



APRIL ■ 2008



## REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER. Tideland Topics

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE MEMBER-OWNERS OF TIDELAND ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

### AT THE HELM: Co-op engineer tapped for interim CEO job

#### JEFF AHEARN NAMED INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

On Friday, February 22, Tideland EMC's board of directors named Jeff Ahearn the co-op's interim chief executive officer. Jeff joined Tideland in 1998 as associate engineer and was promoted to manager of engineering in 2001.

A Beaufort County native, Jeff graduated from Northside High School in 1991, Beaufort County Community College in 1993 and received a BS in electrical engineering technology from UNC-Charlotte in 1997.

Jeff and his wife, Nanci Brinn Ahearn, reside in the Sydney area with their sons Michael, 3, and Alexander, 1. Nanci is a family nurse practitioner with Dr. Greg Jones at Belhaven Family Practice. Jeff is a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) as well as the Power Engineering Society of IEEE.

#### REAL PLACES:



### *Springer's Point*

Travel through this remote spot on Ocracoke Island in search of Blackbeard's buried treasure and you'll miss the forest for the trees. Springer's Point Nature Preserve is a treasure in its own right.

Saved from future development by North Carolina's Coastal Land Trust, Springer's Point Nature Preserve encompasses 31 acres. Wind bent live oaks form a natural canopy in this maritime forest also considered one of the state's most diverse avian breeding colonies.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22



**Jeff Ahearn,  
Interim CEO**

**TIMELESS  
TREASURE**  
CONTINUED  
FROM PAGE 41

Springer's Point is also the final resting place for Norfolk industrialist Sam Jones and his beloved Ocracoke pony, Ikey D.

Travel far enough into the preserve and you'll be welcomed by a sandy beach overlooking the Pamlico Sound.

The Trust is currently raising funds to purchase an additional 91 acres adjacent to Springer's Point. For more info: [www.coastal-landtrust.org](http://www.coastal-landtrust.org)



here's a bright idea  
recycling made easy!



### One Bright Spot in the 2007 Energy Bill

The energy bill, signed by President Bush on December 19, 2007, requires that by 2014, all light bulbs must use 25% to 30% less energy than they do today. Traditional incandescent light bulbs use almost 90% of the energy they consume to produce heat, not light. The phase-in will start with 100-watt bulbs in 2012 and end with 40-watt bulbs in 2014. By 2020, all bulbs must be 70% more efficient. Compact fluorescent bulbs already meet that efficiency standard and last at least 5 to 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs. Consumers will soon see other technologies competing for their business as halogen bulbs and LEDs (light emitting diodes) hit the market.

### Bulb Recycling

Compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) contain a small amount of mercury. To gain the greatest environmental advantage from CFLs, they should be disposed of in a way that properly captures and recycles their mercury.

Tideland EMC has established CFL recycling stations at all 4 district offices. Bring in your used CFLs and we'll make sure they are sent to an authorized recycling center.

## Message to Our Member-Owners: The timelessness of teamwork

**While every Tideland employee job description ends with "other duties as assigned," I never imagined being called upon to serve as interim CEO.**

Fortunately, Tideland EMC has a successful history of transitions that can be attributed to our unwavering commitment to co-op business principles and a dedicated team of employees who remain mission focused every day.

Organizational charts probably look fairly similar no matter what product or service is

ultimately delivered. But for a cooperative the entire organizational chart exists within a circle. Members are represented by that circle.

Members are the ones every Tideland EMC employee is ultimately accountable to and that dictates our daily approach to business. It was true when we energized the first electric service more than 70 years ago. It's just as true today as we near 23,000 metered services.

So while I'd like to thank the board of directors for having faith in my abilities I must



**Jeff Ahearn**  
Interim CEO

credit a fine supporting cast of co-workers who day in and day out do their part to provide reliable electric service at the lowest possible cost.

From time to time the power may blink, but I can assure you that the fine men and women of Tideland EMC never falter when it comes to giving their best to meet your needs. My thanks to them.

A smiling young girl with long brown hair is lying in a field of yellow flowers. A recycling symbol (a triangle with arrows) is overlaid on the bottom left. The word "RECYCLEPAK" is written in bold letters across the bottom.

42 APRIL 2008 CAROLINA COUNTRY

# REAL PEOPLE. REAL CHANGE. WHAT YOU CAN DO TO CELEBRATE EARTH DAY

## EARTH DAY IS APRIL 22

Spring is here and now's a great time to reconnect with the earth and protect our natural resources.

## VISIT A STATE PARK OR WILDLIFE REFUGE

We're especially lucky in eastern North Carolina to have vast amounts of land set aside for wildlife habitat and public recreation. So put on your walking shoes and go explore the great outdoors.

## START A BACKYARD GARDEN

Think of all the energy used to transport produce to your local grocer. There's never been a better time to cultivate your inner gardening spirit. If you just can't seem to conjure up your own green thumb shop local produce stands.

## CHANGE A BULB

Install compact fluorescent bulbs and you'll recoup the cost through reduced energy use in 6 to 12 months.



## REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

Paper and plastic make up the majority of landfill waste. Set up a recycling bin at your home or office. Empty water bottle? Rinse and reuse it and save money by filling up at the water cooler.

## ADOPT A HIGHWAY

Contact the NC Department of Beautification Programs at 1-800-331-5864 to find out how your family or organization can adopt a highway.

## INSTALL A LOW-FLOW SHOWERHEAD

Through water and energy savings you'll recoup the cost of installation in less than 2 years.

## DRY CLOTHES NATURALLY

Clothes lines are making a comeback. Worried about the look of your backyard? Don't be. There are plenty of retractable models to choose from.

## BUY AN ELECTRIC LAWN MOWER

No fumes, no oil or fuel spills, cheaper to operate and quieter too.

SPRING CLEANING TIPS THAT SAVE ENERGY

1.

WHILE CHANGING OUT YOUR AIR FILTER, REMOVE THE RETURN AIR GRILLE AND GIVE IT A THOROUGH CLEANING TO REMOVE DUST BUILDUP

2.

GIVE YOUR REFRIGERATOR AND FREEZER GASKETS A THOROUGH CLEANING WITH A SOFT BRUSH AND WARM SOAPY WATER

3.

CLEAN RANGE TOP DRIP PANS SO THEY WILL REFLECT MORE HEAT FOR FASTER COOKING

4.

CLEAN YOUR CLOTHES DRYER VENT HOSE FOR FASTER DRYING AND TO PREVENT FIRES

## INCUMBENT DIRECTORS WILL RETAIN SEATS



Mark  
Carawan  
District 2



Cecil  
Smith, Sr.  
District 3



Garry  
Jordan  
District 7



Edward  
Duetsch  
District 10

Tideland Electric's nominating committee met on February 5 to consider candidates for 4 directorial districts. The following candidates were nominated:

### District 2:

Mark Carawan

### District 3:

Cecil Smith, Sr.

### District 7:

Garry Jordan

### District 10:

Edward Duetsch

No candidates were nominated by written petition. In accordance with the cooperative's bylaws, the unopposed candidates shall be deemed elected to the board. Next month the cooperative will issue its Annual Report in Carolina Country magazine. Our Annual Meeting of Members will be held on Friday, May 16, at Beaufort County Community College.

# CELEBRATE ARBOR DAY



Celebrate Arbor Day on April 25 by planting the right tree in the right place.

- Consult your nursery salesperson to determine the mature height and width of trees before purchasing
- The following trees are power line friendly when planted outside the utility right-of-way:

Crepe Myrtle  
Dogwood  
Eastern Redbud  
Japanese Maple  
Purpleleaf Plum  
Star Magnolia  
Yaupon

- Measure 15 feet away from power lines and then half the distance of the width of the tree's spread when fully grown; this is as close as you should ever plant to power lines

REAL PEOPLE.  
REAL POWER.

## Tideland Topics

[www.tidelandemc.com](http://www.tidelandemc.com)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ray Hamilton, President  
J. Douglas Brinson, Vice President  
Garry Jordan, Secretary  
Ed Duetsch, Treasurer  
Leon Bryant, Jimmy Burbage,  
Mark Carawan, Vincent O'Neal,  
Clifton Paul, Paul Sasnett,  
Wayne Sawyer & Cecil Smith, Sr.

### INTERIM CEO

Jeff Ahearn

### EDITOR

Heidi Jernigan Smith

### 24-Hour Customer Service

252.943.3046  
800.637.1079  
Outage Reporting &  
Automated Services  
252.944.2400  
800.882.1001

**ATTENTION TIME-OF-USE PARTICIPANTS: PLEASE BEGIN OBSERVING THE SUMMER ON-PEAK DEMAND HOURS OF 4 P.M. TO 8 P.M. , M - F, STARTING APRIL 16.**

**REAL PEOPLE,  
GREAT EMPLOYEES:  
ALLISON MOOTE  
CUSTOMER SERVICE REP AND MORE!**

1 YEAR OF SERVICE



If we could harness the seemingly endless energy of Allison Moote the nation's fuel woes might be resolved. By day, Allison works at our Ocracoke office as a customer service rep, meter reader and appliance sales person. At night, you'll often find her waiting tables at Jason's Restaurant where she keeps a smile on her face long

after the last customers say their goodbyes. The rest of her time is spent with son Jackson who turns 4 on April 9. (Happy Birthday Jackson!)

Allison grew up in Wilmington and spent summers during college at Ocracoke. After graduating from Warren Wilson College in Swannanoa, where

she majored in history and minored in women's studies, Allison took up permanent residence on the island.

Allison has 3 sisters living in Durham and was joined on the island last year by her sister Claudia who teaches pre-K at Ocracoke School.

Allison's favorite part of the Tideland job is working with linemen Bobby O'Neal and Joe Smith, who seem like the brothers she never had.

Allison reminds islanders to come see her if they need new appliances. Tideland EMC members receive a 3% discount every day.