipment and other major appliances. If you have completed or are considering an efficiency upgrade, visit [www.energystar.gov/federal-tax-credits](http://www.energystar.gov/federal-tax-credits) to learn if you qualify for tax credits.

Source: [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov)





**Utility poles  
are not bulletin  
boards.**

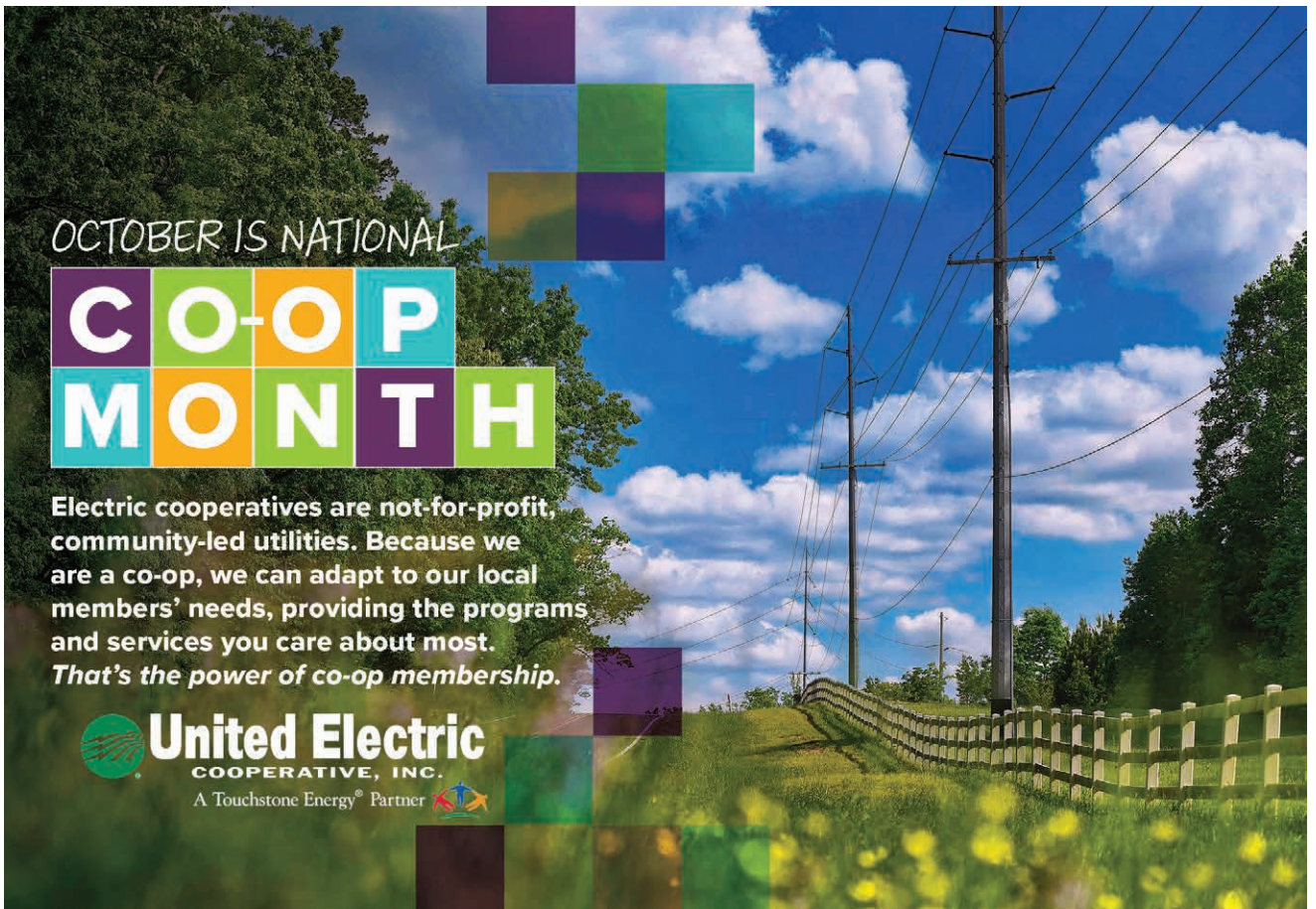


**Attaching Objects to Poles  
Puts Lives on the Line...and  
it's a Crime!**

Lineworkers climb poles at all hours, in all seasons. Sharp objects like nails, tacks or staples can puncture safety equipment, leading to electrocution.

Lineworkers climb poles using hooks or gaffs on their legs and feet. One misplaced hook caught on a nail or staple will result in serious injury to your United Electric lineworkers.

**Items not belonging to United Electric will be removed, and damage to unauthorized items are not the responsibility of the cooperative.**



OCTOBER IS NATIONAL

**CO-OP  
MONTH**

Electric cooperatives are not-for-profit, community-led utilities. Because we are a co-op, we can adapt to our local members' needs, providing the programs and services you care about most.  
*That's the power of co-op membership.*

