

# News FOR YOU...

## Improving Reliability at the Springbrook Substation



*Lineman Ben Brede installed equipment.*

**B**arron Electric Cooperative works hard to provide reliable power to our members. Barron Electric line crews recently worked with A1 Express, Qualus, Dairyland Power Cooperative, and Dawes Crane to change out the substation transformer at the Springbrook Substation to allow more capacity to supply electricity to the members in this area.



*Crews prepared the transformer for energization.*

# Deep Into Soils at Tamarack Wetland Services



*Rosinweed attracts a variety of pollinators.*

The sounds of birds chirping and the smell of the fresh outdoor air made Anna DeMers wish she had a job where she could be outside more. She realized this while working remotely in 2020 as the 4-H Youth Development Educator for Washburn County.

Anna has a degree in Environmental Education from UW-Stevens Point. Anna's interest in plants helped her establish Tamarack Wetland Services, LLC in 2021, which offers shoreline restoration, native plantings, rain gardens, mycoremediation, and wetland delineation for landowners in Wisconsin. Wetland delineation determines the legal boundary of a wetland by examining the soils, hydrology, and plants. Shoreline restorations and native plantings create new habitat for pollinators and other animals, slows erosion and establishes important buffer zones that absorb the impacts yards may have on our lakes and rivers. She remarked, "All projects bring about different challenges."

For more information about Tamarack Wetland Services, LLC, visit them on Facebook, e-mail [tamarackwetlandservices@gmail.com](mailto:tamarackwetlandservices@gmail.com) or call 262-352-3299.



*Planting a native garden at the Cumberland Public Library*



*This buffer zone near water creates a pollinator habitat.*

## Pole Testing Starting Soon

American Energy Services will be testing poles in the townships listed below, starting at the end of April. Poles are tested to ensure the safety of our members and line crews and help maintain reliable service.

### **Barron County**

- Bear Lake
- Dallas
- Prairie Farm
- Stanford
- Vance Creek

### **Dunn County**

- New Haven
- Sheridan

### **Washburn County**

- Birchwood Townships



A magnetic sign that displays Barron Electric Cooperative's name will be displayed on their vehicles, while a 4-wheeler may be used to move efficiently throughout the system. If you have questions, please contact our office at 800-322-1008 or e-mail [operations@barronelectric.com](mailto:operations@barronelectric.com).

## Build Leadership Skills at the Youth Conference

Barron Electric will be sponsoring high school students to the Youth Leadership Conference set for July 16-18 at UW-Stout. Students will learn how to maximize their leadership skills, learn more about cooperatives, and have the opportunity to run for the WECA Youth Board. The youth board helps plan the next youth conference, and board members attend the NRECA Youth Tour. Students can also enter the WECA Essay contest which awards three scholarships of \$1,000, \$500, and \$250.

Please contact Barron Electric at 800-322-1008 or e-mail [memberservices@barronelectric.com](mailto:memberservices@barronelectric.com) for more details. The deadline for applying is **June 7, 2024**.



*Students have fun with teambuilding activities.*

## Youth Conference Participants Will Attend the Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

Barron Electric will be sponsoring three students to this year's Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. including Jazlena Basty, Hailey Hamblin, and Peyton Steines. Barron Electric students attending the WECA Youth Leadership Congress in 2024 will have the opportunity to attend the 2025 D.C. Youth Tour. Teens from rural America have been traveling to Washington D.C. as part of the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour for over 50 years. They have had the opportunity to tour museums, historic monuments, and meet elected officials.



*Levi Thornley, Jazlena Basty, Hailey Hamblin, and Peyton Steines attended the Youth Leadership Conference in 2023. Jazlena, Hailey, and Peyton will be attending the 2024 D.C. Youth Tour.*

## GPS Project to Start This Month

Global Mapping Solutions(GMS) will begin inventory of Barron Electric's system, which will include Global Positioning Systems(GPS) coordinates of all Barron Electric equipment. This project will help improve the outage dispatch process and provide a safer electric system for line crews, contractors, members, and the public. Once completed, this should allow better communication from the cooperative to our membership during outages.

Global Mapping Solutions will start at a small substation, north of New Auburn. Once complete, they will begin in the northern part of Barron Electric's service territory and move south. GMS will be on your property to inventory and take pictures of equipment, i.e. meters and transformers. GMS will use ATVs/UTVs and access the Right-of-Way by foot when necessary. Their vehicles will include magnetic signs with Barron Electric's logo, and GMS crews will carry identification badges noting they are contracted by Barron Electric. There are no signs on the ATVs/UTVs.

If you have questions, please contact the Operations Department at 800-322-1008 or [operations@barronelectric.com](mailto:operations@barronelectric.com).

## Energy Saving Tip

Hire a professional to maintain your heating and cooling system. Check and replace air filters regularly and arrange for annual maintenance with a qualified technician.



**American Red Cross**

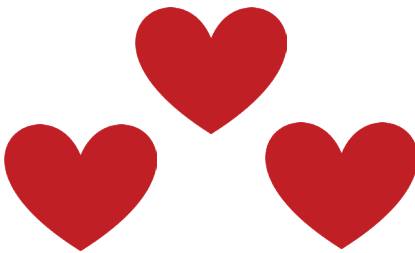
*Together, we can save a life*

## Blood Drive

Barron Electric Cooperative  
1434 State Hwy 25  
Barron

**Friday, April 26**

9:00 a.m to 3:00 p.m.



## \*Condensed Board Minutes

February 1, 2024



Mike Baker, Vice President of Barron Electric's Board of Directors, represents District 3, which includes the following townships: Crystal, Stone Lake, Sand Lake, Beaverbrook, Madge, Birchwood, Sarona, and Cedar Lake.

- A report of vouchers for the month was presented as part of the board packet as follows: #102642 thru #102767 from CCF Bank in the amount of \$353,424 and capital credit estate checks in the amount of \$20,432.

Total receipts in the office - \$3,004,105; total receipts by wire and ACH - \$2,334,557; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire - \$4,982,693; transfer of funds was made for payroll - \$303,658 and the power bill was paid on 01/31/2024 in the amount of \$2,178.945.

- A membership list of 69 was presented and approved without objection.
- Form 219 summarizing construction activity for the month of December in the amount of \$1,313,123.53 was presented for approval and included new services - \$ 134,213.36; change jobs - \$ 24,320.24; Other Work Order Projects - \$ 1,154,589.93 and 4 retirements. The Form 219 stood approved as presented.
- Outages year-to-date stand at 67,980.27 consumer hours off, which is 81.79% below 2023 hours of 373,279.99. Overtime year-to-date is 3,344.75 hours, which is 19.52% below 2022 hours of 4,156.25.

\* View full board minutes on SmartHub at [barronelectric.com](http://barronelectric.com).

## Monthly Photo Contest Winner Receives a \$50 Bill Credit



E-mail your spring photo to [memberservices@barronelectric.com](mailto:memberservices@barronelectric.com) for a chance to win a \$50 credit on your electric bill. Criteria includes:

- Photos must have a horizontal orientation (landscape) and must be high resolution, 300 dpi or higher.
- Member must own rights to the photo.
- E-mail your digital image to [memberservices@barronelectric.com](mailto:memberservices@barronelectric.com) by April 8, 2024. Include your Barron Electric account number, address, and phone number.
- By submitting your photo, you are granting Barron Electric permission to use your photo in a variety of publications and on our website.

## News FOR YOU...

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Published for the members of Barron Electric.  
If you have any comments regarding the newsletter, please e-mail [cbaribeau@barronelectric.com](mailto:cbaribeau@barronelectric.com)

Barron Electric is an equal opportunity provider.



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