



Barron Electric Cooperative
May 2021
Photo by Susan Wallace

Chris Kroeze Live in Concert

Fundraiser for the Honor Flight

Barron Electric Cooperative is proud to sponsor Chris Kroeze at Barron's Music in the Park on *Wednesday, June 23. The concert will start at 6:00 p.m. at Anderson Park, North Mill Street in Barron. Food and beverages will be available for sale starting at 5:00 p.m. Proceeds will be given to the Honor Flight.

Honor Flight

Barron Electric will be hosting a fundraiser for Honor Flight. The Never Forgotten Honor Flight is a not-for-profit organization of dedicated volunteers providing Veterans with respect, gratitude and honor, by flying them free of charge to Washington D.C. to visit their memorials. There are Barron Electric members on the Honor Flight waiting list, and Barron Electric is proud to help sponsor them.

Featuring Chris Kroeze

Chris placed second on season 15 of "The Voice," as part of Blake Shelton's team. His song "Human" was ranked in the top 5 country songs. He has performed several overseas tours for the troops, and he is a recipient of the Red Cross Community Hero Award. Check out his website at chriskroezemusic.com.

Recognizing Employees with a Military Background

Barron Electric is proud to recognize Mechanic Dave Peterson who served in the Army National Guard for 22 years and is a retired Sergeant First Class. Lineman Gio Torres is a Combat Engineer in the National Guard and has served two years. We appreciate their service.



**In the event of rain, the concert will be held on Thursday, June 24.*



Memorial Day 2021

WE REMEMBER AND HONOR

Today, let us remember those who fought for our country.

Our office will be closed on Monday, May 31 in observance of Memorial Day. Have a safe holiday!

The Art of Maple Syrup

At Hustad's Sugar Bush, the smell of maple syrup floats through the air as the sap is heated, and water evaporates leaving the concentrated sugars that make up pure maple syrup. With over 50 years of experience, owners Linda and Allen Hustad take pride in creating the perfect product. This year, the Hustads have processed 131,000 gallons of sap into maple syrup. Allen explained, "On a good year with the right weather conditions, we will produce 5,000

gallons of maple syrup." In 2004, the Hustads were named Producer of the Year, and they were recently recognized as an Honorary Life Member of the Wisconsin Maple Syrup Producer's Association.

Check out their store, open daily from 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., located at 2165 11 1/2 Street, Cumberland on Barron Electric lines. Their products include: Hustad's Pure Maple Syrup, pancake mix, maple mustard, maple cotton candy, maple nut popcorn, maple root

beer, maple candy, honey, corn salsa, bogberry salsa, and garlic mushrooms. Online orders can also be placed at hustadsmapplesyrup.com. For more information, call 715-822-4608.



Maple syrup starts by tapping maple trees and collecting the sap.



Allen Hustad measures the density of the liquid.

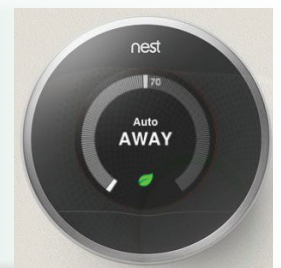


Allen and Linda Hustad, owners of Hustad's Sugar Bush, stand next to one of the holding tanks for sap which reads: "In every family tree, there's a little sap."

Energy Efficiency Tip

Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause your air conditioner to run longer than necessary.

Source: www.energy.gov



Margo Katterhagen has a Special Place for PRA

Congratulations to Margo Katterhagen, Barron Electric's Megawatt Community Service Award winner. Margo serves on the Board of Directors for the Pink Ribbon Advocacy (PRA) of Barron County. PRA is a non-profit agency which provides financing to Barron County residents to help cover uninsured expenses associated with receiving breast and/or gynecological cancer treatments.

She also spearheads the local Golf Fore A Cure (this will be the 15th year) with all the proceeds going directly to the PRA. She is an executive officer of



the Wisconsin Register of Deeds Association and acting secretary. She also sits on the legislative committee. She was a director for Benjamin's House prior to its opening as a homeless shelter in Rice Lake.

She remarked, "I'm especially proud of the fact that all money raised/donated to the Pink Ribbon Advocacy of Barron County stays local. All directors and board members are volunteers. My dear sister-in-law Paula Licht passed away from complications of gynecological cancer 13 years ago, so I truly have a special place in my heart for the PRA's mission."

Win a \$50 Electric Bill Credit
Barron Electric is led by

members like you who understand and listen to the community. Nominate a member for the Megawatt Community Service Award.

Each winner will receive a \$50 electric bill credit. Application forms can be found at barronelectric.com in the community area or by contacting the Member Services Department at 800-322-1008.



Respect Electricity *May is Electrical Safety Month*

May is National Strawberry Month, National Barbecue Month and Electrical Safety Month. There are precautions that can be taken both inside and outside your home when it comes to possible electrical dangers. When outside, never come within ten feet of a power line when trimming trees, carrying a tall ladder or other large object. If you see a downed power line, always assume it is live and never go near it. Here are some more safety tips:



- Cell phones make strange bedfellows. Do not sleep or lounge in bed with a cell phone or other device that is charging. This can cause burns to your skin or it can cause the soft bedding materials to ignite.
- Do not use cheap chargers. Use the original charging components that came with your device. Using cheaply made generic chargers with your devices can cause injury or even a fire since they may be defective.
- Do not use a plugged-in charging cell phone near water.
- Take a break from your phone while bathing, swimming or sitting in a hot tub.
- Test your GFCI buttons once a month. GFCIs help prevent ground faults that can shock or injure you, but they can't do their job if they are not working properly.
- Do not ignore odd electrical symptoms in your home. If your lights flicker often, if your outlets are warm to the touch or appear discolored, or if you smell odors like something is overheating but can't determine where the odors are coming from, there may be problems with your home's electricals. If you notice any of these symptoms, consult a qualified electrician.

Community Ray's Solar Panels Available

Barron Electric has solar units available for sale through its Community Ray's project. The cost is \$625 per unit; this is a 14-year agreement. The units each produce 385 kilowatt hours annually. Members have the opportunity to purchase clean energy without the hassle of equipment installs or upkeep, as the solar panels are maintained by the cooperative. Check out our renewable energy page at barronelectric.com/community-rays-renewable-energy. Please e-mail memberservices@barronelectric.com or call 800-322-1008 if you are interested in purchasing a unit.



Pole Testing Helps Improve Reliability



American Energy Services is testing poles in Turtle Lake, Arland, and Maple Grove Townships in Barron County and Casey Township in Washburn County. Their trucks will have a magnetic sign that displays Barron Electric Cooperative's name. A 4-wheeler may be used to move efficiently throughout the system.

Please contact the Operation's Department at 800-322-1008 between 7:45 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays or e-mail operations@barronelectric.com.

News FOR YOU...

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Published for the members of Barron Electric.
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Barron Electric is an equal
opportunity provider.



Photo Contest Theme: On the Farm

Winner receives a \$50 Credit



E-mail your "On the Farm" photos for our photo contest. The winning photo will be used on the cover of the *News for You*, and the winner will receive a \$50 credit on their electric bill. Criteria for the photos include:

- Photos must have a horizontal orientation (landscape).
- Photos must be high resolution, at least 300 dpi.
- Member must own rights to the photo.
- E-mail your digital image to memberservices@barronelectric.com by May 9, 2021. Include your Barron Electric account number, address, and phone number.
- By submitting your photo, you are granting Barron Electric permission to use your photo in a variety of publications and on our website.

*Condensed Board Minutes

February 24, 2021

** View full board minutes on SmartHub.*



Bill Effertz serves on Barron Electric's Board of Directors and represents District 8, which includes the townships of Crystal Lake, Almena, Clayton, Turtle Lake, Arland, Clear Lake, Vance Creek, Prairie Farm, New Haven, and Sheridan.

- Director Kessler gave the treasurer's report, with comments by Manager Sloan. A report of vouchers for the month was presented as part of the board packet as follows: #98605 thru #98708 of CCF Bank was in the amount of \$187,997 and capital credit estate checks in the amount of \$17,219. Director

Kessler reported on activity of total receipts in the office - \$1,583,168; total receipts by wire and ACH - \$130,164; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire - \$1,412,572; transfer of funds was made for payroll - \$86,320 and power bill paid 02/24/2021 in the amount of \$2,345,106.

- A membership list of 49 was presented and approved without objection by the board.
- Form 219 summarizing construction activity for the month of January in the amount of \$38,802.42 was presented for approval, and included new services - \$0; change jobs - \$5,543.75; miscellaneous - \$33,258.67 and 5 retirements. The Form 219 stood approved as presented.
- Outages year-to-date stand at 387 consumer hours off, which is 141.88% above 2020 hours of 160. Overtime year-to-date is 37 hours, which is 30.84% below 2020 hours of 53.50.