

# A vacation to our area DOESN'T DISAPPOINT



**Kevin Babcock,  
General Manager/  
CEO**

Spring is here, and with the changing of the seasons we'll start to notice tourism start to pick up in several Jackson County locations.

Some of the best ATV/UTV trails in the Midwest are located in Jackson County. There are more than 100 miles of trails that are maintained for riders to enjoy. These trails link to the Clark County trails, providing an additional 135 miles of trail riding. The trails will be open beginning May 15 in Jackson County; Clark County opens May 1. And, while you're preparing for your ride, don't forget to make sleeping and eating arrangements. Jackson County has several hotels to accommodate your stay, and local eating establishments are always ready to serve a great meal after a long day of riding.

Not only is Jackson County's trail system exceptional, but the area offers activities for all types of enthusiasts. Grab your canoe or kayak to explore the Black River or the many area creeks. Plan a family outing at one of Jackson County's camping facilities, or maybe a day at one of the golf courses or fishing holes is more your leisure.

Whatever activity you enjoy, Jackson County may be the place for you and your family to vacation at this spring and/or summer. For more information on Jackson County lodging, recreation, and events, go to the Black River Falls Area Chamber's website at [www.blackrivercountry.net](http://www.blackrivercountry.net), and enjoy spending time in Jackson County.

*Photos courtesy of Black River Falls Area Chamber of Commerce*

MY CO-OP



# SELECTING THE CORRECT HEAT PUMP FOR YOUR HOME

Heat pumps “move” heat rather than “generate” it; therefore, they provide up to four times more heat energy than the amount of electrical energy they consume. This makes heat pumps a very efficient means to heat and cool your home.



An air source heat pump is similar in looks to a central air conditioner. An air source heat pump not only cools, but it also heats your home.

## Air Source Heat Pump

An air source heat pump transfers heat between your house and the outside air. It can deliver 2-1/2 to 3-3/4 times more heat energy than the electrical energy it consumes, making it efficient and economical to operate. During the summer, an air source heat pump cools your home like a central air-conditioning unit. During the winter months, it provides heat. When outdoor temperatures dip low enough, an air source heat pump reaches its balance point, the temperature at which supplemental heat kicks in to maintain the thermostat setting in your home.

## Geothermal Heat Pump

A geothermal heat pump is the highest efficiency heating and cooling system available because it uses the constant temperature of the earth to heat and cool your home. Even on the coldest winter nights, the earth’s temperature allows the system to reach efficiencies of 400 percent or higher, depending on the temperature of the geothermal loop. A geothermal heat pump is usually sized to meet 100 percent of the home’s heating and cooling needs year-round.

## Select a Heat Pump That’s Right for You

1. Seek out a qualified HVAC contractor to install the unit. Your HVAC contractor will be able to determine the correct sizing of your heat pump. Too large of a heat pump will

- not cool and dehumidify properly. Too small of a unit will result in higher heating bills.
2. A geothermal heat pump will provide the lowest heating and cooling costs, but it costs more upfront. The payback may be quicker with an air source heat pump.
3. Compare energy costs with fossil fuels. You can project your heating costs with a heat pump using the chart (see below) if you know your fuel consumption. An air source heat pump will offset a portion of your fossil fuel during cold days and nights. Most geothermal heat pumps offset 100 percent of the fossil fuel usage except during load control periods if on the dual fuel program.
4. Compare the heating efficiency of each unit. Heating efficiency is measured by using Heat Seasonal Performance Factor (HSPF), which indicates how many BTUs of heat are produced per watt of energy consumed. The higher the number, the more efficient the unit. Because our area has more heating days than cooling, the heating performance (HSPF) is more important than the cooling performance (SEER).
5. Compare cooling efficiency ratings. Heat pumps not only heat the house in the winter, but they reverse to cool the home in the summer. The cooling efficiency is measured using the Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER). The higher the SEER rating, the higher the efficiency.

Jackson Electric offers rebates to those members who purchase and install a qualified heat pump at their residence or business.

### Air Source Heat Pump

(SEER 14+, HSPF 8.2+, EER 11.5+) ..... \$750 per ton  
 Geothermal Heat Pump ..... \$750 per ton

With the rebate, the cost of the heat pump is very competitive with other heating and cooling systems.

**Types of Geothermal Heat Pump Systems**  
 There are four basic configurations for geothermal heat pump ground loops. They are "closed-loop systems," where a water and antifreeze solution is continually moved through pipes; the fourth is an "open-loop system," where groundwater or well water is used.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Geothermal Heat Pump (400% efficient)	Propane Furnace (92% efficient)	Fuel Oil Furnace (80% efficient)	Natural Gas Furnace (92% efficient)
\$0.070/kWh	\$0.43/gallon	\$0.57/gallon	\$0.47/therm
\$0.075/kWh	\$0.46/gallon	\$0.61/gallon	\$0.51/therm
\$0.1130/kWh	\$0.70/gallon	\$0.92/gallon	\$0.76/therm
Air Source Heat Pump (250% efficient)	Propane Furnace (92% efficient)	Fuel Oil Furnace (80% efficient)	Natural Gas Furnace (92% efficient)
\$0.070/kWh	\$0.69/gallon	\$0.91/gallon	\$0.76/therm
\$0.075/kWh	\$0.74/gallon	\$0.98/gallon	\$0.81/therm
\$0.1130/kWh	\$1.12/gallon	\$1.47/gallon	\$1.22/therm

For example, if you purchased an air source heat pump and installed it on Jackson Electric’s dual fuel program at \$0.070/kWh, you would have to purchase the fossil fuels at the costs listed above to be comparable to Jackson Electric’s rates. If your unit is on the dual fuel program, you need a supplemental source of fossil fuel heat to provide heating during a control period.

## THANK YOU, JACKSON ELECTRIC EMPLOYEES

April 10 is recognized as Linemen Appreciation Day. Jackson Electric's linemen are, left to right, Hazy Wood, Brian Schultz, Matt Bush, Brian Dolesy (warehouse clerk), Jesse Hansen, Dalton Berg, David Ripp, Don Fortun (meter technician), and Dan McKeivitt.



April 26 is Administrative Professionals' Day. Employees serving Jackson Electric's members in the front office are, back row left to right, Bertina Zager, Steve Bucholz, and Pam Bjerke. Seated, left to right, are Deanna Oliver and Thereasa Rieck.

## WINTER MORATORIUM ENDS APRIL 15

Please contact Jackson Electric BEFORE April 15 to make payment arrangements for past due electric accounts. All past due accounts need to be reconciled before April 15 in order to avoid any disconnection of your service. Failure to contact us about your past due account could result in service fees along with disconnection of your electric service.



## ELECTRIC THERMAL STORAGE (ETS) UPDATE

Jackson Electric no longer sells or services ETS room units. Please contact our office for information on where to purchase a ETS room unit, and who to call if service is required.

### Rebates Reminder

Jackson Electric has rebates on the purchase of Energy Star appliances, electric heat pumps, and LED lighting. Go to [www.jackelec.com](http://www.jackelec.com) or contact our office for more information.



## BREAK-THROUGH AT YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONGRESS

**Three days. More than 100 students. Dynamic speakers.  
University of Wisconsin-River Falls campus.**

It's that time of year when registration opens for the annual Youth Leadership Congress (YLC), sponsored by Wisconsin electric cooperatives including Jackson Electric Cooperative.

This year's YLC will be held July 26–28 at the UW-River Falls campus. Students will participate in team-building activities, learn about cooperative principles, and have an opportunity to interview and campaign to be part of the Wisconsin Youth Board. All sessions are designed to develop the next generation of community leaders. Those students attending YLC also have an opportunity to apply for a \$1,000 scholarship offered by the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association.

Jackson Electric Cooperative sponsors high school students who will be sophomores, juniors, or seniors in the fall to attend this event. Enrollment and transportation costs are covered by the co-op. Learn how you can break-through at YLC by contacting Deanna at [doliver@jackelec.com](mailto:doliver@jackelec.com) by June 9, 2017. For more information on YLC, go to [www.jackelec.com](http://www.jackelec.com).



## PHOTO CONTEST CONTINUES

January's photo of the month winner is Adam Pillard of Black River Falls. This photo (pictured at right) was taken at Bruce Mound in Neillsville.

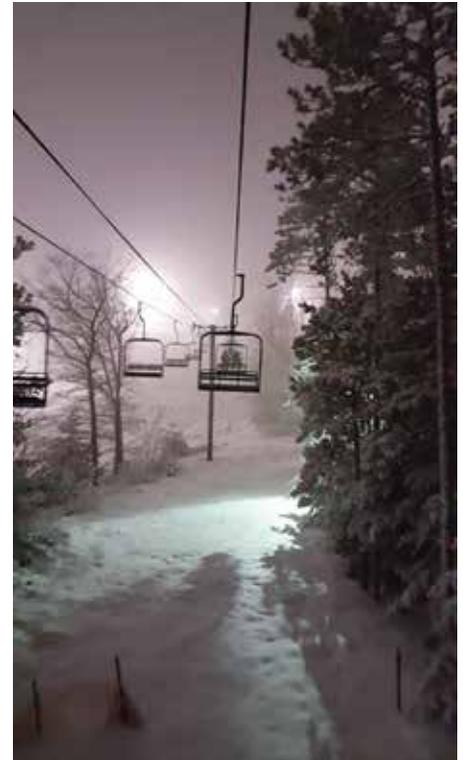
February's photo of the month winner is Judy Puffer of Millston. This



photo (pictured at left) was taken on McKenna Road near Millston. Both Adam and Judy received a \$25 energy credit. Stop by our office to see these photos, and the many others, that adorn the cooperative's walls.

Let us see your favorite monthly photo for your chance to win a \$25 energy credit, and bragging rights after you see your photo at Jackson Electric. Photos for the respective month can be submitted until June 30, 2017.

Go to [www.jackelec.com](http://www.jackelec.com), Jackson Electric's Facebook page, or contact our office for photo contest rules and release for photo use.




**Jackson Electric**  
**at WWIS Home Show**  
**Saturday, April 8 • 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.**  
Milt Lunda Memorial Ice Arena, Black River Falls  
*Stop by our booth and play Cooperative Wheel of Fortune for your chance to win a prize.*

## NEED ELECTRIC SERVICE? Make Your Appointment Now

If you're planning to build a house or an additional structure on your property that will need electric service installed, please contact Jackson Electric Cooperative to schedule an appointment to discuss your electric service needs. We can also help you with electric heating and cooling options, and Energy Star rebates.

**Jackson Electric's office WILL BE OPEN on Good Friday, April 14, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.**



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Customer Service 715.284.5385  
800.370.4607  
Outage Reporting 855.222.DARK (3275)  
Diggers Hotline 800.242.8511  
[www.jackelec.com](http://www.jackelec.com)    

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 546  
Black River Falls, WI 54615  
Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Board of Directors: Gary Woods, President  
Jerry Huber, Vice President  
David Peasley, Secretary-Treasurer  
Daniel Smrekar, Kristi Hanson, Stanley Gran, Brian Huber, Chris Curran, Jerry Wagner

Kevin Babcock, General Manager/CEO

*Jackson Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 