

APRIL 2023

# PENNLINES

## By the Book

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CHANGES TO SAVE  
ENERGY**

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Laura Goss is executive director of the Adams County Library System, one of many bringing programs and services to rural Pennsylvanians. Goss is also a member of Adams Electric Cooperative.

PHOTO BY  
JILL M. ERCOLINO

# Collaboration Leads to Three New State Parks, Including Wyoming County's First



For the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and our state parks system, 2022 was a tremendous year of celebrations for three wonderful new additions.

We were able to purchase land to develop three new state parks with the working names of Big Elk Creek, Susquehanna Riverlands and Vosburg Neck. Each park has its own unique features, history and resources that we are excited for the public to discover. Here is a little bit of information about each park:

- **Big Elk Creek in Chester County** features 3.5 miles of Big Elk Creek, a tributary of the Elk River and the Chesapeake Bay. The 1,712-acre park was acquired through The Conservation Fund with the assistance of the Mount Cuba Center and Chester County. Big Elk Creek was an important transportation and natural resource corridor for indigenous people for thousands of years. It was also an important area for freedom-seekers on the Underground Railroad to the North.
- **Susquehanna Riverlands in York County** is a 1,100-acre park situated in a largely wooded tract, where Codorus Creek flows into the Susquehanna River. It offers an amazing view up and down the river. The land was acquired with assistance from the Lancaster Conservancy and is adjacent to its Hellam Hills and Wizard Ranch nature preserves.
- **Vosburg Neck in Wyoming County** provides scenic views along the North Branch of the Susquehanna River. This beautiful park offers scenic hiking opportunities, a pleasant path for strolling along a former railroad bed, invigorating shared-use trails and significant public access for water-based recreation.

In total, DCNR was able to conserve nearly 3,500 acres of vital natural and cultural resources. Each are a testament to the collaborative work involved in conservation.

Big Elk Creek and Susquehanna Riverlands are in areas that face significant development pressures to accommodate growing populations.

Meanwhile, Vosburg Neck is a point of pride because it's the first state park in Wyoming County, a territory served by Claverack Rural Electric Cooperative. The 669-acre site was wonderfully maintained by the North Branch Land Trust, and we are grateful for its partnership to acquire the park. We hope to enhance the beautiful views with hiking trails, recreational infrastructure and other types of amenities that make our state parks great.

The new state parks are now open to the public; however, they won't be fully operational and ready with new buildings, such as restrooms, and full staff until the end of 2026. Visit [dcnr.pa.gov](http://dcnr.pa.gov) to learn more about our state parks. I hope you consider visiting Vosburg Neck and the other 123 parks in our state system soon. 📍

**JOHN HALLAS**  
STATE PARKS DIRECTOR

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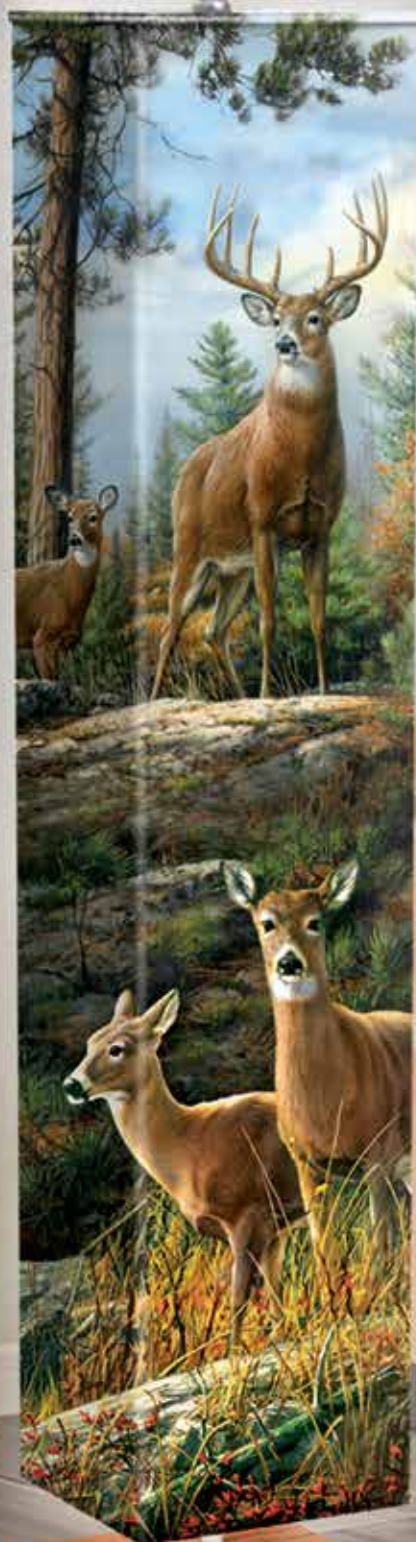
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## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

Before I set one boot into boot camp, I spoke to an Army captain about joining the military. He wanted me to know just what I was getting myself into. After all, this was a serious decision.

"In the Army, you train every day for something you hope you never have to do," he told me.

I carried that thought with me into basic training – and through six years of active duty in places like Iraq, Afghanistan and Bosnia. It was a serious business, and I was glad for the constant focus on training and safety. It helped me come home to my family.

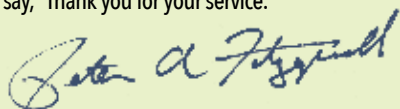
In my time working with electric cooperatives, I've seen that same focus when it comes to our lineworkers. Line work is also a serious business. It's one of the most dangerous professions in the country. To keep our lights on, lineworkers train for something they *have* to do every day, which is deal with the dangers of electricity.

Electricity is unforgiving, and can be deadly when storms knock out power lines – or when mishandled. That's why line work requires constant focus and attention. Lineworkers go through rigorous training to be able to perform their jobs. To support their efforts, the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association hosts more than 20 different schools and hundreds of different safety sessions every year – all geared to help ensure lineworkers can come home to their families at the end of the day.

When the lights go out, lineworkers answer the call – often in the worst conditions that Mother Nature can send us. They contend with ice and snow, thunderstorms and whipping winds – all while working with deadly voltage amid dizzying heights.

This month, we're celebrating those who perform line work by recognizing April 10 as Lineworker Appreciation Day. It's an opportunity to pause and say thanks for all they do to keep the power flowing to our homes and communities.

It takes a special breed to step into a storm in the middle of the night and say, "I'll take care of it." But that's exactly what our lineworkers do. They put their lives on the line to provide an essential service to us all. From this veteran, I'd just like to say, "Thank you for your service."



**PETER A. FITZGERALD**  
EDITOR



**SICK PUPPIES:** Common in southern states, the highly contagious dog flu has made its way to Pennsylvania. Symptoms include a cough, thick nasal discharge, low-grade fever, lethargy and reduced appetite. Most dogs recover, but a vet visit is recommended.

## THE PET CORNER

### Dangerous dog flu spreads to Pennsylvania

Canine influenza — sometimes known as “dog flu” — is spreading across the United States, including parts of Pennsylvania, according to the American Veterinary Association. The transmissible respiratory disease does not affect humans, but it is dangerous — and can even be deadly — for man’s best friend.

Common in southern states, canine influenza has recently been reported in Pennsylvania, Colorado, Minnesota and California. Most of Pennsylvania’s cases have been in the southeastern section of the state, including the Philadelphia area. In March, however, a Cumberland County animal rescue reported it was in “crisis mode” after all 50 of its dogs came down with suspected cases of dog flu. Three were hospitalized.

Canine influenza is easily spread between dogs through direct contact, nasal secretions, and contaminated objects, such as bowls, collars and leashes, or by people who move

between infected and healthy dogs. Dogs typically develop signs of illness between two and four days after the virus is contracted. Symptoms include a cough, thick nasal discharge, low-grade fever, lethargy and reduced appetite. More severe cases include high fever and difficulty breathing, and secondary complications can include pneumonia and/or bacterial infections.

Most dogs will recover after two to three weeks, but the fatality rate can be as high as 10%, with young and elderly dogs at high risk of complications. Dog owners who believe their dog has canine influenza are encouraged to contact their veterinarian immediately.

## LANTERNFLY UPDATE

### Six more counties added to state’s quarantine zone

The state Department of Agriculture has added six more counties to the spotted lanternfly quarantine zone in an effort to slow the invasive insect’s spread.





Those recently added to the zone — which now covers 51 counties — are Butler, Clearfield, Clinton, Fayette, Lawrence and Somerset, the majority of which are serviced by rural electric cooperatives.

“Spotted lanternfly is an invasive pest that is disruptive and damaging to our agriculture commodities and a nuisance pest for all Pennsylvanians,” says Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding, a member of Adams Electric Cooperative. “Through collective and intentional efforts, including instituting quarantine zones, we continue to slow the spread of this insect, and I call on all Pennsylvanians to assist.

“Before the eggs hatch,” he added, “do your part to help manage the pest by scraping egg masses and reporting where they are found. Each egg mass destroyed eliminates 30 to 50 lanternflies before they have an opportunity to hatch and spread.”

Homeowners can get more information from Penn State Extension at its offices and [extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly](http://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly).

## CALL IT A COMEBACK American martens may be making a return

The Pennsylvania Game Commission is considering a plan to reintroduce the American marten, a once-common, native, squirrel-sized member of the weasel family, into rural, forested areas.

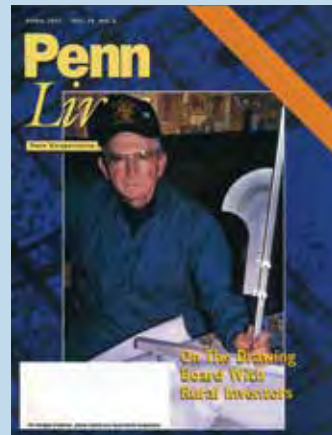


Although American martens once existed throughout the Commonwealth, by the late 1800s, most were living in the north-central forests that contained both coniferous and deciduous trees. The last reported American martens disappeared from Pennsylvania around the turn of the 20th century.

A 2022 feasibility study revealed Pennsylvania has suitable marten habitat, much of which can be found on publicly owned land, including the Allegheny National Forest. The final plan will likely be introduced in early 2024. 🐾

## TIME LINES

APRIL 2003



Necessity is the mother of invention, and lots of great ideas have originated in the Keystone State. Twenty years ago, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office reported more than 2,500 patents had been issued to rural Pennsylvanians alone over a 10-year period — a number that outranked those of 14 other states. Highlighted inventors developed everything from a protractor to make life easier for pipe fitters to a more reliable device — known as a load limiter — to manage residential power use.



### THANK A LINEWORKER

When the lights go out, they go to work. April 10 is National Lineworker Appreciation Day. Don't forget to say thanks to your cooperative's hardworking crews.

### CELEBRATE EARTH DAY

In 1970, Earth Day signaled the birth of the modern environmental movement. Now, each April 22, more than 1 billion people join the celebration. From clean-ups to festivals, communities in Pennsylvania are planning lots of family-friendly events. Go online and get involved.



### GET BUZZED

Elk County — a region serviced by two rural electric cooperatives — is the place to be April 26 to 29, when the Chainsaw Carvers Rendezvous buzzes into Ridgway. Awards, demonstrations and live music are planned. Learn more at [chainsawrendezvous.org](http://chainsawrendezvous.org).

### GROOVY, BABY!

Rub elbows with colonists, bobby-soxers and hippies at Huntingdon's Mayfest, April 29. The free event, smack dab in Valley Rural Electric Cooperative territory, features five blocks of historically themed events and entertainment. Learn more at [mayfestofhuntingdon.org](http://mayfestofhuntingdon.org).



# BY THE BOOK:

## Rural Libraries Fill a Void

**KATHY HACKLEMAN**

*Penn Lines Contributor*





**R**AY SCHWARTZ BELIEVES A PUBLIC library is the “heart of a community.”

A member of the Adams County Library System Board of Trustees, Schwartz has spent much of the past 12 years encouraging others to see the community’s libraries through the same eyes. The buildings, like the books inside, hold a lot of meaning, he says.

“Libraries are effectively the only ‘people’s institution’ that are fully open to all,” says Schwartz, who also serves on the Adams Electric Cooperative (EC) Board of Directors. “They do not have an entrance fee or eligibility requirement, and do not require an access badge or a certain belief.”

### Something old, something new

While books are still at the core of what libraries provide, visitors will find unexpected things, too.

“Some libraries offer the opportunity to check out [museum] passes, music, and movies as well as items like fishing rods, board games, video games, and even specialty cake pans,” says Christi Buker, executive director of the Pennsylvania Library Association.

“Technology is [also] a huge growing component of library services,” she adds. “Many libraries provided hot spots during the pandemic for residents who did not have access to the internet.”

Although local libraries steadily add materials and services to meet the needs of visitors, young and old, their funding has not grown at a similar pace.

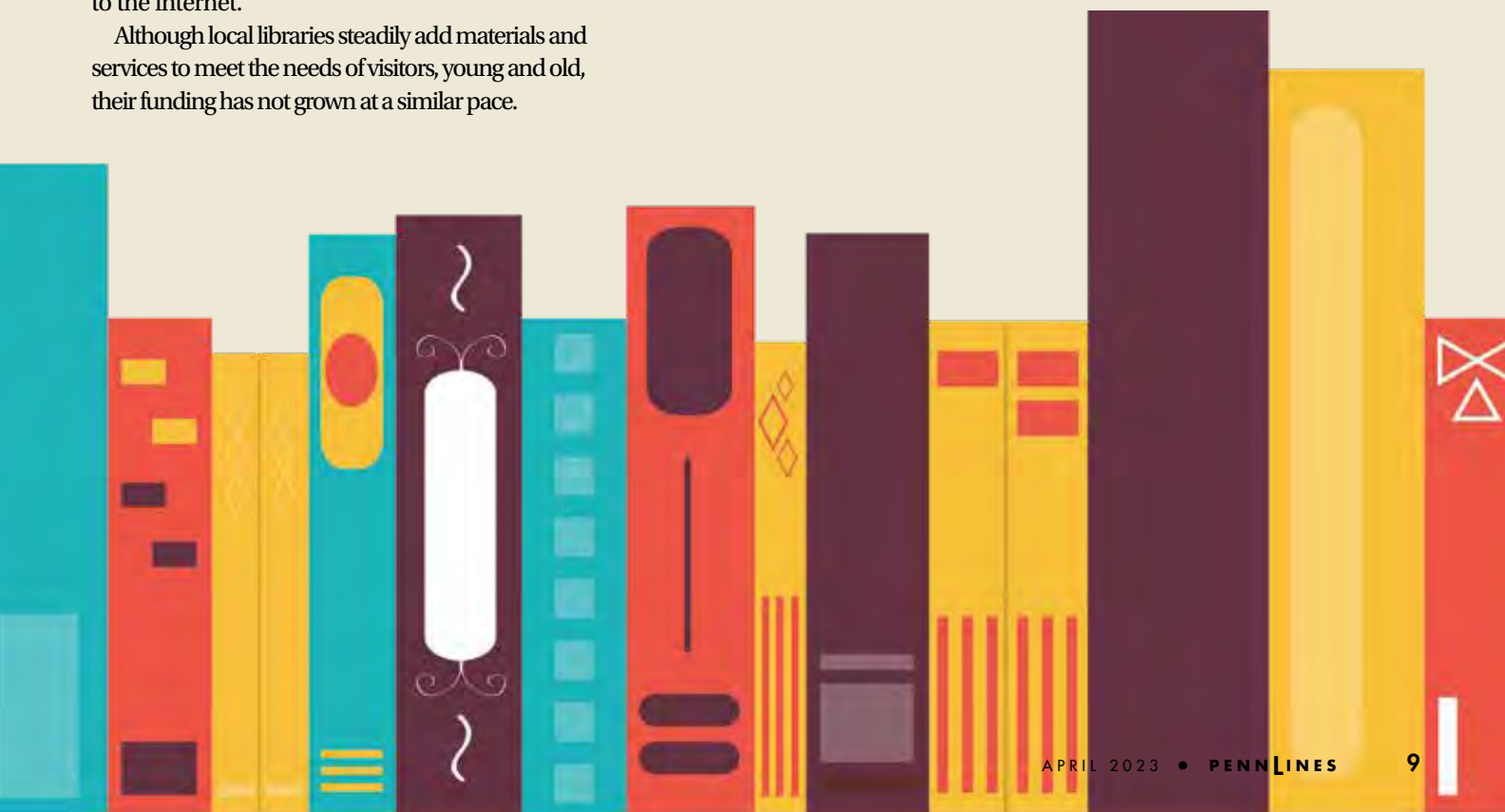
“Financial resources can be a challenge, especially when you are in a small, rural community,” Buker notes. “Libraries receive some state aid, but most libraries’ operational budgets come from local sources, such as townships and boroughs, or endowments — if they are lucky enough to have one.”

On top of that, state law requires libraries to remain open a fixed number of hours or face a funding cut, Schwartz says. The law also sets forth the number of staff hours and the percentage of the operating budget that must be spent on collections. Those requirements prevent libraries from cutting staff or collections to save money, leaving local fundraising as one of the few remaining options — a task that’s often left up to staff and a core group of dedicated volunteers.

The Adams County Library System, for instance, which has its main library in Gettysburg and branches in Biglerville, Carroll Valley, East Berlin, Littlestown, and New Oxford, is planning a building project that will require an intensive capital fundraising effort.

The system’s largest library — the main branch in Gettysburg — is a three-story facility built in the 1920s that no longer meets the needs of today’s organization or public. Located in the

**“Your ZIP code should not determine your future opportunities, and the library can help fill those gaps.”**



LIBRARY SYSTEM OF BRADFORD COUNTY



**GETTING THE WORD OUT:** Staff of the Library System of Bradford County participate in community events with the goal of spreading the word about its programs and services. Here, System Administrator Lea Chisum, left, and Spalding Memorial staff member Rebecca Williams attend the 2022 Senior Expo, hosted by state Rep. Tina Pickett, who represents consumers served by Claverack Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) and Tri-County REC.

ADAMS COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM



**SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE:** Rural libraries across Pennsylvania are the backbone of their communities, offering something for everyone. The Adams County Library System, for instance, has a variety of programs that cater to the young and young-at-heart.

community's historic downtown, the building has a number of issues; limited parking is among them.

Schwartz, however, believes so strongly in the importance of libraries to their communities and residents, he's willing to devote the extra effort to make the new 27,000-square-foot library a reality. For him, it's important to give back to an organization that has given his family so much.

"When I moved to Gettysburg, I was commuting to Germantown, Md.," he says. "I would check out books on CDs because I had such a long commute. I did that for 10 years."

## A wonderful resource

Schwartz would also take his granddaughter to story time when she was a youngster, providing him with a different glimpse into library programming.

Laura Goss, also a member of Adams EC, serves as the system's executive director and says the Adams County libraries reach a lot of people — together, they have around 33,000 cardholders. Because of this, programming focuses on all ages, from baby story time through leisure and educational presentations for adults.

Each community the system serves is different, so each location has different programming. A popular systemwide program, however, is "SummerQuest," a summer learning program for all ages. This year's event kicks off with the traditional "FunFest," slated from 3 to 7 p.m. Friday, June 9, at the Gettysburg Area Recreational Park. The event will include about 40 nonprofits and free activities for children and adults.

Goss says a donation from Adams EC allows the system to spread funds among all of its branches. In 2022, the cooperative continued its support of literacy with donations to several other libraries and programs in its territory, which covers Adams, Cumberland, Franklin, Perry and York counties. Beneficiaries included Coy Public Library in Shippenburg, the Adams County Reads "One Book" Program, the Glatfelter Memorial Library in Spring Grove, the Jean Barnett Trone Memorial Library in East Berlin, and the York County Literacy Council's Buck A Book Reading Program.

During the pandemic, the Adams County system switched most of its programming online. Once the libraries reopened, staff discovered there were some programs that worked better online, so those continue to be available virtually. Public computers and internet access are available at all branches, too.

"We have Wi-Fi throughout the buildings," Goss says. "That extends outside the walls of the library, and sometimes even when the library is closed, we can see people outside using their computers."



Goss hopes once a new building is constructed in Gettysburg, the staff will be able to provide many other new options for cardholders.

## 'We felt welcome'

Another area that has incorporated a group of smaller libraries into one system is the Library System of Bradford County, which is made up of nine libraries along Routes 6 and 220 in territories served by Claverack Rural Electric Cooperative (REC). Communities with branches are Troy, Canton, Burlington, Ulster, Sayre, Athens, Towanda, Monroeton and Wyalusing.

Lea Chisum, the system's administrator, is also active in the Pennsylvania Library Association and the national Association for Small and Rural Libraries. Pennsylvania has 603 public libraries, with about half of those in what are defined by the Center for Rural Pennsylvania as rural counties.

Chisum says small and rural libraries face several challenges. In addition to being largely dependent on donations to finance operations, they have small staffs as well as a small pool of residents, making it difficult to find willing board members. Still, those small libraries are expected to provide the same resources and programming available in larger facilities.

Chisum's focus on providing what the community needs is based on her own childhood experience.

"I grew up in rural Texas, and we were poor," she recalls. "We moved several times and everywhere we went we were new, and a library was the first place we felt welcome. Your ZIP code should not determine your future opportunities, and the library can help fill those gaps."

Although Chisum has been with the library system for five years, she still is working to spread the word about the rural Bradford County libraries. She believes a key part of marketing is community involvement so she makes it a priority to be visible at the county fair and other local events. This allows her to visit one-on-one with residents and explain what the county's library system offers.

Trudy Fix, branch manager at the Hustontown Library (part of the Fulton County Library System) and a member of Valley REC, is familiar with explaining the benefits of a small library.

"We have what we call a 'library of things,'" she says. "We have all kinds of books and reading programs, as well as public computers, DVDs, CDs, audio books, copying and faxing, but we also have hot spots and laptops that are checked out like books, along with sewing machines and some tools."

As part of its outreach efforts, the library provides large-



**A HELPING HAND:** Ray Schwartz, who serves on the Adams Electric Cooperative Board of Directors, is active with the Adams County Library System, too. A familiar face at the main branch in Gettysburg, Schwartz serves on the board of trustees and is helping to raise money for the branch's proposed new building.

## National Library Week Marks 65th Anniversary

National Library Week is an annual celebration highlighting the valuable role libraries, librarians and library workers play in strengthening our communities.

The 2023 celebration, April 23-29, marks the event's 65th anniversary with the theme, "There's More to the Story."

The annual celebration was the brainchild of the National Book Committee, a nonprofit citizens' organization formed in 1954 by the American Library Association and the American Book Publishers. At the time, research showed Americans were spending less on books and more on radios, televisions, and musical instruments.

In 1957, the committee developed a plan for National Library Week based on the idea that once people were motivated to read, they would support and use libraries. The first National Library Week was observed in 1958 with the theme, "Wake Up and Read!"



ADAMS COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM



**STORY TIME:** Sherry Feeser, a youth services coordinator with the Adams County Library System, enthralls preschoolers with a story.

LIBRARY SYSTEM OF BRADFORD COUNTY



**SUMMER FUN:** Summer reading programs have been a library tradition for decades. Here, staff and directors from the Library System of Bradford County celebrate their program's launch in 2019.

ADAMS COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM



**FUNFEST:** The Adams County Library System kicks off its summer program with FunFest, a June event that features free activities for children and adults.

print books to the local senior center and paperbacks to a store in Waterfall, where residents can check them out without having to travel to a library.

Melanie Lambert is also a boots-on-the-ground fan of rural libraries. A part-time employee of the Sullivan County Library in Dushore, she is a retired teacher who served on the library board and was active in the library's "friends group" before joining the staff.

"This is a dream job," she says. "It's a pleasant place to work and I get to discuss books all day. ... I enjoy being able to help people, especially with their computer issues, and I enjoy reading and discussing books."

Lambert, a member of Sullivan County REC, is the wife of current co-op director Jim Lambert and daughter of Wayne Gavitt, who previously served on the co-op board and the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association board.

She says the Sullivan County Library's strategic plan includes a focus on providing social and educational opportunities for older residents since much of the library's focus traditionally has been on children.

A recent foray into new adult programming included a sewing class followed by a "learning-to-quilt" program. Other popular adult programs are ukulele lessons and "story walks," where pages of a book are placed on signs along a walking route. By the time participants get to the end of the trail, they have read a book.

## The importance of rural libraries

If all of this programming sounds overwhelming, the people in charge of getting it done don't think so. In fact, most are planning to expand their collections and programming. While it's impossible to predict what technology changes are coming, libraries are poised to keep up with them.

"Libraries in rural areas are probably more important than they are in urban areas," Buker says. "In rural communities, the library is often the only support in the sense of being a community center, a place to find information and bring together families. We know internet access and technology access can be limited in rural areas. The library is many times the only way people can connect, plus the library has materials and staff to assist them." 📖



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85404

# Staying One Step Ahead of Mother Nature

**It's estimated 50% of power outages can be attributed to overgrown vegetation. Electric co-ops are working to trim those numbers down.**

**JENNAH DENNEY**

**MOTHER NATURE TENDS TO HAVE** a mind of her own. Utility power lines are constantly at risk from severe storms — particularly fallen and overgrown tree limbs, which can lead to power outages. It's estimated 50% of outages can be attributed to overgrown vegetation, which is why electric co-ops regularly trim and maintain their rights of way.

This tried-and-true method requires a significant amount of labor, and while it's effective, electric co-ops have started introducing other, more innovative vegetation-management methods to improve reliability for members.

The ideal technology ensures a consistent supply of power while managing the environment. Today, there

are several cutting-edge vegetation-management tools, and each has its own advantages.

## On the cutting edge

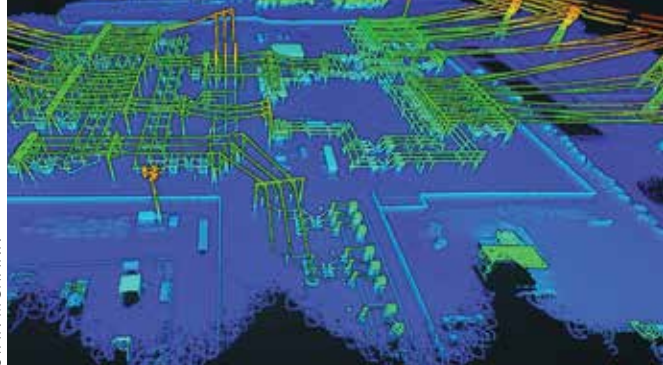
Lidar, which stands for "light detection and ranging," gives exact, three-dimensional data about the shape of the surface around utility assets. Lidar is a popular way to scan forests to determine how tall trees are and acquire additional information, including whether a tree has leaves. Lidar doesn't provide health data in general, but the technology can be paired with high-resolution multi-spectral satellite imagery to obtain this information. Timely data like this is extremely beneficial and can help electric co-ops make proactive planning decisions.

Satellites provide coverage 24 hours a day and can supply two kinds of images: a wide macro view of the area near utility assets and a more detailed micro view. Satellite data can often be used in place of other monitoring methods. With satellite technology, co-ops can learn a lot about local vegetation, including its health, and the information is based on real conditions, rather than guesses.

Today's satellite images can have a spatial resolution as small as 1.6 feet, which makes it easy for co-op crews to spot when vegetation is growing in the right of way near power lines and utility equipment. Typically, satellites can speed up the inspection process. While drones and helicopters are effective, they can take longer to fly along a network of power lines. A satellite, however, can take pictures of the same area in just a few hours.

Electric co-ops are also using fixed-wing aircraft and drones to keep an eye on and control vegetation near power lines. Drones fly very close to assets to take the clearest images so

STAN MCHANN



**3-D DATA:** Lidar technology, which stands for "light detection and ranging," gives exact, three-dimensional data about the shape of the surface around utility assets.

co-ops can see how close vegetation is to equipment and if a tree is likely to fall.

Many co-ops are using drones with cameras. These began as a novelty tech for utilities, but are now considered essential tools. Drones are often used for detailed vegetation surveys, unlike the large-scale monitoring done by satellites. Once lidar or satellites (often together) have collected data on a large amount of vegetation near power lines, drones can be used to inspect a single area and do all the necessary checks without putting operators in danger.

## A better understanding

Electric co-ops place a priority on vegetation management. It is the most crucial tool for reducing the likelihood of power outages. A thorough understanding of the vegetation's past, present and projected future is essential for a successful approach to reducing these risks.

The growth of lidar, drone and satellite data presents an opportunity to close the loop with continuous vegetation-management intelligence and increase the system's dependability and safety. In the end, all three vegetation-management technologies serve different purposes, and electric co-ops choose the ones that work best for them. 📡

**JENNAH DENNEY** writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives.

BRANDI WILLIAMS



**GETTING A CLOSE-UP:** Drones fly very close to utility assets to take the clearest images and provide data to help co-ops keep an eye on how close vegetation is to equipment.



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# Easy Behavior Changes to Save Energy

MIRANDA BOUTELLE

**DEAR MIRANDA:** I want to lower my energy use, but I don't know where to start. How can I find out how much energy I use? What are some ways I can save energy without spending a lot of money?

**A:** You can change your energy use by changing your behavior. When looking at electric bills, many people focus on the total dollar amount. I suggest changing your focus to energy use because while you don't have control over the cost of the energy, you can control how much you use.

## Set goals

Instead of thinking about your bills in terms of dollars, think about them in terms of kilowatt-hours (kWh), which is the unit of energy used for most electric bills. Review your monthly kWh use to gauge your consumption.

Once you've reviewed your energy use, set goals by trying to use less energy than the month before and check your results on your next bill.

## Know when to use less energy

Some electric utilities offer time-of-use rates, which means electricity costs are dependent on the time of day. This pricing structure more closely reflects the cost to electric utilities and helps consumers understand that energy costs more when the demand for it is higher.

Even if your electric bill does not include time-of-use rates, it can be beneficial to delay energy-intensive chores or tasks to when demand is lower. Peak hours are typically in the

morning as we prepare for work and in the evening when we get home and start preparing food and turning on entertainment devices. Doing laundry and running the dishwasher are easy activities to delay until after peak hours.

## Power 'off' for energy savings

When looking for energy savings, remember that "off" is the most efficient setting. Turning off lights is a classic strategy, especially if your lighting is incandescent. Consider switching to energy-saving LED light-bulbs, too.

Computers and gaming systems can waste energy even when in sleep mode. The higher the wattage and the more hours the device is on, the more energy used. Laptops use the least energy, followed by personal computers at about 200 watts. Gaming consoles typically use less energy than gaming PCs. Don't forget to turn off the monitor as well.

You can lower your energy use even more with smart power strips, which cut power to devices that are not in use. Many electronics continue to draw power even when they are turned off. This could add 5% to 10% to your monthly bill, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. Installing smart power strips is an easy way to ensure devices are completely turned off and not drawing power.

## Adjust the temp

When it comes to lowering your energy use, the settings on your thermostat are another great place to check. Keep in mind, the weather affects your electric bill for heating and air conditioning.

The closer you can keep the indoor temperature to the outdoor temperature, the more you will save. You want to protect your home from damage in extreme heat and cold, but if you can

turn the temperature down a few degrees in winter and up in summer, you will save on energy costs.

Ensuring your filters in your heating and cooling system are clean is an easy way to keep your system maintained and operating efficiently. Adding annual servicing by a professional maximizes the efficiency and can lengthen the life of your system.

Understanding your energy use and making small adjustments to your routine will help you reach your energy use goals. 🌱

**MIRANDA BOUTELLE** is the chief operating officer at Efficiency Services Group in Oregon, a cooperatively owned energy efficiency company. She has more than 20 years of experience helping people save energy at home, and she writes on energy efficiency topics for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives.



MARK GILLILAND, PIONEER UTILITY RESOURCES

**SET SOME GOALS:** If you want to use less energy, start by setting goals. Review your monthly kilowatt-hour use to gauge your consumption and then set energy-saving targets for the next month.



**Public Opening Weekend**  
Friday April 28<sup>th</sup>-Sunday April 30

**Season Pass Holder Opening**  
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Memorial Day-Labor Day: Open 7 days a week 9AM-6PM

Labor Day-October 29<sup>th</sup>: Open Friday, Saturday & Sunday 9AM -5PM

Season passes can be purchased ahead of time or at the office.

<https://www.mountainridgeatvtrails.com/>

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## In & Around

### New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative

It's starting to warm up, and that makes it a perfect time to get outside, lace up your shoes and visit the service territory of New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, which serves more than 3,700 homes, farms and businesses in south-central Pennsylvania across more than 470 miles of line.

Situated largely in northeastern Bedford County and the southern and northern edges of Huntingdon and Fulton counties, respectively, the cooperative's service territory is home to a 12.6-mile stretch of the Huntingdon and Broad Top Rail Trail. Whether walking, running or biking, visitors can investigate landmarks like the Foundry Museum or the old Hopewell Train Station along the way. If you're after something more



**A SLICE OF SCENERY:** A bridge passes over the Raystown Branch of the Juniata River along the Huntingdon and Broad Top Rail Trail.

fast-paced, take a drive out to the Redrock Raceway in Claysburg (if you're coming from New Enterprise, you'll pass the Osterberg-Bowser Covered Bridge). And if you think this might be a good place to spend the week, visit River Mountain Farm in Hopewell, where you can get some rest and relaxation in a restored cottage (or barn!) for a few nights.



**Main Office:** New Enterprise, Pa.  
**Consumer-members served:** 3,753  
**Website:** [newenterpriserec.com](http://newenterpriserec.com)

## Co-op Q&A

**We've got questions, you've got answers...**

and we want you to share them with us. Every month, *Penn Lines* staff will ask readers a fun question and we'll publish selected answers in the next issue.

### JUNE'S QUESTION

**In celebration of Father's Day, what's your favorite memory with your dad?**

PLEASE EMAIL YOUR ANSWER, along with a selfie, to [CommunityCorner@prea.com](mailto:CommunityCorner@prea.com) by **MONDAY, APRIL 17**. Be sure to include your full name, the name of your cooperative and a daytime telephone number and put "June 2023 Q&A" in the subject line.

### APRIL RESPONSES

**April Fools' Day leads to all kinds of pranks. Tell us about your best one and who you played it on.**



"Years ago, I mailed a letter to my out-of-town sister. She loved getting my newsy letters, but one year on April 1, she received one of my letters. Imagine her surprise when she opened it up, and it was blank except for the words, 'APRIL FOOL!'"

— CLAUDIA LANG, NORTHWESTERN RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



"A former colleague of mine ... was a die-hard Penn State football fan. After Penn State took down the statue of Joe Paterno, I Photoshopped the statue standing right in front of his picture window. I posted that on Facebook [and the] caption read, 'Paterno statue found at the home of a local Penn State fan.' The community all enjoyed poking fun at him for that one, too."

— DAVE POTCHAK, NEW ENTERPRISE RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



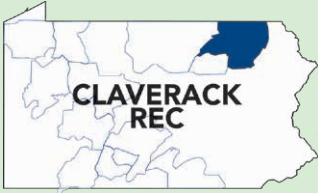
"My daughter once taped closed the handle of the hand-held sprayer of my kitchen sink and aimed it toward whoever came to operate the faucet. When I turned the faucet on, I got sprayed with the full force of water that was intended for the sink."

— KEVIN HESS, REA ENERGY COOPERATIVE



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**Engineering and Operations**

**Jennifer Jones, Chief Financial Officer**

**Brian Zeidner, Director, Member Services**

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday  
7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Jeff Fetzer, Local Pages Editor

## Grateful for Lineworkers, Our Unsung Heros



**LINEWORKERS ARE THE BACKBONE OF** our electrical infrastructure, and their dedication to keeping the lights on is truly admirable. They work tirelessly, often spending long hours away from their families and missing personal events to ensure our homes and businesses have a reliable source of electricity.

Being a lineworker is not just a job, it's a calling. These skilled professionals are trained to work with high-voltage equipment and climb tall poles in all kinds of weather. They are called

upon to respond to power outages and make repairs under the most challenging conditions, which sometimes means working long hours, often at night and on weekends and holidays.

Their dedication was on full display during the April 2022 snowstorm, a devastating event that affected thousands of people in our region. Across Claverack's service territory, the storm was particularly severe, with 95% of our members losing power and some outages lasting a grueling seven days. It is considered to be the worst outage event in the cooperative's 85-year history.

I will never forget the initial status call I received from our transmission provider. As we started to identify the various substations that lost their incoming transmission feed, the transmission supervisor said, "We have more wire on the ground than we have in the air right now."

As the storm hit, our cooperative worked quickly to respond, bringing in more than 100 mutual-aid lineworkers from electric cooperatives across the state, as well as our C&T Enterprises family of utilities, to help with the restoration efforts. These extra hands were a critical component in getting the power back on as quickly as possible.

The storm was brutal, with high winds and heavy snowfall creating a challenging and dangerous situation for our linemen. Despite the obstacles, crews worked tirelessly around the clock to restore power to our members.

Not only did we have to deal with the initial damage caused by the storm, but we also had to contend with additional challenges, such as fallen trees and blocked roads, which made it difficult to reach some areas. Despite the difficulties, our cooperative came together as a team, working closely with our partners to ensure our members and employees were safe and had the support they needed.

In the end, we were able to restore power to all customers within a week thanks to the hard work and dedication of our linemen, our cooperative staff and the mutual-aid crews who came to assist us. The teamwork and cooperation shown during this crisis is a true testament to the strength of our community and cooperative.

So with National Lineworker Appreciation Day coming up on April 10, if you see a lineman, be sure to say, "Thank you." Our lineworkers are the unsung heroes of our communities, and their time away from family and personal events to keep the lights on is truly admirable. They deserve our appreciation, respect and gratitude for the sacrifices they make to keep our communities running smoothly. 🙏

## NICK BERGER

DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS

# Veteran Linemen Passing the Torch to a New Generation

JEFF FETZER

## WHEN NATIONAL LINEWORKER

Appreciation Day rolls around each April, we tend to highlight the critical role lineworkers have in keeping the lights on for our communities — restoring power in all kinds of weather, any time of the day or night — as well as the physically demanding and inherently hazardous nature of the work.

What is often overlooked is the role seasoned lineworkers play in passing on their knowledge and skills to the next generation.

Most new lineworkers hired by Claverack in recent years join the cooperative team with some type of utility training program under their belts.

“Anytime, when somebody applies for a line position, they typically have already had some type of schooling,” Claverack Manager of Field Operations Bucky Camburn says. “The schools

provide an introduction to linework. That gives them the chance to get into [climbing] hooks and see if they really want to do it.”

In addition to providing an opportunity for would-be lineworkers to become comfortable scaling poles and working at heights, the training schools also require students to obtain a commercial driver’s license (CDL) and provide basic instruction on the tools, materials and methods of the line trade.

But new recruits fresh out of line school have a long journey ahead of them to achieve full competency as lineworkers. That’s why it’s so important to have seasoned lineworkers on staff who focus on mentoring and bringing young lineworkers up through the ranks the right way.

Brandon Griffiths, serviceman for the co-op’s Montrose district, has been developing apprentices into

competent lineworkers ever since he became a journeyman about four years ago.

“I like to pass everything I know on,” Brandon says. “I want everyone who is working with me to do the best they can because, one, I know they are going to know how to do the job. And two, I’m not going to have to worry about them getting hurt because they should know all the pros, all the cons, and everything that goes along with linework as much as I do, as long as I do my job.”

Although he attended a two-year lineman training school before getting hired as an apprentice with the co-op’s Montrose district in 2009, Brandon says the most valuable skills and training he received took place on the job while working with the district’s veteran lineworkers.

“I always asked a ton of questions,” he recalls. “I would want to know why were we doing something — for what reason and what are the principals behind it? Because if I understand it, it never leaves. I can apply it, and I can also explain it to someone else.”

At Claverack, a linework apprenticeship entails four years of hands-on training under the instruction and observation of journeymen lineworkers, along with successful completion of a 40-module book-based training curriculum offered through Northwest Lineman College. Apprentices are required to complete 10 modules each year and must pass a written exam for each module.

Dave Gardner, a fourth-year apprentice with the co-op’s Montrose line crew, appreciates the rationale for the book-work component of his appren-



**PREP TALK:** Claverack REC Manager of Field Services Bucky Camburn, left, prepares second-year Apprentice Lineman Isaac Dibble for pole-top work he will be performing as part of a three-phase line build in Brooklyn Township.



ticeship, but says the most critical training takes place while performing hands-on tasks under the guidance of a senior lineworker.

"You can read all you want, but for me, personally, the way I learn is to put my hands on it," he says. "I need to be able to ask why it works the way it does and how it works."

And there is a lot of ground to cover over the course of a four-year apprenticeship. The first year, the focus is on learning the tools of the trade, the lingo of the line crew, and how to assemble, frame, and set utility poles. Most of the work tasked to beginning apprentices takes place on the ground, always under the supervision of a journeyman.

After becoming proficient with pole work, the apprentice learns how to frame up transformers for secondary services. Over time, they move on to sagging electric wire on line-construction projects. By year three, the apprentices begin working on energized, or "hot," high-voltage electric lines.

"The first two years are critical," says Camburn. "By then, you will know if they are ready to start doing live line work or if they are going to wash out."

Given the dangers inherent in performing work on energized lines, Camburn says the journeymen assessing the performance of the lineworkers-in-training must be confident the apprentices not only have the skill set required to work on a high-voltage electric system, but they must also demonstrate an even temperament under pressure and understand that safe linework requires a team approach.

"An apprentice might be able to tiptoe through their first two years, but when you're actually in the air doing hot work with somebody, if you're not a team player, you won't make it into the third year," he says.



**GOING UP:** Claverack REC fourth-year Apprentice Lineman David Gardner, in bucket, confers with co-op veterans Bucky Camburn, left, manager of field operations, and Brandon Griffiths, serviceman for the Montrose district, while working on a line-construction project near Brooklyn in Susquehanna County in February. Seasoned lineworkers serve as mentors and instructors for the co-op's young lineworkers as they work toward journeyman status during the co-op's four-year apprentice program.

Each of Claverack's three district line crews is comprised of seven workers: a crew chief, a serviceman and a mix of journeymen and apprentice linemen. They spend a lot of time together, and building trust and a good working relationship is paramount to efficient and safe operations.

"One thing I think is very, very critical, you have to have that relationship with the younger linemen so they are always comfortable to give you a call if they are dealing with a situation they are unsure of," Bucky says. "You want them to just give you a quick call and say, 'Hey, this is what we're thinking... just wanted to run it by you.'"

As the district's serviceman, Brandon Griffiths is always accompanied by another member of the Montrose crew. With the exception of the crew leader, the other five members of the Montrose district crew work with Brandon on a one-week rotating basis. That gives him a lot of one-on-one time with each of the district's three apprentice linemen and provides an opportunity for beginning lineworkers to ask a lot questions they may not be as comfortable asking when working with a crew.



**HANDS-ON TRAINING:** Claverack REC Serviceman Brandon Griffiths offers instruction to Apprentice Lineman David Gardner, in bucket, during a line-construction project on Lindaville Road in Brooklyn Township, Susquehanna County. The cooperative's apprentice lineworkers perform all of their hands-on training under the observation of a veteran lineman.

During day-to-day service work, the apprentices have the opportunity to observe Brandon as he performs energized line work.

"They are watching intensely when you are doing something hot," he says. "Hopefully, they will mimic your habits. If you don't explain something

*Continued on page 16D*

## VETERAN LINEMEN

*Continued from page 16C*

or demonstrate something to someone and make it so they completely understand it forward, backward and inside out, then you are not doing a good job.”

During days when there are no service orders, Brandon says he works with apprentices on maintenance projects.

“We have a list of things that need attention on our system, so I ask them what projects they want to work on to sharpen their skills,” he says. “So you just work with them on what they want to learn. They know where their weakness are, and if it’s something they want to improve on, they are more interested in it.”

Brandon says his primary mission when working with apprentices is to help them develop a good skill set

that allows them to work safely and efficiently and, eventually, pass those lessons on to the next generation of young lineworkers.

“At the end of the day, if I’m home and it’s windy and nasty out and someone that I trained is on call, I don’t have to worry about them, if I did my job,” Brandon says. “The last thing I want to do is go through my career and retire and have one of the guys I trained or that they trained get hurt or killed. There are some things that are beyond your control, but if you do your job right and you pass everything on that you can possibly pass on the correct way, then you don’t have to worry about that.

“Our jobs are dangerous enough,” he adds, “but you can take 95% of the danger away by having the right skill set.”

Optimistic he will be promoted to journeyman later this year, Dave Gardner says he is grateful for the

mentoring he has received from the co-op’s veteran linemen throughout his apprenticeship.

“Everybody here is really a great teacher,” he says. “They are showing us what kind of journeymen we want to be.” 📷



## INTERNET INSTALLATIONS ARE HAPPENING!



For those in the Lime Hill substation area who have registered their interest, we will contact you soon to begin the order process. We expect to be completed in the Lime Hill area by the end of summer.

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## Claverack Hires Chief Financial Officer

**JENNIFER JONES HAS BEEN HIRED** as the chief financial officer for Claverack Rural Electric Cooperative.

Jones brings more than 25 years of accounting experience to the cooperative. She most recently served as controller for Dandy Mini Mart, Williams Oil Co., Inc., and Williams Lubricants, Inc., and was based at the Dandy Corporate Center in Sayre. Prior to that, she served as assistant vice president for Tuscarora Wayne in Wyalusing, where she was employed for 16 years.

Jones holds a bachelor's degree in business administration, accounting concentration, from Mansfield University.

"I am excited to welcome Jennifer to the team," Claverack President & CEO Steve Allabaugh says. "She brings a proven track record of success in the finance and accounting area, along with years of experience working in a competitive business environment. I am confident she will be a great asset to the cooperative and our new Revolution Broadband subsidiary."

Jones began her duties with Claverack on Jan. 24 and replaces Shelley Young, who left the organization in November for a position with an electric cooperative in Kentucky.

Jones and her husband, Rich, reside in Rome, Pa. 🇺🇸



## Co-op Offers Scholarship to MU Students



Mansfield University students who are a Claverack Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) member or dependent of a member are invited to apply for a \$1,000 scholarship available for the 2023-2024 academic year.

To be eligible for consideration, students must:

- ▶ Be enrolled full time at Mansfield University
- ▶ Demonstrate financial need
- ▶ Be a member or dependent of a member of Claverack REC
- ▶ Demonstrate the highest traits of leadership, citizenship and character.

Students can apply at [claverack.com](http://claverack.com) by clicking on "Scholarships" under the "Your Community" drop-down menu at the top of the screen.

Claverack endowed the scholarship fund at Mansfield University in 2000, with a goal of providing financial assistance to any Claverack member or dependent pursuing a degree at the university.

A member of the State System of Higher Education, Mansfield University attracts many students from the cooperative's service territory.

## Looking Back with Claverack



**DIAMOND DAYS:** Little League Baseball players representing Rome and Wysox battle it out on the ballfield during Claverack's 18th Annual Meeting in 1955. The Rome team defeated Wysox 6-2, according to the September issue of the *Claverack Chatter* newsletter. It is unclear where the annual meeting was held that year.

# CALL BEFORE YOU DIG



**To help stay safe and prevent accidents, call 8-1-1**  
before you dig to get underground utilities marked.

Once all utilities are marked, respect the boundaries, and dig carefully. Keep at least 24 inches away from the utility line markings. Stop work immediately if contact is made with an underground line. Your first priority should be evacuating the area for safety. Call 911 to notify emergency personnel and the affected utility. Do not resume work until the area has been confirmed safe by your electric utility.

**For more information on digging safety visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org)**

**Safe  
Electricity.org**



# The Best of Spring

ANNE M. KIRCHNER

**HAVE YOU NOTICED SPRING IS HERE?** Daffodils are in full bloom, the days are getting longer and birds are chirping outside your window. April gets its name from the Latin word “aperio,” meaning “to open or bud.” And there’s no better time to put together a menu inspired by new beginnings.

What’s better than a bowl of light soup on a cool spring day? A skillet frittata can be served for breakfast, lunch or dinner. Quick breads are easy to make and can showcase the best of spring’s fruits and vegetables. 🌱

**ANNE M. KIRCHNER** focuses her writing on human connections, travel and culinary arts, researching food origins, exploring cooking techniques, and creating new recipes.

PHOTOS BY ANNE KIRCHNER



## CELERY SOUP

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 small onion, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 6 cups celery, diced
- 1 large Idaho potato, peeled and cubed
- 4 cups vegetable stock
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- ⅛ teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1 teaspoon dill

- ½ cup fresh parsley
- 1 cup baby spinach
- ½ cup sour cream
- Everything Bagel Seasoning

Heat the olive oil over medium heat in a stock pot. Add the onion and garlic; sauté for 5 minutes. Add the celery, potato, vegetable stock, bay leaf, salt, black and cayenne pepper, and dill. Bring to a boil; cover the pot and reduce heat to a simmer. Cook for 10 minutes. Remove the bay leaf and place soup in a food processor or blender. Add the parsley and spinach, blend well. Return the soup to the stock pot over low heat. Stir in the sour cream and warm. Serve with a sprinkle of the seasoning. *Makes 6 to 8 servings.*



## SPRING SKILLET FRITTATA

- 12 eggs
- 2 tablespoons whole milk
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 8 ounces cremini mushrooms, sliced
- 1 cup spinach, chopped
- 2 green onions, chopped
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt
- ¼ cup Parmesan cheese

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Whisk together the eggs and milk in a bowl; set aside. Heat the olive oil in a 10-inch oven-safe skillet over medium heat. Add the mushrooms and cook for 2 to 3 minutes. Add the spinach, green onions, garlic and salt; cook for 2 minutes more. Pour the egg mixture over the vegetables in skillet. Resist the urge to stir! Cook the eggs on the stove until the edge of the eggs begin to set, about 5 minutes. Sprinkle the eggs with Parmesan cheese and transfer the skillet to the oven. Cook the frittata for 10 minutes or until the eggs are set. *Makes 8 to 10 servings.*



## CITRUS CARROT BREAD

- 1 egg
- ⅓ cup canola oil
- ¼ cup honey
- ½ cup orange juice
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1½ cups all-purpose flour
- ½ cup whole wheat flour
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ¼ teaspoon kosher salt
- 1½ cups grated carrots
- ½ cup raisins (optional)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine the egg, canola oil, honey, orange juice and vanilla in a large mixing bowl; set aside. In a small bowl, combine the all-purpose flour, whole wheat flour, cinnamon, baking powder, baking soda and salt; mix well. Add the dry ingredients to the orange juice mixture. Stir until the dry ingredients are moistened. Fold in the grated carrots and raisins. Pour the batter into a 9-by-5-by-3-inch greased loaf pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 to 55 minutes or until a wooden toothpick inserted in the center of the loaf comes out clean. *Makes 6 to 8 servings.*

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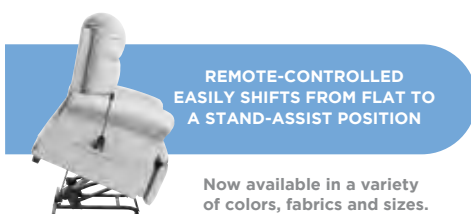
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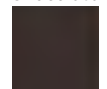
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# Watch Those Tree Sizes

GEORGE WEIGEL

## What Size Tree to Buy?

Another question at tree-buying time is, “How big of a tree should I buy?”

Different sizes come with different pros and cons.

In general, smaller to mid-sized ones — in the 4- to 6-foot-tall range — are the best all-around bet for most home gardeners.

Numerous studies have found smaller trees establish faster and usually match or surpass the size of larger ones — sometimes in as little as three years, according to research by Texas A&M University.

The reason: It’s better to have a hefty root system that can easily support all above-ground growth than a large canopy with a relatively small rootball.

Smaller trees are also easier to handle. They don’t need gigantic planting holes, require less water after planting, usually don’t need staking and suffer less transplant shock, meaning they have a higher survival rate.

Maybe most important, smaller trees cost way less than their bigger brothers.

The main case for bigger trees is they give more immediate impact and a little more immediate shade than smaller ones.

ONE OF LANDSCAPING’S COSTLIEST — and most common — mistakes is planting a too-big tree in a too-small space.

Keep that in mind if you’re planting a tree or three to mark Arbor Day, which is held on the last Friday of April.

Trees might look small and innocent in the nursery pot, but given enough time, some of them can grow into 100-foot-tall behemoths.

That’s fine if you have the space, but most urban and suburban yards are big enough to support only small to mid-sized trees.

Oversize trees are a leading cause of power outages when limbs or whole trees drop on electric lines. They’re also very expensive to remove later when you realize your house is a potential target for a big, old failing tree.

Trees don’t grow as well or last as long either when they’re not given the space they need to spread out — both above and under the ground.

Too-big canopies end up causing costly and unnecessary pruning that, if done improperly, can shorten the tree’s lifespan and create hazards related to disease and rotting.

Tree roots constricted by walls, sidewalks, and driveways also fail sooner and are more likely to blow over in storms because of a limited root system.

The solution is to research a tree’s mature size before buying. One good tree-selection resource is the free, 25-page *TreeVitalize* booklet, produced by the Pennsylvania Urban and Community Forestry Council. To download, go to [treepennsylvania.org](http://treepennsylvania.org), choose “Resources” then “Library,” and scroll down to the booklet’s link.

Penn State Extension offices and numerous online and print resources — not to mention point-of-sale plant tags and signs — also offer tree-size guidelines, although they don’t always agree.

One reason for that is the question, “How big at *what age*?”

While one source might give a size estimate 10 to 15 years down the road, another might use 20- to 25-year estimates. No matter what size is listed, keep in mind trees don’t come with stop buttons. While their growth may slow with age and vary drastically from species to species, trees never stop growing until they die.

The lesson is to estimate on the high side. Also, stay well under power-line heights if you’re planting a tree anywhere near utility lines. Better yet, stick to shrubs in those situations.

When gauging how close to plant to a structure, divide the estimated “mature-canopy” width in half and plant no closer than that to keep limbs from invading the space. (Example: A dogwood tree that’s listed at 20 feet wide should be planted at least 10 feet away from a structure.)

Roots can grow two to three times as far out as the above-ground canopy, so factor that in if you’re trying to keep roots from reaching a wall or pushing up a sidewalk.

As for making sure you’re giving trees enough soil space, most arborists advise against planting trees in those skinny 2- to 3-foot-wide “tree lawns” between curbs and sidewalks.

And to avoid sight-blocking and utility conflicts, a good rule of thumb is to keep trees at least 50 feet away from intersections and at least 20 feet away from driveways, fire hydrants, and utility poles.

That may seem excessive now, but future property owners will thank you for your foresight. 🌳

**GEORGE WEIGEL** is a retired horticulturist, author of two books about gardening in Pennsylvania, and garden columnist for *The Patriot-News/PennLive.com* in Harrisburg. His website is [georgeweigel.net](http://georgeweigel.net).

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# Growing Together

**ABIGAIL ZIEGER**

**A GARDEN IS AN EXCITING** thing for a child. You put tiny specks in the ground and, lo and behold, up comes food you can eat! What's better than getting outside, working with your hands and growing healthy, delicious food?

There are clear benefits to gardening with children. It's a science lesson waiting to happen: Children learn all about our natural world when they grow plants. They also gain the physical and mood-boosting benefits of outdoor time and exercise that are so hard to come by in our screen-centered society. What's more, their self-confidence and sense of responsibility grow as they take charge of caring for a living thing that is their very own. From the smallest child digging alongside you to older children taking on elaborate projects, all kids can savor the joys of a garden.

For my son, in particular, who always had an unusual affinity for vegetables, a garden probably seemed like his own personal snack stash. When he asked to make his own patch when he was 4 years old, of course we said yes. I remember sitting down with him to make garden plans: "I want a garden like Dada's," he said in his tiny voice. "I will plant tomatoes and peppers and melons." We drew a picture of what it would look like once it was growing.

He was eager to start, so my little guy used his big preschooler muscles to drag the garden cart full of loads of straw and leaves to help prepare the soil. We got a small set of kids' garden tools, complete with a red trowel and a kneeler printed with a ladybug design.

Once the weather was warm enough, we helped him plant small rows of carrots, cantaloupe, tomatoes and peppers. My child chattered away while we sowed, inadvertently smearing dirt on his nose and cheeks as he wiped his face. He intermittently stopped to pour some dirt on his belly just for fun.

Through the summer, my boy would stand outside with the hose, watering his garden, the grass around it, the side

of the shed, and the occasional passersby. He would start and stop the hose over and over again, putting his hand on and off the nozzle and squealing happily when he accidentally sprayed himself. Then we'd make miniature rainbows in the sunlight shining on the water droplets.

Once the harvest started coming, it was a huge hit. My son would call us every time he found something new. He gobbled sweet cherry tomatoes by the handful and delighted in the petite gnarled carrots that we pulled out of the dirt. In his fervor, he accidentally broke a stem or two, and we never did have success with the cantaloupes.

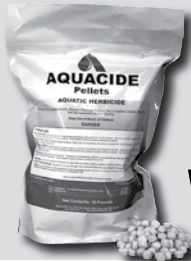
Our first children's garden would never have landed a spot on the cover of a magazine. There was no dreamy garden fountain or picturesque gnomes and fairy houses. We didn't even end up with all that much food at the end. It was just a little patch of earth that was tended by a preschooler with a little help from his parents. But that was the magic of it.

In the years that followed, our kids continued to help in the big garden, and our daughter asked for her own garden plot as well. (Spoiler alert: We obliged.) We saw evidence of all the benefits we read about: The kids loved being outside, they learned a bit about plants and they took special pride in eating their own home-grown food. But most of all, it was just lovely to be side-by-side with our hands in the dirt, marveling at the new life that manages to sprout up each year despite all of our mistakes.

In the end, perhaps gardening with children is not all that much about growing plants — maybe it's more about growing together. 🌱



**ABIGAIL ZIEGER** is a music teacher and singer by trade, but also enjoys capturing life experiences through writing. When not singing, teaching or typing, she can be found working in her kitchen, helping her kids with school or consuming copious amounts of coffee. A member of Claverack Rural Electric Cooperative, Abigail lives with her husband and four children in northeast Pennsylvania.





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## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

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Source: energy.gov



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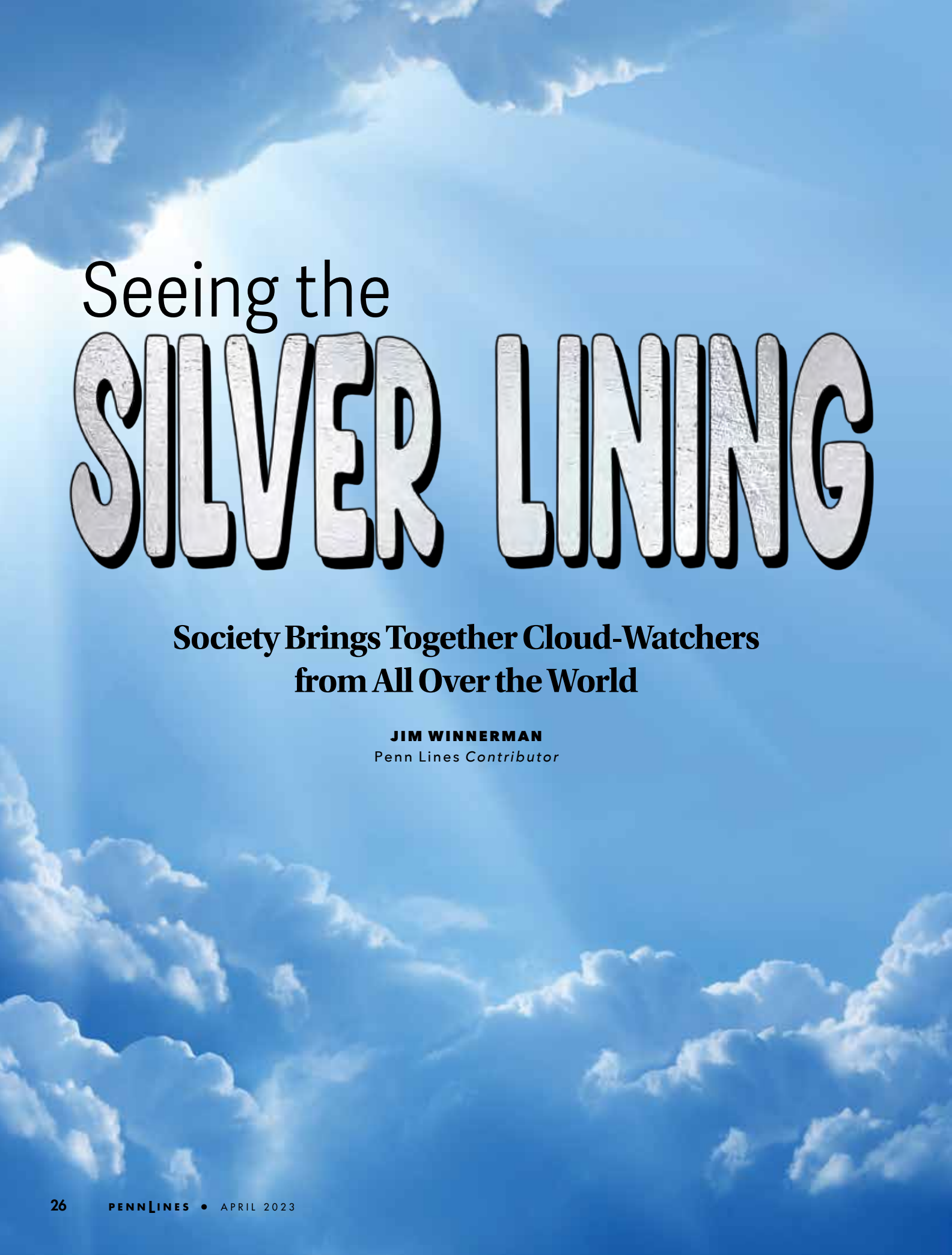
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# Seeing the **SILVER LINING**

**Society Brings Together Cloud-Watchers  
from All Over the World**

**JIM WINNERMAN**  
*Penn Lines Contributor*

**C**LOUDS HAVE DIFFERENT MEANINGS FOR different people. To cooperative lineworkers, for example, clouds might forecast storms and outages ahead. To others, though, clouds are far less ominous.

Since grade school, Liz Anderson has appreciated the fluffy puffs in the skies above.

"I would look up at the sky," she remembers, "and draw the clouds I would see."

Her celestial interest continued into adulthood, and recently, after searching online for an image of a cloud to use as a screen saver, she stumbled upon the Cloud Appreciation Society.

"I joined a year ago and received my welcome packet, which included a certificate stating as a member I was 'obligated to henceforth seek to persuade all who'll listen of the wonder and beauty of clouds,'" says Anderson, who lives in Jermyn, a small town along Pennsylvania's Lackawanna River. "It was all very official."

The welcome packet also contained a lapel pin of a fluffy cloud and a two-sided cloud identification wheel.

"I used the wheel perhaps over-enthusiastically and it fell apart," she says, laughing, "but they sent me a new one."

## Connecting with clouds

The Cloud Appreciation Society was founded in 2003 by Gavin Pretor-Pinney, a British citizen who was living in Rome while on sabbatical from his graphic-design business.

After seven months glancing into the heavens at the clear, blue Roman skies, he discovered he missed the constantly changing cloud formations that were an everyday event in his native United Kingdom.

He returned home so engrossed in learning about clouds, the subject dominated his conversation for a year. Then, a friend invited him to speak at a small literary festival. Pretor-Pinney titled his presentation, "The Inaugural Lecture of the Cloud Appreciation Society."

Afterward, he had to inform audience members intent on joining that the society did not exist. However, sensing he might be onto something, he launched a website, cloudappreciationsociety.org, a few months later, and the society was born. Now, promoting cloud-watching is his full-time occupation.

Today, the society enjoys a membership of more than 51,000 cloud-watchers scattered across 120 countries, all

united through their appreciation of this heavenly mist. To learn more about joining, visit the society's website. (Note: Members pay an annual fee.)

"Their beauty and color remind me every day just to be grateful for life," Anderson says. "I believe cloud-spotting promotes feelings of positivity and well-being — much-needed to help counter the negativity in today's society."

Kim Pelkey of Philadelphia has been a member of the society for three years. "I now see the sky as being similar to the sea, with currents and layers," she says. "I truly do



**HEAD IN THE CLOUDS:** Kim Pelkey of Philadelphia is among more than 51,000 cloud-watchers in 120 countries who are members of the Cloud Appreciation Society. Formed in 2003, the group celebrates a heavenly pastime: cloud-spotting.





**CLOUD TALK:** Some believe clouds convey emotions. These cirrus clouds, for instance, appear to be in danger of a nervous breakdown, says Gavin Pretor-Pinney, founder of the Cloud Appreciation Society.

notice the beauty found while looking up more than I had before becoming a member.”

Pretor-Pinney thinks the society reconnects people with their childhood and their early relationship with the sky.

“That is why I believe it has grown so quickly,” he says.

“If you consider the shapes you see in clouds, it will save you money on psychoanalysis bills,” Pretor-Pinney adds, with his sky-blue eyes twinkling. “Besides, most people think of a cloud only as something that gets in the way of the sun. Somebody had to come to their defense.”

## Anywhere, anytime

Anderson watches the clouds from her backyard, while Pelkey looks for cloud formations from her porch during summer dinners. Both are perfect places to enjoy the sky, Pretor-Pinney says.

“Clouds are one part of nature that comes to us,” he says. “I do not go out at a specific time, because that is not how the sky works. You just have to be prepared to stop what you are doing to appreciate it for a few moments.”

For cloud-watchers, there is no need to rush off to a far-off beach or cabin in the woods to enjoy the sky. And, no tools, money or a plan of action is required.

Pretor-Pinney points out clouds are common to everyone — no matter where they are in the world.

“They are the most egalitarian of nature’s displays,” he says. “We all share and can have a fantastic view of the sky, and clouds are forever changing.”

With his subtle sense of humor, Pretor-Pinney insists he started the society as an “excuse to legitimize doing nothing.” However, it has evolved far beyond what he or anyone else could have imagined.

When Cloud Appreciation Society members from Texas, Norway, France and other nations sent the society similar images of an unusual cloud formation, which appears as if you are looking up from underneath a raging sea, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) took notice. WMO is responsible for assigning scientific names



**OBSESSED:** Gavin Pretor-Pinney is founder of the Cloud Appreciation Society. He created the group after an extended trip to Rome reminded him how much he missed the United Kingdom’s cloudy skies.

*Continued on page 30*



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## Questions:

If you have any questions or need additional information, please email Steph Okuniewski at [Stephanie\\_Okuniewski@prea.com](mailto:Stephanie_Okuniewski@prea.com) or call 717.982.1455.







**WHAT DO YOU SEE?:** Some cloud-watchers say this formation reminds them of an abominable snowman chasing a seahorse.

*Continued from page 28*

to all known cloud types and has published the International Cloud Atlas since 1896. It has not, however, added a new cloud classification since 1953.

Then, in 2017, with photos supplied by society members as a catalyst, the WMO assigned the formation the official name of “Asperitas,” which is Latin for “roughness.”

“I remember seeing that formation,” Anderson says, “and thinking it was quite unusual long before I joined the society.”

The society’s website goes far beyond showcasing images of clouds and their names. It also features links to poetry, music, art, and merchandise, all with cloud themes. Items available include a bumper-sticker with the message, “CLOUD SPOTTER AT THE WHEEL — KEEP YOUR DISTANCE,” and embroidered patches with the words, “Look up,” underneath a finger pointing skyward.

Society members are also treated to a daily “Cloud-a-Day” email, and Pretor-Pinney gives a weekly talk, too, which is broadcast on the Cloud Appreciation Society’s Facebook page.

“It’s a good thing to stop and appreciate the wordless beauty of the world around you,” Anderson says. “Take a break and look up!” ☁️



**LOOK UP:** New members of the Cloud Appreciation Society receive a welcome packet that includes a membership certificate, badge and a cloud identification wheel.



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- ☐ Heading ad should appear under, or name of special heading (additional fee). See below for FREE heading options.

### FREE HEADINGS:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Around the House         | <input type="checkbox"/> Motor Vehicles & Boats |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Opportunities   | <input type="checkbox"/> Nursery & Garden       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employment Opportunities | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gift & Craft Ideas       | <input type="checkbox"/> Recipes & Food         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Livestock & Pets         | <input type="checkbox"/> Tools & Equipment      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Miscellaneous            | <input type="checkbox"/> Travel & Tourism       |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Wanted to Buy          |

### CLASSIFIED AD SUBMISSION/RATES:

#### ELECTRIC CO-OP MEMBERS:

\$20 per month for 30 words or less, plus 50¢ for each additional word.

#### NON-MEMBERS:

\$70 per month for 30 words or less, plus \$1.50 for each additional word.

#### SPECIAL HEADINGS:

\$5 for co-op members, \$10 for non-members. Fee applies to any heading not listed under "FREE HEADINGS," even if the heading is already appearing in *Penn Lines*. For ads running a special heading in consecutive months, the fee is a one-time fee of either \$5 or \$10 for all consecutive insertions.

#### PAYMENT:

Please make **CHECK/MONEY ORDER** payable to: **PREA/Penn Lines**. Insertion of classified ad serves as proof of publication; no proofs supplied.

#### SEND COMPLETED AD COPY AND PAYMENT TO:

*Penn Lines* Classifieds  
P.O. Box 1266  
Harrisburg, PA 17108

# CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

## AA ROOFING

EXPERTS IN HARD-TO-FIND LEAKS! Roof repairs – all types. House, barn roofs painted. Slate work, chimney repairs. Southwestern PA for over 40 years. Speedyservice! 814-445-4400.

## AROUND THE HOUSE

CLOCK REPAIR: If you have an antique grandfather clock, mantel clock or old pocket watch that needs restored, we can fix any timepiece. Macks Clock Repair: 814-421-7992.

COME ENJOY QUILTS AND/OR ENTER YOURS! Demonstrations – Craft Sale – Door Prizes – Ribbons Awarded. Registration (\$2): Thursday, April 27, 9 a.m.-noon. Show: Friday, April 28, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. and Saturday, April 29, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Huntingdon Community Center, 310 5th St, Huntingdon, PA 16552. Sponsored by Redbud Quilt Guild. Website: redbudquiltguild@weebly.com.

SPECIAL OFFER – BOTH COOKBOOKS FOR \$12. "Country Cooking" – \$5, including postage. "Recipes Remembered" – \$7, including postage. Both of these cookbooks are a collection of recipes from men and women of the electric co-ops of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Payable to: Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association, P.O. Box 1266, Harrisburg, PA 17108. Write Attention: Cookbooks.

## BUILDING SUPPLIES

STEEL ROOFING AND SIDING. Over 30 years in business. Several profiles cut to length. 29- and 26-gauge best quality residential roofing – 40-year warranty. Also, seconds, heavy gauges, accessories, etc. Installation available. Located northwestern Pennsylvania. 814-398-4052.

FACTORY SECONDS of insulation, 4 x 8 sheets, foil back. R-value 6.5 per inch. Great for pole buildings, garages, etc. Many thicknesses available. Also blue board insulation sheets. 814-442-6032.

## COINS & BULLION

KEYSTONE COIN & BULLION is buying and selling gold, silver, U.S. coins and currency. Large inventory for sale. We pay in CASH. Call Matt at 814-931-4810. [www.keystonecoinbullion.com](http://www.keystonecoinbullion.com).

## CONCRETE SUPPLIES

BANGES MASONRY, 24" x 24" inlet, 24" x 48" inlet, type M. 6" x 40" trench drains, headstone foundations. Also stock concrete, wire mesh and rebar. Mount Union. 814-542-2000.

## CONSULTING FORESTRY SERVICES

NOLL'S FORESTRY SERVICES. Timber Sales, Appraisals, Management Plans, Land Sales, Hunting Leases, Wildlife Habitat Management. FREE Timber Land Recommendations. 30 years experience. Real estate agent. Visit [www.nollsforestryservices.com](http://www.nollsforestryservices.com). Call Ron, 724-422-5525.

CENTRE FOREST RESOURCES. Forest Management Services, Wildlife Habitat Management, Timber Sales, Appraisals. College-educated, professional, ethical foresters working for you. FREE Timber Consultation. 814-571-7130.

## CONSULTING FORESTRY SERVICES

RAYSTOWN FORESTRY CONSULTING. Timber sales, appraisals, wildlife habitat management. Dedicated to sustainable harvests for present and future generations to enjoy. 45 years experience. 814-448-0040 or 814-448-2405.

## HEALTH INSURANCE

DO YOU HAVE THE BLUES regarding your health insurance? We cater to rural America's health insurance needs. For more information, call 800-628-7804. Call us regarding Medicare supplements, too.

## HEATING & COOLING

GARY & SONS, INC. HEATING AND COOLING – Be ready for the heat this summer with a new or improved air conditioning system or install a heat pump. We can provide all of your heating and cooling needs, as well as tank and tankless hot water systems. We are a Lennox Premier Dealer and Mitsubishi Diamond Elite Contractor, and we service all brands. Now is also the right time to plan so you're comfortable later. Located in Falls Creek, visit us online at [garysinc.com](http://garysinc.com) or call 814-371-4885. Financing available. PA4673.

## MEATS

MCMULLEN PREMIUM BLACK ANGUS FREEZER BEEF, Ashville, Pa. Grass-fed and grain-finished with rich marbling. No growth-promoting hormones or antibiotics. Quarter, half and whole. \$3.00/lb. hanging weight plus processing; price subject to change. [www.mcmullenbeef.com](http://www.mcmullenbeef.com). 814-674-2332.

## MISCELLANEOUS

FOR SALE: BUCKETS, FORKS, THUMBS, grapple buckets and pallet forks for skid loaders, backhoes, and excavators. Tires for backhoes, rubber tire loaders and excavators also. Call 814-329-0118.

FOR SALE: 20-FOOT SHIPPING CONTAINER, asking \$4,000 but will take best offer. Just want what I paid for it. Location is in Gettysburg, Pa. area. Call 223-272-0438 and leave a message.

FOR SALE: LARGE TWO-ROOM DOGHOUSE. Also 10 x 10 x 6 feet high kennel. Can send photos. Call Joe at 814-599-3287.

FOR SALE: USED SAFE STEP WALK-IN BATHTUB, 2018 model; photo available. Make an offer. 814-977-0848.

FOR SALE: BEAUTIFUL FULL-BODY BLACK BEAR MOUNT. \$500. Call, I will send photos. Call Larry, 717-870-4690.

## MOTOR VEHICLES AND BOATS

1972 FORD F-600 DUMP TRUCK. V-8, 190 horsepower, 330 C.I. engine, four-speed transmission with two-speed axle. Runs and drives good. Tires good. \$3,000. Call or text: 717-880-0150.

## NURSERY & GARDEN

TREES AND SHRUBS for all your landscaping needs. Rare, unusual, amazing. Bloomfield Nursery. 167 Sproul Mountain Road, Roaring Spring, PA 16673. 814-224-4508.

#### NURSERY & GARDEN

MONARCH HABITAT - MILKWEED SEED. Same price since 2018. 1 tbsp. = approximately 450 seeds, \$3. One-fourth cup = approximately 1,800 seeds, \$12. Orders over 3 tbsp. add \$2 shipping & handling. Include self-addressed stamped envelope. Jeff Carlstrom, 6621 Scandia Road, Russell, PA 16345-6929. CLIP & SAVE.

2022 DR PREMIER 300 CHIPPER/SHREDDER. Used very little. Paid \$1,000, sell for \$600. Call Cedar Run Inn, 570-353-6241.

#### POWDER COATING

ALMOST ANYTHING METAL can be powder coated: auto parts, lawn furniture, wheels, etc. Restores, protects, preserves. 1,200-degree manifold coating. Arthurs Powder Coating, 263 Sexton Road, Indiana, PA 15701. 724-349-3770.

#### REAL ESTATE

VIRGINIA'S EASTERN SHORE. Fishermen and beach lover's paradise. Access Chesapeake Bay or Atlantic Ocean within minutes. Waterside Village 3/4-acre homesites near marina from \$18,000 with fenced and locked RV/camper storage available. Beach access nearby. Waterfront sites available on bayside and seaside. Many free boat ramps within minutes. Low, low taxes. Kirkwoodontheshore.com. 757-678-7631.

#### REAL ESTATE

LOOKING TO BUY OR SELL? Timberland Realty specializes in land, sporting properties, camps, cabins, farms, waterfront, exquisite second homes and timberland since 1987. Call our office at 716-962-9935 or agents by region - Western PA: Craig Wozniak, 412-559-4198, Ron Westover, 724-422-5525. Central PA: John Tallman, 717-921-2476. Brian Bullard, Managing Broker, 716-499-5608. Website: [www.timberlandrealty.net](http://www.timberlandrealty.net).

#### RECIPES & FOOD

SPECIAL OFFER - BOTH COOKBOOKS FOR \$12. "Country Cooking" - \$5, including postage. "Recipes Remembered" - \$7, including postage. Both of these cookbooks are a collection of recipes from men and women of the electric co-ops of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Payable to: Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association, P.O. Box 1266, Harrisburg, PA 17108. Write Attention: Cookbooks.

#### SHAKLEE

FREE SAMPLE Shaklee's Energy Tea. Combination red, green and white teas that are natural, delicious, refreshing, safe. For sample or more information on tea or other Shaklee Nutrition/Weight Loss Products: 814-392-4383 or [www.pws.shaklee.com/sbarton](http://www.pws.shaklee.com/sbarton).

#### TRACTOR PARTS - REPAIR/RESTORATION

ARTHURS TRACTORS. Specializing in vintage Ford tractors, 30 years experience, online parts catalog/prices, Indiana, PA 15701. Contact us at 877-254-FORD(3673) or [www.arthurstractors.com](http://www.arthurstractors.com).

#### TRAVEL & TOURISM

NEW SMYRNA BEACH, Florida, oceanfront condo rental. Two bedroom, two bath, deck overlooking beach and pool. \$895/week or \$3,200/month, plus taxes and cleaning fees. No pets. Not available Jan. - Mar. Call 814-635-4332 or 814-979-8058.

PATTON, PA- Fully furnished 3-bedroom home for rent. Located 2 miles from Rock Run Recreation and Prince Gallitzen State Park. Rates starting at \$75 a night. 814-674-8037 or 814-656-2945.

#### WANTED TO BUY

ANTIQUE AND CLASSIC American and foreign cars, motorcycles, trucks, Broncos, Blazers and Scouts. Any condition. Will buy entire car collections. [krmiller1965@yahoo.com](mailto:krmiller1965@yahoo.com). 717-577-8206.

ANTIQUE AND CLASSIC motorcycles wanted. All makes and sizes. BSA, Norton, Triumph, Honda, Yamaha, Suzuki, Kawasaki, etc. [krmiller1965@yahoo.com](mailto:krmiller1965@yahoo.com). 717-577-8206.

OLD METAL ADVERTISING SIGNS, old license plates, oil cans, gas pumps, pop machines, advertising thermometers and clocks. Please call Mike at 814-673-5174.

TOYOTA SKID STEER LOADERS - Older models of #7, #8 or #10. Any condition or hours. Engines, pumps, or any part of machines. 330-696-1399. Will travel for pick up.

## SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

### Attention Former Youth Tour Students:

The **Jody Loudenslager Memorial Scholarship** is available to any college-bound or current college student who was selected to participate in the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association Youth Tour program. Scan this QR code for more information about the scholarship and the application.



### Requirements and Dates to Remember:

Applicants are required to furnish necessary aptitude test scores, transcripts (high school or unofficial college, if applicable) and financial aid information. All applications and required documentation must be emailed to Steph Okuniewski (address below) no later than **May 5, 2023**. Finalists will be sent a follow-up questionnaire that must be returned by **June 5, 2023**. Scholarship recipients will be announced in July 2023.

### Questions:

If you have any questions or need additional information, please email Steph Okuniewski at [Stephanie\\_Okuniewski@prea.com](mailto:Stephanie_Okuniewski@prea.com) or call 717-982-1455.





# Sometimes, It's Not the Thought That Counts

JOHN KASUN

**MY WIFE IS AN EXCELLENT** cook, who is always in total control of the process. I, on the other hand, am limited to unscrewing tight lids and opening bags of chips.

However, on a recent Sunday morning, that all changed. My job had kept me away from home, and my wife never sleeps well when I'm not there. Now that I was back, I decided to let her sleep in. As I got out of bed, I announced I would make breakfast. She rolled over, sighed slightly and pulled the covers over her head, which I took as her approval.

For my menu, I selected blueberry pancakes and bacon. It would be simple and only require one skillet and a small mixing bowl. I planned to fry the bacon while I mixed the pancake batter, remove the cooked bacon and put the pancakes in the same skillet.

I started by popping a bag of frozen blueberries in the microwave to thaw out, thinking 10 minutes at maximum power should do the trick. I then placed several strips of bacon in the skillet, turned the heat to high, and focused my attention on mixing the pancake batter. I placed the eggs, milk and pancake mix on the counter. As I broke the first egg into the bowl, a second egg slowly rolled to the edge of the counter and hung there just long enough for me to spring forward in an attempt to grab it. My arm knocked over the milk carton, and just as the egg splattered on the floor, it was followed by a stream of milk.

"No sense crying over spilled milk," I thought as I quickly tossed a couple of paper towels over the mess and turned back to the task at hand. I was not going to be discouraged over one small setback.

Within minutes, the mixing bowl was full of pancake mix, milk and eggs. As I inserted the hand-held mixer into the bowl, I hit the start switch — not realizing it was also the speed control. The bowl looked like a dragster coming off the starting line as it spun across the countertop. I reacted

by lifting the mixer out of the batter. Suddenly, everything in the kitchen, including me, was covered in pancake batter. It looked as if someone had just painted a racing stripe around the entire kitchen.

Undeterred by this minor problem, I reached for a larger bowl and started over. This time, however, I used a large wooden spoon to stir the batter, but quickly realized the mixture was too thick because it was like trying to mix cement with a yardstick. I soon found another mixer I could hold with one hand while turning the bowl with the other, which seemed perfect for the job. I added more milk to thin the batter, but it was too much, so I added more pancake mix, but then needed a larger bowl as my current one was overflowing.

By now, the counter was full of bowls and kitchen tools, leaving me little room to work. Also, the floor was slippery where I had spilled the milk and egg, so I moved the entire operation to the kitchen table to finish the job. I caught the smell of burning bacon just before the fire alarm went off. As I lifted the smoking skillet from the stove, I heard a loud *pop-bang* from the microwave. The frozen blueberries had exploded, and the inside of the microwave was now a deep purple color.

"My goodness, what have you done?" my wife asked as she stood in the kitchen doorway with a shocked look on her face. "I dreamt you said you were going to cook breakfast ... it must have been a nightmare!"

As I opened my mouth to explain, she held up her finger. "Please don't say a word. I am going back to bed," she said. "Call me when you get this mess cleaned up. Then, I am going out for breakfast."

I wanted to say, "It's the thought that counts," but decided against it. She just didn't seem to be in the right mood. 🍷

**JOHN KASUN**, a lifelong Pennsylvanian with more than 30 years of writing experience, looks for the humor in everyday life and then tells a story from that perspective. He is a member of Valley Rural Electric Cooperative.





STEVEN MCEWEN • UNITED REC

DAVID HOUGH • WARREN EC



## Winter Neverland

Raise your hand as high as you can if you are *done* with winter and ready for spring. Snowball fights and sled rides have their place, but we're ready for some warmth. We just have to weather some April showers, and we'll be enjoying May flowers in no time.

Don't forget to send your finest shots of Pennsylvania for this year's Rural Reflections contest — 2023 winners in five categories (artistic, human, landscape, animal and editor's choice) will receive \$75 each and runners-up will each receive \$25. 🐾

LISE MILLER • ADAMS EC



ROBERT PHILLIPS • NORTHWESTERN REC



**AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS** are encouraged to send photos for the 2023 "Rural Reflections" contest (no digital files) to: *Penn Lines Photos*, P.O. Box 1266, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1266. On the back of each photo, include your name, address, phone number and the name of the electric cooperative that serves your home, business or seasonal residence.

Remember: Our publication deadlines require us to work in advance, so send your seasonal photos in early. Photos that do not reflect any specific season may be sent at any time. Photos will be returned at the end of the contest year if a self-addressed, stamped envelope is included.



#### ADDRESS CHANGES:

For change of address, please contact your local electric cooperative. For cooperative contact information, please visit [www.prea.com/member-cooperatives](http://www.prea.com/member-cooperatives)

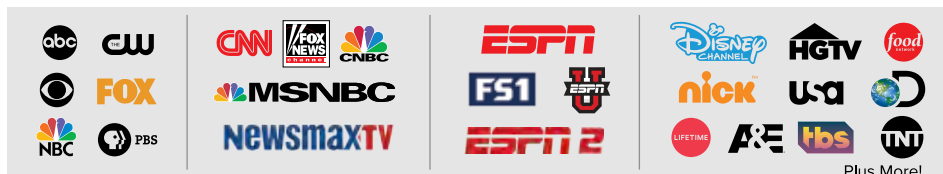


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