



# Tideland Topics

REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER.

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

## INTO THE WILD: Balancing habitat with electric service reliability

*Excerpted from The Pamlico News  
Photos and Article by Ben Casey*



“Well, first, we don’t want to see an osprey get electrocuted.”

That being “first” on the list as to why Tideland Electric linemen have constructed a platform to serve as a foundation for a high-rise osprey condominium reveals the genuine

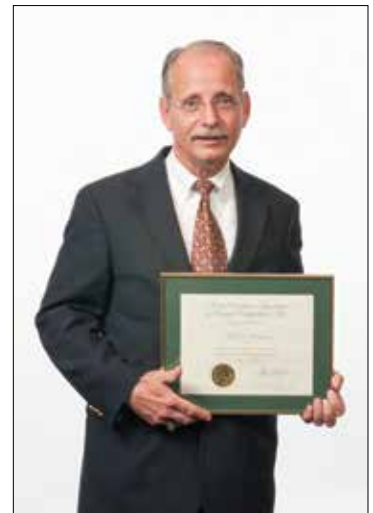
caring nature of these men. They brave the elements, so, like Tom Bodette at Motel Six, they can leave the lights on for us.

An osprey recently attempted to establish a homestead on a power pole just a few yards from the Dawson’s Creek bridge. Linemen were having to frequently check and remove the osprey’s construction materials, which were being assembled within the confines of transmission lines conducting power from a substation on NC 306. Service to 600 customers was jeopardized as well as the life of the osprey.

Any mishap, such as a branch from the nest falling across two lines, could disrupt service from the Dawson’s Creek area to the SaiLoft subdivision near Oriental, and to residences on Kershaw Road. According to line superintendent Steve Harris, debris from the nest could even ignite a serious fire on the pole just above a transformer.

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## Service awards



**Mark D. Carawan**

Directors Mark Carawan and Garry Jordan were recently honored by the NC Association of Electric Cooperatives (NCAEC) for their years of service on Tideland’s board. Carawan was honored for 25 years of service while Jordan has served 15 years. NCAEC is the trade association for the state’s 26 electric cooperatives.



## Right-of-Way Maintenance Update

Tideland has hired Lucas Tree Experts to trim trees in our right-of-way. During June they will work in the following areas:

- Dowry Creek
- Scranton
- Sladesville
- Rose Bay

and all adjoining small roads & lanes.

**Our contractors will be mowing the right-of-way in Engelhard. Mowing crews may begin working in Ocracoke as well north of the village.**

## OPERATION OSPREY:

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But instead of decrying the inconvenience caused by a bird of prey, Harris' first comments addressed the issue of safety for the bird simply doing what birds do. He naturally noted that having the osprey nest off the pole supporting these transmission lines would be of great practical benefit for the power company and its customers.

Linemen Chris Rice and Tim Ipock constructed a sturdy platform designed to be a foundation for an osprey nest with a front porch perch. They attached it to the top of a



**Bird protection equipment has been installed on the crossarms where the osprey previously attempted to nest**

pole which they planted across the road from the osprey's first choice for a homestead. The new residence is just a few feet from the river's edge, rising through the limbs of a spreading live oak tree.

Choosing this location in the park adjacent to the Dawson's Creek bridge, will hopefully entice the osprey to abandon plans to build

in the midst of dangerous transmission lines. Further testimony to the caring nature of these linemen for the natural world was evidenced when the new pole was being planted. Rice and Ipock took turns using a rope to pull limbs in the live oak tree away from the equipment digging the hole for the new pole. Just as they cared for the life of the osprey, they cared for the well-being of the tree that will be a naturally landscaped yard at the base of the osprey condominium.

Will the ospreys move their construction site after this intense effort to save their lives while providing uninterrupted service to electric customers? That remains to be seen. Steve Harris, Chris Rice, and Tim Ipock agree. It's worth the effort to see if this works.

*Tideland wishes to thank Pamlico County and Tim Buck for making property available at the adjacent park on which the osprey pole was erected.*

*(Note: The monthly Manager's Message will resume next month)*



**Timmy Ipock secures the wire platform for the osprey condo**

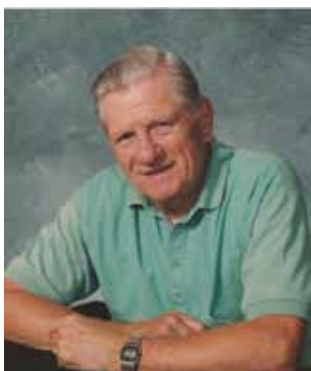


**Osprey platform complete with perch**

## Former directors, including past president, remembered



**Jimmy Burbage**



**Ed Duetsch**

Tideland hearts are heavy following the passing of former directors Jimmy Burbage and Edward Duetsch, Jr. Mr. Jimmy served on the Tideland board for 33 years, 10 of which he served as president. He passed away on April 20 and was laid to rest with full military honors.

Mr. Duetsch passed away on May 4 only a few months following the death of his wife Lucille with whom he shared 67 years of marriage. Mr. Duetsch was a native of New Jersey, however Lucille properly "southernized" him and after a 29-year career with IBM, the two retired to Fairfield Harbour. Mr. Duetsch served as a co-op director 16 years.



THE POWER OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE:

# Co-op scholarship winners named



**Lucy O'Neal**  
Ocracoke School

Lucy is the daughter of Isaac O'Neal and Matina Robinson. She will major in nursing at East Carolina University, while minoring in nutrition.



**Hollyanne Rogers**

Beaufort County Early College HS  
Hollyanne is the daughter of Jimmie and Diane Rogers. She will study physical therapy at Martin Community College.



**Briana Swain**  
Northside High School

Briana is the daughter of Brian and Amy Swain of Bath. She will attend East Carolina University, majoring in family and community services.



**Hayden Tankard**  
Northside High School

Hayden, the son of Robert and Susan Tankard of Bath, will attend The Citadel. He will major in civil engineering with a minor in business.



**Lauren Rogerson**  
Plymouth High School

Lauren is the daughter of Rodney and Christi Rogerson of Plymouth. She will study radiography at Wake Tech.



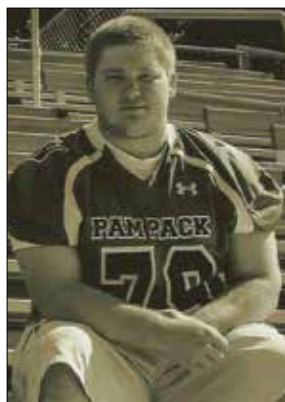
**Norvia Jennette**  
Northside High School

The daughter of Walter and Evelyn Jennette of Pantego, Norvia will attend NC Central University where she will major in chemistry.



**Trista Spencer**  
Mattamuskeet Early College HS

The daughter of Andrew and Valerie Spencer of Engelhard, Trista will major in English at East Carolina University with a minor in marketing.



**Carter O'Neal**  
Washington High School

Carter is the son of Johnnie and Jenny O'Neal. He will study electrical engineering at Beaufort County Community College.

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REASONS TO  
ENROLL IN  
FLEXPAY

1.

**NO SECURITY DEPOSIT OR CREDIT CHECK REQUIRED TO ESTABLISH SERVICE**

2.

**CONVERT AN EXISTING SECURITY DEPOSIT INTO AN IMMEDIATE ENERGY PREPAYMENT**

3.

**NO MORE ELECTRIC BILLS. EVER. SERIOUSLY. WE'RE NOT JOKING!**

4.

**NO LATE FEES, DISCONNECT OR RECONNECT FEES. EVER. HONESTLY! IT'S THE TRUTH.**

5.

**DEMONSTRATED REDUCTION IN ENERGY CONSUMPTION BETWEEN 7 AND 12 PERCENT. TURNS OUT WHEN YOU KNOW HOW AND WHEN YOU USE ENERGY YOU TEND TO SAVE.**

**LEARN MORE ABOUT FLEXPAY @ TIDELANDEMC.COM**

# Allocation of 2014 member margins

REAL PEOPLE.  
REAL POWER.

As a not-for-profit, member owned cooperative, Tideland EMC's year-end margins are allocated to each member-owner for future refund. This is in keeping with our mandate to deliver electric service at cost. Margins represent those dollars remaining after all our expenses have been paid. In 2014, Tideland had net operating margins of \$2,632,697.

factor is 5.9109¢ per \$1 of revenue received. Sample allocations based on typical residential energy use as provided in the table below.

Allocated margins appear as an entry on Tideland's permanent financial records and reflect your ownership equity. Margins represent an interest-free loan of operating capital by the membership to

a check or electric bill credit is issued and your equity in Tideland is reduced.

The timing of margin retirements is dictated by the co-op's overall financial picture and capital requirements and is subject to the approval of the federal government's Rural Utilities Service. In 2014, Tideland EMC returned capital credits

2014 Member Margins			
If you paid this much for power in 2014:	\$1200	\$1800	\$2400
Your share of 2014 member margins is:	\$70.83	\$106.40	\$141.86

The total amount allocated to your member account is based on the amount of energy you purchased from the cooperative during 2014. For 2014 margins, the allocation

the co-op. This helps Tideland keep electric rates low for everyone. As member equity builds we incrementally retire previous years' margins. When margins are retired,

totaling \$676,000. To date Tideland EMC has refunded over \$12 million to members and former members of the cooperative.

## Tideland Topics

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

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Paul Sasnett, President  
J. Douglas Brinson, Vice President  
Clifton Paul, Secretary  
David Ipock, Treasurer  
Rudy Austin, Mark Carawan,  
Garry Jordan, Dawson Pugh,  
Wayne Sawyer & Charles Slade

### GENERAL MANAGER & CEO

Paul Spruill

### EDITOR

Heidi Jernigan Smith

24 Hour Member Service  
252.943.3046  
800.637.1079

24 Hour Outage Reporting  
& Automated Services  
252.944.2400  
800.882.1001

Tideland EMC is an equal  
opportunity provider & employer

TO ENROLL IN OUTAGE TEXT MESSAGING: TEXT TEMC TO SHORT CODE 85700

## Scholarship winners Continued from page 27



**Neal Fulford**  
Beaufort County  
Early College HS  
The son of Neal and Amy Fulford, Neal will attend Campbell University. He will major in information technology administration.



**Quashema Lovick**  
Mattamuskeet Early  
College HS  
Quashema is the daughter of Denise and James Weston and Tony Slade. She will major in business administration at Elizabeth City State University.



**Jessi Gibbs**  
Mattamuskeet Early  
College HS  
Jessi is the daughter of Jeffery and Jennifer Gibbs of Swan Quarter. She will study cosmetology and photography at Beaufort Community College.



**Rhett Alligood**  
Beaufort County  
Early College HS  
Rhett is the son of Christopher and Holly Alligood of Bath. He will attend East Carolina University and major in information technology administration.



**Kathryn O'Neal**  
Ocracoke School  
The daughter of Vincent and Susan O'Neal, Kathryn will attend North Carolina State University majoring in education or geography.

The Tideland Electric Care Trust scholars attending a four-year college or university will receive a \$1,000 non-renewable scholarship. Community college scholarships will receive \$500 during their first year of enrollment and another \$500 during their second year of enrollment. The cooperative will begin accepting applications for the Class of 2016 in January. For more information visit [www.tidelandemc.com](http://www.tidelandemc.com).