

AGA: A NATURAL ADVANTAGE

AMERICAN GAS, APRIL 2018

Natural gas offers numerous benefits to homeowners and businesses across the United States. The Your Energy campaign is telling that story. By Eric Johnson

Natural gas is reliable, plentiful, cost-effective and an environmentally responsible choice for our nation's energy needs. But opponents have worked hard to hijack that message, replacing the positives with the false notion that consuming natural resources is both shortsighted and irresponsible.

Recognizing the level of inaccurate information being disseminated by those interested in suppressing the benefits of natural gas, the American Gas Association launched the Your Energy campaign in May 2017 as a grass-roots advocacy program aimed at increasing awareness about the benefits of natural gas.

Just the Facts – The Your Energy campaign is focused on helping the public understand the important role that natural gas plays in both economic and environmental security, as well as in the everyday lives of Americans. The campaign does so by sharing facts about the industry that are easy to understand and by opening up a public dialogue.

The campaign stresses a truth that those who are against natural gas are quick to sidestep: Without natural gas, U.S. reliance on foreign and sometimes hostile nations would leave us vulnerable to the unpredictable nature of global politics, and the economy would be profoundly weaker.

The campaign also capitalizes on the rising popularity of renewable energy by demonstrating the role of natural gas as a necessary and reliable

complement, one that helps enable renewable energy.

The public dialogue piece comes in through social media. That conservation is a key element of the program and one particularly well-suited for social media because of its ability to reach broad constituent groups as well as individuals. Your Energy relies on Facebook and Twitter, along with its own website, to reach the general public directly and drive fact-based conversations with consumers. Its digital messaging empowers consumers familiar with the benefits of natural gas to publicly support it by sharing their own experiences, and it provides people unfamiliar with natural gas with factual information about its reliability, affordability and convenience.

In that way, Your Energy encourages consumers to become active participants in the energy debate, giving voice to a movement that promotes natural gas because its supporters understand its role in environmental progress, clean energy, national security and a healthy economy.

The campaign is working to educate the public about the real story of natural gas: Use of the fuel saves households an average of \$1,337 per year; it created 1.9 million good-paying jobs in 2015 alone, making it a driving force in the recovery of the U.S. manufacturing sector; it fuels 17 percent of public transit buses in addition to vehicles used by many of the nation's leading shipping and delivery companies; and it will create more than 3.5 million jobs by 2035.

Perhaps most dramatically, the campaign emphasizes the fact that



as natural gas production has risen, the nation's greenhouse gas emissions have dropped to their lowest levels in 25 years—information that has gone largely unreported and that could have a significant impact on the perception of natural gas as a clean energy source.

By showing the real, positive impact the natural gas industry has on the lives of average Americans, the campaign is working to diminish the influence of those who believe that keeping our natural resources in the ground is the only way to combat climate change.

Your Energy is about educating and empowering Americans to speak up and support natural gas," O'Shea said. (vice president of communications for AGA) Natural gas not only provides economic benefits for consumers, it's also great for our environment and our communities, so we want to encourage people to get involved in the conversation and get the facts out there."

For the complete article, visit www.aga.org



Blue Flame Golf Event

A Great Day of Networking on the Course!

The annual Blue Flame Golf Event was on Thursday, June 14th at the beautiful Cannon Falls Golf Club in Cannon Falls, Mn. It was a scramble format with a 12:30 p.m. shotgun start.

One hundred and seven golfers took to the course to have a great day of networking and golfing! This year's theme was Legos and the centerpieces were Lego cabins and Jeeps – favorite things of Diane's as she plans to enjoy her retirement by driving her Jeep to their cabin!

Back by popular demand, we had the "Split the Pot" contest to add extra excitement to the event! The lucky winner was Todd Gray! This contest raises funds for the association and it gives one lucky person a nice "pot of cash"!

Tournament Results:

1st Place–score=56: Mike Comstock, Rick Lucio, Terry Olson, Mike Jones.
2nd Place–score=59: Randy Schock, Jack Halverson, Cody Kropp, Dave Nehls
3rd Place–Random pull–score=65: Tom Osborn, Tod Norgren, Gary Cerney, Dean Headlee.

Early Bird Drawing Winner – Dave Hennen with ProSource wins \$50 cash! Everyone who had their registration forms in by Friday, May 25th was put in the drawing.

This year's event had contest holes, a skins game, and great prizes!

A big THANK YOU to all our sponsors, those who donated prizes, everyone who came out to golf, and to those who worked so hard to make this tournament happen!!! We couldn't do it without you! Our golf event is one of the main sources of revenue to help continue the work of the association – THANK YOU!

SAVE THE DATE! THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2019

Mark Your Calendars

2018:

**Thursday, August 23 through
Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 3**

Blue Flame Lodge at the
Minnesota State Fair

Tuesday, September 25

Commercial/Industrial
Conservation Conference
Golden Valley Country Club

2019:

Tuesday, June 4

Blue Flame Fishing Event – Mille Lacs
Lake

Thursday, June 13

Blue Flame Golf Event – Cannon Falls
Golf Club



Ninth Annual Fishing Event

Biggest Single Day Fishing Event To-Date!

The Blue Flame's ninth annual networking/fishing event on Mille Lacs Lake took place on Tuesday, June 5th. It was the biggest single day fishing event in the nine years with 40 people participating. Eleven guide boats went out and the launch to see if they could find the elusive Walleye! Plenty of action was found and another great year for the event!

The boats averaged 15-20 walleye per boat! A great fishing year to say the least! Due to DNR rules for Mille Lacs this year, it was Catch & Release only for Walleye but everyone had a great time reeling in the fighting Walleye!

This was our fifth year of having the event in early June and using both private guided boats and a launch to get members on the lake.

Thirty-two members and their guests used the individual guide boats to go out in teams of three with a private guide to troll the waters for the elusive and prized Walleye!

Congratulations to Craig Virning, with R J Mechanical - winner of the Longest Walleye on the boats! Craig caught a 29.25" walleye.

Want a few more amenities while you're fishing? The launch provides some shade, a bathroom and the ability to move around and network – the perfect option! It provides a great opportunity to do fishing in a more "relaxed" style. Eight members and their guests took advantage of the launch and had a great time visiting and catching fish!

Congratulations to Mike Swanson with Energy Insight – winner of the Longest Walleye on the launch! Mike caught a 26.25" walleye.

All groups departed from Nitti's Hunter's Point Resort on the east side of Mille Lacs Lake in the morning and returned from the 6 hour fishing trip in the afternoon. Nitti's provided a dinner that evening and the winning catches were announced! Great doorprizes were given away too!

Special thanks to G. A. Larson Company and Ryan Company for being the Event Sponsors! Also a big thank you to John J. Morgan Company for donating a natural gas garage heater as the grand prize!



**SAVE THE DATE! TUESDAY, JUNE 4,
2019**



Minnesota State Fair Blue Flame Lodge: Come See Us

The State Fair is coming fast – Make sure you stop in to see us at the Blue Flame Lodge – across from the Giant Slide!

Fair dates are Thursday, August 23 – Labor Day, Monday, September 3

We're a great stop when you're visiting the State Fair! Come in and say "Hi", enjoy the air conditioning and get a drink from our ice cold water fountain! Plus see the great natural gas displays in the Lodge!

We have giveaways and drawings – Come in and sign up! Enter to win a small generator and other drawings! Don't forget that famous colored yardstick from Gopher State One Call, jar openers from Minnesota Energy Resources, hand sanitizer from CenterPoint Energy and lip balm from Xcel Energy plus other giveaways!

The Lodge is the association's primary vehicle to interact with consumers and get the natural gas message out. It allows us to promote natural gas, natural gas products, educational materials, and provides visibility for the association. Safety, conservation, energy assistance and rebate information are also in the Lodge.

Once again this year, we'll be displaying an operational natural gas generator for fairgoers to come see, hear, and learn more about.

Thirteen members will be displaying at the Lodge this year – thank you to all of these members for promoting their natural gas products at the Blue Flame Lodge!

New this year!! We plan to have a display promoting natural gas for the Commercial and Industrial market. Come in and check it out when you are at the fair!

We have a couple spaces still available if you are interested in displaying in the Lodge – contact Diane to get more information at dswintek@blueflame.org



Commercial/Industrial Annual Fall Energy Conservation Conference

**Tuesday, September 25; 8:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Golden Valley Country Club**

Four seminar topics plus two keynote speakers will be presented. Certificates of Completion will be given for those wishing to use the seminars for professional development hours.

Xcel Energy is the major sponsor of this event along with Supporting Sponsorships from CenterPoint Energy and Minnesota Energy Resources.

Trade Ally Sponsors to-date are: Platinum Sponsor – Mulcahy Company

Gold Sponsors – Energy Insight, Harris Companies, R. M. Cotton Company, Ryan Company, and Mobile Air – Tioga.

Sponsorships and vendor tabletops are available

Limited space. We have one Gold Sponsorship left (\$500 member rate) and we have several table tops available (\$250 member rate). Contact Diane for more information at dswintek@blueflame.org

Invitations will be emailed out late July - early August - watch your email and mark your calendars!

Seminar topics being presented:

Utility Conservation Programs, Panel: Rate Review – Natural Gas Transportation vs. Utility System Sales, Gas Distribution 101, the Latest on Condensing Boilers.

Breakfast keynote:

Natural Gas Price & Supply Update-North American Energy Outlook and Utility CIP Update

Lunch keynote:

Natural Gas – A Partner to Renewable Energy presented by AGA's Rick Murphy.

For more information, contact Diane at dswintek@blueflame.org or call 763-424-1841.

Member News

Welcome New Member!

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www.ellingsoncompanies.com

Rob Tumbleson

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rtumbleson@ellingsontrenchless.com

QUOTE OF THE QUARTER

Tact is the knack of making a point without making an enemy.

Author: Howard W. Newton

CenterPoint Energy Awards Historic Energy Conservation Rebate Check

CenterPoint Energy recently awarded a historic \$2 million energy-conservation rebate check to the University of Minnesota for the installation and construction of its Main Energy Plant, a high-efficiency natural gas combined heat and power plant on the East Bank Campus.

Energy from natural gas now powers the campus' electrical grid, and the plant also produces thermal energy for campus heating and cooling. Overall, its efficiencies equal an annual savings of nearly 1 million dekatherms-the amount of natural gas energy typically consumed by more than 10,000 homes during a year.

Mulcahy Knowledge Series Lunch and Learn Seminars Announced for 2018

Mulcahy will offer 7 free Lunch and Learn seminars in 2018, providing comprehensive educational opportunities to engineers and owners working in hydronics.

The Lunch and Learn seminars are part of Mulcahy's Knowledge Series – an education initiative from Mulcahy to lead the industry in technical education through seminars, on-site speaking opportunities, webinars, and eNewsletters.

Seminars still coming up:

**July 10, 2018 Expo - Product Exposition
(On Site Only at BJM)**

August 21, 2018 - Steam Systems

October 23, 2018 - Hydronic System Maintenance

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE ASSOCIATION?

Contact Diane at dswintek@blueflame.org or visit our website at www.blueflame.org Associate memberships are \$200 per year.

Join the team now!

Benefits to joining:

Website exposure on Blue Flame website (Natural Gas Product Finder), Networking Opportunities, Industry Contacts, Advertising Opportunities, Member rates (reduced rates) for Association events, seminars, etc., and many more.

INTERESTED IN JOINING A COMMITTEE?

Join the State Fair Committee, Commercial/Industrial Committee or the Conservation Committee and get involved! If you're interested, contact Diane at dswintek@blueflame.org

Have something to submit?

E-mail change?

If you would like to submit information to be considered for the next member newsletter or have an e-mail change, contact Diane at dswintek@blueflame.org

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