



Roanoke Electric **FLASHES**

Sustainable Forestry and Land Retention Program continues to bring value to members

Roanoke EC's program helps owners improve their land and stabilize their ownership.

For the past two years, Roanoke Electric and The Roanoke Center have hit the ground running with assisting our members in discovering the value in their land. How? The cooperative and its subsidiary organization are currently piloting a Sustainable Forestry and African-American Land Retention Program.

The pilot program is a joint venture of the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities, the

Natural Resources Conservation Service and the U.S. Forest Service to address the challenges often associated with owning land in our region.

Why would an electric cooperative be interested in addressing landowners' challenges? It's a result of our unwavering commitment to providing you with the best quality of life beyond electricity. The program is aimed solely at assisting home- and landowners in improving their land's value and stabilizing their home- and landownership.

"We want our members to know that we're more than just their electric service provider," stated Curtis Wynn, president and CEO. "It's

about meeting our members' needs overall."

Landowners have access to many services, including outreach and education, technical

and legal assistance, mapping, forest management planning and implementation, conservation and restoration, and access to new forestry technologies and emerging markets.

"One of our project goals was to get 50 members to sign Memorandums of Agreement for participation in the Sustainable Forestry program in year one," said Sondra Dickens, The Roanoke Center's executive director. "We are pleased to announce that our first year goal has been met," Dickens continued. With the program's early successes, the team is confidently working on the phase-two proposal to receive additional funding for years two and three.

A major part of the program's success of this program relies heavily on having ongoing member engagement. "We have hosted a series of workshops for interested landowners to discuss the specifics of the program and how it can benefit them," Dickens commented. Area landowners recently gathered for one of these workshops on July 23, 2015.

For more information concerning the project or possible opportunities to meet your natural resources needs, visit www.roanokeelectric.com/forestry or contact The Roanoke Center or Alton Perry, consultant, Forest Management-Land Retention, at 252.539.4616 or forestry@roanokecenter.org.

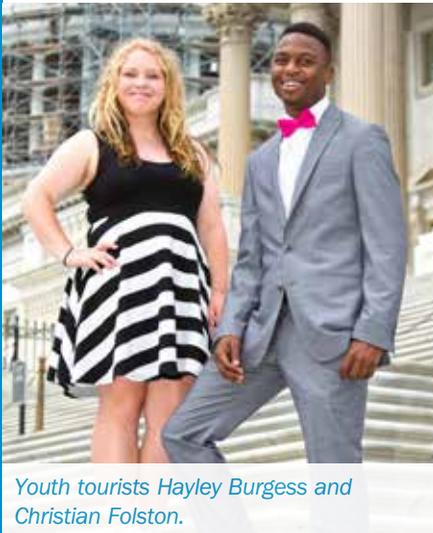


Caring about our youth is the Cooperative Way

Improving our communities is a mission many would agree is worth pursuing. That's why Roanoke Electric believes in investing in the next generation of community leaders in our region. Each year, your cooperative provides opportunities for area youth through various sponsorships and programs. This summer, we were able to invest in the lives of four young individuals from our community.

2015 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour

In June, your cooperative sent two local students to Washington, D.C., for the 51st annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. Hayley Burgess of Conway



Youth tourists Hayley Burgess and Christian Folston.

and Christian Folston of Como had the opportunity to explore our nation's capital, make lasting friendships with other students across the country, learn a bit about how our government operates and see the impact electric cooperatives have on the legislative process.

"Our youth are our future," said Marshall Cherry,

Chief Operating Officer of Roanoke Electric. "No matter which path in life they choose to pursue, it's important that they understand how our government works because they will one day influence the decisions for our nation," he stated.

Hayley has been homeschooled since the eighth grade and began dual enrollment at Chowan University during her sophomore year. When asked what she was passionate about, Hayley replied, "My passion in life is to help others and thereby improve the world...My main goal in life is to know that I made a difference..." Hayley plans to make this difference by pursuing her education to become a lawyer.

Christian was just as vocal about his love for football. "Ever since I was a little boy I knew I wanted to play football," he said. He also expressed how he has transitioned through the sport as an individual from the time he was three years old until now. "My game has changed for the better and has just made me a complete football player," he concluded. Christian is currently a student athlete of Hertford County High School.

During their weeklong stay, Burgess and Folston were able to see our government in action, visit historic monuments and museums, and even had the chance to meet with legislative officials like Congressman G.K. Butterfield.

"I loved it," commented Burgess. "It was so much fun," she continued.

These two outstanding students earned the all-expense-paid opportunity by completing an application based on academics and extracurricular activity involvement.

For more information about how to apply for next year's Youth Tour, visit www.roanokeelectric.com/YouthTour.

Roanoke EC High School Scholarship

For many students, the idea of continuing their education beyond high school can bring many emotions. They may be excited about the opportunities or unsure about the difficulties and uncertainties that may be ahead.

At Roanoke, we believe that one of those emotions should never be the fear of how they will pay for their education. That's why for nearly 30 years, we have awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to assist one deserving high school senior preparing to attend a four-year college or university. This year, Roanoke granted the \$1,000 scholarship to Lauren Outlaw, former student at Hertford County Early College. Lauren will be attending Chowan University pursuing a degree in Elementary Education.

To receive this scholarship, Lauren demonstrated an understanding of the cooperative way of doing business, exhibited outstanding scholastic and leadership abilities in her school and community, and showed a financial need for the scholarship.

If you're a senior in high school and would like a chance to receive this \$1,000 scholarship, visit www.roanokeelectric.com/scholarship for more information.

Roy Williams Basketball Scholarship

A local Buckland Elementary school student traveled to Chapel Hill to shoot hoops and run drills this summer.

Gavin Foster, a sixth-grade student of Gates, took the court June 20-24 at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill at the Roy Williams Carolina Basketball Camp. Gavin is the son of Crystal Foster.

During camp, Gavin stayed in dorms on campus and worked directly with coaches and athletes to hone basketball skills and practice working cooperatively with teammates.

"We're proud to offer our youth the opportunity to travel to the state's largest universities to develop fun-

...continued on next page

Caring for our youth...

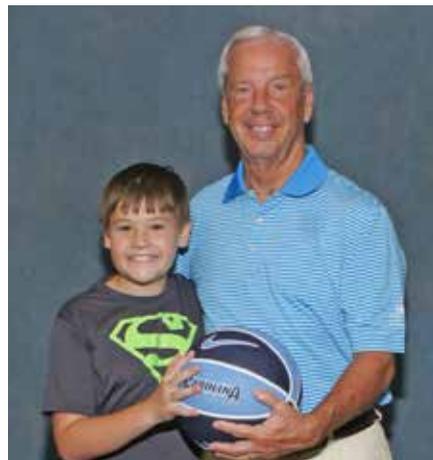
damental skills that will help them excel on and off the court,” Cherry stated. “It was a pleasure to have Gavin represent our co-op this year.”

Two-time NCAA national champion coach Roy Williams, his staff, and current and past Tar Heel basketball players led the Carolina camp. This was the tenth year that electric cooperatives have sent young men to the Roy Williams camp.

Additionally, Roanoke also offers the Wolfpack Women’s Basketball Camp to sponsor young women to attend an NC State women’s basketball camp. It is held on the campus of North Carolina State University in Raleigh.

The NC Electric Cooperatives’ partnerships with universities and coaches provide a unique educational and athletic opportunity for North Carolina’s youth and keeps with Touchstone Energy’s core values of accountability, integrity, innovation and commitment to community.

For rising sixth through eighth grade students interested in a scholarship, please visit www.roanokeelectric.com/bball.



Sports camper Gavin Foster with UNC coach Roy Williams.

Roanoke Electric Co-op gives \$500,000 in capital credits back to members

Roanoke Electric Cooperative has announced the retirement of a half million dollars in capital credits to its membership this year.

Each year, the Roanoke Electric Cooperative Board of Directors evaluates the financial stability of the cooperative to determine the amount of capital credits it can retire. Generally the co-op returns on average \$300,000 in capital credits annually. This year’s retirement of \$500,000 represents a significant increase in monies paid to members.

“We are glad to be in a position where we can return money to our members at this level, as it reflects our long-term commitment to ensuring the co-op’s financial stability,” said Curtis Wynn, CEO of Roanoke Electric Cooperative. “Being able to provide them this benefit of co-op ownership truly sets us apart from other electric utilities.”

While investor-owned utilities return some of their profits

to shareholders, electric co-ops are not-for-profit businesses in which revenues

over and above operating costs are returned to members.

At the board’s discretion, these margins are allocated to members based on the amount of electricity they use. For the co-op’s commercial accounts, which typically use more electricity, the percentage of return is significantly higher.

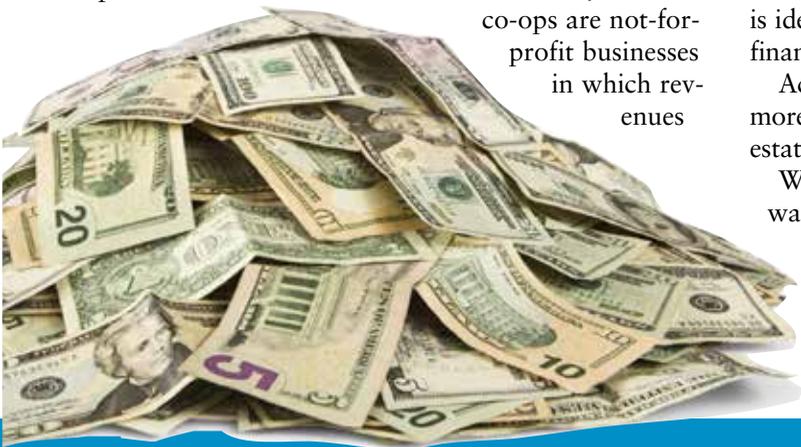
A portion of the capital credit funds will be allocated to members who were on the system in 1982. In addition, most of the monies will be issued to newer members who joined the co-op within the last three years. Members should expect to receive their checks within the first two weeks of August.

In addition to the \$500,000 in capital credits, another \$400,000 is designated to “deceased estates” for a total distribution of more than \$900,000, according to Kim Braxton, Roanoke Electric Cooperative’s manager of accounting. “Roanoke Electric is operating with 40 percent equity, which is ideal in our industry,” she said. “This puts us in a financially sound position.”

According to co-op officials, the co-op has returned more than \$9 million in capital credits and deceased estates pay outs since the year 2000.

Want to know if you have any capital credit checks waiting for you? Please check in with the cooperative periodically to verify that you don’t have any checks on file that have already been mailed out and have not been cashed.

For more information, call 252.209.2236 or visit www.roanokeelectric.com/capcredits.





Members contribute nearly \$7,000 to community through Operation RoundUp

Each quarter, the Roanoke EC Care Trust (RECT) Board meets to award funds that you have contributed to Operation RoundUp, to area organizations. RECT met at the cooperative's headquarters to award the third quarter of Operation RoundUp funds on July 15.

This quarter, five area organizations received funding for a total of \$6,900 at the quarterly meeting. These organizations are:

- ❑ **Trail Life/AHG/FOM, Roanoke Rapids:** \$1,000 to purchase sheetrock
- ❑ **Northampton Ministers Council, Jackson:** \$1,400 for food, clothing, lodging, medicine, glasses
- ❑ **Studio 32, Sunbury:** \$1,000 for marketing materials
- ❑ **Roanoke Chowan Community Health, Ahoskie:** \$2,500 for supplies, books, events
- ❑ **Chowan Edenton Environmental Group, Edenton:** \$1,000 for advertising, travel, facility use, honorarium

Your cooperative and the RECT board would like to thank you for stepping up to help us respond to the call to serve our community by rounding up your electric bills to the next whole dollar monthly. Your contributions of just pennies a month go a long way in improving the lives of those in need within your community.



Roanoke EC's Susan Tann presents check to Rev. Anthony Rawlings of Second Baptist Creeksville in Murfreesboro.



Roanoke EC's Susan Tann with Roanoke Chowan Community Health Center staff and Daniel Lane, who built the Little Free Library (pictured) to store and lend books in public areas.

If you want to participate in Operation RoundUp, call 252.209.2236 or visit www.roanokeelectric.com/roundup. Applications are due by 5 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 30.

Roanoke Electric FLASHES

Published monthly for the member-consumers of Roanoke Electric Cooperative

P.O. Drawer 1326, Ahoskie, NC 27910

Office: 252.209.2236 or 1.800.433.2236

For outages call: 1.800.358.9437

For electronic bill payment: www.roanokeelectric.com

We accept VISA, MasterCard & E-check.

Editor: Brittany Tann

Visit our web site at:

www.roanokeelectric.com

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative  The power of human connections®

Statement of Nondiscrimination: Roanoke Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

President and CEO

Curtis Wynn

Board of Directors

Allen Speller, *chairman*

Robert "Nat" Riddick, *vice chairman*

Delores Amason, *secretary-treasurer*

Millard Lee, *asst. secretary-treasurer*

Carolyn Bradley

Chester Deloatch

Columbus Jeffers

Kenneth Jemigan

Damell Lee

Roanoke EC office closed

Roanoke Electric offices will be closed on Monday, Sept. 7, in observance of the Labor Day holiday. Call 1.800.358.9437 to report an outage.

