

# Images from Winter's Orbit

*With over 350 photographs submitted in the Cooperative Living/Facebook Winter Scenes Photo Contest, our readers managed to capture the cold beauty of the season — from the winning cover photograph of Dusty, a soft-coated wheaten terrier frolicking in the snow, to a poignant portrait of the fleeting, singular beauty of a snowflake. Entries poured in, spanning the cold corners of the Commonwealth, with nearly all of Virginia's electric cooperative territories represented.*



Winter is a complex season. In our mind's eye, we see ourselves safely tucked indoors, away from the bitter cold, beside a warm hearth, holding a good book, watching an old movie, sipping cocoa, cozy and content.

Yet winter also has a persistent gravity that pulls us out-of-doors, into a snowy landscape, a world wiped clean of bumps and blemishes, to view a wondrous white carpet undulating, rolling off to the horizon. And for those pulled fully into its orbit, winter serves up startling, textured details everywhere you look, whether up at a snowy evergreen tree ... over at an icy berry branch ... down at a frozen pond ... or up-close at a snowflake.

Our readers took the polar plunge into winter's orbit, and in these four pages you'll see their visual odes to the cold season, in photographs that capture winter's bracing beauty from afar and up-close. We're honored to share with you these winning entries from our latest reader-photo contest. Yet this contest is different from every prior reader contest we've held, whether we were asking for photos, recipes, or answers to a riddle.

For the first time, we publicized and promoted a reader contest entirely through a social media outlet, in this case our magazine's Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/cooperative\\_living](http://www.facebook.com/cooperative_living)). More details on that are in this month's editorial on page 2.

In the meantime, enjoy being pulled into winter's orbit through these outstanding images!

— by Richard G. Johnstone Jr.,  
Executive Editor

◀ Willowy Whitetail  
by Doug Puffenbarger,  
Blue Grass



▲ Serene Winter Sky by Gloria Sharp, Colonial Beach



▲ Red Cabin by Neville Morrison, Jr., Gum Spring



◀ Calf in Snow by Jessa Howdyshell, Churchville



◀ Sunset  
at Long Hollow  
by Rebecca  
Edwards,  
Duffield

▼ Snow-Covered Lane by Caitlin Finchum, Bloxom



▲ Snowy Pond by Dan Jones, Fincastle

▼ Winter Wonderland by Melissa Hundley, Eagle Rock





◀ Snowflake by Janice Nicewanner,  
Beaverdam



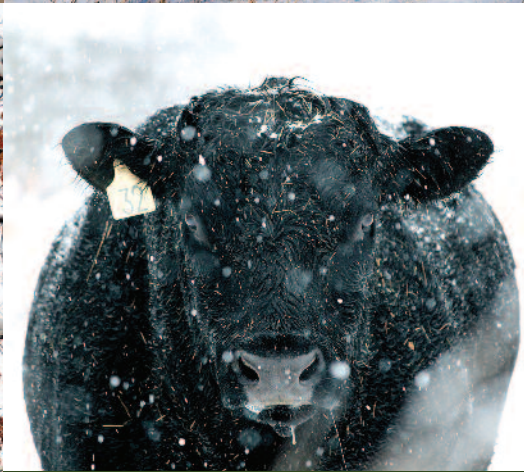
▶ Berries and Ice  
by Denise Feagans, Louisa



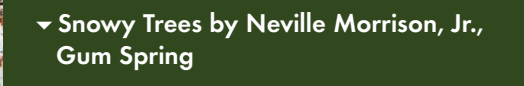
▶ Cold Winter in the Blue Grass  
Valley of Highland County  
by Doug Puffenbarger,  
Blue Grass



▼ American Flag by Heather Balko,  
Ruther Glen



◀ Black Angus Bull  
by Monica Plecker, Millboro



▼ Snowy Trees by Neville Morrison, Jr.,  
Gum Spring



▼ Peaches & Cappy  
by Bev Geiger, Beaverdam