



(Cut Here)

Fruitcake Cookies

Reprinted from the December 1974 OREMC Newsletter

Ingredients

- 1 cup light brown sugar
- 3 well beaten eggs
- 1 cup butter or margarine
- 3 cups flour
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 5 cups pecans, finely chopped
- 6 slices crystalized (candied) pineapple, finely chopped
- 2 cups dates, finely chopped
- 2 cups candied cherries, finely chopped

Directions

Cream butter and sugar. Add eggs and mix well. Mix one cup of flour with fruit. Sift soda and cinnamon together with remaining two cups of flour and add to egg mixture, alternating with milk. Then mix in fruit and nuts. Drop from teaspoon onto well-greased (or parchment lined) baking sheet. Bake at 325° for 25 to 30 minutes.



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Michele Hutchins, Editor

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30th Annual Golf Tournament

Benefitting the Southeast Cancer Unit, Inc.

Thank you to our sponsors and players!

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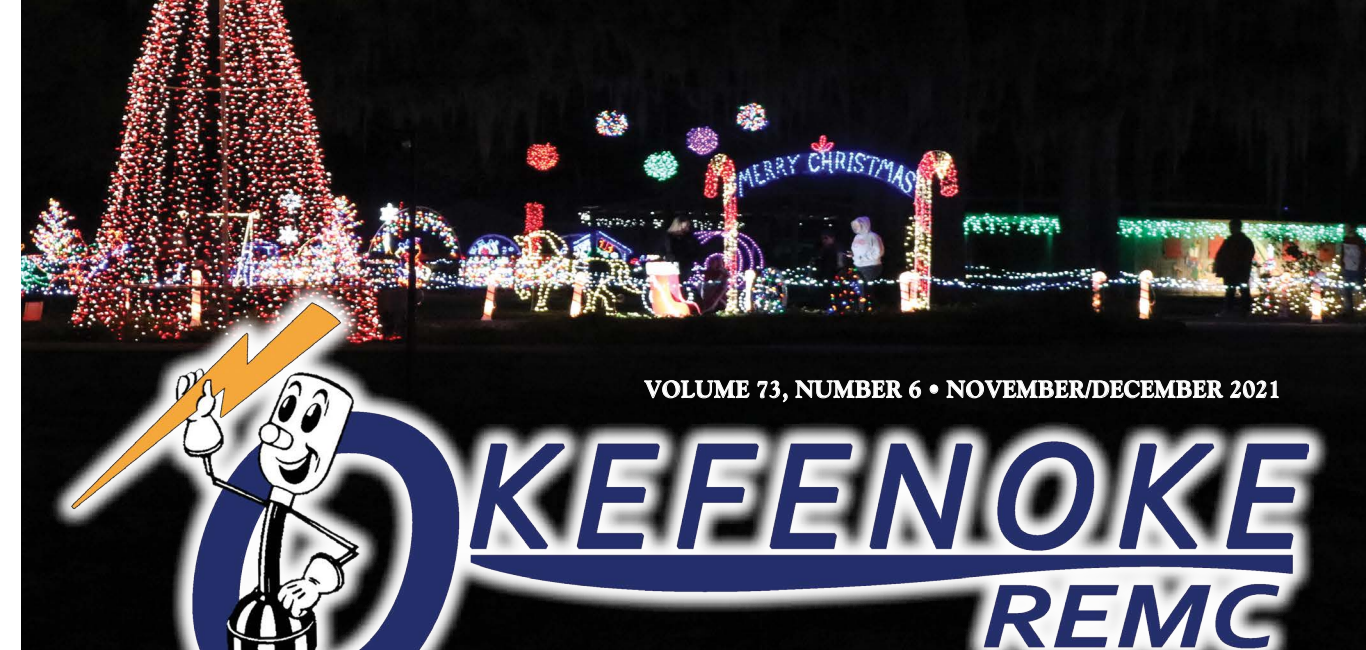


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Over \$22,000 Raised at 30th Annual Golf Tournament

What started 30 years ago as a few coworkers getting together for a round of golf, then including some vendors, presenting a few prizes and raising money to benefit the Southeast Cancer Unit, Inc. (SECU), has grown into a signature event for Okefenokee REMC as evidenced by the \$22,674.96 check presented to Linda Henderson, Brantley Coordinator for SECU, earlier today. The funds were the proceeds from OREMC's sold-out, 30th Annual Golf Tournament held on September 25.

A very emotional Linda Henderson accepted the check along with her brother, Larry Lee. She exclaimed, "You said it was more than last year, but I didn't expect double. We can work a whole year and not make this much. We are so thankful for all your hard work. This is such a blessing." Her brother echoed the sentiment noting, "This will make a tremendous difference."

Having played in every tournament since its inception, OREMC Purchasing Coordinator Michael Hickox has witnessed the event's

evolution first-hand. "Thinking back on the tournament in its early years, it was simply an opportunity for employees to get to know one another outside of work," he explains. "Then as

our vendors and strategic partners joined us, they were very giving of prizes for players. But today this tournament has reached heights I never imagined. And the generosity of our players is amazing. They know what the

money is going to and that is the key to their participation—the funds are staying local." **Read the full story online at oremc.com/news**



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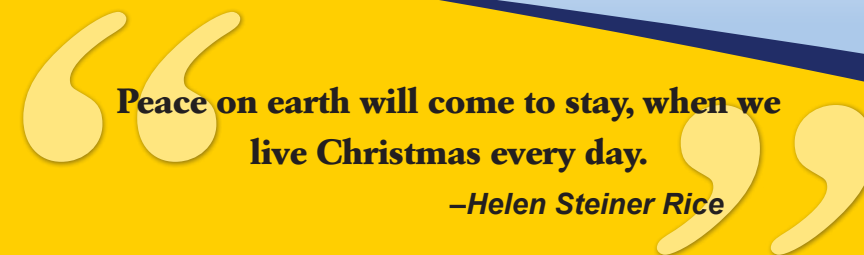
Church of the Month

Evergreen Baptist Church

Sunday Worship 10 a.m.
Wednesday Evening 7 p.m.

Dr. Leon Washington, Pastor
1365 Kinlaw Rd
Woodbine, GA 31569
912-729-3122
embministries.com

To nominate your church, contact Dewayne Johns at 1-800-262-5131 Ext. 1143 or email dewayne.johns@oremc.com.



Statement of Nondiscrimination

Okefenokee Rural Electric Membership Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U. S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S. W., Washington, D. C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.



Lights of Love: 20 Years of the Lewis Light Show

OREMC consumer-members Charles and Wynell Lewis of Hortense, Georgia, had always “decked the halls” of their home with Christmas decorations and outdoor lights. But after their son, Chad, passed away on December 21, 2000, Christmas lights took on a whole new meaning.

“When Chad died, I told Charles we could be sad or we could turn our perspective around and do our Christmas light display in Chad’s memory,” recalls Wynell. “And so that is what we did.”

The Lewis Light Show began modestly in 2001 with the lights they usually strung up and adding what they call the 22-foot Mega Tree to the front yard. Every year since Wynell has enhanced the display, and what started in the front yard has grown into a seven-acre lighted, holiday wonderland in 2021.

“One of the things we quickly realized is not everyone is having a good or easy time at Christmas, and the lights help to raise their spirits,” Wynell says. “For some families, this is their Christmas present to their children . . . this is what they get.”

What you get when you walk through the Lewis Light Show is a sense of awe and wonder, whether you are a “kid from one to 92.” As you walk up, the whole front yard light display is programmed to music. The Lewises have speakers in the yard, but you can also enjoy from your car by tuning to 90.3 FM on your radio dial.

Continuing down candy cane lane to the light show entrance you walk through the carefully crafted theme sections, as Wynell refers to them: the sweets section, the peppermint factory, winter wonderland, forest animals, presents and packages and then the religious section.

Then it is on to Wynell’s pride and joy—the life size Christmas village where you can gaze in wonder while sipping hot chocolate or a slushie. Each carefully crafted cottage in the village is over the top in detail, from the post office, the sweet shop, the bakery, the elves workshop, the Nativity and the smaller elf cottages.

Except for the first cottage, which was purchased from a local bank, Wynell has built all the others.

Wynell enthuses, “It is so

magical seeing everyone walking and talking around the village. It is like a scene from a Hallmark movie.”

As you wind your way through the village, take special note of the painted wood cutouts decorating the side of the barn behind the elf houses—they were painted by Chad and really are what started it all.

When asked if she knew how many lights were in the display, Wynell said if you can count the lights you don’t have enough! While she may not know how many lights there are, she does have a spreadsheet of each section and how many amps it is pulling. She knows she has about maxed out the power. Charles chuckles, adding, “I know the co-op is happy with us this time of year.”

So, what does it take to put on a light show like this every year? Wynell starts setting up in October, but nods in agreement when Charles says she is working on Christmas all year long—particularly the timing of lights and musical integration. Wynell insists she would put up the lights whether or not anyone came to see them.

But people do come—by the thousands on weekend nights. Charles says two to three thousand people a night walk through on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday evening. They come from all over southeast Georgia and Jacksonville, Florida.

If you are looking to raise your spirits this Christmas season and plan to visit the Lewis Light Show, here’s what you need to know before you go:

- The lights are on every night (weather permitting) beginning on Thanksgiving, November 25, and ending on December 26. Check Facebook (Lewis Light Show in Hortense, GA) if weather is questionable. 681 Cumberland Road in Hortense, Georgia.
- The gate opens at 6 p.m. The gate CLOSSES and lights out 9 p.m. Sunday-Thursday and at 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday (No admittance once the gate closes. This is a private residence.)
- Parking is roadside and based on availability. Cars do back up and you may need to circle around a time or two before finding a parking spot.
- It is free to all, but donations are appreciated.
- It is a self-guided walking tour.
- Hot chocolate and slushies are available in the village.




Youth Tour Leadership Experience


Monuments, museums and history in the making . . . whether nationally or statewide, OREMC will once again sponsor four to six students to participate in the annual Youth Tour Leadership Experience. All high school juniors living in the eight county service area — Brantley, Camden, Charlton, Glynn, Ware and Wayne counties in Georgia and Baker and Nassau counties in Florida — to apply to become a delegate. The tour immerses delegates in a historical and cultural trip of a lifetime promoting awareness and understanding of our nation’s past, present and future.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the final decision as to whether the tour will be national or statewide won’t be made until sometime in December, at which time plans will be outlined online. Applications and information are available online at oremc.com/youth-tour. **Deadline for applications is March 25.**





Thinking about going solar? Have you got questions about solar costs, savings and how much is the right amount of solar for you? OREMC has answers and you can scan the QR Code at right to be directed to our online solar information guide.



OREMC Foundation Makes Inaugural Grant Awards

The Okefenokee REMC Foundation has awarded its first round of grants following its establishment earlier this year. A total of \$61,050.79 was awarded to the following organizations:

The Arc North Florida
 Baker County Council on Aging, Inc.
 Baker County Education Foundation
 Barnabas Center Inc.
 Camden House
 First Coast Women’s Services, Inc.
 Great Books for Kids, Inc.
 Golden Isles Youth Orchestra
 STAR Foundation of Coastal Georgia, Inc.
 Humane Society of Camden County

Micah’s Place
 The Nest-A Women’s Center Inc.
 Pinky Promise Foundation Inc.
 Ravens of Elijah Food Ministries, Inc.
 South Georgia Normal and Industrial Institute, Inc.
 The Storehouse of Northeast Florida, Inc.
 Thiokol Memorial Project, Inc.
 West Nassau Historical Society Inc.
 Woodbine Public Library, Inc.

The OREMC Foundation is a launchpad for a community development initiative supporting education, community health and economic development in the six Georgia and two Florida counties the co-op serves. Currently, OREMC unclaimed capital credits are the primary funding source. The Foundation Trustees meet quarterly to review applications and make grant awards based on funds available. **The next grant application deadline is January 6, 2022.** Applications and information are available online at oremc.com/foundation.

Capital Credits Issued

For the 61st consecutive year, Okefenokee REMC will be issuing capital credits to our consumer-members. OREMC’s Board of Directors have authorized the refund the balance of patronage capital from 1992 and 1993 and a portion from 1994 totaling \$1,267,778.56, as well as an estate allocation of \$250,000 for a total of \$1,517,778.56. Checks will be mailed to members in December.

Note: not all current members will receive capital credit checks in December.

- Refunds are only to consumer-members who received electric service from OREMC between 1992 and 1994.
- Refunds of less than \$25 will be made as an account credit instead of by check.
- Refunds of less than \$5 on accounts will be held and refunded at such time the total refund is more than \$5.

Checks issued to deceased members should be forwarded to heirs or an estate administrator. They can work with our Customer Service Department to determine eligibility for a lump-sum payment of all accrued capital credits based on OREMC’s Estate Refund policy. Call 800-262-5131 for more information.

Apply Now for OREMC Scholarships

Okefenokee REMC is now accepting applications for its Scholarship Program. To complete the application online or download to mail/email please visit oremc.com/scholarships. Applicants may be a high school senior or an undergraduate or vocational/technical student. Nontraditional students are also invited to apply. The **deadline** for all applications to be received at an OREMC office is **5 p.m. on Friday, January 21, 2022.**

OREMC Scholarships: OREMC will award 10 scholarships, each in the amount of \$2,000. Applicants must reside in one of the eight counties OREMC serves — Brantley, Camden, Charlton, Glynn, Ware and Wayne counties in Georgia and Baker and Nassau counties in Florida. These funds can be used at any accredited college, university or technical school in the United States.

Walter Harrison Scholarship: Funded by Georgia’s electric cooperatives, OREMC will submit two applications from its 10 scholarship finalists to the Georgia Electric Membership Corporation. They will be judged alongside those submitted by other cooperatives from across the state. Applicants’ primary residence must be an OREMC member or employee household and scholarship winners must use these funds at a college, university or technical school located in Georgia.

If you have questions or need more information, contact Member Service Representative Dewayne Johns at 800-262-5131 ext. 1143 or via email at youthprograms@oremc.com