

News FOR YOU...

Good Stewards of the Environment

Barron Electric and Nuto Farms Create Butterfly Garden

The Monarch Butterfly is expected to be listed on the endangered species list in December 2020. The disappearance of milkweed is one reason for the decline of monarchs. Milkweed is the only place monarchs will lay their eggs and the only food caterpillars will eat. Barron Electric and Nuto Farms have joined together to plant a ten acre garden, near Sarona on Long Lake Avenue, to attract butterflies. Nuto Farms donated the land and labor, while both Nuto Farms and Barron Electric purchased the seed, which included wildflowers and milkweed. Jennifer Beaudette, Director of Member Services, remarked, "We are excited to partner with our member, Nuto Farms, to provide a habitat for the Monarchs, maintain reliability in our Rights-of-Way, and help our environment."



Dennis West of Nuto Farms fills the planter with wildflower seeds, grass seed, and milkweed.

*Pictured right:
Dennis West and
Tom Smith of Nuto
Farms planted the
butterfly garden.*





WECA Essay Contest

Any high school or college freshman students whose primary residence is located in Wisconsin that receives electric service from an electric cooperative are eligible to enter the WECA Essay Contest. Scholarships are awarded as follows to the authors of the top three essays: 1st place - \$1,000, 2nd place - \$500, and 3rd place - \$250. For more information, visit <https://www.weca.coop/weca-scholarships>.

Electrify Your Lawn Care

Electric lawn care equipment options are becoming more popular than ever offering consumers faster charging times, longer battery life and quieter, greener products compared to their gas-powered counterparts. This equipment is easy and convenient to use with less maintenance. There is no pull cord, just flip a switch to start. Here are three ways you can electrify your lawn care this summer.



Electric Lawn Mowers

Electric riding lawn mowers offer less yearly maintenance and are less expensive to operate. They are also quieter. New lithium-ion battery technology provides extended run times and no power fade.

Cordless electric mowers typically require one to two hours to fully charge, batteries can run for a full hour.

Electric String Trimmers

Cordless electric string trimmers are much quieter and easier to use. The main factors to consider are the battery's life, charge time and power.

Electric Leaf Blowers

Once your lawn is cut and trimmed, you'll need to clear off those walkways and patios for the finishing touch. Cordless electric leaf blowers are lightweight and easy to maneuver.

Stop at Barron Electric's office to view our battery powered equipment display.

Shannon Heintz Wins the Megawatt Community Service Award

Shannon Heintz is secretary for the Board of Directors at the Humane Society of Barron



Shannon Heintz wins the Megawatt Community Service Award.

County (HSBC), a non-profit animal shelter serving Barron County and the surrounding areas. Since HSBC has a small staff, they depend on volunteers, donations, adoptions, memberships and fundraisers. Shannon said, "Danielle, an employee at the Barron Veterinary office, knew how much I cared about animals and how well I treated my four-legged children. She knew I would be a perfect fit for this position." Shannon remarked, "If I could afford it, and had the space, I would take in as many strays as I could."

Shannon has been a member of the National Ski Patrol since 2009 and recently became an instructor. She volunteers as a ski patroller at Christie Mountain. The National Ski Patrol, founded in 1938, is dedicated to serving the outdoor

recreation industry and provides education and accreditation to emergency care and safety service providers.

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.

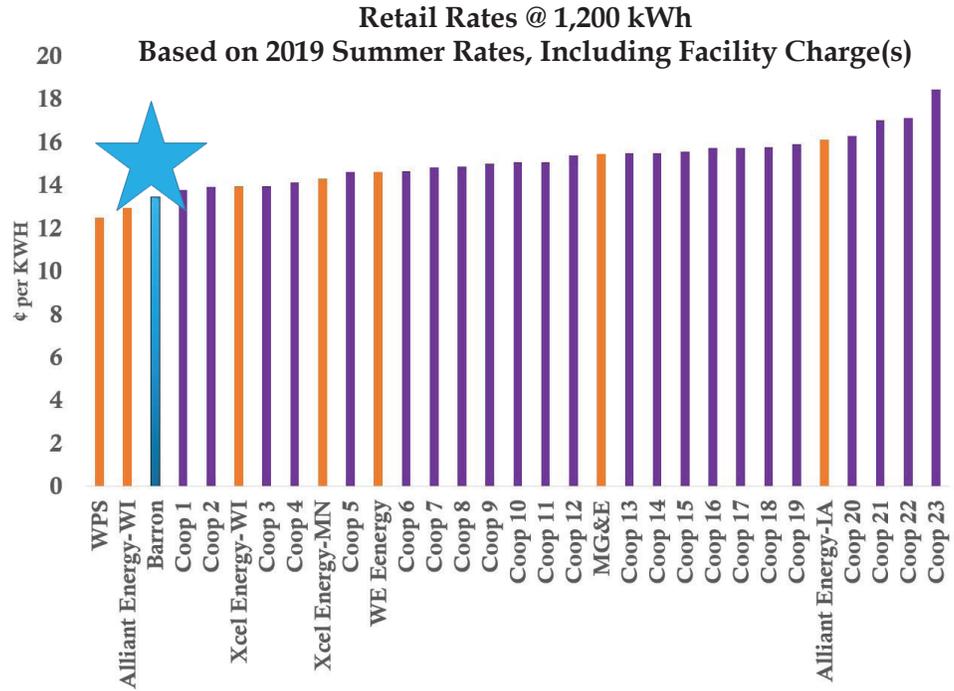


Barron Electric Rates Ranked One of the Lowest in the State

Barron Electric Cooperative has the third lowest rates in the state and has the lowest rates amongst electric cooperatives, when comparing rates at 1,200 kilowatt hours.

The cooperative has reduced costs in the following areas:

- Increasing reliability with Right-of-Way Clearing, pole testing and maintenance projects
- Converting overhead power lines to underground
- Underground wire replacement
- Utilizing technology to make jobs more efficient
- Over 6,000 members participate in Auto Pay



Improving Reliability and Helping Move 112-Year Old Chapel

Barron Electric crews have been working with outside contractors since 2017 to replace wire from the late 1970s to the mid 1980s. Nate Steines, Director of Operations, said, "Over 55 miles of wire have been upgraded. Members are benefitting from improved reliability." The following townships have been completed: Spooner, Beaverbrook, and Evergreen in Washburn County; Stanley, Prairie Lake, and Chetek

in Barron County. Crews have recently been working in Bashaw Township in Washburn County and Rusk Township in Rusk County.

Moving the Wiesner Community Chapel

Barron Electric line crews moved 33 overhead power lines to help the 31-foot Friends of the Wiesner Community Chapel make its 6-hour journey to its new home at Hungry Hollow

Steam and Gas Engine Club, located at 1509 19th Avenue, Rice Lake. Built in 1908 by the Karl Wiesner family and friends, it was host to services and special events until it closed in 1949. The church was sold in the 1950s but remained unused until 1989, when the 4th and 5th generation families bought it and held various chapel events.



Photo by Bob Zientara, Barron News-Shield



Lineman Mike Kroeze (right) helps to change out wire near Potato Lake. A-1 Power, LLC, did the excavating.

\$50 Bill Credit for Winning Photo

E-mail your summer photos for your 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 July 5, 2020. Include your Barron Electric account number, address, and phone number.
- By submitting your photo, you are granting Barron Electric Cooperative permission to use your photo in a variety of publications and on our website.



Patricia Mandel represents District 6 on Barron Electric's Board of Directors which includes the townships of Clinton, Barron, Maple Grove, and Prairie Lake.



*Condensed Board Minutes April 29, 2020

- The minutes of the regular board meeting from March 30, 2020 were approved as presented.
- Director Helm gave the treasurer's report for February 2020. A report of vouchers for the month was presented as part of the board packet as follows: #97427 thru #97539 of CCF Bank was in the amount of \$167,256 and capital credit estate checks in the amount of \$9,157. Director Helm reported on activity of total receipts in the office - \$2,061,651; total receipts by wire and ACH - \$115,824 disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire - \$2,202,511; transfer of funds was made for payroll - \$173,321 and power bill paid 03/25/2020 in the amount of \$2,323,733.
- Director Helm also gave the treasurer's report for March 2020. A report of vouchers for the month was presented as part of the board packet as follows: #97540 thru #97635 of CCF Bank was in the amount of \$304,494 and capital credit estate checks in the amount of \$17,723. Director Helm reported on activity of total receipts in the office - \$2,878,099; total receipts by wire and ACH - \$1,888,052 disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire - \$4,535,174; transfer of funds was made for payroll - \$194,418 and power bill paid 04/29/2020 in the amount of \$2,200,117.
- A membership list of 37 was presented and approved without objection by the board.
- Form 219 summarizing construction activity for the month of February in the amount of \$124,515.02 was presented for approval, and included new services - \$2,009.26; change jobs - \$13,852.82; miscellaneous - \$108,652.94 and 4 retirements. The February Form 219 stood approved as presented.
- Form 219 summarizing construction activity for the month of March in the amount of \$104,334.98 was presented for approval, and included new services - \$0; change jobs - \$0; miscellaneous - \$104,334.98 and 1 retirement. The March Form 219 stood approved as presented.

** View full board minutes on SmartHub.*



Barron Electric members and employees have been test driving the all-electric Chevy Bolt since 2018 at a cost of less than \$.04 cents per mile. The Chevy Bolt boasts a 238-mile average. While fuel prices today are lower than we have seen for years, the electric vehicle still beats the cost to drive per mile. For a person who drives 15,000 miles annually, the cost for gas would be \$1,650, while the cost per kilowatt hour at 10.57 cents would cost a driver \$376 annually. Driving electric would save \$1,274 annually. Auto manufacturers are heavily investing in electric vehicles, including SUVs and trucks. Car manufacturers are delivering models that rival in comparison to gasoline or diesel-powered engines. The EV market is expected to reach 30 million vehicles by 2030 and will account for 57% of all new vehicle sales.

News FOR YOU...

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