

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Bedford REC

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Bedford, PA 15522

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Website: www.bedfordrec.com

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Attorney

James R. Cascio

Office Hours

Monday through Friday

7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

From the General Manager



Season's greetings

By Brooks Shoemaker

Season's Greetings from all of us at Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

Board of Directors: Don Hoenstine, Ronald Wilkins,
Paul Rummel Jr., Reuben Lafferty, Earl Garland,
Dale Sprigg II, Brian Hoover, John Oldham

Employees: Dave Allison, Corinna Browell,
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Brooks Shoemaker, Scott Shook, Mike Sleighter,
Becky Truax, Christie Weaverling, Cindy Wise,
Ryan Young

Nutcrackers mean Christmas at the Goad home

By Linda Williams

ANTHONY AND RENATE Goad met on a blind date in Stuttgart, Germany. Anthony, known as Tony, was in the Army, and a friend of Renate's wanted her to meet the American soldier.

The friend convinced Renate to go on a blind date. But, when the time came, Renate wasn't so sure she wanted to follow through, so she stood Tony up. In fact, she did that three times. Tony must have thought she was worth the wait because he kept coming back, hoping for the promised date. Once they did go out, things clicked and a short time later, the two were married.

"We were married twice," Renate says. "The first time at the courthouse,



INTERTWINED LIVES: The German and American flags, representing the birthplaces of Renate and Tony Goad, make up the background for this display.

and the second time in the military chapel."

It wasn't easy for the young woman to leave her family, her country and the only life she had ever known. Stuttgart is a city about the size of Philadelphia, and she was moving to Manns Choice, Pa.

"My family wasn't too happy with me," she remembers. "But, I had to follow my heart."

Renate says Tony's family made it easy for her.

"His mother and sister were absolute sweethearts," she remembers. "They made me feel welcome right from the start."

Some years later Tony, Renate



and their two sons, Steve and Scott, moved into their newly built home on Business Route 220 about three miles south of Bedford Springs.

Their home has always been one of the first in the neighborhood decorated for Christmas. Christmas is a big holiday in Germany with lots of traditions, and Renate was happy to bring those traditions to the U.S.

"I missed Christmas at home," she

ON DISPLAY: Anthony "Tony" and Renate Goad show a small part of their nutcracker display that decorates their living room each Christmas.

says. "I still get teary-eyed when I hear 'Silent Night.'"

Over the years, the Goads have made many trips back to Germany and they still try to go annually. All of Renate's family is gone with the exception of her younger sister.



ALL SIZES: The Goads' collection includes this array of medium-sized nutcrackers, but they also have tiny ones and large ones.



FROM GERMANY: Two of the couple's larger nutcrackers are made by German artists.

"We weren't close when I left, but we are now," she says.

While the outside of the Goad home is always a holiday attraction, the inside is a Christmas delight. There are two trees, always a real one and an artificial one. The artificial one is covered with snow and red cardinals. The other tree, hand-selected in Breezewood, is decorated with many craft items, including some from Germany.

Tony and Renate enjoy attending Christkindl fairs, especially one in Mifflinburg. Some time during their travels, the Goads fell in love with authentic German nutcrackers. While they can't remember when the collection began, they do remember the first two they purchased. They are large, probably about 36 inches, and expertly crafted.

Their nutcracker collection quickly grew, expanding to more than 300. Most of the year, the nutcrackers are stored in their original, individual boxes but come late November, just like in the musical, the nutcrackers come to life. Beautifully handcrafted wooden creations nearly fill the dining/living space of the Goad home.

Artists' names include Steinbach and Ulbricht, both well-known German nutcracker artisans, and they own a snowman nutcracker by Kathe Wohlfahrt. Steinbach nutcrackers are made in Hohenhamein, Germany.

"The German nutcrackers have much better workmanship," Renate explains.

At the Goad house, there are tiny nutcrackers that line the windowsill, medium-sized ones that fill the hutch and shelves, and large ones that stand on the floor. It is a Christmas scene to equal a museum display.

Originally, nutcrack-

ers were designed with a particular person, such as a policeman, teacher or politician, in mind. Ulbricht nutcrackers have their origin with miners.



BRINGING A SMILE: These little nutcrackers are as happy as can be, and they provide smiles for their owners, Tony and Renate Goad, as well as visitors to their home.

Many years ago, when the mines began to close in Germany, many of the miners became woodcarvers. Among them, Otto Ulbricht rose to the top with nutcracker creations.

While Renate and Tony keep telling themselves they have plenty of nutcrackers, each year they find themselves adding at least one more to their collection. And each year, they look forward to bringing the boxes up from the basement and feel just a bit sad when each nutcracker is placed in its individual box for storage the rest of the year. 🌟



INTRICATE WORK: The small, intricate nutcrackers contribute to making Christmas merry at the Goad home.

NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative will be awarding four scholarships of \$1,000 each to non-traditional students whose primary residence is served by Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative.

For an application, go to our website at bedfordrec.com and click on **scholarship information**. Applications are also available at the office.

All applications and required information must be received no later than March 1, 2020.

Mail application to:
Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative
P. O. Box 335
Bedford, PA 15522

DONATIONS FOR LOCAL FOOD BANKS

Bedford Rural Electric directors and employees are asking the members to join in and make donation to the area food banks. Those wishing to donate items should bring them to the Bedford Rural Electric office on Lincoln Highway between now and Dec. 16, 2019.



Items needed include: canned goods, paper products, soap and other hygiene-related items, food products such as noodles, cake mixes, spaghetti, or boxed foods of any kind. The items will be donated to local food banks throughout the county.

Your help and kindness will be appreciated during this holiday season.

Anyone making a donation will have their name entered for a \$50 gift certificate toward their electric bill.

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative will be awarding four scholarships of \$1,000 each to seniors whose parents' or guardians' primary residence is served by Bedford Rural Electric.

For an application, go to our website at bedfordrec.com and click on **scholarship information**. Applications are also available at the office.

All applications and required information must be received no later than March 1, 2020.

Mail application to:
Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative
P. O. Box 335
Bedford, PA 15522

Bedford REC will be closed on
 Wednesday, Dec. 25, for Christmas
 and Wednesday, Jan. 1, for New Year's Day

OUTAGE REPORTING

In case of an outage...

- 1** Check your fuses or circuit breakers.
- 2** Check with your neighbors, if convenient, to see if they have been affected by the power failure.
- 3** Call the 24-hour number, 623-7568, OR call 800-808-2732* during office hours.

*(Please help us save money – only use this number if toll charges apply.)

Please give the person receiving the call your name as it appears on your bill, your telephone number and your map number if known. Any specific information about the outage will also be helpful in pinpointing the problem.

To report an outage call:
(814) 623-7568

During widespread power outages, many members are calling to report power failures. You may receive a busy signal, or in certain cases your call may go unanswered. This occurs in after-hours outages when the office is not fully staffed. Please be patient, and try again in a few minutes.