



(Cut Here)

Crawfish Woodbine

By Alice Sue Crews

INGREDIENTS

- ¼ cup oil
- 1 cup flour
- 3 cups chopped onion (approx. 4 medium)
- 2 cups chopped green pepper
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 5-6 cloves garlic, chopped
- 2 ½ cups hot water (more if needed)
- 1 Tbsp. salt
- 1 Tbsp. pepper
- 3 pounds crawfish tails
- 2 Tbsp. parsley chopped (optional)
- 2 Tbsp. green onion, chopped (optional)

Combine oil and flour in heavy pot to make a roux. Cook over medium to low heat until rich and caramel color is reached. When desired color is reached, add onions, green peppers, celery and garlic. Add hot water, salt and pepper. Cover and let simmer approximately one hour. Add crawfish tails, cover and cook slowly for 15 minutes. Add parsley and green onion, cooking five minutes more. Serve over hot, fluffy rice.

Royce Proctor, committee chair of the Woodbine Crawfish Festival notes, "We are the largest crawfish festival in the state of Georgia. The original idea for the festival was rooted in supporting crawfish farms back years ago and promoting local seafood. Today the crawfish are driven fresh from Louisiana just hours before the festival kicks off, which has become a signature event for the Satilla Waterfront Park here in Woodbine."

At press time the 2020 festival had been cancelled due to COVID-19. Visit woodbinecrawfish.com for information.

James 5:7 (NKJV)

"Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain."



Church of the Month

Akin Memorial Methodist Church

Sunday Worship 9:30 A.M.
 Sunday School 11:00 A.M.
 Wednesday Night Supper 6:30 P.M.
 Bible Study 7:00 P.M.

160 Sansavilla Rd. • Hortense, GA
 912-223-2831

Pastor: Rick Turner

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

Nominations for OREMC Board Directors

The following bylaw pertains to the nomination of directors:

Article IV, Section 4.05. Nominations. It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint, not less than one hundred eighty (180) days prior to the date of a meeting of the members at which directors are to be elected, a Committee on Nominations, consisting of not less than five (5) nor more than eleven (11) members of the Cooperative who are not existing Cooperative employees, agents, officers, directors or known candidates for director; who are not close relatives (as hereinafter defined) or members of the same household thereof, and who are so selected as to give equitable representation thereon to the areas served by the Cooperative. The Committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least one hundred fifty (150) days before the meeting a list of nominations for directors to be elected. The Committee may include as many nominees for any director to be elected, as it deems desirable. Any fifty (50) or more members of the Cooperative, acting together, may make additional nominations in writing over their signatures, not less than one hundred twenty (120) days prior to the meeting, and the Secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the Committee is posted. The Secretary shall mail to the members with the notice of the meeting, or separately, but at least five (5) days prior to the date of the meeting, a statement of the names and addresses of all nominees, showing clearly those nominated by the Committee and those nominated by petition, if any. At the member meeting, no nominations may be made from the floor except that such nominations may be made and shall be allowed for any directorate to be filled for which there would not otherwise be any eligible nominee. Notwithstanding the provisions contained in this Section, failure to comply with any of such provisions shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken by the Board of Directors after the election of directors.

Nominations and Election of OREMC Directors

Directors are nominated and elected from three of OREMC's districts each year at the annual meeting of the members to serve for a term of three years. Terms expiring this year are:

- District 3 - East Brantley County and Wayne County (Georgia)
- District 7 - Charlton County (Georgia)
- District 9 - Southeast Camden County (Georgia)

Okefenokee REMC's Board of Directors, in accordance with Bylaw Article IV, Section 4.05, has appointed the following members to the 2020 Nominating Committee:

Jerri F. Canaday

6066 Harry Lewis Rd.
 Macclenny, FL 32063

Dorothy Ruis

4967 Bailey Haddock Ln.
 Hilliard, FL 32046-6317

Robert Edward Lee, Jr.

127 Bluffs Landing
 Waverly, GA 31565-2979

David Moody

1601 Saddle Club Rd.
 Hoboken, GA 31542

Gaines Lee

2140 Mars Hill Rd.
 Hoboken, GA 31542-3656

Timothy V. Cheek

211 Hickory Bluff Rd.
 Waverly, GA 31565-2606

Donald R. Morrison

130 Morrison Ln.
 Folkston, GA 31537

Randy J. Lamb

131 Don El Street
 Brunswick, GA 31523-9616

Jacob R. Paulk

133 Paulk Place
 Woodbine, GA 31569

If you live in one of the three districts noted above that are up for election this year, and wish to be considered for nomination to represent your district, you may contact a committee member. Nominations by petition will also be accepted (see bylaws, Article IV, Section 4.05 for details).

According to OREMC bylaws, if any nominations are made by petition, petitions must be received in the Law Office of J. Patrick Brooks, P.C. at 3773 2nd Street S, Suite 102, Folkston, GA 31537, no later than Friday, May 15, 2020, at 5 p.m. (See By-law Section 4.05 for details concerning nominations by petition.)

OREMC bylaws are available at any OREMC office and online at oremc.com. For suggested forms for nomination by petition contact Patrick Brooks at 912-496-3231.

Results of the Nominating Committee meeting and, if applicable, a listing of nominations made by petition, will be reported in OREMC's July/August 2020 member newsletter. Procedures for voting in the election will also be included in that newsletter.

A tentative date of Tuesday, April 14, 2020, at 4:30 p.m. has been set for the Nominating Committee to meet. The tentative location of the meeting is OREMC's headquarters office in Nahunta, GA. For confirmation of meeting date, time and location, you may contact Kimi Harris at 800-262-5131, ext. 1111.



VOLUME 72 NUMBER 2 • MAR/APR 2020

Keeping the Lights On: System Integrity, Capacity and Reliability

Long before afternoon summer thunderstorms bubble up and hurricane season descends upon us, OREMC crews and contractors are actively working through a plan of continuous system improvements. The goal of these everyday projects is to enhance OREMC's load capacity, system integrity and reliability for our consumer-members.

As demand for power grows, so too must the capacity of our system, resulting in upgrades from single phase service to multi-phase lines. According to OREMC Engineer Kane Lee, multi-phasing lines in areas identified as trouble spots with a high density of consumer-members is key to keeping the system from being overloaded. This "hardening" of the system leads to greater reliability and fewer outages.

Another key component to system hardening is reconductoring the lines. Some of the wire has been in service since the 1940s and has reached the end of its life. Replacing it with new aluminum wire makes the system less susceptible to power outages.

Going hand in hand with multi-phasing, increased capacity and reconductoring is sectionalizing of the distribution system. By installing additional line switches and protective devices on the lines between substations, our lineman can better isolate outages by reconfiguring lines to minimize the number of consumer-members impacted by an outage.

Utilizing advanced technology, intelligent electronic devices (IED) tie-in with our SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system through an integrated communications network. This network will enable remote access and operation of protective devices by our system operators in our control center to aid lineman in quickly isolating outages; and reduce the number of consumer-members affected.

"Distribution Automation is a continuance of our recent SCADA implementation that went live back in the summer of 2018," explains Darren Crews, OREMC manager of engineering. "DA allows us to better visualize and monitor the distribution system. In the future, DA will enable the distribution system to essentially self-heal by automatically diagnosing an outage area, isolating that area and reconfiguring the distribution system via strategically positioned IEDs."

At the end of the day, it is all about keeping the lights on by reducing the incidence, duration and number of consumer-members impacted by outages.



Lineworkers Earn Journeyman Lineman Certification

Wil Wainright and Ryan Carter joined Okefenoke REMC as apprentice I lineworkers in March and November 2015 respectively, and work out of the co-op's Nahunta office. After hours of bookwork, nearly five years of on-the-job training and laboratory testing, Carter and Wainright are celebrating their completion of the Northwest Lineman College's Lineworker Certification Program and designation as a journeyman lineman.

Presenting them their certificates of completion and a commemorative statue of Willie Wiredhand, the national mascot of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's member co-ops, was OREMC's Human Resources Manager and Safety Coordinator David Smith. Smith noted both stayed dedicated and worked hard throughout the program, excelling in both their book work and skills testing. He says, "I look forward to their continued professional growth."



Baker County High School check presentation.

Living Our Principles

"Supporting education in our communities is one of OREMC's founding cooperative principles," explains OREMC Member Relations Representative Dewayne Johns. "Promoting the growth and development of our young people academically, increases the knowledge capital in our communities and fosters work force development and economic well-being."

To that end, OREMC regularly supports qualifying programs and organizations that foster those principles using funds from OREMC's unclaimed capital credits. Our recent \$2,500 donation to support science, technology, engineering and mathematics education at Baker County High School in Glen St. Mary, Florida, is one example. Wayne Combs, president, OREMC Board of Directors, presented the donation to Principal Allen Murphy, S.T.E.M. Teachers Byronelle Williams and Foster Bennett, and some of their students.

Williams and Bennett said they would like to use the funds to put toward the purchase of 3-D printers. Williams explained there is a program that enables two teachers and 10 students to get 3-D certified and includes two learning kits: brain impact simulator and hand simulator.

"Using a 3-D printer with the associated curriculum materials would enable an integrated teaching approach that exemplifies the necessary hierarchy of knowledge," noted Bennett. "The equipment demonstrates how sensors, robotics and programming interconnect in a very hands-on way."

Another program OREMC supported with a \$1,500 donation is the REACH Georgia Scholarship program. This program aims to help young Georgia scholars who show academic promise reach their full potential, but struggle to chart their course due to lack of personal guidance and resources. OREMC's donation will specifically help support a student

in need living in the co-op's southeast Georgia service area.

Started in 2012, REACH identifies potential candidates for the scholarship program in eighth grade. Based on documented financial need, demonstrated academic excellence and a personal interview, students are selected and pledge to uphold academic, attendance and personal conduct standards at a signing ceremony at the end of the fall semester. From there they receive ongoing mentoring with role models who partner and meet with them regularly through their senior year of high school. Those students that complete the program receive a \$10,000 scholarship to attend a university, technical college or private school in Georgia. To date the program has accepted 1,800 student scholars and has graduated 133 students with an average GPA of 3.3.



REACH Georgia check presentation.

Time to "Chip In": Annual Golf Tournament Benefits Southeast Cancer Unit, Inc.

Plans are underway for our 29th Annual Okefenoke REMC Golf Tournament on **Saturday, May 30, 2020**. Based on the success of last year's tournament resulting in a \$6,000 donation to the Southeast Cancer Unit, Inc., we are upping our game again this year to promote additional players, promotions and proceeds. We welcome Southeastern Bank as our Golf Ball Sponsor.

The tournament will once again be held on The Lakes Golf Course at Laura S. Walker State Park in Waycross. Large or small, your business can be a part of the fun and fellowship. We offer a variety of sponsorship opportunities in which to show your support. **Visit oremc.com/golf for registration, sponsorship and donation information.**

Our benefactor, the Southeast Cancer Unit, Inc., is a volunteer organization that helps cancer patients living in Brantley, Pierce and Ware counties with travel and medical-related expenses while undergoing cancer treatment. Helping to ease the burden for our friends and neighbors during a stressful time in their lives is a noble mission that has benefitted several of our own employees.

We appreciate you joining us in our efforts to help make a difference in the lives of our consumer-members and community every day. While providing safe and reliable power is the heart of our mission at OREMC, so too is enhancing lives and supporting community needs.



Every town is an important part of the American story.

Make sure your town's story is told by responding to the 2020 Census—the count of everyone living in the United States. When you do, you'll also help your town get the most out of the American dream.

Responding Is Important for Your Community

Census responses provide data that can attract new businesses and the jobs that come with them. The data also informs where over \$675 billion in federal funding is spent each year in states and communities. That includes money for things like:

- Medicare Part B
- Special education
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- Cooperative Extension Service
- Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant
- Water and waste disposal systems for rural communities

Responding Is Safe

Your personal information is kept confidential by law.

Responding Is Easy

To complete the census, answer a handful of questions online, by phone, or by mail. Choose the option that works best for you.

For more information, visit:
2020CENSUS.GOV

D-OP-RU-EN-038

Every Person Counts

Whether it's funding in communities across your state or helping determine the number of seats your state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives—every count makes an equal impact.

Shape
your future
START HERE >

United States
Census
2020