




the power of human connections

sparks

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

a monthly newsletter from Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric September 2022

inside connections

- 2 Manager Connection
- 3 Electric system resiliency
- 4 Cookin' Connection; SWCE community solar update; Sparks in brief; Steele County Tip Line
- 5 Five steps for safe digging; Solar panel safety; Save energy by sealing leaks
- 6 Ad Connection; 4-Seasons Vacations
- 7 Ad Connection; Ways to save energy in the laundry room
- 8 Steele County Ducks Unlimited Fall Bash details

calendar of events

September

- 5 Labor Day
SWCE office closed;
Final day of Minnesota State Fair
- 7-11 The Defeat of Jesse James Days, Northfield
- 10-11 Mantorville Marigold Days
- 11 Patriot Day
- 16 National POW/MIA Recognition Day
- 22 First day of autumn
- 29 Steele County Ducks Unlimited Fall Bash, Owat.



With as much as half of the energy used in your home going to heating and cooling, choosing ENERGY STAR® certified heating and cooling equipment can have a big impact on your comfort while helping you save money.

YOUR GUIDE TO HEATING AND COOLING

Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP)

- It's the best of both worlds. ASHPs provide home cooling and supplemental heating with 72% less electricity than conventional air conditioners and furnaces.
- ASHPs are measured by: 1) Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER) 2) Energy Efficiency Ratio (EER) and 3) Heat Seasonal Performance Factor (HSPF). The SEER rating most accurately reflects overall system cooling efficiency on a seasonal basis and EER reflects the system's cooling energy efficiency at peak day operations. HSPF is the most commonly used measure of a heat pumps heating efficiency. The higher the HSPF, the more efficient the heat pump.
- You can switch between cooling and heating directly from the thermostat, putting you in complete control.
- Quality installation (QI) is required. Please be sure your contractor is QI-certified. The rebate form is provided by the contractor.

Central Air Conditioner (CAC)

- If your air conditioner is more than 12 years old, replacing it with an ENERGY STAR-certified model could cut your cooling cost by 30%.
- QI is required. Please be sure your contractor is QI-certified. The rebate form is provided by the contractor.

CAC and ASHP Tune Up

- The best way to ensure efficient operation of your cooling system is by having a tune-up every two years.
- A tune-up by a service expert can improve your unit's efficiency by as much as 20%, extend its life and help protect our environment.

Ductless ASHP

- Use 60% less energy than standard home electric resistance-based heating systems, because they transfer instead of generate heat.
- Use sophisticated compressors and fans that can adjust speeds to save energy. You can cut cooling costs by 30% compared to conventional room air conditioners.

Electronically Commutated Motor (ECM) for your furnace

- ECMs help save energy and money by running at the best speed, opposed to traditional motors that always run at top speed.
- Furnaces equipped with an ECM have lower annual operating costs and can save you \$40 to \$300 per year depending on how you use the furnace fan.

Ground Source Heat Pump

- The most efficient residential heating and cooling system available today.
- Provide energy savings of 20-50%, which results in recouping your investment in only a few years.
- Heating efficiencies 50-70% higher than other heating systems and cooling efficiencies 20-40% higher than available air conditioners.



 #swceSERVICE

Master Electrician Joel Dulas having an active start with Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric

Since late spring through summer, Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric has been keeping new Master Electrician Joel Dulas active serving our members since the retirement of Mark McDonald at the end of April this year.



Joel Dulas

"The water heater and heat pump programs have occupied a lot of time as well as a few underground faults," said Joel, who started with Steele-Waseca April 5. 25454

"I have done residential, commercial, industrial electrical construction, electrical maintenance in factories, and I have done several lighting upgrades," stated Dulas regarding his experience prior to coming to Steele-Waseca.

(Dulas continued on Page 3)

National Voter Registration Day

Tuesday, September 20



Visit www.vote.coop to ensure you're #voteready.



the power of human connections

sparks

Published monthly by
Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric
2411 W Bridge Street, PO Box 485
Owatonna MN 55060-0485

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Website: www.swce.coop
Email: info@swce.coop



Board of Directors

- PJ Duchene District 1
- Geraldine Lienke District 2
- Duane Edwardson, *Chaplain* District 3
- Dennis Ringhofer District 4
- Rodney Krell District 5
Secretary/Treasurer
- Gary Wilson District 6
President, GRE Director
- John Beal, *Vice President* District 7
- Ronald Sommers District 8
Acting Secretary/Treasurer
- Renee Malecha District 9

Management

Syd Briggs *General Manager*

Division Managers

- Kim Wilson *Member Services*
- Jon Stelter *Finance*
- Dan Meier *Operations*

Office Hours

8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Monday–Friday

Operations Office Hours

8:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Monday–Friday

For Customer Service, Billing Questions and Power Outages Phone:

507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514

Before calling to report an outage

1. Check fuses and circuit breakers in your home and on meter pole.
2. Check with your neighbors to see if they have power.
3. Look for possible causes such as a tree branch on wires, a broken pole, twisted wires, etc.

To leave a non-emergency message whenever SWCE's Office is closed:

Phone 507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514 and listen to the prompts. Please have your account number, phone number, and name on the account available.

Call **Before** You Dig
Gopher State One Call
811 or 800-252-1166

48-hour notice required for ALL underground cable locations

manager connection



By Syd Briggs,
General Manager

Some temptations are difficult to resist whether it's a desert, snack, shopping, social media, or other guilty pleasures.

Even though Minnesota laws have changed, while driving, we may hear that “ding” on our phone, alerting us to a text or call coming through, and we sometimes feel the urgent need to check it. We know we shouldn't do it, but rationalize the exception to waiting based on: being quick, we are on a long trip, someone might need something immediately, or simply because we have over confidence on being a good driver.

So why do we indulge in behavior we know to be wrong, dangerous, and in many states—like Minnesota—illegal? Call it hubris. According to AAA research, most people feel they are better-than-average drivers. After all, we have busy lives and are accustomed to multitasking. But mounds of research and thousands of deaths every year prove otherwise.

As a new school year is on the horizon, young drivers and school buses will be back on the road, and it serves as a good reminder of the dangers of distracted driving. In addition, it's a reminder to be watchful of road construction crews still working as weather allows.

The reality is that using a phone while driving creates enormous potential for injuries and fatalities. Distractions take a motorist's attention off driving, which can make a driver miss critical events, objects

Play it safe. That text can wait.



While driving, turn phone to silent mode or pull over if the text can't wait.

and cues, potentially leading to a crash. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, one of every 10 fatal crashes in the U.S., involves distracted driving, resulting in more than 3,000 deaths annually. The statistic is heartbreaking when you consider so many of those accidents could have easily been avoided.

Distracted driving is considered any activity that diverts a motorist's attention, including texting or talking on the phone, and adjusting the navigation or entertainment system. Texting is by far one of the most dangerous distractions. Sending or reading one text takes your eyes off the road for an average of five seconds. At 55 mph, that's like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed.

In addition to refraining from texting while driving, we can help keep the roads safe by moving over for first responders and other emergency vehicles. Additionally, if you see utility crews conducting work near the roadside, I'd encourage you to move over when possible and give them extra space to perform their work safely. 1060788

At Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric, safety is foremost in everything we do—for our employees and our members. We routinely remind our crews of the dangers of distracted driving, and we hope you'll have similar conversations with your teens who may be new to the roadways, and are especially susceptible to the lure of technology.

Let's work together to keep everyone safe on the roads. Remember: that text can wait and waiting just may save a life.



Utility employees must often work on roadsides. Keep them safe. Don't be a distracted driver.

#swceTRUST

Electric system resilient during sweltering heat

Courtesy: Great River Energy (GRE)

This summer's hot weather has led to Minnesotans scrambling for shade and seeking refuge in the air conditioning—but the electric grid has performed as expected, even when demand for electricity approached record levels.

"We were staffed up and monitoring the situation closely, but the transmission network overall held up quite well," said Mark Peterson, system operations manager for Great River Energy.

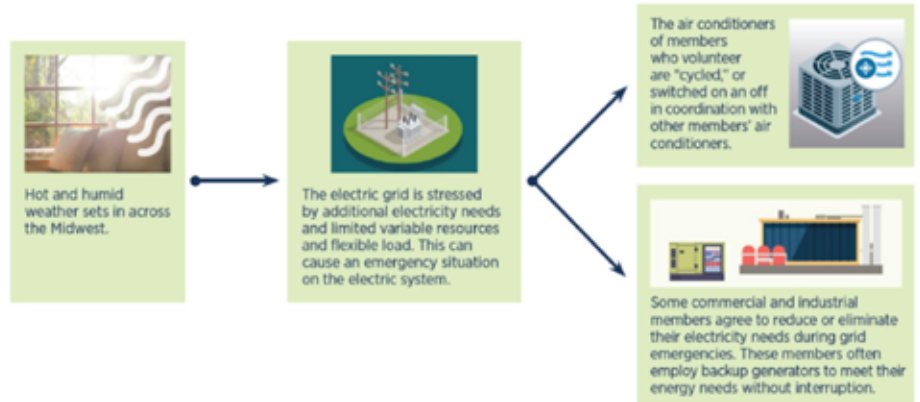
GRE provides wholesale electricity to 28 member-owner cooperatives in Minnesota, including Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric. Those cooperatives collectively serve over half of the state's geographic area.

The Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) implemented conservative operations on June 15 in anticipation of a prolonged heatwave; however, it did not enact any emergency measures to maintain system reliability.

According to GRE Market Strategy Director Greg Padden, the cooperative's power supply resources had a solid week as well. Wind resources were very strong June 19-21, which helped

REDUCING ELECTRICITY USE

When the grid is stressed, Great River Energy works with its member-owner cooperatives to methodically manage electric use so members have reliable electricity while contributing to a healthy and stable electric grid. This type of controlled reduction of electricity use is known as "demand response" or a "virtual power plant."



keep market prices moderate in our region despite the heat.

"As the wind tapered off midweek, we began to see our peaking stations dispatched more frequently," said Padden. "Last week demonstrated our power supply strategy in action. Wind resources provided low-cost energy much of the time, but our natural gas peaking plants were ready to ensure reliability

for the grid and provide energy hedges for our member-owners as market prices escalated."

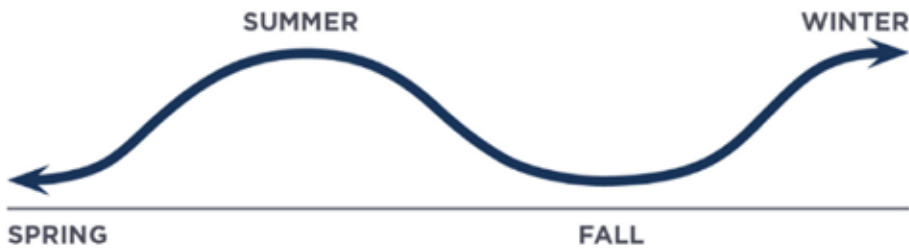
Great River Energy also relies on member-owner demand response programs to manage costs and reduce demand for electricity.

GRE Member Services Manager Jeff Haase said demand response activity began picking up around June 14 as heat and humidity crept into the Midwest. Great River Energy dispatched demand response programs several times after that date, culminating on June 20 when the cooperative performed full load control. This included calling on interruptible commercial, industrial, and agricultural program participants that either curtail or utilize generators to reduce demand.

"Having control over a portion of electric demand is extremely valuable to our membership," said Haase.

#swceSERVICE

SEASONAL CHANGES



Electricity use fluctuates throughout the year. It elevates in the summer for cooling homes and businesses. In the winter, power use increases again due to lighting and heating demands.

(Dulas continued from Page 1)

Originally from Medford, Joel graduated from Medford High School in 1996. His electrical training was conducted at Dunwoody Institute in Minneapolis, where he earned an Associate of Applied Science degree (A.A.S.) in electrical construction and maintenance in 1998. After completing his electrical apprenticeship hours, Joel tested to earn his Journeyworker's license, then tested to earn his Master's license.

Dulas' interest in Steele-Waseca has come from knowing several

Steele-Waseca employees and how they have talked highly of the co-op. He has found his fellow Steele-Waseca employees "very welcoming," and the members "have been very good to work with" as well. Joel noted he has been meeting with members to give them estimates on small projects they are wanting to have completed. 32778

Joel and his wife, Rhynda, "have three active and fun boys," who are going into grades 6, 8, and 10 respectively.

"Outside of work, I enjoy keeping up with my family doing football, basket-

ball, music, and just enjoying having the family around," said Joel. "I am one of the township supervisors for Deerfield Township in Steele County, on the Owatonna Basketball Association board." Adding, "When I'm not gone from home, I can be found at our hobby farm west of Medford where we raise a few beef and hogs."

Steele-Waseca is proud to have Joel in the co-op's family of employees and introduce him to the membership. [swce](#)

#swceTRUST

cookin' connection

Energy Bars

Joyce Cordes

Faribault

1/4 c. brown sugar, packed
1/2 c. honey
1/2 c. peanut butter
5 c. puffed rice cereal
1 c. raisins, nuts, coconut, etc. (optional)

Mix brown sugar, honey, and peanut butter together. Heat in microwave for 1 minute. Stir, then heat 1 minute more, and stir. Add cereal and any optional ingredients. Press firmly into square pan. Cut when cool. Wrap in plastic wrap to take and go. Joyce wrote, "Much better than boughten."

Please use a 3 x 5 card when submitting your recipe. The member whose recipe is published will receive a \$7 energy credit.



Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's solar subscribers will see a 53 kWh credit per panel on this month's statement for energy generated during July 2022. Learn more about community solar and The Sunna Project by visiting Steele-Waseca's website, swce.coop. #swceINNOVATION

Was your account number in Sparks?

Each month five account numbers are printed in *Sparks* and a total of \$35 in energy credits is divided among however many of those numbers are found. For example, if all numbers are found, a credit of \$7 will be applied to the members' following month's electric bills; or, if only one number is found, that member receives the full \$35 credit. Members finding their numbers who have a load management receiver on their dual fuel, electric water heater, air conditioner, or genset will receive an additional \$7 credit. When you find your number, phone our office no later than the 7th of the month following receipt of the *Sparks*, or the amount will be forfeited.

August issue of Sparks



Numbers found:

Eric/Karlynn Crafton

Numbers not found:

Douglas Lysne
Kathleen Wrede
Jennifer/Don Quast
Jesse Graber



Sparks in brief . . .

- **Want easy energy payments?** Sign up for **EnergyPay Plus**, our automatic payment plan, or **Energy Prepay**, our discounted advance payment plan. Contact our office for details. You may also pay your bill online at www.swce.coop. By entering your Steele-Waseca username and password you can also view a 13-month history of your account.

- **If you have changed or added phone numbers**, please contact SWCE to update your contact information.

- **Need a new water heater?** For information about our Westinghouse Electric Water Heater Program, phone Cindy Butterfield at our office between 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., 446-4204 / 800-526-3514.

- **July temps** – The average high temperature for July was 82° F, while the average low was 62° F. This resulted in 226 Cooling Degree Days (CDDs), and 4 Heating Degree Days (HDDs). They compare to last year's average high of 81° F and average low of 61° F. This resulted in 188.5 CDDs and 8.5 HDDs.

- **ENERGY STAR® Rebates** – In 2022, all ENERGY STAR refrigerators/freezers (with recycling), electric clothes dryers, dehumidifiers, central air conditioners, air and ground source heat pumps, light emitting diode (LED) bulbs purchased (limit 5) are eligible to receive rebates (may not be combined with special promotions). Rebate request forms must be submitted within 90 days of purchase. Rebate forms are available at www.swce.coop. For more information or to receive a rebate request form, phone Cindy Butterfield at 446-4204 or 800-526-3514.

- **Steele-Waseca's tree service contractor** – Carr's Tree Service, Inc., is contracted to do SWCE's tree trimming. To report a tree concern, phone:

507-451-7340 / 800-526-3514

STEELE COUNTY TIP LINE

866-878-7964

TO BE USED TO REPORT ANY CRIME OR SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY ANONYMOUSLY

COVERS ALL OF STEELE COUNTY INCLUDING THE CITIES OF:

OWATONNA ELLENDALE
BLOOMING PRAIRIE MEDFORD

5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Always call 8-1-1 first, because you never know what's below. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:

Source: call811.com

1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start.



2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.



5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project.



Gopher State One Call

Whether it's simple like planting a tree, or installing a mailbox, contacting Gopher State One Call (GSOC) before starting your project may allow you to avoid costly damages to underground facilities. GSOC is not responsible for contacting locators to paint or flag your private facilities. Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric also doesn't locate private underground facilities that are the homeowner's responsibility. Private underground facilities usually include any that serve outbuildings, hot tubs, security lighting, pools, and natural gas grills. Other private facilities include natural gas farm taps, private water systems, data communication lines, and invisible fences. The contact information for a number of locating companies who will locate privately owned underground facilities on your property can be found in the industry directory at www.gopherstateonecall.org/homeowners, then click on "Private Utility Locators." This list is by no means an exhaustive list or a list of locators recommended by GSOC. For additional locators, consult a search engine, like Google, or refer to the Yellow Pages under "Utilities Underground - Locating." Remember, private locators will charge a fee for their services. No one should ever remove flags before work is completed for the safety of all digging in the area. If you come in contact with an underground utility, evacuate the area, call 911, then notify your utility provider. 1017683

#swceCOOPERATION

PLUG INTO SAFETY



Even when disconnected from the home, solar panels can still generate electricity and cause electric shock. Stay safe. Keep a 10-foot distance from all solar panels.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



An easy way to save energy is to seal air leaks and holes where plumbing pipes run through walls in your home. You can also check wall-mounted cabinets for plumbing holes or air gaps in the back.

Fill any holes or gaps with spray foam. Wear protective gloves and use a damp rag for cleanup.

Source: Dept. of Energy



#swceSERVICE

ad connection

give away

WILDGAME INNOVATIONS TRIPOD GAME FEEDER w/30-gal. polypro barrel. 612-247-5346.

FIREWOOD, you cut & haul, walnut, elm, ash, pine, mature trees, thick branches, nice logs, south of Owat. Email: RiaCate@yahoo.com.

FIELD ROCK. 334-7756 or 581-3901.

FREE ONLINE CLASSIFIEDS, you place & remove your own ad on SWCE's website, swce.coop, these are separate from Sparks & will not appear in Sparks unless mailed, delivered, or emailed to SWCE.

wanted

CHICKEN COOP, BROODER HOUSE, SHED, OR OLD FARM BUILDING to be moved and repurposed as a chicken coop. 676-1766.

USED BURNING BARREL; 8-10 LIVE LAYING HENS. 456-2148.

FORD SKID STEER, diesel. 330-1849.

GUNS; AMMO; JD MOWERS; TACKLE; ESTATES. 279-0431/Mark.

PAINTING JOBS: houses, garages, barns, & all out-buildings. 308-8556.

USED/WASTE OIL, 200-gal. min. 420-7429 to schedule a pickup of your oil w/Quentin.

UNWANTED BIKES & LAWN MOWERS, \$ paid on delivered. 330-3178.

BARN, GRANARY, &/OR OUTBUILDINGS, I remove to re-purpose the lumber; **OLD TIN; BARN SIDING OR LUMBER**. 330-0258/Tim.

for sale

YAMAHA ROYAL STAR VENTURE, 5000 mi., \$9000/firm. 649-0857.

FOR-MOST MODEL A-25 HEADGATE, \$750. 612-423-4500.

SHINGLING & LIGHT CONSTRUCTION, TREE REMOVAL, free estimates. 456-0296.

REFRIGERATION CONDENSING UNIT, indoor coil Copeland 1.5 hp, \$1200. 414-403-3845.

ANTIQUE LAND O'LAKES MILK BOX w/Fbo on lettering; **(29) PRECIOUS MOMENTS FIGURINES**. 210-3782.

All area codes are 507 unless otherwise noted

REFRIGERATORS, \$100/ea. 210-6728/Dan/lv. msg.

LAWN MOWER LIFT, 350 lbs, raises to 16-20", \$50. 744-5133.

BEACHFRONT VACATION CONDOS FOR RENT in Fort Myers Beach, South Padre Island & Mexico, visit www.sandysbeachfrontcondo.com for details & photos. 612-865-9604/Sandy.

(2) TIRES for Model T Ford; **GRAIN CLEANER; 2-PERSON PEDAL CAR; OLD CREAM SEPARATOR**. 451-5172.

CRAFTSMAN RADIAL ARM DRILL PRESS w/accessories; **JET LATHE**, BD-920N, w/accessories; **TONKA TOYS**. 645-4614.

MOBILITY SCOOTER, 400-lb weight cap., swivel seat, height-adjust. headrest, flip-up armrests, front basket, rear view mirror, LED headlight, rear lights, & signals, orig. owner, exc. cond., \$2500. 219-0071.

CLIMATE CONTROLLED UNITS FOR RENT, 11'x9' to 16'x10'. 332-4623.

DUMP TRAILER AVAILABLE, we drop, you fill, we haul, 12'x6'x3', Fbo, Morristwn, Waterville area, \$200 + landfill fee. 838-5616.

(4) GENERAL GRABBER HTS60 TRUCK TIRES, size 275/60R20, like new, 10/32 (new depth 11/32), \$450 for set of (4). 612-250-6956.

SHIPPING CONTAINERS, 40' & 20' length, store your stuff in rodent-, insect-proof containers on your property. 612-418-4375.

REGISTERED ICELANDIC RAM LAMBS, \$400; **LAMB MEAT**, avail. late fall, Nfld, \$7/lb hanging. 651-230-4774.

1200-GAL. POLY WATER TANK, \$50; **WATER PUMP**, 230V, like new, \$75. 651-341-8370.

ORCO 70 RUG LOOM, excellent cond., \$700/obo. 380-5054.

MINI STORAGE UNITS FOR RENT, Ellendale. 456-1460.

PARTS FOR HORSE-DRAWN WAGON: 44" doubletree, \$35; 42" singletree, \$15. 334-2860.

2005 JEEP LIBERTY, repairable or parts, front-end accident, airbag deployed, engine 144K mi., starts/runs/moves, transmission has 5K mi., \$1500/firm. 663-0266.

WESTFIELD AUGER, 46'x8"; **E-Z MODEL 300 GRAVITY WAGONS; CASE PLOW**, 4-btm, var. width. 583-2026.

ALFALFA HAY, big sq.; **OATLAGE ROUND BALES**. 456-8639.

MINI STORAGE UNITS, Blmg Prairie. 456-2957.

1951 DODGE PICKUP, 28,000 mi., 4-spd on the floor, always shedded, gd cond. 456-3016.

FORTUNE CREEK TRL LOTS, covenant allows for a pole shed, starting at \$75,000. 838-5033/John.

GRAVEL TRUCK AVAILABLE FOR ALL YOUR DELIVERY NEEDS: rock, gravel, dirt, etc., 15.5-ton capacity. 456-7774.

GRAIN BIN, 14' diameter by 11' tall, gd roof & complete floor, perfect for a binzebo project, great shape. 330-3383.

SEASONED FIREWOOD, mostly oak, \$100 for standard pickup load (smaller quantities are also avail.). 323-1539.

GRASS HAY, 4'x5', net wrapped, nice hay, north of Fbo, \$70 a bale. 651-402-9818.

TREK 7.3, 24 spd, 700x35c, \$200; **HARO FREE-STYLE**, \$100; **TREK 3700**, 21 spd, F.S. Fork, \$150; **TREK**, girls, 20x175, \$40. 330-3178.

TRANSFERRABLE BUILDING RIGHTS in Rice County, Webster Twsp. 612-919-4130 for details.

1978 SHELBY GOOSENECK HORSE TRAILER, 2-horse straight load, sm. living qtrs, water heater, cowboy shower, \$12,000. 456-0076.

RASPBERRY PLANTS, you dig them, \$1.50 per plant. 581-2301 or 663-1275.

HAND-QUILTED WALL HANGINGS, beautiful, assorted designs: cabin, wildlife, etc., \$30 & up. 334-6362.

50-HP 3-PHASE CONVERTER, works well, \$2500/obo. 390-5222.

(For Sale ads continued on Page 7)

travel

CIVIL WAR BATTLEGROUND, Sept. 19-28. Deluxe motor coach, historical battlegrounds, Civil War museums in Richmond, Va., & Appomattox, Lincoln's tomb, & more! \$1,699 pp w/2 per room.

AUTUMN IN NEW ENGLAND, Oct. 6-15. Round trip Delta flights, Millenium Hotel in Times Sq., Broadway performance, 7-night cruise along eastern seaboard to Canada. \$3,599 pp w/2 per room.

MEMPHIS, NASHVILLE, & ST. LOUIS, Oct. 23-29. Depart from Albert Lea, 13 meals, city tours, Gateway Arch Riverboat & Tram Ride, Graceland, Grand Ole Opry, & more! \$1,699 pp w/2 per room.

Call 4-Seasons at 373-4705 or 373-2473, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, to learn more about their tour information.



TRUST OUR EXPERIENCE. LOVE YOUR VACATION.

Sparks Free Classified Ad Form for all SWCE Members

Ads need to be received in our office by **Sept. 2** to ensure being printed in the October Sparks. Please print neatly or type your ad of **20 words or less** on this form. We reserve the right to edit ad copy to allow space for more ads. Ads received after the 2nd will be printed in the November issue.

For Sale Wanted Give Away

Phone # _____ Account # _____

Name _____

Clip and mail to: SWCE, PO Box 485, Owatonna MN 55060-0485, deliver to the SWCE office, or email your ad to: sparks@swce.coop.

ad connection

(For Sale ads continued from Page 6)

RENTAL, Izaak Walton League Bldg., 4 mi. south of Owat., seats 100, full kitchen, grill, Wi-Fi, \$125. 451-7946.

HUTCHINSON AUGER, 8"x60"; **MAYRATH AUGER**, 8"x55". 475-2118.

2010 CAN-AM SPYDER, 23,000 mi., 5-spd elec. shift, all hand controlled. 391-2485/lv. msg.

WEATHERTECH FLOOR LINER for Ford Escape, fits 2013 to current model, blk, \$25. 612-247-5346.

20-GAL. FIMCO ELEC. (BATTERY) SPRAYER, never used, \$100; **OSTER SHEAR**, 110V, \$100. 744-4419.

GRASS HAY, sm. sq. bales by Waldorf. 327-3672.

METAL/STEEL LATHE, old, don't know if it works, \$3000/obo; **MOTORS**, a couple to be rebuilt. 456-7215.

BLUE OX AVENTA LX TOW BAR, Model BX7445, 10,000 lb, 2" receiver w/safety chain & wiring complete, like new, \$475. 456-1133.

TREE TRIMMING, REMOVAL, & STUMP GRIND., professional climber & aerial lift to U of M guidelines; **2007 FRONT CHROME BUMPER** for an F-650, like new. 456-1609.

13' DUCK BOAT, motor, trailer, (2) battery decoys, 2-bags decoys. 403-3660.

50-GAL. WATER HEATER; BOAT/RV STORAGE FOR RENT. 475-2322.

BLUE HEELER PUPS, need a gd home, 4 males, \$300. 696-1601.

OLD BARN HAY TROLLEY; ANTIQUE 1- & 2-MAN LOGGING SAWS; ALUM. BED TOOLBOX off '94 Ranger. 446-8866.

ANTIQUES: 3/4 bedframe, wooden high chair, caned wooden rocker, wooden folding chair, & climber deer stand, best offer for each. 456-7757.

STORM DOOR, 79.5x34; **OLD TIN**. 334-7756 or 581-3901.

BARGE BOX w/hoist; **GEHL STALK CHOPPER; BALE ELEVATOR** on wheels; **METAL TIN** off Morton shed. 210-2048.

HAY, sm. sq. bales, mixed grass & alfalfa, \$4/bale. 461-6102.

JD REAR COMBINE TIRE & RIM, 16.9x26, 8-bolt, \$50; **RED DEVIL 664 SNOWBLOWER**, 8', 540 PTO, 3-point twin auger, \$1900. 456-1629.

FLARE BOX, hyd. lift, 2x8 treated extensions, exc. cond., \$575; **FLUORESCENT SHOP LIGHTS** w/ bulbs, \$5/each or \$25 for all; **50-GAL. BURN BARRELS**, \$15/each. 455-3881.

JD SWATHER, 10' head, gd cond., shedded; **6-CYL. GAS ENGINE**. 210-4275.

PLUMBING TOOLS & INVENTORY due to plumber retirement. 952-652-2933.

ANTIQUÉ BEDROOM SET: spoon-carved bed frame, armoire, washstand, table, dark finish, \$100/each or \$300 for all. 451-2876/leave message.

MISC. WELDING SUPPLIES. 210-3782.

LARGE ROUND GRASS/ALFALFA BALES, 6'x6', no rain, \$70. 339-0763.

1938 FORD PICKUP, ready to cruise, customized, professionally done, in primer, choose your color, \$27,900. 327-2741.

USED TRACTOR TIRES, 14.9-36 & 12.4-36; **ALF/GRASS HAY**, big sq. 456-3084.

BARNYARD CHICKS; GUINEA KEETS; PYGMY NANNY GOATS. 475-1468.

TILT TRAILER, 6.5x10', 15" tires, 3000-lb axle, stake pockets w/sides. 952-212-6975.

WINTER STORAGE: boats, sm. campers, NW of New Richland. 521-1414.

Ads need to be received in the Steele-Waseca office by Friday, Sept. 2, to ensure being published in the October 2022 Sparks newsletter.

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric (SWCE) assumes no liability for the content of, or reply to, any item posted. The party posting any advertisement assumes complete liability for the content of, and all replies to, any advertisement and for any claims against SWCE as a result thereof, and agrees to indemnify and hold SWCE harmless from all costs, expenses, liabilities and damages resulting from, or caused by, any advertisement or reply thereto.

Suds and savings: 10 ways to save energy in the laundry room

by Abby Berry, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA)

Your clothes washer and dryer account for a significant portion of energy consumption from major appliances, and let's face it—laundry is no one's favorite chore. Make the most of your laundry energy use!

There are several easy ways you can save energy (and money) in the laundry room. The Department of Energy recommends the following tips for saving on suds:

1. Wash with cold water. Switching from warm water to cold water can cut one load's energy use by more than half, and by using a cold-water detergent, you can still achieve that brilliant clean you'd normally get from washing in warm water.

2. Wash full loads when possible. Your washing machine will use the same amount of energy no matter the size of the clothes load, so fill it up if you can.

3. Use the high-speed or extended spin cycle in the washer. This setting will remove more moisture before drying, reducing your drying time and the extra wear on clothing.

4. Dry heavier cottons separately. Loads will dry faster and more evenly if you separate heavier cottons like linens and towels from your lightweight clothing.

5. Make use of the "cool down" cycle. If your dryer has this cycle option, you can save energy because the clothes will finish drying with the remaining heat in the dryer.

6. Use lower heat settings to dry clothing. Regardless of drying time, you'll still use less energy.

7. Use dryer balls. Dryer balls, usually wool or rubber, will help keep clothes separated for faster drying, and they can help reduce static, so you can eliminate dryer sheets.

8. Switch loads while the dryer is warm. This allows you to take advantage of the remaining heat from the previous cycle.

9. Clean the lint filter after each drying cycle. If you use dryer sheets, remember to scrub the filter once a month with a toothbrush to remove ex-



Switching from warm water to cold water can cut one load's energy use by more than half, and by using a cold-water detergent, you can still achieve that brilliant clean you'd normally get from washing in warm water. (Photo credit: Scott Van Osdol)

cess buildup.

10. Purchase Energy Star®-rated washers and dryers. When it's time to purchase a new washer or dryer, look for the Energy Star label. New washers and dryers that receive the Energy Star rating use about 20% less energy than conventional models. 1032537

To learn about additional ways you can save energy at home, visit Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's website, www.swce.coop, or the Department of Energy's home efficiency page, www.energy.gov/energysaver.

#swceSERVICE



Steele County Ducks Unlimited



50th ANNUAL FALL DUCK BASH

Thursday, September 29, 2022

Foundation Building @ The Steele County Fairgrounds

Single's Ticket \$ 50

Couple's Ticket \$ 70

Sponsor Membership Raffle* \$300

Sponsor Membership Raffle includes 1 entry into the Sponsor Gun Drawing and an invitation to the 2023 Sponsor Member's Dinner Banquet.

**No Monthly pay *No Online Sales *Check or Cash only*

Sponsor Couple \$320

Greenwings (Age 17 & under) \$ 20

Three ways to order your 2022 Steele County DU Fall Duck Bash tickets:

1. Purchase online tickets at www.mndu.org
2. Call 507-456-5046
3. Mail the completed bottom portion of this form with your payment to:

Steele County Ducks Unlimited
PO Box 226
Owatonna, MN 55060



Limited seating is available, so **register early!!!** (pre-registrations are given preference)

Benny Boy's BBQ will be catering the event and 2 FREE kegs of beer will be provided courtesy of Steele Co. DU Committee

Please Note: Due to Gambling Board Regulations, raffles are Cash or Check only; No Duck Bucks & No IOUs

✂ Please complete the order form below, detach it at the dotted line and return it to address above. ✂

PLEASE PRINT PHONE NUMBER(S) NECESSARY FOR MEMBERSHIP TRACKING

Qty. _____ GREENWING BANQUET TICKET(S) @ \$20	\$ _____	
Qty. _____ SINGLE ADULT BANQUET TICKET(S) @ \$50	\$ _____	
Qty. _____ COUPLE ADULT BANQUET TICKET(S) @ \$70	\$ _____	
Qty. _____ SPONSOR MEMBERSHIP RAFFLE TICKET(S) @ \$300 (Cash or Check only)	\$ _____	
Qty. _____ SPONSOR COUPLE BANQUET TICKET(S) @ \$320 (Cash or Check only)	\$ _____	
_____ SORRY, I CANNOT ATTEND, \$35 SINGLE MEMBERSHIP	\$ _____	
_____ SORRY, I CANNOT ATTEND, \$300 SPONSOR MEMBERSHIP RAFFLE (Cash or Check Only)	\$ _____	

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____ (MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO DUCKS UNLIMITED)

CREDIT CARD for Greenwing and Regular memberships ONLY: VISA MC AMEX DISCOVER (CIRCLE ONE)

CARD # _____ EXP DATE _____ / _____
Mo. Yr.

SIGNATURE _____

Name:	Address	Phone: