



**Oakdale Electric  
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

# October is National Cooperative Month

## Celebrate with Oakdale Electric Cooperative

**O**akdale Electric Cooperative is inviting all to celebrate cooperatives in Wisconsin—and across America—during National Cooperative Month.

Every October, cooperatives are recognized for the qualities that make the business model unique. Seven cooperative principles set us apart from other businesses: voluntary and open membership; democratic member control; member's economic participation; autonomy and independence; education, training and information; cooperation among cooperatives; and concern for community.

"Cooperative membership is unique," said Bruce Ardel, general manager. "Electric cooperatives are committed to

providing members with safe, reliable, and affordable electricity, but there's more to it than that. We're local, and that means we care about our community. This is why we support our communities through programs such as Operation RoundUp®, student scholarships, employee blue jean donations, Youth Leadership Congress, and hotline safety demonstrations."

Oakdale Electric Cooperative is proud to be part of America's cooperative network, which includes more than 47,000 cooperative businesses serving more than 120 million people nationwide.

Electric co-ops provide power for many badger state residents, with 26 electric co-ops serving 233,740 members. Other co-op

businesses thrive in our state too, with Wisconsin's co-op economy employing almost 19,000 residents and generating more than \$8 billion in revenue annually.

Oakdale Electric Cooperative is one of over 900 electric cooperatives, public utility districts, and public power districts serving 42 million people in 47 states.

"In the 1930s, rural America needed electricity just as much as anyone else," Ardel said. "It was a major challenge that big utilities weren't interested in tackling. So, the men and women of rural America banded together and made it happen. And that's why we celebrate in October—we celebrate the power of working together for the common

good and bettering the quality of life for our friends and neighbors."

All members are invited to attend our Member Appreciation Day and pancake breakfast on Saturday, October 1, from 7:30 – 11 a.m. at our headquarters facility in Oakdale. This annual celebration not only includes a free pancake breakfast, but also has energy education booths; kid's activities including bounce house, face painting, T-shirts, and petting zoo; bucket truck rides; giveaways; and door prizes for all members! This is a great opportunity to join with co-op employees and other members while celebrating National Cooperative Month.

For more information on Member Appreciation Day visit [www.oakdalerec.com](http://www.oakdalerec.com).

**All members are invited  
to attend our Member  
Appreciation Day  
Breakfast on  
Saturday, October 1**

MY CO-OP



# 2016 MEMBER PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

Calendars will first be available at Member Appreciation Day on October 1. Afterwards, calendars will be available for pick up at our office during office hours, Monday – Friday from 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Limit one calendar per member.

## January

Craig Hillman:  
Sunrise in  
the fog.  
*La Valle (1)*



## February

Debra Schotten:  
Morning  
hoarfrost on  
trees.  
*Mauston (2)*



## March

Michael Zellmer:  
Summer barn.  
*Tomah (3)*



## April

Dawn Mecozzi:  
After a storm.  
*La Valle (4)*



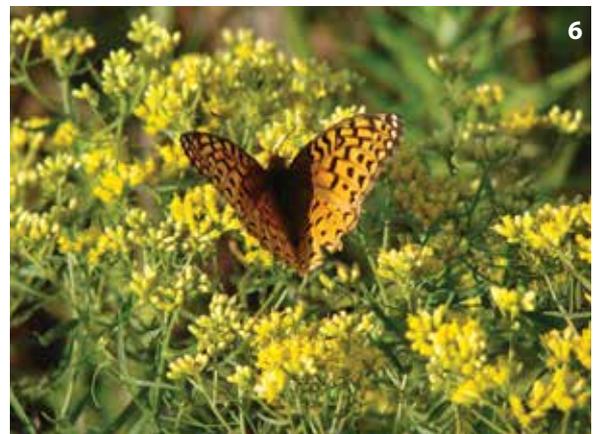
## May

John Froelich:  
Biker and  
roadside flowers.  
*Tomah (5)*



## June

Dolores  
Marusarz: A silver  
bordered fritillary  
seeks nectar.  
*Lyndon Station (6)*





7



8

**7. July**

Jan Thyberg:  
Golden glow  
of sunset after  
a storm.  
*La Valle (7)*

**8. August**

Dawn Mecozzi:  
On the lake.  
*La Valle (8)*



9



10

**September**

Christy Johnson:  
Sandhill  
cranes among  
the colorful  
landscape. *New  
Lisbon (9)*

**October**

Brenda Verbsky:  
Fall barn.  
*Tomah (10)*



11



12

**November**

Ashley Waege:  
Quiet, peaceful  
morning.  
*Tomah (11)*

**December**

Beth Wroblewski:  
Fox squirrel  
feeding on  
sunflower seeds.  
*Wilton (12)*



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**Cover**

Debra Schotten: Cornfield and bluff.  
*Mauston*

**Get your cameras ready  
to start snapping!**

The 2017 Member Photo Contest runs  
February 1 – August 25, 2017.  
For more information contact  
[dprotz@oakdalerec.com](mailto:dprotz@oakdalerec.com).

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# WATCH YOUR OCTOBER BILL FOR YOUR CAPITAL CREDIT REFUND

Oakdale Electric Cooperative members will be experiencing one of the benefits of membership this month when capital credit refunds are applied to active accounts. Refunds were applied to the October bills, which members should receive around November 1.

Capital credits represent your ownership of this non-profit, member-owned cooperative. Capital credits are created when the cooperative has earnings, income minus expenses. At the end of each year, these earnings are spread proportionately to all active cooperative members according to each member's energy purchases from Oakdale Electric Cooperative that year.

Capital credits accumulate in an account in each member's name and are paid as a percentage each year. Members are eligible for capital credit refunds following three years of receiving electric service from the cooperative. The size of the percentage is determined by the cooperative's board of directors according to the cooperative's financial condition.

Checks will be issued to those who no longer receive electric service from Oakdale Electric Cooperative but are still owed capital credits.



## Did you purchase a new qualified energy star appliance this year?

If yes, submit your rebate forms before December 30, 2016. Visit [www.oakdalerec.com](http://www.oakdalerec.com) to obtain rebate forms and for more details on this program.

**Bruce Ardel, General Manager**

P.O. Box 128, Oakdale, WI 54649  
608-372-4131 • 800-241-2468  
info@oakdalerec.com

**Deana Protz, Editor**



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Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.  
24-Hour Emergency Power Restoration: 800-927-6151  
Toll-free Online Bill Payment 866-392-4307

Diggers Hotline: For underground cable locates and power line clearance information, call 800-242-8511.