

Co-op Comments

February 2017

Tree giveaway set for February 18

Rural Electric Cooperative has over 2,900 miles of electric distribution lines and clearing trees is an on-going project. One of the ways REC can provide reliable, affordable electric power is through its right-of-way clearing program which includes pruning, removals and chemical control. In addition to removing trees, REC crews also prune new growth during their daily routines.

REC's tree giveaway program helps replace trees the Cooperative must remove from under its power lines. Providing trees to members is the Cooperative's way of replacing one of our natural resources.

Rural Electric Cooperative's annual tree giveaway for its members will be held Saturday, February 18 beginning at 8 a.m.

Employees of REC will be in Lindsay, Elmore City, Maysville and Rush Springs to give members trees during the Cooper-

ative's Operation Tree Planting/Replacement Program. Members will each receive up to ten trees.

"It is very fitting REC would provide this kind of community service," Ed Bevers, Manager of Engineering states. "These trees are a tangible benefit to our current as well as our future members."

Employees of the Cooperative will be at Walmart parking lot in Lindsay, located at the junction of Highways 19 and 76; in front of the law office of Dan Williams in Rush Springs, located at 303 W. Blakely Street; the parking lot of Worth Every Bite in Maysville, located at 314 6th Street and the parking area of Speedy G's in Elmore City, located at 22964 Highway 29.

The types of trees available are Loblolly Pines and Sawtooth Oaks.

Loblolly Pines are one of the most common pine trees. This North American

native has dark green needles with narrow, red-brown pinecones about three to six inches long. These trees grow to be about 60' to 90' tall and about 25' to 35' wide once they reach maturity.

Sawtooth Oak is one of the fastest growing trees in its youth. It is an attractive shade tree with dark lustrous summer foliage and clear yellow to golden brown fall leaves. These trees grow to be 40' to 60' tall and about 40' to 60' wide.

The Cooperative requests members to not plant trees any closer than 30 feet of our electric power lines. This will allow the trees to mature without requiring trimming or removal in the future.

Members needing additional information about REC's Tree Program may contact REC's Member Services Department at 756-3104 or 1-800-259-3504, extension 238.



Wind energy at work



The energy industry is changing. As technology advances, the use of electricity delivered by renewable energy sources is growing. While many Americans are interested in harnessing energy from the sun, wind as a renewable energy source, is a larger contributor to America's diverse energy mix. Wind accounts for 4.7 percent of our nation's fuel mix.

So how is wind harvested? In simplest terms, the wind turns a propeller connected to a generator via a gear box; these parts are contained in a housing called a nacelle. This mechanical connection increases the revolutions of the blades from a leisurely 15-20 revolutions per minute to 1,800 rpm at the generator, where wind becomes electricity.

As the wind changes direction, the nacelle turns the blades to continue generating. When wind farms are laid out, the placement of the turbines is strategically planned so the turbulence from one turbine does not interfere with the operation of others behind it. The turbines also have protective mechanisms built in to furl the blades once a certain wind speed is reached to prevent the turbine from spinning itself to pieces.

Like everything else, technology is driving the development of larger capacity wind turbines. Earlier models of turbines had the capacity to produce 660

kW (kilowatts) to 1 MW (megawatts) of power. Current models have the capacity to produce 1.2 to 2 MW. Turbines able to produce 12 to 21 MW are currently being tested and developed. Larger capacity is critical to production because of Metz's Law. This theory was developed in 1919 by Albert Metz and stated a wind generator would be able to convert a maximum of 59.3 percent of wind energy into electricity. Larger capacity equates to more output.

Next, why are there typically three blades on a turbine? Single blade turbines have been found to be unstable in operation. Adding a second blade increases output by 10 percent, and adding a third blade increases output by another five percent. Each additional blade increases the output, but the increase is considered small, so three blades has become the norm.

Because of the enormous stress the blades face, they are typically built from resin impregnated composite materials. The most common form of construction is molding epoxy soaked fiberglass into the desired shape with cores of balsa wood.

In the wind generation game, height is a critical consideration. Near the surface of the earth, wind conditions become unstable and erratic as the sun warms the ground. The temperature difference between the ground and the air creates effects like wind shear, which can make efficient operation difficult. At higher levels, undesirable ground effects rapidly diminish and wind speed becomes much more consistent.

The U.S. Government and other agencies produce wind speed maps at a number of heights. Today's standard wind speed map uses a height of 80 meters. When a company looks to develop a commercial wind farm, they use these maps to locate areas where they can find a consistent 13 mph wind speed or higher.

For now, wind and solar are best deployed as components of a diverse energy portfolio which includes traditional generating resources. However, continued technological developments will increase reliable power from renewable resources in the future.

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Contact Information

Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Mailing Address
P.O. Box 609
Lindsay, OK 73052

Physical Address
13942 Highway 76
Lindsay, OK 73052

405-756-3104 or 1-800-259-3504
To report an outage call
1-800-259-3504 or 1-855-399-2683
Visit REC at www.recok.coop
and like us on facebook



Board of Trustee Vice President receives Director Gold certificate

Recently, REC's Board of Trustees Vice President, Scott Christian received his Director Gold Certificate.

The Director Gold program was created to recognize directors committed to continuing their education beyond the Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate and the Board Leadership Certificate and who demonstrates their ongoing commitment to advancing their knowledge.

All the director certificate programs are specifically designed to help electric cooperative directors, at every stage of their service, understand their roles and responsibilities. These programs help the directors stay-up-to-date on key issues and



trends in the electric industry and prepare them to meet the challenges facing electric cooperatives today and in the future.

To earn this certificate, Christian had to complete both the Credentialed Coopera-

tive Director and the Board Leadership programs and earn three additional credits from approved courses.

“Continuing to gain additional education or training is vital to the success of our organization,” says, CEO, Dale Nye. “We encourage all of our employees and Board of Trustee Members to stay informed about our ever-changing industry and seek additional skills needed to perform at the best of their ability.”

Christian will continue to take additional courses to earn the credits needed to maintain his Director Gold Certificate.

“I am encouraged by our Board’s desire to continue to learn and seek additional education about the electric industry which makes our Cooperative better,” Nye concludes. 1255601

REC adopts senior citizens during the Christmas season



This year REC employees and the Board of Trustees adopted the Lindsay Manor Nursing Home for Christmas.



Vice President, Scott Christian (left) receives his Director Gold Certificate and lapel pin from President Gary Jones (right) after completing the program requirements.

Classified Advertisement

REAL ESTATE –

FOR SALE OR TRADE: 40 acres with two houses and two barns. PH: 405-473-3318.

AUTOMOTIVE –

FOR SALE: 2014 Cherokee Latitude Jeep, 4X4 wheel drive, 25,000 miles, active II transmission, many extras, call for price in Wynnewood area. PH: 972-816-6975.

FOR SALE: Steel camper shell for short wide-bed in Dibble area. Ph: 405-344-8192.

FOR SALE: Extang Encore Tonneau cover, fits a GMC Sierra 1500, \$450. PH: 580-606-7160.

FOR SALE: Weather tech floor mats for GMC Sierra, \$50. PH: 580-606-7160.

LIVESTOCK –

FOR SALE: Angus bulls, 16-24 months old. PH: 405-665-2502.

MISCELLANEOUS –

FOR SALE: Generac 5500XL generator, like new. PH: 405-818-4614.

Want Ads

are **FREE** to REC members to post noncommercial items. Deadline for ads is the 8th of every month. Call the Member Services Dept. at 405-756-3104 ext. 238.

Co-op Connections

Use your Co-op Connections Card to save you money on lodging, photographs, oil changes and other items. You can also save on prescriptions, dental, vision, hearing, lab work and imaging and chiropractor services at participating locations. Your card is a discount card. If you have misplaced your card, contact REC for a replacement card and use it to save yourself some money.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

A crackling fire in the hearth warms the house, but don't let it heat up your electric bill! Caulk around the fireplace hearth and keep the damper closed when a fire is not burning. Learn more at www.energy.gov

FOR SALE: Two cemetery plots located at Sunnyside Cemetery, 4000 SE 29th Street, Del City. Market value for both plots is \$3,695, asking \$2,500 for both. PH: 405-201-7430 or 405-527-5191.

FOR SALE: Round bales of grass hay. PH:

405-926-7343.

FOR SALE: Rustic Western style, wooden dining table with six padded chairs, \$450. PH: 405-613-8840.

NEEDED: Houses to clean, reliable service. PH: 405-779-8440.

WFEC changed transformer at the Elmore City Substation because of broken parts



Western Farmer Electric Cooperative recently changed the transformer at the Elmore City Substation because a mechanism controlling the optimum voltage broke.

Local Co-op Connection Card Deals

Backroads Boutique, Lindsay -

5% off everything excluding special order and sale items

Best Western, Chickasha -

15% Off Regular Room Rate

Blue Moose Outdoor

Portable Rentals, Elmore City -

5% Off Septic Tank Pumping, Tent Rental and Special Event Toilet Rentals

Chickasha Diesel Services, Chickasha -

\$50 off any big diesel oil change

Edwards Canvas, Pauls Valley - 5% Off

Jenny's Pics Photography, Lindsay -

10% Off \$50 or More Purchase of Pictures

Lindsay Tire and Lube, Lindsay -

\$5 Off Any Full Service Oil Change;

M & M Furniture, Chickasha -

10% Off Any Purchase

Mazzio's Italian Eatery, Purcell -

10% Off Purchase

Photos by Ginger, Pauls Valley -

1 Free 8x10 Print With First Order (\$25 Minimum)

The Leopard Lasso, Wynnewood -

10% Off Purchase

4 Seat Saddles, Boots and Hats -

10% Off \$100 or More, or 5% Off Repairs

Western Fuel Co., Maysville -

2 Cents Off Per Gallon of Propane on a Minimum of 125 Gallons. Cash Sales Only. (No Other Discounts Allowed)

Pharmacy Discounts -

Check out the discounts available using your Co-op Connections Card at participating pharmacies throughout our area. For a complete list of pharmacies, visit REC's website to see if your pharmacy is offering discounts to Co-op Connections Card holders.