

# Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

**Bedford REC**

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**Office Hours**

Monday through Friday  
7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

## From the General Manager



### Don't wait; be prepared before the storm

By Brooks Shoemaker

IT'S YOUR worst-case scenario. A major storm was predicted and this time, the predictions were right. Many power lines are down, and your electricity may be out for several days. You are low on everything — food, pet supplies, toilet paper, batteries, diapers and your medication.

Imagine how you would feel in this situation. While you can't predict which weather forecast will come true, you can plan ahead so when a severe weather event strikes, you have the tools and resources to effectively weather the storm. The Department of Homeland Security offers several resources to help you prepare for major weather events and natural disasters. Visit [ready.gov/make-a-plan](http://ready.gov/make-a-plan) for more information.

#### Preparedness actions and items

- ▶ Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of non-perishable food, such as canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials (i.e., diapers and toiletries).
- ▶ Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies including towelettes, soap, and hand sanitizer.
- ▶ Ensure your first-aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages, and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.
- ▶ Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener, and a portable, battery-powered radio or TV.

- ▶ Organize emergency supplies so they are together in an easily accessible location.

#### With advance warning

If a severe storm is expected with high winds and sustained rain, you may need to take extra steps to safeguard your home. Shutter windows and securely close exterior doors. Fully charge all cellphones, laptops and devices so you have maximum power in the event of a power outage. If you plan to use a small generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

#### During a prolonged outage

In the event of an outage, turn off appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from a power surge, and will also help prevent overloading the circuits during power restoration. That said, do leave one light on so you will know when power is restored. If utilizing a small household generator, consider using LED holiday lights to illuminate a living area. A strand of 100 white lights draws little energy yet produces considerable light. Solar lights also work, if they can receive some sunlight during the day for charging.

During thunderstorms, the American Red Cross recommends avoiding electrical equipment and land-based telephones. Use battery-powered TVs and radios instead. Keep away from windows. Listen to local news or

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# Shawnee lectures get full house on Sunday evenings

By Linda Williams

EVERY Sunday evening from Mother's Day through the second week in September, a crowd thirsty for knowledge gathers at Shawnee State Park. They come to hear Ron Barlick, a Shawnee State Park ranger, give lectures on almost any subject from hummingbirds to earthquakes.

Barlick, a resident of the New Enterprise area, grew up in Cambria County and became a science teacher at Hollidaysburg Junior High School. At about the same time he was hired to teach, he took the civil service exam and landed a part-time job providing learning activities to campers at state parks.

It was a win-win situation to work at the parks full time in the summer and at school full time in the winter. He had only a few overlapping weekends. After 36 years of teaching, he retired from his full-time job, but kept his park ranger responsibilities. As the years continue to swiftly pass, he finds himself somewhat reluctantly thinking of retiring completely.



**SUMMER TEACHER:** Park Ranger Ron Barlick teaches in a classroom at Shawnee State Park.

At first, during the early years, he taught around the campsites.

"Things were different then," Barlick says. "There were a lot of campers, and they didn't have so many outside ways to learn about different things. We also sometimes showed movies. But, the numbers began to drop, and I started to think we needed to offer programs to outsiders."

So about a dozen years ago, he began offering lectures on Sunday evenings for campers and anyone interested in the topic of the week.

While his Sunday night classes now attract a few campers, the majority of attendees are from all over Bedford County. Some come to every program and have for years. Others will pick just the subjects they like and attend those sessions. Whichever category they fit in, Barlick welcomes them and guarantees an evening of serious learn-

**EARLY WEAPON:** Park Ranger Ron Barlick shows a weapon similar to what might have been used by the early Native Americans of this area. A shaped stone would have formed the arrow point.

ing with a bit of drama and laughter added for spice.

In 2019, the programs kicked off with a lecture and slide show on Historic Forbes Road Journey through Bedford County. The next week, the topic was hummingbirds.

A program on the covered bridges of Bedford County packed the house. Barlick brought in more chairs; some children sat on the floor and other attendees brought in lawn chairs from their vehicles. The lively discussion and slide show included several visitors from the committee that worked to save the covered bridges of Bedford County. Barlick says he enjoys it when experts on the subjects he is teaching show up.

“I can always learn more and present it the next time with even more knowledge,” he says.

Attendees at a lecture on the tools and weapons of the Shawnee Valley Native Americans learned that while arrowheads have always been a popular find, other stones having many uses in earlier times may also still be found today. Native Americans often took an ordinary rock or stone and made it into a weapon, a scraper, or a cooking tool. There is a large display of such finds from the Shawnee State Park area at the park office. During his presentations, Barlick illustrates how these finds might have been used by early residents of the area.

Each year, he offers an evening of building bluebird boxes. It’s a fun project for individuals or families. Material for the first box is provided with a slight charge for the second.

Right on schedule with the latest California earthquakes was the program, “Of Lost Continents, Tectonic Upheavals & Geologic Eras.” Those attending left assured no matter what,



there will always be earth changes and earthquakes.

Those with arachnophobia probably skipped the program on spiders, but it provided the full house with information on dozens of different species of spiders. Spiders, we learned, can travel across the country and even those not native to the area can survive with other Pennsylvanians for a time.

While the popularity of the Sunday evening programs has grown, Barlick says they also offer programs for campers that are more family-oriented. And because the hot, muggy days of summer can detract from learning capabilities, the programs are often offered in the park office.

Barlick is also involved in outdoor programming service. Rangers with specific training are those who keep order, issue fines and in general oversee park maintenance. The park also employs maintenance workers who cut trees, keep the paths in good shape, and keep the restrooms and camping area clean and litter-free.

“We get a lot of compliments on the cleanliness of our facilities,” Barlick says.

This year marked the seventh year for fireworks at the park to celebrate

**HOUSEBUILDING:** Park Ranger Ron Barlick oversees a birdhouse-building class. It is a very popular class each year.

July 4. The fireworks display is held the last Saturday before July 4. The continuance of the fireworks display will depend on fundraising efforts.

Will Barlick be back with more programs next year? He says he is now working on a year-to-year basis, so check with the park office next spring to learn more about the 2020 season. 🌞



**BLUEBIRD HOUSES:** Participants in one of Park Ranger Ron Barlick’s classes work on their bluebird boxes.



**A HOUSE FOR EVERY BIRD:** Participants in the Shawnee State Park bluebird house-building class end up with a bluebird box. Materials for the first box are provided as part of the class.

**From the General Manager**

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NOAA Weather Radio for emergency updates, or check Bedford Rural Electric's Facebook page or website for restoration updates.

After the storm, avoid downed power lines and walking through flooded areas where power lines could be submerged. Allow ample room for utility crews to safely perform their jobs — including on your property.

**Power in planning**

Advance planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and can lessen the impact of the storm's effects. Sign up for NOAA emergency alerts and warnings and check Bedford Rural Electric's Facebook page or website to stay abreast of restoration efforts and other important co-op news and information. Act today, because there is power in planning.

**Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month**

Cookware Efficiency Tip: Copper-bottomed pans heat faster on the stove. In the oven, ceramic and glass dishes are better than metal. With ceramic and glass dishes, you can turn the oven down about 25 degrees, and your meal will cook just as quickly. 

**EMERGENCY POWER NEEDS**

As a service to our members, Bedford Rural Electric needs to be aware of situations where special needs exist. Please provide the following details: (Please print clearly)

**Account:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cellphone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Special Needs:**  **Medical**

**Farming/Livestock**

**Other** \_\_\_\_\_

Each year, our goal is to provide service with no outages. Unfortunately, that is not a realistic expectation. Outages do occur and during severe storms, service restoration may take several days or longer. Therefore, we strongly recommend our members with special needs install standby backup generation equipment. Please contact our office for more information on this type of equipment.

**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.*



**Be Ready Before a Storm Strikes**

Lights out? Store these items at home in case of an outage.

- Water**  
Three-day supply, one gallon per person per day.
- Tools**  
Flashlight and extra batteries, can opener, wind-up radio.
- Food**  
Three-day supply of non-perishable, high-energy food.
- First Aid, Medicine**  
First aid supplies, hand sanitizer, and at least a week's supply of medications for the family.
- Documents**  
Include copies of passports, birth certificates, and insurance policies.

**Learn more at [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov).**

*Source: American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency*