

Meet Your New Directors

The Board of Directors of Woodruff Electric Cooperative Corporation would like to announce the appointment of new directors to fill vacant board positions previously held by J. A. Wampler, District 1 and J. Byron Ponder, District 5. Woodruff Electric is pleased to welcome Bill Rushing to represent the membership of District 1 and Brent Ponder to represent the membership of District 5.



District 1
Bill Rushing

Bill Rushing was born and raised in McCrory, and graduated from Cross County High School. He attended Arkansas State University, graduating with a bachelor's degree in Agriculture Business in 1995.

Bill and his wife, Ann, farm in Woodruff County and raise soybeans, corn and rice. He is currently a sales agronomist for Armor Seed/Winfield United where he has been employed for over 15 years. The Rushings have three children, Reece, Will and Hadley.

Bill presently serves on the Woodruff County Soil Conservation Board and the Woodruff County Farm Bureau Board. He has served on the University of Arkansas Variety Testing Committee and the Arkansas Soybean Association. He serves as a deacon of the First Baptist Church of McCrory.



District 5
Brent Ponder

Brent Ponder was born and raised in Forrest City, and graduated from Forrest City High School. He attended Arkansas State University, graduating with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration in 1999.

Brent is currently employed by the Federal Bureau of Prisons in Memphis, as Supervisor of Contract Specialists. He is also co-owner of Delta Ridge Outfitters of Forrest City and J&B Ponder Investments of Forrest City.

Brent is an active member of the Forrest City Masonic Lodge and the Eastern Arkansas Scottish Rite Bodies of Jonesboro. He previously served on the City Council of Forrest City for four years and as the St. Francis County Treasurer for six years.



**Woodruff Electric
Cooperative Corporation**

3201 Highway 1 North,
Forrest City, Arkansas 72335
(870) 633-2262

Outages: (888) 559-6400
www.woodruffelectric.coop



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Plant Trees Safely

Before you dig, call 811 to locate buried utility lines.

LOW TREE ZONE

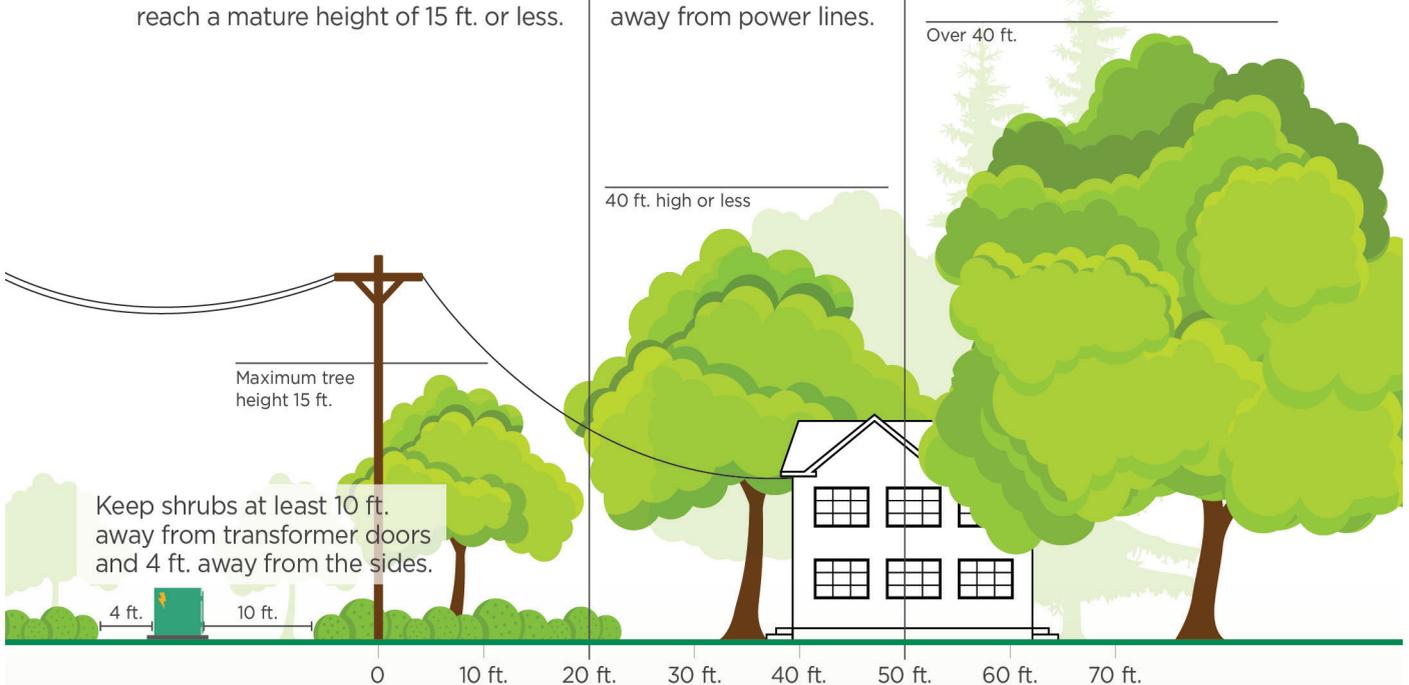
Avoid planting within 20 ft. of power lines. If planting is unavoidable, only plant shrubs and small trees that reach a mature height of 15 ft. or less.

MEDIUM TREE ZONE

Plant medium trees (under 40 ft. when mature) at least 25 ft. away from power lines.

LARGE TREE ZONE

Plant large trees (over 40 ft. when mature) at least 50 ft. away from power lines.



TRIMMING IMPROVES SERVICE RELIABILITY

Trees and power lines can be a dangerous mix without regular trimming during the growing season. Tree trimming and vegetation management in right-of-way areas are essential to ensuring you have reliable electric service. It keeps power lines clear of tree limbs, helps to restore power outages more quickly, and it reduces unexpected costs for repairs.

Tree trimming and vegetation maintenance are not only the responsibility of your local cooperative, the Arkansas Public Service Commission and the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration require it.

You can help our crews and contractors maintain right-of-ways and keep electric service reliable by:

- Calling your local cooperative if you see a tree limb or dead tree that is in danger of falling on a power line.
- Considering the mature height of trees when considering a suitable planting location. Refer to the chart below/above for safe planting zones. Before you plant, always call 811 to have your underground utilities marked.
- Keeping vehicles, farm equipment, deer stands, fences, buildings and other structures clear of right-of-ways.

Tree trimming and vegetation maintenance are vital to supplying you with safe and reliable electric service. Contact your local cooperative for more information.

Behind the lines at Woodruff Electric

Employee Spotlight: Anna Howton

Title: *Communications and Marketing Manager*

Department: *Information Systems*

How would you explain your job to someone else? *My job really entails a variety of duties that vary throughout the year. Some of those jobs include handling the cooperative's monthly publications, school and community events, public relations with the local media, residential and commercial energy audits, energy-efficiency programs, economic development projects, the cooperative's insurance and a variety of other projects and events.*

How long have you been working at WECC? *I have been working at Woodruff Electric for just over five years this past February, and I look forward to many more years to come!*

What is the best part of your job? *The best part of my job is that every day is a different job or task at hand. I really love the variety in my job and that I am able to be involved in so many different aspects of the co-op and utility industry.*

Who is your family? *My husband, Matt, and I have four fur babies (Hazel, Chief, Lucy and Ginger), and we are expecting our first child in June!*

Do you have any community involvement or activities? *I am a board member of the Forrest City Farmers Market, the St. Francis County Fair Association, East Arkansas Community College Foundation, an active member of the First United Methodist Church of Forrest City, a Life Member of the St. Francis County Junior Auxiliary, and a volunteer throughout the year with various community events and projects.*

What are some of your favorite hobbies? *Some of my favorite hobbies include hunting with my husband, fishing with my dad, anything dealing with the outdoors and vegetable gardening.*

What is your favorite food? *I love my mom's hot chicken salad dish and request it for my birthday every year!*

What will you absolutely not eat? *I am not a picky person at all when it comes to food, but I have tried chitterlings and will not eat them again.*

What is your trademark cliché or expression? *It may not be my lifelong cliché or expression, but I heard this recently at a local meeting, "If you're green, you're growing – if you're ripe, you're dying!" This has really resonated with me lately as I love being in the garden, and we really should all strive to be "green" whether that's in our career, faith, family or life in general. I just love that expression!*

What would you like to learn how to do? *I would like to learn how to can vegetables and make homemade jams, jellies and preserves.*

What are a few items that you collect? *I collect vintage and stoneware coffee mugs.*

If I've learned one thing in life, it's: *if you put God first, you will never be last.*

One thing on my bucket list is: *to go sky diving – I think it would be an amazing experience!*

