

## Thanks to SLECA members

From the board, management and employees of SLECA, we wish to express our deep appreciation to all our members for your patience and understanding during our emergency restoration effort in the wake of Hurricane Isaac.

Also, thanks to the many members who called and/or visited our office and also sent letters of thanks as our employees put forth their best effort to restore power as quickly and safely as possible.

It's our pleasure to serve you!

## You can win a Youth Tour experience!

Two local SLECA students will have the opportunity to be winners of the 2013 SLECA Youth Tour Contest and spend a week with about two dozen other students from across Louisiana on a "Government in Action" Youth Tour of Washington, D.C. For more information, contact SLECA at 876-6880 or 1-800-256-8826.

**Youth Tour**

## Across the Board

August 6, 2012

Present were directors Alexander Doyle, president; David Luke, vice-president; Brian Rivet, secretary; Terry Trahan, treasurer; Tracy Duval, J. D. Boudreaux, Eroy Acosta, Roger Dale DeHart, Larry J. Daigle, and Advisor to the Board, Lloyd Gibson. Also attending were Joseph Ticheli, general manager, James Funderburk, attorney, and Elaine Robertson, member services supervisor.

After the invocation and pledge, the board approved the minutes and summary of the July 2, 2012 regular board meeting, 175 new members and the ALEC Report.

The financial report, approved by the board, highlighted interest earnings, cash on hand, rate comparison showing SLECA having the lowest rates compared to other area utilities, line loss, kilowatt hour sales for the month, cumulative sales to date, cost of service, equity, TIER and electric and total revenue verses cost per kilowatt hour.

Following an update on upcoming schools, meetings and events, Mr. Ticheli reported on the following: (1) SLECA has the lowest rates in the area; (2) SLECA's offices will be closed on Labor Day, September 3rd; (3) Household energy use in the United States has remained relatively the same for the last 35 years; (4) The U. S. House of Representatives Appropriations Committee has approved a fiscal year 2013 funding bill that includes cutting EPA's funding about 17 percent; (5) The PSC denied Entergy's request to charge its customers about \$63 million that was spent in preparing to build another nuclear power plant at River Bend near St. Francisville; (6) The annual ACRE Campaign has begun; (7) Employees have earned another safety supper as of July 31st; (8) SLECA received a check in the amount of \$22,518 from Federated Insurance for the group retention payment for 2011; (9) A few SLECA customers have fallen prey to the recent utility scam; and (10) NERC will review SLECA's appeal in August. (Acct. No. 95313001)

The board then approved seeking bids to replace Unit 350, a bucket truck, the manager's report and expenses and the safety report showing employees have worked 2,576,165 hours without a lost time accident since December, 1996. The board then approved the attorney's report and fees.

Following executive session, the meeting was adjourned.

You may obtain copies of the minutes by contacting SLECA, P.O. Box 4037, Houma, LA 70361 or by calling (985) 876-6880 or 1-800-256-8826.

## SLECA SWEEPSTAKES

Did you know that each month SLECA gives away CASH just for reading LOUISIANA COUNTRY? It's true. Every month, four lucky SLECA consumers have their account numbers randomly selected by computer. The numbers are then hidden in the articles in the SLECA News section of LOUISIANA COUNTRY. Then it's up to you. If you see your account number, call SLECA and win \$25.00 in cash or have your winnings applied to your bill. It's that simple. So, if you are not reading LOUISIANA COUNTRY you're missing out on great local articles and the possibility of winning extra money.

## SLECA News



Joe Ticheli, General Manager  
Alexander Doyle, President  
South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Assn.  
P.O. Box 4037, Houma, LA 70361 (876-6880)



## Hooked on Hunting

### Terry Trahan preserves his outdoor experiences through taxidermy

You always remember the first time. Terry Trahan remembers the first time he bagged a deer as though it happened yesterday.

It was Jan. 1, 1967, in a field located just a stone's throw from where he now resides in The Lakes subdivision southwest of Houma. The air was cool and crisp that day and the 12-year-old was thrilled to be outdoors on a hunting adventure with his grandfather, Jimmy Arceneaux.

The boy was perched atop a deer stand near a gas pipeline when he heard his grandfather's dogs barking excitedly. The pitch of their yaps and yelps got higher as they dashed through the woods in pursuit of their quarry. When the young buck finally emerged from a tree line, the boy took aim with his shotgun and pulled the trigger. (Acct. No. 104047001)

On that day, the population of humans hooked on hunting grew by one.

Since then there have been well over 100 more kill shots and scores of memories of outdoor adventures with family and friends, both within the state's borders and beyond.

"That first kill is something you never forget," said Trahan, who grew up on Bayou Black.

Trahan remembers frequently hunting and fishing and trapping with his grandfather, who he describes as his "idol." It was during those early years that Trahan began to learn how to handle fallen prey, from skinning to fleshing out to drying the hides.

It seemed a natural progression, then, that Trahan would eventually move into the field of taxidermy.

After retiring in 2007 from his heating and air-conditioning business that he owned for 34 years, Trahan found himself bored and in search of a new hobby. He finally settled on taxidermy with the aim of mounting his own trophies as well as those of his close friends and family members.

For instruction, he sought the guidance of his friend Lonnie Adams, who enthusiastically shared the tools and skills of the trade.

"I watched him work for about a week and then started doing it on my own after that," Trahan said, adding that he completed five mounts during his first hunting season as a taxidermist last year. "I started feeling more comfortable with it and I think I've gotten a lot better at it. I don't have any intentions of making any money off this. It's really just a hobby and just for me and the family and close friends that need me to do it for them."



Terry Trahan, who serves on SLECA's board of directors, took up taxidermy as a hobby after retiring from his heating and air-conditioning business several years ago. He remembers taking down his first deer while hunting with his grandfather Jimmy Arceneaux back in 1967 not far from where he resides today in The Lakes subdivision southwest of Houma. In the photo at left, Trahan and his son, Brandon, are shown with a trophy buck during a memorable hunt.

Another friend built a mounting stand and Trahan was off to work, figuring it probably takes about 12 hours to complete a job from start to finish.

The key, he said, is to make sure the hide is free from any fat or other tissue. After the hide is clean, a dry powdery tanning preservative is applied and adhesive is placed on a Styrofoam mold.

Next come the mouth, nostrils, ears and eyeballs, and then plenty of pinning, stapling and stitching.

"Instead of using plastic reinforcements for the ears, I use fiberglass," Trahan said. "That's a trick Lonnie taught me. It takes a lot of time and patience to learn how to do it right."

While Trahan calls the process "tedious," it beats chasing a golf ball around a sprawling course for four hours in the south Louisiana heat.

It's also something he does often with

his son, Brandon. While Trahan's other son, Terry, is a writer and editor at POV magazine and isn't as keen on outdoor activities, Brandon often takes his own wife and two children out to the wilderness.

Several years ago Trahan purchased 250 acres in north Mississippi and leased another 600. Since then, he stays busy with his taxidermy and also taking care of the property. There's tending to the cabin, preparing food plots and many other chores that require attention.

In addition to burning the roads to Mississippi, Trahan and Brandon find the time to make at least one guided hunt each year.

A particularly memorable hunt included the time the two were in north Texas and took a trophy buck amid the hills and canyons.

"We were walking all day in some

pretty tough terrain and it was a big physical challenge," Trahan said. "We tracked him down and got within 200 yards of him and got off a good shot."

Another highlight took place in a soybean field in Kansas. Trahan spotted a big buck at 375 yards and Brandon moved in to take aim at the deer, which scored 190 inches.

Trahan said he figures hunting is more popular than ever, citing non-hunting friends that he has known for years who have since taken up the sport.

"These days, everybody deer hunts around here. It's a big challenge, because the deer is such a keen animal and it's very hard to out-wit them. They can pick up your scent and get away before you know they're there."

As for those who have no interest in hunting: "I think you just have to be a hunter to understand."

## Enter SLECA's Christmas Lighting Contest

Light up your home this Christmas and win a \$100 Cash Prize! Entries will be accepted through December 14, 2012.

RULES:

1. Contest open to SLECA residential members only.
2. SLECA directors, employees, retired employees and/or their families are not eligible to win.
3. Electricity is required. Outdoor lighting only.
4. Suggested themes: Religious, Contemporary, Novelty.
5. Entries must be received at SLECA by December 14, 2012. Judging to be held December 17.
6. Winners will be notified by telephone.
7. 2011 winners are ineligible.
8. Cash Prizes (\$100 in each of SLECA's nine member districts) will be awarded. (Acct. No. 103556001)

To enter, complete this form and return by December 14, 2012, to SLECA, P.O. Box 4037, Houma, La 70361.

### SLECA's Christmas Lighting Contest

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Account No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Or simply call SLECA's office in Houma, 876-6880, 1-800-256-8826; or Amelia 631-3605, 1-800-256-8836.

## KIDS...Christmas is almost here Draw a picture and win a prize!

We're having a Christmas contest for kids. And the prize is a \$100 Christmas gift certificate. All you have to do to win is draw a picture of your favorite Christmas activity. It can be anything you like to do at Christmas time, such as decorating the tree, wrapping gifts, Christmas shopping or going caroling...Anything!

In addition to winning the gift certificate, the winning picture will be featured in the December issue of Louisiana Country. And this is not all. Your picture will be prominently displayed on an outdoor billboard courtesy of SLECA and Lamar Outdoor Advertising for all your friends and family to see.

Here is what you need to know:

- You must be 10 years old or younger.
- Contest is open to SLECA members only.
- Entries must be submitted on one 8-1/2 x 11-inch sheet of paper.
- Any medium (crayons, markers, watercolors, etc.) may be used to draw your picture, but the picture MUST be in color.
- The entry form must be attached to the back of your drawing.
- Previous winners are ineligible.
- Employees of SLECA will judge all entries.
- You should mail your entry to SLECA, P.O. Box 4037, Houma, LA 70361, or you can drop it off at the Houma office at 2028 Coteau Rd. in Houma or at the Amelia office. (Acct. No. 76610001)
- Deadline to receive entries is November 16, 2012.

### ENTRY FOR Attach this form to the back of entry.

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_  
Child's Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
SLECA Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Cooperative Connection

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