



APRIL ■ 2010



# REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER. Tideland Topics

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

## REPORT CARD: Bright Ideas teachers bring hands on learning to class

Thanks to a Bright Ideas grant, high school science students at Pungo Christian Academy had the opportunity to experience hands-on science in a whole new way. The winning grant, titled "Charged Up for Science", was written by teacher Crystal Swindell. One of the items purchased with the grant was a Van de Graaff generator.



Teacher Crystal Swindell brings lots of energy to her high school science classroom

The Van de Graaff generator is an electrostatic generator which uses a moving belt to accumulate high, electrostatically stable voltages on a hollow metal globe. In short, this machine generates

static electricity. When touching the Van de Graaff generator, a person becomes negatively charged, causing his or her hair

strands to repel each other and stand up on end. While touching this generator, a person will repel other negatively charged objects and attract positively charged objects.

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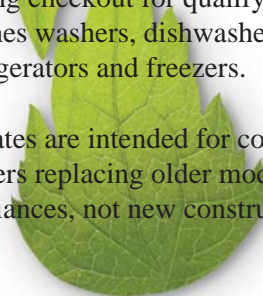
## Earth Day is April 22



Green your lifestyle this year with Energy Star appliance rebates during Earth Day weekend.

The N.C. Energy Office is providing 15% point of purchase rebates for Energy Star appliances purchased between April 22 and April 25. Participating retailers will process the rebate during checkout for qualifying clothes washers, dishwashers, refrigerators and freezers.

Rebates are intended for consumers replacing older model appliances, not new construction.



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The state has received \$8.8 million in federal stimulus dollars to help homeowners replace inefficient, older model appliances.

If funds are still available after the Earth Day weekend sale, the state will offer a second round of rebates this summer which will include central air conditioners and heat pumps.

For more information check with your appliance retailer.

## Message to our Member-Owners: EPA end run not in consumers' interest

by Cecil O. Smith, Jr. • CEO & General Manager

**Over the last two years, North Carolina's 26 electric cooperatives have had a productive dialogue with Congress regarding the need for a balanced solution to climate change challenges, which could affect our 2.5 million members.**

We appreciate Congress' attention to our past comments and recommendations. Today, we are very concerned about impending action by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to regulate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions under the Clean Air Act (CAA). We believe that the CAA was never designed to regulate GHG emissions; that the Act is ill-suited for controlling greenhouse

gas emissions, including carbon dioxide, from stationary sources like power plants; and that the Act should not be used for this purpose.

We are urging Congress to take action by passing a bill that will preempt EPA from regulating GHG emissions under the CAA until Congress addresses climate change. Electric cooperatives are more comfortable with elected representatives, whose charge it is to examine all sides of the issue, deciding how climate change policy will be implemented. We do not favor EPA determining pollution controls via an inappropriate regulatory program.

We hope members of our Congressional delegation

will ask EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson to delay her agency's implementation of GHG regulation until Congress addresses climate change.

We are not challenging the science behind climate control. We are only suggesting that Congress should take the lead in adopting appropriate policies to decrease carbon emissions in an efficient and effective manner over time.

Also, we cannot ignore the potential impact on the economy without appropriate safeguards legislated by Congress. Finally, we hope that Congress will step up to its leadership responsibilities quickly.

## Craven County members grateful for tree trimming



On Saturday, February 13, as large amounts of snow fell south of the Pamlico River, Tideland EMC received a flurry of emails from members in Craven County. They were not emailing to report power outages; just the opposite. They emailed to express their appreciation for right of way tree trimming in the fall of 2009. Here are a couple of the messages:

"Thank you for the work you have done on the trees along Broad Creek Road. Today we have power, thanks to the tree trimming you have done."

"Due to the heavy snow last night, I just wanted to say thanks for the recent tree trimming."

So, remember to be supportive of tree trimming activities when Tideland EMC's contractors visit your area! A properly maintained right of way goes a long way towards preventing outages.

NATIONAL ARBOR DAY IS APRIL 30:

# Plant smart from the start



Beautiful surroundings and friendly neighbors make eastern North Carolina a wonderful place to live. Over the course of 50 years, a single tree can generate \$31,250 worth of air pollution control, recycle \$37,500 worth of water, and control \$31,500 worth of soil erosion. Our quality of life also depends on reliable and safe electric service. That's why we conduct year-round

operations to make sure power lines and other utility structures have proper clearance. Sometimes that means trimming or cutting trees to comply with federal guidelines. We can reduce expenses and let Mother Nature take her course if you'll consider utility requirements before planting this spring. Here's a handy guide!

## Trees That Please

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

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Crapemyrtle    | Purpleleaf Plum |
| Dogwood        | Star Magnolia   |
| Eastern Redbud | Yaupon          |
| Japanese Maple |                 |



Dogwood



Japanese Maple

## Trees To Avoid

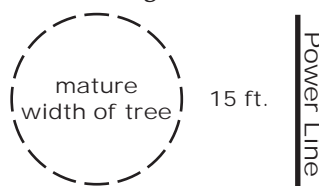
- For everything there is a season and for every tree there is a proper place. Never plant these tall growers within 50 to 75 feet of power lines:

- |          |            |           |
|----------|------------|-----------|
| Ash      | Chinaberry | Oak       |
| Beech    | Southern   | Pecan     |
| Birch    | Magnolia   | Pine      |
| Cedar    | Elm        | Poplar    |
| Chestnut | Maple      | Black gum |

## Plan Your Planting

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

Mature height less than 30'



- Shrubs and flowers should not be planted within 10 feet of the front or back of a pad mount transformer cabinet. Allow a 3 foot setback from the sides. Tideland crews routinely inspect the cabinets and vegetation will be removed if it obscures or obstructs electrical equipment.



4  
SPRING  
CLEANING  
TIPS

1.

### Clean your refrigerator coils

Older models have the coils on the back; newer models are usually underneath.

2.

### Change your central system's air filter and wash the air return grill

Remember to avoid the use of thick, pleated filters; Opt for the cheaper filters and change every 30 days.

3.

### Clean refrigerator door gaskets

Gaskets that fail to seal will increase refrigerator energy use.

4.

### Clean your dryer vent

Clogged vents not only increase drying time they also represent a fire hazard. Remember: your dryer vent should vent to the outdoors and not underneath the house.

## Tideland Topics

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

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## Teacher finds that obstacle is blessing in disguise

2009 Bright Ideas grant recipient Emily Harper wrote to us recently about her award winning project:



Macy Tyson (left) and Faviola Arreola (right) improve their reading skills thanks to a Bright Ideas grant

I just wanted to give you a quick update on my program and send you some pictures of the kids. My grant was to purchase 10 MP3 players and create audio libraries. I was upset to find out soon

after winning that they were no longer making the model MP3 player I was going to use.

It was a blessing in disguise however because I was able to get six upgraded players instead. These players are even better than I imagined because each one has two headphone jacks so my six players can service twelve kids instead of the ten I had planned on. Also these players have microphones for students to record themselves which opens them up to even more literacy uses.

I just wanted to once again thank Tideland for all you do for educators.

Sincerely,  
Emily Harper  
Arapahoe Charter School



**HOLIDAY NOTICE: WE WILL BE CLOSED FRIDAY, APRIL 2 FOR EASTER. OUR 24-HOUR CALL CENTER WILL REMAIN OPEN.**

## HIGH ENERGY EDUCATION

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Swindell's students had an opportunity to experiment with this phenomenon, by parting a shallow dish of water without touching it, repelling packing peanuts from their fingertips, and having small pieces of paper literally be drawn to them. The classroom was filled with learning



and laughter as the students gained knowledge about charges and experimented with the Van de Graaff generator.



Tideland has contracted with Lewis Tree Service to trim trees in our right of way.

They will soon be working in the following areas:

- Janeiro Road
- Oriental Road
- Kershaw Road

and all small roads & lanes off of the above listed roads.

We have also contracted with Bellwether Management for meter reading services until all the new smart meters are installed.



PCA students Austin Vann & Gabby Allen get a charge out of learning.