



Right-of-way management critical to quality service

Spring is almost here, trees are leafing out and people are beginning to think about getting out in their yards and planting trees and shrubs.

We at Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative want to remind homeowners and gardeners to remember basic electric safety when planning the landscaping around their homes.

Vegetation management along electric lines is critical for safety and reliability reasons, but it also factors in to keeping electric rates affordable.

The safety of our members and line crews is our No. 1 focus. A tree or limb that is touching or could fall onto an electric line creates a serious safety hazard as can digging into buried lines in areas with underground service.

For these reasons, we ask our customers who will be digging for any reason to call 811 — Tennessee One-Call — before they dig. This service will help you locate any underground utilities, not just electric lines. This advance planning helps protect you and the underground lines and prevents serious injuries and unplanned service disruptions.

We also ask that if you are planting trees, look up first to make sure that your new tree is not in the vicinity of power lines. The tree may be small now, but it will grow and in a few years may have to be severely trimmed or even cut down to keep it from interfering with electric service. Planting the right tree in the right place can help avoid that problem.

If trees near power lines are not properly trimmed, limbs can touch the line, causing blinks, outages and other power quality issues that, while perhaps not dangerous, are annoying and have the potential to damage sensitive electronic equipment.

Keeping the power line right of way trimmed back along the more than 2,900 miles of line in the SVEC sys-

tem is a daunting job and the cooperative's second largest expense, behind only the cost of power; however, the return on the investment is significant. A properly maintained right of way

significantly reduces our line loss and outage-related expense, which means that we are able to keep rates lower for our member-owners.

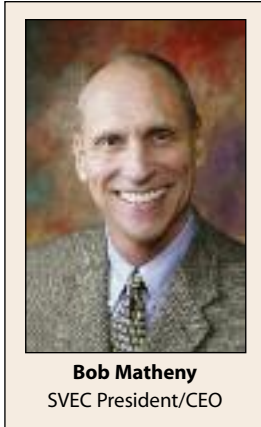
No one wants to see a beautiful tree trimmed back to an unnatural shape, but it is often necessary in order for the cooperative to be able to deliver safe, reliable electricity at an affordable price.

When our members keep the right of way in mind when planting trees and when they work with our right-of-way crews when existing trees need to be trimmed or cut, they become a part of the solution to the ongoing battle to keep the right of way clear, service reliability high and electric rates low.

The chart on the next page illustrates the proper distance that tall and medium-height trees should be planted from the power lines. Only trees with a mature height less than 25 feet should be planted within 20 feet of the lines.

A good source of information on selecting the right tree for the right spot is www.treesaregood.org.

Please remember: No one likes to see trees cut, but no one likes to experience a power outage, either. In order to keep bringing you the quality, reliable electric service that you expect and deserve, we must keep our right of way clear. Working together, we can accomplish our goals.



Bob Matheny
SVEC President/CEO



Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative

Serving all or portions of Bledsoe, Grundy, Marion, Sequatchie, Coffee, Hamilton, Rhea and Van Buren counties.

Service Centers:

512 S. Cedar Ave.; P.O. Box 31,
South Pittsburg, TN 37380
Telephone — 423-837-8605
Toll-free — 800-923-2203

97 Resource Road; P.O. Box 518,
Dunlap, TN 37327
Telephone — 423-949-2198

3396 Main St.; P.O. Box 441,
Pikeville, TN 37367
Telephone — 423-447-2131

14002 Highway 41; P.O. Box 100,
Tracy City, TN 37387
Telephone — 931-592-2511

14087 Highway 28,
Whitwell, TN 37397
Telephone — 423-658-7832

After hours: 888-421-7832

SV Propane
877-521-3055 (toll free)
931-592-5126

www.svalleyec.com



\$50

Visit

SVEC's Energy Calculators
at www.svalleyec.com through
March 31 and enter your name in a
drawing for a \$50 credit on your
SVEC electric bill.

January winner:
Curtis Dye of Jasper



Just the facts – SVEC’s right-of-way program

Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative’s vegetation management or right-of-way program is possibly the co-op’s most important initiatives in terms of “keeping the lights on.”

It is also possibly one of the most misunderstood.

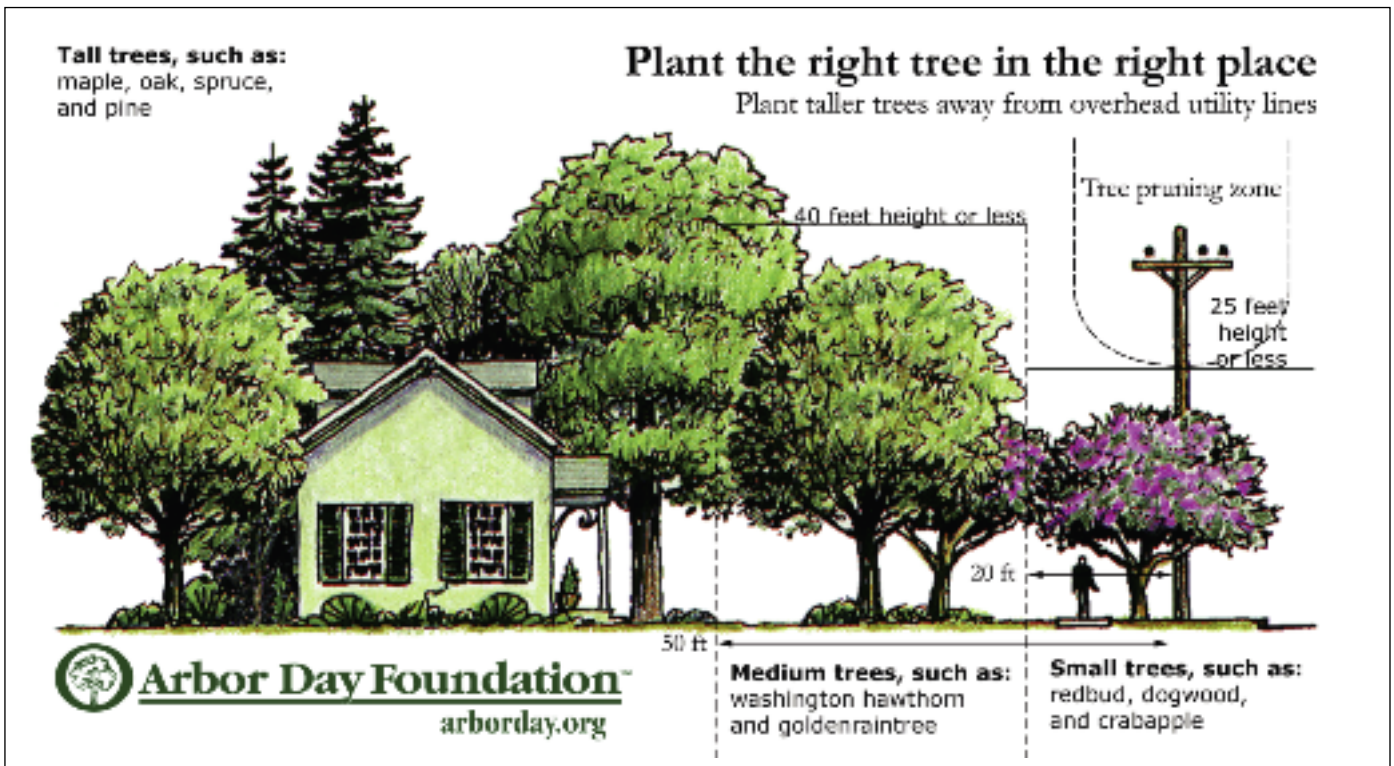
There is often a lot of controversy about which trees are to be pruned or cut and how much or in what way they are trimmed. We hope to clear up some of those misconceptions with the information below. If you have further questions, call the vegetation department at 423-658-9842.

Co-op responsibility

- The co-op requires a 20-foot clearance on either side of the **primary power line**.
- The co-op will remove all brush and remove or trim all trees within that 40-foot area. There is no charge to the landowner for this clearance.
- If there is a tree outside that 20-foot clearance that the homeowner believes may become a threat to the power line, SVEC will evaluate it and, if warranted, remove it at no charge to the member.

Customer responsibility

- The customer is responsible for keeping the area **from the pole to the home’s service entrance clear**.
- If the homeowner wishes to remove a tree within that service drop area and believes that the line into the home may be damaged during the tree removal, he/she should call the co-op at least three days before the scheduled removal and request that the service line be disconnected to avoid damage. This disconnection and the subsequent reconnection will be done at no cost to the customer.





SVEC employees recognized for safety

Safe working conditions and the safety of our employees and members are Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative's primary goals. To support these goals, regular training meetings are held and outstanding safety records are recognized.

Below are representatives receiving awards for the departments that have successfully completed milestones in

SVEC's Annual Safe Driving and Safety Incentive programs for calendar year 2009. These awards were established by the SVEC Co-Worker Safety Committee to encourage and reward a safe working environment.

Plaques and certificates were presented at the January Job Training and Safety (JT&S) meetings at each office.



SOUTH PITTSBURG DISTRICT — District Operations Supervisor Jarvis Wooten, left, accepts awards from Billy Berryhill, JT&S Committee member, for a full year with no lost time and the district's second six-month period with no vehicle accidents.



TRACY CITY DISTRICT — District Operations Supervisor Larry Myers, left, accepts awards from JT&S committee member Tim Haynes for the district's full year with no lost time and full year with no vehicular accidents.



PIKEVILLE DISTRICT — Mike Deakins, district operations supervisor, left, receives awards from Michael Campbell, JT&S Committee member, for a full year with no lost time and no vehicular accidents.



DUNLAP DISTRICT — JT&S Committee member Wayne Reece, right, presents the safe driving certificate to District Operations Manager Fred Eberhart. The district also achieved its first six months with no lost time.



GENERAL OFFICE (includes all other employees/departments) — SVEC President/CEO Bob Matheny accepts awards for a full year with no lost time and no vehicular accidents from JT&S Committee member Beth Allen.



SVEC hosts Marion County Homebuilders Association

Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative hosted the January meeting of the Marion County Homebuilders Association featuring guest speaker Steve Johnson of Lightwave Solar Electric.

Johnson described the process and benefits of installing solar panels on new construction and retrofitting existing homes and businesses with them.

Johnson also discussed the installation that his company did at LifeLine Foods in Pikeville last year. With the help of state and federal grants, LifeLine Foods became the site of one of the largest solar installations in Tennessee.

LightWave has also installed panels on private residences in the SVEC area as a part of SVEC and the Tennessee Valley Authority's Generation Partners program.



Steve Johnson, president of LightWave Solar Electric, discusses the installation of solar panels during the January 2010 Marion County Homebuilders Association meeting at SVEC's South Pittsburg office.

Attention, teachers! SVEC can come to your class

If your class is studying basic electricity, energy conservation, careers, the cooperative type of business or electric safety, Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative is the community resource to call upon. Topics include:

- **Basic Electricity**
- **Electric Safety**
- **Energy Conservation**
- **Louie the Lightning Bug**
- **In Concert With the Environment**
- **Career Programs**

To schedule one of these programs, call Cathy Black at 423-837-5044 or 1-800-923-2203, ext. 5044.



Students learn about electric circuits through "hands-on" experiments.

Level out your high seasonal electric bills

This year's high energy costs and extended periods of cold weather have thrown many budgets for a loop. Let Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative help you get your finances back on track with these two free services:

Our easy **Budget Billing Plan** allows you to pay the same amount each month (an average of your previous year's use with a "catch-up" month once a year).

To find out how to save money by using less energy, ask to have our **free energy right® Home e-Valuation survey** mailed to you, or visit our Web site at www.svalleyec.com and complete the survey online.

To help you start saving energy, SVEC and the Tennessee Valley Authority will mail you a **FREE** energy conservation kit for completing and returning the survey.





Sixth- and seventh-graders: 4-H Electric Camp is hands-on fun



Participants of 4-H Electric Camp learn the basics of electricity, new technology, energy conservation and electric safety through "hands-on" activities such as generating electricity with "kid power" and driving an electric vehicle.

The 19th annual 4-H Electric Camp will be held June 29-July 2. Sponsored by the University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service and electric cooperatives and municipal electric utilities across the state, the camp will return this summer to the University of Tennessee campus in Knoxville.

Following the 4-H principle of "learning by doing," participants will study basics of electricity and electric safety, explore new technology and learn valuable electric safety and energy conservation information. It's all taught through interesting, interactive, "hands-on" learning centers to make everything fun.

Attendees will also have time to go swimming, be treated to an afternoon at Dollywood and enjoy a number of exciting programs related to electricity.

4-H members in the sixth and seventh grades who are interested in participating in Electric Camp and have not attended the camp in the past should contact their local Extension Offices in early April to register. SVEC offers one scholarship per county.

Local UT Extension offices:

Bledsoe County- 447-2451
 Grundy County - 592-3971
 Marion County - 942-2656
 Sequatchie County- 949-2611



Do we owe you money?

Following is a list of inactive accounts for Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative member-owners who are entitled to have their initial deposits returned to them.

All deposits not returned must, by law, be turned over to the state of Tennessee under the Unclaimed Property Act. The deposits of deceased members belong to their rightful heirs.

Carver, Joseph Wayne
 Case, Aaron D.
 Case, Sharon
 Elmore, Timothy Scott
 Farley, Marty
 Forbes, Stacy A.
 Garcia, Lazaro
 Gonzalez, Norberto
 Grady, Michael

Greystone
 Harmon, Rose Bryanne
 Hickman, Wesley Ray
 Hobbs, Willie Joe/Amazing Grace
 Church
 Jackson, Linda Fay
 Jordan, Robert
 Kouns, Gary Shawn
 Layne, Shelby

McBryar Construction Co. LLC
 McCarver, Randall Andrew
 Moore, Candace M
 Morgan, Steve A.
 Pickett, Bailey
 Richardson, Michael N.
 Terry, Mrs. Louise
 Tittle, Marcia Izella