

Claverack Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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Guest Column



Forester on board

By Joshua Baublitz, *Right-of-Way Program Manager*

FOR THOSE members I haven't met yet, let me introduce myself. My name is Joshua Baublitz. I joined the Claverack team as right-of-way program manager in August 2018. I'm a native of central New York, and after earning my associate degree in forest technology at the SUNY-ESF Ranger School and my bachelor's degree in forest management at SUNY-ESF in Syracuse, I spent several years working for a landscape company and expanding my knowledge of integrated pest management.

I plunged into the exciting field of utility vegetation management in 2014, and I haven't looked back. After several years as a consulting utility forester with ACRT, working contracts in Texas, Georgia, New Hampshire and across New York, I found myself in the Claverack office.

They put me to work planning tree trimming and removals. I was only supposed to be here one month, but I ended up staying six. I enjoyed working with the tree crews and co-op members, and a year later, when I learned Claverack was looking for an in-house right-of-way program manager, I didn't think twice before I applied. I'm very excited to be part of this team.

As you can imagine, I get asked a lot of questions about trees and right-of-way management. Here are a few of the most commonly asked questions.

Will you cut my ash trees?

It depends. Because the volume of ash trees is incredibly high, our approach is to strategically remove as many ash trees as possible during


our routine right-of-way maintenance activities. This means not every tree will be cut the first time we are there, but we will get as many as we can. It will take us time to move through the system, but a systematic, targeted approach will help us maintain reliability and keep costs down.

Will you clean up this mess you made?

Some signs of our presence will be left behind after the maintenance work. The equipment we use often leaves marks on the ground and the vegetation. We make every effort to tread lightly and avoid leaving ruts, but sometimes the cutters may miss some brush or branches, or a site that seems accessible will turn out to be soft. If there are excessive disturbances like deep ruts that cause drainage issues or a slash that disrupts the normal use of your property, we will work with you to resolve those issues.

Can you not cut my tree?

When planting trees, please look up. Power lines and vegetation do not mix, so if your tree has the potential to contact the lines, it will need to be trimmed or removed at some point. In the event of an emergency, our crews need access to the lines and poles. Trees under and in power lines can make that task impossible and cause further delay to get the power back on.

We do not, as one member stated, "just do whatever we want." Part of our mission is to "provide safe and reliable energy and other valuable services to those we serve." If trees are marked for removal or trimming, it is because they present a liability to that mission. 

From rust to luster

Claverack member breathes new life into metal antiques

By Jeff Fetzer

THE RELICS arrive at Jeff Treadwell's restoration shop rusted, busted, and abused by time and neglect.

They leave as prized possessions, painstakingly preserved pieces of the past destined for display.

"Taking something that's junk and making it beautiful again — that's my pleasure," says the Claverack member. "I love creating, building, making something old new again."

Treadwell, a resident of Warren Center in Bradford County, owns and operates 2nd Time Around Restorations, a 4,000-square-foot fabrication and restoration shop in Apalachin, N.Y., that specializes in breathing new life into metal antiques, heirlooms and historic gas station memorabilia.

Since Treadwell opened the shop in 2009, he has restored all manner of metal objects, from pedal tractors, toy trucks and tricycles to coffee grinders, cash registers and Coca-Cola vending machines.

A tour of the shop in January provides a glimpse into the variety of projects he encounters. In the painting room hangs the top of an old industrial trash receptacle that had been media blasted and primed and awaits finish-



HARD AT WORK: Jeff Treadwell operates a metal lathe at his antique restoration business, 2nd Time Around Restorations.



FINISHED PRODUCTS: Claverack member Jeff Treadwell of Warren Center displays some finished pieces at his metal restoration shop, 2nd Time Around Restorations, located in Apalachin, N.Y. The business specializes in restoring all manner of metal antiques.

ing coats of black and orange paint. It's destination: a customer's Harley-themed man cave.

In the shipping room, covered pieces awaiting pick-up or sale include a pair of beautifully refurbished vintage gas pumps, an 1840s safe, and a U.S. Mail collection box that Treadwell converted into an urn/display cabinet for a customer whose deceased father had been a long-time employee of the Postal Service.

Elsewhere in the shop, in various stages of completion, there's an old Coca-Cola machine, an antique barber chair awaiting upholstery, a matching pair of rusted-out gas pumps and an aluminum-bodied 1921 Speedster, a custom-built race car based on a Model T and powered by a Henderson 13-horsepower motorcycle engine.

Although he generally does not take on automobile restoration projects, he made an exception for this one-of-a-kind racer because of its historic value. The car was one of three racers Sam Collier built for his three sons. Collier was founder of the Automobile Racing Club of America and a race-car driver who died in a crash while leading the U.S. Grand Prix in Watkins Glen, N.Y., in 1950.

The Speedster will eventually end up alongside the historic Ferraris, Bugattis and Porsches in The Revs Institute, a museum in Naples, Fla., owned by the Collier family and dedicated to commemorating automotive and race car history.

While Treadwell doesn't typically restore cars anymore, for many years, it was his hobby and a side business.

“I have nine bays at home, and for 30 years, I restored old cars,” he said. “That’s what I did. That was my passion.”

His day job involved cars, as well. After graduating from SUNY Morrisville with a degree in automotive technology, Treadwell owned and operated a full-service gas station and car repair shop in Johnson City, N.Y., for about 10 years. After he and his wife, Penny, had a son, Thomas, Treadwell decided to sell the service station so he could spend more time with family. In ensuing years, he worked as service manager for several area car dealerships, retiring from Royal Ford about five years ago.

At the time of his retirement, 2nd Time Around Restoration had been operating on a part-time basis for more than five years.

Pump priming

The idea for the metal antiques restoration business was sparked after Treadwell restored a pair of vintage gas pumps and an old Pepsi machine while assisting with the creation of an old-time gas station in Warren Center.

Treadwell explains township officials decided to build a replica of a turn-of-the-century Sinclair gas station on



LIKE NEW: One of three vintage barber chairs that Jeff Treadwell restored for Face’s Barber Shop in Endicott, N.Y.



REMEMBER WHEN: Claverack member Jeff Treadwell restored the gas pumps and helped construct this replica Sinclair gas station located in Warren Center in northeastern Bradford County.

public property within the tiny village. They enlisted Treadwell’s help for the project.

“Because I had owned a gas station, they wanted me to give them some ideas,” recalls Treadwell, a collector of vintage porcelain-painted signs from the early 20th century. “They had me hook, line and sinker. There was a group of five of us, and we worked on it a couple of nights a week.”

In addition to restoring the old gas pumps and Pepsi machine, Treadwell helped with construction of the service station building and secured some of the old Sinclair signs and other petroliana items that are on display there year-round.

“It became a showcase piece for the town,” says Treadwell. “Then they decided to have a cruise-in, and we figured we’d have 15 to 20 cars show up. We had 110! It has exploded from there.”

Shifting gears

The Olde Time cruise-in, held annually for 13 years, draws around 500 cars and 1,100 spectators to Warren Center on the third Sunday of September each year. It also prompted Jeff Treadwell to shift gears from car restoration work to vintage metal restoration.

“After the first car show, people were asking who did the gas pumps, and I started getting calls,” Treadwell says. “Restoring cars is a two- to three-year

project, and you have a lot of money tied up. So I thought, ‘Why not do these little things?’ There seemed to be a market for it. The problem was my shop at home wasn’t set up for that kind of work.”

That prompted Treadwell to purchase a long-vacant former machine shop in Apalachin in 2007, gut the building, rewire it and convert the space for metal fabrication and restoration.

“When I bought the shop, I was still working a 40-hour-a-week job at the
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NEW LIFE: Before and after photos of a pedal car restored by craftsman Jeff Treadwell.

Metal antiques

(continued from page 14c)

Ford dealership,” he says. “So I was working here two nights a week and Saturdays. This was just going to be a hobby business when I retired.”

Most of Treadwell’s early work involved refurbishing old gasoline pumps, which were offered for resale through an antique dealer in Binghamton, N.Y., and an antique co-op in Owego, N.Y.

“I wasn’t doing a lot of work for a lot of people initially,” he says. “Then one day, a local guy noticed there was somebody in this building and stopped by to see what I was doing. I told him I was doing restoration work, and he asked if I could do small toys.”

A new niche

The man told Treadwell he owned a 1925 Buddy L dump truck, a family heirloom, that he was interested in having restored. Treadwell invited him to bring it to the shop.

“The only part that was any good was the frame,” Treadwell recalls. “I needed to build a new roof, new fenders, a new box, running boards. The wheels were cracked. It was a mess. So I said I could do it — it’s the same as restoring a car, but smaller.”

He researched the appearance of Buddy L trucks on the internet, tore the toy truck apart, repaired and re-

placed parts and painted it.

“He came down to pick it up, and he started crying,” Treadwell remembers. “He was totally blown away. And then he said, ‘I have a lot of friends. ...’”

Through word of mouth, a website, 2ndtimerestore.com, and a Facebook page that shows the progress of many of his projects, Treadwell’s restoration business flourished. After he retired from the Ford dealership in 2014, there was a time he was working in the shop six days a week and had two full-time employees to keep up with demand. Treadwell says he scaled back the operation within the last year and now has just one subcontractor working for him on a part-time basis.

The craftsman says his clientele is a mix of collectors, antique retailers and people looking to restore heirloom pieces.

Some of the pieces, like old soda vending machines, pedal cars and vintage motorcycles, are restored to working condition. Others, like the gasoline pumps, are restored for decorative purposes only and are not intended to be functional.

In addition to fabrication and welding, Treadwell can also upholster and perform mechanical and electrical work. For most projects, he also applies paint and hand lettering. If a paint job appears to be too intricate, Treadwell brings in Claverack member

Sharon Morales, owner of Country Goose Studios in LeRaysville, to do the job.

Treadwell, 62, says while he still enjoys coming to work each day and “bringing things back from the dead,” he expects to retire for good in three to four years.

“That will be 15 years of doing this, and that’s probably long enough,” he says.

Treadwell’s 2nd Time Around shop, located at 1913 Pennsylvania Ave., Apalachin, N.Y., is open Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. He suggests calling the shop at 607-321-9465 before visiting. 📞

Montrose man elected to co-op board

Claverack members elected Robert Fearnley of Montrose to the cooperative board of directors in a special election for the vacant Zone 5 seat.



Robert Fearnley
Zone 5

Fearnley defeated David R. McGuigan of Little Meadows in a two-way race for the open seat, which went unfilled following

last year’s annual meeting. The seat had been held by Michael J. Coleman of Montrose, who chose not to seek re-election when his three-year term expired in July 2018.

A resident of Forest Lake Township, Susquehanna County, Fearnley will serve the remainder of the three-year term for Zone 5, which expires in July 2021. Zone 5 serves Claverack consumer-members in Apolacon, Chocanut, Forest Lake, Jessup, Middletown and Rush townships in Susquehanna County, and Warren Township in Bradford County.

Fearnley, a former dairy farmer, retired recently from his position as watershed specialist with the Susquehanna County Conservation District. 📞



FAVORITE PROJECT: A fully restored 1956 Simplex Servi-cycle. Jeff Treadwell said this was one of his all-time favorite restoration projects due to the “coolness factor” of the bike. A video of Treadwell riding on the single-cylinder cycle can be viewed on the 2nd Time Around Restorations Facebook page, which contains numerous projects Treadwell has completed over the years.