

Current Comments

MEMBER NEWSLETTER
JULY 2022



IMPORTANT DATES

Independence Day: July 4
SRE office is closed.
Please call 866-244-4890
to report any outages.

Trust Board Meeting:
July 13

**Operation Round Up
grant application deadline
for the September Trust
Board Meeting:** Aug. 31

Accepting Bright Ideas Grant Applications

SRE's Bright Ideas program strives to improve education in classrooms across central Georgia by awarding grants up to \$1,000 to educators for innovative projects.

Apply today at:
southernriversenergy.com



SOUTHERN RIVERS ENERGY'S 85TH ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

Aug. 27 at the SRE office • Registration and voting 8:30-10:30 a.m.

Please join us for the Annual Meeting of Members on Saturday, Aug. 27, behind the office at 1367 Highway 341 S in Barnesville. Drive-thru registration and voting will be conducted from 8:30-10:30 a.m.

Southern Rivers Energy's Annual Meeting is held each year for the purpose of electing members to the Board of Directors and passing any amendments to the cooperative's bylaws. Members are given an update of the cooperative's business and finances from the preceding year.

The Nominating Committee nominated Millie Alexander of Zebulon, Andy Bush of Barnesville, and Harry Park of Yatesville. The Credentials and Election Committee meeting was held on May 25.

Early voting

Early voting will be available at the SRE office drive-thru window and lobby from Aug. 1-26 during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Any member stopping by the office to make a payment will have the

opportunity to register and vote. Members will receive a ballot and supporting co-op business documents.

Voting early does not exclude you from participating in our Annual Meeting. If you would like to attend our Annual Meeting, keep the registration card after you vote early and bring it to the meeting.

Gifts and prizes

Members who bring their personalized registration card from the cover of the August issue of *Georgia Magazine* will receive a special gift along with the registration gift, and you will be entered to win a \$100 SRE bill credit.

All attending members (account holders) and members who voted early will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win one of 25 \$50 bill credits.

Breakfast will be provided to attendees inside their vehicles.

BRIGHT IDEAS

TEACHER GRANT OPPORTUNITY



WHAT IS BRIGHT IDEAS?

The Bright Ideas education grant program is part of Southern Rivers Energy's ongoing commitment to our schools and communities. Southern Rivers Energy is a not-for-profit electric cooperative that serves more than 19,000 meters in nine counties. Bright Ideas grants give teachers the power to put their creative teaching ideas into action.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Any certified teacher instructing students in grades pre-K-12 (public or private school) in Bibb, Coweta, Crawford, Lamar, Meriwether, Monroe, Pike, Spalding and Upson counties.

WHY SHOULD I APPLY?

We know budgets can hinder classroom projects and that educators dip into their own pockets to help pay for their creative lesson plans. This program can provide innovative, creative learning experiences that are otherwise unavailable through regular school funding.

HOW MANY TEACHERS WILL BE AWARDED?

Southern Rivers Energy sets aside a total of \$15,000 annually for Bright Ideas grants. The maximum grant amount is \$1,000.



WHAT QUALITIES IS SRE LOOKING FOR IN BRIGHT IDEAS PROJECTS?

- Uses innovative, creative learning experiences for students (25 points)
- Provides instructional experiences otherwise unavailable (20 points)
- Involves teamwork (15 points)
- Directly and actively involves students (10 points)
- Clearly defines goals and learning objectives (10 points)
- Provides ongoing benefits to students (10 points)
- Provides an adequate budget summary (10 points)

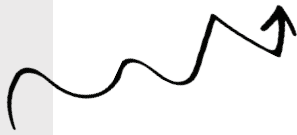
SUCCESS TIPS FROM THE JUDGES:

- Make sure the stated project objectives match the proposed project summary.
- Make sure your writing is grammatically correct, thoughtful and serious. It should relate to the proposed ideas and topics.
- Read the instructions on the application. Failure to follow application guidelines will result in disqualification.

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WHERE CAN I FIND THE APPLICATION?

Visit southernriversenergy.com. For questions about the Bright Ideas program, email Kathryn Green at kathryn@rivers.net.



WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? APPLY TODAY!



IMPORTANT 2022 DATES:

- Applications must be submitted and received before midnight on Friday, Sept. 2.
- Applications received after the Sept. 2 deadline will not be considered.
- Early bird deadline and entry in the \$250 Amazon gift card drawing is Aug. 12.
- Check presentations by the Bright Ideas Brigade will be made Oct. 19-20.



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Power Restoration:

Lessons Learned from Line Crews

Whether the lights go out because of weather or squirrels, safety comes first for lineworkers.

By Paul Wesslund

You can learn a lot about power outages and restoration by watching, from a safe distance of course, a utility crew at work. The first thing you'll notice is the deliberate, careful pace. They deploy signs to alert motorists. They mark the work area with orange cones. Always in hard hats and fire-protective clothing, anyone working on a power line pulls on heavy rubber gloves and spreads insulating blankets over the wires. Those same gloves have been tested by a machine that blows air into them to make sure there's not even a pinhole that could allow a deadly electric current to pass through.

And there's more you won't see. That morning, they likely huddled at the back of a truck to discuss what each of them would be doing that day, with an emphasis on safety. It's a best practice in the industry—so common it's often called a "tailgate meeting" or "toolbox talk."

Making safety a habit

There are a lot of reasons your electricity might go off, with weather by far the leading cause. But to a lineworker, all power outage repairs have one thing in common—safety.

Safety is common sense, as people want to get home alive, after all. But it's also drilled into the utility workers. In their pole-climbing contests, the fastest time will get disqualified with the slightest safety misstep. Co-op leadership makes it clear that skipping any safety measure or procedure is a firing offense. Line crews attend lectures aimed at driving home

the importance of safety protocols.

So, if you ever wonder why restoring electricity after an outage can take awhile, there's a good answer: Line crews never compromise on safety.

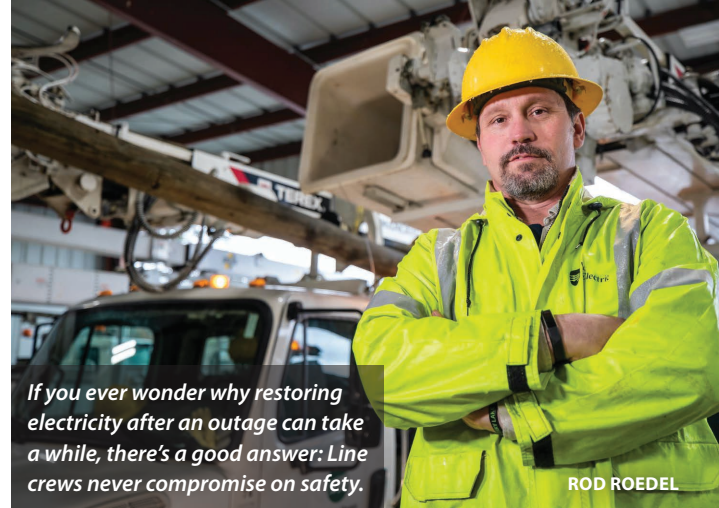
The next thing you can learn from watching a line crew at work comes from seeing what task they're doing. There's a good chance they're replacing old equipment. Poles and transformers wear out, and failing equipment is one significant cause of power outages. The crew you watch might be restoring an equipment outage, or they might be switching out an old device to prevent a future outage.

You might see them replacing a downed utility pole, a painstaking process of removing the old, and hauling in and raising the new, using trucks specifically designed for the job.

Trees vs. power lines

A utility pole might be down because a motorist drove into it, which is another cause of outages, or it could be weather-related. Natural disasters like wind, ice and fires cause about 80% of power outages. One characteristic of those natural disasters is that the damage can be widespread. If one pole is down, lots of others could be as well. That means crews will be repeating the pole-replacement process one job at a time. That's why bringing the lights back on after a major storm with widespread outages can take days, or even weeks.

It's also likely the crew you're watching will be trimming trees. Trees are beautiful,



If you ever wonder why restoring electricity after an outage can take a while, there's a good answer: Line crews never compromise on safety.

ROD ROEDEL

but a common cause of outages is wind and nearby branches can lead to wires getting knocked to the ground. Electric cooperatives devote a lot of time and resources to urging and enforcing limits on planting anything too close to power lines. And crews regularly trim limbs that get too close to the wires.

One fairly common cause of outages you probably won't learn about by watching a crew make repairs is wildlife. Squirrels and other critters routinely crawl around utility equipment, occasionally making a connection between high-voltage wires. Snakes that slither into an electric substation bring consequences, both for them and the utility company. Sometimes, crews need to investigate and correct the cause. Often the system will reset itself after only a brief power interruption.

So, what lessons can we learn from lineworkers? Outages can be caused by a variety of factors. Restoring power is an intricate process in a complex utility system. And safety—for crews and the community—will always be the top priority.

Paul Wesslund writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56% of the nation's landscape.

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OUTAGE HOTLINE

1-866-244-4890

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Drive-in window available

Closed Saturdays,
Sundays and holidays



*Southern Rivers Energy is an equal
opportunity provider and employer.*

GOODSON'S PEACH PECAN CREPES

RECIPE COURTESY OF GEORGIA GROWN

INGREDIENTS

2 eggs
3/4 cup whole milk
3/4 cup water
1 cup flour
4 tablespoons melted butter
Pinch of salt
1 teaspoon maple extract (optional)
1/4 cup Oliver Farms Pecan Oil, hold for crepe pan

Filling and topping:

1 (4-ounce) jar honey cinnamon pecan butter
1 jar peach-pepper jelly
1 (8-ounce) package softened cream cheese
8 ounces candied pecans
Powdered sugar (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS

For crepes: Place all crepe ingredients except the pecan oil in a blender and blend until incorporated. Chill mixture at least 30 minutes or until needed.

Heat a crepe pan or a large flat pan over medium heat. Coat pan with pecan oil. Pour or ladle 1/4 cup crepe mixture into the pan while tilting it back and forth to coat the heated pan with a very thin layer of batter. Note: The batter should start to set immediately. When small bubbles begin to form, gently lift corners of the crepe to loosen. Flip it over and cook for an additional 30 seconds, then turn it out onto a paper towel-lined plate. Repeat steps until all batter has been used.

For the filling and topping: Make the filling by blending together pecan butter and softened cream cheese. Remove lid from pepper jelly jar and heat jar in the microwave for about 10 seconds to slightly liquefy the jelly. Note: Microwave an additional 10 seconds if needed.

To assemble, spread crepes with cream cheese filling, fold into thirds lengthwise (or fold into quarters to form a wedge shape). Drizzle with warm peach pepper jelly, sprinkle with candied pecans and dust with powdered sugar, if desired. Serves 4.

For recipes from farms and producers across our state, visit georgiagrown.com.



GEORGIA GROWN

ENERGY EFFICIENCY | TIP OF THE MONTH

Did you know the combined use of large appliances like dishwashers, clothes dryers and washing machines account for the largest percentage of electricity use in the average U.S. home? Take small steps to save energy when using these appliances.

Only run full loads in the dishwasher and thoroughly scrape food from dishes before loading. Dry towels and heavier cottons separate from lighter-weight clothing and clean the lint screen after every use. Wash clothing in cold water to save energy used to heat water.



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