

## All in The Family

Like many others who started at OREMC about the same time, Dewayne Boatright, line crew foreman, got his start on the right of way crew working a bush hook during the summers between his 10th and 12th grade years at school.

In September 1989 Operations Manager David Page took him along as part of the crew that went to help with restoration efforts in South Carolina following Hurricane Hugo's historic landfall at Sullivan's Island. A 20-foot storm surge and hurricane force winds felt as far as 200 miles inland left massive tree damage and downed power lines. When they came back to OREMC, Dewayne learned he had a full-time job.

"Back then you hired on as part of right of way before moving to line crew and working toward your lineman certification," says Dewayne. "Clipper Smith was my boss on the construction crew and then I moved on to become part of the hot line crew, where I learned to wear and work with rubber gloves. It is also when you really learned all the safety processes and procedures."



Line work was something Dewayne says he always wanted to do. His father, Frankie Boatright, was a general foreman and Dewayne grew up knowing all the "older fellas." He took over as line crew foreman after Clipper retired, one of the many change of faces Dewayne has seen in his 30 years at OREMC.

While people do change over time, OREMC's number one priority has not—get and keep the lights on. "To see members' faces, their smiles, when the lights come back on, that's what make the job," Dewayne explains.

Better equipment, more of it and enhanced safety measures have also reshaped the job over the last 30 years Dewayne notes. He emphasizes the improvements don't necessarily make the job easier, but rather more efficient.

When Dewayne isn't on the clock, he enjoys hunting, fishing and spending time with his five grandkids: four boys and one girl ranging in age from three months to six years old.