Staying Safe in an Electrified World

Whether driving or digging, what every WEC member should know about power line safety

By Will Lindner

Most Vermonter are only vaguely aware of the electricity infrastructure that surrounds them every day, wherever they are. It’s up in the air (distribution and transmission lines strung from pole to pole); it’s right beside them (roadside poles, or in WEC’s case, poles perhaps hidden from view amidst the tree trunks).

Sometimes, though rarely in WEC territory, it’s on or underneath the surface of the ground, when homes and subdivisions are tied to the electric grid by buried service lines, with ground-surface “pads” that house the connections and transformers.

Under normal circumstances we can safely ignore this envelope of electricity we live within. But it is electricity, and it has the power, in an instant, to kill or maim us. Risk of contact with live electric wires can come as a result of a storm that knocks trees into the power lines, or trucks hitting a utility pole, perhaps a vehicular accident such as a car or truck hitting a utility pole, perhaps hiding from view amidst the tree trunks).

No matter what the cause, Stergas has one dominant message for people who see power lines on the ground: Assume they are energized and stay at least 30 feet away.

Car-pole accidents and downed wires on or near vehicles

Operations & Engineering Director Dan Weston has become particularly concerned about drivers looking at their cell phones and running into utility poles – which, he says, is not as uncommon an occurrence as it should be since Vermont passed a law in 2014 prohibiting the use of hand-held devices while operating a motor vehicle.

“This is getting to be a monthly event, not necessarily for the Co-op but somewhere in the area,” says Weston. “Texting and distraction while driving, whatever the cause, seems to have increased.”

There are other causes of car-pole accidents, too, such as the vehicle skidding on ice or wet pavement. The most important thing people must know is that if the power lines come down, drivers (and cutting down trees and losing control of where they fall). WEC’s culture of safety extends to its membership, and the Co-op is committed to sharing with its members what to do – and not do – when electricity becomes dangerous.

When the Lights Turned On:

Stan and Elaine Fitch Remember Co-op and Community History

Stan and Elaine Fitch still live in the tidy farmhouse in Kent’s Corner where he was born 96 years ago. Their home reveals rich and expansive intellectual and creative lives, as well as their love for this close-knit Vermont community where they both grew up.

Over the course of an hour, three different groups of visitors stop by the house. There are fresh copies of The Atlantic and Foreign Affairs by Stari’s chair, as well as Calais author Rick Winston’s book Red Scare in the Green Mountains. In the front room, art covers the walls, and adorning the piano are the high school portraits of their three daughters, Donna, Diane, and Judy.

Next to a window looking out on the snow-covered sloping yard hangs a picture Elaine painted 20 years ago of that snow-covered sloping yard. Through the window, there is a ridge of new trees that doesn’t exist in the painting. Other than that, everything looks pretty much the same.

That’s one of the beautiful things about Calais – while the world has changed so much over the Fitches’ long lives, the spirit of the community hasn’t seemed to change much at all. Other than a little more traffic on the road where they live, up the hill from the old Robinson Sawmill,
Board, Budgeting, and Broadband

Barry and Patty discuss the upcoming election and the open seat on WEC’s board of directors, budgeting for better reliability, looking into broadband, and the current legislative session

Co-op Currents

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The Board of Directors’ regularly scheduled meetings are on the last Wednesday of each month, in the evening. Members are welcome to attend. Members who wish to discuss a matter with the Board should contact the president through WEC’s office. Meeting dates and times are subject to change. For information about times and/or agenda, or to receive copies of the minutes of past meetings, contact Administrative Assistant Dawn Johnson, at 223-2332.

Notice: Omission in Energy Efficiency Charge Bill Insert

Recently, WEC members received a bill insert explaining 2019’s energy efficiency charges. The insert was coordinated by Efficiency Vermont and distributed by WEC. The insert omitted a line relevant to WEC members with security lighting. Per the Public Utility Commission, unmetered street and security light customers have a 2019 EEC rate of $0.0191/kWh times the nominal wattage of the light times 360 hours per month.

Got something to say?

Letter to the editor, comment, or a story tip? Drop us a line at currents@wec.coop or Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 6, East Montpelier, VT 05651, Attn: Co-op Currents.
team is taking a serious look at our whole service territory based on where outages have occurred.

Patty: Last year was a tough year for everyone. It was important to hear from members where the outages were occurring. We heard loud and clear from members that they were frustrated. We mapped it out, and the majority of the long duration outages were on the ends of our lines. So when we looked at all the outages during a given storm, we saw that there were a lot of outages, but those outage points affected small numbers; about 10 members at a time. We had hundreds of breaks, and every one of them had to be repaired, but we picked up a handful of homes at a time. It was a clear signal to us that we need to focus right of way dollars at the ends of our lines to clear up all those overgrown areas where tree contact is causing repeat outages.

Barry: One thing I learned last year is that we have a lot of outages we have two criteria, generally, for how we know when to focus clear at an outage. One is when it's causing repeat outages. The group that's been out a long time. And there's one larger group that just seems to come at once. But we also look at where right of way clearing is needed. We mapped it out, and they were frustrated. It was clear from members that there were a lot of outages during a given period. Outages were occurring. Last year was a tough year for everyone.

Barry: At our board meeting in January, several board members and our manager met a dozen people from Vermont who've tried to get broadband into their area, and farther south. It was critical to us that we could meet with them and understand their needs. We've talked to members about broadband for a few years. If we do it, we know it will be an expensive build-out. We need to know: what would it cost, what is the break-even for members, and can we do it? And if we can't do it economically, can we get grants to do it?

Patty: Whenever we survey people about what they want from us as an electric co-op, reliability is always first. With the intensity and frequency of storms happening, we've got to beef up the right of way budget. We added another 100,000 dollars – we're at almost a million dollars now just for increased right of way clearing.

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Broadband

Barry: At our board meeting in January, several board members and our manager met a dozen people from around our territory who have all been trying to get broadband to their homes. The board voted to try to seek out grant funds to do a feasibility study and business plan to determine whether broadband makes sense economically and if it will provide any advantages for dealing with storms. We still need to determine whether it would make sense for WEC to provide broadband directly or to expand service into our territory through a third party. This is just the first step, trying to secure funds to get more information to help the board and membership decide if this is a venture we want to pursue.

Patty: Over the last several years, periodically people will call in and say, “WEC, can you give us broadband?” We live in the woods here and we have really poor internet service.” So, we’re being asked conceptually about this for a few years. If we do it, we know it will be an expensive build-out. We need to know: what would it cost, what is the break-even for members, and can we do it? And if we can’t do it economically, can we get grants to do it?

If we were to get into this space, there would be a separation between broadband revenue and electric revenue. So as Barry said, in order to do the study, we need some grant dollars to get a consultant in and find out how many members per mile we’d need to sign up.

Barry: We’ve talked to members down in Corinth and down in central Vermont who’ve tried to get broadband to their area, and farther south. It was a really good meeting and we’ll keep you posted. Again, to underline, it’s not an instantaneous process. Even if we got all the grant and loan money today, it would still be a several decade build-out through the whole service area.

Annual Meeting Call for Photos and Contest

Submit your photos for WEC’s 80th Annual Meeting photo contest! Categories are: Historic WEC and WEC Today. Please send hi-res images to currents@wcecoop, or send to the Co-op’s East Montpelier headquarters. Winning photos will be displayed at the Annual Meeting and in Co-op Currents. Check the January and March issues of Co-op Currents for more details.

Where’s WEC?

Roundup of where Right of Way crews are currently working to keep your power reliable:

- Loop Road in Northfield
- Moretown to Middletown feeder
- Baker Pond in Brookfield (in advance of reconstructing the line)
- Center Road in East Montpelier (in advance of reconstructing the line)
- South Walden transmission line
- French Road in Middletown (in advance of reconstructing the line)
- Adamant Pond area in Calais (in advance of reconstructing the line)
- Hot spot trimming (limited sections of line) West Hill Pond feeder in Walden/Cabot; Worcester 2 phase near Route 12

Legislative session

Patty: I was recently in Montpelier meeting with the House Energy and Technology committee. Over a two day period, all the utilities and anyone in the energy space, environmental groups, all the interest groups and stakeholders, had an opportunity to talk. It was like a 101 to introduce each organization to the committee. I’m not sure yet what new initiatives lawmakers will be considering, but we’ll be participating throughout the legislative session.

Barry: Our former general manager, Avram Patt, was elected to the House representing the Lamoille-Washington district – Morrisville, Elmore, Worcester, Woodbury. He’s on the House Energy and Technology committee. I do know that committee has taken a long look at broadband and telecommunications.

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WEC in the News

General Manager Patty Richards appeared on “Along Those Lines,” the podcast of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, or NRECA. She spoke about the “evolving grid,” and how electric co-ops are positioned to use new technologies to lead the industry into the future. Check out Episode 5 of “Along Those Lines” on www.electric.coop or your preferred source for podcasts.
Two Incumbents, Two New Candidates Run for Three Board Seats

Vote by mail or at the 80th Annual Meeting: Thursday, May 2 at WEC’s Operations Center in East Montpelier

Every year, WEC’s membership elects three fellow members to serve on the Co-op’s nine-seat Board of Directors. The members who serve in these critical roles oversee management and staff and make policy and leadership decisions for the member-owned electric utility. This year, Roy Folson of Cabot, who served on the board for 15 years, has decided to step down, leaving one seat vacant. The incumbent candidates are Barry Bernstein and Annie Reed. To date, WEC has received materials from two new candidates: Steven Farnham and Glenn Goodrich.

Each candidate has submitted a brief biographical sketch, printed below. The April issue will feature their responses to questions about issues related to board service, providing readers a broader sense of their interests, viewpoints, and experience. Any other candidates whose paperwork arrived after this issue’s deadline will be profiled in April’s issue as well.

WEC members may write in names of unofficial candidates on ballots if they wish. All board candidates run at-large, since WEC is not divided into districts. Your ballot will arrive in the mail: check to make sure when the deadline is to post your votes by mail. You may also vote in person at the Annual Meeting.

The 2019 Annual Meeting will be Thursday, May 2 at WEC’s Operations Center on Fassett Road in East Montpelier. All members are invited to attend the meeting. Reservations are required for dinner, which is provided at no cost to the membership. Please see the reservation form on p. 8. More details will follow in the April issue of Co-op Currents.

Barry Bernstein
Residence: I live on Bliss Road in East Calais, and have owned a home there since 1976. I have been an owner-member of WEC since 1971. WEC members should feel free to call me at 456-8843 or email me at bbeavr48@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Community Involvement: WEC Board of Directors, 1997-present, President of the Board, November 1998 - present; Director, Treasurer, ILR Inc., Northampton, Massachusetts, disability-rights organization specializing in ADA technical assistance and training; Trustee, Finance Committee member, Woodbury College, Montpelier; Director, Treasurer, Hunger Mountain Co-op, Montpelier, Buffalo Mountain Co-op, Hardwick, Plainfield Co-op; Co-founder, Vermont Center For Independent Living (VCLI), Montpelier; Executive Director (1978-1982, 1992-1993); Co-ordinator, Director, Treasurer, CVTA, nonprofit organization providing transportation services to central Vermont elders, people with disabilities, and others.

Steven Farnham
Residence: Five generations of my family have been WEC members since WEC first strung power lines across our farm in Plainfield, which has been my home since I was born in the sixties. The farm’s WEC membership has been in my name since the late nineties. I may be reached at StevenWEC@gmail.com, or 802-917-5281.

Background: After graduating from the local school system, my education came from VTC, from which I secured an Associate’s in Electronics, with honors, and subsequently furthered my studies in Business Administration at UVM, and the International College of Cayman Islands. My early engineering career consisted of work in quality assurance, manufacturing, technical support, not to mention a summer job servicing substation equipment at Green Mountain Power. My more recent endeavors have included bus, truck, and heavy equipment operation, selling agricultural products, carpentry, and machinery repair and restoration.

Community Involvement: Present or past member of boards of Hunger Mountain Food Co-op, the Vermont Philharmonic, and the Cutler Library, leading the latter through the process of installing a new heating system, and bringing that local institution back from the brink of closure. Served on the Cutler Friends of the Library, the Plainfield planning commission, and as Justice of Peace. WCPR-FM: Fifteen year stint hosting weekday community affairs local issues/politics program. Volunteered for Vermont State Science and Math Fair (now Vermont STEM Fair), Barre Opera House, Lost Nation Theater, and continued on page 5.

Glenn Goodrich
Residence: Cabot. Son of Walter and Sally Goodrich of Cabot, Vermont. I was raised on Molly Brook Farms.

Background: I attended Cabot School, graduating as a member of the National Honor Society. I attended UVM in Burlington, Vermont with a Bachelors of Science in Industrial Education. I taught at St. Johnsbury Academy for 6½ years. I taught at Danville High School for 6½ years. In 1990 I retired from teaching to devote more time to several businesses myself and my wife Ruth had begun: construction of conventional and timber frame homes, roadside mowing for municipalities and the state of Vermont, as well as starting up a fair-sized maple production operation. I also became a professional maple sap tubing installer from Wisconsin to Northern Maine.

In 1990 the sugarhouse located at 2427 US Route 2 in Cabot was built and we began the production of maple syrup on a large scale, as well as opening a retail outlet for maple syrup and maple products. Presently I created a state of the art, high tech sugaring operation in Eden, Vermont with the capacity for up to 200,000 taps. My wife Ruth and I employ up to 30 employees and have created a business that has become well known as a tourist attraction that attracts thousands of customers each year.

Community Involvement: I have served in a wide variety of state and local community boards and organizations; member of the Cabot Board of Selectmen, 13 years — many as Chairman; Vermont Maple Promotion Board; Vermont Maple Industry Council; Vermont Maple continued on page 5.

Annie Reed
Residence: I have lived in Marshfield for 43 years and on Hollister Hill for 41 years. I have been a member of the Washington Electric Cooperative for 19 years. You can contact me by mail at 3941 Hollister Hill, Marshfield, VT 05658, by phone at 454-1324, or by email at anniereed48@gmail.com.


Community Involvement: I am Chair of the Marshfield Conservation Commission, former member of the Planning Commission, former President of the Friends of the Jaquith Public Library and have served on its Board of Trustees for the past 6 years. For three years I served on the Goddard College Board of Trustees and am former chair and current member of the FloraSculp Advisory Group (FLAG) to the Vermont Endangered Species Committee. For 10 years I volunteered as an EMT for the Cabot Ambulance and the Plainfield Fire and Rescue Squad. I am a member of the Hunger Mountain Co-op, member and current employee of the Plainfield Co-op. I am a member of the NorthCountry Federal Credit Union and the Vermont State Employees Credit Union.
“Our territory is ground zero” for the emerald ash borer in Vermont

WEC Takes Action Against A Destructive Bug

The first confirmed infestation was a year ago: in February, 2018, evidence of the emerald ash borer was found in the woods of Orange, in the heart of WEC country.

Since then, as the invasive insect has spread and communities throughout Vermont consider what to do with their ash trees, WEC has been developing a plan of its own. The Co-op needs to act fast. That’s because the bugs act fast: they spread rapidly, and infested trees die after only a few years.

Operations & Engineering Director Dan Weston put a point on it: “Our territory is ground zero for this.” After it was discovered in Orange, the emerald ash borer, or EAB, has been found in Groton and Plainfield, as well as neighboring Barre and Montpelier. Outside central Vermont, it’s been confirmed in Bennington and Grand Isle counties.

The emerald ash borer is a small green borer, only a few millimeters long. It’s native to eastern Asia, where it evolved alongside that continent’s ash population – so Asian ashes are resistant to the bug. But how did it get to Vermont?

EAB is thought to have arrived in the US by hitching a ride on wood packing material sent to Detroit. Discovered there in 2002, it’s rapidly spread since to 35 states and into Canada. The bug flies from tree to tree on its own, but it’s likely human interference caused it to move far more rapidly. Experts believe one major contributing factor is people transporting firewood. A camper moving wood could unwittingly cause an infestation hundreds of miles away.

There are three species of ash native to North America – green, white, and black – and the EAB feasts on all of them. Adult bugs chew out of the tree they were hatched in, fly to the canopy level of another tree, eat leaves, then bore in and lay eggs. Those eggs hatch into larvae with a voracious appetite. Under the bark, larvae eat through the wood of the tree, carving serpentine tunnels, called galleries. The larvae’s tunneling cuts off the tree’s vascular system, which moves water and nutrients from the roots to the leaves. Trees exhibit signs of stress, and then effectively starve to death. Communities infested by EAB see their trees die within just a few years.

What we’re doing is reassessing areas we’ve gone through to take ash trees we left before they become infested. It cuts the price of removing those trees and cuts the danger to anyone who might be in the right of way.

— Rick Stergas

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What EAB means for our ash trees

Five percent of Vermont’s forest is ash, and many municipalities and landowners planted the attractive tree to make our streets and yards shady and beautiful. Woodworkers love the ash for the fine texture of its dense wood; famously, baseball bats are made from ash. Other species depend on the ash for resources. Tragically, there is no way to save them all. The borer kills 99.7 percent of all infested trees.

It’s far more expensive – six to 10 times as expensive – to cut and remove a dead ash than a live, healthy tree. Crews can’t climb the brittle branches, weakened and unsafe after being starved of nutrients, and must bring in high-cost machinery to cut down tall trees. The wood dries out on the trunk causing splintering instead of cutting cleanly.

For example: an ash tree with a high level of woodpecker activity is a potential EAB sign. The birds eat the larvae under the bark, and lots of woodpecker holes – called flecking – especially in the upper trunk of a tree may indicate an infestation. During spring and summer, when trees leaf out, EAB-infested trees may show stress by a thinning canopy or sprouting oddly along their sides. Splitting bark may also indicate the infestation underneath.

If a tree appears to have EAB, peeling away the bark to check for the larval galleries can confirm it. The undulating, S-shaped galleries are unique to EAB. A tree that’s already fledged adult borers will exhibit D-shaped exit holes. For bugs this small, the exit holes are particularly tiny, but the D-shape is a giveaway.

What EAB does to our streets

Experts believe one major contributing factor is people transporting firewood. A camper moving wood could unwittingly cause an infestation hundreds of miles away.

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That leaves landowners and municipali- ties the bitter choice of cutting perfectly healthy trees now, or taking down dangerous, dead trees for a lot more money later. For the Co-op, whose primary concerns are safety, reliability, and using its members’ funds responsibly, the choice is unfortunate but clear. “We’re trying to get to the ash before it’s dead, because once it’s dead it becomes a much larger threat, not just to infrastructure but for personnel as well,” explained Stergas.

Vermonters can understand the stakes by looking to the dozens of states that have already seen EAB sweep through. “Not a single one of those states has been able to stop it or combat it,” said Weston. During Winter Storm Bruce, Stergas worked with a mutual aid crew from Pennsylvania and asked them about their experience with EAB. “They confirmed everything you’ve read,” he reported. “They’ve been dealing with it from around 2009, and they’ve had a lot of line damage from EAB damaged trees.”

Stergas went to a presentation where a National Grid forester spoke about EAB infestation in central New York. Images of forests of dead trees stuck with him. “We’re not going to eliminate it, it’s not possible,” he said, resigned. The problem is so bad, he said, that National Grid does outreach telling bow hunters not to put their tree stands in ash trees, to prevent them from getting hurt climbing weak and brittle branches. Utilities and companies in affected states have poured money into mitigating damage from the bug, he said, into the millions. Nationally, some statistics show nearly 11 billion dollars have been spent on treating, removing, and replacing trees.

— John Hritz
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Experiencing cold spots in your home this winter?

Call the Energy Coach. Through an energy audit with a qualified contractor, you can discover the most energy- and cost-efficient ways to weatherize.

On top of Efficiency Vermont incentives, WEC offers cash incentives through the Button Up program. Stay warm, keep your heat in your home, reduce your fossil fuel footprint, and save money. To learn more, contact the Energy Coach: 802-224-2329 / energycoach@wec.coop

Get to Know Your WEC

Have you ever wondered who is fixing the line up your road, or who you spoke to when you called in about an outage or a bill?

Co-op Currents profiles Co-op staff in this feature.

Rick Stergas

Safety & Environmental Compliance Specialist

Learning to teach

Rick Stergas started at WEC in June, 2017 as the Co-op’s Safety and Environmental Compliance Specialist.

He’s been busy, working to keep the lines safe from trees that could come down in storms, leading flagger safety trainings for road work, developing WEC’s plan to mitigate damage from the invasive Emerald Ash Borer (WEC Takes Action, p.5) – and that’s just a sample of what Co-op Currents has asked him about this past year.

He’s a man with many interests and he loves to learn. That’s good, because his role at the Co-op is to learn and to teach. His job is “primarily pulling together training programs for these guys,” he said, referring warmly to his colleagues in the Operations department. Rick coordinates people with outside expertise, synthesizes what he learns from them, and tries to get in the field as much as possible to coach and work directly with crews. His job requires facilitation, teaching, and communication skills.

From muskrats to McNeil

Rick comes to the Co-op with vast experience in both forestry and in electric utility safety. He completed undergraduate and graduate studies at SUNY Plattsburgh with a focus in environmental science and forest and fire ecology, diving into topics as varied as muskrat population studies and the potential for hybrid poplars as an alternative biomass fuel source. Even though not a forester himself, he said, he got to meet a lot of people on the forefront of “a lot of cool research in the Northeast” through his studies.

When he moved to Vermont, he started as the forestry crew leader for a program serving at-risk youth, then worked as an environmental consultant before becoming the environmental specialist at Burlington Electric Department’s wood-fired McNeil Generating Plant. He was there for 22 years before coming to work at WEC.

Football family

Rick lives in Fairfax with his wife Kathy Stergas, a middle school counselor. Their kids Sean and Julia are in college. As the kids grew up, their athletic interests were a priority for the family. “Our fun was always going to their sporting events,” Rick said, and he and Kathy still make a habit of going to games. Sean plays football for Western New England College, so they keep fall weekends clear to travel anywhere from Maine to New Jersey for matches.
Look up and don’t touch

Besides the blanket admonition never to go near downed power lines until utility or emergency personnel have made it clear that the area is safe, WEC warns its members not to touch anything that’s in contact with power lines, even if the lines haven’t fallen. Don’t try cutting a tree that’s leaning on the lines, no matter how great your skills with a chain saw. Trees conduct electricity. In fact, don’t touch anything that’s touching something that’s in contact with the lines.

Precaution must be taken when doing necessary outdoor chores that can bring people into proximity to electric lines. For example, people may need to shovel snow off their roofs, yet they might not notice the service line bringing 240 volt electricity to the house from a pole nearby.

“240 volts is considerably less than the voltage on the distribution lines,” says Stergas, “but it will still cause cardiac arrest in a fraction of a second.”

So if you’re using a ladder, whether it’s wooden or aluminum, carry it carefully to the site – looking up – and prop it against your house well clear of the service line. Then, when using your rake or shovel, be constantly mindful of the service line and its connection point to the house.

Final words: Particularly after a storm, downed power lines might be concealed by high grass, rubble, or snow. Keep children and pets inside until you’re certain it’s safe.

Weston can’t help returning to the needless danger caused by distracted drivers who crash into utility poles. “Besides endangering the public when you do that,” Weston says, “you’re also causing inconvenience to people who lose their power. And here’s something people should know: It’s expensive – for them! Usually those incidents happen after business hours. Break one of those poles and it means bringing people out at overtime rates, plus the cost of the new pole and other equipment that might have to be replaced. You’re looking at a 5,000 to 20,000 dollar bill by the time that’s done. That’s not coming out of our members’ pockets; it’s coming out of yours.”

That’s not quite as good a reason as staying alive to exercise the utmost caution around power lines. But if it helps to prevent contact with lines, we’ll take it.

Dinner Reservation (Buffet Dinner)

WEC’s 80th Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 2, 2019

230 Fassett Road, East Montpelier, VT • 4:30 pm registration 5:30 pm buffet begins

Cost: Dinner is free by RESERVATION ONLY. Walk-ins on 5/2 will be charged $20 per meal if meals available. Confirmation postcards will not be sent, but confirmation emails will be.

RSVP with form below by Wednesday, April 17, 2019 to: WEC, PO Box 8, E. Montpelier, VT 05651

Dinner Reservation (Buffet Dinner)

Member Guest Child/Age

Name: ________________________________ (Please print clearly)  ☐ ☐ ☐

Name: ________________________________ (Please print clearly)  ☐ ☐ ☐

Name: ________________________________ (Please print clearly)  ☐ ☐ ☐

Name: ________________________________ (Please print clearly)  ☐ ☐ ☐

Account #: ________________________________ Telephone ________________________ Email ________________________________

Please be sure not to put reservation RSVP in ballot envelopes.

Bon Temps Gourmet buffet will accommodate vegetarian and gluten free options. For other special dietary requests please contact Dawn Johnson at 802-234-2332 or Dawn.Johnson@wec.coop

The National Grid tells hunters to no longer hang deer stands in ash trees. EAB infestation happens so fast that a tree that was healthy last season could be dangerously weak to climb a year later.