



Roanoke Electric **FLASHES**

Roanoke EC to pilot Sustainable Forestry and African American Land Retention Program

On March 27, U.S. Congressman G. K. Butterfield (D-District 1) announced that Roanoke Electric Cooperative and the Roanoke Center were selected to receive a \$425,000 grant. Others on hand to share in the announcement in Ahoskie were Leonard Jordan, Eastern Regional Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); Amadou Diop, Outreach Liaison for the U.S. Forest Service; and Peter Strangel, Senior Vice President of the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities.

The program is a joint venture of the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the U.S. Forest Service to embark upon a Sustainable Forestry and African American Land Retention project.

Congressman Butterfield painted a vivid picture of rural America and why it can no longer be ignored if America is to be an economic success.

The Endowment-led Sustainable Forestry and African American Land Retention Program announced by Congressman Butterfield will restore and conserve threatened African American forestland in Roanoke EC's service area by increasing forest-owner income and land asset values. Loss of historic Black family land is common in the region where past

discrimination and economic factors have reduced the value and productivity of Black-owned woodlands. The project will introduce new forestry technologies and create trusted, comprehensive, and replicable systems of landowner outreach and support. Sustainable forestry is a valuable tool and management posture to help ensure we retain for the future the forest resource opportunities we have today. Over the next 30 months, the grant will support more than 50 African American landowners in their efforts to improve their forestland.

Curtis Wynn, President and CEO of Roanoke EC, responded to the grant announcement saying that as a rural electric cooperative, "we have seen first-hand the benefits that accrue when groups of people come together for the broader community."

Furthermore, Wynn stated that "we would leverage connections to REC and each other and explore woodland owner co-op structures as a cost-effective means of increasing income on forestlands. 105158-001

"We will also leverage the interest that conservation and environmental groups have in the



Congressman G.K. Butterfield (center) recently announced that Roanoke Electric and The Roanoke Center would receive a grant toward improving forestland values and income in its service area.

region to explore creation of ecosystem services markets, including aggregation of carbon credits to generate revenues. REC, The Roanoke Center and the project team members believe firmly in asset-based approaches to building community and strengthening the economy," continued Wynn. "We have taken several critical first steps toward leveraging assets and will build upon them accordingly."

Wynn thanked Congressman Butterfield, Mr. Jordan, Mr. Diop and Mr. Stangel for their work in announcing Roanoke EC as a pilot for this exciting project.

Straight Talk Community Forums: The Power of People from Roanoke EC



Attendees learn about energy issues at a recent Straight Talk Community Forum in Ahoskie.

Roanoke EC kicked off its first Straight Talk forum of 2013 on March 19 at the headquarters in Ahoskie, with more than 125 people in attendance. Roanoke EC has taken a leading role in developing a message to educate the community on the reasons behind rising utility costs, said Curtis Wynn, President and CEO of Roanoke Electric Cooperative. Further, the more we talk about energy and the business surrounding it, the more empowered our members will be.

As Wynn stated, an informed choice is a smarter choice and we want all members making the smartest energy choices they can 6696-001. The forums give

our members ways to conserve energy and save money without sacrificing too much comfort or convenience, said Wynn.

Join Roanoke EC's board of directors and staff to learn more about rising energy cost, ways to work together to lessen the impact and programs available from the cooperative to assist in reducing individual energy consumption at one of the upcoming forums listed below:

May 18: Greater Wynns Grove Baptist Church, Colerain, 10 a.m.

June 29: Windsor Community Center, Windsor, 10 a.m.

July 18: Gates County High School, Gates, 6 p.m.

July 20: NC Cooperative Extension Service Building, Halifax, 10 a.m.

August 24: Hertford County High School, Ahoskie, 10 a.m.

September 21: Northampton County Wellness Center, Jackson, 10 a.m.

Space is limited, so call the "Straight Talk" message line at (252) 209-2267 to reserve your seat! Please leave your name and the event you wish to attend.

These events will be filled with useful information. Door prizes, including \$50 Roanoke Bucks good toward credits on your utility bill, will be issued at each event and lunch or dinner will be served.

Cooperative Adult Leadership Conference

This year, Roanoke EC will sponsor one young couple for a free, all-expenses-paid trip to the 2013 N.C. Cooperative Council Adult Leadership Conference at the Ridges Resort in Hiawassee, Ga.

The selected couple is usually involved in some facet of agriculture or agribusiness, involved in the community and has demonstrated strong leadership skills.

The Couples Conference is a three-day conference offering participants the opportunity to learn how their local cooperatives can assist them in their everyday life, meet other industry leaders, enhance business and leadership skills, and hear from professional speakers who will provide a broad perspective of the trends facing businesses, agriculture and your local cooperative.

For more information on this program, contact Robin Phillips at (252) 209-2259 or via email at rphillips@roanokeelectric.com.



Check cords, bulb wattages to help ensure home safety for your family

All day long, we rely on electricity for almost everything from heating our breakfast to setting our alarm at night. Often, we forget that electricity can potentially be hazardous and that accidents can lead to costly damages, injuries and even death.

May is National Electrical Safety Month — please take a few moments to read these helpful tips. Be sure to also check your home this month, as well as on an ongoing basis, for potential risks to you and your family.

In the home

- ❑ When using appliances in the bathroom, such as hair dryers or curling irons, be sure that no water is near and that items are unplugged when not in use. Also ensure the outlets in your bathroom are equipped with a ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI), which monitors electricity flowing in a circuit and trips the circuit if there's an imbalance.
- ❑ Unplug all kitchen appliances when not in use, such as the toaster and coffee maker, and store them in a safe and level place to prevent them from being knocked over.
- ❑ When unplugging anything from an outlet, be sure to pull by the plug instead of the cord.
- ❑ Put outlet covers on unused outlets to prevent curious children from trying to put fingers or other objects into the outlets.
- ❑ Replace any electrical cords that are fraying or cracking and regularly check cords for damage.
- ❑ Never overload an electrical outlet. Stressing the system can create a fire hazard.
- ❑ When replacing light bulbs, check what wattage is needed on the label inside the light fixture or lamp. Additionally, be sure that lamps are sitting away from curtains or other materials that could easily catch fire and that they are placed on stable surfaces.



Outside the home

- ❑ If there is a downed power line nearby, leave the area immediately and call 911. If others are around, let them know that they need to stay away.
- ❑ “Call Before You Dig.” Dial 811 before starting a digging project, and workers will be sent to your home to mark utility lines in your yard. This service is free, and it has the potential to save your life.
- ❑ Never use electrical equipment near any wet areas, such as pools or ponds.



Read the newsletter to learn more about your cooperative. Find your account number in this newsletter, contact us and win \$25 Roanoke Bucks!

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Apply now for Bright Ideas education grants

Roanoke EC is accepting Bright Ideas grant applications for the 2013-2014 school year.

The grants will be awarded to qualifying North Carolina K – 12 teachers for innovative and imaginative classroom projects. Since the program's inception, North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives have financed \$4 million into a variety of hands on projects, including adventures in music, art, history, language, reading, science, career planning and information technologies.

For more information or to apply for a Bright Ideas education grant, teachers can visit www.ncbrightideas.com.



RCP2 - Teams take a collaborative approach toward progress

What Do You See ... for healthcare, capacity building, education, and economic development? That was the question for the partners that convened at Roanoke Electric's headquarters for the spring RCP2 meeting. This year the partners are actually at the table voicing their opinions and ideas about the needs and opportunities in the grassroots communities. This region has limited resources, high unemployment, and it faces declining populations. The needs are great and the desire to travel the road of economic improvement is of top priority.

Where Are We Going? RCP2 is taking the partners to another level this year. We're taking a collaborative approach in addressing the challenges and opportunities of the four priority areas of interest selected by the constituents—healthcare, capacity building, education, and economic development. This collaboration is a powerful gathering of the minds; whereby ideas and energies will be translated into action and multiplying results.

Sondra Dickens (Roanoke Economic Development, Inc.), Cheryl Webb (Generations Community Credit Union), Lisa Newsome (Vidant Roanoke-Chowan), and Reba Green-Holley (Gates County Cooperative Extension Service) led four breakout discussions in a manner to awaken the partners' curiosity, vision, and perception. Such dialogue brought comradeship to the teams.

"Our belief is that lots of things can change when you see the domain from the perspective of more than



Reba Green-Holley of Gates County Cooperative Extension Service (standing) leads a breakout session at the spring RCP2 meeting.

one right answer or optimal solution, says Marshall Cherry, Vice President of Member Services & Marketing/Technology. "We all play a role and every individual makes a difference."

What's Next? Ongoing dialogue will take place within the teams before the June meeting. We encourage you to be part of this powerful framework and share in the excitement of this economic transition in making our region stronger. The next meeting is scheduled for June 21 at REC's office.

For more information and to join a team, please contact Diana Mitchell at (252) 539-4601 or via email at dmitchell@roanokeelectric.com.

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Energy efficiency tip

Plug home electronics, such as TVs and DVD players, into power strips. And turn the power strips off when the equipment is not in use – TVs and DVDs in stand-by mode still use several watts of power.

