



Coweta-Fayette



powerlines

PROTECTING FISH WITH BRIGHT IDEAS

What can a teacher accomplish with a pile of junk, a group of elementary school students and a Coweta-Fayette EMC Bright Ideas grant? The answer is better fish habitats.

While relaxing in his boat, Dr. Tim Manley from Eastside Elementary School in Senoia got the idea for his students to build fish attractors.

A fish attractor is "kind of like a fish crib," said Manley. The attractors use buckets, pipes and other discarded items to create a place for small fish to feed and hide.

Algae grows on the attractors. "The more surface area on the structure, the more algae growth there is," said Manley. From there, aquatic insects, snails, small fish and other creatures feed on the algae. The more nutrients those animals consume, the better food they in turn become for larger fish, frogs and turtles.

Manley described many of the local man-made lakes as "aquatic deserts." The lack of underground structures means vulnerable fish. Each fish attractor contributes to a more sustainable environment.

"If we can provide these structures, we can enhance the survivability of a population," he said.

Not only are these structures good for fish, but they're also good for anglers. The attractors foster healthier and more abundant fish populations.

Manley assembled a group of dedicated learners to form a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) club. He calls the students "STEMbers." STEMbers woke up early and came to school before other students to learn and build their attractors.

"The children had a blast," said Manley. Even though most of them "had probably never cast a rod or reel," he said, they became experts in fish biology and the food web.

With guidance from biologist with the



(TOP) Eastside Elementary "STEMbers" work together to construct fish attractors using buckets and pipes. (RIGHT) The Eastside Elementary STEM club show off their fish attractors, which will turn nearby "aquatic deserts" into abundant fish habitats.



Department of Natural Resources, Manley composed a 55-page curriculum that meets Georgia science standards. Teachers can adapt the curriculum for 2nd to 12th grade students. Manley adapted the curriculum for his 5th grade STEMbers.

Manley knew he needed funding to get this project off the ground. He applied and received a CFEMC's Bright Ideas grant in 2017.

"[The Bright Ideas grant] showed our project's legitimacy," said Manley.

Manley used the funds to pay for supplies and a field trip to the Go Fish Education Center in Perry, Georgia.

"This program blossomed so quickly," said Manley. Even the City of Griffin and Lake Meriwether Park took notice; they wanted the STEM club to build and deploy the fish attractors, said Manley. "We need to employ more of these types of programs. I'd like to see it go state wide."

If you are a teacher with an innovative idea in Coweta-Fayette EMC's service area, consider applying to the 2018 Bright Ideas grant cycle. Each grant awards up to \$1,500. The deadline to apply is August 14, 2018. For more information visit utility.org.

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UPCOMING BOARD ELECTIONS ANNOUNCED

From the Bylaws of Coweta-Fayette Electric Membership Corporation

Article III Directors

3.05 Nominations by Nominating Committee.

It shall be the duty of the Board to appoint, not less than forty-five (45) days before the date of the meeting of the members at which board members are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of not less than five (5) nor more than eleven (11) members who shall be selected so as to give equitable representation to the geographical areas served by the Cooperative. No member of the Board may serve on such committee. Written notice of the names of the members of the committee and meeting date for the committee shall be provided to the members prior to such meeting. It shall be the duty of the nominating committee to meet not less than forty-five (45) days prior to such meeting and to nominate one or more candidates for each seat on the Board of Directors that is to be filled at such meeting.

3.06 Nominations by Petition.

Other nominations for such elections may be made by written petition signed by not less than fifteen (15) members, which shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Cooperative or his/her designee not less than forty-five (45) days prior to such meeting.

3.07 Notice of Nominees.

The Secretary shall be responsible for posting at headquarters of the Cooperative the nominees for each seat made by the nominating committee and by petition and shall provide written notice thereof to the members by separate written notice according to the rules and procedures promulgated by the Board of Directors.

The following Nominating Committee was appointed by the Board of Directors at their regular meeting held June 26, 2018. This committee will meet August 8 and prepare a list of nominations that will be posted at the EMC office at least 45 days before the annual meeting on October 13, 2018.

2018 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Mr. Dorris E. Adams
Newnan, GA

Mr. T. R. Croft
Fayetteville, GA

Mr. Jerome Kirkland
Newnan, GA

Ms. Bonnie T. Bolin
Fayetteville, GA

Mr. C. Leslie Dooley
Fayetteville, GA

Mr. Norman Perry
Newnan, GA

Ms. Frances Coggin
Newnan, GA

Mr. Darrell K. Fowler
Newnan, GA

Mr. R. Todd Rainwater
Sharpsburg, GA

The three directors whose terms expire this year are:

Mildred Winkles
Seat 3
Coweta County

Donald Harris
Seat 4
Coweta County

Alice Mallory
Seat 4
Fayette County





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The President's Message

Chris Stephens
CEO

Time certainly doesn't stand still.

As I watched my son graduate from high school, it felt like only yesterday my wife was giving birth to him. It made me think how quickly time seems to pass. I reflected on the fact I have been employed with Coweta-Fayette EMC for what seems to have been a short 20 years.

During that period, I've had the opportunity to work with some of the most incredible people. They taught me so much. The lessons I learned from the many experiences, both good and bad, that I endured alongside them are invaluable.

Many of these employees have gone on to retirement and many are still working as tirelessly today as they always have to provide you, our members, with the service you expect. I salute all those who have reached their retirement and thank them for the many contributions they made to this cooperative.

As each employee moves on to their next phase of life, we lose an incredible amount of institutional knowledge that seems difficult to replace. However, I am always amazed at the great talent we recruit. As I walk around and speak with employees, it is apparent that we are in a great place. This doesn't happen by mistake. We have a great staff who recruits the best and provides the training necessary for these employees to advance within their positions, ultimately benefiting you. But it is more than knowledge, the soft skills are important too. Providing you with reliable service is important, but doing it with a smile makes it even better.

I know many other organizations who would agree our future is dependent upon the next generation's workforce. That is one of the many reasons we give back to our youth. Recently, we sponsored two of our community's top youth to participate in the NRECA's Washington Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. These rising seniors had the opportunity to learn how our nation's government works and gain valuable leadership skills.

We also provide scholarships to graduating seniors and students participating in technical colleges through Operation Round Up. We recently awarded 14 Melissa Segars scholarships and 13 technical scholarships to individuals living within our service territory to help them shape their future. If you feel like I do about our future, and you are not a participant in Operation Round Up, I encourage you to sign up. Please visit our website or contact a customer service representative for more information.

Like my son preparing for the next phase of his life, Coweta-Fayette EMC will continue to prepare for our future by continuing to recruit the best employees and provide them the tools and training necessary to provide you with reliable and affordable electric service.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

James. W. Fulton, III, Chairman • Therol Brown, Vice Chairman • J. Neal Shepard Jr., Secretary-Treasurer
Donald Harris • Ross Henry • Daniel C. Langford, Jr. • Alice J. Mallory • Elwood Thompson
Mildred A. Winkles