



(Cut Here)

Hot Vidalia Onion Dip

Ingredients:

- 2 cups Vidalia onion chopped into nickel-sized pieces
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- ½ cup sour cream
- 4 oz. cream cheese
- 1 cup Parmesan cheese
- ½ cup shredded Mozzarella cheese
- ½ cup shredded White Cheddar cheese
- ¾ tsp. salt
- Fresh cracked black pepper to taste
- 4 dashes hot sauce
- 2 dashes Worcestershire sauce

Recipe of the Month was submitted by **Denise Parker** of Bryceville, Fla. She has been given a **\$25 credit** on her account.

Set the oven to 375° F. Peel and slice the onion into nickel-sized pieces. Put the onion in a bowl with the rest of the ingredients and mix well until everything is thoroughly combined. Taste and adjust the seasonings to your liking. Spoon the mixture into an ovenproof casserole dish and bake for 25 minutes until browned and bubbly. While dip is baking, slice a baguette loaf and place the slices on a sheet pan to toast them on both sides. Serve with the hot dip. You can also use crackers.

Nothing says summer like the sweet taste of berries! Send us your favorite recipes! Email to Jen Shuman at recipes@oremc.com. If yours is selected as the featured recipe for our May/June issue, you'll receive a \$25.00 account credit.



Song of Solomon 2:11, 12 King James Version

¹For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; ²The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land;



Church of the Month New Hope Church

Sunday School	9:45 A.M.
Morning Worship	11:00 A.M.
Evangelistic Service	6:00 P.M.
Wednesday Evening Service	6:00 P.M.

Pastor: Rev. J.C. Laramore
5846 Lauramore Rd.
Macclenny, FL 32063
904-259-5191

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

Nominations for OREMC Board Director

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 2 - Nassau County, Florida
- District 6 - Northwest Camden County, Georgia (All of Camden County except that portion lying both south of the Satilla River and east of I-95)
- District 8 - Glynn County, Georgia.

Okefenokee REMC's Board of Directors, in accordance with Bylaw Article IV, Section 4.05, has appointed the following members to the 2019 Nominating Committee:

Bobby Griffin 5612 Lauramore Rd. Macclenny, FL 32063-4151	David Moody 1601 Saddle Club Rd. Hoboken, GA 31542-2547	Donald R. Morrison 130 Morrison Ln Folkston, GA 31537-7644
Dorothy Ruis 4967 Bailey Haddock Ln Hilliard, FL 32046-6317	Gaines Lee 2140 Mars Hill Rd. Hoboken, GA 31542-3656	Randy J. Lamb 131 Don El Street Brunswick, GA 31523-9616
Robert Edward Lee, Jr. 127 Bluffs Landing Waverly, GA 31565-2979	Timothy V. Cheek 211 Hickory Bluff Rd. Waverly, GA 31565-2606	Jacob R. Paulk 133 Paulk Place Woodbine, GA 31569-4101

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 director nominations are made by petition, petitions must be received in the Law Office of Earl Daniel Smith, Jr., P.C. at 13680 Cleveland Street East, Nahunta, GA 31553, no later than Friday, May 17, 2019, 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 Dan Smith at 1-912-462-5157.)

Results of the Nominating Committee meeting and, if applicable, a listing of nominations made by petition, will be reported in OREMC's July/August 2019 member newsletter.

A tentative date of Tuesday, April 16, 2019, 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.



Clearing the Way for Safe, Reliable Power

You have probably noticed bucket trucks, oversized mechanical tree trimmers and chippers clearing trees and brush along power lines. Maintaining our power line rights of way (ROW) is important to Okefenokee REMC's power reliability and restoration efforts.

A right of way is the 30-foot wide corridor or pathway OREMC's overhead power lines follow (15 feet on both sides of the lines) along a road, in town, through the woods, across a swamp, etc. They may cross public or private land and provide an operational zone in which our crews can safely access electric lines and poles to build, improve, maintain, repair or replace our power distribution system.

Maintaining our rights of way to keep them free and clear of trees, brush overgrowth and ground level vegetation that can make it difficult for our bucket trucks to access is critical to ensuring reliable power delivery. Doing so also minimizes the threat of storm damage. The goal of ROW maintenance is to reduce the number and duration of outages.

The ROW maintenance program is on a four-year cycle, meaning every four years specific areas of our system are trimmed. OREMC uses tree contractors to both mechanically and manually cut along our 3,500+ miles of distribution lines. Brush chippers and mowers are used to help clean up and manage ground level vegetation. A year after a section of ROW is mechanically cut, it is evaluated for selective herbicide application. This is done to control the amount of brush that sprouts, as 15 new stems can sprout from a single cut stem.



*‘Tis like the birthday of the world,
When earth was born in bloom;
The light is made of many dyes,
The air is all perfume:
There's crimson buds, and white and blue,
The very rainbow showers
Have turned to blossoms where they fell,
And sown the earth with flowers.*

—Thomas Hood

Statement of Nondiscrimination

Okefenokee Rural Electric Membership Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U. S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S. W., Washington, D. C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

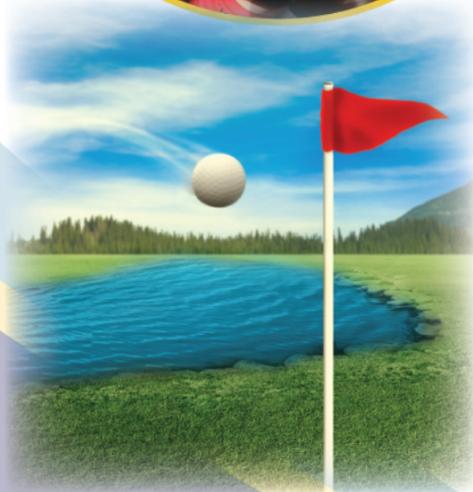
Safety Demonstration

Members of our Hilliard crew – Staking Technicians R.A. Sikes and Adam Dyal and Linemen Cole Carter and Tim Beard—recently spoke to area kindergarteners about tools of the trade and power line safety. The students got to try on rubber sleeves and gloves, check out the tools, ask questions and watch the bucket “fly.”



Golfers Wanted: Okefenokee REMC Golf Tournament June 1

Mark your calendars to tee up in support of the Southeast Cancer Unit, Inc.! The Okefenokee REMC Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, June 1 on The Lakes Course at Laura S. Walker State Park in Waycross. For sponsorship opportunities and registration information visit oremc.com/our-community.



OREMC Lineworker Earns Journeyman Lineman Certification

Brian Drury of Folkston joined Okefenokee REMC as an apprentice II lineworker in March of 2015 and works out of the co-op's Hilliard office. After hours of bookwork, nearly four years of on-the-job training and laboratory testing, Drury is celebrating his completion of the Northwest Lineman College's Lineworker Certification Program and designation as a journeyman lineman.

Presenting Drury his certificate 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 applauded Drury's commitment and dedication to the program and for setting a positive example for OREMC's other apprentices working toward their certifications.



A Familiar Face Bids Adieu

Un poco de todo. It means “a bit of everything” and best describes Brenda Rowell's work history that spans five decades, including 13+ years here at Okefenokee REMC. A St. Marys, Georgia, native, Brenda, senior customer service representative in OREMC's Kingsland office, is a familiar face around Camden County with her easy smile and cheery “hello.” But at age 69, she decided it was time to retire so she can do other things.



Brenda came to work at Okefenokee REMC on December 27, 2005. She says, “Liz Foskey, who I hired while working at Coastal Vision Center, hired me as a customer service representative (CSR) in the Kingsland Office. Okefenokee Rural Electric immediately felt like home. I started as a CSR and then became an engineering clerk. Royce Proctor was my boss. I had so much fun working with Royce and taking trips out in the field to learn how what I did in the office related to the operations side of the business.”

Brenda says it is those experiences that made her a better senior CSR. She states, “Here we do it all. There are two of us to answer phones, handle the drive-up, greet members in the lobby, and I also retained my duties as an engineering clerk. That means assisting General Foreman Mike Boatright managing, tracking and closing out service orders, getting locates from other utilities relative to construction jobs and posting construction charges.”

Thinking about what she will miss most about OREMC Brenda doesn't hesitate in saying, “The people. I have always worked with people and here at Okefenokee everyone is friendly, helpful and would do anything for me. We are like one big family and I wish I had worked my entire work life here. I have enjoyed being part of such a great company.” She gives a special nod to her fellow Kingsland CSR LaNancy Moody and how well they have worked together. “We are a good team and have each other's back,” says LaNancy in agreement. “She has been a great partner.”

In retirement Brenda plans to continue doing a bit of everything: be available to take care of her parents, spend time with her children and grandchildren and travel with her husband of 51 years. “I would like to go to Alaska again, visit Yellowstone and go to Maine . . . I've never been to Maine and I have family that lives there.” Additionally, her good friend Annette of 50 years has plans for the two of them to shop, dine and play at the beach.

Read Brenda's full story at oremc.com/news.

GIVING BACK

OREMC was built on seven cooperative principles that serve as the foundation of our operations. Among them are concern for the community and its needs, promoting sustainable development and supporting education and training, particularly for young people. To support and promote those principles, OREMC annually makes donations to qualifying organizations using funds from unclaimed capital credits.



Students enrolled in Coastal Pines Technical College's Electrical Lineworker program stand on and beside the bucket truck donated to the program by Okefenokee REMC. OREMC also provided a \$2,500 donation to support students' training needs.



OREMC Board of Directors present Okefenokee Area FCA with a \$1,500 donation. Accepting the donation was Toby Crews, area director, Okefenokee FCA, along with Tavis Page, OREMC operations manager and FCA board member.



Baker County School District Superintendent Sherrie Raulerson (center) and Executive Director of the Baker County Education Foundation Robin Mobley (right) accept a \$2,000 donation from OREMC presented by Wayne Combs, president, OREMC Board of Directors.



Wayne Combs, president, OREMC Board of Directors, presents Camp Director Mike Williams with a \$2,000 donation for the Georgia Lions Camp for the Blind.

KEFENOKE REMC Coloring Contest

OREMC is celebrating 80 years of service to residents of southeast Georgia and northeast Florida, and want our youngest members to join in the fun with a coloring contest. Prizes will be awarded in three age categories—5 and under, 6 to 9 and 10 to 12—with the winning art featured in our July/August newsletter, on Facebook and at our annual meeting in September. An announcement about the winners will also be sent to the media.



Visit oremc.com/news to download the drawing or stop in our offices in Nahunta, Kingsland or Hilliard to ask for one. Submitted entries must be completely filled out and received by Friday, May 10. They can be dropped off at one of offices or mailed to Attn: Michele Hutchins, OREMC, PO Box 602, Nahunta, Ga. 31553