



LAMPLIGHTER

The Official Member Newsletter of Washington EMC

March 2008

Serving members in Baldwin, Emanuel, Glascock, Hancock, Jefferson, Johnson, Laurens, Warren, Washington and Wilkinson counties.

Rolling on the river

Ball's Ferry Historical State Park planned on the Oconee River



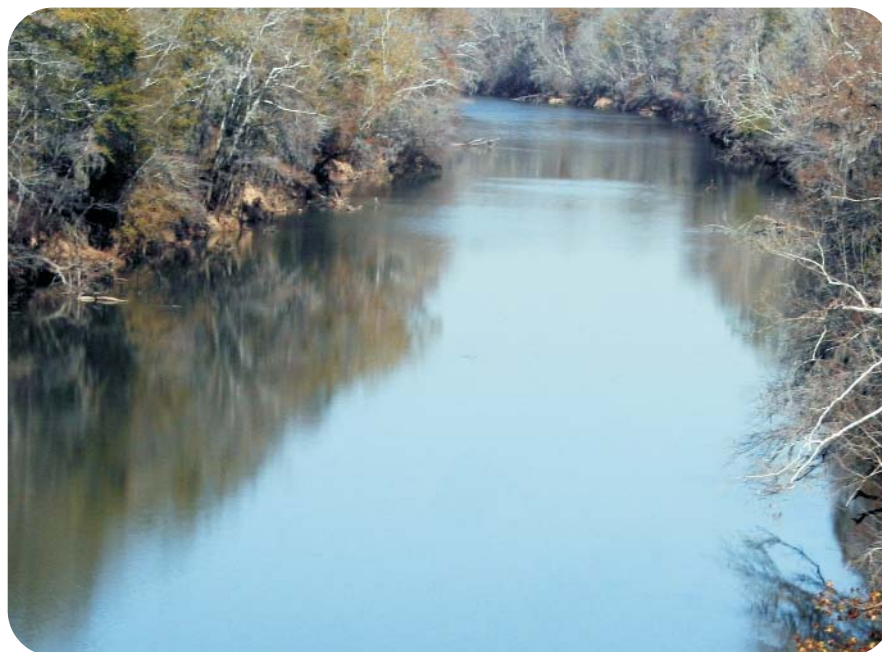
Ball's Ferry served its purpose for more than 130 years. The ferry provided the crossing between Washington and Wilkinson counties until March 31, 1939, when the bridge opened on State Route 57.

"To think this started from sitting in a meeting and trying to think of what we could do to improve the quality of life in this area. This has the potential to be one of the best regional parks in the state, something to preserve history and give people enjoyment."

—Dennis Holder, Chairman,
Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners

The crowd of more than 150 well-wishers, organizers and dignitaries gathered along the bank of the Oconee River at the site of the Ball's Ferry landing for the dedication of Georgia's newest gem in the state's park service. The ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the transfer of 537 acres for development by the state of Ball's Ferry Historical State Park.

Located in eastern Wilkinson



Bill Durden Photos

The Oconee River winds past the site of the Ball's Ferry Historical State Park. Generations of Georgia's nativepeople hunted, fished and lived along the history-drenched river banks. The ferry later provided a gateway to westward expansion for the state's early settlers.

County, the plans for the park started with a meeting of minds in 1999. Wilkinson County already owned a small public boat landing at the site of the original ferry crossing and wanted to do more to develop the location.

A meeting of county commissioners from Baldwin, Johnson, Wilkinson, Washington and Laurens counties as well as representatives from area historical societies and a number of local, interested citizens was held to discuss the development of the Oconee River surrounding the Ball's Ferry area.

The group transitioned into the Ball's Ferry Historic Park Association. The association was created to preserve the natural resources of the river and the historical significance of the area, to add value to the quality of life in central Georgia, and to promote eco-tourism in the region through the establishment of a state park.

Now the state is planning a park to include camping, hiking and access to the river and nature trails.

Please see page 31 for more about the Ball's Ferry State Park.

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**Helping assure reliable and affordable
power for Washington EMC
and its members**

Frank Askew, President/CEO



POWER4Georgians, a consortium of 10 electric membership cooperatives (EMCs), including Washington EMC, has announced that it will build and operate an 850-megawatt supercritical coal-fired power generation plant in Washington County, Ga.

The plant, which represents an investment of approximately \$2 billion, will be developed on nearly 1,200 acres near Sandersville. None of the power produced by the plant will be sold to out-of-state entities.

This is a marvelous business opportunity that will allow us to continue providing reliable and affordable power to our members. With continued population growth in our area and throughout Georgia, the time to address the issue of increased demand is now.

There is a great need for additional power generation in Georgia generally, especially in the areas served by the co-ops involved in this project. This plant is a vital step in a comprehensive strategy to assure that electricity continues flowing to 700,000 members of the 10 EMCs collaborating on this project.

The Washington County power station will use environmentally responsible technologies including a mixture of low-sulfur western coal

and eastern coal, a highly efficient supercritical boiler and wet scrubbers—the best available control technology—to reduce emissions.

In addition, to minimize the impact of water use, the plant will draw water from three sources, including non-potable grey water pumped from nearby kaolin mines, groundwater and water from the Oconee River. The facility will be located outside the 100 km footprint of land designated as Federal Class I areas for Environmental Protection Agency haze regulations.

Considering the best available technology upon which this plant will operate, and the good it will do for our members and for Georgia as a whole, this is a marquee project that we can point to with great pride. As one part of the POWER4Georgians consortium, we are excited to be involved in this project and look forward to the day when the switch is flipped and power begins flowing to our members.

The plant is expected to be operational by 2013 and will create more than 120 permanent full-time jobs. Moreover, the construction phase of the project will result in more than 1,000 additional jobs.

For more information, visit www.power4georgians.com.

Ball's Ferry Historical State Park

Steeped in history, emblem of the past, challenge of the future



Eighth District U.S. Congressman Jim Marshall snips the ribbon to open the Ball's Ferry Historical State Park. Congressman Marshall helped secure two \$1 million grants—one to purchase the land and the other to do the initial work on the boat ramp and the day-use district of the park. Studies show the region will see \$4.3 million and 108 jobs from the construction and produce an additional annual income of \$2.92 million and create 235 new jobs.



(From left) Congressman Jim Marshall and Ball family descendants, Elizabeth Harden, Hugh Burke, Joseph Burke, A.D. Ball and Mike Ball. The Ball family members joined with city, county, state and federal officials and others who made up a crowd of around 150 people that gathered at the Ball's Ferry landing for the dedication of the historic site.



Bill Durden Photos

Ball's Ferry operated as a river crossing from 1803 to 1939. The historic site is now a state park.

Steve Saunders, assistant chief of operations for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' State Parks and Historic Sites division says, "We think this park could be a place that would be popular for school field trips. And it should draw people from throughout the region for camping and access to the river for fishing and canoeing and other recreational activities."

State Parks and Historic Sites Division Director Becky Kelley says "Our state parks are also your parks." She encourages families to enjoy the park as it develops.

"I think it is so wonderful that we're going to be able to preserve this portion of the county and create this historical park that generations will be able to enjoy and learn from," says Dennis Holder, Wilkinson County Commission Chairman and Ball's Ferry Historical Park Association President.

Project SHARE

Helping people in need brightens lives

Illness, sudden loss of income, unexpected bills, family emergencies—there are any number of reasons people may find themselves needing help to pay their energy bills.

Project SHARE is your opportunity to provide temporary relief to those in need of assistance. Everyone in the community benefits.

- All contributions directly benefit those who need it most.
- Your contribution is tax-deductible.
- Lending a hand is as easy as paying your electric bill.

Project SHARE donations are collected when participating customers pay their electric bill. Washington EMC matches these contributions dollar-for-dollar and sends the

funds, through Salvation Army Corps Community Centers, for distribution to people in need. Money collected stays in the county from which it originates, so your dollars go to work right in your own community. It's neighbors helping neighbors.

Project SHARE is administered through the Salvation Army's designated agencies. Those seeking assistance through this program should contact the Department of Family and Children Services in the county where they live.

If you would like to join this worthy cause, simply call the phone number that appears on your monthly electric bill and let us know that you want to join Project SHARE and that you want to add \$1, \$2, \$5 or \$10 to your



electric bill payment each month. You can also complete the form below and return it with your electric bill payment, or visit our Web site at www.washingtonemc.com. Once you enroll, your contribution will be added to your electric bill and remain there until you notify us you want to discontinue the program.

If you prefer to make a one-time donation, please call Project SHARE toll-free at (800) 257-4273.

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Project SHARE

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