

## Local youths attend leadership summit

Ethan Reed of Huntland High School and Emily West of Coffee County High School were among 44 high school juniors representing 22 electric cooperatives across the state who attended the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association's annual Youth Leadership Summit March 15-17 in downtown Nashville.

Reed is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Reed of Huntland, and Emily is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Barry West of Manchester.

"The annual summit teaches these students how important electric cooperatives are to Tennessee's rural communities and provides an opportunity for them to see, in person, the legislative process in the Tennessee Capitol," said Joe Jackson, TECA director of youth and member relations.

"We had another excellent group of outstanding young leaders attend this year's summit," Jackson said. "Considering the highly competitive and selective process they undergo to earn a spot on the trip, it's no surprise. Local electric cooperatives, along with school officials and guidance counselors, chose these students based on their interest in government and their leadership abilities."

"The Magic of Leadership" was the theme of the



**In front of the State Capitol are, from left, Connie Potts, DREMC consumer information specialist; Ethan Reed, Huntland High School; and Emily West, Coffee County High School.**

2010 summit hosted by TECA and funded in part by the national Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, a not-for-profit cooperative financing institute that provides an independent source of financing to member cooperatives nationwide.

"It is encouraging to see such motivated students in our service area," said Jim Allison, Duck River EMC president and CEO. "These young people will one day be the leaders of our communities, and we are privileged to provide them with this opportunity to join their peers from across Tennessee to learn about state government and rural electric co-ops."

The summit began Monday evening, March 15, with dinner at the group's hotel. Get-acquainted and leadership development activities

followed, led by cooperative employees and special guests, including 2009 Miss Tennessee Stefanie Wittler and Tennessee Titans cheerleader Lindsey Roznovsky.

Students rose early on Tuesday, March 16, for breakfast and preparations for a visit to Legislative Plaza to meet their state legislators and sit in on House and Senate committee meetings. Motivational speaker Lynn Hodges, a former Tennessee Valley Authority employee, gave the keynote address, "The Magic of Choice," before TECA Director of Government Affairs David Callis introduced State Rep. Phillip Johnson of Pegram. Johnson answered questions submitted by the students, and Cal-

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**DREMC Annual Meeting**  
**Saturday, Aug. 21, 2010**  
**Registration: 8:30 a.m.**  
**Meeting: 9:30 a.m.**  
**Franklin County**  
**High School Auditorium**

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lis explained current bills affecting cooperatives and described what everyone should expect from the legislative committees they were to visit.

The 11th-graders then took a tour of the Capitol and saw government in action at the committee meetings before posing for photos in front of the historic Capitol building. Following the visit to Capitol Hill, the group enjoyed leadership activities at a Nashville-area YMCA camp. After dinner, students attended a Nashville Predators hockey game at Bridgestone Arena followed by a tour of Tennessee's

capital city. Finally, the busy day was capped off with an ice cream social.

Wednesday morning, the students learned more about Tennessee's electric cooperatives and the vital role co-ops play in the communities they serve. Students got an overview of the history of electric cooperatives from the "Mission Possible" activity. Then they were divided into teams and competed in "M.A.G.I.C. (Mastering A Game of Interactive Cooperation), forming their own co-ops and working together to "buy" and "sell" power distribution supplies — power poles, wire, transformers, meters and trucks. Later, they put together all they'd learned,

answering trivia questions about electric cooperatives and the state in the "Energy Battle" competition. Trent Sanders, founder and president of Leaders Across America, brought the three-day event to a close with his address, "Road to Success."

"We offer these educational experiences for our students — our future members — because we want them to understand what makes a cooperative special," said Connie Potts, DREMC consumer information specialist. "We want them to appreciate all their electric cooperative provides for their communities and understand why it was so important to form electric co-ops in the first place."

## New employee added to Headquarters Engineering Department

Dwight Cotham has joined the staff of Duck River Electric Membership Corporation as a drafter in the Engineering Department of the Shelbyville Headquarters office.

Cotham began work on March 22. He grew up in Hohenwald and graduated from Lewis County High School and Tennessee Technology Center at Hohenwald.

He was previously employed with Sign Management Consultants Inc., EKG Images Inc. and Cummings Signs.

His interests include hunting, fishing, boating and college football.

Cotham, wife Debbie and daughter Kelsey reside in Columbia.

We welcome Cotham to the DREMC family.



## Bedford County Duck River Cleanup

Organizers are making plans to hold the 13th Annual Duck River Cleanup in Bedford County on Saturday, June 26. Volunteers will meet behind Shelbyville Power System at 7:30 a.m. at a tent erected beside the river for breakfast and work area assignments. Lunch will be served at noon to all who participate in the clean-up effort.

June is clean-up month for counties in the Duck River Watershed. Please watch local newspapers for locations for river cleanups being held in Coffee, Marshall, Maury and Hickman counties.

For more information pertaining to the Bedford County Cleanup, call Helen Garner at 931-684-3398 or Wayne Bomar at 931-684-1693.



# Annual meeting, nominations for board of directors

The Committee on Nominations, appointed in compliance with the cooperative's bylaws, met March 30 to select director nominees for election this year. Attending the meeting (at right) were, from left, seated, Susan Askew, University of the South; Burgess Guinn, Zone 5; and Amy Martin, Zone 4. Back row: David Edwards, Zone 6; Kelly Moore, Zone 2; Willard Grimes, Zone 6; Lonnie Norman, Zone 1; Larry Moorehead, Zone 3; Austin Anderson, Zone 1; and Jerry Hooper, Zone 5. Not pictured is Marty Davis, Zone 4. Guinn was elected to serve as chairman of the committee, and Askew was elected secretary.

The following individuals were nominated by the committee for election to three-year terms on the board:

**Zone 1** - Coffee and Warren counties - Baxter White

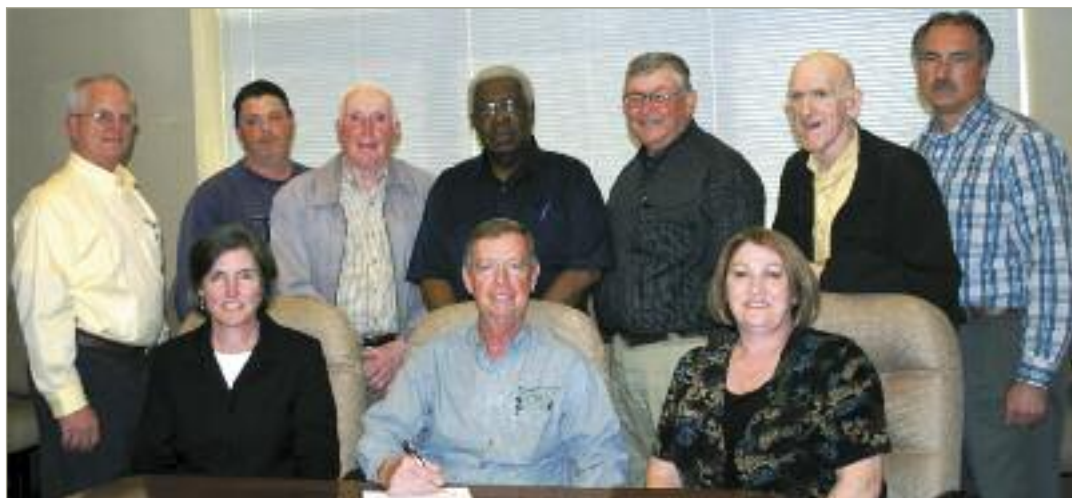
**Zone 2** - Franklin, Grundy and Marion counties, University of the South - To be appointed by the University of the South (Laura Willis currently serving)

**Zone 3** - Moore and Lincoln counties - Buford Jennings

**Zone 5** - Marshall and Giles counties - John Moses

**Zone 6** - Maury, Hickman, Lawrence, Lewis and Williamson counties - Robert DuBois

Candidates may also be nominated by petition for election to the board. The deadline for candidates desiring to be nominated by petition is Thursday, May 13. Petitions must be delivered to the office of Duck River EMC President and CEO Jim Allison no later than 5 p.m. on May 13. All nominations must meet the requirements of the bylaws as outlined here:



“It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint, not less than two hundred (200) calendar days before the date of a meeting of the members at which Directors are to be elected, a Committee on Nominations. This Committee on Nominations shall consist of not less than seven (7) nor more than eleven (11) members of the cooperative who are not existing Cooperative employees, agents, officers, directors or known candidates for director or close relatives or members of the same household thereof, and who are so selected that each of the Cooperative's Directorate Zones shall have representation thereon in approximate proportion to the authorized number of directors from or with respect to such District. The Committee shall prepare and post in an appropriate place at the principal office of the Cooperative at least one hundred forty-five (145) calendar days prior to the meeting a list of nominations for directors to be elected, listing separately the nominee(s) for each directorate Zone from or with respect to which director must, pursuant to this Article, be elected at the meeting. The committee may include as many nominees for any directorship to be elected as qualify

as described below, PROVIDED, however, that no close relative of an incumbent or prior Director of the Cooperative nor any member serving or whom has served on the Committee on Nominations or the Credentials Committee shall be eligible to be nominated as a candidate for Director by the Committee on Nominations unless one full year has transpired from the date such close relative last served on the Board or such individual last served on the Committee on Nominations or the Credentials Committee (NOTE: This one-year provision does not apply to candidate(s) nominated by petition). Said candidate must also meet all other qualifications of candidacy as outlined in SECTION 4.02. Immediately following the posting of nominations by the Committee on Nominations, and in no case less than 100 days prior to the date of the Annual Meeting, any fifteen (15) or more members of the Cooperative, acting together, may submit to the Committee on Nominations additional nominations in writing over their signatures, listing their nominee(s) in like manner for verification of candidate qualifications (as outlined in SECTION 4.02). The Committee on Nominations shall meet

following the close of the deadline for petitions, and in no case less than 90 days prior to the date of the Annual Meeting, to review and confirm the qualifications of any nominees by petition. The Secretary shall post such qualified nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the Committee is posted at least sixty (60) calendar days prior to the meeting. The Committee shall place into nomination the names of all such candidates for whom such petitions have been received and who the Committee deems as meeting the qualification requirements (as outlined in SECTION 4.02). The Secretary shall mail to the members with the notice of the meeting or separately but not less than the number of days prior to the meeting required for delivery of such notice, a statement of the names and addresses of all qualified nominee(s) for each Directorate Zone from or with respect to which one or more directors are to be elected. Notwithstanding the provisions contained in this Section, failure to comply with any of such provision shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken by the Board of Directors after the election of the directors.”

## Call center staffed 24 hours a day

We are beginning to enjoy the spring flowers and warmer temperatures. This time of year also brings the threat of spring storms.

Please remember that the Duck River EMC dispatch center is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If you experience a power outage, please do

not hesitate to call and report your problem.

We strive to keep our members' lights on and are ready to assist in any way we can.

It is also helpful to call from your home phone rather than a cell phone, if possible. If we have your home phone

number in our records, it is easier for DREMC to keep you updated in the event of an unexpected outage as well as keep you posted on planned outages.

If we do not have your current home phone number in our system, please call your local DREMC office and give us that information.

## Arbor Day celebrated with area schools

Duck River EMC has been a Tree Line USA Utility for six years and was the first Tree Line USA cooperative in Tennessee.

Two of the key elements of being a tree Line USA Utility are planting trees and public education.

DREMC conducts Arbor Day Tree-Planting Programs with elementary schools within the service area, planting about five to six trees at each of the selected schools.

Through this program, coordinated by DREMC Right-of-Way Supervisor Jim Barnhart, 30 to 40 trees are typically planted annually.

**Students from Cowan Elementary School participate in Duck River Electric's Arbor Day Tree-Planting Program.**



## Calendar of events

### *Bedford County*

May 11 - The Nashville Symphony - Calsonic Arena - Shelbyville  
[www.shelbyvilletn.com](http://www.shelbyvilletn.com)

May 15 - Bell Buckle Motorcycle Day - Bell Buckle

*Riders and nonriders alike will enjoy a mini journey through some of Tennessee's finest country roads.*

*Includes live entertainment, barbecue and a poker hand.*

*Contact [rodney@bellbuckle.com](mailto:rodney@bellbuckle.com) for more information.*

May 27-29 - The Celebration Spring Fun Show - Shelbyville  
[www.twhnc.com](http://www.twhnc.com)

June 4-5 - Wartrace Music Fest - Wartrace  
[www.wartracemusicfest.org](http://www.wartracemusicfest.org)

### *Moore County*

June 18-20 - Lynchburg Motorcycle Rally - Lynchburg  
[www.lynchburgtn.com](http://www.lynchburgtn.com)

# TVA extends 6-percent interest loan promotion based on HVAC energy ratings

The Tennessee Valley Authority has extended through Sept. 30, 2010, the 6-percent interest rate promotion on high-efficiency electric heat pumps installed and financed through the *energy right*<sup>®</sup> program. This promotion encourages the installation of higher-efficiency heating/cooling equipment and supports our focus on energy efficiency. The original promotion, begun in 2008 and scheduled to run only six months, has been very popular and beneficial to many DREMC members as a way to save money on interest while upgrading their equipment to save on energy costs.

The promotional rate of 6 percent applies to all heat pumps purchased on or after April 1, 2010, and meet the minimum requirements outlined as follows:

**Split heat pumps** must have a minimum seasonal energy efficiency ratio (SEER) rating of 14.5, a minimum energy efficiency ratio (EER) rating of 12, and a minimum heating seasonal performance factor (HSPF) of 8.2.

**Packaged heat pumps** must have a minimum SEER rating of 14, a minimum EER rating of 11 and a minimum HSPF rating of 8.



The interest rate for equipment that does not meet this criteria will remain at 8 percent.

This program does not apply to refinancing of existing loans.

Please contact Helen Blanton at 931-680-5883 or Pat Garrett at 931-680-5886 for further information.

## Energy-savings tips

# Save energy while on vacation

Summer is a great time to take a vacation and get away from it all.

However, unless you take action, the appliances and electronic devices in your home will not get a break, and your next month's energy bill may be business as usual. Before you leave on your next trip or vacation, take a few minutes and follow these simple steps.

**Lighting** — Turn off all lights in the house before you leave. You may want to maintain an outdoor or indoor light for nighttime security. Consider installing a timer. This will limit the time-on period and help to make it appear as if someone is at home.

**Refrigerator** — Your refrigerator and other compressor-driven devices are the biggest energy-consumers in a typical home. If you are leaving for a short period of time, raise the temperature just a few degrees. The setting should never be higher than 38 degrees for the refrigerator and 5 degrees for the freezer. For long trips or extended periods of time, consider emptying and unplugging them.

**Electronics** — Turn off all electronic devices. Even when you are not there, electronics such as computers, printers, TVs, cell chargers, digital video recorders, etc., can consume energy while not in use. Unplug all electronic devices while you are away.

**Water heater** — Unless you have an on-demand (tankless) unit, your water heater will keep on heating to keep the water warm. Turn down the settings on the thermostats to as low as possible or open the breakers or remove the fuses to the water heater to reduce this "standby" heat loss while you are away.

**Air conditioner** — There is no need to keep your house at 70 degrees while you are at the beach hundreds of miles away. Turn off your air conditioner or use a programmable thermostat and set it on vacation mode to recool the house shortly before you arrive.

**Swimming pool** — If your pool is not operated with a timer, it will run 24 hours a day while you're gone. If you normally

turn the pump off for a period of time each day, the 24-hour operation can result in a large increase in your electricity use.

These big users of electricity can have a significant impact on the energy your home uses while you're away. Take steps to reduce your energy use and your monthly electric bill.

