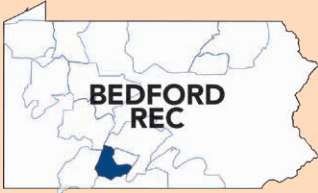


# Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives  
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

## **BEDFORD REC**

P.O. Box 335  
Bedford, PA 15522  
814-623-5101

Email: [support@bedfordrec.com](mailto:support@bedfordrec.com)  
Website: [www.bedfordrec.com](http://www.bedfordrec.com)

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **President & Allegheny Director**

**Ronald W. Wilkins**  
Napier and Harrison Twp.,  
New Paris, Manns Choice and  
Schellsburg Boroughs

### **Vice President & PREA Director**

**Donald E. Hoenstine**  
Kimmel and King Twp.

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Bedford and Cumberland Valley Twp.

### **Treasurer**

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Juniata Twp., Bedford County, and  
Allegheny Twp., New Baltimore Borough,  
Somerset County

### **Assistant Secretary**

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East Providence Twp., Bedford County,  
and Brush Creek Twp., Fulton County

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**Troy A. Mickle**  
East St. Clair Twp., Bedford County

**Travis L. Wigfield**  
Colerain, Snake Spring and  
South Woodbury Twp.

**Attorney**  
**James R. Cascio**

**OFFICE HOURS**  
Monday through Friday  
7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

## The Electric Shift



**IF YOU LOOK AROUND YOUR HOME**, you probably have more devices and equipment that require electricity than ever before. Our connected lives are increasingly dependent on more electricity to function. At the same time, as demand for electricity rises, we must deliver an uninterrupted 24/7 power supply — regardless of market conditions or other circumstances.

As you would expect, electricity consumption fluctuates throughout the day, based on your family's habits. We must be able to provide enough electricity to meet the energy needs of all members during times of highest energy use, or "peak hours." In fact, some of our future power costs are dependent upon our energy appetite during hot, humid summer afternoons.

What you may not know is our cooperative typically pays more for electricity during these afternoon "energy rush hours." Here's an easy way to think about it, and it's similar to a major concert or a major sporting event. We know costs go up when there is strong demand for tickets (or electricity), and both are subject to the basic economic laws of supply and demand. When a lot of people want the same thing, it's more expensive. When they don't, it's cheaper — like a bargain matinee or an "early-bird" special at a restaurant.

During the summer, between the hours of 1 and 6 p.m. on hot, humid days, you may hear our advertisements on local television and radio stations asking you to do the "Electric Shift." Very simply, during those hours, we encourage you to take simple steps to save energy by shifting any unnecessary energy consumption outside of those five hours.

What can you do to help keep our costs down?

- ▶ Set air conditioners to 78 degrees or use fans instead;
- ▶ Close curtains and blinds;
- ▶ Operate washers, dryers, dishwashers, stove and other major appliances before 1 p.m. or after 6 p.m.;
- ▶ Minimize the number of times you open your refrigerator and freezer;
- ▶ Cook on the grill or use the microwave;
- ▶ Turn off non-essential lights; and
- ▶ Run pool pumps at night.

## We are prepared for summer storms

Summer is here, school is out, and families are gearing up for a few months of fun and relaxation. While summer brings much fun in the sun, it can also bring the occasional severe storm. In the event of a power outage, you can trust that Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative is ready to respond.

Trees and branches falling on power lines caused by wind and lightning are the major causes of summer-storm-related power outages. We work year round — clearing and maintaining rights of way — to ensure power lines are clear of dangerous trees, branches and other types of vegetation.

Unfortunately, despite our best efforts, storms damage our substations and other electric distribution lines and equipment. When this happens, our first priority is to safely restore power to as many members as possible in the shortest amount of time.

*Continued on page 18D*

# Bedford County Native Featured in Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art

LINDA WILLIAMS

**MICHAEL MORGART REMEMBERS SEVERAL LOCAL** articles written about him as his duck/bird carving vocation began in the early 1980s.

The son of Patricia and the late Larry Morgart, Michael and his wife, Laurie, spend about half of their time in a remote area of Bedford County and the other half on an island in the Chesapeake.

His beautiful carvings will be part of an exhibit at the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art in Bedford from May 26 to Aug. 13. It will feature works by Morgart and from the Lincoln Highway Heritage Corridor.

In 1983, Michael — a new geologist with Technical Drilling in Oklahoma — found himself with time on his hands and picked up on a hobby he had begun as a teenager.

His father, Larry, was an outdoorsman and furniture maker, and his mother encouraged her children to explore and enjoy the arts. This perfect combination created a

woodcarving artist.

“We played outside all the time,” Michael remembers. “We only got two channels on television, so there was not much else to do.”

Michael observed all of nature and eventually wanted to put it in art forms. He initially focused on flat art, painting, and photography, but eventually carved soapstone and wood.

Family vacations took the Morgarts to Delmarva’s Eastern Shore, and Michael was fascinated with the environment of marshes and shorelines. It was there he discovered the art of bird carving. His first carvings were used for duck hunting and later, his more elaborate decorative pieces were admired but “never hunted over.”

Michael remembers his first attempt in 1982 was a Father’s Day gift for his dad.

“It looked awful,” he says with a laugh, “but soon I made another and another until bird carving became the art form



**NATURE ART:** Hand-carved herons of the Eastern Shore by Michael Morgart include a little blue heron, a green heron and a great blue heron.



I chose to combine with my love of nature and artistic skill.”

After college, he became a geologist in the field of environmental protection, a career he loved. Bird watching became a part of his life and added inspiration for his art form of carvings.

Now retired, Michael can devote even more time to his fascinating hobby. Along life’s pathway, he discovered wildfowl carving competitions and has entered them regularly over the past decade.

“Such competitions introduced me to people from across the country with similar interests,” he says. “These folks have been willing to share their knowledge and skills with folks like me.”

Competing has taught him a lot, and he has won scores of ribbons, rosettes, plaques, and certificates, including a number of Best of Show awards and Third Best of Division for the Shorebird Category at the Ward World Championship.

Michael’s work has appeared at the Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art in Salisbury, Md.; the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art in Ligonier; The Ward Museum Journal; *Wildfowl Carving Magazine*; The Ward World Championship in Ocean City, Md.; Ohio Decoy Carvers and Collectors Association Wildlife Art Show in Cleveland, Ohio; The

Pymatuning Waterfowl Festival in Linesville; the Chesapeake Challenge in Salisbury, Md.; the Fall Foliage Festival in Bedford; various shops in southwestern Pennsylvania from Bedford to Pittsburgh; and in private collections throughout the United States.

Now he can add the Bedford Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art to his list. The show featuring Michael and Route 30 will run through the summer. He will be doing a demonstration on June 23 from 6 to 8 p.m. at 137 E. Pitt Street, Bedford. 📍



**SHORE BIRD:** A sculpture of a curlew, carved by Michael Morgart, rests on the edge of a dock.



**DUCKS IN A ROW:** Michael Morgart holds a red head hen and a drake he sculpted.

**The following were recipients of a \$1,000 scholarship from Bedford Rural Electric:**

- Denae Mobus – Everett High School
- Taylor Diehl – Bedford High School
- Peri Bagley – Bedford High School
- Tyler Zuck – Bedford High School
- Emily Hess – Everett High School
- Laura Blackburn – (non-traditional winner)

**CONGRATULATIONS!!!!**



## FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER & CEO

*Continued from page 18A*

We start by mobilizing our line crews and other critical staff. As we receive outage calls, we begin assessing the damage. The big problems are handled first, like damage to major lines and substations, which may serve a thousand people. Those problems must be corrected before we can focus on other areas, where more localized damage may have occurred.

Next, line crews check the lines that deliver power into towns and smaller neighborhoods. Restoring these lines may restore power to hundreds of people. Finally, we look for damage to small taps and the individual lines outside of your home or business. This process is slower and each repair may only restore a single home.

We always do our best to avoid power outages, but sometimes Mother Nature has other plans. When outages do occur, rest assured that we are working as quickly and efficiently as possible to restore service.

## Energy efficiency tip of the month

The location of your thermostat impacts your HVAC system's ability to maintain an ideal indoor temperature. For maximum accuracy, thermostats should be placed in the center of the home, away from air vents, plumbing pipes and exterior doors.

Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your thermostat, which can cause the HVAC to run longer than necessary. Avoid installing thermostats in rooms that tend to feel warmer or colder than the rest of the home. Do not place furniture in front of the thermostat, which can block air flow and result in inaccurate readings. 📺

**BROOKS SHOEMAKER**  
GENERAL MANAGER & CEO

## SWIMMING POOL SAFETY WORD SEARCH



Water and electricity never mix. Always practice safety when you're near or in the swimming pool this summer. Read the following safety tips, then find and circle the **bolded** words in the puzzle below.

Never bring electrical **devices** near a swimming pool. **Electrical** devices that come in contact with **water** can cause electric shock.

When possible, use **battery**-operated devices when **outdoors** near a swimming pool.

Outdoor electrical **outlets** should be **dry** or covered.

If you hear thunder, immediately exit the swimming **pool**. Thunderstorms and lightning may be near.

C	Y	P	G	V	Q	B	X	S	E	D	R	N	L	Y
I	R	O	J	R	H	S	R	L	J	M	R	I	J	F
I	E	O	X	M	W	O	E	V	T	W	G	Y	L	A
M	T	L	T	J	O	C	M	H	O	H	M	H	K	H
V	T	P	A	D	T	M	C	K	T	Z	G	E	U	Q
E	A	Y	T	R	P	O	Z	N	E	J	K	Y	M	B
H	B	U	I	P	T	E	I	D	Q	K	C	X	Q	M
Z	O	C	L	F	W	N	W	W	C	N	K	J	N	S
R	A	I	T	B	G	G	S	D	R	T	H	T	I	K
L	E	I	T	K	J	K	N	H	X	Z	C	B	Y	J
L	K	T	A	Z	X	T	Y	H	E	Q	D	P	R	R
N	X	M	A	X	M	Q	S	E	C	I	V	E	D	F
Z	O	Y	D	W	O	U	T	L	E	T	S	U	V	L
X	N	P	Y	C	Y	O	H	O	P	J	L	R	C	Q
Z	M	J	Y	L	X	R	L	B	E	N	B	H	C	K

## 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, 814-623-7568, 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.