

Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

# Valley News

July | August 2009

Volume 66 | Issue 4



## Allegrippis Adventure

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[www.valleyrec.com](http://www.valleyrec.com)

# Realities of renewable energy

**IN A RECENT SURVEY** conducted by Bisconti Research, Inc., Americans were asked where they think most of our nation's electricity will come from in 15 years. The vast majority -- 72 percent -- answered solar as number one, followed by wind energy.

In actuality, solar is expected to generate a mere 0.2 percent of our nation's electricity by 2030; wind will generate just 2.4 percent. We will continue to rely on fossil fuels such as coal and natural gas, as well as nuclear power and hydropower, to produce most of our electricity.

But this doesn't mean we'll be hearing less about renewable energy in coming years. In fact, the opposite is true. Twenty-eight states (including Pennsylvania) and the District of Columbia have already passed laws creating renewable portfolio standards, which require electric utilities and other retail suppliers of electricity to add a specific percentage of renewable energy to their power supply mix by a certain date. More states are expected to follow this trend, and a federal mandate could be passed by Congress this year.

While renewable energy is often embraced as one of the answers to America's energy crisis, the price tag associated with its development -- and how reliably renewable projects operate -- often leaves a lot to be desired. No matter how you slice it, implementing power generation resources like solar, wind and biomass doesn't come cheap.

Electric cooperatives have always been committed to delivering affordable and reliable power in an environmentally responsible fashion. And we continue to work with Congress to ensure that rates for electricity don't rise too much as a result of any federal mandates requiring utilities to add a certain percentage of "clean and green" power to their generation mix. Investments in renewable energy must be made, keeping in mind the end-of-the-line impact on electric bills.

Of course, that doesn't mean we're willing to sacrifice our planet to save a buck. Co-ops are already well ahead of the



**Wayne F. Miller**  
President & Chief Executive Officer

curve when it comes to investing in renewable resources. Did you know that, compared with the entire utility industry, electric cooperatives lead the nation in the percentage of renewable energy delivered to consumers? And in the years ahead, co-ops will bring much more renewable power online.

Here at Valley Rural Electric, we have already helped four windmill projects, two solar projects and a methane digester to join the power grid through our distribution system.

When it comes to meeting our nation's energy challenges, not-for-profit, locally owned and governed electric co-ops are offering legislators our experience on how to make the right choices on behalf of consumers.

We want to help preserve our environment without breaking the bank. And we don't think that's too much to ask. After all, we've been doing it for more than seven decades.

Cooperatively yours,

Wayne F. Miller  
President & CEO

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**Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



**On the cover ...**

The Allegrippis Trail System, located at the Seven Points Area of Raystown Lake, is a 30+ mile single-track trail system intended for multi-use recreation with a focus on mountain biking. The 24 trail segments are designed in stacked loops, making it easy to customize a trip. For more information on the trails, see Pages 4-5.

# Co-op energy marketing technician retires after 34 years, starts work as 'home improvement specialist'

BY SUSAN R. PENNING  
Director of Member Services

**AFTER SPENDING** most of his career dealing directly with co-op consumers, Denny Knepp will be the first to say that Valley members are a cut above the rest.

"I remember one blizzard -- 1994, I think. We were trying to restore service all over the place and had been working for about 40 hours straight. It was 2 a.m. and an elderly woman got up and made us homemade pot pie on her old coal stove," he says.

"Then there was the farmer who offered to gas up our trucks with fuel from his own farm ... I have a lot of stories like that. For me to say I'll miss working with the members, well, that's an understatement."

Denny Knepp came to work at the co-op in October of 1975 as a work order clerk. Prior to that, he was employed at a local bank.

"When I first started, I helped out at the front counter and maintained work order paperwork and records. I think I was making about \$1.70 an hour," Denny recalls.

Later, his duties expanded. As an energy marketing technician in the engineering department, he read, tested and replaced meters and resolved high bill complaints. After adding home energy audits to his list of duties, Denny took the necessary coursework to become a certified home energy auditor.

Reflecting on his time at Valley, Denny says there were many

aspects of his work that he enjoyed.

"Helping members identify a problem; showing them how to save energy and money; meeting people; working at the co-op's fair booths -- these were all highlights of my career."

A native of Hill Valley, Huntingdon County, Denny graduated in 1968 from Mount Union Area High School. He later earned an associate degree in computer applications from Thompson Institute in Harrisburg (now called Kaplan Career Institute).

He married his wife, Cindy, in 1972. Cindy works with special needs students in the Mount Union Area School District.

The couple has two children, Ryan, 29, and Carrie, 21. Ryan teaches pre-school in the Lewis town, Mifflin County, area, and his wife, Holly, is a photographer. Carrie is a senior at Juniata College in Huntingdon.

Denny is a member of the Newton Hamilton United Methodist Church.

He served on the Mount Union Area School board for 11 years. In addition, he was a charter member of the Kiwanis Club in Mount Union and a director for the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association's credit union.

Denny officially retired from the cooperative in April. Since then, he says he's been filling his time with lots of home improvement projects.

"I've been working around the house; that's been keeping me pretty busy. If I get the



chance, I'll play some golf and watch baseball. And, of course, I love spending time with family and visiting former fellow co-op employees," he points out.

Although Denny misses the co-op, he says he feels it was the right time for him to go.

"I still have my health and 34 years was long enough. There are so many new projects on the horizon and so much new technology out there for us to explore. I

**BRUSHING UP:** Recent co-op retiree Denny Knepp has been spending his days taking care of things around the house. Painting his garage is next on the "honey-do" list.

wanted to give the next generation the opportunity to embrace it and run with it."

Denny's genuine smile and silly jokes will be missed by everyone at Valley. For his decades of dedicated service, we wish him good health and happiness in retirement.



# ROADS LESS TRAVELED

## New trail system draws recreation enthusiasts

BY SUSAN R. PENNING  
 Director of Member Services

**THE ALLEGHENIES** Tourism Council recently announced the grand opening of the Allegrippis Trail System, located at the Seven Points area of Lake Raystown, Huntingdon County.

The 30+ mile stacked loop system was built through the Friends of Raystown Lake and in partnership with the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) and other contracting firms.

Planning for the project began in 2002; construction was officially completed in May of this year at a total cost of \$320,000.

The 23 trails that make up Allegrippis are open year-round to hikers, trail runners, nature observers and even cross country skiers and snowshoers. Mountain bikers are drawn there because the paths



**WALK ON THE WILD SIDE:** Due to the remote location, it's almost guaranteed that trail travelers will encounter some interesting woodland creatures along the way.

offer features specifically designed for mountain biking, such as multiple route options.

The trails are well-marked and range in difficulty from *green* -- defined as easiest or most family friendly; to *blue* -- moderate, providing more challenges including roots and rocks; to *black* -- most difficult, including steep elevation changes, longer distances and more obstacles.

These particular trails are unique for a variety of reasons.

"This system was built from scratch by mountain bikers and essentially for mountain bikers," explains ACOE Park Ranger Allen Gwinn. Ranger Gwinn was instrumental in overseeing the trail project; he's also an avid mountain biker. "It is one of IMBA's single biggest builds ever, due to its superior quality, mileage and the large number of trails."

Actually, there is not another spot on the east coast that, start-to-finish, has been designed and built for bikes. There are no reclaimed trails, no re-purposed hiking trails or timber skid roads.

## Local Feature



**FRUITS OF YOUR LABOR:** Summer visitors to Allegrippis can take a break along the trails to enjoy raspberries.

*There hasn't been a day that's passed that cars aren't parked in the trail lots ... People have come to ride the trails and they didn't even know there was a lake here.*

*-- Ranger Allen Gwinn*

trails have allured an amazing number of visitors.

"There hasn't been a day that's passed that cars aren't parked in the trail lots. And it's not even true mountain biking season yet. People have come to ride the trails and they didn't even know there was a lake here," Ranger Gwinn chuckles.

According to data collected from the Allegheny Great Passage Economic Impact Study, the trail system is expected to attract an additional 9,800 visitors to the area each year. These extra visitors should bring an additional \$1,250,000 per year to Huntingdon County.

Curious travelers who would like more information on the Allegrippis Trails can visit [www.raystown.org](http://www.raystown.org) and follow the link for outdoor fun. To download a printable map of the trail system, go to <http://raystown.nab.usace.army.mil/Activities/agt.htm>.

Happy trails!

**BREATH-taking SCENERY:** Portions of the trail system run alongside Lake Raystown, offering spectacular views of the woods and water.



**ABOVE:** Mountain bikers from New Jersey study a trail map, deciding which path to take next. Some of the trail names include *Deer, Buck, Doe, Fawn, Sleekdog, Hydro* and, the most challenging, *Ray's Revenge*.

**LEFT:** The Allegrippis Trail System was named after the ridge on the west side of Lake Raystown.

In addition, the trails offer a remote wildlife experience that many others can't rival.

"Once you're about 50 feet on any trail, you're in the wilderness," Ranger Gwinn points out. "You won't encounter any development."

Mountain biking enthusiasts agree that

the system is top-notch.

"We came from five hours away to stay for three days and ride," says Neil Mohamed of Edison, N.J. He and a group of friends vowed to hit every square inch of the trails before returning home.

"We've been biking a couple times a week for about five years now. The (Allegrippis) system is well-built, fast, smooth and well laid-out. And it seems to hold up really well after rain. On some trails, when you get wet weather, you often can't get back on the trails for up to a week."

"I'd like to come back and stay longer next time," adds Rafael Rocha. "The air out here is really good."

Since the ribbon-cutting ceremony, the



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Classified Advertising



Co-op members may submit ads via e-mail at valleynewsads@valleyrec.com; by phone at 800/432-0680; by fax at 814/643-1678; or by mail at Valley REC, PO Box 477, Huntingdon, PA 16652-0477. There is no charge for this service. If consumers wish to continue running particular ads, they are required to resubmit the information on a bimonthly basis. The deadline for submission is the 25th day of the month prior to the issue months. Submissions are viewable on the co-op's website at www.valleyrec.com. Items published are printed at the request of our members. The co-op does not endorse, recommend or assume any responsibility for the products or services advertised.

### Real Estate

Frankstown/Geeseytown area - 14 acres on Little Juniata River. Partially wooded w/ nearly 1/2 mile of river frontage. Est. topsoil of 100,000 tons. Good hunting & great fishing. Gated access w/ deeded right-of-way. Beautiful land layout to produce trophy hunting, \$54,000. 814/696-7456 or 814/934-1379.

Cross Keys, Juniata County - 2 BR, 1 bath on 2 acres, partially wooded. 2-car detached garage, paved driveway, new windows & 2 screened-in porches, \$95,000. 717/653-1751

Cassville, Todd Township - 2-acre wooded lot. 38' Royal Voyage RV, good well, septic, shed. Minutes to state forest & lake, \$48,650. 717/659-1299.

Germany Valley, Huntingdon County - 65 acres. Wildlife enhancement/forest stewardship. New home w/ 2-1/2 baths & 40' x 24' garage. Will sub-divide, \$450,000. 717/593-9454.

### Wanted

Collector looking for old gas, oil & auto-related advertising items, signs, clocks, thermometers, neon, pumps, globes, air pumps, dealer advertising, showroom items, etc. 814/695-5712 or munion@atlanticbb.net

Pekin Ducks - 1 hen, 1 drake. 717/734-3449.

Looking for farmhouse to rent. Have small animals. Want to move in by Oct. 1. 814/207-7960.

Web designer to finish website w/ shopping cart, etc. 814/448-3363.

### Events

Captain Jack Joint High School Class of 1955 Reunion will be held Sept. 19 at 1 p.m. at Hoss's, Rt. 22, Huntingdon. To make reservations, call 814/627-1496 or 542-9295.

Auction - Sat., Sept. 12 at 8:30 a.m. All contents of house & outbuildings of Frank & Mary Ellen Martz, 2976 Davis Lane, Hustontown. Includes antiques, old dishes, tools, quilting items, Avon, old "The Chandler & Price Co." patent printing press & paper cutter, gas stove, furniture, 1867 Halls patent large combination safe, chest freezer, hot tub chemicals, old accordion, old retro red & white chair & much more. 717/987-3427.

### Autos/Trucks

Car & SUV tires - 2 Kelly Navigator platinum tires, 50% tread, P215/50R17, \$50. 2 Continental conitrac tires, 30% tread, P235/70R16, \$40. 4 Doral SDL 60 tires (nice), 50%+ tread, P205/60R15, \$100. Marksipes@yahoo.com or 717/372-7118.

'97 Nissan Sentra 4-dr. w/ new clutch, front rotors & pads, water

pump. AC, regular maintenance, runs good. 34 MPG. Inspected through Aug., \$1,975. 814/667-3828.

1998 Honda Accord, 4-dr., black, gray leather interior, fully loaded, well-maintained, runs great, 206,000 miles, \$3,000 OBO. 814/542-4965.

1989 Volkswagon Fox, 4-speed manual trans., 4 new Bridgestone tires, easily fixed or use for parts, \$250. 814/695-3408.

1998 Chevy Cavalier, 4 dr., dk. green, good cond., 183,000 miles. New brakes, new alternator, \$1,300 OBO. 814/542-4485 or cell 570/249-0981.

### Recreational

'78 Suzuki RM50 bike - Completely rebuilt engine & trans. (5-speed manual). Shop manual plus extra parts, \$400 OBO. 814/643-2042.

Mooring cover for 19.5'-20' boat, \$25. 8'x10' tent, \$25. Cross-country skis & poles, \$10. Children's life vests, \$1 each. 814/658-2423.

2003 Yamaha Banchee, 350 twin, 6-speed. Blue/white. Ready to race. Very good cond., \$3,500. 814/635-0508.

1999 Max 4 six-wheeler. 16 horsepower, v-twin. New enclosed cab w/ heater & lights, removable rear rack. Low hrs., very good cond., \$3,500. 814/635-0508.

1976 Yamaha 125cc, DT-1 Enduro motorcycle, orig., complete & running, \$400. 814/667-3519.

Battery-powered electric trolling motor & 2 small paddles, \$15. Call anytime. 814/931-6774.

### **Vacation Rentals**

Upper Room By The Willows - 5758 Old Plank Rd., James Creek. Great location 3 miles from Lake Raystown & Tatman Boat Launch. Newly renovated former church sleeps up to 6 people, 3 BR plus sofa bed. Completely furnished; all you need to bring is your food. Lots of room for boat parking. No pets or smoking inside. Amenities include: air-conditioned, fully-equipped kitchen, cable TV, DVD player, washer/dryer, unlimited telephone service, fire ring, bed linens, towels & grill. 814/658-3027.

### **Livestock/Pets**

Alpacas & alpaca products for sale at Terrace Mtn. Alpaca near Calvin. Come visit our friendly, huggable show-quality alpacas. We now have yarn made from our alpacas. Store hours are Friday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. or call 814/643-2854 for any other day. [www.terracemountainalpacas.com](http://www.terracemountainalpacas.com)

### **Appliances**

Maytag gas range w/oven. Never used, builder's surplus, \$299. 717/951-0659.

### **Tools/Equipment**

Allis Chalmers B-1947 - Good cond. w/ plow & off-road trailer, \$2,500 OBO. 717/653-1751.

1951 8N Ford Tractor w/ 6-cyl. flat-head Funk Brothers conversion kit. Tin work in good shape, easy to restore. 5' brush hog & 2-bottom plow, \$4,500 OBO. 814/ 643-2042.

Porter Cable 2 hp variable speed router, in case, used once, \$100. Rockwell drill press on stand, \$150. Porter Cable 2 hp router on table w/ extensions & fences, \$150. Air brush, never used, \$25. 814/667-3519.

Craftsman 10" radial arm saw, \$75. Craftsman professional miterbox, \$35. 814/669-4277.

New Holland hay bailer, \$350. Hay rake, \$250. Round hay feeder, \$95. Gehl 400 farm wagon, frame, wheels & tires, \$250. Riding lawn tractor, 42" cut, 12 hp, \$300. Emglo air compressor, garage type, \$950. 2-post rotary electric car lift, \$1,200. Racing go-cart B&S, 5 HP, \$950. 814/943-2192.

1250 Cub Cadet for parts, no engine, 38" mower deck, good tires, tin work in good cond., excellent for parts, \$200. 814/643-2042.

### **Miscellaneous**

Oak office desk w/ 3 side drawers & 1 center drawer. 30" high x 42" wide x 32" deep, \$40. 814/542-4485.

Kenmore sewing machine & wood pine-finished cabinet. 4-stitch, zig-zag, removable arm, works. Cabinet is 32" high x 31" wide x 21" deep w/ 5 enclosed storage shelves. \$30 each or both for \$50. 814/542-4485.

About 20 slate walkway pavers, \$10 each. 814/658-2423.

Used VHS VCRs - approx. 70 left from repair business. All need some repair. [Marksipes@yahoo.com](mailto:Marksipes@yahoo.com) or 717/372-7118.

4 High Bay Cooper garage light fixtures, 150 watts, adjustable shrouds, multi-voltage hookup for 10' ceilings & higher. Cost \$249 each new, asking \$75 each. 814/643-2042.

High Standard Sports Model 22 auto., stainless, unfired. 1,000 rounds of ammo & carrying case. Collectors list \$600, asking \$400. 814/643-3197.

Mountainside Olde Stuff - Antiques, collectibles, furniture, flea market, clearance sale, bargains. 24647 Maddensville Pike, Hustontown. Between Clear Ridge & Maddensville, Rt. 475. Open daily. 814/448-9342.

Dehumidifier, 48 pints, \$30. 814/669-4277.

## **Classified Ads**

The Garden Gallery - Walls, floors & outdoor décor. Pavers, fire pits, retaining walls & much more. Puzzletown Rd., Duncansville. 814/696-2893.

Mossberg 308 rifle w/ 3x9x40 scope. 2 boxes of ammo, carrying case, gun sock, \$250. 814/643-4074.

240-volt air conditioner, used one summer, works good. First \$150 takes it. 814/643-4074.

GE A/C window unit. 5,000 BTU, used very little, \$75. 717/362-8995, lv. msg. or call cell at 717/991-4882.

Large stone fireplace. Tearing down. Best offer. 814/695-7012.

Capital brand 1960s portable sewing machine, runs good. 814/447-3735.

6 120/240-volt electric baseboard heaters, \$20 each or all 6 for \$100. 2 cherry-finished ladderback/wicker seat chairs, \$20 each or \$35 for both. 814/667-3519.

Brown recliner, \$40. Red leather swivel rocker, \$45. White galvanized antique icebox, 33"x17"x37", \$50. Tractor trailer load chains, \$25. Quilting frame, \$30. Black steamer chest w/ drawers & hangers, 18"x22"x40", \$50. Black storage chest, 22"x36"x23", \$40. Wood truck model that pulled Saxton reactor, \$125. 814/658-3973.

2 very old brass & porcelain table lamps. 5'x7' air mattress, 8" thick. 50 lbs. galvanized finishing nails. 814/658-2235.

Log lights, bird houses, bird houses with lights, wooden window frame w/ith lights around & candle in middle, lawn deer, wooden teardrop hearts & stars, round log bird houses w/ lights. Banks Woodcraft, Shirleysburg. 814/447-3173.

### **Service**

Antique clock repair & restoration. Call Richard Port. 814/643-1582.

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Reserve our outdoor park pavilions or banquet hall for your next special event. Stone Creek Valley Lions Park, 5303 Cold Springs Rd., Huntingdon. For rental information, call Denny Hall. 814/641-7489.

Jo-Jo's Cleaning Service – Commercial/residential, free estimates. 814/641-7613, lv. msg.

Affordable roofing, free estimates. 814/643-3312.

Kenneth W. Reigh Carpentry & Masonry – Decks, landscaping blocks, siding, additions, kitchens & baths, screened-in porches, natural stone, brick, block & concrete. Fully insured, 35-yrs. exp. For estimates, call 814/658-9998.

Stone's Notary Service – 2 locations: Rt. 26, James Creek & Rt. 22, Mill Creek. 814/599-9229 or email stonessnotary08@embarqmail.com

Vintage Art Glass – A unique & charming gift shop specializing in custom stained glass. A “working stained glass

studio” in the heart of the Alleghenies, Rt. 22 Artisan Trail. Come & watch Leah work or call Leah to design & build that pond or water feature you've dreamed about. Email [grapenutty@verizon.net](mailto:grapenutty@verizon.net) or call 814/251-4408. Great gifts. Great prices. Great service.

Book Construction - Excavation, clearing, roads, ponds, septic systems, foundations, prep sites for bldg., snow plowing, anti-skid. Fully insured, free estimates. 814/448-0186 or 599-6262.

For all your embroidery & screen printing needs, call Cathy at 814/942-4434 or e-mail [tjs3415@aol.com](mailto:tjs3415@aol.com)

Will do house cleaning & yard work. 814/259-3634.

ES Ministries Thrift Shop is located in the Mooresville United Methodist Church, 5468 Charter Oak Road, Mooresville. Open Thursdays & Fridays 9 a.m.-6 p.m. & Saturdays 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Selling clothing, household goods, toys, etc. Daily half-price and 50-cent sales. New goods added every day. 814/667-3141.

Property & home-sitting - I will watch your property, home & do light maintenance work while you're away or at home. 30-mile radius of McConnellsburg. I can supply several well-known references from the area. Call 717/372-7118 or email [barryswoman50@yahoo.com](mailto:barryswoman50@yahoo.com)

Moore Hair - Where looking good is still affordable. 814/667-2221 for appt.

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**for members  
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