

Central Alabama
Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Board of Trustees

Chase Riddle

Chairman, Prattville
(334) 365-3648

Jimmie Harrison, Jr.

Vice Chairman, Maplesville
(334) 366-4338

Ruby J. Neeley

Secretary/Treasurer, Jemison
(205) 646-3649

C. Milton Johnson

Statesville
(334) 412-2843

Mark Presnell, Sr.

Wetumpka
(334) 567-2689

Patsy M. Holmes

Wetumpka
(334) 567-8273

Terry Mitchell

Stewartville
(256) 249-3128

David A. Kelley, Sr.

Rockford
(256) 496-0160

Van Smith

Billingsley
(205) 755-6166

Charles Byrd

Deatsville
(334) 361-3324

Contact Us

Toll Free: 1-800-545-5735

Outage Hotline:

1-800-619-5460

www.caec.coop

Like us on Facebook



Prattville Office:

1802 U.S. Hwy. 31 North
Mailing: P.O. Box 681570
Prattville, AL 36068

Clanton Office:

1601 7th St. North

Wetumpka Office:

637 Coosa River Pkwy.

Preparing the Next Generation for Leadership

Over the years I have had the pleasure of sharing with you the different stages of my children's lives as they become responsible and caring adults. While Isaac was married last May, he, Becca and Tori are continuing to pursue their dreams through higher education. Watching and experiencing their development as they define their leadership roles has been gratifying for Amy and me.



As proud as I am to watch my own children grow and develop, I have also enjoyed the youth leadership programs which the Rural Electric Industry has developed and made a priority. For 30 years now, I have found rich rewards with the involvement I have had with hundreds of youth in various programs.

Likewise, your co-op is committed to doing our part in preparing the next generation for leadership through several programs offered to the youth throughout our service area. This month (March 5-7), the Youth Tour program will send nine exceptional high school juniors to Montgomery to learn about the political process, their state's history and participate in a variety of activities that will enhance their leadership skills. In June, four of those students will be selected to travel to our nation's capital and represent CAEC during the Washington Youth Tour. The students will have the privilege of interacting with more than 1,500 other students from across the country as well as their federal elected officials. They will have the opportunity to acquire knowledge about electric co-ops, American history and how their government works. Later in the summer all nine will be together again at a statewide leadership training conference at the 4-H Center in Columbiana. These activities will influence them for years and we have seen how such experiences can impact one's future.

As you and I know, school systems are not exempt from feeling the woes of budget constraints, so through the Bright Ideas Grant program, we are able to help fund school projects that are creative and are usually not covered by school funding. Earlier this year, we hosted a reception honoring this year's Bright Ideas Grant recipients (featured on page 6). We were able to fund 24 school projects that will benefit more than 8,000 students in our service area. Since the program's inception in 1998, CAEC has awarded approximately \$224,000 to local schools.

By joining forces with other Alabama electric co-ops to form a scholarship foundation, we are currently offering two \$1,500 scholarships to CAEC high school seniors, which help offset tuition expenses. You can read about this program on page 42 for more information.

A really fun program that is led by CAEC Staff members is the Explorers Post Program. This is a joint project between the Tukabatchee Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America and CAEC to help students 14 to 21 years old, who have shown an interest in engineering, learn more about the profession through hands-on activities, field trips to events such as Auburn University's annual Engineering Day and spending time with mentors from the profession.

In addition to the high school and college interns that work with us and job shadowing events we participate in during the year, these programs and activities are an investment in the lives of young people and the communities we serve. It is a commitment to provide educational and leadership development opportunities today, because it is our belief that tomorrow's leaders will have an even greater impact on the world and our future. ■

Tom Stackhouse
President/CEO

Bright Ideas Grant Recipients Honored

The Bright Ideas Grant Program continues to fund ingenious projects for students, offering a variety of hands-on, engaging learning activities that build upon their everyday lessons. Projects such as building and programming robots to teach about physics, technology, engineering and math and exploring different software programs to aid students in preparing for college and today's workplace, are funded by this program.

CAEC's Board of Trustees presented grants to area teachers during a January ceremony and reception held at the cooperative's headquarters in Prattville. Applications had been evaluated by a panel of judges from local community associations. From the 62 grant submissions, the judges selected 24 projects, totaling a \$16,000 investment to benefit more than 8,000 students in Autauga, Chilton, Coosa (*not photographed*) and Elmore counties.

"Thank you so much, CAEC for believing in what we do in our classrooms and for making a way to support our dreams," said Bright Ideas award recipient Danna Beale, a teacher at Coosada Elementary.

The Bright Ideas Grant Program was introduced by CAEC in 1998 with the goal of supporting creative, interesting and effective initiatives that are not usually covered by school funding. Grants are awarded to individuals or teams in public, private and home schools within CAEC's service area.

"Each day, educators go beyond the call of duty to invest in our local youth," said CAEC President and CEO Tom Stackhouse. "We are honored to be able to help support these individuals who work so hard to make a lasting impact on our leaders of tomorrow."

Fifteen years after its inception, more than 91,400 students in all grade levels and subject areas have benefited from the Bright Ideas grants.

A full listing of this year's recipients along with more information on the program is available at www.caec.coop. Application information for the 2013-2014 grant process will appear later this year in the September issue of *Alabama Living* magazine. ■

CAEC Trustees are photographed with:



Autauga County Recipients



Chilton County Recipients



Elmore County Recipients

Coosa County

From cotton to kayaks, the history of Coosa County is a rich one. Named for the Coosa River which winds its way on its western border, the county was created by an act of the Alabama State Legislature on Dec. 18, 1832. The county was one of 14 counties organized from lands relinquished by the Creek Indians in the 1832 Treaty of Cusseta.

The county is located in the east-central part of Alabama and is bordered by Shelby, Talladega, Clay, Tallapoosa, Elmore and Chilton counties. It currently comprises 657 square miles of serene woodland, pastures and water-

ways with tightknit communities including Equality, Goodwater, Kellyton, Rockford and Weogufka.

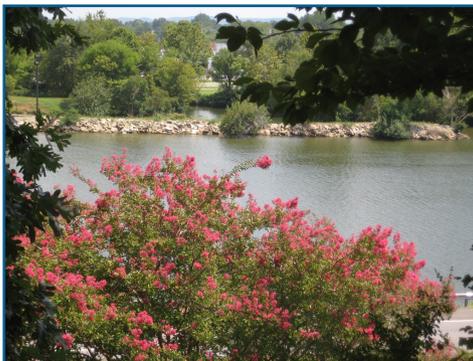
Coosa County is known to be home to some of the most tranquil recreational water resources in the state, including the popular lakes Lay, Martin and Mitchell, and the enormous Coosa River, which has played an important part in the history of the county. The Coosa River is one of Alabama's most developed rivers – stretching nearly 280 miles long – it begins at the confluence of the Oostanula and Etowah rivers in Rome, Ga., and ends just northeast of Montgomery, where it joins the Tallapoosa River to form the Alabama River south of Wetumpka. Approximately 90 percent of the Coosa River's length is located in Alabama. Some of the best outdoor and water sports such as canoeing, kayaking and fishing tournaments are held on this river. One such major annual event is the Coosa River Whitewater Festival, attracting professional whitewater athletes, and this year it will be held May 17-19. For more information about this

event, visit www.coosariverwhitewaterfestival.com.

Coosa County also has two free-flowing streams, Hatchet Creek and Weogufka Creek, which are very popular sites for canoe and kayak enthusiasts. Hatchet Creek flows from the northwest corner of the county down to the river mouth on Lake Mitchell. Weogufka Creek runs an almost parallel path a little farther to the north and includes a large primitive section through the Coosa Wildlife Management area. Both creeks have been designated as spur trails of the Alabama Scenic River Trail that runs 631 miles down the heart of Alabama to the Gulf of Mexico.

Taking advantage of its flowing streams, Coosa County will host the first Hatchet Creek Festival on May 18-19, 2013 – a two-day casual overnight weekend float trip. Boaters will launch their kayaks or canoes at the Hwy. 280 bridge and then float down to the halfway campsite. A shuttle will be provided to transport the camping gear to the campsite so it will be waiting when the boaters arrive. Activities at the campsite will include games such as horseshoes, card games, Frisbee, volleyball and pond fishing. Supper

will be a catered catfish dinner followed with a program by speakers who will discuss the plants, animals and ecology of Hatchet Creek. The remainder of the evening will be filled with live music and a campfire. The following day, breakfast will be provided and then a casual float down to see the blooming Cahaba Lilies, with take-out occurring below the Hwy. 231 bridge. There will also be a canoe and kayak race for those



Coosa River



CAEC Trustee David Kelley canoeing on Hatchet Creek

who wish to participate, with cash awards for the top three boaters. There is a \$25 per person registration fee to cover meals, a t-shirt and the shuttle. So bring your canoe or kayak, your tent and your lawn chair and come have a great weekend on the creek.

For more information, contact Roger Vines at the Coosa County Extension office in Rockford, (256) 377-4713 or by email at vinesrc@aces.edu. ■

Resources: Encyclopedia of Alabama, Wikipedia, Alabama Cooperative Extension System

A SMALL COMMUNITY CAME TOGETHER TO PRESERVE A HISTORIC SITE

There's a quaint community in Coosa County that offers a dinner theatre with shows, hosts the Southeastern Songwriters Festival and features four show-

case performances a year – Weogufka. According to *Absolutely Alabama*, a feature segment on Fox 6 WBRC News out of Birmingham, the Southeastern



Songwriters Festival 2012

Song Writers Festival has produced “budding stars” or six-string dreamers hoping their unique talent will be the next big thing.

Formed on April 1, 2007, The Weogufka Alumni School Preservation Committee made it their mission to save the nearly 90-year-old buildings and campus of the Weogufka School and volunteered their personal time and resources to make it happen.

“Our organization was formed because we felt it would be in the best interest of the community to preserve the Historic Old Weogufka School buildings and campus to build a center for arts, entertainment and education,” said Presley Boswell, Board Chairman. “The Center is about providing a venue for great shows and events while preserving the historic old

Weogufka High School for future generations.”

The school was chartered in 1924 and the campus was used as an elementary and high school from 1924 until 1988 and was then used as West Coosa Elementary School from 1989 until 2004. The buildings remained empty and neglected for a few years until the Preservation Committee started renovating and making major repairs, such as installing a new roof and updating the infrastructure.

In 2007, the Superintendent of Education for Coosa County signed the deeds to the Weogufka School Campus over to the Weogufka Center for Arts, Entertainment and Education, Inc.

“It was the greatest entertainment deal in Alabama,” said Boswell.

In 2009, the committee changed its name from Weogufka Alumni School Preservation Committee to Weogufka Center for Arts, Entertainment and Education, Inc. as part of the future use program.

Browse their website, www.weogufkacenter.com, for their calendar of events and take a ride to this delightful community for some live entertainment.



Annual Mule Day will be held on April 20, 2013.



Counterfeit Electrical Products Pose Safety Hazards



*Darren Maddox,
Training & Safety
Coordinator*

Every day, counterfeit electrical products are finding their way into your homes, but unlike fake handbags, watches or designer clothes, these counterfeits could pose serious hazards, leading to property loss, injuries or even death.

Things you use on a daily basis, including power strips, receptacles, toasters, hair dryers and irons, can

be manufactured to look exactly like name-brand products. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI), these counterfeit products generally use inferior materials without normal safety provisions and are therefore extremely dangerous.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has recalled more than 1 million electrical products in recent years, including circuit breakers that do not trip when overloaded; extension cords with mislabeled, undersized wiring that overheat; and cell phone batteries without a safety device in the circuitry to prevent overcharging.

In addition, these rip-off electrical products constitute \$300 million to \$400 million in crime annually. According to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), 13 percent of all counterfeit products seized are electrical products, ranking them second among all category totals.

Counterfeit electrical products can be difficult to identify. These unsubstantiated products could be a knock-off version of a name-brand item, one that bears an unauthorized certification mark or a product where visible

defects are apparent. Left undetected, these defective goods can cause fire, shock and electrocution.

Here are some guidelines to help you recognize counterfeit electrical products:

- ▶ Avoid buying from unknown sources such as a street vendor, non-authorized dealer, discount stores, flea markets or bargain warehouses.
- ▶ Be cautious of purchasing electrical products from unknown companies or unauthorized sellers online.
- ▶ Look for certification marks from nationally recognized testing laboratories such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Canadian Standards Association (CSA) and Intertek and ETL Semko (ETL).
- ▶ Check the warning labels to make sure they're free of grammatical errors and do not conflict with information elsewhere on the package.
- ▶ Ensure that the name and contact information of the manufacturer is clearly displayed on the packaging and/or the product.
- ▶ Beware of bargains that seem too good to be true. Counterfeiters often use inferior materials and avoid key manufacturing steps to reduce the cost of their products significantly.
- ▶ Sign up with organizations such as the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and Underwriters Laboratories (UL) to provide up-to-date information about product recalls on their websites.

So don't be deceived by phony electrical products. Protect your family and home by following these important guidelines to help prevent potential electrical safety hazards. ■

CAEC Rate Information

DEFINITIONS

Access Charge – Your daily portion of the fixed infrastructure cost

Distribution Charge – Energy charge based on your consumption and remaining fixed cost

Wholesale Power Cost – Power generated and delivered to you

	Access Charge	+	Distribution Charge/kWh	+	Wholesale Power
Residential	.99/day		.01611		.08865
Small Power Service	.86/day		.04687		.077737
Medium Power	.99/day		.04169		.07124

Rates are designed to recover the cost of purchasing wholesale power, operating expenses and a margin level required by our lenders.

For more rate information, visit our website www.caec.coop.

Need **\$1,500** for College?



College scholarship applications are now available to high school seniors graduating this upcoming spring.

Two \$1,500 scholarships will be awarded by the Electric Cooperative Foundation, Inc. (ECF), which provides scholarships for post-secondary institutions.

Applicants must be dependents of CAEC members. The scholarship will be paid by ECF directly to the educational institution for credit to the student's account.

Applications are available at www.caec.coop, any of our service centers or by calling (334) 351-2213 or 1-800-545-5735, ext. 2213 to have an application mailed to you.

Deadline for application is March 15



Central Alabama
Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Recipe for *Efficiency* from CAEC

Treescaping

One of your greatest opportunities to conserve energy is by properly selecting and planting trees around your home. Referred to as “treescaping,” the art of selecting and maintaining trees for a specific purpose or area, you can save up to 25 percent of your

household energy consumption for heating and cooling.

Tree species and proper placement are critical to energy-savings effectiveness. Below are instructions to help you in this decision-making process and steps on how to appropriately plant a tree:

Ingredients (supplies):

- Tree
- Potting Soil or Compost
- Mulch (organic materials)

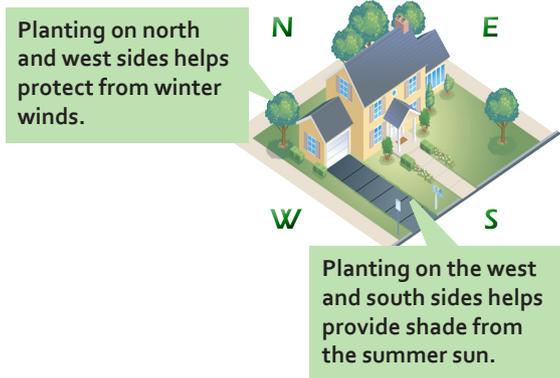
Utensils (tools):

- Shovel
- Water hose
- Tape measure
- Bolt cutters or metal snips
- Compass (optional)

Directions:

Treescaping

1. For maximum energy savings, plant deciduous trees (those with seasonal leaves) to provide shade and block heat in the summertime while allowing sunlight for your home during the winter. Plant these trees on the west and south sides of your home for best results.



2. For energy efficiency in the winter, plant evergreens on the north and west sides of your home. A well placed windbreak can reduce wind velocity by 80 percent.

3. Utilize the sun or a compass for determining the correct direction to place your trees.

How to Plant Your Tree

1. Dig a hole in the soil as deep as the root ball and twice as wide.
2. Mix compost or potting soil with the soil removed from the hole if your soil is very heavy or sandy.



3. Remove the tree from its container, gently freeing its roots.

4. If the root ball is surrounded by burlap or wire, remove this before planting.



5. Place the tree in the hole so that it sits at its original soil line.
6. Firmly, but gently fill the hole half full of the removed soil.

7. Water well, then fill to the top with soil.
8. Form a shallow basin around the tree and fill it at least three times with water.
9. Cover the ground around the new tree with four inches of mulch, keeping mulch away from the trunk.
10. Take care of your tree - keep it well watered for the first year; twice a week is sufficient.

Be sure to make safety your top priority and don't plant near power lines. Before you dig, call 811.