



# Summer Vacation: CAMP IN JACKSON COUNTY

Wazee Lake



**Kevin Babcock,**  
General Manager/CEO

Can you hear the crackling of a campfire amidst the pines? Can you taste the S'mores, marshmallows roasted to perfection? Summer is here, and that means it's time for

Independence Day celebrations, fireworks, time spent with family, and camping. Luckily, Jackson County residents do not have to travel far to experience the great campgrounds and outdoor recreation areas located right in their backyards.

Lake Arbutus, located in Hatfield, is well known to boaters and anglers alike, and the area is a prime location for summer family fun. With three campgrounds within proximity of the lake, a day at the lake can be turned into a weekend getaway for the family. The campsites in the area can also meet the

preferences of each family, whether they want an electric site or to experience rustic camping. The Hatfield area also has services that fit the preferences of each outdoor enthusiast. Rentals on boats, jet skis, paddleboards, canoes, kayaks, and even ATVs are available. You may also be able to catch a flea market in town.

There are many other state, county,

### Did you know?

**Wazee Lake attracts more than 1,000 divers annually and is the deepest lake in Wisconsin (max. depth approx. 355 feet).**

village, and privately owned campgrounds in the area that can accommodate the needs of each member of the family so the summer fun can be enjoyed together. Wazee Lake Recreation Area (Jackson County Forestry and Parks) has been a popular location for day-use, from swimming in the 146-acre Wazee Lake to hiking on one of the many marked and groomed trails. The lake has

a non-motorized regulation which makes for clean water that attracts scuba divers from across the Midwest. The park also offers rustic campsites, a large beach, and picnic areas. Scenic overlooks allow the opportunity to appreciate the aesthetic value of the park.

For a nominal cost, the family fun is just past the entrance of one of the area's many parks. Summer is a busy time for many families, which sometimes makes it difficult to plan the perfect family vacation. Maybe it doesn't have to be difficult. The perfect family vacation may be close to home. *(Photos taken by Brandi Shramek, communications intern)*

## Area Campgrounds

### Black River State Forest

- Canoe Campsite
- Castle Mound
- East Fork
- Pigeon Creek

### Clark County Parks

- Russell Memorial

### Jackson County Parks

- East Arbutus
- Crawford Hills
- Merlin Lambert
- Wazee Lake Recreation Area
- West Arbutus

### Doc's Bunkhouse

### KOA

### Lost Falls

### Parkland Village

### Village Campgrounds:

- Gile Memorial
- Hixton
- Spaulding Pond

### Whispering Pines



Lake Arbutus



Lake Arbutus

MY CO-OP



## MEET YOUR DIRECTOR KRISTI HANSON

When it comes to practicing the cooperative principles, the newest member of Jackson Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors fits the model. Kristi Hanson, District 2 director, values service to the community and the cooperative spirit. Born and raised in the Alma Center area, Kristi continues to live in the area with her husband, Mike. Together, they have two grown daughters who also live in Jackson County.



A graduate of Winona State University, Kristi received a bachelor of science degree in nursing and has been a nurse for 30 years. For the past 18 years, she has been working as a public health nurse for Jackson County. Aside from her occupation, Kristi has been playing her flute in the Black River Area Community Band for 15 years, is active in her church, enjoys reading, and likes to spend time outdoors either walking, boating, or kayaking.

Kristi became involved with the Jackson Electric board because she believes that rural electric cooperative boards are important. Electric cooperatives are member-owned, and the board represents the members using the service. Kristi is the first woman on the board, an occurrence that has not happened in the 80 years of the cooperative's history. "I think it's important that the board is diversified," shares Kristi.

She also feels that her past board experiences (ACHM

school board, Jackson County Interfaith, Black River Area Foundation, Black River Community Band board) and roles in the community will bring experience to the table that could be beneficial to Jackson Electric. As part of her board duties, she believes it is important to be informed about the issues in order to help make decisions that are in the best interest of all members, while also thinking short-term, long-term, economically, and sustainably.

Volunteering can strengthen the assets of the rural area that Jackson Electric serves. When it comes to service to the community, Kristi says, "Communities are as healthy as the people are who are working and volunteering, contributing, and giving back. If everyone can take a piece that is a strength for them and give back, it makes for a stronger overall community."

Kristi has identified one of her strengths as the ability to form relationships and talk with people. She can offer this strength to meet people and form new relationships that could benefit the co-op, whether it's at the local, district, or state level.

Asked about her favorite part of being a board member so far, Kristi says, "Certainly the learning curve and becoming educated about electric cooperatives and the things that are important to them."

Kristi would also like members to know that the co-op is very accessible and wants to work with them. "They shouldn't hesitate to contact the co-op or the board and be assured they really are part of a member-owned cooperative," she adds.

—Brandi Shramek, communications intern

## HOME BACKUP GENERATORS

The month of May brought storms to our area and caused many members to be without power for several hours. Be prepared before the next storm hits and consider the purchase and installation of a residential standby generator.



Jackson Electric is working with Home Backup Systems, an authorized Generac generator dealer. A representative from Home Backup Systems will size the generator to meet your electrical needs in the event of a power outage. This is a full-service dealer, which means they are available to you should you have a question or concern regarding the generator.

A permanently installed Generac home standby generator protects your home automatically. It runs on natural gas or liquid propane (LP) fuel, and sits outside just like a central air conditioning unit. A home standby generator delivers power directly to your home's electrical system, backing up your entire home or just the most essential items.

For more information, please contact Jackson Electric or go to [www.homebackupsystem.net](http://www.homebackupsystem.net).

## AVAILABLE REBATES

Jackson Electric offers a rebate to its members for the purchase of the following qualified Energy Star rated appliances:

- Clothes washer
- Dishwasher
- Clothes dryer
- Refrigerator
- Heat pump clothes dryer
- Dehumidifier

Qualified geothermal and air source heat pumps and LED lighting rebates are also available. For a complete list of available rebates, contact our office or go to [www.jackelec.com](http://www.jackelec.com).

Jackson Electric Cooperative's Annual

### MEMBER PICNIC IN THE PARK

**Tuesday, August 15, 2017**  
Serving 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Lunda Park Upper Shelter, Black River Falls



Maria Moldenhauer, Blair-Taylor High School



Taylor Koss, Melrose-Mindoro High School



Victoria Hanson, Sparta High School



Chloe D'Huyvetter, Alma Center-Humbird-Merrillan High School



Alisha Quall, Black River Falls High School



Autumn Schmidt, Osseo-Fairchild High School



Morgan Wright, Open-Enrolled Scholarship



Mykayla Wollin, Youth Ambassador Scholarship

## SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO AREA YOUTH

Since 1998, Jackson Electric has generously awarded \$94,000 in scholarships to graduating high school seniors who plan to continue their education beyond high school. This past spring, Jackson Electric presented \$8,500 to area graduating high school seniors.

The annual youth scholarship

program encourages post-secondary education for area high school seniors by assisting them in financing their education. A \$1,000 scholarship is offered to each of the eight high schools that are in Jackson Electric's service territory, as well as those students who are home-schooled, open-enrolled,

or attend a private school. A \$1,500 scholarship is awarded to a deserving senior who participates in the Jackson Electric Cooperative Youth Ambassador Program.

Scholarships were offered to Neillsville and Whitehall high schools, but no applications were submitted.

## WELCOME, SUMMER EMPLOYEES

Jackson Electric's summer employees have been in full swing since the end of May, and Jackson Electric is proud to give these students an opportunity to learn more about cooperatives.

Brandi Shramek returns to Jackson Electric this summer. Last summer, you may have seen her at the front counter; this summer, she is Jackson Electric's communications intern.

Brandi just completed her junior year at Viterbo University where she is pursuing a degree in English with a writing emphasis and a minor in biology. Brandi is from the Alma Center area. She enjoys photography, writing poetry, caring for her alpacas, and spending time with her family. Brandi says she looks forward to this new opportunity and learning experience.

Noah Matousek is from the Black River Falls area. Noah just completed his freshman year at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he is studying business. Noah enjoys playing tennis and football, hunting, and spending time with his dogs. You'll see Noah working outside the headquarters building and helping with the operations department.



Brandi Shramek



Noah Matousek

## JACKSON ELECTRIC SENDS YOUTH AMBASSADORS TO WASHINGTON, D.C., YOUTH TOUR



Mykayla Wollin



Cassandra Berger

Mykayla and Cassandra traveled to Washington, D.C., June 10-15. Read about their trip in next month's issue.

Jackson Electric's scholarships and Youth Tour are funded with unclaimed capital credits that otherwise would be forfeited to the state.



## HOW DO WE CONTACT YOU?

We are in the process of converting to a new customer information system. We are in the beginning stages of that conversion, and are preparing current data to be entered into the new system.

For accurate information to be transferred, we need to confirm the information in our current database is correct. When you send in your payment, please provide your phone number, cell phone number, and e-mail address on your payment stub.

## PHOTO WINNERS

April photo of the month winner is Betty Janke of Hixton. This photo was taken at Charlie and Betty's farm. The May photo of the month winner is Cindy Shramek of Alma Center. Her photo was also taken at her residence. Both members received a \$25 energy credit and their photos are on display at Jackson Electric.



April



May

Jackson Electric's office will be closed on **Tuesday, July 4.** If you experience a power outage during this time, please call the outage reporting number at 855.222.3275.

Our office will be closed on **Friday, July 14,** from noon to 1 p.m. for employee training.



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

## PLANNING TO INSTALL A DISTRIBUTED GENERATION SYSTEM?

The following steps are recommended by Jackson Electric if you're planning to construct any type of distributed generation (DG) that is 20 kW and less and interconnect to Jackson Electric's service lines. Before committing to the purchase and installation of a DG system, please contact Jackson Electric to learn about the cooperative's policies and procedures.

1. Member contacts Jackson Electric for information regarding the application process, Jackson Electric Cooperative's Policy 305, interconnection application and agreement forms, applicable fees, and requirements.
2. Jackson Electric recommends that the member contact a vendor/installer for a site visit and more information on the potential system.
3. Vendor/installer contacts Jackson Electric's office for wiring and procedure information.
4. Member completes and returns the Distributed Generation Application Form for approval of the project, with proof of liability insurance.
5. Member has DG system inspected to verify compliance with electrical code and interconnection requirements. Jackson Electric's Electrical Inspection Form must be completed and signed.
6. Nearing completion, member/installer schedules commissioning/anti-islanding test date.
7. At commissioning test, member completes and signs the Jackson Electric Distributed Generation Interconnection Agreement.
8. Jackson Electric applies the DG rate to the account for the system.
9. Application, agreement, electrical inspection form, and certificate of insurance will be placed in the member's folder. A copy of the certificate of insurance will be requested annually.

To request the Distributed Generation Interconnection Application and Agreement and Electrical Inspection forms, please contact our office.

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