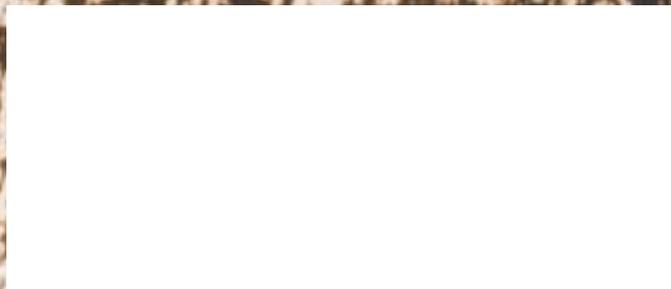


OCTOBER 2001 VOL. 36 NO. 10

# Penn *Lines*

Your Cooperative Newsmagazine

**Can Chestnuts  
Make A  
Comeback?**



# PennLines

Vol. 36 • No. 10

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**ABOUT THE COVER:** Heralded as "the tree that built America," the American chestnut comprised more than a quarter of the nation's forests at the turn of the 20th century — nearly four billion trees, stretching over nine million acres east of the Mississippi River. Yet within 50 years, blight wiped out all but a handful. Illustration by Tricia Dickson, PREA.



Visit with us at *Penn Lines Online*, located at [www.prea.com/Pennlines/plonline.htm](http://www.prea.com/Pennlines/plonline.htm). *Penn Lines Online* provides an e-mail link to *Penn Lines* editorial staff, information on advertising rates and an archive of past issues.



COMMENTARY

## Adding Rural Temperament To Pennsylvania's Courts



by Perry Stambaugh  
Editor

**N**ext month, Pennsylvania voters will elect seven judges to serve 10-year terms on

the state's three appellate courts — Supreme, Superior and Commonwealth. The races are shaping up as real barnburners, with political affiliation of the candidates more than judicial qualifications taking center stage.

Whoever wins will likely serve (barring death or resignation) until the mandatory retirement age of 70. That's because Keystone State judges, once elected, do not have to face another opponent. Instead, they simply stand for retention — a process whereby voters simply say "yes" or "no" to another decade on the bench — with no ballot reference made to their party affiliation. In the 33 years since Pennsylvania's current statewide judicial election system went into effect, no appellate judge has ever been rejected in a retention vote.

You can expect to see and hear a lot of ads from the 14 judicial candidates vying for the seven seats (one Supreme, three Superior and three Commonwealth) over the next few weeks. That's because — at least with the Supreme and Superior courts — party/philosophical control hangs in the balance. Currently, there are four Democrats and three Republicans on the seven-member Supreme Court, nine Republicans and six Democrats on the 15-member Superior Court and eight Democrats and one Republican on Commonwealth Court.

On its own, the outcome of the

Supreme Court race between Republican J. Michael Eakin from Cumberland County and Democrat Kate Ford Elliott of Allegheny County — both Superior Court judges — would be critical, as it means the difference between the bench swinging to a more conservative or liberal bent. (The seat up for election is currently held by Chief Justice John Flaherty Jr., a centrist Allegheny County Democrat, who is retiring.)

However, the make-up of Pennsylvania's General Assembly and congressional delegation (and perhaps outright control of the U.S. House of Representatives) for the next decade may also hinge on who wins the Supreme Court contest. With a hold on the state House, Senate and Governor's office, Keystone State GOP leaders — in their reapportionment efforts — seemed poised (as *Penn Lines* went to press) to create 13 Republican-leaning congressional seats out of the 19 Pennsylvania has been allocated.

State House and Senate legislative districts (which are shaped by a nominally bipartisan five-member commission) face similar impacts, with Census figures moving several seats from Democratic strongholds in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh out into the Republican heartland, the so-called "T" counties.

As a result, the only realistic chance state Democrats have of staving off "minority status" for the next 10 years is to appeal the Republican-drawn redistricting maps to Pennsylvania Supreme Court. Of course, a seven-member High Court with four Republicans will never take up the case, leaving Democrats totally out in the cold; one with four Democrats would likely force the legislature and commission to at least tweak the districts, making some more competitive.

On Superior Court, outright control of the bench is at stake, with all three of the seats to be filled now held by Republicans. On Commonwealth Court, Democrats hold all three slots on the ballot — the GOP is hoping for a sweep to add some balance.

While it does not garner much attention, Pennsylvania's appellate court system has one glaring weakness — a lack of rural representation. Out of a possible 31 appellate judges, only six (all Republicans, five on Superior Court, one on Supreme Court) come from outside the metro Pittsburgh or Philadelphia areas. And of those six judges, just two hail from one of the state's 42 predominantly rural counties — Butler and Union — although the others do come from counties (Cumberland, Erie and Luzerne) with large rural stretches served by electric cooperatives.

But whether its two or six out of 31, the bottom line is poor rural judicial representation in a state where nearly 25 percent of the population resides in a rural area.

While a judge from an urban area can certainly side with rural causes, the fact is only a few do. As the 2000 general election clearly demonstrated, rural and urban residents, as a group, share widely different "world views" on many cutting-edge issues, ranging from church-state separation, gun control and private property rights to limiting the reach of government bureaucracy.

With all of this in mind, many rural advocates — noting that Pennsylvania, after all, boasts the largest rural population in the U.S. — believe it is high time to put a "rural judicial outlook" on our state courts. While this year's general election does not offer a true "rural candidate from a rural county," it does feature one candidate for Supreme Court, one for Superior Court and a whopping five for Commonwealth Court who did not have Philadelphia or Allegheny counties listed under their name in the primary (counties of residence are not noted in the general election). The seven, in fact,

---

all reside in counties with substantial rural constituencies — Cumberland, Erie, Dauphin, Luzerne and Northampton. (The only judicial candidate from a rural county who ran in the May 15 primary, Judge C. Palmer Dolbin of Schuylkill County, narrowly lost in his bid for one of the three Superior Court slots on the Republican ticket.)

Having half the slate of appellate court candidates this year call somewhere other than Pittsburgh and Philadelphia home is victory of sorts for those who want to change (via state constitutional amendment) our current judicial election system. Although some court-watchers champion switching to “merit selection” — having judges appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the state Senate — the preferred rural solution is electing appellate judges by district.

While electric cooperatives, as private sector businesses, have no official policy on Pennsylvania’s judiciary, a growing rural coalition is pushing for districtwide elections — the state Republican Party and an independent judicial reform panel formed after the mid-1990s impeachment of Supreme Court Justice Rolf Larsen have also endorsed it. The most talked about district-election plan would divide the state into seven judicial districts, roughly equal in population, with one Supreme Court justice elected from each. Superior and Commonwealth court seats would then be allocated among the districts.

Under district voting, supporters contend, voters would better know the judicial candidates from their area and presumably elect someone who shares the interests of that region. The districts, of course, would be huge — most of the 41 counties served by electric cooperatives in Pennsylvania would fall into just two districts.

Take advantage of your chance this year to ensure that a strong rural voice is heard on Pennsylvania’s appellate courts. Make sure to head to the polls on November 6. 



# Bringing Back the Mighty Chestnut Tree

**A determined band of volunteers hopes to return the American chestnut to its former woodland glory**

by Adam Heggenstaller  
*Assistant Editor*

**D**ave Armstrong is not afraid to go out on a limb. As operations coordinator for the Pennsylvania Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF), the Gettysburg, Pa.-based Adams Electric Cooperative consumer is attempting what can only be considered a truly herculean feat — restoring the American chestnut, a tree that dominated eastern U.S. forests before being virtually eradicated by blight 50 years ago.

“When it comes to reintroducing the American chestnut to the forests and woodlands of Pennsylvania, some of us get a little crazy,” declares Armstrong, who often climbs 16 feet or more above the ground to hand-pollinate female chestnut flowers and collect nut-laden burrs.

## **A Keystone of the Keystone State**

Heralded as “the tree that built America,” the American chestnut comprised

more than a quarter of the nation’s forests at the turn of the 20th century — nearly four billion trees stretched over nine million acres east of the Mississippi River. In some Pennsylvania counties, more than half the trees were chestnuts.

In virgin forests, mature chestnuts averaged up to five feet in diameter and more than 100 feet tall. Bigger trees were not uncommon; the record specimen had a diameter of 17 feet. Loggers told stories of loading entire boxcars with lumber taken from a single tree.

“Chestnuts were the forester’s dream,” says Armstrong. “They grew fast [up to 50 percent faster than oak], straight and tall and regenerated by sprouting from the stump.”

Farmers, homebuilders and craftsmen preferred chestnut as well. The lumber was straight-grained, easy to work

with, rot-resistant and exhibited a beautiful light reddish-brown hue. Most houses and barns of the time were framed, floored, paneled and shingled with chestnut.

But the chestnut provided much more than lumber for a growing country. The bark was rich in tannin, a substance used in leather production. Charcoal rendered from the wood fueled iron furnaces.

Most importantly, chestnuts littering the forest floor supplied Pennsylvania’s wildlife with a feast each fall. Since a single tree could produce up to 6,000 sweet-tasting nuts, deer, bear and turkey depended upon them to pack on pounds for the lean winter months.

Domestic livestock fattened up on the chestnut smorgasbord as well, giving farmers access to a “free” crop that essentially required no planting or maintenance. In addition, many rural residents took advantage of the bounty, harvesting the nuts for snacking or sale. Chestnuts were so favored by urban populations that they were gathered by the bushel and shipped to East Coast cities by train.



# Battling the Blight

**TOWERING TIMBER:** A century ago, American chestnuts dominated Pennsylvania's forests, providing a ready source of lumber, tannin and food for both wildlife and livestock. A fungus introduced from Asia in 1904 all but wiped out chestnut trees across the eastern U.S. within a half century.

"It was the popcorn of the day," reflects Armstrong. "They were roasted and sold by the bagful."

## Timber Tragedy

Today, you will find few American chestnuts being roasted over open fires. The forest giant was all but wiped out by an unlikely enemy — an exotic fungus barely the size of a dot.

Accidentally imported from Asia with Chinese chestnut trees, the so-called "chestnut blight" was first discovered in New York City's Bronx Zoo in 1904. The fungus attacked American chestnuts by entering through a crack or other opening in the bark. An infected tree quickly exhibited orange or reddish-brown patches that eventually developed into soft, sunken areas or swollen, cracked cankers.

Once inside, the blight spread through the cambium layer and girdled the tree, preventing it from getting water, minerals and sugars needed for growth. Although dead trees often resprouted, young shoots also become infected.

Like an insidious cancer, the blight crept steadily across the eastern United States, moving roughly 20 to 50 miles per year, assisted by birds, insects and wind. With no natural resistance, chestnut trees in Pennsylvania were systematically obliterated by the mid-1920s. By 1950, surviving trees nationwide filled just 500 acres.

"I've heard stories from fathers and grandfathers about how absolutely heartbroken they were when the chestnut disappeared," laments Armstrong. "Because of this legacy, there are a lot of people who want to see this tree make a comeback."

## Hope for the Fallen Giant

In 1983, Charles Burnham, a retired University of Minnesota plant geneticist, founded TACF with the belief that

*(continues on next page)*

After decades of research, progress is finally being made to produce blight-resistant American chestnut trees. Ironically, the Chinese chestnut tree, the introduction of which caused its American cousin's demise, holds the cure.

The fungus responsible for destroying American chestnuts originated in Asia, and exposure to the blight over the course of millions of years caused Chinese trees to develop natural resistance. (Infected Chinese chestnuts only suffer cosmetic damage.) Researchers today have identified three genes that help the trees fight the fungus.

Since Chinese and American chestnuts can be easily crossed, members of The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) are working to transfer blight resistance in the Chinese species to American trees. At the same time, chestnut breeders want to retain the timber qualities that made the American tree so desirable. The Chinese chestnut is not a timber species, branching multiple times and growing relatively close to the ground like an apple tree.

Unfortunately, crossing American and Chinese chestnuts does not result in a quality timber tree. Furthermore, the genes that control blight-resistance in Chinese chestnuts are not dominant, so only a handful of American-Chinese hybrids gain protection.

To achieve a tree that has both blight resistance and the potential to produce high-quality lumber, TACF members use a breeding method known as backcrossing. The process begins by crossing a Chinese tree with an American tree, producing seedlings that will be on average one-half Chinese and one-half American. These first-generation offspring are then "backcrossed" with a pure American tree to produce a progeny that is three-fourths American and one-quarter Chinese. Breeders backcross twice more to eventually produce seedlings that are 94 percent American and virtually indistinguishable from native chestnuts.



**MAKING THEM GROW:** Tim Phelps, a Penn State University research support assistant, oversees an 1,800-tree TACF orchard at Penn State University's Rock Springs Research Farm where third generation American chestnut backcross seedlings are raised. It is one of 68 TACF plantations in Pennsylvania.

The seedlings from each backcross are purposely inoculated with the blight to test for susceptibility. Only the most resistant trees are used for future breeding.

Currently, Keystone State TACF members have completed the third backcross, with seedlings from this fourth generation raised on several foundation orchards around the state. These seedlings will then be "intercrossed" — bred with one another — when they reach maturity to ensure fully blight-resistant offspring.

Tim Phelps, a Penn

State University research support assistant, maintains a four-acre, 1,800-tree tract at Penn State University's Rock Springs Research Farm where third generation backcross seedlings grow.

"We're studying several aspects with these trees like what soil type, slope and elevation they prefer," he points out. "This information is very valuable because we want to discover the best conditions for planting chestnuts in the woods."

A drawback to the backcross method is that it takes five to seven years for each generation to mature to breeding age. And the laws of genetics dictate that only one out of every 64 first-generation intercross seedlings will carry all the necessary genes for full blight resistance.

TACF members estimate they will have to plant 12,000 seedlings to guarantee full blight resistance. Meanwhile, additional pure American trees must be located to provide a sizable gene pool for future backcrossing. Members hope that by 2020, blight-resistant trees will be available to the public for widespread planting.

For more information, write to the Pennsylvania Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation, 800 E. King St., York, PA 17403-1772. You can also call operations coordinator Dave Armstrong at 717/852-0035 or e-mail him at [operations@patacf.org](mailto:operations@patacf.org).

*(continued from previous page)*

a breeding method known as backcrossing (see sidebar on page 7) could produce a chestnut tree resistant to the blight. A York, Pa.-based chapter of the non-profit organization opened in 1994.

“Currently we have around 820 members,” says Armstrong, “and a couple hundred of those are actively involved with the breeding effort.”

The goal of the program is to cross blight-resistant Chinese chestnut trees with American trees, producing a hybrid that will not succumb to the fungus but still exhibit the timber qualities that made the American chestnut famous.

The year-round process first involves locating what few American chestnuts remain in the state. When a tree is discovered, its location is mapped for hand-pollination in May.

After the tree blooms, chapter members enclose the female flower in a wax paper bag to prevent pollination from other American chestnuts. Male catkins surrounding the flower are removed so they will not interfere with hand-pollination.

“Time is of the essence,” notes Armstrong. “We need to be sure that the tree is pollinated with our pollen. We only have a couple of days.”

After the tree is bagged, chapter members return 10 to 12 days later with pollen-laden catkins taken from foundation-bred chestnuts. Scaling ladders and sometimes ascending in bucket trucks, they hand-pollinate the tree by brushing the catkins against the sticky pistil of the female flower. Once pollination is completed, the bags are again placed over the tree’s flowers.

A few months after pollination, resulting nuts are collected from the bags and stored in a controlled environment to ensure germination. The following spring these nuts are planted in “orchards”

throughout the state and carefully nursed through the seedling stage.

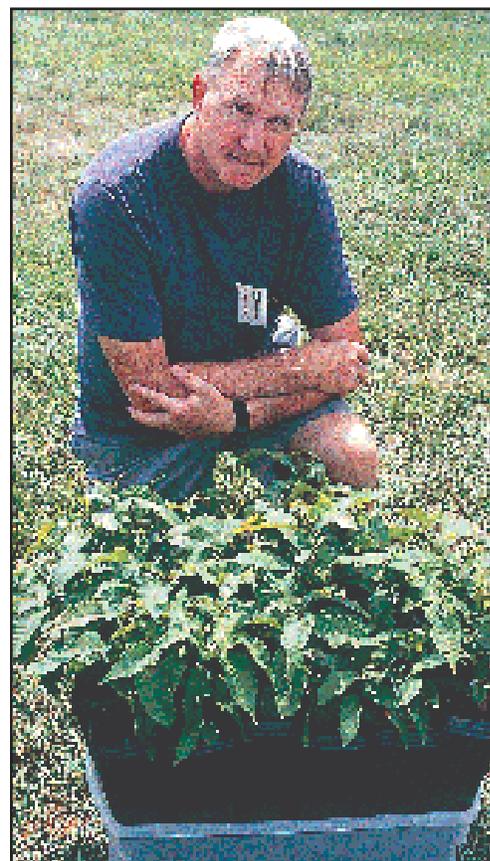
All of this work is completed by volunteers; the Pennsylvania chapter has no paid employees.

“We’re not out to make money,” states Armstrong. “Some of our efforts can take a lot of time and be costly, but in the end it will be worth it.”

Tom Pugel, a Bucks County resident and TACF member since 1991, agrees that the organization’s work can be quite intense, especially during the pollinating season.

Pugel raises American chestnut trees on properties in Bucks and Somerset counties. Although these trees will eventually fall to the blight, he hopes to use them as breeding stock in the backcross process.

“I put about 16,000 miles on my car



**CHESTNUT FANATIC:** Dave Armstrong, operations coordinator for the Pennsylvania Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) and an electric cooperative consumer, notes native American chestnut seedlings like these can grow up to 30 feet before they are killed by blight.

last year doing chestnut work,” he notes.

Pugel pollinated 15 trees this year, a process he estimates takes about 12 hours per 100 flowers. This does not include preliminary tasks, such as numbering the bags and recordkeeping.

“Pollinating trees and collecting nuts may take a lot of time, but it’s just the start,” says Pugel. “Raising seedlings is when we really work.”

Since seedlings produced from hand-pollination may exhibit blight-resistance and could be used as brood stock, they are given constant care. Besides fertilizing, watering and weeding, each seedling is housed in a plastic tube to protect it from browsing animals.

Currently, the Pennsylvania chapter manages 68 seedling orchards throughout the state. While anxious to “take chestnuts back the woods,” chapter members like Armstrong admit more work needs to be done.

“It will take another 10 to 15 years until we get seedlings that are fully resistant to the blight,” says Armstrong. “But we’re very hopeful because, so far, the breeding effort has followed our expectations. While we may not see these trees in the woods in our lifetime, our children and grandchildren will.”

To Pugel, who envisions the ridges of Penn’s Woods crowned with the kingly chestnut once again, this long-term time frame is acceptable.

“Getting these trees back to the forest in great numbers is going to be a challenge,” he admits. “But we are not going to quit until we’ve done just that.”



# Charlie Chestnut... An American Story



Charlie Chestnut

The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) offers an online educational program — [www.charliechestnut.org](http://www.charliechestnut.org) —

designed for children in grades 3 through 5. Used in New York for the past five years, the curriculum has been reviewed by lead Pennsylvania teachers and found to meet state educational standards.

The Web site offers a tour of Charlie’s scrapbook, illustrating the grand and tragic history of his chestnut “family.” Through it, children are provided with lessons in social studies, history, science (tree growth, tree identification, forest ecology and biodiversity) and conservation. Teacher resources include a free online newsletter, lesson plans and vocabulary lists as well as additional reading materials.

# Electric Cooperatives Name Matson, Loudenslager Scholars

The William F. Matson Scholarship Fund Charitable Trust has awarded four outstanding students whose homes are on electric cooperative lines \$2,000 each to attend the college of their choice. The recipients this year are Timothy Bundy of DuBois, Pa.; Deanne Delp from Williamsburg, Pa.; Melinda Dicken of Fairfield, Pa.; and Donald Marteeny III from Centerville, Pa.

Bundy, active in numerous community volunteer efforts and school leadership, graduated this year with honors from DuBois Area High School. From the service area of DuBois, Pa.-based United Electric Cooperative, he is studying business at Furman University in Greenville, S.C.



**Timothy Bundy**

Delp, who hails from the service territory of Valley Rural Electric Cooperative (REC), headquartered in Huntingdon, Pa., is attending Messiah College in Grantham, Pa., majoring in elementary education. A 2001 graduate of Williamsburg High School, she was active in band, newspaper and literary magazine staff, National Honor Society, speech team and was a student correspondent for the



**Deanne Delp**

*Huntingdon Daily News.*

Dicken, valedictorian at Fairfield Area High School, is attending Lycoming College in Williamsport, Pa., majoring in



**Melinda Dicken**

biology and pre-med, with the goal of becoming a surgeon. Living in an area served by Gettysburg, Pa.-based Adams Electric Cooperative, she was a member of the girls cross-country, basketball and softball teams in high school.

Marteeny, residing in the service area of Cambridge Springs, Pa.-based Northwestern REC, is attending Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, majoring in mechanical engineering. Graduating second in his class from Maplewood Junior/Senior High School, this Eagle Scout also served as senior class president, lettered in football and wrestling and was a member of the school's JETS Team.

Matson Scholarships are awarded each year to students from electric cooperative service areas in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Selection is based on academic excellence, cooperative membership and need. The scholarship program is named for William F. Matson, who served for 22 years as president of Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association — the service arm of electric cooperatives in Pennsylvania and New Jersey — until his death in June 1986. This year, more than 1,200 students applied for the scholarships.

In addition to the Matson Scholarships, two former Rural Electric Youth Tour participants have been named Jody Loudenslager Memorial Scholarship recipients. Dana

Knopp of Lilly, Pa., and Dotty Shaffer of Titusville, Pa., each will receive \$1,000 toward college.

Knopp, who graduated this year from Penn Cambria High School, is attending St. Francis University in Loretto, Pa., majoring in training to be a physician's assistant. Knopp took part in the 2000 Youth Tour as part of the delegation from Indiana, Pa.-based REA Energy Cooperative.

Shaffer, a 2001 graduate of Titusville Area High School, is attending Penn State University as a pre-med major. She represented Northwestern

REC on the 2000 Youth Tour.

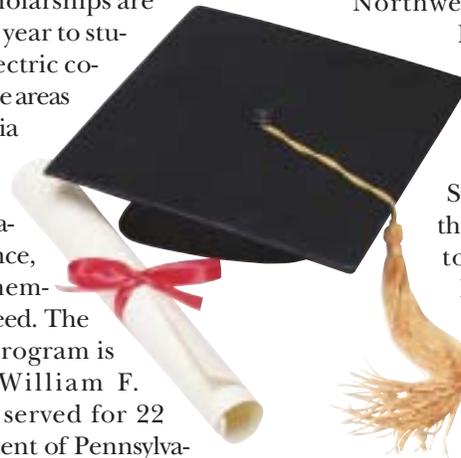
The Loudenslager Scholarship was created by the PREA Board of Directors in memory of Jody Loudenslager, a 17-year-old Youth Tour alumna who died July 17, 1996, when TWA Flight 800 exploded shortly after take-off from New York. The program is earmarked for Youth Tour participants from Pennsylvania and New Jersey.



**Dana Knopp**



**Dotty Shaffer**





ENERGY ANSWERS

# Getting the Right Skylight

by James Dulley

Contributing Columnist

Installing a skylight is an easy, energy efficient way to spruce up an otherwise ordinary room. In summer, a venting model can be a real energy saver, allowing hot room air congregating at the ceiling to escape outside. This, in turn, creates a natural air flow, drawing fresh, cooler air indoors.

In winter, adding a high-quality skylight has its trade-offs — even the most efficient designs lose more heat to the outdoors than an insulated attic floor or ceiling. However, with the proper orientation (facing the south or southwest), a skylight can provide some passive solar heat gain. To reduce heat loss in cold weather, mount a magnetic clear plastic storm window under the skylight to form dead air space.

## Glazing Over

If you have shopped for skylights at a local home center recently, you have probably seen, at most, just a fraction of the styles and designs available — the market is simply saturated with them. But when researching your purchase, consider frame and glazing materials first and foremost.

The strongest, most solid frames are made of wood with durable aluminum cladding on the exterior — they can be even more attractive with natural wood exposed indoors. Another hardy design fuses a fiberglass frame to clear or tinted glazing for a leakproof unit.

Glazing options are similar to what you will find in new windows. A good choice for most locations is double-pane glass with a low-emissivity coating and argon gas between the panes. If you live in a cold climate, super-efficient heat mirror glass is also available.

If you plan to install a venting skylight

in a light well, consider getting one with a hand-held or wall-mounted remote control (these will require running electric wiring to the skylight). The reason — if you use a standard hand-crank rod, you probably will not open the skylight as often in summer, lowering your energy savings. The same remote control can also be used to open and close mini-blinds or other shades under the skylight.

For a steeply pitched roof, a floor-to-ceiling balcony-style skylight is ideal. These come in two large sections. When opened, the lower half, which is hinged at the bottom, forms a balcony with a handrail. The upper half becomes a glass cover over your head.

Proper sizing is also important. If a skylight is too small, it will not provide adequate natural light or ventilation. If

it is too big, you will experience excessive heat loss in the winter and it will look out of proportion for the room. A good rule of thumb is that the skylight should only cover 5 percent of a room's floor area. 

*James Dulley is a nationally syndicated energy management expert. For more information on this subject, request Dulley's "Utility Bills Update No. 522," which includes a buyer's guide on 12 skylight manufacturers listing frame materials, shapes, flashing/glazing options, accessories, features, sizing chart and light well construction details. Send your request to: James Dulley, c/o Penn Lines magazine, 6906 Royalgreen Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45244. Please include \$3 and a business-size self-addressed stamped envelope. Or for quicker turnaround, check out [www.dulley.com](http://www.dulley.com) via the World Wide Web.*





compiled by **Perry Stambaugh**  
*Editor*

## Utility Unity on Display

Horrible under any circumstance, the crash of United Airlines Flight 93 near Lambertsville in Somerset County on September 11 demonstrated only too clearly that not even remote stretches of rural Pennsylvania are immune from world terrorism.

All 45 passengers and crew aboard the Boeing 757 were killed when the hijacked plane slammed into a reclaimed strip mine. The disaster, end result of a coordinated attack on the U.S., also left 12 consumers of Somerset-based Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) — eight homes and four unoccupied cabins — without power for much of the day.

To prevent contamination of the crash area, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) barred cooperative crews from immediately repairing power lines damaged by the impact. However, through cooperation with private power company GPU Energy, Somerset REC was able to tap onto GPU's system to provide service to the affected residences.

"GPU Energy operations personnel were quick to approve our request and generously offered any assistance we might need," says Larry Shober, Somerset REC assistant to the manager & director of member services. "Because of the September 11 attacks, we have seen the American people put aside their differences and come together in a big way. Our working with GPU was just one small example of that."

The next day, the cooperative was asked by the FBI to provide central station electric service to trailers and other equipment moved to the site. Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission Chairman Glen Thomas also thanked all Keystone State utilities for their tremendous

assistance following the Somerset County crash and for helping to "minimize any impact on delivering reliable and safe service to Pennsylvanians."

Flight 93, en route from Newark to San Francisco, was taken over by Muslim extremists bent on a presumed kamikaze mission against the White House or U.S. Capitol. The aircraft went down around 10 a.m. following a heroic struggle by passengers to thwart the effort.

As part of tightened security procedures ordered by the U.S. Department of Energy on September 11, nuclear power plants around the nation, including the 2,200-megawatt Susquehanna Steam Electric Station (SSES) near Berwick, were put on high alert, as was Raystown Dam in Huntingdon County, location of the 21-megawatt Raystown Hydroelectric Project (Raystown). SSES and Raystown generate roughly 70 percent of the power supplied to your local electric cooperative.

Across the Commonwealth, electric utilities manned key distribution points, with Pennsylvania State Police cordoning off PPL Electric Utilities' massive Juniata Substation outside of New Bloomfield in Perry County. A spot near the substation, the hub where a half dozen high-voltage transmission lines meet, was reportedly used as a training ground by terrorists who detonated a bomb at the World Trade Center in 1993.

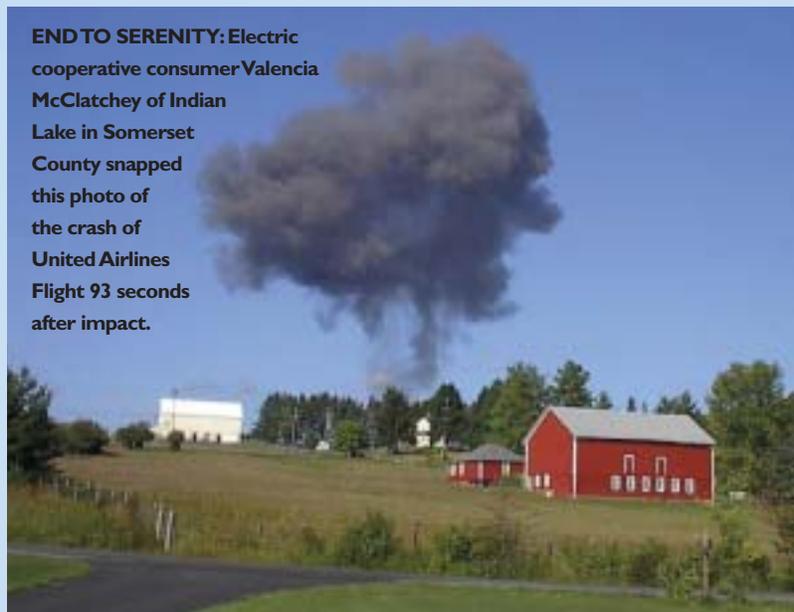
The Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association (PREA) — the statewide service arm of electric cooperatives in Pennsylvania and New Jersey — recently provided Governor Ridge's Energy Task Force with suggestions for refining its draft Pennsylvania Energy Policy. The 30-point state energy blueprint, drawing heavily from the Bush Administration's national energy strategy, emphasizes conservation as well as greater use of coal and nuclear power to secure the Commonwealth's long-term economic future.

"Being involved in developing a comprehensive state energy policy will ensure that the interests of electric cooperatives are protected throughout the process," says PREA President & CEO Frank Betley. "It should be noted that electric cooperatives were specially invited to participate — a reflection of the important status we have as rural advocates and energy stakeholders."

- Among PREA's recommendations:
- Development and use of clean coal technologies is very important.
  - Investments in renewable and alternative energy sources are essential.

Nationwide, the FBI asked utilities to implement security measures and issued a terrorist threat advisory effective until October 11.

**END TO SERENITY:** Electric cooperative consumer Valencia McClatchey of Indian Lake in Somerset County snapped this photo of the crash of United Airlines Flight 93 seconds after impact.



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# Offer Ways to Improve State Energy Plan

- Existing nuclear power plants should be relicensed, where appropriate.
- Full funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program and Weatherization Assistance Program should be maintained.
- All utilities should make reasonable payment arrangements with consumers and coordinate effective implementation of social programs.
- Pennsylvania should work with the federal government to develop a better understanding of global climate change and methods to mitigate the impact of greenhouse gas emissions.
- An aggressive energy efficiency outreach and education campaign should be undertaken by all utilities.
- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission efforts to create large regional transmission organizations should be supported.
- State agencies should develop the capability to make output from on-site generation available for sale to the grid when power supply shortages exist.
- Since transmission-owning utilities are under a legal obligation to provide safe, adequate and reliable wheeling service at “just and reasonable” rates, revenue incentives for developing additional transmission lines or upgrading existing transmission facilities are unnecessary and counterproductive.
- Expansion of natural gas pipelines should take into account the needs of [underserved] rural residents.
- Electric distribution companies should be encouraged to develop effective demand-side management programs as a way to enhance reliability during generation shortages and lower the price of wholesale power during load peaks.

The Governor’s Energy Task Force is made up of representatives from the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, Pennsylvania Emergency Management

Agency/Office of State Fire Commissioner, the Center for Local Government Services, Pennsylvania Rural Development Council and the state departments of Aging, Community and Economic Development, Environmental Protection, Health, General Services,

Public Welfare and Transportation. Final state energy policy ideas were expected to land on the Governor’s desk last month.

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COUNTRY KITCHEN

# Great Pumpkins!

by Kitty Halke

Contributing Columnist

Whether used as a fall centerpiece, carved into a jack 'o lantern to scare trick-or-treaters or baked into a traditional pie, pumpkin is not only versatile, but also tasty and nutritious as well.

The Pumpkin Crab Soup recipe offers a nice change from traditional cream soups, with its palate-pleasing combination of spices and seafood. Fragrant Pumpkin Pancakes will beckon even the sleepest member of your family to the breakfast table, especially when covered with warm maple syrup. I found the recipe for Old Witch's Halloween Bread in an electric cooperative cookbook years ago. Depending upon how you decorate the frosting, it is perfect for every fall holiday occasion.

*Kitty Halke is a cooking professional and freelance writer from rural Pennsylvania. Send recipes and comments to her in care of: Penn Lines, P.O. Box 1266, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1266*

## OLD WITCH'S HALLOWEEN BREAD (MAKES 2 LOAVES)

- 3 eggs
- 1 lb. (16 oz.) canned pumpkin
- 3/4 cup vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup water
- 2-1/2 cups flour
- 2-1/2 cups granulated sugar
- 1-1/2 teaspoon soda
- 1-1/4 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 teaspoon nutmeg
- 3/4 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 cup chopped dates or yellow raisins (optional)
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts (optional)



Stir all ingredients together in large mixing bowl until combined. Pour batter into two, greased and floured medium-sized bread pans. Bake in 350-degree oven for 55 minutes, or until wooden toothpick inserted comes out clean. Loaves may be frosted with the following:

### CREAM CHEESE ICING

- 1 cup confectioner's sugar
- 3 oz. cream cheese, softened

- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 teaspoon melted butter

Stir ingredients together until smooth. Spread on cooled loaves. Decorate for Halloween with candy pumpkins, candy corn, or sprinkle with finely chopped nuts, if desired.

## PUMPKIN CRAB SOUP

- 2 cups canned (or your own) puréed pumpkin
- 1-1/2 quarts chicken stock
- 3/4 cup chopped green onions
- 3 cloves garlic
- 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1 teaspoon bottled steak sauce
- Old Bay seasoning, cinnamon and nutmeg, to taste
- 2 cups (more or less to taste) canned crab
- About 1/2 to 3/4 cup whipping cream

In a heavy saucepan or stockpot, combine all ingredients except for the crab and whipping cream. Simmer, uncovered, for 30 minutes. Add crab and continue to simmer until crab is heated through. Warm cream in small saucepan. When ready to serve, whisk warm cream into soup and ladle into bowls. Makes a hearty entrée when served with a crisp green salad and crusty bread. Serves 6 to 8.



## PUMPKIN PANCAKES

- 1/2 cup flour
- 1/2 cup yellow cornmeal
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1/2 cup pumpkin purée
- 3 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil

In a small bowl, whisk flour, cornmeal, baking powder, cinnamon, baking soda and salt to mix well. In a medium bowl, stir buttermilk, pumpkin, brown sugar, egg and oil with a fork until blended and sugar dissolves. Add flour mixture and stir just until moistened. Coat griddle or skillet with non-stick cooking spray and heat to medium. Drop pancake batter onto hot surface, turning when browned on bottom and dry on top to cook top side. Keep warm on a cookie sheet or platter in 200-degree oven while making remaining pancakes. Serve with butter and warm maple syrup. Makes 12 medium-sized pancakes.





RURAL REFLECTIONS

# Fall Frolics

**A**zure skies provide a perfect backdrop for the palette-splashed hills and dales of Penn's Woods this time of year — and a perfect setting for a rural reflection. If you manage to click off a few frames during your autumnal travels, send them to: *Penn Lines Photos*, P.O. Box 1266, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1266. On the back of each photo, please include your name, address, phone number and the name of the electric cooperative that serves your home, business or seasonal residence.

From photographs received by November 16, we will choose winners in five categories — most creative, best landscape, best human subject, best animal and editor's choice. First-place winners in each will receive \$50 and have their work published in our January 2002 issue.

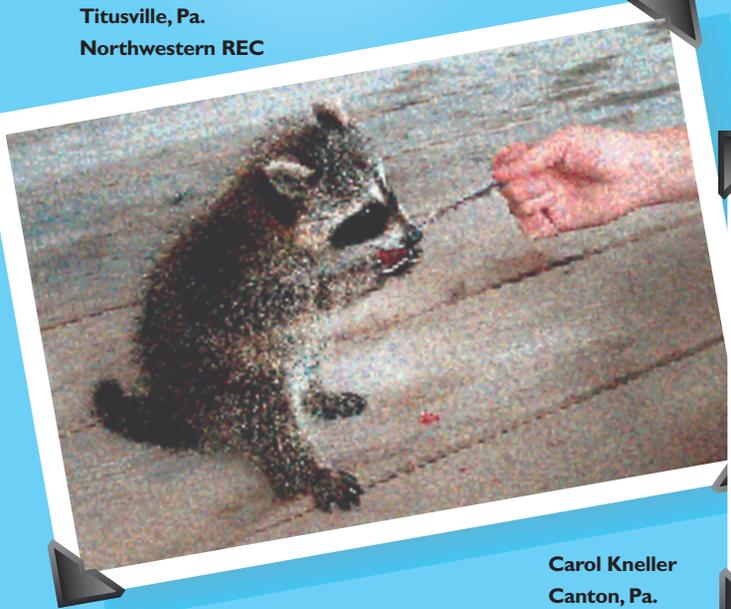


**Joan Gittings**  
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Tri-County Rural Electric



**Diane Hickey**  
Bedford, Pa.  
Bedford REC

**Shirley Weaver**  
Titusville, Pa.  
Northwestern REC



**Carol Kneller**  
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