



A Sweet Surprise with
the Apple Core Project



2018 SMPA
Election Reminder



No Barriers—Supporting
Local Disabled Veterans

APRIL 2018

ENERGYWISE



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives
The power of human connections®

YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



SAN MIGUEL POWER ASSOCIATION

Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives
The power of human connections®

CONTACT INFORMATION

Nucla

170 W. 10th Ave.
P.O. Box 817
Nucla, CO 81424
(970) 864-7311
Toll Free: 1-877-864-7311

Ridgway

720 N. Railroad St.
P.O. Box 1150
Ridgway, CO 81432
(970) 626-5549
Toll Free: 1-800-864-7256

Both Offices Open:
M - TH, 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

www.smpa.com
[www.facebook.com/SanMiguel Power](https://www.facebook.com/SanMiguelPower)

In the event of a power outage,
contact your local SMPA office to
reach our 24-hour dispatch.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

energywise@smpa.com
(970) 626-5549 x212

SAFETY TIPS

**WARMER WEATHER MEANS
MORE OUTDOOR WORK AROUND
THE HOUSE. TAKE THESE
PRECAUTIONS TO WORK SAFELY:**

- Keep all ladders at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines.
- Unplug outdoor tools and appliances when not in use.
- Avoid damp conditions—including wet grass—when using electricity.

San Miguel Power Association is an equal opportunity provider and employer. In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Person with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800)877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call:

(866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

A Sweet Surprise

Sharing Success Grant helps Apple Core Project Grow

Have you ever bitten into a luscious-looking apple only to be disappointed by its lack of sweetness and flavor? According to Jen Nelson, landscaper, master gardener, and co-founder of the Apple Core Project of Western Colorado, “Modern apples, like the red delicious apple, have been modified specifically for their appearance, so the flavor wanes over the years.” So-called “heirloom apples,” however, like those found on Wright’s Mesa and in the West End, have not been genetically modified. “At high elevations, part of what makes any Colorado apple special is that they sweeten up,” says Nelson “and the increased ultra violet light causes the nutrient content to nearly double.”

The Apple Core Project was founded in 2015 by Nelson and her friend, former professional marketer and business manager,

Melanie Eggers. With an educational certificate in Holistic Nutrition and Culinary Studies from the Bauman College, she now helps local food businesses with various marketing endeavors. Apple Core’s goal, according to Eggers, is to use the age-old technique of grafting to preserve and propagate heirloom varieties.

In the old days, apple trees were planted some 25 feet apart in rows, but Eggers said that Apple Core Project is using a “food-forest model,” where strawberries, garlic, mulberries and other plants co-exist around each tree in the orchard. Some of these plants are edible or medicinal while



other companion plants attract pollinators and help the apple trees thrive. The new growing model will be only one of the advanced methods on display at the Community Demonstration Orchard planned to be installed at the Piñon Farm Homestead in Nucla. “This project supports local economic development and business, while also preserving the unique history and landscape of the region,” says Eggers.

This year, San Miguel Power Association (SMPA), and cooperative partners, CoBank and electric power wholesaler, Basin Electric were proud to award a “Sharing Success” grant to the Apple Core

Project to help build the demonstration orchard. “We give the Sharing Success Grant to financially support projects that work to expand entrepreneurial opportunities and bring revenue to our towns and counties,”

said grant administrator, and SMPA Key Accounts Executive, Paul Hora. Cooperatives like SMPA, CoBank and Basin Electric have a fundamental drive to support their communities and the Sharing Success Grant is a perfect expression of that care.

“

With funding from three cooperative sources, the grant has become known as a powerful tool for community initiatives. From an economic development perspective, The Apple Core project practically overflows with opportunity.

—PAUL HORA, SMPA KEY ACCOUNTS EXECUTIVE



The term “heirloom” refers to varieties of fruit that were originally planted many generations ago, and have survived without human interference ever since. Near the turn of the 20th century, the areas surrounding Norwood, Nucla, Naturita and Paradox abounded with fruit orchards planted by visionary farmers like U.H. Walker, nursery manager at the Piñon Farm Homestead, Edwin Payson, Ph.D., a world-renowned botanist, and P.T. Stevens, producer of fruit widely-noted for its quality. (A 1906 article reported an apple delivered to Telluride from the Stevens ranch measuring 15 inches in circumference and weighing 18 ounces.)



SMPA and CoBank Supporting No Barriers USA

FOR GENERATIONS, RURAL AMERICA HAS PRODUCED A DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE OF OUR ARMED FORCES. THERE ARE 22 MILLION VETERANS IN THE UNITED STATES - AND 5.3 MILLION OF THEM LIVE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES. OF THOSE, MORE THAN 40 PERCENT HAVE SERVICE-RELATED DISABILITIES.

San Miguel Power is teaming with CoBank and No Barriers USA to support rural veterans with disabilities by sponsoring a series of expeditions that challenge them mentally and physically. Veterans will be provided with the support they need to meet challenges, while connecting with other veterans and the outdoors.

San Miguel Power would like to nominate a veteran from one of our communities. Up to 50 veterans will ultimately be selected to participate in the program. CoBank will cover the full cost of the program for each participant, including travel.

If you are a veteran with a disability who would like to participate, or if you would like to nominate a qualifying veteran, please fill out and submit the form at www.smpa.com →content→no-barriers-program before Wednesday, April 15, 2018. Nominees must be a SMPA member and have a VA disability rating. Nomination does not guarantee participation in the program. Final selections are made by CoBank.



Lineman Appreciation Day!

Every day, there are men and women who enter extreme peril to bring us all the conveniences of modern living. Help us say 'thanks' by choosing your favorite photo from the online gallery. Just go to www.smpa.com and click on the Lineman Appreciation Day banner.

Pick your favs and leave a comment for our heros on the lines!

— N E W H E I G H T S —



THE SAN MIGUEL POWER ASSOCIATION

**ANNUAL
MEETING**



THURSDAY, JUNE 7

SMPA
NUCLA OFFICE
170 WEST 10TH AVENUE

SAVE THE DATE!



Way to Go!

For over a year, SMPA has had no lost time due to recordable accidents. Great job to our crews and every employee for making safety their first priority!

★ 2018 ELECTION ★ REMINDERS

Elections are being held for Board Representatives of Norwood, Placerville, Dunton, Rico, Sawpit, Ridgway, Log Hill and surrounding areas.



★ Nominations DUE

To those interested in running for a seat on our Board of Directors: Petition Packets are DUE April 19.

Helpful Hint: Get more than the minimum 15 signatures and bring in your packet early, so we can verify them.

★ Ballot Addressing

Ballots are mailed to your member mailing address. This may differ from your billing address.

Please call us to ensure your membership contact information is up-to-date.

SMPA POWER PLAY

FROST RAGER IRE

Hint: In the U.S., It takes approximately 25 large power plants to produce enough energy per year to power these.

SUBMIT YOUR ANSWER and be entered into a drawing for a fun prize to:

**EnergyWise
PO Box 1150
Ridgway, CO 81432**