



MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

CURRENT NEWS

Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Waterfowl hunters take aim in the Mor-Gran-Sou Electric service area

Kari Charvat, left, and Jenny Heck are two of the growing number of women who hunt waterfowl in the scenic North Dakota outdoors. In this month's center pages, read why these Mor-Gran-Sou Electric members choose to hunt, and learn why experts say hunting should be easy, fun and safe.

PHOTO BY CARMEN DEWNEY

NOVEMBER IN THIS ISSUE

- Hunters develop skills, confidence
- LIHEAP helps eligible households
- Rebate program coming to a close
- Co-op seeks Youth Tour representative
- Meeting minutes and more!



PHOTOS BY CRAIG BIRHLE/N.D. GAME AND FISH

On field day, participants learned about shotgun safety, bird identification, water and field decoys and gear, and how to blow duck and goose calls. The women also practiced shooting clay targets.

by Carmen Devney

Like countless other women in North Dakota, Kari Charvat is married to a hunter who tends to disappear for short stretches every autumn. Brett, a Mor-Gran-Sou member and home builder, likes to fish and hunt deer and elk. During their 11 years of marriage, Kari has joined him deer hunting in the Badlands and elk hunting in Colorado — but they've never hunted waterfowl together. While Kari has always been intrigued by duck and goose hunting, she claims she doesn't have much time because their four children are busy with school and sports.

Plus, she admits hunting with "the boys" can be intimidating.

"I've always been scared to try. The guys are so into hunting, and I was afraid to make a mistake," she reveals.

When the North Dakota

WOMEN'S WATERFOWL WORKSHOP

Family, friends, fun, food and future



Sandwiched between clothing layers and stubble, Jenny Heck practices popping out of her blind and taking aim at a target. She and her husband, Derek, plan to introduce their son, Coby James, to hunting some day and make it a family tradition.

Game and Fish Department's "Becoming an Outdoors-Woman" (BOW) program partnered with Delta Waterfowl to host a women's waterfowl workshop in October, Kari's best friend Jenny suggested the women sign up together. Jenny's husband Derek, a member of Mor-Gran-Sou and the N.D. National Guard, is also an avid hunter. So the BOW program appealed to both women because they could join other novice hunters and learn together in a relaxed environment.

On Oct. 1, Kari and Jenny met workshop participants and mentors at the Capital City Gun Club north of Bismarck and watched various demonstrations on shotgun and waterfowl hunting safety, waterfowl identification, duck and goose calling, water and field decoys and gear, and shooting clay targets. Then the women practiced and developed their skills.

F's of hunting

Family: Take the family hunting and spend quality time together.

Friends: Establish a network and set dates to hunt together.

Fun: Make every hunting trip safe and fun.

Food: Celebrate after the hunt with fresh, tasty food.

Future: Pass along the passion and tradition of waterfowl hunting to future generations.

Scott Terning, director of recruitment and education for Delta Waterfowl, presented the information and encouraged the women to ask questions, network with participants and share their waterfowl “dreams.” Various volunteers associated with Delta Waterfowl’s Puddle Jumpers Bismarck Chapter also answered questions and helped the women increase their confidence and ability.

“Throughout the entire experience, the women and mentors are totally involved. We want to offer as much guidance as we possibly can throughout the entire experience, and emphasize that hunting can be fun, easy and safe,” Terning says.

The night before the hunt, Kari says she felt nervous.

“I was afraid I wasn’t going to know what to shoot, or how the birds were going to come in. I’ve never sat in a blind before and I didn’t know how to pop up out of it,” she shares.

The next morning after their group set their decoys and shoved stubble in their blinds, Kari got comfortable with her gun and practiced popping out of her cover.

When the first flight started streaming into the decoys, Kari shot her first duck.

“I literally screamed ‘woo hoo!’ out loud,” she laughs. After receiving a playful look from one of the mentors, Kari sealed her lips and eventually shot two more ducks and four geese — which earned her the nickname “Chachi.”

“There was no downside to any of it. It was a blast,”

Kari summarizes.

The two-day weekend raised her confidence and sense of independence, and Kari says she hopes to hunt waterfowl regularly in the future, both with Jenny and with her husband and kids — who happen to think their mom is pretty cool.

“When I talked to them they asked, ‘You’re going hunting? You’ll shoot a bird? And I told them some day after they’ve taken hunter safety classes, they can come along, too. And their eyes got huge,” she smiles.

Goose bump kind of stuff

Terning says waterfowl hunting is growing in popularity among women for a variety of reasons. Some see it as a way of spending time with a significant other, while others see it as food for the family, or a way to carry on a family tradition while enjoying the great outdoors.

Jenny, who refers to herself as aggressive, says she appreciates a good challenge.

While scouting the night before, one of the mentors found a single snow goose in the area the group would be hunting. He offered \$20 to whoever harvested the bird.

Even in the compromised light of dawn, Jenny immediately identified the bird, which landed about 20 yards from her blind. She took a shot — and missed. After she claims it waddled and looked back at her, she fired again — and missed.

“It’s all I’ve been hearing about ever since. The snow goose that got



PHOTO BY CARMEN DEVNEY

After the hunt, participants learned how to properly clean and prepare the birds. Scott Terning, director of recruitment and education for Delta Waterfowl, shows Kari Charvat how to “respect” the bird by handling it with care. Kari and her husband Brett will also share hunting with their four children: Taylor, 14; Ryann, 10; Brodie, 8; and Avery, 6.

away,” she jokes.

While she didn’t come home with a nickname, Jenny did harvest two mallards and two geese.

As the group left the field after the hunt on Oct. 2, Jenny and Kari sent text messages to their families to tell them about the gorgeous morning and successful hunt. While their husbands may have previously teased them about hunting, both women said their husbands were proud that they took the opportunity to participate in the workshop.

After the hunt, the women met at the N.D. Game and Fish Department to bring the hunt full circle by breast-ing or plucking the birds

cleaning the meat and celebrating the weekend by grilling marinated Duck Wraps.

Terning says mentoring novice hunters like Jenny and Kari, and giving them knowledge, skills and confidence, is a powerful thing.

“To be able to watch someone who is new and fresh to hunting go through all the actions, and know I was able to help them, that’s very rewarding. I get goose bumps over that kind of stuff,” he reveals. “When they shoot their first duck, when they put on their big smile, when they actually hold that bird, it’s a feeling you can’t describe.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Delta Waterfowl www.deltawaterfowl.org
- N.D. Game and Fish Department <http://gf.nd.gov/>
- Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) program <http://gf.nd.gov/education/instruction/outdoorswoman.html>

HUNTING SAFETY TIPS

from Delta Waterfowl Foundation



Left: During the *Becoming an Outdoors-Woman* waterfowl hunting workshop in October, Mother Nature treated the participants to warmer-than-average temperatures. Jenny Heck shows off her goose — and a spectacular sunrise. But most frequently, the best waterfowl hunting happens in windy, cold conditions. Scott Tarning, director of recruitment and education for the Delta Waterfowl, advises hunters to know and respect their limits and the limits of their gear. **Below:** Protecting her ears and eyes with plugs and glasses, Kari Charvat practices shooting clay targets before the hunt. Regarding gun safety, Tarning reminded the women to keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction at all times.



- **Dress appropriately.** Weather conditions can change rapidly during a hunt. Wind, snow and rain can cause hypothermia. If conditions deteriorate, stay home. There will always be another hunt.
- **Plan ahead and be prepared:** Having the right clothes, waders, boots and safety equipment are top priorities. Always look over your equipment before you head out.
- **Be aware of your surroundings.** A GPS unit, compass,

map and “game plan” for the hunt are tools for getting safely to and from the hunting location. On the way, take note of your route so you can find your way back. Avoid navigating home in the dark. Be sure someone knows where you are hunting and when you expect to be back.

- **Be boat- and water-wise.** When hunting waterfowl over water, it’s almost always in the fall or winter when the water is very cold and especially dangerous. Always wear an approved life jacket and make sure it fits. Make sure your boat motor works well. If you don’t have confidence, don’t use it. Do not overload your boat. If you’re boating in water over your head, don’t wear waders. It’s unlikely you will get them off if you capsize. Put them on when you get to your hunting location. Don’t shoot out of an unstable boat. Find a stable place for the boat in the cattails or pull it up on solid ground. Waterfowl hunting often involves running a boat in low light. Make sure your boat lights are in good working order. Other people may be out on the water. Be sure of your route at all times.
- **Ensure your dog is under safe control.** A trained retriever adds a tremendous amount of enjoyment and success to a waterfowl hunt. However, an out-of-control dog can be dangerous. It can tip a canoe. It can bump into shotguns or people. If your dog is not under control, it should not be hunting with you.
- **Know your shotguns and ammunition.** Be familiar with your firearm and make sure it works properly. Keep the barrel and chamber free from obstruction. If you pull the trigger of a loaded gun and it fails to fire, keep it pointed in a safe direction and wait for at least one minute before removing the shot shell. In rare situations, a shot shell may actually fire up to a minute later — often called a “hang fire.” Open the action away from you and ensure the barrel is free of obstructions before reloading. When a shell gets wet, it can fail to fully discharge, blocking your barrel. Make sure you’re using the right gauge and length of shotshell.

Out of everything the participants learned in the waterfowl hunting workshop, Tarning says he hopes the women always remember and follow safe hunting practices.

Whether it’s handling a gun, controlling a dog, wearing ear protection or watching the weather, he stresses hunting should be fun, easy and safe.

- **Know the law.** Safety is your number-one responsibility. Not only is it your legal responsibility to follow the hunting laws, but legal hunting is also the safest hunting.
- **Control the muzzle.** Whether it’s in a boat, blind, field blind or pit, waterfowl hunters often hunt in close proximity of one another. Whether the gun is loaded or unloaded, never point the muzzle at someone else. Before the hunt takes place, establish safe zones of fire and respect these throughout the hunt.
- **Attend a loaded gun.** If a shotgun is loaded, it must be in your hands. If you are unable to hang onto your shotgun, unload it. Never trust the safety mechanism on the gun. Left unattended, loaded guns can be knocked over by a person or a dog. When you leave your shotgun, leave the action open so everyone can see it’s unloaded — or, place your gun in a case.
- **Be weather-wise.** Often, the best waterfowl hunting happens in the worst weather conditions. High winds can cause waves to swamp or capsize your boat. Snow or fog can make you disoriented. Be prepared to navigate safely — or stay onshore. Know your limits and the limits of your gear.

Celebrate the bird

There's an old saying that goes, "Once you harvest a bird, it's forever yours." Scott Tarning, director of recruitment and education for Delta Waterfowl, says that means every hunter is responsible for taking good care of a bird after it's been harvested.

"No matter what you do, you must respect the bird. That means you retrieve the bird, hold it, look at it, and take the time to cherish it, especially if it's your first duck. That's something to behold right there," he shares.

"Then, clean the bird, cook the bird and celebrate the bird. When you pull the trigger, that bird is forever yours. There is no turning back. You took that bird's life, and it's your responsibility to take care of that bird and respect it. It's one way you give back to the bird and to waterfowl hunting."

During the Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) waterfowl hunting workshop, the participants respected and celebrated their birds by sharing fresh Duck Wrap appetizers.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative thanks Delta Waterfowl for sharing this recipe. For more waterfowl recipes, go to www.deltawaterfowl.org and click on Recipes.



DUCK WRAPS

Duck breast (cut in half)	Cheddar or Pepper Jack cheese
Black pepper	Onion
Garlic	Pickled jalapeño peppers (optional)
Bacon, sliced	

Cut breast meat away from breastbone. For large duck species like mallards, cut each breast in half; for small species like teal, leave breasts whole. Wash breast meat and pat it dry. Coat with garlic and/or pepper. Slice the breast half open, but not all the way through. In the "gap," place the cheese, onion and jalapeño. Wrap each breast half with bacon and secure with a toothpick. Grill over a very hot charcoal fire or gas grill until the bacon is crisp. Serve immediately.

Instead of coating the duck meat with garlic, the women modified the recipe by marinating the breasts in barbecue sauce for 5 to 10 minutes, and then wrapping the meat in cheese and bacon. To celebrate her harvest, Jenny Heck prepares to grill a platter of Duck Wraps for the group.

LIHEAP provides energy assistance to eligible low-income households



If you need assistance paying your utility bill this winter, you might qualify for energy assistance through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Federally funded and administered by the N.D. Department of Human Services and county social services, LIHEAP provides the following services for eligible individuals and families:

- heating assistance
- making your home energy efficient
- furnace and chimney cleaning
- emergency assistance
- furnace replacements
- minor repairs, and
- energy cost reduction devices

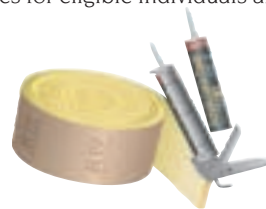
In 2010, more than 16,000 low-income households in North Dakota participated in the state program.

Applications are accepted from October through May of each heating season. For information related to application for benefits, program eligibility or an existing case, contact your local County Social Services office.

The LIHEAP application is available online at www.nd.gov/eforms/Doc/sfn00529.pdf and should be returned to the county office. There is no cost to apply, but consumers will have to pay a percentage of some services based on their income.

For more information on LIHEAP, visit

www.nd.gov/dhs/services/financialhelp/energyassist.html.



ACT NOW!

Rebate program ends in December



Only two months remain for North Dakota's electric cooperative member-owners to make qualifying energy-efficiency improvements to their home or business and take advantage of the North Dakota Utility Rebate Program. The program ends Dec. 31 or before if the funds run out.

Launched June 1, 2010, the North Dakota Utility Rebate Program became available through North Dakota's 16 electric distribution cooperatives operating with a grant from the North Dakota Department of Commerce. The grant from the department was made possible through a provision of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The program was designed to offer more than \$2 million in rebates to electric cooperative members who purchased and installed qualifying products and services such as energy-efficient central air conditioners, air-source and geothermal heating systems, energy audits, attic and wall insulation, and more. Residents can claim up to \$5,000 in rebates and businesses can get up to \$15,000. Rebate amounts vary and there are limitations to the program.

TO UTILIZE THE REBATE PROGRAM:

1. Call Mor-Gran-Sou and visit with Laverne or Jackie;
2. Get the applicable rebate form;
3. Study the specific product requirements;
4. Make sure a product meets those specific requirements;
5. Verify there is still money available through the rebate program;
6. Purchase the energy-efficiency product and have it installed; and
7. Fill out the rebate application and return the completed paperwork to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative.

You must include a receipt that shows the date of purchase is June 1, 2010, or later. Once the paperwork is filled out and returned, it will be submitted to the N.D. Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC), where the information will be reviewed for eligibility. NDAREC will then issue a rebate check and forward it on to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative for delivery to the member. All rebates will be handled on a first-come, first-serve basis. The program is open to all electric co-op members in North Dakota. For more information on the North Dakota Utility Rebate Program, call Laverne or Jackie or visit www.morgransou.com.

Members see rate adjustment on Nov. electric bills

Through our recent publications, a member letter and during the co-managers' presentation at the cooperative's annual meeting, we have been informing you of an upcoming rate increase. We received word in mid-July from Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Mor-Gran-Sou's primary generation and transmission power supplier, that a power cost rate adjustment would go into effect in October.

The electric bill you received on or around Nov. 5 reflects this rate adjustment. Please note this adjustment reflects an incremental increase in the monthly energy charges, but does not affect the monthly base charge. The storm surcharge, which began on Jan. 1, will remain as a monthly charge for five years.

COLD-WEATHER CHARGES

One thing that's certain about North Dakota weather is the uncertainty of it, except for the fact that at some point during the winter, it probably will get cold. Our rates are designed around a number of different factors, one of them being an average cost of installing our service. Over the years, we've seen requests for electric service coming in later and later in the construction season and in many years, throughout the winter season. Both equipment maintenance and labor costs are significantly higher during winter weather conditions.

We're not opposed to obliging those requests, however, depending on frost and weather conditions we will assess an additional contribution in aid of construction charge of \$5 per line foot to help offset our increased costs for late-season, cold-weather work. This charge will be made on a case-by-case basis for line extensions requested and built after Nov. 1 and prior to April 1.

Recognizing that everyone is really busy throughout the year, please remember we need sufficient advance notice (two to four weeks) most any time to schedule installing your electric service



or service change, but especially just prior to Nov. 1 because everyone is trying to beat the weather.

If you have any questions please call Randy Ressler, manager of operations, or Jason Bentz, chief of staff/line superintendent, at (701) 597-3301 or (701) 663-0297.

NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC YOUTH TOUR

High School Juniors and Seniors...

WRITE A WINNING ESSAY AND WIN A TRIP OF A LIFETIME!

JUNE 16 to 22,
2012

And an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C.

- ▶ To enter the essay-writing contest, you must be a junior or senior in high school in the fall of 2012.
- ▶ You and your parents or guardian must be served by Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative.
- ▶ Essay is not to exceed two standard 8½- by 11-inch typewritten, double-spaced pages on this topic: **What would your day be like without electricity?**
- ▶ Submit your essay in hard copy or electronic format to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric. Electronic submissions should conform to the two-page, double-spaced guideline described above. Include a cover page with your name, date of birth, school and grade in 2012, parent or guardian's name, address and telephone number.
- ▶ The deadline is **January 30, 2012**. E-mailed entries should be directed to Jackie Miller at jlmliller@morgransou.com, and hard-copy entries mailed to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 297, Flasher, ND 58535-0297.
- ▶ If you have a question, contact Jackie Miller, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric, at the address listed above, or call (701) 597-3301 during regular business hours.



TOP 3 REASONS TO ENTER THE ESSAY-WRITING CONTEST

1. All-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., compliments of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative.
2. A whole week to visit unforgettable historic monuments, museums and the U.S. Capitol.
3. A learning experience you'll never forget.

Check it out at

www.ndyouthtour.com
and
www.youthtour.coop

Why do electric cooperatives exit?

TO SERVE THEIR MEMBER-OWNERS!

Mor-Gran-Sou has posted a video on our Web site called "The Co-op Story." The video, commissioned by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, was designed to give a hand-drawn guide to the history, structure and purpose of rural electric cooperatives. To watch this interesting and informative clip, go to our home page at www.morgransou.com or our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/morgransouelectric> (or click the Facebook icon on our Web site's home page). Please take some time and visit either site, and get a better understanding of what it means to be a member of a cooperative.



MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

board meeting highlights



Meeting date: Sept. 28

- Approved the Sept. 1 Board meeting minutes
- Approved special equipment and work order inventory
- Approved applications for capital credit retirements to estates
- Reviewed the preliminary 2012 budget for Mor-Gran-Sou
- Approved a work plan amendment for a large service near Hebron
- Approved request to begin ordering equipment for required upgrade of truck radios
- Set a date and time for the 2012 MGS Strategic Planning session
- Reviewed the policy on director compensation; and the guideline for director meeting attendance
- Heard update on 3C Construction, LLC
- Heard update on IEA, LLC (Alliance)
- Accepted the 2012 IEA, LLC budget with adjustment of employees' time on agreement schedules
- Heard department updates
- Heard reports on meetings attended

Upcoming regular board meeting dates:

Nov. 29 in the Board Room at NDAREC in Mandan at 10:30 a.m. CT

Dec. 28 in Flasher at 10:30 a.m. CT

Members are welcome to attend the board meetings at any time. Please contact Mor-Gran-Sou at cternes@morgransou.com, or call (800) 750-8212 or (701) 597-3301, to confirm the meeting date and location if you wish to attend. To place an item on the agenda, please contact Board Chairman Dave Archambault II or Alliance Co-Manager Donald Franklund at least one week in advance.

Members may obtain a copy of approved board minutes by completing and returning the "Request for Information or Data" form.

Co-op announces personnel change

There's work to be done — both at home, and at your electric cooperative. For Nancy Fleck, cashier/receptionist, the time was right to end her co-op career and help her husband, Mike, on the family's farm and ranch north of Flasher. Nancy, the friendly voice members heard when they called Mor-Gran-Sou, celebrated her last day at the co-op on Oct. 28.



Fleck



Seehafer

Nancy started working part-time with Mor-Gran-Sou in March 1999 as a meter reader. She transitioned into the office and became a full-time employee in 1999. While she's looking forward to working at home and spending more time with family, Nancy says she has appreciated her time with Mor-Gran-Sou and enjoyed interacting with the members.

Laverne Seehafer, former member services clerk, transitioned into Nancy's position and took over the office duties including answering the phones, sorting the incoming cash, balancing reports and assisting members, as well as providing back-up support to co-op staff.

Laverne has been with Mor-Gran-Sou since 1980, doing a variety of jobs. While in the member services department, Laverne says she enjoyed meeting members while working in Fort Yates, visiting consumers in their homes while performing equipment verification for rebate programs, and teaching elementary students about electricity through the "Story behind the switch" program, with assistance from Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

While Laverne says she'll miss those face-to-face opportunities, she is looking forward to assisting and meeting members over the phone.

"I was ready for a change and wanted to learn something new," she shares.

Mor-Gran-Sou thanks Nancy Fleck for her years of service, and welcomes Laverne into the cashier/receptionist position.

HOLIDAY CLOSING

In observance of the holidays in November, Mor-Gran-Sou will be closed:

- Friday, Nov. 11 for Veterans Day
- Thursday, Nov. 24 and Friday, Nov. 25 for Thanksgiving

The directors and staff of Mor-Gran-Sou ask you to keep our military in mind as we celebrate the holidays.

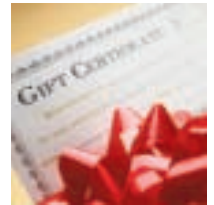
Members: Line crews will be available in case of an electrical emergency outage.

The holidays are just around the corner.

GIFT CERTIFICATES ARE AVAILABLE AT MOR-GRAN-SOU

Light up someone's holiday season!

How long is your Christmas list? If a certain someone on your list is a member of Mor-Gran-Sou and you need a bright idea on what to buy for Christmas ... why not wrap up a gift certificate he or she can use toward an electric bill?



Call Mor-Gran-Sou at (701) 597-3301, (701) 663-0297 or (800) 750-8212 and ask for Jackie. *We can help you "lighten" up the holidays.*

MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

202 6th Ave. W. - PO Box 297 - Flasher, N.D. 58535-0297

Phone: (701) 597-3301 - Flasher (701) 663-0297 - Mandan

Toll-free: (800) 750-8212 Fax: (701) 597-3915

UNDERGROUND LINE LOCATES

1(800) 795-0555 OR 811

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

ChairmanDave Archambault II
 Vice Chairman.....Leland "Judge" Barth
 Secretary-TreasurerPam Geiger
 DirectorsMark Doll, Joe Dunn, Vernard Frederick, Robert Gaebe, Bob J. Leingang, Casey Wells

MANAGEMENT

Alliance Co-Mgr.Donald A. Franklund
 Alliance Co-Mgr.Clayton O. Hoffman
 Mgr. of Admin. Serv.....Cindy G. Ternes
 Mgr. of Member Serv.....Jackie Miller
 Mgr. of Operations.....Randy Ressler
 Chief of Staff/Line Supt.....Jason Bentz
 Alliance Chief Info. OfficerCharlie Dunbar
 Alliance Chief Fin. OfficerTravis Kupper
 Alliance Human Res. Mgr.....Sienna Sailer