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# Youth Ambassadors RENEWED and REFRESHED for 2021!

Calling all high school students! Are you looking for an exciting opportunity to explore the cooperative difference, learn from area leaders, and experience how Eau Claire Energy Cooperative demonstrates our commitment to community? Oh, and did we mention that this is all while having fun with other students, earning some cool swag, and eating free food? If so, Youth Ambassadors is for you!

Throughout the school year, Youth Ambassadors (YA) will meet once per month for educational learning sessions, field trips, and community service projects.

The cooperative will sponsor YAs to attend Youth Leadership Congress at UW-River Falls, and two students will have an opportunity to go on an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., for the Youth Tour hosted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Apply now at [www.ecec.com](http://www.ecec.com) under the "Community" tab. Current Youth Ambassadors are encouraged to invite friends and classmates to join.

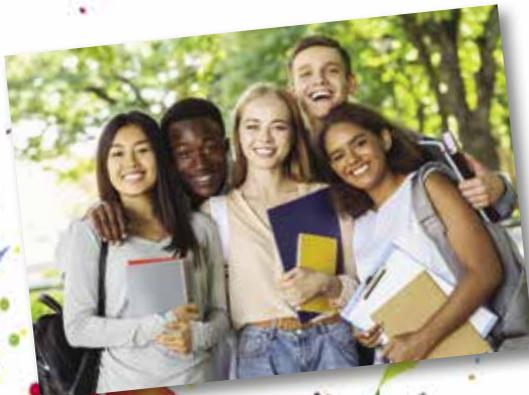


## 2021-2022 MEETING DATES

- September 22, 2021
- October 20, 2021
- November 17, 2021
- December 15, 2021
- January 19, 2022
- February 16, 2022
- March 16, 2022
- April 20, 2022
- May 18, 2022

Earn cool  
swag

Eat free  
food



## Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

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in the  
community



Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

MEMBER

SPOTLIGHT



In the energy world, the term “going green” often refers to renewable energy and sustainability. For this member business, going green means playing a round of golf among tall evergreens, on freshly mowed fairways, and on manicured putting surfaces. Eau Claire Energy Cooperative visited with course owner, John Norby and his daughter, Megan Bechel, to learn more about the beautiful Hickory Hills Golf Course.

## Hickory Hills Golf Course – ANOTHER WAY TO GO GREEN

Brothers John and Jim Norby along with their wives, Mary Jo and Judy, purchased Hickory Hills Golf Course in the fall of 1999. At that time, it was a nine-hole course with plans in place for adding an additional nine on the beautiful 100 acres. However, there wasn’t much time for the new owners to prepare for their first season of golf because February of 2000 brought unseasonably warm temperatures and the course opened for play!

A lot of work was done in that first year to build and grow Hickory Hills including the installation of an automated irrigation system and finishing the back-nine holes. John recalls working with Eau Claire Energy Cooperative to run three-phase power for the irrigation pumps: “We had to work with your team to be sure we had the proper electrical service for the irrigation system.”

Hickory Hills caters to a wide range of golfers. Open to the public, tee times are available nearly every day of the week. And if you would like to be a regular at Hickory, there are leagues for ladies, men, seniors, couples, and more. The Norbys pride themselves on their youth programs including junior leagues and the Y-Tee golf education program—a longstanding partnership with the YMCA.

While Hickory Hills is best known for the golf experience—after all, it was voted the best golf course in

the Chippewa Valley by *Volume One* magazine for 15 years running—they also host events like weddings, retirement parties, fundraisers, and more. Megan explained, “For years, we would set up and tear down huge tents for these events. It was a ton of work!” This prompted the family to build the three-season pavilion attached to the clubhouse. The pavilion overlooks nearby greens and ponds and shelters guests from the often-changing Wisconsin weather.

During the summer, Hickory Hills employs 25 full- and part-time individuals. Roles vary from those who

maintain the beautiful course to the friendly bartenders serving their famous bloody-mary drink. When we asked John about the challenges and joys of owning a golf course, he said, “It’s no surprise that the challenges are usually weather related. And, the joys? Well, the joys are easy. It’s the daily satisfaction of seeing everyone at Hickory Hills smiling and enjoying themselves.”

The next time you’re in need of an event venue or just want to spend a couple of hours chasing the little white ball around the course, consider Hickory Hills. The Norby family is standing by to make your experience a great one.

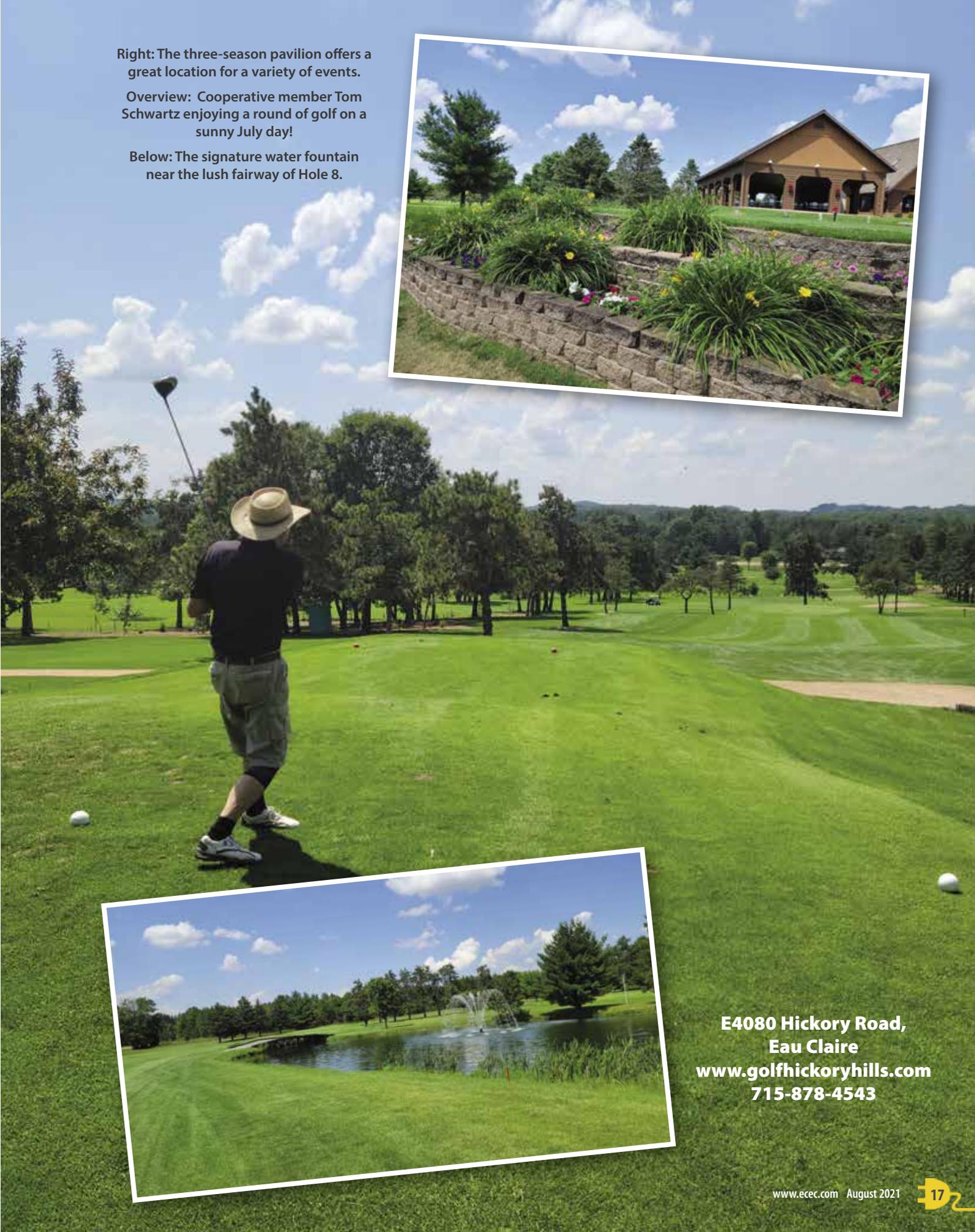


Owners of Hickory Hills Golf Course (l-r) John, Mary Jo, Jim, and Judy Norby.

Right: The three-season pavilion offers a great location for a variety of events.

Overview: Cooperative member Tom Schwartz enjoying a round of golf on a sunny July day!

Below: The signature water fountain near the lush fairway of Hole 8.

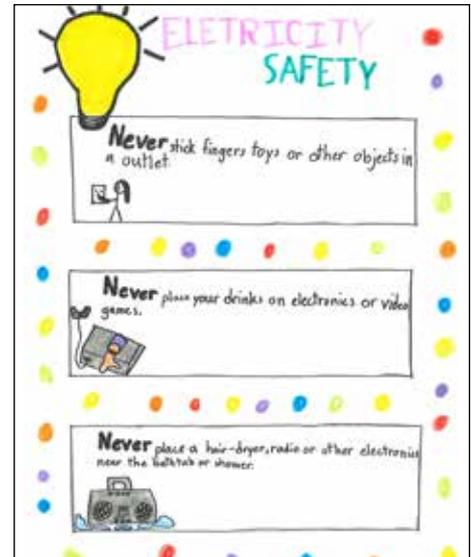


**E4080 Hickory Road,  
Eau Claire  
[www.golfhickoryhills.com](http://www.golfhickoryhills.com)  
715-878-4543**



# POSTER CONTEST WINNER

In July, we featured the winners of the Electrical Safety Poster Contest. Here is an additional winner, Brynlee P. of Fall Creek. Thank you, Brynlee, for these important safety reminders!



# SAVE THE DATE

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**Lynn E. Thompson, President/CEO**

**Monica Obrycki, Chief Administrative Officer**

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