

Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Sullivan County REC

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Stephan Paul Brady – CCD/BLC/Gold***
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*Credentialed Cooperative Director
 **Board Leadership Certificate
 ***Director Gold Certificate

Office Hours
 Monday through Friday
 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

From the CEO



The journey begins

By John Lykens

I AM HONORED and humbled to be chosen to follow Craig Harting as Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative's (SCREC) next CEO. I will diligently and cooperatively lead the cooperative in fulfilling our mission of providing safe, dependable power and related services to our members in an environmentally sound and fiscally responsible manner.

My name is John Lykens, and I come to the cooperative with just shy of 30 years of experience in the electric utility industry. Since graduating with a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from Rochester Institute of Technology in 1993, I've worked for an investor-owned utility (IOU), a rural electric cooperative, and just prior to accepting the role as your cooperative's CEO, I provided utility consulting services to IOUs, electric cooperatives, and municipal electric systems throughout the northeastern United States. My experience includes all aspects of electric generation, transmission and distribution.

On a personal level, I have been married for 27 years to Stacy Diane, and we have raised three daughters in our home in Wyalusing. I served eight years in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves, and I am a veteran of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

I was fortunate to be part of this cooperative as we celebrated our 85th anniversary in May. As we were preparing for this event, I got a glimpse of the cooperative's history from photo-

graphs, newspaper articles and artifacts kept throughout the years. What I gleaned from this experience was the successful vision of bringing power to rural America — and not only bringing the power, but also continually making improvements along the way and reinvesting in our plant. I am extremely grateful for past and present SCREC employees, directors and CEOs, who focused on the mission referenced in the first paragraph.

So, what lies ahead? I believe both challenges and opportunities.

Some of the challenges were mentioned in Craig's *Penn Lines* column in June. Other challenges include ever-increasing material and equipment costs, increased capacity, generation, and transmission costs, and more frequent and severe weather-related events. Opportunities include continued deployment of smart-grid technologies, such as RF meters, SCADA and distribution automation, demand-side management technologies that benefit 100% of the membership, and investments in equipment that will enable employees and contractors to be more efficient.

Your electric cooperative board, CEO, and employees are up to the challenges that are ahead and will take advantage of every opportunity to continue to provide our members with safe, reliable, and cost-responsible power. I look forward to meeting with and hearing from you, our members, as we begin this journey together.

Semper Fidelis. 🌟

Over 3 million trout released

By John Zelewicz
Penn Lines Writer

IT'S A cool morning. The sun is rising slowly over the mountain. It's quiet, except for the sound of water rippling over stones and an occasional bird chirping out a cheerful good morning. A light fog rises over the slowly meandering creek.

Suddenly, your fishing pole tip dips, and you feel that familiar tug on the line. You set the hook and reel in a rainbow trout. Perhaps, it's one of the trout the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) released into the waters.

Approximately 3.2 million adult trout are stocked each year from the commission's hatcheries. Fish are released to provide anglers with the opportunity to fish for stocked trout.

The majority of trout stocked in Sullivan County — brook, brown, and rainbow trout — come from the Tylersville State Fish Hatchery.

Most of the trout are spawned in the hatcheries with a small percentage of eggs coming from outside the state. The eggs are hatched in jars or incubation trays, depending on the location.

"The fry and fingerlings are reared in tanks in hatch houses until they reach the advanced fingerling size,"



VOLUNTEERS WANTED: When it comes time for trout to be released in Pennsylvania's waterways, volunteers line up to lend a helping hand. Members of the public are welcomed and encouraged to assist.

explains Justin Signorella, manager of the Tylersville hatchery. "The advanced fingerlings are transferred to concrete raceways outside, where they are kept until they are stocked."

On average, Tylersville stocks about 410,000 adult trout per year. The hatchery also stocks 65,000 fingerlings and gives its cooperative nurseries 85,000 fingerling trout. Depending on the species, the trout are fed a high-protein, fish-meal pellet and are released when they're between 15 and 17 months old.

But trout aren't the only fish raised and released.

The commission

also has warm water/cool water hatcheries that release species such as wall-eye, musky, tiger musky, and bass, and operates a shad restoration program, Signorella notes.

Fish are only stocked in areas that are open to the public. According to Signorella, the number of trout stocked is based on a formula.

"There are several factors that we take into account," he says, adding this includes stream width, the municipality's population, the site's accessibility for fisherman, the percentage of stream reach open to fishing and the existing wild trout population.

Fish take a road trip

Once trout are ready to be released, they're gathered up for a road trip. Trout are transported in trucks equipped with tanks that maintain the temperature of the water at the hatchery. Each tank has an aerator that agitates the water and provides oxygen.



TROUT TIME: Fishing is a sport enjoyed by people of every age, and there is nothing better than hauling in a nice-sized trout. Who knows? The next trout you catch may be one that was stocked from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's hatcheries.

“The truck also has a backup liquid oxygen system,” Signorella says. “The water in the tank should remain below 68 degrees Fahrenheit, and the oxygen should remain above 4 milligrams per liter. As long as these conditions are met, the trout could theoretically live for days in the transport tank.”

To help reduce stress on trout being transported, the fish aren’t fed in the days leading up to their release. The percentage of fish lost during stocking is minimal. Typically, only a fraction of a percent of the fish being transported fail to survive. Trout are stocked at various locations and at different times.

“I stock trout at various streams throughout my district approximately three to five days a week from mid-March until mid-May,” says Jeremy Yohe, waterways conservation officer (WCO) for District 3071 in western Bradford and Sullivan counties. “It’s my busiest time of the year, and the time of the year when my schedule is most rigid. I work to distribute the allotted trout as evenly throughout the designated section as possible. I try to divide the number of buckets evenly across the section.”

Nearly every weekday, from the start of the stocking season in mid-February to the end of it in mid-May, at least one truck will be out from each hatchery. Most hatcheries also stock on Saturdays. Most days, Tylersville is sending out three to four trucks.

Of course, you don’t just gather fish up from the hatchery and drive to some random location and throw them in. Water quality and aquatic habitat need to be suitable for the trout’s survival. Fish are stocked at a time when the water quality and temperature support their survival for several weeks.

Volunteers lend a hand

As you can imagine, help is needed to transport fish in five-gallon buckets from the tank to the water. When it comes time for the fish to be released, volunteers line up to lend a helping hand. Members of the public are welcomed and encouraged to assist. Many



STOCKING THE WATERS: Water quality and aquatic habitat need to be suitable for the trout’s survival. Fish are stocked when the water quality and temperature can support their survival for several weeks.



TRANSPORTING TROUT: Trout are transported in trucks equipped with tanks that maintain the temperature of the water used at the hatchery.

factors, though, determine the number of volunteers who turn out to help.

“Preseason stocking activities seem to have fewer volunteers overall, but stream popularity, location, weather and day of the week all impact the number of volunteers,” Yohe says. “In-season activities often attract a great deal of attention, and there are

often more volunteers than there are buckets to carry at each stop.”

The PFBC encourages the public to help, and the local WCOs coordinate the volunteers at the stocking locations.

WCOs often maintain a list of volunteers who are consistently present.

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Over 3 million trout released

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Some also put out a list of their district-specific trout stocking activities.

The commission maintains an up-to-date stocking schedule that includes every meeting place and time, unless the stocking is deemed to be an unannounced one.

“This program has been in place longer than I have been alive,” Yohe says. “Volunteering has become an annual tradition for many anglers across the state. Trout season and associated activities are considered a holiday by anglers throughout Pennsylvania.

“Without the trout stocking program,” he adds, “trout anglers would put incredible pressure on the Commonwealth’s wild trout population.”

So next time you try your luck at fishing and haul in a beautiful trout, remember it may be one raised and released by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. ❁

Director Jim Lambert recently certified

Jim Lambert is the newest Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) director to be certified as a Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

The CCD curriculum consists of five courses designed to provide directors with essential cooperative knowledge. Jim represents District 3, which includes Overton Township in Bradford County and Forks Township and Forksville Borough in Sullivan County. ❁



Sullivan County REC chair Ann Henderson and Director Jim Lambert

How GFCIs can help keep you safe

IMAGINE you’re in the kitchen, the sink is full of hot soapy water and you accidentally knock an appliance into the water. With a pop, the power instantly goes off. Your life was just saved by a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI).



You can help prevent electric shocks in your home by installing GFCIs, which provide protection against shock from damaged or defective electric appliances and those that come in contact with water. GFCIs should be installed in areas where water is present, including bathrooms, kitchens, garages, basements and outdoors. A GFCI detects an abnormal flow of electricity through the ground conductor and shuts off the power, preventing shock or electrocution.

Electricity is always looking for a path back to the source. A ground-fault is an unintentional electrical path from the power source and a grounded surface. Under normal conditions, current flows in a circuit, traveling from the source through the device it operates and back to the source.

If an electric appliance gets damaged

by water, that flow is broken. Without a GFCI, your body could become that path to ground for the electrical current.

GFCIs come in three different forms.

First, there is the receptacle GFCI, which fits into a standard outlet box and protects against ground faults for whatever is plugged into the outlet.

Next is the circuit breaker GFCI, which has a GFCI installed directly in the panel box to protect the circuits it supplies.

A portable GFCI is the third form. These are designed for locations where a permanent GFCI isn’t installed. Some plug into the receptacle, and then devices can then be plugged into the GFCI. Another type has the GFCI circuitry built into an extension cord. Both types plug into an outlet like any corded device and require no installation.

If you have receptacle or portable GFCIs, you should test them after installation, after power failures and monthly. They have test and reset buttons for this purpose.

If you are interested in making your home safer by installing GFCIs, contact a qualified electrician. For more information on home electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org. ❁

Sullivan County REC celebrates 85 years

On May 27, Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) celebrated its 85th year in business. Many individuals, including members and non-members, came to enjoy and tour the cooperative’s building, speak to employees, and have some refreshments. Part of the celebratory open house was a chance to win an \$85 bill credit and a 43-inch TV.

We are happy to announce the winners:

- Charles Schmouder: 43-inch TV
- Donald Dangle II: \$85 bill credit
- Jim Eckman: \$85 bill credit
- Elk Run Hunting Club: \$85 bill credit
- Susan & David Neidig: \$85 bill credit
- Janet Rosbach: \$85 bill credit

From the board of directors and all the employees at Sullivan County REC, we want to thank all of the members who came out to help us celebrate 85 years of serving you!