



Join us for our 73rd Annual Meeting of Members.

~ page 22



New Heat Pump Water Heater Technology

~ page 23



Rural Electric Youth Tour for high school juniors.

~ page 24

ALONG THE LINE

CFL Contest Winner Announced

Margie Dunn of Macclesfield is the winner of the 2010 "Change A Light Contest" for Edgecombe-Martin County EMC! This is the second year that the Cooperative has held the contest, which encourages members to switch from their existing incandescent light bulbs, to CFLs that are much more efficient. The contest began on October 1, 2009, and ended on December 31, 2009. Ms. Dunn was awarded a \$300 credit on her electric bill, and she will continue to conserve energy as she uses CFLs throughout her home. To participate, members were required to purchase a compact fluorescent bulb between September 1 and December 1, 2009, and provide us with a receipt showing the purchase of the bulb.

As an Energy Star Partner, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC strives to provide our members with information and opportunities to use energy more wisely in their homes or businesses. We understand that our members are always looking for ways to conserve energy and save money, and we do what we can to supply them with the knowledge they need to do just that. Simply stated, it's all about doing more with less.

Don't forget that Edgecombe-Martin County EMC also offers CFL recycling for members. If you have a spent CFL, simply drop it off in our lobby and it will be placed in our CFL recycling bucket. Sorry, broken or shattered bulbs cannot be accepted. Members of the Cooperative can receive a replacement CFL for each spent CFL they drop-off. (limit of 5 CFL bulbs per member)

Margie Dunn of Macclesfield was the winner of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's second annual "Change-A-Light" contest. She was awarded a \$300 electric bill credit and continues to conserve energy with her new CFL bulbs.



CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

Proposed climate-change legislation has already passed the U.S House of Representatives. The legislation now goes to the U.S Senate to be debated and voted on.

To learn more about this very important legislation, call 1-877-40BALANCE or visit the informative websites listed below.



Our Energy, Our Future

A Dialogue With America
www.ourenergy.coop

Find A
Balanced Solution

www.findabalancedsolution.com

73rd Annual Meeting of Members

Get ready to join us for our 73rd Annual Meeting of Members. This year's annual meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 20, 2010. The Annual Meeting of Members is designed to deliver information to the membership concerning state and national issues that affect the co-op, financial data from the previous year, and our financial outlook for the year ahead.

Festivities will start at 10 a.m. with member registration and live entertainment, and lunch will be served from 11 a.m. until 12 p.m. The business session will begin immediately following lunch at 12 p.m. Activities will be provided for children before and during the business session of the meeting.

Please look for your annual meeting notice and member registration card on the front of the next issue of Carolina Country magazine, and remember to bring it with you to the 73rd Annual Meeting of Members on March 20, 2010!



Volunteer Action Committee Always Lending a Helping Hand

The Volunteer Action Committee of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is truly a unique group of individuals. Each committee member works to make the communities in which we live a better place. The group is constantly looking for ways to help others in need, and they are always there to help at important co-op functions when needed.

The Committee recently made and donated nearly 30 fleece blankets to the Heritage Hospital Cancer Center in Tarboro. Each blanket will be given to a chemotherapy patient at the center. Throughout the year, the VAC collects canned goods, school supplies, personal hygiene supplies, and other items to donate and distribute to agencies and schools across our service

territory and beyond. As if that was not enough, they also raise money through raffle sales at our annual meeting to fund the Noel Lee, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund. They also play a vital role in judging and selecting the winners of our annual Bright Ideas grant contest. These grants are awarded to teachers in grades K-12 to help implement innovative classroom projects that would not otherwise be funded.



Carolyn Boyette, (third from left) vice chairman of the VAC, carried fleece blankets to the Heritage Hospital Cancer Center on December 21, 2009. The blankets will be given to new patients that visit the cancer center.

IMPORTANT PAYMENT INFORMATION

Beginning February 1, 2010, Thorne Drug Store will no longer be accepting payments at their Tarboro or Whitakers location for Edgecombe-Martin County EMC members.

Please refer to the reverse side of your electric bill for other payment options and locations. Don't forget that you can also make payments online 24 hours a day and we also offer automatic bank draft to ensure you never miss a payment again.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and assistance as we make this transition.

Heat Pump Technology Leads The Way Again

Heat pump technology has been around for many years, and millions of people use this technology to heat and cool their homes on a daily basis. We consistently provide our members with information and evidence that heat pumps are the best way to heat and cool their homes. They operate based on the laws of thermodynamics to pull heat from the outside air in the winter to heat your home, and they extract the heat from the inside of your house in the summer to cool your home. In the summer, an air source heat pump operates exactly like the refrigerator in your home but on a much larger scale. During the winter, the flow of refrigerant is reversed in an air source heat pump, which enables the unit to absorb the heat from the outside air in order to heat your home comfortably.

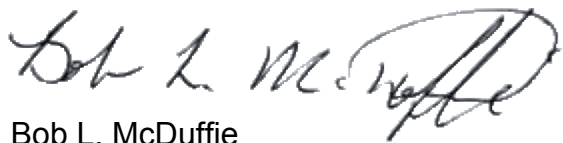
Recently, a few companies have developed tanked water heaters that utilize heat pump technology to provide you with hot water. Rheem®, which also manufactures the Marathon® water heaters that we offer to our members, is one of the companies that have developed these units. They currently offer the heat pump water heater in a 50-gallon version. The unit has an energy factor of 2.0 and is Energy Star certified, which means it is eligible for the 30% federal tax credit. Best of all, the unit installs just like your normal tanked water heater.

What's more impressive is the versatility of the unit. It offers three efficiency settings that best fit your specific needs (Energy Saver, Normal and Electric Heat Only). The "Energy Saver" mode is the most energy efficient and it utilizes nothing but the operation of the heat pump to heat the water in the tank. When the heat pump water heater is operating on this setting, you stand to save approximately \$300 a year compared to a standard 50-gallon electric water heater. This mode provides an energy factor of 2.0 and a first hour delivery comparable to that of a standard 50-gallon electric model. When you add up the available 30% federal tax credit and annual operating savings, you could

certainly realize a payback in one year or less by operating this heat pump water heater. The "Normal" setting allows both the heat pump and electric elements to operate as needed. The normal mode will provide a remarkable energy factor of 1.5 and a first hour delivery in excess of a standard 65-gallon all electric model. Under the temporary "Electric Heat Only" mode of operation, the water heater utilizes the stainless steel resistor elements to heat the water. This means it is operating just like your normal electric water heater and should only be used when absolutely necessary. When this mode is selected, the water heater will automatically revert back to the "Energy Saver" setting in two weeks if not reset by the user beforehand.

Heat pump technology has made significant strides over the years, and this is just another example of how you can do more with less. I challenge you to investigate your options thoroughly when installing a new water heater or replacing an old one. I believe you will be pleasantly surprised at just how efficient and reliable one of these heat pump water heaters can be. For more information on the Rheem® heat pump water heaters, call our office at 1-800-445-6486.

Cooperatively Yours,



Bob L. McDuffie



6th-8th Graders Get Ready For...

ROY WILLIAMS AND KELLIE HARPER BASKETBALL CAMPS

Each year, Touchstone Energy Sports Camps Scholarships are offered to the Kellie Harper Women's Basketball Camp for female students in 6-8th grades and to the Roy Williams Basketball Camp for male students in 6-8th grades. The statewide scholarships send 27 deserving young women to the Kellie Harper Women's Basketball Camp at North Carolina State University and 27 deserving young men to the Roy Williams Basketball Camp at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will sponsor two local students to attend the Kellie Harper and Roy Williams Basketball Camps this summer. To be eligible, applicants must be enrolled in the 6th, 7th or 8th grades.

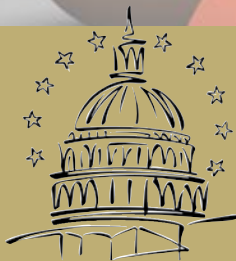
One female student/athlete will be selected to attend the Kellie Harper Basketball Camp at NC State University, and one male student/athlete will be selected to participate in the Roy Williams Basketball Camp at UNC-Chapel Hill. The Roy Williams and Kellie Harper basketball camps will be held on June 19-23.

We will accept applications until March 26, 2010. Applicants will be judged on their academics, extra-curricular activities and accompanying essay.

Applications can be obtained by students from their school's principal or P.E. teacher, or they can call (252) 641-9513 to request an application.

The Touchstone Energy Sports Camps provide a unique educational and athletic opportunity for outstanding students across our service territory and is yet another way that Edgecombe-Martin County EMC demonstrates their commitment to their local communities.

Attention High School Juniors!



The Rural Electric Youth Tour, held in Washington, D.C., typically hosts more than 1,500 high school students nationwide. The students who attend the Youth Tour learn about electric cooperatives, American history and the U.S. government. Students also visit the historic sights of the nation's capital.

Since the late 1950s, more than 40,000 students from small towns across the nation have traveled to Washington, D.C., to participate in the Youth Tour. Past participants have gone on to design airplanes, work as congressional aides on Capitol Hill, and serve in some of the highest positions in our government such as Lieutenant Governor and in the U.S. Senate.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will sponsor one high school junior to attend the Rural Electric Youth Tour during 2010, and the week-long event is scheduled for June 12-18. Applications must be completed and submitted by March 5, 2010, and your parents or guardians must be members of the Cooperative in order to be eligible. To request an application, please call (252) 641-9513 or send an email to: winston.howell@ememc.com.

Your cooperative is also offering another exciting opportunity for the first time this year to our local Youth Tour contest winner. The individual selected to represent the Cooperative at the 2010 Rural Electric Youth Tour will also be offered a \$700 scholarship to assist with tuition at any four-year accredited university in North Carolina. So, don't delay and apply today!

ALONG THE LINE

www.ememc.com

Board of Directors

Millie Lilley, President
Elbert Ray Pitt, Jr., Vice Pres.
Joseph Suggs, Secretary
Floyd H. Harrell, Treasurer
Billy Trevathan
Jimmie Jernigan
Norman A. Roberson
Dennis C. Briley
Edward B. Simmons, Attorney

CEO

Bob L. McDuffie

Editor

Winston T. Howell

Hwy. 33 East, P.O. Box 188
Tarboro, NC 27886
252-823-2171 • 1-800-445-6486
Office Hours: 8a.m. - 5p.m. (M-F)

After Hours Outage Reporting
1-800-690-0657