



Cooperative Living Magazine is Now Online!

The full edition of *Cooperative Living* magazine is now available to all members and the public online at www.myrec.coop/news. Any member who would like to opt out of receiving a hard copy of *Cooperative Living** magazine can do so simply by sending an email to office@myrec.coop or by calling 1-800-552-3904 and speaking with an REC customer service representative. The full edition of the magazine is updated on the website at the beginning of each month.

**Please note even though you opt out of receiving a hard copy of the magazine, you will receive a mailed copy in July because it contains your official voting proxy for Annual Meeting and is your official information regarding the meeting.*

REC SHARES TIPS AT COMMUNITY HOME SHOW

Rappahannock Electric Cooperative (REC) is more than just an electricity provider. REC is your energy expert. Employees from REC shared information about the Cooperative and how to be more energy efficient at the 2012 Virginia Home and Garden Show held at the Meadow Event Park in Caroline County on Jan. 14 and 15.

"Not only do we strive to provide safe and reliable electricity to our members," said Ricky Bywaters, Bowling Green district manager, "we also make it a priority to visit our local communities to help our members learn how even the smallest changes in electricity usage can add up to big savings."

The Virginia Home and Garden Show provided an opportunity for REC to interact with its members seeking ways to save energy. REC's energy experts were on hand to provide tips on how to manage energy usage, to distribute energy efficiency kits, and to answer specific questions members had about how to improve their homes' efficiency.



Rich Mialki, REC's energy expert, offers advice on energy efficiency during the Virginia Home and Garden Show.



NOW'S THE TIME: GET RID OF THAT OLD REFRIGERATOR

Did you know that the extra refrigerator in your garage or basement could be costing you as much as \$146 a year, just to keep a few drinks cold? Old refrigerators, especially those more than 17 years old, tend to use a lot of energy.

A refrigerator bought before 1993 uses more than twice as much energy as a new ENERGY STAR® refrigerator. What's more, refrigerant wears out and seals start to leak over time, causing a decline in the performance of an older refrigerator. So just by pulling the plug on that old refrigerator, you can start to save a lot each year.

For other tips on how to save energy – and money – visit Touchstone Energy's energy-saving website www.TogetherWeSave.com or call the energy experts at REC at 800-552-3904. Find out how the little changes add up at www.myrec.coop.

TOGETHER WE SAVE

LINEMEN PREPARE FOR RODEO

Each year the best of the best linemen from REC and electric utilities through the eastern United States gather for the Virginia, Maryland and Delaware Association of Electric Cooperative's Gaff-n-Go Lineman's Rodeo. This year's event will take place on March 31 at the Caroline County Agricultural Fairgrounds in Ruther Glen, Va.

The competition between three-man line crew teams and individual apprentices takes place 40 feet above the ground on a course of utility poles. Gaff-n-Go offers professional linemen the opportunity to demonstrate their technical skills by performing a variety of designated tasks. Each team or apprentice is judged on the length of time it takes to perform a task and, more importantly, on whether the task was performed according to safe and efficient work practices.

Maxie Rozell, director of safety and security at REC said, "The Gaff-n-Go Lineman's Rodeo is the only event of its type held in Virginia. The name of the event refers to the 'gaff' (metal spike) that linemen attach to their boots to assist in climbing wooden utility poles. It is sponsored by the Virginia, Maryland and Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives with all proceeds benefiting a scholarship foundation for college and vocational school-bound high school graduates."

REC encourages members and their families to come out to support REC's linemen during this competition. The opening ceremony begins at 7:45 a.m., and the event is free for spectators.



Chap Morris, an apprentice lineman from Culpeper, competes in the 2011 Gaff-n-Go Lineman's Rodeo.

2012: INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE COOPERATIVES

You might be surprised by the number of co-ops around you. Co-ops have been formed to sell produce and electricity, offer financial and banking services, provide housing and health care, and much more. Since 1938, the Cooperatives that formed REC have been proudly delivering safe, reliable and affordable electricity to our members. At REC we help drive local economic development, fund scholarships, support local charities, and work to make life better in the areas we serve – the heart of the cooperative difference. Find out more about your Cooperative by visiting www.myrec.coop.



For more information:
Visit www.myrec.coop.

To contact us:
P.O. Box 7388
Fredericksburg, VA 22404
540.898.8500 / 800.552.3904

Email:
office@myrec.coop



FEMA ASSISTANCE

Federal disaster assistance is now available in the following counties to homeowners affected by the Aug. 23 earthquake and aftershocks:

Louisa – Spotsylvania – Culpeper – Orange – Goochland
Call 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) to register for assistance.

Deadline to register is March 5.