

## Quilled with LOVE

by Laura Emery, Field Editor

**J**oan Krisher's love affair with paper began in 1980. "I had a friend who quilled little people, which I'd never seen before. She came over one day and gave me her tool and showed me how to wrap the paper. That's how it all started," the soft-spoken A&N Electric Cooperative (ANEC) member explains.

As it turns out, Krisher was a natural-born quiller.



Quilling involves the use of thin strips of paper that are coiled, shaped and glued together to create intricate works of art. It is a form of art that dates back centuries. During the Renaissance, nuns and monks would apply gilded paper coils to religious icons instead of more costly gold and silver metalwork. Remarkably, quilling has changed very little with the passage of time. The most basic supplies — paper and glue — are all that are needed.

"You can cut your own paper strips or buy bags of thin strips of pre-cut colorful paper at some craft stores or on Amazon. The paper is coiled around a special slotted tool that has a very long, fine tip. But you don't even, technically, need the special tool," she says. "I do quilling the old-time way. There is a lot of paper art out there and they say it's quilling, but much of it is not. It's paper art. What I do is actually paper quilling."

Krisher started out selling quilled snowflake ornaments door-to-door with her son Keith. "The snowflakes take about three hours to make," she explains. "Then, from there, I decided I would try to make little people. After that came flowers. Then, in 2007, I opened my shop on Etsy

Joan Krisher is a natural-born quiller. Quilling involves the use of thin strips of paper that are coiled, shaped and glued together to create intricate works of art. For the last five years, she's been selling her collection of paper art at the Eclectic Beachcomber, a hidden gem of a store on Chincoteague Island.

— 'JoansCrafts' — and that was a slow-growing process."

For the last five years, she's been selling her collection of intricate paper art at the Eclectic Beachcomber, a hidden gem of a store on Chincoteague Island. The Eclectic Beachcomber opened in 2014 as a showcase for Virginia-made creations. The store features the work of over 22 local, regional and visiting artisans — including Krisher — and sells unique and original jewelry, wood, shell, paint, textile, glass and photographic creations at reasonable prices. "The Eastern Shore is really developing to be a nice customer base because people keep coming back, especially here at the Eclectic Beachcomber.



LAURA EMERY PHOTOS

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I get a lot of custom orders as well. People want to get something that they feel is special and unique.”

Krisher has also expanded her collection to include more than just snowflakes. She creates cardinals, fish, sea horses, hummingbirds, swans, owls, blue herons, robins, egrets, angels, turtles and other things.

Her business took an unexpected turn when one of her chickadee ornaments was featured in *Country Living* magazine's Christmas issue in 2010. “It was the first bird I ever made and I was just so proud of her. She started it all, as far as my business goes,” Krisher says, gently holding a replica of the bird that put her quilling skills on the map. Unaware that her bird was going to be featured in the magazine, Krisher was shocked when, overnight, her business exploded. “I had so many requests after that. That changed everything,” she explains.

Quilling helps Krisher unwind and relax. “I just kind of do my thing, and everything else going on around me becomes background noise,” she says. But if you ask Krisher what she loves most about quilling, she'll tell you it's the design part. In fact, her face lights up when describing how much fun she has designing.

“Designing is definitely the fun part for me,” she says, after showing some preliminary sketches she made for a customer who requested a swan. “I think I get my talent for drawing from my mom. She was an avid drawer. As a young kid, I remember her putting up a chalkboard for us to play with. My sister would be writing and I would always be drawing birds. So it started then!”

Krisher says she loves the sense of accomplishment she gets when she finishes designing an ornament. “Designing can take forever. There is a Baltimore oriole that was in the making for over a year. I kept ripping it up because I didn't like it. I have to like it before I will put it out and sell it. The most satisfying part is when you're finally all done with it and you go, ‘Yep, that's it.’ That's the part I love.”

The birds Krisher can make most quickly, only because she's made many of them, is the chickadee or the cardinal. “When I get into the more intricate things, it takes me a whole lot longer. It all depends on what I am making on how long they take,” she says.

These aren't the type of ornaments that

can't withstand a child's curious touch. The quilled ornaments are quite sturdy, notes Krisher. Though, she warns, “Just don't let your dog get a hold of it. I've had people come back to me to re-do something because their dog got it off the Christmas tree. They're not dog-friendly,” she says, with a laugh.

Much of her inspiration comes from her love of the place she calls home, the Eastern Shore. “The Eastern Shore is a playground for someone who loves birds,” says Krisher. “I go out to Assateague and take pictures. I haven't done a wood duck yet, but I have always been fascinated by them — so that's going to eventually get done.” Krisher moved to the Eastern Shore in 2010 and enjoys gardening, spending time with her two grandchildren who live

in Pennsylvania, and walking on the beach in her spare time. “I love looking at all the birds and seeing where the eagles are nesting.”

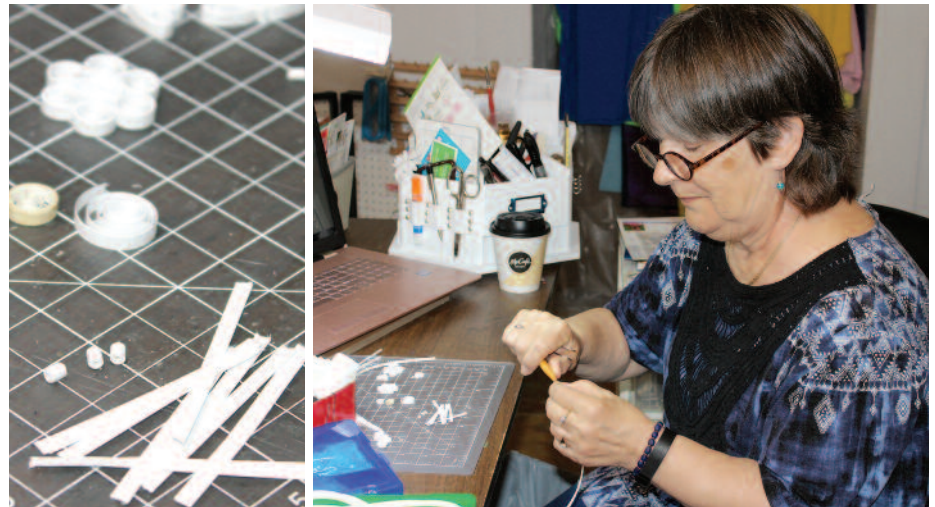
She also enjoys being a member of ANEC. She says, “I think they have great service, and I love browsing through the magazine. I like reading about people and things happening in the area.”

### For More Information

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To enter a giveaway to WIN a quilled ornament of Joan's choice, go to [facebook.com/ANElectricCoop](https://www.facebook.com/ANElectricCoop) and look for the video featuring Joan's quilling!



# Co-op sends assistance to areas damaged by Hurricane Florence



Since Hurricane Florence caused widespread damage in North Carolina, electric co-ops have worked together to coordinate response efforts. The mutual-response plans involved co-ops in many states pitching in to help with power restoration.

A&N Electric Cooperative (ANEC) prepared early for Hurricane Florence, with early predictions setting its course closer to our service area. Once the storm's path took a more southern route and the area would only see minimal effects from the storm, the cooperative released a crew to North Carolina to offer mutual assistance for areas experiencing prolonged outages as a result of the storm.

ANEC sent a crew to offer mutual assistance in the Four County EMC service territory in North Carolina recently. Bernie Hastings, Peter Zach, Robbie Smith,

Wes Shrieves and Tyson Arnold worked for several days restoring power to areas damaged by Hurricane Florence.

"In the spirit of the cooperative family, we send assistance to areas that need it knowing that we may need help from other co-ops in the future," said Brian Charnock, director of operations and construction services. "It's a big part of the cooperative mindset, helping our neighbor co-ops when they need it most and when we are able."

More than 40,000 lineworkers from

electric companies, electric co-ops and public power utilities mobilized to restore power in the wake of the storm. This includes mutual-assistance workers from at least 17 states.

The hurricane caused more than 730,000 power outages in North and South Carolina as it made landfall in mid-September.

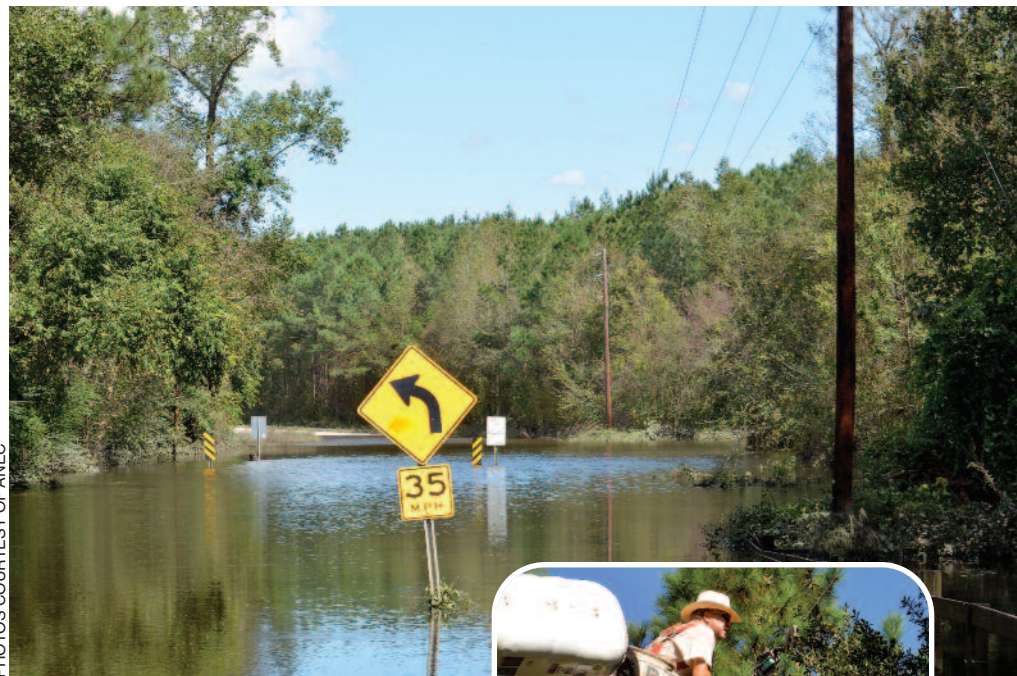
The ANEC crew dealt with impassable roads inundated with floodwater as they worked to reach outages caused by downed trees and a number of other issues.

## MESSAGES FROM YOUR CO-OP

- ▶ Visit us at [facebook.com/ANElectricCoop](https://www.facebook.com/ANElectricCoop) and "like" us.
- ▶ Visit [anec.com](https://www.anec.com) to sign up to receive Beat the Peak emails or text-message alerts.
- ▶ The **Touchstone Energy® Co-op Connections® Card** is **FREE** to all **ANEC members**. The card offers discounts at participating local and nationwide businesses, including prescription drug discounts.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANEC



ANEC sent a crew to North Carolina to help in the restoration efforts after Hurricane Florence. Peter Zach (right) was among the ANEC personnel sent to offer mutual assistance, along with Bernie Hastings, Robbie Smith, Wes Shrieves and Tyson Arnold. Roads flooded (above) in North Carolina as a result of the storm.



# Essay Contest Open for Youth Tour and VICE Conference

The annual essay contest to determine A&N Electric Cooperative's (ANEC) Washington Youth Tour and VICE Conference participants began last month.

The essay contest is open to all high school and home-school juniors living in the cooperative's service area.

The top two essays will be chosen from each school. One student from each school will be selected to attend the Washington Youth Tour in June and one student from each school will be selected to represent ANEC at the VICE Conference in April.

Essay guidelines were sent to the guidance offices at each high school by Oct. 22.

Home-schoolers can request the guidelines from the cooperative's Tasley office. The deadline for essay entrants is Dec. 10, 2018.

Both conferences are at no cost to students who are selected through the essay contest.

Each spring, the Virginia Cooperative Council sponsors an Institute on Cooperative Education, a youth leadership conference for up to 64 Virginia high school students.

Local students from A&N Electric Cooperative's service area are eligible to attend. The cooperative holds an annual essay contest to determine the cooperative's participants in two educational opportunities, which includes the VICE Conference.

The objective of the conference is to educate youth about the unique cooperative form of business.

## AMI Update

The cooperative's Advance Metering Infrastructure implementation continues with its 1,300 meter-test phase in the Onancock, Melfa, Tasley and surrounding areas.

The cooperative expects to implement its full rollout of meter exchanges in the beginning of 2019. Plans are to begin meter exchanges in southern Northampton County and proceed north.

Members can monitor the implementation schedule by logging onto [anec.com/content/meter-schedule](http://anec.com/content/meter-schedule).



JAY DIEM PHOTOS

Above: Washington, D.C., at night as viewed by the 2018 Youth Tour participants. Left: The VICE Conference's Allen Melton gives attendees a brief introduction on the cooperative model of business during the 2018 conference at Graves' Mountain Lodge.

"It was a really good experience to meet the kids who were there from all across Virginia and it just taught me to go out of my comfort zone and meet new people," Nandua's Justin Willett said of last year's conference. "I didn't know anybody going in and by the end of it I wasn't ready to leave. And I met people who I still talk to today."

Each year the cooperative also sponsors local students to attend the annual National Electric Co-op Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

The students toured Capitol Hill and also visited historical and cultural sites

around the nation's capital, including the Newseum, Arlington National Cemetery, the Pentagon and Fort McHenry in Baltimore. Other activities included an evening cruise on the Potomac River, a Baltimore Orioles game, a visit to the National Aquarium and a live theatrical performance of *The Scottsboro Boys*.

For more information about the Youth Tour program and VICE Conference, visit [anec.com](http://anec.com) and look under the Community tab. To learn more about how you can participate in these programs, speak with your high school's guidance office or contact ANEC Youth Tour Coordinator Patsy Goad at (757) 787-9750, ext. 322.

## Member Satisfaction Survey

A&N Electric Cooperative will be conducting member satisfaction surveys in January with the help of TSE Services. Surveys will be conducted by phone and by email. Survey calls will originate from a call center in the "919" area code. Those who receive a survey by email will have an online survey link embedded in the email message.

# Helping the co-op 'Beat the Peak' can help lower energy costs

**B**eat the Peak is a voluntary program that encourages A&N Electric Cooperative (ANEC) members to conserve or limit energy usage during peak times. Your cooperative pays a monthly demand charge based on the peak hourly usage during the month. This accounts for a large percentage of the cost of electricity for our members.

By lowering the amount of power being consumed across the system when energy prices are high, you are helping to lower the co-op's cost for power. Because ANEC is a not-for-profit utility, those savings are passed on to you in the form of affordable rates. *Please note:* You will not see a credit on your bill for conserving energy nor will you be charged more for power if you do not conserve. This is a voluntary program, which benefits all co-op members.

Peak periods occur when the demand for electricity is the highest. Usually, these are periods when it is very cold or hot

outside. During this time, members are asked to use energy wisely and follow these guidelines:

- In winter, lower the thermostat by 3-4 degrees.
- Postpone the use of major appliances, such as clothes washers, dryers and dishwashers.
- Delay using hot water during peak periods.
- Turn off all unnecessary lights.

We can alert co-op members directly of the "Beat the Peak" period by email and/or text message. Included in the message will be the anticipated day and time of the peak period. It is important that you reduce energy consumption during this critical period. Notices will also be posted to the A&N Electric Cooperative website, Facebook page and Twitter feed. The alerts will also be announced on local radio



stations WESR 103.3, CTG 96.5 and HOT COUNTRY 99.3.

Join ANEC's "Beat the Peak" program today and help control your cooperative's cost of wholesale power and help save energy resources. When you sign up, you will receive an email and/or text message notifying you of an approaching "Peak Period" or time when we are purchasing wholesale power at the highest prices. Your help in conserving energy during these "peak" periods reduce our energy costs and ultimately your energy costs. Sign up at [anec.com/content/beat-peak](http://anec.com/content/beat-peak).

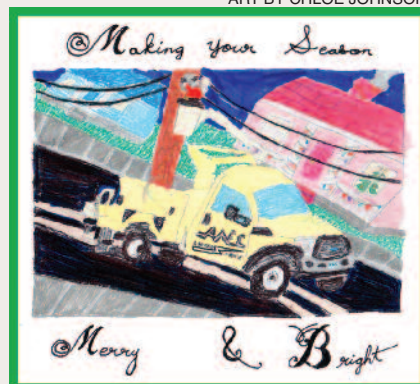
## Co-op looking for talented artists to help design Christmas card

**W**e are looking for young, talented artists to design the cooperative's next Christmas card. The A&N Electric Cooperative Christmas Card Contest will be open from Dec. 1, 2018, through Jan. 31, 2019, and is open to any school-age children (age 5-17) who live in the cooperative's service area.

Submitted artwork should incorporate aspects of the cooperative and the holiday season. Art should be original and submitted on a standard piece of white 8.5-by-11-inch paper or 8.5-by-11-inch white construction paper. Art using crayons, colored pencils, ink or paint is acceptable. Please include the child's name and age on a separate piece of paper when submitting the artwork. Entries can be mailed, unfolded, to the cooperative's headquarters at P.O. Box 290, Tasley, VA 23441. Artwork can also be delivered to the cooperative in the lobby in person.

The winner of the contest will be awarded a \$50 gift card, and their artwork will be used on the cover of the company Christmas cards next year.

ART BY CHLOE JOHNSON



The A&N Electric Cooperative Tasley office will be closed for the following holidays:

Thursday, Nov. 22, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday;

Monday, Dec. 24, and Tuesday, Dec. 25, in observance of the Christmas holiday; and

Tuesday, Jan. 1, in observance of the New Year's holiday.

A&N Electric Cooperative directors and employees hope you have a safe and happy holiday season. Please have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

# Christmas on the Creek

A weekend of holiday festivities in historic, waterfront Onancock is highlighted by a rare opportunity to visit six private homes — some built in the early 1800s — situated on Onancock Creek and decorated for the holidays.

The 19th annual Onancock Christmas Homes Tour will be held from 1-5 p.m. on Dec. 8. Onancock, chartered in 1680, is one of the oldest towns in Virginia. Historic Cokesbury Church hosts the free, 19th annual music festival the same day with a variety of performances and Christmas carols.

This year's Christmas homes include:

- **Wesley** (pictured below), an 1809 Federal-style house with 12-foot ceilings, heart-pine floors, and six fireplaces, one of which is inlaid with reeds from Onancock Creek. The house was named for John Wesley, founder of Methodism. Methodist Church meetings were held here until 1821, at which time plans were made to build Cokesbury Church in Onancock.
- **Cokesbury**, originally called Poulson Place, featuring a massive cooking fireplace in the kitchen and a little schoolhouse, operated by the Poulsons in the early 1900s. The original section was built in 1806, the next section added in the early 1870s, and the final addition built in the early 1950s. During the Civil War, a Union Army detachment camped in the fields in front of the house for several years.
- **The Cove**, a Victorian-era, Georgian-style brick home parceled from the adjacent property, Cokesbury, in 1885 as a wedding present to Charlotte "Lottie" Poulson. The current owners completed an addition in 2010. The house features antiques, crocks, decoys and reproduction-furniture pieces made by the owners, as well as a carousel horse — from the Onancock carnival — manufactured by the Allan Herschell Company.
- **The Minton House**, a picturesque, Federal-style home, reached by a winding driveway through tall pine trees. The house was built in 2005. The entry hall has a large staircase and



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ONANCOCK CHRISTMAS ON THE CREEK



features a hand-painted mural by local artisan Miriam Riggs. Handcrafted items, art and many works by Eastern Shore artisans are displayed throughout the home. South-facing windows offer glimpses of manicured gardens and a birds-eye view of Onancock Wharf.

- **Heartsworth Cottage**, built on grounds that are full of history, including the Poulson Point Cemetery with markers dating back to 1759. A portion of the house comprises an old cook's kitchen moved from a nearby farm. The peaceful retreat features a wall of glass doors leading to a spacious deck offering magnificent views of Onancock Creek.

- **Westwil Cottage**, designed and built in 2012 for the owners' senior years, a low-maintenance, brick home with extra-thick exterior walls, energy-efficient heating/air systems and eco-foam insulation. The concept of simplicity extends into the landscaping, which uses a natural turf yard and perennial and native plantings whenever possible. The outdoor living area features a pergola, grill area, herb and vegetable gardens, and an orchid greenhouse.

The holiday weekend kicks off Thursday, Dec. 6, with a free showing of *Miracle on 34th Street* at Onancock's historic movie theater. Adjacent is a list of events including Santa's arrival by boat, an Artisans Market, and an old-fashioned Christmas Parade. Throughout the weekend, shop for unique, Eastern Shore-made gifts and dine at the town's many restaurants.

The Homes Tour benefits the Citizens for a Better Eastern Shore. For more information, log onto [onancock.org/Events](http://onancock.org/Events), or call (757) 710-6353.

## Thursday, Dec. 6

• *Miracle on 34th Street* 7 p.m. FREE. Presenter: RCEC. Sponsors: Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital & Roseland Theatre.

## Friday, Dec. 7

• Galleries, shopping, wine tasting beginning 4 p.m.  
• *Elf Junior* at North Street Playhouse 7:30 p.m. (Also Saturday 7:30 p.m., Sunday 2:30 p.m.)  
Tickets, information: [northstreetplayhouse.com](http://northstreetplayhouse.com).

## Saturday, Dec. 8

• Santa Comes to Town by Boat 11 a.m. FREE. Reindeers in kayaks lead Santa into town wharf (pictured at top).  
• Holiday Artisans Market at Historic Onancock School 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Paintings, jewelry, pottery, wood carvings and more.  
• Holiday Open House at Ker Place 11 a.m.-4 p.m. FREE/\$5 photos with Santa 1-3 p.m. 1799 house listed on National Register of Historic Places.  
• 19th Annual Onancock Christmas Homes Tour 1-5 p.m. Tickets \$20 & available now: [Eventbrite.com](http://Eventbrite.com) at "Onancock Christmas 2018." Available Nov. 1: Book Bin, Historic Onancock School, Ker Place, Carousel Gift Shop at Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital, Machipongo Trading Company, Thomas Gardens.