



## 2018 scholarship recipients recognized

Each year, area students compete for scholarships to help them with their continuing education. The cooperative wants to recognize the three area youth who received our 2018 scholarships. The three winners were announced at the cooperative's 80th Annual Meeting in June and were awarded \$1,000 scholarships. This year's winners were Sydney Trainor of Tower Hill, Ryan Held of Taylorville, and Christian Kessler of Strasburg.

Trainor is a recent graduate of Shelbyville High School and plans to attend Lake Land College to study pre-veterinary medicine. After completing her 2-year degree, she plans to transfer to Oklahoma State University to begin studies to become a veterinarian. Trainor hopes to someday work at a clinic in Illinois or to even open her own clinic. She is the daughter of Chuck and Ellen Trainor.

Held is a 2018 graduate of Taylorville High School and plans

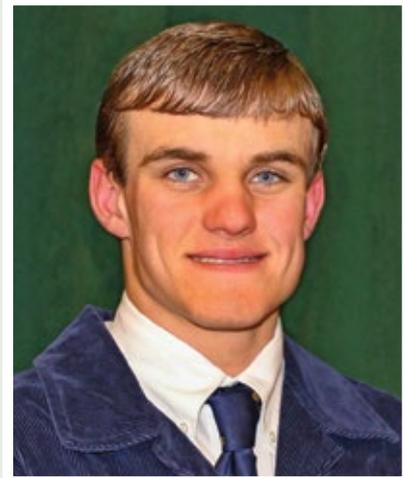
to attend Lake Land College this fall to begin studies in general agriculture. He plans to transfer to either the University of Illinois or Illinois State University to earn a bachelor's degree. Held aspires to work for an agriculture-based company in Central Illinois after he graduates. He is the son of Jerry and Marcy Held.

Kessler recently graduated from Stew-Stras High School and plans to attend Lake Land College. After completing an associate degree, he plans to transfer to a 4-year institution where he will complete a degree in agriculture production and management with a minor in ag business. After graduation, Kessler would like to return to Lake Land to receive his welding, mechanics and ag power certificates. When he finishes school, he hopes to be the owner/operator of his own farm. He is the son of Jason and Tynia Kessler.

"It is exciting that each year we can offer scholarships to these outstanding

students. This is just one way we give back to the communities we serve," noted Board Chairman Brent Lively, who presented the certificates to this year's recipients.

Information about the 2019 scholarships will be sent to area high school guidance counselors in the fall. You can learn more about this and other scholarships on the cooperative's website, [shelbyelectric.coop](http://shelbyelectric.coop), under the "Community" tab or call the cooperative at 217-774-3986.



*Shelby Electric Cooperative announced the winners of this year's scholarships at the 80th Annual Meeting of Members. This year's recipients, pictured from left, are Sydney Trainor of Tower Hill, Ryan Held of Taylorville, and Christian Kessler of Strasburg.*



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## Third time is a charm

**M**organ Partlow, a 2015 Neoga High School graduate, finds herself spending a third summer with us as the member services intern at the cooperative. She is a student at Missouri State University majoring in professional and technical writing. She will begin her senior year in the fall.

This summer, *Morgan needs your help!* The third annual coloring contest is underway, and we are trying to catch Incandescent Ivan, a villainous light bulb who is stealing energy everywhere! Download a coloring page and see the official rules on the cooperative's website, [shelbyelectric.coop](http://shelbyelectric.coop). Submit your "WANTED" poster by our deadline, July 13, so we can stop him once and for all.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Here's a cool tip for your fridge! Cover liquids and wrap foods stored in your refrigerator. Uncovered foods release moisture, causing the compressor to work harder.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

**REAL LIFE REAL POWER**

# Getting Real with Marla and Landscaping

**H**ow would you like to invest in a project that not only beautifies your property but also makes your home more comfortable and may help lower your energy bill? A well-planned landscape can do just that. In fact, the Department of Energy ([energy.gov/energysaver](http://energy.gov/energysaver)) estimates such a landscaping project can save enough energy to pay for itself in less than eight years.

Before planning your project, be sure to call 811. Knowing the location of your underground utilities will avoid unsafe digging situations and the possibility of having to re-design a project once it has started. Additionally, look up! Do not plant trees near or under power lines. The rule of thumb is to plant trees at least 25 feet away from power lines.

In our climate, it is necessary to plan for both hot and cold seasons since our mild seasons are short-lived. An unshaded home's air conditioning costs can be reduced by 15 to 50 percent with good landscaping. Windbreaks can reduce heating costs by up to 30 percent or more. Not only does well-planned landscaping help with heating and cooling costs, it also provides a much more comfortable living environment.



The most beneficial landscaping will include both deciduous trees (loses leaves annually) and evergreens. Plant deciduous trees to the south of your home. This placement will

provide cooling shade in the summer, while allowing the sun's warmth to reach your windows in the winter. Shorter species of deciduous trees can be planted to the west, as they will help screen the late-day sunlight in the summer. Evergreen bushes will help insulate your home's foundation year-round. Allow for at least one foot of space between full-grown plants and your home.

Creative landscape designs can also improve the comfort of your outdoor living spaces. Vining plants and flowers that climb trellises and pergolas can help provide shade for patios and decks. If they are not too dense, they will also allow for breezes to pass through.

The Arbor Day Foundation has great resources for do-it-yourselfers. Visit [ArborDay.org](http://ArborDay.org) to find free landscaping designs, information on how to choose the right trees and care for them, and much more.

I hope your green thumb will help you save some greenbacks!

*~Marla Eversole  
Communication Specialist*

**Stay up to date on cooperative news, outages, events, and more!**



Your  
opinion  
matters

**More Surveys =  
More Information =  
Better Service  
for YOU!**

Every other year, the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) conducts a statewide member survey project on our behalf. You may be randomly selected to participate in the project. If you are chosen, you may receive the survey via mail, online link, or telephone call. Anyone who completes the survey by one of the methods listed above will be entered into a drawing for the chance to win a \$250 bill credit.

Your information will be safe with us. Neither the AIEC or the survey vendor, Inside Information, will ask for your credit card details or sell/share your private information. They will provide us with the anonymous survey results, and we will use the information to help improve our service to you.

If you are selected to participate, we thank you in advance for taking the time to complete the short survey. We expect the surveys to be distributed in August and September.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at 217-774-3986 or stop by our office.

## Keep signs off utility poles

In the summer, we often see utility poles littered with fliers and signs for garage sales, lost pets, or an upcoming community event. While it may seem like a harmless act with no malice intended, these little pieces of paper can cause big harm for utility workers and are illegal in many areas.



Utility workers are sometimes tasked with climbing those same utility poles to work around power lines that carry 7,200 or more volts of electricity. Foreign objects such as staples or nails embedded in the pole can damage a utility workers gloves. Those gloves are meant to insulate workers from high voltage and protect them from being electrocuted.

Nothing should ever be attached to utility poles. There is also a public safety risk that comes with posting signs and other items on utility poles. Nails, staples, and other materials put into wooden utility poles can cause poles to deteriorate more quickly. This can reduce their structural integrity and stability, increasing the risk for broken

poles and power outages. Electric utilities spend valuable resources on repairing and replacing damaged poles every year. Downed lines also create dangers for pedestrians and motorists. If you see a downed power line, stay away and call 911.

Keep yourself and those in your community safe by not posting or hanging anything on utility poles. Find other alternatives to post in your community, such as yard stakes or online community groups.

For more information on staying safe around power lines, utility poles, and electricity, click on the Safe Electricity link found on the cooperative's website, [shelbyelectric.coop](http://shelbyelectric.coop), under the "Community" tab.



**Shelby Electric Cooperative  
offices will be closed on  
Wednesday, July 4 to  
celebrate our country's  
independence!**