

**Pickwick Electric Cooperative's
Annual Membership Meeting
Tuesday, Sept. 16,
McNairy Central High School**

Activities start at 4:30 p.m.
Business meeting starts at 7 p.m.

Displays, food,
entertainment, door prizes

Free hot dogs and soft drinks;
Party jumpers for the kids

Entertainment will be provided by
the Renewed Gospel Ministries Quartet
starting at 5 p.m.

Each of the first 500 members
to register will receive a 4-pack of compact
florescent bulbs.

We invite everyone to attend and help us
celebrate 73 years of service to our community.

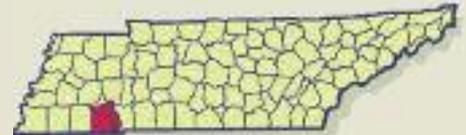
Holiday Closing

**Pickwick Electric Cooperative
will be closed
Monday, Sept. 1, 2008,
for Labor Day.**



**Pickwick
Electric
Cooperative**

**Serving members in all of
McNairy County and
portions of Chester,
Hardeman and Hardin
counties in Tennessee and
Alcorn and Tishomingo
counties in Mississippi**



530 Mulberry Ave.

P.O. Box 49

Selmer, TN 38375

Phone Numbers:

731-645-3411

731-632-3333

1-800-372-8258

Web site:

www.pickwick-electric.com

**These five pages contain
local news and information
for members of**

Pickwick Electric Cooperative.



Mike Harris, owner of Logan's Lake Honey, uses a machine to uncap frames and expose honey cells.

A Taste of Honey

“The sound of bees buzzing is music to my ears,” says Mike Harris of Finger. For the past 11 years, Harris has made his living as a beekeeper.

At an early age, Harris realized he had a love for bees and enjoyed nature. His grandfather, Walter G. Harris, a beekeeper in Lexington, was instrumental in helping Harris develop his passion for bees.

“How the bees work is truly amazing,” says Harris. “There are three types of honey bees: the queen, who lays the eggs; the workers, females who gather food, make honey, build the honeycomb, tend the eggs and guard the hive;

and the drones, males who mate with the queen. Once the queen lays an egg in the wax comb, it hatches into a worm-like larva and eventually turns into an adult bee.”

Most of the bees kept by Harris are wild bees that he has captured from homes, businesses, under decks and in chimneys. “It is surprising how many people actually call for this service,” he says. “Most of my customers are from the Jackson and Memphis area. It takes me approximately four to six hours to remove a hive from a home. I start the process by taking the comb first and then removing the bees with a ‘bee vac.’”



Harris dons his protective gear to check the bee hives for honey.

When Harris brings in a new batch of bees, he fills the hive (which is a wood box containing eight frames filled with combs) with bees and does not move them for about a week to make sure that the queen is laying the eggs. If the queen bee dies, the hive will also die.

The type of plant used for pollination determines the taste of the honey. In this area, Harris' hives are set near soybean and cotton fields. Farmers are happy to see the beekeeper coming. He also sets hives along the Mississippi River near Dyersburg and in Tennessee Wildlife Reserve areas.

Without bees, there would be a lot of unpollinated fruits, flowers and trees that would not look so pretty. In the process of going from flower to flower to collect nectar, pollen from many plants gets stuck on the bee's pollen basket (hair on the hind legs). This fertilizes the plants and produces seeds. The nectar is then carried back to the hive and turns into honey.

At harvest time, Harris brings in the hives to extract the honey. A small honey box weighs approximately 40 pounds, while the larger ones can weigh up to 90 pounds. "There is lots of physical labor and hard work involved in beekeeping," Harris says, "but it is something I love to do."

Extracting is the process whereby the beekeeper removes the cappings from the comb and places the frames into the extractor. Then a small motor spins the

extractor so the honey flies out of the comb, against the side, down to the bottom and out into a filter. The filter removes any specks of wax or bee parts that might be in the honey as it flows. Before bottling, Harris leaves his honey in a settling tank for about two days. If any excess wax gets through the filter,



Above, bees are busy working the hives. An average beehive can hold around 50,000 bees.

At left, bees fill the honeycomb with nectar.

it will float to the top of the settling tank. After the two-day period, the "liquid gold" is ready to be bottled.

From time to time, Harris has a request for beeswax from various health-food stores. He says, "There are at least 1,000 different uses for beeswax, from furniture polish to lip balm to candles. Every customer seems to have a different use for beeswax."

Harris started his business with five hives and currently has about 180 scattered all over West Tennessee.

You can find Harris' honey, better known as Logan's Lake Honey, in most West Tennessee grocery stores, local

farmers Co-ops and roadside markets. He also displays his goods at the Broomcorn Festival held each September in Selmer and at the Heritage Festival held at the Ames Plantation near Grand Junction in October. This year, for the first time, Harris will be showcasing an observation hive identifying the three types of bees at the Pink Palace Crafts Fair in Memphis, Oct. 2-5.

Harris is also an active member of the Jackson Area Beekeepers Association.

For more information on beekeeping or if you'd like to purchase some raw honey or beeswax, contact Harris at 731-934-4109.

Vehicles and power lines

If your car comes in contact with a power line, a state of panic may set in. Try to stay calm and follow these tips:

- Remain inside your vehicle. If you are in your car, you are not part of electricity's path, which always looks for the shortest way to the ground. Honk your horn to alert passersby.
- If someone stops to help, roll down the window and warn them not to touch the car or the power line. Ask them to phone 911 and contact the local electric utility immediately.
- Wait in your car until qualified electrical workers turn the power off and tell you it's safe to leave the car.
- If you have to leave the car because of fire or other danger, open the door and jump away from the vehicle so no part of your body touches the vehicle and the ground at the same time. Make sure to jump with both feet together so that your feet land on the ground at the same time.
- After you land with your feet together, shuffle away, keeping both feet in contact with the ground constantly.
- Do not try to help someone from the vehicle. If you do, you may become a path for electricity and be injured or killed.

Don't wait to insulate

Proper home insulation can make a difference in your power bill

Insulation is your home's primary defense against outdoor heat and cold. Without proper insulation, your home could be gaining a substantial amount of heat from your attic and the outside or losing heated air to those areas.

"Whether your home is new or old, it's important to make sure it's properly insulated — especially when you consider that heating and cooling account for as much as 60 percent of the energy used by most homes," says Kevin Roy, electrification advisor at Pickwick Electric Cooperative. "Insulation keeps heat where it belongs — outside during the summer and inside in the winter."

One of the easiest ways to ensure your home has enough insulation is by purchasing a home that meets the energy-efficiency guidelines suggested by PEC. These guidelines cover such items as energy-efficient electric heat pumps and water heaters, extra caulking, weatherstripping and double-pane windows.

To improve your home's current insulation or make sure your new home is insulated adequately, you need to consider the different types of insulation, the areas of your home that require it and how much should be installed. Once you've evaluated all of the information, you can insulate your home accordingly and feel confident that you'll have years of comfort without wasting money and energy. A contractor can help you

determine whether your home will benefit from increased insulation and help you decide among the choices outlined below.



Adequate insulation is one way to help reduce your heating and cooling costs and conserve energy.

First, take a look at the five main types of insulation: blankets, batts, air-blown, loose-fill and rigid foam. Blanket insulation comes in rolls for use in attics and underneath floors. Batts are similar but come in precut lengths of 4 and 8 feet for use in attics, floors and walls. Air-blown insulation is usually sprayed or blown into attics. Loose-fill is poured from bags and used for attic floors. Rigid foam comes in rigid sheets or boards for use in framed or masonry walls.

Next, consider the areas in your home that should be insulated. The primary areas include the attic, basement, walls, floors and heating-and-cooling ducts. Keep in mind that you should insulate any walls separating heated and unheated areas. If your home has a crawl space underneath, you probably need to insulate under the floor. Also, insulate heating-and-cooling ducts, water pipes and water heaters located in uninsulated areas or areas that aren't heated and cooled.



In selecting the insulation for these areas, you will need to consider the R-value. The higher the R-value, the more effective the insulation. Different types of insulation will require different depths for the same R-value, so this is something you might want to talk over with a contractor.

For more information on properly insulating your home, contact Pickwick Electric Cooperative at 731-645-3411.