



# Trees vs. power lines

## An ongoing love-hate relationship

No one likes being without electricity ... and no one wants to have their 50-year-old oak tree trimmed or cut, either. You know the one I mean ... the one that's grown up into the overhead power line.

It's a constant hurdle for Holston EC employees and the customers. The fact is that maintaining the electric right of way (20 feet on both sides of the lines) is the co-op's responsibility, as your service provider, to ensure safe and reliable electric service 24 hours a day.

Holston EC certainly doesn't like having to remove those beautiful, lush green trees along the roadside or in your yard, but as your service provider, our duty is to keep you safe and keep your lights on. That being said, I also have to make the point that all of the trees in the yards of all of our 30,000 customers are not the responsibility of the co-op. For example, a customer who calls in and requests that the cooperative send a crew out to cut down an enormous tree that is dying and leaning toward their house is quite annoyed when we have to deny the request.

Many customers don't realize the difference between the cooperative's distribution power lines and the single service drops that connect the customers' homes or businesses to the distribution lines. Maintaining the power lines is our responsibility; the customers are responsible for maintaining the service drops. Nearly \$1.3 million was budgeted



**Larry Elkins**  
General Manager  
Holston Electric  
Cooperative

in 2008 to keep the power lines clear. But that amount is only to clear the trees that threaten distribution power lines, not the trees that threaten your house, garage, barn or other structure.

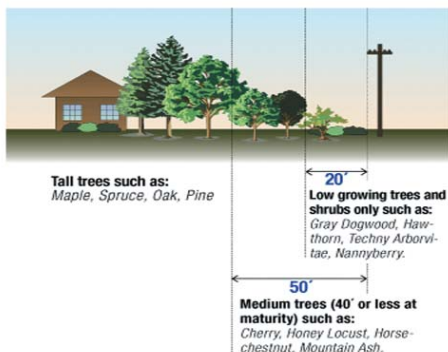
Robert Davenport, Holston EC's technical services supervisor, and Asplundh Tree Expert Company, the right-of-way maintenance contractors for Holston EC,

are willing to work with every customer to reach the best solution on trimming and removing trees that interfere with your service and pose a threat to the system. They generally avoid removal of trees when side pruning or crown reduction will satisfy both the customer and the co-op, but in extreme conditions, tree removal may be the only feasible answer.

Holston EC has an aggressive tree-trimming program, and over the past 20 years, outage rates and durations have dropped considerably thanks to those efforts. We continue to meet our goal of maintaining a five-year outage average of less than two hours per customer. Everyone has benefited from the work that's been done.

In addition to the co-op trimming rights of way, you can help by remembering to plant new trees and shrubs in the proper places this fall. Large, fast-

growing trees should be planted at least 50 feet or further away from overhead power lines. If you have any question about where to properly plant your trees, check with your favorite garden center or visit [www.arbor-day.org](http://www.arbor-day.org).



Serving more than 30,000 customers in Hawkins and Hamblen counties.



1200 W. Main St.

P.O. Box 190

Rogersville, TN 37857

272-8821 235-6811

Web site: [www.holstonelectric.com](http://www.holstonelectric.com)

### Church Hill office

Highway 11-W and S. Central Ave.

Church Hill, TN 37642

357-6441

### Russellville office

Highway 11-E

Russellville, TN 37860

581-2066

**Office hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.**

**Monday-Friday**

### General Manager

Larry Elkins

### Board of Directors

President: Otis Munsey

Vice President: William W. Bales

Secretary-Treasurer:

Danny Cockreham

Lynn Parker

Phil Pierce

Danny R. Price

William F. Young

**To report an outage or electrical emergency, call**

**272-8821 or 235-6811**

**day or night.**



# Holston EC representatives participate in NRECA Legislative Conference

## The issues:

- Climate change. How can we reduce emissions while keeping power reliable and affordable?
- Rail competition. America's railroad policy needs reform.
- Clean coal technology. Immediate investments are needed to meet climate goals.
- Rural Utilities Service (RUS). What is the future for this federal agency that provides affordable infrastructure and economic opportunity in areas that traditionally lag behind in development?

## The message:

Electric cooperative utilities must meet the enormous demands for new generation, energy efficiency, renewables and new research and development technologies that will reduce carbon emissions and continue to provide member-owners with safe, reliable electric power in the most cost-effective way possible. This was the focus of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Legislative Conference held in Washington, D.C., May 4-7. Nearly 3,000 cooperative representatives from across the country gathered to bring these issues to the attention of senators and House members.

"It's important to write and call and stay in contact with elected officials throughout the year," says Holston EC General Manager Larry Elkins. "But it has to have a powerful impact once a year when all of these cooperative representatives come to Washington at one time and all of the senators and representatives are getting the same message."

"This is not like meeting with a lobbyist who is getting paid to promote a bill or influence a vote on behalf of a business or industry," he continued. "This is grassroots communication from the folks back home in the districts where they were elected."



Holston EC board and staff members meet with First District Rep. David Davis at his office in the Longworth House Office Building in Washington, D.C. From left are, Safety Director Scott Price, Board Member Lynn Parker, Rep. Davis, General Manager Larry Elkins and Supervisor of Accounting Phil Campbell.

## Top 10 no-cost steps you can take this summer to save energy

**1** Turn up your cooling system's thermostat to 75 to 78 degrees. Don't pay to keep your furniture cool — raise the thermostat even more when no one is home.

**2** Perform a do-it-yourself energy audit. You can request a print version or perform your audit online at [www.energyright.com](http://www.energyright.com).

**3** Lower your water heater temperature to 120 degrees and reduce hot water use by taking shorter showers and using cold water for laundry whenever possible.

**4** Turn off lights, televisions and other appliances when not in use. Use the "sleep mode" on computers.

**5** Remove and recycle your second refrigerator.



**6** Keep curtains closed on the south, east and west sides of the house during the day to help keep cool.

**7** Clean refrigerator coils and set the temperature to 36 to 39 degrees and the freezer to zero to 5 degrees.

**8** Use the microwave; it cooks faster and doesn't create as much heat as a stove burner.

**9** Air-dry dishes instead of using the dishwasher's heat-drying option.

**10** Run your dishwasher and clothes washer only when they are full.



## Qualifications and procedures for directors election

The 68th Annual Meeting of the members of Holston Electric Cooperative will be held Tuesday, Oct. 14, at the headquarters building of the cooperative in Rogersville. Directors from Districts 1 and 2 are to be elected. The following information concerning the qualifications and nominations for directors of the cooperative is reprinted from the bylaws of the cooperative.

ARTICLE IV, Section 4.01. Number and General Powers. The business and affairs of the cooperative shall be managed under the direction of a board of seven directors. The board shall exercise all of the powers of the cooperative except such as are by law or by the cooperative's Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws conferred upon or reserved to the members.

ARTICLE IV, Section 4.02. Qualifications. No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director of the cooperative who is a close relative of an incumbent director or of an employee of the cooperative or is not a member of the cooperative and receiving service therefrom at his primary residential abode. No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director of the cooperative who is not at least 18 years of age or is in any way employed by or substantially financially interested in a competing enterprise or business selling electric energy or supplies to the cooperative or a business substantially engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies primarily to the members of the cooperative or who is an elected public official. Notwithstanding any of the foregoing provisions of this section treating with close relative relationships, no incumbent director shall lose eligibility to remain a director or to be re-elected as a director if, during his incumbency as a director, he becomes a close relative of another incumbent director or of a cooperative employee because of a marriage to which he was not a party.

Upon establishment of the fact that a nominee for director lacks eligibility under this section or as may be provided elsewhere in these bylaws, it shall be the duty of the chairman presiding at the meeting at which such nominee would otherwise be voted upon to disqualify such nominee. Upon the establishment

of the fact that any person being considered for or already holding a directorship lacks eligibility under this section, it shall be the duty of the board of directors to withhold such position from such person or to cause him to be removed therefrom, as the case may be. Nothing contained in this section shall or shall be construed to affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the board of directors, unless such action is taken with respect to a matter which is affected by the provisions of this section and in which one or more of the directors have an interest adverse to that of the cooperative.

ARTICLE IV, Section 4.03. Election. At each annual meeting of the members, directors shall be elected by secret ballot by the members, and PROVIDED, when the number of nominees does not exceed the number of directors to be elected from a particular directorate district and if there is no objection, secret balloting may be dispensed with in respect of that particular election and voting may be conducted in any other proper manner. Directors shall be elected by a plurality of the votes cast. Drawing by lot shall resolve, where necessary, any tie votes.

ARTICLE IV, Section 4.04. Tenure. Directors shall be so nominated and elected that one director from each of directorate district Nos. 1 and 2 shall be elected for three-year terms at an annual member meeting; one director from each of directorate district Nos. 3, 4 and 5 will be elected for three-year terms at the next succeeding annual member meeting; and one director from each of directorate district Nos. 6 and 7 will be elected for three-year terms at the next succeeding annual meeting. Upon their election, directors will, subject to the provisions of these bylaws with respect to the removal of directors, serve until

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## The duties of a Holston EC director

The job of director of Holston Electric Cooperative director is very important. Specifically, the duties of your board of directors are to:

Determine policy guidelines for the daily operation of Holston EC.

Employ a general manager to oversee the day-to-day operations of the cooperative.

Determine work plans and establish a budget.

Set rates and fee schedules.

Enter into contracts for the power supply, services and goods and loans for capital improvements.

Evaluate the performance annually of the cooperative and the general manager.

Report to you, the member-owners of Holston EC, about the financial condition of the cooperative.

Attend regular monthly meetings at the cooperative and occasional state, regional and national meetings.



# Cherokee High Lady Chiefs finish in final four at TSSAA Spring Fling State Tournament



The Cherokee High Lady Chiefs celebrate after receiving the plaque awarded to them as Region 1-AAA Champions in softball. They continued on in substate and state tournament play. Team members are, from left, front row, Krisha Mahan, Kelly Manis, Abby Hughes, Keshia Barnett, Savannah Ewing, Courtney Davis, Whitney Gilbert, Chelsey Smith and coach Charlie Christopher. Back row: assistant coach Kelli Hughes, Ashlee Price, Ashley Steele, Gabi Murrell, Brittany Horton and Chelsea Hensley. Photograph by Mike Williams, *The Rogersville Review*.

## Congratulations on your record-breaking season!

Final record of 37-11 is the best in Cherokee High School history

Fourth-place finish in state, with a 2-2 record in Spring Fling State Tournament

First Cherokee team to ever participate in TSSAA Spring Fling State Tournament

Region 1-AAA Champions

District 2-AAA Runners-up

Erwin's Nuclear Fuels Tournament (repeat) champions

Greenville's Tiny Day/Red Edmonds Tournament (repeat) champions

Whitney Gilbert named 2008 Softball Player of the Year by Northeast Tennessee Sports Writers

Head Coach Charlie Christopher named 2008 Coach of the Year by Northeast Tennessee Sports Writers

Named to All-NET Softball Team: Ashlee Price, Savannah Ewing, Gabi Murrell

All-NET Softball Team Honorable Mention: Abby Hughes, Courtney Davis, Keshia Barnett



## GPS mapping of service area continues

The mapping project contracted to Neal Technology Associates (NTA) that started in the Church Hill area in February of 2007 is continuing now in the Bulls Gap/St. Clair area of Hawkins County and into Hamblen County. NTA is gradually working its way westward across Holston EC's 525-square-mile service area to the eastern end of Hamblen County. The contractors are gathering Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) mapping data for Holston EC.

GPS mapping is an advanced technology that works with today's modern computers. However, it is necessary for us to gather larger amounts of information about the thousands of poles, miles of wire, customer locations and other facilities that exist in Holston EC's service area to utilize GPS.

Maps are very important to the operation of Holston EC. They allow us to find facilities and easily locate each



of the more than 30,000 customers currently served by Holston EC. The maps we now use were created around 1960 and for many years were updated manually using red and green pencils. Several years ago this process was computerized so that updates were made using a computer, but the mapping system remained essentially the same.

As work on this project continues, please remember that all NTA vehicles are marked with the Holston EC blue logo, and all of its employees should possess valid identification at all times.

At no time will these contractors need access to your home or business to do their work. The entire project is expected to be completed in early fall. If you have any questions or concerns about workers who may be in your area, please feel free to call any Holston EC office.

### Qualifications and procedures for directors election

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the annual meeting of the members of the year in which their terms expire or until their successors will have been elected and will have qualified. If for any reason an election of directors will not be held at an annual meeting of the members duly fixed and called pursuant to these bylaws, such election may be held at an adjournment of such meeting or at a subsequently held special or the next annual meeting of the members. Failure of an election for a given year will allow the incumbents whose directorships would have been voted on to hold over only until the next member meeting at which a quorum is present and they or their successors will be elected, whichever be the case.

ARTICLE IV, Section 4.05. Directorate Districts. The territory served by the cooperative will be divided into seven directorate districts. Each district will be represented by one director.

The board of directors, at any regular or special meeting thereof held not less than 90 days prior to any annual meeting of the members or special meeting of the members held in lieu of such annual meeting, may, by resolution, alter the geographical boundaries of the seven districts with the aim of arranging more equitable districting.

ARTICLE IV, Section 4.06. Nominations. It shall be the duty

of the board of directors to appoint, not less than 30 days nor more than 65 days before 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 nor more than 11 members who shall be selected so as to give equitable representation on the committee to the geographical areas served by the cooperative. No officer or member of the board of directors shall be appointed a member of such committee. The committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the cooperative at least 30 days before the meeting, a list of nominations for directors, but any 15 or more members may make other nominations in writing over their signatures not less than 65 days prior to the meeting and the secretary shall post the same at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. The secretary shall mail with the notice of the meeting a statement of the number of directors to be elected and showing separately the nominations made by the committee on nominations and the nominations made by petition, if any. The members may, at any meeting at which a director or directors shall be removed, as hereinbefore provided, elect a successor or successors thereto without compliance with the foregoing provisions with respect to nominations. Notwithstanding anything in this section contained, failure to comply with any of the provisions of this section shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any election of directors.