



## Camp Southern Ground: Adventure Awaits in Fayette County

Recent Operation Round Up recipient Camp Southern Ground (CSG), an all-inclusive Fayette nonprofit founded by Grammy Award-winning musician Zac Brown, held four successful Mini Adventure Weekend Camps this fall as a precursor to the limited summer camp program in 2016.

According to CSG's website, Brown's vision for creating the program stems from personal experience. "As a former camp counselor, I know how a positive camp experience can transform a child's life. My dream is that children of all abilities will have an opportunity to experience the magic of the outdoors," he said.

The Mini Adventure Weekend Camps held in September and October gave children ages 9-13 the opportunity to experience epic "unplugged" fun and create unforgettable outdoor memories. They spent almost all of their time in nature, traversing the camp's 150 acres in search of fun, and sleeping in screened tents at night. Activities included arts and crafts, singing, dancing, skits, archery, gem-mining, biking, star-gazing, ropes courses and night hiking. Electronics were not allowed, and the camp aimed to foster a spirit of collaboration, creativity, inclusion, compassion and healthy fun.

Brown's vision for the full summer camp experience in 2017 includes a completed state-of-the-art facility to serve children ages 7-17 with both typical and special needs. It will be a place for kids and families



to learn healthy life skills through nutrition guidance, physical exercise and the latest practices in therapy, provided by a knowledgeable staff. CSG will have activities to challenge, educate and inspire children with diverse abilities, from all socioeconomic backgrounds, races and religions.

Now that a 12,000 sq. ft. shade pavilion with a kitchen, restrooms and a basic high/low ropes course has already been completed for the Mini Adventure Weekend Camps, the next phase will be to begin work on boys' and girls' lodges, a dining hall, an aquatics center, more additions to the adventure center, an organic farm and more.

Coweta-Fayette EMC's Operation Round Up program awarded funding to CSG during the initial infrastructure development phase to help install a deep well. For more information on Camp Southern Ground, visit them online at [www.campsouthern-ground.org](http://www.campsouthern-ground.org).





## The President's Message

*Chris Stephens  
President and CEO*

If you attended our Annual Meeting October 10, we are certainly glad you came! If you were unable to stop by, we missed you. Here's a recap of what I discussed during the business session in case you couldn't be here...

This was a special meeting for me. Although it was my 20<sup>th</sup> at Coweta-Fayette EMC, it was my first as President and CEO. I am excited and honored for the opportunity to serve you, the Board of Directors and one of our greatest co-op assets, the employees.

There were three key points I stressed at the meeting:

**Commitment to Members**—We exist solely because of you. Without members, there would be no cooperative. That's why the Board of Directors, employees and I are committed to serving you. We strive to safely provide members with the reliable electric service you expect at a reasonable cost. In fact, one of our strategic goals is to reduce outage time by 10 percent over the next five years.

As a co-op, we believe in returning your investment when it is economically feasible. Your directors have approved capital credit refunds totaling over \$19.5 million since 2000. The most recent refund—approximately \$3.6 million—took place at the beginning of the month for the years 1990-91.

We are also committed to providing beneficial services like those from our two wholly-owned subsidiaries, True Natural Gas and Relyco. True has had continued success, which has benefited our equity position and retail rates. They even just announced their lowest-ever residential 12-month fixed rate. Relyco continues to provide reliable security services and home automation solutions, and they also began performing high-tech energy audits. With the co-op's matching efficiency rebates, this is a great money-saving program for members.

**Commitment to Lower Cost of Service**—One of our primary goals is to keep rates reasonable. This

can be a difficult task, because for every dollar we spend, 70 cents goes toward purchased power. It's easy to see that when fuel costs change, the impact on rates can be significant. We've had the good fortune to see low natural gas prices this year, a fact your Board of Directors took advantage of by reducing the power cost adjustment as much as 1 penny per kWh. This is not the norm. We are facing current legislation—the Clean Power Plan—that could change things. Under this plan, electricity prices will potentially increase as we become less dependent on coal and more dependent on natural gas, which has the most price volatility of any fuel. Restricting coal usage will require a replacement resource of equal reliability, and that means our cost of purchased power will increase. With the current natural gas infrastructure, we have already seen limited availability during periods of extreme cold.

We want to protect the environment, while also finding solutions that make sense for you. The EMC will continue to explore all methods of generation, including renewables. We recently announced the addition of 10 MW of solar generation to come on line next year. We also joined other co-ops and utilities in working with solar vendors and legislators to provide a way for individuals to lease solar panels for homes and businesses.

**Commitment to Community**—The EMC supports area charities, education systems, economic development authorities, Chambers of Commerce and other entities. Our employees have also volunteered their time and money to support local charities. One way members can contribute is by participating in Operation Round Up. Many of you already do, and at an average of just \$6 per year, the program provided over \$260,000 for our Trust Board to distribute last year alone.

We want to hear from you! Please contact customer service by phone/email to share your thoughts and inquire about services. Coweta-Fayette EMC is a great cooperative because of loyal members like you, our dedicated employees and the committed Board of Directors looking out for your best interests! We want you to be informed. Continue to look for articles in our monthly newsletter, or provide us your email address and we will send it electronically.

Coweta-Fayette EMC is fortunate to have amazing members and employees, and we want to ensure you have the opportunity to connect with us, and vice versa.

To enhance engagement, we offer Facebook and Twitter pages for our consumers to share feedback, hear about community news, learn efficiency tips, prepare for storms and much more.

We are always listening and ready to help with fresh, valuable content. We want to talk to you! "Like" or "follow" us today to join the co-op conversation. And if you would like to receive your monthly newsletter, Powerlines, via email, we now offer a digital version—eLines—for those who prefer reading on the go. Call customer service today to sign up!

[www.facebook.com/CowetaFayetteEMC](http://www.facebook.com/CowetaFayetteEMC)

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“What’U Ya Have?”

## Member Appreciation Day and Annual Meeting

Coweta-Fayette EMC hosted approximately 3,000 consumers and family members for a foggy fall morning full of food (from the Varsity!), fun and prizes at the 68th Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation Day Oct. 10 at cooperative headquarters in Palmetto.

This tradition is important to our co-op, as it is to other EMCs. Cooperatives are open to anyone able to use their service, which means any person who moves onto Coweta-Fayette lines is allowed membership. Annual meetings serve as a way for members to get to know the people who run their co-op, and it’s where members are updated on business matters. Every fall, we convene because we believe in the cooperative principle of Voluntary and Open Membership.

We also adhere to the notion of Democratic Member Control, which means members vote for a director who represents them on a board that in turn governs the co-op. Annual meetings serve as the forum for these elections.

This year, the event’s carnival-like festivities featured midway games, “Little Lineman” photo opportunities, arts and crafts, Varsity concessions, EMC information stations, prize drawings, bingo, health screenings by Piedmont Newnan and Piedmont Fayette Hospitals, music from the Northgate High School Marching Band and a fire truck with Freddie the robot. For attending the event, members received a portable, 20-piece tool kit and measuring cups upon registration.

As for EMC subsidiaries, consumers of True Natural Gas were entered into the running for a gas grill, and Relyco Security held a drawing for a year’s free system monitoring. The grand EMC prize was a \$1,000 electric bill credit.

During the business meeting, W.L. Clements, Alice Mallory and Mildred Winkles were declared winners of the board election. The directors ran unopposed and will serve another three-year term.

After the election, business and service awards portion of the meeting, the prize drawings began. Congratulations to this year’s grand prize winners:

- \$1,000 electric bill credit from Coweta-Fayette EMC – Mary Hill
- Gas grill from True Natural Gas – Keith Collins
- Security system monitoring for one year from Relyco Security – Toney Rhodes
- Survey drawing, \$100 electric bill credit – Paul Benjaminson

Everyone at Coweta-Fayette EMC had so much fun honoring co-op members this year, and we can’t wait to make our 2016 meeting even better!





# Prepare Now for Winter Weather

Are you ready for winter's cold grasp? Being prepared can make a world of difference. Coweta-Fayette EMC recommends the following tips to help you prepare for wintry blasts:

- Remember to maintain and inspect heating equipment and chimneys every year to ensure they're working safely and properly.
- Caulk and weather strip doors and windows to make the most of your heating system.
- Add insulation to attic, crawl space and any other accessible exterior walls.
- Freezing temperatures often cause water pipes to burst. Remember to insulate pipes with insulation or newspapers and plastic. Allow faucets to drip during extreme cold to avoid frozen pipes.
- Consider installing storm windows for better insulation. You can also cover windows with plastic (from the inside) to keep the cold out.

Also remember, your bill can be higher than normal in winter months. The weather makes a big impact on electric cost, accounting for nearly half of your bill. Even those with the most efficient HVAC systems will see more use in extreme weather. When cold temperatures hit, our heaters work overtime. For example, even if you set your thermostat to our recommended 68 degrees in the winter, when it is 19 degrees outside, your system has to work hard to make up that 49-degree difference. Your heater works harder and cycles on and off more often, making your usage much higher.

Remember, there is value in comfort. So, before temperatures fall this winter and you hear your weatherman talking about bringing in pets and plants, take the steps above to help make your home more comfortable.



Chris Stephens, President and CEO  
C. Bradford Sears, Jr., Attorney  
Douglas B. Warner, Attorney

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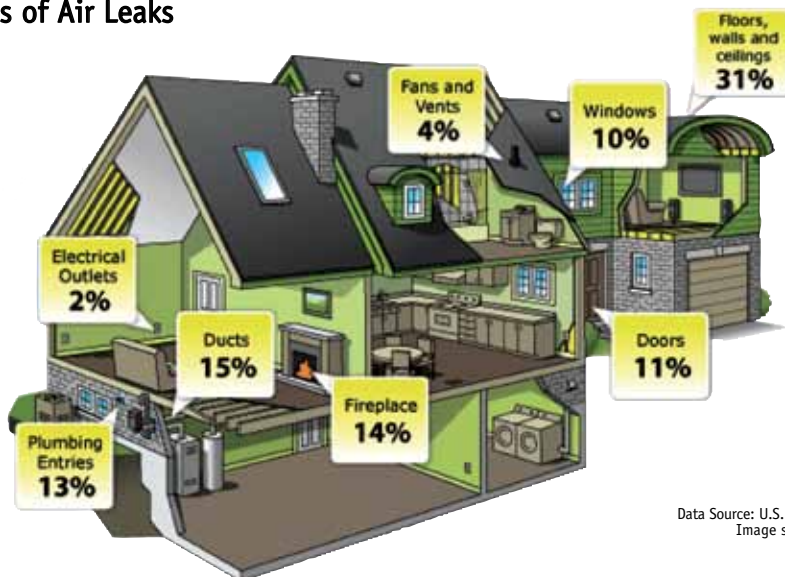


## Let Relyco Help Prepare Your Home for Winter

Freezing temperatures are right around the corner, along with higher energy bills and cold, drafty rooms.

A Home Energy Assessment by Relyco uses the latest technologies to inspect all areas of your home for energy loss, and includes diagnostic testing to measure air leakage.

### Major Sources of Air Leaks



Data Source: U.S. Department of Energy Savers  
Image source: InsulationSmart.com

Relyco's Home Energy Assessment will provide a detailed analysis of cost-effective home improvements to lower energy bills and increase comfort, and may qualify for utility company rebates.

For more information, contact Relyco at 770-253-4053.

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