

SHELBY *News*

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2026 ANNUAL MEETING **MEMBER POWERED** FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2026

Mark your calendars

You do not want to miss your cooperative's 87th Annual Meeting of Members to be held Friday, June 5, 2026, at the Shelby County 4-H Fairgrounds. In addition to the Hood Family Band returning to entertain the crowd, Steve Hancock with the Live Line Safety Demo will also be back to perform electrical safety demonstrations in the main pavilion. Look for your annual meeting notice to arrive in the mail later this month, which will provide more information and details about this year's meeting.

The notice will contain information about the cooperative, a meeting agenda, and important registration information. Members who register at the meeting will receive

a \$15 bill credit. Free blood pressure checks, inflatables, AirEvac Lifeteam helicopter, and various other exhibitors will be on hand. Sunshyne the Clown, Tim the Twister, and Paddi's Air Filled Fun will be making return appearances to entertain our younger members.

The Shelby County Pork Producers will once again be serving lunch with a choice of two pork chops, two barbecue sandwiches, or one of each **starting at 10:30 a.m. and serving until 12:45 p.m.** Meeting registration begins at 10:30 a.m., and the business meeting starts at 1 p.m. in the 4-H Center. See you Friday, June 5 at the Shelby County 4-H Fairgrounds in Shelbyville for your cooperative's 87th Annual Meeting.

Faith's

ROADTRIP



Lake Shelbyville: A Staple with a Purpose

Lake Shelbyville is a staple resource in part of our central Illinois community that offers endless recreational and sporting activities for millions of tourists each year. However, the lake was not built solely for recreational purposes.

Throughout the years, numerous floods devastated the Mississippi Valley, which led Congress to authorize the Flood Control Act of 1958, incorporating Lake Shelbyville. The construction of the lake began in 1963 and concluded seven years later. “Everyone thought it would take multiple years to fill up,” said Brock Key, U.S. Army Corps of Engineer (USACE) Park Ranger. “However, it was a very rainy season, and the lake filled up in one year. It was fully opened to the public in 1971.”

Key went on to explain that approximately 25 full-time employees work year-round at the Lake Shelbyville Project Office managing public lands, maintaining recreation facilities, improving wildlife and fish habitat, and assisting visitors. Their responsibilities include caring for boundary and outlying properties, maintaining campgrounds and boat ramps, and providing visitor support through patrols and campground operations. Campsite reservations are handled through the national recreation system. At the end of the day, Key said their shared goal is simple: to keep the lake safe, accessible, and enjoyable for future generations.

Visitors can choose from seven campgrounds offering more than



Community members of all ages participated in the Open Shoot kickoff event for the archery park in May 2025.

1,000 campsites, giving families and outdoor enthusiasts many ways to experience the lake.

Drew Kazenski, an avid fisherman and hunter who frequently uses Lake Shelbyville, noted, “I had a moment where I realized I was filling my freezer essentially for free and wanted to do something to give back. So, I googled how to get involved in public land and Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA) popped up.” BHA is a nationwide organization that does conservation work, mainly with public lands, to increase access and create general involvement and awareness for the lands. He joined the Illinois chapter of BHA in 2020. “What most people don’t realize is that the USACE doesn’t own the land, they manage it. Since the land is public land, we, as the public, own it,” Drew said. “If people continue

to look at Lake Shelbyville as just a piece of property, then it won’t be utilized as a public resource.”

In 2022, Kazenski sent Cory Donnel, lead of the Environmental Stewardship Department, an email inquiring about hosting an archery shoot. “Lake Shelbyville is a huge archery hunting area for the state, and maybe one of the largest in central Illinois,” Kazenski shared. “But there’s not a place to shoot archery within 100 miles of here.” Through conversations between the two, the idea of building an archery park was hatched.

To help make the project possible, the Lake Shelbyville team secured funding through the USACE’s National Challenge Partnership Program, which supports cooperative improvements to recreation facilities and natural resources. In 2023, the project was

awarded \$25,000 and was one of only seven selected nationwide.

The park was built at Opossum Creek Recreation Area and officially opened to the public in May 2025, with an Open Shoot kickoff event. The event had a great turnout with people of all age groups in attendance, including the younger demographic. "If the USACE is doing the work for the next generation, it's our job to get the next generation involved," Kazenski said. The parking lot of the archery park includes a practice course with actual lanes and bagged targets. The course is a two-loop trail that goes through the timber with 3D targets. The second annual Open Shoot is scheduled for Saturday, May 9, 2026, and will consist of various contests and food, and all donations will go back into the park. This is the only archery park in the nation that BHA has been involved in building.

"We have many partnerships and volunteers who help make Lake Shelbyville what it is," said Donnel. "We partner with local high schools which allow the youth to get involved with projects and gain an appreciation for the lake." Friends of Lake Shelbyville (FOLS) is a

local volunteer group that works closely with USACE on enhancing, protecting, and promoting the lake. "We have had a great partnership with BHA and not just with the work on the archery park, but for the willingness all the members possess to volunteer," he shared.

In 2025, the Illinois Chapter of BHA was recognized for its leadership in developing the Lake Shelbyville Archery Park by receiving the Outdoor Volunteer Organization of the Year from the Illinois Conservation Foundation. The foundation stated, "The project set a benchmark for public archery ranges by providing accessible, year-round opportunities for people of all ages and abilities on public land."

Those interested in getting more involved at Lake Shelbyville can learn more about conservation efforts and volunteer opportunities by visiting the Backcountry Hunters and Anglers website at



The archery park has practice lanes and bagged targets available.

backcountryhunters.org or connecting with Friends of Lake Shelbyville through social media. For general information about programs, events, or partnership opportunities, contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Lake Shelbyville Project Office at 217-774-3951.

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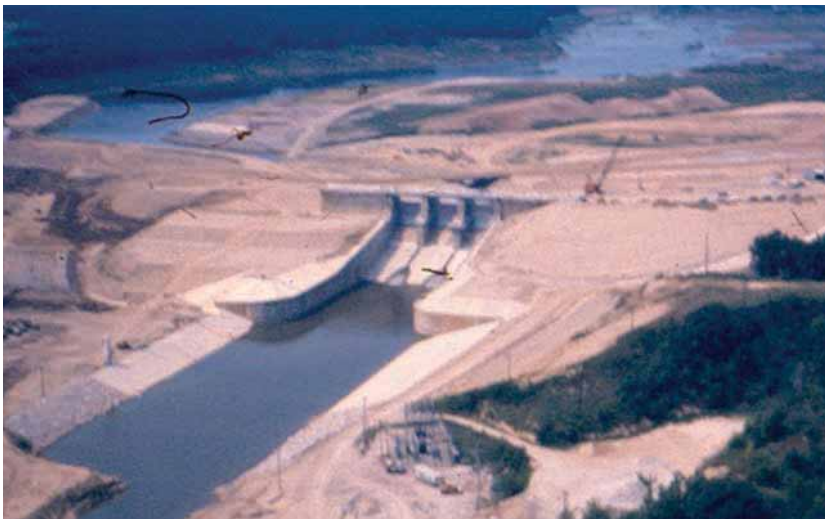
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**Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

**Shelby Electric
Cooperative**

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The construction of Lake Shelbyville began in 1963.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY
TIP OF THE MONTH

As temperatures start to rise, many homeowners focus on staying cool. Don't forget about the small gaps around windows and doors. While air sealing is often associated with keeping cold air out during winter, it's just as important during summer. Tiny cracks and worn weatherstripping allow cool, conditioned air to escape and hot, humid air to seep indoors. This forces your air conditioner to work harder than necessary and increases energy costs. Take a few minutes to check for drafts, replace weatherstripping and seal leaks. A tighter home keeps you more comfortable and helps manage energy use.

Source: energy.gov



Employee News

Nick Ray Promoted



Nick Ray

We are happy to announce the promotion of Nick Ray from Journeyman Lineman to Foreman. He started working for the Operations Department as summer help in 2013, and in December 2014, he was hired full time as an Apprentice Lineman. Nick achieved Journeyman Lineman status in 2019. In his new position he wants to continue to grow in his profession and looks forward to facing new challenges.

Nick learned the basics of his trade at the Southeast Lineman Training Center in Georgia. He worked for Derek Hardy Plumbing before getting hired on at the cooperative. A Shelbyville native, Nick and his wife Ali are raising their son Theo in his hometown. When he isn't working, Nick enjoys spending time with his family and friends, and he can also be found hunting and fishing.

Congrats on your promotion, Nick!

Welcome to the Taylorville outpost, Zachary Langloss



Zachary "Zach" Langloss

We are excited to introduce our newest Journeyman Lineman, Zachary "Zach" Langloss, who will be serving our members out of the Taylorville outpost!

Zach joins Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) with a wealth of experience and a strong background of service. Originally from Petersburg, Zach is a U.S. Army veteran who served four years as a paratrooper in the Airborne Infantry, including two deployments to Afghanistan in 2012 and 2014.

After his military service, Zach earned a degree in Criminal Justice before completing his lineman apprenticeship in 2020 at City, Water, Light, & Power (CWLP) in Springfield. He is excited about this new opportunity to continue to learn and grow in his trade.

"I wanted to be a part of a close group of employees and build relationships with the co-op members here," Zach says. "I'm looking forward to providing reliable power and serving the members of SEC."

When he isn't working on the lines, Zach stays busy at home in Edinburg with his wife of six years, Miranda, and their three children: Hallie (4), Cooper (2), and Bowen (6 months). He also enjoys hunting, fishing, and woodworking.

Please join us in giving Zach and his family a warm SEC welcome! We are proud to have his skills and dedication serving our members out of our Taylorville outpost.

Welcome to the team, Zach!