Invasive species workshop attracts 60

Battling Buckthorn was a hot topic at the 2017 Invasive Species Workshop, hosted on March 21, at R&D Catering Banquet Facility (Ready Randy’s) south of New Richmond. The event was free to members and hosted by St. Croix Electric Cooperative.

Lee Shambeau, of 4Control, Inc., (Menomonie) discussed a variety of control methods for local invasive species, especially Buckthorn. He also discussed the most effective methods of treatment, depending on the time of year, in order to best start getting a handle on patches of invasive plants. Shambeau works with private land owners, as well as state and federal agencies to identify and control invasive plant species. 4Control is the contractor utilized by SCEC and many other electric cooperatives in Wisconsin to perform plant management applications under and near power lines and utility equipment. Shambeau’s equipment and materials are approved (and used) by the DNR.

Controlling invasive species on private and public property is mandated by Wisconsin state law NR-40. According to the DNR, “The invasive species rule (Wis. Adm. Code ch. NR 40) makes it illegal to possess, transport, transfer, or introduce certain invasive species in Wisconsin without a permit. Everyone is responsible to comply with these regulations. What you need to do as an individual, business, or organization may vary depending on your type of work and activities.” More details and information can be found online at: http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/classification.html.

A limited number of materials from the March 21 event are available to SCEC members. Contact Dana Bolwer, SCEC communications and events coordinator (communications@scecnet.net or 715-796-7000).

FROM THE BOARD ROOM

At their April 3 meeting, the Board of Directors took action on the following policies.

Policy 603 Service Requirements was amended to allow for the use of a grounding system other than the installation of two conventional copper clad ground rods as is now required. Electricians may use an Ufer grounding system, which utilizes metal rebar encased in a concrete slab or building footing when installed in compliance with the National Electric Code and approved by a licensed electrical inspector.

Policy 705 Schedule of Billing Charges was amended and increases the charge for a member-requested meter test from $10 to $30. If the results of the test show the meter accuracy is outside of the allowed policy variance, the member’s bill is recalculated and the meter test charge is refunded.

All Large Power Rate Policies with a 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. maximum summer kW demand billing period were amended, effective May 1, 2017. The new hours when the monthly maximum kW demand will be measured will shift from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. This change was necessary to coincide with the peak billing hours of the cooperative’s wholesale supplier, Dairyland Power Cooperative.

Members: If you don’t have insurance to cover dental, vision or prescriptions, a Co-op Connections Card may help you save on your next visit. A Co-op Connections Card is not insurance. Contact Dana Bolwerk at SCEC if you would like a card (715-796-7000 or danab@scecnet.net).

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