

## Peach Caprese Salad



### Ingredients:

- 4 Georgia Peaches
- 1 package Mozzarella Cheese
- Fresh Basil
- 4 tablespoons Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- 1.5 tablespoons Balsamic Vinegar



**Directions:** Slice peaches 1/4 of an inch. Slice mozzarella into thin, round slices similar in size to the peaches. Stack the mozzarella cheese slices on top of the peach slices and place stacks onto a plate. Top each stack with freshly sliced basil leaves. Combine oil and vinegar mixture into a bowl and drizzle over the top of peaches. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Visit Georgia Grown's website, [www.georgiagrown.com](http://www.georgiagrown.com), for recipes from farms and producers across our state.

### Have a favorite recipe?

Send us your favorite recipes! Email to Jen Shuman at [recipes@oremc.com](mailto:recipes@oremc.com). If yours is selected as the featured recipe for our Sept./Oct. issue, you'll receive a \$25.00 account credit.



(Cut Here) ✂

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Michele Hutchins, Editor

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8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Monday through Friday  
Speak to a Customer Service Representative by phone Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**CO-OP BUSINESS NUMBER**  
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"OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE"

### Proverbs 10:5 (KJV)

*"He that gathereth in summer is a wise son: but he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame."*



## Church of the Month

### Williams Chapel Baptist Church

Sunday School	10 A.M.
Sunday Worship	11 A.M.
Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study	7 P.M.

Pastor Mike Aldridge

3220 Central Avenue  
Waycross, GA 31503

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

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## Cumberland Island Project

A symphony of systems, crews, contractors, and poles played out across the water and in the air in May and early June as 3.5 miles of line was rebuilt to serve OREMC's 137 meters on Cumberland and Little Cumberland Islands. The convergence of air and sea support was orchestrated to set the 45 poles in the marshland between Cumberland and the mainland with minimal environmental impact.

The poles were staged on the mainland, picked up, flown and set by helicopter with assistance from an awaiting ground crew that was transported from pole to pole by airboat. It took a day and a half to set all the poles. After the line was strung, a helicopter lineman—suspended by a 50-foot cable to move from pole to pole—tied in the wire. Barges were used to move necessary equipment to bore two underground sections of the line under the Cumberland River and the Brickhill River.

The original line built in 1966, and partially rebuilt in 1988, had outlived its useful life and was weather worn from two recent hurricanes. Before building the new line, there was two years of planning, permissions, permitting and licensing that had to be secured. Work was coordinated with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and the Nature Conservancy.

"This project had so many moving parts and a 60-person crew including our own guys, plus those from seven different contractors," reflects Mark White, OREMC staking supervisor. "It was amazing to see everything fall into place once the helicopter got there and the construction plan was executed." White also notes the whole process was very educational as various construction techniques were applied to address unique and complex issues associated with the location and geography of the line.

Check out our construction video at <https://youtu.be/l5wbb8NMY4M>



"We might think we are nurturing our garden, but of course it's our garden that is really nurturing us."  
—Jenny Uglow

### 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](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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).



## Coloring Contest Winners

Congratulations to the winners of our 80th Birthday Celebration Coloring Contest. Children ages 12 and under were invited to color a picture of Willie Wiredhand® touring the swamp and marshes that define, and meander through, our service territory. A four-pack of tickets to Wild Adventures Theme Park in Valdosta was awarded to the winner in each age category.

“We were thrilled to have so many wonderful entries to choose from,” notes Michele Hutchins, OREMC’s member communications/marketing coordinator. “The coloring contest has been a great way to kick off our birthday year celebration and engage our youngest members in their cooperative.”

All the 150+ entries received for the contest will be on display at OREMC’s annual meeting on September 14 at the Brantley County High School in Nahunta. A special thank you also goes to Denese Proctor, an OREMC member from Woodbine, who drew the original art for the children to color.



**Tyson Page, Hoboken, ages 5 and under**



**Emma Anderson, Hortense, ages 10-12 years old**



**Jenna Walsh, Brunswick, ages 6-9 years old**

## Meter Tampering: The Crime Doesn’t Pay, But It Can Kill

Door hinges. Jumper cables. Copper pipe. Wire jumpers. “We’ve seen it all by people who are trying to divert power by bypassing their meter,” notes OREMC Member Service Representative Royce Proctor. “Power theft is a crime that can lead to jail time, thousands of dollars in fines or even worse, death.”

Meter tampering—whether it is damage of property or actual theft of services—results in hazardous conditions to those living in the home, OREMC employees and the public. When someone steals electricity by bypassing the meter, they not only affect the reliability of the distribution system but also lose the benefit of overload protections in place on the system. This causes a fire hazard due to increased heat, possible short circuits leading to an arc flash and potentially an explosion.

“Meter tampering and power diversion are not new problems,” states Proctor, “but because of our meter inspections and updates (see Jan/Feb 2019 newsletter) we are seeing an increase in the number of incidents of power theft.”

While electrocution and death are real hazards of power diversion, the theft of electricity impacts all OREMC consumer-members. Electricity that bypasses

the meter is not registered and not billed, but still consumed. The person receiving the benefit from stolen electricity can also be held criminally liable if different from the person who tampered with the meter and diverted the power initially.

“When someone steals electricity, everyone pays. If we can’t determine who did it, or no one takes responsibility for it, we turn the situation over to law enforcement,” Proctor insists.

OREMC charges a \$150 fee plus the cost of damages for meter tampering. In the case of power diversion, the minimum charge is \$300 plus the estimated cost of lost power and damages. More information regarding OREMC’s policies on meter tampering and rights of access to members property can be found in Policies 406 and 407 accessible online at oremc.com.

Please be mindful that our meter team requires access to your property to inspect, replace or install a new meter. If you have made a request for service/connection, please make sure security system/gates are unlocked and pets are secured. If you have questions, please call customer service at 800-262-5131.



## Leaning In to Leadership

From February to June, a cross-functional group of 14 OREMC employees met two days a month to take part in the Georgia EMC Management & Leadership Development Program administered by the University of Georgia J.W. Institute for Leadership Development. The program brought together a mix of linemen, customer service, accounting, engineering and member relations employees from OREMC’s three offices to learn more about themselves, and each other, as they work together to advance the mission of Okefenoke REMC.

Topics of discussion and discovery included: personality profiles, leadership styles, interpersonal dynamics, multi-generational workers, team building, conflict resolution, communication, collaboration, short and long-term goal planning. Centered around a service-learning project assisting the Georgia Lions Camp for the Blind in Waycross, the group put into practice leadership, project development, management and presentation skills.



## 2019 Annual Meeting: 80 Years in the Making

Hard to believe it has been nearly 80 years since the five founding members of Okefenoke Rural Electric Membership Corporation held their first meeting at the courthouse in Nahunta, Georgia. Today OREMC has grown to 29,000 consumer-members with 37,000 meters in six southeast Georgia counties and two counties in northeast Florida. While times have changed over the last 80 years, the aim and ambition of our original members’ vision for OREMC remains steadfast: efficiently deliver affordable, reliable and safe energy.

The Annual Meeting—on **Saturday, September 14, 2018, at the Brantley County High School, Highway 82 West, Nahunta**—will celebrate the past and embrace the future.

- Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m.
- Musical entertainment will be provided 8:30-10 a.m. Refreshments will be served and activities will be available for the kids throughout the morning.
- Official business meeting will start at 10 a.m.

During the business meeting, members will hear reports from OREMC’s Board President and

General Manager. Elections will be finalized for three members of OREMC’s Board of Directors to serve for three-year terms representing: District 2 — Nassau County, Florida; District 6 — Northwest Camden County; and District 8 — Glynn County.

Door prizes will be presented to members at registration. Please bring the preprinted registration card you will receive with your official annual meeting notification letter to pick up your door prize. **Please note:** Just as there is only one vote per member regardless of how many accounts are in your name, there will also **only be one door prize per member.** Special prizes will be awarded to the “Most Senior Lady” and “Most Senior Gentleman” in attendance at the meeting, and drawings will be held for many attractive gifts, including a grand prize – you must be present to win.

Please contact us about any special needs or requirements for your participation in the Annual Meeting by calling our office at (800) 262-5131 or emailing us at customer.service@oremc.com prior to September 14, or by contacting one of our employees at the meeting.



Okefenoke REMC presented a check for \$6,000 to the Southeast Cancer Unit, Inc.

## Golf Tournament Raises \$6,000

Following its record-setting 28th Annual Golf Tournament on June 1 at the Lakes Course/Laura S. Walker State Park with 85 players and 33 sponsors—including Golf Ball Sponsor Southeastern Bank and Cart Sponsors Asplundh Tree Experts and Pike Electric, LLC—Okefenoke REMC presented a check for \$6,000 to the Southeast Cancer Unit, Inc., from funds raised by the tournament.

“I am just overwhelmed by the support of our sponsors and the turnout of players at this year’s tournament,” states Michael Hickox, OREMC purchasing coordinator and golf tournament coordinator. “Being a cancer survivor myself, it means so much to have all these people come together to support and give to an organization that helped me.”

While the tournament has benefitted the Southeast Cancer Unit for many years, enhancements were made this year to increase the donation amount. Member Communications/Marketing Coordinator Michele Hutchins explains, “Caring for the community is a cornerstone of our founding principles. Given 2019 is our 80th birthday year, it seemed a perfect time to elevate the tournament experience by partnering with area businesses and cooperative vendors committed to making a difference in our communities. To enhance our fundraising efforts, we offered new sponsorship opportunities that enabled businesses to support the cause and receive promotional exposure before, during and after the tournament. It has been a win-win for all.”

