

CURRENT CONNECTION

CROW WING POWER NEWS • JULY/AUGUST 2008 • VOLUME 60, NUMBER 4

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections

Energy Conservation Appeal >>> Sign Up to be E-mailed When Prices are High

Electric prices are increasing at triple the normal rate this summer during hot, humid and high demand periods of time. When this happens, Crow Wing Power is notified by our power supplier, Great River Energy, and in turn, we make an effort to let our members know it's time to conserve energy.

On conservation appeal days you'll hear area radio announcements asking people to reduce their use of electricity between noon and 10 p.m. In addition, we've begun an e-mail group, where members are signing up for e-mail notifications on conservation appeal days.

You can easily receive e-mail notifications by clicking on 'Subscribe to e-mail notifications' on our home page at www.cwpower.com. You'll be directed to a quick form asking for your name and e-mail address. The process is secure, completely confidential and you can unsubscribe at any time.

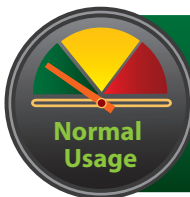
INSIDE

CEO Report	2
Annual Meeting	3
Member Benefit List	5
Pay Bill Online	6
Houston Ford	7
Recipe	7
Puzzle	8

By working together to reduce energy use during high demand times, you'll not only lower your energy bill, but collectively, our wholesale purchase will be less.

Conservation is the key. You can also logon to the Internet daily at www.cwpower.com to view a gauge on the predictable power costs for any given day – normal, conserve or critical. Click on Quick Links\Today's Energy Advisory to see gauges.

We appreciate your help in reducing power costs.



No special energy-saving measures are necessary.
Normal Usage
Everyday energy tips



Conserve energy until 10 p.m.
Peak Usage
Wait 'til Late tips



Do everything you can to reduce energy use.
Critical Usage
Energy reducing tips

Hidden Adventures at Paul Bunyan Nature Learning Center >>>

This summer, if you want to experience nature and learn about the outdoors, you need not travel far.

Paul Bunyan Nature Learning Center is a fascinating place to learn about the many natural resources in north central Minnesota. Housed in a rustic building on Wise Road ½ mile east of Hwy 371, that's packed with information about butterflies, insects, gardening, plant life, wildlife, birds, trees, water and balancing the ecosystems, it's a hidden treasure waiting to be discovered for those who have never visited.

The Learning Center is a member of Crow Wing Power and the only privately-owned non-profit interpretive center/arboretum in the area.



Continued on Page 3



A WORD FROM YOUR CEO

2008 Projects Designed to Improve Communications >>>

The utility industry is changing at a rapid pace. Fortunately our ability to inform cooperative members on a timely basis is also evolving quickly thanks to technological capabilities in the communications industry.

This year we're developing multiple avenues increasing our ability to update members on issues that affect electric rates, outage status and services. We're working on processes that utilize newer communication tools to offer an array of options that give members the opportunity to stay in touch, reduce costs and improve lifestyles.

The outline below gives a brief description of some changes we're making.

- **Implementing e-mail notifications** for energy conservation appeals when energy prices triple—
 - We now have a group of members wanting to be notified by e-mail when energy prices are high during hot and humid days; Members who sign up are sent e-mails and can then voluntarily cut back their energy use from noon to 10 p.m. on conservation appeal dates. Energy Conservation appeals are being implemented as our wholesale power supplier is charging about three times more for electricity this summer during high demand times.
- **Starting an e-mail group** for members that want to have an e-newsletter instead of a paper version sent in the mail—

- The development of an e-newsletter is now in the beginning stages, therefore we're gathering e-mail addresses of those who want to sign up for this service.
- **Developed an E-bill** online payment program—
 - Now you can pay your bill online and eliminate paper bills if you so choose, by clicking Quick Pay under Quick Links on our website at www.cwpower.com.
- **Established an e-mail** process for notifying members on legislative action concerning electric utility issues—
 - This year more than ever, Congress and presidential candidates are planning on changing the future of the electric industry. Bills have been introduced that will double or triple your electric bills in the next few years. It's time to talk with your congressmen and women. When needed we will e-mail the issues and with a simple click, you'll be directed to a site that e-mails those concerns to Congressman Oberstar, and Senators Klobuchar and Coleman. To sign up simply go to our website at www.cwpower.com click on 'Subscribe to e-mail notifications', there you'll have the option of choosing to subscribe to our legislative alert mailing list.
- **Outage response notifications**—
 - We have started to upgrade meters to a newer TS-2 model that will increase our automatic meter reading capabilities to gather voltage reads, improve outage detection, restoration verification, and offer peak demand and time-of-use information.

I'll keep you informed.

CEO



Director's View >>>

By Don O'Brien

Numerous Spring Storms, Power Outages and Prevention

As a seasoned Crow Wing Power board member, I've seen many spring and summer storms cause havoc with our power lines. This season we've experienced exceptional damage and costly repairs.

Significant storms caused power outages for members on April 7, April 11, May 17, June 6, June 13 and the weekend of July 11. Strong winds uprooted trees in the early wet spring toppling power lines and breaking power poles. Early summer storms did the same.

At Crow Wing Power, we understand the inconvenience of 'no electricity'. It's my hope that members realize the undaunted dedication our operations department and line crews who work relentlessly night and day to restore power during these trying times.

The board of directors has been able to authorize a work plan that has increased right of way clearing to unprecedented levels. In 2005, we were spending approximately \$1 million on clearing. Last year we were able to dedicate \$1.7 million and this year we're planning on spending \$2.6 million. We've already seen significant improvements in outage control in areas that have been cleared.

Fortunately, the proceeds derived from the sale of Hunt Technologies in 2006 are helping to sustain this high level of right of way maintenance.

Thank you for your patience during storms and as always call us if you have concerns.

Member Appreciation Day Attendance Sets Record >>>

A record number of 3,500 people attended the 71st annual Crow Wing Power Member Appreciation Day and Annual Meeting on June 12. Children and adults of all ages enjoyed a fun-filled morning with free breakfast, horse rides from the Sheriff's Mounted Patrol, games, prizes and live music from the Kingpins.

After a brief annual meeting, board election results were announced. The total number of ballots cast in this year's board election was 6,517. Three incumbents were re-elected to the board. Bette Mezzenga from Crosslake received 6,019 votes. Gert Roggenkamp, Nisswa received 4,383 votes running against Lakmini Kidder who got 2,011 votes and Dwight Thiesse received 4,740 votes over Mary Marana with 1,673 votes.

After the annual meeting the board held their re-organizational meeting where Bette Mezzenga was re-elected as president.

Vice president is Gert Roggenkamp, Kay Blais, secretary and Gordon Martin, treasurer.



Hidden Adventures Continued >>>

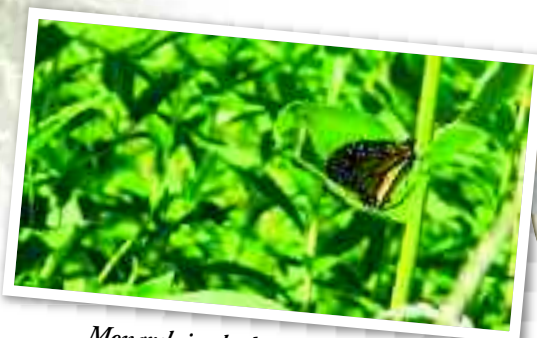


At the center, you'll find three miles of trails, a three-acre arboretum and an array of 'earthy' information. You can attend classes on designing a butterfly garden, make your own leaf imprint stepping stone or sign up for numerous other classes.

On Saturday, August 16 Crow Wing Power will be sponsoring the Learning Center for their Butterfly Garden grand opening. There will be live music, food and pop served from 11:00 to 2:00. Learn everything there is to know about butterflies and the habitat that sustains them. Artisans will demonstrate their talents as well.

Learn about this great environmental asset in our backyard. Join us for the fun on Saturday, August 16. We'll see you there!

Michael Baumer, Director/Eggs on milkweed



Monarch in the butterfly garden



Leaf Stepping Stone

People's Security Offers New Cabin Check Package >>>

People's Security Company has designed a new security system package called 'Cabin Check'. With high gas prices, it's forecast that people will drive less this summer. Our security company can help. You can spend \$60 or more driving to the cabin to make sure all is okay, or for about \$20 a month, People's Security will monitor it for you 24 hours a day. 'Cabin Check' includes a keypad, 2 door sensors, a motion sensor, low temp monitor and Central Processing Unit (CPU) for only \$599. Protection from burglary, vandalism and freeze-up is only a phone call away 1-800-735-1440.



Savings Revealed >>>



Ron and Belva Lund contacted us recently thanking Crow Wing Power for the Co-op Connections discount card. The Crosby Eye Clinic was kind enough to notice they were Crow Wing Power members and gave them a \$150 discount

off their eye care bill. The clinic is just one of 123 CWP business members offering discounts with the card.

Maury Duval, owner of Seal Tech Seal Coating and Blacktop Coating and Blacktop enjoys being a business member offering discounts through Crow Wing Power's Co-op Connections card. Maury says in these tight times, people like saving money. With the discount card, they can save sometimes as much as \$50 or more. Members that use their card for Maury's blacktop seal coating business save 5% on his service.



Pharmacy Discounts Saving Thousands for Members >>>

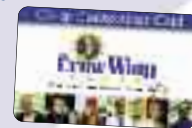
The new Co-op Connections cards that were sent to members in February kicked off a new pharmacy discount program. Our June report revealed that to date 813 prescriptions were filled; our members saved a total of \$14,807.66 and received an average 32% savings on drugs. Currently, members are receiving about 200 prescription discounts per month.

Discounts are offered at all local pharmacies and normally the savings are beneficial for people that have limited insurance coverage or for those that have a high co-pay on prescriptions. Members should check to see if the Co-op Connections card offers a better discount than their current insurance. Pharmacies nationwide accept the card.



Check out the **NEW** Member Discount Listing >>>

The Co-op Connection Card program is growing. This exciting program offers special discounts and benefits exclusively to Crow Wing Power members. Clip and save the list as new businesses come on periodically and the list changes. Simply show your Co-op Connections card or key fob at these businesses to receive your discount. For more information, log on to our website at www.cwpower.com and click on the members section. If you've lost your card or need more information, call us at 218-829-2827 or 1-800-648-9401.



RESORTS

Get specific member benefit discounts online at www.cwpower.com or call resort/hotels

All Season's Resort, Longville	1-800-279-1128
Americinn Lodge & Suites, Pequot Lakes	1-888-568-8400
Breezy Point Resort, Breezy Point	1-800-432-3777
Evergreen Lodge, Longville	218-682-2467
Girl Lake Resort, Longville	218-363-2371
Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites, Brainerd/Baxter	218-824-3232
Little Boy Resort, Longville	218-363-2188
Little Ponderosa Resort, Longville	218-363-2600
Pinedale Resort, Longville	877-218-1102
Pine Peaks Lodge, Crosslake	1-888-488-7829
Pines Motel, Longville	218-363-1100
The Lodge at Brainerd Lakes	218-822-5634
Thunder Lake Lodge, Remer	1-800-336-8163
Towering Pines Resort, Pequot Lakes	1-800-950-0267
Trails End Lodge, Canada	1-888-376-7669
Train Bell Resort, Merrifield	218-829-4941
Whitefish Lodge & Suites, Crosslake	218-692-2246

RETAIL

A & J's Up North Buffalo Ranch, Pequot Lakes	218-568-8606
10% off \$100 purchase of buffalo meat.	
Action Graphics, Baxter	218-829-7958
15% off retail pricing on site signs, banners and commercial vehicle graphics	
Artistic Images, Brainerd (2008 special)	218-829-9400
20.08% off all regular priced limousine services, photography, videography & framing	
Bear Trax Store and Hardware, Hillman	320-277-3232
10% discount on bait.	
Black Pine Beach Resort, Pequot Lakes	10% off gift shop 218-543-4714
Boyd Lodge, Crosslake	10% off gift shop, exclusions apply 218-543-4125
Candy Bouquet, Baxter	10% off bouquet of \$30 or more 218-831-3813
Cashwise Liquor, Baxter & Brainerd	15% discount on 3 or more bottles or boxes of wine (excluding other discounts) 218-829-9286
Channel Liquors, Crosslake	15% discount on 3 or more bottles or boxes of wine (excluding other discounts) 218-692-4422
5% discount on all items THURSDAYS ONLY	
Crystal Cleaners & Tailors, Brainerd	10% off dry cleaning (not valid on leather, sewing, laundry or other discounts) 218-828-0337
Essers Wine and Spirits, Brainerd/Baxter	7% off wine purchases of 1 to 5 bottles; 10% off wine purchase of 6 bottles of wine. 218-829-1230
EJ Specialties, Cushing	10% discount on all items (gifts, jewelry, clothing and books) 218-575-2925
Fuller Brush Company, Baxter	5% discount. 218-825-7825
Garage Sale Antiques, Motley	Free greeting card with purchase of \$20.00 or more 218-575-2765
Highway 25 Liquor, Brainerd	10% discount on wine 218-829-2287
Judy's House of Gifts, Crosslake	10% discount on regular priced items 218-692-3123
Karen's Antiques & Things, Merrifield	10% discount on regular priced merchandise 218-825-7355
Mattie and Me, Brainerd (consignment store)	25% off clothing only 218-829-2426
Memories for the Making Scrapbook & Stamp Store, Baxter	20% discount on any one album 218-824-0606
Morey's Fish House Market, Baxter	10% off fresh fish Sunday through Thursday 218-829-8248
Northland Off-sale Liquor, Jenkins	10% discount on wine 218-568-4723
Northwood Turf & Power, Baxter	10% off on John Deere toys 218-829-5356
Pam's Sewing, Longville	20% off zipper repair or replacement labor 218-363-3188

MORTGAGE/FINANCE

Cygnature Title & Abstract, Inc. Brainerd/Baxter, Little Falls, Longville	\$100 fee closing fee for any real estate transaction (no other discounts apply) 218-828-0122
Lakes State Bank, Pequot Lakes & Crosslake	15% off closing costs on second mortgages, mortgage broker 218-568-4473
Liberty Tax Service, Brainerd	25% discount on tax preparation (not valid with other offers) 218-824-9600

RETAIL CONTINUED

Party World, Baxter	218-828-2127
5% discount on all sales/rentals	
People's Security, Brainerd	218-828-4828
3 months free monitoring with system purchase (in addition to any other special)	
Rustic River Trading, Emily	877-763-5144
10% discount on regular priced items; 50 cents off coffee drinks	
Slumberland, Baxter	218-829-8733
20% off accessories (Baxter location only)	
The Pampered Chef Independent Consultant/Jackie Churack	218-828-8017
20% off one regular price item.(no additional discounts apply)	
T-Mobile Dealer at Crow Wing Power	218-829-2827
Free car cord with all new T-Mobile activations. (not valid with other offers)	
Valerie's Photography, Baxter	218-828-3391
Free 8 x 10 with sitting.	
Von Hanson's Meat Market, Baxter	218-822-2888
\$5.00 off meat bundles	
Watkins Products, Baxter	218-825-7825
10% discount on all items.	
Watkins Products, Glen Weigenant, Royalton	320-584-8178
10% discount on all items. MENTION ID #113955N	
Willow Bay, Crosslake	218-692-3123
10% discount on regular priced items	
WestSide Liquor, Baxter	218-822-4190
20% off all wine (excluding sale items & Wine Tuesday prices) and 10% off import beer excluding sale items & Beer Wednesday prices)	

AUTOMOTIVE

AOK Engines, Motley	218-575-2755
10% discount on labor only. Not valid with other offers.	
Crosslake Auto Body & Detail	218-692-5000
10% discount on any detail package.	
Houston Ford, Pine River	1-800-782-0056
Only \$49 over invoice on all new cars and trucks; 10% discount on parts and service of \$100 or more (excludes specialty items); not valid with other discounts	
Lehmann Motorsports, Merrifield	218-829-7774
10% discount on parts and accessories	

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Ace Hardware, Brainerd	218-829-5476
10% off regular priced paint and paint accessories	
Acorn Landscaping, Brainerd	218-829-7866
10% discount on regular priced cement or resin lawn ornaments and bagged decorative mulches. Plus FREE bag of Acorn's Best black dirt with every \$20.00 purchase.	
All Pro Pools & Midnight Sun Spas, Brainerd	218-833-1000
\$100 disc. on new spa purchase; 10% disc. on purchase of \$50 or more chemicals.	
Custom Upholstery & Awning Center, LLC Brainerd	1-877-963-4536
15% off awning installation (new as of Aug. 06)	
Floor to Ceiling, Baxter	218-829-4738
15% off any regularly priced, in-stock wallpaper or borders. And get a free rug pad with purchase of any area rug.	
Gull Lake Glass, Brainerd	218-829-2881
10% discount - does not include labor, auto glass & commercial projects.	
Hirshfield's, Baxter	218-824-0926
10% discount on all regular priced items.	
Home Interiors & Better Homes & Gardens/Trena Eller	218-746-4134
30% off any regular priced item & 30 mins free decorating consultation	
H & H Builders and Supply, LLC (windows, siding, roofing).....	866-400-9276
Free Upgrade (ex. color enhancement, armor glass, wraps, etc) *not avail with other promos; must present card at appointment)	
Hudrik Carpet, Aitkin, Baxter & Crosby	218-828-5009
15% off in-stock carpet and vinyl	
Lakes Area Plumbing.....	218-821-6450
10% discount on installation of new replacement electric water heater purchased from Crow Wing Power	
Lonesome Cottage Furniture Co.	218-822-3433
10% off home decor & accessories (no other discounts apply. Does not include log furnishings.)	
Minnesota Water & Air, Inc	218-824-6460
5% off new product purchase (not valid/w other specials) (water condit, softener, drinking)	
Northern Skies Air Duct Cleaning, Breezy Point	218-562-4082
10% off residential cleaning (furnace & air ducts, dryer vents, refrigerator coils)	
North Pines Interiors, Longville	218-363-2848
10% off rug pad with purchase of carpet and 10% off decorative items.	
Ritter & Ritter Sewer Service, Inc	218-927-3138
10% off Septic Pumping, 10% off line cleaning	
Seal Tech Seal Coating (BLACKTOP RESURFACING)	218-828-4665
5% off Sealcoating and Patching blacktop paving	
ServiceMaster Clean, Baxter	218-829-4076
10% off residential cleaning - does not include commercial or disaster restoration.	
Stettlers Major Appliance Repair Service, Brainerd.....	218-828-7712
20% discount off labor only (not good with other discounts)	
Tank's Furniture Clearance Center, LLC, Pillager	218-746-4224
6.5% Sales Tax paid with picked up merchandise (not valid with other offers)	
Tender Care Home Management, Baxter	218-825-8536
professional organizing services for home or Business; 1 hr free with 1 hr paid per client	
The Log Shop, Breezy Point	218-562-4208
10% off storewide on furniture, accessories and gifts	
Western Products, Hwy 371, Baxter	218-828-1376
20% off Poker supplies, Game Tables, Hot tubs, Wicker Furniture, Billiard Tables, Spa Chemicals; \$100/sq off on certain brands siding. Discounts not avail with other offers.	

HEALTH/FITNESS

Fitquest, Baxter (the area's total health and racquetball club)	218-829-6453
\$20.00 off the enrollment fee.	
It Figures Fitness of Baxter	218-822-3302
20% off joiner fee and 20% off 12 or 18 month contract	
Laurie Hoening Massage, Crosslake	218-820-9045
10% off any massage	

MEDICAL

Associates in Eyecare, Baxter/Nisswa/ Pine River	218-829-1789
10% off a complete pair of eyewear. No other discounts apply	
Crosby Eye Clinic Baxter/Crosby/Remer Location	1-800-952-3766
15% off complete pair of eyewear at Baxter, Remer and Crosby Clinic locations (not good with other discounts or contract safety eyewear)	
Lakes Area Eyecare, Baxter.....	1-888-540-0202
10% off a complete pair of eyewear or sunglasses (No other discounts apply)	
Pearle Vision, Baxter	1-218-828-4024
30% off a complete pair of glasses (No other discounts apply)	
The Smile Center, (dental clinic) Deerwood	1-218-534-3141
15% discount with payment at the time of service	

RESTAURANTS

371 Diner, Baxter	218-829-3356
10% discount on menu items. (Not valid with other special offers or coupons)	
Antler's Restaurant, Breezy Point	218-562-7162
10% dining discount up to 8 people. (not valid with alcohol,early bird or other offers)	
Arby's Restaurant, Baxter.....	218-825-8494
10% discount (not valid with any other offer or coupon)	
Black Bear Lodge and Saloon, Baxter.....	218-828-8400
10% dining discount for up to six people in a party (not valid with other coupon or promo	
Bonanza Family Steakhouse, Baxter.....	218-828-1415
Free beverage with the purchase of an entrée. *not including alcoholic bevs	
Dairy Queen, Crosslake	218-692-4443
Free small cone or small sundae with purchase of a value meal.	
Harding Sportsman Bar & Grill, Harding.....	320-277-9511
10% discount on food menu items (dine in only)	
Hitchin' Rail, Cushing.....	218-575-3013
10% discount on home-made pizzas (dine-in only).	
Kentucky Fried Chicken, Baxter	218-829-1345
10% discount on menu items - not valid with any other specials	
Marina Restaurant, Breezy Point	218-562-7161
10% discount on food up to 8 people	
Northwind Grille, Brainerd.....	218-829-1551
10% discount	
Oak Lawn Tavern, Brainerd	218-829-7656
\$1.00 off purchase of combination appetizer basket	
Prairie Bay Restaurant, Baxter	218-824-6444
10% discount on menu items (excluding alcohol) Not valid with other offer, excludes special events or holidays.	
The Legacy Grille, Cragun's, Brainerd	800-272-4867
One free non-alcoholic beverage with menu purchase.	
Trail Break Bar & Grill, Pine River	218-587-3818
10% discount on menu items (dine in only), not including other special offers	
Wagon Wheel Bar & Grill, Merrifield	218-829-0816
10% discount on menu items & Off-Sale (excluding other specials)(dine in only).	
Zorbaz Mexican and Pizza Joint, Crosslake	218-692-4567
\$2.99 off purchase of large pizza and 2 soft drinks.	

GOLF COURSES

Breezy Point Traditional Course, Breezy Point	1-800-950-4960
10% off green fees and cart rental - Sunday noon & all day Monday - Thursday. (not valid with other discounts or promotions)	
Crosswoods, Crosslake	218-692-4653
10% discount on regular green fees.	
Emily Greens Golf Course	218-763-2169
\$2.00 off regular rates, not valid holiday weekends	
Pine River Country Club	218-587-4774
Golf for two for only \$30 (includes cart) on weekdays and 20% off on weekends, not valid with other specials or offers	
Ridgewood Golf & Country Club, Longville	218-363-2444
10% discount off regular priced green fees Mon-Thurs, excludes holidays, not valid for twilight rates or other discounts or promotions.	
The Legacy, Cragun's, Brainerd.....	800-272-4867
20% off green fees (May 1 - Sept. 30) not valid for early bird or twilight rates.	
Whitebitch, Breezy Point	218-562-7177
10% off green fees and cart rental - Sunday noon & all day Monday - Thursday. Reservations accepted 48 hours in advance.	
Whitefish Golf Club, Pequot Lakes	218-543-4900
10% off regular priced green fees - Sunday- Thursday (excludes Holidays, not valid with other discounts or promotions).	
Wildwedge Family Golf Park, Pequot Lakes	218-568-6995
Unlimited Golf \$10 (9-hole short golf course)	
Wildwedge Mini-Golf, Pequot Lakes	218-568-6995
\$1.00 off per person on Mini-Golf	

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

Paul Bunyan Land, Brainerd.....	218-764-2524
\$1.00 off regular admission. One discount card admits up to four people	
Paul Bunyan Nature Learning Center, Brainerd	218-829-9620
10% off membership	
Ski Gull, Nisswa.....	218-963-4353
Two for One Lift ticket - purchase one at reg price, get second free. (valid same day only)	
The Lodge at Brainerd Lakes (waterpark)	218-822-5634
Bring your discount card: \$3.00 OFF Waterpark admission. (valid for 4 admissions)	
Three Bear Lodge Water & Themepark, Baxter	218-824-3232
\$2.00 OFF regular admission to the Water & Theme park One discount card admits up to four people.	

Pay Your Bill Quickly and Easily Online >>>

We now offer a new E-bill program that lets you register and log onto the Internet to pay your bill online. Once registered, you'll get e-mail notifications when your bill is ready to view and pay and when we've received a payment. The program also offers the ability to stop printed bills if you like. Go to www.cwpower.com, find the Quick Links at the top right hand corner and select Quick Pay to register. There is no cost to submit payments through a credit card or checking account.



Your Membership Has its Benefits >>>

Cooperatives are owned by their members and offer many benefits. Crow Wing Power provides many options to save you money. The Co-op Connections card and the Credit Union are two prime money-saving options.

The Crow Wing Power Credit Union (CWPCU) staff works for members, not a group of stockholders. Profits are returned to the member/owners in the form of free services, minimal fees, lower loan rates and higher deposit rates.

Earning more money and saving your hard-earned money are your top priorities. Move your checking account to CWPCU and receive a \$20.00 credit to your account, free checks, ATM/debit card, and online account services. The account will also earn 1.00% (1.00% APY) with an average daily balance of \$500 or more. You will love the personal service and the money you will save by refinancing your loan to CWPCU.

Join the Credit Union – save with and borrow from the financial institution that YOU own.



Members' Brighter Ideas >>>

“For electric water heaters — raise water heater off the floor with a 2 x 6 frame; insulate with fiberglass between the frame (put plastic under and on top of the frame to prevent floor or water heater moisture from penetrating the insulation; wrap the sides and top of the water heater with 3 1/2” or 6” fiberglass insulation; wrap the now insulated water heater with reflective bubble wrap insulation and tape the joints; make simple S-shaped traps for the cold inlet and hot outlet pipes. These simple improvements cost about \$50 and will save approximately \$50 on electric prices, paying for itself within six months to a year, as measured by usage on our off-peak hot water heater meter.”
— James Ballenthin, Backus



“We’ve read that the sealed insulated shade system by Warm Company will improve a window’s R value from about 1 to 7.6! The system is essentially an insulated window quilt which is operated like a Roman shade or blind. When closed, the edges are sealed with a magnetic strip. The result is about 80% less heat loss (or solar gain in summer). The added benefit is a reduction of noise pollution. Do it yourself plans are found at www.warmcompany.com. Although the fabric is expensive at \$30 per yard, replacing windows would be much more expensive.”

— Tim Richardson family, Fifty Lakes



Minnesota Mortgage Debt Counseling Available >>>

Minnesota is currently witnessing an alarming trend in home foreclosures. In 2008, an estimated 80,000 Minnesota home owners are expected to become delinquent on their mortgage payment. Fortunately foreclosure prevention counselors are available. The Minnesota Home Ownership Center advances successful homeownership in Minnesota by connecting people to information, education and counseling.

If you are a homeowner and are currently facing a foreclosure, or are falling behind in your mortgage, home equity loan, property taxes or homeowner association dues, go to www.hocmn.org or call one of the locations below.

Cass County: Bi-County Community Action Program in Walker at 1-800-332-7135 extension 112

Crow Wing and Morrison Counties: LSS Financial Counseling in Duluth at 1-800-777-7419.



Join the FREE Co-op Cookin Recipe Club >>>

Send your favorite Summer BBQ recipe to Crow Wing Power, PO Box 507, Brainerd, MN 56401. If your entry is drawn and printed in the September Current Connection, you'll receive a \$25 credit on your electric bill. We'll save all entries and eventually print a member cookbook. If you want to receive a recipe card

each month in the mail, fill in the form below. THERE IS NO CHARGE to belong to the recipe club. Recipes will also be posted on our website at www.cwpower.com. Recipes, puzzles and cookin' club forms can be sent in one envelope.

Puppy Chow Debra Sunnarborg, Brainerd

Kids Cookin' Recipe

- 1 c. Chocolate chips
- 1 c. Creamy Peanut Butter
- 1 c. Butter
- 8-9 oz Crispix cereal
- 3 c. Powdered Sugar

Melt chocolate chips, peanut butter and butter in microwave. Pour over cereal. Put powdered sugar in a large grocery bag and add cereal mixture. Shake real good. Serve.



Yes, I'd like to join the Co-op Cookin' Club and receive a new recipe each month in the mail. I understand there is no charge.

Name: _____

Account: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Houston Ford Celebrates Being Top Wind Energy Supporter >>>

Recently, Houston Ford celebrated their first annual Green Days, as the first and only car dealership in Minnesota to purchase wind power. On July 11 and 12 we helped Houston Ford at their event in Pine River. They are the largest supporter of wind power in Crow Wing Power's 'GreenPower' program. CWP has over 1,100 members voluntarily purchasing more than 600,000 kWhs of wind energy each month, enough to power 700 homes by wind. Houston Ford, one of 37 businesses purchasing wind power, buys the largest amount. Their contribution is enough to power 25 homes with wind alone every month.

Dick Houston, owner of Houston Ford (left) accepts an eagle award from Rick Pederson, CWP Energy Conservation Coordinator for their outstanding volunteer effort as the number one supporter of windpower in CWP's GreenPower program.

Most of the wind energy CWP buys is generated in Southern Minnesota wind farms. The energy our members buy helps to reduce the amount of electricity generated by normal fossil fuel plants, thereby helping the environment.

Currently wind energy costs \$.60 more than normal electric rates for every 100 kWhs purchased.

We applaud Houston Ford and all windpower supporters for their tremendous environmental efforts.



Air Conditioning Rebates for 2008 >>>

Over 1,500 members have joined the Cycled Air Program this summer and now save 50% on their cooling bills.

Cycled Air Rebate

Receive up to *\$140 when you allow us to control the A/C on Cycled Air (which ultimately pays for the control equipment)

* Offer Ends 9/30/08



Win \$25 off your electric bill >>>

Complete the word find puzzle below, clip and send entire coupon back to us by September 20, 2008. We've sized it to fit in your billing payment, so you can save a stamp. If you'd rather, you can send it separately to Crow Wing Power, P.O. Box 507, Brainerd, MN 56401, ATTN: Puzzle. The winning entry will be drawn on September 20.

George Dehler, Pierz

Our winner from the March Issue's Puzzle.

C E G T J F K Q D N U A R Z S
 Q O W N R Y H L C L I H E P C
 C S N G I H O R H N A B P U I
 J O A S Z N O P P X L Y A X H
 G J U O E S R S I L L P P C P
 O U E N S R U A H Z O Z F O A
 R Q W L T M V Y E L C R C N R
 O J A G M R C A R L A I W L G
 G K B E B A Y I T J T Q R I Q
 E G R V M B Z Y Q I I C N N R
 Y L F R E T T U B S O B G E W
 J C A H O U S T O N N N N B Y
 D H R E L H E D R K S N Y K Q
 P X K R F M E I B G X K U T P
 A D L Q V L A V X D L G N S S

Name _____
 Address _____

 Daytime Phone Number _____

July Puzzle Hints

- Cycled _____ rebate \$140
- Paul Bunyan Nature _____ Center
- Action _____, Baxter (member benefit)
- _____ Ford celebrated Green Days
- People's Security _____ check package
- Bette Mezzenga from _____
- _____ appeal days
- E-newsletter instead of _____ version
- Co-op Connection card _____ discounts
- _____ garden grand opening August 16
- You can pay your bill _____
- Pine River _____ Club (member benefit)
- Capital credit _____ notice
- Send your _____ BBQ recipe
- Puzzle winner George _____

March Issue's Puzzle Answers:

R S X L E T C Z E G S Y O A A
 A E F P I H R N N F T R N J Y
 F Q W P C T U N I Z O C L E V
 L O J O X J T S N T P C I H Y
 C A J S P C M L A U W L N D A
 Y G Y C M H Z R E W A Q E I A
 Z P F B W C E K P F V A X T Q
 A M G U D G E X A A A V G Z T
 A S M X I N L Q A S R L D M A
 I K D R E S E C I R P K L I Z
 R D F R L K F N H Z N P B S V
 L E G N K I D S O V G X F R Q
 R Y H U A K S K V P W K W N M
 B Z R O X U M T W S Q U G A B
 C O O P E R A T I V E S Y F L

Answers: Air, Cooperatives, Energy, June, Kids, Litte Falls, May, Nine, Online, Park, Power, Prices, Refrigerator



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
 The power of human connections

(ISSN 1068-1949)
 USPS 456-180

Published bimonthly by Crow Wing Power, P.O. Box 507, Brainerd, MN 56401.
www.cwpower.com

Editor: Char Kinzer

Periodical postage paid at Brainerd, MN. Send change of address form 3579 to: Current Connection, Crow Wing Power, P.O. Box 507, Brainerd, MN 56401.

Annual Subscription Rates:
 Members - \$3.00
 Non-Members - \$3.50

Official Capital Credit Allocation Notice >>>

Allocations for the year 2007 capital credits have been made. As a co-owner of this cooperative, your shares in the cooperative's margins are allocated to you in the form of capital credits, depending upon the amount of electricity you've used. The amount varies each year depending on the cooperative's margins. For example, in 2007, if you paid \$1,000 for your electric

energy during the year, you would have \$14.00 allocated to your capital credit account. Allocations are returned to members in the form of capital credit checks when the financial position of the cooperative allows. Capital credit checks were sent to members in May of this year for electric use and margins allocated for 50% of 1985.

Directors. Here to Help!

Following is a list of directors and their telephone numbers:

- Kay Blais(218) 363-2800
- Bob Kangas(218) 587-4453
- Ron Kristofferson.....(218) 746-3169
- Gordon Martin(218) 746-3971
- Bette Mezzenga(218) 692-3265
- Kenneth Miller(320) 632-5842
- Don O'Brien(218) 829-6336
- Gert Roggenkamp(218) 562-4566
- Dwight Thiesse(218) 829-7805



50% RECYCLED
 15% POST-CONSUMER WASTE