

# Tideland Topics

*Real People. Real Power.*

Pete Cherry contributed photo

## Membership meeting *May 12*

The annual meeting of members will be held on Thursday, May 12, 2022, at Beaufort County Community College auditorium. Member registration will begin at 6:30 p.m. The meeting start time is 7:00 p.m. Look for the official notice and annual report in next month's issue of Tideland Topics.

*Save  
the  
date*

## *Seed money* to help K-12 ideas blossom

Classroom teachers may now apply for Bright Ideas funding in amounts up to \$2,000 per grant. To access the online application and learn more about the program please visit [ncbrightideas.com](http://ncbrightideas.com). The final application deadline is September 15, 2022.



**Bright Ideas**  
EDUCATION GRANTS

**Teachers, get ready!**  
Applications launch April 1



To our heroes in hard hats, thank you for keeping the lights on.

*Tideland Linemen*

- Jeremy Mills
- Cole Bennett
- Caleb Banks
- Ben Fugate
- Grant Jackson
- Perry Austin
- Michael Baldwin
- William Sawyer, Jr.
- Austin Roscoe
- Josh Dunbar
- Bubba Calhoun
- Robert Shively
- Jonathan Lee
- Joe Pugh
- Kane Cox
- Raymond Wilson
- Greg Morris
- Timmy Ipock
- Michael Marslender
- Joe Gibbs
- Steven Harris
- Jacob Hardison
- Chris Rice
- Justin Boor
- Phillip Sawyer
- Jason Kitchen
- Matthew Neal

*Message to members*

**Honoring human connections that keep the power flowing**

by **PAUL SPRUILL**  
GENERAL MANAGER &  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

National Lineworker Appreciation Day is celebrated each year on April 18 and honors the hard work, innovation and dedication of America’s electrical lineworkers. Since 2013, Tideland EMC has annually participated in this celebration to honor these dedicated members of our workforce.

We proudly recognize all electric linemen for the service they perform around the clock in inherently hazardous conditions to keep power flowing and protect public safety. This includes not only our own line personnel, but our line construction contractors who do much of the heavy lifting in Tideland territory.

Electric utility lineworkers put their lives on the line every day to keep our economy running and power our homes, schools, businesses, and hospitals. The nature of the occupation requires a culture of safety ingrained in both our industry and our co-op. Thanks to the lessons and sacrifices of pioneers in the field and ongoing improvements in



In January, Grantsboro lineman Michael Baldwin traveled to Central Virginia Electric Cooperative (CVEC) as part of a mutual aid team. A total of six Tideland linemen assisted CVEC with power restoration.

science, technology, equipment and employee wellness programs, the environment in which our line crews works is safer than ever. But the basic building block of safety in our industry still rests in every team member doing his or her part to ensure everyone goes home safe and sound at the end of each workday. That’s why so many view their occupation as a brotherhood.

We hope you will join us in saluting our crews on National Lineworker Appreciation Day.





# Safety inspections update

## Pantego substation circuits first up in two-year inspection process

Safety inspections of all Tideland metered services officially kicked off February 21, beginning with the Pantego circuit out of our Pantego substation. In two weeks just over 800 services were inspected, which resulted in several vegetation removal work orders, a consumer notice regarding meter base repairs, and a work order to raise a low-hanging service wire.

One recurring issue is access to the meter base itself. At a minimum, our safety inspection contractor needs a clear sight line no more than six feet away from the front of the meter so he can get a good photograph of the electric service entrance.

Thus far, locked gates or yard dogs have been the primary hindrance to access. In such cases the co-op will reach out to the member to arrange for a successful return visit. While it has been years since the co-op relied on site visits to obtain monthly meter readings, remember that one of the responsibilities of having metered electric service is to provide unobstructed access to the service entrance for Tideland EMC crews and our authorized contractors. If you have enclosed the meter inside a building addition you will be asked to relocate the service. Likewise, damaged meter bases, like the one below, will have to be promptly repaired to ensure continuation of safe electric service.



## Rights-of-way maintenance schedule

Tideland has hired Lucas Tree Experts to manage vegetation in our rights-of-way.

During April, Lucas will be working in the Pinetown area on both the Highway 32 circuit out of our Plymouth substation and the Howell's Mill circuit out of our Five Points substation.

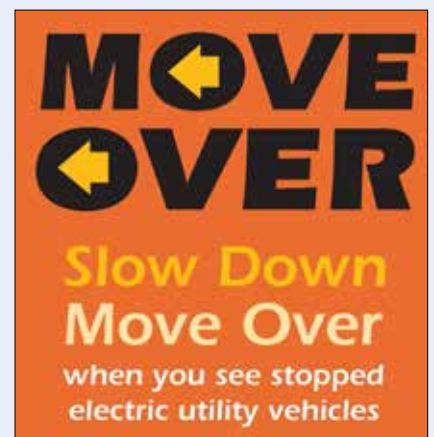
Lee Electric crews will be heading to Ocracoke to work on the island's Northeast Circuit. The total project time is approximately one month.

Lee will also have a crew working on the Rose Bay circuit out of our Ponzer substation in the Scranton area of Highway 264.

Work on the Dowry Creek circuit between Lake Phelps and the Pungo refuge has been paused a few weeks to allow for better road conditions before resuming work.

Thank you for your support of these important maintenance activities which improve system reliability and promote public safety.

Be sure to give crews wide berth when approaching them on public roadways.







# Flower power

If you enjoyed the botanical magic of Frances Burnett's novel "The Secret Garden," you'll definitely want to carve out some time to visit Nature's Harmony Nursery in Manns Harbor. Now in its 30th year of operation, Nature's Harmony was founded by Sherry Foreman and her late husband, Ron. Previously they had been crabbers, but when an outboard motor broke down and the cost to replace it was \$5,000, the couple thought investing that money in a greenhouse was more to their liking. Soon thereafter, the Foremans had an herb business up and running on Shipyard Road.

*"It is the sun shining on the rain and the rain falling on the sunshine, and things pushing up and working under the earth."*

--- The Secret Garden

Over time the business expanded into a full-fledged nursery with a loyal following of local customers but Sherry says it wasn't until 2020 that Nature's Harmony really hit its full stride.

Turns out social distancing unleashed the inner gardener in many folks. With more leisure time people

**The Nature's Harmony team, from left to right: Michelle Wright, Esther Perez, Miriam Fernandez, Amber Mallory, and owner Sherry Foreman.**







wanted to get outdoors and get their hands dirty. A Facebook group that Sherry and her team launched in February 2020 quickly grew in popularity. It became a hub for local gardeners as well as recent transplants from other hardiness zones eager to learn what would make it here in their new eastern North Carolina digs. Today, the forum, Nature's Harmony Nursery for the Outer Banks Gardener, hosts nearly 2,500 members. In fact, Sherry's favorite task these days is administering the Facebook group and posting new content.

Participants share plant photos and growing tips, pose questions about the viability of plants on the ocean side versus the sound side, and discussions about deer, salt and drought resistance. And of course there's the occasional gardening meme.

One group member recently shared her success incorporating black pepper into garden soil to deter bugs. Another member quizzed the group about what she could plant now that would be in full bloom when she marries outdoors this fall.

The Facebook group members also enjoy watching Daniel Lopez grow up before their very eyes. He's a

frequent and willing subject of Sherry's impromptu live interviews. Daniel has an infectious smile, a joyful work ethic, and the kid's got jokes too. Where did the bunny go for breakfast? IHOP.

The ladies of Nature's Harmony are successfully cultivating community in the way gardeners know best: through propagation. And it's through that power of sharing that business keeps blooming at Nature's Harmony even as the pandemic begins to unwind itself from everyday life.

Don't have a green thumb? No worries. Nature's Harmony makes for a great field trip. There's certainly no shortage of fresh air, fairy-like venues, and beautiful butterflies. If you enjoy photography and want a venue to hone new camera skills, there's no place more rich in subject matter than the nursery. And then there is the awe inspiring Barbara, the crown jewel of the nursery. She's a heat-loving Barbara Karst bougainvillea that in full bloom is the thing flower dreams are made of.



**Daniel Lopez and Ashley Perez, whose moms both work at the nursery, often help out after school and during summer break. Daniel is also known for being quick with a clever joke.**



Nature's Harmony is located at 8353 Shipyard Road in Manns Harbor. Hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday.



## Time-of-use hours change

Members participating in the co-op's residential time-of-use rate plan are reminded that the switch to summer peak hours begins on Monday, April 18.

The on-peak hours will be 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Monday-Friday. Memorial Day, the fourth of July and Labor Day will be off-peak holidays.

Changes to the rate, which were tentatively announced in March 2020, remain in a holding pattern due to programming wait times. When the revamped rate arrives, we will no longer treat holidays and weekends as off-peak however the on-peak hours will be cut back to two hours in winter and three hours in summer. There will also be a new super off-peak time from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. daily when the price per kilowatt hour will drop to just 3.631¢. We think electric vehicle owners will find the rate particularly attractive. Just as soon as the new time-of-use rate is ready for roll out we'll make an announcement here in the magazine.

Questions? Call energy services manager Heidi Smith at 252.944.2410.

## 5 Ways Homeowners Accidentally Void the Warranty on Their Heating and Cooling System

If you're planning to install a new HVAC system, the last thing you want to do is void the equipment warranty. So be sure to avoid these warranty snafus:

- **Forget to register the equipment** - Be sure to register the system shortly after install. While most residential HVAC equipment automatically comes with a "limited warranty," you may be depriving yourself of extended warranties by not registering the equipment online directly with the manufacturer within the first 60 or 90 days of installation. Many builders or HVAC contractors will offer to handle the registration for you. Be sure to get confirmation and file it with your system records. If you're buying a home that has an active warranty, ask the seller or realtor if it's transferable and if so, how to put it in your name.
- **Use unauthorized parts** - You may find a great deal on reconditioned or after-market parts, but installing non-OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) parts will void the equipment warranty and you'll be paying out of pocket for repairs. Don't let the low price from online retailers or an unlicensed handyman tempt you.



You can be certain that if you make a warranty claim because of bad parts, the manufacturer will want to inspect the parts. If they are not OEM, you will be out of luck.

- **Not using a licensed installer** - Regardless of the degree of complexity of the installation, manufacturers require that their equipment be installed by a licensed and often factory-authorized HVAC contractor. HVAC systems use high voltage parts and refrigerants that require licenses to handle.
- **Lack of annual maintenance** - All HVAC equipment needs annual maintenance to meet operating expectations. HVAC systems vibrate as they run which can loosen parts and they are also subject to environmental factors like dirt, moisture and sea salt. Skipping annual maintenance and not changing air filters on a regular schedule can further stress the system.
- **No proof of maintenance** - Keep the receipts for professional tune-ups and repairs as well as for air filters you've purchased as proof of maintenance.



*National Arbor Day  
is April 29*



**Digging into  
an Outdoor  
Project?**



Before you dig, dial 811 or visit [www.call811.com](http://www.call811.com) to protect underground utilities. Careless digging poses a threat to people, pipelines and underground facilities. Contact 811 first and help keep our community safe.

## Plant Trees Safely

Before you dig, call 811 to locate buried utility lines.

### LOW TREE ZONE

Avoid planting within 20 ft. of power lines. If planting is unavoidable, only plant shrubs and small trees that reach a mature height of 15 ft. or less.

### MEDIUM TREE ZONE

Plant medium trees (under 40 ft. when mature) at least 25 ft. away from power lines.

### LARGE TREE ZONE

Plant large trees (over 40 ft. when mature) at least 50 ft. away from power lines.

Over 40 ft.

 **Arbor Day Foundation**  
arborday.org



Real People.  
Real Power.

## Tideland Topics

[www.tidelandemc.com](http://www.tidelandemc.com)

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252.943.3046

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### 24 Hour Outage Reporting & Automated Services

252.944.2400

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Tideland EMC is an equal  
opportunity provider & employer



## Holiday Closing

Our offices  
will be closed  
Friday,  
April 15 for  
Good Friday.  
Our 24-hour  
member  
service center  
will remain open  
and crews are on standby  
to respond to outages as  
needed.



### DID YOU KNOW?

Oak trees produce acorns and grow from acorns. Acorns are one of the most important food sources for wildlife.



**MAZE** Help the fox get to the tree.



## DOT TO DOT

Connect the dots to complete the image.

