

A monthly newsletter for the members of

# Egyptian Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



March 2016

www.eeca.coop  
800-606-1505

## Power vs. Trees

Most of us can agree that we love our electricity, but hate the thought of our beloved trees being cut or trimmed near the power lines. It is our duty as your electric service provider to keep our lines maintained, but it is our responsibility to you, and all of our members, to provide the safest and most reliable electricity possible.

We refer to right-of-way as the strip of land underneath and around power lines. Thinking of keeping our right-of-way clear in a more relative way helps me to keep it in perspective. Maintaining right-of-way could eliminate the possibility of losing power to my own home from a limb hanging over the electric line to my house. It could rid the danger of a child climbing an overgrown tree with high-voltage power lines crossing through. It could remove the health danger of my neighbor on oxygen who greatly depends on her electricity.

Egyptian Electric Cooperative maintains nearly 2,700 miles of line that serve nearly 15,000 members. As you can imagine, it is a full-time job to maintain even the minimum clearance of 15-foot each side of the line. It is our goal to trim out and mow the rights-of-way on a regular four-year rotation, making outages shorter and repairs less difficult. Over the last 6 to 7 years, in our improved efforts to capitalize our right-of-way maintenance, power outages have drastically been reduced across the board.



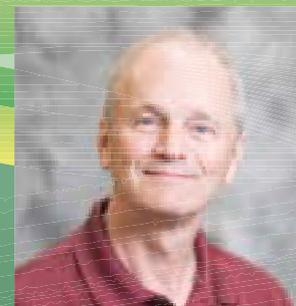
Phillip Ellis, trimming back limbs on Crabtree Road in Murphysboro.

January of 2016 had surprisingly no power outages associated with trees, whereas 2 years ago, in January of 2014, there were just over 300 members that were effected with an outage due to trees and/or brush. Also, maintaining a cleared right-of-way helps with pole inspections and better visibility of rotten or broken poles that could have otherwise gone undetected.

Oil Field Electric, or OFEC as you may see on their trucks, is currently contracted with Egyptian Electric to fulfill all of our day-to-day tree trimming needs. The scheduled right-of-way work for 2016 will be lines serviced off four of our substations: Sparta, Cora, Keller and Shawnee. The areas it will affect are the Sparta, Tilden, Coulterville, Shuline, Walsh,

Rockwood, Gorham, Jacob, Ava, Pomona and Murphysboro areas. You can now visit our website to view maps of these locations and find additional information regarding tree trimming, including

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Jim Riddle -- Executive Vice President and General Manager

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our Stump Program. We have begun a new member contacting process. You will receive a post card in the mail prior to tree work being done in your area. Travis Deterding, our Forestry Supervisor, will be happy to answer any questions you may have or meet you on site.

Please keep in mind, if you have a tree with a limb near the line(s) that looks hazardous or you are considering trimming a tree that is in danger of falling on the lines, we ask that you contact us before doing any work. If there is any chance a limb or tree could strike a power line in the removal process, we would prefer our crews to remove the limb or tree in question.



Kaleb Blackwell, Josh Proctor, Phillip Ellis, and Dave Harsy of Oil Field Electric

## Spring Planting Safety

**Give TREES a Chance**

The diagram illustrates the safe planting distance for trees relative to power lines. A vertical scale on the left shows heights from 10 ft to 50 ft. A utility pole with cross-arms is shown on the right. Three tree types are depicted with their respective safe distances from the lines:

- Trees with mature height >40' tall: 50' away
- Mature trees <40' tall: 20' away
- Small trees & shrubs <25' tall: within 20'

Labels at the bottom indicate distances: 50ft, 20ft, and Within 20 ft (but not under lines).

**Trees planted too close to power lines grow into a BIG problem.** To prevent power outages and safety hazards, these trees need to be trimmed and sometimes removed. Do your part to keep trees healthy and prevent power outages.

**Plant trees a safe distance from power distribution lines.**

Although we are not as aggressive in keeping up with the right-of-way for underground lines and facilities, it is still important to avoid planting trees and plants too close to underground cables and devices. Not only can the root systems affect the lines and electrical boxes over time, but for your safety, caution should be taken. Please do not dig within 5' of marked lines, plant no closer than 10' from any device and always call JULIE (dial 811) to get all public utilities marked.



## Status of Office Facilities

If you have visited one of our two locations, you may notice quickly that our original buildings are aging. The Board of Directors here at Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association (EECA) recently had a facilities study conducted by Cooperative Building Solutions. The purpose of the study was to determine the administrative, warehouse, mechanical and storage needs of our cooperative. The study assessed the existing buildings and properties, comparing essential modifications, maintenance costs, as well as future needs. It also evaluated the ability to renovate both existing facilities to meet those needs.

The EECA Board, with the advice of Cooperative Building Solutions, has decided to pursue and further investigate the construction of a new facility. To determine more accurate construction costs they have hired the firm, White and Borgognoni Architects of Carbondale, to initiate a phase one design of a new facility. Should construction estimates be satisfactory, the Board of Directors will decide whether to continue with the next design and construction phases.



Current Murphysboro office located on Old Highway 13, between Murphysboro and Carbondale.



Existing Steeleville facility located on Route 4, on the west side of Steeleville.

## Meet the Board

### Board of Directors

Randall Campbell,  
*President*  
Ken Jarrett, *Vice President*  
Steve Prest,  
*Secretary-Treasurer*  
Larry Ebers  
Allen Haake  
Paul Hicks  
Gilbert Kroening  
Kevin Liefer  
Paul Pyatt



## Cooperative News



**Adam Korando** is a lifelong resident of southern Illinois. He grew up in Jacob, Ill. and currently resides in Murphysboro with his wife, Cassie. Adam graduated from Trico High School and has an Associate's Degree in Industrial Maintenance Engineering, as well as a Bachelor's Degree in Electronic Systems Technologies from SIU in Carbondale. Adam joined Egyptian Electric in 2008 as a Locator, and in 2010 became the IT Specialist. In January, Adam was promoted to Engineering Technician in the Murphysboro office and is looking forward to his new position.



**Brooke (Doerr) Guthman** received her B.S. in Civil Engineering from SIUC in 2003, and started with Egyptian Electric in 2005 as a Staking Engineer. In early January, she was promoted as the new Communications Coordinator in the Murphysboro office. Brooke is a native and fellow cooperative member residing in Murphysboro with her husband, Ryan, and three children. She is truly excited for her new position at Egyptian Electric, and hopes to always be an excellent example in living by and promoting the cooperative principles.

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Save energy and money by lowering your water heater thermostat to 120 degrees Fahrenheit. This will also slow mineral buildup and corrosion in your water heater and pipes.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



Our office  
will be closed  
March 25, 2016  
for Good Friday.

## Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association

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800-606-1505 • Office hours 8 a.m. -- 4:00 p.m. M-F • [www.eeca.coop](http://www.eeca.coop)