

Quite a Partnership!

It is no secret that citrus trees and freezing temperatures are a disastrous mix. Florida's history is riddled with stories of ruined fortunes as the result of cold weather. Growers fight back with everything they can to protect their crop, often resorting to encasing the trees in a protective coating of ice to insulate against subfreezing temperatures. This requires the work of pumps which, if electric, must have a reliable source of power. Unfortunately, in years not so long gone, freezing weather led to broken power lines as the copper expanded and contracted. No power, no pumps...no crop. Such was the story of Jim and Carol Weihe (pronounced "Y-Hē") in Lorida.

"We are quite a partnership!" said Jim and Carol, who met while teaching in Ft. Lauderdale. "We began this grove with nothing, and built it working side-by-side." Now married over 44 years, their eyes shine brightly as they recall their early years coming to Lorida on the weekends and starting the grove as a way to be outdoors and work with their hands.

Jim and Carol knew they wanted a grove but had virtually no equipment. "We would come up on weekends and I would use a push mower to cut down all the weeds and, after planting, mow between the rows" said Mr. Weihe. They also put in three shallow wells with electric pumps. The Weihe's worked together mowing and pruning by hand for a couple of years before buying their first grove equipment; a 1954 Farmall Cub with a belly-mower. "Even with the tractor, the work was extremely hard. But we loved it!" said Jim.

What they did not love was the unreliable electric service that caused them to lose a large number of trees in the freezes of the late '70's and '80's. "We'd lose power, and the water lines would freeze. By the time we could flush out the lines, the damage was done." Still, the Weihe's pressed on and, in 1987, purchased additional acreage and planted more trees. They also added 6 more wells. "We couldn't afford the expense of diesel pumps, so we had to go with electric. The service was

Jim and Carol Weihe, with a painting of their Lorida home in the background





Jim proudly aboard his 1954 Farmall Cub



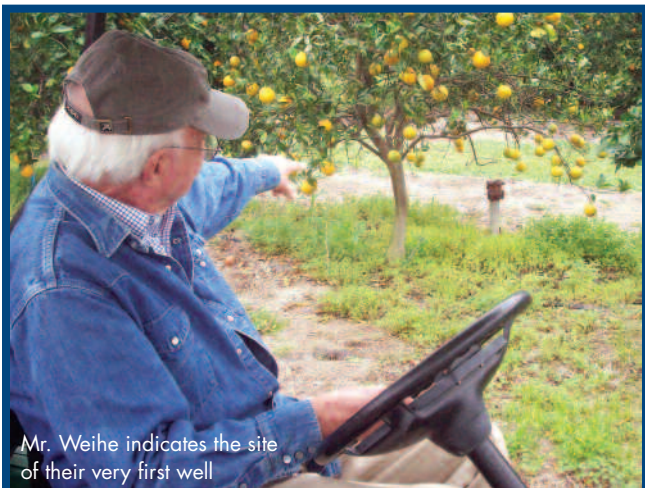
Jim shows the panel that controls their pumps

somewhat better, but we still kept our fingers crossed when the temperature dropped! There was one good thing about being on Glades Electric lines in those days, the co-op was very responsive and restored our power fairly quick. Our daughter has asthma and they'd send someone out right away to get her breathing machine going again." Tommy Todd, General Manager and CEO of Glades Electric wryly said, "Although it's good to get the lights back on quickly, it's usually a sign you're getting too much practice at it. The real goal is to KEEP them on in the first place! We knew we had to be better, so in 1996 GEC embarked on an aggressive System Restoration plan".

For the past fourteen years, Glades Electric has dedicated money and manpower to virtually rebuild their entire distribution system. GEC has invested in upgraded substation equipment, relocated back lot lines to the road sides, upgraded from copper to aluminum on many of the lines, and much more. In the past few years alone, there have been several projects already providing benefits to the members. Past articles have highlighted the construction of a double-circuit in Okeechobee designed to utilize GEC's new Taylor Creek Substation, built to provide a much more reliable source for members in the Okeechobee area, and take some of the burden off of the Basinger Substation. And how have the



Mr. Weihe checks on one of his pumps



Mr. Weihe indicates the site of their very first well

members benefited? GEC members reported virtually no power outages as the result of the latest freezes!

"The lights never even flickered!" exclaimed Mr. Weihe. "In years past, we would have been assured of losing some of our trees, but I am delighted to report that our pumps did the job because of what Glades Electric has been able to do in the last several years." When asked how much of a difference having reliable electric service will mean to their enterprise, Jim and Carol smile and say, "Why don't you ask our kids? We've given them 10 acres next to our grove and they're now in the citrus business!"

Of course, as with any upgrades, there are costs and GEC had to increase the base rate for pump accounts. However, during the multiple freezing spells of December and January, as mentioned above, not a single irrigation pump lost service on GEC's entire system. Such increased reliability costs a lot of money. We sincerely hope our members who depend on irrigation to run their businesses, or feed their families, recognize the benefit of efforts of all the employees, and the Board of Trustees, of Glades Electric.

It's good to know that citrus will continue to be a big part of the Weihe family for another generation. It is also GREAT to know that Glades Electric's commitment to System Restoration is helping keep the promise of providing our members the highest quality electric service possible.

You are correct, Mr. Weihe, this is "quite a partnership!" Thank you for sharing your story with us and being a great example of "Neighbors Working for Neighbors."



This service is for the next generation; Jim and Carol's kids!



Jim and Carol's pump doing what is should!

Are You Eligible for a Refund?

Some members or former members of Glades Electric Cooperative still have unclaimed capital credits to be refunded for the year 2006. In accordance with the By-Laws, we are publishing the names of these members on GEC's website, www.gladesec.com. Once on the website, you will find a link to "Member Services" at the top of the

homepage. Click the link and you will find a second link to "Unclaimed Capital Credits." This will provide the list of people who are eligible for a refund. If you find your name, please follow the instructions to claim your money. You can also call us at **1-800-226-4024** if you have any further questions about unclaimed capital credits.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

of the Glades Electric Cooperative, Inc.

ANNUAL MEETING

March 26, 2011

Glades Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s 2011 Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 26, 2011 at the Clewiston Middle School in Clewiston, Florida. The purpose of the Annual Meeting is to elect trustees and hear annual officers' reports.



Registration, Entertainment and Voting will begin at 8:00 a.m.

The Business Meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m.

Join us for great entertainment, fun, and prizes including a **2000 Chevrolet K1500 Extended Cab 4 x 4** for one lucky member!

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND!

APPLY TODAY!

2011 RURAL ELECTRIC YOUTH TOUR *IN WASHINGTON D.C.*

High school juniors can apply to win a week-long trip to Washington D.C. You will visit historic monuments and museums, meet U.S. Representatives and Senators, and socialize with hundreds of youth from across the country. You will also learn about electric cooperatives and the opportunities they have brought to rural America. If you are a junior in high school and are served by Glades Electric Cooperative, do not miss the opportunity of a lifetime. Pick up an application from your local GEC office or school guidance office, and apply today for the 2011 Rural Electric Youth Tour. Two students will be selected for an all expense paid trip to our Nation's Capital, **and it could be you!**



→ THE DEADLINE TO APPLY IS MARCH 15, 2011 ←

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Are you preparing for college? Visit your guidance office or local GEC office to learn about scholarship opportunities through the Glades Electric Educational Foundation.

PICK UP AN APPLICATION TODAY! THE DEADLINE TO APPLY IS MARCH 15, 2011



Over 71% of our Members continue to participate in this very worthwhile program. Operation Round Up® assists people in our service area who have exhausted the normal avenues of financial assistance. Sign up today! And your electric bill will be rounded to the nearest dollar and placed into the Roundup fund for deserving individuals and organizations.

As of January 31st, 2011 your Charitable Trust Board of Directors has approved **\$642,053.36 in disbursements**. These funds have provided assistance with food, emergency lodging, disaster relief, and specific emergency needs for **429 individuals** and or families and **90 community organizations**. The Trust **does not** fund utility bills (electric, phone, water and gas) or budgets of organizations. Organizations who are involved in our service counties may apply for funding for a specific need or project. The Board of Directors meets monthly to review applications for funding. If you know of a needy individual who deserves some assistance and lives within our service area, please help them complete an application or encourage them to fill one out themselves. Applications can be picked up at each of our three offices: Moore Haven, Lake Placid and Okeechobee.

MARCH REGULAR MEETING: MARCH 23, 2011

The Charitable Trust Board of Directors:

Barbara Hughes.....District 1Moore Haven
 Beverly EavesDistrict 2Hendry County
 Kelly Brantley.....District 3Ortona & Palmdale
 Doris EvansDistrict 4Lakeport
 Lewis Dixson.....District 5Venus & Hicoria

Lee AndrusDistrict 6Highlands Park
 Audrey Vickers.....District 7Lorida
 David Mc Cadam...District 8Lake Josephine
 Josephine Glenn.....District 9Okeechobee



CHURCH OF THE MONTH

Palmdale Baptist Church

8010 Seminole Ave NW
 Palmdale, FL 33944

THIS MONTH'S WINNERS OF THE \$25.00 CREDIT ARE...

Chris/ Phyllis Beach #102406-01
 Bill Cobb #109953-01

Winners only: Just sign your name to this page mail it to FLM \$25.00 Credit
 Glades Electric Cooperative
 P. O. Box 519, Moore Haven, FL 33471.
 or give us a call at 1-800-226-4024

Co-op News

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

John "Jack" Coxe, President, District 8
Lake Josephine, (863) 655-3056

Shannon Hall, Vice-President, District 4
Lakeport & Brighton, (863) 946-3242

Russell Henderson, Secretary/Treasurer,
District 3
Ortona & Palmdale, (863) 946-0865

Donnie Lundy, Trustee, District 1
Moore Haven, (863) 946-0402

Barney Goodman, Trustee, District 2
Hendry County, (863) 983-7324

Ladd Bass, Trustee, District 5
Venus & Hicoria, (863) 441-2227

Lee Henderson, Trustee, District 6
Highlands Park, (863) 699-1859

James "Jim" Aul, Trustee, District 7
Lorida, (863) 655-2565

Irene Lofton, Trustee, District 9
Okeechobee, (863) 467-1219

SENIOR STAFF

Tommy Todd	General Manager and CEO
Jeff Brewington	Chief Financial Officer
Paul McGehee	Business Development Manager
Jody Dotson	Power Supply Manager
Gwen Valentine	Executive Assistant
John Eisinger	Engineering Services Manager
Yvonne Bradley	Manager of Human Resources

MONTHLY MEETING

Glades Electric's Board normally meets the 4th Thursday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at the Co-op offices in Moore Haven, Lake Placid or Okeechobee. The March board meeting will be held on Thursday, March 24, at 9:00 a.m. in the Moore Haven office. If the meeting date or location is changed, a notice will be posted in all co-op offices.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS TO CALL IN CASE OF POWER INTERRUPTION

1 (800) 226-4024	Moore Haven
1 (800) 226-4025	Lake Placid
1 (800) 226-4023	Okeechobee

GEC's telephones are answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including weekends and holidays.

Please have your Location Number or Account Number handy when you call.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

GLADES
Electric Cooperative, Inc.



**I THOUGHT I WAS TIGHT
WITH MY MONEY. NOW
I'M AIRTIGHT.**

All it took was a tube of caulk and half an afternoon. Now, I'm saving \$212 a year by sealing a few cracks around the house. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at TogetherWeSave.com.

GLADES
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TOGETHERWESAVE.COM



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

By replacing your five most-used lightbulbs with ENERGY STAR-qualified bulbs, you could save \$70 a year.

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency